

SiteWorks Newsletter Feb-Mar 2026

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

Do pass this newsletter on to your SiteWorks users and others who contribute content.

To update our records, please use the Contacts form launched by clicking the button on our homepage at <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk>.

Software update

Deployed 1st March.

u3a Contact form: The opening line of the email now appends the page source of the contact which may help recipients identify the nature of the enquiry. The line now reads:

The following message was sent via the <u3a name> web site, from a contact on page <source page>

For example,

The following message was sent via the Anytown u3a web site, from a contact on page /u3a_groups/art-history.

Categories: Groups and Events can have more than one category assigned to them. When using the u3a group list and u3a event list blocks it is now possible to select more than one category from the list offered.

Also and an issue with & characters on categories has been resolved.

Import/Export: multiple groups supported with a vertical bar separator in the string, e.g. "Outing|Social|West Region".

Contact log and email delivery

There was an incident recently where emails generated by Contact form submissions were temporarily treated as Spam by Microsoft email accounts. All the sites affected have been notified.

If there are email delivery issues, perhaps just due to a typo in the address, we notify the site Admins with the address concerned as this is the only information we have.

However, this doesn't help identify who initiated the contract form submission. SiteWorks includes the 'u3a Contact Form Log' that will record the name and email plus other data provided by the submitter.



The log is NOT enabled by default for GDPR reasons. Before enabling, you should declare this in your privacy policy and update your Website Terms of Use page called

Website Terms of Use

This page is linked to the footer on your site:

Theme developed by u3a SiteWorks team
[Website Terms of Use](#)

The plugin explains this before you click to enable it.

For complete clarity, we recommend also stating your policy on the 'Contact Us' page. For example:

When this form sends us an email we record the name, email address, and message subject entered. Records are kept for up to 90 days and monitored to protect against spam emails.

Alternative to Local WP

Local WP runs a WordPress site hosted on your computer. This is ideal for learning SiteWorks and trying things out such as 3rd party plugins before installing them on your live site (an Operational Procedures requirement).

A downside of Local WP is that for occasional or one-off use it requires installation and setup, plus it doesn't run on tablets, smartphones and Chrome books. Our Sysadmin team have come across an intriguing alternative that can run entirely in a browser (technical bit – it's a JavaScript application).

It's called WordPress Playground and a version that will invoke the SiteWorks "Starter" site is available at <https://playground.wordpress.net/?blueprint-url=https://u3asite.uk/playground/siteworks-starter-blueprint.json>

If you try this out, please **see it as a bonus if it works for you**. We have only run it on a few computers and browsers, but it did load onto my Android Smartphone in about 20 seconds, plus an extra 10 seconds the first time I opened the Dashboard. Nevertheless, WordPress Playground may struggle on older devices with limited memory.

Note - occasionally when we have started Playground it throws up an error message about failing to access components. If you experience this just close your browser and try again, it should load as expected.

Broken external links

Most sites have external links – local news and information sites, venue websites, neighbouring u3as. Websites change and over time these links can be broken. A quick way to check your links is to use a link checker website. This site <https://www.brokenlinkcheck.com/> does the job and has been recommended on the u3a WordPress forum <https://u3awpdev.org.uk>

Drop-ins update

For the last few meetings Bev Southgate has been demonstrating the use of image related blocks. On the 16th March meeting she will cover the Gallery block that displays a number of pictures as a cluster and has a few interesting editing features.

We plan to feature demos on a topic regularly so let us know (info@siteworks.u3a.org.uk) if you have a topic suggestion. You can also submit questions in advance.

We hold these at 15:00 on 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. All welcome, especially those new to maintaining site content.

Support Zoom Drop-In for Web Managers Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930189828?pwd=MNUdMvrBoBadaBHcOuT9rOZHhjXDOT.1>

Meeting ID: 879 3018 9828

Passcode: SB5VjO

Written by Graham Tigg

Russ Stephens is away so all typos are down to the me.

The SiteWorks Team



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