SiteWorks Newsletter March 2025

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This newsletter is distributed to SiteWorks Web Managers (WMs) registered with us. We can optionally hold a second contact we call Assistant WMs.

> Please pass this on to your SiteWorks users and others who contribute content.

To update our records, please use the form at https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk

Third-Party Plugins

WordPress plugins provide additional functionality over the core WordPress distribution. Think of them like apps you install on your smartphone.

The SiteWorks team only supports the plugins installed during site setup. These are listed and described in the Operational Procedures; see https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk menu **Web Manager › Operational Procedures.**
If a site installs a third-party plugin the Sysadmin team make an assessment. If there are concerns, such as security risks, we will contact the site admin.

The SiteWorks team don't make formal recommendations, although, like everyone else, team members will express their experiences on the forum or drop-in sessions. If you have a particular requirement for some functionality, then:

- Refer to the list of popular plugins below

- Ask on the forum https://u3awpdev.org.uk (you need to register). Don't be put off because much of the forum is pretty technical.

- Look at 'Add Plugins' on your Dashboard. Search for the topic of what you want to do. Ideally, do this on Local WP to try out plugins away from your live site.

- When browsing plugins, be wary of those with relatively few active installations or don't receive regular updates. Check out the user reviews. If a review looks out of place (one-star rating or over-the-top praise), check the profile of the reviewer and ignore if they have only ever reviewed one or two plugins. Basically, follow the same principle when planning a holiday destination and accommodation.

In descending order of the number of installations on SiteWorks production sites, these are the top 10 most popular plugins, along with a category of what they do.:

Media Library Organizer	Media
WPvivid Backup Plugin	Replicate site
WP Migrate Lite	Replicate site
FileBird Lite	Media
WP Last Modified Info	Information
WP Migrate Lite Compatibility	Replicate Site
WordPress Importer	Editing/Appearance
WP Activity Log	Information
Simple History	Information
WP Duplicate Page	Editing/Appearance

The most popular categories are replicating your site and organising the Media library.

The website **Web Manager > 'How To' articles** include some notes on using WPvivid, which is particularly useful for setting up a copy of your live site on Local WP.

Drop-in sessions – moving to 1st and 3rd Monday

These are informal Q&A sessions aimed at anyone new to SiteWorks/WordPress or just a bit rusty. SiteWorks Admins, Editors, and Authors of your site are welcome—do pass on the invite.

Following attendees' suggestions, we'll move to making these gatherings the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month starting Monday, 7th April. The next meeting is on Monday, 17th March.

Mondays 3 pm Support Zoom Drop-In for Web Managers
Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85965821858?pwd=RkYxR0wzamdkdUNwSHNJSEd4OX lpUT09
Meeting ID: 859 6582 1858   Passcode: 2iRjs5

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Change Board – WordPress 6.8

WordPress 6.8 is due on 15 April. A release for testing should be available on 25 March. Our Sysadmin will then coordinate testing the SiteWorks plugins and making any necessary changes.

We expect some improvements to the experience of Web Managers, Editors, and Authors and will communicate the changes before we deploy 6.8. This also means we will review and update the User Guide and Learning Guides as necessary.

Map of u3as and sites

During the SiteBuilder migration the team maintained a map of new SiteWorks sites as they were created. It gave a visual meter of progress and enabled all of us to see what others had created.

Having served its purpose, we stopped maintaining it, and the map has been discontinued. The Trust maintain a map of all u3as on this page:

https://www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/find-your-local-u3a

If you need to make any corrections, you can do this through the u3a Committee Details Portal. Usually, the Chair or Secretary is registered on the portal to do this.

https://www.u3a.org.uk/committee-details-portal?highlight=WyJwb3J0YWwiXQ==

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