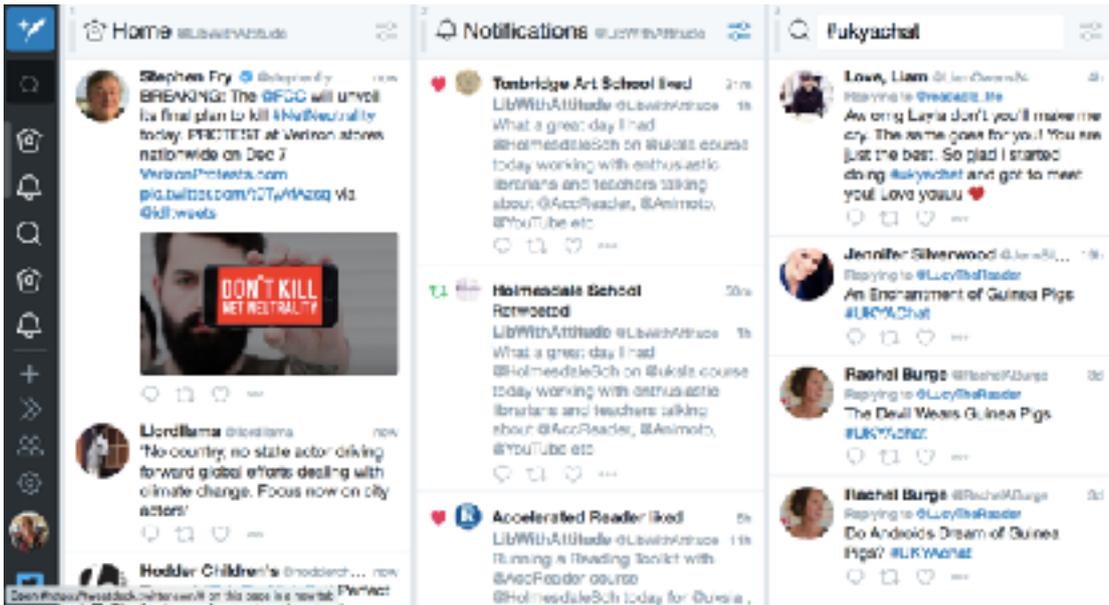


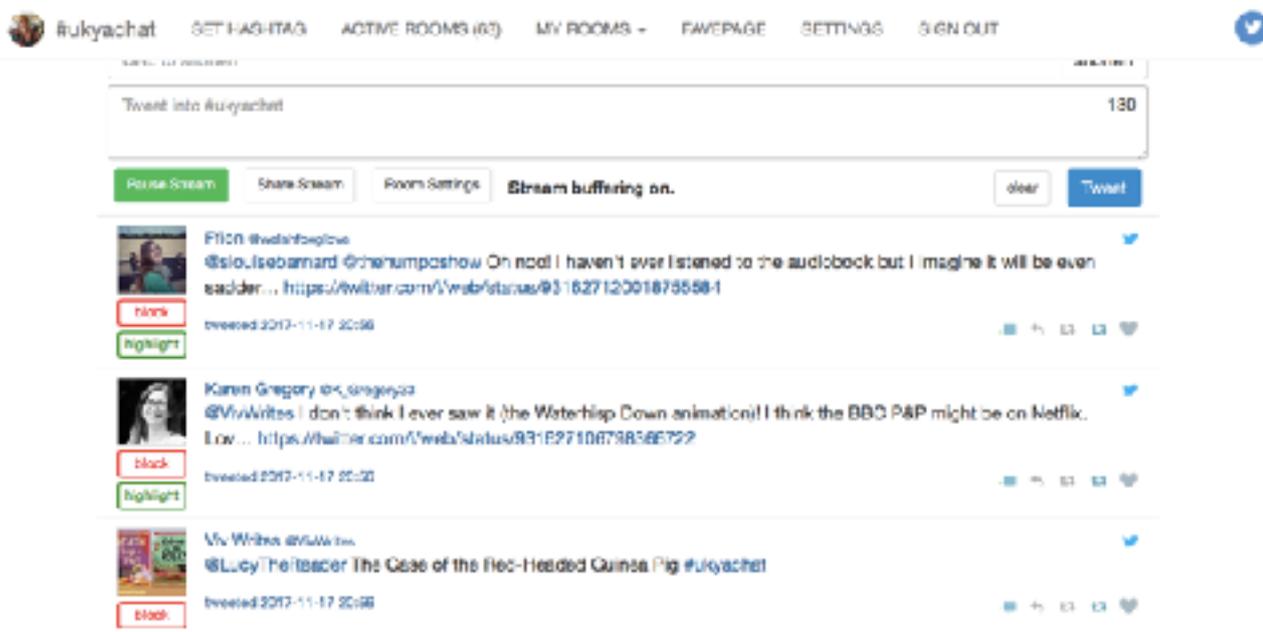
Taking part in a Twitter chat

There are numerous Twitter chats that go on each week on the social networking site and they can be interesting and fun to take part in. Whomever is hosting the chat sets up a hashtag and a time and often sets questions to keep discussions going. The hashtag (a word or words preceded by a # sign) is used to keep all of the tweets on the chat together so that participants can keep up with the conversation.

It is helpful to use a Twitter client to help you see relevant tweets if you are taking part in a chat, such as Tweetdeck (<https://tweetdeck.twitter.com>) or Hootsuite (<https://hootsuite.com>) What this will allow you to do is have several columns side by side so you can see the main chat stream and also keep an eye on your own notifications in case anyone talks to you directly (as in the screenshot below, #ukyachat being the chat stream)



Alternatively you might want to use Tweetchat (<http://tweetchat.com>) which gives you a dedicated window for the chat but doesn't have your own notifications in it, I would want to have Twitter open on my notifications in a separate tab. Tweetchat will automatically add the hashtag to all of your tweets however and this is helpful because if you forget to add it your tweets won't appear in the chat's stream.



Before the tweet chat you might want to jot down some ideas that you want to share during it , you could even compose some tweets that you can copy and paste quickly. Twitter etiquette is that you let your followers know that you will be taking part in a chat beforehand, just to prepare them for your increased tweets, you never know they might want to join in too! Usually the tweet chat host will mark questions with a Q and the question number, when you reply start with an A & the question number so that your answer will be linked with the right question. You don't have to ask to join a chat, just make sure you are online at the relevant time and tweet away. Usually you will be asked to introduce yourself in the first tweet and then it will be on with the questions. You will probably meet new people and get new followers through the tweet chat. Introduce yourself and follow them back. - enjoy!

Any questions please contact Bev Humphrey @Libwithattitude