



ISSUE 8
LIFE TAKES OFF AT
WESTCOTT VENTURE PARK

THE ROCKET

LIFE
CHANGING
30 MINUTES
WAS A
HEALTHY
SUCCESS



Nigel MacKenzie
Project Manager, WVP

WELCOME

Welcome to our Winter issue of The Rocket, keeping you updated on activities around the park. It's fair to say we've never been busier and have seen no slow down as a result of the referendum decision to leave the EU at the end of June.

We are delighted to announce our new industrial scheme at Century Court is now fully let and has attracted some well-known names to add to our existing businesses including Ginsters, ALNO and DKNY.

Our tenants have been busy too, not least Moog with the recent JUNO mission, when rockets they built here at Westcott blasted the NASA Juno spacecraft into orbit around Jupiter - you might have seen this on the ITN News at Ten!

We have seen Total Carbide complete their move to Hangar 3 and Building 416 following an extensive fit-out and the business is already working with many companies on the park.

Rockspring has also commenced a £2 million investment in infrastructure works to release 28 acres in the western area of the Park for future development.

CENTURY COURT IS FULLY LET

We are delighted to announce that we have secured tenants for the last remaining units at the new Century Court development.

Unit 2 has been let to existing occupiers Green Retreats which will be using the additional 2,050 sq ft to complement its activities in Hangar 4.

CENTURY COURT HAS BEEN A MAJOR SUCCESS AND IS A RINGING ENDORSEMENT TO OWNER ROCKSPRING FOR TAKING THE BOLD DECISION TO BUILD.

Unit 3, comprising 2,050 sq ft has been let to Home Power Electrical Services Ltd which will operate next door to their main client, Green Retreats.

Units 8 and 9 have been let to ALNO (UK) Ltd, a major European kitchen supply company which will occupy 10,000 sq ft. The business operates out of Sevenoaks and Leeds, so this move will centralise their UK distribution operations.

Unit 10 comprising 6,000 sq ft has been let to Samworth Brothers Ltd which will be trading as Ginsters and is relocating from their facility in Bicester. Samworth Brothers is now a fourth generation family business and employs over 8,000 people.

Phase I of the speculatively built industrial and warehouse scheme comprises a total of 24,000 sq ft over seven units and is located across 1.5 acres of Westcott Venture Park (WVP). Other tenants that have signed up to the scheme include electronic defence system specialists Antillion and fashion house DKNY who have taken leases on Units 1 and 4 respectively.

Construction for the development was completed in August 2015 and all seven units were fully let in just over a year after practical completion.

"Century Court has been a major success and is a ringing endorsement to owner Rockspring for taking the bold decision to build. We are very pleased to have been able to bring forward the regions first speculative industrial development in the last seven years and are delighted that the scheme is fully let.

"Century Court has not only attracted a further five new businesses to the park but has also facilitated the expansion of existing occupiers." Says Nigel MacKenzie, Project Manager at WVP.

IN THIS ISSUE...



Companies featured in our eighth edition include, Total Carbide, LS Sculpture Casting, The Whistle Stop and Westcott Grounds Maintenance.



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FROM BUCKS TO JUPITER AND BEYOND...

CENTRE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY COMES TO THE ENTREPRENEURIAL HEART OF ENGLAND

BY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE THAMES VALLEY LEP

Bucks has lift off! The recent announcement from the UK Space Agency to invest over £4m in a National Propulsion Test Facility at Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership's (BTVLEP) Enterprise Zone at Westcott, will put Bucks on the global map as a centre of excellence in space technology testing.

The Westcott Venture Park site already hosts world leaders in space propulsion technologies – look no further than the recent successful Juno mission, which featured rockets built by Moog-ISP based at Westcott, to place the NASA Juno spacecraft into orbit around Jupiter following a five year journey to the gas giant.

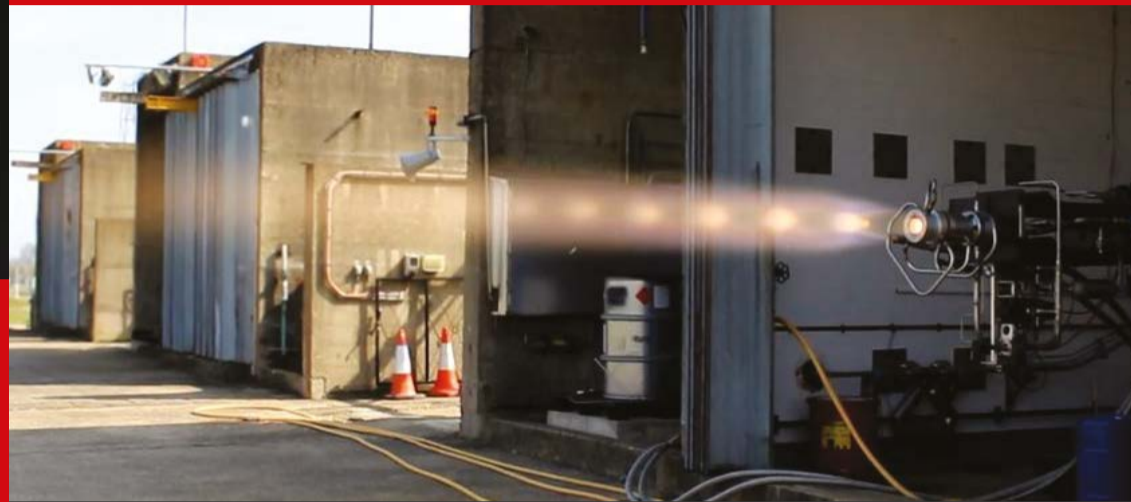


Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "We are delighted with the announcement by the UK Space Agency to invest in a National Propulsion Test Facility at Westcott Venture Park, which will not only help facilitate growth in the Buckinghamshire economy but also establish a global centre of excellence in space technology testing."

Richard added: "The Westcott site's heritage in space propulsion technologies is the ideal platform to develop this sector at the site, which is also one of three locations in Aylesbury Vale where we have secured Enterprise Zone status. In addition, with the UK Space agency, we are looking to develop the research capacity at the site, including a Satellite Application Catapult and a 5G Innovation test facility, which together will help support a growing number of new jobs and business investment opportunities to the Buckinghamshire area."

The UK Space Agency investment will add new capabilities for the UK space sector. Government funding will:

- create a new vacuum facility at the Westcott propulsion test site. When used together with the existing industry owned rocket firing test cells, this will allow the simulation of high altitude testing of thrusters up to 2kN;
- upgrade an existing industry owned test chamber to improve capabilities in the 25N thrust range;
- open the facilities, alongside a smaller 1N thruster test chamber at the site, for the community to use.



Katherine Courtney, Interim CEO of the UK Space Agency said "Our investment in a National Space Propulsion Facility will add several new capabilities to the UK space sector and build upon what is already a world-class UK space propulsion sector.

Opening these facilities up to UK companies and academia will allow them to develop and test future propulsion engines. We hope this will develop the UK's competitive edge in space propulsion and produce the next generation of propulsion engines. We hope that UK companies will continue to make successful contributions to international missions, such as the LEROS 1b engine involved in JUNO."

The new capability will allow cost-effective development and testing of even more impressive engines for interplanetary travel, as well as for the significant commercial telecommunications satellite market. Other UK users of the facility, via the Airborne Engineering test chamber, are expected to include Reaction Engines Limited, who are currently testing advanced rocket nozzle technology for the SABRE engine.

With the facility investment from the UK Space Agency, who will also chair the Steering Board for this national facility, and with the Science and Technology Facilities Council bringing a wealth of test facility management experience to the project, this is an excellent example of UK cross-government, industry and European Space Agency collaboration which will benefit the immediate stakeholders involved in the project, as well as the wider propulsion community by opening access to the facility.



In addition to this, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP are investing £1.5m in an Innovation/Incubation Centre and a skills training hub – both of which will support the space sector.

Together, these initiatives will create a pool of high-tech, multidisciplinary skills in a centre which is well networked regionally, nationally and internationally to both academia and the business community. It will have the capacity to accelerate innovation, with the facilities and personnel to rapidly convert research and development into market impact, serving as a strong attractor to both new and established businesses to locate to Westcott.

For further details on the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone, please go to:
www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN THE SPACE SECTOR

INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS ENABLES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTCOTT ENTERPRISE ZONE



THESE WORKS ARE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE EVOLUTION OF WVP AND WILL FURTHER ESTABLISH THE PARK AS THE LEADING UK HUB FOR SPACE PROPULSION AND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY TESTING.



Nigel MacKenzie, Project Manager



Major infrastructure works are underway on the former solid rocket motor testing area which is now known as the western area of Westcott Venture Park (WVP). This area was granted Enterprise Zone status in April 2016 in order to attract further space propulsion and environmental engineering businesses to the park.

Rockspring is investing £2 million in infrastructure works on 28 acres of the park which will provide a new estate road, drainage system and electrical supplies. These works are set to unlock the western area of the park for future development within its Enterprise Zone status.

In 2016 WVP was named as one of three locations in Aylesbury Vale to secure Enterprise Zone status. The park was identified as a key strategic employment location which had a greater potential to add value to the Space Propulsion and Environmental Engineering sectors. WVP is considered a prime site for growth of UK space propulsion, not just because of its strong history of rocketry research for defence and space development, but also as many tenants work in the fields of satellite and future propulsion systems. These tenants have formed a wider cluster of UK space organisations all using the test facilities that exist on site.

The UK Space Agency recently announced its investment of over £4m in a National Propulsion Test Facility in the Enterprise Zone, which will support the development of a broader space cluster utilising the WVP facilities.

A detailed planning application for the next phase of the western development area has been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council for Reaction Engines Ltd to take 6-acres for a new test facility and assembly building. Rocket engineering company, Reaction Engines, which operates from Culham Science Centre in Abingdon, will create a new facility to test their revolutionary air-breathing rocket engine.

Nigel MacKenzie, Project Manager at WVP says: "These works are a major step forward in the evolution of WVP and will further establish the park as the leading UK hub for space propulsion and centre of excellence in space technology testing. Once completed the works will allow this game changing Enterprise Zone development to move forward, where we are looking to attract further propulsion specialists."



CLUSTER OF UK PROPULSION SPECIALISTS AT WVP

Reaction Engines

SSTL

Moog

The Falcon Project

Airborne Engineering

European Astrotech



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

INTERVIEW WITH ALISTAIR HOWARTH, WESTCOTT GROUND MAINTENANCE LTD



► Who we are

Our background is in outside domestic and commercial tree surgery work and we have built a strong reputation locally, having worked for Westcott Venture Park (WVP), Waddesdon Manor and Westcott Village for over 10 years. In January this year our key focus changed as we took over the ground maintenance contract at Westcott Venture Park from HGA.

We currently employ a team of three staff but bring in additional resources at busy times. With over 35 years' experience in tree surgery, we have all the equipment, insurances and accreditations required to run the business but we have taken a step back from the pure tree surgery work since taking on the WVP grounds maintenance contract. The work we carry out is very seasonal, we are very busy with maintenance type projects over the summer which gets quieter in the Autumn when the tree work picks up.

► What we do

The Westcott maintenance contract is a vast project which includes responsibility for the upkeep of trees, shrubs, grass, ditches and fence line, basically all land within the perimeter fence boundary of the park. Work can incorporate spraying the fence line to keep the weeds down as well as the curb sides to prevent intrusion of weeds as well as the ongoing tree surgery work, with some trees at the park being here for over 75 years! The nicer we can get the grounds looking, the better the feel-good factor for the people working at the park.

It takes a very long time to complete one cycle of any one type of work due to the distance we cover, so we have purchased new machinery in order to assist this process by speeding up the time it takes to complete any one task. Part of our role is to monitor what the weather is doing and try and incorporate the tasks at the right time of the year.

We view ourselves as 'front of shop,' almost representatives of the management team, so we are as polite as possible to both resident businesses as well as visitors to the WVP. In addition, we provide ground maintenance services to a number of businesses at WVP including CS Group, Moog and Shanks.

► Why WVP

We have occupied space at WVP since 2003 as it was an ideal place to run a tree surgery business. As an old airfield site there is a large amount of space and hard standing area which is perfect for year round storage of logs and timber and woodchips.

I live near Westcott and enjoy both working within the community I live as well as being able to work outside. It's a real pleasure to be here, we really enjoy the fabulous countryside in which we are lucky enough to be working.



“**WITH OVER 35 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN TREE SURGERY, WE HAVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT, INSURANCES AND ACCREDITATIONS REQUIRED TO RUN THE BUSINESS.**”

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

WHAT



► Future plans

As well as the grounds maintenance contract we will continue to carry out a fair amount of tree surgery work as our history is derived from this. We employ skilled workers who are dedicated climbers, chainsaw and chip operators who have the ability and specialisms to use the equipment required to carry out such tasks.

We are looking forward to working on the WVP ground maintenance contract for the next few years. We will also continue with the tree surgery side of the business and I am looking to gain the Arboricultural Association approved contractor accreditation, which will allow us to take on further tree surgery work.

Essentially we will continue to do what we've done for the past 35 years, just in a slightly different way and with a greater focus on corporate work.

► Message to WVP businesses

We are fortunate to work in a very special, beautiful environment with an abundance of wildlife, so my message is simply - please enjoy it here and we look forward to meeting more on-site businesses over the coming years.

If you would like to find out more about Westcott Ground Maintenance Ltd speak to Alistair Howarth on 07861 388931.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

► Who we are

LS Sculpture Casting has provided a moulding and resin casting service for both professional and enthusiastic amateurs for over 30 years. We offer a complete moulding, casting and finishing service. Whilst a bronze finish has always been the first choice for sculptures, we do produce a variety of finishes which consist of copper, aluminium, iron and various stone and marbles.

► What we do

Our work is very seasonal with summer being the 'show time' as we produce castings for the Chelsea Flower Show and many more. Our customers are mostly private individuals and business generation mainly comes through word of mouth and recommendation. Typically, a client will produce a piece of work, we then mould and cast and create the piece with the client selling the finished article.

We work with the corporate sector, predominantly producing trophies, cups, medals etc. supplying the Teaching Awards, International Tennis Corporation (ITC) Awards as well as the Advertising Awards.

We also produce our own work including pet portraits that we convert into sculptures and have worked on larger more abstract sculptures. For example, the figure standing on one leg at the top of a plinth with the caption – "a man can't fly", outside Stoke on Trent train station, as well as Billy Butlin's fisherman - a bronze sculpture on Skegness sea front.

We have three full-time and one part-time staff member and over our busy summer period we also employ students to work with us.

► Why WVP

We moved to Westcott Venture Park in 1999, having established the business in the garden shed. Our unit was very cost effective and provided the space we required to operate more efficiently within a secure environment. The wide open spaces allowed us to make noise without upsetting the neighbours and it was the perfect location for our customers who could travel easily from London and Oxford.

We like being at Westcott Venture Park as we have our privacy, there's beautiful scenery and surrounds and we benefit from on-site security which is a comfort for ourselves as well as our clients who often bring bronzes on-site. Whenever clients visit they always say: "you've got an amazing work space." Westcott Venture Park is an amazing place to work.



► Message to WVP businesses

Email or post us a photograph of your work, your pet or idea and we will be delighted to give you a quote. If you would like to find out more about LS Sculpture Casting visit <http://www.lssculpturecasting.com> or speak to David Challis on 01296 658884 or email david@lssculpturecasting.com



INTERVIEW WITH LYNNE SHANKSTER, LS SCULPTURE CASTING BUILDING 367

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



► Who we are

The Whistle Stop Shop & Cafe is an on-site convenience store and cafeteria for eat in or take away customers. We started the business in 2006 from a bus shelter near the old entrance to the park, then in 2012 we relocated the shop to the new gatehouse facility which allowed us to provide a greater service to our customers. As well as myself I employ three very friendly part-time staff and our sandwich supplier delivers fresh sandwiches daily.

► What we do

We sell a wide range of goods including breakfasts, hot pies, sausage rolls, pasties, fresh sandwiches, baguettes and baked potatoes, sweets, crisps etc. Our special offer breakfasts are a big draw to the shop, they include two rashers of bacon, one sausage, egg, beans and toast, all for just £4. This promotion has secured a great deal of return business over recent years.

Aside from the food produce we also sell postage stamps, stationery essentials for when businesses run out of copier paper or require cleaning materials etc. Also some people might not be aware that in summer months we sell ice-creams too!

We attract a great deal of visitors as it's an easy stop off for them, with the huge car park at the rear of the shop. So we have formed a menu to suit both the sit in and 'grab and go' customers who may prefer things like bacon baps or sausage and egg baps.



INTERVIEW WITH NORMA HAINES - WHISTLE STOP (SHOP & CAFE) GATEHOUSE

► Why WVP

I have always found the Westcott management team to be really very helpful. It is a big plus to be positioned on a secure site and the on-site trade is invaluable, so I am very happy with the shop being located at Westcott Venture Park.

► Future Plans

Although the shop had a very slow first year, we have since gained momentum and have seen steady growth. I have lots of ideas for future growth including the installation of a cash point machine as it would speed up service and increase customer flow and another idea is to provide a delivery service for on-site businesses.

► Message to WVP businesses

We will always try to accommodate what our customers want and my friendly and welcoming staff are on hand for whatever they require. Opening times are from 7:30am – 5pm Monday to Thursday then 7:30am – 4pm on a Friday.

If you would like to find out more about Whistle Stop speak to Norma on 01296 658946

LIFE CHANGING 30 MINUTES WAS A HEALTHY SUCCESS



The 30-minute life-changing NHS Health Check aimed at preventing serious illness, which was staged here at the park during July, was a great success.

Nigel MacKenzie said: "We were more than pleased to promote this event because we believe in helping people who work here to stay healthy. It is much better for people to work towards preventing illness than suffer the consequences of treating it."

The check-up was carried out by NHS staff for Buckinghamshire County Council for people between 40 and 74 years old who live in Bucks and who had not had an NHS Health Check in the last five years.

They were given advice on maintaining good health and lifestyle changes after having blood tests and blood pressure tests as well as being weighed.

Anyone living in Bucks who could not attend can have the free check at a location convenient to them by logging on to www.nhshealthcheck.com/buckinghamshire or calling 0129 687 1132.



“WE WERE MORE THAN PLEASED TO PROMOTE THIS EVENT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN HELPING PEOPLE WHO WORK HERE TO STAY HEALTHY. IT IS MUCH BETTER FOR PEOPLE TO WORK TOWARDS PREVENTING ILLNESS THAN SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF TREATING IT.”



HOW MUCH CONCRETE DOES IT TAKE TO CREATE 5.5 ACRES OF OPEN STORAGE SPACE?

APX 5,500 TONNES

As part of the development of the western area of Westcott Venture Park (WVP), which is announced earlier in the newsletter, Rockspring is also developing 5.5 acres of hard standing open storage space which is scheduled to complete in January 2017.

Konstrukta Hire has signed an agreement to lease 4 acres of the new open storage facility which will be used as the company's regional distribution sales and repair store.

Konstrukta Hire is a member of the Portakabin Group of companies which is part of the Shepherd Group. The Shepherd Group has a Dun and Bradstreet credit score rating of 1, putting it in the top 15% of UK companies with a very low probability of business failure.

Nigel MacKenzie, Project Manager at WVP says: "We are delighted to be welcoming yet another high calibre company to Westcott Venture Park and understand that Konstrukta Hire is already working with businesses here at the park. This deal will leave a further 1.5 acres of fully serviced, high quality hard standing open storage space available and ready for occupation in January 2017. Westcott Venture Park is particularly suited to open storage due to its 24-hour access and security provision. With the severe shortage of good quality open storage land in the region, we are confident of rapid take-up of the remaining space."

TOTAL CARBIDE OPEN NEW FACILITY AT WESTCOTT VENTURE PARK

In the last issue of The Rocket we announced a major letting to Total Carbide, a Versarien Plc owned company which has taken a lease of 10-years on Hangar 3, as well as a lease of part of Building 416.

Much has happened over the last six months with the business completing a fit out worth over a million pounds, in August they took part occupation of Hangar 3 and on Monday 17th October became fully operational at the park.

Total Carbide has been designing and manufacturing sintered tungsten carbide wear products for over six decades, dating back to the pioneering work of Austin Hoy in the 1950's. Over this time, they have developed a unique approach using the Hot Isostatic Press (HIP) method for sintering products which leads to a high quality, solid product.

In very basic terms, sintering is the process of forming a solid mass by compacting and heating a fine powder. In this case the fine tungsten carbide powder (a mixture of tungsten and carbon atoms) is sintered to produce an end product which is extremely hard and abrasion resistant, ideal for cutting tools and other wear parts.

Total Carbide sells to a global customer base covering over 40 different industries producing bespoke products for a wide spread of applications, ranging from measurement tools and cutting knives to difficult complex applications requiring specialised corrosion resistant materials. For many years 60 percent of the company's total revenues came from the Oil and Gas sector. Since the decline of these industries, Total Carbide has sought in-roads with other sectors and now provides sintered tungsten carbide solutions to industries such as defence, aerospace, food, textile and most recently medical.

The business was incorporated into Gloucestershire based Versarien Plc in 2013 and has operated from a site in Princes Risborough for the last 50 years. Versarien Plc is an advanced engineering materials group, set up by chief executive Neil Ricketts who started the business from his garage in 2011. Versarien acquired the established Total Carbide business the same day as it AIM floated, and has been increasing investment to accelerate the development of its technologies ever since.

Over the last three years Versarien has acquired a further two businesses, giving it access to the worlds of sport, aviation and 3D printing. Total Carbide is seen as the 'big brother' of the Versarien family of businesses providing the revenue, profitability and stability to support Versarien's other ventures.

“
OUR MOVE TO WVP IS A PERFECT FIT FOR OUR BUSINESS AS IT BRINGS US CLOSER TO THE INDUSTRIES WE SUPPLY, INCLUDING DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE.”



Andreas Hohmann, managing director of Total Carbide explains: “Within the group we are looking to bring the copper and metal foam production, which is still in early development, pre-production stage, to Westcott. With the copper produce, we will look to supply the technology industry with advanced thermal management solutions for things like television screens, mobile phones, tablets etc. as a means for cooling but the product also suits the aerospace and automotive industries. My vision is to further develop our work with dental alloys. We are currently working on cobalt chrome materials for dental applications and will be looking to develop titanium and titanium foam products, eventually extending that offering for medical implants.”

Total Carbide's move to WVP was primarily driven by a lease expiry on their Princes Risborough facility, however the business had a multitude of factors to consider with the move to Westcott. By far the most important factor was its employees, so finding a unit within Buckinghamshire that was big enough to house their operation was key. Access to a sufficient power resource, water supply, the proximity to housing and security was also critical to the search due to the nature of their production process.

Andreas says: “Aside from our employees, the security, size of building, location and flexibility of the landlord were all essential considerations for our move. The WVP management team have been very accommodating. They appreciate our business functionality and consequent requirements and we have committed to being here long term. For instance, our furnaces run at temperatures of up to 1600 degrees and our isostatic press with pressures up to 2500 bar, so we require a hefty water supply and a pressing pit with substantial concrete foundations as well as hard standing for our supporting infrastructure such as pressurised air, adiabatic cooling units and conventional chillers. The WVP team has assisted us with all of these requirements.

“Our to move to WVP is a perfect fit for our business as it brings us closer to the industries we supply, including defence and aerospace. We hope to enjoy significant growth over the next five years and our new base at WVP will give us the scope to grow and develop further. This location means that we can now benefit from the healthy skills base in Oxfordshire as well as the rich high-tech and engineering background locally, and for the first time in twelve years we will be employing two apprentices.

“We already have close working relationships with FedEx and Ecopac have been a long standing supplier of ours. We are now working with AmpAir, Oxford Pipelines, Konstructa, Bucks Recycling and PR Pallets for the fitting out of Hangar 3 and Building 416 and we look forward to meeting more businesses on the park and forming new working relationships.”

For further information, please visit www.totalcarbide.com or call them on 01844 275171

INTERESTING TWEETS

NOVEMBER

Anthony Wright @arwright_wright November 14
Least we not forget @WestcottVP

Green Retreats @green_retreats November 13

The real cost of your commute... Save money, save time. Work from home in a practical, com... ift.tt/2f65Rjy

OCTOBER

Bucks Recycling @bucks_recycling October 19
Need a grab lorry? Call us today 01296 651 678

SEPTEMBER

Daniel Jubb @Dan_Jubb September 30
We hosted a fantastic group from @IExpE this week for a nighttime rocket motor firing. Here is a superb frame from @ix_cameras high speed

Green Retreats @gardenofficeuk September 20

Keep an eye out for us tonight on @DIYSOS at 9pm on BBC!

It's been a pleasure to help such a brilliant young man - Scott Jones.

AUGUST

Jim Sims @jimsims100 August 31
Visited the National Space Propulsion Test facility in Bucks @BTVLEP to finalise details of investment in 5G network

JULY

The Guardian @guardian July 2
Juno space probe prepares to arrive at Jupiter after five years and 1.8bn miles
<http://gu.com/p/4nemx/stw> @WestcottVP

ITV News @ITVnews July 4

Juno space probe prepares to end 1.4bn mile journey and enter Jupiter's orbit
<http://bit.ly/2c4aQsb>

UK Space Agency @spacegovuk July 12

We're investing over £4 million in a UK National Space Propulsion Facility
<http://bit.ly/29Kgr0b>

JUNE

Thames Valley PF @TVPF June 2
Total Carbide takes major letting @WestcottVP <http://bit.ly/1UtKKnW>

Insider @insidereast June 22

Green light for Westcott Venture Park warehouse <http://bit.ly/28MWrKZ>



DID YOU KNOW? BEATING THE BOUNDS STILL GOES ON

Waddesdon is one of the few parishes that still "beat the bounds" – a ceremony that goes back at least to 1693 – and the procession walked through the Park in early May this year.

Led by the parish priest on one or more days before the Feast of the Ascension, the procession included church wardens and parishioners and was headed by a cross. However in Waddesdon the beating of the bounds was suspended for 10 years after World War Two and was resumed on 7 and 8 May 1945, just a few days after VE day. It now happens every seven years.

The origin of the ancient custom can be traced back to the Gangdays during the time of the Norman Conquest, although its beginning varied in different parts of the country. In former times when maps were rare it was usual to make a "formal perambulation" of the parish boundaries to hand down knowledge so that matters such as liability to contribute to the repair of the church and the right to be buried in the churchyard were not disputed.

The procession was usually headed by a crowd of young boys, who, armed with green boughs, usually birch or willow, beat the parish boundary markers with them. Sometimes the boys themselves were whipped or violently bumped on the boundary stones to make them remember.

The object of taking boys is supposed to ensure that witnesses to the boundaries should survive as long as possible. Checking the boundaries also prevented encroachment by neighbours and boundaries were marked by carving a cross on tree trunks and cutting the shape of a cross in banks of streams.

In the case of Waddesdon the boundary takes the procession through the airfield and the Park. In all the parish boundaries cover a distance of 40 miles. On the first day the procession meets at a point where a stream crosses the Quanton Road. After a short service a cross is cut in the turf and the young boy is held upside down and beaten – symbolically these days.

OBITUARY HAROLD GASKINS

Harold Gaskins, who was grounds maintenance manager since 1984, died on Saturday 18 June 2016. He formed the HGA maintenance and landscaping company with his sons Geoff and Alan, who used to manage the landscaping at the Park.

When he retired in November 2014 at the age of 92, Colin Theobald, managing agent at WVP praised his long service and said: "There is no doubt that Harold's dedication and hard work has made the park a better place for us all. Rockspring has funded a memorial bench which is located next to the pond in memory of Harold."



OBITUARY ROB WARNER

Following a short illness, it is with great sadness we announce the passing of Rob Warner who worked as security guard at Westcott Venture Park for over 15 years. Rob mainly worked the night shift at the gatehouse, he was well liked and knew most people by their first names.

According to his wife Pauline who also works at the park as a cleaner, he was renowned for calling ladies "sweetheart" and men "blue." Rockspring will be purchasing a memorial bench in his memory.



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

Building 421, Building 12, Building 431, Building S6 (from 100 sq ft)

www.westcottventurepark.com

 ROCKSPRING

