

Moving to the New Way Up Forum

Introduction

It came as a surprise to us all earlier this Summer, none more so than Gaynor and her merry band of helpers, that Big Tent announced it was going to close as of 31st December 2018. To put it in a bit of context, Big Tent is the web site that Way Up, and lots of other community groups, use for their Discussion Forums and Events Planning.

Gaynor and her Little Pixies have been looking for alternatives to Big Tent that fulfil some very simple criteria. It must initially provide at least the same basic functions as Big Tent, it should be configurable so we can adjust it to suit our needs, and it should be free to use.

We have found one called Simple Machines Forum, but that doesn't really matter because we have been able to brand it as Way Up to give you that nice, warm feeling you're in the right place. And now we need to let you know how you can find your way the New Forum and Register.

Like Big Tent, the Simple Machines Forum package is designed to be used in a Web Browser. It seems to work well on Tablets and Mobile Phones, although it has a more restricted view, so you might miss some features that would be intuitive were you able to see the whole screen. If you have to use a phone, you may want to set your Browser to "Use Desktop Site" in settings.

We would strongly recommend that the Registration Process and your initial exploration of the Brave New World that is the New Way Up Forum are done on a proper "grown up" PC. This will, we are sure, minimise errors and maximise your chances of getting safely to our new home.

The Process

The move to the New Forum is in a number of stages. First you have to find the login page for the New Forum, then you have to Register, then you have to be Approved by Way Up Admin, then you will be able to Log In properly.

New Way Up Forum Log In Page

The Address of the New Way Up Forum is:-

<https://forum.way-up.co.uk>

Type this into the Address field of your favourite Web Browser (or copy and paste or click on the link if you are viewing this on a computer), and press Return. You may want to Bookmark this page, as this will be your way in to Way Up.

When you first get the page, the only thing you can do is to click on the text that says "register an account".

This will take you to the Registration Agreement. Please take time to read this, as it describes the ethic that we want to promote within Way Up. It's basically what we had on Big Tent and it's what you are signing up to.

Then click on the text that says "I accept the terms of the agreement."

You are then presented with a Registration Form, where you are asked for the basic information we need to identify you and approve your application. Please make sure you use the same Username, Email, and First and Last names as you are known by on Big Tent. That way, we can match you up and approve your application quickly.

Username: Use the Screen Name that you are known by on Big Tent. If it's too long, the new Forum may not accept it. Use as much as it will allow. If we have queries, we'll get back to you.

Email: Use the same email address that you use on Big Tent.

Allow users to email me: Tick this box to allow other Members to contact you using your email address.

Choose/Verify Password: This is your password for accessing the New Way Up Forum – make it memorable to you, keep it safe, keep it secret.

Most of these fields have detailed guidance associated with them, but they are fairly obvious. Make sure you use the First and Last Names you are known by on Big Tent.

You must accept the Code of Conduct and the Privacy Policy, or you will not be allowed to join.

Please take time to complete these fields as fully and accurately as possible. You can come back at any time and amend the information you put here once you are accepted, but the more you do now, the less you'll have to do later.

If you have any queries about the Code of Conduct, Privacy, Security and on-line Safety, please contact us at help@way-up.co.uk.

Verification: This is needed to help ensure an automated system is not trying to register. It is case sensitive, so type it exactly as you see it. If you're not sure what is shown, you can click on the button to request another image.

Once that is completed, click the "Register" Button.

You will then (hopefully) get a Registration Successful screen.

You will get an email acknowledging your registration request along these lines.

Your registration request at Way Up has been received, StuartMcTest.

The username you registered with was StuartMcTest. If you forget your password, you can change it at <https://forum.way-up.co.uk/index.php?action=reminder>.

Before you can login and start using the forum, your request will be reviewed and approved. When this happens, you will receive another email from this address.

Regards,
The Way Up Team.

Please be patient, we are only human and we are but few.

Activating Your New Way Up Forum User

Once the lovely Admin people have had a chance to Approve your Registration application, you will receive an email similar to this:-

Welcome, StuartMcTest!

Welcome to Way Up.

Your membership application has been approved. We hope that you will find us a friendly and supportive group.

On our forum - forum.way-up.co.uk - you can read posts by others and join in discussions when you are ready. A brief post introducing yourself would be nice but there is absolutely no pressure. Use the site as you need to - but joining in is the best way to feel part of things. Never think you have nothing to say or any comment is too trivial.

There are several discussion boards for you to explore. The Quiet Room is reserved for more quiet reflection and should be kept free from jokes and banter.

There is a calendar in which you can see upcoming events organised by the members and you will be able to register to attend any event that interests you, wherever it takes place, locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Please explore the site – just click the various tabs and buttons and see where they take you – it will not break! In the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) board you should find answers to most of your queries.

If you are still stuck, please email help@way-up.co.uk.

May we draw your attention to the Members Code of Conduct, which can be found in the Files board. In becoming a member, you have agreed to abide by this code.

We look forward to you joining our discussions and hope to meet you soon!

Your username is: **StuartMcTest**. If you forget your password, you can change it at <https://forum.way-up.co.uk/index.php?action=reminder>.

Best wishes,
The Way Up Team.

Get to the New Way Up Forum login page again, either by typing <https://forum.way-up.co.uk> or using the Bookmark you saved earlier, but this time enter the Username and Password that you set up on Registration.

Tick the “Always stay logged in:” box, otherwise you’ll have to log back in every 60 minutes. Either that, or set the “Minutes to stay logged in” field to a different value.

This will then take you to the main Forum Page, where all sorts of new and wondrous goodies await your pleasure.

The temptation will be to scoot off and investigate the Discussion Categories and Topics or the Calendar feature, but first of all it would be good to take some time out to set up your Profile. Click on the Profile Button.

You will get to see your basic Profile information that you entered at Registration.

Select the Modify Profile button, and then the Forum Profile Option (the second one) from the drop down menu that appears.

The top half allows you to upload a picture (or avatar) that will appear alongside your posts and activities, some Personal Text that is associated with your avatar, your Date of Birth and where you were born, and any signature you may want to appear at the bottom of your posts. Your Gender should already be set from your Registration.

When you have uploaded your Avatar, it doesn’t always display immediately on the screen, but it should appear when you move to a different screen that has it on.

The bottom half mainly contains data that you entered as part of your Registration process, but it does include the “Change Profile” button, which you must press if you have made any changes and want to save them.

Well, that’s finished the Registration process. Welcome to the New Way Up Forum. Other documents will be made available to let you know how to use the system, but for now the last thing to tell you is how to log out.

Use the Logout button!

See you again soon. And don’t forget – play nicely.

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