



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8000000>

We are now entering the summer months of 2025. Here is the latest newsletter which covers quite a few topics that we Geograph-ers have encountered in the spring since our last missive in February. Apologies for the long gap between February and now.

You'll find, as usual, thoughts from David, our chairman and Richard, treasurer, with updates from the Online Safety Act to the 8 millionth Geograph image.

Image #8000000 features above, taken by J Thomas and it perfectly illustrates our Geograph Project remit,

Between 19th and 21st May there was the spring meet-up in Bradford for the AGM and much more besides. Two contributors have taken time to give you their personal take on the proceedings.

Chairman's Report – David Martin

Anniversaries and milestones

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a belated Happy 20th Birthday! I'm pleased to see that many were out with their cameras to mark Geograph's 20th anniversary on 12th March, and you can see the resultant images at

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/snippet/24828> The mixture of images showcases many aspects of Geograph, including photographers revisiting their first images and several interesting interpretations of the anniversary theme covering sites that have changed very much in the last 20 years and images on the theme of 20. We're hoping to be able to showcase some of these images later in the year. To answer a much-asked question: Barry tells us that although there are different ways of counting Geograph's exact age, 12th March was the start of the <http://www.geograph.co.uk> website version, hence the choice of anniversary date.

I also particularly want to thank everyone who responded to our anniversary appeal – there is an update from Richard later in this issue, but we have received some substantial donations and are very grateful for them all: donation

details are always available at <https://www.geograph.org.uk/help/donate>

At the beginning of May we also passed the milestone of 8 million accepted images on Geograph. The difference between this and image numbered 8 million is accounted for by duplications and rejections.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8034936>

What I find so stunning about passing the milestone is not the simple fact that there are 8 million images but – in a world where quantity comes much more easily than quality – those are 8 million geographically referenced images, very many of them enhanced by informative titles and descriptions.

Geograph's charitable purposes are primarily educational and the ability to find images to illustrate geographical themes is one of the things that makes the Geograph collection so unique.

You'll find accounts of our 20th Anniversary Meeting, held in Bradford on 19-21 May, later in this newsletter but I'm sure everyone who attended will join me in extending thanks to Stephen Craven for all his work on the local organization. Do consider announcing one of your planned photography trips on <https://www.geograph.org.uk/events/> and take up another opportunity to meet your fellow contributors.

From the Board

Our March and May Board meetings have included discussion of two significant matters: the Online Safety Act (2023) and initial discussion of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2025-30 – about which there will be more news in future months.

New codes of practice, published last December and this April under the Online Safety Act, have required us to undertake some substantial risk assessment documentation, which will need to be completed in July. We are reassured that Geograph currently meets the requirements of the legislation designed to protect users - and particularly children - from a wide range of online harm. However, the assessment process is labour-intensive and we are keen to learn from all this effort, so you will likely notice a few changes over the coming months, particularly as we work to improve some specific web pages and policy wording. Please remember that if you see anything of concern on Geograph, you can

contact us at any time via the "Contact Us" link in the site main menu or by emailing Trustees@geograph.org.uk

There will be more to come in future newsletters about the Strategic Plan. At present, the trustees are working through the process of prioritizing the many good things that we would "like" to do, so that we can distill this down into specific actions. Much more to come on this later in the year.

Finally, recent correspondence has highlighted the increasing tendency of visitor attractions to impose some kind of photography restrictions. Geograph does not have the capacity to resolve disputes between venues and photographers, so do please make an effort to check out and observe local photography restrictions on your visits!

Treasurer's Report – Richard Rogerson

At the recent Board meeting I shared a spreadsheet showing income and expenditure for 2025 – this is summarised below.

	April 2025	2025 Year to date
Income - Donations, inc. gift aid	£2240	£27636
- Profit from calendars	-	-
- Advertising	£33	£98
- Interest	£134	£478
Expenditure - Website Operation	£2117	£8428
- Administration	£65	£260
- Financial	£12	£99
Net Income	£212	£19784

Following our 20th Anniversary Appeal, donations in March included three extremely generous one-off donations totaling £18125 (including Gift Aid). In April we also received a legacy sum of £500.

As reported at the 2025 AGM, in preparing a final set of accounts for 2024, at this late stage, we have been unable to fully balance them. Consequently, we have taken the decision to seek external advice and assistance. Once a balanced set of accounts has been produced, we will circulate to all Members for approval. We will ensure this is accomplished before our obligation to file the accounts in the autumn.

Bradford Spring Meet and AGM – Philip Halling

Geograph AGMs are always a great social event; they are much more than a dull AGM; there is a program of activities over three days for members to attend if they wish. Some just come for the day of the AGM, but others who have perhaps travelled greater distances will attend all three days. Over the years I have attended more than half and it has taken me to places I probably wouldn't otherwise plan to visit. This year the city of Bradford was the chosen location. Geograph members have a diverse interests and backgrounds, but for me it feels like meeting friends I have always known. The shared interest in Geograph drawing us together with a feeling of a common bond.

In a casual conversation among Geographers over an evening meal two years ago in a pub after the Plymouth AGM, the topic of possible future venues for Geograph AGMs came up. Bradford was suggested as in 2025 it was to be the UK City Culture. In 2021, we had gathered for our AGM in Coventry, the then City of Culture.

Most Geograph AGM gatherings take place around mid-summer, usually late June and from memory at these events we are usually blessed with fine weather. This year's May meeting in Bradford was no exception, we enjoyed fine sunny weather.



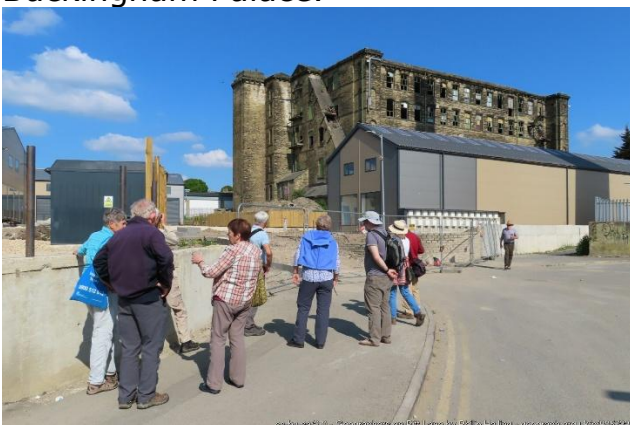
On Monday, around midday several members met for lunch at the Turls Green, a Wetherspoon's pub on Centenary Square in Bradford. The pub is named after Turls Green, the former name of the area now covered by Centenary Square. Unusually for Wetherspoons this one is not a repurposed building. It is a new building on what was the site of Provincial House, a 1970s building which had become the headquarters of Abbey National, however, was demolished in 2002. Dominating Centenary Square is the City Hall, a huge Victorian building designed by Lockwood and Mawson, and completed in 1873. High up on the building's façade are all of England's (and Scotland's from 1603) monarchs from William I to Queen Victoria. Queen Elizabeth I appeared to be missing, but she had been given a prime spot along with Queen Victoria, with each flanking the entrance. Edward V is missing, perhaps reflecting that he disappeared after being placed in the Tower of London. Towering above the City Hall is the clock tower which was inspired by the campanile of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. Originally, called the Town Hall, Bradford was awarded city status in 1897, but it was a further sixty-eight years until the building was renamed the City Hall in 1965.



In the afternoon we met in the square in front of the Great Victoria Hotel, unmistakably a 19th century railway hotel. Stephen Craven led us on a walk through parts of Bradford. This included Little Germany, an area of imposing buildings on the edge of the city centre. These buildings were built on the wealth of the textile industry which is such an important part of the history of this city. The tall buildings built in a classical style appear to be influenced by Italy and yet this area is known as Little Germany. This is because in the mid-19th century German wool merchants established themselves in this part of Bradford when trading with the city's mill owners. Of particular note is the Law Russell Warehouse with five tiers of double Corinthian columns on the corner of the building, reminiscent of the Tower of Five Orders in the Old Schools Quad in Oxford. Many of the buildings have now been repurposed for residential or commercial use.

Nearby is Bradford Cathedral which is dedicated to St Peter. There has been a church here since soon after the Norman Conquest, though the older parts of the present building date from the 14th century with the nave being completed in the mid-15th century. The church was raised to Cathedral status with the creation of the Diocese of Bradford in 1919. The cathedral was extended in the 1950s and 1960s by architect, Edward Maufe. Of note is the cathedral's stained glass; there are windows by some of the greats of the Arts and Crafts Movement, including William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Ford Maddox Brown.

Near the entrance is a memorial window to the 6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment. Installed in 1921, the window commemorates many of the battles of the Great War the regiment fought in, such as the Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele. The window is the work of the Bromsgrove Guild, a workshop which also produced Liverpool's famous Liver Birds, and the gates to Buckingham Palace.



Our walk continued, passing at least three Sikh Gurdwaras, reflecting Bradford's multi-culturalism. We also walked past a large derelict former mill and a tall

red-brick chimney which today provides an ideal location for mobile phone transmitters. On the walk we passed the oldest house in Bradford, the Paper Hall, which was built in 1643. The house was the first in the city to have spinning machines, and its then owner is thought to have been responsible for bringing the industrial revolution to Bradford.

In the evening, we met for dinner and enjoyed an Indian meal in Mumtaz Restaurant on Great Horton Road. Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh dined at Mumtaz in 2007. On display in the restaurant was a letter from the Queen's Assistant Private Secretary, thanking the owner on the Queen's behalf.

On Tuesday morning Geograph members met on the Campus of the University of Bradford. The university was founded in the 1960s and was officially opened by then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, who was also the university's first Chancellor. The morning's program included an interesting presentation by local historian, Geoff Twentyman, who talked about the history of Bradford. How it grew from a small town, becoming a wealthy city from wool and the manufacture of textiles. The wealth this brought to the city being evident in buildings such as the City Hall.

This was followed by a presentation on 'Visualising Heritage' by Chris Gaffney, an archaeological geophysicist and Professor of Archaeological Science at the University. He was joined by colleague Dr Richard Dunn. Together they talked about their work using multiple digital images to create 3D virtual images of buildings to monitor and record change. This enables archaeologists the ability to document weathering and erosion, and changes in landscape. They use multiple images, including from Geograph. They are seeking pictures from different positions to build these virtual images, rather than taken from the usual popular viewpoint that most people take. Fountains Abbey was an illustrated example, however, to emphasis they can do this on any building in the world, they also included images of Palmyra in Syria and Bhaktapur's Durbar Square in the Kathmandu valley, Nepal.

(Edit. The Board is planning to follow up on a potential working partnership for Geograph with Bradford University Archaeological Sciences Department)

At the end of the presentation, we were invited by Richard Dunn to visit the iGloo, a 360-degree immersive learning space enabling students to explore virtual worlds. Using Igloo Enterprise software, this allows students to access 360° videos, photos, game engines, and the internet. We entered the iGloo and experienced surround imagery sourced from Geograph. Some were stitched images and some from a drone. Among the images viewed was an interior of a church, and exterior subjects included a quarry, and a drone image of the Birmingham skyline, and another drone image from above the major roadworks currently taking place above the sight of the Air Balloon Roundabout in the Cotswolds. This was of particular interest to me, because on the horizon I could see the Malvern Hills, where I live.

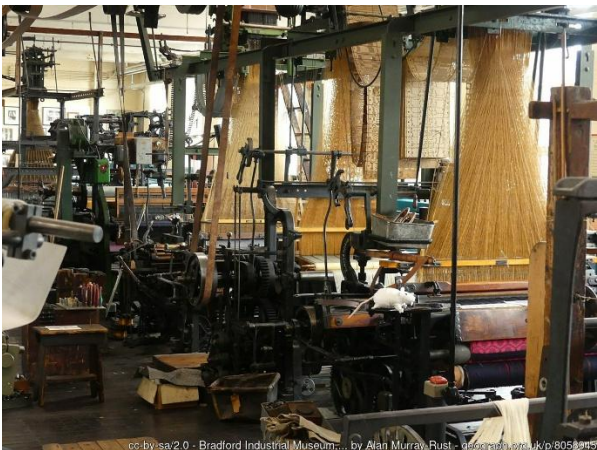


Photo c/o Philip Halling (not on Geograph)

The morning concluded with the formal business of the AGM meeting, followed by lunch. Unfortunately, I needed to be back home the following day and I was unable to attend the afternoon and the following day's program. Despite not being able to attend all three days it was still a very enjoyable couple of days shared with good company. I would recommend anyone who has considered, but never attended an AGM, to come along to one in the future.

Bradford Meet, Tuesday and Wednesday – Alan Murray-Rust

On Tuesday afternoon, I decided to break from the main party to visit the Industrial Museum at Moorside, which complemented much of the information we had heard in the presentations before the AGM. There is a comprehensive selection of displays, well presented, with machinery operated at different times of day. It gave me the opportunity to bag a few squares; most of my existing squares had been gained back in the 60s and 70s when I was covering the trolleybus system, and this was new territory. On my way back to the city centre I passed through Peel Park, one of the earliest public parks to be developed in Britain. This was followed by a convivial meal at the Mamma Mia Italian restaurant in the city centre.



On Wednesday, Christine Johnstone led a walk from the City Centre to Shipley, following – roughly – the course of the Bradford Canal, very few remains of which now exist. The walk largely follows a recently developed cycle and pedestrian route, which runs through a mix of modern industrial and green space views. After lunch at the Noble Comb pub, I joined Anne Burgess, David Pugh and Mark Anderson to visit Salt's Mill, now converted into a series of retail and arts facilities. Works by local-lad artist David Hockney feature prominently. My own day ended with a walk through Saltaire Model Village to catch a bus back to the hotel and thence home.

Overall, an excellent visit with the opportunity to renew contacts with other Geograph-ers who are mostly only met online.

Geograph Calendar 2026

At the AGM, Alan Murray-Rust confirmed that he is willing to produce calendars on the same basis as in previous years.

The calendars give members the opportunity to share their pictures with family and friends over the course of the year. The format is double-A4, hinged to open with an A4 picture page above a monthly day-by-day calendar with space to enter events, etc. Last year, the cost was £9 per calendar with a £5 packing and

delivery cost, but as ever, costs do not remain static, and we anticipate that there could be a small increase this time round. We shall not know this until nearer the time for production. The order book should open in August, with a cut-off at the end of September, and delivery by the end of November to enable the calendars to be passed on before Christmas. Calendars make a valuable contribution to Geograph finances.

Although most members simply order for immediate friends and family, many of you may belong to a local organisation that might also like to have a 'personalised' calendar. At least one member has done this and has been able to sell them to group members at a higher than cost price that therefore provides some revenue for the group as well as for Geograph. The group could itself become a member of Geograph and submit its own images, or you can submit them on their behalf. Any photo that is accepted on the Geograph website can be included in a calendar.

Although production is some way off, it is not too soon to start collecting/creating the images you want to use.

Final Note – Jonathan Billinger

I'd like to thank the contributors to this Newsletter and would welcome seasonal or relatable content for the next one around the end of July. I've enjoyed putting together this Newsletter; there's much to celebrate for the Geograph Project now in its 21st year!

Contact Us

We always value comments and suggestions, whether on the "Trustees" section of the Forum at

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/discuss/index.php?&action=vtopic&forum=22> or direct to us by email: trustees@geograph.org.uk



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