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News from Digital Unite - January 2013

Spring Online – 22-26 April 2013

Event registration now open!

"It's been one of the most rewarding campaigns we've been involved in. I can't think of a reason not to join in".

You can now register your Spring Online taster event for this year via [our website](#). ***Don't forget - the sooner you register, the more people will become aware of your event.***



[Spring Online](#) is our award-winning, national campaign to help older people and other less confident users to understand, explore and enjoy digital technology. For 2013 we're delighted to be supported by [ComputerActive](#) and [Streetlife.com](#).

Each year thousands of free Spring Online taster events are held across the UK, helping tens of thousands of people to use computers, the internet, mobile technology and other digital tools - many for the first time.

Five great reasons to get involved this year:

1. Knowing how to use digital technology is a life-changing skill but around 6.5 million older people are getting left behind. You can help with this.
2. Tea and biscuits aside, it doesn't have to cost anything but your time and we'll provide you with ideas, tips, marketing materials and advice on running your events.
3. It is a great way of promoting your own community services and reaching new people.
4. As an event holder there'll be the chance to win cash prizes to support your digital learning activities.
5. It changes lives and is enormously satisfying on a personal level.

Following on the success of our [Digital Unite online community](#) we are also building a dedicated [Spring Online community](#) for event holders and others to share experiences, news, ideas and questions. We hope this forum will provide a new wave of support for all those planning and running events.

So go on, what are you waiting for – [register an event today!](#)

FREE event
Social Housing Digifest – Thursday 7 March

"Well done, great event – keep up the good work"

"Very well organised and as the second [Digifest] I have attended, it is really good to see the different products and services"

Back by popular demand, we're holding another Social Housing Digifest, this time in partnership with Affinity Sutton, one of the largest providers of affordable housing in England. This free event will take place on Thursday 7 March at the striking venue that is London's Living Room, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA.

This event is essential for housing providers who are looking for ways to digitally enable their communities to help meet some of the challenges and opportunities presented by the introduction of Government's Welfare Reform

At the Digifest we will:

- bring together housing representatives with suppliers of digital kit, connectivity and skills training in a lively round-the-table speed pitches format.
- talk about how to use digital literacy to underpin key strategies and illustrate how Affinity Sutton is embedding digital skills for a bigger future.
- launch some new Digital Champion courses titles with specific focuses on; supporting financial literacy, preparing for work and job hunting, using government services online as well as mini modules for Digital Champions out and about in the community
- run digital surgeries with Affinity Sutton to give you an opportunity to have follow-up conversations arising from the day's presentations, as well as longer discussion with suppliers.

For more information and to register for a free place visit our website.

If you are a supplier of digital products and services and wish to showcase your organisation at the Digifest, contact Kathy Valdes or call 0800 228 9272.



New year, new skills?

9 out of 10 people would recommend our online courses

If you've promised yourself that you'll learn something new this year and you're interested in helping others learning about digital technology, then why not consider one of our online courses?

Currently we offer two courses to help people develop Digital Champion skills:

- Our Quick Start course, Helping Beginners Get (and Stay) Online which has also been recently updated to include Windows 8 and mobile technology
- Our Digital Champion ITQ, which is accredited by City and Guilds

In a [recent survey](#) among those who had completed our courses, all of them (100%) now considered themselves to be Digital Champions compared to only 40% prior to their course. 8 out of 10 said their course has given them new ideas and techniques for helping people to get online and stay online. To find out more visit [our website](#).

New learning guides

Starting as we mean to go on this year, we've recently launched two new guides to add to [our collection](#):

- [How to find volunteering opportunities online](#)
- [How to enter competitions online](#)



Have you got a suggestion for a new learning guide? Is there one that you would find useful to support your digital teaching activities? Why not tell us about it via our [community message boards](#) on our website. Oh yes, and we've got [a guide](#) about that too.

Intern Opportunity at the Digital Unite Trust

An exciting new opportunity is available to become a Fundraising Intern for the Digital Unite Trust.

The [Digital Unite Trust](#) was established in autumn 2011 to help make digital skills available to everyone and to support the work of Digital Unite Limited. This new role will support the work of the Trust through researching, identifying and pursuing fundraising opportunities and would suit someone who is looking to gain valuable and broad experience in charity management and business development.

[Click here](#) for further details about what the position entails and how to apply. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 6 February 2013.



Honours time for our Emma

On Friday 25 January our MD, Emma, officially received her OBE for services to digital inclusion from Prince Charles at the Palace.

Everyone here is incredibly proud of her achievements and those of Digital Unite and the award is richly deserved. Read more on our [website](#).

Kindle Fire competition winner

Congratulations to Arthur Cooper, who became the proud owner of a Kindle Fire just in time for Christmas. Read [here](#) about his double-winning success.

Don't forget we have a helpful [guide](#) explaining what a Kindle Fire is all about plus others explaining the ins and outs of [tablet computers](#) in general.



CSV

[CSV](#), the UK volunteering and learning charity, is running a major initiative called The Professionals, which encourages people to share their skills, not just their time.

Community groups and charities are often in need of skilled help, but don't know where to find it. With a nationwide network, The Professionals engages volunteers to unlock their skills and passions for a local organisation that will benefit from their expertise. Here are just a few of the examples of ways professional volunteers have made a difference in their local communities:

- Across the country, hundreds of professional volunteers have engaged with our Computer Buddies scheme, supporting people to stay online.
- A university baking society facilitated a Christmas-themed baking event for the residents of an extra care unit, providing the residents with a welcome opportunity to learn from and interact with people outside the home.
- A professional film maker volunteered to run workshops at a local girls' school, to help the students create an awareness-raising short film that was shown to other young people in their area.

If you are an organisation in need of volunteers, or a professional looking to offer your skills, please visit [The Professionals](#) to find out more.

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To discuss anything in our newsletter - and anything else on your mind! - please do visit our [community](#) and have your say.

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