

We're Connecting Cheshire

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

August 2014

Superfast Summer!

The Connecting Cheshire Superfast fibre broadband roll-out has not slowed down over the summer with many more communities now able to enjoy the benefits of life in the fast lane.

Recent switch-on events have taken place in Poynton, Sandiway, Widnes, Tarporley, and Saughall, bringing the total number of premises reached across Cheshire to over 31,000. Local Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton, who represents Tarporley, said: "The roll-out is already making a big impact. Many homes and businesses are now taking advantage of the opportunity to upgrade to fibre broadband and seeing how it can bring significant social and economic benefits - and in many cases see a reduction in their costs as broadband charges are falling all the time."

The Government also recently announced that more than one million UK homes and businesses now have access to superfast broadband as a result of the UK wide fibre rollout.



Tarporley



Poynton

Welcome to the fibre fast lane...

Poynton, Sandiway, Cuddington, Tarporley, Widnes and Saughall

Award Winners

We've enjoyed 2 award wins over the summer; firstly Dean Burrows, our Social Media Apprentice, won Cheshire East Council's coveted Apprentice of the Year title.



Many of you will have met Dean at our various events and witnessed his fantastic commitment and enthusiasm at first hand.



Also we were delighted to win the Champion Trade Stand award at the Nantwich Show as part of the Cheshire East Council - Best in the North West stand.

Take part in our
Public Consultation
into reaching **99%**
fibre broadband
coverage by 2017

See [more](#)

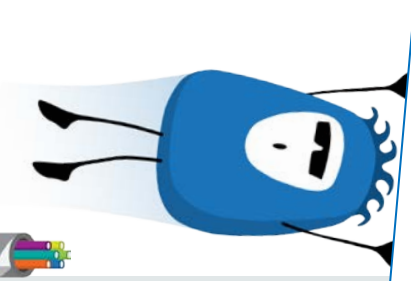
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Bryan's Story

Bryan Evans of Tarvin, near Chester, recently took advantage of the arrival of superfast fibre broadband in his village and has seen his broadband speed rise from around 5Mbps to over 35Mbps. Bryan is taking full advantage of his new service and enjoying the ability to use online video links with friends and relatives, TV catch-up services, follow stock market trends and is a keen eBay user. He said: "I am much happier with my broadband service since switching to fibre, it is more consistent with no drop-outs and the installation was very simple; the engineer came on the day I arranged with my internet provider and also gave me some helpful advice on how to get the best possible speed by simplifying the wiring in my home. I would definitely recommend upgrading!"



Play

We spend more time using technology devices than sleeping, research suggests. [Ofcom](#) said UK adults spend an average of 8 hours and 41 minutes a day on media devices, compared with the average night's sleep of 8 hours and 21 minutes

Connect

A recent independent study, commissioned by BT, reveals the social benefits of getting online for the first time are worth over £1,000 a year; from a combination of benefits including cash savings and employment opportunities to reduced isolation and improved confidence

Sell

Boost your business online using social media sites. According to a recent survey 69% of consumers are more likely to use a local business if it has information available on a social media site

Watch

More than 1 billion unique users visit YouTube each month. Have you seen Connecting Cheshire's own [YouTube Channel?](#)

Shop

According to ABTA 49% of Britons booked a holiday abroad online last year. Nine out of ten of us research a holiday online before booking it and eight out of ten of us check currency rates online

Meet our Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator

Katie Atherton has just joined the Connecting Cheshire team to develop our Digital Inclusion strategy, Katie has plenty of experience in this field, joining us from a role with Wirral Libraries helping people with their digital skills.



Katie will be establishing a Digital Learning Champions scheme which will provide full training and support for anyone wishing to volunteer in their community and help others enjoy the benefits of getting online. So watch this space!

Women's Business Boost

Connecting Cheshire has been granted £75,000 from the Government to help women in business across the county learn how to exploit the benefits of faster broadband and digital technology. Read [more](#)

