

APF 2016 Sees huge range of new exhibitors

With still 4 months to go until APF 2016 on the 15/16/17th September at Ragley Estate over 250 exhibitors have already booked sites and the organisers have had to find more space for static stands as the original static display area has already sold out.

Exhibition Secretary, Ian Millward brings us up to date with all the news.

The levels of bookings to date has been fantastic, well ahead of APF 2014. The static display area has never sold out so early before. We have had to create extra static space on the demonstration circuit to cope with the demand and demonstration sites are becoming very limited.

What is particularly encouraging is the number of new exhibitors who have never exhibited at the APF show before. There will be several makes of machines never before seen in the UK. The UK market for equipment for both the forestry and arboricultural sectors is seen as very important and the APF exhibition renowned for the place where visitors come to buy new equipment. We currently have exhibitors from over 12 different countries from as far afield as America and Japan. Look out for the new Ohashi chipper range. Other big names like Albach and Bruks will be exhibiting with us for the first time. It is fair to say that every major chipper manufacturer will be represented and showing their machines in action.

Of course it is not all about chippers. Nearly every large harvester and forwarder manufacturer has booked, Ponsse, Logset, Komatsu and we welcome back John Deere after an 8 year absence. Smaller scale machinery is becoming increasingly important to manage small woodlands and companies such as Norcar and Farmi amongst many others will have new machines on show. The full list of current exhibitors can be seen on the visitor section of the website.

For those that have commented that not much actual tree felling seems to take place any more for a forestry show there will be large scale harvesting taking place with over 300 tonnes of timber felled over the three days by a range of both large and small scale harvesters.

Plant health continues to be ever more important and the Forestry Commission will be promoting their 'Keep It Clean' campaign and holding a series of topical seminars to bring you up to date with current research and news on the latest pest and diseases.

For the first time we will have a Forest Worker Zone. Organised by The National Coppice Federation and specifically aimed at the forest worker, there will be a range of daily practical drop-in discussions and demonstrations on a variety of subjects from ergonomic and efficient felling techniques, managing back pain, the new forest apprenticeship scheme to payment through the head. The draft programme for this can be found on the events page of the website.

There are new features even when you want to relax and enjoy a well-earned pint or lunch. Both the main catering areas will have large covered seating areas in case the weather turns inclement and both of these areas will have free Wi-Fi available to enable you to catch up

with work emails. The catering area near the woodland crafts area will have a range of artisan produced food including squirrel pie!

The Husqvarna World 25m pole climbing and the A W Jenkinson and Tilhill Forestry European Chainsaw carving competitions are both taking place again with the standard set to be higher than ever before. There will also be The Komatsu UK Forwarder Driving Competition and the very popular woodland crafts area with a huge range of rarely seen crafts on display.

You can book advance tickets now on our website and get a discount on the gate price and book space on our on-site campsite.

Full details of the exhibition, maps, booking forms and a list of exhibitors booked to date are on the exhibitor section of the website. Email: info@apfexhibition.co.uk, website: www.apfexhibition.co.uk, Tel: 01737 245081. You can also follow APF 2016 on Facebook www.facebook.com/APFExhibition and on Twitter @APFExhibition