

SiteWorks Newsletter April 2025

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This newsletter is distributed to SiteWorks Web Managers (WMs) registered with us. We can optionally hold a second contact, which 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>

Drop-in Q&A reminder and Easter dates

The drop-in Q&A sessions are aimed at those of you who are new to, or are just a bit rusty, working on SiteWorks. Please pass on this invite to your colleagues. We try not to dwell on more advanced topics, but are happy to take these at the end of the meeting or arrange a 1-to-1 with one of our Supporters.

These are held at 3 p.m. on Mondays and by popular consensus on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. This means an Easter Monday clash this year, so the next meeting will be on Monday, 21st April, and then on 5th May (yes, another Bank Holiday, but a minor one).

Support Zoom Drop-In for Web Managers Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85965821858?pwd=RkYxROwzamdkdUNwSHNJSEd4OXlpUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 6582 1858 Passcode: 2iRjs5

Web Manager User Group

An update and appeal from Mark Bradley.

In late January, I invited all the Site Works Web Managers and Assistants to complete a survey form on setting up a user group, what they would want out of one, and whether they could contribute to it. The invitation went to over 1000 of you. 336 Users responded, with 175 expressing an interest in joining such a group and 161 saying they were not interested. Of those interested, 12 said they would be willing to help set it up, and 34 said they may consider helping to run it. Two meetings were held with those willing to help, and while there was support for some of the services and activities a user group could provide, only one person volunteered to help get a group off the ground. Unfortunately, that person has been unable to progress due to ongoing commitments.

While there is some interest in a WMUG, it will not exist without people to lead and coordinate its activities. I believe a user group needs at least three people to lead it. So, if you are interested in a WMUG and are willing to do the work required to get it off the ground, please get in touch with me.

Mark Bradley
mark.bradley@siteworks.u3a.org.uk

Survey to review the SiteWorks project

Now that SiteWorks support post migration is well bedded down, we need to review how the migration went and capture lessons learnt. In addition to input from the volunteer project team, we would like to hear how it was for u3as, Regions, and Networks. To this end, a survey will be going out shortly. All results and comments will be anonymised, so please be candid and not polite.

Keeping sites secure

Every site on SiteWorks hosting is checked daily against the [Wordfence Vulnerability database](#), and any plugins with known security vulnerabilities are immediately deactivated to avoid any risk of compromise.

In addition, all sites are protected by server firewall monitoring, [Corero DDoS Protection](#) and the [Imunify360](#) Security suite.

An article on MSN (Microsoft News) reported that UK ISP GoDaddy found a damaging malware campaign that hit over 20,000 WordPress sites. The campaign redirected visitors to gambling sites and worse. To put that headline figure in context, there are over 506 million WordPress sites, so 20,000 is 0.0004% of sites. Our Sysadmin team suspects these will all be old sites that are not being updated and are, therefore, in a vulnerable state.

Change Board – WordPress 6.8

As mentioned last month, WordPress 6.8 has now been released. The team decided not to test the pre-releases and is now testing the official release. This mainly involves checking the SiteWorks plugins' functionality and noting any changes Web Managers, Editors, and Authors will experience. We will communicate the results.

The WordPress 6.8 update does not add new features likely relevant to u3a websites, though you may notice some minor changes in the editor. WPBeginner has provided a [comprehensive non-technical guide](#) to the changes.

If your site has adopted additional plugins, it is important to establish whether they are compatible with 6.8.

Map of u3as and sites

During the Site Builder migration, the team maintained a map of new SiteWorks sites as they were created. This map gave a visual meter of progress and let us 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=WyJwb3JOYWwiXQ==>

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The SiteWorks Team



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