

GERONTOLOGICAL DAYS 2024

WordPress for Seniors – 2 Case Studies

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I have been retired since 2007 and have been managing meetings for elderly in blended mode (F2F & <u>Lifelong Learning for All</u>.

Since 2021 I have been in a team behind <u>U3a</u> <u>Communities.</u>



Why WordPress (1)

1. Ease of Use and Accessibility:

- Intuitive Interface: WordPress offers a simple and intuitive interface, making it accessible for seniors who may not be tech-savvy. Its drag-and-drop features and visual editor simplify the process of creating and managing content.
- Accessibility Features: WordPress provides themes and plugins that enhance accessibility, catering to seniors with visual impairments or other disabilities. This includes screen reader support, high-contrast themes, and text resizing options.



Why WordPress (2)

2. Community Building and Social Engagement:

Blogs and Forums: Many seniors use WordPress to create blogs and online forums, enabling them to share their experiences, hobbies, and interests. This fosters a sense of community and reduces feelings of isolation.

Social Connections: Through blogging and commenting, seniors can connect with like-minded individuals, maintaining social engagement and building new relationships.



Why WordPress (3)

- 3. Lifelong Learning and Hobbies:
- Educational Blogs: Seniors often use WordPress to start educational blogs, sharing their expertise and life experiences. This not only keeps them mentally active but also allows them to contribute valuable knowledge to younger generations.
- Hobby Projects: WordPress supports various multimedia formats, enabling seniors to document and share their hobbies, such as photography, gardening, or travel, through dedicated websites.



Why WordPress (4)

- 4. Business Ventures and Volunteering:
- Small Businesses: Some seniors use WordPress to launch and manage small business websites, leveraging their lifelong skills and interests. The platform's e-commerce plugins facilitate online sales, appointments, and customer engagement.
- Non-Profit Initiatives: Seniors involved in volunteering and non-profit work use WordPress to create awareness, raise funds, and organize community events. The CMS's versatility supports event management, donation forms, and volunteer sign-ups.



Why WordPress (5)

5. Support and Training:

- Workshops and Tutorials: Many communities and senior centers offer workshops and tutorials to help seniors get started with WordPress. These sessions cover basics like setting up a website, content creation, and managing site security.
- Online Resources: There are numerous online resources, including video tutorials and forums, where seniors can find help and advice on using WordPress effectively.



Why WordPress - Summing up

Taking into account that WordPress empowers seniors by providing them with a platform to stay connected, share their knowledge, pursue hobbies, and even start new business ventures let's have a look at 2 case studies:

- 1. https://u3acommunities.org/
- 2. https://zpasjami.net/

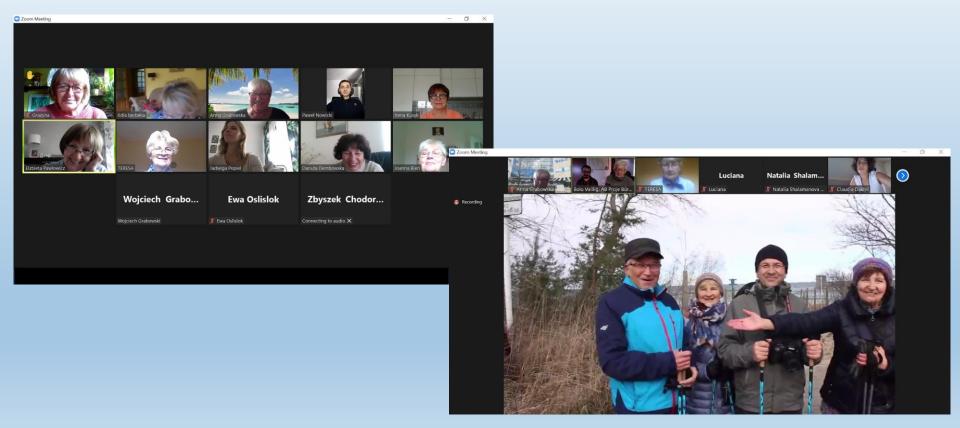


Prepare & Implement



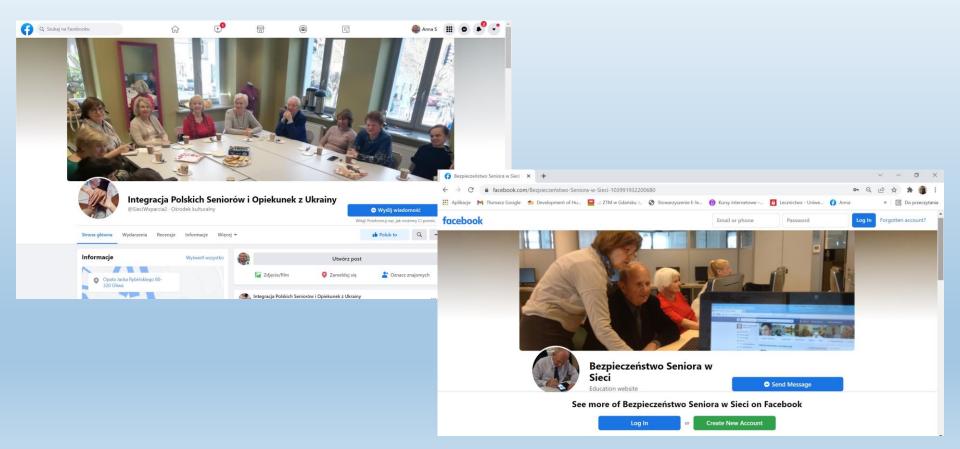


Online & F2F





WordPress & Facebook



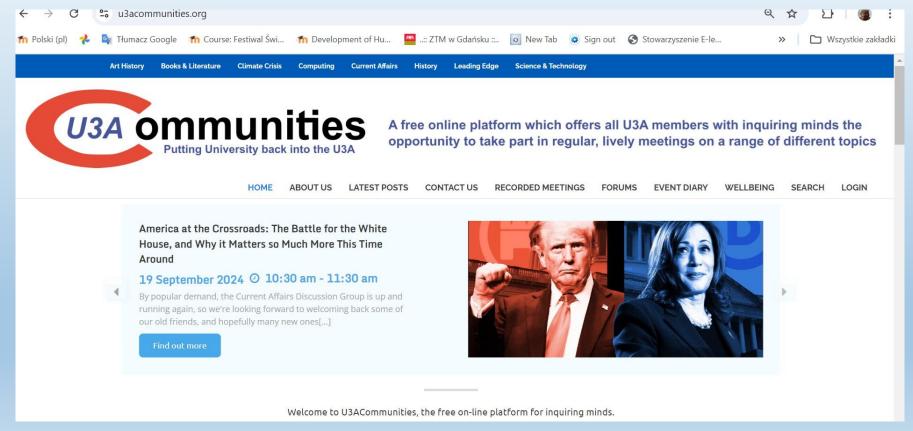
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U3A Communities





U3A Communities – People

u3acommunities.org/about-us/

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About Us

This site is run by a group of volunteers who share an interest in the use of technology to widen the U3A experience. Changes and updates are made by our student volunteer Chettukindhi Prasanna Laxmi (below) as community support.



We work closely with World U3A who have pioneered the use of video technology through its regular International Forum and websites www.worldu3a.org and www.myu3a.orq and like them we are a free and open voluntary body with no fixed membership and no fees.



Steve Carpenter is a retired scientist and project manager specialising in electro-optical systems. Alongside Barry Zussman, he co-edits the Science & Technology page for U3ACommunities. Steve is S&T Group Leader at Yateley & District U3A, which is currently linking with Ash U3A for joint Zoom meetings on a wide variety of topics. He is also the newsletter editor for Yateley & District u3a, producing a bimonthly A5 booklet for both print and web.



Anna Grabowska: I'm a retired academic teacher from Gdansk University of Technology, Poland - https://pg.edu.pl/en , a manager of Autodesk Authorised Academic Partner, a co-founder and admin of https://jatobym.moodle.pl/, https://dehure.moodlecloud.com/, keen on implementing blended learning solutions for U3A, https://zpasjami.net/category/szwarc-mydlo-i-powidlo/.



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U3A Communities – People



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Ray Hardisty: I am a retired local newspaper journalist and charity volunteer manager. I facilitate Generate Linkers on Communities Online. Elsewhere in the U3A, I am the PR and Media Adviser in the Third Age Trust East of England region and Publicity Officer for Witham (Essex) District U3A where I am responsible for newsletter production and outreach.



Rien van den Hondel: I'm a retired Information Scientist with a degree in Chemical Engineering. I'm extremely concerned about climate change and follow technological and societal advances to reduce our carbon footprint with great interest and fascination. Another (not unrelated) interest of me is our money system and how it could be improved. I support Positive Money.



Miall James - Retired pharmacist, who, in his later working life, become interested in Lifelong Learning as a principle, as well as being involved. Former Newsletter Editor of, and past Secretary of, Witham & District (Essex) u3a; now leads the Creative Writing Group there. Other interests include History, especially Social and Family.



U3A Communities - People





Peter Lord: I'm a retired software engineer where I worked commercially in diverse fields such as telecoms, finance and artificial intelligence. I participate in a number of U3A groups including climate crisis, technology, science, walking and recently leading the Computing forum here. Other interests include web administration, home automation and volunteering at festivals.



Neill Allan has a degree in Industrial Chemistry; was on UK, EU and International standards committees for Knowledge Management, Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility. His career spanned several industries, moving from Marketing to running a number of SMEs, and he was an Executive Coach. He convenes the Leading Edge Discussion Group and a Science Group in Wokingham U3A.

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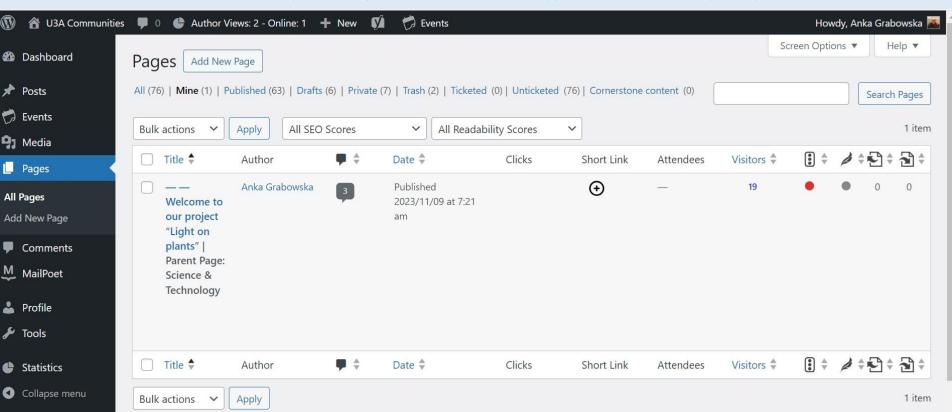
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U3A Communities – my page

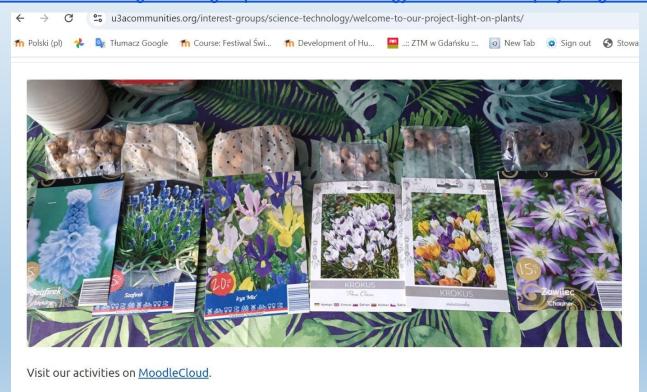
https://u3acommunities.org/interest-groups/science-technology/welcome-to-our-project-light-on-plants/





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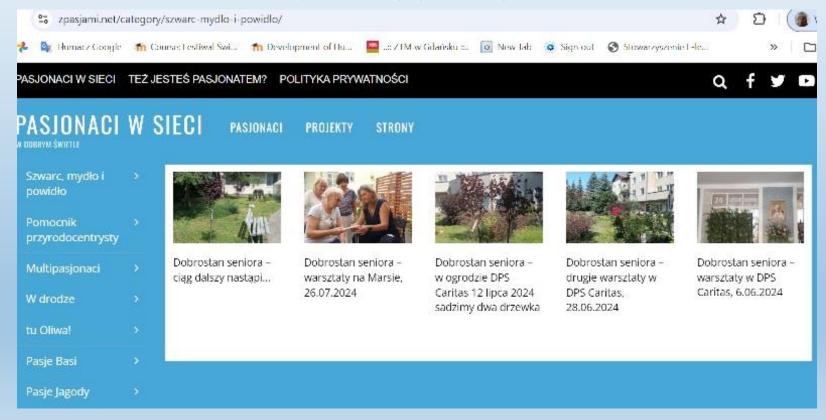


An example conference https://oeb.global/programme/agenda/oeb-23/sessions/37364



zpasjami.net - my page

https://zpasjami.net/category/szwarc-mydlo-i-powidlo/



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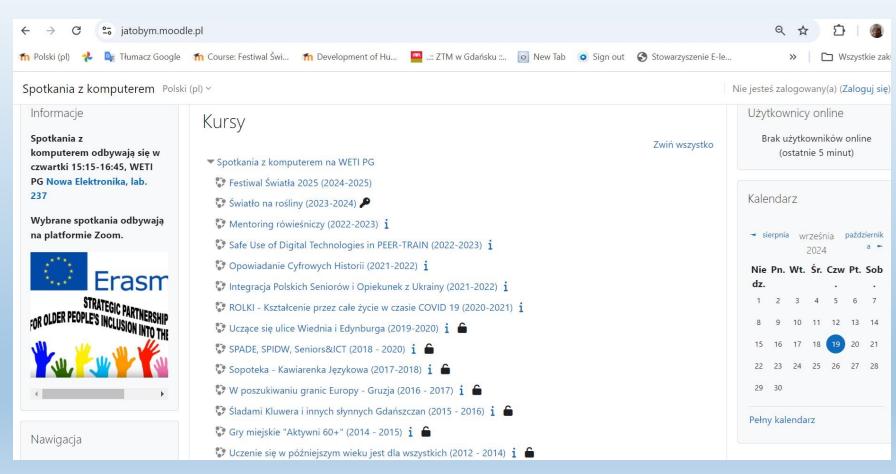


U3A Communities – my input

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Thank you for your attention

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