The Solution

“In summer 2017, we had pretty much given up hope of having decent broadband when a guy came down the drive and said he was working with Airband in association with Shropshire Council for filling gaps in rural broadband, and they had identified the corner of our field as an ideal transmitter spot. “At first I thought it was a joke, I was looking for the hidden cameras!”

The Challenge

Matthew and Debbie needed robust broadband for business and personal reasons. Their kennels and cattery business (www.oakgrange.com) required online payments but sluggish broadband speeds meant that people were unable to pay online or use the card machine - many customers had to return a few days later and pay in cash. “The IT company I worked for at the time were happy for me to work from home, but I couldn’t because access to the internet was so poor.

The Results

“Before we had our Airband connection, we had all sorts of problems with our broadband dropping out. Now we’re getting a solid 30Mbps. It has really helped us to be able to process online payments for our business. It has made a big difference to my writing - historical research and uploading photos is a lot easier now. And with four kids in the house who are on Netflix and XBoxes it really has been a lifesaver to have superfast speeds.”

In Shropshire, they found themselves plunged back into the dark ages that Matthew writes about: “Forsooth, broadbane was slower thann ye olde snailles”.

Matthew Lewis is the author of two histories and two historical fiction novels about Richard III and the Wars of the Roses.

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