

# SEEKER



**The Quarterly Magazine of the **  
***ISSUE: 52*      *Winter 2024***

# MEET THE COMMITTEE!



**Arthur Griffiths**  
(Griff Grof)  
Chair



**Caz Turver**  
(border Caz)  
Treasurer



**Chris Warren**  
(Stoke Bunnies)  
GLAD



**Joanne Mitchell**  
(joe222s)  
Social Media



**Stuart Howe**  
(stuarthowe11)  
GAGB Friends and Reps



**Lewis Grant**  
(NevilleDog\_n\_Humans)  
Secretary and Editor



**Chris Carpenter**  
(Saza36)  
Webmaster



**Paul Bevan**  
(big eddie)  
Retail and Fundraising



**Bev Bradley**  
(Firefox.3)  
Outreach and Events

## THE GAGB

GAGB started in 2003 to provide a connection between the wider geocaching community and landowners, media and others. We provide a database of landowner agreements, sort issues out with access, sell merchandise and introduce the hobby to newcomers plus lots more...

Find out more by visiting our website [here](#)...



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Cover: Approaching Driesh Munro by Rachael Mackenzie (BumblerBee)

# 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 53 – Out May 24** (Content Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 24)

**Issue 54 – Out Aug 24** (Content Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 24)

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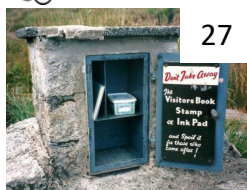
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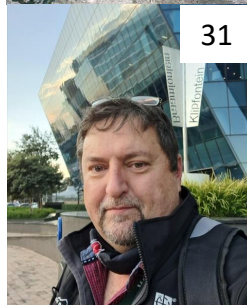
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# A WARM WELCOME

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

Hello! I hope this issue of Seeker finds you and your family well. As I return to the position of Chair, I must issue a huge thank you to Chris (Saza36) for all his work in the role over the past two years.

In many ways, it feels like we are beginning an exciting new chapter for the GAGB in 2024, with a full, dynamic, and energetic committee in place. Half of the team have been with us for less than a year, and with this has come lots of fresh ideas and enthusiasm. A big welcome to Bev Bradley (Firefox.3) and Stuart Howe (stuarthowe11) who were elected in November. We have plenty of plans in the pipeline, so stay tuned for some announcements in due course.

If you could help us out as a GAGB Regional Rep or Friend, please get in touch!

So far, we have added new products to the GAGB Shop – ammo cans and fake rocks. In addition, we have negotiated a new discount for GAGB members with the Geocaching Scouts UK Store and added a 5% discount on all GAGB Shop orders over £10. Member discounts can be viewed on our website [here](#) – don't forget that, once logged in, there are also several other member-only pages you can view.

We are also pleased to confirm the return of SWAG Weekend this Easter and will be promoting a CITO Week in both the spring and the autumn for the first time ever. We hope you will get involved!

This is a bumper edition of the new look Seeker, put together by our brilliant editor, Lewis. Read about bagging munros in winter, exploring the Broads, and letterboxing; find out which type of geocacher you are and learn more about them; challenge yourself with this edition's competition, and lots more.

Happy caching and all the best for 2024!

## **Committee Position:**

Chair



**Name:** Arthur Griffiths

**Caching Name:** Griff Grof

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 8

**Different Positions Held:** 7

**Started Geocaching:** March 2010

**Geocacher Type:** Traveller

**No. of Finds:** 4,142

**No. of Hides:** 109

**Favourite Type:** Traditional

**Favourite Series:** NameThatTune

**Fun Fact:** I have FTFs in three countries:  
UK, Spain and Italy!

**Committee Position:**

Secretary and Editor



**Name:** Lewis Grant

**Caching Name:** NevilleDog\_n\_Humans

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 1

**Different Positions Held:** 3

**Started Geocaching:** March 2017

**Geocacher Type:** ?????

**No. of Finds:** 3,539

**No. of Hides:** 118

**Favourite Type:** High Terrain

**Favourite Series:** Village Hall Series

**Fun Fact:** Highest finds in a single 24hr period is 219!

**Committee Position:**

Treasurer



**Name:** Caz Turver

**Caching Name:** Border Caz

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 7

**Different Positions Held:** 1

**Started Geocaching:** July 2009

**Geocacher Type:** Traveller

**No. of Finds:** 11,888

**No. of Hides:** 122

**Favourite Type:** Historical Multis

**Favourite Series:** Church Micros

**Fun Fact:** My dog is my favourite geocaching companion.

**Committee Position:**

Retail and Fundraising Officer



**Name:** Paul Bevan

**Caching Name:** big eddie

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 2

**Different Positions Held:** 1

**Started Geocaching:** April 2010

**Geocacher Type:** DT Hunter

**No. of Finds:** 16,816

**No. of Hides:** 148

**Favourite Type:** A Simple Traditional

**Favourite Series:** Manswood Mooch II

**Fun Fact:** Met my partner through geocaching!

**Committee Position:**

GLAD Officer



**Name:** Chris Warren

**Caching Name:** Stoke Bunnies

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 2

**Different Positions Held:** 3

**Started Geocaching:** March 2009

**Geocacher Type:** Mastermind

**No. of Finds:** 4,693

**No. of Hides:** 394

**Favourite Type:** Mysteries

**Favourite Series:** RAF Charny Down

**Fun Fact:** Off roading in the sand in Qatar, then attempting to repeat it in SW England!

**Committee Position:**  
Social Media Officer



**Name:** Joanne Mitchell  
**Caching Name:** joe222s

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 1  
**Different Positions Held:** 1

**Started Geocaching:** March 2018  
**Geocacher Type:** Social Butterfly

**No. of Finds:** 3,353

**No. of Hides:** 89

**Favourite Type:** Traditional

**Favourite Series:** Cromer Crab

**Fun Fact:** Although I love other geocachers I have Protagragnosia (face Blindness)

**Committee Position:**  
Outreach and Events



**Name:** Bev Bradley  
**Caching Name:** Firefox.3

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 1  
**Different Positions Held:** 1

**Started Geocaching:** July 2011  
**Geocacher Type:** Mastermind

**No. of Finds:** 18,805

**No. of Hides:** 548

**Favourite Type:** Virtuals

**Favourite Series:** Clumber Park

**Fun Fact:** My dog rides on my bicycle with me!

**Committee Position:**  
Webmaster



**Name:** Chris Carpenter  
**Caching Name:** Saza36

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 3  
**Different Positions Held:** 2

**Started Geocaching:** May 2010  
**Geocacher Type:** Traveller

**No. of Finds:** 2,628

**No. of Hides:** 165

**Favourite Type:** Regular Sized Containers

**Favourite Series:** Puzzles by Blindmouse

**Fun Fact:** Geocached with Jeremy in 2010 without (initially) realising who he was!

**Committee Position:**  
Reps and Friends Coordinator



**Name:** Stuart Howe  
**Caching Name:** stuarthowe11

**Years on the GAGB Committee:** 1  
**Different Positions Held:** 1

**Started Geocaching:** December 2018  
**Geocacher Type:** DT Hunter

**No. of Finds:** 16,620

**No. of Hides:** 427

**Favourite Type:** Virtuals

**Favourite Series:** SideTracked

**Fun Fact:** Number 1 SideTracked finder and hider globally!

# MUNRO BAGGING IN WINTER...

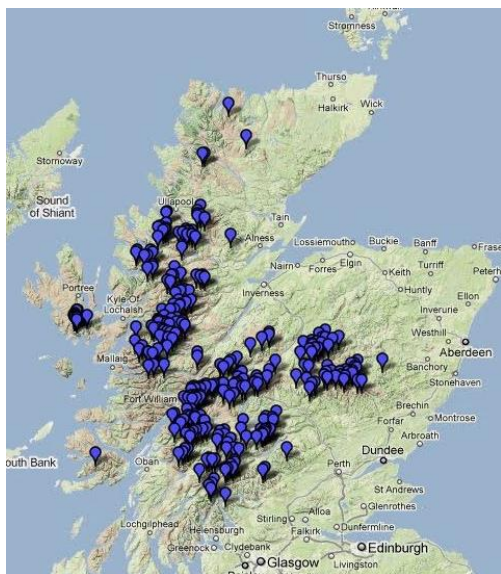
*By Rachael Mackenzie (BumblerBee)*

Munros are Scottish mountains over 3000 feet (914 meters) in height, with 282 on the official Munro list and subsidiary tops are classified separately. Munro Bagging is when someone sets out to complete the list with an elite club of “completists” who have summited all 282! There are a variety of Munros that could be considered suitable for beginners these have a recognisable path all the way to the summit but some of the others, are for the more experienced mountaineer such as the inaccessible pinnacle, which requires specialist climbing equipment. Geocaching fits nicely with Munro Bagging as a lot of Munros have geocaches placed at their summit or close by. Some of the delicate highland locations have EarthCaches due to them being in a protected area.

This brings us to the recent winter season when we decided to go out Munro bagging as two of the easier Munro summits were close to home.

The aim of the day was to complete two Munros called Mayar and Driesh. Of course, there was also several geocaches on route too! No outing is complete without including caching on our travels – am I right?!

There are two loops of geocaches, we took the lower trail which started at the parking area with the “The Lone Ranger....” ([GC1T94Q](#)) geocache. This



A map showing the Scottish Munros.

loop goes through stunning landscapes before reaching “Corrie Fee” ([GCXB05](#)), sited at the amazing glacial bowl, and the foot of both the Munros. That’s where the real fun begins!

Nothing can explain the beauty of this area, but the EarthCache “Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve” ([GC2EWWD](#)), which has information on how the bowl was formed, does help. It does take your breath away seeing it in person though!

When we reached the summit, there was lots of snow on the ground, which was still frozen. After passing Corrie Fee there is a lovely waterfall which had amazing ice formations, but we didn’t take any pictures.

The waterfall keeps the path very wet

which also makes it quite treacherous when icy. We were being careful with each foot placement, and we are experienced with these conditions whilst out exploring.

After getting to the summit of Mayar the air was perfectly still and we stopped for lunch, even being able to take our jackets off - it was just a perfect day, a bit of a micro-climate. We experienced a cloud inversion at the top which was just spectacular.

After we left this summit and headed toward Driesh we had the delight of seeing an elusive Brocken Spectre too.

With so many interesting phenomenon it made it a spectacular day to be out bagging Munros! But the weather changed in the blink of an eye!

As we headed towards Driesh for the second summit geocache, the cover picture was taken! The clouds engulfed us all in a matter of seconds and our previous view was obliterated. The wind picked up significantly and it was very disorientating. The temperature also plummeted and suddenly there were no landmarks. It was a very scary situation, but we were well prepared and thankfully all made it off the mountains in one piece!



Climbing the Munro.

# EXPLORING THE BROADS...

by Scott Kirby (*TheSpecialAgents*)

The Broads comprises around 200 square miles of freshwater lakes, rivers, arable farmland, man-made ditches, reed beds, marshlands, woodlands and coast. It is home to more than a quarter of Britain's rarest animals and plants. The Broads however started due to peat digging during the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from discovering the flora and fauna, visiting seaside towns and seeing its rich history it is also a perfect place for geocaching.



There are geocaches of all types located within The Broads including Virtuals, EarthCaches and Letterboxes. However, due to the landscape most are found around the towns rather than the middle of the marshland! We, TheSpecialAgents, frequently holiday to Caister-on-Sea since starting geocaching in 2019. This time we focused around, the River Bure and Burgh Castle.

We spent one day exploring the River Bure, the longest river in The Broads. In the morning we went to Acle and a geocaching walk alongside the river for some mystery geocaches we had solved prior to our trip and a few traditional geocaches. We also experienced some of the local flora and fauna which make this place their home.



River Bure near traditional geocache [GC928KE](#)

Then in the afternoon we explored Bure Park which sits alongside the River Bure. We visited the park due to the five staged adventure lab "Bure Park doggy dash delight". The stages saw us take a walk around the Parks lake and along a different section of the River Bure.



Bure Park Lake taken whilst completing the Adventure Lab Series

On another day we went to Burgh Castle and the Roman Fort. The first stop here was “Burgh Castle Wherigo” ([GC5BDRJ](#)) and we also managed to pick up some traditional geocaches along the route. The Wherigo was a historical tour with multi choice questions and designed to be completed by new and experienced geocachers. Unfortunately, like many Roman Forts all that remains of “Saxon Shore” dating back to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman coastal defence are a few stone walls. However, of these stone walls three are nearly at their original height!



Stone walls of a Roman Fort seen whilst completing [GC5BDRJ](#)

Continuing the Wherigo walk around the area we walked past Glebe Marshes which borders the Burgh Flats. A rich biodiversity of wildlife – but all we managed to see were ducks!



River Waverney seen whilst completing [GC7G72N](#)

Another highlight of the holiday was seeing the Atlantic Grey Seal colony at Horsey beach (although not strictly within the national park only a very short drive away and well worth it at any point of the year!). We had heard about the seals at nearby Horsey beach before but had never been and so was an important criteria for this holiday and we were not disappointed! Although seals are present all year round, but late autumn and early winter is when it becomes seal central! Depending on which way you walk to reach the beach depends on what geocaches are on offer but there are plenty around the area.

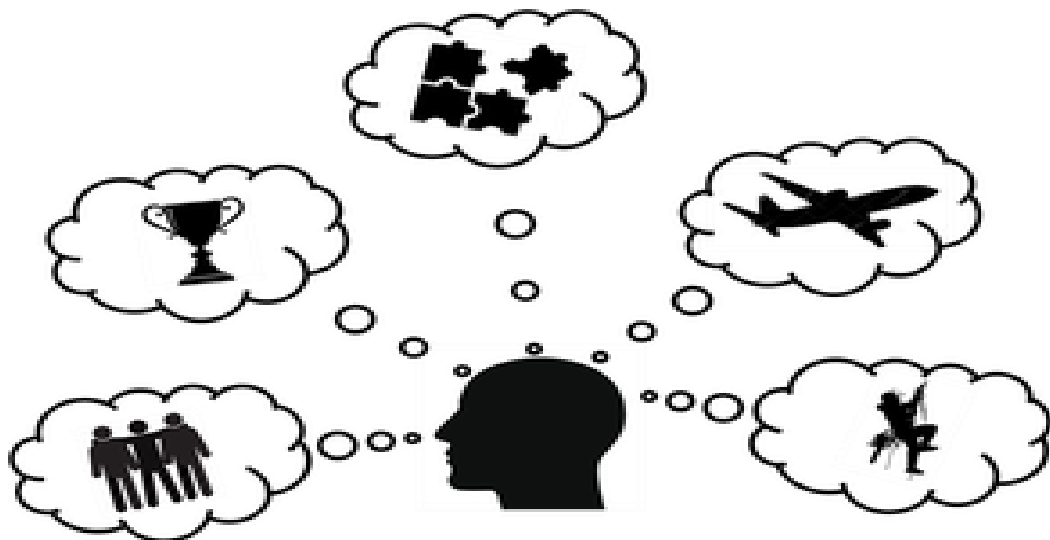


Seal on Horsey Beach

As it was getting towards the end of the holiday, we took off for a walk locally to we were staying at Caister-on-Sea. Firstly, we checked up on our virtual geocache “VS #1323a - Caister-on-Sea<sup>2</sup>” ([GC9P8NJ](#)). This is part of a larger series of geocaches placed at or near to village signs and was the first virtual for the series. Apart from the virtual there are at the time of writing three unknown geocaches, a multi and a letterbox and not a single traditional!

# TYPES OF GEOCACHER QUIZ...

*What sort of geocacher are you?!*



There are many types of geocacher, all of whom make geocaching what it is! From those which go after a geocache as soon as its published, to the geocacher willing to risk it all to reach those higher rated terrain geocaches. Those meeting up as a team and going geocaching together or visiting as many countries as possible. Let's not forget the ones stretching their minds to solve a D5 puzzle, all in pursuit of Tupperware! Take the quiz to find your geocacher type and share results with us or let us know any we missed!

## 1. What is your must have geocaching snack?

- A. Fast Food
- B. Brain Food
- C. Weetabix
- D. A Picnic
- E. Local Grub

## 2. What do you do in your spare time?

- A. Waiting for New Geocaches!
- B. Solving Difficult Puzzles
- C. Planning the Next DT Loop
- D. Chat About Geocaching
- E. Booking Holidays

### **3. What makes you do a happy dance?**

- A. FTF!
- B. Completing a D5
- C. Finishing Another DT Loop
- D. Sharing Geocaching Stories
- E. Ticking Off a New Country

### **4. What is your must have geocaching tool?**

- A. Car
- B. GeoChecker
- C. ProjectGC
- D. Calendar
- E. Geocaching App

### **5. What pictures are in your picture gallery?**

- A. FTF!
- B. Difficult Geocache Containers
- C. Tree Climbing
- D. Geocacher Friends and You
- E. The 10 Wonders of the World

### **6. What's your favourite geocache type?**

- A. Quick and Easy
- B. High Difficulty!
- C. High Terrain!
- D. Anything with Others
- E. It's More About the Place

**Now add up your scores using A = 1 point, B = 2 points, C = 3 points, D = 4 points and E = 5 points – to learn your Geocacher type!**

**6 to 9 Points = FTF Hound**

**10 to 13 Points = Mastermind**

**14 to 17 Points = DT Hunter**

**18 to 21 Points = Social Butterfly**

**22+ Points = The Traveller**

**Over the next few pages of this issue of Seeker we take a delve into these...**

# BEING A FTF HOUND...

by Jayne Guppy (Jaynie15)

## What is a FTF Hound?

A FTF Hound is a geocacher who goes after as many FTFs as possible, always keeps a watch for any new geocaches and is ready to drop everything to go after that FTF!

Jaynie15 is certainly a FTF Hound continue reading to find out more....

I started caching on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (hence the 15 in my caching name), and my first joint FTF was "Outsider Mail" ([GC60WMZ](#)) on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 with a caching friend of mine. At the time I didn't think too much of it, as I was still learning how to play the hobby really.

Fast forward 4 more joint FTF's, and I had my very first solo FTF with "That There Triangle! Lilys TB Hotel" ([GC6K5CV](#)) on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016. I remember how excited I was at finding it, and even wondering if anyone had beaten me to it, that was the start of the buzz for me.

Since then, (at the time of writing) I have 308 FTF's, some jointly and some solo. I must admit, the joint ones now give me the same buzz that my first solo one did.

My notifications for new geocaches

radius set to 10 miles, which is probably the distance I would drop everything for if I'm free to 'chase' a FTF!

Typically, in my area of Devon, new geocaches tend to be published in the evening. This can be on the borderline of whether I go for them or not. My partner is geocacher big eddie, but not a FTF hound like me, so he tends to drive, and I tend to navigate and look at the description on route. When we arrive at ground zero, I firstly look around to see if anyone else is around who I know, as there are a few FTF hounds in the area, and if not, I get super excited about spending the time finding the geocache. Sometimes this can be instant, other times a few minutes. Once the geocache



FTF log on [GCAHFB](#)

is found, the fun REALLY starts.... Have I/we got FTF or have we been beaten?

Usually, my hands are shaking trying to get the log out of the bag (especially if the top spot on the log is not visible), or I have thrust the lid into big eddies hands whilst I fumble to get the log out. This all happens in about 5 seconds flat!

Once I see the top spot is blank then I let out a little squeal, and begin signing us into the top spot, or if I am solo... I am balancing the geocache on one foot, the lid on the other, the logs bag in a pocket and using the back of my phone to lean on.

To this day I don't think I have ever written a FTF log very legibly due to excitement. But I nearly always take a photo of the log to send to some caching friends of ours who also do the same.

I then dictate my log to my phone, send it to my drafts, and log the geocache online when I get home.



FTF log on [GCAC2C4](#)

### But what if I am not FTF?

If I chase an FTF but someone beats me to it, then I feel gutted for about 3 seconds, of which I then feel happy for the FTF'er, especially if it's a newbie or someone who doesn't get FTF's very often, as I know what a nice feeling it is when you are FTF. This is why caching friends of ours and I, send photos of the FTF log to one another, to congratulate each other, especially if there has been a puzzle or a multi involved first.

### Other FTF Hounds...

One of the most exciting things about arriving at a geocache at the same time as another geocacher, is that FTF tends to be shared, especially if all of you have been searching for some time, and all had a part to play in accessing the log. I have met many caching friends this way, and have many stories to share...



Standing proud with a FTF [GCAFH8B](#)

# BEING A MASTERMIND...

by Brian Parks (MrCryptic)

## What is a Mastermind?

A Mastermind is a geocacher who loves using their brain to plan very difficult geocaches for others to find or those that like solving them – this can include puzzles at home or in the field.

I am Brian, also known as MrCryptic, from east Hampshire, a geocaching area often called “the land of the big blue question mark” or Crypticshire. I have set, to date, 320 geocaching puzzles.

I am a retired teacher, author and musician and was first introduced to geocaching back in 2011 by my teaching assistant Duncandillies. When I told her about a puzzle geocache I had planned, she said “You are quite the Mr Cryptic, aren’t you?” And my geocaching name was born!

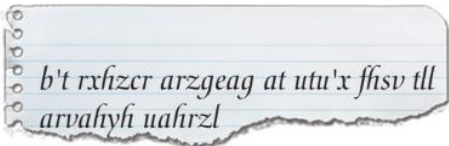
I am often asked “What makes a good geocaching puzzle?” but it would be more helpful to ask “How do you set a puzzle that solvers will be drawn into and want to persevere with?” because no puzzle setter wants their work to be ignored! I think it’s important to design puzzles which are easily accessible, initially at least. In educational terms (especially in maths education), this is known as a “low threshold, high ceiling”

activity: everyone can access it but not all will be able to easily solve it. Hopefully, once the solver finds an easy way into the puzzle they will be hooked.

It will probably be clearer if I give an example from one of my own puzzles - one that has now been archived: “The Thirty Nine Steps” ([GC83H6V](#)).

### Geocache Description:

The cache is, of course, not at the published coordinates.

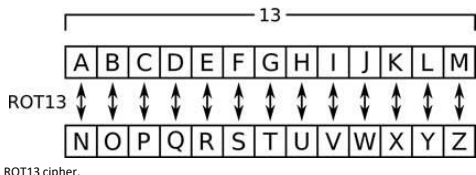


| Step 1  | Step 2   | Step 3   |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |
|   | Dresdenf<br>Huuabuzge<br>Mindewile<br>Milanje                      | "If you tell that to the young people today..."                |
| Everyman's Library handbook.<br>ISBN: 9781857155308 | My first impulse; had been to write a letter to the Prime Minister | Trick up over, and round that it could be easily as my friend. |
| +15 -2 +8   | +16 +13 +4   | -22 -13 -16  |

The Thirty Nine Steps ([GC83H6V](#)) geocache page.

This puzzle has various entry points. Puzzlers who like solving codes might start with the telegram and scrap of paper at the top of the page. Those who like using Google image search might start with the pictures at the top of each “Step” and those who like solving rebus-style puzzles might start with the mixture of word-clues and picture-clues below them.

The telegram uses ROT13 (familiar to all geocachers – as it is the code used to decrypt all hints).



The scrap of paper uses a Vigenere cipher with the geocache title as the key. Googling the deciphered Vigenere phrase reveals it is an incomplete quote (hence the torn-off piece of paper) from Buchan’s “Thirty Nine Steps”. It continues “...unless we alter the geography of England”. This is a clue that we are looking for thirty nine “somethings” relating to English (Not UK) geography. Googling “39 English Geography” gives a reference to the “Thirty nine ceremonial counties of England”. So the second item in each of the Steps is a rebus clue for one of these 39 counties. Wikipedia has a very useful page on these counties. To give two of the easier answers here:

Step 15 “Sorted out” is a typical cryptic-crossword clue where “out” indicates an anagram. And an anagram of SORTED is?

Step 34 is a photo of a member of Fleetwood Mac. His surname is...?

Step 34




The second thing was that this war was going to come as a mighty surprise to Britain.

+21 +24 +3

Step 34 from The Thirty Nine Steps ([GC83H6V](#)).

Googling the images at the top of each Step reveals that each person has the first name Stephen. So these are 39 “Steps” as well! The most obvious way of obtaining a message from these is to use the initial letter of their surnames. These tell us we need to REORDER THE THIRTY NINE BY AREA LARGE TO LITTLE.

Which “thirty nine”? This is where the Wikipedia page on the 39 counties comes in handy, as it has a table of their areas, easily sortable.

And what about the quotes from Buchan’s novel and the ISBNs from its various editions? Taking the 39th character from each of the quotes gives a very interesting message – assuming we first take the advice given in the telegram.

But the puzzle is not finished yet. The bottom element of each step uses a trio of negative/positive numbers. These are offset STEPs through the alphabet from the initial letter of the historic county (taken in the new “area-order”) giving a message which tells geocachers what to do when they arrive at the puzzle coordinates. Rather pleasingly, this involves climbing 39 stone steps in a remote woodland area.



39 stone steps leading up to the cache.

If your brain has started to implode you know why it is worthy of a D5 rating! But it cannot be denied that there are easier ways into something more complex.

Now that you have discovered the way that my mind works try your hand at some of my other puzzles::

- “M57” ([GC8JNMB](#)) – beware of the massive red herrings!
- “X-mas X-travaganza (Mr C’s 2021 Christmas cache)” ([GC9JY86](#))
- “Genesis 11:6” ([GC85HYK](#))

Good luck!

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



# BEING A DT HUNTER...

*by Paul Bevan (big eddie), Retail and Fundraising Officer*

## What is a DT Hunter?

A DT Hunter is a geocacher who loves tough to reach geocaches and its more about the journey to the geocache than signing the numbers. They also try to complete as many full DT loops as possible.

As with most people, I started caching by accident and never really realised what a diverse game geocaching is. I started back in 2010, when on holiday with my son in the Brecon Beacons.

My first D/T geocache that I remember specifically doing was “Look into the Light” ([GC1AGGD](#)), a 5/5, but no special kit was required except a torch.

As time went by, I gained more

experience in geocaching, and started to make new friends by meeting other geocachers on trails or at events. Some of these friends became good friends, and I realised that they are by far brainer than me. Brilliant for those difficult puzzles, that I just could not solve. Don't get me wrong, I can solve a lot of puzzles now, but back then I was lacking experience and knowledge.

Sometime later whilst geocaching as a group, we came across “Animal Kingdom 01 - Woody The Woodpecker!!” ([GC3P2T6](#)), this was up a tree. We knew it was too high to get by free climbing.



The Worm's Turned / Pit Of Peril (UW7) ([GCPEV9](#))

Now this was different, 3 of us in the group had a bit of experience with rock climbing in the past, so with that kit we tried to get the geocache, in hindsight, we were totally irresponsible and stupid, trying as we did. We knew another geocacher, who had geocaches in trees and set them using ropes. We pleaded and begged for a training session, on how to access geocaches in trees. The



Flotsam & Jetsam: Extreme ([GC15H1D](#))



Reaching for a geocache ([GC4XERM](#)).

geocacher kindly obliged, and the rest as they say, is history!

Here I am going to stop for a second and give you a polite warning. Just because the geocache is there, it is NOT worth DYING for! Training and experience count for a lot and having the right equipment. Yes, I have climbed many trees, but, and this is a big but... I have a healthy respect for life! I also trust my kit and treat it correctly, so it looks after me! I also know my own limits. I have climbed a trees and thought, no higher, I do not feel safe, and came back down again. Another aspect to be mindful of is the weather. Does your trip include a geocache down a cave or adit? Has it rained heavily in the last 24 to 72 hours. I would also advise caching with friends

when extreme caching in case of an emergency. Another tip here, is to always let someone know where you are going and what you are doing!

Extreme caching is not easy and nor is it cheap!

So, I have touched on tree climbing, for me the most dangerous way to collect smilies. What else is there: There are the water-based geocaches, I use an inflatable canoe or swim. Locked geocaches (padlocked), you need to pick the locks. Underground geocaches (caves, adits, culverts, storm drains), torches and batteries a plenty needed. Hook a Duck style a nice 9-meter-long telescopic flagpole (with homemade attachments). The last pieces of equipment in my arsenal are telescopic ladders and a set of chest high waders.



King Of The Swingers - Several Pitches More ([GC4ZRD9](#))

There is another aspect of caching, that is worth mentioning, but a whole subject on its own. Challenge caching, this really helps to get the D/Ts. These take a lot more planning, and time to complete. But worth the effort. Puzzle solving is another aspect of caching, but again a whole topic on its own, with many subtopics within it.

It took me ages to get my first D/T loop, but when I did, what a joy it was. I noticed that I was only a couple away from doing the next loop, so I started actively looking for geocaches with certain D/Ts. Ever since then, I am always looking at where the D/T geocaches are. When I go to a UK Mega, my first thought is D/Ts, and planning the week away around these. I look at challenges a lot, take for instance, this year's UK Mega. I have already earmarked geocaches that I would like to do. A big chunk of these are challenge geocaches, such as "Goldpot's Water Challenge - Silver 100 Boats 4/5" ([GC8Y9QB](#)). I qualify for this challenge. A trail of these challenges all required

some kind of boat/canoe or paddle board to get to.

So how do I start looking for geocaches to do? My first port of call is my D/T grid on my profile, to see what D/Ts I have missing for the next loop. I then look at the challenge geocaches, is there any that I can quickly qualify for, that I have already signed? Now for the search. I look at my local area first, well county. I then spreadout county by county. I also look at where the UK Mega events are, as stated before. I use 2 main tools to search for geocaches. GSAK which is free to use, and Project GC (I do pay for the premium features here). Don't forget the GC website, go to your statistics page, scroll down to the D/T grid, and click on any of the D/T combo, it will automatically show the geocaches available for that particular D/T combo. I will then dismiss any geocaches that I know that I am unable to do, such as Scuba Diving. I do not have the kit or the skill set for these type of geocaches. Then it is a case of creating a GPX file, asking friends to join me and off we go...



Finding a water based geocache with the help of a boat ([GC7RM2G](#))

# BEING A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY...

*by Joanne Mitchell (Joe222s), Social Media Officer*

## What is a Social Butterfly?

A Social Butterfly is a geocacher who loves geocaching with others from attending events, introducing new geocachers to the game or sharing stories with experienced geocachers, giving them a geocaching community feel.

I first discovered Geocaching whilst celebrating the New Year in 2019. I was with a group of friends, when one suggested that we should go for a walk and at the same time find some geocaches...

From then, we were always planning trips and out geocaching together. This included both long weekends away from home to smaller more local day trips. Both of which I enjoyed!



Out geocaching with friends.



Out geocaching with friends.

To help keep us connected between our trips we used WhatsApp. As we could talk geocaching and put suggestions forwards of where to go next, or working on mystery geocaches as a team.

Then the Covid pandemic slowed us down due to the strict rules on meeting up with others and it never occurred to me to go out geocaching on my own! Therefore, as soon as we could we were back out geocaching all together be it weekend trips or locally. We sure made up for the missed time geocaching and walked many miles together!

Unfortunately, last year our geocaching team broke up and made me geocache on my own for the first time. Although I now geocache on my own, I still prefer to be out in a group.

It was also at this point I discovered Events and CITO's. My first CITO I attended was at the beach which I thorough enjoyed! I mostly enjoyed meeting up with lots of other likeminded geocachers! I quickly paired myself up

with a fellow geocacher and by the end of the CITO we had planned to go and find a series called the Essex Way. When we went, I talked most of the way around – but she agreed to come with me again!

Another element of being a social butterfly is that there are many geocachers online which are more than happy to help with either solving difficult mystery geocaches or finding someone to go geocaching with. This was proven when I went on Facebook looking for help to solve a difficult mystery, which saw another geocacher help me solve it!

Also, last summer my husband and I attended our first mega events “Piratemanía 15” ([GCA2BBR](#)) and mega:MK ([GC9V5J3](#)) – I loved both and look forward to the ones this summer! It was great to meet like minded geocachers from across the UK...



Out geocaching with a friend.



Piratemanía 15 (PM 15 Friday night with the pirates ([GCA684D](#))) (by Lollybob)

# BEING A TRAVELLER...

*By Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies), GLAD Officer*

## What is a Traveller?

A Traveller is a geocacher who loves travelling and seeing all the famous geocaching places! From GCHQ in Seattle to the highest favourite point geocache in the world. They also use geocaching to take them off the well trodden tourist paths!

I started geocaching in 2009, introduced to it by a German puzzle geocacher. It didn't take long finding traditionals, before I found some puzzles set by WearyBanker and Bookworm, and then started on my own puzzles. Then went back to traditionals in 2011, when I travelled to Qatar and found the desert, and the real adventures started...

In 2011, having been involved with aircraft operations on the ground, and with a lot of experience in Cargo and Automatic Cargo Handling systems, I was approached by a German engineering company, who I'd worked with on a previous project, who asked me if I'd like to go out to Qatar, and show Qatar Airways how to use their sparkling new automatic handling system, built by the engineering company. It wasn't much of a decision, as they were offering to pay me a salary that looked a telephone number. So off I went!

Before we go geocaching, I would like to

point out that Qatar is pronounced 'cutter', rather than 'catarrh'.



Qatar on a world map.

The weekend in Arab countries is Friday (which is prayers day) and Saturday. My position at work meant I was due a 4WD, but I only had a Honda saloon to start with, so didn't stray far off the roads, finding a few geocaches. Once I had the 4.5L Ford Explorer, I got a bit more adventurous, but still didn't go far out in the desert.



Driving in the desert.

The main geocache setter in Qatar at the time was Peter Little (cincol), who messaged me after I'd found a few of his, and asked if I was going to be around for a while. He then offered to take me out in the proper desert, in his Land

Cruiser Prado. That was my education in driving in the desert. The north of the peninsula is very rocky, with very little soft sand, so ground clearance is essential, and all the big sand dunes are in the south. We drove on both surfaces, and I learnt that to avoid getting stuck, both gravity and momentum are vital.

I started going out by myself a lot more then, and placed a few geocaches, including some easier puzzles, in both the north, and towards the south. I also took a risk to go for an unfound geocache right down by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), "Power Line Series #5" ([GC28GYR](#)). My boss had borrowed my car for the weekend, as he was moving, and the Explorer had more space than his Range Rover, so I was in that. The Qatar government have been very good with mobile phone coverage, and I got a better signal there, than I ever do in Somerset. I did get stuck a couple of times by myself, and was pulled out by nearby friendly Qataris. Everyone helps everyone else in the desert. With the last resort is to call the police to tow you out!



Stoke Bunnies standing in the middle of nowhere (the desert)!

After that trip, I started going out with other geocachers. Getting stuck in soft

Sand is always possible, and nearly everyone carried a 45m snatch rope. One way to lessen getting stuck, is to drop tyre pressures by half if on sand. So I had to carry a compressor as well, to get the pressures back up for the roads.

Driving with low pressures in the tyres on rocky terrain, leads to punctures, and places you can use a jack are few and far between, sometimes driving with the flat for 10km before there was somewhere solid to change wheels was normal!



Tyre after being used in the desert!

Just about all of the geocachers that were there, were from somewhere else, working in Qatar, on contracts like me, and quite a few had gone back to wherever they had come from. The current bunch of geocachers while I was there were mostly South Africans, and we used to replace geocaches for the geocachers who had gone home. This still goes on, and there's one geocacher there right now, who replaces missing containers of mine after 10 years.

Finding geocaches in the desert was interesting. The winter temperatures were mostly in the high 20s/low 30s. The summer temperature was mid 40s, with some exceptions. Impossible to be out

there without vehicle aircons, and many litres of water. The usual clip-top boxes we use in the UK degrade to pieces after a year in that climate, so most of us would use metal or glass, which tended to last longer. There are very few places to actually hide anything, the usual hint being 'haqre n ebpx'.

When you're on a mound of limestone, it will sometimes take a while to turn over the correct rock. Given that the landscape is pretty flat (the highest point in Qatar is 106m ASL), with some limestone pinnacles and cliffs, until you've been to an area, and recognise the rocky outcrops, your GPSr is the only guide you have, and navigating around the desert areas is possible only by aiming at a geocache near to where you need to be. Then the limestone cliffs get in the way, so you have to find a way to get up them, either looking for the least severe slope, or getting a run at it on full power, and landing with a bang at the top!



Limestone rock pile in the desert.

There are a few points of interest on Qatar, away from the city. There are forts scattered about the desert, mostly near the coast, and some of them you can get in and wander round.

Film City (N25 34.697 E050 50.778) on the Zikreet peninsula, which comprises a

walled village, built by a film company to represent a Mexican village, and close by, some stone built huts that look like something out of Star Wars.



Film City.

There is also the Inland Sea (N24 38.198 E051 17.534), just across the water from the KSA, which is a 30km drive over some hard-packed sand and dunes.



Inland Sea.

At Fuwarit beach, there are some ancient carvings in the rocks. No-one is really sure what they mean.



Ancient carvings at Fuwarit beach.

The Singing Sand Dunes (N25 02.336 E051 24.659) are not far from the city. [The explanation is here!](#)



The Singing Sand Dunes.

The last thing to mention is the animals which I encountered from venomous snakes and scorpions to camels – all of which seemed scared of me and soon moved on! The meaning of hidden under rock took on a whole new meaning...



Snakes in the desert.



Camels in the desert.

I set quite a few geocaches while I was there, which involved going out on my own, so I stayed out of the soft sand as far as possible, and put quite a few on

the limestone pinnacles. My geopal cincol's proud boast was that he could drive right next to any geocache in Qatar, so my job was to find hides that made him get out of the car and climb, and walk! I introduced all the geocachers there at the time to some gentle puzzle geocaches, which gave them something else to think about. I also produced geoart, in the letter Q, is still active.

Events were popular, both in the city at restaurants, and out in the desert. Where we used to have a braai (barbecue in the UK), a couple of beers, and fall asleep under a very starry sky.

I made a lot of South African friends while I was there and still in touch with most of them on Facebook, and message Cincol (Peter) 2/3 times a week, to chat.



Cincol (Peter).

We went and stayed with him and his wife when they lived in Rustenburg, he took me out caching in the bush veldt, and at Pilanesburg Game Reserve. He also maintains a geocache for me there, and I have one of his here.

It was certainly a different way of life and geocaching, but after 2 years, I was glad to get back to the UK!

# PUZZLE CORNER...

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

How well do you know your elements?

Below are 6 images do you know the element and chemical symbols?



# COMPETITION ANSWERS...

*Find out the Competition answers from Edition 51*

Congratulations to all those which took part and entered the competition!

The winner was Wendy Kent (wendyk1102) they received a full set of GAGB Racing Hound Tags scoring 19 out of 20!

Here are the answers for the first Seeker competition...

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

# COMPETITION TIME...

*A chance to win a Yorkshire National Park Geocoin...*

**Some puzzle setting COs often use numerical or other sequences for their puzzles. Here's a few to practice on!**

1. T, T, F, F, ☐ ☐ E, N
2. 9, 16, 25, ☐ ☐ 64, 81, 100
3. 13, 17, 19, 23, ☐ ☐ 37, 41
4. 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36, ☐ ☐
5. 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, ☐ ☐ 233, 377
6. 63, 124, 215, ☐ ☐ 728, 999, 1330, 1727
7. 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, ☐ ☐
8. M, A, M, J, ☐ ☐ S, O
9. 0010, 0011, 0100, ☐ ☐ 0111, 1000, 1001
10. 17, 17, 20, ☐ ☐ 11, 26, 8
11. 1, 4, 1, ☐ ☐ 2, 6, 5
12. 4, 6, 12, ☐ ☐ 42, 60, 72
13. PO, QM, RK, ☐ ☐ UE, VC, WA
14. 40, 20, 10, ☐ ☐ 8, 4, 2, 1
15. 6, 14, 36, ☐ ☐ 794, 2316, 6818
16. 4, 7.5, 12, 17.5, ☐ ☐ 40, 49.5
17. 53, 73, 103, ☐ ☐ 211, 227, 263
18. E, T, D, ☐ ☐ Z, Z, A
19. 1, ☐ ☐ 256, 625, 1296, 2401, 4096
20. 4, 18, 48, 100, 180, ☐ ☐ 648



The closing date of the competition is the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 with all correct entries received before this date being entered into a random draw to win a Yorkshire National Park Geocoin. To enter the competition and have the opportunity of winning, send an email with your answers, name, geocaching name and postal address to [editor@gagb.org.uk](mailto:editor@gagb.org.uk)

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

# LETTERBOXING...

*Learn about the origins of the modern game...*

170 years ago, in 1854, James Perrott placed the first Letterbox. It was a bottle placed in one of the most inaccessible areas of Dartmoor, England, along the banks of Cranmere Pool. Within the bottle he placed a calling card so visitors could contact him and leave their own calling cards.

Cranmere Pool is in remote and rugged part of the Dartmoor National Park. It regularly receives over 100 inches of rain annually and the peat acts as a sponge making hiking a severe challenge! The easiest access point is 9 miles away. Cranmere Pool has a low undistinguished profile which meant hikers easily missed the pool or found themselves within a few hundred feet of it. Successful hikers were proud of their achievements, so they left calling cards to record the visit.



James Perrott.

In 1888 a small tin replaced the original bottle and visitors started to leave self-addressed postcards, with the next



Cranmere Pool in the Dartmoor National Park.



Finding the first Letterbox at Cranmere Pool.

visitor retrieving the postcards and posting them back.

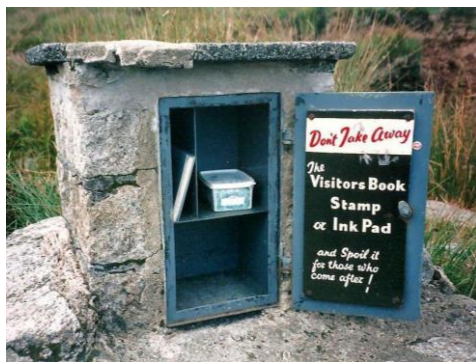
40 years later in 1894 the second Letterbox was placed at Belstone Tor.

Another upgrade was seen in 1905 with the inclusion of the first logbook and the container was changed to a zinc box.

A couple years later in 1907 the first rubber stamp was suggested by John H. Strother who wrote in the logbook "Reached the pool at 7.10pm, misty day with cool breeze, and would suggest that a rubber stamp, something like the post office stamps for postmarking letters or rubber stamp for putting the address at the top of a piece of notepaper be provided and kept here. If this were done it would be proof that cards posted had really come from Cranmere."

At this point Letterboxing reached what we recognise today a box with stamp and logbook.

By 1976 there were still only 15 Letterboxes spread around Dartmoor. At this point Tom Gant created a guided map pinpointing the locations of the



The first Letterbox at Cranmere Pool.

Letterboxes and over the following year the number placed tripled and in the 1980s numbers were into the thousands. At this time the hobby had become widely known and Letterboxers started to use descriptive names and personal stamps in which to add to the logbooks.

Unfortunately, Letterboxers started to cause an issue by pulling apart historic rock walls, painting graffiti, and so forth. Thus, the Dartmoor National Park made the decision to start removing Letterboxes except the ones placed at Cranmere Pool and Ducks Pool, with both now having permanent structures to house their contents. However, Godfrey Swinscow managed to speak with Dartmoor National Park regarding their concerns and save the hobby!

In 1998 Letterboxing went international with an article in the Smithsonian magazine in the USA. This led to Letterboxes being placed in America.

A couple years later in 2000 selective availability was turned off by the president Bill Clinton. Thus allowing everyone access to highly accurate, satellite-driven, location services. Due to

this, Geocaching took off firstly in the USA but then soon internationally and is now the largest treasure hunt hobby!

A year later the first Letterbox Hybrid geocache was placed on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001. The geocache was “Open Space 6 ([GC190](#))” placed in Sandoval County (NM), New Mexico, USA. The original container was a plastic clip lock box placed at the bottom of a Juniper tree.

The first Letterbox Hybrid also had several connections with the first Letterbox 147 years earlier it was placed in a remote area which required a lengthy hike to reach and contained a logbook for visitors to record their visits.

Since the first Letterbox Hybrid there have been thousands placed and continue to be an integral part of our hobby!



Open Space 6 ([GC190](#))

*The  has plenty of suitable containers for Letterboxes...*



[Small Containers](#)  
[Available here...](#)



[Regular Container](#)  
[Available here...](#)



[Plastic Ammo Can](#)  
[Available here...](#)

# GAGB SWAG AND CITO DATES...

*Find out more about our SWAG Weekend and CITO Weeks...*



Our first SWAG Weekend was in December 2014, and we have held one every spring in recent years. You will have four full days to stock geocaches you find with some good quality SWAG (an acronym for Stuff We All Get) and clear out the tat!

Everyone who gets involved will earn a special profile badge! All you will need to do is prove that you took part by sending us a photo of a geocache you added SWAG to (we'd especially love to see before and after shots!). Photos will be shared on our Social Media channels! [More information can be found here!](#)



For over ten years, we have encouraged the organisation of CITO events, initially as part of an annual weekend and, since 2019, full CITO Weeks. Now, for the first time ever, we are promoting two CITO Weeks in a calendar year – one in the spring, and another in the autumn.

All hosts will earn a special profile badge, and another profile badge will be available for everyone who attends a GAGB CITO. In addition, as both CITO Weeks fall within Geocaching.com's CITO seasons, you may also earn a souvenir by attending a GAGB CITO! Start thinking about organising your CITO today! Together, we can really make a difference and give something back. [Check out our website for more information!](#)

# CACHER CHATS...

## *With Grant Little ('Carbon Hunter') a Reviewer in Africa...*

This edition of Seeker saw Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies, GLAD Manager) chat to Grant Little. Grant Little is a reviewer and EarthCache reviewer for the whole continent of Africa!



Grant Little at History Rediscovered [GC7B90Q](#) – a virtual in Johannesburg, South Africa)

bought a GPSr at duty free. He walked me through setting up an account. I found a geocache after roughly 30 hours, near my hotel in Brussels. I started with two DNFs (Did Not Finds), but then I got a find nearby (“CINEMATEK” ([GCR68J](#)) – a traditional geocache in Brussels, Belgium)! Not a particularly memorable geocache but I spent the rest of the weekend geocaching around Belgium, and the following weekend in the Netherlands around Den Haag where I had an enjoyable time – a nice change from being stuck in a hotel on a business trip. On returning to South Africa. I soon had the whole family involved!

### **What is your geocaching name?**

I have three geocaching names! Carbon Hunter my normal geocaching. Afrika Rocks for my regular reviewers' name, and geoawareAFR, for EarthCache reviewing.

### **How did you discover geocaching?**

I found out from my brother (LittleClan) who was geocaching - he was based in Cape Town, came to visit and we went to a local park to make a find.

### **What was your first find by yourself?**

LittleClan convinced my other brother (cincol) to start geocaching. And as I was heading off to Europe for business, I

### **What is your favourite type and what do you love most about geocaching?**

I don't have a particular favourite geocache type instead I mostly love what I call the WOW moments geocaching offers! From finding unexpected spots including natural beauty, historical relevance or some other quirky reason. Getting out the way experiences whilst



Lions near to [GC183Q4](#) (Bojanala Platinum, South Africa)

in a new city or on a road trip. Learning historical facts. I love experiencing new and exciting places “off the beaten track”; I love sharing the journey with others. I also love the global geocaching community as everyone always seems so happy to share stories and happy to help. Sharing WOW moments whilst geocaching as a group also seems to make them more memorable. Introducing new geocachers to the game and bringing the excitement of the first find! Finding geocaches by experienced geocachers which go that extra mile to hide and maintain high quality geocaches. Finding large containers to hold swag and which geocachers have traded up and yet remain in great condition. Lastly, I also love the Podcacher Podcast and finding trackables in the wild!

### **Any dislikes?**

I have several dislikes of geocaching – sorry its quite a list! Throw downs for the sake of someone being lazy and not trying to find the original. Politics between members of the geocaching community which try to create rules and disharmony to promote their own agendas. Poorly maintained geocaches and end up being geo-junk after just a few months. Geocaching for numbers including power trails and urban geocaches which are placed just for the heck of it and don't give any wow factor!

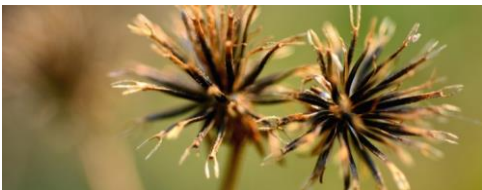
Any geocache which requires being overly intellectual or have a very specific knowledge to solve. Geocaches placed without thinking of the issues of others and which may experience or be put in an area that will create potential unease. Armchair logging when someone logs geocachers from the comfort of home and without getting outside to find the geocache! But mostly I hate Blackjacks (*Bidens pilosa* - a plant with spiky seeds that stick into you and your clothing!) and sticking my hands into dark holes to feel about for the container – especially when in the African bush!

### **What was your first GPSr, and what do you use now?**

It was a Garmin Quest – auto GPSr – that had a bit of battery life to get you outdoors. But, not ideal for long hikes, but worked overtime in the early days. I generally use a smart phone now – but also have a Garmin Oregon 550 for when I am on a serious geocaching trip or going somewhere signal is not great including the African bush or Bushveld where data signal is patchy.

### **How long have you been a regular reviewer (Afrika Rocks) and an EarthCache reviewer (geoawareAFR)?**

The request to be an EarthCache reviewer came around 2012 when I was nominated anonymously to take over EC reviewing across Africa and the Middle East. Soon after that I was asked if I'd join the regular reviewing team to augment the other (at-the-time) 2 African Reviewers. We now split the workload across Africa and South Africa based on our geographic locations, areas



The Blackjacks (*Bidens pilosa*) plant

of expertise and relevant experience.

**As an EarthCache Reviewer, you must have seen some interesting geology. What is it about EarthCaches you like and when an EarthCache gets into your queue, and it's outstanding, do you feel the need to go and find it?**

As Africa is so large and diverse - and there are not many geocachers. The longevity of geocaches and lack of local geocachers outside the few countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and to a lesser extent Kenya means that good quality geocaches over most of Africa are sparse, and maintenance is usually a problem or things change since the placement (especially security or degradation overtime). EarthCaches have the huge benefit of not requiring regular maintenance and tend to be in more remote areas. I get excited when I see a geocache placement in a picturesque area or one of unusual beauty or unique geological feature. I am a strong advocate of EarthCaches being

educational and that the finder learns something about the special area, without needing to write a thesis - or spend months researching or complete mundane tasks. I am not in favour of the recent trend of a photo with your name in the sand!

**What do you enjoy about normal reviewing?**

I love being able to see a geocache come into the reviewing queue that just looks awesome from the off! One which has great graphics, good layout, particularly interesting location or well thought out geocache placement! The reviewer note is clear and explains the background (for example why its accessible, any tricky, difficult or unusual requirements, safe parking, landowners' permission) – all of which will not bring geocaching into disrepute and makes it a pleasant and fun experience for all future finders! I also really love seeing geocaches which I must put on my bucket list and want to start planning a find in the future.



Hippo Pools ([GCIN1V5](#) – EarthCache) in the Kruger National Park, South Africa

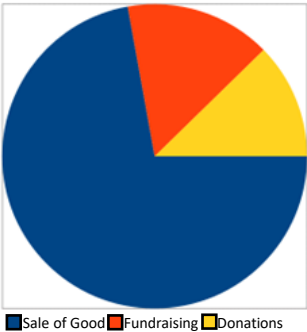
# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW...

*By Caz Turver (Border Caz), Treasurer*

This report covers the period 1.10.2022 to 30.09.2023.

**Total income for the year was £3,389 and below shows the breakdown:**

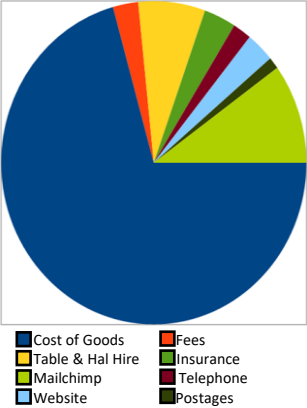
The bulk of our income comes from sales of geocoins, tags, pens, badges and ready made caches which we sell at events and from our online shop, where we also sell a range of GAGB branded clothing including T shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, caps, beanie hats etc, most of which can be personalised with geocaching names and trackable codes. The second main stream of income is fundraising such as our ever popular



map game at events, raffles etc. In addition, we sometimes receive small donations from our members but this year the "donations" have been greatly inflated by our past Chairman who very kindly funded the Mailchimp costs for us. We used to be able to use a free version of Mailchimp for sending out all our newsletters, editions of our Seeker magazine and essential election information. However this year Mailchimp started to charge us and it is not cheap! An alternative solution is being sought.

**The total expenditure for the year was £4,132 and below shows the breakdown:**

As you can see, Mailchimp is quite a large expense. Table & Hall Hire at and for events includes a deposit of £100 for the village hall at Wolverley, which was subsequently refunded in October, reducing the total spent to £193. Fees include £60 charged by HSBC this year to run our main bank account, we opened a new "free" account at Lloyds in September and moved everything over so there will only



be one month's £5 charge on next year's accounts. The rest is made up of fees charged by Paypal, and Zettle when taking card payments. The clever ones amongst you will have noted that we spent more than we received, to the tune of about £743. However, the timing of our 20th Anniversary Event which we held on 30th September at Wolverley Village Hall was not the greatest when our financial year ends on the same day! As at close of play on that day, we had £333 cash in hand (including floats), the deposit refund of £100 to come from the hall, and £627 due to us from Zettle, the card machine company, for payments taken that day.

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 16

25<sup>TH</sup> JULY -

29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 24

**MEGA**

Camping: 25<sup>th</sup> 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 The 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  
Geocoins, Clothing and other Merchandise.**

**Order a Supporter's Pack and enter the Mega in a Box draw.**

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



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

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



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## **SEVERN UK MEGA 2025**

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



# **LONDON CALLING 2025**

**With GPS Maze!**

**1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**

**Central Hall Westminster**



# GAGB MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  |   |  |
| GAGB Shop   | Base of Tree   | NE Geocaching  |
|  |   |  |
| All Cached Up   | Cache 'N' Carry  | Rainbow Caching  |
|  |  |  |
| SideTracked Shop  | Cicerone   | Geocaching Scouts  |

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