

TECHNOLOGY

Times
Technology
Expert
Jason Williams
of Infinity



Britain finally catches up with communications

For British businesses and residents alike, 2015 has proven to be a year of real growth coverage across the country. From the growth of VoIP to the mass investment in fibre optic broadband, the communications network has seen unprecedented attention given to the way we communicate with each other. This investment has seen and will continue to see more and more people changing the way they talk to each other, browse the internet, do their shopping or watch TV and films.

Growth of VoIP

With growth in usage at around 30% per year, use of the internet-based telephone service VoIP is allowing more and more businesses to communicate with customers, suppliers and colleagues around the world without arranging long-distance call packages or expensive contracts. VoIP, which stands for Voice over Internet Protocol, uses the internet to connect telephone calls instead of using traditional telephone lines, allowing people and businesses instant connection, gone are the days of poor quality calls this has been enabled by faster and more reliable internet connectivity.

Fibre Optic Broadband

Earlier this year, Virgin Media announced it was investing £3 billion into the development and rolling out of its fibre optic broadband. Fibre optic cables transfer information via light instead of electricity, allowing hundreds of times more information to be transmitted. With this investment, and follow-on investment from other internet suppliers such as BT will eventually enable widespread high-speed internet access to become standard, rather than a luxury.

With the sheer importance of the internet, being online is slowly being seen as a right by many. This growth has led to the regulatory body Ofcom to change the way it deals with broadband contracts, simplifying the cancellation process and introducing a cooling-off period of three months if they are unhappy with the speed of the line. Now with these new changes, broadband suppliers are forced to ensure that customers receive what they were advertised.

With this welcome growth in the communication infrastructure of the UK showing no evidence of slowing, 2016 looks to be another promising year for the expansion of connectivity, with BT signalling the end of ISDN and the promise of the expansion of 4G coverage across more of the country now is the time to review your connectivity and voice platforms.

Infinity can provide impartial comprehensive advice on all your connectivity and communications needs.

If you have any questions regarding this article or anything technology related please email:
infinity@timesoftunbridgewells.co.uk



Theatre gets facelift in pursuit of youth

Adam Wells

newsdesk@timesoftunbridgewells.co.uk

THE Assembly Hall Theatre has reopened following a £1.5m refurbishment, which could help attract 'a completely different demographic to the venue'.

Bosses hope a new bar area, upgraded stage and sound equipment and an increase in standing capacity will bring in more acts attractive to a younger generation.

Excited

Theatre director Brian McAteer said: "We are starting to work with national touring promoters to plug more music, more bands for that demographic going forward, kicking off in December with local punk band Slaves.

"It's something we're very excited about. There's an outside possibility we might actually become trendy.

"I'm not quite sure that's something we can handle given the average age of our team is somewhere north of 40!"

Other changes to the venue include the addition

of a Perk and Pearl coffee bar, a soft play area and improved seating.

The venue is trying to ensure its food is locally sourced where possible, with Taywell supplying

REOPENING

From left, the Forum's Jason Dorman, Cllr Jane March and Brian McAteer



the icecream and beverages provided by Owlets and Chapel Down Winery.

Equally important but less visible, work has been done behind the scenes to bring equipment and safety systems up to date and fit for purpose and new stage lifts will be installed.

But Mr McAteer admitted the project was 'all about keeping the doors open' until Tunbridge Wells has a bigger and better theatre.

He said: "We all hope there will be a new all-singing, all-dancing venue somewhere in the town."

Happy

Councillor Jane March, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council portfolio holder for tourism and leisure, said: 'The theatre has had a facelift and I am very happy with the results.

"It is both welcoming and sophisticated which I hope audiences will agree is a great improvement. I am also delighted we've used local firms like Style My Home for the project and that we will continue the local theme in the new bar."

Celebrating new challenges in later life



RAISING AWARENESS
Exhibitors and clients,
with organisers and
Greg Clark

CELEBRATING later life and new challenges was the theme of an event on National Older People's Day.

Organisations joined forces to raise awareness of the 'services, support and opportunities' available in Tunbridge Wells, at the Baptist Church on October 1.

The event was organised by Elaine Ferris, of the Good Care Group and Symone Salwan of Home

Instead, with Good Neighbours in Tunbridge Wells.

Mrs Ferris said: "We were delighted that Greg Clark MP was happy to take time out of his busy schedule to support the event, speaking to every exhibitor to thank them for the work they do.

"He even enjoyed his own smoothie which he made himself by riding the smoothie bike provided by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's

health team.

"As health care professionals, we are passionate about supporting people to live well at home for longer. We strive to work collaboratively with businesses and the community to effect positive change, opportunities and attitude through knowledge and awareness and would like to thank all the exhibitors who took part."