

The magazine of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain

SEEKER



18

January 2014



Cover image: Traditional windmill, Faial. This page: North-west coast, Graciosa © Terry Marsh



The Geocaching Association of Great Britain (GAGB)

is the leading UK Geocaching body, recognised by and acting on behalf of cachers. The Association was established in 2003 to provide a national organisation that represented geocaching, and serve as a UK point of contact for geocachers, landowners, the media and others with an interest in geocaching.

Find us on www.gagb.org.uk

SEEKER

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



MEET THE 2014 COMMITTEE



Heather Bull
(Cache on
Wheels)
Secretary



Jackie Catterall
(JackieC)



Cass Flowers
(*geocass*)



Richard Lay (RichLay)
Treasurer



Terry Marsh
(countrymatters)
Seeker, Editor



Lilian Maund
(Mollyjak)



Adam Redshaw
(ukcachemag)



Dax Wood
(daddyanddude)



Jen Harley
(Maple Leaf) Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is nice to be back in this seat. So, I would like to thank all the members that participated in the recent GAGB elections and to Mike (Ladybug Kids) for acting as our Returning Officer again. Welcome to the 2013/2014 committee, a third of whom are new. I am looking forward to working with you all over the coming year; we already have some ideas brewing.

Following on from the GAGB10 weekend last year to celebrate the GAGB's 10th anniversary we would like to announce an annual GAGB (CITO) weekend. As I write this, we are in the process of setting the date – but is likely to be a weekend in September and we will be encouraging cachers to host their own events.

Geocaching and the GAGB have been mentioned in the press over the last couple of months – following the horrific incident when a geocacher from South Yorkshire was badly injured by a herd of cows. Sarah is improving daily and we wish her well for what will be a long recovery. She has had a lot of support from her local geocachers and has received get well cards from cachers all over the UK. We also received an influx of new GAGB members following the press coverage – so welcome to all of you.

If you haven't seen it, we now have a Geocaching Association of Great Britain Facebook Page (in addition to the GAGB Facebook group) that we update with GAGB and general geocaching news. Please 'like' the page to receive the updates.

Hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New year

Jen

**Season's Greetings to all our
readers, wishing you Happy
Geocaching in 2014**

GAGB AND OTHER NEWS...

GAGB Election results

Following the earlier election for the position of Chairman, for which the results were:

1. Jen Harley, aka Maple Leaf, 65.7%, 304 votes
2. Dominic Lloyd, aka Puzbie, 34.3%, 159 votes
3. 1 blank ballot

...elections followed for Committee members, 13 candidates being nominated, the same number as in the previous year. The result of the voting was as follows, with the top eight candidates being duly elected. 382 votes were cast, and the voting brings three new faces to the GAGB Committee.

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11. Abigail Hamilton-Thompson/Abiherts 65
12. Colin Thurlbourn/AngoranBob 60
13. Paul Weaver/Poole_Man 57

Maps to cost less

As part of its drive to increase accessibility of its data, on 8 November 2013, Ordnance Survey, the national mapping authority, made a significant change to their royalty levels for its 1:25000-scale Colour Raster data, the same data used to create the Explorer 1:25,000 GB Mapping, reducing royalty charges by up to 90%.

The net effect is that far lower royalty levels apply to this product. As a result, those companies that deal in digital mapping (Satmap, Memory Map, Mapyx, etc.) can all now offer mapping at significantly lower prices. Check them out!

Geocaching in Europe? Vodafone customer?

Vodafone EuroTraveller gives you the freedom to take your UK minutes, texts and data with you anywhere in our Europe zone for just an extra £3 a day (midnight to 23:59, local time). So there's no need to worry about huge bills when you get home.

You can also use your UK data packs abroad with EuroTraveller, but no other extras.

How it works

If you're a Pay monthly customer, opt in and you can use all the minutes, texts and internet you want from your UK price plan – while you're in Europe. Vodafone only charge for the days you actually use your phone, and you won't pay a penny to receive calls and texts.

You can use it every time you head to Europe – and keep track of your account while you're there, with the My Vodafone app.

By opting in to Vodafone EuroTraveller, you'll automatically opt out of the monthly spend limit for internet in our Europe zone, because you'll be using your UK price plan.

Souvenirs



In a recent addition to their website, Groundspeak have introduced the option to 'Hide' or 'Show' any souvenirs you may have in your public profile. Souvenirs are virtual pieces of art associated with a particular location, and sometimes are also time-related.

How to discover a souvenir?

First, log a geocache within the souvenir zone. For instance, if there was a souvenir for France (which there is), and you logged a geocache in France, you would be awarded the 'France' souvenir.

Second, search for a geocache using the Geocaching Application for iPhone or Android when you are within a souvenir zone.

If there is a time parameter to the souvenir, for example, as with those discovered at Mega-Events, the souvenir zone will expire at the end of the period, but you can still obtain the souvenir by logging your attendance online.

If you have previously logged a cache in a souvenir zone, the souvenir will be added to your profile at a later date.



Morecambe Bay Walk

Although details are yet to be published, the popular walk across Morecambe Bay in the company of the Queen's Guide, Cedric Robinson, MBE, is set to return in July.

19 July 2014, 11am from Arnside – details to be provided.

Mull, Skye and the Outer Hebrides starting to rock

With a bit of prodding and a bit of pushing the Scottish islands of Mull, Skye, Harris and Lewis are seeing new caches appear fairly rapidly now. Local geocachers, and others who use them for local maintenance, are producing a well-balanced and thought-out series of new caches, just waiting to be found. More on this in later issues, but read about the Outer Isles in this (page 16).

Take our survey



In addition to various on-going projects, like development of the website, the Land Agreement database and 'Seeker' magazine, the GAGB Committee is keen to get feedback from our readers to help us with on-going projects and future plans. We would appreciate it if you would take a few moments during your seasonal festivities to complete this short [survey](#).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

★Kent Mega: 4 May 2014

The Hop Farm, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6PY. (www.kentmega.co.uk - GC4PKB2)

★Piratemanía 7: 25-26-27 July 2014

Hutton-In-The-Forest. Nr Penrith. CA11 9TH.

Main Event Day Saturday 26th July (GC4NCX1)

★UK Mega Event: Ayrshire and Arran: 2 August 2014

Ayr Racecourse, 2-6 Whitletts Road, Ayr KA8 0JE (GC4HBG4)

EarthCache news



Macleod's Maidens EarthCache (GC2YFYF), Isle of Skye © Terry Marsh



The Geological Society of America has just issued the news that we now have close to 17,600 active EarthCaches around the world, visited by over 4 million people. Almost 20,000 EarthCache Masters

Awards have been earned, and 1,340+ EarthCache Discovery Awards have been received. Hundreds of cachers joined GSA for the 2nd International EarthCache Event in St. George, Utah, USA, in September, and globally, dozens of others attended events celebrating International EarthCache Day in October.

EarthCache 10th Birthday

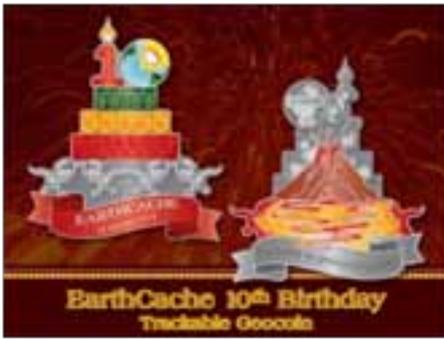
On the 10th of January, 2004, on a headland 3 hours south of Sydney, Australia, the very first EarthCache was 'placed' by Geoaware and his two daughters. **EarthCache I – a simple geology tour of Wasp Head** sat for two weeks before it was found by Tankengine, who became the FTF an EarthCache! So, on the 10th

of January, 2014, GSA will celebrate the 10th Birthday of the EarthCache program. EarthCachers around the world are hosting over 70 different events to help us celebrate. An interactive map showing these events, along with more information about the celebration, can be found on the EarthCache 10th Birthday page. Click on the map icons for details of each event. If you organize an event, or know of an event not already on our map, please let GSA know about it so they can highlight it online. For more information, check out the [EarthCache 10th Birthday page](#).

EarthCache Video Competition 2014

Get your video cameras ready! GSA is delighted to announce the EarthCache Video Competition 2014. They would love to see short videos based on individual EarthCaches that follow the simple guidelines. Winning entries will be shown at the 3rd International EarthCache Event and other events in late 2014. Come celebrate the 10 Years of EarthCaching through the lens of your video camera! Entries close in July 2014. See the [EarthCache Video Competition page](#) for details.





EarthCache 10th Birthday Coin and Tag

As another way to celebrate the 10th Birthday, GSA has partnered with its good friends at Landsharkz to

develop a special commemorative EarthCache 10th Birthday Geocoin and EarthCache 10th Birthday Trackable Tag. These will be available soon and may be ordered for only a very limited time from Landsharkz and Shop Geocaching.

The EarthCache Program is part of GSA's Education

& Outreach efforts. For more information about the EarthCache program, visit www.earthcache.org or follow at www.facebook.com/earthcache. Contact GSA at earthcache@geosociety.org.

For more information about other Geological Society of America programs, please visit www.geosociety.org.



Treshnish, Isle of Mull (GC4RADT) – still waiting FTF © Terry Marsh

THE KENT 4th May 2014 MEGA 2014

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- Trade Stalls



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My Most Memorable Cache?



Committee member Richard Lay (RichLay) heads for the moors

The puzzles themselves are very clever, they have you scratching your head and asking for help. They were probably ground breaking at the time, though Whitespace at least has some copies now. The finals, though being in sight and earshot of the M62 take you on a wonderful walk over White and Red Rose moorland. The containers are ammo cans, the type I always give a favourite point to, their scarcity make it a joy to find them.

But none of these. The reason these are my favourites is one I touched on a little further up. They had me asking for help. You see up until this point I had very much been a solo cacher. I'd only bumped into other cachers at one FTF chase. I'd been to just one event and was far too shy to talk to anyone. But asking for help on a forum page suddenly had me working on the puzzles with three other people, strangers at the time. And when we'd all solved them together we decided to meet up to go and get the final as a group. The journey's to get them were memorable in themselves, three weeks difference but a world apart in weather conditions but more importantly, firm friendships were made that still exist now.

And that is why these caches are so important to me. Brilliant puzzles, terrific hides, fully deserving of all 280 odd favourite points they have between them but more than that, the start of great friendships. Now this game has given me loads of other great friendships and memorable days out and for that I am truly grateful.

A question I have asked myself many times. It could be my first 5/5. It might be the couple of summits that finished my DT grid for the first time. Perhaps the Cartmel Mega, or some old Jasmer finds.

No, I think my most memorable cache is actually a pair of puzzle caches located either side of the Yorkshire and Lancashire border, the formidable Whitespace (GC1AF96) and Werewolf (GC1NH60).

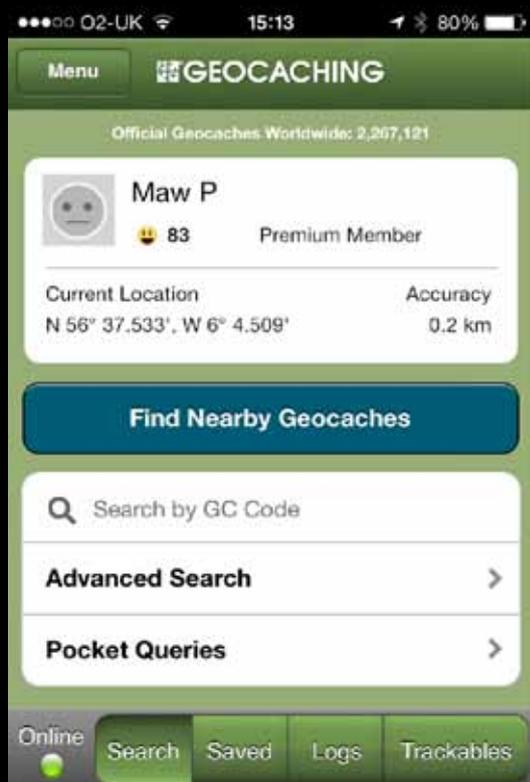
Again my reasons for choosing these caches are many. They seem to be a rite of passage for Northern cachers, when you've solved and found these you know you have made it.

Offline lists...

Select and Save Cache Details for Offline navigation

Mary Phillips (MawP) explains

The first cache I found, hidden by Countrymatters, was on 29th February 2012, so I was therefore rewarded both with a Souvenir and my first Smiley Face!

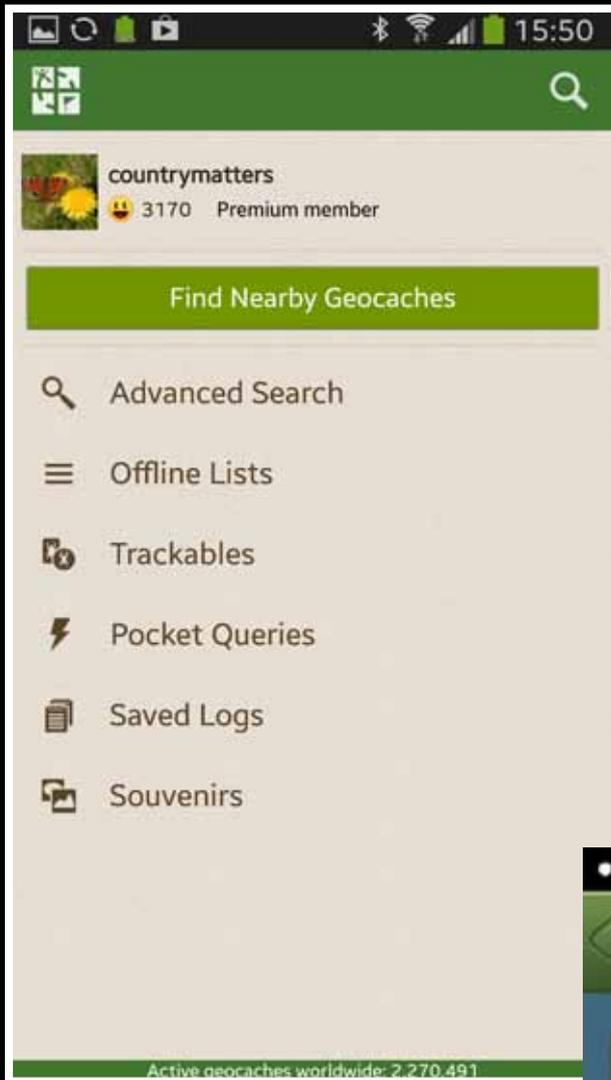


At first, I used the free Geocaching app but soon, realising its limitations, and being a novice cacher unable to justify the expense of a 'proper' GPS, I paid to download the full Groundspeak, Inc Geocaching App at a cost of £7. Seemed like a no brainer at the time, and I have not been disappointed as I work my way slowly to my 100th cache! I soon became a Premium Member, too! - and I've since joined GAGB.

As well as becoming better at understanding the semantics of Cache Owners, I have become more proficient at using the App. I am not an expert, but hope that you will find the following helpful. I know nothing about Android Smart Phones, but presume the App will work in a similar way!

I live in Tobermory on the Inner Hebridean Isle of Mull, which is lovely, but the problem with living here is that outside the house there is no 3G to work with, well, actually, there's none inside either. Only a few places on Mull get 3G, and they are all ranged down the coastline of the Sound of Mull... not much use if you're caching on the other side of the island. So, using Offline lists seemed to be the answer. If I've understood it correctly, once the list of caches is on your smartphone, you can access the list through the Geocaching app, and off you go...all it needs is a GPS signal. It works just like a conventional GPSr.

1. The first thing to do is to create a list of the caches to find. Do this, on your phone, while you have an internet connection, WiFi or otherwise.
2. Set your search parameters in 'Advanced search', including your intended location, e.g. Tobermory, or Liverpool, or Venice.
3. Select 'Search', and the system wanders off and comes back with a list of caches at



Grunt work done, now head out!

To use the stored cache information select 'Saved' or 'Offline Lists' to see the Lists. Select the List you want and select the cache you want to find. All necessary information about that cache is there for you; Description, Hints, Logs, Photos...and Navigate to Cache!

Illustrations: Far left: Main page on iPhone software; This page (left); the same page from an Android.

Below: Map display (iPhone)

your chosen location.

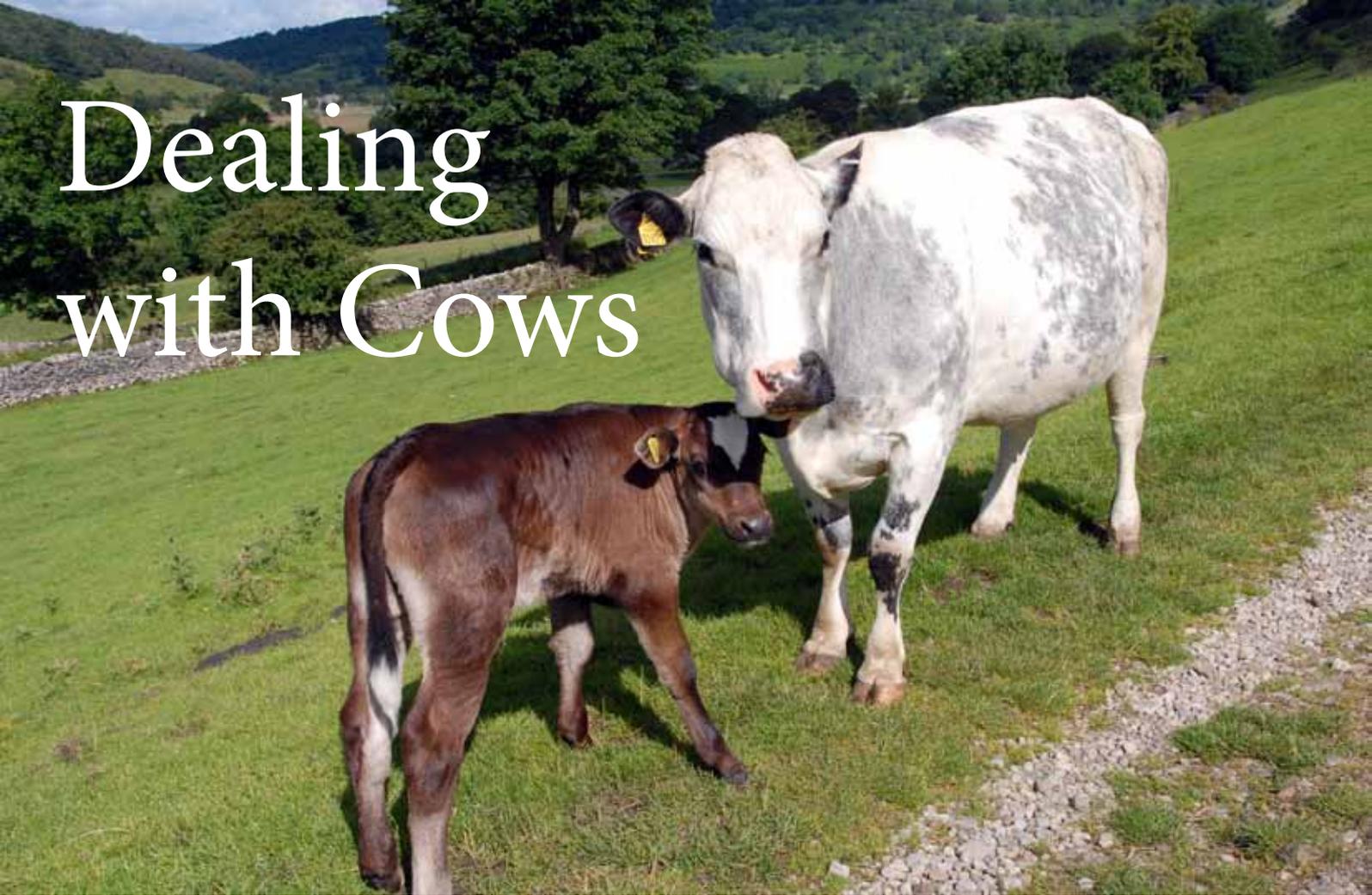
4. Now use your menu button to 'Save list'; this may be 'Safe for Offline Lists' on some smartphones, or click on the 3 dots (in red circle, right), depending on whether you're using iPhone or Android.

5. Now find your saved list under 'Offline Lists', and use in the same way you would use a list generated by 'Find nearby geocaches'.

6. Log your finds in the normal way, and submit them. If you have a signal, the system will upload the data; if you don't it will store them until you get a signal.



Dealing with Cows



Recent reports of injuries sustained by a geocacher in Lincolnshire when charged by a herd of cows, prompts the following comments from outdoor writer, Terry Marsh (countrymatters)



Each year there are reports of cases where people have been attacked, or even trampled to death, by cows whilst out walking. Every instance of injury such as this is regrettable, so what can you do to ensure this doesn't happen to you.

Most walkers are instinctively wary of bulls, but few realise that cows, particularly those with newborn calves, can also be dangerous. In virtually all reported cases, the cows are believed to have been trying to drive off dogs accompanying walkers, in order to protect their young. While attacks of this nature are relatively rare, Health and Safety Executive figures show that almost 500 walkers have been injured by cows in the past eight years.

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's everyone's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals. So, dog walkers should keep their dogs on their lead at any time of the year when near farm animals, especially during lambing times. *However, it's really important to be aware that there will circumstances when this could prove to be the wrong advice – see below.*

There is, too, what is known as the 'Cows Clause'. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act it is an offence (subject to some important exceptions)

for the occupier of a field crossed by a right of way to cause or allow a bull to be at large in it. The exceptions are (a) bulls not more than ten months old, and (b) bulls, not of a recognised dairy breed, and which are at large with cows or heifers. It is also an offence to keep a bull of a recognised dairy breed (even if accompanied by cows/heifers) on land crossed by a public right of way. In my experience, farmers observe this legality (although there may always be an exception), so you don't have to learn to identify dairy breed bulls – but they are Ayrshire, British Friesian, British Holstein, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Kerry. Even so, while farmers generally do observe the law, that doesn't stop you from feeling intimidated should you find a bull in a field you have to cross.

Keep calm, carry on.....

By law, you must keep your dog under *effective* control so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife. That italicised word is important. In my days as a national park warden in both Snowdonia and the Lake District I've challenged people about the behaviour of their dogs. They always replied that it was under control, even when it plainly wasn't – many dogs go deaf when they see sheep, or lakes and rivers to swim in. Cows and sheep don't understand 'play'. My reply was always the same: 'Okay, but put it on a lead and set an example to others'. A cow will often become aggressive towards a chasing dog, and when the dog returns to its owner, a cow or a group of cows may rush towards the dog and owner.

On most areas of open country and common land, known as 'Access Land' you must keep your dog on a short lead on most areas of open country and common land between 1 March and 31 July, and all year round near farm animals. You do not have to put your dog on a lead on public paths, as long as it is under close control. But as a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on its obedience. If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it.

Take particular care that your dog doesn't scare sheep and lambs or wander where it might disturb birds that nest on the ground and other wildlife – eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.

At certain times, dogs may not be allowed on some areas of Access Land or may need to be kept on a lead. Please follow any signs.

Some pointers:

- Avoid walking directly through the middle of a herd of cows if possible. Plan a route across the field before you get too far into it, especially if cows are lying down on the path. Keep an eye open for cows (with or without young) who have got themselves separated from the main herd, e.g. by feeding in a ditch, and try to avoid walking between the cow and the herd. Stay as calm as possible and try to give off the impression that you are not a threat. If you're not happy, retreat.
- Make sure cows see you as you are approaching, so that you do not surprise them. Due to the placement of their eyes, cows do not have a straight-ahead line of sight. So make sure they hear your voice, and have an opportunity to move before you are too close. I usually clap my hands a couple of times, and (for reasons I can no longer remember) call out 'Cush'; that usually does the trick. I don't know why.
- Walk well clear of calves, as a mother will instinctively protect her young. See if you can figure out which calves belong to which mothers; they are usually close together. Don't get between mother and calf, if you can avoid doing so.
- Resist the temptation to pet cows and calves, no matter how cute they may seem.
- If cows come towards you as a group, they may simply be curious. Remain calm and continue walking on quietly, trying to pass around them without making any sudden movements or loud noises. Cows will usually leave you alone once they realise you are not a threat.
- If you detect an aggressive cow or a threatening group of cows, keep moving calmly and avoid direct eye contact. Keep your body facing the cow; do not turn your back to the animal, or run.
- Finally, if you encounter cows when you are with a partner or as a group of walkers, stay close together to project a larger presence, and make sure that you move together in a careful and calm way.

There will always be exceptions; every herd of cows behaves differently. Just remember: if you're not happy, backtrack...geocaches can wait for another day.

Geocaching in the Azores



**Nine islands, nine passions, nine ways of life...
A place for geocachers...and other discerning
travellers.** *Terry Marsh goes Tupperware hunting in the Azores*

On the jetty of the old pier in Santa Cruz das Flores a small boy is fishing with a bamboo pole and twine. The water is so clear he can see the fish he wants. He lowers the bait carefully, just in front of the fish. The fish bites, and is promptly hoiked onto land. Lunch...simple. And yet, in its innocence, it is so characteristic of the way of life in the Azores. What the boy didn't know was that there was a geocache just a few feet behind him, but then, at the time, neither did I.

These charismatic, fabled islands, adrift in mid-Atlantic, are a land of romance, pirates and privateers, of novels, even television soaps: a sentimentalist's

paradise that is hard to resist. Among many, the Azores are regarded as the visible remains of the sunken Atlantis, a claim scornfully dismissed. Yet, as recently as September 2013, Portuguese news was broadcasting sonar images of a distinct and uniform pyramidal structure beneath the waves between the



islands of Terceira and Sao Jorge.

For the ardent geocacher, the Azores are a wonderland; never was it better demonstrated that 'had it not been for geocaching, I would never have found this place.'

The Azores comprise nine major islands and eight small 'Formigas', spread over 600km (375 miles) of an ocean that is between 1,000m and 3,000m (3,281 feet and 9,843 feet) deep, and roughly 1,500km (940 miles) from Lisbon. The islands fall into three distinct groups: the eastern islands of Sao Miguel and Santa Maria; the central islands of Terceira, Graciosa, Sao Jorge, Pico and Faial; and the western islands of Flores and Corvo, forming the extreme western limit of Portugal. For good measure, the summit of Pico island, a mountain also called Pico, at 2351m (7713 feet), is the highest point of Portugal.

Life on the islands is often frugal and hard, a way of life that has luxury at the other extreme. Sao



Miguel, and its capital Ponta Delgada, is the main centre, but the government of the islands is spread across a number of the islands, with politicians and everyone else using inter-island flights much as others might use taxis in UK cities or a bus to visit the dentist. In fact, hiring a taxi for a day (about €120) is a great way of getting around, and seeing most of the worthy sights, but renting a car is just as helpful – more so if you're intent on geocaching (although we did convert our driver on Graciosa) – and gives you more flexibility.

In all there are over 1,000 caches spread across the islands (Sao Miguel, 394; Santa Maria, 54; Terceira, 310; Graciosa, 26; Sao Jorge, 110; Pico, 71; Faial, 58, Flores, 33 and Corvo, 6). Given the magnificence of the geology and geography, there are numerous EarthCaches, centred on the volcanic origins of the island, some bits of which are still bubbling away quite actively, although there hasn't been much major activity since the 1950s, when a whole new chunk of land was added to Faial at Capelinhos. Even today, as you walk the area, you'll find yourself standing on the ridge tiles of houses buried under volcanic ash. What makes the region so fascinating is that the westernmost islands (Flores and Corvo) lie on the North American tectonic plate, while all the other islands are tethered elsewhere – opinion is divided as to whether they lie on the Eurasian or African plates, or even on a mini plate of their own.

The landscape is lush and green, undulating, bosomy and floral, with hydrangeas the main component of hedgerows, making the islands a blaze of Azurean blue, especially in the month of June. The





people are friendly, and English and other languages are spoken in all but the remotest places. Wildlife is limited, but the islands lie on some migratory routes for birds, as well as numerous species of dolphin and whale.

Foodwise, dishes make the most of what they have. Anything imported is necessarily expensive, but the basic produce of the islands is more than ample and hearty...and inexpensive.* Don't expect fine dining, but you will put weight on. To make matters worse, the islands are increasingly producing their own wines as well as the excellent and often overlooked wines of mainland Portugal.

Take a tester, visit Sao Miguel, spend a week there, see how you get on. It's an island about the same size as Madeira or the Isle of Man, and, thankfully (in some ways) you can't see the other islands from it.... otherwise, temptation is a terrible thing.



INFORMATION

Getting there

Air SATA International fly from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada (www.sata.pt/en)

Accommodation

There are 100s of hotels throughout the Azores, from top-end 4-star boutique hotels to basic B&Bs (pensões)

Getting around

Car hire is available on all the islands except Corvo

Travel arrangements

All travel arrangements were made by Archipelago Choice in Keswick (www.azoreschoice.com)

Main image, page 12: Dawn over Pico, viewed from Sao Jorge

Page 12 (bottom) Flores blooms, looking across to Corvo

Page 13 (top) Rainbow over Horta (Faial); (bottom) one of many fumaroles on São Miguel

Page 14: The Mémoira monument, Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira; (above), pampas grass in the gardens at Horta (Faial)

* As an indication of the comparatively low cost of staying in the Azores, 3 weeks in the Azores, all inclusive – flights, airport transfers, hotels, car hire – cost just £1000 more than 5 nights in Venice!

PRODUCT REVIEW

Aigle Parcours 2 Pro Walking Welly



I took these wellies to Mull for a week, while I was placing a series of new caches. They got well and truly tested, not least because it had been raining for ages prior to our going, and there was a lot of wet and squelchy stuff about. It was great just to be able to march through everything, and not have to pussyfoot around bogs and puddles.

I've always been a bit wary of walking any distance in wellies, usually preferring to stick to my boots. Maybe that's because I've only ever had fairly inexpensive wellies. But these were quite a notch up, both in quality and, to be fair, in price, too, and are marketed as ideal for walking (and gardening – eek, sudden cold shivers down the spine!).

The Parcours 2 is a classic welly, lined with a quick drying polyester lining and has a sanitised antibacterial treatment; it has a fitted ankle to hold

the foot firmly while walking, and I found that it did this very well.

Ideally, I wanted a UK size 8½, but they only had EU42 and 43. So, I opted for the 43, and wore three pairs of socks. That did the trick, the extra pair of socks giving added underfoot comfort, and the wellies felt secure all the time they were on. I was greatly impressed with the sole, which had remarkable grip in some fairly awkward terrain where I know I wouldn't quite trust my normal boot.

The new 'Pro' version that I tested replaces the original Aigle Parcours, and comes with the following specification:

- Natural rubber upper
- No gusset, buckle or strap
- Sanitised treated polyester lining
- Rot-proof, washable and quick drying
- Insole lined with Softex for fast drying and with antibacterial treatment
- Smart, Aigle tailoring and very comfortable for long distance walking or wear all day
- TRIPLE Density natural rubber shock absorbing sole
- Cushioning stability and abrasion resistant

The classic Parcours 2 is also available with an adjustable gusset – 'Parcours 2 Vario', and, by way of an aside, the full range of wellies comes in colours your mother should never let you out in, some that look like geocaching puzzles, and others that are very much down to earth.

If I had to find fault with them, I'm not sure I could; they're murder to get off after a day's walking, but aren't all wellies? So, I'm happy to give them 10/10; can't wait to get out in the snow with them.

The wellies were supplied by The Welly Shop, Unit 3, Argyle Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B7 5TE. Tel: 01989 730217; Email: sales@thewellyshop.com; Website: www.thewellyshop.com. RRP £105, but generally available for less.

Product page link.

Portrait of the Outer Isles

The Scottish islands of Harris, and Lewis have seen a significant increase in the number of new geocaches placed in recent times. Remote as they are, these islands, and their intrinsic beauty, are a perfect destination for geocachers and lovers of wild (and windy) places. Here are just a few caching locations on Lewis, Harris and North Uist.







Another string to your bow?

**geocass* (Cass Flowers) sheds light on Whereigo*

Whereigo is a GPS outdoor activity that was created by Groundspeak. The idea is that Whereigo is a cross between geocaching and an adventure game. Each game is called a 'Cartridge' and the game is played on your GPS device. There are currently 143 Whereigos across the UK and Ireland listed on Geocaching.com. Whereigos are technically a separate game to geocaching as they don't have to have a physical geocache at the end, however, the majority do.

With a standard Geocache you have predefined co-ordinates and you know that if you go to those co-ordinates your GPS will tell you how close to them you are, and then you can rummage in the bushes for the box. In their most basic form, Whereigos are like an advanced multi. The idea with Whereigos is that you have areas called "zones". Once a player has entered a "zone" (as detected by the GPS) this triggers an event in the game. Like a multi, a Whereigo might take you to several places to find information. You may be able to proceed to the next zone only after you've entered the previous zone. There is also the ability to virtually pick up items and virtually use items whilst you are playing the game before you'll be allowed to move to the next stage or receive the next stage of instructions. A more advanced Whereigo may require that you proceed to the next zone or complete the whole game within an allocated amount of time. Failing to do so causes the game to end and you will have to start again.

Unfortunately Garmin discontinued support for Whereigos. You'll find that Garmin Colorados and earlier Garmin Oregons do still allow you to play the game. A lot of smartphones including iPhones and Androids also support Whereigo cartridges so all is not lost if you only have a newer GPS! On an iPhone you



can download the "Whereigo" app. On Android devices you can download "WhereYouGo".

You can also get a feel for Whereigo cartridges without using a GPS. Groundspeak Whereigo Player allows you to test Whereigo cartridges on your PC, as does OpenWig's DesktopWIG software. When Whereigo cartridges are created there is an option to allow a user to play the cartridge in an emulator. Most Whereigos will have this functionality turned off so that players can't cheat and find a Whereigo cache without playing the cartridge for real. These players are more useful for testing Whereigo cartridges which you create, or getting a feel for Whereigos by playing some of the test cartridges such as Penguin Escape.

When I started creating my first Whereigo, in January 2011, I noticed that there were only 43 Whereigo caches listed on Geocaching.com in the UK, and questioned whether the game was dying. Now those numbers have more than trebled so Whereigo now definitely seems to be a much more popular element of Geocaching. There are lots of Whereigo adventures to choose from ranging from walks around towns learning about the history such as the 'Saffron Walden town trail' Whereigo in Essex to extreme 5/5 adventures in Yorkshire with the 'Yorkshire Three Peaks – Challenge Cache' Whereigo which requires you to complete the Yorkshire Three Peaks in under 12 hours!



Screenshot of Whereigo zone

ABSOLUTELY STATISTICAL

A future issue of Seeker will include more detailed information about a geocaching resource that will fascinate many - project-gc.com. But for now here are a few figures derived from its incredible program.

Cache data

Unique enabled caches in the UK: 159,771

Unique 'found' caches in the UK since 1st January 2013: 173,538

Caches hidden since 1st January 2013: 44,217

Cachers

Active cachers from UK, since 1st January 2013: 83,390 - an increase of 14% over 2012

Active cachers in the UK, since 1st January 2013: 100,000 - an increase of 15%

Caches per D/T rating

Difficulty	Terrain										Totals
	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5		
1	5156	7134	2370	781	806	292	115	37	34	16725	
1.5	3535	45920	12150	3703	1811	477	253	63	49	67961	
2	2124	11599	15911	5380	4051	1056	524	111	66	40822	
2.5	780	4699	3655	3058	1376	579	281	125	46	14599	
3	641	3048	2508	1281	1764	572	384	108	61	10367	
3.5	232	1261	1003	540	345	350	186	85	38	4040	
4	194	857	732	387	341	152	262	77	61	3063	
4.5	55	263	199	118	99	58	51	74	42	959	
5	59	242	233	112	108	56	81	38	306	1235	
	12776	75023	38761	15360	10701	3592	2137	718	703	159771	

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.



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.



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.



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.

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.



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.

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