

Newsletter 12

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Around the table

Christine

Since our last newsletter my fellow-trustees have elected me as Chair. At the AGM in June members confirmed the appointment of Ruth Sharville, Mark Anderson and Stephen Craven as trustees and directors. I had the pleasure of welcoming members to Wakefield and leading a tour of some of the city's interesting streets and squares and joining in informal discussions over drinks and meals. Over the summer, I spent many hours on our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Resilience Grant. It was discussed by the board and submitted in October. Since July two other matters have generated a great deal of discussion in the Board. First, the many issues around how we deal with complaints by landowners of trespass by our photographers. We will be drawing up guidelines for best practice by contributors and the team of complaint handlers. Second, in response to a longstanding objective to modernise the website, we've asked an independent IT professional for their observations. As a result we are exploring changes to the look and feel of the site while deepening our understanding of its richness and complexity, helped by feedback from users. Other responsibilities have squeezed out some of my free time to take and upload photos, but I have managed to get out of Yorkshire now and then, as far as Kent and even Lancashire.

Michael

Apart from my usual task of looking after the money, I've submitted our accounts and report to HMR&C and the Charity Commissioners. I attended the Annual General Meeting in Wakefield and enjoyed the walk around the city led by Christine. The week before the AGM my wife and I enjoyed some beautiful weather when we stayed in Buxton and did several walks in the surrounding Peak District.

Mark

Since the last newsletter, the GDPR has come into force and I have dealt with queries on this as they have come in. On archiving, it's clear that the British Library's project has run out of steam. I've been discussing backup strategies with Barry and have written a script to submit image pages to the Wayback Machine internet archive, a charitable foundation based in San Francisco: <https://archive.org> This has processed just over 3 million of our images so far and I expect to have finished the first run by the end of the year. I'd like to repeat the process once larger images are fully implemented to capture these and then look at a way of archiving new or updated images as we go. I have kept up my own modest rate of submissions and have been revisiting old ones to upload larger copies.

Ruth

I have barely managed to get my feet under the table long enough to keep up with the doubling of my email inbox content since becoming a Trustee. It is my hope over the coming months and years to learn a lot more about what the charity is about, and how it intends to further its educational as well as recreational remit. I have already volunteered to learn about fundraising, and this is something that I am hoping to get a grasp of with a view to making the organisation's approach to

fundraising more robust and efficient. Time will tell. Meanwhile, I still have a huge amount to learn, and a steep curve to climb!

Stephen

I'm looking forward to my first "official" Board meeting next week and hoping that I can find an active role within the governance of the organisation. As a contributor for the last 12 years and (not very active) moderator for the last five, I feel I have a good understanding of where the site is at from those viewpoints, but hope to gain a better understanding of what users want. My contributions are down but I did pass the milestone of submitting my 25,000th image overall and I always look forward to seeing the best of each week's submissions in PotY to remind me what a fascinating part of the world we live in.

Peter

Welcome aboard to both Stephen and Ruth. I'm sorry I shall not make the forthcoming Board meeting due to an unexpected by-election.

Barry

Spent quite a bit of time testing and implementing new file generation rules, in light of all the extra files for the 'larger' display on photo page, and monitoring the very intermittent issue generating invalid images. Sold some PhotoMap posters. oh, and working on a secret AI, to take over all control of Geograph.

Robin

I'm pleased to have played a role in identifying and appointing the new trustees. The search will go on. I've enjoyed not organising the AGM. Wakefield was a revelation! Thank you, Christine. I've taken part in lengthy discussions around trespass, complaints and legal issues. With Ruth, I've volunteered for training in fundraising techniques and opportunities. I'm taking a role in the DIY refresh of the website. The moderators' email group created by Stephen, in response to a proposal I floated, is proving a valuable and civilised discussion space. I've extended our presence on social media (Twitter and Facebook), with regular posts on Instagram; it's all about getting the project known. New posters welcome. With input from colleagues I put this newsletter together. Visits to my scattered grown-up children are affording me enjoyable opportunities to explore less-photographed parts of Birmingham, London and Dorset.

The trustees wish all our members and visitors a happy and productive 2019. We welcome feedback at trustees@geograph.org.uk or in the forum.

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The directors of the company and trustees of the charity are: Mark Anderson, Stephen Craven, Michael Dibb (Treasurer and Company Secretary), Peter Facey, Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone (Chair), Ruth Sharville and Robin Stott.