



PRESS RELEASE

24 June 2009

MOON LANDINGS INSPIRE MAZE DESIGN

York farmer and maze builder Tom Percy is looking to the Moon this year for inspiration for his York Maze design. To mark the 40th anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landings, the giant 30-acre field of maize will be cut out in the shape of an Astronaut on the surface of the Moon. Previous designs have included the Statue of Liberty, The Starship Enterprise and the Flying Scotsman locomotive.

Says Tom Percy, "Each year I try to choose a maze design which is both topical and makes a great aerial image. Marking the 40th anniversary of manned flights to the Moon is my personal tribute to the endeavour and bravery of those lunar pioneers."

Continuing the space theme, Tom Percy is using the latest GPS satellite technology to plot out the maze shape, and is this week cutting out the Astronaut design from the 1.5 million maze plants in the 30 acre field.

Says Tom Percy, "By the end of this week the hard work in planting and laboriously marking and cutting out the 10km of pathways will have been done, now we just let nature go to work and grow the maize plants. By the time the maze opens on 18 July they should be approaching 2m tall."

York Maze opens to the public on Saturday 18 July and will be open every day until Sunday 6 September 2009.

ENDS

Photo Call

When: Thursday 25 June 11am

Where: York Maze, Dunnington Lodge, Elvington Lane York

What: Farmer Tom Percy with a life-size cardboard cut-out of Astronaut Buzz Aldrin will be in the maze field with his GPS equipment cutting out the shape of the maze.

Editors Notes

Farmer Tom Percy started York Maze seven years ago as a means of farm diversification following the foot and mouth crisis. It has grown to become one of York's most popular summer tourist attractions welcoming over 50,000 visitors in the short eight weeks season. York Maze has won a number of awards including best newcomer in the York Tourism Bureau awards, and was runner-up in Yorkshire Tourist Board's 'Tourism Experience' of the year category.

Previous designs:

2002 Viking Longship
2003 Spiders Web
2004 Flying Scotsman
2005 Big Ben
2006 Star Trek
2007 James Bond
2008 Statue of Liberty

York Maze was forced from its Grimston Bar home last year to allow for University of York expansion. In 2008 Tom Percy invested over £1million in moving to a new site on Elvington Lane near the Air Museum, including creating new café, gift shop and purpose built children's play areas.

York Maze will be open daily from Saturday 18 July to Sunday 6 September 2009 from 10am to 6.30pm (last admission 4.30pm). 2009 admission prices: Adult £7.95, Senior £7.45, Children (3-15) £6.95, Under 3s Free, Family (2 adults and 2 children) £28.00. Free parking. York Maze Elvington Lane (B1228), York, YO19 5LT, just off the A1079 Hull Road.

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