

## SCN Webmasters meeting 23.06.2020 via Zoom

### Attendees

Sally Ingledew	SCN Manager	
Kevin Stock	SCN Admin & Waterlooville	
Barbara Spiegelhalter	SCN External Liaison & Portsmouth	
Bob Duckmanton	SE Region Trustee	
John Righton	Webmaster	Emsworth
Kathy Parker	Webmaster	Gosport
Andy Forbes	Webmaster	Horndean & District
Roger Skidmore	Webmaster	Isle of Wight
John Stych	Webmaster	Locks Heath
Prue Amner	Webmaster	Rowlands Castle
June Halford	Assistant Webmaster	Rowlands Castle
Janette Lloyd	Webmaster	Solent
Chris Adams	Chairman	Stubbington
Mike Young	Webmaster	Stubbington
Sheila Liggins	Assistant Webmaster	Stubbington
Rob Johnson	Joint Webmaster	Warsash
Jo Derham	Vice Chairman	Waterlooville
Gavin Ryde	Webmaster	Guernsey
Caroline Davey	Assistant Webmaster	Guernsey
Pam Davidoff (Guest)	Chairman	Arun East
Susan Southwell (Guest)	Chairman	Hamble Valley

### Updating your website

All attendees in turn spoke about their U3As website. A lot use Site Builder, and the feeling was that although it lacks some facilities, it has the advantage that it is easy for less experienced people to use, and is good for ensuring smooth hand overs when needed. This also makes it easier for others such as groups to edit their own pages if they wish to. Those that had a website designed for them

had more options and facilities. Hits on websites varied, the issue may be whether websites are designed for or used by members, or the public. There are several initiatives to make websites more interesting for members, such as photos of members gardens, craft work, photography group work, and quizzes. The question of what should be on a website was raised, should contact details for committee and or group leaders, be there as this then puts the information in the public domain, which is not best practice. Another suggestion was to have a secure area, but currently this can only be done on Site Builder using the same password for all members which also raises security issues. There is the blue bird system which overcomes this, although care needs to be taken as any reply will be from the personal email.

The subject of Beacon was raised, and BD explained that when the latest version is up and running then a website will be added that U3As can decide whether to use it or not. This hopefully will stop duplication of group lists on beacon and Site Builder, as they will be linked.

### **Who can update your website**

Some group leaders /member of group are willing to edit pages, but generally there is a reluctance to do this. A way of encouraging group leaders suggested to organise a tutorial which has been done and has had some success. They are however more likely to want to manage their groups on Beacon. Groups do not always have any update information to put on.

Use of website by non computer literate members. The current situation has encouraged people to eg log on to listen to an online talk. Some U3As have more than one website manager, one with responsibility for updating group pages.

SI said Trust is concerned about possible falling numbers, but makes the point that if there are the expected redundancies due to covid, then there will be a lot of 50+ looking for something to do, and in that case websites are very important as they are likely to be the first point of contact.

A comment was made that members are very reluctant to click on links, because of security issues.

A newsletter on the website, with a reminder from Beacon has increased hits a little.

SI suggested asking for the emails of children of noncomputer literate members

### **SCN website**

KS says the most hits are members look at events, others said they also look at reports from meetings.

CA has done a survey of the status of U3As. SS commented that she was the SERST rep for Hampshire and has an up to date list.

### **New strapline.**

There was some confusion as to where this should go on websites. However, the Trust are advising all U3As to remove the term 'University of the Third Age' from websites and logos as it puts people off. We may use the new strapline instead if we wish to use it.

There are several new versions of the logo on the Trust website under Advice. Site Builder websites automatically put a link to the Trust website, many do not have links to SER and SCN website.

SI said the Trust is working on an updated website which will be created by an external firm. Possibly done in Oct/Nov. The blue & yellow U3A logo can be downloaded from the National website (in the top left), from Beacon, or from any site that uses Site Builder by right clicking it and selecting 'Save Image as...'.  
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The question of communication by zoom between U3As to collaborate on eg online learning, sharing resources. SI asked that any U3A that has innovative ideas should share them with the Trust. This can be done on the Trust website under Sources.

SI explained that the Trust Virtual U3A is a new and successful initiative from the Trust, and costs £7.

#### **Domain names question by Warsash**

All domain names will cost. Any one will need an email address to start with. Gmail is useful and can be transferred. Can be a problem with signature. KS recommends 123reg.com £28 for 2 years, this is for the domain name, and from the website you set up as many email addresses as needed. Some U3As prefer to put the email addresses behind the names on the contact list.

#### **AOB**

Stop press KS sends out and asks for it to be circulated to all committee members. SS asked for the attachment to be dated.

Request for list of communications that are being sent out. **Action SI**

Meeting ended 15.30