

## Tiggy Winkles Achievement Days 2007

It was celebrations all round on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd June on the Tiggy Winkles Achievement Days when over 50 toddlers and pre-schoolers were all recognised for their successes throughout the last year.

Whilst it was raining outside there was a party inside as Tiggy Winkles nurseries based in Castle Vale each held their own achievement ceremonies for happy children and proud parents with awards being given out for everything from learning to read to using a computer. Every child was presented with their very own certificate along with a Tiggy Winkles goodie bag, providing parents with the satisfaction of knowing how well their child has been doing at nursery.

"We always try to make it a special time for our children and providing events like this where parents can be involved makes it all the more memorable." Catherine James Tiggy Winkles Manager.



"It was a brilliant afternoon - it was great to be involved in the ceremony and see my daughter get her achievement award". Chantelle Wellard-Taylor

Tiggy Winkles has been based in Castle Vale for over 14 years and has consistently provided excellent care for all the children that they have looked after during this time. We are constantly aiming to create memorable events for both the children and their parents.

Providing positive reinforcement to young children is vitally important with all the exams and tests that they face throughout their school life and this is one of the ways we can actively support individual development without creating any pressure for the children.

For more information on Tiggy Winkles Nurseries call 0121 747 3669

## New CVBG Member

Local business, Raj's Spices are the latest company to register as a Castle Vale Business Group Member. Raj Patel, Manager of Raj's Spice has been working on Castle Vale for approximately 3 years getting to know residents whilst working in Nisa now based on the High Street. Now, Raj has opened up the Indian Takeaway also based on the High Street.

"It's lovely, I still get people who know me from Nisa popping in to say hello. Residents of Castle Vale are extremely welcoming and it is fantastic working here." Raj Patel.

Keen to put money back into the local community, Raj has sponsored local football team Castle Vale Jaguar Football Club. They approached Raj back in summer 2006, as a local employer for sponsorship. The football club had been turned down by many businesses but Raj's Spices, still struggling to get off the ground themselves sponsored the team's strip enabling them to enter the league.

After a successful season, Castle Vale Jaguar Football Club still remember the support of Raj and are planning to name a trophy after him for the up and coming season.

Raj has put on a special offer just for Merlin News readers. Valid from August 22nd – September 7th only, quote Merlin and receive the following...

**With every curry or balti you will receive a FREE plain naan or boiled rice**



## Castle Vale Computing

New start up Birmingham Telecom is planning on making new technology that little bit easier and more affordable to residents of Castle Vale.

Run by two life long Castle Vale residents Brian Cormell 26 and Jamie Todd 18 who both want to bring reliable and affordable IT sales and repair to Castle Vale, Birmingham Telecom are successfully providing a reliable face for IT support and repairs.

From removing Viruses to updating graphics cards they are dedicated to providing quality and affordable services, they also claim to be the only place in Europe who sell pink computers, popular amongst their female customers.

Birmingham Telecom is based at Castle Vale Community Campus in one of the Offices managed by Merlin Enterprise, which has also provided essential support as well as an additional member of staff through its intermediate labour market. If you need any help, computer repairs or even want to get a computer for the first time, please contact Birmingham Telecom on 0121 747 2524.

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

## Merlin Runners...

Race For Life has become the biggest women only fundraising event in the UK since it started in 1994. Over two million women, so far, of all ages have either walked, run or jogged the course raising over £140million in sponsorship money. Despite the terrible July weather, Merlin staff Gemma Donnelly and Lynette Turner were part of the expected 8,000 women who entered Race For Life Sutton Coldfield to run the 5km course on the 15th July.

"We collected over £309 together for the charity. Cancer Research is close to both of our hearts with us both running for family members who we've lost to Cancer and who have fought the disease." Gemma Donnelly, Marketing Assistant.

All money raised by participants helps fund crucial work of the world's leading organisation; Cancer Research UK. Merlin will also be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support taking part in the worlds biggest coffee morning on the 28th September at Castle Vale Community Campus from 10am -12pm come along everyone is welcome.

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



# MERLIN NEWS

The Merlin Venture Ltd. Newsletter

September 2007 Issue 7

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

## Twice the transport

Struggling to get to work because of lack of public transport is no longer a problem for residents of North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth, with two excellent demand responsive transportation schemes now working in partnership.

Buster Werkenbak is proud to announce that they are soon to begin working with Atherstone based Car-go Bus. By combining services we will be able to take people to work not only across North Warwickshire (Hams Hall, Birch Coppice, etc.) and Birmingham, but to Nuneaton and Bedworth including the main A5 Industrial Estates.

By implementing a unique hub system users of both services will now be able to access even greater opportunities from only £2.00 per journey or £3.00 return. For more details of the service call us on: 0845 234 1234 for North Warwickshire residents and 01827 715946 for Nuneaton and Bedworth residents.

Buster Werkenbak has already successfully enabled hundreds of people to access employment in areas with very poor public transport, with funding provided by Warwickshire County Council and Advantage West Midlands. With the price of petrol continuing to rise it really is the low cost option to accessing employment.



Transport Adviser Paul Clarke

## JOB OF THE MONTH

An established Solicitors requires a Senior Probate Executive to join a busy team at their Shirley office. You will need to have previous probate experience with the ability to organise and prioritise your workload.

Monday to Friday 9.00 – 5.30pm  
Salary negotiable plus benefits.  
Lynette: 0121 747 2200

## Pound stretcher on Community Bus

With a special one pound, one day unlimited travel offer during August, Merlin Venture has provided a break from the torrential downpours with the opportunity to get around Castle Vale even more cheaply and easily.

For just one pound you will be able to use the 696 Community Bus as many times as you like during the day, and if the offer proves popular with Castle Vale residents there is every chance that it may be extended.

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.

The 696 is your Community Bus and without your support it would be unable to continue. After all, the Endowment Trust Fund will only continue subsidising it if a large number of residents continue using it.

So to ensure that Castle Vale keeps its distinctive purple bus, we hope even more of you will jump on – remember, once you have paid your pound the rest of that day's journeys are free!

For more details and a timetable contact Kevin on 0845 234 1234.



## Merlin Stars

Kashimar Munroe, one of Merlins Employment and Training Advisor is this month's Star Employee.

Nominated by her Manager Jennie Giryn, she is described as an 'asset to the team'.

Kash has been congratulated for her outstanding achievement on the Co-financing projects.

"As well as doing her own job, Kash has helped out Lynnette with the Stockland Green project. Well done Kash!" Jennie Giryn - Business Development Manager.

Congratulations to Tiggy Winkles Chivenor who have won the Team Award. The nursery have been praised for their excellent work that they do throughout the whole year which contributed to their outstanding OFSTED report.

"The team did very well at the recent OFSTED inspection with their professional approach and the support they all gave to Nursery Manager Catherine. A superb team effort." Robert Brown - Chief Executive.



Tiggy Winkles Chivenor Team

A surprise Star Award was awarded to Marketing Manager Ian Gilbert and Assistant Gemma Donnelly for their continual hard work on all of their projects across Merlin.



Ian Gilbert and Gemma Donnelly

# Now Including Community News

See inside





# Community Advisory Group

## Bringing Castle Vale residents the latest news



The Community Advisory Group (CAG) section of Merlin's newsletter will be published in a special edition every 3 months giving you all of the latest updates from CAG meetings. The first CAG meeting was held back in October 2002 and has since being held regularly every month. It gives residents and local people such as Castle Vale Police and staff from the Astral Centre a chance to meet with Merlin and discuss issues they may have.

### Police Community Support Officers

There are two new Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) that are now on patrol around Castle Vale; Heidi Boswell and Steve Matthey. They are servicing the estate to support the police and community. The new PCSO's will be targeting anti social behaviour problems that encroach on residents' lives. The two new officers have certain powers such as to give out warnings and to seize vehicles and will also be patrolling the streets at night. They will be extremely community orientated and will have CATCH radios, visiting as many community meetings as they can, and residents can make them aware of any concerns they may have. If residents would like to report an incident at a time when the police station is closed, or indeed at any time of the day or night, you can call Merlin's control room on 0121 776 8880.

### CCTV Success

With the installation of over 60 camera's around Castle Vale estate, crime is being targeted much more efficiently. There have been some excellent results including a link up with the local police, which recently led to a drug dealer being arrested.

Among other incidents, a young man was observed acting suspiciously by the cameras. This observation led to the police apprehending the young man and taking him to court for theft. He was 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 their bags.

If you do see something suspicious, please call Merlin Security on 0121 776 8880.

### FACT!

With all the good work by the Police, Merlin Security, Catch Radio, CVCHA and the residents Castle Vale is now one of the safest places to live in the West Midlands.



Tyburn JET Bus

### Hitting The Tyburn Targets

Merlin Recruitment and Enterprise, a division of The Merlin Venture Ltd were pleased to announce their excellent progress on the Tyburn JETS bus.

The bus was put in place for people to access job sand training easier...and it seems to be working. Already to date, they have achieved 22 jobs and 2 training starts.

Merlin Recruitment and Enterprise have now had permission from Sainsbury's to park the bus outside there to help more Castle Vale residents find work or training.

If you are interested in finding work or want to see where the bus will be parked, call today on 0121 747 2200.

### High Street Traffic Signs

It has recently been reported that the traffic signs on the high street, informing drivers they can not go down the street, are not large enough for people to see. It has been requested that the signs should be made clearer to inform people that **only buses are allowed to enter the High Street from Turnhouse Road.**



Castle Vale Police Station

### Model Railway Club

Bob Brueton updated the group on the issue of the new location for the Model Railway Club which was formed in 1928.

The club were offered a portable building situated at the back of Castle Vale Swimming Baths which they moved to at the end of June.

They did extremely well at the Health and Environment Day held on the Centre 8 park by CVCHA, registering 7 new members to the club. For more information contact Bob on 0121 464 9220.



The Model Railway Club

### Visit To The Vale

Joseph Rowntree's Foundation, one of the largest social policy research and development charities in the UK made a special visit to Castle Vale on 14th June. The foundation spend around £10million a year on research and development programmes that seek to better understand the causes of social difficulties and explore ways of overcoming them.

The visit lasted from 10.30am—3.30pm and included a 'Seeing is Believing Tour' of Castle Vale, presentations and open discussions.

The tour included a look around the new High Street Development, Merlin Venture and the Enterprise Park, the Skate Park and the Health Village.

Sir Menzies Cambell MP, one of the most respected politicians of his generation and Leader of the Liberal Democrats was the main speaker of the day.

Attendees included local organisations such as Merlin, CVCHA, Birmingham City Council and people from Birmingham Conservative Party.



### Local Updates

Steve Clayton, Neighbourhood Manager has updated the CAG group on some of the issues surrounding the High Street.

Project Manager David Austin is looking into other options for more vandal proof lights for the steps in front of St Cuthberts Church. This comes after all of the lights have been vandalised.

Work has already started on improving street lighting and is being done by Central Networks (formerly MEB).

Steve is currently liaising with Royal Mail regarding the relocation of the post box near the High Street.

### Cincinnati

Members of the Community Advisory Group were honoured to be taken on the final tour around the distinguished Cincinnati building. The tour, held on 26<sup>th</sup> July by Linda Green, PA to Ian Good of Cincinnati Machine Ltd, involved a sightseeing trip around the building. This was a great opportunity for residents from Castle Vale to discover many of the secrets that lie behind the doors of such a local landmark including the cinema and corporate board rooms, as well as a history lesson on this unique building.

"It was really nice to get one last look at the building as I remember it, I worked at this site for over 25 years and it's great to still see my name on the board. On behalf of all of us in the CAG, we would like to thank Lynda Green for taking the time out to show us all around the building and Merlin for organising the visit." Brian Cragg CAG member and former Cincinnati employee.



Brian Cragg by the 'Roll of Honour'.

### Raining Fun At The Carnival!

This years Castle Vale carnival themed 'Around The World' was held on Sunday 1st July at the Fort playing fields and the weather didn't hold back for it! This June has been the wettest ever recorded but despite the soggy soil residents still turned up to take part in the popular estate event! People from both on and off the estate came to see plenty of the stands which included Castle Vale Swimming Baths, CVCHA, Merlin Venture's Jobs Bus and locals holding tombola stands. With live music, singers, dancers, salsa and a bar for refreshments, residents all enjoyed the day.

### Fire Safety Sessions

Councillor Lynda Clinton has been informing people about Fire Safety sessions in Erdington.

Erdington Fire Station have a unit where children and adults can go and have a talk and a slide show presentation taking you through a burnt building to build your awareness on fire safety.

Mike Overton, Community Engagement Officer from Merlin Venture confirmed that he has attended one of these sessions which was excellent and highly recommended.

### Community Wardens

It has been rumoured that Community Wardens only deal with CVCHA issues. This is untrue, the Wardens deal with issues around the whole of the estate.

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

- \* Want to make a difference to your community?
- \* Help develop local opportunities?
- \* Ensure that jobs and training receives the attention it needs?

Join Merlin's Community Advisory Group and / or the NEW Steering Group for our exciting employment and training projects.

To find out more simply call Jennie on:

**0121 776 8880**