

Beacon's raison d'être

The Beacon system has been designed to make the life of committee members and group leaders easier and more efficient

All interaction with Beacon takes place through your normal web browser, and there is no separate software that anyone needs to install.

Beacon is managed, on behalf of the Third Age Trust, by a team of U3A volunteers, with some software support from an outside contractor.

The Beacon Team consists of three sections:

Secretariat
Technical
Support.

If your committee would like to 'try-out' the Beacon system with absolutely no commitment, we will send you a copy of the 'Beacon Information Pack'.
email: info@beacon.u3a.org.uk



Beacon for U3As

What it is,
what it does
and how it might
benefit your U3A



Beacon provides:

Beacon provides individual U3As with a secure, efficient and effective means of managing their day-to-day business functions.

Membership

All aspects of membership

Beacon provides a comprehensive set of tools for handling membership: new members, renewals, subscriptions, address changes, membership cards and communications.

Finances

A secure transaction-based approach

Financial management is based on a secure, simple transaction approach. Every transaction can be assigned to individuals, groups and categories, and the system provides tools for reconciliation with bank accounts and regular reporting.

Groups

Membership, venues and calendar

Groups are the heart of a U3A, and Beacon provides group leaders with membership management, calendars, group ledgers, and easy communication with group members.

Long Term Sustainability

The Third Age Trust recognizes that Beacon is a key resource for a rapidly growing number of U3As and is committed to facilitating the long-term future of the system. To that end an upgrade is being planned to enable ongoing development.

Help and Support?

Advice, guidance and practical help is always available if needed!

Support is provided in a number of ways:-

- * Each U3A is allocated their own personal supporter who provides 1-2-1 advice and assistance throughout their journey from initial enquiry to 'newly-live' and beyond.
- * The national online User Forum is where all 'Beacon-interested' folk communicate with each other regardless of their UK location. It's alive with discussion, advice, and all-things Beacon!
- * A Beacon website is being developed. This will provide a 'one-stop-shop' for information, news, contact details, reminders, guides, etc.etc!

Some questions answered

- Q Will Beacon 'suit' my U3A?
A Beacon suits most U3As. It may not suit all. The Demo system serves as an evaluation tool so that U3As can decide for themselves.
- Q Is Beacon secure?
A Yes: all data transfer is encrypted. Every email is individually sent and tracked.
- Q How much does it cost to use Beacon?
A £1 per current member per annum, will be invoiced in April 2019 for the following year.
- Q How do I find out more about Beacon?
A Email: info@beacon.u3a.org.uk

Here's how Beacon might benefit your U3A:

All your data is together, secure and held in just one place.

It can be accessed by your chosen authorised users, usually officers & group leaders, each with their own 'individual permissions' to do just what they need to do - no more, no less.

If you so choose, Beacon can be accessed by your members - who enter personal logins to use various functions.



Security, no duplication, on-line payments, joined-up functionality, less work, more accuracy.

What's not to like?

Contact
info@beacon.u3a.org.uk
now!