

DFTRA

Working Together for a better future

Federation Newsletter

January/February 2012

In this issue...



DFTRA Awards Night



Butterfield Court Christmas Party



5 Estates Project ACT for Your Community Day



DFTRA Awards Night 2011

The annual DFTRA awards night held at Dudley Sports and Social Club once again went very well, and everyone had a great night.

We would like to say thank you to everyone that donated raffle prizes and everyone who contributed to the preparations and smooth running of the night, it was very much appreciated.

This year the awards were done a bit differently, with TRA's each nominating a member for an award. DFTRA also included a few surprise awards too. In total there were 19 awards in 9 categories.

Lifetime achievement

Terry Groucutt

Terry was nominated for this award in recognition for her loyalty as well as being a founder member of Beacon Hill TRA.



Phyllis Rowley

Phyllis was nominated for this award by the DFTRA board for being truly dedicated to both her role of Secretary at Vicarage Prospect TRA and as a director at DFTRA. Phyllis regularly attends partnership meetings on behalf of DFTRA and also does karate in her spare time.

Partnership Working

Peter Hartshorne and Dennis Harper



DFTRA nominated Dennis and Peter for this award due to their work on the tenants roadshow for which both Wren's Nest and Beacon Hill TRA joined forces with Dudley Council. The roadshow encouraged tenants to get involved and have their say on issues in the Dudley Borough.



Environmental Achievements

Colin Day

Colin was nominated by his TRA for being a dedicated member of Holly Hall and Woodside TRA, and for being someone who is always willing to help anyone in the area with their problems.



Peter Miles

Peter Miles was nominated by Greens Street Gardens TRA for the work that he has done alongside his wife Mo to keep the gardens of Kennedy Court in top condition. Many comments have been made about how lovely the gardens look.

TRA of the Year

Dunns Bank TRA

DFTRA awarded Dunns Bank TRA the TRA of the year award as they have worked hard since forming from a Neighbourhood Watch group. They have worked to solve problems and have made the area a better place to live.



Commitment to the Community

Paula Harris

Netherton Central TRA nominated Paula for this award as she is very good in her role of secretary, feedback and correspondence is handled very well and she always goes beyond the call of duty. She does all this as well as being a mom and working full time.



Lawson Griffin

Lawson was nominated by the New Wren's Nest TRA as although he has only been with the TRA for a short time, he has achieved a lot for the estate and is respected by all.



Bas Yeates

Norton Green TRA nominated Bas for an award as he kind, generous and will help anyone. They said that for Bas, people come first and he has a heart of gold.



Gloria Bramwell

Gloria has been nominated for this award by Vicarage Prospect TRA as she freely gives her time to attend committee meetings and is the representative on the High Rise Forum. This year she has helped to set up and run the monthly coffee mornings for tenants in the area.



Christine Phillips

Christine was nominated for an award as she not only serves as a voluntary member of DFTRA, but has been treasurer and minutes secretary of Parkes Street Area TRA since the beginning. She is a representative on many committees and never fails to attend meetings and walkabouts. She is as enthusiastic as ever and always first in line when there is more to be done.



Brian Drew

Darby End TRA nominated Brian for an award as he is a long serving member of the TRA who always attends the meetings, is involved in the Neighbourhood Watch and Big Clean Ups and is a big asset to the TRA.



Community Engagement



Margaret Arnold

Margaret was nominated as she has been a dedicated member of Dudley Fields TRA for many years and regularly attends meetings. She is a big help at meetings and they are glad to have her on the committee. Unfortunately Margaret was unable to attend, so the award was collected on her behalf by Christine Whitcombe, Secretary of Dudley Fields TRA.

Tracey Poolton and Kerry Hemus

Tracey and Kerry are very hardworking members of Saltwells TRA, as well as contributing to voluntary work outside the TRA. They are members of the 5 Estates Project and Saltwells Nature Reserve Support Group as well as being involved in Big Clean Ups and many more. Both are fully dedicated to their duties and go above and beyond to make the community a nicer place.



Service to the Community



Sandra Allen

Sandra was nominated for this award as she has been a committed member of Oval and Tudor TRA for 5 years, and has been willing and dedicated to achieving things in and around the community.

Pat Chance

Butterfield Court TRA nominated Pat for this award as she is a hard worker who is always willing to help anyone in the block that asks. She runs a coffee morning on a Wednesday where she also cooks breakfast. All proceeds from these mornings go towards the block fund which is used for things such as the garden club, the Christmas Party and the raffle as well as other things.



George Davies

George was nominated for an award as he is a dedicated person who was a major part of Ellowes Hall TRA being formed and is an active and enthusiastic member of the TRA. He is also involved with neighbourhood watch and is very passionate about the area.

Congratulations to all award winners!

All photos from the awards night and other events featured in our newsletters can be found on our website and Facebook page. So go to www.dfta.org.uk and from there you can also click the link to view the DFTRA Facebook page.



5 Estates project A.C.T for Your Community Conference

On the 7th December 2011, The 5 Estates Project together with the Participation Development Team held the A.C.T (Awareness, Commitment, Taking responsibility) for Your Community Day at the Brierley Hill Campus of Dudley College (formerly the MOST Centre).

The day, organised by members of Tenants and Residents Associations across the Dudley Borough, was a great success and attendees were able to access a range of knowledge, information and ideas.

There were 3 workshops on the day, all with different speakers and the themes of Community Awareness, Community Commitment and Taking responsibility. A wide variety of subjects were discussed and debated including refugees and asylum seekers and myth busting, engaging with the community and barriers that people face, and understanding your neighbourhood and how to build strong TRA's and community groups. All three workshops were very successful and it was nice to see everyone getting involved and having their say.

Phyllis Rowley, Secretary of Vicarage Prospect TRA said that she found the day very interesting and had learned a lot. Stan Chance, Chair of Butterfield Court TRA said that he found the day very informative and it was very well handled, he also said that there should be more events like it as it not only helps people to find out about different matters but it also brought people together.





Butterfield Court Christmas Party

On Saturday 10th December 2011 Butterfield Court held its annual Christmas party. About 32 tenants attended and a good time was had by all. There was Prize Bingo, a Quiz and also a Raffle. All prizes were donated by the TRA. There was also a buffet and everyone said that it was the best one that had been held.



Keeping warm this winter

Residents are being encouraged to use the council's energy advice line for information and advice on keeping snug and warm at home this winter.

The Dudley energy advice service provides up to the minute, impartial advice about government energy efficiency grants, discount energy schemes, tariff switching, cold weather and winter fuel payments, as well as the new social tariffs for households in receipt of benefits.

The Dudley energy advice line can be contacted on 0800 29 22 679.

Direct debit over the phone

Housing tenants can set up their direct debit over the telephone, thanks to a specialist phone line.

This service offers Dudley Council's tenants and leaseholders a quick and convenient way to pay their rent for homes and garages as well as their insurance premiums.

Customers can call 01384 815024 to speak to the housing direct debit team to set up the payments over the telephone. Payment can be collected on or around either the 6th or 28th of the month.

First residents move into new homes

Moving in day arrived for the first residents on a multi-million pound housing development in Dudley.

The first residents recently got their keys and moved into their new Bromford homes on the Friars Gate development on Priory Road.

They include a mix of newcomers to the area and people who used to live on Dudley Council's former North Priory housing estate.

More than 20 homes, including bungalows and houses and three homebuy direct properties, have been handed over so far to affordable housing provider Bromford by Keepmoat Homes.

If you wish to submit an article or piece of information, please let Caroline know and either send by post to: Dudley Federation of Tenants & Residents Associations, The Ground Floor Complex, Booth Court Lower Derry Street, Brierley Hill, Dudley, DY5 2SJ or email it to caroline@dfta.org.uk. You can also call on 01384 868 010.