London Region of U3As

LRU3A – IT/WEB PEER GROUP

MEETING – 13th November 2023, 16.30, on Zoom

Zoom link details:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88392263297?pwd=VmVHNEdzYnZVb3cxd1NzSFZCcVVOdz09
Meeting ID: 883 9226 3297   Passcode: 760142

These meeting notes are not minutes – they don't try to capture all details discussed. But they do try to record key discussion points or actions arising.

ATTENDEES:

No	u3a NAME	REP NAME	Att	Apol.
	Abbeywood & Thamesmead			
1	Barnet	Mick O'Reilly		
2	Beckenham	Liz Tarrant	1	
3	Bexley			
4	Bromley	David Moody		
5	Dulwich	David Beamish	1	
6	Ealing	Phil Broomsgrove (PB) Jurek Narozanski	1	
7	Hackney	Hettie Roelofs, Tony Hollingsworth	1	
8	Hammersmith and Fulham	Graham Tigg		1
9	Harrow	Kathy Westhead		
10	Hillingdon	Tony Kemp		
11	Hounslow	Sally Eggett		1
12	Islington	Derek Harwood (DH) Vivek Nanda (VN)	1 1	
13	Merton	David Lusty		
14	Northwood	Malcolm Bentote	1	
15	North London	Mike Christie (MC)	1	
16	Orpington	Roger Howe Mo Childs		
17	Palmers Green	Frances Halliday /Pat Bleach / Yvonne Marr / Sheena Thorne		
18	Redbridge	Lennart Christensen		
19	Richmond upon Thames	David Wood		
20	SE London	Mark Serebriakoff Martha Fox	1 1	
21	Stanmore District	Martin Carr	1	
22	Sutton	Phil Thomas		
23	Waltham Forest	Jane Harrington Dorritt Okoye		1
24	Wandsworth	Andy Carr	1	
25	Welling	Maria Guest-Naharnowicz		1
	Surrey Network	Ian Funnell		

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AGENDA:
1. Status Sitebuilder replacement, SiteWorks
2. Open discussion
3. Review of Actions Arising
4. AOB

DISCUSSIONS

1. **Sitebuilder (SB) Replacement/ SiteWorks (SW)**: there was a sharing of status knowledge between DH /MC. Beckenham is now a 'Phase 3 Pioneer site'. Phase 3 are the next u3as to be readied for migration. Palmers Green & Southgate were a 'Phase 1 Pioneer' and have now been 'Migrated' and are now at 'Starter' stage (ie with their Webmaster for checking/ completion, before going live). There are now 19 of the original Pioneers that have now been migrated.
   The status of all these u3as can be seen on the SiteWorks website and the map:
   [Pioneer Map](#)
   Examples were looked at during the meeting, the most advanced seemed to be eg:
   https://evesham.u3asite.uk/ or https://porthcawl.u3asite.uk/
   While some u3as listed didn't seem to be live (from the map listing on the left, you can find their live URL, eg https://wcc.u3asite.uk/

   The general site for information is (as issued last meeting & repeated here):
   https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/
   This also shows (under 'August') the process:
   https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/current/

   No schedule has been issued yet for the 700 odd u3as to be migrated. More confidence in rate of migration is needed by the Volunteer time. It is hoped that as more u3as are migrated the rate will pick up. Communications state currently migration will take all of 2024. Networks are not getting any particular priority. A current delay is setting up a help line service (ticketed through Zendesk) due to the number of queries the Volunteer team are expected to need to handle. The Volunteers are updating the documentation, eg the Training Guides and the FAQs as lessons learnt arise.

   Apart from the 700 odd migration sites, some other u3as (eg North London & Islington) who currently do not use Sitebuilder, are looking at switching to SiteWorks. This is the 'starter pack' route. The migration support team are not prioritising support for this route.

   Action arising: DH will ask Palmers Green & Southgate to give us feedback on how migration has been for them.

2. **Open Discussion:** a few general points were raised:
   PB asked – had other u3as published on their websites a list of local trades? None had – and many felt this was a dangerous area as any organisation listed could be seen as a recommendation & the u3a would attract a liability. Some do publish other local organisations (such as Age UK branch, or fitness organisations) but need to be clear – members use at their own risk.
   VN raised a few points:
   a) Free Mailchimp is becoming harder to use, with security being tightened (for multiple editors). How many other u3as are using Mailchimp, are they experiencing the same? Three u3as present are using Mailchimp. They were aware of the restrictions but were working around the issues.

b) Alternatives to MailChimp: some were using Beacon for their mass emailing, some using gmail, one suggested Mozilla Thunderbird. Amazon mailing was suggested as a possible alternative. Beacon's email provided, Sendgrid, is also available directly (separately).

c) Alternative to Wufoo for registration and payments for events: some using Eventbrite (free if event is a No Charge one). Some just doing it through Beacon. MC suggested 'Forminator'.

Mike Christie asked about Document sharing (for Groups): some were using Dropbox, but folder sharing is fiddly. Some use Google Drive (but others have had difficulties with this. Others were using MS OneDrive. All the cloud systems offered sharing.

3. **Review of actions:** one remaining: DH to organise a physical meeting in due course. One new action: DH to contact PG&S for feedback session.

4. **AOB:** nothing
   Send any suggestions for agenda items for our next meeting to Derek; SW will probably be on each future agenda…..

Next Meeting:
Generally all meetings to be: 2nd Monday, every 3 months (ie next meeting: 12 February) at 16.30.