



**10 REASONS WHY YOU NEED A SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER ...NOW**

Blogging, tweeting, 'friend request' and fan pages. The lexicon of the modern world.

Twitter is all the rage. Facebook has over 600 million users globally; just under half of the UK population is on it. Blogging used to be a novelty, now it seems every Tom Dick and Sally is doing it and the experts tell you it's essential to the future of your business. Oh, and if you're in business you need to be on LinkedIn. Apparently.

All these web concepts have a single important element in common: they are all 'two way streets' when it comes to communication.

Gone are the brochure style one way communication tools used online for the past 10 years to sell your product, or build your brand. No longer can you toss up a website and hope people sign up for your product or service.

People want more, they expect more. They're using social media.

Welcome to a new dawn.

The fact is Social Media is transforming the way the world does business. In your town and your city, this week. Today. The implications are huge and the prizes are enormous for those businesses with the wisdom and foresight to get involved – properly – right now.

There is a window of opportunity now open which is likely to close rapidly in the near future. Even if you are one of the (very small) minority of business owners who has the technical knowledge and knows what to do to properly utilize social media across the different platforms to build your business, the reality is that you don't have the necessary time to devote to social media to do it properly. So you're missing out. Big time.

And if you don't know exactly what to do and how to do it – and are therefore invisible on the social media landscape – then you have no chance. **Which means the biggest single opportunity to develop and grow your business since the arrival of the internet, will completely pass you by.**

So instead of trying to do it all on your own and being destined to fail, or burying your head in the sand because you don't know what to do... let us help you and do it for you.

Social Media in 4 Paragraphs

Social media is a new way to use the web. It's a trendy term to describe a new kind of mass media. It involves both listening, and talking. It's about being there for friends as well as engaging strangers. It's all done on a daily basis by thousands of people in your town. Be under no illusion...it's where the people are. And it's definitely NOT just for kids.

Sell kitchen products? You can bet your core customers are on Twitter or Facebook right now, this minute, sharing recipes, asking for advice on new products and yes, complaining about brands like yours.

How about a service? Say you're a lawyer or a dentist. Your clients are online today – people in your area – letting their followers and friends know about their upcoming trip to your office probably before your assistant even pens the appointment in your diary.

The examples of how social media and business are converging online are almost endless. The point of all these examples is as visible as an elephant in a goldfish bowl: ignore these people and your business will suffer. Immensely over time. Your choice, the only one you have right now, frankly, is to engage these people on their turf, to meet them where they gather. And if you want to get ahead, you'd better do it fast.

1997 all over again

In many ways social media right now in 2010/2011 is very much like the web was back in 1997.

The businesses that got involved in the internet in those early days, that set up their websites first, that dominated the search engine results for their category, those are the businesses that have flourished online and seen business boom over the last twelve or thirteen years whilst their competitors have struggled to play 'catch-up'.

Social media will be the same.

The businesses that understand it and embrace it – properly – now will see huge long term benefits. And unlike the web, which took 8-9 years to penetrate local markets, social media is already impacting local markets and neighbourhoods in a meaningful way. Because it's where the people are. Thousands of your potential customers –

people who live and work within a few miles of your business – are on Facebook and Twitter today. You'd have to be either incredibly arrogant or incredibly stupid to not even try to communicate and engage with them. Wouldn't you?

10 Reasons Why You Need a Social Media Manager for your business...NOW

1. The Sin Bin

In Rugby Union, if a player commits a serious foul then the referee can send him to the Sin Bin. His team is forced to go a man down for ten minutes. If you are on the end of social media spectrum where you aren't engaging users on a daily basis in multiple ways and on multiple networks then you are, in essence, a member of the penalized team. You're playing at a major disadvantage to the people and competitors in your industry who are actively using social media to win new business. (And if you aren't even a member of these key sites, how can you ever know what is being said about you or your profession by your customers and potential customers?)

2. The Extra Man

Conversely, if you choose to step into the social media realm with a calculated plan and a clear strategy then you acquire a major competitive advantage. In effect it is you who are now playing with the extra man. You have the chance to be one of the first in your industry to build a truly loyal following. Sure, the technologies are massive, but they're also young. No one 'owns' the space yet. It's game on – in every sector and every town. Now is your chance to do what you wished you'd done when the first wave of internet successes started emerging over ten years ago.

You don't have a choice to enter the game. It's already started. Your only choice is which team you want to play on – the one that is advantaged, or the one that isn't. That's the only choice you've got right now...

3. A Community Following

By far the biggest benefit of using platforms such as Twitter or Facebook or LinkedIn is the ability for you to build a community around your cause. If you sell car valeting products how valuable would it be to have tens of thousands of car enthusiasts accessible to your business right now? What if you could have them help you develop your new products, test it for you, and then spread the good word to ten friends each? If every one of them did that (and they can and will if you do this properly)

then that'd make you some serious cash, and wouldn't hurt your brand reputation either.

Community is about engaging. It's about listening, and responding appropriately. It is NOT just shouting about me, me, me and your new idea. It's about caring for others. Do this, and you will help your brand and reputation in such a way that you will always have people willing to help you accomplish your goals. It's powerful stuff.

4. The New Internet Marketing

The goal of any internet marketer is to get people to visit a specific website. So then, if several of the most visited websites in the world are already allowing people to use their sites to freely guide people to specific websites, why wouldn't you want a chunky piece of the action?

Why does Google make so much money from its 'pay-per-click' advertising? Because most people who use the internet use Google to find what they want. NEWSFLASH: most people who use the internet use Facebook, (Facebook now has more page views per month than Google) and Twitter isn't too far behind. Internet marketing is already beginning to manifest itself into social media because the truth is the opportunity on these sites is as big as anything that's ever happened on the web.

5. Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

Google is now recognizing Tweets in their organic results – and high up, too.

There are hundreds of thousands of Twitter profiles showing on Page 1 of Google for valuable keyword terms. Google recognises Facebook profiles and allows commercial "fan" pages now to rank as well.

Effective use of social media builds relationships which turn into links. Instead of trying to put your content where it's not wanted (high Page Rank sites that dislike spam) why not put it on sites which are SEO friendly, which like fresh content, and allow you to post virtually anything you want, anytime you want? The obvious answer here is that SEO and social media are like strawberries and cream – both are better when they are together.

Bottom line: SEO will deeply depend on social media in the future, and therefore utilising it is a must for anyone who wants web traffic. Period. End of story.

6. Your Reputation Matters...

What have people said about you, your industry, your company or your competitors on Twitter or Facebook today?

This week?

With a Social Media Manager you will always know.

How valuable is it when a disgruntled customer grouches about you online and you are able to spot it and respond constructively and positively – within hours? Your relationship with them isn't just preserved, it's enhanced.

How valuable is it to be able to collect the nice things that people say about you (that you wouldn't normally even see) and magnify their exposure. This is big stuff.

7. You Don't Know What to Do...

No disrespect, but it's true.

99% of UK business owners have little or no idea how to properly tap into and exploit social media – even those who are dabbling with it already.

Which platforms are right to expand the exposure for your business and your target market?

(ANSWER: It depends!)

What is a social media campaign?

(SHORT ANSWER: It's developing a great message and then reaching out to people, while giving them an incentive to 'pass it on')

How do you monitor social media and spot what needs action?

(SHORT ANSWER: Google Alerts, Twitter searches, traffic sources...and more)

How do you build the right audience?

(SHORT ANSWER: By finding interesting, relevant people on Twitter, commenting on relevant blog posts, using Facebook marketing and pages and getting into conversation with people)

8. You haven't got time to do it properly

Oh sure, you can dip in and out and dabble. You can tweet a few times each day. But if you're running a business the reality is that haven't got the capacity to do social media properly. Not to fully exploit the enormous opportunities that it presents.

Just. Not. Possible.

You need some help.

9. Your Blog isn't very good...

OK, so we might be offending 0.6% of our readers here – but for 99.4% our analysis is spot on.

When you go to somebody's house for the first time, what do you do? You look around for photographs, check out the books and magazines lying around, you form a picture of this person. The same needs to be true of your blog – it needs to be a window on you. So people that come there feel like they know you and your business. They can see pictures, learn what you're interested in, read all about you.

Here's the thing – all you have to be is more interesting than an advert. They have to feel that they know you just a little bit better than they know your competitors. That's all. Make a personal connection with them via your blog and they'll trust you and the business is in the bag.

There's also a whole caboodle of SEO reasons why your blog is important. Bottom line is, you've got to have a great blog – and you don't, right now. But don't worry, your Social Media Manager can fix that for you.

10. You're not keeping score...

Doesn't matter what it is in life, if you're not measuring it's impossible to know how well – or badly – you're doing.

Every month – more frequently if you require – we'll provide you with a detailed report. It will tell you exactly how you're doing across the full spectrum of social media platforms. We'll track your progress and the trends. We'll keep score for you.

Let's cut to the chase here. As we said earlier, **the fact is, Social Media is transforming the way the world does business. In your town and your**

city, this week. Today. The implications are huge and the prizes are enormous for those businesses with the wisdom and foresight to get involved – properly – right now.

There is a window of opportunity now open which is likely to close rapidly in the near future. Even if you are one of the (very small) minority of business owners who has the technical knowledge and knows what to do to properly utilize social media across the different platforms to build your business, the reality is that you don't have the necessary time to devote to social media to do it properly. So you're missing out. Big time.

And if you don't know what to do, or aren't doing it, then you're not even in the game.

This is just too big and too important – for your business – to be left unaddressed.

Which is why you need to call us, today, so we can talk about how we can fix everything for you.

Matt Bradney

Ian Clemson

Tel: 01353 809286

01638 745286

Mob: 07739393137

07834173507

Twitter: @mattbradney

@ianclemson

@cambsocmedia