

SiteWorks Newsletter April 2026

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This newsletter is distributed to SiteWorks Web Managers (WMs) who are registered with us.

Please pass on to your SiteWorks users

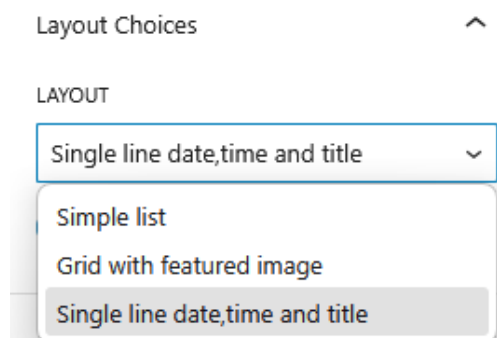
We can optionally register a second contact (Assistant WM). To update our records, please use the Contacts form launched by clicking the button on our homepage at siteworks.u3a.org.uk.

Software update

Two updates were deployed at the start of April.

Additional events list layout option:

The u3a events list block now has a single line option under the LAYOUT setting



Calendar file of events – when a new u3a Event is added or edited then SiteWorks now automatically generates a calendar entry in industry standard calendar format (iCalendar). The calendar is publicly available via a URL so it could be loaded onto, say, a Smartphone.

It can also be displayed on your site with a suitable plugin. See the section in the User Guide on Event Webpages for more details (scroll to the end)

<https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/docs/event-pages/>

Why we don't support more plugins

We are often asked whether we will formally support plugins beyond those specifically for u3a functionality and the 3rd party plugins included with sites such as GutenSlider. While the team of volunteers certainly has the capacity and skills to take on more today, we are cautious given this may not be the case in the future.

Don't forget that peer support is available on the u3a WordPress development forum u3awpdev.org.uk. Adopting a plugin popular with u3as (see below) means there will be a pool of expertise in our community.

There are a few plugins we have documented or mentioned on our Website siteworks.u3a.org.uk. Browse menu **Web Manager** > **'How to' articles**. There are detailed notes on **WPvivid** as a means to copy your site to your computer (Local WP). There is also an article on adding forms and a mention of **Enable Media Replace**.

While not a plugin, we have instructions on installing **Local WP** on your computer. Use this to try out plugins before installing on your production site (Operational Procedures). One positive point, Local WP is much more robust than in 2024 where it was a key tool during the Site Builder migration. As an alternative to installing Local WP you could check out a web alternative mentioned in the last newsletter siteworks.u3a.org.uk/february-marchwp-content/uploads/2026/03/SiteWorks-Newsletter-v1-2026-02-03.pdf

Popular plugins

These are the most popular plugins installed on SiteWorks sites:

114 - [Media Library Organizer](#) – not intrusive and enables media to be categorised

73 - [WPvivid Backup Plugin](#) – documented and can copy your site to Local WP

44 - [u3a PDF download stats](#) – monitor how popular your newsletters are (for example)

28 - [Enable Media Replace](#) – makes replacing media items directly to the media library a robust process

28 - [WPForms Lite](#) – create a form on your site that generates an email. Note the free version may not meet your needs.

26 - [Duplicate Page](#) – it's often quicker to create a new page or post by editing a similar existing one than starting with a blank screen.

25 - [Contact Form 7](#) – more powerful but more complex to use than WPForms Lite

- 22 - [FileBird Lite](#) – an alternative to Media Library Organiser
- 19 - [WP Migrate Lite](#) – an alternative to WPvivid
- 16 - [WordPress Importer](#) – a basic alternative to WPvivid
- 15 - [WP Migrate Lite Compatibility](#) – another alternative to WPvivid
- 13 - [WP Last Modified Info](#) – adds details of the last update to a page/post
- 12 - [Simple History](#) – an audit log of events on your site (from logins to publishing).
- 12 - [WP Activity Log](#) – an alternative to Simple History
- 12 - [WP Duplicate Page](#) – an alternative to Duplicate Page

Note that some of these plugins implement similar functions so try them out on Local WP to see how they meet your needs.

If a plugin records personal information on you site (e.g. email addresses) then make sure visitors are aware and your Website Terms of Use are updated.

If you search for plugins (WordPress Add Plugin button) then be wary of those with relatively few installations, say less than 5.000 and poor reviews. Be aware that not all plugins are free, or their free versions have limited functionality.

Publicity call for quotes

We are encouraging the Trust to do more to promote SiteWorks on their website and general communications. If you could share a few lines on your experience with SiteWorks we'll put them forward. Just email us info@siteworks.u3a.org.uk

Drop-ins new schedule

To help those with regular Monday afternoon commitments we are moving the first meeting of the month to a Tuesday at 15:00. As May 4th is a bank holiday we'll start from May. The schedule is now:

- Monday 20th April 15:00
- Tuesday 5th May 15:00
- Monday 18th May 15:00
- Tuesday 2nd June 15:00
- Monday 15th June 15:00 etc.

Meetings usually start with a demonstration on a topic followed by an open Q&A. We'll announce the topic in a reminder email the weekend before each session. On Monday 20th April Bev will wrap up images and the media library.

Support Zoom Drop-In for Web Managers Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930189828?pwd=MNUdMvrBoBadaBHcOuD9rOZHhjXDOT.1>

Meeting ID: 879 3018 9828

Passcode: SB5Vj0

Written by Graham Tigg

The SiteWorks Team

