



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/8182419>

This month I'd like to literally 'Take it to the Bridge' with Richard West's Week 43 winning image of the weekly 'fun' peer-review competition, PotY 2025. Do visit the link to experience some true Geograph poetry in the comments towards the end.

See link:

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/discuss/index.php?&action=vthread&forum=17&topic=34366>

## From the Chair – David Martin

I'm writing this a couple of weeks after we presented Geograph's new 2025-2030 strategic plan via Zoom webinar on 20<sup>th</sup> October. It was really encouraging to see 48 of you on the call, and to receive a variety of positive feedback after the event. I've put all the relevant links in the box below.

The Geograph Strategic Plan 2025-2030 [document](#)  
Webinar [video recording](#) - you'll need to enter passcode KTg7dA^Q  
Webinar Questions and Answer [transcript](#)  
You can post comments to the [forum thread](#) or email us at [trustees@geograph.org.uk](mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk)

One of our first actions in the strategic plan mentioned in the September Newsletter, was to run a 2025 User Survey. Barry's data show that 6,345 people have been active on the site over the past 3 years – of whom only just over 1,000 have visited the forums – and that excludes the around 150,000 people

per month who click on a Geograph page found in a Google Search! We want to better understand the characteristics and needs of these users in addition to those we know well. Members and active contributors should receive direct invitations to take part. There are slightly different versions of the survey for registered and unregistered users – please use the link in your email, or which is displayed when you are logged in. The survey will stay open until 12 January 2026.

We are aware that many users are not reliably receiving emails from Geograph. In some cases, these may be going straight to your “spam” folder, in others we are told that inboxes are full or addresses are unreachable and we believe that some email providers are simply rejecting Geograph messages without you being aware. We are reviewing these patterns in the hope of offering more specific advice, but in the meantime do check that your email address is up to date, look in your spam or trash folder and, if possible, add us to your “Safe senders” list – the details differ between email providers. We are also widening the circulation list for the newsletter and looking for a better location within the website for recent newsletters.

### *Geograph Needs You!*

Another priority in the strategic plan is refreshing the Board membership, ensuring that we bring in new ideas and as much diversity of experience as possible. I’m therefore inviting you to consider whether you could become one of the **Geograph Trustees**? The Board meets every couple of months via Zoom and members work together on a range of matters between meetings. The current group includes those in employment, in retirement and in-between. We would love to welcome some more women and younger members.

As we act on other priorities, we are also seeking to fill two entirely new roles, both of which require only a small commitment to your time.

This summer we have developed a new interface for proactive moderation of website site content beyond the main image collections and forums. Might you be able to join us as an “**Additional content moderator**”? This involves briefly checking content such as new user profiles, media uploads and shared descriptions as part of a small team and flagging anything that might require further attention (mostly profiles set up to advertise dodgy business offerings!) I have been testing this for the last few months and can assure you that it only takes a few minutes 2-3 times per week.

If neither of those is for you, could you be a “**New user Mentor**”? Our moderation of new user profiles has presented a great opportunity to welcome and support new contributors, particularly to be on hand to assist with initial image submissions and basic “how do I?” questions. This could be done by any experienced contributor with a sympathetic email manner.

If you are interested to know more about any of these, please contact me <https://www.geograph.org.uk/profile/13502> – without obligation – and I’ll be happy to provide more detail.

### *AGM 2026*

We are currently exploring options for the 2026 Geograph AGM, mindful that we have received no specific offers to host the event. We are currently looking into meeting in Nottingham, and I’d be keen to hear from any members in the East Midlands who could potentially assist in any way, as none of the Trustees are based in that area.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6989042>

## Treasurer's Report – Richard Rogerson

Income and expenditure for last month and 2025 to date is summarised below.

	October 2025	2025 Year to date
<b>Income</b> - Donations, inc. gift aid	£2021	£38227
- Profit from calendars	£873	£873
- Advertising	£59	£397
- Interest	£161	£1402
<b>Expenditure</b> - Website Operation	£1996	£20247
- Administration	£65	£650
- Financial	£10	£170
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>£1044</b>	<b>£19832</b>

The October figures include the projected calendar profit of £873 which is slightly higher than the previous year. Thank you to all who placed orders and many thanks to Alan Murray-Rust for making this happen again.

Following a recent discussion in the Forum re donations and Gift Aid, the Board is intending to update the donations page on the website to better reflect the preferred donation methods, with a focus on direct bank transfers and to clarify the fee structure.

We are very grateful to all Geograph users who donate, whether it is one off donations, irregular donations or regular monthly donations – Thank you. Can I also just take this opportunity to remind donors and prospective donors that if you are a UK taxpayer, you can make every £1 you give – or have given – worth 25p more by completing a Gift Aid declaration. This simply requires your street address: it does not require your date of birth or any other personal information. Please contact me if you would like a Gift Aid declaration form or if you have any questions about donation methods. [treasurer@geograph.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@geograph.org.uk)

## Contributors' Article November 2025

### How I came to Geograph – Jennifer Petrie

I thoroughly enjoy taking photos and submitting to Geograph as well as seeing the photos submitted by others.

Lots of my photos I take especially for Ancestry, but I also add them to Geograph.

I only used to add my pictures to my close family ancestors but now I add them also to the far outer branches of my tree! I spend lots of time spreading out my photos. I've decided there must be many folks on the other side of the world who will never be able to visit GB to see the places where their ancestors lived, were christened, married or buried.

My trees are not private as I like to share.

As a matter of fact, a couple over from Australia visiting Europe, Scandinavia, Dublin, Edinburgh etc. asked me to meet them near here at St Abbs. We connected on Ancestry about 15 years ago.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/7137426>

Years ago, I had begun researching on Ancestry and while googling for information for a local church, Oldhamstocks, I accidentally discovered Geograph. I thought to myself " Oh! I could add my own pictures to this site" That's how it began!



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2234448>

One of my earlier and favourite pictures of Victoria Harbour Dunbar. Always a picturesque place to walk on a sunny day when the tide is in and the colourful fishing boats ride high, lit up in the sunshine. I added this to Ancestry as two of my great grandfather's brothers and their descendants continued to fish here.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/7573727>

Here is the Doo Rock where Dunbar's open-air pool once was situated. It was everyone's favourite holiday destination especially in the school summer holidays.

It was the place we all learned to swim, enjoying standing under the fountains, sliding down the chute or diving into the deep end if you were brave enough ! Hot orange juice in a wobbly plastic cup and empty Smiths crisp packets floating on the surface after closing time are happy memories. I can still see the pool in my mind's eye when I stand at the top of the Glebe ! I've even seen my Doo Rock photos featured on BBC weather Scotland.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6235919>

This last picture shows the beautiful flower beds at Lauderdale. I love gardening and enjoy all the local flower beds in summer. They always feature on Geograph.

They are special also as in the background are the houses in Bayswell Park. My great-grandfather had two of these stone villas built about 1880 and one became our family home through the generations. He was a hairdresser and had a hairdresser shop with a photographer's studio (we had four generations of hairdressers/ barbers using same shop in Dunbar). They say he was one of the first photographers in Dunbar. He once took a photo at Queen Victoria's request - of the Gypsy Queen at her encampment at Knockenhair Dunbar in 1878. This photo was of Corlinda Lee, who apparently read Victoria's fortune. This led to many wealthy ladies in the Dunbar area also having their palms read. Thereafter he was allowed to have "under Royal Patronage" on the reverse of his cards. I think he would approve of me continuing to take photos around Dunbar.

## Editor's Final Note – Jonathan Billinger

I'd like to again thank the contributors to this Newsletter and would welcome seasonal or relatable content for the next one in January. Specifically, if you'd like to do the next article for the Newsletter along the lines of Jennifer's this month or Julian's from September and Kenny's from July, please contact me directly via the links below.

By coincidence I have featured two Dunbar-based contributors at the 'head and tail' of this Newsletter. If anyone has a suggestion for a suitable or timely 'head' picture to lead us into the January 2026 edition, please let me know.

Lastly, the first Newsletter of 2026 will be receiving a new name and facelift – more on this in January.

Have a cracking early winter and festive season!

## Contact Us

We always value comments and suggestions, whether on the "Trustees" section of the Forum at <https://www.geograph.org.uk/discuss/index.php?&action=vtopic&forum=22> or direct to us by email: [trustees@geograph.org.uk](mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk)



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