

The magazine of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain

SEEKER



22
September
2014

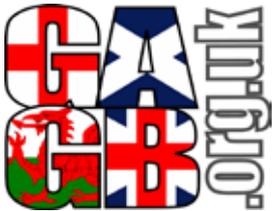


SEEKER

ISSUE 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

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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 national organisation that represented geocaching, and serve as a UK point of contact for geocachers, landowners, the media and others with an interest in geocaching.

Find us on www.gagb.org.uk

Contributions to Seeker are welcome; please contact the editor (editor@gagb.org.uk), but the Association is unable, at the present time, to pay for submissions. Copyright in all such contributions will revert to the author on publication of the subsequent issue; pictures are published on a single use, non-exclusive UK editorial rights basis under which copyright remains with the photographer.



MEET THE 2014 COMMITTEE



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(JackieC)



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(*geocass*)



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Treasurer



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(countrymatters)
Seeker, Editor



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(Mollyjak)



Adam Redshaw
(ukcachemag)



Sharon Reid (Sharant)



Jen Harley
(Maple Leaf) Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It was great to see so many people at the GAGB stand at the Ayrshire & Arran Mega last month. I'd like to welcome the new members that have joined since then.

In a couple of week's time, it is the GAGB Annual weekend that is concentrating on the conservation side of CITO. There are a few events spread around the country so I hope there is one that you can get to.

Before long it will also be time for the start of the GAGB elections again. It is important that if you want to participate in the elections that you are a current member of the GAGB website/forums by the cut off date (1st October) so please check your logins are active and email addresses correct – see page 4 for details.

In this issue we have a feature by our editor on Cedric Robinson MBE, the Queen's Guide to the Morecambe Bay Sands, who, each year, leads a gathering of geocachers across the bay. Joy Davies, from the Isle of Skye, one of our newer members, writes of her time as a novice geocacher, and of her recent visit to the remote islands of St Kilda.

We have a report of the first ever GIGA event, which was held in Germany, and of a rather unique Flashmob event, which took place under the name of a Flashmob – see page 16 for an explanation.

Jen

GAGB Elections

At the end of November each year, the current executive committee retire and a new committee is elected. The existing committee members (see inside cover) can be nominated again, but this is also an opportunity for new blood to join the committee.

If you wish to participate in the GAGB elections this year (to stand, nominate or vote) you need to be a member of GAGB (not just the GAGB Facebook group) by 1st October 2014.

Please check your login to the GAGB forums before that date and if you are unable to login or can't remember your password then please email webmaster@gagb.org.uk.

If you are not already a member you can register at <http://gagb.org.uk/forums/register.php>.

Information about the elections will be posted in the GAGB forums and GAGB Facebook group during October and November. Members will also be sent emails to their registered email address with instructions on how to vote – so please ensure we have your current address (UserCP menu in the forums).

The committee consists of up to 8 GAGB members plus the Chairman, and there are a number of roles that need to be filled:

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Webmaster

Editor of Seeker magazine

GLAD management

Answering and dealing with telephone and email enquiries (geocachers, public, media)

You will also need to be available to

- attend online committee meetings
- participate in committee and general forum/Facebook discussions
- help at GAGB stands – e.g. Mega events

Proposed dates for the elections

Cut off date for being GAGB member and able to stand, nominate or vote: Wednesday, 1st October 2014

Nominations for Chairman open: Saturday 18th October 2014

Close of nominations for Chairman: Friday 24th Oct 2014

Election of Chairman: Saturday 1st November 2014 – Thursday 6th November 2014

Nominations for Committee open: Saturday 8th November 2014

Close of nominations for Committee: Friday 14th November 2014

Election of Committee: Saturday 22nd November 2014 – Friday 28th November 2014

Geocoins for sale

Check out this Facebook group

<http://on.fb.me/1nKKPnl>



GAGB Annual weekend 13th-14th September 2014

Following last year's successful GAGB10 CITO weekend we decided that the GAGB should have an annual CITO weekend – which this year will be on the second weekend of September.

We are encouraging geocachers to work on the conservational side of CITO – rather than just litter removal. There are plenty of places that could do with volunteers to help with the removal of invasive species, clearing shrubs or even building new woodland trails.

All we ask is that you prefix the name of your CITO event page with GAGB2014: and put the GAGB logo on your event page.

If you haven't held a CITO event before and want some advice, then please get in touch with one of us: gagbcommittee@gagb.org.uk.

Want to print your own log books?

Download logs you can print out for yourself from the GAGB website, here.

Doing it NMOD YEDNN

Here is a link to an interesting article on geocaching in Australia: <http://ab.co/1t8Buvu>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

★Halloween Mega: 25 October 2014

Fineshade Wood, near Corby (GC4YCAV)

★Kent Mega: 2 May 2015

Kent Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, Kent (GC53QJ1)



visit us | www.mega2015.org.uk
mail us | committee@mega2015.org.uk
poke us | www.mega2015.org.uk/fb
tweet us | @GeoUKMega2015



Of all the Queen's men

For the past few years, I have organised a walk across Morecambe Bay with the Queen's Guide to the Sands, Cedric Robinson MBE, making the crossing an exclusive geocaching event with around 100 geocachers turning up each year. Cedric and his family are good friends of mine, and so I know that one of the touching moments he has experienced in recent years was when the Cartmel MEGA organising committee presented him with an inscribed T-shirt, effectively making him an honorary geocacher.

A while ago, I was asked to write a feature on Cedric for the *Lancashire and Lake District Life* magazine, which I'm taking the liberty of reproducing here, to give everyone an insight into a remarkable man.

**Terry Marsh
introduces
Cedric
Robinson
MBE**

At the start of his novel-based-on-fact, *The Maid of Buttermere*, Melvyn Bragg writes of the expanse of Morecambe Bay viewed from a point near Hest Bank from where travellers, in the days before a convenient road to Cartmel and into the Furness peninsula, would strike out across the Bay on the 'Over-sands Route'. Even on a good day, it was a perilous venture, and many died in the crossing. Hundreds lie buried in the grounds of Cartmel Priory and elsewhere; some, probably many more, were simply never found.

There is a good degree of probability that this 'Over-sands' route has been in use for more than 5,000 years, indeed from Neolithic times. In the Middle Ages, the main use of the route was probably monastic, providing access to the religious houses of Furness. But the bay crossing continued to be used after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and served a more secular purpose for almost 500 years thereafter. Before 1800, the low-tide routes across Morecambe Bay were of major importance. Even after the railways arrived in the mid-nineteenth century, the way across the bay was used by cattle drovers, packhorse trains and poor people.

Today, the walk across Morecambe Bay in the company of the guide has evolved into a recreational pursuit...and what a joy that has turned out to be!

Fifty years ago, at the start of October 1963, a young earnest-faced man, Cedric Robinson by name, then living in Ravenstown, took up the ancient office of Queen's Guide to the Kent Sands of Morecambe Bay. Two years earlier he had married Olive



Nickson at St John's church in Flookburgh, and were blessed with a daughter, Jean, in January 1963; it was time, he tells me, to face up to earning a wage. Not that becoming the Queen's Guide helped overmuch, not at a salary of £15 per annum, plus the tied Guides Cottage on Cart Lane, Grange, a place where Oliver Cromwell is said to have spent a night.

Quite when guides were first appointed is now lost in time, but there are documented bay crossings from Roman times, none of which could have been contemplated without the knowledge that such a traverse was possible, most probably using the skills of local fishermen. Cedric Robinson is the latest in a long line of guides, the first of whom, a man named Edmondson, appears in 1501 establishing a pedigree that Cedric Robinson feels privileged to share. Cedric's immediate predecessor was William Burrow, who held office from 1950. When he decided to retire, Cedric was encouraged to apply for the job by the late Gren Harrison, the North West Sea Fisheries Officer; in the event, there was only one other candidate for the job.

Cedric, supported by his lovely wife, Olive, whom he met in 1960, is a remarkable man; someone everyone would want as a friend. He is unfailingly amiable and polite, when at times he would be more than justified in being quite the opposite. And, in spite of his advancing years (he reached his 81st birthday earlier this year), still rattles across the sands at a pace that many younger folk have difficulty keeping up with. What makes him especially charming, for those few who get to know him, is an innocence of all things and places beyond his domain. For someone who has been honoured by, and met, the Queen, this is quite remarkable. Even going to Keswick is like going to a foreign country for Cedric and Olive; they have been, of course, and do actually travel widely, but they are very home-centric, and Cedric has lived most of his life within a stone's throw of the Bay.

He was born in Flookburgh, in the same house where his father (who lived to be more than 100) was born. Cedric went to the village school, but it was not a place he liked, and he would escape whenever he could, run home and hide under the table, which is where the teacher invariably found him.

On a recent bay walk, he talked about having resumed his love of playing the trombone, which harked back to a time when he did so in the Flookburgh Silver Band. His musicality was evident from an early age, and he sang in the church choir for seven years. But he always had a yearning for the sands, which, to him, was a vastly different world. Like many of his generation, he left school at 14, and quickly had to become accustomed to working a horse and cart on his own, and to go selling shrimps in Carnforth with his sister, and working with his father.

This early introduction to life on the sands has been the foundation on which he has developed his walks across the bay, the first of which he led in April 1964, a group of paratroopers on military exercise. It was to be a month later before the second walk, but then, gradually, Cedric's weekends filled with a growing number of organised walks, and a vastly increasing number of participants, occasionally reaching more than 1,000 at a time. Today, the number of folk who have faithfully followed Cedric across the bay, including royalty and many celebrities, runs into tens of thousands; he has no idea how many.

Such has been Cedric's commitment to Morecambe Bay and those who wanted to walk across it, that he has received numerous awards and countless thousands of letters of thanks and appreciation, including an MBE, which he received in 1999.

Life at Guides Farm goes on; if Cedric is not out in the bay, fishing or preparing a route for a walk, he's somewhere on his smallholding, tending to his animals, feeding, gathering eggs, mucking out...and all with a tireless energy that gives you the impression this particular 'Sand Pilot' is solar powered. But perhaps the best assessment of the duties Cedric performs comes from an excellent book by Alastair Bruce – *Keepers of the Kingdom: The Ancient Offices of Britain* – which concludes 'Of all the Queen's men, the Queen's Guide across the shifting sands of Morecambe Bay is perhaps the most useful service of them all.'

[Stand out in the vast expanse of the bay with Cedric on any day, and you soon get a keen sense of how very pertinent that sentiment really is.](#)



OVER THE SEA from Skye



A perfect day (or two) geocaching

Joy Davies tells the story of her caching visit to St Kilda

I am still relatively new to geocaching – less than a year and I have yet to reach the 200 Finds milestone. There aren't a huge number of caches anywhere near my home on the Isle of Skye, hence the title 'Over the sea from Skye'. My two perfect days – both in the last couple of months – involved going over the sea from Skye.

A total of ten caches over two days would not seem like perfect days for many of you, but the overall experience was perfect for me on both occasions in quite different ways.

Day one

Just a few weeks ago, the weather forecast looked promising so I decided to head for Glenelg on the mainland. A quick search on geocaching.com showed a nice series of caches by Ah around Glenelg, culminating in a puzzle cache. Puzzles of any kind are not normally "my thing" but after studying the cache description carefully, I had a suspicion of how this one would pan out.

I set off from home bright and early, on a lovely sunny day and drove about two hours to Kylerhea. The last part of the drive was along narrow, windy, hilly, single track roads with great views – much more fun than boring motorway driving. At Kylerhea I took the ferry over to Glenelg. This is the closest crossing point to the mainland. Now community owned, the ferry is the last sea going, manually operated turntable ferry in the world. An experience in itself and one I would recommend (www.skyeferry.co.uk).

Once on the mainland I turned on my GPSr and set off to search for my first cache of the day: Glenelg: Lest we forget (GC1K1VV), an elaborate memorial for such a small community, honouring those who lost their lives in WW1 and 2. A quick find and I jotted down the first (for me) part of the puzzle solution.

Onwards now to the brochs – Dun Troddan and Dun Telve (GC1K1VP and GC1K1VM). For those of you who have never heard of brochs – they are quite amazing. Built around 2,000 years ago their shape is reminiscent of modern day cooling towers. Unique to Northern Scotland, they were perhaps a bit like later castles – lived in but also served a defensive purpose and possibly built as much to impress as to be defensive.

You think cavity walls were a modern invention? Not so – the brochs consisted of



concentric circles of stone, i.e. cavity walls, the space between the walls being accessible by ladder and possibly used for storage.

The caches were easy to find – I spent a while admiring the prehistoric architecture then moved onto to a gem of a café just beyond the second broch. Hidden from the road, the sign simply said “Wagon Café”. Beyond the entrance was a tiny field with a well maintained “gypsy” caravan, a yurt and a log cabin with turf roof – a small herb allotment completed the idyllic picture.

As the weather was gloriously sunny I opted to sit at the bench outside where I enjoyed freshly ground coffee and a wonderful homemade cake covered in strawberries and elderflowers. My packed lunch and flask lost its appeal. While I enjoyed my snack, I jotted down the digits obtained from the broch caches and became certain that my earlier thoughts about the solution were correct – but still two more caches to find before I could attempt to solve the puzzle.

Back to Glenelg village, I now needed to find Bernara Barracks (GC1K1VG) – another historical site. Erected in 1722, Bernera Barracks were built in order to maintain a military presence in the West Highlands after the first Jacobite Uprising of 1715.

Sadly, the barracks are believed to have been built from stone taken from the brochs.

Funny how some things never change – by the laws of that time and of today – the eldest male child should have inherited the crown – Bonnie Prince Charlie would have been king of Scotland and England. Politics and religion interfered (he was Catholic, and that didn’t suit). Three hundred years later and many Scots haven’t forgiven and hope to right the wrong and win back control of their country with the referendum in September. (Fortunately for the English, they aren’t demanding to take over England – not just yet anyway.)

Another quick find – shame that the barracks are not well maintained and can be viewed only from afar. Onwards now to the last of the traditional caches in the series at Mam Ratagan (GC1K1VT). A few miles drive, of my favourite sort – great scenery, mountain roads, not much traffic, I was soon at the viewing point. The day had been so warm and sunny that haze spoiled the views up here; but I wasn’t here for the views, I’d seen them before. No sooner had I arrived than all the geomuggles drove off. Great – I could rummage around the trees without arousing suspicion. Another quick find and another digit to add to my co-ordinates for the bonus cache.

I sat in the sunshine playing with the numbers I had and those missing. (Unless you have a very retentive brain I would recommend paper and pencil on this route to work out the final co-ordinates)

I keyed the “solution” into my GPSr and drove off again. I could have chosen a better place to park if I had had a navigator with me, but reading GPSr, and driving on narrow mountainous roads alone do not lead to good navigation. I parked a few hundred yards from GZ. Lovely day, dry and sunny so after parking up, although I had my walking boots and a pair of wellies in the car, I opted to continue in my sandals. Big mistake. Those few hundred yards were wet and boggy. Found the cache – and it was one of those moments when you wish



you had someone to share it with – I laughed out loud when I found the container. Signed the log happily but with wet feet started my drive home.

I had downloaded a couple of extra caches that I wasn't sure I would find time to do, but as it turned out I had plenty of time. Drove back towards the ferry via the beach and there I picked up another cache (GC3NJ17– Here's to you Mrs Robinson) I was just leaving the GZ when I spotted others walking purposefully towards the same area with GPSr in hand: first time I have met other geocachers near a

cache – Tiltbb, and Lauraloll had just completed a charity walk in the area and wanted to log a cache or two before they set off for home. My day was getting better and better – Perfect day because weather was great anyway, I was feeling very smug having solved my first puzzle cache, I could now share my pleasure with other geocachers who were taking a trackable to the cache – and they happily handed it over. To top it all one of them had a trackable sticker on her fleece and on her car so the day was full of firsts: First puzzle cache for me, first trackable vehicle, first person trackable and first time I coincided with other geocachers near a cache.

As I drove down to the wee ferry in the sunshine I thought the day couldn't have been better. Back on Skye I did a minor detour to pick up Countrymatter's GC3E0F4, Isle of Skye: Kylerhea and went home happy to have done 8 caches in the day – the most I have ever achieved. Yes, that's right, just EIGHT caches, but at the time I thought it was my perfect geocaching day. It was a great day but better was yet to come.



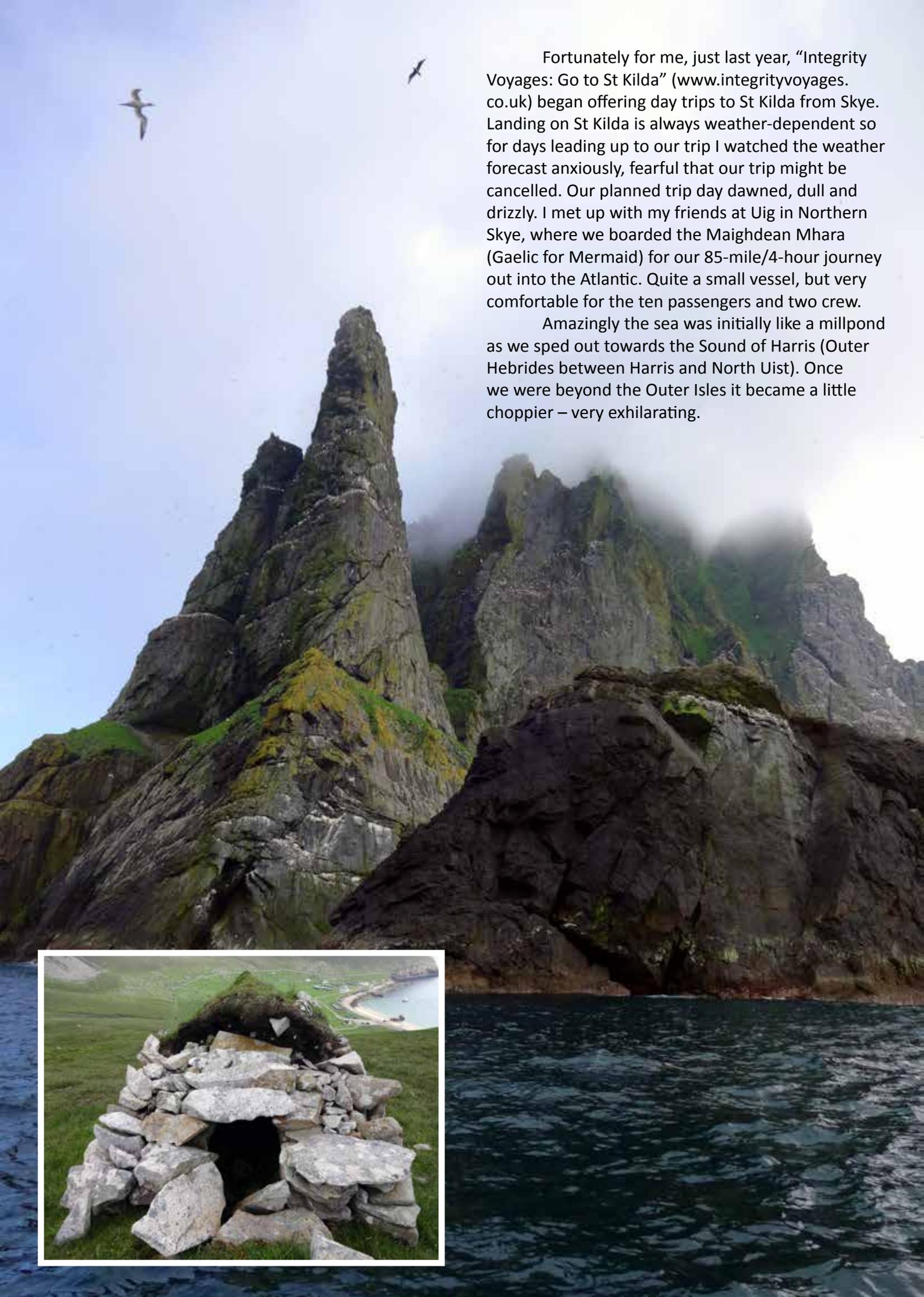
Day two

Two weeks later, I left the island again, this time heading for the remotest traditional caches in Britain: on the Isle of Hirta, (better known as St Kilda), over 100 miles from mainland Britain.

St Kilda is a World Heritage Site both for its natural environment and for its cultural status. The last permanent inhabitants were evacuated, at their request, in 1930. Today the inhabitants are all transitory, MoD employees at the radar tracking site and National Trust/ Scottish National Heritage employees and volunteers on working parties. The MoD buildings are a bit of a blot on the ancient landscape but their presence facilitates the work of the conservation bodies by providing power, water supply, logistics transport and medical aid. Out in the Atlantic, 50 miles west of the Outer Hebrides and 110 miles from the nearest point of mainland Britain, the terrain description for both caches represents more the difficulty of getting to the island than the terrain on the island itself.

Fortunately for me, just last year, “Integrity Voyages: Go to St Kilda” (www.integrityvoyages.co.uk) began offering day trips to St Kilda from Skye. Landing on St Kilda is always weather-dependent so for days leading up to our trip I watched the weather forecast anxiously, fearful that our trip might be cancelled. Our planned trip day dawned, dull and drizzly. I met up with my friends at Uig in Northern Skye, where we boarded the Maighdean Mhara (Gaelic for Mermaid) for our 85-mile/4-hour journey out into the Atlantic. Quite a small vessel, but very comfortable for the ten passengers and two crew.

Amazingly the sea was initially like a millpond as we sped out towards the Sound of Harris (Outer Hebrides between Harris and North Uist). Once we were beyond the Outer Isles it became a little choppier – very exhilarating.



Eventually the archipelago of St Kilda came into view – topped by an atmospheric layer of cloud and mist. As we drew nearer to land we were greeted by fulmars, gannets, storm petrels, Manx shearwater, puffins and the sun was shining brightly!

On the way out we had all worn waterproofs – to protect us from the spray and the wind-chill, but once on land it was gloriously warm and we needed to remove layers, but I found the first cache before my companions (non-geocachers) had got out of their waterproofs! Getting there took four hours, finding the first cache less than five minutes. Too easy? Maybe but I would have been devastated to have to log a DNF after going so far.

GC10NMP The Islands at the Edge of the World (St Kilda) d/t 1.5/5 was placed by SimplyPaul in June 2007 and since then just 61 people (including me) have logged the cache. My companions opted to take a guided walk, but I was determined to find the second cache (GC304NF Village Bay View (St Kilda)) before I explored further. My partner agreed to accompany me, but after crossing the “village” and looking up at the mist surrounding the area where I expected the cache to be, he changed his mind. He couldn’t see the point in going up into the mist for a geocache and opted to wait for me in the sun and eat his packed lunch. So once again, I geocached alone. As I walked higher the peace and solitude was broken by the cries of some very angry birds – the infamous skua. Fortunately I didn’t have to go too near their nesting site as they have been known to attack people (read the logs).

The co-ordinates were absolutely spot on for this cache so this was another easy find. Having read the logs before I set off I knew that the log book was sodden so I had taken a spare one along. This cache was placed by Gregsy68 in 2011 and I was the 22nd person to find it.



As I had walked up to the cache the mist had dissipated a bit so I was rewarded with an amazing view of the bay – hence the cache name. Feeling very pleased with myself, I looked longingly at the hills I would have liked to climb, but our time on the island was limited so I raced down the hill – directly rather than following the zigzags of the MoD track, and joined my partner to explore the village.

Time flew by and soon it was time to rejoin our boat for tea and cake before cruising around the incredible sea stacks and other islands of the archipelago. This last part of our visit taught me the true meaning of AWESOME. I would run out of superlatives if I tried to describe the scenery and the hundreds of thousands of birds, and perhaps SEEKER readers would be less interested as there are no geocaches.

This is a day that will stay in my memory forever, everything about the trip was absolutely perfect. I hope sometime to go back to St Kilda, preferably for a longer stay – pity there aren’t any more caches to find – a few nice challenging ones. Finding places worthy of caches would be easy, getting permission might be a little more difficult, but most difficult of all would be maintaining them! (Wonder if I could lure the GotoStKilda skipper into maintaining one or two?)

I gather Gregsy68 and SimplyPaul both had to make special arrangements for maintaining theirs as neither CO is likely to visit often. Thanks to you both for placing caches in this amazing place.

So my two perfect days – a total of just ten caches but incredible experiences. Quality beats quantity every time.

PRODUCT REVIEW

Aquapac

Although our GPS devices are [allegedly] waterproof, is it worth taking the risk? Nor does this question apply only to GPSrs. Think mobile phone, iPad, tablets, Kindle, camera, camcorders...in fact, anything electronic and digital that we carry around with us.

Accidentally, drop your GPS into a lake while you're trying to reach a cache attached to an overhanging branch, and there's probably not much point going after it. Oooops, may not be the word that springs to mind.

But with the help of a little ingenuity, Aquapac, a London-based company founded in 1983, have come up with a solution...and one that works. Responding to three windsurfers who wondered if they could find a way to listen to their Sony Walkmans while on, and in, the water, Aquapac came up with a solution with today has won them three

Queen's Awards, the highest accolade for Business Success.

In short, they make waterproof cases to suit all devices, probably including some that haven't been invented yet...stormproof phone cases, iPad cases...and even something called a Whanganui, map cases, camera pouches, as well as a whole range of drybags and stuff bags.

Aquapac International Limited
7 Bessemer Park
250 Milkwood Road
London
SE24 0HG

Telephone: 020 7738 4466
<http://store.aquapac.net>



In at the beginning...

Cass Flowers
(*geocass*) reports on
the first GIGA event.

On 16th August 2014 the first Giga event (GC4K089) was held in Munich, Germany. A Giga is an event with 5,000+ attendees! We headed to the event with caching friends from Essex Yorkie63, MummaD, Foxscout, Doggywalker, Decker1257, Fay R+R, The Box Teddies, BEASTMARSTA and Kris&Co in a convoy of three cars so that we could also drive around Europe whilst we were there and attempt a "10 countries in a day" challenge!

We headed to the Olympic stadium in Munich where the Giga was being held in the morning. It was a fair walk from the car park to the event, but you could spot all of the cachers with their high-tech necklaces so we knew we were going in the right direction! After getting our entry bracelet we were free to enter the stadium and join in with all of the fun. There were plenty of geocaching stalls spread out around the stadium and all looked to be doing a roaring trade. There were coin manufacturers, Geocaching suppliers, Garmin, climbing equipment stalls, Geocaching sock stalls, Lackeys and reviewers, and plenty of games to keep everyone busy including cow milking, beer mat throwing and beer glass holding. Along

with this, 30 lab caches were placed in the area with 10 being in the Olympic Park, which took cachers on a tour around some very interesting places. The logbook was a very interesting idea too where we all signed benches with different coloured pens.

Unfortunately there were a few heavy rain showers throughout the event which had cachers all running for shelter under the stall marquees and umbrellas, however, as it was mainly an outdoor event there weren't many places to hide! Overall, a very well organised event with lots to see and do. It was reported that there were 8,311 attendees at the Munich Giga event so a big congratulations to all of the organisers for making it such a success!





Police join global craze and hide treasure in Sandwell

It's the latest outdoor craze across the globe and now neighbourhood police officers in Sandwell have taken to geocaching in a bid to spread useful crime prevention messages to their community.

Described as a world-wide treasure hunt, game players use GPS-enabled devices, usually mobile phones, to find containers that are hidden in public areas by other geocachers.

PC Ben Dolan, from the Soho and Victoria policing team, came up with the idea of geocaching at work after seeing one of his friends getting involved in the hobby. Together with his colleague PC David Harnett, he has placed caches in two Sandwell locations that have already attracted more than a dozen visitors.

He said: "It's a fun and innovative way of interacting with our communities. The geocaches have been found a number of times over the last few weeks and we have received some really positive feedback.

"We place a log book for people to sign, crime prevention advice and small trinkets for people to take and use, like UV pens to mark your property with, so that if it's stolen and found the property can be returned to its owner."

The officers' first geocache was a plastic box wrapped in brown tape which they hid in some bushes at Victoria Park in Cape Hill. It's already been found six times, with one person commenting on how pleased they were to see the police taking an interest in the pastime.

PCs Dolan and Harnett have been careful to choose locations that are safe and suitable for children and families to visit when hiding geocache across their neighbourhood area. And they're encouraging people to get out and about hunting for the small tubs over the school summer holidays.

PC Dolan added: "I want our geocaching to be fun, educational and useful and we're looking to hide more containers soon – so there's no better time to get involved!"

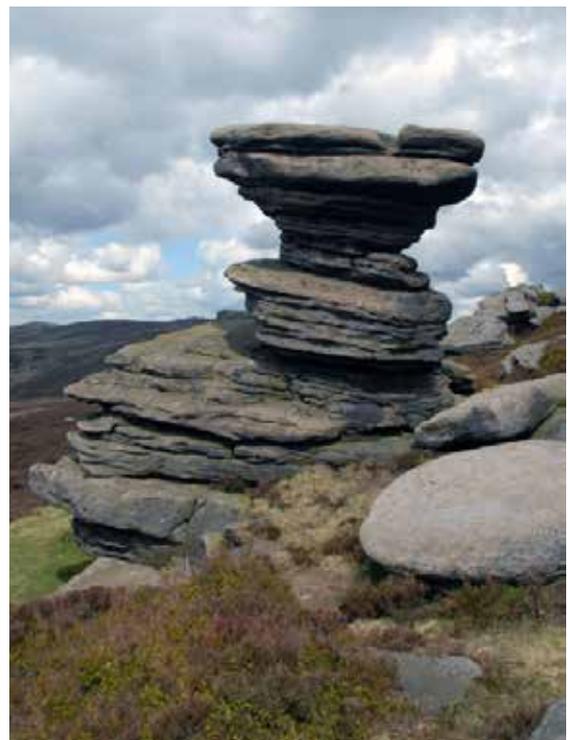
To find out more, visit the Soho and Victoria Team on Twitter @sohovicpolice.



GAGB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Each year, the GAGB intends to produce a new geocoin depicting a location of significance or distinction within one of Britain's National Parks.

Members of GAGB are invited to submit pictures to be judged for the following year's geocoin design. An entry form and the rules can be found at www.gagb.org.uk/photocomp.php



Closing date: 31st October 2014

GC56X7A Blackmoustache's

SPLASHMOB!



Greg Smith (meltdiceburg) reports

So what's a Splashmob?

Well, it's kind of the same as your regular Flashmob, only it involves meeting in the middle of a lake and splashing... Why? Well, last year I finally got around to buying an inflatable boat to attempt some of the island caches that have been out of reach for so long. And it's been so much fun. So we decided late last year that this summer we'd host a water-based event, and after considering the options settled on a random meeting of boats in a lake.

We had already decided the event would take place in the Lake District as the backdrop is amazing. In the end we settled for Lake Coniston, with the meeting co-ordinates half way between the well known Peel Island, and the shore. Weather permitting, this opened the event up to swimmers and boaters and gave the option of finding an island cache and playing 'Swallows and Amazons'.

Perhaps you're thinking that a Flashmob on a lake would be ineffective as confused members of the public would be absent. Far from it. On a warm summer's day we found plenty of people in the area, on the shore and on the water and they obviously wondered what was going on as more and more boats started arriving near the island.

A few got the pleasure of finding out, and for some of the geocachers that arrived without a boat, they managed to attend the event by hitching a lift to the given co-ordinates with some intrigued muggles. The community spirit was strong, with other attendees arriving without a boat and being ferried to the island by one boat and getting a ride back on another.

Arriving at the ground zero on the day was something quite special. A large gathering of boats, bobbing in the water, paddling back and forth trying to agree on exactly where ground zero should be. The atmosphere was buzzing with anticipation as everyone waited for the signal and then suddenly it was time – all paddles were waved in the air. But that was only the beginning, as then, the splashing could commence!

Many people had managed to remain dry up until that point, but most logs record that wetness was the final result. Children were floating around with water pistols but even without them, there was an ample amount of lake water available and much of it was flying about as a mini sea battle took place. Before you knew it, the time was up and the boats quickly dispersed in true Flashmob character – within minutes, the gathering was ended.

Other points of interest? One geocacher definitely went overboard and got wet before the official start time. One powered boat got stuck on a rock later and was rescued by a geocacher. At least one inflatable boat sank before the appointed time...and the boat selling the ice creams timed it really badly, arriving just after everyone had gone.

A surprising number of people arrived wondering if they would be able to attend simply by swimming to ground zero and the result was a large number of people bobbing about in the lake. Meanwhile, the turnout of boats was really positive, and in total more than sixty attended logs have been received so far which is really positive, especially when you consider the large number of those who bought their first boat to attend this event and now plan to sail onwards to many more caches.



Everyone seemed to have a huge amount of fun which is exactly what was intended – something a bit different and memorable.

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