



Small Pilgrim Places Network NEWSLETTER August 2023

Greetings to you all. It has been a while since our last Newsletter, and it has been good to see that Places are once again open to visitors and that new members and Places continue to join the Network. The concept of the Small Pilgrim Place - to provide opportunities for people to pause and reflect along their journeys - obviously appeals to many. It doesn't even matter if nobody comes, the very existence of the Place is valuable in itself.

Publicity Material - we now have **bookmarks and posters**. An e-version of the poster is included in this mailing, but if you need hard copies or bookmarks please let us know. Unfortunately the leaflet seems to have got stuck at the printers, but we will send them out as soon as possible. We are looking at the Handbook with a view to revising it and publishing a new edition next year

Places - **As usual, please check your website entry** and let us know of any changes, especially as we move into autumn.

National Gathering 2023

We will be holding the National Gathering by Zoom this year, on **Saturday 28th October from 2-4 p.m.** (We will send out the link nearer the time).

We appreciate that this may exclude some, but the theme will be about building up regional connections within the Network, and we hope that by meeting on Zoom we can involve more people from across the Network, and

can have some useful discussions in break-out rooms which may lead to spin-off groupings after the National Gathering in which all can be involved.

Ali Green will be showing an updated version of her presentation (which suffered some technical difficulties last time which we hope to avoid), and which will include new places that she has visited or that have joined since the last National Gathering.

Report from the July Core Group meeting

At our recent meeting we agreed we would, in future, provide a short report of our meetings in the newsletter.

We reviewed the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements on the records we keep as an organisation committed to being a network of support to small pilgrim places. We agreed that this will be an item for discussion at the National Gathering in October.

The National Gathering will be held online this year. We reviewed the difficulties people had experienced last year and planned how to prevent a similar occurrence this year. There is more information about the National Gathering above.

The Core Group has been revising and updating our publications and the website over the past few months. The Handbook is the latest publication which will be revised. The website now has an interactive map and a Featured Gallery where the contents will change regularly.

Our next meeting is on Sunday 27 August. If there is a topic you would like the group to discuss do let me know. If you are interested in joining the group, we would welcome more representation from Places, do contact me.

Liz

Convenor of Core Group
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News from the Network

We now have 82 Places and over 200 individuals in the Network. New members and Places have continued to join us throughout the pandemic period, and we extend a warm welcome to all of them.

Please do get in touch if you have comments, contributions or suggestions to make for our newsletters, Facebook Page, or the website. A good Network is one that has information and ideas circulating in all directions.

As the number of Places grows there are definite clusters beginning to emerge, and perhaps these may form the basis for regional groupings and contacts between members.

We do need to be able to share at least some contact details for this to happen, and so we will be contacting those who have granted only limited permission (or none) to ask them to reconsider the level of permission they would be willing to grant.

Website Developments

There has been work done on the website this year, notably the introduction of an interactive map. Initially this shows the various regions, but if you enlarge the map or zoom in the individual places are visible with a link to their details.

Another new thing is the Featured Gallery where we try to have a smaller selection of pictures on a particular theme. Currently it features labyrinths, with a comment about the subject in the News section. The selection of pictures will change from time to time and any ideas for themes will be welcome.

Ali's Journal is now available on the public home page, so that non-members can share some of the Small Pilgrim Place experience.

Many thanks as always to Kevin of PSL Web, who guides us through the technology and implements our many and varied requests.

Thank you from the Core Group:

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NOTICEBOARD

Please remember update us with **changes in your contact details**.

The subscription year begins on 1st March and **we would encourage everyone who can to take out a Standing Order** - this is important as we currently bank with HSBC who are charging for each cheque banked. Please contact us if you need the bank details. Subscription reminders will be going to those who are not up to date. if there is any difficulty about payment

particularly for Places - please do get in touch with us as we can look at each situation sympathetically (and confidentially).

 Once again, Ali will be posting daily sentences and photos throughout Creationtide and again in Advent on our Facebook page. Please do take a look and "Like", so that more people can learn about the SPPN.