



Geograph Newsletter 20

April 2023

Welcome to the latest Newsletter

The Board held its bi-monthly meeting last month, and this latest edition of the Newsletter is to keep Geograph members up to date with what is going on. Please note the contact details at the end of the bulletin inviting your feedback – it is always welcomed. This month's image relates directly to the item from David under "Education" - an important part of Geograph's remit. It's not a comment on the weather we had throughout March in much of the UK – though it might as well have been. I'm sure we're all looking forward to sunny days out with the camera, getting good quality and attractive photos to add to our wonderful site, and building a selection to choose from for your 2024 calendar. There's a bit more about all this later in the bulletin too.

From our treasurer, Michael Dibb

At the meeting the Annual Return and accounts were approved. They have been circulated to Company Members and a summary posted into the forum. It was reported that the revenue from advertising was increasing after some adjustment of which web pages were displaying adverts. We continue not to display adverts to users who are logged in (except for blog pages). A process for reviewing system support costs was agreed. A number of Geograph policies were revised and it was agreed that these would be posted onto the website as soon as possible.

Membership

The Trustees are keen to encourage our more active current contributors to consider becoming Company Members of Geograph Project Limited and the Secretary and Chair will shortly be writing to this group with an invitation letter.

Education

David Martin reported back from a Continuing Professional Development session he had presented on 14 March for Geography teachers (via Teams, hosted by the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers) entitled "Finding and using educational images from the Geograph Project."

Around 25 teachers attended, which RGS report to be typical of their 5pm online sessions. Most of the presentation was run live from the Geograph website, picking up topics of interest suggested by the participants, together with some prepared examples. These were explored mostly through Simple and Advanced Search, selecting a few interesting images for each and suggesting how they could be used. David demonstrated marking images and saving searches, together with more advanced topics such as exporting images to Google Earth and finding Geograph images in Ordnance Survey's Digimap for Schools system (with permission from OS). Topics explored included:

- Flooding in the Somerset Levels
- The coast at Porlock
- Windfarms and hydro schemes
- Wasdale Screes
- Southampton container port
- Malham limestone pavement

Geograph Trustees had provided their "top tips" and questions for teachers, which were shared at the end of the presentation. There was positive feedback about the Geograph image collection and the potential for investigating change over time. Several teachers said they now intend to make use of Geograph and/or share it with their colleagues. There was particular interest in the idea of prepared collections on key themes from the geography curriculum (e.g. coastal management); popular case study locations (e.g. Thames Barrier) and field trip locations (e.g. Slapton Sands). David left an open invitation for participants to get back in touch with us, particularly with ideas regarding the redevelopment of the Geograph for Schools website. We have also established valuable working relationships with the RGS and OS education teams, on which we hope to build. There is clear feedback that any redevelopment of the schools site needs to have a simple modern design and focus on our collection of high quality images, potentially combined with resources assembled around geography curriculum topics.

Image quality

The objective of the Geograph charity, as recorded in our Articles of Association is "To advance the education of the public in geography and heritage by collecting, organising, publishing and preserving photographs and associated information for every square kilometre of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Isle of Man and making them available primarily by electronic means free or at minimum charge to the public, with particular facilities for use by schools."

In light of our recent interactions with teachers and education teams in other organizations, the Trustees have been strongly reminded that our image archive is a huge educational resource and we would really encourage all contributors to be mindful of this when selecting, preparing and submitting images. It is of course impossible to get every detail right every time, nor do we have any wish to mandate or restrict image topics, but it is clear that teachers primarily need high quality images at the higher resolutions and accurate locations and descriptive text are essential to be able to find relevant material (see examples mentioned in the previous item). The more we can work together to enhance the archive of high quality images, the more successfully we will be able to fulfil our educational objective.

New safeguarding policy

Following our recent review of existing Geograph policies, the Trustees have recognised that Geograph needs a separate safeguarding policy and have begun working on this. If there are any in our membership who have relevant experience of developing and operating safeguarding policies through other organizations and would be willing to be involved in this, we would love to hear from you – please don't hesitate to contact us at trustees@geograph.org.uk. If you are concerned about anything that you see or read on the Geograph website, please don't hesitate to contact us, as above, or via the 'Contact us' link on the Geograph main menu.

Calendar

I (Ruth) mentioned in the previous Newsletter that I would be sending out a survey to gather feedback on the 2023 Geograph calendar. However, the Calendar Team and I decided a more informal approach was probably more appropriate, and to this end, we are inviting comments on your experience ordering the calendar, and your suggestions for improvement and to broaden the appeal to Members. Specifically, the team would like your views on these points

- a) We're considering the possibility of opening up the whole of the photo archive for potential selection for your 2024 calendar. This would enable you, if you so wish, to pull together a calendar based on a theme, for example your home area, or for a local interest group for them to sell on to their members and supporters. Would this be of interest? Members of the Calendar Team can tell you more – feel free to ask us for more information. It's also worth bearing in mind that bulk orders give better value all round as the postage and packing is less per item.
- b) If you didn't buy any calendars this time, what would we need to do to persuade you to do so?
- c) What was your view of the generic "Best of Geograph"? It was a lot of work, and we sold relatively few copies. Should we pursue this?

I have set up a thread on the Discussion Forum which you can access here: [Discuss - Geograph calendar 2023 feedback :: geograph.org.uk](https://www.geograph.org.uk/discuss-geograph-calendar-2023-feedback)

AGM 2023

The Midsummer meet and AGM 2023 will be held in Plymouth on Thursday 29th June.

All Company Members are welcome to join us – further information and a form to indicate that you plan to attend can be found at the Events link on the Geograph main menu.

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

River Tone

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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, David Martin (Chair) and Ruth Sharville.