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Newsletter 11

circulated ... April 2018

Around the table

We're sorry to report that Sebastian Ballard has stepped down as chairman and as a trustee. It had become clear to him that his teaching and examining workloads were not allowing him to give as much time to the roles as he would wish. We thank him for his service; we shall miss his front-line experience as a geography teacher, his easy manner and clear focus at the boardroom table. The strategic plan that he made us write continues to evolve and guide us. We will elect a new chairman when we meet in May.

On a more positive note we are pleased to report that we've appointed Mark Anderson as a trustee, following our January meeting which he attended as a guest. A contributor since 2005, Mark has quickly deployed his diverse professional experience to a number of tasks. Have you heard of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)? It will be applicable as of May 25th 2018 in all EU member states to harmonize data privacy laws across Europe. With feedback from fellow-trustees, Mark has made sure not only that Geograph complies; he's updated our Terms of Use and registration page as well. He's also been helping Barry with a more timely and automated way of archiving the website at Internet Archive <https://archive.org>. Company members will be able to confirm Mark's appointment at the AGM in Wakefield, 30 June.

Gordon Brown, while not becoming a trustee, has kindly offered to mentor board members on bids for funding, financial and charity matters. We are pleased to have the benefit of Gordon's experience.

Michael, Treasurer and Company Secretary

We've approved the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2017 which showed a loss of just over £3,500 despite income increasing by some £1,650. In February and early March, a Wikipedia-style appeal successfully raised some £3,380 (including Gift Aid). As a result, the first quarter accounts are very positive, showing an excess of income (a profit if you will) of £2,888 – over £4,000 better than the budget and over £3,500 better than this quarter last year. We have gained a few more regular monthly donors; one or two other regular donors have increased their monthly amount. A 'thank you' e-mail has been sent to every one-off donor. All costs were well contained and, in total, were some £140 less than budget and just £30 more than this quarter last year. The de-commissioning of the fourth server will reduce the hosting costs and the systems administration costs from now onwards.

Barry, trustee, reports:

My main contribution has been the decommissioning of server 'Milk' before it fails, which has overlapped with re-architecting our database servers, to make them more resilient (some work myself, and the rest sub-contracted to Tiger Computing). Tangential to that has been looking at long term storage options and costs, and also some investigative work for the funding bid Christine mentions below.

Christine, trustee, reports:

Following a constructive meeting with staff at the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are working on an application which we hope to submit this summer. If we are successful, the grant would be earmarked for technical changes which would reduce our ongoing running costs.

Peter, trustee, reports:

I've dealt with a number of complaints by landowners, sometimes seeking a second opinion from Robin. At this time of year I tend to be busy with other things.

Robin, trustee, reports:

In February I had a pleasant and positive meeting with two fellow-moderators from the east of England. I'll be arranging other meetings up and down the land. I'm pleased to have done the spadework that has resulted in Mark joining the board and the association with Gordon. The search for more trustees is continuing. I'm awaiting news from U3A (University of the Third Age) about a couple of articles I've written for the publications they send out to members nationwide. Developing contact with other organisations is on the to-do list. I attended the launch of Elaine Owen's 'Timepix' project in Manchester, meeting up with David Dixon and Gerald England. I've begun another search for photos for a new schools' site. I've put this newsletter together.

We welcome your feedback at <mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk>

Photos: 13th birthday meets

Left: Leeds, led by Stephen Craven, 10 March 2018

Old tramway trackbed to Middleton, by Alan Murray-Rust

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5704071>

Right: Devizes, led by Michael Dibb, 17 March 2018

A glimpse of Devizes Castle, by Robin Webster

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5713412>

