



# Geograph Newsletter 24

February 2024

## Welcome to the latest Newsletter

It gives me great pleasure to edit the latest edition of our Newsletter. As noted in the previous edition, Ruth is taking a break, nothing to be concerned about! Looking back through the archives I was surprised to note how many years have passed since the first edition was circulated in February 2016. I am heartened by the fact that we are still here, the finances are in good order, and the majority of our contributors continue to submit outstanding images as well as contribute to some erudite discussions in the forum.

The last meeting of the Trustees took place at the beginning of January. We were joined by Peter Evans and Richard Rogerson as observers, with a mind to joining the board and offering their support to the Geograph project. It was great to meet them both. I hope you enjoy reading this and may I, on behalf of us all, pass on belated best wishes to you for a very happy New Year.

## Trustees – news from the Chair, Christine Johnstone

Following our appeal for volunteers to consider becoming Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company, we are extremely pleased to welcome Peter Evans and Richard Rogerson to the Board. Peter and Richard were co-opted onto the Board after participating in our January meeting. We hope that company members will confirm these appointments at the AGM in June.

The AGM is now confirmed for **Friday 21st June** at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, North Wales. The programme will include an evening meal on Thursday 20th June, illustrated talks, the AGM, lunch, a guided walk and an evening meal on Friday 21st June and another guided walk on Saturday 22nd June. If you would like to give an illustrated talk at the AGM, please let Christine Johnstone know at [projects@geograph.org.uk](mailto:projects@geograph.org.uk).

## From our Treasurer – Michael Dibb

The draft accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2023 were distributed. They show a surplus of expenditure over income (a 'loss' if you will) of £3,178 for the year. Overall, this is an acceptable result for the year. Excluding depreciation, the deficit is only some £176. The calendar project produced a net income of £775, a slight improvement on the £736 for 2022. Many thanks to everyone who supported this initiative.

Donations were received from 126 individuals and 8 organisations. The final accounts will be presented to the board for approval at the March Board Meeting.

Great news as we go to press. In early February, Geograph received a stunning legacy gift of £10,000 from a former staunch supporter who passed away last year. The funds have been invested while we consider and consult over the next few months about how best this gift can further Geograph's aims.

## **Moderators**

Following on from the previous newsletter we are in the process of recruiting more moderators. We are very grateful to those who have put their names forward. This was the easy part, now we have to find mutually convenient times as well as a means to go through initial training and guidance.

The only other news to share is that there is a discussion going on in the forum at present on drone images. We do welcome these, and of course they are classed as 'aerials' rather than 'geographs', but it helps if contributors can indicate in some way (in the description, or with a tag) that an image was taken with a drone.

## **Mark Anderson - Trustee**

I am pleased to report that the archiving of images in the Wayback Machine continues and that all images submitted up to the end of 2023 have been archived.

## **Education - Sebastian Ballard (*Geogfanatic*)**

A new email address has been created to help relaunch our education initiative, this is [education@geograph.org.uk](mailto:education@geograph.org.uk). Mail sent to this address will automatically be forwarded to Sebastian. A thread in the forum announcing this was posted on 5 January 2024 – "Waking up our Education Remit 2024", many thanks to those who have already made contact.

There are two strands to this initiative, the curation of our collection and then how to make it available to a wider audience. For 2024 the focus will be on curation of existing images along with creating a concise set of guidelines about what we are looking for in new images to help contributors take suitable images at the same time as enhancing their own collections.

An exciting development to look out for in the future is the use of AI to help us curate the collection. I have started to use AI in my own school and I am most impressed with the time saving it offers. David Martin is exploring the potential on behalf of Geograph.

Whilst we are rightly proud of our 7.5 million+ images it is important to note that a significant proportion of these are not suitable for the modern day classroom projector or interactive screens. Image size / resolution, tags and subject matter are all important to consider as we move forward. I look forward to working with all contributors as we move the project forward.

## **New Trustee - Richard Rogerson – in his own words**

Originally from Worcestershire, I have lived on the Surrey/Sussex border near to Gatwick for over thirty years. I am a Chartered Materials Engineer with a firm of consulting engineers in London where I was manager of their construction materials laboratory.

I have now semi-retired and act as an occasional consultant. I have a (some would say sad) interest in the history of concrete and also churches, both of which compliment being part of the Geograph Project. I have been a school governor at a local infant school for nearly 25 years and am interested in helping expand the use of Geograph images in education. I also follow the fortunes of Kidderminster Harriers, albeit mainly from a distance.

## **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](mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk)

## **Image credits:**

### **Flooding on the River Soar at Aylestone, Leicester**

[cc-by-sa/2.0](#) - © [Mat Fascione](#) - [geograph.org.uk/p/7692413](http://geograph.org.uk/p/7692413)

### **Wild daffodils**

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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), Peter Evans, Bill Harrison, Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone (Chair) David Martin, Richard Rogerson and Ruth Sharville.

