



MERLIN NEWS

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Issue 5

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

Castle Vale Business Group Returns

Although there have been no Castle Vale Business Group meetings for a few months, there has been a great deal of activity behind the scenes, with Merlin now devoting even more resources to Enterprise, and several discussions having taken place between Merlin and members of the Castle Vale Business Group Steering Committee.

Now the Castle Vale Business Group is back and it's looking better than ever, with a number of exciting events already planned for the next 12 months. With new developments at Minworth and Fort Dunlop, and new companies locating nearby while some established ones are leaving, there has never been a better time to join the Group and network with other local business people.



John Lewis, Business Engagement Manager

The new look CVBG is being co-ordinated by John Lewis, Merlin's new Business Engagement Manager, and meetings are planned to take place approximately every other month. If you are involved in a local business, whether you are a sole trader or part of a larger organisation or group, we would like to invite you to join the CVBG as a member or even as part of the planning committee.

CVBG has provided an invaluable source of local information for many of the businesses vital to the economy of the local region.

"With the continued developments nearby it is vital that local businesses have the chance to get together and discuss pressing concerns as well as taking the opportunity to create future business partnerships. It is essential for the healthy economic future of our region that businesses work together to ensure that opportunities are not missed and we can continue to maintain a sustainable local industry, not least for the employment opportunities this offers to the community that we serve." Robert Brown, Merlin Chief Executive

For a full list of meeting dates or if you would like to be added to the growing circulation list for the bi-monthly newsletter call John Lewis on 0121 747 2200.

Merlin's latest bus service

After a number of years successfully taking passengers to out of reach locations Buster Werkenbak has launched its premier daytime timetabled service.

The route runs from Chelmsley Wood and travels through to Hams Hall enabling access to a wide range of employment opportunities previously un-reachable without your own transport.

Operating exclusively during peak times from 05.05-08.45am and 14.50-17.50pm Monday to Friday this service is designed to fit into standard shift patterns and reduce the reliance on car usage and ownership when accessing employment.

The service costs £2.00 each way or just £3.00 return, with all major bus passes being accepted.

There are many major businesses at Hams Hall covering the 430 acre site including BMW and Sainsbury's, all of which are now a little easier to get to.

For more information on this new bus service call 0845 234 1234.



Merlin Stars

Catherine James, Merlin's Childcare Manager with overall responsibility for both our Tiggy Winkles Nurseries, is this month's Star Employee.

Running one nursery can be tough but running two takes a special person, and that is exactly what Catherine is.



Catherine James, Childcare Manager

"Catherine works all the hours under the sun, and a few that aren't in order to get the job done, and if she were to take all of her lieu days we probably wouldn't see her until 2010!" Robert Brown—Chief Executive.

So thank you Catherine, on behalf of Merlin and Tiggy Winkles children; past, present and future, who all benefit from your loving care and devotion.

Congratulations to staff in Merlin Security's control room for winning the Star Team award.

They have constantly been praised by Castle Vale residents for their excellent service they provide around the estate with the monitoring of the CCTV.

"The team are an excellent credit to both Merlin Venture and the Castle Vale Community. I am pleased they have won the award this month; they certainly deserve it." Jennie Giryn, Business Development Manager.

Well done everyone!

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



Get set for the summer with Valescapes

Charlie Dimmock may not be included but if you are looking at having a ground force style makeover Valescapes are able to help.

With excellent offers currently running such as receive **10% off total labour costs if you book your job in June or July**, there is no better time to call!

Look out for our new leaflets including information on what Valescapes can do such as fencing, slabbing, garden clearance and turfing.

Dedicated to bringing you a low cost, high quality service. Whatever your gardening needs, call Joanne from Valescapes today on **0121 776 8880**.



Ian Charles, Valescapes Supervisor

CCTV Success

With the installation of over 70 cameras around Castle Vale, crime is being targeted much more efficiently. We began monitoring in 2002 and since then have witnessed over 10,000 incidents. There have been some great results including linking up with the local police, which recently led to a drug dealer being arrested. With only 257 incidents noted in May compared to 313 in April, crime on Castle Vale seems to be on the decrease. However, please remember to stay safe at all times and to call Merlin Security if you have any reason to be suspicious.

Among other recent incidents, a young man was observed acting suspiciously by the cameras. This observation led to the police apprehending the young man and arresting him for theft. He was later jailed for 30 months. There was recently a problem with bag snatching at the Sainsbury's end of Castle Vale. All residents are warned to be careful and keep an eye on your bags. If you do see something suspicious, please call Merlin Security on 0121 776 8880.

Merlin Security were inspected at the start of June for the British Standard BS7958 in CCTV Operations and are delighted to report that we have once again achieved accreditation with no issues of non compliance and no observations.

Jumping On The Jobs Bus

Since the launch of Merlin Recruitment and Enterprises new jobs bus, The Tyburn JET everyone's been hopping on to find out what it is all about. With the JET visiting outreach venues such as Erdington High Street, Sainsbury's Castle Vale and the Fort Shopping Park. many people have found this service useful and have already found employment with our help.

The bus travels to various venues around the Tyburn area including Erdington and Birches Green enabling people who are in full time employment or can't get onto Castle Vale to the main offices to gain support in looking for employment.

You can hop on the bus and our qualified Employment and Training Advisors will be able to sign you up and start assisting you with local job search, assist you with CV's and much more. The bus is fully equipped to provide full internet access alongside our other services.

For more information on the Tyburn Jet or for a list of outreach venues please call Vicky on 0121 747 2200.



The Tyburn JET out in the community at Mercian Housings recent Neighbour's day

New 696 Community Bus Timetable

Merlin Venture is pleased to confirm that following agreement with the Castle Vale Endowment Trust Fund over continued funding, the 696 Community Bus will continue to provide the hopper service around Castle Vale. For only £1.00 for adults and 50p for children the bus will continue to collect and drop you off anywhere along its route.

The service begins at 8.20am and completes three runs of the estate every hour, running until 4.40pm with an hour's break from 12.20pm to 1.20pm.

However, with the funding from the Endowment Trust Fund being lower than in previous years, and passenger numbers on Saturdays being considerably lower than during the week, we will have to withdraw the Saturday service from the end of June. We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your continued support.

696 Castle Vale Link

MONDAY to FRIDAY (Excluding Bank Holidays)

Reed Square	08.20	08.40	09.00	09.20	09.40	10.00	10.20	10.40	11.00	11.20	11.40	12.00
Yatesbury Ave/Manby Road	08.23	08.43	09.03	09.23	09.43	10.03	10.23	10.43	11.03	11.23	11.43	12.03
Park Lane	08.26	08.46	09.06	09.26	09.46	10.06	10.26	10.46	11.06	11.26	11.46	12.06
Farnborough Road School	08.28	08.48	09.08	09.28	09.48	10.08	10.28	10.48	11.08	11.28	11.48	12.08
Cadbury Drive	08.31	08.51	09.11	09.31	09.51	10.11	10.31	10.51	11.11	11.31	11.51	12.11
Sainsbury's supermarket	08.38	08.58	09.18	09.38	09.58	10.18	10.38	10.58	11.18	11.38	11.58	12.18
Reed Square	08.39	08.59	09.19	09.39	09.59	10.19	10.39	10.59	11.19	11.39	11.59	12.19

PLEASE NOTE: NO SERVICE BETWEEN 12.20 & 13.20 DUE TO DRIVERS BREAK

Reed Square	13.20	13.40	14.00	14.20	14.40	15.00	15.20	15.40	16.00	16.20
Yatesbury Ave/Manby Road	13.23	13.43	14.03	14.23	14.43	15.03	15.23	15.43	16.03	16.23
Park Lane	13.26	13.46	14.06	14.26	14.46	15.06	15.26	15.46	16.06	16.26
Farnborough Road School	13.28	13.48	14.08	14.28	14.48	15.08	15.28	15.48	16.08	16.28
Cadbury Drive	13.31	13.51	14.11	14.31	14.51	15.11	15.31	15.51	16.11	16.31
Sainsbury's supermarket	13.38	13.58	14.18	14.38	14.58	15.18	15.38	15.58	16.18	16.38
Reed Square	13.39	13.59	14.19	14.39	14.59	15.19	15.39	15.59	16.19	16.39

The Tyburn JET scheme is funded by



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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