

u3a


What is Beacon?

Beacon is an online management system designed and supported by u3a members, for u3as. It provides a simple way of enabling u3as to manage members, groups, finances and emails in a secure, efficient and effective way. Nearly 600 u3as already use Beacon.

What does Beacon do and how it can benefit your u3a?

- Beacon can be a huge time saver for those who manage membership and group information – no duplication, on-line payments, joined-up functionality, less work, more accuracy.
- Beacon simplifies and enables personalised emails to be sent to both individuals and groups.
- The information is held securely in one single location.
- Beacon ensures that your processing of data complies with data protection regulations.
- Beacon can be accessed by your chosen authorised users, usually officers and group convenors, each with their own 'individual permissions'.
- If required, Beacon can be accessed by your members – who enter personal logins to use various functions.



Three words to describe Beacon: Efficient, Reliable and Fast. Our data was moved into it very quickly by the Support Team easily and then, suddenly, all the parts of my work in this role were joined up. Tasks that had taken me hours to do were now done in a few clicks. Magic! 

Val, Beacon Administrator, Chalfonts u3a

Contact the Beacon Team to find out more:

info@beacon.u3a.org.uk

Visit our website: beacon.u3a.org.uk

u3a
Beacon



Where Beacon can make a big difference to the management of day to day activities

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. Beacon can automate many of these processes.

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. The Beacon system sends over 1.5 million emails a month and is a very easy way to manage 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.

Each transfer to Beacon is fully supported by a team of experts. This would include guidance on the transfer of your existing data, familiarisation, training and a help desk for any issues.

The current cost of Beacon is £1 per member.



Integrating Beacon into u3a processes

A u3a hears about Beacon from a variety of sources.

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They contact us at info@beacon.u3a.org.uk

We provide a supporter and their own version of Beacon Demo22 for them to explore.

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They decide to adopt Beacon and sign the Application Form and the Beacon Site Licence.

One of the migration team will be assigned to work with the u3a and will provide our data template for their data.

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The migrator checks this to match the Beacon format and then creates their own live Beacon site.

The supporter continues to work with the u3a for 3 months.

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After this there is the User Guide, the HelpDesk and the forum in case of queries while getting accustomed to Beacon.

There are update courses provided by the Training team.

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