

Geograph Project Limited

## Company Newsletter No 5

*circulated 22 September 2016*

### **Annual General Meeting, 25 June 2016, Peterborough**

#### **1 The formalities**

Sebastian welcomed 22 members to the fifth AGM of the company, held in Peterborough Museum: <http://www.vivacity-peterborough.com/museums-and-heritage/>

There were some new faces – ample justification for holding the event in a different place each year. The directors' report and accounts were agreed. Sebastian and David were re-elected as directors. An informal discussion developed, concluding with appreciation for the trustees' endeavours. The trustees thank all members for their support.

#### **2 The day in Peterborough**

After the AGM Dr Jonathan Larwood of Natural England led us round the museum's galleries to show how geology underlies Peterborough's history, buildings, industry and landscape. To end his talk he gave us an in-depth account of William Smith's geological map, then on display: see <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5009281> After lunch several members enjoyed a walk round historic Peterborough, led by a museum guide. After some free time exploring, we met up again for a drink and an early evening meal. The 2017 AGM will have a similar format.

### **Trustees, 18 July 2016, Leamington**

#### **3 Found: a server management service**

In Newsletter 4 and at the AGM we talked about outsourcing the system administration. We were looking for an affordable server management service. Since then the board has entered into a contract with Tiger Computing Ltd: <https://www.tiger-computing.co.uk> for a three-month trial of their entry-level service. Barry and the team at Tiger have completed health checks of our servers and the trial proper is now under way. We were quickly impressed by Tiger Computing's expertise and their friendly but business-like approach. We will review the trial in November.

#### **4 Ordnance Survey**

Our long-time supporter in OS, Elaine Owen, had suggested a meeting at Southampton HQ to bring both parties up-to-date. Now that OS is a company wholly-owned by the Government, Geograph's continuing relationship with them needs to be formalised. The trustees will be considering a procedure. With technical colleagues, Elaine showed us a new mapping

product and a project for which she was seeking EU funding. We heard about updates to the schools pages of the OS website. We offered our intention to remake the Geograph schools' website: [schools.geograph.org.uk](http://schools.geograph.org.uk) All these topics prompted ideas for linkages and collaboration. The four of us who were able to attend on 15 July (Barry, Michael, Peter and Robin) were pleased to renew our friendly relations with colleagues in OS.

## **5 Funding**

Christine confirmed that our bid to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation had been turned down. We don't know why: it's their policy not to give feedback. Christine has identified two other funding bodies that we might try; she will work up draft applications. Michael reported on our regular donors (as a group, not individually). We would welcome more donations and we would encourage donors to give via a standing order through BT My Donate: <https://mydonate.bt.com/donation/donate.html?charity=geograph> We will be discussing other sources of regular income at a future date.

## **6 Making Geograph better-known**

Several items in a lengthy agenda related to outside awareness of Geograph. Sebastian is promoting Geograph to exam boards as a source of material. The Wikipedia article is being updated: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geograph\\_Britain\\_and\\_Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geograph_Britain_and_Ireland) We hope that followers of Geograph's Twitter account [https://twitter.com/geograph\\_bi](https://twitter.com/geograph_bi) and 'likes' on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/geograph.org.uk> will translate into new users of the website, but we don't know currently. Christine is inviting ideas from which to draw up a plan for attracting more users and contributors – essential for sustaining the project. In related work, Sebastian and Robin will seek and record evidence of the educational benefits of the website, including the personal development of contributors. A redesigned schools' site will also need to be promoted.

## **7 Forum decorum**

Richard was concerned about the impression that might be given to a potential sponsor by posts in certain forum threads: see Newsletter 4, item 6. As agreed by the trustees, he posted a reminder of the Terms of Use on 2 May <http://www.geograph.org.uk/help/terms> (item 4). The immediate hysterical reaction dismayed us all and doubtless many members also. Richard has resigned as a trustee and director, no longer able to find time for the task. The conduct of “a vociferous faction of Geograph members” contributed to his decision. We thank Richard for his focused effort and for the good sense he brought to meetings. Other trustees have suffered from the effects of repeated slights and needling in the forums. In July we agreed that a banner will be added to forum pages requiring users to refrain from abusive or mischievously provocative content in accordance with the Terms of Use. Forum moderators will have the authority to delete offending posts, saying why and naming the offending author.

## **8 Classification changes**

As promised we reviewed the reaction to Image Type Tags in forum threads and private

emails and agreed to implement the most popular suggestion. However, after some test moderations, it was concluded that the results in some cases gave less information to contributors than the original proposal. We join with many members who believe that five tags and buttons are required, the fifth button to be devoted to closer views, and 'Detail' replaced. Moderators who responded to a consultation, on this and other matters, were mostly in favour. Guidance and examples are in preparation.

## **9 Fraudulent submissions**

A group of eagle-eyed members has identified and ticketed submissions which are deliberate deceptions to claim 'firsts' and to amass gridsquare points. We cannot allow falsely-located images to be in the collection. Action has been taken against two contributors in particular. We have made Mike Quinn a moderator so that he can deal fully with old and new cases. It is noted by those involved that there are many misplaced images on the site as a result of submitters' haste or carelessness.

## **10 Feedback**

We received one email (appreciative) following circulation of Newsletter No 4 on 20 June. We welcome your comments on this our fifth newsletter. Preferably email us at [trustees@geograph.org.uk](mailto:trustees@geograph.org.uk) All responses will be reviewed at our next meeting, Tuesday 27 September 2016 or thereafter.

## *Sebastian Ballard, Chairman*

Geograph Project Limited is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No 7473967, charity No 1145621, registered office 49 Station Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6EA. The directors of the company and trustees of the charity are: Sebastian Ballard (Chairman), Michael Dibb (Treasurer), Peter Facey, David P Howard (Company Secretary), Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone and Robin Stott.