



Keeping U3A Websites Useful, Welcoming and Manageable

Notts network Workshop Breakout group June 1st 2026

Practical ideas for volunteer website managers?



u3a

Welcome!

A quick introduction please from each of you:

Name

u3a

Role(s) for your u3a

What are you looking to get from today?

Your own website!

What is one thing your website does well?

If you could magically fix one website problem tomorrow,
what would it be?



Keeping U3A Websites Useful, Welcoming and Manageable

Why This Matters

- **Useful websites help people:**
 - Join
 - Find information
 - Stay involved

The Common Problems

- Too much to manage
- Too much information
- Outdated content
- Too few volunteers
- Technical confidence varies

What Good Looks Like

- A good U3A website is:
- Clear
- Up to date
- Easy to use
- Manageable

Keep It Simple

Less clutter = more usefulness

- Clear homepage
- Easy navigation
- Key details easy to find

Avoid Burnout

- Focus on what matters most!
- Share the workload
- Update key pages first
- Archive old material
- Aim for “good enough”

Accessibility Matters

- Can people use the site easily?
- Readable text
- Short pages
- Mobile-friendly
- Clear menus

Privacy, Security and Continuity

- Protect people and protect access
- Limit personal details
- Store passwords securely
- Use shared admin access
- Plan for handover

AI and Social Media

- Useful tools — with limits
- AI helps draft
- Social media helps promote
- Website stays the main reference point

Final Takeaways

- **Keep it:**
 - Simple
 - Useful
 - Current
 - Shared
- Small improvements matter more than perfection.

SiteWorks

- What are the advantages ?
- What are the disadvantages?

The core advantages of SiteWorks

Fully managed, secure, centrally hosted platform

- SiteWorks sites are hosted on a managed WordPress platform supported by Trust volunteers . This means:
- No need to buy hosting or manage servers
- Automatic backups
- Security updates handled for you
- No risk of plugins breaking the site (plugins are centrally controlled)
- Independent sites require you to manage all of this yourself.

Why Choose SiteWorks for Your u3a Website

A secure, supported platform

- Hosted on a **managed WordPress platform supported by Trust volunteers**
- No server admin, plugin management, or technical maintenance for local volunteers

Designed specifically for u3as

- A complete **website presence solution for u3as, Networks and Regions**
- Built-in structures for Groups, Events, Notices, and Web Manager roles

Training, help & continuity

- Access to **User Guides**, “How-to” articles, and **Drop-in Q&A sessions**
- New Web Manager onboarding with videos and learning resources
- Help Desk support for ongoing issues

Consistent, accessible, future-proof

- Standardised u3a branding and accessibility baked in
- Smooth transition from SiteBuilder (retired in 2024)
- Easier handover when volunteers change

Low effort, high reliability

- Central updates, backups, and security
- No need to source hosting or manage plugins
- Keeps every u3a aligned with national standards

- **Thanks for coming!**