



### Taking The Fear Out Of Health & Safety

March 19th saw the latest meeting of the Castle Vale Business Group focussing on health and safety at Goodyear Dunlop. Guest speakers included Edward Fryer from HSE Field Operations Birmingham and Gerald Peel from Betterware.

"Health and safety's often associated with mountains of paperwork but this event showed that this is not the case. A sensible approach ensures a safer workplace and a more informed and aware workforce." John Lewis, Business Engagement Manager.

Call John Lewis on 0121 747 2200 for more information.

### Merlin News Goes Online!

As well as being updated weekly with the latest news stories, training updates and job vacancies, [merlinventure.co.uk](http://merlinventure.co.uk) now allows you to download our newsletter! Merlin News now gets uploaded every month!

Visit [www.merlinventure.co.uk](http://www.merlinventure.co.uk) to download all editions of the Merlin News!



# MERLIN NEWS

## The Merlin Venture Ltd. Newsletter

May  
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Issue 15

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

### Eggciting Easter for Tiggy Winkles Children!

It was a bonnet bonanza at Tiggy Winkles Chivenor and Pegasus this Easter with children parading the fabulous bonnets they've made for everyone! Parents were invited into the nursery to celebrate Easter with the traditional Easter Bonnet Parade.

There were some wonderful and wild creations and Tiggy Winkles would like to thank everybody for participating with their wonderful efforts and making it such a great day!

Also, congratulations to Tiggy Winkles for coming runners up in a nationwide competition run by [ichild.co.uk](http://ichild.co.uk). After writing a bedtime story called 'Prickles First Day At Nursery', it was picked as one of the top 10 best stories that were entered.

It was illustrated and put onto the website allowing people to download it but unfortunately, we didn't receive the most downloads during reading week so we didn't win but congratulations for coming runners up!



For a copy of the story or for more information on Tiggy Winkles, call Gemma on 0121 776 8880.



### JOB OF THE MONTH

A global vehicle management company requires an IT and Finance Support Consultant to provide IT infrastructure support to all clients within the company.

Responsible for: IT support to locations within Europe, website management, network administration, accounts support etc.

Must have previous experience of IT infrastructures, knowledge of network topology, excellent communication skills. Must be willing to travel.

Working Mon-Thur 8.30am-4.45pm and 4.15pm on Fridays. £24-30k with a company car/car allowance.

If you are interested in this job or any other jobs we may have, call Lynette on 0121 747 2200

### Recycling by Joanne Swinton

There's been a great deal of publicity concerning recycling and the carbon footprint. The nearest main recycling station to Castle Vale is Castle Bromwich Household Recycling Site, Tameside Drive, Castle Bromwich B35 7AG. Open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 8am-4.30 Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays. Most waste types can be taken there for recycling, including Bricks, Paint, Cartons etc.

Where do the kerbside collections go?

- Paper and card that's been collected go to the Smurfit Kappa Paper Mill at Nechells where it is made into cardboard boxes.
- Garden waste is made into compost, on a large scale for agricultural and landscaping purposes.

Birmingham needs to recycle 37% of our waste by 2012. **A lot more needs to be done.**

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

### Happy Birthday Julie!



Julie Hobbs, Tiggy Winkles Pegasus's cook for 9 years had a special surprise on the 2nd April for her 85th birthday! Julie was presented with flowers, cards and gifts by staff and children at the nursery.

From everybody at Merlin Venture, we hope you had a wonderful birthday!

### 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](mailto:jennie@merlinventure.co.uk)

Tel:

0121 776 8880

Fax:

0121 776 6141

Website:

[www.merlinventure.co.uk](http://www.merlinventure.co.uk)



### A Special Visitor

Trainees at Merlin Training based in Sutton Coldfield had a special guest visitor who presented them with their certificates.

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale had a tour around the Royal Works Training Centre and was very impressed with the Centre. Lord Corbett entered the House of Lords in 2001 and since then has voted on key issues including the introduction of ID cards, anti terrorism laws and equal gay rights. He has long been a supporter of the local area having been its MP for many years prior to entering the House of Lords.

"I was very impressed by the enthusiasm, commitment and determination of the staff and the easy relationship they've established with those going through the trade taster course. And not least, the way in which Merlin Training deliver the training is reflected in the reaction of the young people involved." Lord Corbett of Castle Vale.

After taking a tour of Merlin Training's centre Royal Works, Lord Corbett met the trainees at Merlin Training and presented them each with a certificate for completing the four week course.

The short course consists of tasters in Electrics, Plumbing and Painting and Decorating along with Health and Safety Training and a CSCS test. New courses start every month. For more information, call Lynette Douglas on: 07957911196

### Merlin Stars

Congratulations to Joanne McColgan who is this month's star employee. Joanne has successfully adapted to her role of working within both accounts at Venture House and at the training centre.

"Jo has been working really hard at Merlin Training since it opened. She has set up and managed new systems at the centre and integrates really well with the young people. She is seen by them as a mentor and is able to help them with social problems as well as fulfil her admin duties." Lynette Douglas, Client Manager at Royal Works.



Well done to this month's Star Award Team winners Tiggy Winkles Pegasus. Nominated by Nursery Manager Debbie Hawkins, the whole team worked together extremely hard in preparation for the Ofsted nominations. It all paid off with another outstanding report.

Well done Jo and Tiggy Winkles!

To nominate a member of the Merlin workforce, call Ian Gilbert on 0121 776 8880 or email [ian@merlinventure.co.uk](mailto:ian@merlinventure.co.uk).



### Next stop Tamworth?

Buster Werkenbak received yet another boost to its planned expansion into Staffordshire with a meeting with Brian Jenkins Labour MP for Tamworth at Tamworth & Lichfield College

"It's going to be absolutely vital. This service allows people to get to work and back." Brian Jenkins.

We are seeking funding from the local authority to provide a service for Tamworth residents in some of the least accessible villages.

For more information, contact Paul Clarke on 0845 234 1234.



(L-R) Brian Jenkins, John Fontaine and Paul Clarke.

See inside for

## Community News

News, updates and special offers from local businesses in Castle Vale and the surrounding areas. 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 since 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.

### Community and Neighbourhood Partnership Issues

Issues have been raised by a number of residents regarding having **no lollipop people** around Castle Vale estate. Bob Brueton reported that this is a big issues for residents as the traffic around the estate continues to increase.

Another community issue is that of the **light** adjacent to the Post Office which stands between Sainsbury's and the Residents Club. It doesn't appear to be working, and if it is then it is very poor.

The High Street **road surface** seems to be lifting again in places.

### Castle Vale Crime Statistics

The number of incidents recorded on CCTV in January 08 was down from 202 in December 07 to 174.



CCTV operators played an important part in securing the arrest of a prolific car thief who had been using violence when stealing cars!

Numbers took another dramatic drop with 148 incidents in February compared to 174 in January and 233 in February 2007.

The West Midlands Police confirm that crime has reduced in Castle Vale.

Anti-social behaviour is also lower.



**Buster Werkenbak:**  
Merlin Venture's North Warwickshire's Buster Werkenbak service continues to achieve its targets. Keep up the good work team!

### 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 Jennie today on:

**0121 776 8880**

## 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.

### Community Development



The latest community interest group was held on 1st April at Rookery House.

The meeting highlighted that all the community will need to be involved if we are to get those that are able to into work.

Graham Kay gave a presentation on how far 'The Town Centre Partnership' has come, it's an excellent local initiative in bringing innovative ideas to a once declining economic centre Erdington High Street.

Gary Taylor from Erdington Community Fire Station invited people's views on setting up a group to help support voluntary activity in the area particularly around fire safety and other initiatives.

For details on the next meeting in the Stockland Green ward please call **Laura on 0779 5448460** or email

[laura.needham@merlinventure.co.uk](mailto:laura.needham@merlinventure.co.uk)



### The Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Erdington is once again pulling together a full programme of activities to involve the local community, with an emphasis on raising funds for local people's benefit, mainly children and the elderly. A Villa All Stars football match, a full fun weekend and the Annual Summer Fete at Sutton Park are all well advanced in their preparation.

### The Community Interest Group

The Community Interest Group is setting up as a Community Interest Community (CIC) for the Erdington Constituency community and voluntary sector. There was unanimous support for the most appropriate legal structure being a social enterprise.

Through setting up the Community Interest Company (CIC) there will be scope to apply for external funding to set up local initiatives to achieve the communities' objectives.

To sign up as a member of the Community Interest Company or to help to develop and launch it, please contact Laura on **0779 5448460**

### 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**.



### Specialist Photography Services

Local portrait photographer Serena Bailey decided that she would like to run her own nursery photography business after travelling the country doing freelance work. After contact with Merlin Enterprise, Serena started work on the business planning process involving regular meetings with Enterprise Advisor John Stanley to contemplate all elements of self employment. Having considered all the aspects of running a viable business, Serena has now launched her **Cheeky Monkeys Nursery Photography** company, proposing to visit children's nurseries around the West Midlands. Serena will also be offering her photography services for portraits, weddings and christenings.

For more information, contact Serena on **07756 794315**

### Change Of Direction

After a career in Driver Training came to an end local resident Gary Jakeman decided to investigate a completely different self-employment route in Pest Control and Management.

After training alongside experienced Pest Controllers around the country, Gary felt he had the ability to cope with most situations he is likely to come across when promoting his new business services.

During regular sessions with Merlin Enterprise, Gary become acquainted with most elements of planning and running a business and how to assess whether his proposals will be sustainable and produce a viable source of income.

The intention of **Pied Piper Pest Management** is to offer a complete range of solutions to any pest problems with initial free surveys and no call out charges.

For more information, contact Gary on **07989 348467**

### Business Start Up Support

Over the last two years almost one hundred individuals from Castle Vale, Erdington, Chelmsley Wood and other local areas have been seen and provided with an outline of what is involved in setting-up and running a business by Merlin Enterprise. Merlin assistance revolves around the compilation of an outline Business Plan which considers the proposed activity, market research, existing competition, promotion, financial implications and all other aspects which individual businesses need to consider before they can start trading.

**Any reader interested in consulting a Merlin Enterprise Adviser may make contact by ringing John Lewis on 0121 747 2200**

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**.