

Astun News

Welcome

It's been a hectic start to 2015, with a busy training schedule and four regional meetings of the Astun User Group in Newport, Epsom, Cambridge and Stockport. On the customer front we'd like to welcome West Suffolk (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury

Councils) and Waverley as new iShare customers. Finally April 5th marks our 10th Birthday and we think that means cracking open a bottle or two.

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iShare evolves at North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire was one of our original iShare customers. Today iShare is integrated widely across the organisation.

In this implementation North Lincs has a much more task oriented home page than is the norm. Instead of having one catch all My House page the information is integrated into individual pages. So once a visitor to the site has entered his or her address on the home page, the pages within the site display information pertinent to that location. Performing a find on Local Councillors for example will deliver information based on your address.

Performing a search on a library will display those which are nearest based on where you live, whereas before there were multiple links back to the My House page to find this information. This is an innovative use of iShare and provides a streamlined way of finding information. Despite this

North Lincs has almost replicated My House with a drop down section at the bottom of the homepage, where you can search for more information. The My Maps implementation includes many different layers and maps, which are nicely styled using Loader.

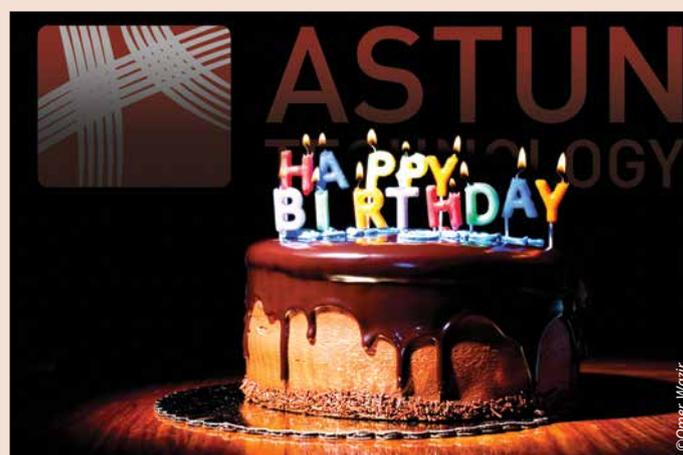
iShare now provides the address search across the Council for iShare Maps, iShare GIS and QGIS as well as the website's home page, local pages, online forms, self service opportunities and solo maps. Another example is bin collections which uses the iShare search to make a call to the Mayrise web service. The next phase of development will look to render maps within pages either using iShare solo maps or by using Leaflet.

Your address is set to:-
16, Copperfield House, Brigg Road, Barton Upon Humb
 Change Address

Your Councillors

Councillor Jonathan Evison Conservative More Information...
Councillor Keith Vickers Conservative More Information...
Councillor Paul Vickers Conservative More Information...

We're 10



On April the 5th ten years ago Mike Saunt started Astun Technology. He started out with three iShare customers, South Tyneside, Monmouthshire and North Lincolnshire. Ten years later all three are still customers and they have been joined by more than sixty others who now deploy iShare in one form or another.

Here are our ten year highlights:

- 2005**
Astun Technology is founded with three iShare customers. Mike Saunt becomes a columnist for Geoconnexion magazine.
- 2006**
Astun launches 'My Alerts' and publishes its first brochure, Astun sponsors newly formed OSGeo Foundation
- 2007**
First Issue of iShare News, Surrey Heath 'My protected Trees' Highly Commended at AGI Awards - First deployment of iShare with a Police Force.
- 2008**
South Tyneside Council wins Exemplar Award - 'Best Business Process Transformation'.
- 2009**
Publisher and Logger modules for iShare launched, three iShare sites feature in the SOCITM 'Better Connected' top twenty.
- 2010**
Astun launches the Open Enterprise Agreement, launch of iShare GIS.
- 2011**
Astun Data Services - cloud based hosting for Ordnance Survey and other data, Loader initially developed and made open source, bespoke application development gains traction (Exactrak).
- 2012**
First Meeting of the Astun User Group, Astun runs its first Open Source training course, launch of Get INSPIRED.
- 2013**
Astun joins the G-Cloud.
- 2014**
Astun appointed to the LASA (Local Authority Software Applications) IT procurement framework.
- 2015**
Astun expands into central government agencies - Environment Agency and Defra.

New starters



Aileen Heal:
Senior
GeoSpatial
Projects Lead

Aileen has a degree in Engineering Mathematics and has been working in the geospatial industry for almost 20 years. She has passion for building systems and geospatial problem solving using her extensive knowledge and expertise in spatial databases. Prior to this Aileen developed engineering software including a mathematical modelling tool for predicting radar signatures at Thorn EMI and specialist CAD tools for designing integrated circuits at Philips.



David Aitken:
Finance
Manager

David Aitken, is a management accountant who has extensive

experience in financial and management accounting, having worked in a variety of industries and organisations over the last 20 years. From a practice background (Top 20 UK accountancy firms) David moved into industry, initially spending time within the finance departments of a number of large UK plcs. In more recent years, David has focused on Finance Management roles within SME/owner managed businesses.



Tracy Reilly:
Finance
Assistant

Tracy has been working in Finance Administration for over 15 years and has a wealth of experience. Roles cover credit control, payroll and invoicing as well as general business administration. Away from work Tracy likes to spend time with her family, enjoys reading and music.

Tackling Ebola in West Africa



Ant Scott providing hands on GIS training in Mali.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has stirred hearts and minds in recent months, and there has been a fantastic response from many different voluntary organisations, not least the UK registered charity MapAction which regularly sends (GIS) professionals, specially trained in disaster response, to areas where there is a humanitarian crisis. This is the first time MapAction has responded to a disease crisis, and our own Ant Scott has been involved twice, firstly in Sierra Leone and latterly in Mali.

In Sierra Leone the MapAction group was working as part of the NERC (National Ebola Response Centre) working alongside the British Army, and various other organisations including WHO. The main challenge for the MapAction team was data, trying to keep track of the number of cases, the treatment centres and where they were and adding the information to maps to try and build up a common picture. This provides response managers with information about where the virus is spreading, its rate of infection and how well the country is implementing the control measures required.

Indicators such as the number of cases, treatment beds available, safe burials within 24 hours, etc. were all updated daily. Bringing the numbers down is essential to slow the transmission rate and the spread of the virus. Incidentally much of the map data came from OSM (Open Street Map), and Ant says they would have been in deep trouble without it.

Ant's second deployment to Bamako in Mali was more of a preventative exercise, with most of the effort going into training, to ensure that if and when Ebola crosses the border from Guinea there will be a better state of preparedness. Training involved the use of GPS in the field, Google Earth and QGIS. Over 100 people wanted to attend the MapAction course with only 25 places available.

As always MapAction's work relies on volunteers who have the backing of family and friends and employers like Astun to travel to a region to work for a short period and then return to their everyday lives. You can find out more about MapAction at www.mapaction.org

iShare Support

Over the last few months we have moved our iShare documentation and a lot more besides to a new platform and you can find it here: <http://bit.ly/1BoEGn1>

There is a cornucopia of iShare and related documentation here so whether you are a new customer or have been using iShare for years there's probably something that that you will find useful here.

Did you know for example that Astun provides a Database Backup script which you may download and install to backup your PostgreSQL database. If you want



to find the release notes for the latest version of iShare (5.4.4) you can also find them here. You can find a quick link to this site below the carousel on the home page of our website.

Don't forget about our support portal too. This is where you raise your technical support tickets. There is also Forum where you can share ideas and insights and log feature requests. There have been 14 feature requests in the last six months and 5 of those have already been scheduled by the development team.

Life's too short...



Astun User Group Meetings

From January through to the end of March we ran four Astun User Group meetings in Newport, Epsom, Cambridge and Stockport. In these straightened times it is difficult for people to get away for a day so we were delighted that over 60 people attended to find out about the Astun Spatial Data

Warehouse, share experiences and learn from each other.

There were 7 user presentations as well as Astun updates and all have been uploaded to our FTP site. Please email williamallbrook@astuntechnology.com if you'd like to access these presentations.