

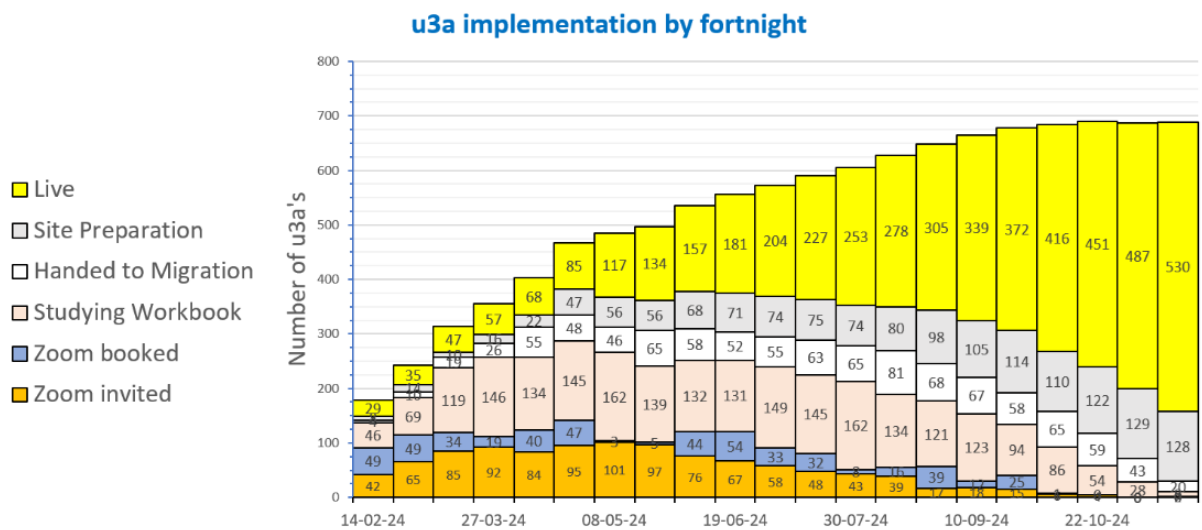
SiteWorks Bulletin November 2024

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SiteWorks Progress

You will find fortnightly updates of the numbers in the Project News area of the SiteWorks website - <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/current/>



The chart above is the 19th November progress update. Many u3as are at final stages now and only 20 left to get their server site. Keep it going. The end is in sight.

500 and counting

We made 500 live sites on 4th November and the lucky site was Didcot & District. Well done to Shirley and Peter Rouse who were very surprised to learn this and to be asked to contribute to the Trust's 'Latest News'. You'll find the article here - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/volunteer-u3a-team-reach-a-new-milestone>

Implementation Team encompassing I&E, Training, and Migration

Redirection and URL map updates

This is a repeat of last month because around 50% of u3as with live sites have still not done this. Please use the Go-live checklist for details

<https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WM-migration-Go-Live-Instructions-and-chklist-v23-2024-09-26.pdf>

A reminder to Web Managers re updating your sites URL on the Third Age Trust's (TAT) find a u3a map.

TAT publishes a Google map showing all the u3a's across the country to allow prospective members to find a u3a near them. There is a link from TAT's main website to 'Find a u3a' but for ease of finding it here's a direct link, see;

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1qJ-JDz72cABBFoZXGRgixlLQeX5kCtc&ll=55.10167941200163%2C-2.160060816063707&z=6>

A cross check between TAT's map and the SiteWorks live sites map shows that more than 200 u3as have failed to advise TAT of their new URL.

The SiteWorks live sites map can be viewed at;

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zgQxz9uS77RJG0SRex7UAL_88YyS06E&ll=54.60690900139566%2C-2.3787040225671143&z=6

TAT's map is under the control of the staff in the u3a London office and the volunteers in the SiteWorks team cannot update it on your behalf. So I would ask you to please check that your SiteWorks URL is shown for your u3a on TAT's map. If your old Site Builder URL is still shown on TAT's map then you need to arrange to get it updated. The process for this is for you to advise your Secretary (or the committee member with u3a Portal access) of the SiteWorks URL and ask them to change it online using the 'Update Committee Details' option. See;

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/committee-details-portal>

As per the signing of the T&Cs, none of the volunteers in the SiteWorks team can access the u3aPortal or resolve issues with it. Unless you also are the Secretary or Chair for your u3a you are unlikely to have Portal access and will not be able to login so you will need to pass the new URL to the authorised Portal user to get the URL updated. Just in case you are wondering why no one has asked you to do this before, it is covered in part 6 of the 'Go Live Instruction' supplied by your migrator.

Implementation Team

WordPress updates

The latest version of WordPress was released on the 12 November, and by now has been uploaded all u3a sites. With any release of WordPress, it comes with a large number of feature enhancements and bug fixes, in this release almost 1000. It is fair to say that a large proportion are of little or marginal interest to the majority of u3a website administrators. However, the following may be of interest:

1. Ability to zoom when creating or editing patterns.
2. Minor changes to how a Query Loop is configured.
3. You can now add background images to Quote and Group Blocks.
4. Background colours can be added to the Social Icons and Buttons blocks.
5. Drag and drop has been added to the Image block, which automatically converts an Image Block into a Gallery Block.

Information on these enhancements will be added to the User Guide over the coming days. Hopefully the bug fixes in the WordPress Core and Editor, will make you experience better experience, both from the features added and with improved robustness of the system.

The Change Board met earlier in the month, and as usual reviewed feature requests. A number are moving forward to development, some will appear shortly, other will take some time to develop and test. They will be listed on the SiteWorks website under Enhancements at <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/operational-updates/siteworks-additional-features/>. In some cases, we have had to reject a request for a new feature, as while it from a user's perspective appear to be a simple fix, in fact to achieve the required result a significant amount of effort will be required. One of the duties of the change board is to balance the benefits that a new feature will bring to the majority of u3a's against the available resources, primarily the software developers and testers.

Richard Crowder
Change Board

SiteWorks Support

Can I remind all SiteWorks users that once your site has gone Live you need to direct any support request or enquires to the SiteWorks team and **not** to the Site Builder Team. The SiteWorks project has its own website at <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/> There is a FAQ section and if you cannot find the answer there, then use the 'Raise a Help Desk enquiry' option to start a support request.

Support Team

The SiteWorks Team

