



# Dudley Federation



of Tenants and Residents Associations

## Newsletter July 2015

### DFTRA Update

Well done to all groups who held events around Black Country Day, we went along to a couple (see overleaf) and were very impressed by the organisational skills and dedication of the volunteers involved - despite the range of weather that was experienced the events were very successful.

It's the time of the year that we start to encourage TRA members to become part of DFTRA, nomination forms have been sent in the post and elections will be happening at our AGM (please note that the date has been changed and this will now take place one week later on 1st October 2015). So, get your nomination forms to us by Monday 14th September 2015. If you would like more information please get in touch or arrange to come and see us.

### Gas Safety week: Fighting for a Gas Safe nation



Monday 14th September sees the start of Gas Safety Week, aiming to highlight the importance of getting your gas appliances checked and serviced annually.

Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions.

If you are a tenant, your landlord has a responsibility for gas safety, if you think it has been over 12 months since your last check, contact them to find out or to arrange one.

As well as having a gas check yearly, there are other checks that you should carry out:

- 🔊 Check your Landlord's Gas Safety Record. By law, your landlord must keep gas appliances supplied for you to use in good condition. They should arrange a gas safety check every 12 months and give you a record of the check.
- 🔊 Check your engineer is Gas Safe registered. You can find and check an engineer at [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk) or call 0800 408 5500.
- 🔊 Check the engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. Make sure they are qualified for the work you need doing. You can find this information on the back of the card.
- 🔊 Check for warning signs your appliances aren't working correctly e.g. lazy yellow or orange flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks on or around the appliance and too much condensation in the room.
- 🔊 Know the six signs of carbon monoxide poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness.
- 🔊 Have an audible carbon monoxide alarm. This will alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.
- 🔊 If you are a Dudley Council Tenant - you need to make sure that you give engineers access to your property to carry out the gas check. It's a legal requirement, but it could also save lives.



You can follow the campaign via social media:

[@gassaferegister](https://twitter.com/GasSafeRegister) -- [www.facebook.com/GasSafeRegister](https://www.facebook.com/GasSafeRegister)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/gas-safe-register](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gas-safe-register) -- [www.instagram.com/GasSafeRegister](https://www.instagram.com/GasSafeRegister)

### Social Decorations

Did you know that a decorations programme is available for tenants who are elderly or disabled? To be eligible you must be over the age of 65 and/or disabled and have no other member of the household who is able to decorate for you. Eligible tenants can apply for up to 2 rooms providing they have not applied in the last 2 years.

Contact your Housing Manager for more information, they will be able to check your eligibility and submit an application.

## Water Safety Code

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children put themselves at risk of drowning.

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

The dangers of water include:

- Very cold temperatures
- Hidden currents
- It can be deep - It is difficult to estimate depth
- There may be hidden rubbish like shopping trolleys or broken glass
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- No lifeguards
- Water pollution may make you ill

Choose to swim at your local swimming pool where lifeguards are on duty. There are no lifeguards at quarries, canals, lakes, reservoirs or rivers.

Make sure your children are water aware and stay safe this summer.

Even the shallowest of ponds can be lethal. From a child's perspective, a 500mm deep pond is equivalent to an adult falling into 1800mm of water - the child being unable to climb out of the water.

If you are not within arm's reach of your child when they are around water, you have gone too far. Make sure your children are water aware and stay safe this summer. [More info.](#)

## Keep your home secure

The summer holidays see a rise in burglaries and outside thefts. Now is the perfect time to make sure that your home is secure. Here are some tips:

- Lock windows as well as doors when going out - unlocked UPVC windows are vulnerable.
- Close accessible windows when going into the garden - or even upstairs. This may sound like an over reaction but most thieves are opportunistic and will jump in an open window to grab a mobile phone, tablet etc.
- Lighting deters thieves, use timer switches for lights or purchase a 'fake TV' light.
- If you go away, refrain from posting on Social Media - it will highlight that your house is empty.
- When away, ask someone that you trust to collect post up from the floor, take bins in etc.
- Keep keys away from doors and windows so they are not visible and do not hide them outside.
- Secure your garden - lock sheds and gates and lock away tools.

More information can be found at [ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk).



## Gornal Fun Day

The [Gornal Community Fun Day](#)

Planning Committee held an excellent event on 11th July with lots of people turning up to see classic cars, Punch and Judy and a variety of local entertainment.

A great day was had by all, well done to the planning committee!

## Fun Day at the Dell

Following on from the success of last year's event, [Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association](#) obtained funding support from Community Forums to make the event even better for 2015.

There were lots of stalls providing fun and games as well as bouncy castles, sumo suits, and a mini zoo, there were even fun fair rides and a rodeo bull!

Congratulations once again to the TRA!



## Stay up to date on meetings - sign up for FREE email and text alerts



Online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts](http://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

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