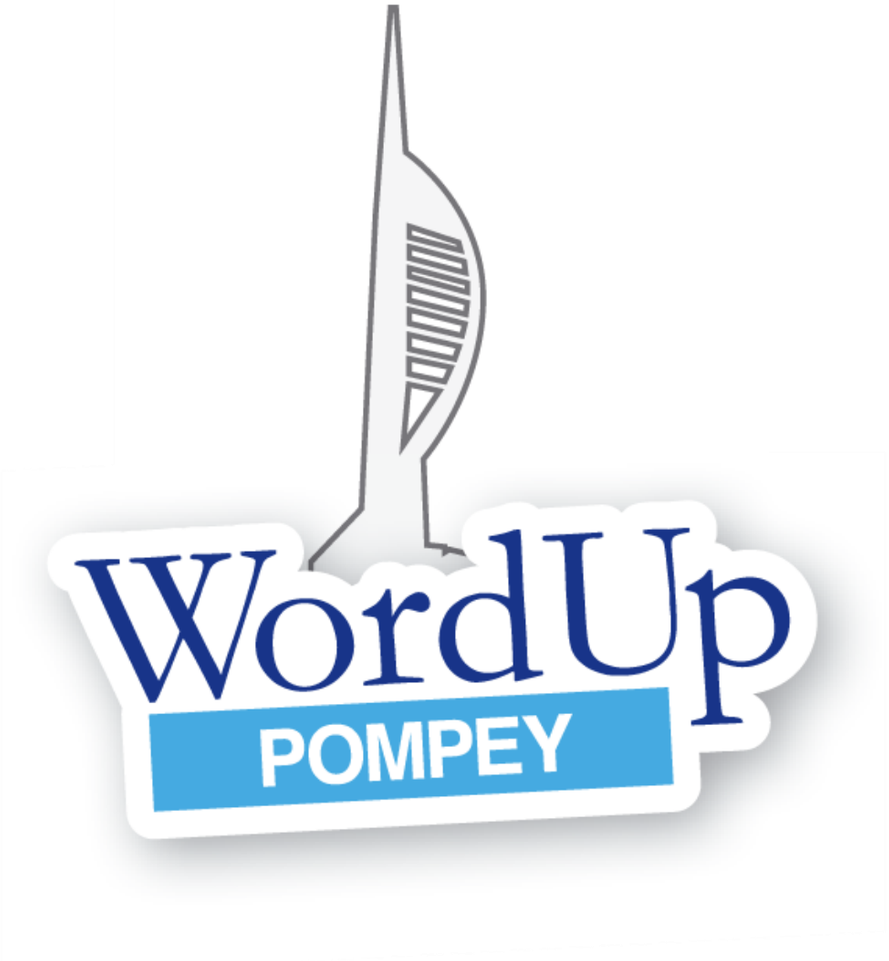


Welcome to WordUp Pompey!
16th April 2025

@wppompey

#WPPompey
#OnlineWPMeetup

UK Slack: #meetup-portsmouth

https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/

/about-wordpress-meetups/code-of-conduct/

Agenda

19:00 - Connect to Zoom.
19:10 - Organiser's introduction
19:15 - What's new in WordPress 6.8?
20:15 - Topic for the next meetup
20:20 - Wrap-up
20:30 - Close – can we stick to 1.5 hours?

Sponsors

Venue sponsor

redIT
@reditcouk

Scott McKeown says

I'll offer a 25% discount on Web Hosting or Virtual Servers to WordUp Pompey! members entering ‘wordup’ at checkout

(that's for life by the way, not once)

Pizza / refreshment sponsor

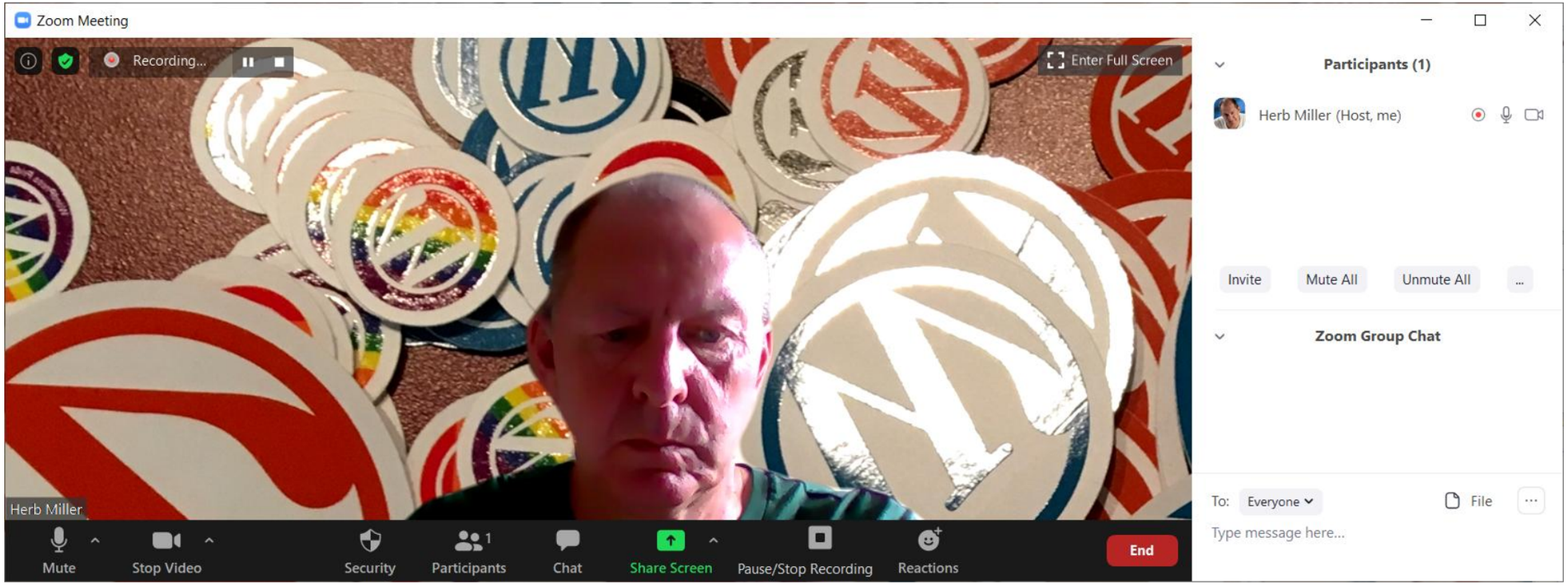
34SP
@34sp

Manchester, UK based website hosting.

Free 3 month trial of WordPress hosting.
Use code: WPPOMPEY

Zoom being recorded

If you do not want to appear in the recording you may turn off your video.
The meeting settings should *Hide non-video participants*.
Also consider muting your microphone and changing your name.



Note: Meetings which have been recorded are published, after some editing /cropping, on YouTube in the wppompey channel…
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNyGdMrd6sFkWjsSenxd8Hg
https://www.youtube.com/@wppompey

What's new in WordPress 6.8?

A release polished to a high sheen.

WordPress 6.8 polishes and refines the tools you use every day, making your site faster, more secure, and easier to manage.

- The Style Book now has a structured layout and works with Classic themes, giving you more control over global styles.
- Speculative loading speeds up navigation by preloading links before users navigate to them, while bcrypt hashing strengthens password security automatically.
- Behind the scenes, database optimizations improve performance, and a new security warning system helps prevent vulnerabilities before they become a problem.

answers to this month’s questions

Is there anything in WordPress 6.8 that you're particularly interested in?

If so, can you tell us something about it?

Are there any game changers for the seasoned WP user?

to see how Ai could possibly work in the set-up of new websites and if there are any improvements in the UX and UI of the blocks editor and the FSE admin area.

rest api

I’m interested in the current state of the Gutenberg editor and custom block creation

features

" think it might be interesting to have a discussion around what happens next. Matt Mullenweg has said this will be the last main update this year. Is this because of the ongoing feud with WP Engine or maybe because headless WordPress using AI is likely the way forward. Happy to lead a 15 minute discussion on this if you want.

Cecil

https://wordpress.org/news/2025/04/cecil/

References

https://wordpress.org/news/2025/04/cecil/
https://wordpress.org/documentation/wordpress-version/version-6-8/
https://wordpress.org/download/releases/6-8/
https://wordpress.org/download/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/2025/03/28/wordpress-6-8-field-guide/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/2025/03/06/speculative-loading-in-6-8/

Future meetup suggestions

What shall we do for 2025?

Developing an artists or portfolio site using WP.
https://www.wpbeginner.com/showcase/best-wordpress-themes-for-artists/
https://wordpress.com/go/website-building/art-portfolio-website/

Explore WordPress 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 highlights?

Elementor 101 – An introduction to the second most downloaded plugin of all time.

Guided walkthrough of Justin Tadlock's tutorial on "Mixing and matching styles, colors, and typography in WordPress 6.6"

In person social meetup and informal discussion event around a particular area of WP, with perhaps people getting to Portsmouth earlier and doing a trip up the Spinnaker Tower first.

u3a – learn, laugh, live
Do something brilliant today

To find out what's going on elsewhere?
https://events.wordpress.org/upcoming-events/filtered/country/GB/

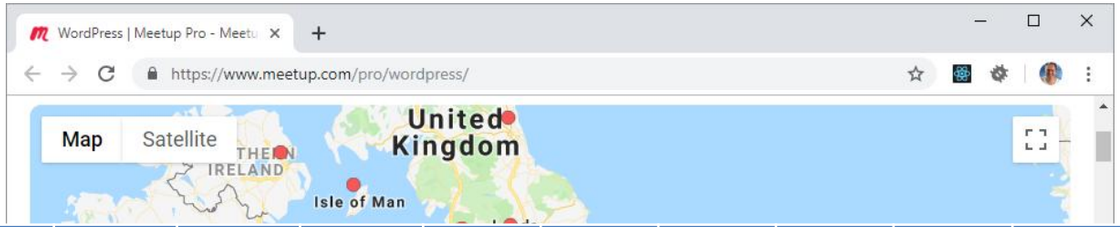
WordPress Global Community Sponsorship

A big thanks to our Global Community Sponsors:

- ~~GoDaddy~~
- A2 hosting
- Bluehost
- ~~Automattic~~
- Jetpack
- WordPress.com
- Woo
- ~~WPBeginner~~
- Kinsta

https://central.wordcamp.org/global-community-sponsors/

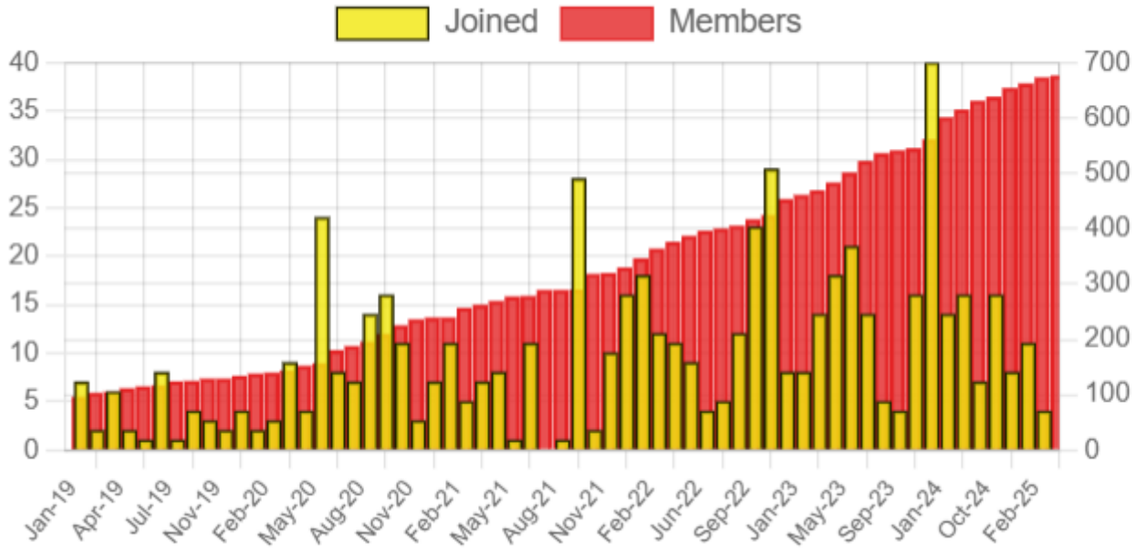
673 meetup members

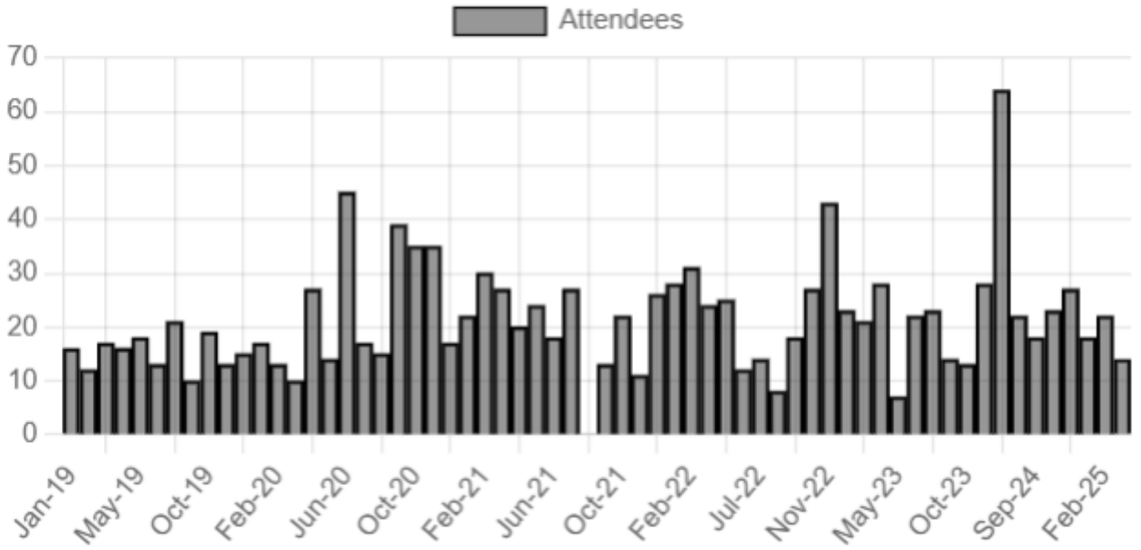


Key	Apr	Feb 25	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Mar	Jan 24	Nov	Jul	Jan 23	Jul	Jan 22	Jul	Jan 21	Jul	Jan 20
Countries	95	95	93	93	92	107	108	108	108	107	113	112	111	109	109	113	108
Groups	651	648	639	638	633	623	755	751	744	710	780	769	757	750	745	857	818
Members	529252	523280	515686	512955	510857	504509	528878	519438	513808	498974	504549	491669	479658	466725	453109	456627	424517
Portsmouth	676	673	660	653	637	630	613	600	560	521	460	399	345	288	245	187	137
Brighton	729	725	724	724	719	716	687	677	668	668	644	636	638	642	643	648	613
Bournemouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	552	558	563	563	560	558	536
Exeter	376	374	370	351	339	336	299	300	300	301	301	304	293	283	283	278	278
Bristol	81	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1023	1032	1042	1046	1057	1063	1024
Tunbridge Wells	68	64	42	42	37	32	-	-	-	-	471	472	470	461	446	431	393
Cambridge	1914	1880	1854	1843	1840	1816	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

https://www.meetup.com/pro/wordpress/

Meetup stats since 2019





https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/wordpress-portsmouth-meetup/meetup-stats/

WordPress plans – 2025

15 Apr 2025	WordPress 6.8
16 Apr 2025	WordUp Pompey! What's new in WordPress 6.8
5-7 Jun 2025	WCEU, Basel, Switzerland
5 Aug 2025	WordPress 6.9
11 Nov 2025	WordPress 7.0

https://central.wordcamp.org/schedule/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/6-8/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/2024/11/19/proposal-major-releases-for-2025/

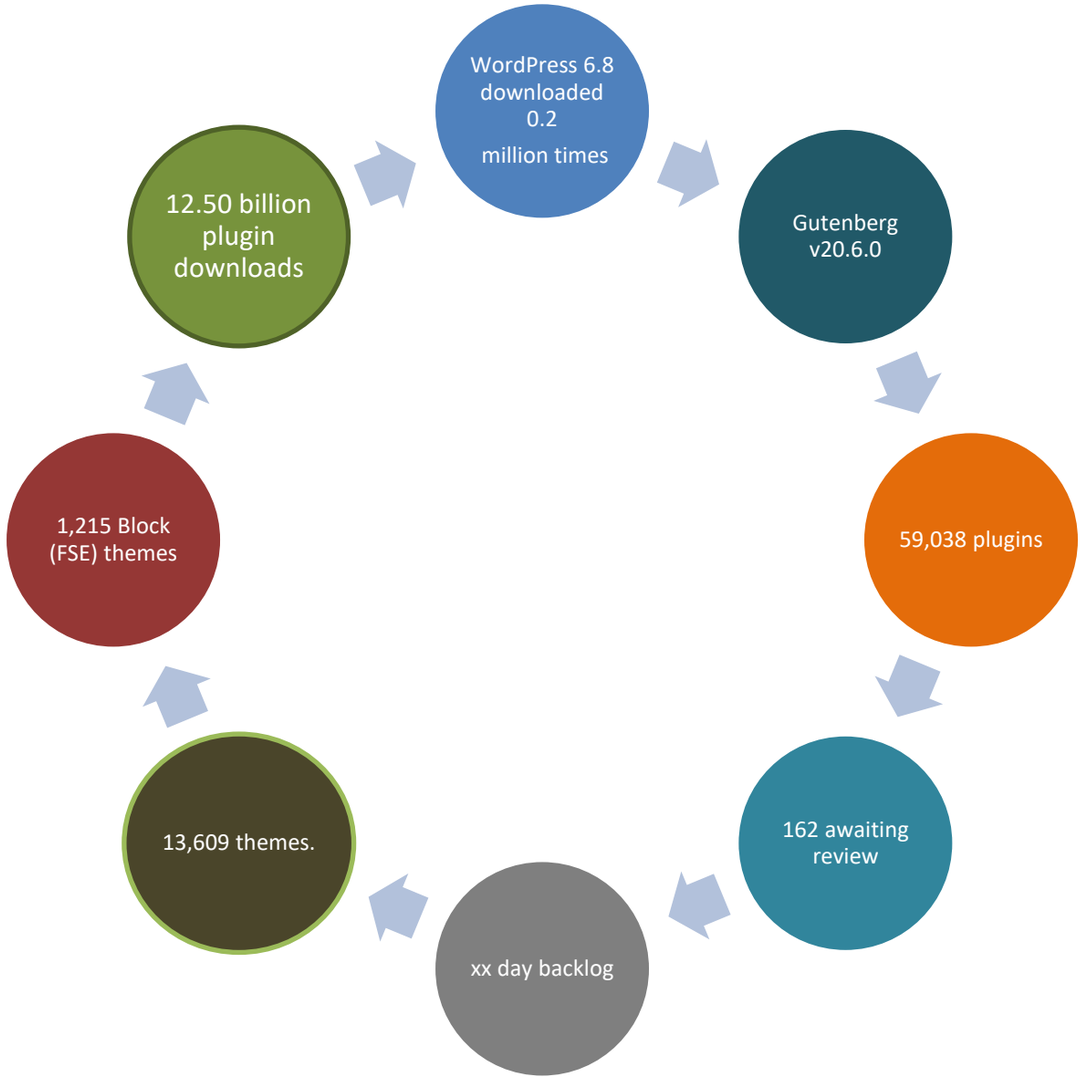
wppompey plans - 2024

Date	Agenda	Notes
31 Jan 2024	WordPress and Artificial Intelligence	#OnlineWPMeetup
30 Mar 2024	My Favourite Contact Form	#OnlineWPMeetup
~~22-29 May 2024~~	WordPress 21st anniversary quiz (Monday 27th is the actual date)	~~In Person #OnlineWPMeetup~~ Cancelled
25 Sep 2024	What have you been doing?	#OnlineWPMeetup
23 Oct 2024	Migrating to Twenty Twenty-Five	#OnlineWPMeetup
20 Nov 2024	Security, Backups and Day In The Life	#OnlineWPMeetup
18 Dec 2024	Explore Learn WordPress	#OnlineWPMeetup

wppompey plans - 2025

Date	Agenda	Notes
22 Jan 2025		#OnlineWPMeetup
19 Feb 2025	Site and Block Editor Show and Tell	#OnlineWPMeetup
Mar	-	#OnlineWPMeetup
16 Apr 2025	What's new in WordPress 6.8	#OnlineWPMeetup
May	Elementor 101 ?	#OnlineWPMeetup
Jun		In Person
Jul		#OnlineWPMeetup
Aug		#OnlineWPMeetup
Sep		#OnlineWPMeetup
Oct		#OnlineWPMeetup
Nov		#OnlineWPMeetup
Dec		#OnlineWPMeetup

Some WordPress trivia



See also : https://displaywp.com/

Thanks to our sponsors

Thanks again to our venue sponsor @reditcouk
… since January 2018

And to our pizza / refreshment sponsor @34SP
… since December 2018