



Media Release – Immediate

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Try your hand at tree climbing at the Woodfuel Fair

For anyone wishing to revisit their childhood, there will be an opportunity to try tree climbing at the 'East Midlands Woodfuel Fair - Kindling Your Enthusiasm' event at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood over the weekend of Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st March.

Moulton College, which specialises in work-based learning courses for the landbased industries, will supervise the tree climbing activities with a team of professional staff and trainee students from their Arboriculture Department.

Jess West, Curriculum Team Leader at the College's Arboriculture Department, explained:

"Tree climbing is always really popular with children and adults alike – so we often end up with a queue at events like this! The College will be providing all the appropriate safety equipment along with training on its use. We will be on hand to give encouragement and advice as visitors climb. For those who prefer to keep both feet firmly on the ground, we will be demonstrating aerial rescues and the various methods of tree climbing. Demonstrations will include branch walking, used when pruning trees; and foot locking, which involves climbing a rope attached to a very large tree – it's hard work for the climber but a really good spectator sport!"

Jess continued "It's the best job in the world – I feel privileged to work on some of our fine old trees ensuring their wellbeing for future generations. In many ways, my job is a safe and proper way of doing what I used to do as a child. Being an arboriculturist can, like other professions, be dangerous and that is why it is so important that people get the appropriate training. I also would really like to encourage women into the profession, at the moment there aren't many women taking up arboriculture as a career and I certainly would like to see a lot more becoming involved".

Try your hand at tree climbing at the Woodfuel Fair (cont.)

As well as the opportunity to climb a tree and watch an exciting aerial rescue demonstration, visitors to the Moulton College stand will be able to talk to students and tutors from the Arboriculture department about the course and what it involves. The College prospectus along with plenty of other information will be available for people who may be interested in the other courses offered. For more information about these courses, please visit the website at www.moulton.ac.uk or contact student services on 01604 491131, email: enquiries@moulton.ac.uk

Sarah Walker, Visitor and Communities Services Manager at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood, said:

“It’s great that Moulton College are coming to the Woodfuel Fair, as it will give people who may be interested in working in forestry the opportunity to explore the different training options available.”

The Woodfuel Fair will take place at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st March, from 10am until 3.30pm. The event is free of charge and normal parking fees will not apply. For more information about the Woodfuel Fair, please go to www.forestry.gov.uk/woodfuelfair.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Forestry Commission

1. The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible in England for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woods and forests, and increasing their value to society and the environment. Forestry makes a real contribution to sustainable development, providing social and environmental benefits arising from planting and managing attractive, as well as productive woodlands. Further information about the Commission can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/>
2. Northants Forest District runs from Grantham in Lincolnshire right down to Ampthill in Bedfordshire, taking in many beautiful and varied woodlands.
3. Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood, north Northamptonshire

Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood is part of Rockingham Forest. Corby and Stamford are the nearest towns. Fineshade is signposted from the A43, 9 miles northeast of Corby, and 6 miles southwest of Stamford.
www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge.

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About Moulton College

Moulton College, formerly the Northamptonshire College of Agriculture, was established in 1921, to provide agricultural education and training for the farming community.

In 1992 the College became independent of the local authority. To meet the challenges associated with independence, it has expanded rapidly and now has over 2800 full-time students and more than 5500 part-time students, together with a complement of around 800 staff.

Since independence, nearly £40 million has been invested in buildings and other teaching resources to ensure that learners now benefit from an unrivalled learning environment.

Moulton's mission is to be 'a Centre of Excellence for Education and Training for the Natural, Built and Recreational Environment by providing relevant and cost-effective vocational opportunities for everyone who will benefit from them'.

The main campus is located in the semi-rural setting of Moulton village, 5 miles from the centre of Northampton town and extends to some 500 hectares and comprises college buildings, gardens and associated facilities, together with commercial enterprises including the farm, equestrian unit, garden centre and nursery, sports complex, small animal and equestrian therapy units and veterinary practices. In addition, the College rents a further 180 hectares of farmland to allow its enterprises to operate on a fully commercial scale.

Residential accommodation is available on site for 182 students. Most of this accommodation comprises modern en-suite rooms grouped within halls for 10-12 students. Self-catering accommodation for 36 Higher Education students, together with supervised accommodation for students with severe learning difficulties and disabilities opened November 2005.

Higher Education is delivered in partnership with the University of Northampton and includes a wide range of Higher National, Foundation, Honours and Higher Degree programmes.

The college operates an extensive network of subsidised busses, and coaches currently transporting students to and from their homes daily.

The College has been awarded 'Centre of Vocational Excellence' status for its Construction programmes and holds 'Investor in People', Careermark, Matrix, 'Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark' accreditation and 'Beacon' status..

During 2008 and 2009, the College was inspected by Ofsted who judged Moulton to be 'Outstanding' on both occasions. The College seeks both to be 'open access' and to pursue excellence, whilst offering opportunity to those who have not previously tasted success or achieved formal qualifications.