



Dudley Federation Newsletter

of Tenants and Residents Associations

January - February 2016

DFTRA Update

We hope all our members have had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We are very excited to see what you all have planned for the coming year and look forward to supporting you in your goals.

Our next event will be a quiz night on Thursday 25th February, your TRA should have received details via the secretary of the group. Don't forget to let us know who will be attending and their food preference as soon as possible.

We are also holding a risk assessment briefing on Tuesday 9th February from 2pm until around 3.30pm (another session is available on the evening subject to interest) for groups who are interested. Please get in touch to let us know if you or anyone from your group would like to attend.

Website Launched to assist and encourage independence

Dudley's Living Well Feeling Safe partnership has launched a website in partnership with the Disability Living Foundation (DLF) which allows users to carry out an online self assessment and receive a personalised report on the support available and where to buy necessary equipment.

The site also offers advice and support to anyone experiencing issues with day to day activities such as bathing, cooking or climbing stairs. Visit www.lwfsonline.org.uk for more information.

Could Assistive Technology benefit you?

The 'AT Home' campaign has been launched across the West Midlands to encourage people to think about living independently, in particular people aged 50 plus who are thinking about later life but might not have experienced any major daily living difficulties as yet.

In England almost a third of the population are aged 55 plus and an estimated 4.7m people aged 65 plus have a limiting longstanding illness that affects them in some way. In many instances Assistive Technology, when used along with other supportive services and equipment, can help maintain independence which enables people to live longer in their own familiar home surroundings. To find out more call Dudley Telecare Service on 0300 555 2040, or visit www.athome.uk.com.

Dudley's Big Switch

Been hit with a big Winter energy bill, or dreading its imminent arrival?

Why not prepare yourself for next year by signing up to the Big Switch. There is still a bit of time as the deadline for the next signup is 1st February, although if you miss this you can keep an eye on future deadline dates at:

<http://goo.gl/cdfBzf>

Easy access to your rent account through eHousing

Dudley Council tenants can now access their rent account online 24 hours a day. Contact details can be updated, payments can be made and you can also opt out of paper statements.

Go to <https://goo.gl/7muule> to set up your personal password and access your account.

Do your members need First Aid training?

If your group holds small scale events; it is necessary to have a first aider present. It is a good idea to have at least one TRA member trained in the basics of First Aid, this can help incurring hire costs for a first aider for your event. It may also be useful for meetings, should anyone fall ill.

The Participation Development Team can arrange First Aid Training as well as a range of other courses:

- * Who's After Your Money
- * Safeguarding Adults - Adult Abuse
- * Treasurer Training
- * Social Media Training
- * First Aid Training
- * Food Hygiene Training
- * Marketing & Media
- * Successful Newsletters
- * Committee Skills (minute taking; chair & secretary skills; promoting the TRA).

If you are interested please contact them by telephone on 01384 815 168 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk.

This group has increased the amount of walkabouts and litter picks, have been utilising their two noticeboards to their full potential to advertise meetings and events and have produced a social media page and a website, giving them an impressive online presence.

Partnership working has been a huge part of the group's journey over the last year, having organised joint efforts for a variety of events such as memorial days, tidy ups and even a teddy bear's picnic!



You can see the group's many efforts and successes on their website at elloweshallareatra.weebly.com and on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elloweshalltra.

Stay up to date on meetings and events - sign up for FREE email and text alerts



Online at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts



Text your surname, house number and postcode to 07797 870352
e.g. Brookes, 10, DY1 1HF (initial text will only cost your standard text rate)



or
Call 01384 815168 to sign up to the service

Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

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-- Tel: 01384 868010 -- Website: www.dftra.org.uk -- E-mail: info@dftra.org.uk --

-- www.twitter.com/DudleyFed -- www.facebook.com/dudleyfed --

Meeting planning

If you're in the process of planning out your meetings for the year, it may be worthwhile checking that they don't coincide with any big sporting events.

This year the UEFA European Championship will take place between 10th June and 10th July. You can check the schedule at <http://goo.gl/rUOsqv>

Mayor's Awards

Don't forget - you have until 14th February to submit nominations for the Mayor's Civic Awards!

Go to <http://goo.gl/HANRWN> to nominate.

DFTRA Quiz Night 2016

The quiz night will take place on Thursday 25th February. We hope that the people who attend will have a great time. If you haven't already, please book your spaces by calling or emailing the DFTRA office.

Ellowes Hall TRA's year in brief

As you may be considering what your group will be focussing on for the next 12 months, we thought you may appreciate some inspiration from one of our very active groups.