



Dudley Federation

of Tenants and Residents Associations

Newsletter June 2015

DFTRA Update

It's been an exciting month with one of our board members appearing on national television! More information on Phyllis' adventure can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Back in the office we have been keeping up to date on the various new build projects around the borough and will be including some photos and information in future editions.

We also continue to deal with tenants' and residents' issues as always, and ask you to get in touch if you require any assistance.

We will be encouraging our members to come along to future board meetings (two per TRA) to see how things are done and participate if they wish. If you are interested in coming along please let us know - don't worry we aren't asking for a long term commitment just an opportunity to get to know the organisation better.

Don't forget we are recruiting new board members at the AGM later this year, watch out for the nomination forms which will be sent out in July.

Stay Connected

Volunteers for the Stay Connected befriending scheme are wanted now!

Would you like to use your spare time and energy to help vulnerable tenants in the borough?



If yes, the housing services housing support team are looking for volunteers to help with this befriending scheme.

You can make a huge difference to someone's life by just donating a few hours a month, full training will be given.

You could be involved by befriending someone identified by the scheme, attending a new hobby or interest with a service user or making new friends.

Wherever possible a befriender is matched with someone who has the same interests

To find out more telephone 07827 873394 or email stayconnected@dudley.gov.uk.

Fence boundaries

If you were at the last DFTRA general meeting you may have heard a brief discussion regarding fence boundaries and changes. We sought clarification and here is the situation:

There is no law about who owns the boundaries around your property, e.g. which side of the fence, walls or hedges you're responsible for. You will need to check your deeds to find out if there are any boundary agreements. If nothing has been agreed you can set up an agreement with your neighbours. Basically – it all depends upon the deeds to the property.

In relation to council properties: fences are now the responsibility of the tenant, with the only exceptions being privacy panels onto open land or a right of way or fences to avoid falls from height.

If you have any queries regarding the boundary around your council property please call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Stay up to date on meetings - 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

My Day in London – by Phyllis Rowley

A few weeks ago I managed to earn my First Dan Black Belt in Karate. This seemed to attract lots of lovely comments from my fellow trainees and somehow the press got hold of it because of my age. The next thing I received a phone call to say a TV Company wanted an interview with me, they asked if I would be willing to go to the studio in London and also wanted to film me during a typical training session. I said yes, I would.

They came and did the filming and did an interview at the same time. A few days later I received a phone call from my Senior Instructor saying that they wanted us in London that same night to appear on Good Morning Britain the next morning and would pick us up at 5pm. I rushed round to pack an overnight bag and we were taken to Birmingham New Street Station and caught the train to London.

We arrived in London and were taken to our Hotel where we had a meal. It was so hot that I could not sleep! A car arrived to pick us up to get us to the studios for 6am!

We were introduced to various people and given an idea of what they wanted us to say. I was asked if I would put Ben Shephard into a headlock to introduce the item. I did not know about this at all. I was also asked if I would give a demonstration of some of the moves we do. I was more than willing to do this to dispel some of the myths which surround karate.

It went out live and I did not hit Ben, honestly! Ben is as good looking as he appears when he is on the television.

Everyone was very friendly so it made it a very special day for us. Afterwards we went back to our hotel and had some breakfast and a rest and then we went on the London Eye. That was an interesting experience and it ended my day in London on a perfect note.

We arrived back in Dudley at about 6.30pm, absolutely shattered but with some memories which will remain with me for a very long time.



Upcoming events



There are lots of events happening around the borough as part of the Black Country Day celebrations, here are just a few of them - the rest can be found at:

black-country-festival.co.uk/events

Halesowen Carnival - 4th July 12-7pm at Highfield Park, (off Highfield Lane), Halesowen B63 4RX (rough postcode) - more information at goo.gl/0mjoRT

The Black Country Festival - 11th July in Stone Street Square, Dudley DY1 1NJ - more information at black-country-festival.co.uk

Gornal Fun Day - 11th July at Vale Street Recreation Ground (The Quarry) Upper Gornal DY3 3XQ - more info at [facebook.com/GornalFunDay](https://www.facebook.com/GornalFunDay)

Black Country Fun Day - 12th July at the Dell Stadium, Bryce Road, Pensnett DY5 4NE - more information at corbynsbromley.co.uk/black-country-fun-day

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