SiteWorks Newsletter October 2026

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A link to this newsletter is distributed to SiteWorks 'Web Managers' who are registered with us. We must have at least one contact plus an optional second contact that we call an Assistant. We already have some 1300 of you to keep updated so:

Please pass this newsletter on to your SiteWorks WordPress users

To update our records use the Contacts form launched by clicking the button on our homepage at siteworks.u3a.org.uk. You will also find all recent newsletters on menu **News > Monthly Newsletters**

Global PHP incident

The recent PHP vulnerability resulting in many sites across the world being taken offline as a precaution (including Beacon) was the leading story for a couple of days on the BBC and other news outlets.

From a SiteWorks perspective you can read more on our website https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk , but in essence it was decided SiteWorks sites should remain online as they are protected by a firewall called Imunify360 that blocks attacks against the vulnerability. All sites have now been patched.

I was travelling the week this took place, so I write this as a Web Manager and not my role as a Trust Volunteer supporting SiteWorks. A tip of the hat should go to the SiteWorks team of volunteers and Wendy for addressing the issue and communicating to Web Managers. Also, the Sarah Hayes's hosting service for quick advice and action.

Gutenslider Plugin

When I started this newsletter in mid-October, I documented a gremlin in Gutenslider that seems to have emerged when running on WordPress 7 (this is now in an Appendix below).

For more than two years there had been no updates to the plugin. We even looked at alternative sliders as a replacement but found nothing compelling, especially given the work involved for all of us to migrate. There would have been two slider products to support for many months.

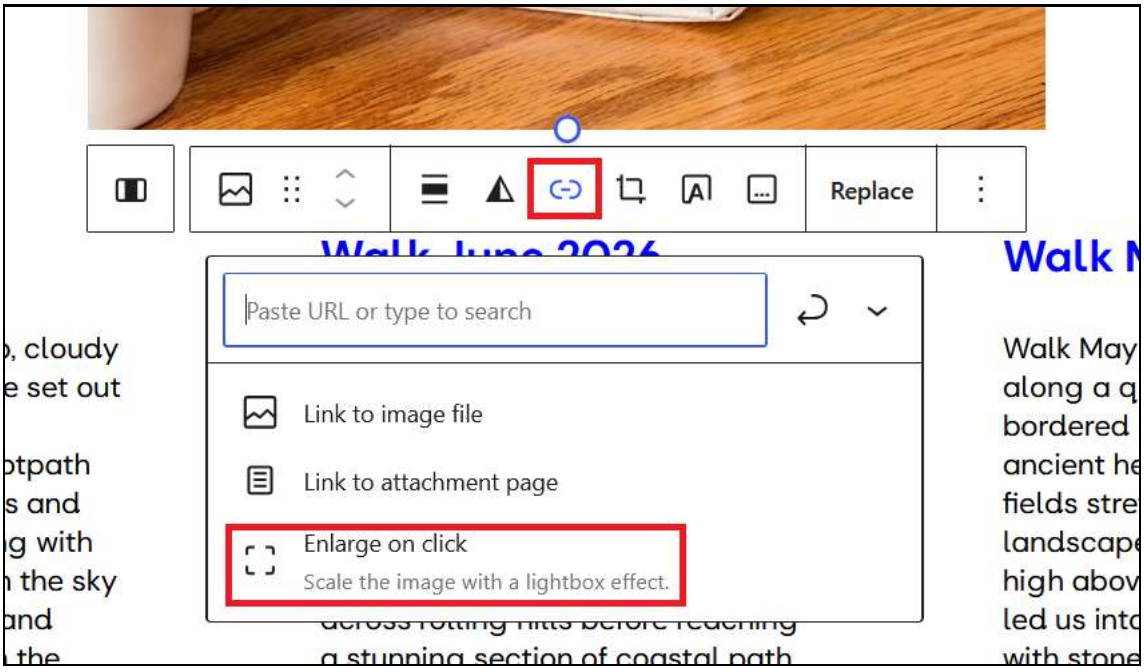
Out of the blue one of the team noticed a new version of Gutenslider was being developed, the developer seemingly coming out of hibernation. We managed to obtain a test version and it works well with SiteWorks for existing blocks and creating new ones. There is also some new functionality that we'll document first in the User Guide.

SiteWorks sites were updated to 7.3.1 on 26th October.

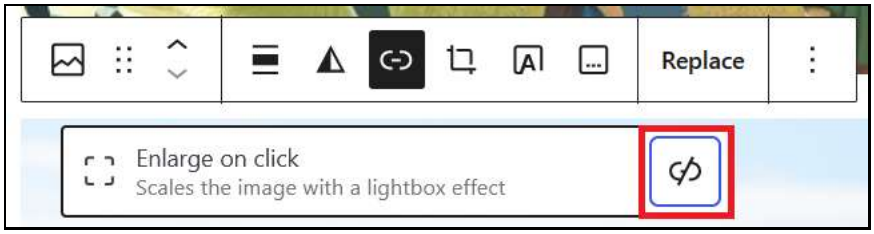
Enlarge images when clicked

Some photographs are worthy of being displayed full screen but you need them to leave room for visitors to see content. A scenic photograph of a u3a's locality on the home page is an example. Showing the picture full size when clicked is a popular compromise.

In SiteWorks, this feature is not enabled automatically and needs to be configured when adding an image. Select the image and click on the blue link icon. Then click "Enlarge on click" from the menu.



When enabled then clicking on the link icon brings up the option below. Clicking on the link cancel icon removes the enlarge feature for the image.



This is available on the Image and Gallery blocks and possibly some others, but for some reason not on Media and Text.

Admin email verification on login

Every so often, when an Administrator logs in, WordPress will ask for confirmation of the Admin email address. On a Trust hosted SiteWorks site just reply with the affirmative, it should always be sysadmin-alert@u3asite.uk

Website Terms of Use

Some u3as ask why a Terms of Use page linked to the footer is necessary if their site just presents information and does not retain personal data. It is worth noting that the Terms also cover Intellectual property rights to your content, plus warnings about 3rd party links. This makes them relevant to all sites. The 'Terms of Use' page can of course be edited beyond changing the u3a specific highlighted text.

u3a Branding, Accessibility and SIteWorks

This is a big topic for a newsletter. The first point to make is that the SiteWorks theme supports the u3a Brand with the colour palette presented, plus a u3a font and the logo on the header.

Equally, if not more important, is making your website accessible. We have guidelines on this in the User Guide in Section 7 here: https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/docs/publishing-a-u3a-website

For branding, there are PDF guidelines available for download on u3a.org.uk here https://www.u3a.org.uk/brand-guidelines (hard to find on the website, do an Internet search for "u3a brand guidelines"). Unfortunately, this is aimed at 3rd party professionals developing material for the Trust. Pages 8 to 12 are perhaps most useful covering colours (primary, secondary and tertiary) and colour contrast guidance.

Some key points that also embrace accessibility:

- Only use the secondary colours as highlights, page dividers or as part of a set
- Use tertiary colours for backgrounds to add depth to designs

- Always use black text on these background colours to ensure readability.
- Ensure that text is legible by using contrasting colours. Contrast is best achieved with a light colour (white is ideal) on a dark background, or a dark colour on a light one.
- Avoid using yellow text, instead use yellow as an accent colour in shapes or lines. This ensures that text meets accessibility guidelines

Drop-in contribution

Many of our Drop-in sessions kick off with a demo on a topic given by Bev or myself. If you there is something you've done, or and approach you've taken, perhaps you could consider sharing it at one of our sessions. It could, for example, be a plugin you find particularly meets a need.

Do let me know (graham.tigg@beacon.u3a.org.uk) if you think you have something of interest.

Drop-ins schedule reminder

We hold two Drop-in Zoom sessions each month: on the first Tuesday and third Monday. The next meetings are:
Tuesday 3rd November, 15:00 and Monday 16th November, 15:00

Meetings often start with a demonstration on a topic followed by an open Q&A. We'll announce the topic in a reminder email around the weekend before each session.

Support Zoom Drop-In for Web Managers Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930189828?pwd=MNUdMvrBoBadaBHcOuT9r0ZHhjXDOT.1
Meeting ID: 879 3018 9828
Passcode: SB5Vj0

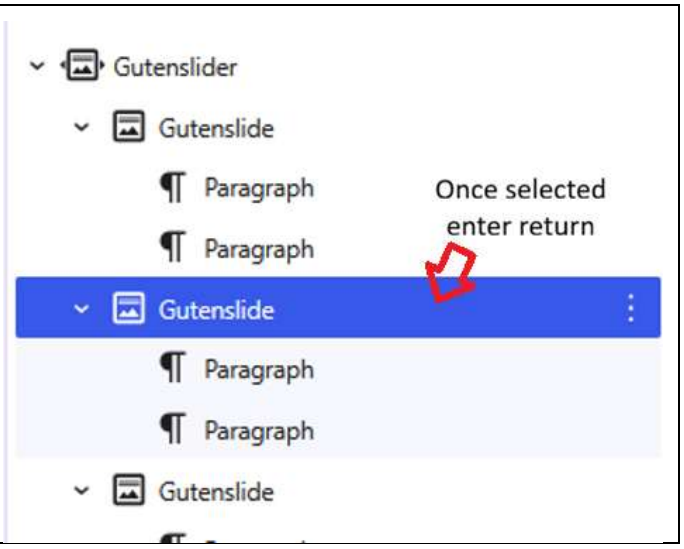
Written by Graham Tigg
Proof read by AI

The SiteWorks Team

Appendix – Gutenslider v6 gremlins

In case you are using version 6.1.0.

When editing the Gutenslider block the 'hamburger' Document Menu is used to select a slide to work on.

Just selecting a 'Gutenslide' (mouse click) doesn't change the image shown in the central panel, it stays at the first slide in the sequence. Now it seems necessary to hit 'Return' after selecting a slide.	

In light of this, if you are planning significant edits then consider copying the whole Gutenslider Block and paste it into a temporary blank page as a backup copy.