


Getting-on online



Online skills edition

 During 2015 we have been highlighting the benefits of getting online and the help that's available to do it.

This is the last issue of this guide, a guide to give you practical advice to get connected and make the most out of being online.

This issue we look at where to get help to develop your online knowledge and skills.

Why go online?

"As a parent (and someone who didn't have computers at school) I like the Webwise site as a quick and easy introduction to new social media or gaming fads. Now I chat to my son about his progress on Minecraft!"

"I don't think of myself as good at technology. But, I easily downloaded free software and taught myself how to edit a video I took on my phone. It was a great present for my overseas family."

Where can I get expert help face to face?

➤ **Adult Education offers a range of IT courses from a tutor**

Some centres offer qualification courses with many free to residents who are eligible for a concession (on JSA or UC or are aged 16 – 23 for example).

Some centres offer non-qualification courses, (and these are at a reduced rate for concessions which include receiving Housing or Council Tax benefit) for example:

- **Basic computing**
- **Business computing**
- **Buying and selling online**
- **iPads, Tablets, Mobiles**
- **Safety and security**
- **Social media**
- **The internet**

Call 0300 1231 117 for more information or to request a brochure

Learning Centres are located all over Cornwall, including:

- Bodmin
- Bude
- Camelford
- Falmouth
- Launceston
- Liskeard
- Torpoint
- Wadebridge

Libraries in Cornwall

Your library will have computers to access and some have volunteers to support computer users. Many also offer computer courses which are free to library members, two hour sessions for about 4 weeks for beginners.

Your library can also access all the books from the county that can help with getting more out of being online – from being better at Twitter to working out how to use your iPhone – there's probably a book your librarian can source for you for free.

Digital Champions

Both, Cornwall Libraries and Cornwall Housing have trained digital champions to help people in their local communities to get more out of being online. Contact us for more information.

How much does it cost to join the library?

“ It is free to Cornwall residents. ”





Where can I learn more online?

Our digital wizards give their advice

➤ There is so much available online to help you learn more, whether it be about

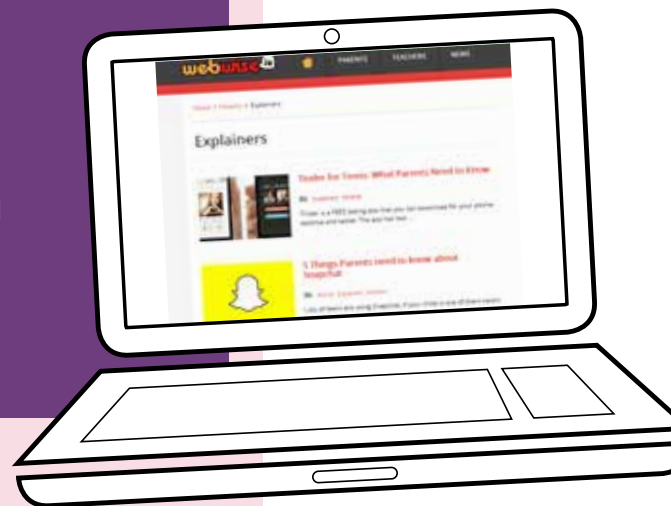
- **How to use your phone or tablet**
- **How to use software, or**
- **What to do about safety and security**

Our digital champions compared some recommended sites to find out how good they are if you wanted to know how you how to use your iPad.

John rated them as

- 1. YouTube:** This is a very visual site, it has a good selection and is very helpful. It begins at the basics and goes as far as anyone could wish. It takes less than a minute to find what you want, as long as you know what it is that you are looking for.
- 2. Learn My Way:** This site is relatively easy to use, is quite informative and easy to understand. It has a good list of links. It takes as long as you wish to browse but you can find what you want inside two or three minutes.
- 3. Digital Unite:** This site is also easy to use, with a clearly laid out resource guide. I found what I set myself to find in two minutes.

One word of warning about You Tube - you will often get pop-up adverts or have to sit through an advert before you get the video. It is rare that educative sites (like the others above) have sponsorship you won't want your children to see.



Top Tip

The **BBC Skillswise** website is very good for people who are quite IT literate but want to dip in to improving their skills, and like playing games!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise>



Easy guides to social media, games and trends?

Our digital wizards give their advice



It can be easy to catch up - if you can take the time to find out. Apart from the library books you can borrow (see page 2), there are also lots of sites to help you get to grips with what the grandchildren are doing and how to do it yourself.

Our digital champions tested some of the online guides to social media. Here's how they rated them:

- 1 **Webwise**
- 2 **Scottish Community Council's - Guide to social media**
- 3 **You Tube**
- 4 **BBC Webwise (different to Webwise above)**

Webwise

Our digital champion, Richard said "This site has clear pictures and a step by step guide – even though it's aimed at parents, it's perfect for a beginner who wants to find out what something is."

Scottish Community Council's - Guide to social media

Our digital champion, Barbara tried them all out and liked the Scottish Community Council's site best

"This one was clear with short blocks of text and useful links to other websites and social media for you explore for yourself."

You Tube

Our champions thought that You Tube is "Great for an introduction to just click and listen but you can't search for what you want to know quickly and easily." It could also be costly to view on a pay as you go phone as it may take up a lot of bandwidth.



Top Tip

A great free online 'To Do List'

Add to, delete from, or just generally sort your to-do list at Rememberthemilk.com

Top Tip

Read free online

Read a classic book online for free at **Project Gutenberg**, **Planet eBook** or the **E-books Directory**. Alternatively, checkout the Cornwall Council e-book library online.

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

Cornwall Housing Ltd, Chy Trevail, Beacon Technology Park, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 2FR

Telephone: 0300 1234 161 or email communications@cornwallhousing.org.uk