

## Twitter

Twitter is a social networking service that allows people to write short messages (called Tweets) to let people know what they are doing, what they are thinking.

If you set up a Twitter Profile (join Twitter), you can post updates (tweets) on your home page – once the message is posted, anyone who ‘follows’ you on Twitter will receive the message.

You can also ‘**follow**’ someone else on Twitter – this means that every time they write a ‘**tweet**’, you will receive it. Lots of people follow famous people, organisations and even TV shows on Twitter e.g. Barack Obama or the X-Factor.

Example of a ‘Tweet’:



When you send a ‘**tweet**’ it is displayed on your profile page, on the home page of each of your followers, and in the Twitter public timeline. These messages are viewed by those following you or by those visiting your profile.

Many people now have Twitter on their mobile phones. This means that when something exciting happens and they want to let people know, instead of sending a text to one or two people, they can post a ‘**tweet**’ and all of their followers will get it.

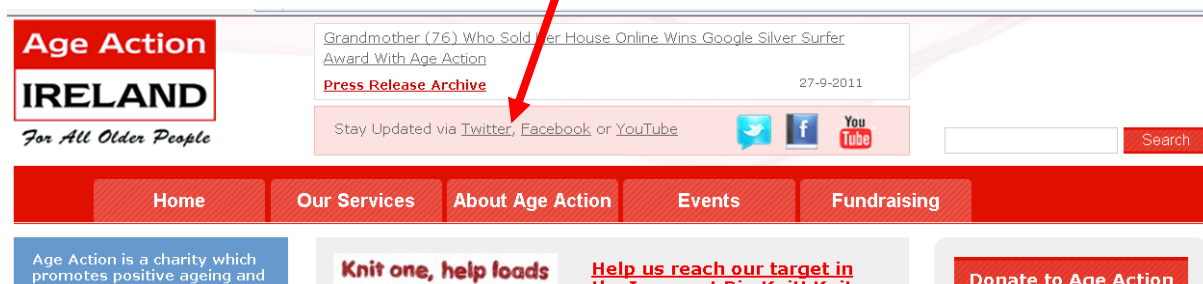
Companies find Twitter useful, as they can communicate information to hundreds of interested parties at once, rather than sending them all emails.

## Activity

### Browse a Twitter page

Step **1** Go to [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

When the homepage opens, click on the **Twitter** Link.



The Age Action Twitter page will open

Step **2** Explore the page

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of @AgeAction Ireland. Red arrows point from callout boxes to specific elements on the page:

- Click Here to Follow Age Action**: Points to the '+ Follow' button.
- Recent Tweets**: Points to the 'Tweets' tab.
- See who is following or check on favourites**: Points to the 'Following' and 'Followers' tabs.
- Number of followers**: Points to the '801 Followers' count in the 'About @AgeAction' section.
- Sign-up for Twitter box**: Points to the 'Sign up' button in the 'Join Twitter right now:' section.

The 'About @AgeAction' section displays the following statistics:

Tweets	Following	Followers	Listed
927	429	801	26

## Setting up a Twitter Account

To join any social network you will first need to create a **“profile”** – which is a personal account, where you give some basic information about yourself, for example, your profile user name, where you’re from and what music and interests you like. You can then decide whether you want to make your profile private or public. So, if you mark your profile **‘private’**, nobody should be able to access any of your personal details unless you approve and add them to your friends list first.

**A word of Warning:** Be careful about how much personal information you put up online, e.g. don’t give out your house address or telephone number. Remember the Internet is a public resource. Only put up information you are comfortable with anyone seeing and prevent identity theft by limiting the amount of information you put online.

## To set up an Account

1. Go to <http://twitter.com/>, enter your full name and click the **yellow button** on the right hand of your screen, or simply go to <https://twitter.com/signup>
2. Fill in the first field with your **full name**
3. Select a **username** from one of the usernames suggested, or create your own (Can be a nickname – something that describes you)
4. Enter a **password**. Make sure your password contains letters, numbers, and symbols.
5. Enter your **email address**
6. Fill in the Captcha (strange looking letters & numbers) to prove you're human, not a machine!
7. Pick areas that interest you
8. **Search for Friends**, and follow them

Twitter will send you a confirmation email before you can finish the sign-up process