Astun News

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of Astun News. The past few months have seen a number of new contract wins and we would like to welcome the following new customers.

St. Helens Council are deploying iShare Maps, iShare SDW, iShare GIS and will be using Ordnance Survey base mapping provided through Astun Data Services.
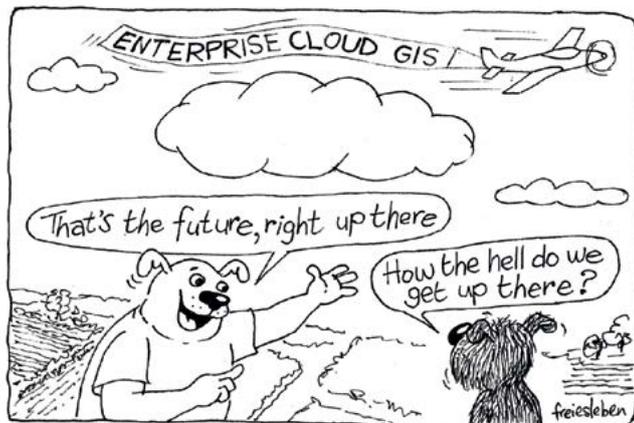
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council is deploying iShare Maps, iShare SDW, iShare GIS and our Get INSPIREd solution using GeoNetwork.

Trafford Council is deploying iShare in the Cloud Enterprise which includes iShare Maps, iShare SDW, iShare GIS with ADS base mapping.

After an initial strategic consultancy exercise Astun will now be delivering an iShare in the Cloud Enterprise GIS solution to **Central Bedfordshire Council**. This deployment includes iShare Maps, iShare GIS and the iShare SDW. Astun will also be responsible for the migration of data from their existing systems and provide a comprehensive QGIS and PostGIS training package with ongoing support.

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Astun User Group – Conference

Birmingham, 10th May with FREE TRAINING!

After polling customers last year we have decided to change the format of the Astun User Group's meetings.

This year we are hosting the 'Astun User Group - Conference' on the 10th May at Conference Aston, Aston Business School in the heart of Birmingham.

The Conference is free and open to both existing and prospective Astun Technology customers. We have a packed morning session, which will focus on our vision for **Enterprise Cloud GIS**, the roadmap for the next few years and includes some wide-ranging presentations to whet your appetites.

The afternoon session will consist of two free training streams focused on QGIS and iShare. There will be question and answer sessions throughout the day. A great opportunity to network, share knowledge and find out where the future lies.

To view the detailed conference programme and to register please click here to go to the event page on our website:

https://astuntechnology.com/astun-user-group-conference-2016/
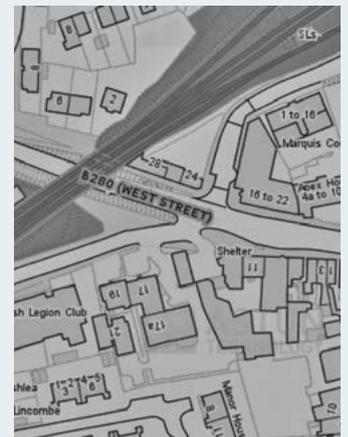
ADS Update

OS OpenNames Gazetteer

A new gazetteer web service is now available via ADS, which allows you to search for a place, postcode or street found in the OS OpenNames dataset. These services along with other open data services are available to all users free of charge via ADS.

There is also a QGIS Gazetteer plugin which includes support for the OS OpenNames Gazetteer: https://github.com/AstunTechnology/QGIS-Gazetteer-Plugin

OS Premium base maps can be part of a Global solution

OS Premium subscribers now have access to the colour and greyscale vector base mapping in the Web Mercator projection using a tiling scheme compatible with OpenStreetMap and Google Maps. This means you can use Ordnance Survey data here in the UK as well as OSM or Google Maps elsewhere in the world in a single application as well as simpler integration with web mapping libraries such as OpenLayers or Leaflet or use with platforms such as CartoDB.

ADS base mapping update

The Ordnance Survey (OS) base mapping on ADS has been updated to use the latest OS MasterMap Topography Layer data. It is worth noting that there is no need for you to make any iShare configuration changes as the latest mapping will automatically appear via the ADS service.

If you have any technical queries about ADS features please post them on our support portal.

Astun Sponsor MapAction

As you know we regularly support our favourite charity MapAction. In February we sponsored MapAction by providing some free QGIS training. They were grateful.

MapAction is a humanitarian mapping charity that works through skilled volunteers.
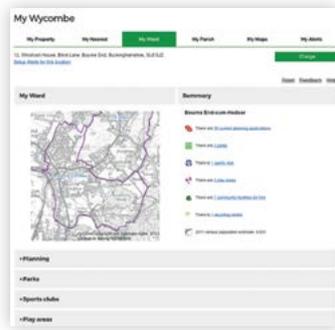
"Just a short note to thank you for the generous offer of course places for the recent QGIS course. One of our team, attended and I understand he thoroughly enjoyed the course and found it extremely useful. One of our core aims for our five year strategy is to extend our training, particularly to national and regional authorities involved in emergency information management. We hope this will support their work in the many emergencies where the international community does not get involved, as much as supporting them for the high visibility emergencies where we do. As such ensuring our team have the capacity to use and train on QGIS is therefore very important. So many thanks again for making this available to us."

**Liz Hughes
Chief Executive, MapAction**

My Wycombe – Now Responsive with 'Ward and Parish based Data Views'

If you have ever wondered whether it would be possible to change the look and functionality of Public iShare, well the answer of course is yes. Wycombe District Council wanted to make iShare responsive so that the viewing experience would be better on phones and tablets. They also wanted to present the information in My House differently to focus attention on key information and improve the experience on touch devices. Additionally they wanted to introduce new tabs to provide specific information relevant to Councillors and Parish Councillors. The result is a clean uncluttered interface that provides access to information to both the public and the councillors that serve them. The new site is due to go live in April 2016.

Life's too short...

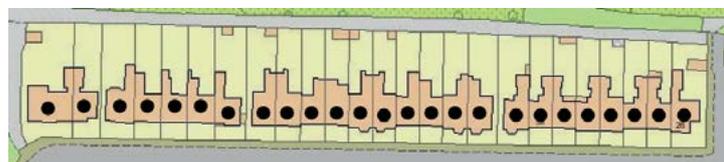## Astun Sponsors FOSS4G UK – Southampton 2016

On June 14th to 16th 2016, OSGeo:UK will be bringing together open source GIS users (current and potential), developers and supporters from the UK and beyond for two days of workshops, presentations, un-conference sessions, code sprints and plenty of socialising too. The event will take place at Ordnance Survey's Explorer House Business Centre in Southampton.

Any of you who attended the hugely successful international event in Nottingham in 2013 can expect more of the same. As in 2013 a number of Astun employees are volunteering to help organise the event, what's more Astun is itself sponsoring lunch on the first day and is a joint sponsor of the party on the first night.

To find out more visit the event website: http://uk.osgeo.org/foss4guk2016/

Gazetteer Survey

Many thanks to those of you who took part in our Gazetteer survey. We have updated our records to ensure that we can continue to provide you with support.

Training Update

Many of you have attended Astun Open Source training courses. The QGIS courses in particular have been very popular. In March we took a close look at our courses and tweaked and renamed some of them in line with customer feedback.

The new course designations and dates are as follows:

Course	Duration	Date	Location
QGIS Essentials	2 days	21st - 22nd June 2016	Epsom
QGIS Advanced	1 day	12th July 2016	Epsom
QGIS Enterprise	1 day	13th July 2016	Epsom
PostGIS Essentials	2 days	28th - 29th June 2016	Epsom
PostGIS Database Administration**	1 day	30th June 2016	Epsom
GeoServer Essentials	2 days	5th - 6th July 2016	Epsom
GeoServer Advanced***	1 day	7th July 2016	Epsom

** Requires PostGIS Essentials

***Requires GeoServer Essentials

The new course outlines are now up on our website:
https://astuntechnology.com/services/#training

Training to suit you

If a training course in Epsom is inconvenient we can also run training courses on your premises and and we can tailor them to suit your needs.

In January and February Astun ran 11 one-day QGIS training courses for a number of different service areas within Essex County Council. Each course was designed to have 8 attendees. Astun furnished the laptops and supplied the software, course manuals plus data on USB flash drives so that delegates could take them away afterwards. The courses were lightly tailored for each service area to focus on their specific requirements by picking from the modules in our standard QGIS course. All courses were run on Essex County Council premises.

iShare 5.6 coming soon with metadata integration

The latest version of iShare (5.6) is coming soon. The major feature of this release is the integration of metadata from a CSW (Catalog Service for the Web) into iShare. Many customers, who have produced metadata and put it into GeoNetwork to meet their INSPIRE obligations, for example, will be able to access it via iShare and iShareGIS. People can see how up-to-date the data is, where it came from and who should be contacted if there are any queries.

How is this done exactly? A new "iShareConfig" web service adds new capabilities to iShare, including: the linking of data to metadata records, searching for layers by name or metadata (in iShareGIS), and customisable display of metadata resources. That way, you will be able to show different subsets of metadata to internal users with iShareGIS and the public with iShare.