



THE ROCKET

ISSUE 10
LIFE TAKES OFF AT WESTCOTT



CREATING
A NEW
LANDSCAPE
FOR A BRIGHT
FUTURE



Nigel MacKenzie
Project Manager, @WestcottVP

WADDESODON DELI TAKES RESIDENCE AT THE GATEHOUSE

Local catering firm the Waddesdon Deli Company opened for business on Monday 4th of September, moving to the park from a nearby farm on the Ashenden Road.

Owner Sandy says: "Moving to Westcott was a conscious decision to grow the business, offering more services to the residents here and the local community. Our new café premises are somewhere for people to meet and talk in a warm, welcoming environment. It's professional but informal, a place to meet with business representatives or staff away from their own premises."

The Waddesdon Deli Company offers business users of the park, and the local community, hot and cold drinks; good, fresh, flavoursome, high-quality food, with healthier options too. Cooked breakfasts, paninis and sandwiches are made-to-order; snacks, supplies and freshly baked cakes and muffins are ready to go.

In addition, the team cater for corporate lunches, events and weddings, and have provided food for functions from five people up to 2,500. They supply the school lunches for Westcott Village

Primary School, the monthly Westcott old folks lunch club, the Quanton old folks lunch club every Monday and work with the Cricket and Social Club.

MOVING TO WESTCOTT WAS A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO GROW THE BUSINESS, OFFERING MORE SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS HERE AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"As well as business users from the Park, we see locals coming in for breakfast, with mums coming in for coffee and cake. We have always been heavily involved in the local community and it is lovely to see that they have followed us down here", says Sandy. "I used to be on the board for Neighbourhood Engineers and my father was a born and bred engineer so it is also

exciting to deal with the Aerospace industry companies on site, and hearing the new and exciting plans for the development.

"In terms of the catering we offer we may bring in different themed days. The BBQ the day before we opened was a great success; we want to make it fun too - maybe Fish Finger Friday with a really good tartar sauce and crusty bread rolls."

The café is offering customers a free coffee for their first visit and operates a loyalty card scheme.

Sandy continues; "We are a very transparent business. You can stand and watch us making your sandwich or cooking your breakfast. And if our food were any fresher you would be chasing it around a field!"

If you would like to find out more about Waddesdon Deli Co visit www.waddesdondeli.co.uk or contact info@waddesdondeli.co.uk or call 01296 658709. You can also find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/waddesdondelico/ and Twitter @waddesdondelico

WELCOME

Welcome to The Rocket Christmas edition, updating you with lots of news from across the Park.

The Park's new café, Waddesdon Deli has been welcomed by all and is an important addition to our community here at Westcott. In this issue we hear about European Astrotech's first ever Summer Space Camp for students, which was supported by other rocket companies based at the park including Airborne Engineering, Nammo and Reaction Engines. It was fantastic to see kids of 16-18 years old getting involved in the exciting technology that goes on here at Westcott.

Our regular planning update looks at the progress made on the six new developments underway and our 'What We Do' section features Portakabin and Gold Star Maintenance.

This issue features a Q & A interview with Chris Smith of European Astrotech and news of an Aerospace contract win for Total Carbide.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue.

The Rocket newsletter publishes twice a year, so if you would like to feature within the next issue please contact Claire at Papa Romeo Public Relations on Claire@paparomeopr.com

IN THIS ISSUE...

Companies featured in our tenth edition include: Waddesdon Deli, European Astrotech, Portakabin, Gold Star Maintenance and Total Carbide.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

CREATING A NEW LANDSCAPE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

In our regular planning update feature, Nigel MacKenzie, project manager at Westcott explains how investment into the future success of the park continues apace with developments coming out of the ground and with exciting new schemes to announce.

With six key developments underway and three different contractors working on site, we are entering into our busiest period of development at Westcott:

1. In the western development area, the four-acre Mobile Mini site of fully serviced, hard standing open storage space is close to completion with the company taking occupation in January 2018.

2. Development and infrastructure works continue on the six-acre rocket motor test bed facility for Reaction Engines, which is due for hand over in Spring 2018.

3. Green Retreats 10,000 sq ft new showroom and office building located next to its Hangar 4 facility is nearly completed. The company will take occupation in December 2017 when they will be carrying out an extensive fit out.

4. Following on from the highly successful completion of the first phase of the Century Court development, construction is now underway on the second phase. The Century Court Phase II scheme will provide 21,000 sq ft of high spec industrial and warehouse space over five units from 3,000 – 12,000 sq ft. Ground clearance will start in December and we aim to complete the new premises for occupation in May 2018. We can now enter into meaningful discussions with existing tenants about their future requirements within our redevelopment plans as well as providing space to attract new businesses. There are a number of businesses waiting to expand or locate here.

5. We have just started the refurbishment of Building 5 a former library in the centre of the Park, which has been let to the Satellite Applications Catapult (SAC) for a 5G research centre. SAC, based at Harwell, near Didcot are at the forefront of the UK Space sector's growth plans and investment. Their presence will not only assist the primary cluster of UK space organisations already based at the park including Nammo, Airborne Engineering, SSTL, The Falcon Project and Reaction Engines but will also encourage new companies within the sector to move to the Park.



6. We are well advanced on clearance of old and unsafe structures on one of our key development sites within the Enterprise Zone to be called Plot 9000.



WITH SIX KEY DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY AND THREE DIFFERENT CONTRACTORS WORKING ON SITE, WE ARE ENTERING INTO OUR BUSIEST PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT AT WESTCOTT.





EUROPEAN ASTROTECH HELD ITS FIRST EVER SUMMER SPACE CAMP AT WESTCOTT



WE WANTED TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO EXPLORE AND CHALLENGE THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT WE KNOW AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CHOOSE STEM CAREERS BY GIVING THEM A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. 

Over the two-day event, 26 students on the course got to experience and conduct a wide range of activities and tasks, including launching water rockets and sending a space balloon to the edge of the atmosphere, plus witnessing the test firing of a real-life rocket engine. They also worked on pi-tops computers that were used to teach electronics and coding. The cadets made and programmed their own circuits to ignite a miniature rocket.

The event grew out of the strong demand for work experience placements from students contemplating a career in science and space technology. Unable to accommodate every request, the firm instead chose to put on an action-packed event to inspire as many young people as possible to go into this field.

Sammy Graham, propulsion engineer said: "We wanted to inspire students to explore and challenge the boundaries of what we know and encourage them to choose STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers by giving them a hands-on experience of space science and engineering."

"I started getting lots of calls from students aged around 16-18 asking to come into the company and do a week of work experience", recalls Sammy of the background to the project. "When I got over 10 calls in a couple of days I decided then to put on two days of hands on science and engineering related to the space industry, and engineering jobs in general. I wanted to give the students an experience of what it's like to work in the industry and show them the range of opportunities and how much fun it is as well!"



The space camp was particularly valuable given the current drop off in interest for STEM subjects between GCSE and A-level, particularly amongst girls. "I think a lot of it is they just don't know what's out there" says Sammy, "and that's part of our rationale at Astrotech, showing them the range of opportunity available. As she also points out, you don't need to be a 'maths genius or an astronaut' to forge a career in the space industry, given the wide range of roles available.

Successful completion of the course gained the students an Industry Cadet Bronze award, recognised by companies across the STEM world and helping to open up a network of opportunities for further placements and jobs as the students grow older.

Other rocket companies at the park also took part in the course including Airbourne Engineering, Nammo and Reaction Engines.

Sammy adds, "Recruiting for companies based at Westcott is sometimes difficult, because of the lack of talent out there. With this camp we wanted to make sure that it was really fun, but also that young people have come away inspired about science and engineering. We hope to expand it next year and subsequent years, involve even more companies based here and beyond."

For more information about subsequent courses, please contact Sammy Graham on s.graham@europeanastrotech.com



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

**CHRIS SMITH,
MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF EUROPEAN
ASTROTECH
BUILDING 424 & 253**

► Could you tell me what your first job was?

My first job was here at Westcott as an assistant research chemist for the Ministry of Defence. After A Levels, the MOD sponsored me through University on a part time basis. I worked in the chemical laboratory that used to be over in building 330.

► How much was your first pay packet? And what did you do with it?

I think it was about £400. Most of it went on a second-hand car!

► How has your career developed to the present day?

As I progressed through my degree I was promoted to senior research chemist. After about two or three years we won a project with the European Space Agency looking at the long term storage of rocket propellant, which eventually led to producing all the oxidiser for Airbus Space and Defence satellites. At the same time, they asked if I would train up as a firing officer and I ended up being one of the lead firing officers at F Site.

After 12 years here I went to work in Stevenage. I was immediately put on the propulsion test team and ended up doing four launch campaigns out in French Guiana. I came back from the last one, which was late '98, and was asked to take control of the design for the Propulsion Subsystem on the Rosetta probe, staying with it right the way through to testing and fueling the full flight model build. It finally lifted off in March 2004, reaching the comet about ten years later.

In early 2005 I went to Germany where I worked for three years in Lampoldshausen on Space Bus and Eurostar. Then, in 2007, it was becoming very clear that there was a little niche market for doing the propulsion compatibility and propellant supply work. So I set up European Astrotech.



When we started it was simply Sam Green and I. We were in Building 253 just analysing propellant and doing some compatibility work. I was still doing some consultancy, and then in 2012, with some extra staff on board, we were the first Western team to do a loading operation in China.

While we were doing that OHB contacted us, who are the prime satellite manufacturers for the Galileo system based in Bremen, Germany. From that point forward we've built the team up and been servicing all of the Galileo launches. We were also providing all of the certification for the propellants coming out of Germany.

We've since worked with many different companies - currently we have 15 satellites on the books.

► Can you describe a typical day?

A typical day here would be checking emails and bid preparation. If anyone needs any help up at the lab I'll go. Also checking where we are with preparation for the launch campaigns.

On a launch campaign a typical day for a loading operation means getting up at about half past five in the morning. You go to the launch base for Scape dressing - basically a space suit that you have to wear to do the loading op because the propellant is so toxic and explosive. Then it's just another engineer and me, and everyone else runs away for about half a mile in case we make a mistake!



I WOULD LIKE TO THINK WE'LL BE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UK SPACEPORT. I'D ALSO LIKE TO EXPAND TO SUPPLY LAUNCH SERVICES TO A LOT MORE CUSTOMERS: I WANT AT LEAST ANOTHER LAUNCH TEAM SO WE CAN DO THREE CAMPAIGNS IN PARALLEL AT DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE WORLD. ◀◀



► Who has been your biggest influence in your career?

A propulsion engineer called Ingo Kaelsch. He was basically the guru of everything propulsion. He was incredibly meticulous and knowledgeable but also very, very practical and I was very lucky to work with him.

► What's the secret of good management?

Trying to keep a balance between being the boss and getting stuck in if anything needs doing.

► Do you have a good work life balance?

Yes and no. I've been away over Christmas before, but I've managed to get back for every one of my two daughters' birthdays bar one, and the one I missed I was only a day late. Not bad over 32 years.



► Why are you at Westcott Venture Park?

It offers a unique environment. We can still use the propellants; it was built as a rocket propulsion establishment and it's the only place you can really test fire rockets.

► And what's it like working here?

I've been here on and off obviously since 1985 so I obviously like it. It's quiet and it's got great access. We deal with a lot of overseas companies, so they can just fly into any of the local airports and get across within an hour.

► What about the businesses that you collaborate with here?

Lots with Airborne Engineering; we also collaborate with Nammo, the SSTL contingency, hopefully Reaction Engines. They're all part of what I call the propulsion fraternity.



► What are the biggest challenges your business faces today?

Part of it is cash flow because we primarily subcontract with bigger Aerospace companies. Otherwise it's employing people. I'm a big believer in getting graduates in; what we want to do is set up an apprenticeship scheme because then we can train them on the job. The UK at the moment is absolutely swimming with opportunities.

► How do you see European Astrotech developing over the next five years?

I would like to think we'll be heavily involved in the development of the UK SpacePort. I'd also like to expand to supply launch services to a lot more customers: I want at least another launch team so we can do three campaigns in parallel at different places in the world.

► What would you like to do when you retire?

I'd still like to be involved in the space industry. It's a vocation for me, not a job. I'm also reacquainting myself with sailing and I'm hoping to get my Yacht masters certificate. Maybe I'll take a Yacht and go around the Mediterranean or the Caribbean.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @WestcottVP

INTERVIEW WITH MICK WILSON PORTAKABIN (SITE ACCOMMODATION) K SITE

► Who we are

Portakabin has pioneered modular construction for the past 50 years, delivering bespoke buildings to fulfil almost any application, site and design.

The International Head Office and manufacturing site is based in York, but Portakabin has a variety of Hire and Visitor Centres across the UK, Ireland and continental Europe to suit a variety of client requirements.

Portakabin (Site Accommodation) is delivering the latest accommodation solutions for the construction industry.

Our catchment area in Aylesbury is classed as North West London, but also includes Oxford, Reading, Harpenden, St. Albans and just south of Northampton.



WESTCOTT OFFERED US SOMETHING FROM SCRATCH THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A SUITABLE OPERATIONAL DEPOT.

► What we do

We offer two types of innovative modular buildings: a self-contained unit and a larger modular unit that fit together on any site to create large, multi-room buildings.

Once the buildings are manufactured in our factory in York, they are delivered to Westcott for a full internal fit out by our skilled technicians.

On-site, we have 10 full-time employees, working in business development, administrative support, and project coordination.

► Why Westcott?

After outgrowing our previous depot, we looked for available space where we could build a state-of-the-art facility to meet our business needs. Westcott offered us something from scratch that could be developed into a suitable operational depot.

We have just over four acres - nearly twice the size of what we had previously. The key factor is the space. We've been able to lay out the yard efficiently to the benefit of the business. The space we have on site to store and work on our buildings is fantastic.

Security is excellent: the gates are manned 24/7.

► Future Plans

Now we've got the space, we hope to utilise it in ways that make us more efficient at meeting our customers' needs. As a division we are always looking to grow, so the aim is to supply even higher quality buildings and with a quicker lead time.



► Message to WVP businesses

We are keen to support other businesses in the Westcott community. We already work with Bucks Recycling and have worked with Reaction Engines. If anybody on WVP needs any type of accommodation in the future, or wants to find out more, please come and see what we can do.

If you would like to find out more about Portakabin visit www.konstrukta.co.uk or contact 0845 3553443.



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

WHAT WE DO:

INTERVIEW WITH JONATHAN LADYMAN, GOLDSTAR MAINTENANCE LTD BUILDING 12



► Who we are

We are Goldstar Maintenance Ltd - set up in 2010, our business is about maintaining the facilities of corporate, retail and residential commercial properties.

We work closely with facilities management agencies or directly with organisations that require a dedicated and reliable team to maintain their property to a high and compliant standard.



I LIKE BEING HERE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IT'S A RELAXED COMMUNITY AND EVERYONE IS HELPFUL AND IT'S VERY SECURE.

► What we do

We cover preplanned and reactive maintenance, property management, dilapidation works, electrical inspections, plumbing, carpentry, roofing, drainage and pretty much anything to do with caring for, and maintaining facilities.

We carry out work at Westcott but our clients are mainly in London, Milton Keynes, and Oxford. However, because we sometimes get work through word of mouth, and thanks to our various contractor accreditations, we can be working anywhere.

The team is Dave and myself. I am in the office, and on the tools as well. We have three other engineers and various contractors we also work with - we try and keep most of our work in house and only sub-contract if it is outside our skill set.

► Why Westcott?

I like being here in the countryside, it's a relaxed community and everyone is helpful and it's very secure. We need to store materials, tools and building equipment and we outgrew the other store we have in Stone. We can also learn from the other businesses on site.

We have good working relationships on the park having worked on behalf of the Westcott management team for Total Carbide Ltd as well as Amp-Air.

► Future Plans

I'm trying to build the business up as opportunities arise whilst keeping it stable, as we are a fairly young company I don't want to expand too fast. I would like to take on more staff, in fact a lot of what we do would be valuable to an apprentice as it's so wide ranging.

► Message to WVP businesses

If any business or landlord on site needs help with their property, even if it's just advice, please get in touch. We are very easy to speak to, whether it's a quick phone call or email. Big or small jobs, we're happy to help, it's what we do!

If you would like to find out more about Goldstar Maintenance, please visit www.goldstarmaintenance.co.uk or contact goldstar@gmx.co.uk or call 0345 4704611.

WESTCOTT ANNOUNCE FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH HARWELL



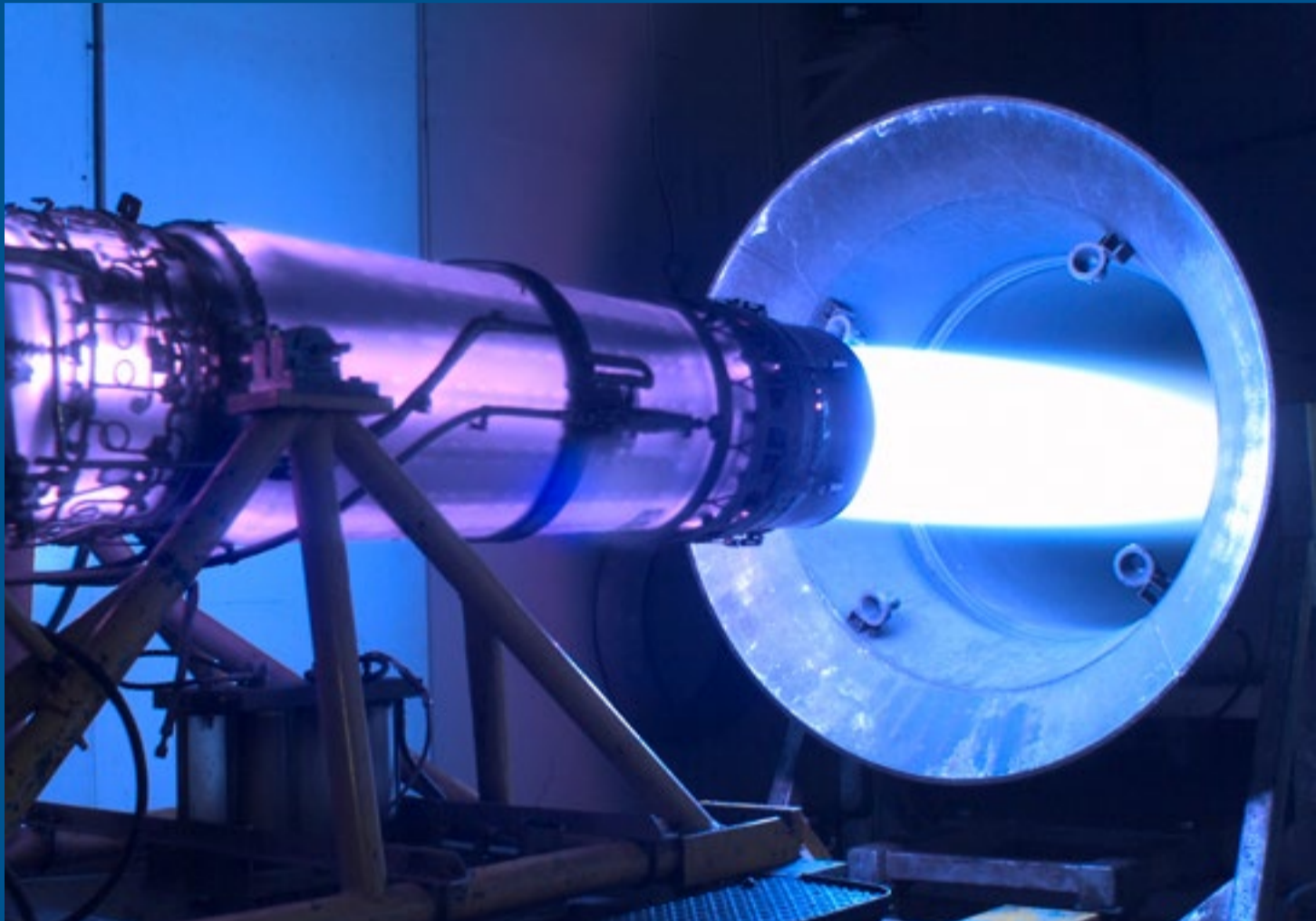
Westcott and the Satellite Applications Catapult at Harwell campus have agreed to collaborate over three major initiatives. These initiatives are underway to drive growth in the science, innovation and technology sectors in the central area of the Park known as Plot 9000.

Plot 9000 is located within Westcott's Enterprise Zone and is one of Rockspring's key areas of focus for development at the Park.



THIS WILL ADD FURTHER GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES TO THE PARK, WILL CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY TO COLLABORATE ON HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS, AND WILL HELP TO DEVELOP AND GROW THE UKS FUTURE PROPULSION ENGINEERS.

It forms part of a large area of the Park which was surrendered back to Rockspring following the change in ownership from Moog to Nammo. Ground clearance has started to make way for these new developments, which will see the creation of a technology quarter and propulsion hub in the centre of the Park.



Rockspring is refurbishing Building 5 to establish a 5G Step out Centre (SoC). This new facility will give hardware, software, platform and application developers access to the latest generation of networking equipment without the need to invest in expensive infrastructure. This will allow them to rapidly prototype and commission new services and applications ahead of market rollout and will see Westcott being developed as an inherent part of a 5G testbed ecosystem.

Rockspring is also looking to develop an incubation centre for start-up businesses within the propulsion sector. Once completed the building will be operated by the Satellite Applications Catapult, which is a Government backed organisation, based at Harwell which is intended to drive innovation in this growing area of the British economy. Plans will be submitted for a larger innovation centre which will come on stream in 2018.

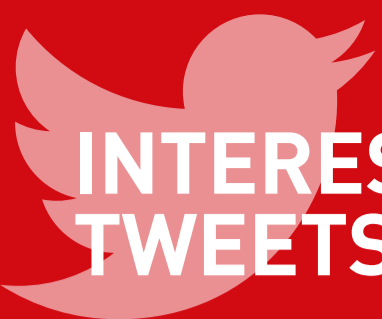
These new initiatives will help to grow new enterprises, create jobs, and will serve as a powerful attractor to external organisations to locate activities to Westcott. This will further establish the Park's reputation for supporting rocket and satellite businesses and will create a powerful ecosystem to accelerate the development in the science, space and technology sectors.

The UK space sector currently contributes about £13.7bn to the national economy and this figure continues to grow. Industry and Government have set themselves the target of trying to raise this figure to £40bn by 2030. SMEs encouraged by the Harwell Catapult will be integral to achieving this goal at both Harwell and Westcott.

Nigel MacKenzie, project manager at Westcott says: "For the last 70 years Westcott has been the home of UK Rocketeers and these new initiatives are set to ensure that Westcott remains at the forefront of this activity. This will add further growth opportunities to the Park, will create the environment for Universities and industry to collaborate on high profile projects, and will help to develop and grow the UKs future propulsion engineers."



Don't forget to follow us on
Twitter @WestcottVP



INTERESTING TWEETS

JULY

WestcottVenturePark @WestcottVP Jul 12

UK government announced £100m investment in the space sector-£4m is going to Westcott where rocket motors are built & tested @ReactionEngines

XYZ Music Academy @xyzmusicacademy Jul 17

Are you looking for summer holiday activities for your children? XYZ Music Academy will be running a summer music... <http://fb.me/AQhA02TW>

Reaction Engines Ltd @ReactionEngines Jul 28

We're delighted to be supporting #spacecamp @WestcottVP. We will be there on Friday 11 August talking #SABRE and #STEM

AUGUST

WestcottVenturePark @WestcottVP Aug 15

We have lift off! Youngsters take part in first ever #SpaceCamp at Westcott Venture Park <http://bit.ly/2uEARmP> @bucks_herald @HABbyEAL

SEPTEMBER

Anthony Wright @arwright_wright Sep 5

Finally, fresh coffee @WestcottVP cafe and a great new breakfast and lunch menu. Yummy @waddesdondelico

WestcottVenturePark @WestcottVP Sep 7

Total Carbide win £200,000 aerospace contract which will be delivered from its new factory @westcottVP <http://bit.ly/2j59ZXH> @versarien

Reaction Engines Ltd @reactionengines Sep 20

Work progressing three months on from #SABRETFI ground breaking @WestcottVP, an impressive 350m of embankment to complete!

OCTOBER

Space Ballooning @HABbyEAL Oct 4

Space Balloons @HABbyEAL came 2nd place in the @GSBChallenge in the Best Educational Outreach Category

UK Space Agency @spacegovuk Oct 16

The Detailed Design Phase for a National Space Propulsion Test Facility successfully kicked off last week at @WestcottVP

NOVEMBER

Westcott Venture Park @WestcottVP Nov 12

Wreaths laid at memorial to mark #RemembranceSunday remembering those who fought and died for the nation @WestcottVP

WestcottVenturePark @WestcottVP Nov 13

Developed@WestcottVP - home of UK Rocketeers#Skylark: 60 years since 1st launch - The unsung hero of British space <http://bbc.in/2ib9XdT> @BBCAmos

UK Space Agency @spacegovuk Nov 17

We're providing a £90K boost to #space #business#incubators during Global Entrepreneurship Week <http://bit.ly/2hGOj44> #GEW #GEW2017

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Westcott Venture Park, Rockspring or their agents. Copyright Westcott Venture Park 2017

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

GOODBYE WHISTLE STOP SHOP AND CAFÉ



The Whistle Stop, an independently owned shop and café, closed its doors on 31st August when the Park said good bye to Norma Haines. Norma started the business in 2006 from the old bus shelter near the former entrance to the Park, then in 2012 she relocated the shop to the Gatehouse.

Westcott managing agent, Colin Theobald says: "The Whistle Stop was a popular haunt for visitors and occupiers at the Park and we wish Norma all the very best in her retirement."

The Waddesdon Deli Co has opened in its place, for more information see the front page.

TOTAL CARBIDE ANNOUNCE AEROSPACE CONTRACT WIN

Total Carbide, a Versarien Plc owned company, has won a £200,000 aerospace contract which will be delivered from its factory at Westcott Venture Park. This is notably the firms largest ever single order in the aerospace sector. The order is for precision components to be delivered at regular intervals over the next 15 months for use in engines for one of the world's leading airliners.



WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT WE HAVE SECURED THIS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY SPECIALIST PARTS FOR SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS CUSTOMER IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, A FIRST FOR THE COMPANY.



The company which has been operating from Hangar 3 for over a year, designs and manufacturers sintered tungsten carbide wear products. Managing director of Total Carbide, Andreas Hohmann explains: "We are very pleased that we have secured this contract to supply specialist parts for such a prestigious customer in the aerospace industry, a first for the Company. Total Carbide has been moving away from its historic reliance on the oil and gas sector and is seeing interest from a variety of end users for its innovative engineering solutions and this is the first of a number of new products we are manufacturing."

