



u3a


Beacon

... so you want to know more?

u3a Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as

1

1



Have you read this?

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Moving Beacon Forward

The following are my notes based on a presentation by Adam Walton, the Beacon Project Executive Officer at Third Age Trust and Frank Bailey, Beacon Operations Lead.

Introduction

- o Half the u3a membership is now managed on the Beacon Membership Management System
- o Almost without exception, u3as like Beacon
- o It is accepted that Beacon 1 needs to be updated and is rather "clunky"

The Challenges facing u3as for Beacon to address

- o New members need to be able to join online and existing members can renew online
- o Be able to email all or selected members as required
- o Can prepare letters for posting to non-email members
- o Be easy to contact members of specific interest groups
- o Keep data safe and secure in one place (with professional backup)
- o Easy to specify/limit what individuals have access to
- o Accessible from anywhere with Internet and on any device
- o Be easy to learn and teach
- o Make the handover of roles (e.g. Treasurer) considerably easier and more secure
- o Able to produce reports for AGMs, Auditors, Charity Commission, Gift Aid etc.

Plans for Beacon 2

- o It will maximise accessibility by using a range of the best standards available
- o Responsiveness will be quick, effective and accurate
- o Offer a high degree of security
- o Will adapt to the type of device being viewed on
- o Provide maximum useability with continual testing to ensure stability
- o Will eventually replace SiteBuilder and provide a single integrated website
- o Provide a brand-new portal for Networks and Regions administration
- o U3a members will be able to directly book and pay for Network/Regional events
- o To make the succession of roles simple and secure

Migration from Beacon 1 to Beacon 2

- o An initiation Phase with a named supporter/mentor and access to a test system for training
- o Followed by the Implementation Phase when initially u3as get access to a snapshot of their data and problems are identified and rectified
- o Transfer to Beacon 2 takes place when all data has been integrated
- o Support from named helper/mentor continues throughout

Roger Prescott
Network Co-ordinator
Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as

2

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2

What is Beacon?

Beacon is a management system designed by U3As, for U3As. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances.

Beacon is available to all U3As in the UK that wish to take advantage of it.



3

Beacon – The Story so far!

Half the u3a membership is now managed on Beacon

Almost without exception, u3as like Beacon

It's accepted that Beacon is "clunky" and needs updating



4

Beacon – The Advantages

Secure Data
 Users have “individual permissions”
 Members can have limited access
 On-line payments
 Greater accuracy & reporting
 GDPR compliant



5

Hence – Beacon 2!

Not just a re-write –
 a complete re-positioning
 Replace SiteBuilder & provide a
 single integrated website

**A section for
 Networks & Regions**



6

Why include Networks?

- Keeping data secure & accurate
- Managing finances
- Avoids data transfer when officers change
- Interactive websites
- Reporting & Compliance



7

...but more than that...

- Events Management
- Managing finances
- Avoids data transfer when officers change
- Interactive websites
- Reporting & Compliance



8

Current Advice

If your u3a doesn't use Beacon, now is the time to re-visit the question and reconsider

Join Beacon 1 NOW!

It will make the move to Beacon 2 a lot easier

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