



Geograph Newsletter 23

November 2023

Welcome to the latest Newsletter

The last meeting of the Trustees took place at the beginning of November. There are some important points to note in this newsletter about our policies and procedures, so please take a look. As it was the last Board meeting of the year, we also took the opportunity to pass on greetings to each other for the significant forthcoming celebrations, and may I, on behalf of us all, pass on best wishes to you for a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

I (Ruth Sharville) shall be taking a break from issuing these newsletters from January, so your compiler and editor will be Sebastian Ballard for a few editions.

Trustees – news from the Chair, Christine Johnstone

Following our appeal for more people to offer their services as Trustees, we have the names of two individuals who are very interested at this stage. The Board will invite them to observe a Board meeting soon. Three others who are potentially interested, and one other who will be able to commit in due course, will remain on the radar. Thanks to all who have expressed interest at any level.

From our Treasurer – Michael Dibb

Christmas is coming – give Geograph a present

Thank you to all who have donated money to keep the project running and especially to those who donate regularly. Thank you to all those volunteers who work hard to keep the project running smoothly. Thank you to everyone who contributes photographs.

In the forum thread 'Geograph finances 2023' I advise the income and expenditure for the month and the year to date.

For the ten months to the end of October donations, including Gift Aid totalled £17,883, approximately £1,833 from advertising, and £551 of interest - total income £20,267. Our costs (excluding depreciation) were

£21,691 or, if depreciation is included £24,192 – a deficit of £3,925.

Before the end of the year, Geograph will benefit from the profits made on the calendar project and fresh endeavours are being made to reduce costs.

However, it is estimated that the deficit for the 2023 year will be in the region of £4, 500.

Therefore, once again I appeal for donations from all those who use the site. Please give generously to support this marvellous project. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this appeal brought in enough funds to cover the projected deficit?

Moderators

The whole Geograph Project is entirely dependant, for its success and integrity, on a small team of volunteer moderators. Every image that is submitted has to go through the process of moderation, to ensure that it is accurately placed and complies with the rules. Moderators also deal with suggestions and problem resolution. We need more Geograph members to help with these tasks. Initially you would be trained in the task of moderating submissions, then once experienced you could learn to deal with problem resolution. There is now a comprehensive guidance manual for all moderators to ensure consistency, and to support all moderators.

Please contact the Trustees on the email address at the end of this bulletin for further information, or to offer your services.

Policies update – important information for all

The Board has agreed an important new Code of Practice. Please be aware that we will be asking everyone to read it and be aware of its contents.

On the back of this, we have updated Geograph's Grievance Procedure, which will become an integral part of the overall Complaints Procedure.

We have also agreed on a new Safeguarding policy, which will support all members, users, and any member of the public we may interact with in case of any potentially threatening, unsafe or abusive situation.

All these policies and procedures will come into force from 1st January 2024.

Calendar

Alan Murray-Rust has provided this update on the 2024 calendar project.

This year's calendar project got off to a belated start, but nevertheless there was sufficient interest that the total number ordered, 286, was not too far short of last year's total. As a result we expect to turn in net revenue of around £750, depending on the exact bill from the printers, which will be very helpful to our finances.

Owing to the length of time it took last time, and given that we were a little late starting the project this year, we decided not to develop a 'Best of' calendar. Instead, members had the option of putting together their own selection of other members' submissions. In practice there was minimal take-up of this facility, but as it has no impact on the production process, there is no reason not to continue it.

What was most noticeable this year is that there was a significant drop in the number of members ordering calendars, from 40 last year to 33 this year, which may have been due to the short notice. This reduction was offset by a small number of members placing bulk orders, to the extent that just 5 members between them accounted for almost 50% of the total. Geograph is particularly grateful to these for their commitment and the contribution it makes to our finances.

We have it on good authority from the printers that packing and franking for dispatch will start week commencing 20th November.

As always, huge thanks are due to Alan for his hard work and commitment to making this project a success.

Contact us

We always 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

Quarry Bank Road

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

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