

Best New Websites

We review this fortnight's best new and relaunched websites and rate them for content, design and features

Site of the Fortnight

GAMING RELAUNCH The Oliver Twins www.olivertwins.com

The Oliver Twins have a Guinness World Records entry for being the "most prolific 8-bit video-game developers", and one glance at their revamped biographical website backs up that accolade. There are dozens of games for the Spectrum, Commodore 64, Amstrad CPC and others, from BMX Simulator to the Dizzy series. Each entry is accompanied by screenshots, articles and, best of all, the games themselves, playable in the browser via emulation. Many entries include maps, personal insights and playthrough videos hosted by Philip and Andrew themselves, along with original sketches, fan art, music, news and more.

Our rating 



HISTORY
Read The Oliver Twins' biography and watch them replay their own games in fun videos



GAMEOGRAPHY
All the developers' games are listed in order of creation, displaying their original box art



ARTWORK
Browse original maps, character artwork, sketches, screenshots and magazine articles

PLAY GAMES
Game pages have a button that lets you play the title in your browser



MUSIC NEW Alan Menken www.alanmenken.com


As well as working in musical theatre, US composer Alan Menken is the talent behind numerous scores and songs for Disney films including *Aladdin* and *The Little Mermaid*. This polished website, encompassing 42 productions, lets you listen to snippets of Menken's tunes and learn more about the scores through written insights and brief explanatory videos. Footage of the accompanying action fills the screen, and you can view supplementary material such as photographs to storyboards. Elsewhere, there's a comprehensive biography, list of awards and a hidden gem of a video within the FAQ. The site builds into a slick and impressive record of Menken's work.

Our rating 



EMPLOYMENT NEW Jobcentre Plus jobhelp.dwp.gov.uk

An increasing number of us may soon be looking for new employment so it's pleasing to see a new site for JobCentre Plus. Focused on filling critical roles in logistics, food retail, agriculture and care, it offers plenty of advice for jobseekers while helping people come to terms with redundancy. The guidance is spread across a series of articles covering topics such as remote interviews, creating a CV and using LinkedIn, as well as advice about working safely. Navigation is a bit clumsy and the job searches are still conducted through the Find A Job section of Gov.uk, but it's still helpful.

Our rating 



FOOD RELAUNCH Ye Olde Oak www.yeoldeoak.co.uk

Proving that there's life in the old (hot) dog yet, canned-meat maker Ye Olde Oak has us salivating over its redesigned site. The company has been around since 1949, and a mix of tasty photos, bold colours and knowing nods to its vintage past provide the right ingredients for a site worth visiting. Take a gander at its full range of hot dogs (including a new Peri Peri flavour), but the main attraction is its range of recipes, organised like entries on an American-style diner menu with appetising photos. More recipes can be enjoyed, alongside regular offers, by signing up to the mailing list.

Our rating 



BOOKS RELAUNCH RNIB Library bit.ly/rnib02

The relaunched Library service from the RNIB isn't the prettiest of websites but it provides a vital service for the visually impaired. As well as allowing increased access to Talking Books, making more than 26,000 titles available, it offers e-braille and fully digitally accessible audio titles, as well as publications using giant print and musical scores. Searching is easy - you can browse by category - but the results can be messy, partly because of the overwhelming number of filtering options available. The site can be viewed in high contrast and you can increase the text size, too.

Our rating 



FAMILY NEW Relationship Matters relationshipmatters.org.uk

Some relationship problems can go on to affect a couple's wider family and this site, launched by 15 local authorities, provides tips and advice for dealing with arguments and disagreements. It also highlights key triggers and offers advice on how to stay calm, work things out and get help if needed. There are links to useful organisations and helpful videos that explain behaviours and challenging situations from the viewpoint of different people. The clear design and intuitive navigation makes finding relevant information easy and we'd love to see more councils get involved.

Our rating 