

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. In the UK the over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55-64 and 2.9 million over-65s. So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. Sheila, aged 59, says, 'I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 in the UK are leaving the site – only 2.2 million users are under 17 – but they're not going far from their smartphones. Is it only a matter of time until the generation above and below Peter catches up with the new trend for a less digital life? Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly.