

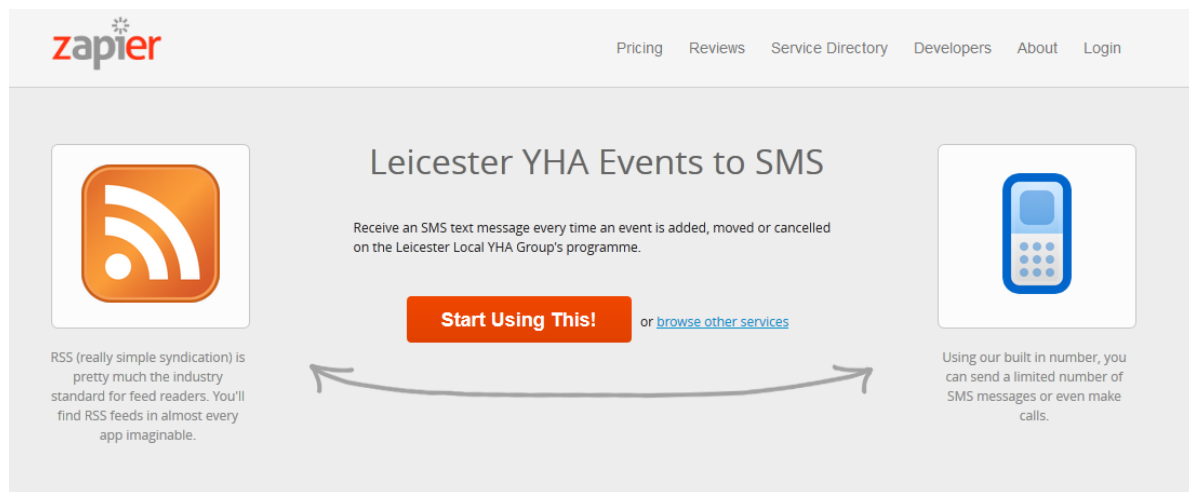
Getting Event Alerts by Text Message

It is now possible to get a text message sent to your mobile phone every time an event is added, moved or cancelled on the Leicester Local YHA Group programme, thanks to a free service offered by a company called Zapier. You will need an email address and access to the internet to set this up initially, but after that it should work without further online intervention. Here's what to do...

Get onto the internet and make sure your mobile phone is with you and switched on. A library computer will be fine for this (though your phone should probably be on silent!). Go to this address:

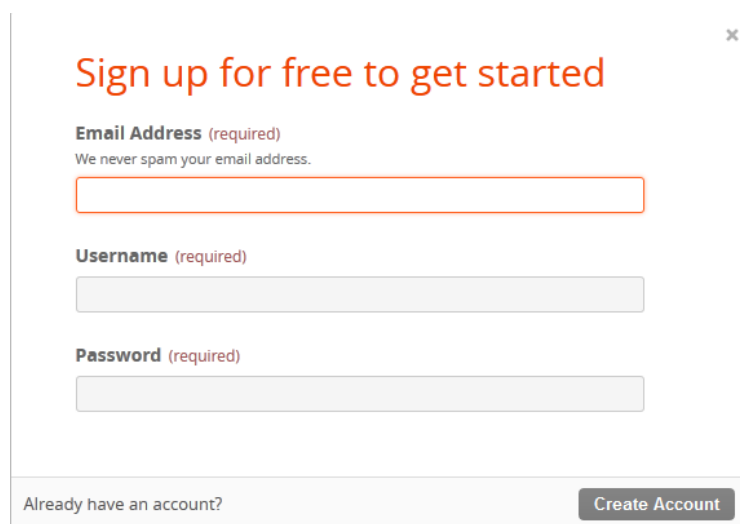
<http://zpr.io/nAm>

You'll see a web page, the top of which looks like this:



The screenshot shows the Zapier website interface. At the top left is the Zapier logo. To the right are navigation links: Pricing, Reviews, Service Directory, Developers, About, and Login. The main content area is titled 'Leicester YHA Events to SMS'. It features an RSS icon on the left and a mobile phone icon on the right. In the center, there is a large orange button that says 'Start Using This!' with a link 'or browse other services' next to it. Below the RSS icon, there is a short paragraph explaining RSS. Below the mobile phone icon, there is another short paragraph explaining the SMS service. A double-headed arrow points from the RSS icon towards the mobile phone icon.

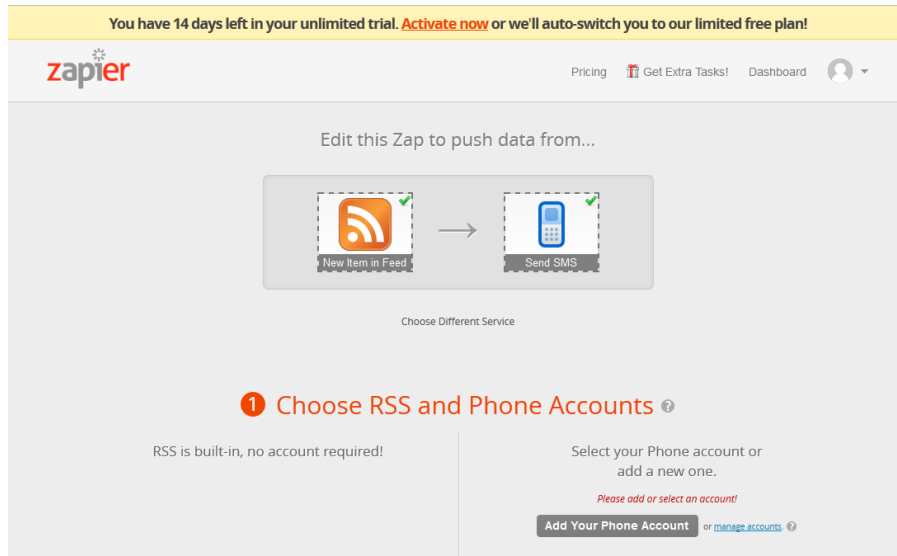
Click on the large "Start Using This" button (you can ignore the stuff further down the page). A pop-up window will appear on the page:



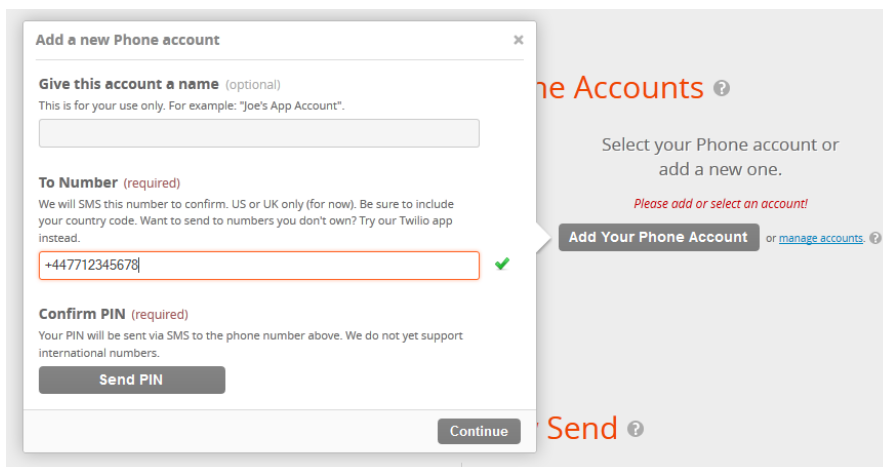
The screenshot shows a pop-up window titled 'Sign up for free to get started'. It has a close button (x) in the top right corner. The form contains three input fields: 'Email Address (required)' with a subtext 'We never spam your email address.', 'Username (required)', and 'Password (required)'. At the bottom left, there is a link 'Already have an account?' and at the bottom right, there is a 'Create Account' button.

Enter your email address, and choose a username and a password. If, at some time in the future, you want to stop getting these texts sent to you, you'll need this username and password to do so – so pick something you can remember! Click the "Create Account" button.

You'll now be taken to a new page:



Don't worry about the banner along the top telling you to "Activate now" – the "limited free plan" is fine for our purposes. Click on the "Add Your Phone Account" button. Another pop-up appears:



Enter your mobile phone number. It needs to be in international format as the texts are actually being sent from the US. To do this, omit the first zero from your number and replace it with +44 – so if your number is 0771 2345678, enter +447712345678. Click the "Send PIN" button.

You should soon receive a text message on your phone containing a six-digit code. Enter this code in the box that appears where the "Send PIN" button used to be, and click the "Continue" button.

Now scroll right to the bottom of the page and click the "Enable and start syncing new data" button. That's it! You'll now get a text message whenever the programme changes.

More Zaps

Here are a couple more routines (called "zaps" on the Zapier site) to send you group-related texts:

<http://zpr.io/6Z3> Get text message reminders 1 day and 7 days before each event and event payment deadline

<http://zpr.io/6ZL> Get every new tweet on the group Twitter account (@leicesteryha) texted to you. Event updates and reminders are automatically tweeted, so you'll probably not want to use the other two zaps if you use this one.