



Dudley Federation



of Tenants and Residents Associations

Newsletter November 2014



DFTRA Update

The award winners have been chosen and we're really looking forward to surprising some of our members on 10th December!

We continue to work hard to look after our members, taking up issues on their behalf where necessary and assisting in any way we can. As always, just get in touch if you need anything.

If you require a DFTRA representative at your committee or general meeting please let us know and we will do our best to send someone.

Darker Nights

Safe and Sound, Dudley's Community Safety partnership have released information to help you be safe now that the darker nights are here. There is a lot of great advice and information on protecting yourself and your property available at dudleysafeandsound.org/darkernights

Fire safety at Christmas

Dudley Council are reminding Tenants and residents in flatted estates that Christmas decorations are not allowed in communal areas, this is to prevent fires and also enable emergency services to access properties with ease.

There are some useful tips about fire safety at Christmas at <http://goo.gl/7SsKQa> (case sensitive)

There is also a link from the Dudley Federation website and you can view the leaflet on our social media pages.

We don't do it for the awards...

On 3rd November Corbyns Bromley held their AGM with a difference.

The group very kindly provided food for everyone who attended and the night included a Black Country quiz.

Although DFTRA representative John Doughty didn't manage to win the quiz, he did collect an award on behalf of Dudley Federation in recognition of our ongoing support to Corbyns Bromley TRA.

Our response? It's been a pleasure!



As usual all the information from our newsletter and more can be found on our website and social media pages, see overleaf for details!

**Would you like free tenants and residents associations meeting alerts?
Keep up to date on meetings and events in your area by:**

Signing up for emails at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts

Texting 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 by ringing on **01384 815168** to sign up to the service

Q&A with...Dunns Bank TRA

- Q - How long has the TRA been active?**
A - For 4 years
- Q - How has it been for the group?**
A - Working with DFTRA has been a good experience and a few issues have been sorted on the estate.
- Q - Have you had any difficult times?**
A - It has been difficult sometimes working with many council departments, it has been a very interesting experience.
- Q - What are your plans for the future?**
A - We are going to work with the police and councillors to hopefully resolve a long standing problem with people driving on grass verges.
- Q - Any other comments?**
Thank you to DFTRA for the help and we look forward to working with the community for the next four years.

Spotlight on a capital bid project at... Holly Hall and Woodside TRA

It was decided by the TRA to bid for new doors to flatted accommodation of tenants who are vulnerable. Five years ago, the external entrances were open to the public, and there were incidents.

Holly Hall & Woodside TRA had worked steadily over five years for this improvement; it has now been completed in four separate blocks. In each case, funding applications were made by the Committee to DFTRA, and grants were made.

The present doors are heavily reinforced with steel, and are electronically controlled for safety.



Photo: security door fitted in The Croft.

Helping others

We all know that Christmas can be a tough time financially for even the most careful saver, but we are asking our members to think about the children in the borough who will have no gifts to open on Christmas Day.

There are over 15,000 children in the Dudley Borough living below the poverty line and the Operation Santa appeal supported by Dudley CVS aims to put smiles on the faces of these children by providing them with toys, gifts and even Christmas food.

Last year the appeal reached over 5430 children, and they are well on the way to beating this for 2014, but they need your help. Operation Santa are asking for brand new toys and gifts, school items and clothing - they are asking for only new items to be donated, or you can make a monetary donation via their MyDonate page.

More information can be found at operationsanta.wordpress.com or you can contact Dudley CVS on 01384 573381 or volunteer@dudleycvs.org.uk.

We have also uploaded their leaflet to our website so that you can see the full list of accepted items.

Dudley CVS also work in partnership with Black Country Food bank so any food or clothing items can be donated to them to help make Christmas better for struggling families. A list of accepted items is on the leaflet on our website.

We urge people who are able to donate to food banks when possible, not just at Christmas but whenever you can. Black Country Food bank helps individuals and families in need by providing emergency food supplies. You can find a list of places where donations are accepted at:

www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/where-are-we.

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