A GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND

Yesterday afternoon, the whole world witnessed a monumental milestone in the history of space exploration. Neil Armstrong clambered down the ladder of the lunar module Eagle and became the first human being to stand on the surface of the moon.

On 16th July, three brave men (Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins) left Earth in their space capsule, Apollo-11, from The Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA. The nation held its breathe as they were thrust into space by the incredibly powerful Saturn 5 rocket. Reports suggest that they successfully arrived on the surface of the moon four days and 384,000 kilometres later.

It is understood that people gathered with friends, neighbours and family members as one-fifth of the entire population of the world watched in wonder as American astronaut Neil Armstrong took the first ever steps on the surface of the Moon. One Moon party reveller told us ‘following the news of a national bank holiday, we all gathered at Macey’s yard to celebrate this historical event. We dressed up as aliens and Macey’s mother put on a large spread of delicious food for us to share. It was so exciting to see an American become the first man to walk on the Moon!’

Upon first walking on the moon, Armstrong could be heard transmitting this phrase to the NASA space control centre:

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

A few seconds later, Armstrong was joined on the surface by Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin. The third member of the crew, Michael Collins, was remained in orbit around the Moon in their capsule module.

According to one leading NASA scientist, Armstrong and Aldrin explored the area of the moon where they had landed before they proudly erected a US flag with a special wire frame to hold it (as there is no wind on the Moon). It is believed that they also collected samples of the rocks that litter the Moon’s landscape to take back for analysis at a laboratory on Earth.

After the completion of their mission, the pair returned to Eagle, ignited the engine, and began to head back to Planet Earth. The United States has now fulfilled the first part of President Kennedy’s promise – to land a man on the moon – now they need to accomplish the second promise: returning them all back safely.

Report by Rupert Torr,

Daily News Science Editor