

How teachers rate on-line evaluation: **2**

Minister pays official visit: **3**

Find out what's on offer for adults: **4**

## Another great open day

WE would like to thank all our guests and helpers who contributed to another successful Safety Centre open day.

Guests included Cllr Brin Carstens, Mayor of Milton Keynes, and Mrs Carstens.

We took the opportunity to appeal for more volunteers as the Safety Centre always needs to recruit more people to show the children around.

If you would like to come to the Safety Centre and have a no-obligation chat, please ring **01908 263009**.



**Recruitment team – Jean Hanson Furniss and helper.**



**Pictured at the open day with Spike the Road Safety Hedgehog are the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Brin Carstens, Mrs Carstens and Suzanne Davis, our secondee from Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.**

## We can prove the benefits!

WE'VE always known that children benefit from visiting Hazard Alley – but now we can prove it!

An evaluation programme carried out over the last 12 months tested knowledge gained at the Safety Centre by more than 2,000 Milton Keynes schoolchildren.

Jan Alder, Safety Centre Director, said: "Statistical analysis of the results shows highly significant increases in knowledge, and proof that these increases would not have occurred without our

intervention. The on-line quizzes taken by children before and after their visits have resulted in an objective measure of our work.

"We have always known intuitively that children benefit hugely from their visit and follow-ups, but this programme has given us credible data which proves our worth.

"Children learn and retain important safety messages that could save lives."

Over 21,000 children visited the Safety Centre last year.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**FOLLOWING** a presentation to Newly Qualified Teachers, we'd like to invite NQTs to visit the Safety Centre. Even if you are not currently teaching the appropriate year group, it may interest you to know what we offer for the future. Just give us a call on **01908 263009**.

**NEW "quizdom"** equipment has been installed in the petrol station scenario to enhance in-car safety messages. It was funded by MK, Herts and Bucks Community Foundations. Children test their knowledge using hand-held remotes to "vote" for their preferred answer.



**Open day visitors put the new equipment to the test.**



Angela Smith's visit delighted the Safety Centre's Trustees and was headline news in the Milton Keynes Citizen.

# Fire Minister visits the Safety Centre

THE Safety Centre needs Government funding if it is to achieve its aim of opening similar facilities in the region in the future – so we were delighted when Angela Smith, Fire and Resilience Minister at the Department for Communities and Local Government, paid us a visit.

She was given a guided tour by Safety Centre Director Jan Alder, accompanied by local MP Dr Phyllis Starkey.

Afterwards the Minister told reporters she was impressed with what she had seen, adding that funding of such a service "was an area for the Government to consider".

The Safety Centre cost £350,000 to run last year and was visited by 21,000 children in the seven to 12 age group. Volunteers, fees, donations and adult courses help it pay its way.

The Trustees would like to create new centres and are currently searching for sources of funding.

Angela Smith later met Safety Centre Trustees Damian Smith, Chief Fire Officer of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, and Peter Ballard – two of the Safety Centre's found-



Impressed with what she saw – Fire and Resilience Minister Angela Smith.

ing partners. She then visited Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service to learn about some of its innovative work.

She said: "They are developing imaginative new ways to work with partners in the community to make Buckinghamshire a safer and better place in which to live and work.

"One such project, the Safety Centre at Milton Keynes, has become a model for fire and rescue authorities across the country."



Water safety scenario sponsored by the Parks Trust.



Lloyds TSB are one of our generous sponsors.

## Thank you for your continued support!

WE would like to thank the Parks Trust for their continued support of our water safety scenario.

Children are faced with the emergency situation of someone drowning in the lake and have to decide the best strategy to rescue the person.

Of course, we emphasise safe places to swim and general responsible behaviour around open water.

We would also like to thank Lloyds TSB for their generous donation which helps continue delivering all our safety messages to children.



Pupils from Holne Chase Primary School, Milton Keynes, completing the evaluation quiz following their visit to the Safety Centre.

# On-line evaluation – teachers' views

ON the front page of this newsletter, we reported the findings of an analysis of the results of our post-visit evaluation programme.

This gave us conclusive proof that children learn and retain the Safety Centre's vital messages.

On this page we feature a selection of the comments teachers have fed back to us about the evaluation programme. For a full report, visit our website at [www.safetycentre.co.uk](http://www.safetycentre.co.uk)

They had to think about the multi-choice questions carefully before answering, which focused them

**Southwood Middle School**

It helped focus their attention for the visit. It encouraged them to find out more.

**Langland Community School**

Often, aspects of safety that I would expect Yr 6 pupils to know – they don't. The quiz taken prior to the visit demonstrates this.

**Willen Primary School**

Children very enthusiastic to share personal examples of how they need to stay safe and what they have learnt as a result of the visit to the Centre.

**Caroline Haslett Primary School**



Kay Pistell, a member of the Safety Centre's schools liaison team, is pictured carrying out the on-line evaluation quiz at a school.

## Course dates from January to May 2007

### JANUARY

**4** Appointed Persons Course (*one-day course*)

**8-9** Refresher Course (*two-day course*)

**17** Appointed Persons Course

**24** Introduction to Health and Safety (*one-day course*)

**25-26 & 29-30** First Aid at Work (*four-day course*)

### FEBRUARY

**1-2** Refresher Course

**7** Appointed Persons Course

**15-16 & 19-20** First Aid at Work

**21** Introduction to Health and Safety

**27** Appointed Persons Course

### MARCH

**1-2** Refresher Course

**7** Appointed Persons Course

**14** Introduction to Health and Safety

**15-16 & 19-20** First Aid at Work

**17 & 24** Paediatric First Aid Course (*12-hour course*)

**27** Appointed Persons Course

### APRIL

**4** Appointed Persons Course

**16-17** Refresher Course

**18** Appointed Persons Course

**25** Introduction to Health and Safety

**26-27 & 30 April-1 May** First Aid at Work

### MAY

**3** Appointed Persons Course

**10-11** Refresher Course

**17-18 & 21-22** First Aid at Work

**23** Introduction to Health and Safety

**30** Appointed Persons Course

## Praise for HSE-approved courses

THE Safety Centre offers a range of adult courses approved by the Health and Safety Executive, and these help towards funding the children's safety training in Hazard Alley.

Gordon Redford, Human Resources Officer at the Parks Trust, had this to say after sending staff and volunteers to be trained by the Safety Centre: "It

is a legal requirement for most workplaces to have a level of first aid expertise within the workforce. But the skills learned on the courses could also be a life-saver outside of the workplace too.

"The courses at the Safety Centre MK are the best. They are very practical and based on what we need and the type of emergencies that might occur."

## Farewell to Chris and David



**Christine**

THANK you and farewell to Christine Hawkins, who retires at the end of December, and David Archer, who retired as a Trustee at the end of November.

Chris, a former teacher in Milton Keynes, joined the Safety Centre in 1999 to deliver follow-up lessons in schools to reinforce crime prevention messages.

She was the first member of our schools liaison team, forging excellent

relationships with MK Schools.

The Trustees would like to thank her for her professionalism and commitment over the past seven years and wish her well for the future.

David Served as a Trustee for two years in his capacity as Chief Fire Officer with Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The Trustees would like to thank David for his valuable contribution.



**David**



PICTURED above are some of our volunteer guides enjoying this year's summer outing, which was to Stratford-upon-Avon. It's just a small thank-you for their invaluable work throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer guide at the Safety Centre, please ring **01908 263009** and speak to Melanie or visit our website at **www.safetycentre.co.uk**

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■ We strive to be a

"Centre of Excellence for Safety Education". We are a registered charity and rely heavily on volunteers

and donations. The Safety Centre is very much a partnership venture which only works because of the invaluable support from the community as well as a team of dedicated staff.

■ Newsflash is produced by the Safety Centre and

supported by Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police.

