

## ANDOVER U3A - WEBMASTER REPORT

18 September 2021

### Website Visitors

1. Figure 1 shows website usage from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to end August 2021. As can be seen, Visitor numbers<sup>1</sup> to the website increased into the summer but are now dropping off again.
2. Also included in Figure 1 are Session<sup>2</sup> details. Comparing Visitors against Sessions, the higher figure for Sessions demonstrates that some people are visiting the website more than once during a day.

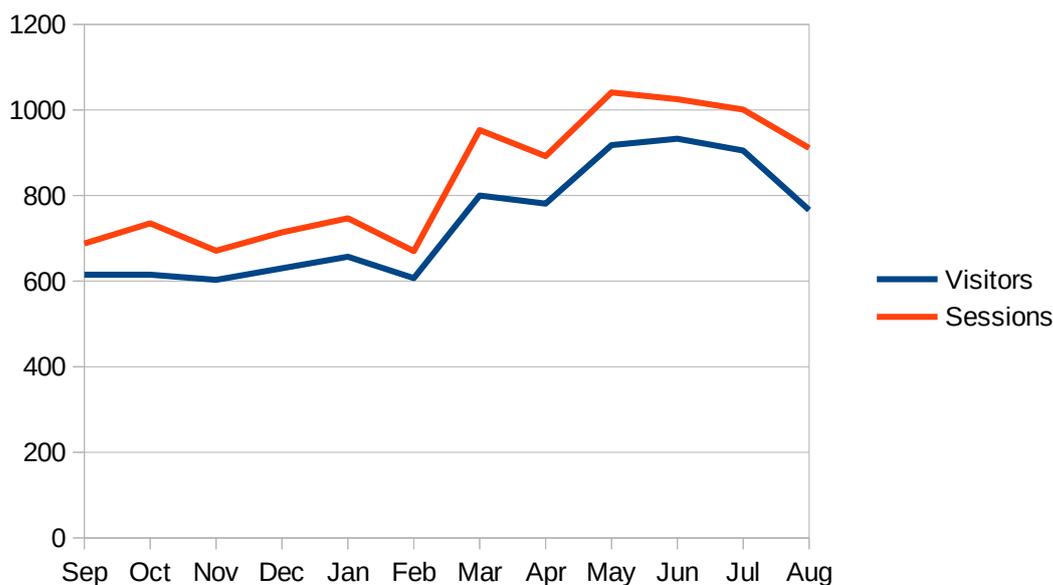


Figure 1: Andover U3A Website - Monthly totals from September 2020 to August 2021.

### SSL Certificate

3. The andoveru3a.co.uk domain is currently protected by a SSL Certificate. This authenticates a website's identity. It also enables an encrypted connection between the web server and the browser on a user's device, thus ensuring that hackers cannot read or modify the data being transferred between the two.
4. I first enabled the SSL Certificate on the andoveru3a.co.uk domain in October 2018, which was at zero cost. Our hosting provider, 1&1 IONOS, has informed me that our current SSL Certificate will expire on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and that a new Certificate is required. Free SSL Certificates are no longer available to us, and the cheapest available (price as at 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021, assumed to be Ex VAT) is £25 p.a..
5. The SSL Certificate is a simple security solution which will be a necessary requirement for as long as there are internet hackers in this world. 1&1 IONOS have told me that there were 11 attempts at hacking into the website in recent days, which provides extra evidence that the SSL Certificate is a necessity and I recommend that we procure a new Certificate.

---

1 "Visitors" are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. If a "visitor" goes to a website more than once in a day from the same device, only one "visitor" is counted.

2 If a "visitor" goes to a website one or more times in a day from a device, each visit is counted as a Session.

## **Beacon**

6. As briefed to previous meetings, the Third Age Trust were intending to bring in the new Beacon 2 application which was expected to provide Membership, Group and Financial Management along with an Email facility. It was intended to be a replacement for the member-developed Beacon application in use with many U3As. Since the announcement by Sam Mauger in April 2021 that the Beacon 2 project had been delayed - with that delay possibly becoming permanent - there appears to have been no further news regarding Beacon 2.

7. The Third Age Trust are continuing to provide support to the original Beacon system, and have produced a new video that explains the Beacon system and the perceived benefits of using it; new Committee members may find this video useful. To view, go to <https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/> and scroll down to the section "Video – How Beacon Works – A Quick Demo".

## **Future Vacancy**

8. Having volunteered to take on this role in November 2017, I feel it is now time for me to move on, to allow me time to pursue my own interests. I have therefore decided to step down from the Webmaster role no later than AGM 2022.

Jan Ward  
[webmaster@andoveru3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@andoveru3a.co.uk)