

switchovernews

from digitaluk in Wales

February 2008

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of Switchover News, the latest on the switchover project across the whole of Wales. This edition includes updates on the tourism sector, housing, the voluntary sector and a catch up on everything happening in Wales. Remember to get in touch with us if you have any switchover related queries or if you'd like to know more about our work.

CHARITIES UNITE TO SUPPORT SWITCHOVER

Digital UK has announced a groundbreaking partnership between leading charitable organisations. This initiative, funded by Digital UK, will see the creation of a new not-for-profit body, Digital Outreach Ltd, to support potentially vulnerable viewers when analogue television signals are switched off. Digital Outreach Ltd brings together Age Concern England, Help the Aged, Community Service Volunteers and Collective Enterprises Limited, a company specialising in working with the charity sector. Age Concern England is the national Member and represents the interests of the wider Age Concern federation in England and includes Age Concern Cymru, within Digital Outreach. It will commission a range of support services from local and regional voluntary sector organisations and charities, initially in the first four switchover regions: Border, West Country, Granada, and of course, Wales. For more details, visit the Digital UK website, or contact us here in Wales – wales@digitaluk.co.uk. We'll be including an update on digital outreach in every edition of Switchover News.

HELP SCHEME SUPPLIER ANNOUNCED

The BBC has announced that eaga plc has been selected as the supplier of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. In a press release issued by the BBC, Peter White, Chief Executive, Digital Switchover Help Scheme, said: "We are very pleased to announce eaga as the supplier of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. Our purpose is to make sure that all those eligible people that need help making the switch to digital TV receive the support they need from us, so they continue to receive television after switchover. We will continue to work to reach the people most at risk of being left without a television and ensure they are given the assistance they need."

The Digital Switchover Help Scheme and Digital Outreach Ltd will work together to help ensure a full range of assistance is available in each switchover area. The Help Scheme has been established to provide equipment and assistance to those aged 75 and over and disabled viewers. Digital Outreach Ltd will work with local organisations to provide support to those not eligible for the Help Scheme, including older viewers under 75, those with sensory, mobility or dexterity impairments, people with learning difficulties or who are socially isolated.

Together the Help Scheme and Digital Outreach activities form a vital element in the wider range of switchover support and information available from Digital UK. Our help line (08456 50 50 50, English language enquiries; 08458 48 48 48 for Welsh language calls) and website www.digitaluk.co.uk are available to everyone.

WEST WALES LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

West Wales is the first area in Wales to switch, between July and September 2009, so with switchover less than eighteen months away, we're setting up the first local support network in the area. The aim of the network is to bring together agencies and organisations interested and involved in switchover and providing services for the public in the west Wales area. We're hoping to be ready to launch the network in April, so if you want to get involved, please let us

know. The network will cover Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, parts of Neath Port Talbot, Ceredigion and Powys, so whether you're involved at community level or at county level in one of these areas, and would like to know more or get involved, contact us at wales@digitaluk.co.uk. We'll be setting up local groups in other parts of Wales later in the year.

news on switchover and digital

PRAISE FOR SWITCHED ON LANDLORDS

Digital UK has launched the Homes Set for Digital scheme, recognising housing providers and managers taking steps to provide digital television and information about switchover to residents. Organisations with a Switchover Action Plan can use a new certification mark showing their commitment to providing quality homes and services. According to research published by DCMS last year, around one-third (34%) of social housing providers in the UK's first regions to switch don't have a plan to be ready in time. Digital UK estimates that even fewer private landlords may be making preparations for the change.

[More from Digital UK](#). If you want to get involved with the scheme in Wales, send us an email at wales@digitaluk.co.uk. We hope to launch the Welsh accreditation scheme in late spring, so if you're well on the way to making sure that your properties are prepared for switchover, let us know.

TOURISM SECTOR MUST PREPARE FOR SWITCHOVER

Three-quarters of UK hoteliers and B&B owners say that availability of television is important in letting their rooms, yet a majority are unprepared for the forthcoming switchover to digital TV and run the risk of their guests being stuck with blank screens, according to research released by Digital UK.

In Wales, almost fifty per cent of those questioned said that they had not switched to digital yet. Fifty-four per cent of those who have not fully converted their properties to digital TV said they have no plans in place to do so. [More from Digital UK](#) Here in Wales, we're working closely with organizations such as Visit Wales, and will be exhibiting at their tourism roadshows later in the spring. If you've got any queries, visit our stand in Caernarfon or Swansea or get in touch with us via email – wales@digitaluk.co.uk

ON THE BUSES

We've been getting out and about over the past few weeks, as part of the BBC Wales Bus digital tour. The tour, which travelled to towns across Wales, was an opportunity for the public to pop in and find out more about switchover in their area and to get an answer to any queries or questions they may have. We joined the south Wales tour in Carmarthen, Caerphilly and Bridgend, and the north Wales tour in Bangor and Holyhead, and Digital UK then went on to visit Mold and Wrexham. Our thanks to the BBC Buses teams for their welcome and for supporting our work in local towns and communities.

LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

If you're a member of an organisation and you'd like to find out more about digital switchover in Wales, get in touch and arrange for a speaker to attend one of your meetings. We're happy to attend meetings in any parts of Wales, and will provide you with locally tailored information on switchover in your area. To arrange a speaker or to find out more, email wales@digitaluk.co.uk.

more about the digital switchover



Digital UK is the independent organisation in charge of the UK's switch to digital television. Visit the website at digitaluk.co.uk to find out about switchover in Wales in 2009-10.