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News from Digital Unite - December 2012



We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a digitally-enriched New Year!



Win a Kindle Fire

There is still time to enter our [competition](#) for your chance to win a Kindle Fire, Amazon's answer to the Apple iPad tablet, as the closing deadline is not until Wednesday 19 December.

All you have to do is register as a member of our online community and answer a simple question. If you are already a community member, just log in and complete the question.

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

Christmas Guides

Yo ho ho! 'Tis the season to be jolly and to help you along we've created a special collection of [guides](#) that show you how you can use the internet to make getting sorted for Christmas even easier.



It's got everything from [saving money and shopping online](#) to [creating an e-card](#), downloading that perfect [Christmas music playlist](#), [the Best Gadget Gifts](#) and [organising the food](#).

Spring Online 2013

Here's a date to put in your shiny new diary or calendar for next year: 22-26 April. That's when we'll be holding our award-winning [Spring Online](#) campaign.

Each year, as part of Spring Online, hundreds of organisations hold digital taster events to help thousands of older people and other less confident users take their first steps online.



If you have taken part in previous years you'll know what a difference your involvement makes. If you're new to Spring Online here are just a few reasons why you should get involved:

- Knowing how to use computers and the internet is a life-changing skill but around 6.5 million older people are getting left behind. You can help with this.
- Tea and biscuits aside, it doesn't have to cost a lot, if anything and we'll provide you with ideas, tips, marketing materials and advice on running your events.
- It is a great way of promoting your own community services and reaching new people.
- As an event holder there'll be the chance to win cash prizes to support your digital learning activities.
- It changes lives and is enormously satisfying on a personal level.
- Spring Online is an award-winning national campaign and one of the largest and longest-running digital inclusion initiatives around - if you're going to choose one, make it this one.

Event registration will open in January so keep an eye on this newsletter for further details.

Funding survey - the results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our funding survey recently. The feedback we received was incredibly valuable and we have already passed on the responses to national funding bodies. Click [here](#) to read more about this most interesting research.

Helping housing residents to 'Get Connected'



Recently we've been busy helping Affinity Sutton housing residents in Basingstoke to use the newly installed computers in their communal hubs and, for some, the effects have been life-changing. Read more [here](#).

This local initiative has ignited a wider programme of activity for Digital Unite across Affinity Sutton including learning activities, outreach work and bespoke resources and we look forward to bringing you more detail on that in the New Year.

Tablets are THE Christmas gadget gift this year...

...so says 70% of our online community in our recent poll with the Apple iPad coming out on top.

The figures reflect the rapidly increasing surge in tablet sales nationally - will yours be a 'Tablet Christmas'?

Read more [here](#).

Website wonders

Since we relaunched our [website](#) earlier this year the number of visitors we're receiving to it has gone from strength to strength with an increase of 34% in traffic last month alone.

It's great to see we're offering something of interest to so many people and we're looking forward to spicing the site up even more in 2013. Watch this space!



Give a gift of learning for Christmas

Don't forget, there's still time to purchase a gift voucher for personal computer tuition for those friends and relatives who have still to learn about computers and the internet.

Our network of quality assured tutors are based all over the country and offer bespoke, empathetic computer tuition from the comfort of the learners' own homes. Simply look up a tutor in your area and contact them directly via our [website](#).

Talk Talk Digital Heroes winners

Congratulations to everyone who scooped prizes at the [Talk Talk Digital Heroes](#) awards last month which celebrated inspirational people who use digital technology to benefit their community. The overall winner was Clare Sutcliffe of Code Club who launched a network of after-school clubs where volunteers teach children about coding.



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