

PU3A – WEBSITE/RECORDS SYSTEM AND YOUR SECURITY

This is in response to multiple queries and concerns raised by Group Leaders on behalf of their Group Members

As you may, or may not, know Peterborough U3A is moving to a new website and database system. This system is a considerable upgrade from our previous system, offering far more in the way of facilities and protection of your personal information than we had before.

I am sure you are all aware that we as a body are governed by the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and have a published Data Protection Policy published on the website – if you are ever unable to sleep you can always take it to bed and read it. ☺ But joking aside – we are responsible under law to give you certain protection with regards to ANY personal details you give us.

As it stands our current system (up until we migrate to the new one) means that you supply details and confirm that you are happy to have those details stored by us when you join or renew your membership – we are authorised by YOU to do so.

If you then join any groups there is a good chance that each Group Leader will ask you for contact details which he/she makes a note of somewhere – either on paper or on a device such as a computer/tablet/smartphone. Whilst we, PU3A, have made you aware of our security systems and policies on your data, no such agreement is made or published by any Group Leader (not to our knowledge anyway). This in effect means that such data held by them is vulnerable to a far greater degree than our official copy which is held on a secure server with full commercial protection. Their PCs/Devices **may** or **may not** have any virus or Trojan protection against malicious harvesting – which is a possibility every time they log onto the internet or use their email account. We are not saying it is likely that they will be “attacked” but the vulnerability is there. The more copies of your details that are around – the greater the possibility.

Now on to our new system --- what we are bringing in is a system that holds your details, as before, on a secure server. In fact, it is far more secure once we switch. You have the knowledge that our processes are governed by law and all the protection that brings with it. As long as the Group Leaders buy-in to the new system and use it to its intended potential they will have access to the same details as before, but in a more secure way – via our database. (no need for them to have local copies) The system is protected – only they (and up to 5 of the 13 Committee Members) can access the details, and even then they will not be able to actually see your email address. The system uses a “blind” system that does not show the actual email address, but still send all emails out in Bcc form (Blind Carbon Copy – others that receive the email can’t see your mail address). Your details for PU3A need no longer be held in multiple places that may be potentially insecure.

Nobody in or outside of PU3A can see any of the detail unless they have a legitimate reason to do so. Registering your group participation does not let others know your whereabouts in any way

Security was a huge driver for us changing systems – we saw a potential problem and found a way to solve it for all of our members – Group Leaders and Group members alike.

We are increasing your security, and you can rest assured that the Committee is constantly looking at ways to improve things for the running of PU3A and it’s members

Alan Locke (Vice Chairman and Web Site Administrator)