

Traveller youngsters show their web skills

YOUNGSTERS from traveller families are showing their art skills on a website.

Graduate Tammy Furey is pictured with one of the designs on screen created by children from the Denham Road area of Burgess Hill.

Also pictured is a simple and vivid creation from a youngster called Toby. Youngsters do not put their surnames on their work on the web.

Talented Tammy is on a three-year Comic Relief funded job as a community web developer.

And the youngsters have been putting their work and messages on the Friends Families and Travellers supported website at the community house in Denham Road under the Cyber Pilots scheme.

The website scheme is aimed at giving traveller families better access to technology and making sure they are not left behind. They can also track their Romani roots if they wish.

Tammy shows the children not just how to use their talents but also how to safeguard against any pitfalls on the system.

By Phil Dennett
phildennett@jpress.co.uk

Tammy said: "Safety is part of the project, but it is not the main emphasis, which is creating access to an interactive website for gypsies and travellers in England and Wales.

"It is about learning to use the computer. You can imagine that many traveller families don't have access to a computer, and there is a large gap between the haves and have-nots in terms of technology."

Manager of the centre Mike Mansbridge said: "There are quite a lot of settled traveller families in this area, so this scheme enables them to keep in touch with one another. A lot of them are very keen for their children to learn about their heritage."

The website also features a moving poem about bullying, which is an issue in schools across the UK and not just in Sussex.

Tammy said: "Bullying in schools for travellers' children is horrendous."

Meanwhile on the positive side



Tammy with one of the designs on screen

Tammy's work on the web is helping the youngsters to fulfil their potential, as she stages regular sessions in the centre's computer classroom.



Toby's design