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## News from Digital Unite - October 2012



### Spring Online Best Event Awards

*"I am delighted to be part of the Spring Online Best Event awards this year. I commend all of the event holders who took part and Digital Unite for its ongoing efforts with this campaign."* **Esther Rantzen CBE.**



We had a great afternoon at our Spring Online Best Event Awards at the BT Tower on Thursday 27 September which celebrated some of the crème de la crème of this year's campaign. We were delighted to welcome Esther Rantzen who was on top form and regaled us all with her stories about shopping online and the launch of her new SilverLine service for older people.

It was great to see so many of our friends and supporters at the ceremony and congratulations to Halton Housing Trust, the overall winners and all of the other finalists whose places in the top six were so richly deserved. See you all next year!

*Pictured above from left to right: Esther Rantzen and the overall winner, Michelle Phillips from Halton Housing Trust, our MD Emma Solomon speaking with Joint Runner Up, Nicola Dean from Starting Point in Stockport and Esther at the podium.*

**Date for your diary - Spring Online 2013: 22 – 26 April**

### Social Housing Digifest (Skills, Suppliers and Spring Online)

*'What a fantastic day'*



Taking place on the same day as our Spring Online Best Event awards was our first ever Digifest (Skills, Suppliers and Spring Online) which built on the success of our popular social housing forums.

Over 100 people came along to the day, kindly hosted by BT, which offered an interactive guide to the latest national digital inclusion agendas, suppliers' speed pitches and practical workshops to help develop and deliver digital literacy activities. All of the presentations from the event are available on the Digital Unite website.

### **Make our free learning guides available to your website visitors**



*'The content is such a valuable addition'*

We now have around 300 free learning guides available on our website and consider it to be one of the most extensive, expert learning resources available when it comes to using digital technology.

As part of our continuing aim to help people use and enjoy computers and the internet, we welcome the opportunity to make our guides available as widely as possible via other websites.

Most recently we linked up with Wiltshire Council who is delivering the Wiltshire Online programme which aims to support the delivery of standard broadband and to help ensure that everyone in Wiltshire is given the opportunity to be digital literate and confident users of technology.

Our guides are now available on their website via a bespoke portal page providing the Wiltshire Online programme with a ready-made, quality collection of learning and teaching resources for their community.

If you would like to talk to us about how we can support you to integrate our guides within your website please contact Harriet or Katharine at [harriet.hungerford@digitalunite.com](mailto:harriet.hungerford@digitalunite.com) and [katharine.teed@digitalunite.com](mailto:katharine.teed@digitalunite.com)

### **How well do you know your digital 'stuff'?**



If you're involved in helping other people use modern technology you might think you know quite a bit about the internet and all that jazz but here's a quick quiz for you:

Can you:

- Explore the different features of Google?
- Use Delicious, LibraryThing and other browser favourites?
- Solve different accessibility scenarios for those new to computers?
- Create and publish a podcast using iPadio and Audacity
- Create a video with images and music?
- Engage others with all of the above?

If the answer to these questions is 'no but you would like to' then you should definitely consider enrolling on our Digital Champion ITQ course. This structured online course,

designed by IT and learning experts, not only teaches you all of the above and much more but can also lead to a City and Guilds qualification.

If your interest is more along the lines of being a 'computer buddy or IT volunteer' then our [Quick Start course](#) can help you too. Visit our [website](#) for all you need to know.



### Online poll

Readers, dare we tell you that there are just 70 days left until Christmas and the task of festive shopping is starting to loom. With that thought in mind our online community has been talking about shopping online.

Nearly 9 out of 10 (88%) do shop over the internet but, interestingly, nearly 1 in 10 (9%) doesn't know how to. Read our [article](#) to find out more and join in with the [next community debate](#) about internet browsers.

### Pass IT On's Getting IT campaign

To celebrate its 10th anniversary [Pass IT On](#), the charity which adapts donated computers for people with disabilities in Edinburgh, has launched its "Getting IT" campaign.

As part of this the team is asking as many people as possible (both those with and without a disability) to contribute short statements on why they "get IT" and what their life would be like without IT.

To support the campaign and have your say visit [www.gettingit.org.uk](http://www.gettingit.org.uk).

### Adult Learners' Week 2013 – nominations for Awards now open

Nominations for Adult Learners Week Awards (18-24 May 2013) are now open until Thursday 13 December so get your vote in today.

The Awards recognise the achievements of outstanding individuals and innovative learning projects across England and the winners are celebrated during the week itself.

Further information is available on the dedicated [website](#)

### Tell us your thoughts

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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