

## Merlin Training Update

### Merlin Training Trip

Students who attended Merlin Training before breaking up for the Summer Holidays were treated to a special day out as a leaving present.

Skiing and archery were on the agenda for July's trip to the Ackers Adventure Centre based near Birmingham City Centre.

Students got to practice on a 30m ski slope whilst others progressed onto the 100m long main slope with a ramp jump area!

They then got to try their hand at one of England's oldest pastimes, archery.

**Students (and staff) had a fun day!**



### Merlin Training Centre

Merlin Training has come on a long way since March 2009 when it stood as an old, empty warehouse in Erdington Industrial Park. From a shell of a building, the warehouse has been busy with electricians, plumbers and plasterers and is now on the verge on completion.



## New Merlin Training Intake

Merlin Training have just taken their latest intake of students at the training centre. Over twenty 14 – 16 year olds have signed up to do a full academic year at Merlin Training and will be taking part in introductions to Electrics, Plumbing and Painting & Decorating as well as improving their literacy, numeracy and IT skills and taking part in team building and confidence building activities.

The training courses have been developed for Key Stage 4 learners, some of whom have returned from the taster courses earlier on in 2009, and have been designed so that they can thrive and become more confident learners in a hands on environment.

The alternative provision courses are designed to engage and motivate learners to identify their individual and personal strengths for progression into further education, training or employment when they leave in 2010.

Engaging with onsite Employment and Training Advisors throughout the year, learners will be prepared for progression with employability skills such as interview techniques, completing application forms and producing CV's.

## Special Olympics Leicester 2009, Our Very Own Winner!

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Katie Day, Tiggy Winkles Pegasus Nursery Assistant.

Katie, who has been working at Tiggy Winkles for over 6 years has been taking part in the Special Olympics since she was 12 years of age and has competed in the Japan Winter Olympics, Cardiff, Glasgow and most recently the National Summer Games held in Leicester.

Katie is doing extremely well and has picked up the title of being the 5th fastest female front crawl swimmer in the UK!

She has just received an amazing Gold for the 100m individual medley and two brilliant Silvers; one for the 100m back stroke and one for the 50m relay.



**Congratulations Katie, you're a star!**

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

**0121 384 5614 gemma@merlinventure.co.uk www.merlinventure.co.uk**

Terms and conditions apply to all offers.



# Merlin News

Merlin Venture hope you enjoy our September / October edition newsletter, you all of the latest news and information on Merlin Venture and our businesses.

## Merlin JETS

We are delighted to have been successful in several of our recent funding bids, notably flexible New Deal, which we will be delivering on behalf of SEETEC, and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, which we will be delivering with our partners ENTA.



We are currently recruiting additional Employment and Training Advisors to work with our current team of Jackie Elston, Maria McLeod and Jacky Lynam, and will be meeting clients at all three of our premises; the Training Centre, Castle Vale Campus and Erdington Fire Station.



We have also submitted a bid to the Future Jobs Fund and we expect to hear shortly whether we have been successful - look out for our next Merlin News Employment and Training Special Edition, in which we will provide more details of our new employment and training programmes.

See the back page for the Merlin Training update!

## Star Awards 2009

Congratulations to this month's Star Award winner Dominie McQueen.



Dominie, Tiggy Winkles Chivenor Senior Nursery Nurse, has been nominated for a Star Award by Merlin Venture's Wendy Stokes.

**"Since the Nursery Manager Emma has been overseeing both Tiggy Winkles nurseries, Dominie has taken on much more responsibility and is always willing to help. She is a very reliable member of staff who will constantly go out of her way to help you. She will be missed when she leaves us for the birth of her twins... hurry back Dom!"**  
Wendy Stokes.

**Anybody can nominate a member of the Merlin Venture team to win a Star Award!**

So if Valescapes have done a brilliant job on your garden, Tiggy Winkles have provided outstanding care for your child or you just feel that somebody has gone above and beyond their normal duties, email Gemma to nominate them!

To nominate, email [gemma@merlinventure.co.uk](mailto:gemma@merlinventure.co.uk)

## Valley Travel/CCTV Survey Update

Since June 2009, Merlin has been looking to gain as much support as possible to keep two of its vital services to Castle Vale, Valley Travel and Merlin Security, as their funding comes to an end in December 2009.

So far, a phenomenal number of responses have been received and range from surveys being completed to petitions being signed by hundreds of names.

Remember, if you spot anything suspicious, call the CCTV Control Room on

**0121 776 8880.**

**Jump On Board The Valley Travel And Show Your Support!**



### Community Advisory Group

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

### Community and Neighbourhood Partnership Issues

Robert Brown, Merlin's Chief Executive welcomed Merlin's new resident Board Member John Cooper. John reported that there had been several incidents in the Round Moor Walk area of Castle Vale of rubbish being set alight and subsequently setting garden fences alight. If anybody spots people starting these fires, as well as calling the Police and Fire Brigade, they can contact Merlin Security on **0121 776 8880**.

### BUSTER WERKENBAK

#### Buster Werkenbak

Robert Brown reported that the scaled down Buster Werkenbak service is operating well, and was recently featured on the local news!

### Merlin Training

Merlin's website now has two more development video on. Keep an eye out for more as the centre is verging on completion!

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

### Security Update



July seen a slight rise in incidents from 172 in June to 188 in July which the start of the schools Summer break may have influenced however, this number was still down from June/July 2008 which had a recorded 191 incidents.

Anti social behaviour had a large increase from 33 incidents in June to 48 in July.

It breaks down as follows:

- \* 6 incidents of quads and mini bikes
- \* 9 stone throwing and ball game incidents
- \* 14 alcohol incidents which is increasing, especially in young girls
- \* 2 graffiti and 17 nuisance incidents

**The Birmingham Model Railway Club have now set up the railways in their building behind the Swimming Baths. It is open every Monday from 11.30am to 1.00pm for you to look at the trains and even have a go at operating them. Bookings to be made through Bob Brueton.**

### 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 opportunities and speak to people who can make a difference. Call Gemma today on:

**0121 384 5614**

### Community Business

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

Castle Vale Business Group is devoted to bringing local businesses together and holds regular breakfast meetings and exclusive events for members. If you are not a member yet, join for **FREE** and be eligible for lots of brilliant B2B offers by calling John Lewis.



Castle Vale Business Group, facilitated by Merlin Venture, hold regular meetings for local businesses, big and small. Membership is completely free of charge and breakfast is provided at each meeting which is held every couple of months with a different leading topic and different venues.

Previous meetings have included 'Making The Media Work For You' at The Birmingham Post and Mail, 'State Of The Nation' at SappHIRE, 'Save Your Costs, Save Your Environment' at Betterware and 'Facing The Future' which was fuelled by the recession.



### Dates For Your Diary!

Wednesday 30th September is the Business Group's next meeting with the topic being IT and Communications. For more information and to confirm the venue, call John Lewis on the contact details below.

The final meeting of 2009 will be held on Thursday 19th November.

Venues and topics are still to be confirmed.



### A Chance For You To Advertise Your Business Free Of Charge

The Castle Vale Business Group is dedicated to providing means for members to meet, network and create business relationships with other members.

Beyond providing regular opportunities for businesses to meet, CVBG offer the chance for companies to share their offers with other members.

As well as many other benefits of becoming a Castle Vale Business Group member, businesses can advertise their services/products or offers completely free of charge to hundreds of other local organisations.

Previous advertisers have included the following members: Edge Creative, Kingshurst Training, LA Business Services, Castle Vale Regeneration Services, Ramada Hotel and Resort, Enta Training, and Plumbers on Tap Ltd.



### Castle Vale Business Group

If you are a local business and would like to advertise your business here for **FREE**, call Gemma on

**0121 384 5614**

For help with starting up your own business or to enquire about support for your small to medium enterprise, contact John Lewis on

**0121 747 2200**

