

: Jeans for Genes

Friday 1st October was dress down day for children at Tiggy Winkles Chivenor in aid of Jeans for Genes. The annual event saw children raising money for a charity supporting children born with genetic disorders whilst taking part in fun filled activities, all dressed in their best denim! Tiggy Winkles raised an impressive £50 with kind contributions from parents and staff. Both Tiggy Winkles Chivenor and Pegasus actively raise money throughout the year for a large number of charities, raising in excess of £1000 from the staff and parents through events and special days.



: Tiggy Winkles Chivenor - 0121 747 3669

: Tiggy Winkles Pegasus - 0121 747 2186



merlin:news

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

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START OF A NEW TERM!

: New Student Intake



Merlin Training have just started their second full year of training with a fresh intake of students adding to those who are returning from last year.



All of our students are able to continue learning our range of trades covering Carpentry, Mechanics, Electrics, Plumbing and Painting & Decorating as well as additional skills helping them to achieve their City and Guilds in Introduction to Construction as well as the ABC in Motor Mechanics and NOCN in English, Maths, IT and Citizenship. These qualifications are new this year and will encourage our students to work even harder this year than they did last year.



We are also continuing to run other projects for our learners, such as five a side football and several art projects, which are all great ways to learn as well as build teamworking skills.

Contact Joanne McColgan on 0121 384 5614

: B&Q Supporting Merlin Venture

We would like to thank Simon Hatton, Senior Stock Manager at B&Q, Castle Vale, for supporting the Training Centre. The store has kindly donated a range of surplus and damaged materials that are perfectly usable for our Painting and Decorating students. "It is great when the community and local businesses get involved in supporting our services and providing materials for our students to use." Paul Clarke

: Star Employee



John Northam is currently on a Future Jobs Fund placement with Merlin as a marketing assistant, and he has been nominated for this month's Star Employee award. Since starting in August, John has settled in well at Merlin and in addition to his marketing role, which has already seen him transform our website, he is always willing to help out with answering the telephones and meeting and greeting our clients at the Training Centre. "John has settled in brilliantly with the team and is always the first to offer help when staff are busy, fulfilling duties that are over and above his marketing role. He is already proving to be a great asset to the team." Wendy Stokes

: Star Team

This month's Star Team award goes to Merlin's Employment Coaches based at our Training Centre. The team comes from a wide range of backgrounds but have all learned quickly and work extremely well together, helping our clients with job search as well as preparation of CVs. "The team are doing a great job. They provide a friendly welcome to all JETS clients and help with job search and advising on application forms and CV's. The team works across both offices and are a great addition to the JETS team." Jackie Elston



As part of Merlin's commitment to supporting small, local businesses, Merlin JETS have been working with beauty company Serenity Treatment Rooms and have successfully placed local ladies Maria Smith and Lyndsey O' Reilly there. Serenity, based on Sutton Road, Wylde Green are having a Special Events night in November, just in time to get yourself pampered for the festive season!

On the 11th November, Serenity will be hosting a champagne reception evening with special offers and free demonstrations on products and treatments. Treatments include massages, holistic therapies, dermalogica treatments, waxing and tanning.

You can call Serenity for more details and times of the Special Events evening on 0121 350 8482. www.therapyserenity.com



Valescapes Landscaping

Slabbing - Paving - Walls - Mowing
Landscaping - Planting - Weeding - Patios
Features - Gardens - Borders - Pruning
Corporate - Residential

Call Jason on - 0121 384 5614

Merlin Training Student Success

Whilst at Merlin Training, we not only teach our students trades such as Electrics, Plumbing and Motor Mechanics, but we also help them to progress onto bigger and better things such as employment or further education.



An example of this is model student Jordan Loughlin. Jordan joined Merlin Training in 2009 and excelled throughout his time here. His newly learnt skills encouraged Jordan to enrol at James Watt College in Great Barr when he returned to us in September.

Jordan is now studying at James Watt towards his 'Public Service' qualification which can lead to working within the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and is equivalent to 5 GCSE's.

"The staff are great and are willing to work with us and have helped to lead me onto the right path. They have helped me back on track and I would recommend the course as it helps you get used to a working environment." Jordan Loughlin

Merlin Venture Staff Update

The Arrival of Poppy Rose :



Merlin would like to congratulate Training and Facilities Co-ordinator Paul Clarke and his Wife Hayley on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter 'Poppy Rose.' Poppy Rose arrived on the 4th September weighing a healthy 6lb 4oz. We would all like to wish Paul, Hayley and Poppy Rose the best of luck for the future. ✕

: Welcome Back Lynnette and Gemma

Everybody would like to welcome back Lynnette Douglas and Gemma Donnelly from their maternity leave. Lynnette, Client Development Manager, gave birth to her daughter Olivia in March 2010. Gemma, Merlin's Marketing Assistant, gave birth to her first child Logan back in November 2009.



BABY NEWS

"I'm very glad to be back at work, it's like I've never been away! I'm missing Logan but I know he's in safe hands at Tiggy Winkles!" - Gemma Donnelly

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

info@merlinventure.co.uk

0121 384 5614

www.merlinventure.co.uk



: Case Study

Laureen Taylor Kingstanding Community Development

Laureen Taylor, 35 from Wyrley Birch, had been unemployed for ten years whilst raising her daughter but had previously worked in numerous administration roles on a temporary basis.



When her daughter started school Laureen decided she wanted to get back into work. After almost 18 months of looking for work, Laureen started working voluntarily at St Lukes Church where she was told about the Merlin JETS. After registering with Merlin in February, she was interviewed and offered the job of Admin Assistant which she began in March at Kingstanding Community Development.

During her placement, Laureen has been able to start her NVQ Level 2 in Information, Advice and Guidance and her role currently entails handling all of the paperwork for various jobs fairs and job clubs. Laureen has also now started interviewing and offering advice to local unemployed people.

Laureen has fitted in so well and become such a valued member of the team that they plan to keep her on after her six month's placement has ended.



"Since starting I feel a lot more energetic and active than before I was working. I also feel a lot more confident in myself, I would not have been able to interview people six months ago. I have also been able to rebuild my skills using computers. The ILM is fantastic and I think if it didn't exist I would still probably be applying for jobs and getting nowhere." - Laureen Taylor

Merlin JETS

Jobs, Employment and Training Service

| Castle Vale Community Campus Rm F15, Spitfire House 10 High Street Castle Vale B35 7PR 0121 747 2200 Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm | Merlin Training Unit 19, Erdington Industrial Park Chester Road Birmingham B24 0RD 0121 384 5614 Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm | Erdington Fire Station Interactive Centre Edwards Road Erdington B24 9HR Tue - Wed - Thur 9.30am - 1.00pm 1.30pm - 4.30pm |
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Appointments are not always necessary but please call ahead to ensure that we can help.

: Case Study

Scott Peach Kingate Press

After almost two years of unemployment, Scott Peach, 24, from Erdington is now permanently employed at Kingate Press.

Due to the recession, Scott had no luck in finding work in the area in which he has experience, bar work and retail, where vacancies are in short supply.

Scott heard about Merlin JETS through a friend who had already been successfully placed through the JETS team on the Intermediate Labour Market project. Scott attended the Job Club, based at Erdington Fire Station and was referred to the Employment Advisors.

After expressing an interest in working with numbers, the JETS team helped Scott find employment as an Accounts Assistant. With no qualifications or experience, Scott has worked hard in his new role and received plenty of on the job training and he is now using systems such as Sage and Tarstens for accounts and quoting. Progressing his skills, Scott has recently started working in print and design and is developing his marketing and sales experience working with complex programmes such as Adobe Creative Suite.

"The ILM has made a huge difference to my life, I've taken a new path I wouldn't have usually taken. I'm enjoying the variety of work that I have, it's good to be able to use my brain again!" - Scott Peach



: Meet The Team - Rita O' Grady

Trainee Employment Placement Executive Rita has been taken on permanently after finishing her placement here at Merlin.

"After being made redundant in January from my job as an Administrator, I went along to my local library at Castle Vale Campus to ask about finding work. They gave me leaflets from Merlin and I started to attend Job Clubs on a Friday morning where I met my Employment and Training Advisor, Jackie Elston. She signed me up for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund ILM scheme as well as updating my CV and assisting me with job search. Jackie was great at motivating me, as my confidence was affected by being out of work."

"My CV was then passed onto Tina Champion who arranged three interviews for placements - two with external providers and one with Merlin. I was very fortunate to be taken on by Merlin as a Placement Supervisor. My role started with just two Placement Assistants but as the team grew, so did my role to include job coaching. After working alongside the recruitment team, I realised that I wanted to train to be an Employment Placement Executive. This role combines my administration and customer service skills and gives me the opportunity to help my clients in a really direct way."

Rita started on a 6 month placement at Merlin through the ILM project helping out in the job club room and settled into the team well. At the end of her placement Rita was offered a permanent position within the placement team working alongside Lynette Gauntlett and Tina Champion.

Her duties as a Trainee Employment Placement Executive include managing the payroll data for Future Jobs Fund and Intermediate Labour Market clients as well as having her own clients who she helps find work for.



: CVBG Meeting A Hit!

Castle Vale Business Group

The CVBG is devoted to bringing local businesses together by holding regular breakfast meetings and exclusive events for members.

CVBG is dedicated to providing means for members to meet, network and create business relationships with other members.

Beyond this, CVBG would like to offer you the chance to provide special offers to other members of the group.

Advertising and promoting your special offers is completely free of charge. Call the Marketing Team on 0121 384 5614.

If you are not yet a member of the Castle Vale Business Group, you can join free of charge and instantly be eligible for any B2B offers by contacting John Lewis on the number below. Membership is open to all businesses, big and small.

John Lewis - 0121 384 5614



"I'm certainly a backer of business groups, they ask the right questions and create a positive attitude towards new and challenging concepts."

- Brett Sheldon

The latest Castle Vale Business Group (CVBG) meeting helped local businesses to look again at plans and strategies to help them through what could be a very uncertain future.

With the new coalition government having ideas about a dramatic short term recovery plan, the political landscape is quickly changing.

'Are you fit to face the new political landscape?' was the topic of September's meeting held at Castle Vale Community Campus.

Presentations included 'facing the new political landscape' by Brett Sheldon from the Federation of Small Businesses and 'business and the big society' by David Lane of iSE.

With the focus of the meeting on how businesses should prepare for the future, the debate covered strategies and concepts for future business practices, loans, funding, investments and grants.

"The Business Group is a good way to engage with other businesses to promote social values." - David Lane

Next Meeting

: Thursday 18th November
: Castle Vale School
: 3.00pm - 4.30pm

Special guest speaker Jonathan Baker, Head of the BBC College of Journalism will be attending the afternoon meeting.



For more information, contact John Lewis on 0121 384 5614 or email john.lewis@merlinventure.co.uk