**Course Maintenance**

A pretty typical year for me - 119 visits to parks, 44 posts installed, 68 plaques installed. These were created in 10 batches - many thanks to Phil Ellis for his skills and efforts in making all these things to order. Typically, hardware reported missing is replaced within about 6 weeks. There were 240 park reports in the year.

My top priority is maintaining a complete set of posts and plaques.  This year I took on an extra mission to ensure that all our controls have a QR plaque, and this is now pretty much achieved. I think they look brilliant and give us very visible and professional-looking branding.  Cable-ties have proved very useful for awkward sites. We've a decent supply of spares left over so I can now be more interested in replacing vandalised and faded QR plaques.

Next year's extra mission will be to try to have recent photos and recent painting for everywhere, though painting takes so long this is unlikely to be completed in a single year. I've distributed quite a few little paint pots to postwatchers, and will happily do more on request.

Another long-term mission is to spread my load by extending the team of fixers - Lee Ward (Salford and Trafford) and Peter Hayes (the four Southern Peripherals) have stepped in, and Trevor Hindle is now doing Lyme Park. Stephen Richards looks after the Wigan POCs. Eventually, I'd like to cover only one or two boroughs, and maybe spend more time on map updates. At an average of 2 fixing trips per park per year, it's not a huge thing to take on.

**Some things to think about:**

In several parks we have unique plaques for the controls - Lyme has tasteful green ones, Alderley has red ones, Macc Forest has red ones with an arty set of symbols, Clowbridge has big orange ones, Burrs has MOBO QR codes. These plaques degenerate over time depending on exposure to sunlight and maybe variable quality of colourings, minor acts of vandalism, problems with the wood they are mounted on, nibbling deer, etc.  We're reaching the point now where we don't always know if spares exist or who has them (for parks where we didn't get to order or keep them) - and I suspect you wouldn't be able to get a full set of MOBO beeps at Burrs. There's a lot to be said for well-routed wood !

We can often get several more years out of posts whose surface has rotted making it hard to paint the symbols - simply by screwing a new wooden plaque onto the front. I'm happy to do this where the opportunity is identified.

**Map Library**

Haven't kept a proper count, but from a quick sampling of emails I've done more than 3 map updates per week this year !  Only some of these have involved site surveys - Eddie works very hard on keeping everything up-to-date with mapping and OCAD standards, and Sue has done a huge amount of work checking and harmonising all the info on both sides of our maps and the GMOA web site, all of which has caused an unusual amount of minor changes, but in all these respects we're in very good shape at the moment.  Eddie and Stephen are the MDOC and SELOC map librarians, and keeping ourselves in step is not a trivial thing.

**Web sites**

We've acquired two new helpers with the GMOA web site!  Sue can do basic editing and is now responsible for loads of corrections and improvements.  To enable some of her desired improvements, Ian Watson stepped in and worked out how to fiddle with some of the actual code - so we now have nicer icons for park features and a coloured button for MapRun. At least once a month some software package we rely on has a new version and I have to take a backup, cross my fingers and apply the updates.

The Postwatcher Portal also has to be kept up to date with postwatcher reports and any map or reverse changes. It is such a simple site that applying the regular package upgrades doesn't worry me quite so much. I'd like to think that people find the blog-per-park and the up-to-date PDFs useful before visits, even if the value of the photos is mostly to help me.

Google provide a monthly set of stats covering several aspects of the main web site. It's hard to be sure what we can glean from this - but it seems that the QR plaques get lots of scans, and over the last couple of years, mobile phones have gone up from about 50% to about 80% of sessions.

**Social Media**

I try to post a News item on the GMOA web site every couple of weeks or so, to show external observers that the organisation is very much active and current.  I post very similar things onto the GMOA Facebook page, for the same reason. I don't do anything on Twitter, or anything else ... so this is an opportunity for a new volunteer.

John Britton