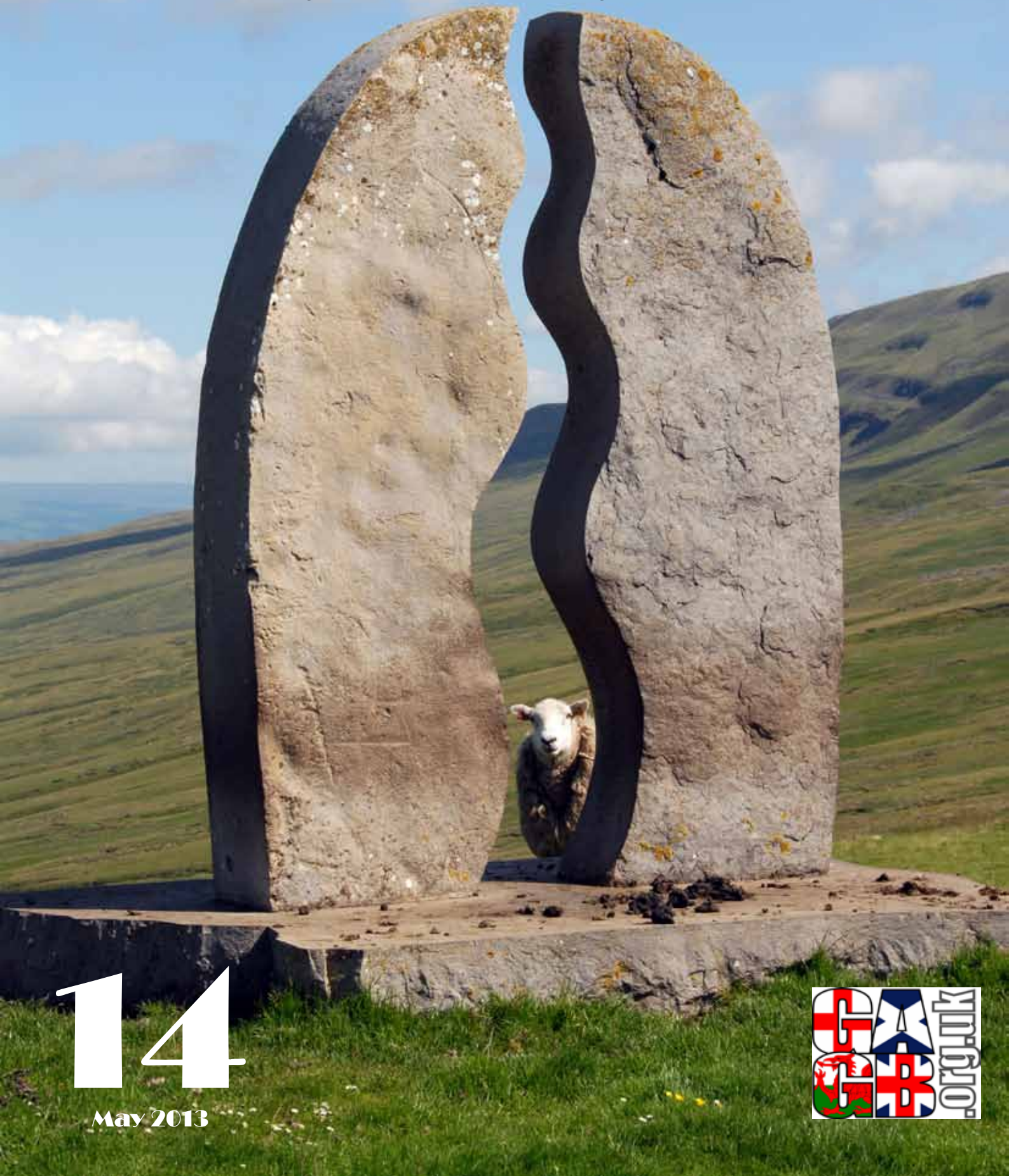


SEEKER

The magazine of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain



14

May 2013





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Cover image: Watercut, Eden Valley
Above: Pen-y-ghent, Yorkshire Dales
© Terry Marsh, 2012

The Geocaching Association of Great Britain (GAGB)

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

Find us on www.gagb.org.uk

MEET THE COMMITTEE

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



Jen Harley
Chairman
(Maple Leaf)



Jackie Catterall
Secretary
(JackieC)



Dax Wood
(daddyanddude)



Dave Edwards
(The Wombles)



Cass Flowers
geocass



Jeff King
Treasurer
(northking)



Terry Marsh
(countrymatters)



Lilian Maund
(Mollyjak)



Steve McGeough
(bobo frett)

Chairman's Message



First I would like to welcome Dax (daddyanddude) onto the committee and to thank JackieC for taking on the permanent role of GAGB Secretary after sandvika's recent resignation from the committee.

It is certainly beginning to feel that summer is finally arriving, especially after the glorious day we recently had for the GAGB: A walk across Morecambe Bay event.

The 10th anniversary weekend (1st & 2nd June) is fast approaching – a few events have been published, but I hope to see a lot more appear in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to those that participated in the discussion regarding the proposed constitution. The final amendments have been made and we are now ready for it to be adopted – please visit the forums to cast your vote. You may have spotted the new GAGB logos appearing in a few places over the last month. More information inside about the logos inside, but unfortunately these are accompanied by some sad news.

On a personal note, I am pleased to have recently completed the LQ: Final – Little Quest Challenge – only the 29th person to complete/find the final since it was first published in 2007.

So now time to work on my next personal challenge/mission ...

In the news....

Two million caches



Well, we made it...during the month of March 2013, the number of caches worldwide broke the 2 million barrier. Is anyone planning on doing them all?

Tweaking logos

As part of the process to develop the website, we've asked Tim (keehotee) to make some slight changes to the GAGB logos - see right - and we're grateful to Tim for his designs.

So, this is a chance to remind members that if you are planning an activity, and want to associate the GAGB with it by using our logos, then the terms and conditions of such use are on our website - [here](#).



Keehotee – RIP

Sadly, only a few days after we announced the new logos, Tim died in his sleep.

Tim has been geocaching since 2004 and is well known in the South West for some fun and novel cache hides and events. He was a GAGB committee member in 2009/2010 and has always been an active participant in both the forums and facebook discussions.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Ali (*mouse*) who he met at a geocaching camping event in 2008.

TO LOG or NOT to log.... that is THE question

The 3fatties ponder the dilemma

Recently, we were ambling down the River Severn, picking up caches as we went, like you do, when we came to a wonderful D5/T5 cache... good for the grid, you might think. Well, the trouble was that the cache was on the top of an old railway abutment, and that was standing 12 feet out in a fast, swirling river. Tut, we all said in unison...!

But then, by dint of a bit of clambering about, we could get to a position where we could actually see the cache – it was quite large (we can describe it, and how, and by what means, it was fixed in place), but given that we all swim like bricks, there was no way we could even reach the base of the abutment, although it did become obvious that there was an (unseen) means of elevating yourself above the river, had we managed it; but we won't go into details.

So, the question is, 'Had we found the cache, or not?' We could see it, but couldn't touch it or sign the log within. Does 'finding' actually mean 'touching'; do we need proof of the find, e.g. by signing the log?

Anyway, what to do? Usually, we do sign the log, on the basis that our understanding of the game is that is what you do. But there have been exceptions. Nanos, for example, have very little in the way of log space anyway, so a conscious decision not to sign nano logs is often

taken, out of consideration for the CO... but only when we truthfully have found the cache. And then there was the time when the cache was in a tree that was looking decidedly iffy, no doubt after many attempts, failed and successful, to reach the cache within. In that instance, a quick PAF to the CO brought instant approval to log the find...but was that the right thing to do?

How critical is it that we do actually sign the logs? Or do we modify the rules to suit ourselves? – long-range extension of that logic = never going out, and just logging finds at home. There are caches, we believe, that involve subaqua gear, and they remain firmly out of reach, ditto the one on the summit of Kilimanjaro, and any in Antarctica, which is a bit off the beaten track...for a variety of reasons, many are available only to a select group of individuals. Is that right?

Of course, you might argue that puzzle caches are available only to those with the nous to solve the puzzle in the first place...which mostly lets us out! If you don't solve the puzzle, you don't get the co-ords, and you don't find the cache. But in the case of our D5/T5 cache, did we find it, or not? If the operative word is 'find', then, 'Yes', we found it. But can we log the find? Now that's the question. Does anyone else have a view on this? If so, send them to editor@gagb.org.uk.

[For the record, we didn't log the find, but that would have spoiled the story...]



matty1984
Chair, Organising
Committee

As I write this there are fewer than 150 days to go until the UK's 6th Annual Mega Event. In fact, by the time you are reading this there are probably closer to 100 days! As the big day looms ever closer the hours of planning are starting to show as things drop into place.

Many of you will be aware that this year's Mega Event is being staged in the West Midlands for the first time. In fact, the West Midlands region is in for a real treat this Summer with not one but two Mega events being staged, with Piratemanía being held at Stratford Racecourse for the first time in its history. Then, on the 3rd August we are inviting the whole geocaching community to the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon. It is a superb venue and one that I hope will allow us to create the biggest and best Mega Event yet.

As mentioned after 18 months of planning everything is starting to take shape. One of the major obstacles with any Mega Event is the camping. However, we are now able to announce that we have secured camping within the grounds of the Heritage Motor Centre. The Centre often holds large rallies during their own events so rest assured they will take the best possible care of any cachers

who camp with us. It's a great way to get to know people in a relaxed and informal atmosphere before the hustle and bustle of the Mega Event itself.

If you do camp with us why not decorate your tent to tie in with our Circus themed camping event on



Friday 2nd August? Of course you don't have to stay with us to join in with all the fun of the circus. Expect jugglers and other Circus acts, cachers dressed as ringmasters and, who knows? maybe even an elephant or two! And for all of those hungry and thirsty cachers there'll be a Hog Roast and plenty of beer.



Keep an eye out for our side events which will run

from Monday the 29th July until Sunday 4th August. Already announced is the usual Teddy Bear's Picnic – this year held in Stratford-Upon-Avon – and

also what promises to be a fascinating tour of the Guide Dog National Breeding Centre. We're in the process of tying up a few final details for other events, which we hope to be published soon. Rest assured there's something for everyone and maybe a few spooky surprises too!

“
...hog roast,
and plenty of
beer...
”

With the speed everything is moving at the moment, we are making announcements on a weekly basis. So, by the time you are reading this I'm confident we'll be in a position to show off all our side events and begin to confirm some of the finer details of the Mega Event itself.

For regular updates and full details of camping and other events check our website www.mega2013.org.uk or Facebook page www.facebook.com/ukmegaevent2013.

It really is an exciting time for the committee, but it would not be possible to achieve what we have so far without the support of the caching community. Without the support of cachers across the UK (and further) there would be no Mega Event.

With that in mind I would like to thank you all for your support and I sincerely hope to welcome you all to the West Midlands this Summer. Keep safe...and happy caching.

UK MEGA 2013

Saturday 3rd August, 2013

Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon

www.mega2013.org.uk



My quest for the LITTLE QUEST

Chairman Jen explains...

LQ: Worcestershire and LQ: Gloucestershire
© Terry Marsh

When this series was first published in 2007, my initial thought was "All that for a micro!" ... and I rapidly dismissed the challenge.

It wasn't until May 2009 that I found my first LQ cache and that was only because I was meeting friends and had spotted the LQ cache nearby that featured on Stuey's Top 10 list. But as I still didn't think I would ever bother with the LQ challenge, I didn't make a note of the LQ details.

However, after a caching day out with Stuey, Wadders and KinkyKimbo in March 2010 when we found the LQ: Herefordshire cache, I thought "Why not?" So I suppose that is really when my LQ Challenge started!

The next two were found during the following week and having just looked back at one of my logs, it starts with....I blame Stuey!

The following six months saw me with 18 LQs ticked off – from the south coast (Devon and Dorset ones) right through to the most northerly one in Northumberland. From then onwards, I made the most of my time working around the UK and picked up the others – sometimes 2 or 3 of them in one day.

It has taken me three years since I actively started looking for them – including three sites revisited (two due to missing containers/DNF and I returned to my first LQ to collect the numbers).

Many have been memorable (for a mixture of reasons including torrential rain, deep mud, snow and blazing sun!) and several of them I would like to revisit to explore the area further.

Thank you to all the cachers that placed (or adopted) and maintain these caches to keep this great series going and also to PuP for instigating it and placing the final Little Quest in a stunning location.

I hear that there is a LQ:Wales in the planning.....

VIRTUALLY MISSING

Terry Marsh

I was down in London recently, picking up a few caches, and wandered Westminster way to visit The Wombles' cache GCE387 The Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament). It's a virtual cache, and I started to wonder why virtuals were no longer permitted. So, I asked...and this is what I found, with thanks to Groundspeak for the explanation.



The Jewel Tower, London
© English Heritage

Virtual caches were a nice idea when they were first introduced, as they could be set up at a noteworthy point of interest that could not support a physical container. Many were set up at such locations and were a worthy addition to the game. They were also very easy to set up because there was no need to obtain and hide a container.

Perhaps they were too easy. Before long they were being created in large numbers at insignificant locations, as well as locations that could support a physical container, to avoid a maintenance commitment. Submissions deteriorated further into 'Stop' signs, shoes thrown into a tree, rotting animal carcasses, and even dog poo. Clearly something had to be done. Since the community enjoyed them, we tried to restrict publications to appropriate quality submissions, nicknamed "the wow factor" by the volunteer reviewer community. Unfortunately instead of a solution, it made the publication of virtual caches even more problematic.

Inappropriate virtual cache submissions continued to be sent to us for review, and the reviewers spent a significant amount of their review time in the uncomfortable position

of subjectively deciding where to draw the line between which were worthy of publication and which were not. The cache owners, of course, usually thought

their chosen locations were more than worthy and the discussions would drag on for days, sometimes weeks, usually leading to disappointment.

The pressure this put on reviewers was egregious, so we stepped back and took a good hard look at virtual caches as a concept. The solution was to stop accepting virtual caches for publication and go back to our roots, meaning geocaching is using GPS to hunt for a container.

Keep track of your trackables!

An interesting and useful site to give you an overview of where your trackable items are and the different countries they have visited.

www.geotastic.com/geotribes

GEOCACHING in THE PENNINES

Terry Marsh goes caching on the wild side





Left: The Wheel Stones, Derwent Edge, Derbyshire. Below left: High Force, Teesdale. Below right: Pen-y-ghent from above Stainforth



Main image left: The Trinnacle, Saddleworth Edges, Peak District.

Below On Kinder Edge

All images © Terry Marsh

The Pennines offer themselves as a magnificent range of geocaching opportunities, as good as anything you'll find in the UK, and while some stretches are not for the faint-hearted, any regular hill-walker will find quality not quantity among their peaty folds. All the images in this feature have caches close by, but getting to them – some scarcely found but once a year – requires a hill-walking frame of mind, and the equipment to go with it. I was lucky: I was working on a new book, and that meant long days in the hills, with just a few diversions to seek out remote caches. You don't rack up numbers in the high Pennines, but you most certainly get to feel the quality.



Left: On the summit of Great Whernside
Below left: The summit of Cross Fell
Below right: A strange character on the way to Bridestones Moor, Todmorden, South Pennines

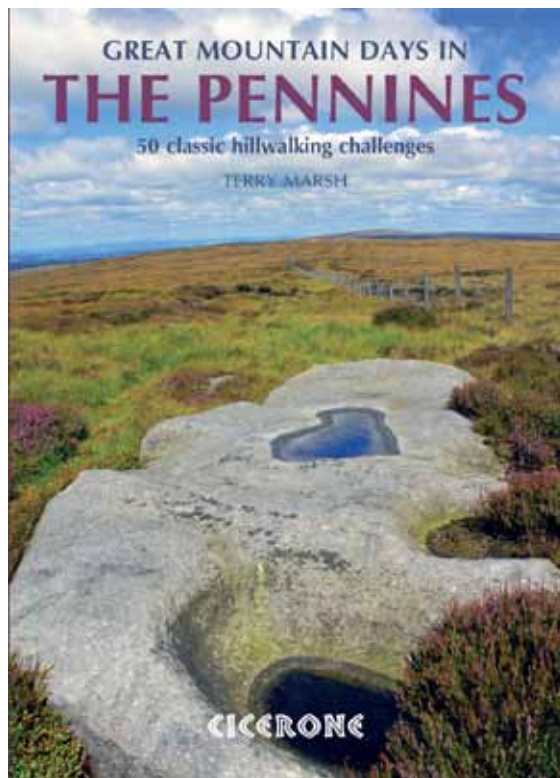


Left: Nine Standards Rigg, above Kirkby Stephen Below: Naden Reservoirs, above Rochdale



GREAT MOUNTAIN DAYS IN THE PENNINES

Terry Marsh



From the highest summits of the Pennines, to the seductive valleys of the Yorkshire Dales and the rugged landscapes of the South Pennines, 'Great Mountain Days in the Pennines' embraces all that is inspiring about the rolling Pennine landscapes. With few rival mountains to crowd the scene, the images of the Pennines are hallmarked by a breezy openness, and a sense of sky.

The diversity of the underlying geology ensures that the Pennines offer contrasting landscapes, each of the five sections being noticeably different from the rest. This is a region from which sharp, granite peaks, steep cliff faces and the customary images of mountain landscape are largely absent. Instead, here is an arrangement of softer, more gentle, scenes, yet spiced with the certainty that they are every bit as demanding as anything in Britain.

(Cicerone Press, 2013. £17.95. ISBN 9781852846503)

Members of GAGB can buy this, and other, Cicerone titles direct from the publisher (www.cicerone.co.uk) at a discount of 20%. Go direct to the Cicerone website, and use the code 'GAGB' to get your discount.

Dates for your diary

July 2013

Saturday 27th July

Mega Piratemanía 2013

Stratford Racecourse
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 9SE

<http://coord.info/GC456DA>
<http://www.piratemanía.org.uk/>

August 2013

Saturday 3rd August

Annual UK Mega Event 2013 – West Midlands region

Heritage Motor Centre
Gaydon, Warwickshire
CV35 0BJ

<http://coord.info/GC3V2NV>
www.mega2013.co.uk



Walk this way....

...if you dare!

Dan Bagshaw on GAGB's Morecambe Bay walk

The walk across Morecambe Bay is something that has been on my “To Do” list for quite a while; something about the surrounding countryside, the feeling of isolation amongst the miles of sands and the risks involved, has always appealed to me.

Somehow I always seemed to miss the Geocaching events organised to cross the bay, but when one was arranged as a side event to last year's UK Mega, I made sure that I cleared my diary on the day. I wasn't disappointed, and enjoyed it that much last year that when another event was arranged for this April I didn't hesitate in deciding to make the 850-mile round trip from my home in deepest, darkest Cornwall to Cumbria. In fact geocachers travelled from far and wide to attend – as well as a good number of local cachers, there were several others that made the trip from Southern England, as well as

some from across the Pennines, the Midlands, Wales and Scotland. Despite my epic drive, I still didn't win the award for furthest distance travelled though, with Laphrodour and flosse07 both making the journey all the way from South-Western Germany to do the walk.

I had opted to camp in Cartmel for the



When the tide comes in ... it comes in fast ... you can't outrun it!

weekend as part of the events where last year's Mega committee handed over a commemorative bench to the village and made a donation to the local Mountain Rescue Team, and when I arrived I was surprised to discover that I was the only person to have booked electric hook-up. On the Friday night I was glad of my heater when the temperatures plummeted to below zero, and even more so the following morning when I woke to discover that Madyokel's dog water bowl had frozen solid overnight!

Immediately prior to the bay crossing there was a CITO event along the bank of the estuary, and it was surprising how much rubbish our group of cachers managed to collect along what seemed to be a relatively clean stretch of river.

When the tide comes in at Morecambe Bay it comes in fast – so fast that it is impossible to outrun it, so timing is of the utmost importance. Signs around our starting point at Arnside warn of this “Extreme danger” as well as quicksand and hidden channels; luckily we had an expert guide, Cedric Robinson MBE, Queen's Guide to the Sands of Morecambe Bay. Cedric celebrates his 50th anniversary in the role this year, and has recently turned 80 years of age, but shows no signs of slowing down – his walking pace would put many geocachers to shame. He receives only a nominal payment of £15 a year for his duties to the Queen, but does get to live in Guides Farm overlooking the Bay on the outskirts of Kents Bank. Guiding walks like ours are not part of his duties; he volunteers his time to lead many charity walks each year, and our walk was also joined by walkers from the Red Cross.

Heavy rain in the Lake District during the week before the crossing can also affect the



course of the River Kent, or, more to the point, create channels that are too deep to cross. There had been some rain in the days before our planned crossing, and Cedric had spent several hours out on the sands on the Thursday before the walk looking for a safe place to cross the river; luckily for us he eventually found one. This meant that the walk was a little shorter than the previous year as the crossing point was closer to the shore, and I think that one or two geocachers were pleased about this by the time they reached the end! The weather was very kind to us with warm temperatures and a clear, sunny sky, but a stiff breeze blowing across the bay meant that we didn't get too hot during the walk.

The water level at the main River Kent channel wasn't too deep, only coming up to the knees of the adults. The main challenge came, unusually, at one of the narrower, shallower channels further on. As the group crossed it became apparent that there was quicksand in the middle of the crossing point. Cedric spotted this immediately, and directed the group to either side of the patch, but a few of the walkers, myself included had already started to venture in to it. It was a fascinating, if slightly disconcerting sensation, but I soon made my way to the safe area to the right.

After another short walk across the sands we crossed the salt marsh and finished our walk, muddy and with tired legs at Kents Bank. I think that it's safe to say that the whole group thoroughly enjoyed the walk, and I would highly recommend it to anyone... with the proper supervision, of course!





Over the weekend of the
1st and 2nd June 2013



GAGB10

Help us to celebrate
GAGB's 10th birthday...



...by hosting your own GAGB10 CITO event

Prefix the event title with GAGB10, use the GAGB logo on the page and publish on any listing site. **GAGB10 trackables** will be available.

CITO 2013 Sets Records



GROUNDSPEAK RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT

"Geocachers around the globe combined to make 2013 the most successful CITO year ever. Over 640 CITO events were hosted in more than 12 countries. That's up from around 140 CITO events the same time last year. Over the long Cache In Trash Out (CITO) weekend on April 20, 21 and 22, more than 12,000 geocachers met friends, picked up garbage and cleaned up the environment. If each geocacher picked up just ten pounds of garbage, we all helped clean up at least 50 tons of trash around the world. That's a staggering 100,000 pounds (45359.2 kg).

Each person logging an "Attended" for a CITO event earned a 2013 CITO souvenir for their Geocaching Profile.

Just because CITO weekend has passed, doesn't mean that CITO ends. We encourage every geocacher to practice Cache In Trash Out every time they go geocaching. There are also plenty of CITO events that happen throughout the year."

Here's
how
we
did!

Read more
in the next
issue

Region	Event Name
Northern Scotland	CITO - Wombling around the harbour
Southern Scotland	Dune and Dusted! Ayrshire CITO 2013 The 2013 Water of Leith CITO Event
North West England	A Bit of Balsam Bashing CITO on the Bay in South Cumbria
Yorkshire & Humberside	CITO Event
East Midlands	Calling all CITOzens Hartsholme Country Park C.I.T.O 2013
West Midlands	SOAPY CITO Sunday - Waseley Wander (Litter Pick) SOAPY CITO Saturday - Lickey Litter Pick
Eastern England	Take only pictures, leave only footprints Spring has sprung we have work to be done Buns, Boats and Bin Bags Bacon Baps and Bin Bags
Southern England	Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, off to clean the beach we go CITO Meon Shore 2013 CITO at Bradenham Geocachers Help out at Holton Lee BADAS CITO EVENT CITO Box Freestone Barnwood Park - CITO Black Lion Event
South East England	Lakeside Park CITO CITO Seven Sisters Country Park 2013
South West England	Par Beach CITO Watergate Bay Beach Clean CITO 2013 Cache In Trash Out Weekend - Exeter
North Wales	CITO in the Park :Alyn waters
Northern Ireland	Runkerry Spring Clean CITO In the land of Ballycache Rally
Republic of Ireland	CITO Holy Well 3 Tobar Phadraic Dodder Valley CITO 2013, Dublin, Ireland
Isle of Man	Beach CITO

Members discounts...



www.ukgeocachers.co.uk

UK geocachers are happy to **offer GAGB members a 5% discount** on their products. In order to obtain your discount, you need to email UKgeocachers and set up an account, so that the discount is applied to each order.



We are pleased to announce the renewal of the **15% discount** from Cotswold Outdoor which was offered last year.

More detail and the discount code are available from the Members' Chat section of the GAGB forums.



Geotees: For geocoins, travel bugs, caches and more. We can also have your own coins or tags made for you to your design. Please visit us at www.geotees.co.uk where **GAGB members enjoy a 5% discount**. To get your discount, open an account, then PM or email me (Mongoose39uk) through the GAGB website before you place your order. This only needs to be done once, the discount will then be applied to all future orders.

GeocacheKit are pleased to be able to offer all GAGB members a **5% discount** on all items on the website www.geocachekit.co.uk. Including geocoins, trackables, readymade caches and much more.

The discount code is available from the Members' Chat section of the GAGB forums.



Pulse72Geocaching are happy to offer GAGB members a 10% discount on their wide range of geocaching products – see www.pulse72geocaching.co.uk.

The relevant discount code is available from the Members' Chat section of the GAGB forums.



Cicerone Press are pleased to offer GAGB members a **discount of 20% on all** Cicerone titles purchased online at www.cicerone.co.uk.

All members need to do to claim the discount is to add the voucher code 'GAGB' on the shopping basket page of the Cicerone website.

NE GEOCACHING SUPPLIES are happy to offer GAGB members a 5% discount on their wide range of geocaching products – see www.negeocachingsupplies.co.uk.



The relevant discount code is available from the Members' Chat section of the GAGB forums.