

Celebrations All Around for Tiggy Winkles

February was a busy month for children at our Tiggy Winkles Day Care Nurseries!

Children went flippin' wild over pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! They got the chance to help each other make traditional pancakes. I think it goes without saying, it was a messy day! Still promoting healthy eating, children were offered a range of healthy toppings and fillings with their pancakes.

Then, Tiggy Winkles children were lucky enough to celebrate new year...twice! Tying in with the nurseries monthly topic of 'food', children got to taste treats from the other side of the globe for Chinese New Year. Foods tasted included noodles and spring rolls! Yum!



Celebrating pancake day at Chivenor

Tiggy Winkles try and ensure the children celebrate a range of festivals and holidays such as Shrove Tuesday, St Valentines Day, Bonfire Night and Hanukah.

For more information or for details on special offers currently running, call Gemma on 0121 776 8880.

IT Lab

More and more people are beginning to use Merlin IT Lab based over at Castle Vale College.

The free IT suite offers the opportunity to build on existing skills with computers and a full range of professional software and training available.

Software includes: **Microsoft Office Suite 2003**, Dreamweaver, **Floorplan 3D**, Auto CAD, **ADOBE Creative Suite 2.3**, SAGE, **MYOB accounting**, Lightwave, **Pinnacle** and Reason 3.0.

If you are interested in the IT Lab, call Nicol on 0121 747 2200.



Merlin Get 'Myspaced' Up!

Merlin have now created even more ways of helping you find work! Always trying to find new ways of helping younger people find work or training, Merlin JETS have set up their very own Myspace page.

On there, you will find blogs and bulletins on things such as:

*Writing covering letters *Writing CV's *Interview techniques

Myspace: www.myspace.com/mjets

Call: 0121 776 7124

Web: www.merlinventure.co.uk

Visit: Spitfire House (Castle Vale College), 10 High Street, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6PR

JOB OF THE MONTH



A Customer Service Sales Advisor is required to work for an established manufacturing company based in Sparkhill (due to relocate to Stirchley). You will need to have previous customer service and admin experience, excellent communication skills and be computer literate.

Experience in using Sage Line 50 would be an advantage. You will be responsible for: 200 accounts, invoicing, entering orders onto the system, relationship management and general office duties.

Working Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Salary dependent on experience.

Erdington Constituency Over 50's Forum

The Erdington Constituency Over 50's Forum aims to bring together over 50's groups and forums from around the local area including the Tyburn, Kingstanding and Erdington wards, to share issues and concerns for older people.

The Over 50's Forum organised a day for older people on the 7th February at Castle Vale Residents Club which was aimed at recruiting new members from across the constituency. The day was filled with presentations on recycling, services for older people through Help the Aged, bingo and general entertainment and networking.

In addition there were displays and stalls to inform older people about local services including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Ring and Ride, Merlin Venture, Library Services and the Neighbourhood and Offices.

The day was a huge success in engaging residents from the constituency with over 140 older people attending.

For more information on the Over 50's Forum, you can call Bob Brueton on 07766923361.



Community Team John Alford and Laura Needham at Merlin's stand

If you have any queries or issues regarding this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact Gemma Donnelly on 0121 776 8880.

Contact Information

If you would like any more information about Merlin Venture and any of the services we have to offer please contact us via:

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Tel: 0121 776 8880

Fax: 0121 776 6141

Website: www.merlinventure.co.uk



MERLIN NEWS

The Merlin Venture Newsletter

April 2008 Issue 14

The Merlin Venture hope you enjoy our newsletter, bringing you all of the latest news and information on Merlin Venture and our businesses.

Shining a Light On a Brighter Future

Merlin Training once again celebrates a successful outcome from its practical trades centre, the Royal Works in Sutton Coldfield.

Anthony Ratchford, 18, is about to start the next stage of his new career in Electrics. Starting work as an Electrician's Mate whilst also attending Birmingham Electrical College on a part time basis, Anthony now has a firm grasp of what he wants from his career.

"I found the Merlin course really helpful; before starting I didn't know what I wanted to do and now I know I want to be a fully qualified electrician. The additional support has helped me such a lot and I am really looking forward to starting my new job." Anthony Ratchford.



Anthony Ratchford at Merlin Training

Merlin Training provide innovative training courses for 16-25 yr olds, fully hands on training in Electrics, Painting & Decorating and Plumbing in bite size chunks, taking people through the basics of each trade, followed by ongoing support into further training, apprenticeships and even employment.

With the current shortage of skilled trades people and inadequate training available, Merlin Training was developed to provide a stepping-stone towards a new career, providing a strong introduction with follow on support from Merlin Employment and Training advisors.

New courses are starting every month and enrolments are ongoing, for details call Lynnette Douglas on 07957 911 196.

Buster Are Breaking New Barriers!

Buster Werkenbak broke the 400 passengers per week mark for the first time in February. With 449 journeys made in one week this has shown a great increase in usage of the past twelve months. With week on week passenger journeys across North Warwickshire increasing this can only mean good things for Buster Werkenbak.



With Birch Coppice, Hams Hall and Kingsbury Link increasing in popularity, this service now carries nearly double the numbers of passengers compared to the same time last year.

For more details on Buster Werkenbak call Paul Clarke on 0845 234 1234.

Merlin Stars

Congratulations to Amy Smith for winning the Star Award for April 2008. Amy was placed at Castle Vale Housing Association by Merlin Recruitment and has been excellent.



Lynette Turner and Amy Smith

"I nominated Amy because of all her hard work over the last few months at CVCHA and she has had excellent feedback from her employer and colleagues."

Well done Amy!

We would also like to congratulate the Recruitment and Enterprise team for winning this months Team Award.

John Lewis, John Stanley, Lynette Turner and Nicol Wagstaff won the award for their continuous hard work in finding people work and helping people set up their own businesses.



Lynette, Nicol and John

If you would like to nominate any members of the Merlin workforce who have provided you with excellent service call Ian Gilbert on 0121 776 8880 or email ian@merlinventure.co.uk

See inside for

Community Mike

Bringing residents of the Tyburn Ward community news every 3 months!



