

Three ways you can help narrow the UK's digital divide—today!

1. Plan a Silver Surfers' Day Event at your premises for May 15, 2009

Since 2001, Digital Unite has been co-ordinating Silver Surfers' Day taster events at locations throughout the country. Events are held annually on the Friday of Adult Learners' Week. Anyone can hold an event. DU resources you via www.silversurfersday.org. You can hold an event in your sitting room or your board room; your office or your community centre; your classroom or your pub; your communal lounge or your prison recreation room; your steam-train or your speed-boat (stranger locations have been used!). The events are to give older people (that's people 50-120 years old), a chance to get to know the Internet, to enjoy the ease and excitement that being online brings.

'One of our oldest Silver Surfers aged 95 used the computer for the first time at the Event and now has a real taste for it and is attending lessons at the scheme.'

'We had one gentleman who usually just comes into the library to read the paper. Since his Silver Surfer session he has been in every day on the computer.'

'So many said they would not be afraid to come and book time on the computers from now on.'

'Silver Surfers' Day has proved to be useful not just to the older generation but to the 10 year olds in our school who have delivered the teaching to their grandparents so beautifully.'

3. Explore <http://digitalunite.com>

It's the blog for our times - and we've launched it in celebration of our Silver Surfers of the Year 2008. Come and meet them on the blog; view their videos, send them (and us) comments and become part of



the sharpest, most informed conversations online about all things to do with digital literacy and Britain's older generations.

2. Sign up for our email news

Put your email address in the sign-up space on **www.digitalunite.net**

In return you'll get short, uninvasive, just-in-time information in your inbox. Example topics include:

- Silver Surfers' Day and all its lovely resources (more above, left)
- Best-practice workshops around the country, or for specific organisations, on bringing digital literacy to your service-users or customers
- The Digital Divide and how it affects all of us
- Resources to help do your bit to close the Digital Divide
- Tips, quotes, stats on issues to do with ageing (did you know nearly 10million UK-over-50s have never tried the Internet?)
- DU Community Programmes—sustainable ways to support communities around the country, with home-visit, specialist tutors
- Learning Zone: online question and answer forum where DU Tutors and others can be called upon for advice www.digitalunite.net/lz

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