



20 July 2009

YORK MAZE NEWS RELEASE

MAZE MAN OVER THE MOON

To mark the 40th anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landings, farmer Tom Percy has cut a giant image of an astronaut from his field of maize. The 10km of pathways form an intricate maze for visitors to explore, the largest in Europe and one of the largest in the world. Measuring over 300m (1000ft) long, the Astronaut has been painstakingly carved out of over 1 million living maize plants

The Astronaut maze follows previous designs including 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 the first manned flight to the Moon is my personal tribute to the endeavour and bravery of those lunar pioneers."

Space expert Colin Pillinger, who has worked with NASA since the 60s analysing moon samples and led the UK's Beagle 2 mission to Mars which disappeared on the way to the planet's surface, said...

"What man achieved 40 years ago was fantastic and it is right that it should be marked with celebrations and events around the world. York's Astronaut maize maze is a fun and an eye-catching contribution to the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and will hopefully help fire the imagination of the families who visit the maze this summer inspiring the next generation of space explorers."

York Maze is open daily from Saturday 18 July until Sunday 6 September.

www.yorkmaze.co.uk

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PHOTOS

York Maze aerial view of the 1000ft Astronaut maze.

York Maze owner Tom Percy driving around the maze in a full-scale replica Lunar Rover built for pop group Jamiroquai's 'Runaway' video.

Astronaut - Tom Percy wearing a Spacesuit.

Editors Notes

York Maze

The new site for York Maze covers 45 acres including a tractor-trailer ride maze, a maze of illusions and crazy golf in a maze. The Astronaut maze is 18 acres (8 football pitches) in size. York Maze is thought to be one of the biggest mazes in the world.

Over £1 million was invested last year in developing York Maze including; giant new sand and water play area, water wars game, jumping pillow, CornQuest interactive tractor-trailer ride in a maze, new shop and café.

Farmer Tom Percy started York Maze six years ago as a means of farm diversification following the foot and mouth crisis.

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 Elvington Lane (B1228), York, YO19 5LT, just off the A1079 Hull Road. Open daily from Saturday 18 July to Sunday 6 September from 10am to 6.30pm (last admission 4.30pm). 2008 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.

Telephone: 01904 415364, www.yorkmaze.co.uk

Apollo Moon Landings 40th Anniversary

On 16 July 1969 Apollo 11 launched from the Kennedy Space Centre. On board was Mission Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin. On 20 July the Lunar Module (Eagle) touched down on the surface of the moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon with the immortal words, "That's one small step for man... one giant leap for mankind".

Colin Pillinger

Colin Pillinger has been involved in space exploration for 40 years. He has worked with NASA since the 1960s analysing Apollo moon rock samples, and led the Beagle 2 mission to Mars which became headline news. He was founder and first head of the Planetary and Space Sciences Research Institute at The Open University. He is currently working with NASA on how Beagle 2 technology may be used to establish a permanent Astronaut base at the lunar South Pole.

<http://www.barnstormpr.co.uk>

Replica Lunar Rover

The Lunar Rover (moon buggy) was driven by Astronauts on the moon in Apollo mission 15,16 and 17. A total of four were built at a cost of \$38 million. The replica was built for pop group Jamiroquai's 'Runaway' video and was driven by Jay Kay. It also featured in BBC TV's 'James May's 20th Century' programme. To see it follow this link

http://www.stormbuggies.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=14

For further press information & photographs please contact:

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