

Geograph Newsletter 20

July 2023



Welcome to the latest Newsletter

This Newsletter is a bit late as it covers both the last main Board meeting in May, and the AGM in Plymouth at the end of June. It was good to catch up with Geograph friends in Plymouth and actually spend some face-to-face time with the other Board members; Zoom is fine, but it's really good to interact in person!

In this edition we cover the AGM, the launch of the new Geograph promotional video, the vision for our Education website, and plans for the 2024 calendar. The matter of image quality is referred to once again as it is becoming more and more important in the modern world if our curated images are to be of any use to people.

You'll notice the image above is a particularly attractive photo by our friend and fellow Trustee, David Martin. David is having to take some time out away from the Chair's role for personal reasons, though he remains a Board member. We all send him our very best wishes. And thanks to Christine Johnstone who has agreed to take on the role of Chair in the meantime.

As ever, please contact the Trustees with any suggestions or comments about this Newsletter or any other matters. We can't do anything about issues we don't know about!

Have a good Geograph-ing summer, whatever the weather!

From our Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Dibb

Accounts to the end of December 2022 and the Annual Return have been filed with the Charities Commission and the accounts have been filed with Companies House.

In the last Newsletter, we reported that an invitation to become a company member had been sent to those who qualify. This resulted in 13 new members.

AGM 2023

The midsummer meet and Annual General Meeting took place in Plymouth at the end of June. There was an interesting range of walks and restaurants, and thanks are due to Stephen McKay for organizing the event.

At the AGM, the annual accounts and director's report were approved and three directors were re-elected.

Following the AGM there was a brief meeting of the directors and Christine Johnstone was elected as chair.

Launch of Geograph Promotional Video

At the AGM we launched our first ever Geograph video! The 4-minute promotional movie features one of our Trustees (Ruth Sharville), two of our contributors (Lewis Clark and Rebecca Wills), and our Patron (Mike Parker), as well as a Geograph business user, talking about what the project means to them. Of course it includes a selection of our finest images, and ends with an appeal for more contributors, volunteers and of course donations. Please do watch it on YouTube and share the link as widely as you can! The Board is most grateful to Stephen Craven for putting this video together, and we hope it's just the start of trying to get Geograph more "out there".

Here is the link to the initial version of the video on You Tube. We are still working on the high resolution version, and will place that on this link when it's finalised. <https://youtu.be/Y6QNJDEQ58Y>

We're looking for more Trustees!

Have you ever thought about joining the Board of Geograph?

There are currently nine of us, and we are both Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company. We need to strengthen two areas of our work by recruiting probably two new Trustees. To develop Geograph's educational remit, the Board needs another Trustee with current knowledge of either secondary or tertiary education and access to professional education networks. The Board would also welcome another Trustee who understands the complexities of our website software and can contribute to the team overseeing this area. The Board meets about six times a year, mainly by Zoom on a weekday evening. Trustees also spend time on Geograph administration and development outside of these meetings.

If you are interested, please contact the Board or one of the Trustees. And please forward this request to anyone you know who might be interested.

Education

We have established, through discussion among Education professionals, that Geograph needs a separate, basic education site with access to imagery. We do not need to over-complicate things. It's clear we should look at creating bespoke libraries of specific images, with appropriate tagging and descriptors, possibly with a paywall or subscription to give access to a more flexible use of the images. There are a lot of people in the Geograph "family" who would be willing to go out specially to take specific kinds of images, e.g. features of physical geography, on a regional basis, to give sets of images relevant to different parts of the country. We realise we need a set of high quality, high resolution images, well-described and tagged, which will be suitable to show in classroom PowerPoint presentations on a large screen. The Board will look into the best way of taking this forward. Meanwhile, contributors take note that you are in prime position to contribute to this hugely important initiative.

Calendar

The feedback on the Forum had generated a few suggestions and ideas, as well as being generally positive. Alan Murray-Rust is willing to add in Bank Holidays if he is provided with a list. We also have decided to open up the whole archive to members to create their calendar, but the matter of image quality will be the limiting factor: the calendar images need to be of a high resolution to look good, and many of the images on the site do not comply with this, so people compiling their own selection will need to be mindful of this. Alan, Ruth and the team are willing to go ahead with the 2023 edition, and will still offer a generic calendar even though take-up was low, if there is still demand, as it is all profitable for Geograph!

So please let us know either on the Forum or by contacting us directly if we should do this, or just leave it to you to curate your own selection.

Contact us

As ever we value comments and suggestions, whether on the "Trustees" section of the Forum, or direct to us by email to trustees@geograph.org.uk

Image credit

Fishing boats in Staithes Harbour

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The directors of the company and trustees of the charity are:

Mark Anderson, Sebastian Ballard, Stephen Craven, Michael Dibb (Secretary & Treasurer), Bill Harrison, Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone (Chair), David Martin, Ruth Sharville.