

# SEEKER



**The Quarterly Magazine of the GAGB**  
***ISSUE: 51*** ***Autumn 2023***

# A WARM WELCOME

*by Chris Carpenter (Saza36), GAGB Chair*

I hope this version of Seeker finds you well. Autumn is here and the nights are drawing in with colder and wetter weather. Not all bad though as this presents more opportunity for night caching and improves accessibility to some caches.



This is the final edition of Seeker from the current committee. This edition features the committee annual reports, a full write-up on the winners of our Geocaching Awards that were presented at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and a report on caching in Exmoor. In addition, there is an interview with a Lackey, a couple of puzzles and information on our forthcoming elections.

The election for next year's committee is upon us, with nominations opening at 00:00 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Please consider standing for election, or simply nominate someone who you think would do a good job. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and good luck to all the candidates!

## The GAGB Committee...



(L-R) Joanne Mitchell (Social Media Officer), Arthur Griffiths (Secretary), Chris Carpenter (Chair), Paul Bevan (Shop Manager), Lewis Grant (Publicity Officer), Chris Warren (GLAD Manager), Caz Turver (Treasurer)  
[Absent: Niki Bell (Editor)]

Cover: "Fingal's Cave" ([GC16BTQ](#)) by Lewis Grant

# SEEKER NEEDS YOU!

We love receiving our readers articles and every one is considered for publication. All submissions should be submitted to [editor@gagb.org.uk](mailto:editor@gagb.org.uk) and any articles used will receive a 10% discount to use in the GAGB shop!



## UPCOMING ISSUES

**Issue 52 – Out Feb 24** (Content Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 24)  
**Issue 53 – Out May 24** (Content Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 24)

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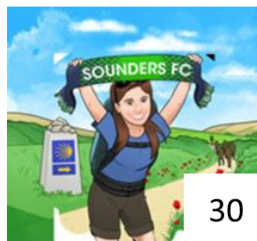
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# DISCOVER FINGAL'S CAVE...

*by Lewis Grant (NevilleDog\_n\_Humans), Publicity Officer*

As part of a summer holiday to Scotland, we visited the Isle of Mull. Whilst here, we decided to book an early morning boat trip to see The Treshnish Isles and the Isle of Staffa.

After an early start, we arrived at the Ulva Ferry dock for 7:30am to board the "Island Lass", built in 1967 of mahogany and oak. We soon set sail towards our first stop, The Treshnish Isles. On route we already saw several different seabirds and the scenery of the Isle of Mull and Ulva. After a couple of hours sailing, we started to see The Treshnish Isles in the distance.

The Treshnish Isles consist of eight uninhabited principal islands in the Southern Hebrides. These Isles have a rich history dating back to the early Viking period and huge colonies of seabirds. The specific island which we came to visit was Lunga, which is one of the best places to see Puffins and has a ruined village due to the Highland Clearances. As Lunga is now uninhabited, the seabird colonies have taken over the islands, providing a breeding habitat for many different species including Guillemots, Razorbills, Fulmars, Storm Petrels, Kittiwakes, Herring Gulls, Shags and the comical Puffins! However, there are no geocaches on the islands.



Whilst travelling between The Treshnish Isles and Isle of Staffa, we came across a pod of dolphins which swam alongside the boat for a period – however, these proved difficult to photograph!

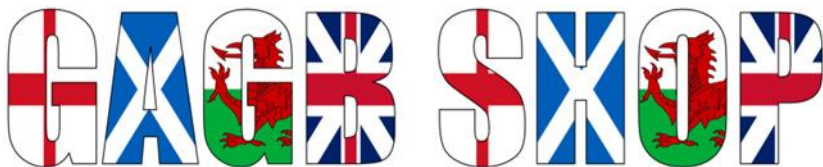
On arriving at the Isle of Staffa the boats captain gave us a closeup view of Fingal's Cave from the sea before taking us to the dock to explore the island on foot. We then made our way around to the cave walking on top of the mainly hexagonal basaltic columns. These columns are the result of the steady cooling of lava flows encountering a colder bedrock. On arriving to the world's only sea cave formed from hexagonally jointed basalt columns surely was breathtaking and something to remember for a lifetime!



We then got our notes out to check what was required for the [“Fingal's Cave \(Staffa\)” EarthCache \(GC16BTQ\)](#). On studying the notes, we estimated the cave opening dimensions and took many optional photographs to remember our visit. At the time of writing, it has over 575 found logs and a worthy 149 favourite points.



After going for a walk to discover the island's other attractions including the rich diversity of flora (including Buttercups, Wild Thyme, Bird's-Foot Trefoil and Lichens) and seabirds. We made our way back to the boat and back to the Isle of Mull to continue our holiday.



Available here...



Clothing	Containers	Labels	Trackables	Miscellaneous



## NEW GEOCACHING SUPPLIES

### Knights Banner Geocoin

A New Group Geocoin by Project Geocoin



**Design  
Your  
Knight!**



**You choose the enamel colours and metal finish!**

**CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE!**

# EXPLORING EXMOOR...

*by Paul Bevan (big eddie), GAGB Shop Manager*

Exmoor consists of several hundred square miles of moorland, woodland, farmland, rolling hills and steep valleys, and cliffs that drop away into the Bristol Channel. It is home to the iconic Exmoor ponies and wild red deer, and has been home to people since the Mesolithic period (6000BC). With its vast open spaces, and plenty of impressive views, it is an excellent spot for geocaching.



There are several high-density caching trails in the north and west of Exmoor National Park, but in the east, caches are fewer and further between. There is more variety here as well, with a few Wherigos, multis, EarthCaches and Virtuals. Jaynie15 and I (big eddie) decided to do some caching on the east side of Exmoor for a change, but with an emphasis

on targeting certain caches.

As with all moors and uplands in general the terrain is rugged in places. Dependable walking boots and weather-appropriate clothing are a must, as are a map and compass. As with all rural areas, mobile signal and data coverage are very poor and cannot be relied upon.

In the summer months, this side of Exmoor is awash with gorgeous heather, and on good clear days from certain points you can see across to Wales to the north, Dartmoor to the South and the Quantocks to the East. These are also good for caching, and in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), so well worth a visit.

The first area we explored was the iconic Tarr steps. This is a Grade I listed medieval clapper bridge, taking walkers over the River Barle. It consists of seventeen spans of heavy slabs and boulders, and was badly damaged in a recent storm (Jan 2023). The bridge has since been repaired and was recently reopened. At 54m long, it is the longest surviving bridge of this type in Britain.



Vehicle access is restricted near the steps. There is ample parking a short walk away, with some closer options for those with a Blue Badge. At Tarr steps there is Tarr Farm Inn, which is open seven days a week. So refreshments are available.



The first cache we attempted here was [GC64V9Y Tarr Steps](#), this is an EarthCache, which we found relatively straightforward. Our second cache was [GC5ZQPF Little Bridges #600 Tarr Steps](#), this is a Wherigo cache, and is based on a river crossing puzzle similar to the Wolf, Goat and Cabbage problem.



After exploring Tarr Steps, we changed location, moving north to Dunkery Beacon. This summit is the highest spot for miles around and, on clear days, commands great views across the National Park and out to the Bristol Channel. This Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is peppered with Bronze Age burial mounds, and it is even mentioned in the 1869 novel Lorna Doone. More recently, management of the site has been taken over by the National Trust. Be warned - it is a very isolated spot, with no facilities apart from parking areas.

We decided to get the hardest cache done first, [GC7B8J6 Dunkery Beacon](#). This involved parking up and walking the 800m up to the summit. This is a legacy cache, placed between August 24, 2017 and August 24, 2018. It uses the old ghost icon, so is easy to spot on the geocaching map. In order to log the cache we needed to examine the information at the site and answer some relatively straightforward questions. Our second cache was back at the car park, [GCF906 Dunkery Gate \(Somerset\)](#).





Our final area for today's outing, was to the northeast, in the historic coastal village of Dunster. This medieval village lies at the base of a steep hill, on which sits the eleventh century Dunster Castle. There is plenty of history in the local area, including Iron Age hillforts, a packhorse bridge that served the local wool trade, and one of the longest heritage railway lines in the country.



We only managed to get the one cache here, although there are a few more. Our phone service provider failed us in the end. The cache we found was [GC1YVMR The Winding Charm](#). This is a story based in Wherigo, and tells a creative and fantastic tale while guiding you around the medieval village. It has excellent reviews, and a rating of 4.5/5 stars.

If you plan to visit the east side of Exmoor, there are plenty of places to stay and many other local attractions including the vintage steam railway that runs between Minehead and Bishops Lydeard, historic villages and local independent distilleries and brewers.

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH  
US BY CLICKING ON  
THE SOCIAL MEDIA  
LOGOS HERE!**



# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event...

*by Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof), GAGB Secretary*

2023 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GAGB and as part of the celebrations an event was held at Wolverley Memorial Hall, Kidderminster. The [GAGB 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event \(GCA7MF3\)](#) took place on 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 brought together 63 geocaching accounts.

At the event geocachers were warmly welcomed from far and wide to partake in the celebrations and GAGB Geocaching Awards ceremony.

Within the Memorial Hall several trade stalls including PinPoint, South East UK Mega 2024, and the Severn Mega 2025 accompanied the GAGB shop.

At the event we also launched the brand new GAGB 20th Anniversary Geocoin to commemorate the occasion. This is a limited edition geocoin with only 100 produced! [So, order yours while stock lasts!](#)



In addition to the GAGB Shop, a raffle was held with several attractive prizes up for grabs including a Ghost Cow Group Geocoin and an ammo can full of goodies. Plenty of refreshments were also on offer. Both were fantastic fundraisers!

An Adventure Lab exclusively for event attendees saw finders solve anagrams based on the real names of our committee members. Outside, another set of Adventure Labs was set around the village park next to the Hall.

Also, six new traditional caches were set along the nearby canal.

However, the main highlight of the event was the GAGB Geocaching Awards Ceremony. Keep reading to find out the winners! Congratulations from all the committee to them all!

Overall, the committee would like to thank everyone who attended, got involved with the awards and supported us in some way over the past 20 years! We all are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the GAGB!

# GAGB Geocaching Awards...

*Find out the winners of the GAGB Geocaching Awards 2023...*



## THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS!



***idreamer***

***big eddie***



***phoebeandfamily***

***FLTF***





# Introduction to the GAGB Geocaching Awards 2023...

The awards were started at the 2016 Ashridge Geolympix Mega Event. These awards saw over 1,400 respondents cast over 15,000 individual votes in 24 categories. The awards were then brought back at the Devon Mega in 2017 for the second time. However, after several years the GAGB decided to bring back the awards now named the “GAGB Geocaching Awards”.

The categories for this year’s awards are listed below:

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Best Cache              | 11. Geocacher of the Year    |
| 2. Best Series             | 12. Newbie of the Year       |
| 3. Best Non-Physical Cache | 13. Young Cacher of the Year |
| 4. Best Ad. Lab            | 14. Achievement              |
| 5. Best Puzzle Cache       | 15. Thank You                |
| 6. Best Multi Cache        |                              |
| 7. Best Extreme Cache      |                              |
| 8. Best Night Cache        |                              |
| 9. Best Online Cache Log   |                              |
| 10. Best Geocoin           |                              |

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## 1. Best Cache

This award was for all physical geocaches placed between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by PinPoint.

The winner of Best Physical Cache is [Space Invader \(GC7QEJJ\)](#), by Tim Hunkin and Simply Paul. It’s a letterbox hybrid geocache with an added twist sited in Greater London. The geocache is within Novelty Automation which brings together humour and engineering. At time of writing, it has 1285 finds and 1046 favourite points, equating to 87%! Next time you’re in the capital be sure to check it out!

And the runner-up were:

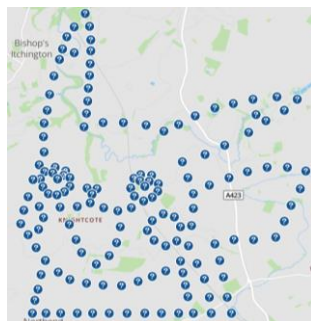
- [An Adventure in Space and Time \(GC88D14\)](#)
- [Escape to the Woods! The Bonus! \(GC8VBX2\)](#)
- [Station X \(GC9CG80\)](#)



## 2. Best Series

This award was for all series placed between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by The SideTracked Series.

The winner of Best Series is [Gotta Cache 'Em All \(GC98KT4\)](#), by mmmPIZZA. It's a series of 151 unknown geocaches based on Pokémon characters. All geocaches can be found in Warwickshire. Once solving four loops become apparent. Once all the geocaches are found it makes a nice geo-art picture of Pikachu (a Pokémon character)!



And the runner-up were:

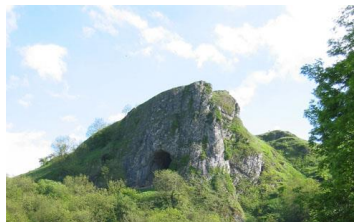
- [Manswood Mooch II \(GC8Q1RQ\)](#)
- [Newtle Forest Olympic Series \(GC8ZXP2\)](#)
- [Stamped in Stockbridge \(GC7HZ4F\)](#)
- [The Crown Jewels \(GC9NT26\)](#)



## 3. Best Non-Physical Cache

This award was for all Virtuals and EarthCaches placed between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by the Severn UK Mega 2025.

The winner of Best Non-Physical Cache is [Thor's Cave \(GC8J8K7\)](#), by meltdiceberg. It's an EarthCache (and the only one in this category) in Staffordshire. This cave is also the most accessible in the Peak District. For finders it allows exploration of the cave making it worthy of its D5/T5 rating! At time of writing, it has 70 finds and 36 favourite points.



And the runner-up were:

- [Bell Rock Lighthouse \(GC892D5\)](#)
- [Chappel Viaduct \(GC88Z46\)](#)
- [The Circus \(GC88ZJA\)](#)
- [You have my Heart... \(GC9P5MA\)](#)



## 4. Best Adventure Lab

This award was for all Ad. Labs placed either by a mega event or individual between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by London Calling.



The winner of Best Adventure Lab is An Adventure Lab in Space and Time by mykey987. It's a sequential series of 5 stages and runs in parallel to Wherigo geocache "[An Adventure in Space and Time](#)" (GC88D14). They are both in Buckinghamshire. Remember this geocache requires multiple tools, energy and time but is well worth it!

And the runner-up were:

- Gunners Park Adventure
- Millside Safari
- Old Beaupre Castle
- Purtons Ship Graveyard



## 5. Best Puzzle Cache

This award was for all unknown type geocaches placed between 2017 and 2022 and does not include challenge or bonus caches, it was sponsored by Cache 'N' Carry.

The winner of Best Puzzle Cache is [Tentmantent FM](#) (GC7MQV7) by Tentmantent. The geocache is in Lincolnshire and requires the finder to complete a field puzzle to hear the message. It has 94 found it logs and 79 favourite points, equating to 87%!



And the runner-up were:

- [10061966 PW](#) (GC91ZRM)
- [Belfairs – Muggle Maths Mystery](#) (GC8WFA9)
- [Ghost of Corpus Clock](#) (GC7RWKQ)
- [Station X](#) (GC9CG80)





## 6. Best Multi Cache

This award was for all multi geocaches placed between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by Snag the Tag (courtesy of TheSpecialAgents).

The winner of Best Multi Cache is [Bear's Lair \(GC9F7KK\)](#) by SamBryo. The cache is in Monmouthshire. It has several stages which require wading to find the clues to work out the next stages and reach the log! It has 23 finds and 20 favourite points, equating to 91%! (This cache does come with a warning about the T5 – so be careful in your hunt for the Bear's Lair!)

And the runner-up were:

- [Czech Out Chichely \(GC9E885\)](#)
- [Murder Mystery 🕵️ \(GC9EJFY\)](#)
- [X marks the spot or does it? \(GC7RV5H\)](#)



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## 7. Best Extreme Cache

This award was for all extreme geocaches (not just D5/T5) placed between 2017 and 2022 and does not include events, it was sponsored by big eddie.

The winner of Best Extreme Cache is [The DA Vinci Code \(GC9B52R\)](#) by Cabbage187. The geocache is in Gloucestershire. The geocache is of a mystery cache of D5/T4.5. It requires a riddle to be solved at home and is a Cryptex Puzzle to even reach the log inside! It also comes with a warning on the cache page!



And the runner-up were:

- [ABC #05 \(The Bonus\) \(GC812ZZ\)](#)
- [Barns of Bynach \(GC70915\)](#)
- [Calendar Quest Bonus \(GC8B3J7\)](#)
- [Cryptocache \(GC8B4F8\)](#)



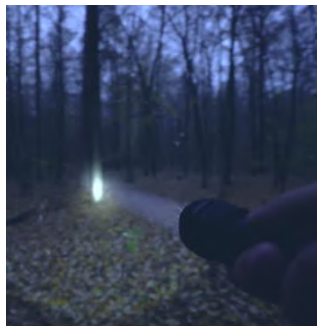
## 8. Best Night Cache

This award is for all geocaches designed to be completed at night, between 2017 and 2022 and was sponsored by Project Geocoin.

The winner of Best Night Cache is [Witch Way to the Night Cache? \(GC7PZKE\)](#) by spooky\_luke. It is in Cornwall and is a Wherigo. The geocache requires the finder to help some witches – under the cover of darkness!

And the runner-up were:

- [Bottersnikes aand Gumbles \(GC7YED6\)](#)
- [Destinations: Night Flight \(GC753DW\)](#)
- [October - Calendar Quest \(GC8DD7F\)](#)
- [Marbury Lady TB Key Required \(GC82Q71\)](#)



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## 9. Best Online Cache Log

This award was for all log types on any cache and any event left between 2017 and 2022, it was sponsored by FLTF (idreamer).

The winner of Best Online Cache Log is [mr+mrs minion's log on GC88D14, read the log here](#). It gives a complete overview of the adventures they had whilst trying to find the geocache and is far from just a simple FLTF or TFTC! The GAGB encourages geocachers to leave more than a simple one-word log whilst geocaching.

And the runner-up were:

- [jamange's log on GC9R3T0](#)
- [zouavesauvage's log on GC76NP0](#)
- [zouavesauvage's log on GC9GDAT](#)



## 10. Best Geocoin

This award was for Best Geocoin (design) and must come from within the geographical limits of the GAGB and released between 2017 and 2022. The sponsor was Rainbow Caching.

The winner of Best Geocoin is the 10 years of SideTracked geocoin designed by stuarthowe11. This geocoin was released in 2017 as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The SideTracked national series. It is designed to look like a train ticket with the information from the series included. The other side has a train which holds a unique trackable code.

And the runner-up were:

- Celestial Witches
- Celestial Wizards
- Cow Group Project Geocoin



## 11. Geocacher of the Year

This award was for a geocacher which gives back to the hobby and alternatively could be called "Service to Geocaching", it was sponsored by NE Geocaching Supplies.

The winner of Geocacher of the Year is Amberel. The nominator noted "they didn't know Andy, but for years he has awarded hiders with 'Amberel Awards' for great caches and has a website with many tools. Overall, he is always encouraging and sprightly! In my view he certainly has gone the extra mile for years!"

And the runner-up were:

- Dartmoor Dave
- MeerRescue
- Ryo62
- Tentmantent





## 12. Newbie of the Year

This award was for all new geocachers which started their geocaching journey in 2022, it was sponsored by idreamer.

The winner of Newbie of the Year is maxpt15. The nominator noted "Max has not had the best of health and undergone many open heart surgeries. After his most recent surgery geocaching has helped him gain back his fitness and strength. He now spends most of his time caching and looking online at geocaching sites and is looking forward to geocaching in Wales later in the year".

And the runner-up was:

- Iza330



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## 13. Young Cacher of the Year

This award was for all junior geocachers (under the age of 18 at some point in 2022), it was sponsored by phoebeandfamily (EsmaeFreya).

The winner of Young Cacher of the Year is Canshake1. This is what the nominator noted "he has created his own series of caches and joined in with many CITO's to help care for the environment. He is always smiling and makes every adventure entertaining when out trying to find geocaches".

And the runner-up were:

- Dansbuses
- DJHDANIELGM67
- FootyFan123
- maxpt15



## 14. Achievement Award

This award is for impressive and inspirational geocachers which have overcome adversity whilst taking part in geocaching and was sponsored by Rainbow Caching.

The joint winners are Amberel and kevham. The nominator for Amberel noted “has great caches, awards others for their caches, has over 100 D/T grids completed”. The nominator for Kevham noted “Has hundreds of caches on Exmoor, Devon. He recently (in May 2023) passed away, leaving the entire local caching community in utter shock. His caches were handmade wooden ones and placed to be found by everyone. He will be very much missed”. His family collected the award on his behalf (pictured).

And the runner-up were:

- ryo62
- IB Searching



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## 15. The Thank You Award

These are geocachers which have contributed to geocaching but have now sadly passed away since 2017. (Please note only those nominated are included):

- Baby Jester
- Ey Up Me Duck
- Hobo & Miss
- Kevham
- Mary Spann from The Spanners
- Mrs Biggin Hill Flyer
- Rolleron
- Thaicnx
- Vanguard

# PUZZLE CORNER...

by Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies), GLAD Manager

## The Geocaching Wordsearch

F	Y	C	F	O	E	T	I	L	L	E	T	A	S	E
Y	E	V	O	N	K	A	B	R	A	I	D	A	M	W
E	A	T	S	N	O	R	U	Y	A	U	S	W	A	E
T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	A	L	T	W	L	Q
M	O	V	L	M	Y	A	S	Y	K	O	U	R	L	O
G	O	C	A	O	X	J	I	S	H	N	R	G	I	V
N	N	A	R	I	S	B	Z	N	I	A	O	C	E	V
I	R	V	G	N	A	N	O	L	E	M	K	W	I	R
H	M	T	E	E	R	U	Z	Z	W	R	R	C	N	M
C	T	U	N	X	M	A	E	H	G	U	Y	E	F	V
A	E	N	L	E	T	T	E	R	B	O	X	K	P	G
C	Z	Y	E	T	P	R	X	N	Z	N	G	C	T	N
O	G	R	U	V	I	S	E	A	R	C	H	I	N	G
E	E	F	Z	G	E	G	L	O	B	A	L	T	H	P
G	K	R	O	R	E	V	I	E	W	E	R	O	H	X

CITO  
Container  
Event  
Geocaching  
Global  
Large  
Letterbox

Mega  
Micro  
Multi  
Nano  
Permission  
Regular  
Reviewer

Satellite  
Searching  
Small  
Traditional  
Unknown  
Virtual  
Wherigo

# COMPETITION TIME...

*A chance to win a set of Racing Hound Trackables...*



**You have probably found many Church Micros but how well do you know the cathedrals of the UK? Test your knowledge on the following questions to enter a competition to win a set of Racing Hound Trackable Tags!**

1. Glue corset, a mess
2. Robin's Green
3. Rough Sisal Plant
4. Unstable if chilled
5. Etches rich composition
6. List Rob compiled
7. Cover equine speed
8. Schedule with old guerrilla in
9. Jockey gets around sorbet
10. Winch or shift?
11. Dynasty Actor had back rib first
12. Gain a box, hesitantly
13. Thread around broken metre shelf
14. Fiesta in this place
15. Saint not smelling very nice? Harsh!
16. Where society crosses the river
17. Harbours aperture
18. Heard they consume their former partner
19. A works hut in ruins
20. The Spanish unknown



To enter the competition and have the opportunity of winning a set of four GAGB Racing Hounds, send an email with your answers, name, geocaching name and postal address to [editor@gagb.com](mailto:editor@gagb.com).

The closing date of the competition is the 1st of January 2024 with all correct entries received before this date being entered into a random draw to win the set of trackables!

The full list of answers and winner will be announced in the next edition!



# GAGB Annual Report...

*Introduction by Chris Carpenter (Saza36), GAGB Chair...*

2023 marks the 20th year of the GAGB. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work during the last year and during the previous 19 years. I would also like to thank the GAGB Friends and Regional Representatives for their support over the years.

The 20th anniversary celebrations were held at an event in Wolverley in the West Midlands. The event was well attended, and awards were presented for 14 categories. New caches had been set locally as well as adventure labs.

The number of active GAGB members has continued to grow, as has our social media presence. Significant work has also been done in renewing and negotiating GLAD agreements as well as shop sales, involving the Friends and Area Reps and continuing assessing the applicants of the Duke of Edinburgh Physical Award for Geocaching. The GAGB also commissioned three new geocoins during the year – two variants of a new National Park geocoin and a 20th Anniversary Geocoin.

We remain committed to supporting future Mega events, sponsoring the South East 2024 Mega and Severn 2025 Mega. We also attended several events including Piratemanía 15 and Mega 2023 MK.



# GAGB Annual Report...

*Secretary Report by Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof), GAGB Secretary...*

## Current Committee Members (and Formal Meetings)

Ten monthly committee meetings have been held online in the 2022/23 term, with the exception of August and November. The current committee members and number of meetings attended are shown below:

- Chris Carpenter (Saza36) (Chair) – 9
- Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof) (Secretary) – 10
- Caz Turver (Border Caz) (Treasurer) – 10
- Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies) (GLAD Manager/Friends and Reps) – 10
- Paul Bevan (big eddie) (Shop Manager/DofE) – 10
- Joanne Mitchell (joe222s) (Social Media), co-opted in May – 3/4
- Lewis Grant (NevilleDog\_n\_Humans) (Publisher), co-opted in August – 2/2
- Niki Bell (nikib42) (Editor), co-opted in August – 0/2

## Former Committee Members

There were four resignations this year:

- Abigail Hamilton-Thompson - Membership Secretary - resigned in January
- Claire Harris – Friends and Reps Coordinator – resigned in April
- Hayley Rolph – Seeker Editor – resigned in May
- Benjamin Weald – Outreach Officer – resigned in June



# GAGB Annual Report...

*Secretary Report by Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof), GAGB Secretary...*

## **Public Communications**

GAGB hold a dedicated telephone line and email address for landowners, members of the public and geocachers. Messages are also sent to our social media and Geocaching.com Message Centre. From the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, we have received the following (please note that subsequent replies are not included in the counts):

- Telephone enquiries: 16
- Email enquiries: 74
- Social media enquiries: 6
- Geocaching Message Centre enquiries: 13

Excluding telephone enquiries, these can be categorised as:

- Landowner complaints: 3
- New or updated agreements: 2
- Permission enquiry - existing cachers: 4
- Media enquiries: 7
- General enquiries from existing geocachers: 8
- General enquiries from new geocachers: 1
- Public - found 'stray' geocaches: 2
- Public - DoFE assessor requests: 14
- Public - other: 3
- Events and outreach: 7
- SWAG Weekend: 1
- CITO Week: 1
- Seeker and/or Newsletter: 3
- GAGB Reps or Friends: 4
- Shop: 1
- Website or login issues: 6
- Membership enquiries: 1
- Geocaching Awards: 8
- Other: 15
- Spam: 6

# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Chris Carpenter (Saza36), GAGB Chair*

I joined the committee in September 2021 and was elected as Chair in December. During the last two years I have fulfilled the roles of Chair, Webmaster and Membership Secretary which has taken up a significant amount of my time.

One of the key challenges this year has been Mailchimp costs. We use Mailchimp to send out our monthly newsletter and Seeker magazine and mailchimp is integrated into our website and member database. The growth of our active member base and the reduction of the number of people you can email with a free version of Mailchimp has led to us having to pay for the service. To-date I have covered this cost personally and we do need to build an alternative solution.



In December 2022 we struggled to receive sufficient nominations for the committee and had to extend the nomination period to pull in further nominations. Unfortunately, not all those people stayed with us, but I am pleased to say that we have appointed new members recently and now have a strong committee. I hope that existing committee members are given the chance to re-stand and that we can attract more during this year's election. Many hands make light work!



# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof), GAGB Secretary*

My eighth year on the GAGB Committee has flown by! I took on the role of Secretary, which primarily involved attending, writing, and circulating the minutes for all committee meetings. In this position, I also handled some committee correspondence, assisted others where required, and put together the annual Secretary's report.



In addition, I chaired the July committee meeting in Chris C's absence, produced the monthly newsletter until August (when Joe took over), and helped to man the GAGB stall at mega:MK and our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in September.

I was also responsible for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary geocoin, liaising with our designer and Rainbow Caching over several months to ensure it was ready to launch at our event. [You can now order it online here!](#)

Aside from this, I led on the GAGB Geocaching Awards. This initially began by developing a list of categories, guidance, and rules, as well as a timetable, sponsorship programme, webpage, and graphic, followed by the nomination and voting forms several months later.

We were so pleased that there were almost 600 valid voters... thank you to everyone who voted and congratulations to all the winners!

It has been an honour to have served on the committee for another year; I have thoroughly enjoyed it, with more time towards the end having now finished my postgraduate studies. Thank you to my fellow committee members, and to everyone who has continued to support the GAGB, including our wonderful GAGB reps and friends. Here's to the next 20 years of the GAGB!



# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Caz Turver (Border Caz), GAGB Treasurer*

I can't believe my 7th year as Treasurer of GAGB is now drawing to a close; I am currently finalising our accounts for the financial year ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. As usual I have spent the last 12 months keeping the accounts up to date, reporting the state of our finances at each monthly meeting (all of which I attended), making sure we don't spend money unwisely but that all our bills are paid, and ensuring that all cash receipts are paid into the bank as soon as possible. Like previous years, we have been a bit short handed on the Committee, so other jobs had to be shared around and, by working as a Team, we have coped.



I took the lead on designing and arranging production of our latest National Parks series geocoin – Peak Cavern in the Peak District, which are selling well.

Representing GAGB, I attended a number of events where we had a stall to raise funds, including the Milton Keynes Christmoos Fayre, Piratemanía at Naseby, Milton Keynes UK Mega and of course our GAGB 20th Anniversary and Geocaching Awards presentation event at Wolverley. I also organised an outreach event at the Croxton Well Dressing in Staffordshire.

We have been trying to open a new bank account as HSBC started charging at the end of 2021. At first, no banks were willing to open new accounts for non-profit organisations but this year some have relaxed their rules so we were able to open a new “free” account with Lloyds, in to which I have transferred all our funds.

I intend to stand for re-election in the forthcoming elections.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies), GLAD Manager*

This is my first full year on the GAGB committee, and I have had two roles one as GLAD Manager and the other as the Friends and Representatives Coordinator.

As GLAD Manager several new and renewed agreements have been made with several Wildlife Trusts, Forestry England, and local councils since I came into the role. Several landowner issues have also arisen in Inverness, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Lundy; all of which are now successfully resolved.

Unfortunately, as I've had two roles on the committee, most of what I've achieved has been reactive rather than proactive. Looking to next year if someone was to take the Friends and Representative Coordinator role; I would hope to be able to change this.



My other role as Friends and Representatives Coordinator has been particularly busy. Since taking on this role, I have been in regular communication with both Friends and Representatives. This involved helping to hold GAGB Roving Events, assisting with local community support groups including holding a "Geocaching 101" meeting with Beaver Scouts in Southampton and provided general geocaching advice.

Although I have enjoyed both roles, I am hoping someone will take over the Friends and Representatives Coordinator role to allow both roles to develop.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Paul Bevan (big eddie) GAGB Shop Manager*

I joined the committee at the last elections in 2022, with my main role being Shop Manager and more recently the Duke of Edinburgh Main Contact.

As Shop Manager I have overseen the addition of new products including new clothing lines and a new National Park geocoin, the seventh in the series within this geocoin representing the Peak District. Work has also begun on the next National Park geocoin which should hopefully be released next year. As you are probably aware the GAGB reached its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and with it a celebratory geocoin to help celebrate this milestone. The shop also attended three mega events (London Calling in London, Piratemanía in Northamptonshire and the UK Mega in Milton Keynes) where we saw a high volume of sales. Online the shop received over 50 orders!



Recently an increase in Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) enquiries led to the requirement of a main contact within the GAGB organisation, which I have volunteered to take on. This role requires assessing DofE participants to meet the criteria set out for the award. Over the summer, I contacted several organisations to raise the awareness of this.

I have thoroughly enjoyed both roles and look forward to hopefully continuing in these positions within the committee in the future.





# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Joanne Mitchell (joes222s), Social Media Officer*

I joined the GAGB in June which was quite late in the year. I had only just signed up as a Representative for the East of England, sharing the role with another Cacher based in Cromer, when after volunteering to help out on our stall at London calling, I was asked if I would take on the social media role. I agreed and set about learning to use the software used to write and upload our posts to the various online accounts we use.

I have enjoyed attempting to create interesting and engaging posts over the last few months and feel I am starting to get the hang of it. I have also taken on updating our newsletter, which is emailed to all our members once a month and contains highlights of all we have been up to over the last month.

I have actively supported several of the events we have attended over the summer, volunteering on our stall at London Calling, Piratemanía and Mega:MK.

I helped with our recent 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Geocaching Award Ceremony, with taking part in both the later part of the planning and promoting

the event itself. I used our social media platforms to encourage our members to nominate and vote for the award winners.

If voted back on to the committee I look forward to building a larger online presence, gaining more interaction on our pages and supporting all our events.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Lewis Grant (NevilleDog\_n\_Humans), Publicity Officer*

I joined the committee in August which was very late in the current committee term of office. I just thought I would be putting together the overall Seeker design (THIS MAGAZINE!), but it has been so much more than that!

I have thoroughly enjoyed putting the magazine together, finding out about new design tools to develop the design of the magazine and writing several articles!

I hope to continue in this role at the next committee elections, as I have already put together a considerable amount of the next issue and have several new ideas to try out!

I have also taken part in two formal meetings to help shape the future of the GAGB and the recent 20<sup>th</sup> GAGB Anniversary Event.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW...

*by Niki Bell (nikib42), Editor*

Unfortunately, an annual review was not received in time to be included.

# GAGB Annual Report...

*Conclusion by Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof), GAGB Secretary...*

## **Appointed Members**

The GAGB constitution states that the Executive Committee can delegate tasks to GAGB members if required - once they accept, these members become 'Appointed Members'. In January 2023, Jayne Guppy (Jaynie15) was appointed to assist with social media and Dylan Rolph (TheRolphsUK) was appointed to support Hayley Rolph (TheRolphsUK) with Seeker if needed.

## **Regional Representatives**

The GAGB's Regional Representatives in 2023 were:

- Fiona Costello (Walton Wader) – Eastern England
- Sammi Thomas-Neish (Quirky Diva) – North East England
- Rodney Kerrigan (RGK76) – Northern Ireland
- Barry Paterson (Urquhart Man) – Northern Scotland
- Gail Burton (BURTON) – Southern Scotland
- Stacey Swinford (ChepstowRomans) – South Wales
- Rachael Hall (smhalls) – South Wales
- Martin Legg (little-leggs) – South West England
- Jayne Guppy (Jaynie15) – South West England
- Bev Burnell-Bradley (Firefox.3) – Yorkshire
- Tracy Sockett (Citizen1) – Yorkshire
- Gwyneth Green (Zippysdedodah) - West Midlands, until July

## **Accounts**

GAGB's financial year ended on September 30th. The accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer and audited. They will be available in due course.

## **Thanks**

The Executive Committee would like to end the report by thanking all GAGB Regional Reps, Friends and Members for their engagement and ongoing support over the past year!

# CACHER CHATS...

*With Annie Love ('Love') a Lackey at GCHQ...*

**What is your geocaching name?**

Love - it's also my last name 😊

**When did you start geocaching?**

In the Autumn of 2004 is when I got my account and officially started playing, but I found my first caches with my family in June of that year, although I didn't log them at the time.

**What is your lackey role?**

I've had a few of those over the years, starting with working in a Community role at the front desk - so if you visited HQ back in 2007, you would have met me there. These days I manage the Business Development team and with that, manage the partner API program, the Trackables program, as well as logo licensing. Our team is fortunate in that we get to build partnerships that will help delight the geocaching community as well as share the love of geocaching with new audiences.

**What is the average day of a lackey like at GCHQ?**

Since we now have a hybrid work environment where Lackeys can work from home or in the office, each day for each person is a little different. I personally work from



home most mornings and because I have a short commute to the office, I'll head to the office around lunch to work for the rest of the day. On an average day there are about 30-50 Lackeys working in the office. Many will take a break and have lunch together in what we call Signal Cafe. It's not unheard of for folks to take caching breaks or head out to nearby geocaching event near the office before or after work. I sometimes host those events at one of the local breweries just two blocks away.

**What is the best thing about being a lackey?**

All the things. For me, it tends to be the connection with the community. Because of the job, I've gotten to know amazing people all over the world - fellow geocachers, creative makers, community volunteers, etc. Some of the best friends I have in life are because of this game and because of the opportunities the job has led me to.



## What was your first find?

Technically, my first cache finds were at the Bruneau Sand Dunes in Southern Idaho, USA. I found them with my family on my graduation day from Boise State University. I didn't have an account then, so my first listed cache find is [GCHRNZ](#), located just outside my hometown of Sandpoint, Idaho. My dad had given me a GPS for my birthday (at my request so that I could start geocaching) and that was the cache we found as he was teaching me how to use the GPS receiver. [GCJBKT](#) was my first actual find, but I later logged it properly on a return in 2007.

## What is your favourite type of geocache and why?

The type that gets me to a location where I say "Wow!" The cache could honestly be a simple guardrail or lamp post micro - but if the location is one that makes me happy the game helped me to discover it, that's definitely my favourite. If I have to pick a favourite icon, then today I'd say EarthCaches because they've certainly directed me to many "Wow!" locations over the years, whether I logged the cache or not. Ask me tomorrow though, and I might say Traditional or Virtuals.

## What is your most favourite find?

[The Rainier Summit EarthCache \(GCPZBX\)](#). It's my highest elevation find to date and I spent six months

training and learning mountaineering skills to be able to find it. Definitely my most rewarding smiley as it took two days, 14.9 miles of climbing with 9000 feet (2743 meters) elevation gain just to earn the one geocache find. It's also the only cache I've found where I needed to bring an ice axe as a TOTT (Tools of the Trade).

## What is your biggest geocaching accomplishment?

I couldn't possibly pick just one! While it's not necessarily an accomplishment, working at Geocaching HQ has brought me some of the most pride in life any job ever could. Getting to work with an amazing group of people at the office, helping to serve a community of adventurous, creative and super fun people from all over the world and knowing that I can hopefully make a positive impact on a game I love - it's hard to top that.



# COMMITTEE ELECTIONS...

*Want to help shape the future of the GAGB join the committee...*

All active GAGB members are eligible and can participate (stand, nominate or vote) in the elections. This year there are two elections one for Chair and another for the other eight committee members.

Each candidate must be over the age of 18 and nominations must be made through the GAGB Forum. Each nomination must be seconded and then the nominee must accept to validate the nomination. When the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot is held electronically.

The election will be overseen by IRO Patricia Elkins (MsPatt). The IRO will make communication through the GAGB Forum and email with important dates such as when the voting opens and closes.

## Chair Elections (1 Post, 2 Year Term)

- **Nominations Open:** at 00:00 on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November
- **Nominations Close:** at 23:59 on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Deadline to Accept Nomination and Submit Manifesto:** 23:59 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Q&A Opens:** at 00:00 on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Q&A Closes:** at 23:59 on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Vote Opens:** at 00:00 on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Vote Closes:** at 23:59 on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Results Announced:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of November

## Committee Member Elections (8 Posts, 1 Year Term)

- **Nominations Open:** at 00:00 on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Nominations Close:** at 23:59 on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Deadline to Accept Nomination and Submit Manifesto:** 23:59 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Q&A Opens:** at 00:00 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of November
- **Q&A Closes:** at 23:59 on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Vote Opens:** at 00:00 on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Vote Closes:** at 23:59 on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of November
- **Results Announced:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of November

# THE FUTURE OF THE GAGB...

*Learn more about the committee...*

The GAGB is only what the wider geocaching community make it! Some roles are below and if you have questions get in contact.

## Main Roles

- **Chair:** ensures smooth running and helps others when required.
- **Vice Chair:** assists the Chair with various duties.
- **Secretary:** writes and circulates meeting minutes and chases actions to ensure completion before the next meeting.
- **Treasurer:** keeps accounts in order and submits an annual statement.

## Back-Office Roles

- **GLAD Manager:** responds to enquiries over problematic geocaches with landowners, resolves issues and looks after the agreements database.
- **Social Media Officer:** looks after our GAGB social media.
- **Seeker Editor and Publisher:** responsible for the “Seeker” magazine.
- **Friends and Reps Coordinator:** leads the Friends and Representatives.
- **Webmaster:** looks after the GAGB website and email communications.
- **Shop Manager:** manages stock, sending orders and new stock lines.

## Other Activities

- **GAGB Roving Events:** events to teach attendees to learn about the work the GAGB carries out and help shape the future of the GAGB!
- **Fundraising:** we attend many events across the country with the GAGB shop and always looking into new fundraising ideas.

## Meetings

Formal online meetings are held monthly for a few hours.

## Time Commitment

Role and time of year dependent; but typically a few hours a week.

## Overview

There are more roles than the eight places on the committee means we take on more than one role! So, if you can help shape the GAGBs future join us...

Join us for 4  
days of the best  
geocaching in Scotland!



**CALEDONIAN  
CACHEFEST 2024**

# Caledonian Cachefest 2024

In Moffat, Scotland  
On 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**GCACENR**  
([www.ccfest.co.uk](http://www.ccfest.co.uk))

# Piratemania



Camping: 25th July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024  
Main Event: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024



# GCAAB24 South East UK Mega 2024 3 August

At South of England Showground, Selsfield Road, Ardingly, RH17 6TH

Our website [www.mega2024.org.uk](http://www.mega2024.org.uk) is running with sales of trackables, merchandise, supporter's packs and camping

Camping is from 29 July to 5 August – booking now open

**Book early for 10% discount or Pay 50% now & 50% next April**

**Evening and Daytime Events will be published from March 2024**



[www.mega2024.org.uk](http://www.mega2024.org.uk)



Follow us on Facebook



Discover me at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) - SEMNW7



## SEVERN UK MEGA 2025

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

**Date  
TBC**



**Keep up to date with the latest news on the website and our social media channels!**

**OR grab some merchandise from our online shop!!!**

# CODE OF CONDUCT...

## *What is the geocacher's code of conduct...*

The Geocachers' "Code of Conduct" is a voluntary code which describes how geocachers should behave. It's designed to help new players understand the ethos of the wider geocaching community and guide experienced players in questionable situations.

## **SAFE – LEGAL – ETHICAL**

### **When placing and seeking I will...**

**Not endanger myself or others**

**Observe all rules and laws of the area I am in**

**Respect property rights and seek permissions**

**Avoid causing public disruption or public alarm**

**Minimise impact on the environment**

**Be considerate of all**

**Protect the integrity of the game piece**

The Geocachers' Code was developed in a public forum by over several geocachers, in conjunction with CoyoteRed and Kai Team serving as editors. It is therefore independent of the GAGB.

# GAGB Member Discounts

*Please don't share the codes with non-members!*

 	 
 	 
 	 
 	<p>JOIN US AND OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE MEMBER ONLY DISCOUNT!</p> <p>?</p> <p>PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO KNOW MORE!</p>

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE  
GAGB MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS!**