

White Helmets Signal Success at Charterhouse

Sherborne auctioneers Charterhouse are selling six of the world famous Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team Triumph motorcycles on **Thursday 16th November**.

More commonly known as The White Helmets, the display team was a group of serving soldiers from the Royal Corps of Signals who performed public displays of motorcycling skills, aerobatics and stunt riding, and were based at the Royal Signals Blandford Camp.

"We are delighted to receive instructions to auction these Triumph motorcycles from the dare-devil White Helmets," commented Matthew Whitney, who heads up the auctioneer's classic car department. "I first saw them in action over forty years ago when I was a young lad and they certainly made an impression on me then."

Beginning 90 years ago, in 1927, the riders were normally dispatch riders and the team have had several names in the past including 'The Red Devils' (before the Parachute Regiment Team of the same name existed), 'Mad Signals' (on account of the poor brakes on the motorcycles), and only adopted the name 'White Helmets' in 1963.

The Triumph T140 motorcycles the team rode around on are non-standard and tricked-out. Features to help them carry out their amazing stunts include no rear suspension, a solid steel frame, larger rear sprocket and a sticky throttle. Of the 26 Triumph motorcycles in the team, 20 have been either, gifted or given to a museum, or donated to sponsors or returned to LF Harris who supplied all the bikes.

Sadly, at the end of the 2016 show season, the White Helmets were given notice that the 2017 season would be its last. With the Royal Corps of Signals rebranding as "Leaders in a Digital Age" in line with innovative, cutting-edge technologies and cyber capabilities, it opted to adopt a modernised image to co-exist with the future of the Army.

All six motorcycles see below, are estimated between £5,000-£8,000 for each one. These come to the sale with a presentation file charting some the history relating to each motorcycle. **Viewing** for the Charterhouse auction is on **Wednesday 15th November 10-6** and on the auction day (**Thursday 16th**) **from 9am** with the sale starting at **11am** with live internet along with telephone bidding will be available for those unable to attend the auction.

Images below: White Helmet Triumph T140 Motorcycle No 30 at Charterhouse in Sherborne, 1 of 6 going under the hammer



The White Helmet Motorcycle Display Team in action.

Charterhouse is now accepting further entries for their busy autumn programme of specialist auctions which include a two day auction of **Watches, Jewellery, Silver and Antiques** with a selection of **Wine, Port and Whisky on 16th and 17th November** and **Coins, Medals, Stamps and Collector's Items on 15th December**.

For further information regarding these auctions, or to arrange a home visit, please contact **Richard Bromell or Matthew Whitney** at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne **01935 812277** or email items for valuation at **info@charterhouse-auction.com**