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## News from Digital Unite - September 2012



### Esther Rantzen to present the Spring Online Best Event Awards

We're delighted to be welcoming Esther Rantzen CBE as our special guest at next week's [Spring Online](#) Best Event Awards.

The Awards, which take place on Thursday 27 September at the BT Tower in London, celebrate some of the best taster events that took place around the country during Spring Online earlier this year (23-27 April).

From the 2,000 events that took place around the country helping 30,000 people engage with digital technology, just six have been shortlisted as finalists. Read more [here](#) about who they are and how they got involved.



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

The Spring Online Best Event Awards ceremony will also be a rousing finale to our [Digifest event](#) which promises to be a lively exchange of experiences, skills and services by those actively working in the digital literacy arena in social housing.



The places are booked, the suppliers are lined up and the workshops are planned – we look forward to seeing many of you there.



### And the survey says...

91% say being online can help reduce feelings of loneliness, 52% say a computer has changed their lives. These are findings from some of our online community members. Do you agree, or have something to add? Then [join in](#) the debate and tell us what you think.

We've shared [our reflections](#) on some of the survey findings – why don't you?

### A guide for every occasion

Regular readers of this newsletter will know that here at Digital Unite, we love the challenge of proving we have a learning guide for every occasion and this issue is no

exception.

- We may have just missed International Talk Like a Pirate Day but we can definitely get you talking the computer lingo with our guide to [internet jargon](#).
- Make someone smile this World Smile Day (5 October) by getting in touch. Our guides on [sending an email and using Skype](#) make it easier than ever.
- It's World Food Day on 16 October, so tickle those tastebuds with our guide to [Best Recipe websites](#).

### Get qualified as a Digital Champion

"The qualification is really worth the effort – it has given me lots of creative new ideas to enhance my training role and really make a difference to people's lives. I feel I have a valuable addition to my CV."



It is now six months since we launched the first of our online courses, the [Digital Champion ITQ](#) and already it is making a difference to the way people are helping others to engage and use digital technology.

Unique in the marketplace, the ITQ helps people develop their personal digital skills in a formal way and gives them an understanding of how to use those new skills to inspire others. It can also lead to a level 2 City and Guilds qualification.

Critically, by developing people in this way it provides organisations with the perfect solution to build their own capacity to deliver services digitally.

To read more about what our learners and their organisations are saying and our online courses in general including our new [Quick Start](#) course, visit [our website](#).

### Learn about technology in your own front room

If you have a friend, neighbour, colleague or relative who could do with a little help to use computers and the internet then why not recommend them a personal [computer tutor](#)?

At Digital Unite we have a network of quality assured and experienced tutors across the country who can help with a range of technical aspects from the absolute basics such as using a keyboard and mouse to more advanced queries.

Having [tuition](#) in the comfort of your own home is the perfect way to build confidence in the world of digital technology.

### Older People's Day

UK Older People's Day 2012 takes place on Monday 1 October with hundreds of events and activities taking place all around the country.

This year's theme is '**Big Skills Share**' and is about sharing the skills and experience between different

### Join our tutor network



If you're the go-to-person for family and friends' computer problems, then why not earn yourself a bit of cash by turning it into a job.

Join our tutor network and we'll provide

generations.

To find out more visit the [website](#).

you with training, advice and support. There are still places available on our Induction Day in October so now is a great time to join. For more information visit our [website](#).

### **Spreading the word on-air and online**

Recently we've been out and about talking about digital inclusion among older people and in social housing.

- On Monday 10 September, our Business Development Manager, Kathy Valdes took part in a live web chat on the Guardian alongside a number of housing providers, see [here](#) for a round-up of the key points made.
- On Wednesday 12 September, our MD, Emma, took part in a very lively talk show on Radio Solent (Hampshire) with host, Alex Dyke, musing the reasons why older people aren't using the internet and how we can help them to get online.

### **Get online week**



Get online week 2012 takes place from 15 - 21 October and this year the theme is "Find a bigger life online". The UK online centres' campaign aims to encourage people, whatever their level of skill, to come along to a Get online week event and to find out how they can do more online. This October, 3.000 events will be taking place throughout the country, and you can get involved too!

Registration is open to everyone, and all you'll have to do to take part in the campaign is hold an event or activity in your local community to support people to improve their skills. Event holders will receive a marketing pack to help you spread the word about how people can find a bigger life online. You can sign up now for the campaign via the UK online centres' [website](#). Packs will be sent out on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up soon to make sure you get your hands on your one in plenty of time!

### **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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