

The Digibox and The Wychwoods

In our house we have an unwritten rule. We don't watch any drama which features an ambulance or a police car! In this way we can distinguish one programme from another and we know we didn't see the same plot the week before. The drawback of this is that the 20% of programmes remaining to watch are 'reality TV' offerings, monotonous soaps or DIY shows!

Digibox Needed

Being of the 'old world' (terrestrial TV) we could only crave the interesting programmes advertised on the digital channels. For example, BBC 4 sounded right up our street. It promised art, culture, debate, and documentaries...the old days of 'proper TV' was in sight but here in the Wychwoods we could not receive it. A Digibox was needed. So, every now and again I would pop in to a High Street shop and ask if our postcode area was 'live' yet but the answer, according to the computer, was always no. However, in October, we had a dinner party and one of our guests told us he had bought a Digibox and it worked. He had simply plugged it in. I raced into Witney bought one, plugged it in and (after my husband had rewired half the house, created cables to make the TV talk to the video, re-configured the wiring to the point where it looked like spaghetti junction and sworn fourteen times) we had 90 plus channels at our disposal! "Hurrah" we all cheered. My son has CBBC, we had BBC 4, the new Channel

4 output, More 4, had just launched and it suddenly felt like viewing Nirvana!

Brave New World?

I couldn't wait to read through the listings to find out what my new world of multi channel TV was offering me. I carefully scanned four pages of dense, tiny type in search of something to watch on the Sunday night. What did I find? Well, actually there were any amount of programmes with police cars or ambulances in them, plenty of reality TV, multitudinous repeats of soaps and a plethora of DIY shows! Not one programme of interest appeared on any of the channels. In fact, we just had broader

choice of all the bad ones and the repeats!

Luckily, we had DVD back up! We watched a film and talked for the rest of the evening! The very poor TV output we have today has at least given us more chance to read and talk just like we did before TV was invented! The moral of this story is, don't believe the shops that tell you a Digibox won't work in this area. You do just plug it in to your TV, if you have the correct connections, but your video recorder is another story! Oh, and you would be advised to be married to an engineer (as I am) if you want a quick result. Your TV will offer you nearly 100 channels but the output is a watered down version of what we are already getting. Good luck!

Jan Harvey

