



Grid Square

The Newsletter of the Geograph community

#03 May 2026

Geograph Britain and Ireland - www.geograph.org.uk



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/7961642>

Welcome to this edition of Grid Square #03 May 2026.

This image, taken by James Towill, was voted Photograph of the Year, 2025

[Link to discussion](#)

At the end of this edition are the two runners-up.

As well as the regular reports this month, we have an article by Gerald England on his monthly forum competition, 'YOMP'.

Also, we have Richard Croft's take on our legacy and USP's entitled 'Anything Curious'

From the Chair – David Martin

As I write, we are in the final stages of preparation for our annual meeting and AGM to be held in Nottingham on 2-4 June. For those attending, practical details can be found via the "Events" link on the Geograph main menu or directly [here](#).

AGM papers and voting instructions have been sent to all company members, but if for any reason you haven't seen them, they can be accessed directly from your personal profile page: click "Follow this link to be taken to the company mini-site" and then "View recent messages". If you are a company member who is unable to attend in person it is especially important that you use your proxy vote, as the numbers attending the physical meeting do not constitute a quorum.

As mentioned in the previous issue of Grid Square, the Board is proposing a special resolution to amend our Articles of Association to permit online or hybrid company meetings to be held in future.

The option to attend remotely should allow many more members to take part in company meetings while providing greater flexibility over the timing and location of social activities. There is a short discussion thread about this [here](#)

Something else I'm pleased to announce is that we will be launching a new Geograph web app in Nottingham – the links will be shared via the website after the event. This represents another action from our 2025-30 strategic plan. I know there are many longstanding users who will continue using their cameras with the existing website, but there are clearly barriers for future (and younger!) users, many of whom will never own a traditional camera and whose online interactions are all via mobiles.

With that in mind, the app has a very simple interface focused on the core functions of taking and submitting photos, exploring the map and viewing recent submissions. I'm very grateful to Barry who has (with AI assistance!) developed the new app, taking advantage of the phone's camera and GPS functions while working seamlessly alongside the main website. A small team of testers have now successfully submitted many hundreds of images this spring.

Last winter's user survey showed that 27% of registered users already access the site on mobiles (often in combination with another device) and 34% indicated that they would likely use Geograph more if an app or mobile-optimized site was available. Past discussions on the forum and the extensive write-in answers to the survey provided greater depth of evidence and helped to shape the design, so if you contributed in any of these ways, many thanks. Whether you are a mobile fan or a mobile sceptic, I hope you'll give it a try.

David



Treasurer's Report – Richard Rogerson

May 2026 - Treasurer Report

Income and expenditure for last month and 2026 to date is summarised below.

	April 2026	2026 Year to date
Income - Donations, inc. gift aid	£1692	£6774
- Advertising	£33	£149
- Interest	£177	£720
Expenditure - Website Operation	£2295	£8826
- Administration	£67	£67
- Financial	£10	£48
Net Income	(£470)	(£1498)

Regular monthly income has continued to be below our monthly expenditure across the first four months of the year.

I am very pleased to report that the 2025 accounts now have been independently examined and were approved by the Board at our recent May Meeting in advance of the AGM.

Richard

From the Discussion forums

YOMP: 'Your own monthly photograph competition' - Gerald England.

YOMP came into being on January 1st 2013. From 1st January to 14th January contributors could post one photo of their own submitted in December 2012. Between 21st January and the end of the month the winner of the previous month's competition would judge the entries and decide upon a winner. Every competition follows exactly the same format.

Whilst similar in some ways to POTY it is very different in other ways, mainly that being monthly, not weekly, it is less 'frenzied' – there is ample time to review and select a couple of pictures in the 14 days allowed. Photographers elect to enter the competition; it is not restricted to photos taken within in the month and entrants will be aware that if they win one month they'll have to judge the next one.

One sometime criticism of POTY is that people can find they've won a competition they weren't aware of being entered for. Not so here.

Originally only one submitted photograph per month was allowed but this was later adjusted to allow two.

The first winner, from December 2012, was Stephen McKay, with a photograph of the Oxford Canal.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3276387>

YOMP is not an alternative to POTY but a complementary competition and above all a good way of highlighting the variety and quality of images found on the site.

It's a fun informal competition open to all contributors – come and join in.

Over the years there have been 59 different individual winners.

Here are a selection of the winning photographs from YOMP

January 2014 – William Starkey



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Farmland near the Crock of... by William Starkey - geograph.org.uk/p/3797631

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3797631>

December 2014 – Jackie Proven



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Horses at West Sands by Jackie Proven - geograph.org.uk/p/4268767

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4268767>

May 2020 – Mary and Angus Hogg



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Hamilton Bridge view by Mary and Angus Hogg - geograph.org.uk/p/6463014

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6463014>

June 2025 – Philip Halling



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Boathouse at Belton by Philip Halling - geograph.org.uk/p/8071615

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8071615>

February 2026 – Richard Hoare



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Airport shopping mall by Richard Hoare - geograph.org.uk/p/8253131

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8253131>

Contributors' Article May 2026 – Richard Croft

Anything Curious

In the late 18th century, Swiss artist Samuel Hieronymus Grimm spent over 20 years fulfilling the commission of his main patron, Rev. Sir Richard Kaye to record “*anything curious*” on their travels through France, England and Wales. His legacy survives as 2,662 drawings in The British Library and almost as many again in other collections.

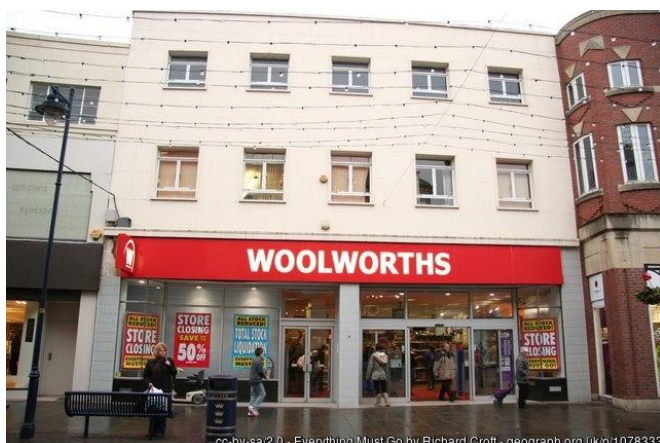
In March 2005 Barry, Gary and Paul created Geograph and a modest but rapidly growing cohort of contributors began recording and uploading images of The British Isles. Over 20 years later, an army of over 14,000 contributors have submitted over 8 million images, covering almost the entire United Kingdom and much of the Republic of Ireland.

There are obvious parallels with Grimm’s achievement the aim to “*collect and publish online at least one representative photograph (geograph) per gridsquare*” has long been exceeded and, as long ago as December 2008, The Daily Telegraph described Geograph with the headline ‘Modern day Domesday Book builds photo archive of the UK’



S H Grimm, Reading Abbey Gatehouse c1785 <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8071615>

The eclectic diversity of contributor’s interests, knowledge and specialities, widespread geographic locations, and downright dogged determination have been significant contributory factors to the success of the project. Geograph is different things to different people, competitive or collaborative, and is all the better for it.



We have recorded anything and everything curious in the early 21st century As well as all the geographic features – from the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics and many other sporting events to the closure of Woolworths, the demise of countless public houses, royal jubilees, funerals and a coronation.

Not forgetting elections, natural disasters, flora and fauna, demolitions, constructions,

events and so much more; recording everything from mundane to spectacular. We have specialist collections such as railways, fire stations, crematoria, milestones, churches, benchmarks, castles in Ireland and the late John Madden's definitive study of Drill halls, to name a few.



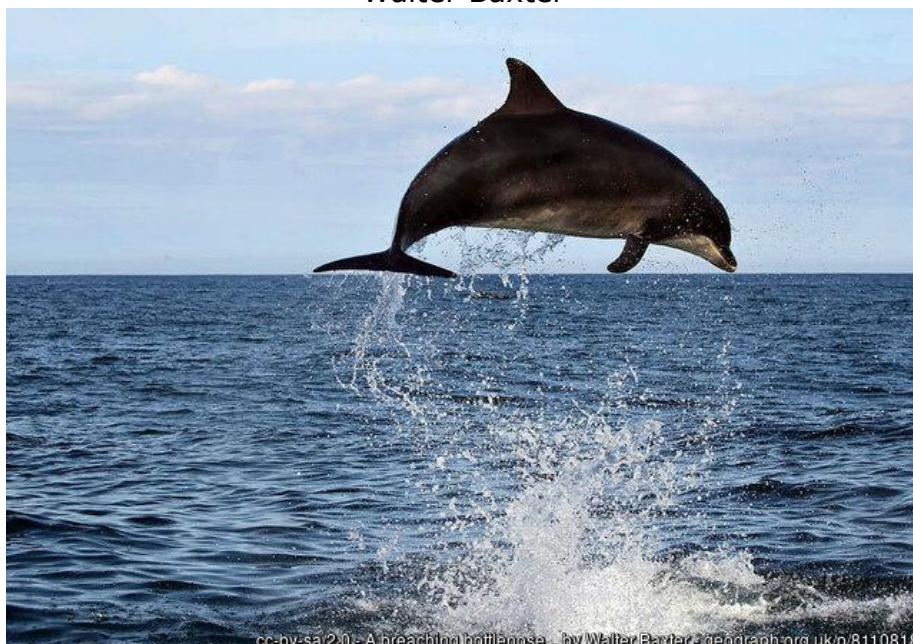
I've made many friends through Geograph in the last 20+ years and sadly lost a few, but I sincerely hope everyone continues to record "anything curious" for many years to come.

Editor's Final Note – Jonathan Billinger

I'm writing this on the cusp of the first real spell of summer weather of 2026 (Herefordshire). Very soon those lush greens will darken and the grass start to fade. I'm having to miss this year's AGM event in Nottingham in person as work rotas don't permit. I'm looking forward to being able to follow proceedings online in the future. My aim this year is to capture more of those fleeting glimpses of life in the UK on my doorstep and on the commute, as well as on trips planned to the Myriads SU and TQ.

As mentioned at the top of the edition, here are the two runners-up for the Photograph of the Year, 2025

Walter Baxter



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8110818>

Ian Capper



cc-by-sa/2.0 - by Ian Capper - geograph.org.uk/p/8209295

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8209295>

Contact Us

We always value comments and suggestions, whether on the "Trustees" section of the Forum [here](#) or direct to us by email: trustees@geograph.org.uk



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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), David Martin (Chair), Peter McDermott, Richard Rogerson (Treasury team), and Ruth Sharville.