



# Dudley Federation

of Tenants and Residents Associations

**Newsletter**

**December 2014 - January 2015**

**Happy New Year!**

We all hope that you have had an enjoyable festive period and 2015 has started well for you. In this issue we will focus on the DFTRA Awards evening last December, all photos (plus more) can be found on our Facebook page and via our website.

As usual we are available for information, advice and guidance. Just give us a call or drop us an email!

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**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.goo.gl/ZWOZeD](http://www.goo.gl/ZWOZeD)

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

### Social Media Update

We continue to work with TRAs and the Participation Development Team to set up and maintain Social Media and web pages for groups.

Here is a list of current TRA Facebook pages to look at, why not head over and give them a like to keep up to date with their information. Even if you don't live in the catchment area they may share information that is useful to you.

If you would like to set up a page on social media just let us or the Participation Development Team know.

**Bowling Green TRA**

[www.facebook.com/bgtra](http://www.facebook.com/bgtra)

**Chapel Street TRA**

[www.facebook.com/ChapelStreetEstateTRA](http://www.facebook.com/ChapelStreetEstateTRA)

**Corbyns Bromley TRA**

[www.facebook.com/corbynsbromley.tra](http://www.facebook.com/corbynsbromley.tra)

**Darby End TRA**

[www.facebook.com/darbyendTRA](http://www.facebook.com/darbyendTRA)

**Ellowes Hall TRA**

[www.facebook.com/elloweshalltra](http://www.facebook.com/elloweshalltra)

**Hawbush TRA**

[www.facebook.com/hawbushtra](http://www.facebook.com/hawbushtra)

**Holly Hall & Woodside TRA**

[www.facebook.com/HHANDWTRA](http://www.facebook.com/HHANDWTRA)

**Netherton Central TRA**

[www.facebook.com/NethertonCentralTRA](http://www.facebook.com/NethertonCentralTRA)

**Pensnett TRA**

[www.facebook.com/pensnett.tra](http://www.facebook.com/pensnett.tra)

**Tanhouse TRA**

<http://on.fb.me/1Eae53z>

**The New Wrens Nest TRA**

[www.facebook.com/newwrensnest](http://www.facebook.com/newwrensnest)

### Dudley Council Take Control and Get Involved Portal

"Take Control and Get Involved is a new engagement structure for Dudley which puts tenants and residents involvement, views and wishes firmly at the heart of the council housing agenda."

If you haven't already, have a look at [www.housingtakecontrol.org.uk](http://www.housingtakecontrol.org.uk) and like the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/takecontrolgetinvolved](http://www.facebook.com/takecontrolgetinvolved) for updates and information on what is happening.

### Help with energy costs

Pensioners, low earners and disabled people in **Dudley** can get help to avoid living in an uncomfortably cold home this winter, thanks to the Energy Best Deal project. Energy Best Deal, which is run by Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and Ofgem, and is funded by energy suppliers, provides help to reduce the energy bills of the poorest households across the country.

**ENERGY  
BEST  
DEAL**

Following an Energy Best Deal session last winter 77% of people surveyed said they would take action to tackle their energy bills.

Anne-Marie Neenan from Energyextra, who runs Energy Best Deal sessions in Dudley said:

"We are helping people use less energy and explaining how they can make their home more energy efficient."

Ten top tips to save you money on energy bills:

1. Speak to your energy company to see if you can get a cheaper deal, or switch supplier. You could save up to £200 by switching supplier, and maybe even more if you have never switched before.
2. Do a home energy check to find out about savings of up to £250 a year on household energy bills. Visit the Energy Savings Trust home energy check at: [hec.est.org.uk](http://hec.est.org.uk)
3. You might be able to save up to £100 if you pay your bill by Direct Debit.
4. When making a brew only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need.
5. Save energy by making sure your washing machine is full when you use it and by washing your clothes at 30 degrees.
6. Turning down the thermostat in your home by 1oc could cut heating bills by 10%
7. Make your home less draughty by sealing gaps in your windows and doors, and fit a draught flap on your letterbox.
8. Energy saving light bulbs last up to ten times longer and can save round £45 over the lifetime of the bulb.
9. Fix taps and make sure they are fully turned off – a dripping hot water tap can waste enough energy in a single week to fill half a bath.
10. Save money by switching lights off when you leave a room. If you turn a light off for even a few seconds, you will save more energy than it takes the light to start up again, no matter what sort of lights you have. Turn appliances off standby and unplug mobile phones when they have finished charging.

More information on saving energy in your home is available from the Energy Saving Trust: [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Awareness sessions will be held at the DFTRA office, but can also be delivered at a TRA committee meeting (before the end of February) if required - get in touch to see if this is possible.

Information sessions at the Dudley Federation office will take place on **Tuesday 24th February between 1-2pm and 2-3pm**. If you are interested in attending please let Caroline know as soon as possible on 01384 868 010 or [caroline@dftra.org.uk](mailto:caroline@dftra.org.uk).



## DFTRA Awards Night 2014

We hope all that attended the evening had a great time, here are photos of the award winners with Ian Gardner, as well as some photos from the rest of the evening.



Corbyns Bromley TRA members Gareth and Michelle Morgan and Carol Davies collecting their 'Bostin' Bunch' award celebrating a group that have done exceptionally well over the last year.



Ray Dix collecting the 'Yow Med the Community Better' award on behalf of Darby End TRA in celebration of their successful community project Llamados Allotments. Well done to everyone involved!

Lil Stanley from Old Park Farm TRA collecting her 'Old Park Farm TRA am chuffed with yow' award which celebrates the 'secret weapon' of a TRA who is always there in the background keeping things running. Well done Lil!



Peter Plant from Hawbush TRA collecting his 'Tay No Bother' award for always being willing to go the extra mile for his group.



Michelle Morgan from Corbyns Bromley TRA and Sue Williams collecting their 'Yow Ay Bamboozled By Faircebook' awards.

Sue has recently taken on the role of social media for Bowling Green TRA and is doing a great job!



Bas Yeates from Norton Green collecting his lifetime achievement 'Tararabit!' trophy as he is taking a back seat with Norton Green TRA. Bas has worked hard in the area for a long time and was chair of the TRA for 12 years.

Bob Woodall and Damian Nicell collecting their 'Yow'm a Gud Un' awards for exceptional personal development.

Well done to both!



Office Manager Caroline thanking the group of volunteers who were instrumental in the planning and execution of the evening.  
L-R Sue Greenaway, Sheila Cooper, Elaine Lloyd, Wendy Everall and Christine Bate.





Photos from the DFTRA Awards Night 2014 - find more [online!](#)



## TRA's New Year's Resolutions

### Netherton Central TRA

"We aim to maintain having the meetings at Pardoe's and hope to get more local community participation.  
We will also be raising funds for the Christmas lights for 2015."



### Pensnett TRA

"We aim to try and get as much funding from all sources to help us meet our project aims and aspirations this year."



### Darby End TRA

"One of our main aims this year will be to stop the fly tipping at the end of Darby End Road"



### Oval & Tudor TRA

"We aim as a new committee to start the New Year as we mean to go on, working together as a team and supporting each other to fulfil the needs of our community."



Is your New Year's Resolution missing? Just let us know and we'll add it into the next newsletter.

### Operation Santa Appeal

As mentioned in the November newsletter we were planning to donate to the Operation Santa appeal supported by Dudley CVS. We used the proceeds from the November General meeting (plus a little extra) to purchase toys for the appeal. Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets!

The donations for 2014 were in excess of 12,000, well done to everyone involved in making Christmas special for thousands of children. See [www.facebook.com/Operationsanta.Dudleyborough](http://www.facebook.com/Operationsanta.Dudleyborough) and [operationsanta.wordpress.com](http://operationsanta.wordpress.com) for more information.





## Safety information

We remind everyone to remain vigilant to bogus callers after a information from Dudley Police Partnerships Team highlighted a number of distraction burglaries that had taken place recently. Remember:

- NEVER invite unexpected visitors into your home
- Check to see who it is by using the spy hole if you have one, or look through a front window.
- Always put the chain on before you open the door. (If you don't have a chain it's a good idea to get one - they don't cost much) Although you should only put on your door chain as you answer the door - don't keep it on all the time as this could delay your exit in case of fire.
- Some public utility services (e.g. water, electricity, gas) operate a password system. Contact your local branch to find out more.
- Bogus callers sometimes work in pairs. Beware of one distracting you while the other steals your property. The best practice is not to let them in.
- Ensure your back door is locked if you are answering the door to someone you don't know.
- If you're still not sure, ask the caller to come back later. You can then check their story by phoning the organisation or company they claim to represent.
- Don't rely on the telephone number on their card, always find a phone number yourself - it could be an accomplice on the other end of the line. In the case of people claiming to be police officers, take their name and check them out by dialling 101 or 999.
- Remember, If you have any suspicions at all, don't let them in. Close the door and phone your local police on 101.

## Award for Dudley Council's lift contractor

Lift & Engineering Services Ltd (LES) has scooped the prized national accolade of being announced Constructing Excellence's national SME (Small/Medium Enterprise) of the Year.

Photograph: David and his son Scott, the company's Business Development Manager, with their trophy and accompanied by Constructing Excellence board member Roy Casey and his partner Jackie, both of whom provide consultancy services to Lift & Engineering Services Ltd.



Congratulations from Dudley Federation!

## TRA meetings in February

- **Hawbush TRA** - 7pm 16.02.15 at St Pauls Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- **Bowling Green TRA** - 7.30pm 10.02.15 at Saltwells EDC
- **Vicarage Prospect TRA** - 7.30pm 11.02.15 at 19 Claverley Court - show flat
- **Oval & Tudor TRA** - 7pm 05.02.15 The Pensioners Club, Upper Gornal

**Special event** - Following the success of the event last year, the Black Country Day celebration will return to the Dell on Sunday 12th July 2015 go to [www.blackcountrydaypensnett.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrydaypensnett.co.uk) for more information.

If you have a meeting or event to promote please let us know!