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News from Digital Unite - March 2013

Spring Online 2013 (22-26 April)

There are just 5 weeks to go until Spring Online 2013 kicks off.

That's still plenty of time to get involved and hold an event so below are 5 reasons why you absolutely, positively should.

Don't delay, [get involved and register an event now!](#)

Headline sponsor



Supporting sponsors



1. There are event holder grants available but only one day left to apply!

These grants can be used to cover the costs of your event or to help support your ongoing activities but hurry, the deadline is Wednesday 20 March at 5pm so [click here](#) to find out more.

2. There's a prize draw to win £200 in High Street vouchers

As part of our event holder resources we're running a great [prize draw](#) where event participants can win £100 of high street vouchers for them and £100 of high street vouchers for their event holder!

3. Event holder resources now available

There are now [oodles of information](#), resources and marketing material available on the website to support you with holding a taster event and the Digital Unite team support you all the way.



4. It's free and hugely rewarding to do

Holding an event doesn't have to cost anything but your time and it can last an hour, a morning or even a day. However you decide to do it, your involvement can make a big difference to people's lives. As one event holder from last year said: *"It has been wonderful to see people going from being afraid to even touch a computer and not knowing what a mouse is, let alone how to use it, to being able to setting up email accounts and searching websites."*

5. It's one of the biggest and longest running digital inclusion campaigns in the UK

With Marks and Spencers now counted as a supporting sponsor alongside BMI Healthcare and headline sponsor Carphone Warehouse, 2013 is shaping up to be another great year for Spring Online so why not be part of this award-winning and essential campaign?

Some event highlights:

We're delighted to say we already have lots of events registered for April – here is just a small flavour to get you in the Spring Online mood.



- A touch of the Irish. The [Northern Ireland Library Authority](#) (Libraries NI) has once again galvanised virtually all of their libraries to run Spring Online taster events with an amazing 52 registered at the last count.
- Have a go Joe...and Jo. [Leeds Life Skills Centre](#) in Wortley is opening its doors to computer beginners to learn a whole new range of skills, from digital crafting to making your own music CD.
- The [DVLA in Wales](#), one of our Best Event finalists from 2012, is once again driving people online at their event in Swansea.
- It's never too late to start as [Basildon Borough Council](#) will be showing their local residents that computers really aren't scary.
- For blind or partially sighted users, Dolphin Computer Access will be running drop-in sessions at their [local blindness societies](#) to show how visual impairment doesn't have to be a barrier to using the internet.
- [Age UK in Knaresborough](#) has a team of friendly helpers lined up to help with understanding computers, the internet, smartphones and tablets.
- [Golden Gates Housing Trust](#) has teamed up with Warrington Disability Partnership to teach residents how to stay safe online.
- Caring for carers. [Chill4us Carers](#) will be holding a friendly drop in event for family carers in Norwich so they can learn how the internet can support them as they care for others.
- [Swanmore Primary School](#) in Hampshire will be using their ICT suite and a helping hand from parent volunteers to get local older people online.

Inspired to get involved? [Register an event today!](#)

New guides

Our collection of free digital technology guides continues to flourish with the following new additions:

- [What is a cookie?](#)
- [How to complete online forms](#)
- [How to find weather forecasts online](#)



As well as adding new guides we also ensure existing content is up-to-date. This recently

includes our guides on [Facebook](#), [How to join Google Plus](#) and [How to find Family History Online](#).

Delightful Digifest



We had an excellent Social Housing Digifest event on Thursday 7 March alongside our housing friends Affinity Sutton and supported by Montal. Around 80 people joined us for the day with over 30 housing organisations represented. The views were spectacular, the presentations were enlightening and the debate most definitely lively. [Read more about the day here](#).

We were also delighted to showcase our innovative [digital champion programme](#) with Affinity Sutton and provide real food for thought on how other housing providers could do the same to digitally enable their communities for the long term.

*Our next Digifest is taking place on Wednesday 5 June in Manchester and we'll be sure to bring you more details next month about this free and inspiring digital inclusion event.



Grannynet - the definitive site for grandmothers

If you are a granny who likes to be 'in the know' or you know a lady who is then why not tell them about Grannynet.

[Grannynet](#) offers trusted advice and friendly chat, combining modern knowledge with traditional values. Visit Grannynet for new ideas on grandparenting from recipes to savings, blogs written by real grandmothers, choose the best gifts from our product reviews and chat to like-minded women on our forum. Plus become a member to enter exclusive competitions, get great discounts and to receive our newsletters.

Technology4Good Awards 2013 – enter now!



The [Technology4Good Awards](#) celebrate the hard work of people of all ages who use the power of computers and the internet to make the world a better place. Created by AbilityNet working with BT and a range of other partners there are eight award categories and it is free to enter for any business, charity, public body or individual based in the UK. Nominations close on Friday 3 May 2013 at 5pm and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in July. For more information visit [their website](#).

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