

Silver Surfers Online - Ideas for keeping communication going

Having been helping out at the Community Cafe with IT related support, I thought it might be helpful to list some options for systems that are available to keep families and friends communicating as our lifestyles may start to change, albeit temporarily. These are not advertisements and I have no connection with any reseller. If you think of any other straightforward methods that could be added, I will be happy to update the document.

Richard

Here goes...in no particular order:

- Setting up a WiFi connection will be necessary for some of these ideas. You can do this through your landline provider, but they may want you to commit to at least a 12 month contract. Alternatively you can get a mobile 'hotspot' such as this one from Three (they have a branch at Coopers Square in Burton) which starts from £9/mth (check mobile coverage in the house first with a phone on the same network). I am sure that other mobile operators will offer similar devices.
http://www.three.co.uk/Discover/Devices/Huawei/E5573bs-322_4G_Mobile_Wi-Fi?memory=0&colour=White
- WhatsApp - Apple/Android Phones, Mac, Windows - note that you will need a mobile number to create an account.
<https://www.whatsapp.com/>
- Facebook Messenger (Apple/Android Phones, Mac, Windows) - note that you will need to have/create a Facebook account.
<https://www.messenger.com/>
- Google Duo (Android Phones, Tablets and Chromebooks).
<https://duo.google.com/about/>
- Apple Facetime (built in to iPhones, iPads & Apple computers, but both callers need an Apple device).
<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT204380>
- Skype (Free app available for Apple/Android phones, iPad, Android tablet, Laptop, Mac).
<https://www.skype.com/en/>
- Zoom (great for virtual meetings - free for up to 100 participants for 40 minutes).
<https://zoom.us/signup>
- Amazon Echo - voice calling from another Echo or the Alexa app (you need an Amazon account but do not need Amazon Prime).
<https://uk.pcmag.com/how-to/86808/how-to-set-up-an-amazon-echo>
- Amazon Echo Show video calling (three size screens - 5.5", 8" & 10") - video calls from another Echo Show or the Alexa App (you need an Amazon account but do not need Amazon Prime).
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/>
- Google Nest Mini (like an Amazon Echo Dot - for voice calls) and Nest Hub Max (video calls). Both will require a free Google account.
https://store.google.com/gb/product/google_nest_mini
https://store.google.com/gb/product/google_nest_hub_max
- Facebook Portal Video Calling (available in three sized screens plus a camera you can mount on top of a TV) - you will need either a Facebook Messenger account (allows up to 7 people in a group call) or WhatsApp account (allows up to 3 people in a WhatsApp group call).
<https://portal.facebook.com/gb/>