

Geograph Trustees

Newsletter 10

circulated 21 December 2017

Welcome to the latest Geograph newsletter. As always we value your feedback and suggestions as to how we might improve this form of contact and what you might like to read about. Please send your feedback to <mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk>

I note that the last newsletter went out before the Bristol meet and AGM. Many thanks to all the members who found the time to meet in Bristol. I think it reflects the success of the project when you consider how far some people travel on these occasions.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - by Roger Kidd - geograph.org.uk/p/5624497

The trustees enjoy meeting fellow-members and hearing their opinions of the site and how the project should evolve. It was great to meet our stalwarts from the west of England for the first time. We were very grateful this year that Elaine Owen could make the time to join us. For those of you who don't know, Elaine works with the Ordnance Survey and has long been a great supporter of the project. After eleven years it is good to be working with her still.

Thank you for your time and support: Geograph continues to thrive. As I seek out images to use in my teaching I am often amazed at the quality of the photos I come across. They are a credit to our community and the hard work and miles members have devoted to Geograph over the years.

Sebastian Ballard
Chair, Geograph Trustees

Meet and Annual General Meeting, Saturday 26 June

First we heard some presentations. Christine and Robin summarised the results of the surveys of users and contributors respectively. There were no great surprises in either survey but they are valuable evidence of who we and our users are, not mere impressions. Analysis of the user survey is here: <http://bit.ly/2p59Uq4>. Contributor survey results from Google are here in a PowerPoint: <http://bit.ly/2kSXeo7>. Sebastian outlined the project for remaking the schools' site. Elaine illustrated the new layer of Geograph images built into Ordnance Survey's *Digimap for Schools* product. She finished with a glimpse of her own *Timepix* project: it will offer a walk-through of geolocated historical images and comparison with present-day photos. In the formal business the present directors of the company and trustees of the charity were re-elected and thanked. After lunch members joined a guided walk around the Floating Harbour before meeting up again for a drink and a meal. Thank you to Michael and Robin for organising the day. Thank you to David Pugh and Rudi for blogging to the forum from the meeting.

Bristol – great choice!

On Sunday morning Alan Murray-Rust led a thoroughly-researched walk around Clifton, taking in the Camera Obscura. After lunch Rudi led a walk to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Leigh Woods, returning via the Avon Gorge and followed by another hearty meal together. These are occasions when the members of our online community get to know each other better as people. Thank you to Alan and Rudi: we could have spent a week appreciating Bristol.

Review of Strategic Plan

This was the main item on the agenda when trustees met on August 1st. Our role is unchanged – to enable the project to continue into the future. Our objectives, slightly tweaked, remain the same.

- A: To secure the IT resources required to deliver the Geograph websites;
- B: The financial resilience of the Geograph charity;
- C: To deliver educational outcomes to a range of users;
- D: To improve outreach; and
- E: To develop the Geograph websites.

We've noted what we've achieved and added some new actions, we've been less prescriptive about how we achieve them and we've reviewed priorities and deadlines. In the long-term we believe that the value of the collection, and the reputation of the project and the website, will depend on accuracy of information, high standards, and responding to the needs of users.

Fundraising

There's no shortage of ideas for projects that might attract funding. Unfortunately they won't generate the steady income that we need to cover our costs, let alone replenish our reserves. Therefore our immediate focus is on increasing income from donations, whether direct or via the *Give as you Live* scheme. See Michael's appeal in the forum: *Christmas is near, give Geograph a present*. One project we are proceeding with is to look for areas of collaboration with organisations whose members use or could use Geograph or whose interests we share. We welcome your ideas at <mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk>

New site for schools, progress

The concept is developing. Barry has created features for assembling the curated (ie selected) images. At the time of writing just under 300 images have been identified as possible stellar examples which could be used by teachers in their lessons. We have started with coastal landforms which are quite straightforward and are used by teachers across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Many thanks to Mike Richardson, Robin Stott and Richard Hoare for their suggestions. To speed the process we need more volunteers to sift the collection for images of specified subjects. It's patient work but one researcher reports the warm glow that comes from finding exactly the right photo. Please contact <mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk> if you would like to help.

The search for more trustees

There aren't enough of us to make good progress on all the tasks we've set ourselves. We all have other commitments to some degree, even day jobs! We've been looking at responses to the questionnaires from the spring. From conversations through the autumn we are hopeful that we have identified members who could be trustees or who can help the project in other ways no matter where they are based. We will report at a future date.

Finally, the trustees extend the season's greetings to all our members and users.

Sebastian Ballard
Chair, Geograph Trustees

Geograph Project Limited is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales no.7473967, charity no.1145621, registered office Dept 1706, 43 Owston Road, Carcroft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN6 8DA.

The directors of the company and trustees of the charity are: Sebastian Ballard (Chairman), Michael Dibb (Treasurer and Company Secretary), Peter Facey, Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone and Robin Stott.

Filename <GPL News 10.docx> photo: Roger Kidd