

Geograph Newsletter 32 July 2025



Welcome to the latest Geograph newsletter with some recent seasonal uploads from Scotland, Cumbria and North Wales. The picture from Northern Ireland is courtesy of Kenny Allen, who has written a short passage for this newsletter.



You'll find, as usual, thoughts from David, our chairman and Richard, treasurer and Mark, secretary.

Chairman's Report – David Martin

This has been a particularly busy period, with several different initiatives progressing, several of which are reflected in this issue. I'd like to draw attention to two of these:

Education

Geograph's charitable objectives are educational, and we have always – and rightly – understood the educational value of individual images and groups of images in illustrating features of the landscape, whether that be coastal erosion, urban development or many other themes. As the collection has grown, those

groups of images also serve to demonstrate important changes over time, further adding to the value of the archive. Contributors will be interested to know that the trustees are currently exploring collaborations with two universities about projects which may potentially make educational use of Geograph in rather different ways.

The Department of Archaeology at the University of Bradford hosted our Spring Meeting and we are now exploring with them how Geograph might provide an image collection platform for their “Curious Travelers” citizen science research <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/research/queens-anniversary-prize/curious-travellers/>, which has the potential to bring new contributors and ideas to Geograph. This is likely to be taken forward with a pilot project this autumn and we’ll keep you updated: there may be an invitation later in the year to join in the efforts to photograph a specific site.

We have also been in discussion with the Department of Geomatics at University College London, who responded to an online challenge set by Barry to improve tools for AI-assisted image classification. Their initial work has been very promising, and we are now exploring the possibility of offering some Masters’ dissertation projects based on related Geograph classification challenges. We see these as potentially enhancing ability to curate the image archive and produce better thematic educational collections.

These collaborations are both at early stages, but it has been encouraging to hear others extolling the value of the Geograph image collection and if you have ever contributed to the project, you should rightly feel some pride in what we are creating together. It is notable that these initiatives recognize the educational value of the Geograph platform (and all Barry’s work) and the image collection in its entirety, over and above the individual images.

Online safety

As mentioned last month, a second substantial area of work this year has been to undertake the risk assessments required by the Online Safety Act and this has been ongoing since the start of the year. OfCom published new Codes of Practice relating to illegal harms online (December 2024) and protection of children (April 2025). While OfCom have stressed that this needs to be proportional to the organization’s activities, as a user-to-user service provider we have still had to undertake risk assessments within three months of each publication, considering the various features of the site against numerous categories of risk, and these have now been completed. While our assessments show Geograph to be low risk in relation to both codes, the exercise has identified various areas in which we can improve our processes and has resulted in updates to our moderation manual. The Trustees have spent a lot of time on these issues over recent months and will now be working through various internal recommendations. One of Geograph’s key protections is the work of our moderators and this seems an appropriate opportunity to record our appreciation to them all.

Treasurer's Report – Richard Rogerson

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

	June 2025	2025 Year to date
Income - Donations, inc. gift aid	£1786	£31073
- Profit from calendars	-	-
- Advertising	£24	£164
- Interest	£123	£739
Expenditure - Website Operation	£1984	£12171
- Administration	£65	£390
- Financial	£12	£124
Net Income	(£128)	£19292

Whilst the above shows an apparently very healthy position, this is primarily due to our 20th Anniversary Appeal which brought in several generous one-off donations. By way of comparison, our total income after 6 months in 2024 was about £12k compared to £32k this year, the difference being almost entirely the one-off donations.

I am pleased to report that following further review and some external advice, a balanced set of accounts for 2024 was presented to the Board at our July Meeting. This delay has been due only to the challenges of interpreting and preparing end-of-year accounts using our former treasurer's files, which were received, sadly, without the benefit of any handover briefing. For the avoidance of doubt, we have not uncovered any errors.

These 2024 accounts are now being subjected to independent review. Once this review is completed, we will circulate to all Members for information. We will ensure this is accomplished before our obligation to file the accounts in the autumn.

From the Board Meeting, 7th July 2025

Company Member Engagement – Mark Anderson, Company Secretary

At each Geograph AGM, we need votes from at least 10% of the company members to achieve a quorum. This year, we were just 4 votes away from the embarrassment of having an AGM which was not quorate and the unwelcome burden of having to arrange a second meeting. While there are some things that I plan to do differently to try to encourage a higher percentage of members to vote next year, I'd like to appeal to all Geograph members: Please spend a few moments to click through and read the company member messages you receive and when the time comes, provide your vote by whichever method you prefer.

If you are not receiving company member emails, check that your company member details are up to date. To do this, go to your profile page and click

"Follow this link to be taken to the company mini site" followed by "Update your Membership Record". Thank You!

Annual Meeting 2026

Next Year's Annual Meeting was discussed in the light of the successful 2025 meet in Bradford. We are inviting suggestions for both venue and date within a range of early June to early July, 2026. A discussion topic will be open on the Forum, but if members wish to suggest direct to the board, please use the contact information at the end of the newsletter. This may be a useful avenue if anyone would like to help organize the event and would appreciate help and guidance. Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Norwich and Scotland have all been mentioned informally.

Geograph Strategic Plan

As mentioned in the last newsletter, trustees are preparing a plan to move the project forward to 2030 including prioritizing the many good things that we would like to turn into actions. Much more on this to come in the autumn.

Geograph Calendar 2026

The order-book will be opening soon, as outlined in the last newsletter. For your convenience, here's Alan Murray-Rust's update from Newsletter 31.

"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."

What Geograph means to me – Kenny Allen

I worked for local government and took early retirement. I was based in an office and I got out occasionally to supervise work. When I left employment I had plenty of time on my hands. A friend of mine in Yorkshire who used to be active in Geograph persuaded me to contribute to the website.

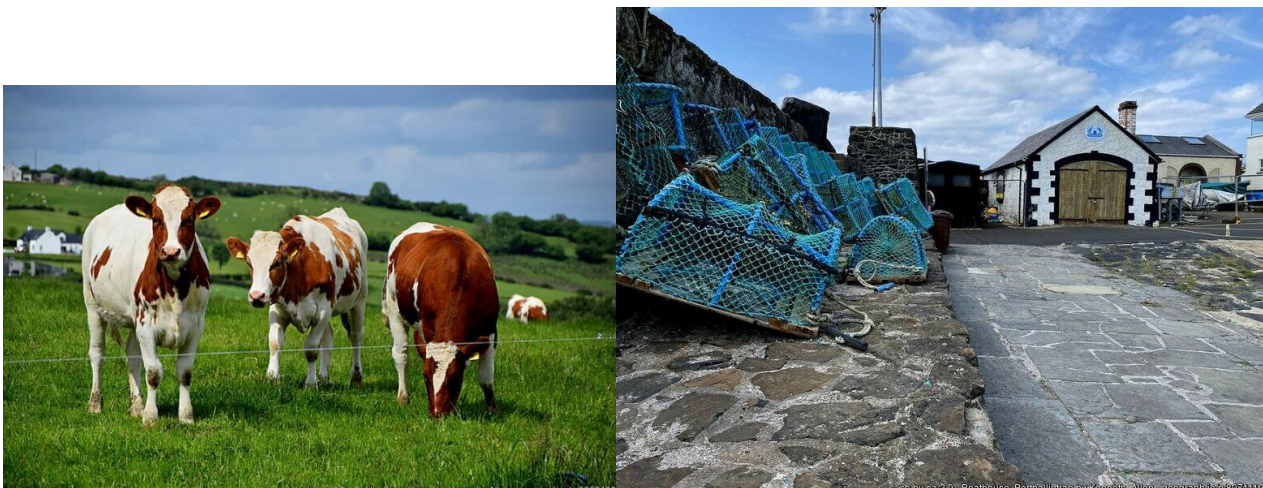
At that time the aim was to grab “firsts” before anybody else could. Only a handful of people were involved near me, so I climbed up the leader board very quickly. Some of my first pictures weren't all that good and I endeavoured to learn from my mistakes and improve.



In later years I went back to places that I visited in earlier times. It was interesting to see if buildings still existed or new properties had been built. Now I concentrate on countryside areas taking the camera and listening out for wildlife, looking for ancient monuments, sometimes stopping and chatting to locals and explaining what the purpose of Geograph is about.

I carry a smart phone which is useful for spur of the moment shots, but I still think a camera is the more desirable method of producing pictures.

When submitting images to the site you may have to do research into something you pictured and it keeps your mind alert. Wikipedia and other sites have used my pictures



The social side of Geograph means that I am in contact with other contributors or I am emailed from someone either telling me about something or looking for information.

During my working life I didn't have much time for nature but now with help of Google and a few apps I am gaining knowledge about wildlife, plants, local events and history.

If I was asked what Geograph meant to me in the earlier years I might have come up with a different reply than now.



Taking time to stop and picture something at my own pace and be out in the quietness and fresh air of the countryside is to me is what this hobby is all about.

Final Note – Jonathan Billinger

I'd like to again thank the contributors to this Newsletter and would welcome seasonal or relatable content for the next one around the end of September. Specifically, if you'd like to do a brief article along the lines of Kenny's please contact me directly via the links below.

So now it's back out with the camera or smart phone to capture all that the rest of this summer has to offer!

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



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: Mark Anderson (Company Secretary), Sebastian Ballard, Jonathan Billinger, Stephen Craven, Bill Harrison, Barry Hunter (Treasury team), Christine Johnstone, David Martin (Chair), Peter McDermott, Richard Rogerson (Treasury team), and Ruth Sharville.