



MERLIN NEWS

The Merlin Venture Ltd. Newsletter



Welcome to the first New Year edition of the Merlin News.

The Merlin Venture Ltd hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to 2007.

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

Ready to Mind Your Own Business

As part of our commitment to developing local businesses Merlin Recruitment and Enterprise have recruited a new Enterprise Advisor to their team.

Based right at the centre of the community in Spitfire House John Stanley will be available to help turn business ideas into reality. With over 30 years practical business management experience John is ready to work with local people who are keen to know more about becoming self-employed. Whether you want to operate a solo operation or be the next Alan Sugar, John will be able to provide assistance and support.

"Regeneration around Castle Vale has achieved a great deal and there must be many latent talents amongst local residents. Provision of our Business Start-Up Service is free and friendly and provides access to a network of assistance to enable ideas to be turned into practical viable businesses.

I look forward to sharing my experiences and knowledge with the Castle Vale community." John Stanley Enterprise Advisor.



John Stanley, Enterprise Advisor

Merlin Recruitment and Enterprise have successfully enabled many new businesses based around Castle Vale to start and are waiting to help you achieve your goal.

For more information call John Stanley on 0121 747 2781 (Mobile 07721865126) or e-mail your questions to john.stanley@merlinventure.co.uk.

Merlin Recruitment Are Expanding!

As well as being able to offer companies a low cost recruitment service, Merlin Recruitment can now offer you even more ways to get your next job.

Hire 1

With this programme, we can provide you with even quicker access to vacancies you really want by providing your future employer with a wide range of free services. We will employ you for the first 3 months, keeping you on our payroll until the employer is ready to take you on. So, if you live locally and are available to work now? Contact us and tell us what and where you would like to work and we will see what is available for you.

Hire 1, Train 2

If lack of skills and qualifications has held you back we can solve that problem, providing your next employer with funding towards training you. We can pay up to £500 towards training you and up to another £500 towards training and developing a colleague.

Whether you are employed or unemployed we have a solution for you.

Call Lynette today for more information on 0121 776 8880

50 and Rising For CAG!

The Community Advisory Group that monitors Merlin's activities recently held its 50th meeting.

If you would like to become involved in your community and help shape the services that are offered to local people contact Jennie Gyrn on 0121 776 8880 for more information on how you can make a difference. Meetings are held monthly with transport available.



★ The Merlin Venture Ltd recently introduced a new scheme to recognise hard work and achievement in our staff. Every month, Merlin chooses a star employee as a member of staff who has performed above and beyond their current job role.

January 2007 winner is Emma Ridley, a Nursery Nurse from Tiggy Winkles Chivenor.

"Emma has been an absolute star throughout the past 5 years and does more than her job requirements every single week.

In my absence, Emma will run the nursery very efficiently, without her I would be lost. Thank you for all your hard work Emma, you deserve it." Catherine James, Tiggy Winkles Manager.

"I am so grateful to Merlin Venture for the recognition they have given me. I was so surprised to win 'Employee of the Month!' I really enjoy my work here at Tiggy's and it is nice to know others see it too." Emma Ridley, Tiggy Winkles Nursery Nurse and January 2007 STAR employee.

The Merlin Venture Ltd would like to thank all of our staff for the continuous hard work that is keeping Merlin running. There will also be a new scheme next month for team effort so keep up the good work!



This Space To Let

Would you like to have Spitfire House as your business address?

Are you running your business from home but beginning to need more space?

The solution could lie at the community campus itself.

There are several offices reserved specifically for local small and start up business.

Offering excellent terms with short leases this is the perfect opportunity to take your business to the next level.

For more information and to find out about services available call **0121 747 2200** or drop in to Spitfire House.

These offices are designed to help local businesses to develop while taking the risks out of expanding too fast. They were included in the redevelopment programme begun by the Housing Action Trust for the support of local enterprise, and now part of the partnership between Josiah Mason College and Merlin Venture.

Charity Collection

The Merlin Venture Ltd., was delighted to hand over a Cheque for £250.00 to the Norman Laud Association based in Wylde Green.

Tiggy Winkles Nursery and Valley Travel both operated special free late night services for Castle Vale. These were a resounding success with residents and non-residents taking full advantage of the late night shopping service laid on by Merlin Venture. The money was raised during a number of fundraising events, which took place during these evenings.

The Norman Laud Association is a local charity that supports young children with severe disabilities through providing much needed respite care and day care.

"It has been a really successful service with uptake exceeding expectations and we are proud to be part of the community that so generously raised this money." Robert Brown Chief Executive Merlin Venture Ltd.



Merlin handing over the cheque

Local Talent

New start up businesses

Kick Start for local DJ's

Castle Vale DJ's; DJ Toddy and DJ Phil B from Kick Start Productions kick started their career by putting on a DJ workshop taster session for staff at The Merlin Venture Ltd.

On the 8th January all their hard work paid off as they set up the workshop down at Castle Vale Campus where Merlin learned how to 'mix and scratch'!

"We are very pleased with how the Tester DJ Workshop ran. We thought it was very successful and we would like to thank everyone at Merlin for showing support. We are delighted everybody enjoyed it and will look forward to more workshops in the near future." Jamie Todd



Chief Executive Robert Brown hits the deck!

Jamie and Phil, both aged 17 have been working together for 2 years and are now giving people the chance to learn how to DJ with their workshops. They incorporate a variety of activities ranging from beat matching and mixing to choosing the right equipment and recording your own CD!

For more information call Jamie today on 07749311912 or email kickstartproductions@hotmail.co.uk

Or you can meet up with the lads in person on Wednesday afternoons.

Based at Spitfire House, Jamie and Phil will be in Merlin's IT lab providing additional support for newcomers to the software.

From helping you to edit your photos on photoshop to working on your future number one single on Reason, the lads can help you to get started on much of the software available.

For more information on Merlin's IT lab and to find out just what is available call 0121 747 2200.

Merlin's IT lab is open from Monday to Saturday and is free to use.

Merlin Sponsors Local Football Club



JKS Under 8's showing off their new kit!

At Merlin we believe in the local youngsters which is why we are proud to be able to sponsor the local under 8's Junior Kickstart team.

This year's team are already showing a lot of promise and we would like to wish them success throughout the current season.

February Fun

Despite Britain coming to a stand still as heavy snow falls brought chaos to the region, Tiggy Winkles managed to make the most of the snow!

On the day of the biggest snow fall recorded since the big freeze in January 2004, Tiggy children rushed outside in their winter woollies to make a huge snowman (and attack the staff with snowballs!)



Making the most of the snow

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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