

GET 'TURNED ON' TO DIGITAL TV – DON'T BE 'TURNED OFF'

Next summer, digital television becomes a compulsory reality in South Cumbria, and many of you will be preparing to 'go digital' so that you don't miss out on your favourite television programmes.

There are many benefits to receiving digital television – the picture quality and audio sound is much more defined than its antiquated analogue predecessor, plus you can interact with some of your favourite television shows by 'pressing your red button'. However, perhaps the major benefit to having digital television will be the array of extra new TV and radio channels that you will be able to receive.

Digital UK, the independent organisation that is responsible for managing the digital switchover, offers viewers this advice: "The easiest way to check if your TV will be affected by the digital switchover is to look for messages that will appear several times a day at the top of your TV screen from early next year. These will appear until switchover is complete."

The message will read: 'If you can read this, your TV will be affected by the switchover.' If this message does appear on your TV screen, you are advised to contact Digital UK for further help and advice.

During preparations for switchover, there may be interruptions to your normal television broadcasts due to engineering works. While digital switchover should only affect television broadcasts, the preparation for switchover may also result in occasional interruptions to radio broadcasts also.

Don't get ripped off

Any new form of technology can lead to public uncertainty – especially among the elderly – and there are growing concerns that some TV aerial installers are misleading their customers into purchasing new costly digital aerials that are not necessarily needed. A recent Trading Standards mystery shopping exercise found that more than a quarter of TV aerial installers had told undercover customers, working for Trading Standards, that they would need an aerial upgrade – without inspecting the mystery shoppers' more than adequate three-year-old aerial.

A spokesperson for Digital UK said: "Only a minority of households will need a new aerial to watch Freeview digital TV after the switchover. Even if your TV aerial isn't good enough to receive a clear Freeview signal now, the Freeview signal will be boosted considerably during the switchover process."

"This means that if you receive a good analogue signal now, you should get a good Freeview TV picture after digital switchover."

Fortunately, most of the aerial installers tested by Trading Standards Officers correctly advised that they would need to look at the condition of the current aerial in order to make a qualified judgement; adding that a new TV aerial might not be needed.

You can get further advice on whether you will need a new TV aerial by telephoning Digital UK on **0845 6 50 50 50** or **0845 234 0388**. Alternatively, visit: www.digitaluk.co.uk and follow the on-screen instructions to carry out a simple test. If you do need to upgrade your television aerial, why not get at least three different price quotes before committing to any new aerial installation.

If you would like to anonymously report any business that you feel has traded unfairly, visit: www.ripofftipoff.net

Digital UK is working in partnership with: TV Channels, RNIB, RNID, Age Concern, Help The Aged and Citizens Advice.

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION REVOLUTION REACHES SOUTH CUMBRIA

The Granada region will become one of the first regions in the UK to switch over from analogue to digital broadcasting, in 2009.

The Winter Hill transmitter that serves many parts of South Cumbria will be converted to digital broadcasting on 4th November and 2nd December 2009.

The Caldbeck transmitter, that serves the majority of Cumbria, will switch to digital broadcasting between 24th June and 22nd July 2009.



OLD LANG SYNE

Being the thoughtful souls that we are, The Seagull wants to prevent you from looking like a fool when the bells of midnight chime, and everybody crosses arms to sing in the New Year (... well, those that are still able to stand up).

So come on folks... altogether now...

OLD LANG SYNE

(Words adapted from a traditional song by Rabbie Burns (1759-96)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind,
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and
auld lang syne,

REPEATED CHORUS:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine,
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For old lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine,
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit,
Sin auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roar'd,
Sin auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o' thine,
And we'll take a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.

Translations:

Auld lang syne – times gone by
Be – pay for
Braes – hills
Braid – broad
Burn – stream
Dine – dinner time
Fiere – friend
Fit – foot

Gowans – daisies
Guid-willie waught – goodwill drink
Monie – many
Morning sun – noon
Paidl't – paddled
Pint-stowp – pint tankard
Pou'd – pulled
Twa - two

FIVE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR CASH COFFERS A NEW YEAR'S HEAVE HO:

1 Recycle old mobile phones: There are thousands of unloved phones languishing in drawers across Cumbria. There are companies like 'mopay.co.uk', 'envirofone.co.uk' and 'mazumamobile.com' that will swap your old mobiles for CASH. To find out more visit one of the named web sites, type in your handset model and they will quote you a price – "ker'ching!"
MONEY MADE: £10 to £150 per handset.

2 Grab a grant: There is loads of free cash out there; whether you want to make your home more energy-efficient, decorate it, or even start up a new business. Visit the grant-grabbing guide: moneysavingexpert.com/grants for more details – "ker'ching!"
MONEY MADE: £1000s – if you are successful when you apply.

3 Listen to some music: There is a website, 'slicethepie.com', and they pay you to listen to music from up-and-coming unsigned bands. You'll be paid 5p for each song you give a rating to. If you can build up a good reputation as an insightful reviewer, you could earn 25p for each song rating – "ker'ching!"
MONEY MADE: Two hours each night could earn you £30 per month.

4 Market research: Fill in online surveys that are short enough to finish off in work breaks, or while you're on the bus. Try checking out websites: 'valuedopinions.co.uk' 'pureprofile.com' and 'pineconeresearch.co.uk' – "ker'ching!"
MONEY MADE: Some surveys pay between £1 to £3, just for ten minute's work – if you are what they are looking for.

5 Have a new year clearout: Clear out those crammed cupboards and clogged attics and you could make some serious money. If you go online, eBay have '10p listing days' so you can palm off all of your clutter on somebody else. Don't forget the benefits of car boot and jumble sales too – "ker'ching!"
MONEY MADE: Earn £1000s – depending on the quality of your clutter.