

Coming up

TOMORROW

In the market for a new car?

In tomorrow's Motors pull-out we road test the new Lexus IS 220d Sport and look at the Volvo V70's used car potential. Plus, all the usual news, reviews and features, and stacks of vehicles for sale.

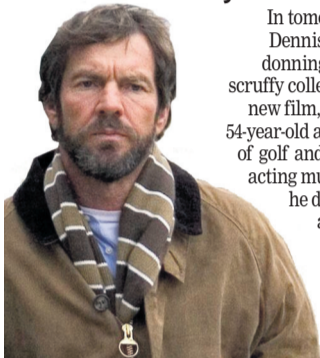


Contact newsdesk

PHONE: 01392 442238 FAX: 01392 442294
EMAIL: echonews@expressandecho.co.uk

TOMORROW

Going out or staying in?



In tomorrow's What's On, Dennis Quaid talks about donning a fat suit to play a scruffy college professor in his new film, *Smart People*. The 54-year-old also reveals his love of golf and why he's enjoying acting much more now than he did in his 20s. There are previews of the Pump DJs at the Lemon Grove, and The English Game at Exeter Northcott.

SATURDAY

Two-for-one to France

Two people can travel to Roscoff with Brittany Ferries from just £20. Plus you can take your car from only £25. Your final token is in Saturday's paper.



MONDAY

Win Sex and the City movie tickets

We've got five pairs up for grabs to see the spin-off from the hit TV series at Vue Exeter.



TUESDAY

Looking for somewhere to rent?

Then don't miss Tuesday's new look Property2let pull-out free inside: it's full of homes to rent in the Exeter area.



TUESDAY

Win a year's supply of ice cream

Choose a name for one of Langage Farm's new calves and you could scoop this great prize. Full details in Tuesday's Echo.



There's lots to look forward to in your Echo

The Devon County Show opens at Westpoint Arena today. The Echo spoke to organisers and exhibitors as they prepared for the arrival of the crowds



Organisers are set to show off the county at its wonderful best

BY JULIA BRADSHAW

AS the final marquees are erected, and the last few animals are washed, groomed and herded into their pens, the Devon County Show opens today at Westpoint Arena for another spectacular season.

In its 113th year, it is the first major agricultural show of the year, and Devon's largest event, attracting over 90,000 visitors.

Today, the Duchess of Cornwall is attending the county show in her capacity as show president.

"Camilla is really looking forward to coming back to the show," said show secretary Ollie Allen.

"She will visit the Young Farmers' exhibition, the National Farmers' Union area, Devon Home Crafts, and Farms for City Children, to name a few.

"She will also be presenting various awards in the main ring. The duchess really does want to have a relaxed visit and meet the people who come to the show and who put it on."

Wander through the massive grounds and you'll find everything from sheep shearing competitions to cookery demonstrations and falconry exhibitions.

If you're thirsty, you might want to stop off at the Contented Cow tent where you can choose from a fine selection of locally brewed ciders and beer served in biodegradable cups.

"The cups are made from food starch," said show steward Guy Shepard of Exe Valley Brewery.

"We think it is important for the environment that there are not lots of plastic cups floating around."

Daredevilish stunts from Bolddog Lings Motorcycle Display Team will be providing heart-stopping jumps all weekend and Titan, the popular giant robot sponsored by the Echo, will deliver enthralling street entertainment.

The Year of Food and Farming, a national curriculum initiative to connect children with rural life, is the show's official theme this year.

"Through various activities, we are trying to reconnect and keep youngsters connected with the countryside and instil in them a lifelong appreci-



Maggie Saffery with some of her honey

MARCUS THOMPSON EE140508_MT03_18



A vintage tractor



Tasha Bradley, of Heron Valley organic juice and cider EE140508_MT03_25



FOR MORE ON THE COUNTY SHOW:
www.thisisexeter.co.uk/countyshow

ation for food and farming," said Ollie.

Despite the various diseases which have afflicted farms over the last year, Ollie said exhibitor numbers are still high.

"Farmers respect the animals like nobody else and losing animals to disease such as TB is heart-rending," she said.

"We are only slightly down in numbers this

year, mainly because of movement restrictions."

Wendy Webster, show steward of the goat area, said: "The class of animals here is as good as anywhere else in the country.

"This is a very popular display with the public because people like to look at the little ones and can touch the goats without having to be concerned about having their fingers squashed!"

For more information call 01392 446000 or visit www.devoncountyshow.co.uk. Bookings hotline: 01392 353753

SHOW NOSTALGIA:
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What's in store in your Echo...

FROM the arrival of famous faces to the latest results in all the competition classes, your Echo will be keeping you up to date with everything that is happening at the Devon County Show.

A day-to-day guide to all the results will appear on our website at www.thisisexeter.co.uk/devoncountyshow as well as a daily blog from Echo reporter Rob Flemming, breaking news from the event, and all the latest pictures. Our online coverage has already started while all the latest news will also be published daily in your Echo

The Echo at County Show

THE lucky 500 were celebrating at the Devon County Show today.

They were the ones who got their green fingers on Echo's eco-friendly green bags that were up for grabs.

Each day, 500 of the bags will be on offer — all you have to do is buy a copy of the Express & Echo and for a further £1 donation you can pick up a copy of Devon Today and a green bag, for as long as stocks last.

Money raised by the donations will be given to the Echo's We Care campaign.

Talking of which, the campaign's Champion, Falklands hero Simon Weston, will be at the show.

He was just 20 years old when a fire on the ship he was on during the Falklands War left him with 49 per cent burns in 1982.

Out of the 30 men in his platoon, he was one of only eight who survived, and in his battle to be well again he needed a high level of care.

Watch out for the Echo's summer house on the junction of Avenue K and road 9, near the woodland

Sausages job for writer Tom

THE celebrity judge of this year's Spring Sausage Competition at the Devon County Show is food writer and local produce champion Tom Parker Bowles.

Tom is the son of this year's Show President, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

As a judge of the competition tomorrow, he will taste between 30 and 40 sausages made by local producers using local pork.

Competition organiser Deborah Custance Baker said she was delighted that Tom was going to be a judge.

"He's young, interested in real food and not a bit afraid to speak his mind!" she said.

"I just hope that he comes to the show nice and hungry because even tasting just a little bit of each of the sausages is pretty filling!"

Bees to give crowds a buzz

DEVON Beekeepers' Association will be enthusiastic visitors at the Devon County Show this year

A full-size hive of bees safely contained in a glass case will show the creatures at work, and experts will be on hand to explain how honey is made.

And depending on the weather, beekeepers will extract the honey from the hives in a live demonstration and allow one or two children to suit up and help out.

"Beekeeping is a wonderfully rewarding and incredibly relaxing pastime," said Stephen Ide, of the Devon Beekeepers' Association.

TOMORROW: We'll have a report on the first day including the Duchess of Cornwall's visit