

SEEKER

GeocachingNews

The Newsletter of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain



EarthCache GC1Y2Y2: The Cantilever, Glyder Fach,
North Wales © Terry Marsh



Issue No. 3: June 2011

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Geocaching News

Meet the Committee

So that you know who we are, here's the 2010-2011 Committee:

Dave Edwards
(The Wombles)
Chairman



Jen Harley
(Maple Leaf)
Secretary



Richard Mullans
(DrDick&Vick)
Treasurer



Paul Lapworth
(RuberyBlue)



Terry Marsh
(countrymatters)



Bill Daly
(Bill D (wwh))



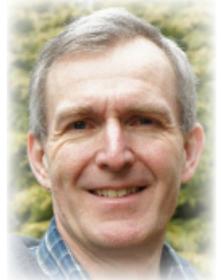
Paul Burroughes
(Palujia)



Tony Pinnington
(mongoose39uk)



Message from the Chairman



Some lovely weather and the squeeze on family incomes has resulted in lots of interest in geocaching, presented by the press as an inexpensive way to get the family outside enjoying themselves.

Perhaps this increase in activity added to the strain on the geocaching.com website, which had a major overhaul to change its presentation and power it with go-faster hamsters (they claim no hamsters are involved, but we know better). We review the changes in this issue.

Our most popular UK events are almost upon us: the mayhem of Piratemanía in Derbyshire (22nd to 24th July) which is so close to becoming a Megaevent (requiring 500 attendees) and of course MegaWales in Swansea (with events running from 27th July to 5th August). Other events are growing fast and this issue reviews the successful mid-monthly events in Sussex. Caching can be a very social activity, swapping stories and favourite experiences. Will you be going to any of these?

Our Editor, Terry, has shared more of his beautiful photographs in his articles on Earthcaching and Skye. Reading about Skye reminded me of a wonderful holiday and desire to return to seek out these lovely places.

Earthcaching exemplifies the best of geocaching. I love being led to a wonderful location, description and interpretation in hand, to experience something amazing or extraordinary. The cover photograph says it all. *I love geocaching.*

You must have noticed....

The latest update of the geocaching.com site has seen a complete change to the layout.

The side menu has gone and has been replaced by a top menu with drop down menus, making navigation simpler.

The menus are now laid out as follows:

[Play](#)>[Guide](#)>[Hide & Seek a Cache](#)>[Trackables](#)

[Your Profile](#) (see sample menu, right)>[Quick View](#)>[Lists](#)>[Geocaches \(Yours\)](#)>[Trackables \(Yours\)](#)>[Pocket Queries](#)>[Field Notes](#)>[Account Details](#)

[Community](#)>[Forums](#)>[Blog](#)>[Events](#)>[Local Organisations](#)

[Videos](#)

[Resources](#)>[GPS Reviews](#)>[Tools and Downloads](#)

[Shop](#)>[Shop Geocaching](#)>[Guide to buying a GPS Device](#)

There is now a Feedback tab on the left-hand side which you can use to view the most recent feedback items.

There is also the ability to change the date format now, this is done from within the Your Preferences section of Your Account Details. The available date formats are:

yyyy/mm/dd <2011/05/10>

mm/dd/yyyy <05/10/2011>

dd/mmm/yyyy <10 May 2011>

mmm/dd/yyyy <May 10 2011>

dd/mmm/yy <10 May 11>

Much easier, if like many of us you get confused with the American style dates.



UK Mega Event 2012

FOR YOUR DIARY: The annual UK Mega Event for 2012 will be in North-West England on **Saturday 11th August 2012** at **Cartmel Racecourse, Cumbria**.

For more information visit www.mega2012.org.uk



In the news?

Taking him by surprise!



Above: Deceangi by Maple Leaf

Where would we be without reviewers to publish our caches?
- Yes, you're right, Italy!

So, it's not surprising, although it was, that a number of our brethren recently collaborated to organise two events to celebrate the Life and Times of Deceangi, aka Dave Palmer.

Dave's 'Reviewer's Birthday' for 5 years of effort was celebrated at the Cheshire Cat on the 18th May (GC2VH6V), and, judging by the logs, attended by a motley spectrum of cachers, good, bad and ugly.

In the same vein, the 9th April saw everyone celebrating his 50th birthday and impending 25th wedding anniversary; a mammoth occasion (GC2Q2D3) where the only sad folk were those who missed it. Masterminded by Team Marzipan and Caching Crew, the event, laden with subterfuge, was timed to perfection, and, hopefully, demonstrated the high regard in which the caching community hold this essential human being!



Another date for your 2012 diary is the weekend of 21st & 22nd July - just before the Olympic Games start. Geolympix will be based in the Oxford area and the organising team are hoping to make this a truly international event.

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 2004 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

GAGB Monthly Competition

The GAGB have been running a monthly competition since **October 2010** with 3 simple questions to answer. The competition is being run so as to give back something to our membership who have supported us over the years.

The question and the prize(s) can be found in the Members Chat section of the forum and are in a 'Stickied' topic close to the top. Entry is FREE and answers simply have to be sent to Mrs Blorenge via her GAGB profile.

Some of the lucky winners so far have included: MBface, T.R.a.M.P, susiemerlin1, ClareLouise, Ivanidea & redsox_mark.

If you are a full GAGB member but cannot see the Members Chat section send an email to webmaster@gagb.org.uk and we will rectify it for you.



The UK's Fourth Geocaching Mega-Event Brangwyn Hall, Swansea Sunday 31st July 2011

Come and enjoy the day ... or make it a geocaching holiday in this wonderful part of Wales

TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY

10:00	Doors Open
10:00-15:00	Attendee Registration
10:00-15:00	Supporter Pack Collection
10:30-15:40	Geocaching Talks
11:15-11:30	Opening ceremony
11:00-15:45	Geokids Corner
12:00-14:00	Sandcastle Competition
15:15-15:30	Prize Giving
15:45	I Know My Geocaching Place
16:00	Closing ceremony
17:00	Doors Close

THE SIDE EVENTS

27 th July	Flash and Dash in Pembrey
28 th July	Tatty Bear's Picnic
29 th July	Mollyjak's Sand and Samies
30 th July	Picnic at the Big Apple
30 th July	Mega Camping Event
31 st July	Mega Wales 2011
1 st August	Picnic on Pen y Fan
2 nd August	A Day Out at Big Pit
3 rd August	Cardiff Bay Perambulation
5 th August	Sunset on the Mega

The details above may be subject to minor changes.

To find out more, visit <http://www.megawales.co.uk/index.html>

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter

Check out the GAGB Calendar

for a list of 'Events' and
'Camping Events'.

And keep up to date with
events specifically in your
area by creating an Instant
Notification for 'Events'.



Do you enjoy camping, dressing up and having fun? then put your name down for Piratemanía IV. Saturday 23rd July 2011 Ashbourne, Derbyshire GC2NYZG



The GAGB are pleased to announce their new GAGB cache label.

Actual size: 8.8cm x 5cm. Priced at 60p each; £2.50 for 5 (plus P&P at only 50p for quantities up to 10, and £1 for 10-20.

To order contact DrDick&Vick via their profile, here. Payment to paypal@gagb.org.uk



INTERVIEW

An interview with **Mark Fishwick, aka PopUpPirate**, organiser *extraordinaire* of the annual Piratemania.

When did you start geocaching?

February 2006. I was proper lucky – my first cache found was a full-to-the-brim ammo box full of trades at the side of a beautiful river in my locale, on a public footpath that I'd never walked down before. Of course, I was hooked!

How did you first get interested in Geocaching?

I was enjoying a cup of tea and a Lamb Bhuna and I thought "I bet someone's invented a game using Satnav!" So, I googled for GPS Games and Geocaching came up. I read about it for no more than 2 minutes and thought "Oh aye", and was straight on Amazon ordering myself a nice shiny Garmin GPS 60 – the yellow brick! I didn't need to test caching out first, I just knew I'd be into it.

How/why did you choose PopUpPirate as a geocaching name?

Pirate was taken, so I went for PopUpPirate, after the intellectually-challenging, high-brow game of the same name.

How did Piratemania first come about?

I'd done a *Let's Go Camping In Snowdonia* event which was good fun, but I thought pirates were more immense, the name Piratemania came into my head and I just rolled with it. Since year one we've had the event held on the third week of July and the hype just rolls out. Even slightly tempted to come along? Just read the logs and ask around – we're proud of our rep! There's a lot of bullishness about it, the motto at the moment is "England's biggest annual geocaching event", till the UK Mega in 2012 at least. We're pushing towards that mythical 499 figure at a rapid rate of knots... if we hit 500 I'll just have to shrug and say "But I only wanted 499!"



We're very supportive of the UK Mega, we see Piratemania as being complimentary to it, like super spicy pirate lime pickle to a friendly mega poppandom. We don't need no Golden Ammo Box though – we got our own Golden Rum Bottle, arrrrgh!!!! And it's cask strength!

What gave you the idea for Piratemania?

Pirates, treasure, drink, oh aye, all goes hand in hand doesn't it? So then fancy dress got added. Optional of course, 'cos some folks don't like fancy dress. We feed 'em to the sharks! Then these daft ideas come around, party games, zen wrestling, general mayhem. It's more a vision than anything else – just make it as piratey and daft as possible, it's really quite disorganised but it's also a hell of a lot of hard work. Liane does tons towards it, of course, and there will be others helping this year too! Two words... sick turtle! Any ideas gratefully received, just fire 'em at twitter.com/piratemaniam.

When do you actually start the organising for the event?

Normally just after Christmas I think "Reet, it'll soon be 6 months till th'event, best get cracking" and then the job of scouring a site is done. It ain't easy finding a suitable site, and one thing I insist on now is that the site handles all the monies. Lots of boxes need to be ticked, relatively central location, big field with room for virtually infinite number of units for our sole use, good price, don't mind a little noise (!), allow dogs, have bogs and showers, take caravans, take rallies. That probably wipes out 95% of all camp sites. Peak Gateway is absolutely perfect. The plan has been to have it roving, but the site was so spot on, it's had to be there again. Next year we've set ourselves a target of 2 billion attendees, the world's first RuddyNoraThatsABigEvent, we're just waiting for the icon from Groundspeak, but Geoffrey Geomonkey has approved it already!

Is the event organised by yourself, or is there a committee involved.

There's no committee, it's more like anarchy! Formality is fine, but not for Piratemaniam. Having a reviewer standing on a lectern for 45 minutes talking about the intricacies of permissions with the Forestry Commission is a good thing and certainly has its place, but at Piratemaniam everyone will be too busy dressed up in Kangaroo costumes having a boxing match, supping real ale/rum/fruit shoots, or playing tug-o-war, or walking the plank (we had a bucking bronco style wobbly plank last year and Boblolly threw some MEAN moves!). Throw some mayhem into the mix and it all goes a bit booloo. It really is good family FUN. This year you can test your PIRATE METTLE by seeing if you can eat the World's Hottest Curry (officially) – there's a vid on YouTube of Big Peter eating some and it's a bit special, like him. We'll have the Pointy Pirates Flash Mob. We've also got planned a mahoosive twenty metre diameter Big Top – did I tell you that Peak Gateway were great? All assistance gratefully received, mind,

and if you help out you become part of THE GROG CREW and get staff rations – a tot of Navy Rum and a suck on a manky, scurvy-preventing lemon!

Do you have plans for any other Pirate-type events?

This year, Ashbourne – next year, we're ransacking Port Royal and storming the city gates at midnight. MORE FREE RUM for the first fifty Will Attend logs... HARD TACK for the rest! No Quarter Given.

What is your favourite type of cache?

Trad, big box, on t'moors! Can't go wrong – virtually muggle-free, good co-ord fix, generally few clue items so

it's easy for a numpty like me, lots of wildlife, room to explore, often great views. Nail-on-the-head for me would be any of the Round The Ruins caches set by Vido and have since been



expanded upon by others, though Doreen is the regional expert. Creative stuff is great too, the best series I've ever done was one by the Walton's A-Team called Secret Agent. You had to use stealth and certain tools to get around, taking brass rubbings and binocs with you! At one point, there was a fake stone cache. Unbeknown to the finder, the cache had a magnet in it, and when lifted, it activated a reed switch set into the soil, which rang a bell in the cache setters living room some 30 metres away! So then he comes out of his house and nobbles you – genius!

Do you prefer stand alone caches or a series involving a long walk?

Either! As long as they take me somewhere nice that'll do me fine. Forget your Te\$cocache, just a stone's throw away there may be a nature reserve or an old ROC post, or maybe a trig. That little bit of escapism is what it's all about, isn't it?

What type of GPS do you use?

HP Rx5720 ipaq, running Memory Map. OS 1:25k maps and top accuracy. Maybe one day I'll get an Oregon for the added ruggedness. The owd GPS 60 gets an occasional airing. I love my brick!

Do you use any other equipment to supplement the GPS?

HTC Desire running Android. Very accurate and browsing caches on the fly is the future, but phone battery isn't good enough to do a whole day on it. Columbus is a great app which I rate as better than both the official app and also better than c:geo. It also can search Opencaching if you like!

Do you prefer to geocache alone or in a group?

Depends – if it's a circular loop to bag a ton then probably in a group, more eyes help the cause and the crack is all part of the fun. But then on the moors, give me a pair of bins and I'll enjoy the chillout – one day I'll see that elusive Hawfinch!

Do you do the swap item bit or just the find and sign?

Find and sign. Far too disorganised to carry a bag of trades around, alas. I'm thinking of setting a Trade Up cache, a bit like the One Red Paperclip experience. Place a cache with a logbook and a red paperclip in it, and see where it goes... <http://tinyurl.com/down-with-scurvy> who knows!



Do you use any of the alternative geocaching sites currently available? If so, why? – and how do they differ from geocaching.com?

Opencaching.org.uk and .com deffo have their place, competition is healthy, if you are on a path with 2 geocaching.com caches and 1 opencache, just log all 3, it doesn't matter does it. Though to be competitive, there'll need to be more than the couple of hundred or so caches on there.

But there is also one other alternative listings site which features hides that generally never need maintenance, are nearly always large, and guarantee you a fantastic view nearly every time. And never mind a couple of hundred, there's over 6,000 in the UK – www.trigpointinguk.com the ultimate alternative listing site! Export a GPX file from there into your GSAK database and they sit nicely amongst all the caches. Happy days!

EarthCaches

The appliance of science

Terry Marsh, author of *Geocaching in the UK*

EarthCaches are dramatic, splendid and often awe-inspiring, not least because they are a specific form of cache, and unusual in not having a physical cache container. Since discovery, learning and information are key components of many conventional caches, it is not surprising that keen geocachers also seek out EarthCaches for the interest they develop in our landscape and countryside; it isn't just about finding a box, it's about learning, and all the more exciting for that.

In recent times, the nature and purpose of EarthCaches has changed to reflect that they are special places you can visit to discover aspects of earth science. EarthCache pages contain the usual co-ordinate information, but also extended notes of the significance of the cache location. EarthCaches are intended to convey some educational characteristic that enables visitors to see how the earth has been shaped by geological processes. Visiting them, often in remote locations, can be demanding, but is always exciting and interesting, and will almost certainly contribute to our understanding.



Above: GC28Q36
Rubh' an Dunain
EarthCache, Isle of
Skye

All images
© Terry Marsh

Creating EarthCaches

All new EarthCaches are submitted in the normal way, through www.geocaching.com, but rather than being channelled to the usual reviewers, they are processed by an EarthCache Team reviewer (geoawareXXX). And if you are planning to create an EarthCache, you must meet a detailed set of guidelines or your EarthCache may not be published.

1. EarthCache sites must provide Earth Science lessons. They take people to sites that explain the formation of landscapes, or to sites of interesting phenomena such as folds, faults, intrusions. EarthCaches can also help reveal scientists' understanding of our Earth (such as fossil sites, etc.), although sites with a major focus on biological, ecological, or archaeological features, will not be published.

2. EarthCaches should highlight a unique feature. EarthCaches that simply duplicate existing EarthCache information about the site or related sites may be rejected. EarthCaches should be developed to provide a unique experience to the location's visitors, and to teach a unique lesson about the feature at the site. Multiple EarthCaches on the same feature should be avoided and content, rather than proximity,

will be the guiding principle of EarthCache reviewers.

3. EarthCache sites must be educational. They provide accurate, but simple explanations of what visitors will experience at the site. Cache page text must assume no previous knowledge of the relevant Earth Science. The educational notes must be written to a reading age of a 14 year old student. Additional technical or scientific notes can be provided for the scientific community at the end of the listing.

All notes must be submitted in the local language. Additional languages are encouraged. You may be requested to provide the notes in English to assist with the reviewing process. Respect trademarks and copyright and only use images or logos in your description if you have permission. Avoid direct plagiarism and quote sources of information where appropriate.

4. EarthCache sites can be a single site, or a multiple site. No items, box, or physical cache can be left at the site. You must have visited the site recently (within two months), checked that the

site is safe and have taken multiple GPS readings to ensure accuracy of coordinates. You are responsible for disabling an EarthCache if conditions regarding access, safety or other issues, change.

5. EarthCache sites follow the geocaching principles and adhere to the principles of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics.

In addition, use waypoints to ensure cachers take appropriate pathways. Use established trails only. Do not create new trails to a site. EarthCache sites will highlight the principle of collecting photos, not samples...as they say, take only memories, leave only footprints.

6. Logging an EarthCache requires that visitors undertake an educational task relating to the specific Earth Science at the site. Examples of logging tasks include measuring or estimating the size of the geological feature, collecting and recording data (such as time of a tidal bore), or answering Earth Science related questions from information available only at the site.

Tasks should teach or reinforce the site-specific lesson and should be the cache owner's proof that the cacher has visited the site. Taking a photograph at the site, or asking people to do internet research, does NOT meet the logging task requirement. Answers to logging tasks MUST be placed in a 'Reviewer Note' at time of submission.

7. Requests for photographs must be optional. Exceptions to this guideline will be considered only if the requested photograph is related to an Earth Science logging activity such as recording a phenomenon.

This particular guideline was updated on 1 January 2011. All EarthCaches must conform to this guideline as photo requests are considered 'additional logging requirements' (ALRs), and follow the guidelines set forth by Geocaching.com.

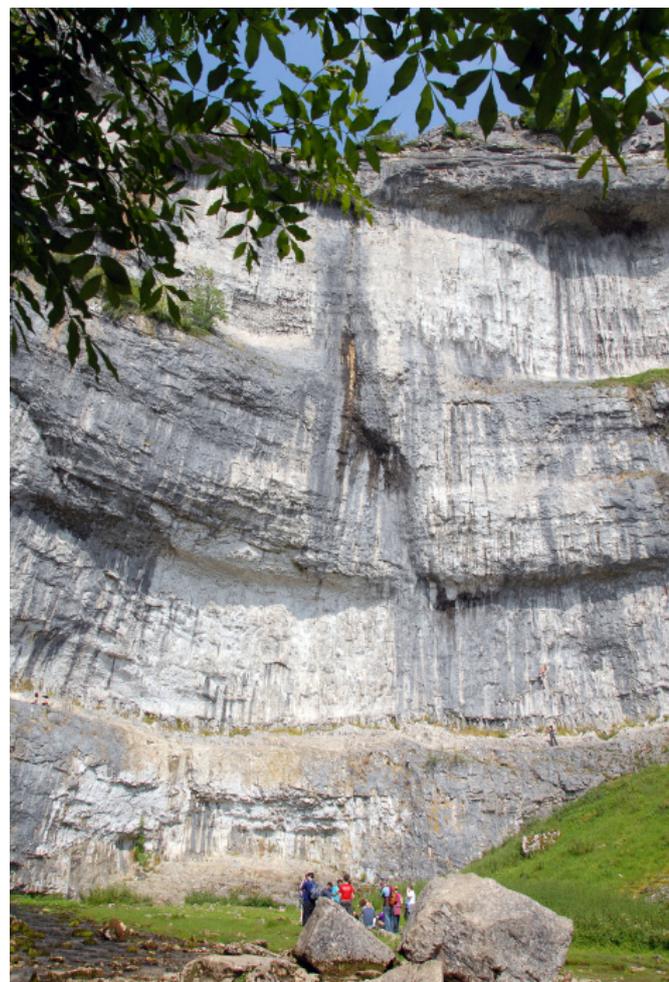
Existing EarthCaches that do not meet this guideline must be updated to comply. Cache owners may not delete the cacher's log based solely on optional tasks.

8. All EarthCache sites developed must have prior approval of the landowner before submission (depending on local country laws and customs). The developed text should be sent to the landholder/manager for approval. When applicable the cache owner must have written permission from the owner or appropriate land-managing agency. The name, title and contact details of the person that authorised this EarthCache MUST be given at the time of submission in a Reviewer Note. If permission is not required, please provide the reason, i.e. public road pull-off in a Reviewer Note. If information about permission is not provided, the submission may not be published.



*Above: GCPCPX
The Giant's Causeway
EarthCache, Northern
Ireland*

*Below: GC19X1P
Malham Cove EarthCache,
North Yorkshire*



9. All EarthCache sites will be reviewed by the EarthCache Team to ensure appropriateness of the site and educational standard of the notes, and logging requirements.

10. Damage to the site is unacceptable. Please be mindful of fragile ecosystems.

11. The Geological Society of America and the EarthCache Team retains the right to edit, modify, reject or archive any EarthCache that does not adhere to these guidelines, or for any other purpose that the Team deems as appropriate.



If all that seems a bit Draconian, it's for a good reason. Fundamentally, EarthCaches often relate to sensitive or significant landscapes that are a vital element in our understand of the science of the Earth, and need to be protected as well as explained. Many will be mesmerising places to visit; others perhaps less so, but all provide a valuable and fascinating insight into earth science.

EarthCaches are almost invariably splendid and inspirational locations. Here are Britain's Top Ten for you to track down:

Arthur's Seat Earthcache by Haggis Hunter (GCNTAB)
Southern Scotland, United Kingdom

Severn Bore EarthCache (Gloucestershire) by
The Wombles (GCN6EP)
Southern England, United Kingdom

Gorgeous by *mouse* (GC1EA1A)
South West England, United Kingdom

Malham Cove by grufftymilo (GC19X1P)
Yorkshire, United Kingdom

The Shivering Mountain Earthcache by
Mongoose39uk from Kitty Hawk & Alibags (GCMV69)
East Midlands, United Kingdom

Alum Bay (IOW) by The Wombles (GC1DG20)
Southern England, United Kingdom

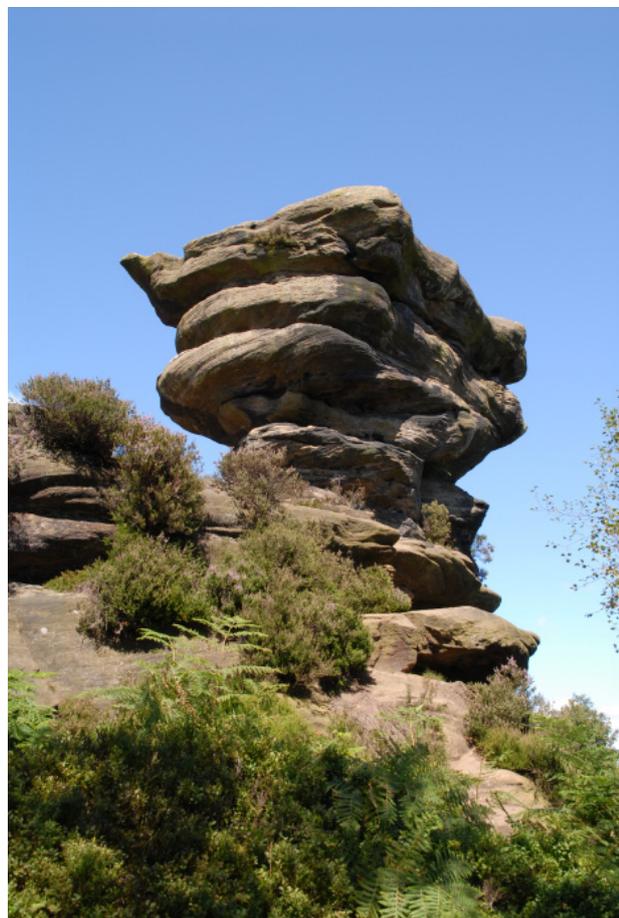
Highest Mountain in the UK by Janomi (GC161P6)
United Kingdom

Brimham Rocks by Cachorganic (GCZKJ9)
Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Cheddar Gorge by Captain Gore-tex (GCZDBZ)
South West England, United Kingdom

Hot Springs, Bath by The Wombles (GC185X3)
South West England, United Kingdom

*Above: GC161P6
Highest Mountain in the UK,
Ben Nevis, Scotland
Below: GCZKJ9
Brimham Rocks, North Yorkshire*



The 'Monthly Mid-Week Meet in Sussex' Events

Tootsie's Trackers and cachedragOn report

The 'Monthly Mid-Week Meet in Sussex' takes place on the third Wednesday of every month throughout the year. Here is a little about the events and how they came about.



The first ever Sussex Meet and Greet was held in Burgess Hill on the 20th January 2007. It was organised by Tootsie's Trackers and Martletsman. We had a lot of help and suggestions from Liane of Cachehoppers for this event too. Tootsie's Trackers, were one of the main organisers of the event. We approached our local pub and asked permission to hold an event there. We really weren't sure how this would pan out, and were not expecting that many people. We thought....maybe 40ish people may turn up. This event turned out to be a great success with more than just local cachers attending.

With this in mind, it was decided that we should organise a second Sussex Meet and Greet. This time hosted by Poohtiggs in Scaynes Hill. This was held on 23rd February 2008. This again was a huge success and was attended by far more cachers than we ever expected.

As we, Go Pack Go, Poohtiggs, Martletsman and Tootsie's Trackers sat at this second annual event and chatted about the various meets we had seen published and attended ourselves, the idea of having a monthly meet up for local cachers to get together was formed. More discussion followed over the next week or so and it was decided that Go Pack Go would host the first one in April at the Golden Galleon, near Seaford on the 16th April 2008.



It was decided in one of our many discussions that the event should be a travelling event in as much as it would move location each month. As far as possible we try to get it to go

East, West, North and South as well as a spot in the middle. Sussex is quite big if you put East and West together. It was suggested that a different cacher should host the event each month to allow





for great flexibility in location and to allow as many cachers as possible to attend an event. Jim (Go Pack Go) hosted the first in East Sussex using the name of 'Sussex Cachers' as the owner of the cache. This event was very well attended. The log book was taken at the end of the event by Tootsie's Trackers who moved it West to the Devils Dyke, Brighton. There were even more people at this event.

The tradition of the next host taking the log book continued and the event would swing East and West. It even managed to hop across the border into Surrey one month and was hosted by Andy33. For a short while it was

difficult to find someone to host these events (which really are not difficult to organise, the hardest bit is to find a large enough pub). With this in mind and knowing how popular they were, it was decided that if there was no volunteer host then either Martletsman, Poohtiggs, Go Pack Go, Tootsie's Trackers or cachedrag0n would host the event.

The events have become increasingly popular with cachers from the neighbouring counties coming across the border. We meet up chat about our experiences, good caches, bad caches. Help each other out with technical help and with puzzle solving hints etc. But mostly it's to meet up with friends old and new in our caching community for a good old chat.

There are other events that have been born as a result of our monthly meets. For the last two years, Jean (Flatcoat Walker) has hosted



the Sussex Cachers Summer Barbeque. This year she is again opening her home to us with the Sussex Cachers Summer Picnic. This will be on the 17th July 2011 from 12 noon. There is also the Annual Sussex CITO organised by Martletsman at the Seven Sisters Country Park. This year it was on the 14th May.

One other event, is the Sussex Camping Event which was run for the first time last year and was such a huge success that it has been organised again this year. It is already seeming to be even more popular than last year, so here's to good weather. The dates for this are the 10th - 12th June 2011.



OLD & NEW TRIGPOINTS

BERNIE HUGHES (AGENTMANCUSO) EXPLAINS

I imagine that most geocachers recognise the 4 feet high concrete pillars that adorn many British hillsides and viewpoints as 'trig points', even if they don't pay them any further attention. But these triangulation pillars, as they are more correctly known, are not the only type of trig point that the Ordnance Survey made use of in the Retriangulation of Great Britain that lasted from 1936 to 1962.

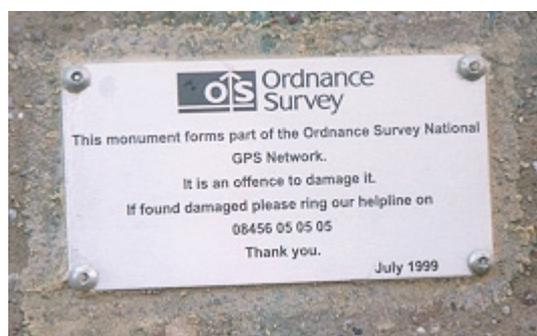


In fact less than one third of the 20,000 triangulation stations were the familiar purpose-built concrete pillar. The majority were simple visual reference points such as church spires, factory chimneys, obelisks and other similar monuments. Many of these have been destroyed by the passage of time, and in any case are of little interest to trig baggers. Of far greater interest are the more modern bits of Ordnance Survey furniture that make up the geodetic network that supports all your own caching and other GPSr activity.

Ordnance Survey maintains a network of more than 100 'Active Stations' known as OS Net. These are basically enormous survey-grade GPSr devices that continuously record location data – a bit like averaging out a waypoint endlessly. These stations are the basis of all modern surveying in Britain.

Above: Active Station

The Active Station network is supported by almost 800 Passive Stations, basically fixed points surveyed for both height (vertical) and coordinates (horizontal). A few hundred trig pillars were re-employed as Passive Stations, and are identifiable by a small plaque.



Left: Trig Pillar Passive Station

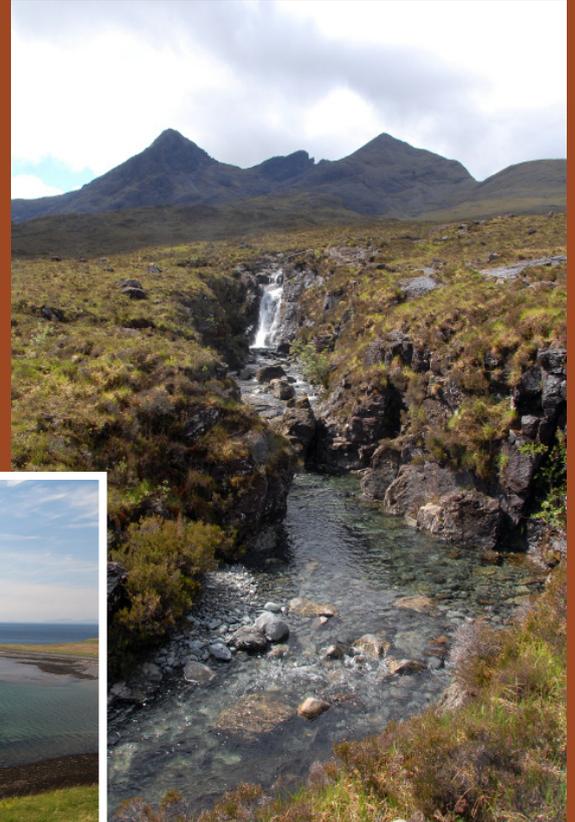
As you can see, Ordnance Survey take the upkeep of these few pillars very seriously – understandably enough, as any slight movement of the pillar could have very significant effects for surveyors. If you see this plaque on a trig point, you know it's still in use, and helping to provide the coordinate information that helps us find caches. But if a pillar doesn't have this badge, it's just a piece of industrial archaeology, though one with a proud surveying history.

SKYECACHING

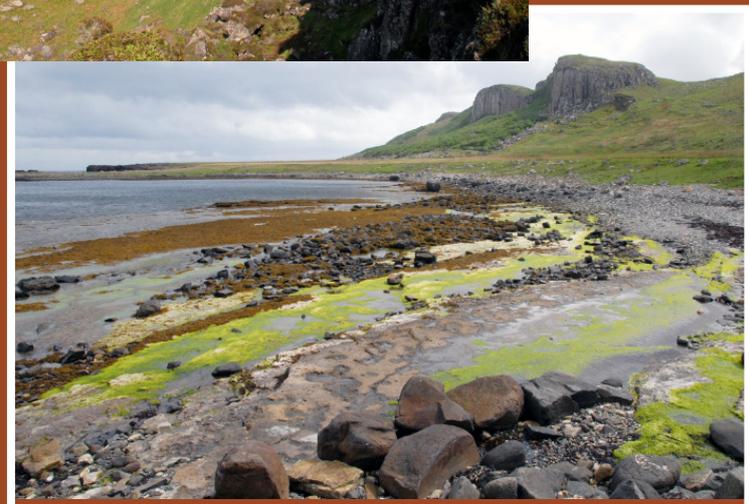
With more than 50 caches to go at, the Isle of Skye is proving to be an excellent place to take your GPS for a holiday. Here is a small selection of some of the more remote and beautiful locations. [All images © Terry Marsh]



Above: Coral beach
(GC1VFCH)
Centre: Historic Skye: The
Battle of the Spoiling of the
Dyke (GC2VK9F)
Bottom: Talisker (GC1YXDK)



Top right: Andrea's Smile
(GCA33C)
Bottom right: Shelter Rock,
Oisgill Bay (GCXQHG), and
Historic Skye: An Corran
(GC2VZ8Z)



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 **10% 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.



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.



The outdoor leisure retailers **Blacks** and **Millets** have offered GAGB members a card giving a **15% discount** off all products except GPS but including Sale items.

All GAGB members can receive a card and should apply by following the application process, details in the GAGB Members' Chat forum.



Aquapac have kindly agreed to offer GAGB members a **20% discount** from their products bought through their website - www.aquapac.net. To obtain the discount you need a code, and details of this have been posted in a thread in the Members' Chat section of the forum.

CacheShack are offering GAGB members the following, buy 10 Turtle cache containers and get 1 **FREE**