

SEEKER

The magazine of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain



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Ponta da Sao Lourenco, Madeira © Terry Marsh

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Cover image: Dragon Tree, Quinta Jardins do Lago, Funchal, Madeira © Terry Marsh, 2005

The Geocaching Association of Great Britain (GAGB)

is the leading UK Geocaching body, recognised by and acting on behalf of cachers. The association was established in 2003 to provide a voice for its members in the United Kingdom with the aim of establishing good geocaching practices, providing a focal point for public liaison, and supporting the growth and enjoyment of Geocaching within the UK.

Find us on www.gagb.org.uk

MEET THE COMMITTEE

So that you know who we are, here's the Committee for 2013



Jen Harley
Chairman
(Maple Leaf)



Roderick Parks
Secretary
(sandvika)



Jackie Catterall
(JackieC)



Dave Edwards
(The Wombles)



Cass Flowers
geocass



Jeff King
Treasurer
(northking)



Terry Marsh
(countrymatters)



Lilian Maund
(Mollyjak)



Steve McGeough
(bobo frett)

Chairman's Message



Firstly, I would like to thank all the members that participated in the recent Chairman and Committee elections and to Mike (Ladybug Kids) who did an excellent job as our Returning Officer.

Welcome to the new committee team – a nice mix of re-elected and new recruits (and some that I haven't met before). I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

We have another bumper packed issue of Seeker, including a CITO with a difference, a cache trail of over 1,000 caches, and an enjoyable log write up from Darleygirl and Bobo Frett on a 5/5 EarthCache (it is worth looking at the their logs on the cache page!)

Some of the things that the previous committee had started work on, are continuing – the most important being the revamp of the website and GLAD, the Land Agreement database. If you have any specific requests or ideas for the website, then please let one of the team know, or post in the GAGB forums.

This summer it will be ten years since the GAGB was founded and we are hoping to celebrate with a weekend of events around the country. More information to follow in the New Year, but this is just advanced warning to keep the weekend of 1st and 2nd June 2013 free on your calendar.

Happy New Year to you all

Jen

In the news....

GAGB Election results

It was encouraging to see many more people nominated for positions on the Committee this year, and for voting to be stronger than ever.

The final results and the votes cast were:

- =1. *geocass* 266
- =1. The Wombles (Dave) 266
- 3. Mollyjak (Lilian) 264
- 4. northking (Jeff) 223
- 5. Countrymatters 211
- =6. Bobo Frett (Steve) 171
- =6. sandvika 171
- =6. Andy (Walker Clan) 171
- 9. JackieC 162
- 10. Team Microdot (Pete) 147
- 11. daddyanddude (Dax) 137
- 12. Geocaching Womble 119
- 13. Zomblou 112

With the top eight being elected. Since the election, Andy Walker has resigned for personal reasons, and his place on Committee, using the Committee's powers of co-option, has been taken by JackieC.

Geocaching challenges cancelled

Groundspeak have decided to discontinue challenges. A recent message reads: "In our effort to inspire outdoor play through Geocaching, we are often faced with decisions about what to focus on next, and what to focus on less. It is through these decisions that we explore opportunities to grow the global game of Geocaching.

Occasionally, during this process, we are faced with the reality that certain ideas

don't catch on as we had hoped. In these situations we owe it to ourselves and to you to make tough decisions about the future of every project and the resources to be applied to each. Sometimes, as a result, cool features must become casualties.

In this spirit, we have decided to retire Geocaching Challenges."

This means that, effective 5 December 2012, Groundspeak have disabled the ability to create new Challenges. They also removed the Challenges application from all mobile application stores. By 12 December, all traces of the Challenges functionality and related content had been removed from Geocaching.com.

Ash Dieback Disease

Ash dieback is a serious disease that has killed ash trees across northern Europe. It has now been found in the UK and could devastate the landscape in the same way as Dutch Elm Disease.

Geocachers can help by reporting any evidence of the disease that they find. Ash dieback is caused by a fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*, which causes leaf loss, lesions on the bark and dieback of the crown of the tree. The disease is spread by spores from the fruiting bodies of the fungus on dead leaves. Infected trees usually die.

Until recently, all cases of the disease were thought to be linked to imports of infected nursery stock used at tree planting sites. But signs have now been found in young and mature trees in the wider environment. This suggests it may also have arrived, and be spreading, by natural means – wind-borne spores, or on clothing, footwear or vehicles from

Europe. Unfortunately this makes the disease very difficult to contain.

Please report any sightings of *Chalara fraxinea* immediately using the numbers below.

In England and Wales

Tel: 08459 33 55 77 (open 8am–6pm every day);

Email: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

In Scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland: 0131 314 6156 (9am–5pm weekdays + out-of-hours messaging system); Email: fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

In Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk

You can also download the Ashtag smartphone App, then submit photos and locations of sightings.

If you find a tree you suspect is infected please:

- * wash your boots, bike or car tyres
- * don't disturb or remove any twigs, fallen leaves or other plant material
- * report it immediately.

GAGB events

In response to suggestions received during the recent election process, the Committee is proposing to organise a number of events during 2013, under its own banner.

The first of these (to be organised) is the popular walk across Morecambe Bay with the Queen's Guide, Cedric Robinson (GC42GWR), arranged for 1pm on Saturday, 20th April 2013.

This is Cedric's 50th year as the official guide, and also his 80th birthday year.

So, let's help him celebrate.



Forum and websites updates

As some of you may have noticed, the GAGB forum has recently changed colour from green to blue. This isn't the only change, however, as the forum software has been upgraded to VBulletin version 3.8.7. Many of our members were experiencing slow access to the forums and regular timeouts when accessing pages. This upgrade means that access to the GAGB forums is now a lot faster and more reliable.

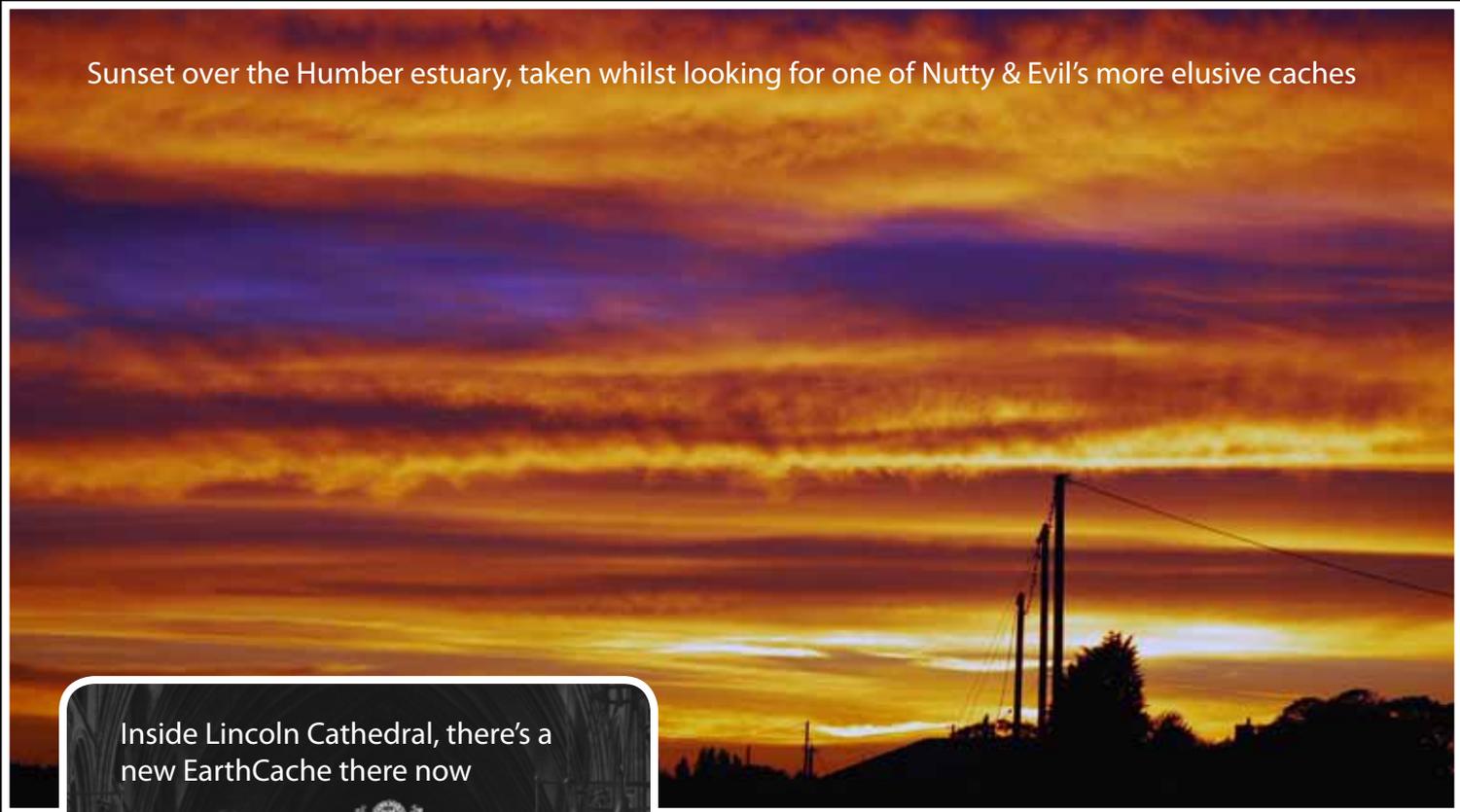
Keep an eye on the GAGB website and the Land Owner Agreements database throughout 2013 as there will be some exciting new changes, including a complete website update and fresh new look.

Portrait of Lincolnshire

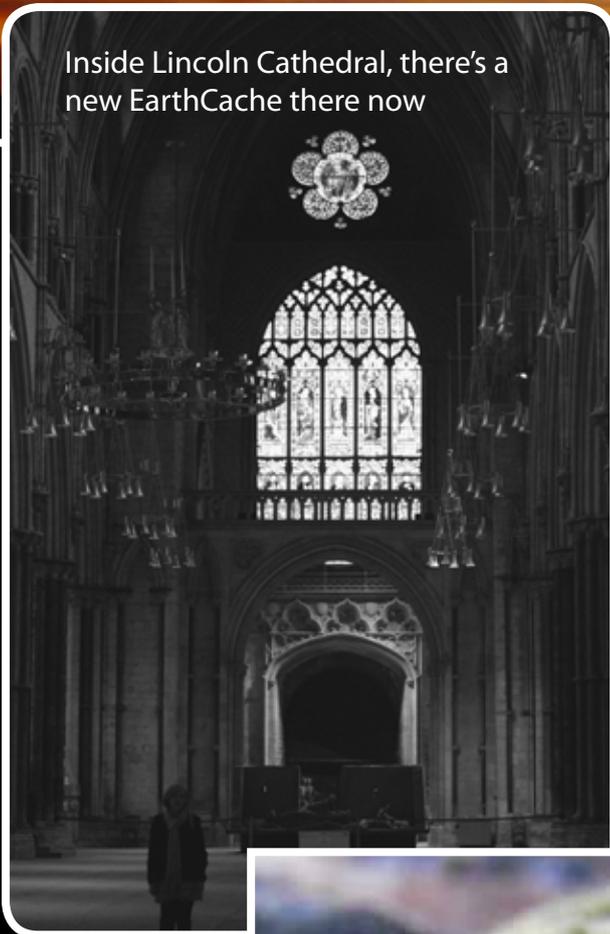
The Brocklesby Hunt
Named after our 14-mile, 60-cache series around
the Brocklesby Estate



Sunset over the Humber estuary, taken whilst looking for one of Nutty & Evil's more elusive caches



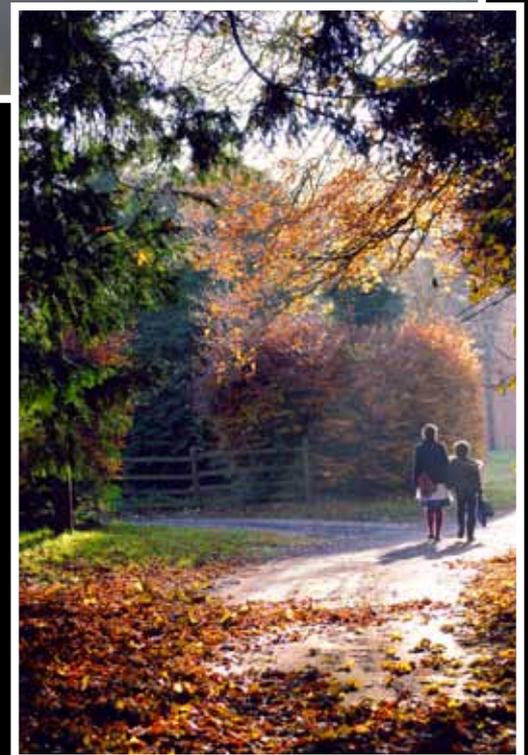
Inside Lincoln Cathedral, there's a new EarthCache there now



Floating on a medieval moat



Who says Lincolnshire is flat? Sure they're less than a centimetre but they are hills!



Sunset in our Lincolnshire village

All images
© Steve
McGeough
(bobo frett)

The great tree escapade

aliandtone explain...



The weather the week of the tree planting had been incredible. From risk of flooding to possible snow, it quickly transitioned to some of the better tree planting weather: cold, crisp and clear.

In the mystical land somewhere near Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire and just before 11 o'clock, everyone began arriving by bus. Although we had a welcoming speech prepared, everyone was so keen to begin planting that events overtook us and we all got stuck in, after instruction and an initial safety briefing from Andy Linguard, Forest Sites Manager. We all selected our spade to dig a square hole and a hammer big enough to bang the post in and we headed off to our tree planting area. The new trees needed a stake to support them and a tree guard to offer protection from grazing animals.

With so many people coming along to help it became clear that we would have every tree planted within a couple of hours – particularly with The Other Stu and son, Benjamin who had set themselves a target of planting 50 trees! It was really nice to see people of all ages taking ownership of 'their' tree or little patch of ground. A CITO with a difference!

Virtually all the trees were grown from seeds collected locally. Oak and hazel trees formed about half of the new woodland and other species such as field maple, silver birch and wild cherry added interest and varied the structure. Some were surprised at how small the trees we planted were. Small, young plants establish more successfully than larger ones! The bases



of these trees were still a little small for cache hiding, but give it a few years. They certainly took much less effort to plant! We hope that this sense of connection will continue and people will become regular visitors to the wood over the coming years and watch the trees grow.

Between us all, the group planted around 200 trees; and we managed to get Marston Vale Trust caught up with this very popular pastime – clearly some kind of craziness!

It was a fantastic



day out. Families planting trees, dogs running about, everyone smiling and drinking tea and coffee and together we created something for the future of the community. Would we do it again? Oh, yes! We and the cachers who came all said that they had a lot of fun and would certainly do it again next year.

GC3YZ1B - Cache In,
Tree In - Escapade
2012





GEOCACHING IN MADEIRA

Terry Marsh
takes a trip
to Madeira

For many years, the Portuguese islands of Madeira and neighbouring Porto Santo were considered the hotbed of ageing society, a place where old folk went for their holidays, so as not to spoil it for the 18-30 mobs in the Med. It's actually debatable whether that was ever true, but it certainly isn't now: Madeira is a fun and vibrant place to be, with great weather throughout the year.

For three years I organised a walking festival there, and that, plus numerous other visits, meant (a) I have a lot of pretty pictures, and (b) I really got to know the island and its people. Only a few years ago, I tackled all the existing geocaches on Madeira, travelling round with my taxi-driving friend to find the drive-bys, and then taking off into the magnificent hills and forests for which Madeira is justly renowned. In no time at all, I had bagged all the caches. But when I look at the geocaching map of the island now, I think 'Oh, dear, time for another visit.' I haven't counted them, but there must be well over 200 now, and rising.

And that's all rather surprising because there are actually very few cachers on Madeira, and you'd wonder where all the new caches came from.

These days EasyJet fly to Madeira, and the range of hotels is quite outstanding and relatively inexpensive - of course, if you want 4- and 5-star accommodation you can have that, too, and what you splash out on a hotel, you'll save on eating, because the range of restaurants that serve superb dishes from a very limited range of produce is incredible....food is cheap, and excellent.

You can get information about visiting Madeira at www.madeira-web.com - and, No, I don't get a commission...I just love the place. Portuguese not up to it?... don't worry, they all speak English...and German...and French.



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Anyone fancy a walk?

...then sample the Haggis Highway by The Highland Haggi Team

The Haggis Highway is a new power trail of over 1,000 new caches going from Braemar in Royal Deeside all the way up to John o'Groats in Northern Scotland. The A9 trunk road is like the spine of the trail with loads of less frequently used roads looping off and on this main route to the North. This could very well be the longest Geocache trail in the UK and possibly Europe. There are seven groups of cachers working as a team called the Highland Haggi, in order that their identities remain anonymous and to add mystery to the project. They are all named after different breeds of haggis, which also helps them identify the different caches on the highway for when maintenance is needed.



The project started by someone posting up on the Scottish Geocachers' Facebook page about the most caches ever put out for an event in Scotland. One breed suddenly saw this as a challenge and wee light bulbs started going off in their heads. They then sounded out cachers at events and contacted others they had never met before to see if they would be willing to be involved for their geographical area. Before we knew it, we were all suddenly issued with hundreds of tubs, log books, bags, etc., and off we all went to our separate areas.

The whole project really highlighted that we all worked great as a team. We had one breed co-ordinating everything, and another responsible for adding the HTML to



all the cache pages. We initially had more breeds, but they pulled out just as the project was starting off, resulting in other breeds taking on more geographical areas. We also had someone who wasn't a Haggi breed but a very important part of the team....our brand new Scottish reviewer Lorgadh. This reviewer's help and advice was appreciated and we were in constant contact with each other throughout the project to resolve any issues.

We can't say it was all plain sailing as we had our ups and downs along the way. We started off enthusiastically but as we started going out and putting caches down, we quickly realised it was a daunting task and took a lot longer to place caches than was originally expected.

At one point, it seemed like we would never get close to the thousand mark, which was our overall goal, and we seemed to hover at just over the 800 mark. We just kept chipping away and before we knew it, another hundred had been put down – only 100 to go. Then it was the call for the final push and caches just appeared out of nowhere as breeds suddenly found new spots as they came back from their well-earned breaks. Then Lorgadh suddenly announced that we had hit the 1,000 milestone. But we didn't stop there and ended up with 1080+. Since then, some generous COs have also transferred their own caches to the Haggis Highway.

It can safely be said that we are all looking forward to taking a break from placing caches and going out and finding caches. The good thing is that we had no idea where the other breeds had placed their actual caches, so there will be plenty of caches to find.

We would love to have seen the faces of cachers who had email notifications set up for new caches in the Haggis areas. The messages on Facebook were hilarious as they got bombarded throughout the day on the 28th September when the caches are published and they were wondering when the emails would end.

There have been 5 caching events to celebrate the launch of the Haggis Highway. One half of the caches could be found on the first weekend in October and the other half could be found on the second weekend. We also added in an extra event in between to accommodate cachers from Canada. Companies have been very kind in donating items for our events which means lots of goodie bags and raffles for those attending. We also had some fun auctions and managed to raise £200 for the Mega 2014. Big thanks to Craghoppers, Mackies Haggis crisps, MacSween Haggis, Geocachecontainers.co.uk, geocachekit.co.uk, Groundspeak, landsharkz and many, many others.

One thing that the project did highlight was the difference in caching attitudes between cachers in Scotland and England. We have a gentleman's agreement in Scotland for events and the CO puts in their listing: "This cache has been placed for the Haggis event. Please do not look for or log this cache before the date of the event". In Scotland, this is adhered to and no one ever goes early to find the cache. Sometimes it results in loads of cachers being out at midnight on the event date, which adds to the fun. However, our caching friends south of the border were up in arms when they heard about this and planned to come up and find the haggis highway caches before the requested dates. They also complained to Groundspeak, resulting in us no longer being allowed to use this request in our listings north of the border.

Since the publication of the Haggis Highway, some others have been extending the highway south of Braemar. How far will the Haggis Highway eventually go?

Comments from some of the Highway Haggi Team members.....

BANFF BREED

Are the Highlands about to become the new Fife for density of caches ? The answer could be yes due to a challenge thrown down on Facebook! The Banffshire breed read the challenge by the Perth Pathfinders of 450+ caches being the largest amount of caches published for an event (the Langspoon event). We said to one another that we could place 100+ caches easily on our own and reckoned The Black Isle Breed could/would as well, and

if we asked a few others we could beat 500.....

This was back in June and we thought a trail stretching from Braemar to John o' Groats would be something, so we asked other cachers who we knew (and some we didn't) if there would be an interest in such a trail and if they would help place caches?

A trip down to Edinburgh to purchase containers (packs of 17 assorted sizes from Ikea seemed the best deal) and returned home to Banff with a car full of containers, which were dished out to the teams, 6 packs @17 containers = 918 which isn't far off

a thousand !

The route was divvied up depending on where we all lived/worked, as were the various other jobs such as event organising ,sponsorships, permissions from Forestry Commission, SNH, SSSI etc..

We knew it would be time consuming, physically making up the cache boxes, studying the OS maps for roads and interesting things, and then out all day placing caches, hours writing them up and in some cases having to return to move a cache slightly as it didn't get past the reviewer first time. All this took a long time and we were tiring of it by the time we went off on holiday, thinking we could have 800 out but doubtful if we would reach the 1,000. On our return though we were over the 800 mark and several of us went out to get the figure over 900, suddenly we were only a few short of 1000, and a last spurt had us over it!!

PEDIGREE BREED

Not a great fan of drive-bys, but I thought it would be good to contribute in a small way, so 23 caches were added in an overlooked part of the North. Hopefully, cachers will enjoy it. No doubt the "It's not about the numbers" fans will be flocking up here to bag them, which is good for the area.

It'll take more than a day or two though.....





CAITHNESS BREED

“Would I like to help place 100 caches for an event?”

That was the question that started the ball rolling or should I say started the big headache, burning of gallons of fuel, frustration, sore feet and lack of spare time to do little or any housework. Work and caching dominated all of my time. It also necessitated ‘roping in’ my hubby and sister as drivers, while I surveyed the land. Plastic bags, log books and lots of little swaps, printer working overtime. Camo tape and Camo bags, magnets, pens and pencils. The list was never ending.

My conversations have consisted of stones, sticks, moss, beaches, forests and roadsides, Forestry Commission, RSPB, SSSIs, and so the list goes on. There was no such thing as driving without looking for a ‘cache place’.

128 placed caches later with 12 of them rejected, and I realise I seriously need to study map reading! I have lived in this area nearly all my life but have now driven many roads I’ve never even been on before. I have seen some wonderful sights and this has made me appreciate the varied splendour of Caithness.

Tonight I have kicked off my boots, logged my final placed cache and am sat with a large glass of wine. The paper work is over, barring this note, and now I shall learn to chill. I will be hard pushed to find an area free to place my own caches in the future.

Now the feeling is of elation and excitement as I await the release of all caches to be found. The meeting of new GC friends and reaping the rewards by watching my cache numbers grow. What a hobby, I love it!

INVERNESS-SHIRE BREED

We had an interesting time placing the Haggis Highway caches over the past few weeks. We have been out in brilliant sunshine, torrential rain, gusting winds and now have seen the first snow of the autumn arrive on Ben Wyvis whilst out placing our latest cache in the Haggis Highway series.

Coming up with suitable places to hide these caches has been a challenge in itself along with giving it an interesting name. When you see some of the names we have given them you will see what we mean! The Last Wolf is near to the spot where the last wolf in Strathglass was killed in 1880, The Power & The Glory is placed between a hydro power station and a church. Crash & Burn is nothing sinister, it’s just near a crash barrier and a small burn. There are other caches we have placed where we have found out so many

fascinating things about the local area, places on our doorstep that we didn't know existed – an island in the river which has such a rich and varied history, a small cemetery in a field where you have to cross a wee bridge to get to it and one of the largest Catholic churches in the Highlands that was so different from the usual churches of its type and time. Some caches have been placed just for the outstanding view or because there has been something like an abundance of blue butterflies dancing about at the time we were there, or where we have sat and watched otters in the firth. There is also a cache near to where we witnessed a large black cat crossing the road on our way home one afternoon. It wasn't a dog and was much bigger than a domestic cat – we have never seen it since but always keep a look out when we drive that stretch of road, maybe another cacher will spot it.

It has been fun being part of the Highland Haggi but it has meant a lot of time studying local maps and checking out information on the Internet as well as using a few gallons of petrol along the way. We were so glad a lot of our route was along the roads less travelled as it meant we could suddenly stop and reverse if we spotted somewhere suitable without the risk of holding up the traffic or having someone run into the back of us! We hope you will enjoy finding these caches as much as we enjoyed placing them and look forward to reading about your experiences in your logs, don't forget to mention if you see a Big Black Cat on your travels!



LORGADH

My involvement with the HH project started with a phone call beginning "Are you sitting down...?" I'd only been reviewing for 2 months and was still on a very steep learning curve so the thought of 1,000+ caches to deal with was somewhat daunting. From a reviewer point of view though, the HH project has been a fast track training course and I've had great fun doing it. The Haggi have several very experienced cache setters and they have been a pleasure to work with. The very few caches with any issues have been sorted out quickly and without complaint, which is the best any reviewer can hope for. Looking at the review queue in the morning to see what they have submitted has made me smile a few times as I scan through the cache names (although some of the more tenuous names have produced groans as well). Now that my input is almost finished, I'm really looking forward to taking off the reviewer hat, putting on the player one, and finding some of the caches in the areas that I now know very well (virtually at least!)

MORAY BREED

We are the Moray Breed, the idea of the Haggis Highway appealed to us and we were initially very keen to be involved, however it took more time than expected to place the caches and get them written up but we kept our sights on the end goal and hopefully other cachers will enjoy exploring the back roads around Moray as much as we have. We've discovered lots of new bridges across the Spey and loads of fords we never knew existed..... we are looking forward to seeking out the other breeds caches in the near future.

BLACK ISLE BREED

What started out as a great idea, turned into a tedious, petrol burner. I travelled along some roads I had never been before and some roads I would love to bring others to in some lesser known parts of Scotland. This project will be great for tourism in these remoter areas. The launch in autumn will be the perfect time of year to view the spectacular autumn colours in these areas. Glad we met the 1,000 caches placed milestone.....but will the Haggis Highway continue further south.....???

MEMORABLE CACHE

The Spar Cave, Isle of Skye (GC347RC)

A 5/5 earthcache. Published in 2011 with only 15 finds. 13 of the finders have 'Favourited' the cache. Why? Because it's on the Isle of Skye, in the middle of nowhere, is one of the best caches you will find AND there isn't even a log to sign...



This EarthCache is my favourite cache we have found to date. It is amazing. No other words can describe it. Well actually, we used LOTS of words to describe it; below is an edited version of Darleygirl's log when we visited (make yourself comfortable)...

We'd already been planning to come for Skye for our holidays but then our pals came up just before us and babbled uncontrollably (we did ply them with champagne in celebration of their elopement so that might have had some effect on their tongues) about the caches of awesomeness they had done while they were honeymooning on Skye. This was one of those caches. They'd got it for their 2,000th milestone...we were well on our way to (well about a 100 away when we started the holiday, but we could soon fix that!) being at our

2,000th milestone while we were on Skye so what better than to follow in their footsteps and go to the EarthCache that they insisted was THE bestest ever!

The best of intentions never seem to work out with us...we just got too impatient and wanted to go see the cave of amazingness already. So, when we got up on a rainy day we thought 'Today's the day... we won't get wet inside a cave' Turns out it was our 1,988th milestone cache...aren't they all milestones anyway?!

Well, it really was slinging it down. We kitted up. Bobo Jnr was head to toe in blue waterproofness, courtesy of the anorak and matching trousers.



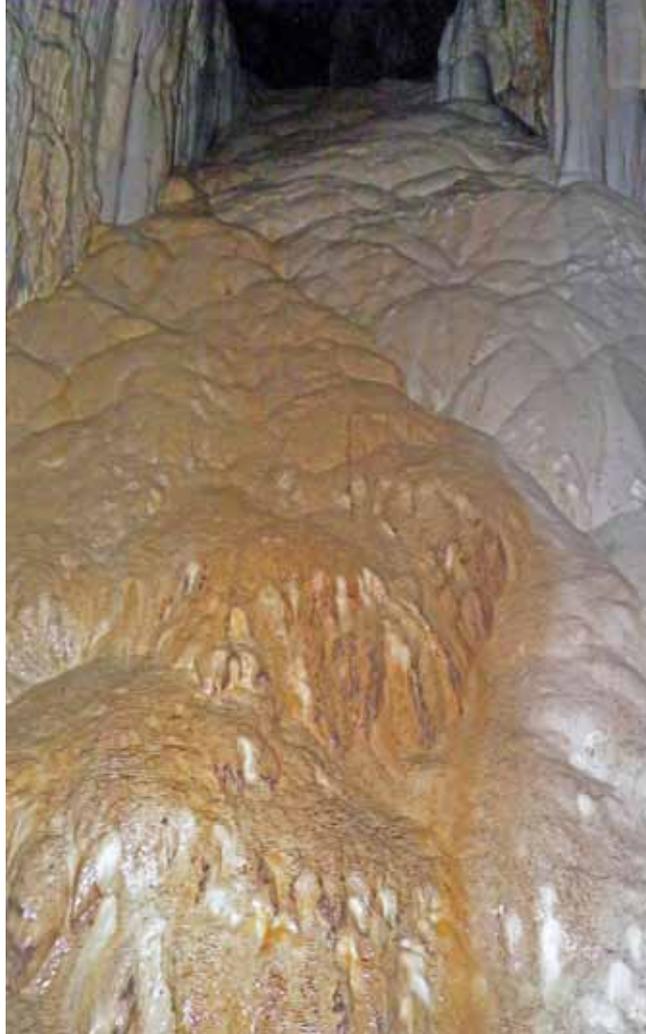
Darleygirl was head to toe in bright purple waterproofness (it seemed like a good idea when she was 12 and was forced to buy full waterproofness, and, no, she's not particularly grown since then, much to her chagrin, and, yes, it does seem like exceptional good value for money... anyway we're getting a little off topic). Darley Jnr was dressed head to toe in red waterproofness (unfortunately for him he had a pair of adult trousers round his skinny wee 8-year-old belly and he pretty much had to walk around the whole time holding them up near his armpits) and Bobo looked

completely ridiculous wearing a sensible black anorak and navy trousers and being followed by three waterproof jelly babies.

Now that we've adequately set the scene and introduced the characters it's time to set off. Darleygirl leads the way, down the slippery, slippery rain sodden path. We're all so excited, like kids waiting to open their Christmas presents. The Jnrs have been strictly told to stick properly to the path, they may share a few strands of DNA with lemmings, because given half an opportunity they would go running off a cliff. There are many 'wows' and 'oh, look at that's' as we get down to

the bit that makes us feel like we've been shrunk to ant size on a normal pebble beach. These 'pebbles' are taking the mick aren't they!? But they were really fun (and slippery) to clamber over.

We rounded the corner to get to the Spar Cave bit and....we'd got there way too early. Typical! The tide hadn't finished going out yet and there wasn't exactly much room to get round. We edged and tiptoed and clung on by our fingernails, and we got most of the way....and then it got a bit more precarious. Darleygirl led the way to try and find a route....she got so far round and then the ledge that she was walking along ran out and she had to lower herself to the water level...only it was a six foot drop down and there was two feet of water below her with a few stepping stones on which to manage to stand and if you know anything about her it's that given half a chance she will make a complete idiot of herself and fall/try to break something and end up rather red faced. The rest of the team was watching....the pressure was on! She dropped over the ledge....and slowly, slowly lowered herself until she was just hanging on by her fingers and her toes were scrabbling about below her trying to find a not too slippery stepping stone on which to trust her weight. All the while she's thinking 'I know it's raining and I'm pretty soggy already, but



I really don't want to go in because if I fall now I will end up sitting in the water and that means it will be up to my neck and I really don't want to be THAT wet'. Purchase with rock was made, Darleygirl sent a little thanks to whoever (or whatever, if it was a robot) made her super grippy hiking boots. Now comes the fun part. Darley Jnr is now stood on the ledge above Darleygirl, and without slipping off her slippery stepping stone she now has to help Darley Jnr get down the 6ft ledge. This involves Darley Jnr nearly kicking Darleygirl in the face (and sending her into the surf) as he lowers his feet over the edge and then

him getting so he's hanging on the ledge and not wanting to let go and Darleygirl having to convince him that she's 'got him' while she's really not actually convinced that she has and that if he does let his death grip on the ledge go that they won't both end up tumbling into the drink and she's also not sure on which slippery stepping stone she is going to deposit him on once she does get him down. In the end, nothing goes wrong. Who'd have thunk it!?!?

The tension was all too much for Bobo though, he opted to take Bobo Jnr via a stepping stone route across the inlet and then along the other side where there was already a bit of flat uncovered by the tide. Darleygirl and Darley Jnr made it to the beach and then sat and watched as Bobo and Bobo Jnr tried to hop from rock to rock without slipping. There were a couple of near misses before they too made it to the beach. Phew! We haven't even got in the cave yet!

Head torches...check. Super bright daylight maker...check. Extra torches....check. Ok, I think we're ready. And our jaws just drop. There's really not any descriptive words descriptive enough. Darley Jnr managed to get very scared of the dark very quickly, which wasn't helped by the fact that he had

his hood fastened so tight around his face that there was only about a 10cm gap through which he could tunnel vision. Darleygirl thought she would distract him with thoughts of magic and said that the floor looked like it was dragon skin and they were walking up the back of a dragon. The whimpering that then started beside her and the complete and utter numbness of her hand informed her that her plan had backfired. Oops.

Bobo led the way with his super bright, and



everywhere he shined it we had to smile and 'Ooh' at. Bobo Jnr decides that as Darley Jnr is scared, he needs to be scared too, so now both the Jnrs are saying it's scary, can we go yet. To which the grownups very unsympathetically say 'NO!' That ain't happening, it's super awesome cool in here and you will just have to get over your fears and deal with it because we're not leaving until we've had a proper chance to explore and have absorbed as much of the awesomeness as possible. It'll do them good in the long run! The story of the princess did prove a little bit distracting once we got down to the mermaids pool (see cache description), one heck of a nursery!

We finally feel like we have absorbed enough of the eeriness and truthfully, the whimpering is starting to grate on the nerves a little. Bobo and Bobo Jnr head back down the slopes. Darley Jnr picks this moment, the moment when he's finally getting to leave and re-emerge into the daylight, to have a bit of a panic attack about the dark whilst holding Darleygirl's hand and nearly sends his mummy flying head first down the biggest slope. Not good!

Proper scared her. So she laid into him a wee bit, which is probably the first thing the poor American family heard as they entered the cave. Argh! There really is a dragon in there!

Bobo got chatting to them, maybe just to reassure them that they weren't about to be ambushed by an evil cave dwelling beast, but it turns out they were just there to explore and didn't really know much about the cave and didn't have any torches with them either. Well, we couldn't have them go away without having seen where we had just gotten to, so we stripped off our head torches and handed them over, gave them our super shiny daylight maker, gave them a briefing and sent them on their merry way. We went and waited out near the beach. Bobo took a seat on the wall and it collapsed under him, he was obviously just trying to finish the work of the battleship that took target practice at it (see cache description). So the stone that had quite happily sat as part of the wall for hundreds of years, survived the battleship, seen countless explorers pass it by, is now sitting a little wonky and definitely not attached anymore. We did, albeit halfheartedly (it was massive!) try to put it back. It was fate! Fate we say!

20 minutes later the American family emerge back into the daylight and are super thankful that they got a proper chance to explore. We part ways....the rain has stopped and the GPS has more boxes to smilify. The tide has now properly gone out and we can just walk back to the 'pebbles', no drama, nothing! Amazing cache, thanks for bringing us here. We could go on even longer but we are worried that we won't be able to post enough logs and notes to cover it all! We love the fact that we get to discover places like this just because we like finding bits of plastic in the woods. This really is the best hobby. Ever.

TFTCave (see what I did there?!)

P.S. you can go back to your lives now....and you might want to remove all the dust from sitting and not moving and reading our babblings for so long....

By Darleygirl (1/4 of Bobo Frett)

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