

25/08/2018 *John Macfarlane - Membership Secretary & Webmaster.*

On this date we first ran Beacon, our new system management system, replacing MACWEBMAN which we have been using for many years. The new system is designed and written by volunteers within the national U3A organisation for UK branches.

This will provide more resources to meet UK requirements plus 24/7 support, with improved reliability. It additionally reduces risks as many are involved, unlike previously being reliant on one person.

It will provide gradually extra facilities such as on-line payments, better email facilities, a portal allowing ordinary members to update their personnel details and view additional data not shown to the public. You are all urged to ensure you are providing valid email addresses as this is used to identify your right to enter the member portal. If you do not have an email address it is recommended you ask your partner if you can use their's.

There is an administration log in which provides roles and privileges. This is for use of local support, committee members, and group leaders to manage the system. Parts like these you will be using such as Group Listing, Calendar, Group Membership, joining a group on-line in the near future.

The branch web site has been modified to work with Beacon. The main change is providing links into Beacon for public access to Group List, Calendar, and easy entry into the members portal, and the administration login.

Beacon does not provide lengthy details for Holidays, so this is amplified in the web site by displaying the Regent Travel posters (see Holidays).

We have already trained the Help-desk staff and have started to train leaders.

NOTE: When using the links clicking the *Return to Web Site* or closing the page using the red X on top right of a page, will usually return you to the web site home page.

14/9/2018 *Chris Macfarlane - Group Co-ordinator.*

Unfortunately the Pilates group start has had to be delayed due to resource problems, but we are hopeful it will recommence in November.