

SEEKER

The Newsletter of the Geocaching Association of Great Britain

**SEARCH FOR
BURIED
TREASURE**

**FORCES FOR
GOOD
CITO EVENTS**

**PORTRAIT OF
NORTHERN
IRELAND**



Issue No. 8: May 2012

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Meet the Committee

So that you know who we are, here's the 2011-2012 Committee:



Dave Edwards
(The Wombles)
Chairman

Jen Harley
(Maple Leaf)
Secretary



Colin Bracher
(The Wobbly
Club)



Paul Burroughes
(Palujia)

Cass Flowers
(cassandy)



Terry Marsh
(countrymatters)

Lilian Maund
(Mollyjak)



Tony Pinnington
(mongoose39uk)

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

Cover picture: Carrick-y-Rede rope bridge
© Terry Marsh 2008

Message from the CHAIRMAN



We have been listening to feedback and as a result developing both a new draft constitution and an entirely new approach to GAGB guidelines. These will be published on our website shortly; they are really important to GAGB so please check them out and comment.

It was great to have so many cachers turn out to help at our CITO near Bristol in March. I'd told the man from the council that we had about 40 people coming but I'm not sure he believed me. In the event we actually had over 50 and the car park was overflowing! There were 80 bags of waste at the main collection point, another 15 bags at the other end of the site, plus most of a car, kitchen sink, security fencing, tyres, wheels and lots more besides. Despite few caches to divert our attention, it was a hugely enjoyable event perhaps because of the enormous pile of waste but mostly the attitude of all the cachers present. Thanks to everyone who came.

We have just received our first bookmark list on the Groundspeak "GAGB committee" account, a list of 193 challenge caches from TedsTeam. We're not setting out to take lots of bookmark lists but if you feel that there is a list that could be usefully held on the GAGB account then please let us know at gagbcommittee@gagb.co.uk

From the EDITOR'S DESK

I recently organised an event on the Isle of Skye, and was not only surprised but delighted by the number of folk who appeared from across Scotland to attend.



Skye is not exactly 'round the corner' or 'just up the road' for most people, except Talisqar Skye and Flibble3523, who live on the island. It was all the more rewarding for me as the organiser to be greeted by the arrival of the Geogeriatrics (John and Elizabeth) who had travelled almost 500 miles from Stockport to be there...any excuse to visit Skye, was their explanation.

But it all served to show how gratifying geocaching is: the camaraderie; the instant rapport with people you might be meeting for the first time; the ready geo-socialising that, for me anyway, makes every event something to look forward to.

So, having the task of putting *Seeker* together every couple of months is something I really don't mind doing. I see it as my way of giving something back to a recreational pursuit that has already given me much.

What I hope I've started to achieve, and will try to improve on, is a mini-magazine that readers will find useful, informative and inspirational. I don't pretend to be the world's best editor, and like any editor I need a team to help me succeed. Part of that team is the GAGB Committee, but it is good, and vital, to see others responding, too, by sending in stories of happenings in their own area.

I also need the photographers among you to send me portfolios of images of geocaching locations. I've done all of them so far, but if I don't have images from others, I'll be running out of suitable images before the end of the year. If any photographer does want to contribute, just drop me an email (editor@gagb.org.uk), and I'll give you the details.

Terry (Countrymatters)



SEARCH FOR BURIED TREASURE

Coast magazine and Garmin join forces for nationwide treasure hunt

Treasure hunters from every corner of the UK should get ready for a summer of thrilling discovery as Coast magazine, in association with Garmin and the National Trust, launches the first coastal geocache treasure hunt.

Coast magazine, with help from the National Trust, has hidden caches (or treasure) in 32 secret sites around the UK coastline for holidaymakers to seek out.

In addition to monthly prizes, individuals and families who take part in all four Coast Treasure Hunts this summer could win a Coast Treasure Chest worth over £3,000. Packed with bounty it includes a Garmin nuLink LIVE 2340 Satnav, a holiday in a Sea Garden Cottage at the Island Hotel on Britain's own treasure island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly, with flights and train travel for two people, £500 of Crew clothing vouchers, a box of 12 coastal ales, beachcomber bracelet and ear rings worth £300 from Scarlett Jewellery, National Trust 'Coast' book and annual family admission pass.

Each month Coast magazine will print a set of clues, co-ordinates and locations. Simply download this information into a handheld GPS or use the OpenCaching smartphone app (for iPhone and Android) and start hunting for the treasure. Treasure hunters who find a cache must make a note of the keyword inside and log it at www.coastmagazine.co.uk/treasurehunt for a chance of winning a prize. Full details of how to play and the second set of clues are in the June issue of Coast magazine, on sale now. If you missed the first set of clues in April/May issue you can download them at coastmagazine.co.uk/treasurehunt.

National Trust Outdoor Programme Co-ordinator William Wake says, "The National Trust cares for over 700 miles of beautiful coastline and geocaching is a great way to get out with your family and explore these wonderful places. The seaside is a place where many of our happiest family memories are formed and geocaching is a 21st century addition to buckets, spades and kites."

This month's prize includes a Garmin Edge 200 cycling computer worth £130 and a geocaching kit, plus a National Trust 'Coast' book and a family admission pass. For full details of the Coast Treasure Hunt, in association with Garmin and the National Trust, and to discover the next set of clues, check out the June issue of Coast magazine www.coastmagazine.co.uk/treasurehunt.

Tweet your finds @coastmag using #treasurehunt, or post on Coast's Facebook page facebook.com/coastmagazine.





All systems are go, now!

UK Mega Event 2012

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

For more information visit www.mega2012.org.uk

EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MEGA have now been published:

Sunday 5th August 2012

GC38QEE: Mega2012: Picnic on the Pike: 9.45am

GC3F05V: Mega2012: A Cartmel Crawl: 4pm-8pm

Monday 6th August 2012

GC35QAN: Mega2012: Wainwright Walk: 10am

Tuesday 7th August 2012

GC3BVAQ: Mega2012: Limestone Features on Humphrey Head, at lunchtime (noon)

Wednesday 8th August 2012

GC3B93D: Mega2012: Crawl up Coniston: 10.15am

GC3DJRF: Mega2012: Swallows and Amazons Forever!: between 12pm and 4pm

Thursday 9th August 2012

GC38FKD: Mega2012: Welcome Cuppa in Cumbria, between 11am and 4pm

GC3D7VK: Mega2012: Teddy Bears Picnic, between 12 noon and 5pm

Friday 10th August 2012

GC38XRP: Mega2012: Chapel Island Picnic: between 1.30pm and 2pm

GC3DYXW: Mega2012: Pottering about with Pooches, 2pm

GC3EKQV: The Mega Rodeo (evening event)

Sunday 12th August 2012

GC3CYW1: Mega2012: Wheelies and Walkies, between 1pm and 4.30pm

GC35R64: Mega2012: Morecambe Bay Walk: 1pm at Arnside Pier.

Monday 13th August 2012

GC38JAC: Mega2012: Deci's Traditional Mega Bun and Brew: between 10am and 2pm

GC38QM9: Mega2012: Sunset on the Mega: 7.45pm



Forces for good.....

In this issue we report on two teams that have been about clearing away litter



From GerryU2
(Gerry McGarry)

Every year, the Community Council organise a Beach Clean in the villages of Fortrose and Rosemarkie on the Black Isle, just north of Inverness. Since I am now a member of the Community Council, I thought I would organise the Fortrose beach clean on the same weekend as the annual CITO event weekend. The forecast didn't look too good, but 7 caching teams, including myself, braved the elements along with a few hardy locals. We accumulated around 15 black bags full of rubbish and some curious items like a flag on a buoyancy aid plus a post with a load of loose barbed wire.



The rain stayed off for most of the time but the wind didn't go away which played havoc with keeping the bags opened.

A big thanks to the teams that turned up: from L to R in photo, Teuchter, GerryU2 (plus Messie Nessie), CCmoo, Tree men and a dog, Mountains for me, The Jack Russell's and Beano & Dandy.

ParaCito...

GC3ERCB

Steve
(Bobo Frett)



A new cache placed a mile from our front door on a dark Friday evening. No brainer for Team Bobo Frett. Off I sped with my portable sun on the FTF hunt. Arriving at GZ, I was disgusted by the area and quickly called it a night. I would rather return in the daylight to see what I was actually touching.

The whole team returned in the morning to 'Parasite', renamed something remarkably similar by our caching pals due to the state of GZ. We were appalled that somewhere so near home, with the potential to be so lovely, could be so absolutely disgusting. It appears to have been a dumping ground for HGV drivers for years.

Which brings us to ParaCITO...

...I was working in London for the week. Darleygirl was home alone and had heard on our local forum about a set of cachers who remove caches as 'geolitter', which really got her back up so she decided to do something to balance this.

ParaCITO was born. The CO of 'Parasite' was more than happy for the CITO to take place as they had been hoping that cachers would visit and remove litter each time they came, sadly, the litter was overwhelming. The local council were delighted and gave us their full support



and a load of littery, pickery-up things, bags and hi-vis vests. They allowed us to keep a few after as CITO-ing tools whilst out walking. They're also very useful for hard to reach caches.

What a fantastic morning was had. We had cachers bringing vans, trailers and cakes (very important). Not exactly pleasant but incredibly rewarding. In all, 21 caching teams attended with around 40 individuals helping us with the mess. Amongst our finds were half a car, 4 toilets, various 'exotic' pictures of lorry drivers! We ended up with 70 bags of litter and lots of bits which couldn't be bagged. They all resided in our front garden until after the Bank Holiday. I'm sure the neighbours really appreciated this.

One of the highlights was the arrival of 'Sheik Envac' from Saudi Arabia (via West Yorkshire). His English wasn't so good even with his interesting Yorkshire drawl. Not known to the locals, there was a lot of interrogation and questioning looks as to who the Sheik really was.

I would like to thank all those who attended, to those who brought vans, trailers and cakes, to those who travelled some hefty distances and to all the local teams who came to keep our countryside beautiful. Parasite now has a lovely wooded area to hide in instead of a cesspit and we could not have achieved that without everyone's help.

This is, hopefully, the first of many. In fact there is another local CITO taking place in May (GC3H7A8). All help appreciated.

MEMORABLE CACHES



“Fort micro’s #8 (Grain Tower Battery)”: GC1DKZ6

Cass Flowers (cassandy)

On a mud flat at the east end of the Isle of Grain, Kent proudly stands Grain Tower Battery. Built in 1855 and based on the 19th-century Martello Towers, Grain Tower Battery was constructed to help defend the entrance to the River Medway and the sea front of Sheerness. On the other side of the Medway, the tower was supported by Garrison Point Fort.

Inside the tower there was an ablutions block, stores, kitchen, Officers' Shelter, Men's Shelter, and Artillery Store for the 58 men who operated the tower in 1954. Nowadays, the tower is home to just one thing: GC1DKZ6!

Access to the tower is only possible for a few hours a day at low tide. When the tide is out, a crumbling causeway is revealed and provides the only way to walk there. After hopping over the broken bricks, tip-toeing through the wet sand, and stepping past the Mussel and Oyster beds we arrived at the base of the grand tower to try and find the Geocache lurking inside! Accompanied by Happycabbage, we arrived at the base of the hugely overwhelming tower after about a quarter mile walk out to sea. We felt absolutely tiny standing next to the huge chain, which is still wrapped around the tower, the remains of the anchor point for the Medway Boom that the tower once provided.

After braving the slippery causeway, there was no turning back. We were however plunged straight in at the deep end: to get into the tower you had a first climb up an



aluminium ladder that someone had tied up with a frayed old blue rope. It didn't look safe, and it was a slow and careful ascent into the tower for all of us. The ladder led us into the two storey barrack block, which was a later addition to the building when more men were required to operate the battery in the second world war. Once up the ladder, the hard part was over – we tried to forget that we needed to use the same method to get out! – and we were able to explore the building. There were plenty of these rooms to explore and although the

insides were crumbling and some of the wall partitions had been removed we were able to imagine what life may have been like in the tower many years ago for the 42 men who accommodated the tower. There were also 16 men who had jobs on shore, or who didn't require a permanent presence on the tower (e.g. cooks). The newer barrack block provided 25 beds for the men, with 16 hammock spaces available in the men's shelter and just 4 beds available in the tower's barrack room.

After conquering entry to the barrack block, we made our way to the Battery Observation Post (BOP), the 4 storey reinforced concrete tower. To get to that part we first had to cross the lower walkway from the barrack block landing stage to the tower landing stage. This was completely out in the open and we had to move quickly across the walkway as we could feel the full force of the wind pushing at us from the sides. To access the BOP there are external steps. A handrail, although broken in several places, helps guide the way up. Once all of the steps were ascended we were at the highest point of the tower, naturally with the best views!

After we had explored the whole tower, all that was left was to locate the cache. Being a very tiny micro, it did take us a considerable time to locate it. Thankfully the hint directed us to the right room of the tower to begin our hunt. Although we were all searching, Happycabbage was the finder of the treasure for our adventure in the tower! Now for a careful descent out of the tower via that same aluminium ladder, which if anything looked even less steady on the way down!

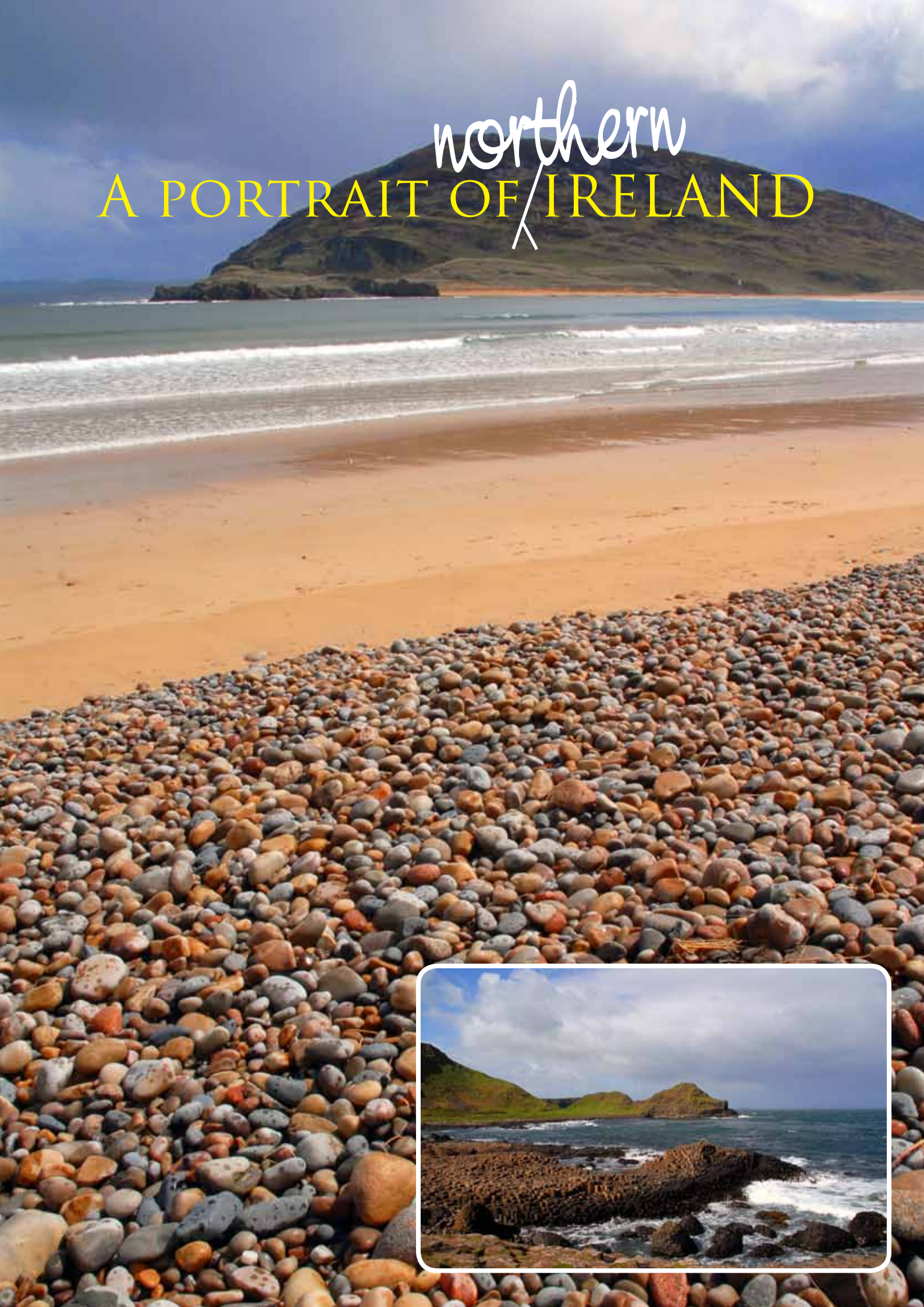


Did you know.....?

.....that the third Saturday of August each year is now **International Geocaching Day**!

A souvenir commemorates the first International Geocaching Day on 20th August, 2011 and shows that you found a geocache or attended an event on this new "holiday." Make sure to take time every International Geocaching Day to celebrate this fabulous hobby and the community that it has created!In 2012, it will be the 18th August.

northern A PORTRAIT OF IRELAND





Images: © Terry Marsh

Main picture: Tullagh Strand, Inishowen

Inset: Giant's Causeway

This page:

Top: Lough Beagh, Glenveagh National Park

Centre left: Antrim coastline and Rathlin Island

Centre right: Carrick-y-Rede rope bridge

Bottom: Donegal coastline

Doot's Corner...

Ode to a Herring

By CASTLE-HUNTERS

As I walked in one Thursday night
A half moon shone, the stars were bright
For it was nearly ten past nine
And well now past our dinner time.
When I got in the table's bare
The two girls were just sitting there
Watching some trash on TV
(such stuff does not appeal to me!)

So off I went to look online
For you know there's this friend of mine
Who 's been a tryin' to get their cache
approved, and start off one mad dash.
On Facebook much has been a written
By those who're geocaching smitten
That Mike will hence complete a ton
And then his hiding days be done.

It takes a while out here you know
Where th'internet is rather slow
But patience, and before one's eyes
The detail will materialise.
Quickly down the list I scan
When suddenly amidst the spam,
I rub my eyes but there's no doubt
The Mushrooms' hundredth cache is out!

"It's out! It's out!" They hear me cry.
"What, where, when, why?" the girls reply.
"Mike's hundredth cache..." I start to say
But Sally jumps up straight away.
"What time it published?" "...half past eight,
If we go now we'll be too late,
With Welshie and WillArch around
The cache will be already found!"

"It's worth a try!" Sal says to me,
"Don't pass this opportunity
To beat the rest at their own game
And claim First to Find to our name."
I didn't need much more persuading
And thought the light was well past fading
We donned hats, coats, boots, scarves and gloves
And climbed aboard the Geobus!

In half an hour we'd found the parking
Surprised not to see others larking
In the dark, though maybe soon
We'll meet them searching in the gloom.
With torch and Garmin bright in hand
We set off into wooded land
In sticky mud we looked for prints
Of recent cachers - but no hints!

With the distance counting down
Strange noises came from all around.
A squalk a thump a squeek a bump
And then a screech that made us jump.
The squelchy ground did slow our pace
And then "AAAarrggh, what's that on my face?
A cobweb, Eeeek and now a stick,"
Springs out of nowhere, "Let's go, quick!"

The numbers count down, ten, five, one...
Had our adversaries gone?
Of other cachers there's no trace!
Could this mean we'd won the race?
"Let's not be hasty, 'cos I bet
We'll find some blighter's been here yet."
But deep inside we hope and pray
That fortune's on our side today.

We started searching at ground zero
For a hide left by our hero
And soon enough upon the ground
Something rather odd was found.
We opened it up and made a wish
But only saw a little fish!
That was, of course, the first red herring
And therefore we must keep on looking.

The second find took slightly longer
Though moonlight now seemed slightly stronger.
"Want a sardine? We've been foiled!
Tomato sauce or olive oiled?"
"Nope, we'd better put it back
For a logbook this does lack.
This is proving rather tricky,"
"Perhaps someone's taking the mickey!"

On we searched down low, up high
Whilst on and on the time ticked by.
A gentle shower came and went
I ask you, Is this time well spent?
Oh, where on earth could it be
Amongst the logs or up the tree?
Oh where, Oh Where, OH WHERE is it?
That Mushroom Mike is such an infuriating fellow!

We stop and think and scratch our heads,
By now we should be in our beds.
You know... the clue... we must endeavour
To think the way of someone clever
And try to get into their mind
And surely then the cache we'll find.
Let's pause a while and think with care."
We stood in silence and did stare.

Slowly then it dawned on me,
About the possibility
Of a cache so well concealed
By fingertips could not be feelled.
Thus I ventured "What's in here,
Come and have a look my dear..."
...and to our immense surprise
A hidey hole revealed before our eyes!

"This must be it - there's no red fish,
But are we first - our utmost wish."
"Good job you brought the tweezers chuck
Without them we'd be really stuck!"
A trembling hand opened the bag
No room for coin nor swag nor tag
unrolling the log we realised
That we'd achieved the greatest prize.

So that was that - our number two hundred
A first to find on mike's one hundred
And though we missed a fishy third
A downbeat word could not be heard
For we did jump and dance and cheer
And we did grin from ear to ear.

Now we have one last thing to say:
Three cheers for Mushroom Mike,
Hip Hip Hooray,
Hip Hip Hooray,
HIP HIP, HOORAY!!!

GC36WGE

DIFFICULTY AND TERRAIN RATINGS

The rating applied to caches both for 'Difficulty' and 'Terrain' are very subjective. But there are some suggestions that might help.

DIFFICULTY



In plain sight or can be found in a few minutes of searching.



The average cache hunter would be able to find this in less than 30 minutes of hunting.



An experienced cache hunter will find this challenging, and it could take up a good portion of an afternoon.



A real challenge for the experienced cache hunter - may require special skills or knowledge, or in-depth preparation to find. May require multiple days / trips to complete.



A serious mental or physical challenge. May require specialized knowledge or skills to find or open the cache.

TERRAIN



Terrain is likely to be paved, is relatively flat, and less than a ½ mile hike is required.



Terrain is generally along marked trails, there are no steep elevation changes or heavy overgrowth. Less than a 2 mile hike required.



The average adult or older child should be OK depending on physical condition. Terrain is likely off-trail. May have one or more of the following: some overgrowth, some steep elevation changes, or more than a 2 mile hike.



Terrain is probably off-trail. Will have one or more of the following: very heavy overgrowth, very steep elevation (requiring use of hands), or more than a 10 mile hike. May require an overnight stay.



Requires specialized equipment (boat, 4WD, rock climbing, SCUBA, etc.) or is otherwise extremely difficult.

A New Way to Create Geocache Listings

1. Cache Basics 2. Location 3. Additional Waypoints 4. Description 5. Container & Ratings 6. Submit Cache

Submit a New Cache Listing

Cache Name

Cache Placed By
This cache is officially owned by one account, but you can list whoever placed the cache (one or more usernames).

Date Placed
MM/dd/yyyy

Cache Type
[Full descriptions of all cache types](#)

☒ **Traditional Cache**
Consists of at least a container and a logbook; located at the listed coordinates.

☐ **Multi-cache**
Involves two or more locations, the final location being a physical container.

☐ **Letterbox Hybrid**
Another form of treasure-hunting; includes GPS coordinates, a stamp for letter-boxing, and may have stages.

☐ **Event Cache**
A gathering of geocachers.

☐ **Unknown Cache**
Includes Mystery, Puzzle and Challenge caches. The cache may or may not be at the listed coordinates, and may require that the seeker solve a puzzle, or fulfill challenge requirements.

☐ **Cache In Trash Out Event**
Organized project-based events that benefit the larger community and natural environment.

☐ **Earthcache**
An educational location, with a focus on geoscience; does not include a cache container.

☐ **Wherigo Cache**
Combines an adventurous journey with a physical geocache, using a Wherigo cartridge.

☐ I have read and agree to the [Terms of Use Agreement](#).

☐ I have read and understand the [Cache Listing Requirements and Guidelines](#).

By submitting a geocache listing, you assure us that you have adequate permission to hide your cache in the selected location. [Learn more](#).

Groundspeak have introduced a new format for submitting new cache listings. The new pages guide you through each step of submitting a cache, and the online wizard (tool) helps you to identify any potential issues along the way, so you can focus on what's important — creating a well-crafted, easy-to-understand listing.

The "Submit a New Cache Listing" process is now six steps. You've walked through each step from "Cache Basics," through "Container & Ratings," all the way to "Submit Cache." Helpful tips and information are peppered through the process. The previous "Report a New Cache" tool for submitting a cache listing will remain available for the next few weeks.

GAGB Notes...



The GAGB now has its own 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

Money, money, money

The GAGB can now accept donations and payment via Bank Transfer or cheque.
For further details
email donations@gagb.org.uk.

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'.

In need of maintenance...

Oh, that dreaded 'Needs maintenance' posting – and you know the searcher (Finds, 8) was looking in the wrong place! But even so, cache containers end up battered by the weather or broken from regular use.

Does one of your geocaches need a new logbook, is the container cracked, or did the pen or pencil in the cache disappear? Maybe the onset of summer (we believe it is coming to a place near you, soon!) is a perfectly timed reminder to check your caches.

Community maintenance

And geocache maintenance is not just for geocache owners. Courteous geocachers often help with cache maintenance, which helps increase the quality of the game for all. It's easy. You simply take additional supplies such as an extra geocache container, swag, logbooks, and pens on your geocaching adventures. That way you're prepared

to help out another geocacher by fixing a cache that needs maintenance on the spot.

If you go geocaching on the spur of the moment and don't have supplies to fix up a cache that needs maintenance, visit Geocaching.com and report a 'Needs Maintenance' log on the cache page.

If you are a geocache owner here are three ways to help make geocache maintenance a breeze:

1. Place a cache that is durable and requires little or no upkeep
2. Periodically check on your cache both in person and via the cache page to see if there are any issues
3. If you see a 'Needs Maintenance' log on the cache page, fix the cache and post an 'Owner Maintenance' log.

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.

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.