

# We're Connecting Cheshire

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

September 2015

## Summer switch-ons (despite the rain!)

Over the summer we continued with our programme of community switch-on events as further cabinets were completed. As our Phase 1 roll-out nears completion we held 12 events to spread the good news. Nevertheless we are aware that around 70 cabinets are still outstanding and we are working with BT to ensure as many as possible can be completed during the autumn, and wherever possible, by the end of the year.

Later this autumn we will announce the long awaited coverage of our Phase 2 (or Superfast Extension Programme) and the 10,000 additional premises that will benefit from this additional £6m investment. Please bear with us, we are finalising the specific coverage and maps, but in the meantime please see the confirmed date for our community information event below, where we will be providing further information on how Phase 1 will be completed and Phase 2 mobilised.



## Welcome to the fibre fast lane...

Aldford, Bucklow Hill, Comberbach, Hooton, Hunsterson, Norcott Brook, No Man's Heath and Chester North

### Congratulations to Dean

Dean Burrows has been appointed our Digital Engagement Officer

Following his successful Apprenticeship (including winning the coveted Cheshire East Apprentice of the Year Award), we were delighted to ensure Dean can continue his great work helping to answer the many enquiries we receive plus looking after our website and social media.



### Next event:

## Towards 100% Fibre Coverage

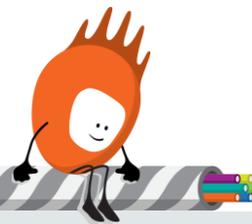
10am – 12pm, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Alderley Park Conference Centre, Alderley Edge

As our Phase 1 roll-out draws to a close, find out more about our plans for Phase 2 – and beyond, as we strive to reach 100% fibre broadband coverage for Cheshire, Halton & Warrington. Topics covered will include the challenges of reaching dispersed rural communities, alternative solutions including satellite broadband, future technology solutions and the importance of investing in digital skills.

Speakers will include Bill Murphy – Managing Director, Next Generation Access, BT Group and Chris Townsend OBE - Chief Executive, Broadband Delivery UK.

Book your place [here](#)



# Digital Learning Champion Training

If you would like to volunteer to help others enjoy the benefits of getting online and help them gain basic digital literacy, why not book on one of our forthcoming Digital Learning Champion training sessions taking place:

13<sup>th</sup> October – Crewe  
20<sup>th</sup> October – Macclesfield

For more information and to book a place please contact our Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator Katie Atherton - [katie.atherton@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:katie.atherton@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Katie can also signpost you to events already taking place where help is at hand for anyone wishing to gain digital skills.



## Online

Asia now has the largest internet use in the world with over 1.4 billion people online, however Africa has more people online than North America, at over 318million compared with 310million.

## Shop

In 2014, 74% of all UK adults bought goods or services online, up from 53% in 2008. Clothes (49%) were the most popular online purchase in 2014.

## Learn

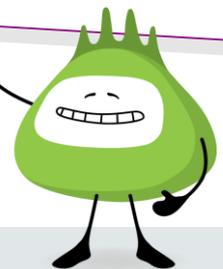
Over half of all UK adults (55%) used the Internet to read or download the news, newspapers or magazines in 2014, compared with only 20% of adults in 2007.

## Connect

For UK adults aged 55 to 64, the use of social networking rose to 37% in 2014, and to 13% of those aged 65 and over.

## Sell

In 2014, selling over the internet was most popular in the 25 – 34 age group in the UK.



## Cheshire is the 'best place' to run a rural business

Cheshire has been named the best county to set up and run a rural business. The finding emerged from a new study by the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) – an organisation that represents farmers and rural businesses across the UK.

The CLA scored each county on its ability to support rural businesses, such as the amount of broadband coverage available, planning policies and business support – and Cheshire came out top. See more [here](#).

