

Your borough **YOUR HOME**

News and information for Dudley borough residents

You now need
Photo ID to
vote at a
Polling Station

See page 4
for important information

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Your borough **YOUR HOME**



With the new year has come the start of a multi-million-pound scheme to improve Brierley Hill High Street, making it a better place to live, work and shop.

This £5 million regeneration of the town is set to improve transport links and the look and feel of the area.

It is something local people and businesses have told us they wanted and I'm delighted work is now underway. Such major improvements don't come without some disruption, so please do continue to support your local traders and shop local.

We are a listening authority and in this edition you'll see some of the work we are doing in response to your feedback.

You'll see on this page that since April last year more than £4 million has been spent on resurfacing roads as we work to make it easier for people to get around the borough.

I'm also delighted we're looking at increasing our monthly pop-up tip at Lister Road to fortnightly. Hundreds have used the new facility since it opened last October - I know it's proved particularly popular for those living in the north of the borough.

There's also news of our new support hub in Halesowen, which provides free information, advice and support to those who provide unpaid care and support to family or friends. If this is you, please do look at page 20 to find out more.

Finally, I'm sure some of you may be planning a street party to celebrate the King's Coronation in May. We've waived our fees for road closure applications for this historic occasion so please do apply before the deadline of March 10. There's more information, including how to apply, on page 9.

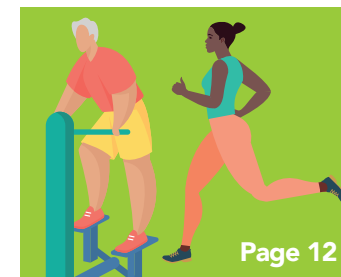
Councillor Patrick Harley

Leader of Dudley Council

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Shop local



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Celebrating unsung heroes



Centre pull-out

Home Affairs

More than £4 million spent on road repairs

More than £4 million has been spent on resurfacing roads in the borough since April last year.

Dudley Council's highways team has carried out work on around 16 miles of road, the latest figures up to the end of January show.

They include part of Birmingham New Road, Flood Street island, Delph Road in Brierley Hill, Pensnett Road and Kidderminster Road in Wall Heath.

The team carried out work on 42 different roads from April to October, with £2.5 million spent on reconstructing roads and a further £240,000 on thin surfacing repairs.

Nearly seven miles of roads were completely reconstructed, with just over one-and-a-half miles getting thin surfacing repairs.

Councillor Shaz Saleem, cabinet member for highways and public realm, said:

"I am delighted to see such positive progress has been made on our road resurfacing programme."

"Potholes are right up there as one of the things we receive most complaints about as a council."

"We are a listening authority and that is why we have allocated millions of pounds from our budget to repair those roads most in need."



Your borough **YOUR HOME** e-bulletin

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and information by signing up to our e-bulletin. Just visit www.dudley.gov.uk and sign up at the bottom of the page.

Information correct at time of going to print.



Important changes to the way people vote have come into force - you now need photo ID when heading to the polls.

You now need Photo ID to vote at a Polling station

The new national legislation applies across the country, including for the local elections in Dudley on May 4.

- Accepted forms of ID include:
- a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport
 - a UK, EEA or Commonwealth driving licence
 - some concessionary travel passes

Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID can still vote, you just need to apply for a free 'voter authority certificate'.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID.

The deadline to register is April 25.

There are details on the QR codes below.

Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley Council chief executive and elections returning officer, said:

"The elections are fast approaching and people should take the time to make sure they have everything they need.

"You will need one of the approved forms of photo ID, or apply for the voter authority certificate, to ensure you can still have your say at the polls.

"There's lots of options for people, including registering for a postal vote. It's just about being prepared.

"If anyone needs any help with applying for the free ID, or wants to request an application form, contact the electoral services team."

The new requirement to show photo ID at the polling station was introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act, which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

The voter authority certificate is only needed if people do not have an approved photo ID. It's quick and easy to do online, use the QR code below.

More information, including how to contact the electoral services team, can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk



voter ID

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id

voter authority certificate

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate



Register to vote

Anyone who wants to have their say in the local elections this May must be registered to vote.

The elections take place on May 4. If you want to vote, you have until April 17 to register.

But voters need to remember you need photo ID or a voter authority certificate if you want to cast your vote in person.

Once registered, you can request a postal vote by 5pm on April 18 or a proxy vote by 5pm on April 25.



There are more details at www.dudley.gov.uk or use the QR code.

Key dates

- April 17 deadline to register to vote
- April 18 deadline for postal vote (5pm)
- April 25 deadline for proxy vote (5pm)
- April 25 deadline for voter authority certificate
- May 4 polling day

Electoral boundary review

Residents are invited to have their say on a review of electoral ward boundaries across the borough.

The Local Government Boundary Commission, the independent body which draws these boundaries, is running a consultation and is asking for comments.

The commission is recommending there continues to be 72 ward councillors in the borough, but is reviewing where the ward boundaries should be drawn.

Its review aims to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, as well as ensure its proposals reflect community ties and identities.

The consultation closes on March 15 and, after considering responses, the commission will publish draft recommendations in May. There will then be a further period of consultation before final recommendations are published in October.

The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in May 2024.

To find out more and get involved visit www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/west-midlands/dudley





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Camphill Village Trust have been delivering Shared Lives on behalf of DMBC for the past four years and in that time have more than doubled the size of this innovative scheme. We are continuing with our success and looking to recruit even more carers throughout Dudley and the surrounding Black Country region.

SHARED LIVES is similar to 'foster care' but for adults with additional / complex needs, where you open up your home and support someone to develop the skills to be as independent as possible and lead an ordinary life at the heart of the community, just like you and me.

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To find out more go to www.camphillvillagetrust.org.uk or call on **01384 441505**.

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Regenerating Brierley Hill town centre

The multi-million-pound regeneration of Brierley Hill town centre is underway, with work set to improve transport links and the look and feel of the area.

The £5 million scheme includes the refurbishment of Brierley Hill Library and upgraded public toilets, as well as new cycle facilities.

New seating, plants and trees will be installed along the High Street, while the areas around the Brier Rose sculpture, the locally listed drinking fountain and St Mary’s Church will also be revamped.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said:

“These refurbishments and upgrades will make Brierley Hill a better place to live, work and shop. The demand for improvements has been clear from both residents and businesses and I am delighted work is getting underway to meet their needs.

“We are committed to minimising disruption during these improvements and have consulted closely with the local community throughout the planning process.”

During the work:

- a one-way system towards Dudley is in place on the High Street, running from the junction with Venture Way to the junction with Bank Street
- traffic diversions are also in place, with no access to Cottage Street from the High Street

The project, which is funded through the Future High Street Fund and Brierley Hill High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ), is due to be completed in spring 2024.



Council tax discounts and reductions

The council is encouraging people to find out if they can get a reduction in their council tax.

- people who live alone could be eligible for a 25% discount off their council tax
- a reduction may also be due where all, or all but one, of those usually living there are students, severely mentally impaired, carers, apprentices or long-term hospital/care home patients
- help is available if someone with a disability lives in the property and needs an additional bathroom, kitchen or other room, or uses a wheelchair indoors
- special arrangements are in place to support care leavers (aged 18 to 24)
- the council tax reduction scheme can reduce the amount of council tax that low-income households, including those receiving universal credit have to pay

In addition, help with rent payments may be available via discretionary housing payments. To be considered for this, residents need to be in receipt of housing benefit or the housing element of universal credit.

For more information call 0300 555 2345 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk

Shop local urge traders

During the work, traders in Brierley Hill are urging people to continue to ‘shop locally.’

While the multi-million-pound work will lead to major improvements, traders say in the short term they rely on people coming into the town to shop in the market place and other businesses.

Tracy Lowe who runs Memories card stall on the market, pictured with fellow traders below, said:

“We understand the importance of the improvements being made but they are having an impact on local businesses.

“We want to remind people we are all open for business. It’s really important people continue to shop locally, especially given the interruptions of the roadworks but also after a difficult few years.

“There’s everything you can think of on sale on the market and I’d urge people to come down and have a look for themselves.”

The market, offering a range of goods across 35 stalls, is open 9am to 3pm, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There’s two-hours free parking on all council carparks in the town.

Dudley’s pop-up tip could soon be fortnightly

The pop-up tip in Dudley could soon be fortnightly after an overwhelmingly positive response since its launch in October.

Based on the car park opposite the Lister Road depot, the pop-up tip, which currently operates on the third Saturday of each month, could soon be twice a month, subject to full council approval.

The move will increase capacity at the facility and contribute to the overall goal of reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions in Dudley borough.

Bookings for the site must be made in advance using the quick and easy online system on the council’s website.

Residents are reminded to cancel their booking if they no longer intend to visit, to free up capacity for other users.

Items which can be disposed of include green waste, wood, scrap metal, small electrical items, residual waste, bricks, rubble, plasterboard, household waste, mattresses, furniture and general recycling.

Oils, car batteries and hazardous waste cannot be accepted.

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/household-waste-recycling-centre

During the first three pop-up tips:

- **More than 500 people used the site**
- **21.2 tonnes of waste recycled**



Councillor Shaz Saleem, cabinet member for public realm

Street party fees waived for Coronation

Road closure fees have been waived for residents wanting to celebrate the King’s Coronation with a street party - with the deadline for applications, March 10.

The Coronation of King Charles III is on Saturday May 6 at Westminster Abbey, followed by an extra bank holiday on Monday May 8 when Dudley borough residents will be joining people from across the country for The Big Lunch to celebrate together.

The Mayor of Dudley will also be providing a limited number of coronation party packs for street parties. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis once an application has been approved.

Advice and tips for planning a safe street party, along with a road closure application form are available at www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/kings-coronation

Renewed call for sites

There’s a renewed call for brownfields sites as part of the council’s commitment to produce its own Local Plan.

At January’s cabinet meeting, members approved the timescales to prepare the plan, which includes a renewed call for brownfield sites. The plan is being developed after the council withdrew from the Black Country Plan last year. The Dudley Local Plan will focus on housing and employment needs, which will inform developments and planning decisions in the future, while also reflecting local people’s views on the use of greenbelt land.

The decision to withdraw from the Black Country Plan coincides with the government’s proposed legislation to give local people a bigger say on developments in their towns.

The proposed legislation, currently open for consultation, re-emphasises the requirement to focus on brownfield land for housing development and makes it clear councils are under no obligation to review greenbelt for potential housing use.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said:

“We’re developing our own plan, which will make it crystal clear our priority will always be brownfield first when looking for land to redevelop.

“Our renewed call out for sites is to ensure we have left no stone unturned when looking for brownfield land that could fulfil housing or employment needs.”

The renewed call for brownfield sites was due to launch in early February. Landowners and agents are encouraged not to submit the same sites again as they have already been assessed.

Those sites which are considered as being suitable for development will be included in the Draft Dudley Plan which will be published for a six-week public consultation over the summer.

For further information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/dudley-local-plan/

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Let's Get Healthy Dudley

Making Dudley a place where everyone can live longer, safer, healthier lives

Free outdoor activities to keep you moving

Moving more can help you be healthier and happier. So can being outside in green spaces. Check out some of the free activities available in our borough.

Park Active

Family-friendly outdoor activity sessions take place in five parks each week. Instructors lead 45-minute circuit-based classes. All ages are welcome and everyone can work at their own level.

Park Active takes place in Stevens Park - Wollescote, Grange Park - Dudley, Stevens Park - Quarry Bank, Buffery Park - Kates Hill and Abbey Street Park - Gornal.

More information at www.lets-get.com/park-active

Wellbeing walks

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks are short, friendly walks which take place across the borough. They are open to everyone.

Social walks at healthy hubs in the borough's parks include buggy walks, Nordic walks and dog walks.

More information at www.lets-get.com/walking

Let's Get Moving

FREE

This campaign encourages everyone to move for at least 30 minutes each day.

It suggests easy wins to exercise more while completing daily tasks. Plus, challenges are updated throughout the year. There's a **Zero to one mile hero** challenge to enjoy a one-mile stroll around Saltwells Nature Reserve or a daily **Wake Up, Shake Up** one-minute dance routine for everyone to try as they get out of bed.

More information www.lets-get.com/move

Healthy hubs and green gyms

Four parks across the borough offer locations where people can be active, with as much or little help from the park activator team as you want.

Netherton Park, Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, Silver Jubilee Park in Coseley and Huntingtree Park in Halesowen each have an outdoor gym, plus other sports facilities. Park activators deliver a programme of physical activity sessions suitable for all ages and abilities.

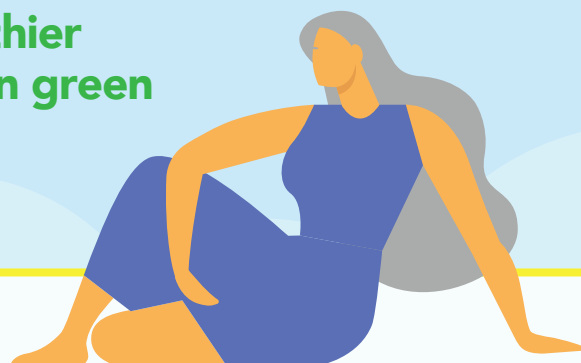
More information at www.lets-get.com/healthy-hubs

Cycling

Cycling is fun, keeps us fit and cycling, rather than driving, helps keep the air that we breathe cleaner.

Cycle route maps are available, as is cycle training for all ages. Dr Bike sessions are run throughout the year where a trained mechanic checks people's bikes.

More information www.dudley.gov.uk/cycling/



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Mrs B. - Bilston, Jan 2023

Spring 2023

Homeaffairs

News and views for council tenants and leaseholders throughout Dudley borough

Welcome to the spring edition of Home Affairs!

We know some of our residents are experiencing increased living costs and I want to reassure you that the housing services teams are here to help.



Paying rent should always be a priority, but if there is a change in circumstances or your usual rent payment cannot be made, please contact the income team immediately for support and advice. More details of the help available can be found in this issue of Home Affairs.

If you're considering downsizing, we have an article about how our teams can provide lots of helpful information, advice and support. We also have exciting news about our independent living schemes, which provide modern facilities at affordable rents for individuals and couples aged 55 and over across the borough, with some currently undergoing extensive renovation works.

The participation team works closely with the Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) and I'd like to thank those of you who take part. We've also helped to set up the Dudley Housing Board, where volunteer board members meet regularly with councillors and officers to discuss housing service performance and possible improvements. If you would like to get involved with the board or find out if there's a TRA in your area, you can contact the participation team.

Councillor Laura Taylor-Childs

Cabinet member for housing and communities

April rent increase

By now you should have received your annual rent letter, which was distributed in February.

This letter informed you that rents for council homes will increase from April 2023. It states what your revised rent will be and includes any additional sundry charges.

If you receive housing benefit or universal credit, your benefit payments will generally be adjusted to reflect the higher rent. For housing benefit this will automatically be adjusted, but for universal credit you will need to update your rent details using your online journal.

Universal credit claimants will receive a 'confirm your housing costs to-do' message on their journal. Please use this 'to-do' option but do not update your claim before 3 April 2023 and do not use the 'change of circumstances to-do' to report your rent change.

All income from rents is invested in the maintenance, improvement and management of council homes.

You can monitor your rent balance through our new and improved online rent account service, eHousing. This service is available 24/7 and allows you to make payments, view your balance and update your contact details.

Register by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk and enter 'eHousing' in the search facility.

View the latest housing news for tenants and leaseholders at www.dudley.gov.uk



The board is a group of volunteers who meet every quarter with councillors and officers to look at how our housing service is performing and to discuss possible improvements and investment opportunities for the future.

As a board member, there is an expected duty to act in the best interest of tenants, residents, leaseholders and customers. The collective benefit is to improve decision making, provide challenge and to ensure that high quality services and best value for money are delivered.

Board members serve a term of three years, which can be extended subject to an assessment of performance in the role.

If you are interested in applying to be part of the board, please download and complete the application form from the Dudley website or contact the participation development team on 01384 815168 for further information.

To download the application form visit: www.dudley.gov.uk and search 'housing board' and click on the board members link.



REMEMBER...

paying your rent is a priority

It's a tough time for many at the moment, but you must remember paying your rent is a priority.

If you have a change in circumstances or find you are unable to make your usual rent payment, you should contact the income team immediately on 0300 555 0010.

When you contact the income team, staff can:

- **discuss a payment plan with you**
- **offer advice about claiming additional benefits**
- **tell you about other available funding**

As an authority we try to make it as easy as possible for you to pay your rent. As part of your tenancy conditions you must ensure payments are made on time and for the correct amount.

Evictions are a last resort, but they do happen, and as most tenants pay their rent on time it is only right that Dudley Council takes the strongest possible action against those who do not.

Remember - if you are unable to pay your rent, contact the income team to discuss the situation on 0300 555 0010.

Help and information for leaseholders

If you are a leaseholder with Dudley Council, you can contact the team to discuss leasehold related matters.

Email: leaseholders@dudley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01384 815096

Information is also available on the council website, including a timetable of when you can expect to receive repairs notifications, service charge invoices and your annual statements.

Visit: www.dudley.gov.uk and search 'leaseholder information'.

For service charge payment enquiries, including setting up Direct Debits or arranging payment plans, please phone 01384 814941.



Downsizing

Do you live in a house which is too large for you to maintain? Have your children left home, leaving you with space you no longer need? Are you struggling with the stairs, the garden, or your bills? Are you thinking about moving to a smaller property, but are worried about the move itself?

For whatever reason you may be thinking of moving to a smaller home, we can help you with information and advice, as well as the practicalities of finding a new home and moving. Dudley tenants may be eligible for a support package to help with downsizing.

Demand on our waiting list for homes for families with children far outstrips supply and many families are living in overcrowded conditions.

If you no longer need your two, three or four-bedroom house, we can help you move to more suitable accommodation and this will also free up a home for a family.

For further information, please contact the housing options team on 01384 817760 and ask for a 'downsizing assessment'.

Independent living - new developments coming soon

The council's independent living schemes are located across all areas of Dudley borough and are part of our current investment programme of award-winning renovation and new build projects.

The latest developments include Jack Newell Court in Coseley and Woodhouse Court in Quarry Bank, which are undergoing multi-million-pound refurbishments.

The independent living schemes offer the support and security of community living, with the privacy of your own self-contained accommodation.

Our one and two-bedroom flats are available to individuals and couples aged 55 and over and provide modern facilities at affordable rents. Applicants do not need to currently live in the borough. We aim to provide a service which is flexible and tailored to the needs of each individual tenant.

Living in one of our schemes, you are part of a community where you can build friendships and help prevent isolation.

For more info contact telephone 01384 812042 or email: supportedhsgschemes@dudley.gov.uk





Dudley Telecare

Dudley Telecare is a fully integrated monitoring and response service, which helps to keep people living safely and independently at home.

Assistive technology products and alarm systems provide support to people through their link to the Dudley Telecare service, 24 hours a day, all year round.

A new video highlighting the importance of Dudley Telecare for its users has been produced. It shows how the service enables the Telecare user to stay in their own home - which is where they want to be.

For information about Dudley Telecare and to view the video visit www.dudley.gov.uk/telecare Alternatively, call 0300 555 0055 to talk to a member of the team.



Get involved with your TRA

Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) hold regular public meetings. The groups discuss many issues relating to their local community and make suggestions on how to make improvements. Being part of a community group can really help to tackle local issues. It's also a great way to get to know your neighbours. For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk and search 'getting involved', or contact the participation team on 01384 815168, email participation@dudley.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/participationindudley

High Rise Living Forum (HRLF) Get involved and make your voice heard

The High-Rise Living Forum meets regularly to discuss and address issues unique to people living in high rise accommodation.

If you would like to attend a meeting or would like an issue raised in the next meeting, please contact the participation development team on 01384 812081 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk



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This project is receiving up to £43.6 million of funding made up of £21.8 million from the European Social Fund and £21.8 million from the Youth Employment Initiative, plus match funding of up to £21.8 million from the National Lottery Community Fund and partners.

New unpaid carers support hub in Halesowen

A new hub offering free information, advice and support to people who provide unpaid care and support to family or friends has opened in Halesowen.

The support hub at the Brett Young Centre on Old Hawne is the second of its kind run by the council's Dudley Carers Hub and Wellbeing Service - the other is at the Queens Cross Network, Wellington Road, Dudley.

The hubs can help with information on financial and legal issues, advice on social care and health services, emotional support and provide opportunities to meet others through social and carers groups.

Councillor Natalie Neale, cabinet member for adult social care, said:

"It's been fantastic opening a second centre for our local carers and to be providing much needed support and advice."

"Many people who provide care often don't see themselves as a carer and so are not aware of the support and help available to them. That is why these hubs are so important and I would urge anyone caring for a family member or a friend to get in touch and see how we can help."

For more information call 01384 818723, email dudleycarershub@dudley.gov.uk or visit the online portal <https://adultsocialcare.dudley.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

Support groups for people with dementia and carers

The Crystal Gateway, on Brettell Lane, near Brierley Hill, is the council's centre for people with dementia and their carers and offers a range of information, advice and support.

It hosts Crystal carers groups every Monday and Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon for people looking after a person with dementia. There is also a social group for people living with dementia and their carers every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon in the centre's Garden Room.

You can pop along or call 01384 813315 to find out more.

Dudley remembers the Holocaust in moving ceremony

Dudley borough came together to remember the atrocities of the Holocaust in an emotional commemoration event at Dudley College.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Sue Greenaway, joined local faith leaders to light a candle of remembrance for the millions of people who were killed and persecuted during the Holocaust, before planting a tree in Coronation Gardens to mark the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees.

A keynote speech was given by concentration camp survivor Eva Clarke BEM. Mrs Clarke was born on a cart outside the Mauthausen camp in April 1945 after her pregnant mother was sent on a horrific three-week journey via coal truck. Fifteen members of her family lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Mrs Clarke later joined the Mayor of Dudley, Association of Jewish Refugees chief executive Michael Newman OBE, Lord Lieutenant Sir John Crabtree CBE, and pupils from St Thomas's School to plant the tree, which was the final planting of the AJR's 80 Trees for 80 Years project.

The native oak tree symbolises the contribution of Jewish refugees to life in Britain. Dudley was selected as the final site for planting due to the borough's long history of welcoming refugees of many different faiths and nationalities.

Councillor Sue Greenaway, the Mayor of Dudley, said:

"The commemoration was an immensely moving event and I was honoured to light the candle of remembrance and plant the memorial tree."



Lord Lieutenant Sir John Crabtree CBE, concentration camp survivor Eva Clarke BEM, and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Sue Greenaway, at Dudley's Holocaust memorial tree planting

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email: **restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk**

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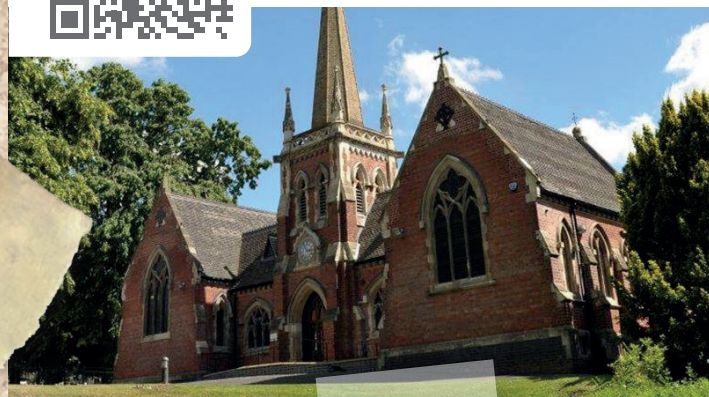
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Dudley borough's Safe Places



Safe places are locations in the community where people can go if they need help when they're out and about.

There are many different safe places, including leisure centres, cafes, charity shops and cinemas.

Anyone can use a safe place. If they feel anxious, lost, afraid or at risk from someone, they can go to a safe place and ask for help.

There are safe places across all towns in the borough. Safe places display a sticker in the window to let you know they are part of the scheme.

A list of safe places can be found online at www.dudleyci.co.uk/SP

School admissions decision dates

If you've applied for a place for your child at primary or secondary school, we will be sending the confirmation of places out soon. Primary decisions will be sent on April 17 and secondary on March 1.

If you applied online, you'll get an email after 2pm on your confirmation day. If you applied on paper, your letter will be sent out second class on confirmation day.

Find out more at www.dudley.gov.uk search 'school admissions'.



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Dates for your diary

March 8

International Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It is also a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

April 14

Vaisakhi

On April 14 Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi. The celebration promotes the creation of a more equal and just society and was selected by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 to establish the Khalsa - the collective name for Sikhs who have been baptised.



Connect2Dudley

Looking for a temporary agency job?

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Connect2Dudley is your one-stop shop, providing access to all temporary and contract jobs at Dudley Council. From social care work to administrative positions, Connect2Dudley is here to match your skills to the right opportunity. Whether you're looking for a new job, a career change, or just want to explore your options, Connect2Dudley is here to help. The team has a wealth of knowledge and would love to chat.

Simply call 0800 058 1920, email info@connect2dudley.co.uk, or visit the website www.connect2dudley.co.uk to discover the latest opportunities.

Vaccines

Whooping cough vaccine

Having the Pertussis vaccine while you're pregnant is highly effective in protecting your baby from developing whooping cough in the first few weeks of their life.

To get protected, speak to your GP, midwife or practice nurse.

MMR - not too late

Two doses of the MMR vaccine provides the best protection for your child against measles, mumps and rubella.

If your child has missed a vaccine, it's not too late to get protected. Speak to your GP, midwife or practice nurse.





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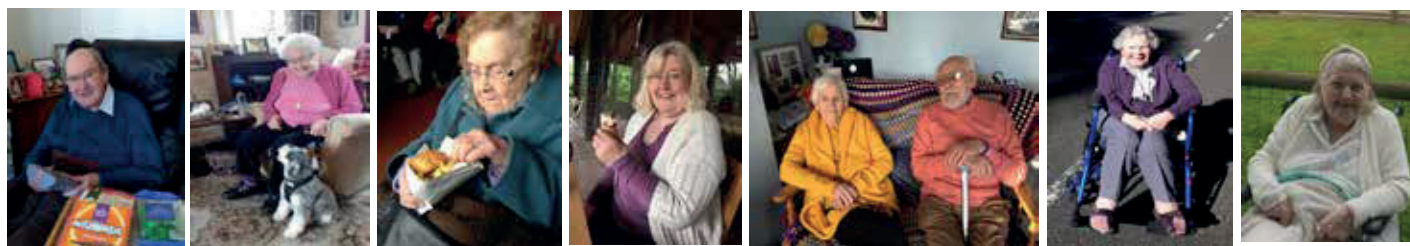


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What's on

Highlights from Borough Halls March - June 2023

Please visit www.boroughhalls.co.uk for the latest information and full show listing.

Dudley Town Hall

Sing-a-long-a Encanto (U) Sat 4 Mar
Sing-a-long-a The Greatest Showman (PG) Sat 4 Mar
The Counterfeit Sixties Tue 7 Mar
Psychic Sally Thu 9 Mar
The Story of Guitar Heroes Sat 11 Mar
Come What May (Moulin Rouge Tribute) Fri 24 Mar
Sinatra: RAW starring Richard Shelton Fri 31 Mar
The Chicago Blues Brothers Fri 21 Apr
Nashville Bad Boys of Country Friday 28 Apr
Dave Gorman: PowerPoint to the People Fri 12 May
The Magic of Motown Sat 13 May
This Is Britpop! Fri 19 May
Legend - The Music of Bob Marley Sat 20 May
A Celebration of Gladys Knight Sat 17 Jun

Stourbridge Town Hall

Claude Bourbon (Progressive Blues) Fri 10 Mar
Neds & Poppies - Show & Tell Sat 25 Mar
Alfie Moore: Fair Cop Unleashed Fri 31 Mar
An Evening and a Little Bit of a Morning with Mark Steel Sun 2 Apr
The Jungle Book Tue 4 Apr
The Little Mermaid Thu 13 Apr
Carl Hutchinson: Watch Till The End Thu 27 Apr
The All or Nothing Experience (Small Faces Tribute) Fri 26 May
Goldilocks and the Three Bears Wed 31 May
Richard Jones - An Evening of Magic Thu 1 Jun
Solve-Along-A-Murder-She-Wrote Fri 9 Jun
Halesowen Town Hall (Cornbow Hall)
Mother Goose (Family Panto) Mon 1 May
The Dubliners Experience Fri 2 Jun
The D-Day Darlings - King's Coronation Tour Sat 17 Jun



Celebrating unsung heroes

Unsung community heroes from across the borough will be celebrated at the annual Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards next month.

People or groups who achieve great things or go above and beyond to make things happen have been nominated for a range of award categories over recent weeks. The winners will be announced at the prestigious event, hosted by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Sue Greenaway, on March 31, at the Copthorne Hotel.

With a Las Vegas theme, the night includes a three-course dinner, fun casino, Elvis impersonator and Las Vegas show dancers, followed by a DJ. Funds raised will go to the Mayor's Charity Appeal, supporting Macmillan Cancer Support, Tough Enough to Care and Black Country Toy Appeal.

Tickets are available at www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/balltickets



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- roadside posters on all major routes from £125 a week

For details visit www.dudley.gov.uk and search advertising and sponsorship

Business can also have the chance to be associated with large events, such as Himley Bonfire, Black Country Musicom and Armed Forces Day by joining the Mayoral Business Club.

Visit www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/mayoral-business-club for details.

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www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk

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