

Dudley

SUMMER 2010

together

Brierley Hill | Dudley | Halesowen |
Sedgley | Stourbridge |



INSIDE *Arm Speech Time*

- Soccer kids' goal?
To tackle strokes
- World Cup safety
- Social networking:
get connected!

PLUS

- Win family
CBeebies tickets

BOOZE AND ABUSE

Sound familiar?

Cases of domestic abuse increased by up to 31 per cent during the 2006 world cup and many offenders were found to be under the influence of alcohol.

WIN OR LOSE, DON'T ABUSE

For help or advice on staying safe visit
www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk

safe & sound
Dudley's Community Safety Partnership



Letter from the top

Sarah Dugan
Chair, Dudley
Community
Partnership



With World Cup fever well and truly with us, now's the time to kick off your own healthy lifestyle and make the most of the parks and sports facilities in the borough.

While football fans are glued to their screens there are others who want to escape the beautiful game. If that's you there's plenty to do in Dudley, turn to pages 14 and 15 to find out more.

And if you want to keep track of what's happening but haven't yet joined the social networking revolution then we make sense of it with our guide to Twittering, Blogging and Facebooking on pages 8 and 9. Once you are on there it's another way of finding out more about what Dudley Community Partnership and its partners are up to as well as sharing your views, interests and influencing decisions.

I'm proud to announce that looking after health locally has seen the opening of a £26 million new health and social care centre in Brierley Hill. It will provide a broad range of services for people under one roof.

As usual the magazine, which is produced by Dudley Community Partnership, covers lots of other positive news happening in the borough. I hope you enjoy the read.

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If you have any comments to make or suggestions about future editions of Dudley together please contact us.

Send your letter to The Editor, of Dudley together, Marketing and Communications, Dudley Council, FREEPOST*, MID22308, Dudley, DY1 1BR.

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If you would like this magazine on audiotape, in large type, or a translation into your own community language please phone 01384 815228

DUDLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
achieving together

In Brief ►►

Major estate funding secured

The multi-million pound regeneration of Dudley's old North Priory estate is set to get under way after funding was secured earlier this year. The project has been awarded nearly £5.6 million from the Homes and Communities Agency's kickstart grant to build the first 100 properties in stage one of the development, which will include 63 affordable homes and 37 homes for outright sale.

The council and its partners Bromford Group and Keapmoat are aiming for construction workers to be on site by June, with the first houses in stage one ready for tenants in March 2011 and all houses completed in stage one by 2012.

Volunteering is in the spotlight

People were urged to get the V factor at a series of borough events to mark National Volunteer Week.

Volunteers took part in celebration events in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen during the first week in June.

Anyone who wants to find out more about volunteering can contact Dudley Volunteer Centre based in Albion Street, Brierley Hill, or call 01384 267425 or go to www.dudleycvs.org.uk or www.volunteeringcounties.org.uk.

►► **Volunteering**
- See page 7

'Kick Start' for new home improvements

A council-run improvement scheme for homeowners is set to expand this year.

Dudley, Wolverhampton and Sandwell councils have joined together to promote the Kick Start housing assistance scheme, which provides affordable loans to struggling homeowners.

The three councils have pooled resources and are working together to publicise the scheme to

local people. Kick Start is designed to help people who own their home, are not heavily mortgaged but who may be vulnerable, struggling to manage on a low income or claiming benefits. Homeowners are offered affordable loans, some with no monthly repayments, to update or modernise their homes.

Juliet Holness of central Dudley, who used the

scheme to improve her home, said: "My house is in desperate need of an update but I just couldn't afford it."

"The Kick Start scheme really has been the answer for me. I've had my kitchen and bathroom updated, as well as having my old windows replaced."

Homeowners interested in the scheme should call 0845 155 0420.

Web links your hotline to police

Contacting West Midlands Police and having your say just got easier thanks to a new look website and links on social networking sites.

Not only is the site easier to get around but you can also find West Midlands Police on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Dudley's Inspector Richard Jones, who you can contact on Twitter, said: "We are able to respond to queries and concerns more easily and I'd encourage people to follow me on Twitter."

Currently the force has more than 3,000 Facebook followers and now Dudley Local Policing Unit has its own pages.

Go on to www.west-midlands.police.uk or www.dudley.police.org.uk and follow links to all the latest videos from departments such as the

►► **May the force be with you: Police worker Claire Davis and PCSO Beth Cooper check out West Midlands Police website.**



dog unit and major investigation unit.

You can also get news about Dudley Local Policing Unit, view pictures and details of each neighbourhood inspector and sergeant, along with the contact details of the teams responsible for your neighbourhood.

Interactive neighbourhood

pages give people the chance to vote on what should be the policing priority for their area. The priorities are based on feedback from community meetings. Each user can vote concurrent priorities.

►► **Social networking**
- See pages 8-9.

New care centre is ready for business

A £26.5 million health and social care centre in Brierley Hill is set to open its doors.

The Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre in Venture Way will be officially opened on June 14.

It will be home to services such as audiology, podiatry, physiotherapy, leg ulcer clinics and speech and language therapy.

In addition two GP practices will be moving to the centre, along with social care and housing services from Dudley Council.

The building is the third successful partnership between Dudley Infracore LIFT, NHS Dudley and Dudley Council to provide health and social care services in convenient locations across

the borough.

The centre was made a reality following a £5.6 million grant from Advantage West Midlands which enabled the construction of the building to begin. The building follows the completion of the Ridge

Hill Learning Disabilities Centre in 2006 and the success of the Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre in 2007.

Sarah Dugan, chief executive of NHS Dudley, said: "We are aware that people want to be treated as

close to home as possible and the wide range of services that will be delivered under one roof from the new centre will really benefit residents. The building looks fantastic and will become a great asset to Brierley Hill and the surrounding areas."



►► **What a tonic: The new Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre.**

2020 vision points way towards strong communities

Dudley people and agencies have signed up to a 2020 vision of strong communities. They've called for strong communities with:

- **Thriving businesses and skilled employees;**
- **A commitment for us all to be as fit and healthy as we can be;**
- **Where we're all able to**

identify and be proud of our culture and heritage and our homes are suitable for our needs;

- **Where we can all reach our full potential and we are safe, free from crime and the fear of crime.**

The vision shapes Dudley's revised community strategy called 'my borough our

borough'.

Sarah Dugan, chair of the Dudley Community Partnership, said: "The purpose of the strategy is to bring together all of the positive aspects of living in the borough.

"These strengths will be used to improve the quality of life for all over the next decade." To view the strategy visit www.dudleyisp.org.

In Focus ▶▶

Stepping out for Healthy Towns

Thousands of walkers took steps towards helping ours become a healthy borough by taking part in this year's Dudley Borough Trail.

Many completed their walks in bright yellow T-shirts to promote the £4.5million Healthy Towns initiative, which encourages families to take on more exercise and make the most of outdoor spaces. Under the project new outdoor gym equipment has been installed at Silver Jubilee Park in Cosely, Netherton Park, the Dell Stadium, Huntingtree Park in Halesowen and Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge.

The equipment, which can be used by people of all ages and abilities, forms part of special family healthy hubs, which will also each have a healthy hub building and active corridors linking parks together.

The nationally funded Healthy Towns initiative is one of nine in the country that are piloting long-term solutions to reducing levels of childhood obesity. Issues such as community safety, public toilets, park lighting and partnership working are also part of the project.

People from across the borough are also signing up to the project's Twitter and Facebook pages.

For further information, including links to the social networking pages, visit www.dudley.gov.uk/healthytowns or to sign up for regular updates email healthytowns.cexoc@dudley.gov.uk

A High-Ho silver lining for Bridget

It's a case of calling home as well as getting out of the house for Stourbridge pensioner Bridget Howells, thanks to a new service for older people.

The 72-year-old is able to enjoy a game of bingo at the High Ho Social Club thanks to Dudley Council's new community access scheme.

The flexible service encourages older people to get out and about and with help from the community access team finds daycentre activities, social clubs or even courses for them to attend.

Its aim is to help older people stay active and not become isolated and offers practical help when it comes to getting to and from activities.

For Mrs Howells the scheme is already proving a success. She is helped by



It's bingo time for Bridget Howells and Denise Stringer.

Denise Stringer from the community access team to attend the social club once a week.

She said: "I really appreciate the help and support that I've received from this scheme, it's

helping me to feel much more confident in getting out and about. I love going to the club and I live for my Tuesdays." The community access scheme is available seven days - call 01384 815822.

Tackling the stroke menace is the goal

Youngsters at a Fairhaven Primary School, Worsley, are getting behind the World Cup with their own new football strip, thanks to Dudley Stroke Association. The charity and Dudley PCT have donated the new strip to promote the FAST message - Facial weakness,

Arm weakness, Speech problems and Time to call 999. Roger Edwards, from Dudley Stroke Association, said: "It's important to get this message out to all generations. Stroke is a killer and the faster people act when they spot the signs the better the chance of recovery."

Local people with story to tell set to leave their stamp on library users

Can you really judge a book by its cover? Visitors to Dudley library will get the chance to find out when they borrow people rather than pages.

It's all part of a special event that will give visitors the chance to 'read' the lives of everyday local people who have been on extraordinary journeys. The idea, which comes from Denmark and which is a first for Dudley, aims to bring people together from different walks of life who wouldn't ordinarily meet.

Most of the 'living' books have been identified by Dudley Volunteer Centre as people who have overcome challenges or who have led fascinating lives.

Prospects

They feature a pensioner who grew up in Gornal in the war years and who is now a very active resident, and a young person who left school with few prospects and is now inspiring other young people to achieve.

Visitors to Dudley Library can browse through the 'titles' on offer in advance of the event and reserve a living book. The borrower will then be able to return to the St James's Road branch, on the afternoon of June 26 where they will be able to spend half an hour listening to their chosen living book. To reserve a Living Book in advance, contact Dudley Library on 01384 815560 between 9am to 7pm.

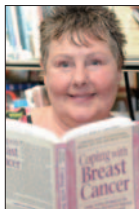
The Human Library event is a partnership project between Dudley Library, Dost and Dudley Volunteer Centre. More information about living books around the world can be found at www.humanlibrary.org.

Gripping plot to 'live' books plan



'The day Elvis died'

By the time John Pestana found himself sat in a bar on the island of Jersey, he had already led a fascinating life. John was born in Madeira in 1945, joined the Portuguese army at 18 and was deported from South Africa at 31 after refusing to join an army that he didn't believe in. He planned to head for America and Jersey seemed like an ideal stop to earn some much-needed money. What he didn't know was that a pretty girl from Old Hill who was holidaying with her mother would change the course of his life forever. So there John sat waiting to meet the Black Country girl who he would eventually marry as the news blared in the background: 'Elvis is dead'. After a successful engineering career, John now chairs Woodside Community Centre as a volunteer and together with his wife Pamela they also head up a charity for which they have raised more than £100,000.



Tales of unexpected for Belinda

It was an ordinary day in 2008 when two unexpected things happened to 'living book' Belinda Simmonds.

After longing for a dog she was happily celebrating the adoption of her little terrier Benji. And then the bombshell news that Belinda had been diagnosed with cancer. It was the beginning of a two-year journey for Belinda from diagnosis and treatment

through to her road to recovery. Belinda is now a volunteer tutor with the expert patient programme which allows her to share her experience with others. Belinda hopes that by sharing her story she will not only take away some of the fear for people facing similar situations, she also hopes to encourage more people to go for potentially life saving checks.

Dudley together guides you through the maze of social networking sites, from Facebook to Flickr

The world @ your fingertips.com

What's it all about?

Are you one of the millions of people who feels left behind when it comes to the social networking revolution?

With more individuals, groups, organisations and businesses tweeting, Facebooking, blogging or posting on YouTube there's a virtual world out there to tap into either on your phone or on your computer.

None of these sites are accessible without being online – connected to the internet on your computer or phone or both.

Search engine

Being online gives you access to the web which is made up of pages called websites.

You can search for websites through a 'search engine' like Google which just lets you type in the subject you are interested in and finds lots of pages for you to click on.

Being online also gives you access to email which is an electronic way to send messages to each other. You need an email address, which you can get from a range of internet providers.

Once you are online and exploring the internet you can explore social networks.

Social networks are built around the friends concept and you can tap into new groups of friends through them.

From Twitter to Bebo, it's all about making friends at home and abroad. But beware - make sure you follow the safety advice...

FACEBOOK

Facebook connects people. You can join local, national or international groups through Facebook and find out what's happening but to do that you need your own Facebook account known as a profile and to do that you need your own email address. Just type in Facebook on a search engine like Google or go to www.facebook.com which will take you to the Facebook home page where you can join up and create a profile (your own page). Your profile includes your picture, tidbits about your life, a facility for uploading and sharing an unlimited number of photos, a status function that sends out a one line alert to all of your friends telling them what you're up to and a public wall. All your friends can see what people write on your wall. This important fact is often forgotten. You do have control over who can find you on Facebook. When someone gets in touch, you can decide if you want them to access your profile and your updates.

TWITTER

Twitter works a bit like text messaging. Users post messages called 'tweets' on Twitter of up to 140 characters, which can either be of a general nature or directed to a particular user by preceding the message with @username. You can also upload pictures and attach them to messages and insert shortened links to websites. To set yourself up, go online, type in Twitter on your search engine and it will take you to the Twitter home page at www.twitter.com



Once you have got a Twitter account you can start to tweet but you must remember that almost everything you say on Twitter is said in public, even when you are having a one-to-one conversation with your friend who is also on Twitter. Unlike Facebook and LinkedIn, Twitter doesn't require 'both party consent' before connections are made. Anyone can follow you on your Twitter address without you agreeing to share your messages with them. Twitter is much simpler than the other social-networking sites. All it asks is one thing - 'What are you doing?' - and you answer, either via your mobile or your computer. Twitter then tells all your

friends, via a text on their mobiles or a message online, and they send their own messages back.

LINKEDIN

This is more commonly used by people networking for business purposes. Like Facebook it has groups and status updates, but it's not really the kind of place for people to socialise and chat. Through LinkedIn you can post your events, blog, post your CV and update like-minded business groups and discuss business issues, common problems, even share power-point presentations. To set yourself up go to www.linkedin.com.

FACTfile

Social networking sites are popular because they allow you to:

- Communicate with friends and family;
- Meet new people;
- Reconnect with old buddies;
- Share messages, videos, and photos;
- Plan your social life;
- Participate in a group or cause that interests you;
- Play online games with other members.

But beware! Social networking can be risky...

- You can give away too much information;
- Remember once it is out there it is almost impossible to remove;
- Children can be targeted by cyberbullies;
- You run the risk of online predators, invasion of privacy and identify theft if you don't take the right precautions.

MYSPACE

Signing up via the MySpace homepage, www.Myspace.com, is relatively easy. But designing your profile page involves choosing a profile picture, a quote and a song. It's more creative and image-based than Facebook which has a standardised layout and look. You will also need to supply a little blurb about yourself, your hobbies, the music, films, books you like, who you'd like to meet, and choose your 'top friends'. The site has a range of functions; email, bulletins, blogs, friend comments, photographs, groups, videos



and music. Other members can request your friendship (and you theirs), though you can set your profile to private if you want to. MySpace is more about a public chat and creating an image combined with adding your favourite music.

YOUTUBE

Is a video-streaming site where you create an account and then upload (add) your own videos or go on to see bands, music, adverts, campaigns. It's free to use and watch. You don't have to have an account to go on to www.youtube.com and watch free video clips, which range from the latest blockbuster promotions to campaigns like Dudley's latest safe & sound advice on dating abuse.



FlickR

This is a photo-sharing media tool which can include text as well as your photos. It can be set up by an individual or a group. Go to www.flickr.com

BLOGS

A blog is a type of website with regular entries of commentary (like a diary), which can include descriptions of events, photos and videos. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order and you can email comments to a blogger's site.

BEBO

Bebo.com is another social-networking site which tends to attract younger visitors aged 18 to 24. Bebo allows you to upload photos, post comments, send emails, set up quizzes, picture slide-shows and blogs.

News Extra ▶▶

Activezone guarantees summer fun

Dudley Council's activezone programme, offering a range of activities for five to 16 year-olds over the school summer holiday, has been released.

Part of the Dudley Healthy Towns project, it's hoped the activities will encourage children and young people to participate in physical activity over the summer.

Specialised coaching in cricket, football, gymnastics, rugby, tennis and multi-sports, as well as a number of other sessions, are taking place across the borough's leisure centres, schools and sports clubs.

Free group activities including games, sports and fitness sessions are being held in the five Healthy Towns hubs - Mary Stevens Park, Huntingtree Park, Netherton Park, Silver Jubilee and the Dell Stadium - and other borough parks.

Specific activities for children and young people with disabilities and parent and child events are also taking place as part of the programme.

To find out more about activezone 2010, contact Liz Neale, sport and physical activity officer (children and young people), on 01384 812743 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk /sport or www.dudley.healthytowns.co.uk

World Cup violence - don't be a victim

During the 2006 world cup, incidents of domestic abuse increased by up to 31 per cent and many of the offenders were found to be under the influence of alcohol.

As a result, safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership, has launched a campaign to encourage women at risk of domestic abuse to create a personal safety plan in advance of the 2010 World Cup.

It's a way of planning in advance for the possibility of violence; it helps those

World Cup: England's group matches

England v USA, Saturday June 12, 7.30pm
England v Algeria, Friday June 18, 7.30pm
England v Slovenia, Wednesday June 23, 3pm

at risk think about how they can increase their safety and that of their children both within the relationship or if they decide to leave.

Only the perpetrator can stop the violence and abuse, but there are things that can be done to protect, such as identifying patterns of violence and

planning how to respond in different situations, including a crisis.

To find out more about making a safety plan, visit www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk or www.womensaid.org.uk

Domestic abuse is a crime, report it by calling 0121 626 8078. In an emergency, dial 999.



Setting standard for dealing with anti-social behaviour

safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership, has issued a set of minimum standards it will follow when dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB). Through prevention, early intervention and effective enforcement the partnership aims to protect people from intimidation, harassment and distress and enable every member of the community to enjoy their home and neighbourhood safely and peacefully.

Andy Winning, ASBU development manager, said: "safe & sound recognises where ASB occurs it can be a serious problem affecting the quality of life of individuals, families and communities.

"By working together we can work towards reducing ASB in the borough by tackling it more effectively." The full set of standards can be viewed at www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk.

TOP TIPS to save energy

Now we are enjoying light mornings and evenings, here are some tips to help you save energy and money this summer.

- **Turn it off:** The longer mornings and evenings mean more natural light, so open the curtains and remember to turn your lights off.
- **Walk or cycle to work:** summer is a good time to ditch the car and walk or cycle to work to save energy, get fit and reduce your carbon footprint.
- **Ditch the tumble dryer** and dry clothes outside or on an inside clothes horse they will dry quickly, with no cost to the environment or your pocket.
- **Don't touch the dial:** remember to turn your central heating off in the summer. If you do feel chilly in the evening, put a jumper on.
- **Keep cool in your home during hot spells:** Close curtains and shut blinds in windows in direct sunlight to prevent room heating up.
- **Holiday at home:** When thinking about a summer holiday, a break in the UK rather than abroad is a greener way to take a break, plus you'll be surprised what you'll discover on your doorstep.
- **Keep appliances cool:** Try to position your fridge and freezer away from direct sunlight to make it work less hard to keep it cool - saving energy and money.

That's the spirit!

Community spirit is thriving in Brierley Hill where people are transforming a former eye-sore open space near their homes and creating a great green space.

Over the past year an army of residents, volunteers and organisations have worked on the former Hawbush Urban Farm site next to Hawbush Primary School. Following the closure of the farm the land became a haven for vandalism and illegal substance misuse until residents and organisations got together to transform the space. Groundwork West Midlands together with residents, the Brierley Hill Project, the Tenants and Residents Association, Dudley Council, Dudley Youth Offending Service, Juniper Training, Brierley Hill Community Forum, Dudley PCT and Hawbush Primary School are now all involved in the site which has been renamed Hawbush Community Gardens.

Work has already seen the entire front section of the site cleared thanks to help from around 30 young volunteers from Hawbush who were part of the Brierley Hill Project. Volunteers then helped to build raised beds and food growing areas to be used by residents and school children. A wildlife area has been created around the pond along with a pond dipping platform and a seating area, with a fire pit, barbeque platform, benches, and



■ Above and below: Volunteers at work on the Hawbush Urban Farm sight.



log seating installed. Along with the outdoor improvements internal and external building repairs have been carried out to provide a building for youth activities, community workshops and adult and family learning activities. Amit Dattani, from Groundwork Black Country, said: "This is an ongoing project which is bringing different communities together, regenerating the area and helping reduce anti-social behaviour. "People are really proud of the work they've achieved at Hawbush Community Gardens which we hope will continue to blossom and grow."

Help for families is just a click away

Families looking for fun activities, childcare, support and information across Dudley can benefit from a new website.

Dudley's Family Information Service (FIS) has launched the new site at <http://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd/pubicenquiry> to help families with all their questions and queries. The online directory is a useful guide to services and organisations that support children and young people, parents, carers and the people who work with them.

From antenatal classes to dance groups, disability support to healthy eating, the

directory holds up-to-date information to try and meet everyone's needs.

The website is part of the free service offered by the FIS team. The team is based at Dudley Council and celebrates 10 years of service this year.

Parents and carers can also use FIS information kiosks which are accessible across the borough. They contain useful links to websites such as Connexions, Jobcentre Plus, NHS and information about finding and paying for childcare. Information kiosks are available in the Orchard partnership shop on Lye High

Street, Tenterfields Children's Centre, Goral Children's Centre, Peters Hill Children's Centre and Glynn Primary School.

Belinda Clark, FIS manager, said: "We are delighted to be launching our new website to give families even more support and a simple, co-ordinated way to find out information. We would also be glad to hear from any clubs, groups or services who would like to be included in the directory."

For more information, contact the FIS team on 01384 814398 or 01384 814399.

Earn-as-u-learn Kayleigh!

For 23-year-old Kayleigh Curtis, an apprenticeship has launched a successful career at the college where she studied. At 16 she left Thorns Community School and started an apprenticeship at Stourbridge College in Business Administration NCFE Level 2. Six years later Kayleigh is now executive assistant to the college principal, has bought her own house, car and is looking at a bright future. She said: "The Business Administration apprenticeship gave me an opportunity to get into the world of work four days a week while studying at college for one year. I started my career at Stourbridge College working with the centre manager at the Advanced Technology Centre covering reception, dealing with students, typing and learning basic business skills. I was earning £50 a week and progressed on to my Level 3 NVQ, securing a full-time job as faculty administrator shortly afterwards." To find out about apprenticeships at the college call 0800 073 0282 or go to the National Apprenticeship Service website www.apprenticeships.org.uk.



New school will be an inspiration

Work is under way on a £7.6-million school in Quarry Bank.

The modern, welcoming environment is being created at Quarry Bank Primary School.

Large flexible learning spaces and corridors will make the building accessible to all and will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology. It has been designed to allow as much natural light in as possible and also to achieve the lowest possible carbon emissions.

The school is being rebuilt following a review of school property, which found the existing school building, which dates back to the 1930s, to be no longer fit for purpose.

Work is expected to be completed by December 2011 and the majority of the cost is funded from the Government's primary capital programme.

Dave Parrott, assistant director of Dudley's children's services, said: "We want to have the best possible learning environment that will encourage all children to reach their potential."

Family favourite blazes a tourist trail



Visitors storm castle & zoo

One of the oldest visitor attractions in the Black Country, Dudley Zoological Gardens has drawn families across the decades - as generations of photo albums testify.

Dudley Zoo was founded in 1937 and today is home to some of the rarest animals in the world, with leading international conservation programmes for Sumatran tigers, Asiatic lions, Humboldt's penguins, Lar gibbons and Madagascan lemurs.

The site, which incorporates the 11th century Dudley Castle and the world's largest collection of iconic Tecton buildings, attracts more than 200,000 visitors annually. Chief executive Peter Suddock, who is also chairman of Key Attractions, the body representing 15 top tourist sites across the region, said: "We attract visitors from across the country and overseas to such zoo activities as Keeper for a

Day, Ghost Hunts and Arachnophobia Workshops. Many stay over in local hotels, visit fellow attractions and shops and thus boost the local economy."

■ **Summer at Dudley Zoo:** See our new Asiatic sisters in Lion Ridge, meet recent arrival Rothschild's giraffe Kubwa, watch the birds of prey display and join free-roaming primates in Lemur Wood. Discover more about Dudley Zoo at www.dudleyzoo.org.uk.

Revellers enjoy the art of music making

Himley Park will be alive with the sound of music thanks to the Dudley Performing Arts festival this summer. It kicks off on July 2 with the hugely popular Rock the Castle event which will see 35 rock bands perform live gigs at Himley Park from 5-10.30pm.

On July 3 and 4 festival goers can take part in workshops as well as enjoying picnics, a fun fair, circus skills, face painting, stalls and more. The event runs from 10.45 am to 8pm each day (doors 10.15am).

And a new sculpture trail to get people out and

about called The Brierley Hill Pony Trail will be launched.

Tickets cost £5 (£4 concessions) in advance or £6 (£4) on the gate. Advance tickets can be bought from the box office at www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment or 01384 812812.

Touch of glass

Summer festival fever is set to hit Stourbridge when the UK's greatest glass gathering takes place. The fourth International Festival of Glass runs from August 23 to September 11 with exhibitions, entertainment and workshops for everyone. Visitors can have a go at glassmaking, marvel at glass furniture and watch amazing artists at work.

Entry to most festival venues is free. The Ruskin Glass Centre entrance fee is £9.50 for a four day pass, £5 for an adult day pass and £1 for a child day pass (August 27-30 only). Some venues will charge for involvement in some activities.

Glass Masterclasses run from August 23-26. Festival events take place from August 27-30 and the British Glass Biennale starts on August 27 and continues until September 11. For more details, go to www.ifg.org.uk or www.biennale.org.uk.

Making a splash

This year's Festival of Water and Light will be held in Brierley Hill on Sunday October 3. Thousands of people are expected to pack the Waterfront for the annual festival, now in its 12th year.

The Dudley Council festival is organised by CCEM who are also on the look out for craft stall holders to join in this year's event. To apply now for a craft stall at October's event call event organisers CCEM on 08707 449701 or email admin@cceem.co.uk.

Companies wanting to sponsor the event should also contact event organisers CCEM on 08707 449701 or email admin@cceem.co.uk.

Out and about

Entertainment

JUNE

- 11 (7.30pm)** - The Hairy Bikers' Big Night Out, Dudley Concert Hall.
- 25 (8pm)** - Joe Pasquale, Dudley Concert Hall.
- 26 (7.30pm)** - Cory Band, Dudley Concert Hall.

JULY

- 2-4** - Dudley Performing Arts Summer Festival, Himley Hall.

AUGUST

- 2-6 (noon-4pm)** - Play Week. Free activities happening across the borough. Call 01384 813755.

SEPTEMBER

- 18 (11am & 2pm)** - CBeebies, Show me Chris and Pui, Stourbridge Town Hall.

Exhibitions

JUNE

- (Ongoing)
Until July - The Romans, Red House Glass Cone
- Until 3 July** - The Priory Church of St James, Dudley. An exhibition, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.



Stunning glasswork will be on display at the International Festival of Glass in August.

CONTACTS ▶▶

Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

St James's Road, Dudley
Tel 01384 815755
www.dudley.gov.uk

Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley
Tel 01384 812750
www.redhousecone.co.uk

Broadfield House Glass Museum

Box office
01384 812812

Himley Hall & Park
Box office
01384 817817
www.himleyhall.org

Bank Holiday Mondays
noon-4pm.

The Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley
Tel 01384 812750
www.redhousecone.co.uk

Entertainment in Dudley Live!

Box office
01384 812812

Himley Hall & Park

Box office
01384 817817
www.himleyhall.org

Dudley Zoological Gardens & Castle

Call 01384 215313
Open every day from 10am (except Christmas Day). Last admission: winter 3pm and summer (Easter-September) 4pm. NB. Grounds close 60 minutes after last admission.

Black Country Living Museum

Call 0121 520 8054
Open March-October every day 10am-5pm. November-February closed Monday and Tuesday, open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-4pm.

Until July 10 - Castle High Art annual exhibition, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Until 13 - Art for the visually impaired, Red House Glass Cone.

19 (11am-4pm) - Craft market, Red House Glass Cone.

20 (11am-4pm) - Wedding fair, Red House Glass Cone.

JULY

1 (until 26 September) - NEXT big thing 2010. Glass graduates showcase, Red House Glass Cone.

1 (until 26 September) - Bring on the NEW 2010. Contemporary glass artists collaborate, Red House Glass Cone.

10 (until 30 October) - Sue Halstead - Land lines, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

16 (until 18 September) - Melange three local

artists, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

17 (10-4pm) - Treasured memories, Broadfield House.

AUGUST

27-30 - International Festival of Glass, Red House Glass Cone and Broadfield House.

21 (until 27 February 2011) - Glass Furniture. Crystal tables and plate glass chairs are amongst the amazing exhibits in this exhibition, Broadfield House.

Walks

(Booking essential)

JUNE

12 (10am-noon) - Meet the residential basties, Roberts Primary School, Lower Gornal. Call 01384 814170.

13 (10am-noon) - Cotwall End Valley charity walk.

Call 07849 804242.

15 (10am-noon) - Bumble Hole walk. Call 01384 812795.

16 (10am-1pm) - Illey and Lapal walk. Starts at The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

19 (10am-2pm) - Seven Sisters visitors day. Meet at Mons Hill. Call 01384 812785.

22 (10am-noon) - Limestone flora and orchid walk. Meet at Mons Hill College car park. Call 01384 812785.

23 (10.30am-noon) - Butterfly walk, Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

24 (10am-1.30pm) - Fens Pools and the River Stour. Six-mile walk. Call 01384 812780.

27 (also 25 July, 29 August & 19 September) - Jewels on the Cut. Canal Walks (10am). Guided walks from the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge, to the Red House Glass Cone.

JULY

10 (10am-1pm) - Wildlife screen printing. The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

11 (10am-noon) - Cotwall End Valley history walk. Call 07849 804242.

14 (10.30am-noon) - Butterfly walk, Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

22 (9am-11pm) - Bat and moth evening. The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

27 (10am-12.30pm) - Wren's Nest, off the beaten track. Call 01384 812785.

27 (10.30am-noon) - Butterflies for beginners at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

AUGUST

1 (10am-2pm) - Narrowboat trip to Hawne Basin. Call 01384 814100.

3 (10.30am-noon) - Mini beast hunt at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

4 (10am-noon) - Kite making at The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642. (10am-noon) - National play day, Roberts Primary School, Lower Gornal. Call 01384 814170.

10 (10.30am-noon) - Pond dipping at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

11 (10am-noon) - T-shirt printing at The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

15 (10am-noon) - Cotwall End Valley insect walk. Call 07849 804242.

17 (10.30am-noon) - Make tree spirits at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

18 (10am-noon) - Wildlife safari at The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

18 (10am-2pm) - Wildlife activity day Dudley.



Fossil fun at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Suitable for eight to 12 year olds. Call 01384 812785.

21 (10am-3pm) - Animals day at Bumble Hole. Call 01384 814100.

24 (10am-12.30pm) - Hunt the Dudley bug, Wren's Nest. Call 01384 812785.

24 (10.30am-noon) - Mini beast hunt at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

25 (10am-noon) - Orienteering at The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

25 (8pm till late) - Bat walk at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

26 (8.30pm-10.30pm) - Bat and moth evening. The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

31 (10.30am-noon) - Pond dipping at Saltwells. Call 01384 812795.

SEPTEMBER

11 (10am-noon) - Ramble round The Leasowes. Call 01384 814642.

11-12 (10am-5pm) - Black Country boating festival, Bumble Hole Local Nature Reserve. Call 0844 800 5076 or visit www.bcbf.com

Leisure centres

Why not visit one of the borough's leisure centres call:

Crayke Leisure Centre, Bell Street, Stourbridge. 01384 812910.

Dudley Leisure Centre, Wellington road, Dudley. 01384 812815.

Halesowen Leisure Centre, Great Cornbow, Halesowen. 01384 812800.

Deil Stadium, Bryce Road, Pensnett. 01384 812943.

COMPETITION **WIN**

Family tickets for CBeebies

A family ticket to see CBeebies stars Chris and Pui is up for grabs in our latest competition.

The children's TV stars are coming to Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday September 18, and pre-school children and their families can join in with songs, rhymes and sketches in the fun-packed show. Chris and Pui currently appear regularly in *Show Me Show Me* on CBeebies.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket for two adults and two children, simply answer this question:

*** Which CBeebies show do Chris and Pui appear in?**

Send your answer with your name, address and telephone number to CBeebies competition, Dudley together, Marketing and Communications, FREEPOST MID 22308, Dudley, DY1 1BR. The closing date for entries is Friday July 2.

And even if you don't win, you can book tickets for the shows by calling on 01384 812812. The Stourbridge performances start at 11am and 2pm and tickets cost £12 for adults, with children 1.4 and under £10. For more information, go to www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment.



CBeebies stars Pui and Chris.



yournhsdudley



your dudley, your nhs, your voice...

NHS Dudley buys health services on your behalf

We want to make sure the health services on offer in our borough meet the needs of local people. We want to hear from you to make sure we are getting it right!

Make yourself heard at our brand new website:

www.nhsdudley.nhs.uk/yournhs

- Forums
- Latest news
- Polls
- Local Dudley footage
- Surveys
- Opportunities to get involved

Log on today and have your say or call

01384 366217 for more details



Key services in our borough

Dudley Council Plus
0300 555 2345

Housing Repairs Management Centre
0300 555 8283

Callpay (24-hour automated payment line)
0300 555 7000

Council tax and housing benefits
0300 555 8100

Revenues (council tax and business rates)
0300 555 8000

Emergency duty team (out of hours social care)
0300 555 8574

The Benefits Shop
Priory Street, Dudley
01384 812639

Business enquiries
01384 818181
8am to 5.30pm

Monday to Thursday,
8am to 5pm Fridays

Education enquiries
01384 814225
9am to 5pm weekdays

Registrar, births, deaths, marriages
01384 812345
By appointment only at:
* Priory Hall.
* Stourbridge Crown Centre.
* Dudley Council Plus.

Social care enquiries
Social care adults
01384 815822
Social care children
01384 814225

Dudley Community Partnership
www.dudleylsp.org
01384 814756

Dudley Council for Voluntary Services (DCVS)
www.dudleycvsvs.org.uk
01384 267422

Dosti
01384 265366
www.dosti.org.uk

Citizens' Advice Bureau
01384 816222
www.adviceguide.org.uk

Consumer Direct
(Trading Standards)
08454 040506

Dudley Group of Hospitals
www.dudley.nhs.uk
Corbett, Guest and
Russells Hall Hospitals
01384 456111

NHS Direct
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
0845 46 47

Dudley Primary Care Trust
01384 366111
www.dudley.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
Free phone
0800 073 0517

Dudley Stop Smoking
0800 0850 652

Gas
For any gas emergency
0800 111 999
(24 hours)

Jobcentre Plus
0845 606 0234
www.jobcentreplus.org.uk