

Learn some keypad etiquette

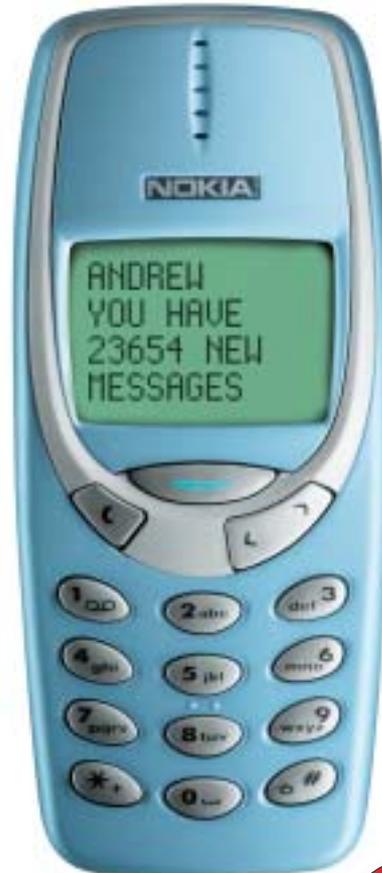
Sick of getting calls from the inside of your friends' briefcases? Or getting answerphone messages full of muffled conversations clearly not intended for you? You are not alone explains an exasperated Andrew Charlesworth

Ranting about mobile phones is like shooting fish in a barrel. We've all heard arrogant dimwits shouting the details of their love lives or business dealings into a phone on a train or the street.

But this moan is different. This moan is personal. Last week my phone went off at 7.35am. The caller seemed to be among a group of people who had congregated in a bathroom and were discussing how early they'd had to get up in order to make their soon-to-start meeting. Well, that's nice. "Turn your phone off, Scottie!" I yelled hoarsely into my phone. But I was speaking to her briefcase.

I am tired of having conversations with the inside of friends' handbags and jacket pockets. I'm bored stiff of listening to sonorous voices from meetings, the rhythmic rattle of an empty railway carriage or the bright chatter from a winebar. I'm also fed up paying for the privilege of listening to five-minute wordless messages, punctuated by the piercing wail of a siren from the pavements of London.

Why me? Because my name unfortunately begins with A, so I'm top of many a friend's phone list. And when they lean repeatedly on the same button it's me they dial. So please, folks, learn to use the keypad lock on your phone. ■



Nov
issue on
sale
18 Sept

next month

features

Supercharge your PC

There's more to boosting your PC than adding extra memory or installing a better graphics card. We show you how.

Customer satisfaction survey

You told us which PC companies look after their customers. We name and shame the worst vendors and salute those that provide an exemplary aftersales service.

workshops

Office add-ons and extras

You might think Microsoft Office is hefty enough but you can add even more by installing further templates, filters, viewers, language support tools and macros.

Surf and browse tips & tricks

Find what you're after faster with our guide to more accurate online searches and useful links.

xp advisor

Love it or loathe it?

What we rate and what we hate about the Windows XP operating system.

reviews

Top 10 charts

- **Budget PCs** Systems designed to perform to the max but not cost the earth. The best of the bunch go head-to-head.
- **Digital cameras** The latest beginner, intermediate and professional models reviewed and ranked.

Technofile: digital cameras

We explain the differences between camera makes and models, as well as showing you the enhancements that advanced features make to your photographs.



Digital World FREE 2nd magazine

Next month sees the launch of our brand-new magazine *Digital World*, a unique publication devoted to turning your home into technology heaven. We'll inform and entertain you with frank features on whether any of it lives up to the digital hub hype. Bagged with your copy of *PC Advisor*, be sure not to miss it!