

## New Advice Bureaux To Castle Vale

Councillors Lynda Clinton and Mike Sharpe will be holding a brand new advice bureau open to residents of the Tyburn Ward to discuss any issues they may have.



Spitfire House,  
Castle Vale High Street

The bureaux will commence as of the 18th June 2008. Details are as follows:

**When** 3rd Wednesday of every month  
**and** 10.00am - 11.00am  
**Where** Resident Support Unit (1st floor), Spitfire House, Castle Vale High Street

Lynda and Mike will continue to carry out home visits by appointment. Please contact them for any more information.

**Lynda Clinton** 0121 303 2039 / 0121 384 7539 / 07912756935  
lynda\_clinton@birmingham.gov.uk

**Mike Sharpe** 0121 303 2039 / 0121 373 4370 / 07713982258  
Mike\_sharpe@birmingham.gov.uk

## Community Interest Group Update

The Community Interest Group has engaged over 80 people to participate in meetings, bringing together the community & stakeholders from the four wards in the Erdington Constituency.



People from the Kingstanding, Tyburn, Erdington and Stockland Green wards have been attending the meetings which has provided them with the opportunity to share first hand experiences & information on the barriers and solutions to the steps to employment.



The next meeting will bring together all of the providers and residents from across the constituency highlighting the findings from rotating around the wards and raising the awareness on the worklessness agenda.

**For more information or to have your say on this agenda please call Laura on 07795448460.**



## JOB OF THE MONTH

Merlin Training requires an experienced Plumber to deliver hands on training to young people.

You will need to have previous experience within plumbing and ideally in supervising young trainees and strong communication skills.

Helping develop lessons into accredited training, you will be responsible for working with students delivering basic plumbing training and demonstrating things such as how to fit sinks, baths and header tanks. You must be able to coach and motivate individuals to ensure students complete their course.

Working Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm. £20k.

Call Lynette on 0121 747 2200

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

Terms and conditions apply to all offers.



## Merlin Training Have Moved!

Merlin Training have now completed their relocation to Aston,

sharing premises with partners JAC Training.

As they did in their first venue at Royal Works, Sutton Coldfield, Merlin Training have transformed empty rooms into a training centre with bays that will enable them to teach people the basics of electrics, plumbing and painting and decorating.

Merlin Training are now developing their courses in order to offer accredited qualifications.

The new centre is situated in Priory Road near to Aston Villa Football Ground and is easily accessible by public transport.

Keep an eye out for future newsletters bringing you all of the latest updates on Merlin Training and its new courses.

**For more information, call Lynette Douglas on 07957911196.**

## Tiggy Winkles Welcome Pack

As well as the brilliant offers Tiggy Winkles currently have on, the day nurseries based next to Chivenor School and within Pegasus School are now giving parents a free welcome pack when their child joins.

The pack includes a branded Tiggy Winkles bag and lots of goodies inside! Limited stock available.

Call for details on the offers we have on at the moment.

**Gemma 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:

Email:  
jennie@merlinventure.co.uk

Tel:  
0121 776 8880

Fax:  
0121 776 6141

Website:  
www.merlinventure.co.uk



# MERLIN NEWS

## The Merlin Venture Ltd. Newsletter

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

July  
2008  
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## Tiggy Winkles Brand New Pre-School and After School Service



Tiggy Winkles Pegasus and Chivenor are launching an exciting new Pre-School and After School service.

Merlin Play Care will be an extra care service based at both nurseries for children aged between 4 and 8 years old. Opening times will be from 7am and 6pm and children can be taken to any primary school on Castle Vale.

Breakfast and snacks will be provided before school and tea and snacks will be provided after school. There will be a range of activities for the kids to do and a variety of books to take home from the Merlin Smart Readers Club (in their free book bag!)

**For more information on Merlin Play Care, to enquire about claiming up to 80% of your fees back or to book a place, call Gemma on 0121 776 8880**

**10% discount for children who currently or who have previously attended Tiggy Winkles.**

Terms and conditions apply. Limited spaces available.



## Merlin Staff Case Study



After approaching Merlin JETS back in 2007, Castle Vale resident Fiona Ravenhall has proved herself to Merlin's Tiggy Winkles Nursery and has become a real asset to the team.

Fiona joined Tiggy Winkles towards the end of 2007 on Merlin's Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) programme with no qualifications but the hope of securing a position.

Whilst Fiona was studying her Level 3 qualification in childcare, she completed the ILM programme but unfortunately there were no paid positions in the nursery. Fiona carried on working as a volunteer!

Through the commitment and determination that Fiona brought to Tiggy Winkles, she was offered a part time role that could eventually lead to full time.

Fiona has just completed her level 3 qualification which is an outstanding achievement in such a short period of time. She is a great asset to the nursery and works hard to give the children a high standard of care.

For more information on Tiggy Winkles or finding yourself a job, call Gemma today on **0121 776 8880**

## Merlin Stars

Congratulations to Wendy Stokes who is this month's star employee.

Nominated by Community Advisory Group (CAG) attendee Eric Shaw,

Wendy was nominated for her commitment to Castle Vale and her contribution to the local community particularly for her outstanding secretarial duties on behalf of the CAG.



Wendy and CAG member Brian Cragg

Well done to this month's Star Award Team, Merlin Security. The CCTV team, also nominated by CAG members have been working extremely hard to ensure they provide a professional service that contributes to the safety of Castle Vale and its residents.

"Decreasing crime rates on the estate clearly show what a brilliant job all of the community safety agencies are doing and the CCTV team deserve this award for their constant hard work."

Robert Brown, Merlin's Chief Executive.

**If you would like to nominate a member 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 News

If you would like to enquire about a FREE article in the next edition of Community News, please call Gemma Donnelly on 0121 776 8880.





# Community News

The latest news about your local area



## Community Advisory Group

Established in 2002, CAG gives residents and local organisations a chance to meet and discuss issues they may have, as well as discussing issues of community concern.

### Transport Update

Valley Travel passenger journeys on the Community Bus 696 exceeded 1,300 journeys in one week for the first time since November 07! Unfortunately, we had a breakdown on both the main bus and the spare bus, and had to use one of our minibuses. Merlin would like to apologise to all residents who use the service.

Buster Werkenbak passenger journeys continue to average 400 passengers per week.



## Merlin Security News

Residents and local organisations were very upset by an article that appeared in the Sunday Mercury around crime on Castle Vale. However, a recent article that appeared in the Vale Mail got across a good message about the work that is being done by organisations across the estate to help reduce crime.

April saw an increase in incidents from 177 in March to 253.

The biggest rise was in theft, mostly in the Retail Park.

Of the anti-social behaviour, there were 10 mini bike incidents, 9 stone throwing and litter, 2 alcohol related incidents, 2 graffiti and 24 nuisance incidents.

Two Merlin Security CCTV Operators were presented with Good Citizen Awards by Deputy Chief Constable Phillip Gormley at a West Midlands Police ceremony held at Sutton Town Hall.

They were awarded for their exceptional work in helping catch two prolific criminals and it was said that without their efforts, the culprits wouldn't have been caught.

The criminals were described as ardent criminals who had recently committed yet another violent crime and the CCTV was vital to their arrest.

**Well done Merlin Security!**

## Our Smart Readers!

The 'Smart Readers' initiative at Tiggy Winkles is proving to be extremely popular with children taking home several books per month to read, some even getting through several each week!

This is one of the many ways Tiggy Winkles is helping prepare children for their move into school education.

## West Midlands Police Updates

Inspector Tom Hadley reported that the West Midlands Police have purchased a 'fun bus' which will be transformed into a police bus.

It is hoped that by using the bus, the community can go and get advice from local police officers. Venues are currently being discussed.

West Midlands Police on Castle Vale have welcomed Sarah Tambling to the team who has joined as a Sergeant.

Sarah is a very well regarded officer and is a brilliant addition to the team.

Also joining them will be a previous serving officer of Castle Vale estate.

Interviews are also taking place for the replacement of retired PC Dave Roberts.

## Community Mike and Laura

Bringing local residents the latest news with changes affecting you from groups such as Erdington's Over 50's Forum, Community Interest Group, Tyburn Ward Committees and Caste Vale Neighbourhood Partnership.

### The John Taylor Hospice



The League of Friends recently held their Coffee Morning at the Holly Lane United Reform Church and raised an amazing £1,200 towards helping improve facilities for patients and staff at the John Taylor Hospice.

Look out for more information on the very popular 'Strawberry Tea' which will be held at the same venue on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Contact Mike Overton at Merlin Venture for more details on 0121 776 8880.

### Over 50's Forum

The Erdington Constituency Over 50's Forum met at Spitfire House on 12<sup>th</sup> May and covered topics and issues that affect older citizens.

The provision of public toilet facilities at the Six Ways end of the Erdington High Street was also covered. The company providing such facilities for Birmingham City Council have agreed a suitable site for one of their automated lavatories, but have produced a totally unrealistic estimate of cost. They would want £20,000 to put in the toilet and then £23,000 every year for 20 years to maintain it in good order. This is not acceptable to the Constituency who would have to bear such costs.

### Rotary Club of Erdington Up and Coming Event



The charity football match held on Sunday 18th May went extremely well. The Aston Villa All Stars beat Colron FC by an amazing 14-0 at Streetly Football and Cricket Club. The Rotary Club of Erdington have so far raised over £1500 for the Edwards Trust and the RNLI (Lifeboats) from this event.

Thank you to Merlin and all who have supported us in our fund raising efforts.

### Nocks Update

Following the public meeting at Hollyfields held on the 8th May, local residents were unanimously in support of continuing the fight to try and ensure that their community is protected against irresponsible and uncaring actions in remediation of the Nocks' site.

### Contact Details.

Contact Community Mike or Laura today on:  
Office: 0121 776 8880  
Mike: 07930 735556  
Laura: 07795 448460

## Community Business

Join Castle Vale Business Group today with FREE membership and a chance to network with other local businesses. Call John on 0121 747 2200.

### M & M Plumbing

Lee Reilly has always had an interest in the building trade with aspirations of one day starting his own business.

Lee enrolled on a recognised plumbing course. He felt that a qualification together with his previous plumbing experience would give his future customers confidence in his ability to do a good professional job.

Lee passed the course, but before rushing into starting a business he decided to seek advice from Merlin Enterprise.

This was a sensible approach! If you have not been self-employed or had a business before then there's a lot to learn.

Before long Lee started M & M Plumbing which has gone from strength to strength. Lee is now offering plumbing services for **bathrooms, hot water systems, central heating systems, kitchens and a repair and maintenance service.**

Recognising an opportunity, Lee has taken advantage of the other skills he has and can now offer services requiring part P electrical, part L energy efficiency and WRAS.

He is also developing his skills in tiling and looking to train as a 'Corgi' registered fitter which will give him the skills and qualifications to take on more comprehensive jobs, both in the domestic and commercial sectors.

07805082985

[mrreilly@mandmplumbing.net](mailto:mrreilly@mandmplumbing.net)  
[www.mandmplumbing.net](http://www.mandmplumbing.net)

The Future Looks Very Good For M & M Plumbing

### New Window Fitting Service

After working in the commercial and domestic window fitting trade for many years, Nicholas Harris gained lots of knowledge to add to his experience in repair, maintenance, warranty and 'snagging' work on commercial installations.

For some time Nicholas had been thinking about starting up on his own businesses and knowing a friend who had successfully started up his own business with the help of Merlin Enterprise, he thought that would be his best option.

Nicholas has now started 'Multiglaze Window Repair Services' and has secured commercial contracts with local schools and other businesses as well as building a reputation for domestic installations and repairs.

Multiglaze have made a great start and Merlin Enterprise are still on hand to offer Nicholas help and advice in the future.



0121 240 4708  
[info@multiglaze.co](mailto:info@multiglaze.co)  
[www.multiglaze.com](http://www.multiglaze.com)

If you are a local business and would like to advertise your business here for FREE, call Gemma today on 0121 776 8880.

For help with starting up your own business or for help with your Small to Medium Enterprise, call John on 0121 747 2200.

## Make A Difference To Your Community, Join The CAG!

Join Merlin's Community Advisory Group and you can help make a difference to your community. You can help develop local opportunities and speak to people who can make a difference. Call Gemma today on:

**0121 776 8880**