

BRUNTINGHORPE PROVING GROUND NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Welcome to the ninth Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground Newsletter, a newsletter intended as a means of keeping local residents abreast of useful information, particularly information that local residents might find of interest regarding the operation of the proving ground. The intention is to provide regular updates on information that might be of general interest with regards to items such as the operation of the site, or for example, items such as forthcoming events. We do hope you enjoy the read!

Merry Christmas

We would like to start this newsletter by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



We hope that all have an enjoyable festive period and that 2018 brings everything that you might wish for.

Boden Clothes show

As a forward notice, please note that the next Boden Clothes sale will be held in Hangar '42 on the 7th and 8th February 2018. Those of you who have attended previous sales will know that there are great sale items to be had so put the date in your diary now!

Planning meetings for Magna Park

Hangar '42 has been the venue for a recent large planning meeting. Market Harborough District Council needed a venue within the district that was large enough to accommodate the anticipated large number of attendees. As the meeting was to discuss the contentious Magna Park expansion plans, a large number of people were anticipated including a large number of demonstrators. We're glad to report that whilst there were demonstrators and tv crews in attendance, the meeting passed without any incidents.



The Hangar laid out for the planning meeting

Please note that there was a further full council meeting expected to be held to discuss the application further and this will also be held in Hangar '42. It was originally due to be held on the evening of Monday 11th December 2017

however the event was cancelled due to the heavy snow. It has therefore provisionally been rearranged for the 9th January 2018 and all are free to attend.



The snow bound Hangar

On Your Marks

We reported in the last newsletter that we were planning to host an event called On Your Marks in September over the weekend of 16th and 17th. The event was intended primarily as a charity event and had previously been run by ASDA over the last 15 years. The format was fundamentally the same (although without any flying activity) and the predominant aim was to raise money for a number of good causes. It was a great families day out for those who attended with supercar and rally car passenger laps, 4x4 driving, stunt car displays, police dog demonstrations, BMX stunt riding, a funfair, static car displays and craft stands all available.



The crowds begin to gather for their fast passenger rides

We hope that a lot of the local residents managed to make the most of the opportunity to visit the event however, despite a reasonable turn out of people, we are disappointed to say that the visitor numbers were nowhere near as high as we were expecting. There are plenty of possible reasons for this including poor weather, however the result of the low numbers was that we didn't raise the funds that we were hoping for. This was a great shame as we had hoped to make significant contributions to the designated charities.

War Games/ Movers and Storers Shows

The events that we host here at Bruntingthorpe are certainly not limited to automotive events. Indeed we have recently been host to two public (non-automotive) events in Hangar '42, namely

- The Movers and Storers Show, intended for those involved in the removals and storage industry



The Movers and Storers Show in Hangar '42

- Wargaming Event, which was intended for anyone involved in any aspect of war gaming



War gamers battle it out against each other

Both events went really well and both have been booked for next year. Watch this space for dates for 2018.

Manheim improvements

Manheim's next generation auction centre was launched Monday 25th September at the Bruntingthorpe site, following a multi-million-pound refurbishment of the existing facility.

The upgraded facility is now the most capable and flexible vehicle auction centre in the UK, and will support sales programmes of all sizes, specialising in single 'super sales' of 600 vehicles or more.



The auction gets underway in the new facility

A launch week was held in late September and we welcomed 1400 visitors to the new auction lanes and online, across the auctions held

during the launch week. Overall, some 1650 cars were sold across the week.

Discussions about road junction

A number of local residents, along with Shearsby Parish Council have been looking into improving safety at the crossroads just south of Shearsby on the A5199. Their excellent campaign has seen them raising a petition with many hundreds of signatures gathered, as well as obtaining critical accident information from the police and emergency services. This data was used during discussions with Leicester Highways Dept at a recent Shearsby Parish Council meeting which we also attended to support the group. Unfortunately, the Highways Dept explained that as they had implemented some changes to the junction in 2016 (by way of rumble strips etc) they could not do anything more until at least 2019 as they needed time to investigate the effect of these improvements on accident rates at the junction. Bruntingthorpe continues to work with the group to see if there are other things that can be done at the junction to improve safety without the support of Leicester Highways Dept and we will continue to keep you posted on any progress.



Ann O'Connell from Shearsby gathering signatures at our On Your Marks event

LBE exhibition

Bruntingthorpe Events were pleased to support the recent Leicester Business Festival through exhibiting at LBE Exhibition at the King Power Stadium. The exhibition was intended as a networking event for local businesses and proved to be a huge draw.



Exhibition stand at the King Power Stadium

Local Residents Open Evenings

We didn't managed to host any local resident evenings in late summer as we had planned and due to the early darkness at this time of year it's obviously not practicable at the moment. We will be running some more in Spring/early summer so please check the Swift Flash for notifications for these future events.

Royal Enfield Update

As reported in previous newsletters, the new Royal Enfield Global Design and Test centre has been occupied for approx. 6 months now and we're delighted to report that the number of their staff on site has already grown up to 120 engineers and staff. The final element of their investment will soon also be up and running and that is their second building which houses their engine test department. There will be specialist equipment within this building which will allow their engineers to test and develop

their improved existing range or indeed, their new range of engines before they even get fitted to a motorcycle.

Looking for Christmas present ideas?

Don't forget that there is a company still regularly visiting the Bruntingthorpe site on one of the first Sundays of each month who provide driver training and experiences for young children. So long as you child is over 9 years of age, and is tall enough to reach the driving controls and pedals in a normal car, then they are fine to give it a go! The driving takes place in dual control cars, with qualified driving instructors and the hour's lesson or experience takes place on the road system around the airfield. It's great as either a driving experience for a child or indeed as a forerunner to taking road-going lessons once they reach 17 of age. Interested? Then check out www.startinyoungdrivingschool.co.uk

Upcoming Public Events

Boden Clothes Sale – Wed 7th and Thurs 8th Feb 2018 in Hangar '42

Leicestershire and Rutland Fed of Women's Institute Centenary Meeting - Sat 10th March 2018 in Hangar '42

Startin' Young – Young Driver Training Sun 7th Jan, Sun 4th Feb and Sun 4th March 2018.

All other events currently booked in are private events and not open to the public.

Contact details

We do hope that you've enjoyed this short insight into the site's operation and that some of the items have proven to be of interest. If there is anything that you would like to see us report back on in future Newsletters, then please do get in touch and let us know:

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