

# Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

## Newsletter January - February 2013



# DFTRA Awards Night 2012 - Award Winners

## Hannah Howse, Pensnett TRA - Newcomer of the Year

Hannah has thrown herself into the committee especially with social media, and has helped to produce a newsletter for the estate. She also contributed to developing a logo for the group and has never missed a committee meeting. If there was a gold medal for enthusiasm and creativity Hannah would win it.



## Guy Holness - Saltwells TRA - Best New Achiever

Guy has shown a continued commitment in the community and is very highly thought of by West Midlands Police and has been involved with consultation for the new Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.



## Janet Yeates - Norton Green TRA - Charity Involvement

(Jill Hulme collected the award on Janet's behalf) Janet works tirelessly in the background supporting the TRA, and regularly helps out in the wider community. She also volunteers for Action Heart, and helps to organise many fund raising events, she deserves to be recognised for her steadfast dedication.



## Christine Bate, Ellowes Hall TRA - Community Commitment

Christine is a very well thought of member of her community, and encourages her community to get involved. She is involved with groups including the 5 Estates Project and Communications Group among others and played a part in arranging a very successful conference last year.



## Lawson Griffin, The New Wrens Nest TRA - Continued Commitment

(Ann Aston collected the award on Lawson's behalf)

Lawson has committed a large amount of his time volunteering to improve the community in which he lives. During the past 2 years as Chair of Wrens Nest TRA he has led the TRA in their many achievements and built excellent working relationships with the community centre, council officers, Police, local Councillors and the local MP. Unfortunately Lawson has recently had to retire from TRA duties, and we wish him all the best in the future.



## Joan Porter, Oval & Tudor TRA - Continued Commitment

Joan Porter has been an Oval and Tudor TRA committee member since the group became a TRA about 6 years ago. As well as being a very active secretary for the group, she is also active in other volunteering roles in her community and is an incredible neighbour, looking after just about everyone in the street from children to the elderly.



## Sheila Cooper, Chapel Street Estate TRA - Impressive Progress

Sheila has gone from strength to strength and continues to learn and improve her skills as secretary. She has become a key member of her TRA and organises Capital Bid paperwork, and sorts out TRA members attending training courses, she also attends many talks and meetings and feeds back to the TRA at their meetings.



## Doreen Wells, Wells and Manor TRA - Lifetime Achievement

(Emma Jones collected the award on Doreen's behalf)

Doreen has worked extremely hard for a number of years and strives to solve any problems that arise in the blocks of flats in the area. She is well respected by her fellow tenants and is also well thought of by her housing manager. Nothing is ever too much trouble.



## Sylvia Townsend, Bowling Green TRA - Lifetime Achievement

Sylvia has been a committee member of Bowling Green TRA for 6 years and has been Secretary for the last 4 years. Nothing is too much trouble; she is always willing to help out and is well thought of by the community. She has done a lot of work, including walkabouts for the Safer Streets project and also helps with the Bowling Green Helpline calls.

## Peter Miles, Green Street Gardens - Lifetime Achievement

(Paul Shepherd collected the award on Peter's behalf)

Peter has been instrumental in organising a lot of large projects in the last 12 months including the evacuation of Baylie & Kennedy Courts during the demolition of the multi-story car park in Stourbridge to name just one. He works tirelessly in the gardens of both Baylie & Kennedy Courts, and ensures that there is excellent communication via notices in the blocks



## John Mason, Darby End TRA - Lifetime Achievement

(Emma Jones collected the award on John's behalf)

John Mason's contribution to his TRA has been outstanding, he sits on so many committees that we couldn't list them all. His achievements have been recognised not only by DFTRA but by the Police and DMBC.



## Peter Plant, Hawbush TRA - Social Media Award

Peter has taken on the role of the group's IT guru. They now have a lively internet site which is linked to the Twitter account that Peter looks after. This is the group's link with the outside world advising dates of meetings, not only theirs but local PACT



## Richard Priest, Tanhouse TRA - Social Media Award

(John Doughty collected the award on Richard's behalf)

Richard demonstrated his IT skills by setting up a blog for the Tenants and Residents Association within hours of being asked to do so by his committee colleagues. This includes up to date information about the group including minutes, activities, contact details for local Councillors, the Police etc, and a link to the group's Facebook page.



## Pensnett TRA - New TRA of the Year

From setting up in July 2012 the committee has hit the ground running. There is an exciting mix of people who have worked as volunteers on the estate before and also people new to the idea. They have produced a newsletter to keep everyone on the estate updated, and have identified both short term and long term objectives that will benefit the estate.



## Hawbush TRA - Most Improved TRA

This TRA have re-formed and continued to grow and strive to deal with their areas issues. Including identifying anti-social behaviour problems and are working to resolve them. Several successful walkabouts have taken place involving not only the Housing Managers who are very supportive but other interested representatives of the Council.

## PDO Team Presentation

During the Awards Presentation, Graham Hudson presented the Participation Development Team with a gift on behalf of all TRAs. He thanked them for all their help over the year and their continued commitment to getting the best out of TRAs.





## Feedback

Here are some examples of feedback that we have received, we are very grateful for all of the comments. We like to know what you think in order to make sure we keep doing the things you enjoy and improve the things that you don't enjoy so much.

We currently have questionnaires that we would like everyone who attended to fill in and send back to us. If you haven't received a form or need more copies, or would like it sent via email please email caroline@dftra.org.uk



### The New Wren's Nest TRA

[Diane Channings](#)



### Ellowes Hall TRA



### Butterfield Court TRA



### Oval & Tudor TRA



## Thank You...

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to arrange the Awards Night and to everyone who attended and made the night so enjoyable.

We must also say thank you to anyone that donated prizes; Baydale, LES Lifts, Mecca Bingo, PH Jones and Dodds.



Martin and Stan with LES (Lift Engineering Services)



The DFTRA Board asked Caroline to present Diane Channings with some chocolates to thank her for her involvement with the night and her help with presenting the awards.



The Board members asked Diane to present me with a card which contained a lovely surprise. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the board members for being so kind, generous and for all their help over the last 6 months. It has not been easy, but as a team we have pulled together. You are an amazing group of people, and I look forward to working with you on all the exciting things we have planned.

### Make gas safety your priority

Did you know that as a tenant of Dudley Council it is part of your tenancy conditions that you allow us entry to your property to carry out a gas safety check?

According to RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) there are approximately 50 accidental deaths a year in the UK from CO poisoning, and over 1,000 reports of admissions to hospital. This is a huge increase on previous years.

If you have anyone living in your home under the age of 14, or over 65, they are particularly prone to CO poisoning, making the checks even more important.

We provide tenants with a **free** annual safety check/service and if you do not allow us access we can take enforcement action against you. This service is a legal requirement and is there to help make sure you, and your family, are safe in your home.

To arrange an appointment, or check when yours is due, telephone our contractor, PH Jones on 01384 286086. Serving can be carried out from Monday to Saturday between 8am and 8pm to ensure you have a time which is convenient to you.

## **DFTRA Update**

This section will be a regular feature for future newsletters, in order to keep everyone up to date with the latest news and information from Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.

### **Important information from partnership meetings:**

- \* If you are interested in accompanying Martin to one of the 6 weekly meetings at the Repairs Management Centre, please let us know. The dates for this year are: Wednesday 20th February, 3rd April, 15th May, 26th June, 7th August, 18th September, 30th October, 11th December.
- \* If you have any complaints, compliments or queries regarding the RMC, let us know and we will take them to the meeting with us.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns please get in touch and we will do our best to help - and if we can't, we probably know someone who can!

- \* The Christmas Awards photos have been uploaded to Facebook and you can find a link to them on our website. If you would like any photos of you or your TRA sent via email please let Caroline know by emailing caroline@dftra.org.uk.

### **Office updates:**

Progress is continuing to be made on the reception area in order to open it as a resource centre, we will keep everyone updated on a re-launch date.

Here is a cut out and keep list of important telephone numbers:

### **Useful phone numbers**

Dudley Council Plus	<b>0300 555 2345</b>
Housing Repairs Management Centre	<b>0300 555 8283</b>
Callpay (24 hour automated payment line)	<b>0300 555 7000</b>
Council tax and housing benefits	<b>0300 555 8100</b>
Revenues (Council tax and business rates)	<b>0300 555 8000</b>
Participation Development Team	<b>01384 815 168</b>
West Midlands Police	<b>0345 113 5000</b>
Bogus Caller Hotline	<b>01384 812 045</b>