UKOPA
United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

www.ukopa.co.uk

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Building website content for member advice

Continue to develop content to share digestible round ups of WG activities and member insights

Provide easy to read articles from the GPG

Last few months topics have included:

- Why UKOPA Members should engage with GEEP
- Join Us in Shaping the Future of Engineering
- Why sharing data is crucial for UKOPA members
- Join the GEEP programme

UKOPA SUPPORTS THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING'S QUEST FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS

By Louis In News October 29, 2024

UKOPA is delighted to have joined forces with the Royal Academy of Engineering to support their Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP) to encourage the next generation […]

Read more

Analysing the UKOPA Girth Weld Defect Database: Insights and Recommendations

By Louis In News, Uncategorized September 13, 2024

The UKOPA Girth Weld Defect Database plays a critical role in assessing the integrity and reliability of pipelines across the UK's Local Transmission System (LTS) and […]

Read more

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Newsletter e-shot

- Produced members newsletter, summarising event, sharing presentations and WG activities as well as future events
- Created email distribution lists to save on printing
- Contacted members to gather communication contact details - now more than 12 identified. Also trawled LinkedIn for further additions from all member companies.
- Need to continue to encourage others to sign up and receive a copy
  - Colleagues
  - Comms teams
  - Appropriate management

UKOPA INSIGHTS
AUTUMN 2024

UKOPA Members Meeting
8 - 9 October 2024
Bristol

How digitisation within pipeline operations aim to improve safety

We were delighted with the attendance at the recent Member's meeting in Bristol that saw record numbers attend from across UKOPA's 29 member companies. Members gathered for the two day conference that examined 'How digitisation within pipeline operations aim to improve safety' and were rewarded with more than 24 presentations from experts in their respective fields.

As always, the event was an unparalleled opportunity to meet peers from across the sector, share good practices and build relationships with colleagues across the pipeline industry. The event also included an update from each of the 6 UKOPA working groups, the Governance Group and the Board. Copies of the presentations are available in the Member's section of the UKOPA website.

Crack detection software

Tim Rudd of Valero and Brian Kerrigan from Frontline Integrity came together to share work recently undertaken on providing a digitised end to end solution that safely and effectively delivers a process for assessing and determining pipeline crossings. This is amongst the first digitised end to end solutions in the pipeline industry and one that provides a glimpse of future possibilities.

Digitisation in the Energy Industry

Clive Zanker opened the conference with an insightful presentation looking at how the sector is looking to use digitisation to reduce costs and emissions, while improving resilience and efficiency. Highlighting how digitisation is the 4th industrial revolution and how best it can be utilised to meet energy demand, provide resilience to critical infrastructure, but also meet climate change obligations and growing use of future fuels.

Better data sharing between members

The importance of collecting data from across the membership was outlined by Graham Goodfellow. By developing effective and robust data collection and retention systems, UKOPA and its members can meet their strategic aims, determine where action is needed, as well as identify trends and investigate good practice. The data is also imperative in better determining land use planning zones, reducing damage, as well assessing risks to staff.

The presentation led to an interactive Round Table event where members split into small working groups to discuss and share how this can best be achieved. The findings will be collated and fed into the relevant Working Groups for actioning where appropriate.

and Tony were recognised with an award for their services to the industry at the Member's dinner in the evening.

Communications Working Group that's been established to further improve communications within UKOPA and to external stakeholders. If you are interested in being involved in these or other Working Groups, please contact secretary@ukopa.co.uk.

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Dates for the diary - We have a busy schedule of forthcoming events including
- 19 Nov 2024 - Board Liaison meeting with HSE
- 26 -27 Feb 2025 - "Inspection Techniques & Innovation" (North West)
- 15 May 2025 - "Aging Assets & Repurposing". DNV Spadeadam, Cumbria
- 8 - 9 Oct 2025 - Board meeting and Members' meeting (Midlands)

E-mail communications to Members

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- Drafted e-shots to support communications from the organization, focusing on Members meeting and support for GEEP
- Now 91 on distribution list (97% successful delivery)
- Download and read response rates of 33% and 40% respectively (above industry average of 20%)
- Looking to circumnavigate some internal firewalls

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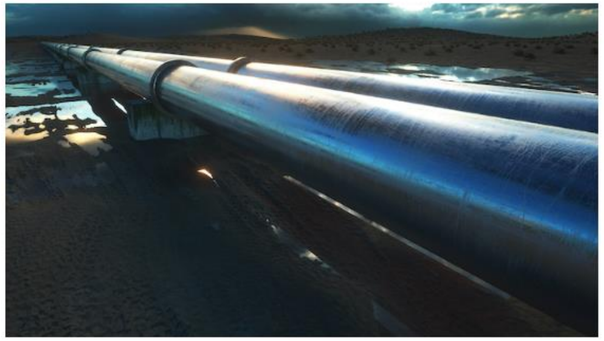

SECURE YOUR SPACE AT FEBRUARY'S MEMBERS' MEETING

Join us at our next Members' meeting on **26/27th February** at the **Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel.**

The theme of the meeting will be '**Aging Assets & Inspection Techniques'** with an action packed agenda including expert insights and industry updates from:

- Walt Doxford / David Glass from the HSE on 'When welding goes wrong'
- Stephen Newton from INEOS on AGI inspections
- Crack Susceptibility and SCC from Jim Jarvie (INEOS) / Rosen
- Peter Lyon from NECIT on 'Learning from other industries inspection techniques'

The event will also share important updates from all six UKOPA Working Groups. Take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity to network with industry colleagues, share good practice and develop knowledge from the UK's leading pipeline experts

CLICK HERE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

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ENGAGE AND INFLUENCE TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS
This is a last call to support The Royal Academy's Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP), designed to connect graduate talent from diverse backgrounds to engineering careers and help address the growing skills gap in industries like ours.

By engaging with this programme, UKOPA members can access a pool of bright, motivated graduates eager to contribute fresh perspectives and innovative solutions, while strengthening their commitment to inclusivity. By partnering with the programme, UKOPA companies can:

- Lead the way in fostering diversity and inclusion within engineering.
- Influence young professionals to tackle the sector's most pressing challenges.
- Demonstrably tackle the UK's engineering skills shortage.

With four remaining events in March and three in April this year's GEEP events are nearly completed. Below are links to on and off-line opportunities relating to:

- CV, Interviews and Networking Masterclasses
- Demonstrating commitment to Diversity & Inclusion
- Webinar panelists, sharing career journeys, collaborations and enterprise

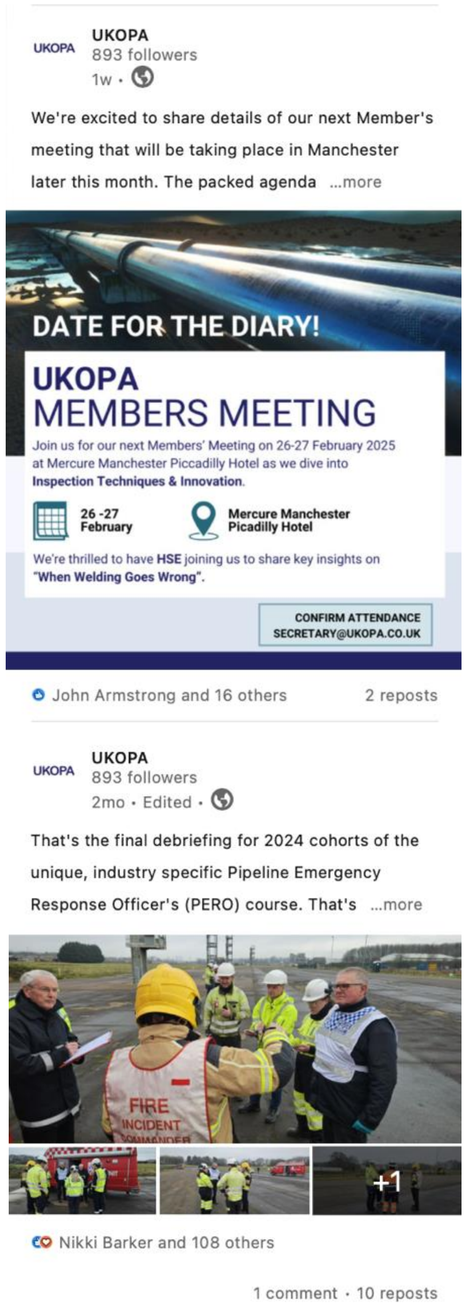
Let's seize this opportunity to invest in the future of our industry and the talented individuals who will drive it forward.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

UKOPA

LinkedIn Update

- Continue to post regular LinkedIn updates
- Looked to improve design feel and content
- Follower numbers continue to grow (117 since last meeting)
- 20,400 impressions on posts, 15% increase in comments
  - Looking for content to share from Working Group meetings
  - People stories
  - Industry successes



Media Update

- Gathered information for IWG looking at media outlets for 2025 advertising. Looking at options in the following sectors:
  - Utilities
  - Building & Construction
  - Home builders
  - Farming
- Contacted Farmers Guide to express an interest in supporting this year's Yellow Wellies campaign – 21-25 July
- Good opportunity with Construction Manager Magazine, offering the option to sponsor a professional development course with Chartered Institute of Building – essentially a DPS and then Q&A for readers who can complete and gain credits towards their annual CPD hours target.

Website update

- Concluded the tender process and selected agency to redesign and build the UKOPA website
  - Rewording of the website copy is underway, initial drafts under review before full roll-out, aiming to make the copy shorter, punchier and more engaging
  - Developed a bank of imagery and have secured video footage from Murphy Group of video for website
  - Initial designs submitted for review
  - Development of new discussion forum underway
  - Work needs to determine what content is transferred to new site – archive section
  - Looking to be live by Technical Seminar in May

Initial Homepage Designs

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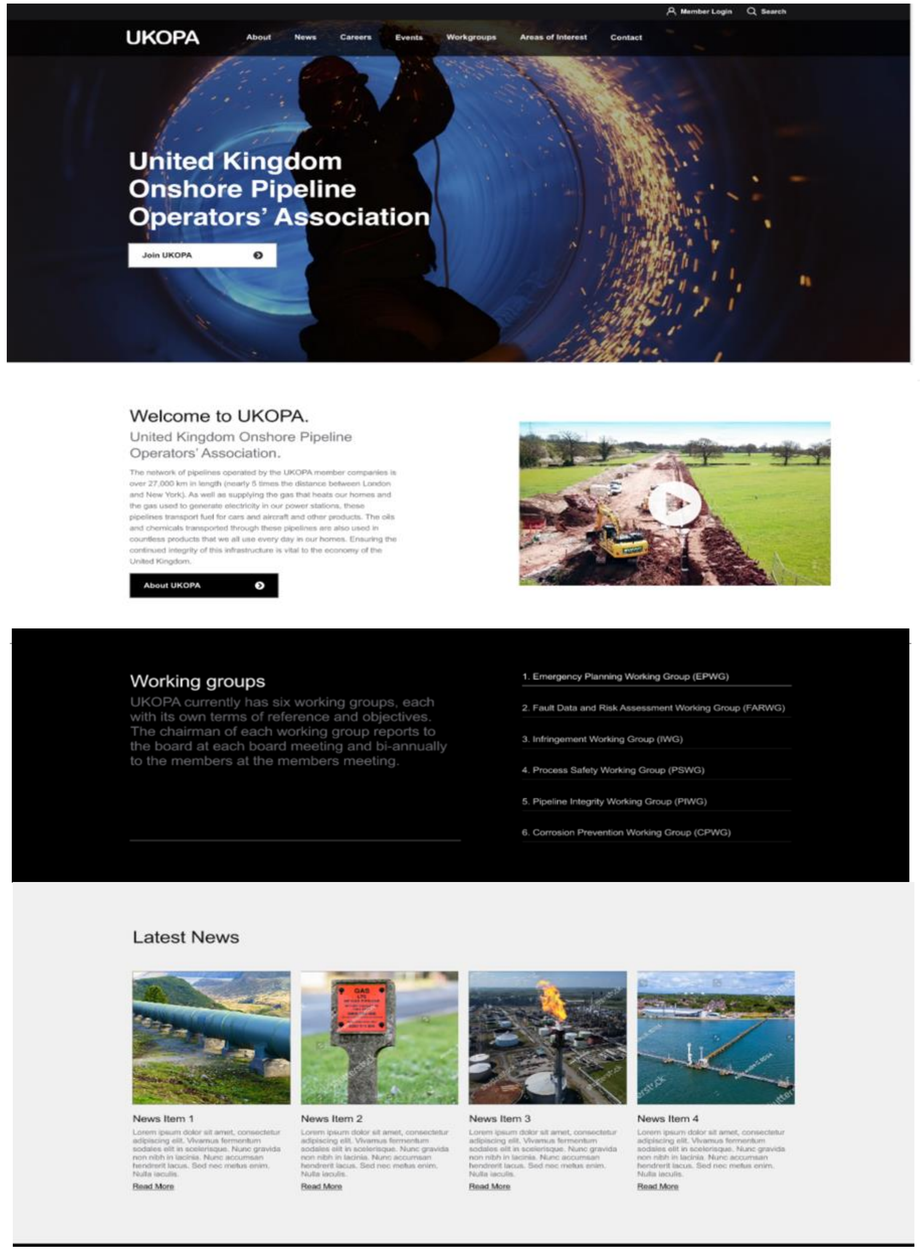
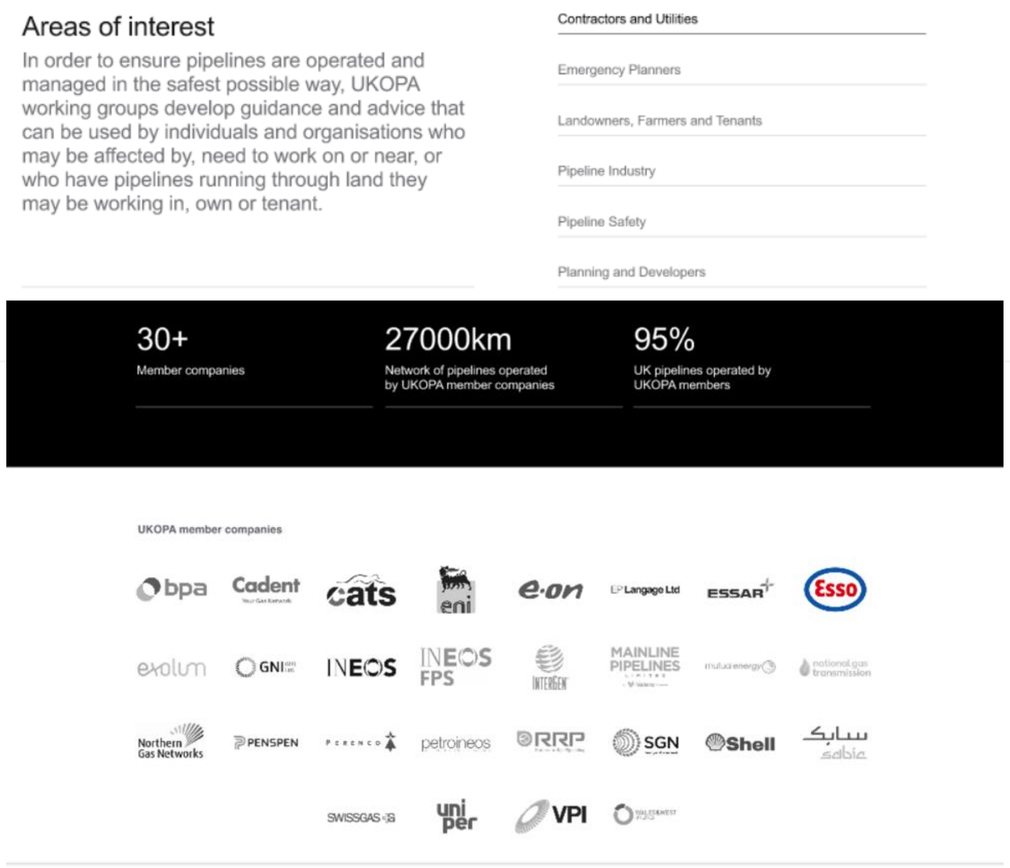
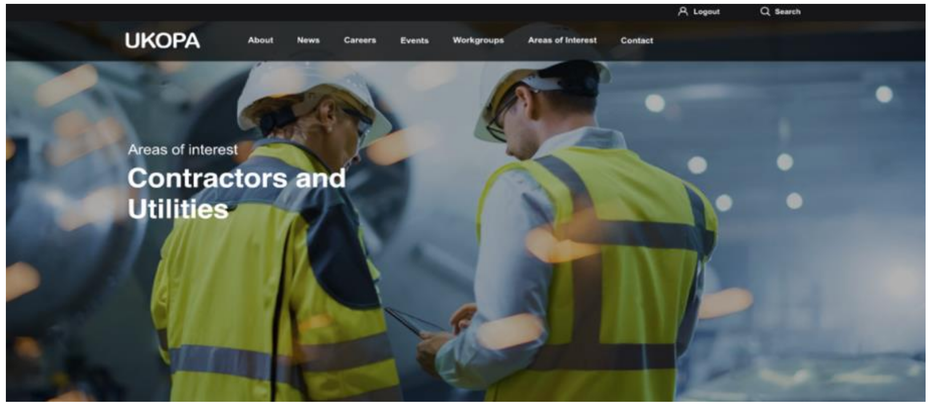




[Link to initial designs]

Secondary Landing Page Designs

- Strong industry image (picture library)
  - Rewording proposed to reduce copy and increase impact
  - Easy navigation to other areas of site
  - Clear subheadings for navigation and optimisation
  - Topped and tailed to bring consistency



What can UKOPA provide to Contractors and Utilities

UKOPA members can provide information on buried pipelines in order to assist compliance with the Pipelines Safety Regulations. In relation to major accident hazard pipelines (MAHPs) Regulation 15 states "No person shall cause such damage to a pipeline as may give rise to a danger to persons".

In this connection, UKOPA members will provide detailed information on the pipeline route, including site visits to verify the position of and mark the precise location of the pipeline in advance of any work which could pose a threat to the integrity of the pipeline. Such information will include specific briefings to personnel by the operator and the contractor or utility company.

Why will UKOPA provide information to Contractors and Utilities

UKOPA and its members operate over 27,000kms of pipelines conveying gas, chemicals, oils and refined products across the UK. Safe operation of this network is a vital part of domestic and industrial life in this country and the UK pipeline industry has an excellent safety record. This record can only be maintained if we continue to work with all industry, stakeholders, including contractors and utilities, with regulators and with the wider community.

Pipeline damage arising from uncontrolled excavation or other ground penetrating activities forms a major part of the risk of a pipeline failure, loss of containment and subsequent fire or explosion. There are now more companies involved in digging holes across the UK than ever before. Latest estimates put this figure at around 4 million holes dug by utility companies annually and this excludes any excavations made as part of construction projects.

Consequently, UKOPA is working hard to identify the sources of pipeline damage, how they occur, and how they can be prevented. This webpage provides key information arising from the work of UKOPA's Infringement Working Group (IWG), comprised of industry members and the HSE.

UKOPA's aim is to work with all sectors of industry, including contractors and utilities, to eliminate the threat of damage to hazardous pipelines and in doing so further improve the UK's pipeline safety record.

UKOPA analysis of pipeline damage prepared by the IWG clearly shows that a high proportion of incidents that have caused or likely to cause pipeline damage are a result of work undertaken by contractors and utility companies. In this connection, contractors and utilities are required to contact pipeline operators during the planning of any works to establish whether any pipelines are affected by the proposed operations, and it is noted that reference to Linewatch may be helpful in this respect – see weblink below). UKOPA members will provide information and onsite support free of charge in order to reduce the possibility of such damage to the pipeline.

Information and Advice

UKOPA members will provide relevant guidance and information relating to:

- Works information requirements
- Safe working in the vicinity of pipelines
- What to do in the event of damage to the pipeline

In addition, UKOPA may be able to provide advice on specific issues and queries. Please contact us.

Who is the UKOPA Infringement Work Group (IWG)

The IWG includes a representative from the Health and Safety Executive and representatives of a number of the UKOPA members – Infringement Work Group (IWG)

Documents & Information

- Contractor's Guide to Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines
- 2014 Report for the UKOPA Infringement Database
- UKOPA People & Pipelines Working Together
- Working Safely with High Pressure Pipelines

Useful links

- Health and Safety Executive – Pipeline Health and Safety
- Linewatch

Quick Links

About
Privacy Statement
Mission Statement
Strategy
Organisation and Membership
Working Groups
Calendar of Events
Contacts
News
Members Centre

Useful Information

Working Safely with High Pressure Pipelines Video
UKOPA/GP/013 – Requirements for the Siting and Installation of Wind Turbines Installations in the Vicinity of Buried Pipelines
UKOPA/GP/014 Edition. 2 – Requirements for the Siting and Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installations in the Vicinity of Buried Pipelines

Latest News

News item 1
News item 2
News item 3
News item 4

Contact Us

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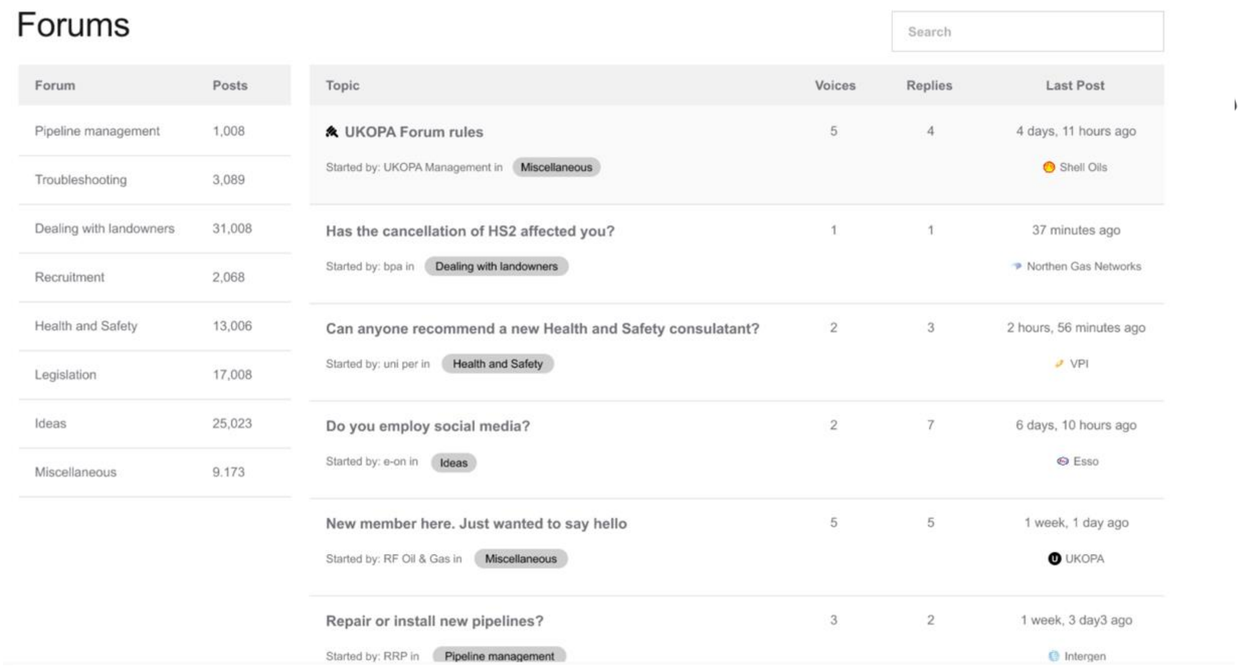
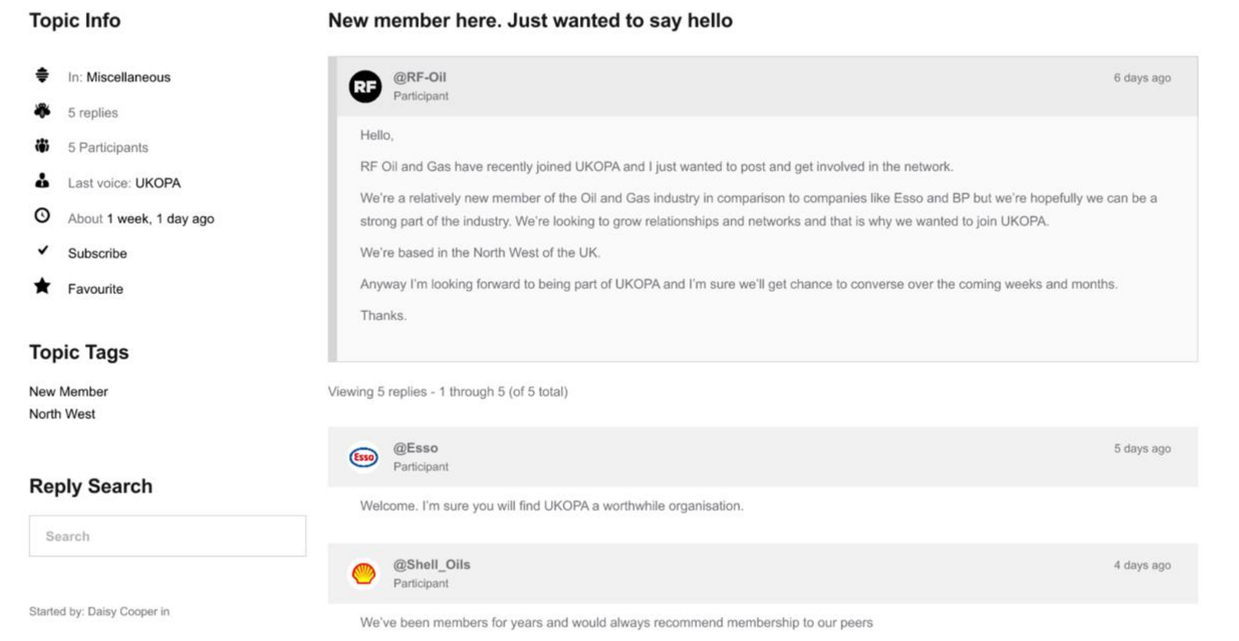
New Members Forum

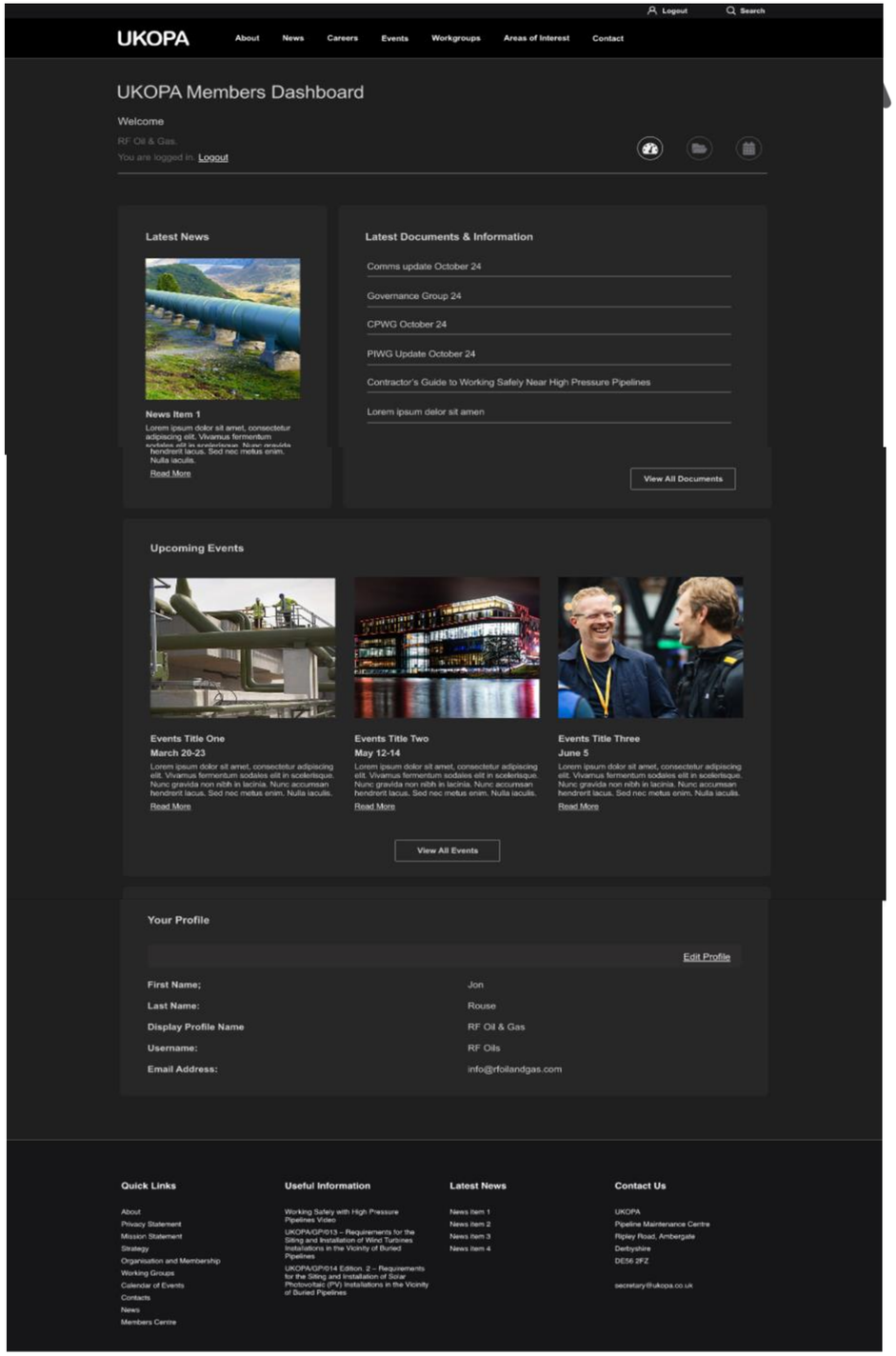
- New forum established to offer:
  - Build more of a UKOPA community
  - Platform to share good practice
  - Ask questions are receive industry advice
  - Member profiles also shared online for access to expertise
  - Discussion topics listed for easy navigation



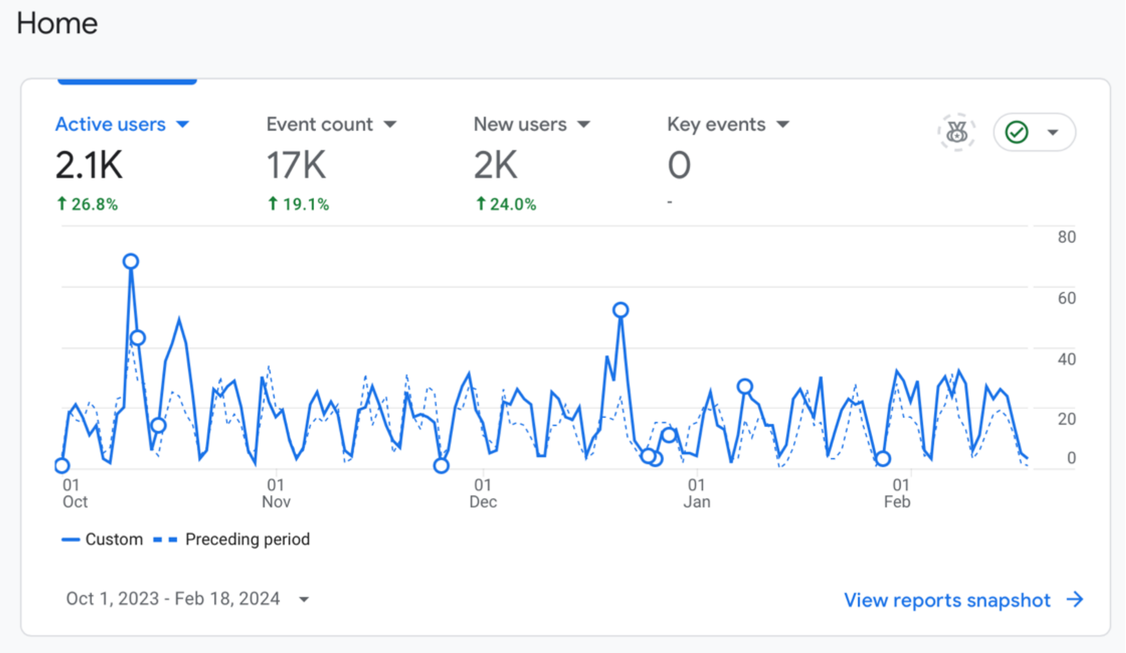


New Revised Members Area

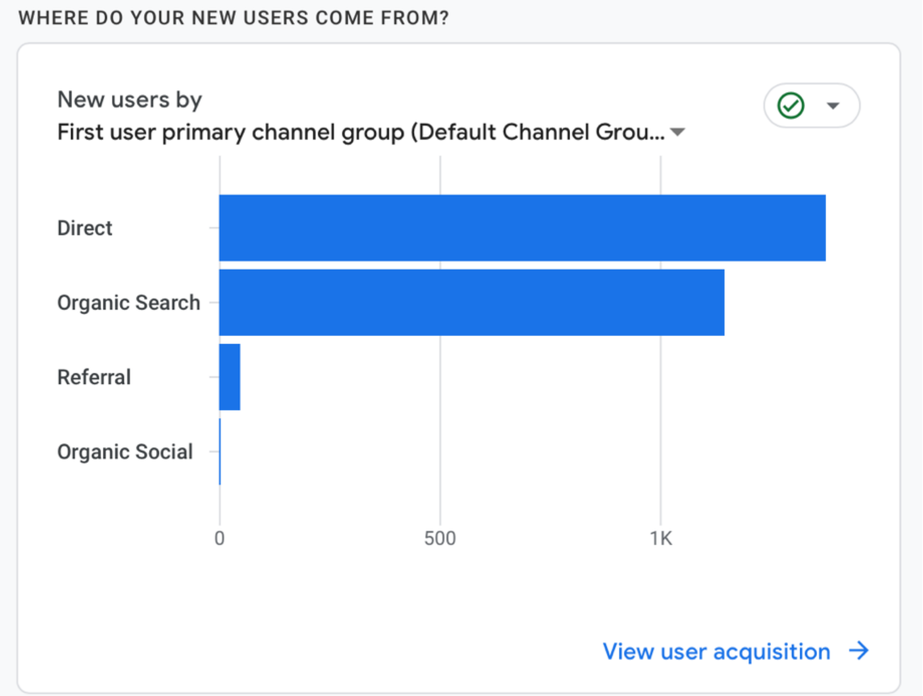
- Members area:
  - Improved access to important information / latest documents
  - Decluttering and archiving of older materials
  - Upcoming events more prominent
  - User dashboard and profile on landing
  - Easy access and links to Working Groups and GPGs
  - Access to Forum



Google Analytics



		Page title and screen class	Views	Active users	Views per active user	Average engagement time per active user	Event count All events
		Total	7,142 100% of total	2,701 100% of total	2.64 Avg 0%	51s Avg 0%	19,865 100% of total
	1	UKOPA	2,061	1,539	1.34	20s	6,612
	2	Good Practice Guides | UKOPA	1,179	524	2.25	59s	3,173
	3	UKOPA Reports | UKOPA	461	332	1.39	14s	1,224
	4	About UKOPA | UKOPA	254	186	1.37	22s	580
	5	Published Documents | UKOPA	174	129	1.35	9s	413



- Continued uplift in website traffic over last 5 months (+26%)
- Users finding site from mixture of organic search, direct and social
- Key pages are GPGs, UKOPA Reports, About UKOPA and News

Questions?