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Helping older people to get online

Free taster sessions are being offered across Dudley borough to help introduce older people to computers, tablets and the internet as part of a national campaign.

Spring Online week, held from April 20 to 26, aims to give older people the chance to learn the basics so they can be confident at getting online.

Libraries across the borough will be staging special events where people can find out how to use the internet and email, download ebooks, view online magazines, trace their family tree and much more.

Deborah Harkins, chief officer responsible for libraries, said:

“We already offer support at our libraries for people wishing to learn about computers and how to use the internet. Getting online can help us connect with family and friends far away as well as find out about activities we can get involved in close to home. We are delighted to be supporting Spring Online week with a range of specific events aimed at older people.”

The events are:

● **Brierley Hill Library**

Thursday April 23, 10-11am

Beginners internet taster session – find out how using the internet can make your life easier. Call 01384 812865 to book.

● **Coseley Library**

Monday April 20, 2.30-4pm

IT basics computer taster session for beginners

Tuesday April 21, 2.30-4pm

Ancestry taster session – book with a member of staff and learn how to use Ancestry.com to trace your family tree.

Contact 01384 812775 to book either session

● **Cradley Library**

Monday 20 April 20, 10-11am

Ancestry taster session – drop in and learn how to use Ancestry.com. Contact 01384 812885

● **Dudley Library**

Monday April 20, 2-4pm

Tuesday April 21, 2-4pm

Thursday April 23, 10am-noon

Friday April 24, 2-4pm

Information buddy drop-in sessions for complete beginners or for basic computer support. Come along for help to get online or improve your existing computer skills. No need to book. Call 01384 815560 for more details.

Friday April 24, 2-3pm

Downloading online magazines and eBooks for tablets - drop in and learn how to download online magazines. No need to book.

● **Gornal Library**

Tuesday April 21, 3.45-4.45pm

Ancestry taster session – book with a member of staff and learn how to use Ancestry.com to trace your family tree. Contact 01384 812755

- **Halesowen Library**

Wednesday April 22, 11am-noon

Internet and email taster session to help you practically. To book contact 01384 812983.

- **Kingswinford Library**

Monday April 20, 9.15-10.15am

Beginners' internet taster session – book with a member of staff on 01384 812740.

- **Long Lane Library**

Tuesday April 21, 2-3.15pm and Thursday April 23, 11am-noon

Ancestry taster sessions – contact 01384 812880 to book.

- **Lye Library**

Monday April 20, 11.30am-12.45pm

Ancestry taster session – call 01384 812835 to book.

- **Netherton Library**

Monday April 20, 10am-noon

Drop in computer session for beginners - come along for help to get online or improve your existing computer skills. Contact 01384 812845.

- **Quarry Bank Library Link**

Monday April 20, 2.30 – 3.30pm

Drop-in session for complete beginners. Contact 01384 815560.

- **Sedgley Library**

Thursday April 23, 2.15 - 4.30pm

Ancestry taster session – to book call 01384 812790.

Friday April 24 10.00-11.00am, 12.30-1.30pm and 3.00-4.00pm

Beginners' internet taster sessions – call 01384 812790 and find out all about using the internet in everyday life.

- **Stourbridge Library**

Tuesday April 21, 11am -noon

iPads for beginners – book with a member of staff and learn how to use and get the most out of your iPad.

Thursday April 23, 11am -noon

Downloading online magazines for iPads and tablets. Contact 01384 812945

- **Wordsley Library**

Monday April 20, 11.30am-12.30pm

Beginners' internet taster session – to book a place call 01384 812765

More information about the Spring Online national initiative can be found at

www.digitalunite.com/spring-online-2015