

WEBSITE & FORUM TRANSITION BLACK ISLE MEETING 12/07/2010

The website is attracting ever increasing amounts of traffic. There is a pool of website administrators, at least one from each TBI sub group. All administrators have the users' manual and permission to edit relevant pages. Additional pages and sections can be added to the website at any time on request.

I have offered additional training on the website for administrators.
A snapshot report is attached as an appendix.

TBI FORUM

While some users are now getting to grips with the new forum within the website, others have complained they find it less intuitive than the Google group and miss being sent e-mail digests.

Having discussed the situation at some length with Plexus we have narrowed down the range of potential solutions to two options.

1) Tweak what we've got to make it more user friendly

Unfortunately the web-based system does not have the facility to send a daily e-mail. However it would be possible to introduce a latest updates form in the forum which would allow people to click it and easily see the all the latest posts within a set period of time.

Here's an example of where that form would lead if a user selects a two week period <http://bit.ly/bdxqQP>. The form could also show a visitor any unanswered questions within a set time period, which might encourage more interaction.

2) Return to using the Google Group

If we still feel that the forum is not working for us and that, with hindsight, the Google groups was, we could return to using it.

Plexus could draw in the latest topics from the google groups into the website and link from the website to them. This would still give you the recent topics on the website but all the interaction would take place on google groups. This would generate the daily email digests.

Administration and organisation of the forum

How do members feel about the organisation of topics on the forum - could be improved?
Do we rely solely on Agric to administer the forum from a distance, or should we have someone here to administer it now? If so who?

Catriona Ross - 12 July 2010