



PRESS RELEASE

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Haynes Motor Museum puts Somerset on the World Stage

The Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford was honoured to be recognised this week as one of the World's premier motor museums having hosted the 10th World Forum for Motor Museums. The Museum was selected by a panel of eminent museum professionals amongst a prestigious list of other candidates.

Delegates arrived at the Museum from all corners of the globe to take part.

The week-long event was officially opened on Monday by HRH Prince Michael of Kent when he welcomed representatives from some of the world's most prestigious motor museums such as Mercedes Benz museum in Stuttgart and the National Motor Museum of Australia.

Delegates at the World Forum represented a wide variety of countries including the USA, Australia, Germany, France, Korea and South Africa amongst many others.

Each day of the Forum tackled a different subject with presentations made by many eminent speakers and professionals from the world of motoring, and more particularly motor museums.

The delegates benefited from field visits to other local attractions including the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton. They also had a chance to visit the Sparkford H.Q. of the Haynes Publishing Group who produce the famous 'Haynes manual'.

Haynes have been based in South Somerset since the company was formed in the early 1960's.

The week long conference ended on Friday evening with a Gala Dinner held in the Museum's Merlin Suite when the guest of honour was Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. Delegates were able to meet and discuss the weeks' events informally before returning home on Sunday. Matthew Lombard from the National Motor Museum of Australia said "Visiting Haynes for the World Forum has been a real eye-opener. It's been a very useful week and I had no idea that there was so much to offer in this area of England" .

Trustees of the Haynes International Motor Museum were honoured to be selected as host for this year's forum. Chairman of the Trustees, John Haynes, O.B.E said "The Museum has grown rapidly over the years and is now one of the largest in Europe so I am delighted to receive this international recognition".

The World Forum for Motor Museums is a bi-annual event organised by a different Museum each time. The next Forum in 2009 will be held in either Italy at the Gallery of Motorsport Modena, the Autoworld Brussels at the Royal Automobile Museum which houses King Hussein's private collection.

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