

Photocal

Date/Time: Thursday 21st May at 10am

Venue: CONKERS Discovery, Rawdon Road, Moira

From Cars to CONKERS

Toyota teams help CONKERS get ready for summer

Teams of car production employees from Toyota's Burnaston Plant in Derbyshire are using the current production slowdown as the chance to offer their time and help out at CONKERS and get the popular family attraction ready for spring and summer.

The Toyota teams will be supporting CONKERS on a range of activities that include updating the woodland amphitheatre's bench seating, painting a toddlers play area, painting flower boxes and fences, jet washing outdoor features and decking and updating and maintaining the indoor hands-on displays.

CONKERS is the place to learn all about woodland life and has been created at the heart of the National Forest. It welcomes over 200,000 visitors every year – many of whom are families with young children who come to enjoy the indoor exhibits, outdoor activities and weekly events.

Many of these visitors to CONKERS work at Toyota's nearby Burnaston Plant. Karen Bradley, Communications and External Affairs Manager for Toyota Manufacturing UK – a Premier Benefactor of CONKERS – said:

"We are a long standing supporter of CONKERS and in the light of our current production situation this volunteering project allows us to lend our employees' time which is more difficult in normal production conditions. We hope that the contribution our employees are making will be enjoyed by the many visitors to CONKERS."

Mike Ballantyne, Project Director for the Heart of the National Forest Foundation, the charity which has created CONKERS, said:

“There is always so much to do at CONKERS to prepare for our spring and summer influx of visitors and Toyota’s help has been absolutely invaluable in helping to get everything ready for this coming May Bank Holiday. We give the Toyota volunteers an enormous thank-you.”

**The Toyota volunteers will be putting the finishing touches to their work
on the Toddlers’ Play Area at CONKERS Discovery
on Thursday 21st May at 10am**

**Press reporters and photographers are invited to attend and please come to the
entrance at CONKERS Discovery**

Press enquiries to:

**Steve Carter, Toyota Manufacturing UK
01332 283666 or 07908 214781**

or

**Susan Newsome, Heart of the National Forest Foundation
01926 832102 or 07850 372398**

Notes to Editors

Toyota Manufacturing UK (TMUK) produces Auris and Avensis models at its vehicle manufacturing plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and petrol engines at its engine manufacturing plant at Deeside, North Wales. In 2008, TMUK produced 213,404 vehicles, 190,800 fully assembled engines and 106,598 engine sets for export and local assembly at plants across the world. To date, Toyota has invested over £1.85 billion into its UK manufacturing operations and currently employs over 4,400 members.

CONKERS offers a full programme of events over Whitsun – including Nick Spellman and his unique ‘live’ animal show, Circus Workshops and craft activities with the rangers.