








For Sheltered Scheme Managers: Event Holders' Guide to Planning a Silver Surfer's Day (SSD) Event 2009

These two pages are an overview especially for **sheltered scheme managers**. They show you at a glance just how **easy** it can be to plan an **IT taster event for residents** in sheltered housing and reasons (overleaf) why you might want to **partner with a local school** to ease delivery.

The full 23-page 'Event Holders' Guide to Planning an SSD Event 2009' gives detailed information about every aspect of running an event. Download from here: <http://silversurfers.digitalunite.com/files/2009/02/eventholdersplanner.pdf>

	TO DO	Tick Box
1	Choose a Day If you can't do Friday, May 15 th , pick a day near it.	
2	Choose a Time An hour or two, a whole day, it's up to you.	
3	Get a Room... ...with a computer and internet access. Could be your communal lounge , Scheme Manager's office , landlords' Head Office training room , local library or even a local school (see overleaf).	
4	Get a Tutor Could this be you, or someone from your IT Dept or head office , or a volunteer in the scheme or from somewhere else? It's someone who can show your residents how to use a computer. We're talking basics here – switching it on, moving the mouse.	
5	Get the Learning Mini-Guides We publish free mini-guides that make it easy to teach people and explain computers. They're at http://learning.digitalunite.com/ .	
6	Get some participants You don't need hordes. Introduce three of your residents to the Net and you've opened three doors to a new world. Not bad for a day's work, eh?	
7	Enjoy the Day	

For More Help & Advice....

There's lots of help available on our site (<http://silversurfers.digitalunite.com>) and people you can 'chat' to online. All we ask in return is that you register your event on this website so we know you're taking part.



**Friday,
May
15th**

Schools for Silver Surfers

A Silver Surfers' Day initiative by Digital Unite

Digital Unite (DU) is working with **EROSH** (Emerging Role of Sheltered Housing charity) to trial a new initiative to help sheltered scheme managers to link up with **local schools**.

This is so that the schools and sheltered schemes can combine to **deliver IT taster events** to help older people have a good first-taste of the Internet.

Silver Surfers' Day is on May 15th, 2009 but events can be registered and held any time during May. Resources and advice are free (and available for free use throughout the year) from www.silversurfers.digitalunite.com .

Interested? Find a local **Specialist school** to partner with. Fill in as much of this online form as you can and **wait patiently (!)** till the information loads: <https://secure.ssatrust.org.uk/registration/schoolsearch.aspx> .

Schools that aren't Specialist schools may well also be interested in linking up. Google for 'Directgov' or 'Ofsted' for schools in the locality and then write to the head teacher or ring the school and ask to speak to the person who has responsibility for community engagement.

More information: Some sheltered scheme managers already deliver SSD Events annually to their residents but not usually in conjunction with schools. This initiative is to **widen knowledge** about this possibility, and for us all to learn how best to make it easier to plan and deliver.

The logic is that the **resources of the school** – teachers, pupils, equipment – can be made available to older people. The young people can gain experience of being tutors, with a little training and management by their teachers.

In practice, this might mean **older people** visiting their local school for tutoring, or it might mean **younger people** coming into sheltered lounges to help answer questions using a computer in the public lounge.

There is no 'set' way for this to happen – but Digital Unite has **examples** of both ways, notably at Broadgreen School in Liverpool; Chesham High School in Buckinghamshire and Ampney Crucis Primary in Gloucestershire (see a BBC film of the school children and grandparents at work here:

<http://dnc.digitalunite.com/2009/03/17/quick-video-why-ssd-is-great-for-kids-and-grown-ups/>).

Why should sheltered housing get involved with schools?

There are the obvious benefits to older people of getting online (makes life easier and cheaper for them). But linking up with schools to do this helps housing to fulfil certain statutory obligations. For example, see these Supplementary Standards of the Quality Assessment Framework as applied to sheltered schemes:

- S1.1 Informing service-users; S1.2 Consulting and involving service-users
- S1.3 Empowerment and supporting independence; S1.4 Participation in the wider community
- S3.2 Choice, sensitivity and responsiveness; S4.1 Continuous improvement

Want to join the debate? Go here and add a comment:

<http://dnc.digitalunite.com/2009/03/17/schools-for-silver-surfers-the-plan-so-far/>