

the echo

FEATURING

PSIAMS SYSTEMS

Celebrating the launch of
Volopps.com and izone.org.uk

COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES

We meet the communities behind our
beautiful green spaces

SUMMER EVENTS

Dudley CVS hosts another successful
Family Fun Day



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AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST



PSIAMS wins Innovation Award

PSIAMS has won an innovation award in the Social Enterprise category at the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network (WMAHSN)'s annual Celebration of Innovation Awards. The event celebrates the very best of innovation in healthcare around the West Midlands.

Around 300 people from across the region's NHS, industry, academia, third sector and patient population gathered at the Hilton Metropole at Birmingham's NEC on 20 July.

107 entries were submitted across the 12 categories, which were assessed by a panel of experts to choose the eventual winner.

PSIAMS won the Social Enterprise Award (sponsored by i-SE), for their collaborative approach to healthcare across the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, allowing the sector to scale and present solutions to divert and reduce the pressure of health services.

i For more information visit www.psiams.org.uk



New live search is ready for launch!

The Volunteer Centre, in partnership with PSIAMS and Citizen Click, is delighted to announce the launch of www.volopps.com the great new place to find VolOpps (volunteering opportunities) across Dudley borough and a whole lot more!

It's a portal into the wonderful world of VolOpps across the borough, where you can browse, register and apply for a diverse range of roles.

Existing roles have been uploaded to this new platform, offering local groups a great way to promote their volunteering opportunities to a much wider audience.

We will still be having our very popular OPP OF THE DAY Monday-Friday and the site will be supported by a Twitter feed @VolOpps and Facebook page VolOpps too. Please feel free to join the conversation about volunteering on the platform that suits you best.

i For more information please contact Eileen Fielding admin@dudleycv.org.uk

The screenshot shows the Volopps website. The homepage features a large banner with the text 'Welcome to your future' and a map of the West Midlands region. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Welcome to VolOpps, the great new place to find volunteering opportunities in the Dudley borough... and much more.' and another section titled 'Volunteers in the UK contribute an estimated £23.9bn to the economy every year'. The search results page shows a list of volunteering opportunities with details such as 'Volunteer Opportunity', 'Organisation Name', 'Organisation Town/City', 'Opportunity Type', and 'Location'.

iZONE.org.uk launched in Dudley!

Dudley CVS's Children's Development Officer has worked in partnership with PSIAMS systems, Dudley MBC, and Citizen Click, to create a trusted website for young people to find services locally, nationally and digitally.

iZONE.org.uk has been co-produced and co-designed with young people, resulting in a unique, visually stunning, digitally focused website that is responsive on all devices, operating with 'no more than 3 clicks' to find a relevant service.

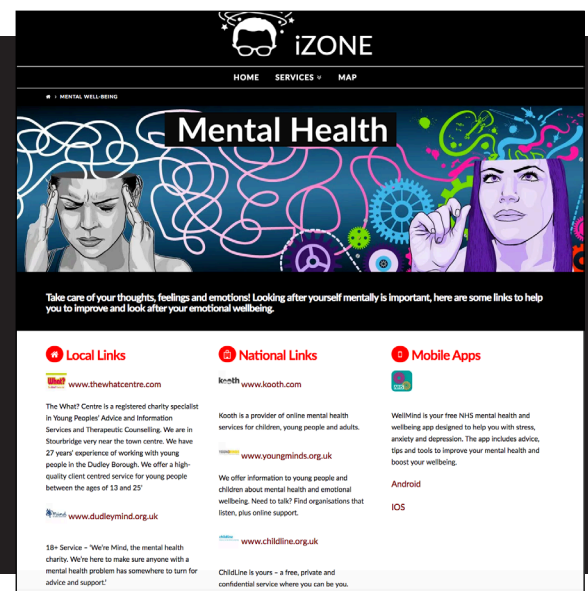
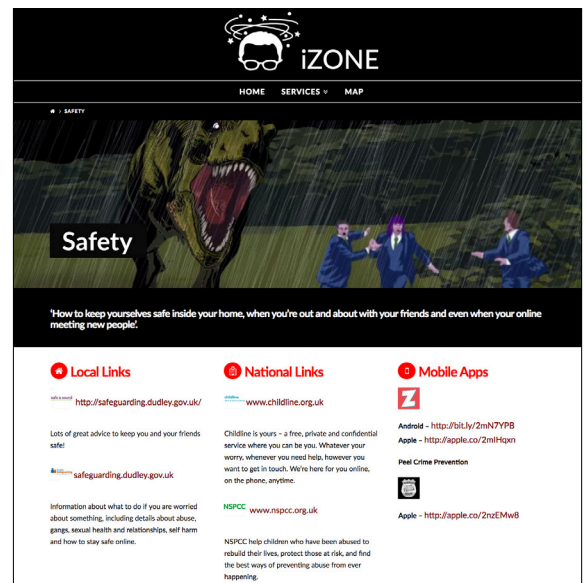
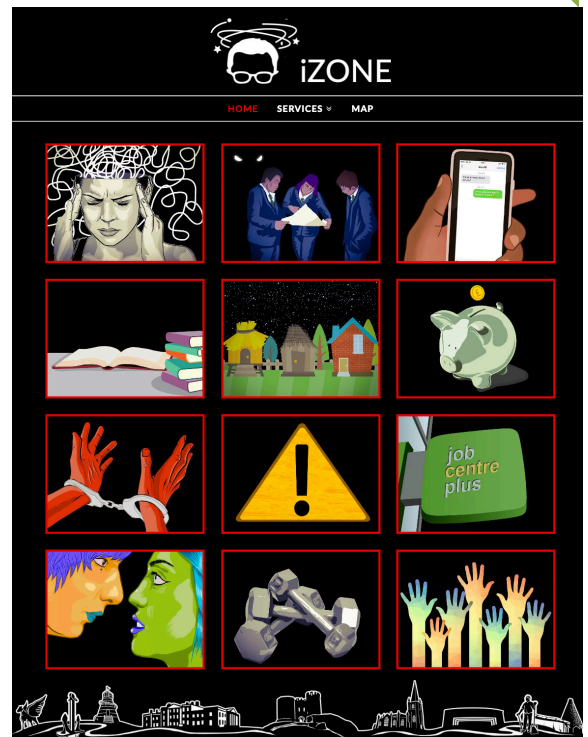
A young person can click on illustrated categories, to easily access information and links to useful services and mobile apps that will help them to find solutions to issues in their everyday lives.

In the initial stages of the project, young volunteers spent 15 weeks speaking to other young people about finding services on-line. Many mentioned difficulties finding relevant services quickly using online search engines and suggested the benefit of a single 'Information Zone' which could help them find links to local and national services in one place.

PSIAMS and Citizen Click worked closely with young people to come up with a user-friendly and visually appealing, single platform website. The ideas for the artwork came from the imagination of young people and a graphic for each category was created that would relate to their lives.

Nicki Burrows, Children's Development Officer said "Young people are at the heart of iZONE, we ensured that young people led the direction of the project, as they were the ones who were going to be using it. The website is constantly evolving and we invite people to use the website and suggest ideas on how we could improve it."

Visit www.iZONE.org.uk or for more information on the iZONE project contact Nicki Burrows nicki@dudleycvs.org.uk



iZone

www.iZONE.org.uk

THE COMMUNITIES WHO BREATHE LIFE INTO OUR GREEN SPACES

Friends groups are all sorts of shapes and types. Some Friends of Parks groups work alongside the local authority to help keep their park looking attractive; some manage buildings on the park; others put on all sorts of events; some try to raise funds to improve facilities on the park; others do a combination of all of these things! Some groups focus on things like nature and biodiversity; others focus on health and social activities. One thing they do all have in common, they all love their local green spaces and understand how important it is to protect them...



FRIENDS OF BUFFERY PARK



In 2009 Friends of Buffery Park had an idea to bring the park's unloved tennis court back to life, with a vision that it could be used and enjoyed by future generations.

Dudley CVS supported the group with an application to Biffa Award to make improvements to the tennis court, and helped the group to become a registered charity and register with ENTRUST, which regulates environmental projects.

In the following years, Dudley CVS helped the group with other bids to multiple funders for park events and refurbishing a war memorial on nearby Grazebrook Park.

Friends of Buffery Park were also supported to take on the Buffery Paradise Centre, located near the entrance of

the park, which was previously boarded up. The Centre now has improved facilities and is managed by the Friends group for a variety of activities.

The group's volunteers are excellent fundraisers and together with Dudley CVS's support, have raised more than £100,000 over the last eight years.

We revisited earlier this month to find them making good use of the Centre as a community space and busily digging and preparing a small flower and herb garden at the rear of the park to attract wildlife including butterflies and bees.

i If you would like to start something in your local green space contact Becky Pickin smallgroups@dudleycvs.org.uk



FRIENDS OF HUNTINGTREE PARK

Friends of Huntingtree Park started in 2006 to address issues of antisocial behaviour in and around the park, which was causing the park to be underused and therefore unloved.

Dudley CVS started working with Friends of Huntingtree Park in 2008. At that time they were a simple voluntary group with a constitution and a determination to make their park an attractive environment that everyone could enjoy. Group members were passionate about involving children in the park, believing that if children had a sense of ownership in the park, the park would be loved for years to come.

If you have visited the park you may have noticed two mosaics installed at the park's entrances. Friends of Huntingtree Park worked with local primary schools and artist, Steve Field, to design and make the mosaics. For this project Becky helped the group to access £10,000 in grant-funding from Awards for All and the now-defunct Grassroots Grants programme.

Huntingtree Park was chosen as one of the five 'Healthy hubs' in Dudley borough's Healthy Towns initiative. Being a 'Healthy hub' meant that the park benefited from investment of staff and money that allowed the MUGA (multi-use games area), outdoor gym and other facilities to be developed and many healthy activities to run in and from the park's activity centre.

The park also has a bowling green where people of different ages and abilities get together for a game. The green was previously managed and maintained by Dudley Council, with bowlers paying the Council for

access.

Late last year, the bowling green at Huntingtree Park came under threat due to public sector budget constraints. The Friends group entered into discussions with the local authority and the bowlers to explore how the green could be saved and maintained in the future. Everyone agreed that the Friends of Huntingtree Park could manage the green on lease from the local authority. The Friends recognised the added responsibility and turned to Dudley CVS for support. After discussions they decided it might be the right time to set up Friends of Huntingtree Park as a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation), which would give them the benefits of charitable status and a corporate structure that would give them some protection.

Last month we visited the park. It was clear to see the beautiful relationships the Friends group have built with bowlers, residents, schools, park rangers and people from other groups. We met Colin, a bowler who simply started teaching others to bowl a few years ago and hasn't stopped since, building a social group that gets together for a game. We met members of the social group who meet each Tuesday afternoon for an amble around the park, knitting (the results of which often go to babies born prematurely), coffee, cake and a chat. Networks and friendships that had developed only needed a few ingredients: open, caring people who want to share their skills and a place where they can do it.

i Read more on our blog
www.tinyurl.com/friendsofhuntingtree

GREEN SPACES



In July Dudley CVS attended 'The Great Green Get Together' celebrating volunteers who devote their time to look after our parks, allotments and other green spaces in the borough for the benefit and wellbeing of others.

The annual awards thanked volunteers at Dudley Council-owned parks, countryside sites and allotment associations.

Seven groups were presented with awards at the event which was held inside the Walled Garden at Wollescote Park in Stourbridge.

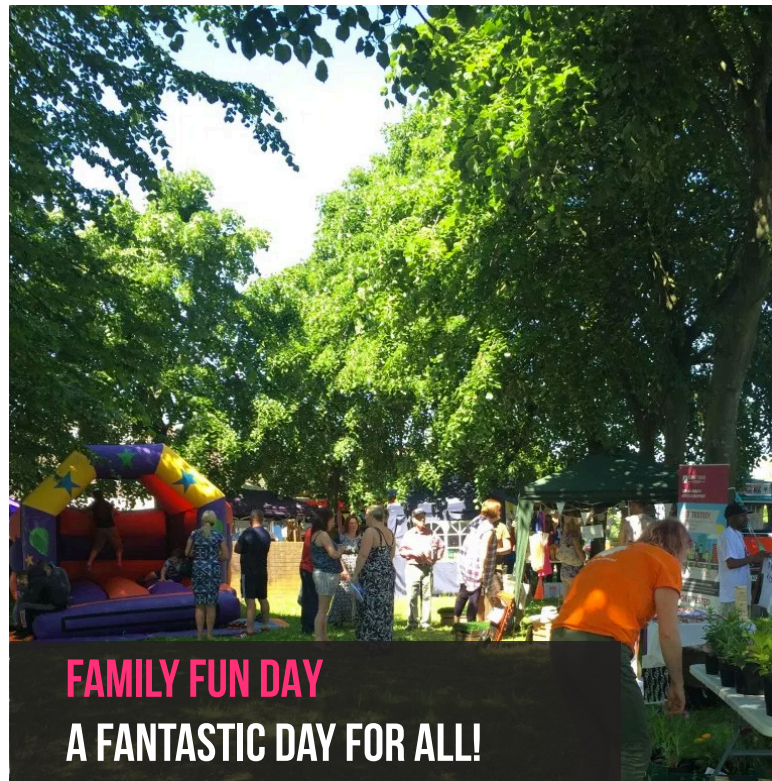
Friends of Silver Jubilee Park received an award in the "health promoters" category. The group has organised a community orchard project on the redundant bowling green in the park to promote healthy eating and growing your own food.

The winners of the "community partnership" allotments award were Bayer Street Allotment Association. The group has been working on a school plot this year to encourage local children to experience growing their own food.

Other awards went to, Friends of Cotwall End Valley in the category for "biodiversity developers", Friends of Greenfield Gardens "event organisers", Friends of Hurst Green Park "group transformation", Friends of Wollescote Park "community partnership" and Abbey Road Allotment Association "site development".

Netherton Park Fun Day

Friends of Netherton Park held their annual Fun Day on Saturday 8th July 2017. This is the twelfth year the Friends have put on the event with it growing year on year becoming the largest of its type in the area, providing a fantastic free event for both young and old alike.



FAMILY FUN DAY A FANTASTIC DAY FOR ALL!

On Saturday 17th June, Dudley CVS celebrated Volunteers and Carers Week, and the launch of the Dudley Volunteer Awards 2017.

Families arrived in the glorious warm weather to enjoy a fun filled day at the DY1 venue in Dudley, with music from Second City Radio, activities, refreshments, a bouncy castle, a marketplace of local groups and emergency response services, and a visit from the new Mayor of Dudley.

Eileen Fielding, Dudley CVS Volunteer Manager said: "It was great to see so many local families enjoying activities and meeting groups and emergency services who give their time to support local communities. Groups were delighted to have so many people interested in volunteering."

Highlights included an upbeat performance from the Dudley Feelgood Choir and Dudley Youth Band.

The outdoor and indoor marketplace hosted an eclectic mix of local groups including Dudley District Scouts, Fusion Youth Group, Summit House Support, Healthwatch Dudley, CHADD, DiscoverU, St John's Ambulance, West Midlands Fire Service, West Midlands Police, and many more!

During the day, the new Mayor of Dudley, Dave Tyler, officially launched the Dudley Volunteer Awards 2017 nominations for inspirational volunteers in Dudley borough. A fond farewell was also given to the outgoing Mayor Cllr Mohammed Hanif and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam.



Dudley CVS are now on the hunt for nominations for the Dudley Volunteer Awards, categories include: Business Supporting the Community, Children and Families, Healthy Communities, Community Action, Wellbeing, Sporting Champion. There are also awards for young volunteer of the year (under the age of 25) and long service to volunteering.

To view more photos from the family fun day visit: www.tinyurl.com/dcvsfunday

It's the final countdown, but you've still got time! #dva17

Have you nominated anyone for Dudley Volunteer Awards yet? If not, get nominating now as there are hundreds of amazing individuals and groups of volunteers across the borough, who deserve recognition for their efforts.

We are particularly looking for businesses who support local communities. This support need not be purely financial, but could also be where employees have undertaken community activities or given pro-bono support too. So, if you've working with a fabulous local business who's given back, get nominating.

Young volunteer nominations for under 25's are in short supply too, so why not nominate young people you know who are making a positive difference in their community and setting an example as a great role model?

You can help us make this the best Dudley Volunteer Awards ever, so do your bit and nominate now!

i If you know an amazing volunteer or group of volunteers, please visit the awards website and nominate: www.dva2017.wordpress.com/nominate Closing date 4th September. For more information contact Eileen Fielding, Volunteer Centre Manager eileen@dudleycvcs.org.uk

Interested to sponsor the Dudley Volunteer Awards 2017?

The Dudley Volunteer Awards is a highly regarded annual event which relies entirely on goodwill and support from local people, businesses and organisations. As usual we are approaching our partner organisations and local businesses for sponsorship.

If you feel you would like to support the event through sponsorship, this would be most welcome. We would, of course, be delighted to highlight your contribution via our social media coverage, on the Awards blog, your logo and a mention in our programmes, and also at the actual event, which you would be most welcome to attend.

i If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Eileen Fielding, Volunteer Centre Manager on 01384 573381 or email eileen@dudleycvcs.org.uk



EAST COSELEY BIG LOCAL'S BIG EVENT A DAY TO REMEMBER

The cars pulled up, the stallholders set out their tables, the donkeys arrived... then... the sun came out... and stayed out!

East Coseley's Big Local Big Event, was the most successful and ...hottest yet! Bringing together local people of all ages and backgrounds for a day of fun in the park.

This year was the 4th event to take place in Clayton Park funded entirely by East Coseley Big Local.

Big Local is funded by the Big Lottery Fund via Local Trust and is an exciting opportunity for residents to make a lasting positive difference to their community. East Coseley is one of the 150 Big Local areas in England which have been allocated £1million.

Neil Langford, Dudley CVS's Big Local Community Changemaker, told us more about the story behind the event:

"It all started from a conversation back in 2014 looking back at fond memories of the Coseley Carnival which took place in the 1970's and 80's. This sparked ideas to bring back an event for the new generation of local people".

A recent survey asked the residents of Coseley what they most loved about their local area, results showed local parks and green spaces were places that people most liked to spend their time.

Clayton Park, situated in the heart of Coseley, provided the perfect wide open green space and indoor youth club

facilities to host the event.

Neil added "We now have a great partnership with Dudley MBC who gave us permission to use the park and provided us with advice to get the event up and running."

A bouncy castle, inflatable slides, donkeys, circus skills, face-painting, a climbing wall, and performances from the Coseley Comets, and Ace Dance, kept the community entertained throughout the day.

Castle and Crystal Credit Union provided financial advice for people in the area. Big Local volunteers were busy making connections and raising money for the local food bank.

Brian Guest, Big Local Core Group Chair, told us "The Big Event is now firmly booked in the calendar and people look forward to the event every year. The event brings families together to meet old friends and also make new ones. To see families enjoying themselves proves that East Coseley is a vibrant, welcoming community proud of its heritage."

When the day ended, the stallholders packed away, the donkeys headed home and the sun started to set. There was no doubt that this would be a day that local people would remember.

i If you've got an idea, or would like to meet other people starting something in the East Coseley area, contact neil@eastcoseleybiglocal.net or visit the East Coseley Big Local website www.eastcoseleybiglocal.net

SUMMERFEST 2K17

Get Cooking in the park

Dudley Young Health Champions are helping to deliver get cooking workshops to young people in parks around Dudley during Summerfest 2K17.

Get Cooking, organised by Faye Hall, Healthwatch Dudley, will be delivered by Dudley's Young Health Champions to help and encourage other young people in the local area to learn how to cook healthy meals.

The sessions will provide information on healthy eating and involve a fun, practical cooking session, providing each young person with a meal to take home.

Get Cooking is a fantastic way of engaging with young people, providing ideas for new and healthy meals, it's also a great opportunity to explore the issues that are important to them using cooking to build rapport.

Tuesday 1st Aug	Silver Jubilee Park: 11am-1.30pm
Thursday 3rd Aug	Huntingtree Park : 11am-1.30pm
Tuesday 15th Aug	Netherton Park: 11am-1.30pm
Thursday 17th Aug	Mary Stevens Park: 11am-1.30pm



i If you are working with any young people aged 11-25 that you think would be interested in taking part in a workshop please contact Faye Hall fayehall@dudleycvs.org.uk. Booking on is essential as consent will need to be obtained for any young person under the age of 18.

Dudley Play Week 2017

Looking for a cost-effective, fun, family day out during the long summer holidays? Between the 31 July and 5 August 2016, Healthwatch Dudley will be supporting event organisers, Sycamore Adventure, at the 9th Dudley Play Week at parks across Dudley borough.

Stallholders will provide information and a range of varied activities for children and their families throughout the week including group games, sports, craft and play activities.

The weeklong event takes place annually as part of National Play Day, celebrating a child's right to play, a campaign highlighting the importance of play in children's lives as a vital element for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

Healthwatch Dudley will be visiting a different park each day to speak to parents. Play Week, will take place at each of the five Healthy Hub parks on the following days:

Monday 31st July	Huntingtree Park, Halesowen
Tuesday 1st Aug	Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley
Wednesday 2nd Aug	Mary Steven's Park, Stourbridge
Thursday 3rd Aug	Priory Park, Dudley
Friday 4th Aug	The Dell & Fens Pools, Brockmoor, Pensnett



i For more information visit www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk email play@sycamoreadventure.co.uk or call 01384 813755. All Play Week activities will take place from 12pm to 4pm. Play Week is a free event but some activities are charged. Children attending need to be registered on arrival at each event at the registration tent.



CollectiveCr8

CollectiveCr8 is a newly emerging community arts organisation in Dudley which aims to connect people through artistic expression and collaboration. A serendipitous encounter at Do Fest Dudley in March brought local residents Marlene DaCosta and Marlene Fortes together, and from this CollectiveCr8 has grown. It was launched to a packed room at Share Fest in June with a short performance designed to invite people with all sorts of skills, talents and interests to join the collective. Marlene DaCosta explained at Share Fest:

"We met here around 12 weeks ago and we both kind of felt like we wanted to do something but we weren't sure what that would be. We're both dancers so we knew we wanted to dance but the fullness of that we weren't sure of yet, but what we found in common were some of our experiences, one is women and two is black women as well. We're exploring feelings of limitation, feelings of freedom, feelings of courage and we wanted to put together a piece that communicated that."

Our experience, our story is a perfect example of why it is important for people in Dudley to look at ways to forge new relationships and connect with different people. If we don't certain boundaries will continue or grow as towns, especially smaller towns like Dudley, have influxes of people from different parts of the world. If there are not places, platforms where we can look at seeing what similarities we have then I think it could become more difficult for that sense of community to continue to exist."

The performance piece, "Freedom" was developed over just 4 development sessions during which the dancers utilised the hall and stage DY1 as a rehearsal space. Following the performance of this work in progress in June and a discussion among the 40 people present about the piece, an open call to planning sessions to create a community dance performance was made. The collective will create a performance which explores several themes: bondage and liberation, limitation and freedom, social inclusion and more. It will share the historical importance of Arts within the Black British Community and Dudley and beyond and include dance, drama sketches, poetry, music and artwork.

You are warmly invited to planning sessions - whether you dance, create, organise, share or are simply curious. Dates coming up: Fri 11 August and Friday 15 September, 7pm at gather, 65 High Street, Dudley, DY1 1PY. No booking required. All welcome: all ages, all backgrounds (children must bring a grown up). Free to take part. Delicious food and drink available to buy in the coffee shop. The project will be fully developed between Wednesday 25 and Friday 27 October and performed on Saturday 28 October, bringing people together from different walks of life to help build and create a piece of art for our town, Dudley and the West Midlands.

i To find out more visit:
www.iammarlene.co.uk/2017-projects/



Dudley CVS trustee, appointed Governor of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

Dudley CVS trustee, Mary Turner, has been appointed as Governor supporting the continued development of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Appointed in February this year, Mary will provide a vital link between the Trust and the community, representing and reflecting the interests of local people to improve health services and patient experience for the future.

Greater freedom from central government control means that the Trust can deliver services that meet the needs and priorities of the local population and ensure they are providing services local people want, in the way they wish to have them delivered. Mary told us more about what the role entails.

"Part of my role will include gathering views from local people and groups to identify and gain an awareness of general health trends to feedback to the Trust. It will involve working closely with Healthwatch Dudley and Dudley CVS's Carer Co-ordinator to build up knowledge of what's happening in the community. It's about giving local people a voice."

Mary's working life started in the nursing profession but the majority of her professional career has been in social work and community development. After realising that her real passion was to work with families rather than in hospitals, Mary worked for many years for children's charity, Barnardos, managing services for children and their families.

With a wealth of knowledge and experience gained over her long career in social work and community development, Mary will quite aptly sit on the Foundation Trust's 'Experience and Engagement' subgroup.

i Read more about Mary's new role on our blog: www.tinyurl.com/ybpp6uwu

If you would like more information on how to get in touch with Mary about general health trends that are affecting your community, contact Dudley CVS admin@dudleycvs.org.uk

Navigating difficult times and getting the help you need!

Anyone who is involved with a not-for-profit is invited to attend a connecting and information event on Thursday 12th October, 9:30am - 11:30 am at DY1 Venue in the main hall.

We hope this event will help you build the resources that you need and connect you with new people, to enhance the great work that you already do and look at new possibilities.

See what free support is available and learn how to connect with businesses.

If you know a small, medium or large group who may need some help, why not invite them along?

Eileen Fielding, Helena Norman and Martin Jones from the Dudley CVS team will be there along with Andy Mullaney. Martin is the Dudley CVS Funding Officer, who has years of expertise in sourcing funding and sits on the Heart of England Grants Panel. He's going to talk about what funders are looking for and is happy to take questions.

Eileen can support you with all things volunteering and Helena with communications.

Andy Mullaney worked for a large bank for many years and was Dudley's Business Connector 2015/2016 supported by Business in the Community. He's planning to run a short workshop giving tools and tips on how to engage effectively with businesses. In these challenging times, this could be a great opportunity for you to draw in skills and support from businesses, who wish to connect with local communities.

We'll have the usual networking over a cuppa too of course.

i Book your free place at www.tinyurl.com/navigatingdifficulttimes or contact Eileen Fielding for more information about the event eileen@dudleycvs.org.uk

AND FINALLY....



WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW

A STORYTELLING SPACE

Do you want to share your great work with the world? Inspire others to support your work?

Do you need more time to reflect and write?

Join Becky and Helena from Dudley CVS for a free monthly workshop developed to help voluntary organisations, charities and active citizens tell engaging stories for blogs, newsletters, press releases.

This will be a place to get started, develop your skills and get some friendly support over a cuppa. There is no need to come every month, just drop in when you need to! Our next event will take place on the **31st August** at Gather Dudley.

i For more details visit:

www.interests.me/org/dudleycvs/story/16701

Would you like to hear more about news and events from Dudley CVS? Why not subscribe to our e-bulletin: www.interests.me/org/dudleycvs. If you would like to share your good news stories, successful collaborations or upcoming activities, we would love to hear from you, please contact our Communications Officer at comms@dudleycvs.org.uk

This echo was brought to you by...

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BRIERLEY HILL CIVIC HALL:

Bank Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3DH

To hire the venue, call James on 07801 710807

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Dudley CVS is a registered charity and company
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