

## NEW SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FOR WESTCOTT VENTURE PARK COMMUTERS



We are delighted to announce that from 4th January 2016 we will be introducing a new shuttle bus route to serve Westcott Venture Park occupiers travelling to and from Bicester and Aylesbury and integrating with other local transport links.

The number 17 express shuttle bus service will run each hour connecting the business park to Aylesbury and Bicester also stopping at Waddesdon and Kingswood. The service will make 12 journeys throughout the day, departing from Aylesbury bus station from 7:50am with first stop at Westcott Venture Park at 8:30am by the new Century Court development and reaching Bicester at 9am.

The initiative, which will be provided by Aylesbury based, Red Rose Travel has been funded by Rockspring Hanover Property Unit Trust and will run for a 12 month trial

IN THIS ISSUE...

period to serve the businesses here at WVP. Fares will not be subsidised but the service is a regular, quick and convenient way for commuters and their clients alike to travel to the park.

This move is in direct response to feedback from tenants who suggested a transportation facility would benefit their businesses. They felt it would be a

## THIS IS A GREAT NEW SERVICE... A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO CAR TRAVEL

useful resource, supporting them to attract and retain staff and by providing a viable means for apprentices to commute to and from the park. It also gives people the chance to leave their cars at home,

HONDA

by making sure they have a sustainable alternative for travelling to work.

Nigel MacKenzie, project manager at WVP is expecting the new express bus service to prove popular. He said: "This is a great new service serving the parks business community and will enable staff based here at WVP to have a real alternative to car travel. We are running this as a pilot scheme over the next 12 months in order to gauge interest from tenants and will be running the express shuttle from Aylesbury to Bicester on weekdays to match business start and finish times."

For further information on bus routes

POCKSPRING



## WELCOME

Welcome to our sixth issue of The Rocket Newsletter, bringing you all the news from around the park.

What a year it's been, certainly the busiest I've experienced here at WVP. We completed phase I of the new Century Court development on time and on budget and with three lettings arranged within the first month following completion. We have taken steps to reinstate a tenant forum and secured planning consent for a new signature HQ building at the park. So we are looking forward to an even busier 2016 with Phase II of Century Court and other developments on the park starting construction.

2016 is going to be a very significant year in the history of Westcott Venture Park, as we will be celebrating 70 years since the park became the Guided Projectile Establishment and therefore the home of rocket propulsion research in the UK. We will be including the stories of some of those original rocket scientists in our next issue.

Since the last issue we have welcomed new occupiers to the park including electronic defence system specialists Antillion, fashion house DKNY, road traffic specialists RTEM, bespoke furniture makers Ali & Gray and most recently Aylesbury Chauffeurs. This brings our total tenant numbers to 75, which represents a 14% increase occupier growth over the last two years.

please contact Anthony Wright on arwright@lsh.co.uk or phone 01296 655281.

> Companies featured in this edition include John Bennett of ECOPAC, Kim Saunders of KLS Accountancy Services, Matt Norris of Matt Norris Engineering (MNE), Ian 'Ratty' Armitage of Badger Tac, Adrian Phillips of Phillips Welding Services, and Green Retreats.

As always, we would love to hear your stories so please contact Claire at Papa Romeo PR if you wish to be featured.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and successful year ahead.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

## Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

# INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BENNETT -ECOPAC

## ing shouldn't cost the earth

P ECOPAC



I WORKED AT THE LOCAL SWIMMING BATHS IN BIRMINGHAM AS A LIFEGUARD RUNNING THE WATER FLUMES

What was your first job and what did your responsibilities include?

I worked at the local swimming baths in Birmingham as a lifeguard running the water flumes, so I had lots of responsibilities as we had peoples lives in our hands.

## Describe how you career developed to the present day.

After my job as a lifeguard, I went to the US to complete a three-month Camp America placement before returning to the UK where I secured my first sales role aged 20. Working for a paper company known as Wiggins Teape in Birmingham, my position was within the packaging department, selling packaging solutions to businesses across the Midlands – so I've never really worked outside of the packaging industry.

I started working for ECOPAC on 14th April 1997 as an external sales person but I've always been involved in the purchasing side of the business as well. Over the years my role has developed from sales manager to commercial manager and a couple of years ago I was made commercial

director with overall responsibility for the running of the business.

## What are the key responsibilities in your position?

Essentially I now run the company, so I am ultimately responsible for the livelihood of a further 18 people as well as my day-to-day responsibilities of managing key accounts.

## Describe a typical day

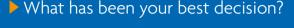
I'm not a great morning person but I leave the house in Towcester at around 6:15 am for the morning commute which gives me time to consider the day ahead and at the end of the day allows time to get out of work mode. I aim to get to the office for around 7-7:30am but usually find my



first job is to empty the dishwasher as no one else does it! I can't start the day without a cup of tea but usually get to see the drivers before they go out and make the most of the quiet time before the day starts. Some days I might be office based and others I might have customer or supplier appointments and I tend to be the last to finish at around 6 - 6.30pm.

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

The previous majority shareholder of ECOPAC, Doug Sparks has been the biggest influence on my career as he spotted something in me and allowed it to flourish. The business has gone through such rapid change over the last eight years, more than tripling the turnover as well as the size of business in terms of footprint.



My best decision was to stay at ECOPAC after the acquisition by new owners nine years ago. At the time I was bringing in more sales than anyone else as well as being involved in a good proportion of the purchasing decisions and was working reasonably long hours for not a great deal of money. Essentially, I wanted a bit of recognition for what I was achieving, so I had a few frank exchanges with Doug from the outset, which helped to establish a mutual respect and we ended up working really well together as a team.

## What is the secret of good management?

In terms of management principles at ECOPAC, I don't ask anyone here to do anything I wouldn't be willing to do myself, if I was qualified to do it. I've completed almost every job here at some stage or another - driving lorries, doing deliveries and I've even worked running the bubble winding machine and have been known to sweep the floors.

We have a very flat management structure so we can make decisions and take actions quickly in order to make things happen. Most importantly, we are like a family and emotionally we are all connected which means the good and the bad things affect us collectively. We have gone through a number of emotionally challenging situations over the last three to four years and we have supported each other and formed strong bonds. We all work together, we all pull in the same direction, we know what we need to get done and through all manner of adversities we have managed to work well as a team.

## Do you have a good work/life balance?

No not really, I don't spend as much time as I should do, or want to at home but I do have to consider the needs of the business. I don't think it does any harm for the staff to see that I am here working alongside them, which means that I am here relatively early and relatively late each day.

Once or twice a year I go to the Far East for supplier visits, as dealing with the Chinese remotely, is challenging. They like to see whom they are dealing with and I like to see where our products are being made. The first time I went to China we saw over 13 factories over a ten-day period but some were little more than cow sheds with chickens running around and at others it appeared children were working. We do not support that sort of endeavour so the only way to check is to physically go there.

## What do you do to motivate your workforce?

We offer them a nice environment to work in, they are all reasonably paid and we don't ask too much of them. People seem to enjoy working here and we all get along really well.

## ▶Why WVP?

ECOPAC moved to Westcott Venture Park (WVP) in 2008 from Long Crendon, initially occupying H2 where we created an office area of around 2,000 sq ft along with a mezzanine, which we use for product storage. For a short period we also occupied building S10 which we used for fulfilment work however we required additional space and identified an opportunity to occupy space within H1. At the time a company known as Lagoon occupied H1 and when we approached them about the possibility of utilising some of their space they explained they were moving their operations back to London. So four years ago we took over Lagoon's lease on H1, relocated our fulfilment work there from S10 and employed their staff.

We love working at WVP and our suppliers always comment on the beautiful woodland. We have our own woodpecker that comes back at the same time every year, we get to see muntjacs, squirrels and parakeets wondering around the park. It is a great place to work and it seems to generate a family feel, somehow it's in the fabric of the buildings. It's also very practical working here, we have lots of space, excellent transportation links and reasonable access for workforce. Though it wasn't part of our decision making process, the 24-hour access security is invaluable and we also work well with onsite occupiers supplying companies like Refuel and CS Group.

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

I would like to have worked in the sports industry.

## What would you like to do when you retire?



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

Our industry is not that dynamic and, as a business, we are fairly risk adverse so we plan to continue to develop at a nice steady pace both in terms of turnover and net profit. We don't 'need' to grow from a financial perspective but we aim for steady growth over the next five years.

#### Be by the seaside.

John can be contacted on 01296 652700 or via email on jbennett@ecopac.co.uk





## Who we are

Matt Norris Engineering Ltd (MNE) is a small, professional race engine engineering business working with all types of race engines but specialising in motocross. Matt started the business from home five years ago he has a career in motorsport spanning 30 years that has encompassed a range of two and four-wheeled racing formulas.

Matt has a broad range of race engine experience from working at TWR as Chief Engine Builder and Workshop Supervisor which includes Group C sports prototypes; European touring car; Indy Car, Ducati WSB development; Aston Martin DB7 development & production; Jaguar XJ220; Super league Formula; Nascar; Caparo and Norton motorcycles to name a few.

Matt Norris Engineering's other key employee is Luke Norris, Luke started motocross racing at a very early age and turned Pro at 16 years of age, Luke plays a major role in the business assisting with the day to day preparation of customers engines and bikes along with gaining valuable experience. Luke is a busy lad, he is not only a key employee but he's a professional athlete who competes at the highest level in motocross in the UK and Europe, he was previously contracted at Toro Rosso FI team, he is now working in the workshop in between his training. It gives Luke the opportunity to learn at the same time as training and riding and he is being taught every skill possible.

We also run a small team in the British and European Motocross Championships, but while our passion is for racing we can apply our expertise to any type of engine. We're dedicated to delivering the highest quality of workmanship and customer service.

We are a racing family, Matts daughter works for Force India F1 Team so racing is in the blood.

## What we do

Our service is very specialised but we have a healthy customer base of around 200 people across the UK. There are not many people providing this service to the industry and we feel our experience and expertise gives the customer

#### a better product and our aftercare service is second to none.

The bulk of our business is centered on off-road bikes but we cater for road racing engines as well. We offer race kits for all of the latest motocross machines both 2 and 4 stroke including fuel injection remaps. We also refurbish and prepare EVO bikes that range from the early 1980's up to the very early 1990's as the EVO Motocross scene is really big in the UK and indeed worldwide. To put this into context we were at the Vets Des Nations a few weeks ago where over 500 riders took part in a two-day event. That said, we work on a vast range of bikes of pretty much any age or condition.

Ultimately we are determined to push the business as much as we possibly can, our customer base is extremely important to us and the aftercare support is an area that promotes business.

## Why WVP

In 2010 Matt started working at Westcott Venture Park as part of a joint venture with Steve Gray of Steve Gray Racing who occupied Units 14 and 421. So Matt rented one of his workshops, which worked really well, until he sadly passed away.

Having already built up a good relationship with the WVP staff, they were extremely accommodating with assisting Matt with finding other workshop premises. Matt moved into building S4 over three years ago and it was the best decision he ever

If you would like to find out more about Matt Norris Engineering please visit www.mattnorrisengineering.com or speak to Matt on 01296 707848 or via email on Matt@ mattnorrisengineering.com

## INTERVIEW WITH MATT NORRIS, MATT NORRIS ENGINEERING (MNE) BUILDING S4

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

# WHAT



#### Who we are

BadgerTac is an airsoft and tactical equipment shop, which was set up in 2009 by myself and with a team of military specialists. For those who are not aware of what airsoft is, it is essentially a sport in which participants eliminate opponents by hitting each other with non-metalic pellets launched via replica firearms called airsoft tactical equipment and clothing, as well as quality airsoft products, but with Blue Streak we also provide exciting days out which attracts or types of airsofters, ranging from the novice to the seasoned veteran.

### What we do

According to the airsoft trade title Airsoft Magazine, BadgerTac is one of the most respected and reputable Airsoft companies in the UK. We sell tactical equipment to airsoft gamers and the police for training purposes as well as film and television companies for prop usage. We stock a large variety of global brands and exhibit our kit at various events and shows throughout the South East.

#### guns.

Having established the shop, I quickly saw the potential for an airsoft skirmish site, so in January 2013 we launched the opening of Blue Streak Airsoft. Aptly named after the Blue Streak rocket, which was developed here, the site is located at the opposite side of the park in the old "Solid's Area" and is now, essentially a 35-acre area dedicated purely to airsoft.

The name BadgerTac was the result of a two-part inception, the first was that I served with BADGER Tank Squadron, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and the second is that "TAC" stands for Tactical, Airsoft, Corporate. With many years of military experience, we supply the very best in Blue Streak is the main focus for business growth with the corporate days and the increasingly popular walk on days, which we run two Sundays a month. We provide corporate packages or experience days stretching from a relaxing informal day through to team building and full on military simulation session. There's not much we can't do as we have access to armored vehicles, helicopters and hardware, which enables us to create all sorts of combat zone scenes. We regularly develop creative bespoke events according to what our customers require whether that be team building, family days or parties.

### Who we are

KLS Accountancy Services was established in April 2014, we are a relatively new, small firm of Accountants who provide highly personal accountancy and taxation services to a variety of small and medium sized businesses in the local area.

Our approach is based on an individual and tailored service - in order to deliver the best possible service for the least cost, we adapt our services to fit the clients specific requirements. While the majority of our clients just require accounts and tax return services, there are others where we also manage their bookkeeping, payroll and VAT returns. Despite being a fairly young business we have already developed a strong reputation for our specialist CIS accounting advice that has resulted in winning a number of construction sector clients.



## What we do

We work with a wide variety of local tradesmen including roofers, builders, painters and decorators, a dental hygienist, driving instructor, social club and kitchen fitter to name a few. Following our first years trading, we are now working with a mix of larger businesses and Limited Companies and have just taken on an overseas retail branding company client, based in Singapore who we are providing advice on setting up a UK trading company.

We work in partnership with our clients and take a hands on approach, working at their premises as their in-house resource when required. We also offer flexible pricing to ensure you only pay for what you need.

## Why WVP

Westcott Venture Park was highly recommended by family members who run businesses here and I live just up the road in Waddesdon so it was the natural choice. It's perfect just living up the road without having to queue to get into Aylesbury every day, parking is not an issue here and the security is excellent. I sometimes have meetings out of usual business hours so the 24/7-security facility is an invaluable resource.

We occupy Room 11 in building S6 that suits us well as we have taken on new clients who are based here, including Motor Step and Crendon Replicas who are in the building opposite, RGL Surveys who are in the building next door and A J Howarth. So working at Westcott Venture Park is good for business in many ways and we would love to be working with more businesses on the park.

## Future Plans

To date, our success has been built upon expertise and client satisfaction, plus the fact that we cater for the smaller business. So we want to continue to do much the same but on a bigger scale and are looking to expand and increase the number of clients we support and continue to strive to be recognised for outstanding local accountancy services. We hope to be able to move to larger premises on the Venture Park in the future.

## Message to WVP businesses

If you require accountancy and tax services, whether it's just payroll or bookkeeping, or full sets of accounts and tax returns then we would love to hear from you. We are on your doorstep so pop along for a free consultation and we will do everything we can to help.

If you would like to find out more about KLS Accounting visit www.klsaccountancyservices.co.uk or speak to Kim Saunders on 01296 651615 or email kim@klsaccountancyservices.co.uk



## **KIM SAUNDERS KLS ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES** S6 ROOM 11

# WE DO:

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



by the long-range missile, gate guardian they get a vivid reminder of what the site used to be. So we believe what we have here is unique because it provides such a credible environment as our customers actually feel like they are coming onto a military establishment.

We cater for children of the age of 12 upwards and have the highest proportion of women in comparison to other airsoft sites, as on a 50/60 person game, around 10% will be women players.

## INTERVIEW WITH IAN 'RATTY' ARMITAGE, BADGER TAC BUILDING 350

We are also looking to further develop our highly successful walk on days where people join us on the first and third Sundays of the month

## Why WVP

Westcott Venture Park is an authentic environment for our target audience, a secure site for our kit and generally a great place to work. I have established a good rapport with the management team who have a real understanding of airsoft and who have been very accommodating.

I signed the lease on the building in 2009 and spent the autumn/winter of the following year fitting it out before our official launch in October 2010, so we have just celebrated our fifth year in business here at the park.

Most of our customers have an interest in the military in some shape or form so when they arrive and are greeted

## Future Plans

Team Frontier, which is a group of ex Special Forces and SAS friends who I have previously worked with, has just relocated their office head quarters to be based here at Badger Tac. Team Frontier were one of the first to run corporate entertainment events similar to the Iranian Embassy siege, so we are hoping this collaboration will be mutually beneficial and assist us in our quest for growth in the corporate sector.

Our Blue Streak site has already come a long way from when it first opened and has the potential to go even further, with the concept of evening mid-week games, to full weekend and more themed events. It is a constantly evolving site operating with a work-in-progress mentality, meaning the site will undergo constant subtle changes to maintain an ingame warzone feeling.

Sundays of the month.

## Message to WVP businesses

If you've ever wondered what being is combat is really like, if you want a big adrenalin rush or just to become part of a team for a day - why not join us for one of our Sunday walk on sessions?

If you would like to find out more about Badger Tac visit www.badgertac.com or speak to Ian Armitage on 01296 658600 or via email on ratty@badgertac.co.uk. Failing that pop into the shop, the kettle is always on!



### Who we are

Phillips Welding Services Ltd, we provide welding services to a variety of trades focusing on the food, motorsport and construction industries. We also specialise in aluminium welding and stainless steel pipe work and offer the highest quality precision welding services backed up by 35 years' industry experience.

### What we do

We have some great food industry customers including the multinational food production company McCormick Flavour Solutions, based in Haddenham, as well as the restaurant Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons in Great Milton, Oxford. For these businesses we essentially provide small-bespoke batches of items and proto types like kitchen furniture or stainless steel benches or indeed repairs.

Motorsport is also a key industry focus and we work on anything from entire chassis to exhaust systems, bespoke components and much more. We serve an extensive range of business sectors and are currently creating 30 casings for windows within a Grade 1 listed building in Witney. So our work is interesting and varied at all times and we are ever increasing the volume of work we do with aluminium and stainless steel.



## Why WVP

I've been working at Westcott Venture Park for the last 33 years and started working here as an apprentice in 1982 for the MOD, where I completed a five-year course. In that time the company had gone through buyouts with Royal Ordnance then BAE, then in 1996 I left to set up my



## WHAT WE DO:

own business. Initially this entailed working evenings and weekends in a little unit here at WVP whilst working for BAE, then I left to focus on the business full time. I moved from my initial unit into a larger building S3A, over eight years ago where the business still operates.

I've stayed on the park as it's just a nice place to be, it's quiet, we all look out for each other and the security is brilliant. We also have a good relationship with other businesses on the park and have worked with Crendon Replicas, MOOG, New Era and BS Motorsport to name a few.

## Future Plans

The business was heavily reliant on contracts from the construction industry, which unfortunately dried up during the downturn. In response to these market changes, I restructured the business to focus on smaller bespoke work as well as specialising in aluminium welding and stainless steel pipework jobs.

It is clear that 2015 is proving to be particularly active and the economy is far stronger - I've certainly seen an increase

## **INTERVIEW WITH** ADRIAN PHILLIPS, PHILLIPS WELDING SERVICES LTD, BUILDING S3A

in enquires since last September. We are aiming to take more of this type of work specifically within the motorsport and food industry sectors moving forward.

## Message to WVP businesses

If you require any form of welding services whether it's a domestic or commercial job, we have over 35 years of experience and we are on your doorstep, so come to see us or give us a call on 01296 658546. It would be great to work with more businesses on the park.

If you would like to find out more about Phillips Welding Services visit www.phillipswelding-buckinghamshire.co.uk or email phillips.welding@virgin.net

## **HEALTHY TAKE-UP AT CENTURY COURT**

We are delighted to report healthy take-up at the new Century Court Industrial scheme with three lettings agreed within the first month following completion. Phase I of our new development comprising 24,000 sq ft over seven units was leted on time and on budge



New occupiers to the park include electronic defence system specialists Antillion, who has taken a 5-year lease on Unit 1 comprising 2,015 sq ft. Fashion House DKNY has taken a 3-year lease as depot space for its retail unit at Bicester Village and will occupy unit 4 comprising 2,015 sq ft. Existing occupiers CS Group are taking a 5-year lease on Unit 10 comprising 6,125 sq ft.

On 1st September Westcott Venture Park welcomed the arrival of another new tenant, RTEM who are road traffic equipment manufacturers. The company, which has moved from Leaches Farm in Kingswood, relocated four staff members into Building 9 and we look forward to providing more news about RTEM along with the other new occupiers to the park in future editions of The Rocket.

With this healthy level of take-up, Rockspring Hanover Property Unit Trust is looking forward to a busy 2016 with Phase II comprising 21,000 sq ft and other developments on the park starting construction.

For more information please contact: Kevin Wood at Lambert Smith Hampton on 01865 200244 or via email on kwood@lsh.co.uk or Kirk Clifford at Brown & Lee Clifford Billings on 01296 420637 or via email on kirk.clifford@brownleecb.com

# **GREEN RETREATS LAUNCHES** VIRTUAL SHOWROOM



A REALLY IMMERSIVE CUSTOMER JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCE ... POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS CAN REALLY SEE THAT OUR **PRODUCTS ARE TOP OF THE RANGE** 

Green Retreats, which specialises in the design and manufacture of inspirational garden rooms, has launched an interactive digital walkaround of their real-life showroom providing potential customers with an interactive preview.

As most research is done online nowadays Green Retreats needed to bring their showroom to their customers to provide a place where people could easily explore their products whenever and wherever they choose.

iPads and Android devices exhibiting their Edge, Inspiration, Pinnacle, Expression and RocPod garden rooms - other company to Green Retreats.

gives viewers a look inside the showroom via 360-degree images. The software, which uses hi-res photography and 3D mapping, is designed to give luxury consumers a more dynamic experience when they research online.

From the beginning, the purpose of Green Retreats digital marketing strategy was to "engage the consumers more marketing executive at Green Retreats. "We achieve a far higher conversion rate when a potential customer has visited our showroom compared with an over the phone enquiry. So to be able to get people into our virtual showroom before they arrive at Westcott Venture Park is tremendous and is already proving an effective sales tool.

"We have worked extremely well with Google Trusted Photographers, Striking Faces to create and deliver the virtual showroom - an online destination where our products can speak for themselves. Striking Faces founder, Jo Hailey gave us a steer on how the showroom should be presented as it's always good to have things that people find funny or could maybe share on social media platforms so



we have many different things going on, like people asleep in the expression garden room, someone having a massage in the inspiration room, someone working out in the gym etc. in order to bring these spaces to life."

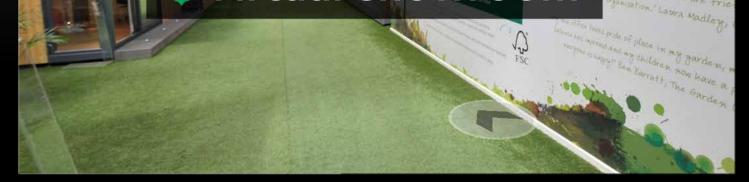
"The virtual showroom has had an incredibly positive impact on our website with potential customers spending anything from 30 seconds to 10 minutes viewing the tour. So it's already doing great things as it's keeping people on our website for longer as it's such an immersive tool and is now the 10th most popular page on our website despite

> having only been live for a couple and sales are up on the month in comparison to the same month last year, so we are well ahead of where we want to be."

What's great about the showroom tour is that it is integrated into Google so people don't need to be aware of the Green Retreats brand in order to find online. They have also started working with an independent evaluation company known as Trust Pilot, for product reviews.



"We are starting to build a really



immersive customer journey and customers can really see that our products are top of the range. Every day we are becoming more of an established force and the creation of our virtual showroom further market leaders in what we do" says



## INTERESTING TWEETS

**Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP 16 Nov** Rare opportunity to occupy 29,503 sq ft of refurbished industrial space

#### Green Retreats Ltd @green\_retreats 11 Nov

You want two garden rooms? Why bother? Just get one room from Green Retreats and we can partition it...

#### Topcats Racing @topcatsracing 12 Oct

We had a fantastic morning on Saturday when we welcomed 40 TVR's, Corvettes and other sports cars to our Morning...

#### Class Act @classactevents 10 Oct

Doors open ready to Rock You@GCHalls #killerqueenlive

#### Green Retreats Ltd @green\_retreats 5 Oct

We've just published a brand new case study video all about a Green Retreats Inspiration garden room, which is being used as an art studio.

#### Refuel Apparel Ltd @RefuelApparel13 28 September

#New @OUFCOfficial merchandise left our warehouse last week!

#### Neil Bainbridge @BSMotorsport 14 Sept

A great location we have enjoyed many years @WestcottVP @BSMotorsportĐ

#### XYZ Music Acedemy @xyzmusicacademy 4 Sept

Next week XYZ Music Academy will be back in the swing of the school term time calendar.

#### Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP Sep 3

Units now available at the new Century Court industrial development



## HISTORIC FACT 5 - DID YOU KNOW? 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION EXODUS

June 2015 marked 70 years since RAF Westcott was used as a clearing centre for former allied prisoners of war being repatriated back to Britain by air in 'Operation Exodus.'

The operation, which started on 2nd April and went on until 3rd June 1945 saw 75,000 personnel, airlifted back from Europe with around 35,000 landing at Westcott.

The lower picture was taken by on the 10th May



Above: The crew of Lancaster B.Mk1 PA283 9J-J (J-Jig or Jabberwock) of 227 Squadron, who flew into RAF Westcott on the 10th May 1945: Len Stevens - Flight Engineer, Harry Wilson -Wireless Operator, Bert Allam - Pilot, Bob Lillico - Rear Gunner, Harry Gaunt - Navigator, Den Matthews - Bomb Aimer, Dick Langley - Mid Upper Gunner

### 1945 at Melsbroek an airfield near Brussels. They were a somewhat reluctant group having crashed twice already that day on takeoff because of a large badly filled in bomb crater in the runway. On landing at Westcott they were greeted by the villagers who waved at each plane as it landed. They taxied and parked on one of the runways not

being used and unloaded and were then all treated to tea and cakes until trucks arrived to take the men away.

At Westcott this would have been at Hangar 5 by the main gate. This had been decorated with bunting and stoves and a sound system installed. They were all deloused and fed and then transported back to their bases to receive their pay, fresh clothes and leave.

On 5th May 2010 the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight overflew Westcott in recognition of the 65th anniversary of Operation Exodus.



## **MEETING PLACE...**

Quick reminder that the meeting room facilities at the gatehouse are available to all occupiers free of charge. The room is perfect for training sessions or business meetings and can seat up to 12 people.

It's fully equipped with free Internet access, screen and the furniture layout is flexible, allowing you freedom to create the right setting for your requirements.

The room can be booked by the hour or day, to book speak to Anthony Wright on 01296 655281 or email arwright@lsh.co.uk





Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

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Written by: Papa Romeo PR Designed and produced by www.imageworks.co.uk



## **AVAILABLE SPACE**

Century Court	Industrial/Office Development	
Unit 2	Industrial/Office Unit	2,050 sq ft
Unit 3	Industrial/Office Unit	2,050 sq ft
Unit 8	Industrial/Office Unit	4,500 sq ft
Unit 9	Industrial/Office Unit	5,500 sq ft
Building 416	Office/stores	from 400 sq ft
Part Building 421	Workshop/Storage	910 sq ft
Building S6	Rooms	from 120 sq ft
Hangar 3	Warehouse/Distribution	29,503 sq ft

www.westcottventurepark.com

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.





