



# MINISTER VISITS WESTCOTT VENTURE PARK TO SIGN GROWTH DEAL AGREEMENT



(L-R) Rob Selby, Moog's site operations manager, Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP Minister of State for Cabinet Office (Cities and Constitution) and Minister of State for Universities and Science, Alex Pratt, OBE Chair of the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and John Bercow MP for Buckingham and Speaker for the House of Commons. Photo courtesy of Bucks Herald.

Westcott Venture Park was delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Minister of State for Cabinet Office (Cities and Constitution) and Minister of State for Universities and Science, on Friday 9th January to sign the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) Local Growth Deal that will trigger £44.2m worth of investment to increase prosperity and growth in the county.

The visit was also an opportunity for the Minister to see the exciting work being undertaken in the area of space propulsion and to experience a live demonstration of rocket propulsion from Airborne Engineering.

The development of Westcott Venture Park as a major space production hub was highlighted in BTVLEP's Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014). In addition, Moog is in a unique position as UK's premier manufacturer of rockets and thrusters for space applications and the Westcott site has heritage in rocketry since 1946.

Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "We were

**TODAYS VISIT ALSO ALLOWED US TO DEMONSTRATE SOME OF THE PIONEERING WORK TAKING PLACE**

delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP to Westcott Venture Park for the official signing of our Local Growth Deal, which marks a major milestone between Government and the BTVLEP to help facilitate the delivery of growth and prosperity for Buckinghamshire. Today's visit also allowed us to demonstrate some of the pioneering work taking place in the county in the area of space propulsion, an

industry which employs over 7,500 people in Bucks."

Universities, Science and Cities Minister Greg Clark said: "It's only right that the people of Buckinghamshire and the Thames Valley should be the architects of their own local growth. Through this Growth Deal we are ensuring that £73 million of investment is targeted at the issues that matter to them the most, like improving roads, skills training for young people and support for business.

"Devolving power from central government is a crucial element of our economic plan and an important step in building stronger, more prosperous, regional economies."

The visit follows the submission of the BTVLEP Strategic Economic Plan proposal last March for a share of a £2bn pot of national money for the development of local jobs and business growth, and subsequent Local Growth Deal allocation in July of £44.2m.

To read the Strategic Economic Plan & Local Growth Deal executive summary please go to <http://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/strategic-economic-plan>



**Nigel MacKenzie**  
Project Manager, WVP

## WELCOME

Welcome to our fourth edition of The Rocket and the first news roundup of 2015.

The year started with a high profile visit from the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Minister of State for the Cabinet Office and Minister of State for Universities and Science and our local MP, the Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker House of Commons, to sign the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (TVLEP) Local Growth Deal. Some of you will have seen the coverage on BBC South Today and the prominence afforded to WVP on the day.

Construction is moving apace on the first phase of our speculative industrial development Century Court, with the steel framework soon to be erected.

In this issue we are delighted to include a guest article by Alex Pratt, OBE, Chair of Buckinghamshire TVLEP, who talks about his recent visits to the park and the benefits of the Local Growth Deal. We also incorporate a letter from Ann Owen who came with a group of cousins to visit the site of the accident of November 14 1947.

We say a fond farewell to Harold Gaskins who has retired as ground maintenance manager having worked at WVP for over 30 years. Our regular Q & A Interview is with Green Retreats' Managing Director, Roy Wetherall and Refuel Apparel announce new management duo following an outstanding first year in business. We also introduce a new section 'What we do' where we give a snap shot into other businesses on the park.

In our first issue of The Rocket we suggested the formation of a tenant forum but unfortunately had little response. We do feel a tenant forum is an important step forward in order to establish feedback on issues important to your businesses such as broadband and public transport, so I will be writing to all tenants to establish a way forward.

# REFUEL APPAREL WELCOME NEW MANAGEMENT DUO FOLLOWING AN OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR IN BUSINESS



I'M REALLY PLEASED TO HAVE GARETH AND RICHARD STEERING THE BUSINESS FORWARD



Following an exceptional first year in business, full service screen printing company, Refuel Apparel has now been positioned as a subsidiary of Refuel Global Brands Ltd.

The company based at Westcott Venture Park was established in 2013, launched by Peter Lee, main shareholder of the Refuel Group of companies. Refuel Global Brands Ltd is the official licensee for several well-known streetwear brands including Starter Black Label whereas Refuel Brand Distribution Ltd is the official Mitchell & Ness distributor for the world outside of North America.

When establishing the business the primary aim was to service both the Starter and Mitchell & Ness printing requirements due to the high volume of merchandise being commissioned to external print houses.

With a solid foothold in the streetwear printing market, the business branched out further to service the music distribution industry, working in the last year with Plastic Head and UB40.

They have also worked with local businesses and other companies at Westcott Venture Park, creating bespoke uniforms from a small run of low-cost transfer t-shirts to mass orders of premium screen printed garments. Refuel Global Brands has now appointed two joint managing directors to develop new revenue streams and build the Refuel Apparel business to achieve growth and success.

Richard Stafford joins from a senior management background within the apparel sector, bringing with him his contacts within the world of sports, having successfully launched the NBA and NFL brands into nine European Countries and worked with the likes of Manchester United. Gareth Ellis has been with Refuel Global Brands Ltd since it's beginning and has a rich background in fashion and product design.

Gareth says: "The big focus for us now is working on what is known as 'quick response' which is a business model based on the 'what if program' adopted in the US. This model involves designing, developing, printing and delivering sports club event merchandise for example, t-shirts and hoodies on a quick turnaround basis. We are working to take the 'What if program' business model and replicate that in the UK."

Richard goes onto say: "We believe growth for Refuel Apparel in the sports sector is huge and with our current capacity to turn around apx 2,500 units per day, we are ready to launch this new service direct to the industry. There are many other sporting opportunities ahead with the Rugby World Cup in 2015 and the ICC Cricket in 2016 as well as building on our existing success within the football industry. We have already increased output by 30% as a direct result of introducing these new business streams so have realistic goals of increasing the business by at least 50% in the coming year."

Peter Lee, CEO of Refuel Global Brands comments: "I'm really pleased to have Gareth and Richard steering the business forward, their roles are of a strategic business focus and I believe the blend of experience and industry contacts will be a winning combination."

The Refuel Group has grown exponentially since its conception in 2009 and reports year upon year success, with current year revenues likely to be in excess of £20million.





# SPACE, THE FINAL FRONTIER...

BY ALEX PRATT, OBE, CHAIR OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE THAMES VALLEY LEP\*

It's not every day that the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, Universities, Science & Cities pops in for a chat, but then it's not everywhere that is home to a global centre for inter-planetary rocket propulsion.

I was delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP to Westcott Venture Park in January for the official signing of our Local Growth Deal with Central Government, which has been negotiated over many months and seeks to grow and strengthen the private sector.

In all, the Bucks Local Growth Deal will trigger £53m of new investment, creating up to 5,000 new jobs, building 600 new homes and generating a further £40m of associated public and private investment. The deal will enable firms in Bucks to build on the latent competitive potential in high growth sectors which have deep roots in the county, none more so than rocket propulsion industry at Westcott with its 70-year pioneering heritage.

Space may be Captain Kirk's final frontier but it is also a serious business opportunity for the UK economy, and is already an industry employing thousands of high value

people in Bucks. Within the expanding UK Space industry, the development of space propulsion, particularly for controlling satellites in orbit, represents an important lucrative opportunity.

The potential for Westcott Venture Park as a hub for space production is well understood. Westcott offers a unique set of advantages to focus more on UK rocket propulsion business and jobs. Greg Clark MP was impressed by the pioneering drive and impact shown by world class businesses including Moog and Airbourne Innovation who seek to pioneer world-beating innovations in space propulsion.

This Ministerial blessing follows hot on the heels of a visit to the site by Rob Douglas, Chair of the UK Space Agency Steering Committee to discuss rocket propulsion and our plans to develop the Westcott Venture Park into a national test facility for space propulsion.

We have been arguing a strong case that a component of the national test facility for space propulsion must be based at Westcott Venture Park, support for which is underpinned by

a cadre of impressive industry and academic partners.

Growth at Westcott is not restricted to the space sector; with Rockspring Hanover Property Unit Trust investing in a new speculative development to create new premises for businesses – to add to the 71 firms and 400 people already working there.

None of this is rocket science, but then again I suppose it is.

To read the Strategic Economic Plan & Local Growth Deal executive summary please go to <http://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/strategic-economic-plan>

\* Alex Pratt is the founder of thriving small business Serious Readers and an adviser to the UK government on innovation and skills. Currently he is Chairman of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP and Buckinghamshire Business First, as well as Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership Network's Management Board that drives forward collaborative activity across all 39 LEPs.

## APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER BUS VISITS WVP

On 10th December 2014 WVP hosted the Apprenticeship Employer Bus, which visited the park to promote the benefits of taking on an apprentice.

Organised by the Skills Funding Agency, The National Apprenticeship Service exhibited at the park as part of the employment engagement strategy in the Buckinghamshire area.

Dedicated employer teams were on hand to guide both onsite businesses as well as external companies through the process and benefits of hiring an apprentice.

Commenting on the visit Colin Theobald, managing agent at WVP says: "We were delighted to be the chosen Buckinghamshire business park to host the Apprenticeship Employer Bus."

"The Park has been home to a long line of apprentices, some whom are still working here today, for many companies on the park it is a tried and tested method and we are strong advocates of park tenants' employing apprentices to solve our skills shortages with home grown talent."

If you were unable to visit the bus and would like more information visit: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)



L/R: Jane Mason Buckinghamshire Business First, Lucy Pigot and Julie Rossington Skills Funding Agency, Patricia Jones - Bucks Recycling and Steve Nicolson Skills Funding Agency.

# INTERVIEW WITH GREEN RETREATS' MANAGING DIRECTOR, ROY WETHERALL



## ► What was your first job?

My first job was a trainee electronics technician.

## ► How much was in your first pay packet and what did you spend it on?

My first pay packet was £15 per week and I remember buying a motorbike on the never-never.

## ► Describe how your career developed to the present day?

I began my career in electronics, obtaining a degree in electronic engineering and a further degree in supervision and management. Once qualified, I took a year out with a friend to travel Europe in a campervan. We worked our way around Europe doing the usual jobs like grape picking; we worked in a sugar factory in Germany sold doughnuts on the beach in the South of France.

Once back in UK I took a job testing body scanners before moving into sales within the electronics sector, eventually working as Vice President for an American corporate company specialising in security electronics. I moved to California for a couple of years in my role as VP which involved a great deal of work and travel but which equipped me with a real understanding of how to scale a business.

Tired of the workload and constant travelling, I decided to get out of the security electronics business to relocate back to the UK with a view to setting up a business. Originally my wife started an animal housing business creating outdoor housing for pets. As the business developed we saw a gap in the market for external buildings and an opportunity to develop into the home office market.

At that time, about a decade ago, if someone wanted a home office they would line a shed and make a pretty poor job of it and there was only one other competitor in the UK market. So in 2005 we set up Green Retreats to satisfy the growing demand for rooms in the garden, to create additional lifestyle space for year round use.

In line with the rest of the UK, 2008 was a tough year for business so we quickly restructured, took a gamble on more factory space, started manufacturing the buildings in a more efficient way, scaling up the business in order to achieve economies of scale.



Overall the recession helped us because people couldn't move house or release funds as easily in order to build extensions but were still having families and running out of household space, so all these factors assisted our business growth.

Ten years on and we now work within an established market of around 200 competitors, however, the market has expanded more than 200 fold. Green Retreats is now the largest company in the home office market both in terms of volume, having installed over 10,000 buildings nationwide, and in terms of revenue.

## ► Describe a typical day

A typical day for me is ensuring the managers have the right level of support so the business can run smoothly. I still take a hands-on approach visiting clients and meeting with professional suppliers but I often take care of customer service requests such as door adjustments or alike. We work as a team, I sit in the main office as I like to know what is going on but try not to take control.

▶ Who/what have been the biggest influences on your career?

I guess my biggest inspiration has come from my parents; coming from a large family, my brothers, sisters and I were encouraged to get out there and do well for ourselves and that motivation has been my key driver.

▶ And your worst?

Not to have done this earlier.

▶ Do you run an apprenticeship scheme?

Yes, we have apprentice electricians but struggle to find the right support from Buckinghamshire colleges in order to recruit for other trades, such as welding for instance. Location can also prove problematic, as it is difficult for an apprentice to get transportation to the park.

▶ What is the secret of good management?

I don't think there is any great secret but we take the approach of fairness and understanding and as a result have a very loyal workforce.

▶ Do you have a good work/life balance?

Nowadays I do but it was tough when we built the business although we said from the start that we wouldn't work weekends and with the exception of Saturday mornings when the show rooms are open, everyone in the company has weekends off. We all work hard enough in the week.

▶ What are the biggest challenges facing your business today?

Recruiting good people with the right skill set - everything else has a method, a process, a formula but people are the biggest challenge for our business.

▶ How do you see your company developing over the next five years?

As a privately owned company we define our own financial goals. Our key driver is in the creation of new products and we hope to create a greater spread of products to fulfil the incremental marketing. We are in a fantastic position with great staff and best pricing to be able to deliver new products to new markets so the business will grow organically with the success of our products.

▶ What has been your most satisfying moment?

Finally making a profit – in the early years we never knew if we were going to make a profit until the monthly accountants meeting when sometimes we would and other times we would make a loss. Over the last two years profit margins have shown a more consistent picture so we now have confidence that this is a regular occurrence.

▶ What do you do to motivate your workforce?

Each member of staff receives a profit related bonus, we have a big Christmas party and run small events throughout the year.

▶ How much do you use social media and how effective is it?

We have a Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google+ accounts but don't use social media enough so are developing our online networks further in the coming year with an emphasis on online video.

▶ What is your attitude to the environment and do you have any green policies in place?

We are trying really hard to increase our green credentials and work closely with Bucks Recycling who take care of our pallet waste. Our biggest problem is avoiding sending waste to landfill and there is a shortage of knowledge and facilities for recycling wood waste in particular.

▶ Why WVP?

Westcott is the perfect location for our business; aside from its rural location, a big draw for us was the security protection as we have a lot of material that is stored outside. There are no internal disruptions on the park, which also works for us and our people love it, as it's a nice drive in with limited traffic, plenty of parking and it's a friendly family type environment. We also benefit from the use of other business services on the park such as motor servicing, UPVC manufacturers and Bucks Recycling to name a few.

▶ Is there any other job you would like to have done and why?

A racing driver as I just love going fast.

▶ What would you like to do when you retire?

I don't want to retire as I enjoy work so you won't be catching me on a golf course!



**WE ARE IN A FANTASTIC POSITION, WITH GREAT STAFF AND BEST PRICING TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER NEW PRODUCTS TO NEW MARKETS**



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @Green\_retreats



## Who we are

We are a sound and lighting production company and have been creating memorable events in both the corporate and private sector since we formed in 1997. We are a family orientated business that delivers the personal touch and we believe this ethos sets us apart from our competitors. We work in a unique way on a unique business park, we love our work and we love coming to work.

I started business at WVP in 1997 with £50 in my pocket occupying a very small building, we now occupy 5,000 sq ft on the park and we are running out of space. We are probably one of the longest standing companies on site here at Westcott and our four original full time staff are still with us, in fact my eldest son works here and my younger son works onsite for Topcats Racing.

## What we do

We deliver all manor of spectacular events from ceremonies and conferences to parties and fundraisers, including weddings, award dinners, live events, product launches and discos.

We used to be a theming company with thousands of props but the market has changed, thanks to the likes of Britain's got talent and X Factor, people now want the WOW factor rather than props. This shift in market forced us to re-evaluate our business so two years ago we took the decision to focus more on corporate conferences delivering specialist sound and lighting production for product launches and award ceremonies.

The reason that Class Act is a 'good bet' is that whilst most companies within our sector have to hire in the

equipment and therefore pass on the cost, we are able to supply equipment at a fraction of the cost as we own the kit we use.

## Why WVP

I live two miles down the road and the thought of working on an industrial estate in a town would stop me running a business. I like it out here because we are in the country and I actually think as business parks go, WVP is a really good site and it's a good package. The security here is second to none and it's vital for us to have 24-hour access to the park as we work unsocial hours.

## Future Plans

The future is bright for us here at Westcott and we are now actively marketing to drum up business in the conference sector for the year ahead

## Message to WVP businesses

If you are planning a conference for a thousand, a party for a hundred or a small festival, speak to us, we are onsite and can do you a good deal.

If you would like to find out more about Class Act visit [www.classact.uk.com](http://www.classact.uk.com) or speak to Mick Watson on 01296 658222



## INTERVIEW WITH MICK WATSON, OWNER OF CLASS ACT, BUILDING 435

# WHAT WE DO:

Claire Thompson of Papa Romeo PR talks to companies around the park to give you an insight into businesses here at WVP.

## Who we are

Founded at WVP in 2006, we are data recovery and e-discovery specialists with a vast array of experience ranging from hard disk and RAID data recovery though to Microsoft Exchange and SQL server recovery.

We currently occupy 3,000 sq ft here at WVP, which is fully occupied by computer equipment and operated by four full time staff.

When we started the company our key focus was on data recovery, which accounted for approximately 80% of our business with 20% forensic computing. At the time our clients were either people who had used our services previously or new clients we had won through online advertising. We found Google Ad Words was most effective with people who had emergency restoration projects and we attracted many new data recovery clients in this way. Forensic computing or tape restoration work is a slower burn for generating new business and we appreciated that this work would develop through building relationships with companies, so it made sense at the start to focus heavily on the data recovery market.

## What we do

Our experience covers all areas of data migration and data conversion, whether it be processing data from a single tape or a library containing thousands of data cartridges, and the processing of data from tape archives for computer forensic investigation and civil litigation.

The biggest growth area for us now is within the high-speed restoration of data as the demand for this type of work has become much greater in recent years. This demand has been driven by corporate compliance and

E disclosure requests where legal cases have arisen and companies need to look through historic email data.

## Why WVP

We felt the rent was good, the rates were excellent, it was a real bonus to be able to look out onto the countryside but the security was the big thing for us. It is important for our clients to know we work in a secure environment, so having 24-hour security is essential to what we do.

Location wise being at Westcott is good as we are near the M40, M1 as well as Aylesbury and Bicester. Our clients are global, we work with many US and Canadian firms so it was fantastic when FedEx moved here as we use their courier service on a daily basis which saves us a great deal of time.

## Future Plans

We are hoping to do more of the same over the next few years. We are currently focusing on software development to enable some of the more specialist tasks to be less arduous, so that we can increase staff numbers and capacity in future.

## INTERVIEW WITH MARK SEAR AND LAURA SANGSTER OF ALTIRIUM, BUILDING 439



Mark Sear and Alan English

## Message to WVP businesses

If you lose data on your hard disks or require data migration or e-disclosure then feel free to contact us.

If you would like to find out more about Altirium visit [www.altirium.com](http://www.altirium.com)

## Who we are

The BALANCE organisation was founded in 1993 by a small group of people who had stumbled upon an unrecognised issue within the horse industry, that was causing many horses anything from mild discomfort to serious disability and damage!

In the late 1980's and 1990's we were doing research, that exposed serious flaws in conventional saddle fitting practices and saddle design. There was no proper training for saddle fitters anywhere in the world and too many people making saddles, fitting saddles and using saddles with little to no knowledge of horse anatomy, and how the saddle impacts on it.

Our background had been in training horses and riders with a specific focus upon bio-mechanical correctness of movement in the horse.

We identified the design features that horses need in any saddle to use its body as nature intended, along with



Lesley Taylor and Carol Brett joint MD's

## INTERVIEW WITH LESLEY TAYLOR OF THE BALANCE ORGANISATION, BROOKE HOUSE, BUILDING 436

a method of 'fitting' the saddle that related to movement rather than the conventional approach of matching the static body shape of the horse.

When this information went public it created a shock wave and some radical changes in the saddle industry; a realisation that proper training was needed and a huge increase of general interest in the way that saddles impact on horses.

### What we do

We design, produce and supply saddles and associated equipment, focussed on the welfare and comfort of the ridden horse. We offer an alternative and 'Whole-istic' training about saddling and its connections to the health, performance and welfare of ridden horses, for anyone involved.

This concept was considered radical and unusual when we

founded the company in 1993 as it challenged, what had become, the status quo.

When it comes to constructive methods of saddling and bio-mechanically supportive equipment for horses and their riders we have been on the leading edge for over 20yrs. and are recognised as such

### Why WVP

Early in the 'life' of the BALANCE Organisation, we had a small office, based at Addington in Buckinghamshire. However, in 1997 we made the move to Westcott Venture Park, at a time when it offered exactly what we needed to grow our business. Originally we renovated and leased half of building 9, (part of the old firestation) and later took over the whole building. We eventually outgrew this too, but didn't want to move away. So when Brook House became vacant, we jumped at the opportunity to move into this larger building which, by the way, used to be the WVP medical centre, just a stone's throw away from the former fire station.

### Future Plans

In 2013 we celebrated the BALANCE organisation's 20th anniversary. Since 1993 we have built a huge following of horse owners, trainers, veterinarians, therapists etc., who have witnessed the transformation of horses who have been moved out of the limitations of conventional saddling and into, what we refer to as, 'Constructive Saddling'. BALANCE is a small business that is having a big influence in the global horse industry! Over 50% of our sales are exports. All of our suppliers and manufacturers are British and we aim to keep it that way. We continue to build on our following and grow the business by recommendation and referral. In 2015 we will be looking for someone new to take on an administration position to share the workload

### Message to WVP businesses

There are many changes afoot at WVP and we watch with interest. Being here for so long...we have grown used to the wide open spaces and the large expanses of open grass. Expansion and growth will mean more buildings and less grass, but we know that while the views out of our windows may become less picturesque in the future, we feel that the 'Pros' of being here will still massively out-weight the 'Cons' and we have yet to see a better place to have our office.

If you would like to find out more about our work, please visit [www.balanceinternational.com](http://www.balanceinternational.com)

We would love to hear about your businesses so if you would like to be featured in the next issue please contact: Claire Thompson on 07811 339577 or via email [Claire@paparomeopr.com](mailto:Claire@paparomeopr.com)

# LETTER FROM ANN OWEN FOLLOWING A VISIT TO WVP

Saturday, 25 October 2014 found seven of us descending on Westcott Venture Park. We had come as a group of cousins and partners to visit the site of the accident of November 14 1947.

In the accident a German 109.510 RA70 unit exploded in the D8 building. At the time the Park was the Rocket Propulsion Department of Farnborough. Three people lost their lives as a result of the explosion and many other people suffered different degrees of injury. Dr Johannes Schmidt, a German scientist and Ronald Price Rowlands died at the scene. Joseph Salmon died later in hospital.

The tragic accident has always been remembered in our family as Joe Salmon was married to my Aunt Sally, my mother's twin sister. The story that circulated for many years in the family was that Joe had died dismantling a V-2 Rocket. Perhaps Sally had never had enough information but her son, born some years after the accident, promised he would find out what had happened and pay his respects to her first husband. Joe is buried in Aylesbury Cemetery with his baby son. He was born within three weeks of the accident but died when two days old.

We are very grateful to Ed Andrews who came in especially to meet us and take us to the site of the accident. His knowledge of the history of the Park is very detailed and all our questions were answered. It was surreal to stand where the accident that happened nearly 70 years ago.

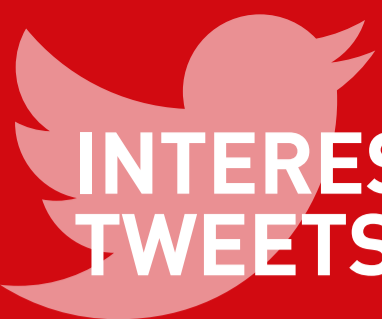
We established it was not a V-2 that blew up in Westcott but we have learnt that Joe had been part of Operation Backfire. He had visited Cuxhaven in late 1945 where the UK was assembling and launching V-2's but that is another story. His visit to Germany offers an explanation of how the story in the family memory had come about.

Ann Owen



From L/R: Janet and Gareth Morgan, Ruth Ridpath, Gwyn Davies, Ann Owen, Anne Davies, Gari Owen

If you have a story or memory about Westcott you would like to share with us please do get in touch with Claire Thompson on 07811 339577 or via email [Claire@paparomeopr.com](mailto:Claire@paparomeopr.com)



# INTERESTING TWEETS

**Refuel Apparel Ltd @RefuelApparel13 5 Feb**  
Up at the crack of dawn @WestcottVP!  
Ploughing through our #Relentless order.

**Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP 5 Feb**  
We are on the lookout for an experienced  
Property Administrator to join us here at  
Westcott Venture Park <http://bit.ly/18QRyMh>

**BTVLEP @BTVLEP 26 Jan**  
If you missed @BTVLEP Local Growth Deal  
signing with @gregclarkmp @WestcottVP on  
BBC South Today go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTIYQQZf-Lo&feature=youtu.be> ...

**Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP 9 Jan**  
Great to welcome Greg Clark MP, John Bercow,  
Speaker House of Commons @AusterityExpert  
& the BBC at WVP today

**Dept for Business @bisgovuk 9 Jan**  
Minister Clark signs £73m Bucks Thames Valley  
#GrowthDeal with @BTVLEP @WestcottVP &  
Moog-ISP creating 4,000 jobs

**Mitchell & Ness Europe @MitchellNessEur Jan 2**  
Heat or Bulls? Show your support with three  
styles available online now @UrbanOutfitters

**Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP Jan 2**  
UK space industry set to rocket with over £200  
million of new investment for Europe's space  
programme <http://bit.ly/1Co4C7Z>

**Neil Bainbridge @BSMotorsport Dec 20**  
It got to the top so I suppose we better fill it  
up tomorrow and then build a new workshop!

**Class Act @classactevents Dec 18**  
Backed up and out. Killer queen at the LSO in  
London for a Christmas party. #sounds good  
#production #london

**Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP Dec 18**  
Family-owned business sector "booming" -  
research <http://bit.ly/13BEDLM>

**Bucks Business First @bbfuk Dec 10**  
The @Apprenticeships Employer Bus is at @  
WestcottVP #Aylesbury until 4pm today. Find  
out more <http://bit.ly/1w9orvU>

**Alex Pratt @AusterityExpert Nov 18**  
@PapaRomeoPR @WestcottVP @spacegovuk  
Such great work going on there.

**Green Retreats Ltd @green\_retreats Nov 13**  
One of our customers is using their new Green  
Retreat to expand a successful cake business -  
<http://goo.gl/4K2KI2>



Don't forget to follow us on  
Twitter @WestcottVP

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# DID YOU KNOW?

Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. This is borne of the heartbeat of enterprise, which is manifest in a propensity to act; and a propensity to successfully exploit new ideas. It is no accident

that Buckinghamshire is the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

## FOND FAREWELL TO HAROLD GASKINS

In November 2014 we said a fond farewell to Harold Gaskins who retired as ground maintenance manager for HGA aged 92.

Harold started working at Westcott Venture Park in September 1984 and two years later in 1986 formed HGA with his sons Geoff and Alan who continue to manage the landscaping at the Park.

Colin Theobald, managing agent at WVP says: "We would like to say a big thank you to Harold for his fantastic contribution to the Park having worked here for over 30 years. We recognise and acknowledge his support and personal commitment over the years, many a morning up at 2am to grit roads for the occupiers at Westcott to get to work safely. There is no doubt that Harold's sheer dedication and hard work have made the park a better place for us all."

As a boy Harold used to drive cattle from Brill to Bicester and can remember hitching a ride on the Brill tramway that used to run through the Venture Park to Quainton, because the track was laid directly on the ground with little in the form of a solid base it was restricted to 4MPH hence folk could jump on the flatbed wagons. During the war he can remember seeing two Blenheim bombers collide and crash near Bicester.



Harold in the centre with his sons Geoff & Alan

## HISTORIC FACT 3 – DID YOU KNOW?

# SUPERMAN LANDS AT WVP!

"Oops, I'm sorry. I can explain everything." What Superman star Christopher Reeve said to military policeman at Westcott after accidentally landing his Booker-based sailplane at the airfield in March 1980.

The actor stayed for a couple of hours whilst this was happening, having tea and signing autographs until his friend came to pick up the glider."

Staff recognised the star, of course, but still had to check out he wasn't carrying any cameras on board because of the secretive testing going on at the time.



## AVAILABLE SPACE

Building 9	Office	1,254 sq ft
Building 416	Office/stores	1,181 sq ft / 406 sq ft
Part Building	Workshop/Storage	421 910 sq ft
Building S5	Workshop/store	312 sq ft
Building S6	Rooms	from 120 sq ft

A wide selection of space is available. Please call us on 01296 655281 for more details or visit the 'Available Space' page on our website.

[www.westcottventurepark.com](http://www.westcottventurepark.com)



ROCKSPRING

