

ISSUE 47 WINTER 2022

SEEKER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE GEOCACHING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

A CO-OPERATIVE
INTRODUCTION
TO CACHING

2021 IN PICTURES

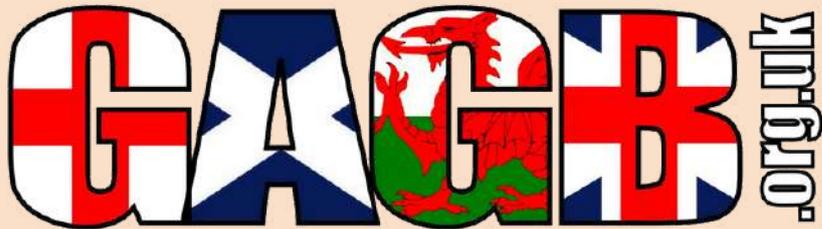




SEEKER 47

IN THIS ISSUE...

Cover: *Winter caching, Emma Taylor (Moofnoo), Loch Ken*
Above: *Winter dew, nr GC87ZJ9. Courtesy of Jennthefunkyranger*

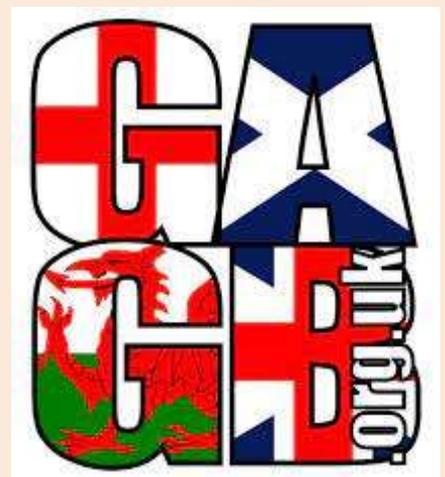


The **Geocaching Association of Great Britain** is the leading UK Geocaching body, recognised by and acting on behalf of geocachers. The Association was established in 2003 to provide a national organisation that represented geocaching, and to serve as a UK point of contact for geocachers, landowners, the media and others with an interest in geocaching. Find us online at www.gagb.org.uk.

Contributions to Seeker are welcome; please contact editor@gagb.org.uk. 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. For individual articles, the author is also the photographer unless otherwise stated.

Seeker 47 design and layout by Jenn Hill (Jennthefunkyranger)

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Meet the Committee



Chris Carpenter
Saza36
Chair



Arthur Griffiths
Griff Grof
Secretary



Caz Turver
Border Caz
Treasurer



Mel Read
Moira Crackers
Retail & Outreach



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Cabbage187
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Jenn Hill
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Seeker Editor



Alexander Buswell
mmmPIZZA
Social Media



Claire Harris
MxHarris
Friends & Reps

Chair's Message



Hello! I'm Chris, the GAGB's new Chair for 2022-23. I hope this issue of Seeker finds you and your family well.

I would like to start by thanking Sharon Reid (sharant) for her hard work on the committee during the last seven and a half years. We haven't let her go completely as she has been appointed to assist the Webmaster. I am currently looking after Chair, Webmaster and Membership Secretary roles and needed assistance with Webmaster due to the amount of code that underlies and links the website, forum and email capability. We also haven't let the previous chair disappear as Arthur has kindly taken on the Secretarial role alongside his new job and studies.

Thanks also to the Regional Reps that have accepted roles since we started this initiative last year. We still have vacancies in Southern England, the Isle of Man, Channel Isles and North Wales so if you lie within these regions and are willing to offer help, please email friends@gagb.org.uk. As we slowly start getting back to some form of normality re COVID, the Regional Reps in the South-West have been busy organising events. As I write, the Reps in South Wales are also planning an event. Reps have also been looking after the requests that we are receiving for Duke of Edinburgh Assessors for those choosing Geocaching as an activity.

This edition marks the eleventh anniversary of Seeker. If any member has any ideas for a feature or something specific that they would like to see published in a future edition, please email it to editor@gagb.org.uk.

I look forward to working with the rest of the committee this year to build awareness of the GAGB and hope to see you at an event during the year.

Happy Geocaching - Stay safe!

Chris - Saza36



NEWS ROUND-UP ***IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...***

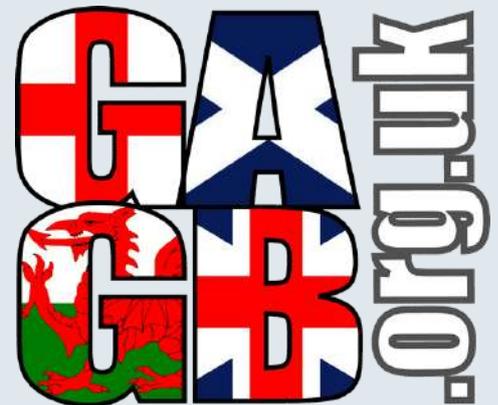
Piratemaniamia location

The Piratemaniamia committee have announced the location of this year's port, and it seems we will all be berthing out vessels back at a familiar location. PM 2022 will be held in Bakewell, Derbyshire, just 40 minutes from the West Midlands 2022 venue for everyone carrying on there afterwards.



Committee update

Since her appointment to the committee in November, Elizabeth Williams (Dizzywelshgirl) had not made any contact with the committee and multiple attempts to get in contact with her had been unsuccessful. As a result, the committee voted during the January meeting to terminate her committee membership. She remains a GAGB member and friend. This leaves the committee one short, with the ability to co-opt a replacement as needed.



Committee

UK Mega 2024

The UK Mega Event Stakeholders have confirmed that the 2024 UK Mega will be held in the South East. Huge congratulations and best of luck to the organising committee!

You can visit their Facebook page [here](#).



Meet the 2022 Committee

In November 2021, the nominations were held for the new GAGB committee, resulting in a new committee being formed with a good mix of returning members and new members to bring in fresh ideas. Read below to find out more about the committee members, and for the returning members find out something new you didn't know about them before!



Chris
Saza36

How did you find out about Geocaching? My daughter was introduced to Geocaching by the Scouts in 2009 and we immediately signed up as I have always enjoyed walking. We placed our first caches the same year and some are still active.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? To attend an event. The first time you may be a little hesitant as you don't know what to expect but it is a great way to meet up with local cachers and put a face to the names that you have regularly seen in logs.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? The obvious answer would be a pen but for me it's my caching shoulder bag. I carry pens, tweezers, spare logs, spare caches, tissues, a log roller, swag, power pack and lead plus a few other items.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? I am fortunate to have travelled for work and cached in many countries. In Africa I was caching with a colleague. We had replaced the cache and turned round to see an enormous warthog staring at us. We backed slowly away ...

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? I wish I had researched more into who started it etc. At the night event of the 2010 Mega in Perth my family was joined by an American man that we didn't know. We chatted a lot about caching whilst walking around only to find out later that it was Jeremy Irish.



Arthur
Griff Grof

How did you find out about Geocaching? My friend (geocaching name: Wacky races) introduced me to geocaching. He had discovered it two years earlier, when his Scout troop accidentally stumbled across a cache. Once he properly started caching in 2010, he led me to my first cache and I was hooked!

What should every Geocacher try at least once? All geocachers are different, so I don't think there is one thing that everyone should try, as what appeals to one person (or most people) might not appeal to others. However, if I had to pick something, I think you should not be afraid to push yourself now and again. I was unsure about finding my first 5/5 caches underground as it was out of my comfort zone, but it ended up being a great day and one of my most memorable caching trips. So, if you want to, challenge yourself and you might have an unforgettable outing!

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? An Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:25000) to help with navigation - a paper one and/or one on my GPSr/smartphone screen.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? To be honest, nothing comes to mind! I can use dozens of adjectives to describe things that have happened whilst caching, but "funny" isn't one of them!

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? To begin with, I didn't understand what events were, and I missed a hugely popular 10 Years! event (now Community Celebration event) on my doorstep as a result.



Caz
Border Caz

How did you find out about Geocaching? Back in 2007, when I was a driving instructor, I had a customer who was just getting into geocaching and as we drove around I would say "Please turn right at the next junction", to which he would reply "There's a really good geocache behind that tree over there". I signed up, thinking my teenagers might find it fun but they weren't interested. A couple of years later I was camping with some friends who had started caching so I joined them to give my dog a walk, and got hooked.

The committee is backed up by a team of reps, ensuring we cover the whole country.

Thank you to our returning reps, and welcome to our new reps. Find out more about our reps in the next issue of Seeker.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? Looking for caches other than traditionals. I've heard some say "Too much work for one smiley" but I find multis, earthcaches, puzzles etc can be more interesting and rewarding.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? My jacket in winter, waistcoats in summer - lots of pockets to fit things in that I need to get at easily like phone, pen, tweezers etc to save having to take my rucksack off all the time, or indeed carrying one at all if not going far from the car/campervan.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? I was sat on the steps of a church one afternoon, sharing some jam doughnuts with my dog. A lady asked if I was alright and did I need any help. Jazz was wearing his "Caution - Blind Dog" bandana as we were in a city, and she had assumed he was an assistance dog. I had to explain that he was the one who needed assistance.

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? That it's better to look at a map and see where the footpaths are than just blindly follow the arrow. Would have saved me some strenuous and harrowing bushwhacking in my first few months!



When Chris met Jeremy Irish



Jenn
Jennthefunkyranger

How did you find out about Geocaching? I am a Guide leader, and it had been mentioned a few times by different Guiders, I remember Guiding Nutter leading a session at a leaders' weekend, but I managed to miss the group going! A few years later I was at my local campsite with my Guides, and we had a go at the caches there (not official ones), and then went out and bought a GPS. I've since taken my Guides caching a few times, and yes, I have the Geocaching badge on my blanket

What should every Geocacher try at least once? The same answer as several others, attend an event. There is a great social element to caching, and from being really hesitant to go to my first event (a huge thank you to the CO for that event who realised I was unsure, and asked another cacher going alone to meet me outside so I wasn't going in alone) I now love this part. I've made so many really great friends, I've been able to attempt difficult caches by meeting people to go out and do them with, and they have been there for me outside of caching.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? A pen! How else can you go sign those logs? Also, my walking pole, for poking round through leaves, in places I don't really want to stick my hand, and also for giving stability on steep surfaces and tough terrain. I have fibromyalgia, and when my legs get tired the pole gives me a bit more support to keep walking.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? I had been on a webcam tour in Germany with Sharon (Sharant). We were sat in the car in Hannover about to head back to Hamburg airport, when I smelled something like toast. I thought at first it was the bratwurst we'd both just eaten but then it got stronger. Then I noticed smoke coming from Sharon's bag! "Sharon, Sharon, you're smoking"! Sharon - "Aaaarrrrgh"! She quickly opened the bag, and the culprit turned out to be a TOTT malfunction. The 9V battery she had taken in case we came across any caches needing it had come into contact with a packet of mints and short circuited...

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? Challenges! I recently did a 60 day streak for a challenge cache, but as I've completely cleared out my local area I was having to travel further and further afield every day from work to find a cache. Had I gone for a streak early on, with lots of local caches to get, this would have been so much easier.



Claire
MxHarris

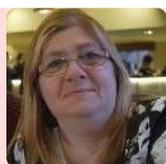
How did you find out about Geocaching? Many years ago on a forum someone mentioned it, I thought it sounded interesting but it seemed to be something out of my budget and ability level. A couple of years ago I started a new relationship with someone who is a cacher and about the same time started to use a wheelchair so it was the perfect time for me to start.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? Everything! Don't be put off by things you haven't done at least once. Enjoy the adventure and stretching yourself.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? For me it's got to be my wheelchair. I have a molle system that lives on the back of it with my caching kit, but ultimately I can cache without it the chair I can't. But always carry a pen and tweezers.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? Hard to think of a single one. So many times I've pushed myself through terrain I probably shouldn't have done, nearly thrown myself out on tree roots, got stuck in bushes and even spent six months in physio because I stopped myself being thrown by catching a fence post, took the weight of me and the chair through my arm and injured my shoulder! It didn't seem fun at the time but it's funny looking back on.

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? How much fun I would have, the independence it would give me and how much I could achieve. I was an active teen and I'd forgotten how much I had missed that.



**Mel
Moira Crackers**

How did you find out about Geocaching? Back in 2014 Tony and myself were with friends who kept mentioning geocaching, we had never heard of it. They took us a walk that evening to walk the dogs together and we

found our first 3 geocaches. We came home, checked out the website, joined and logged our first 3 finds and continued from there.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? I would say attend an event. It may be very daunting at first going into a room with lots of people you don't know, but it helps to put faces to the names you come across on most logs. They also become your handiest tool as in a PAF when you can't seem to be able to find a cache your looking for but checking back on previous logs they have found it. Some become very good friends and you could even class them as your caching family.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? Most obvious is a pen, you can't really sign the logs without one and no sign, no smile. But another is a pair of tweezers as there are so many small logs out there, not always tiny but disguised in other ways using tiny containers so the need for tweezers becomes more often than not. I have very often forgot them and used the car key to help retrieve a log from it's container.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? Once we was on a walk and everything was fine, we walked a circular route and suddenly my feet disappeared into the worst mud you have ever seen, My husband just stood there laughing as he had taken a different route around the hedge, I was completely stuck, hubby eventually held out his hand and pulled me across but I was without any shoes.....they were firmly stuck in the mud....

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? I wish I had known about events and Megas when I first started, we started in 2014 and it was 2016 when we attended our first Mega, we only attended for the day not even knowing it was a week long camping experience. We enjoyed the day and once we had realised it was such a great event we booked up for the week for the next Mega.



**Craig
Cabbage187**

How did you find out about Geocaching? I had just come back from India and a friend said 'I know something you would really like, you can do lots of statistics', he then explained it to me. I immediately looked at places in India and was gutted he never told me about it before I went.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? Placing their own cache, this will help them understand what goes into cache placement.

What piece of Geocaching kit could you not live without? Apart from a pen, my partner's phone as my GPS on my phone is rubbish.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you while Geocaching? Met a geocacher at a cache we had struggled to find on a few occasions. When we found it, a pen was asked for. None of us had a pen. I lost and had to walk back to the car to get one.

What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching?
How much fun it is



**Alexander
mmmPIZZA**

How did I find out about Geocaching? I found out about Geocaching in March 2012 when we did it as an activity within Scouts. Our Scout Leader informed us that Geocaching was a global activity and there was a website, etc. We checked it out for ourselves, headed to find our first official find and our favourite hobby was born.

What should every Geocacher try at least once? I'd highly recommend Geocaching abroad. Not an exciting answer I know, but I've found that caches really do vary on size and creativity a lot depending on what country/state/county you're in and which CO lives in that area.

What piece of geocaching kit could you not live without? My go-to suggestion is always tweezers, however, I also have a magnet on a stick. It's similar to a selfie stick but with a magnet at the end. It works like a charm for those pesky bison in a ivy covered tree!

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you whilst Geocaching? We came across a long box once which was locked whilst looking for a geocaching. We couldn't see what was in it but adamant it was money in there. However my Mum decided to do the right thing and hand it into the police. Everyone we've ever told the story too has found it funny we never kept the goods for ourselves. Talk about finding treasure when caching!

What is one thing you wish you knew when you started Geocaching? I wish I had known a lot more about Wherigos and how they work. They are my least found cache type and a type I need to get out and do more of.

GAGB Financial Report



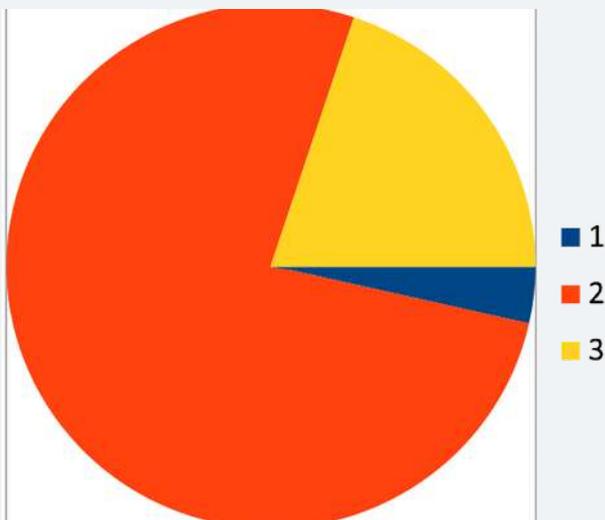
The GAGB accounting year runs from September to September. The formal accounts for the financial year ending 30-09-21 have been posted on our forum. Here are some highlights from our Treasurer, Caz.

Last year's activities continued to be affected by the restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, as you all know, and events were not re-allowed until July/August - luckily just in time for the annual UK Mega and Piratemanía in Lincolnshire to go ahead. Well done to the organising teams for those as well as the London's Calling team for persevering against all odds. Most of our fundraising takes place at events so with fewer events and lower attendance figures our income has suffered.

INCOME

Total income for the year was £2,262 and this is a breakdown of where it came from:

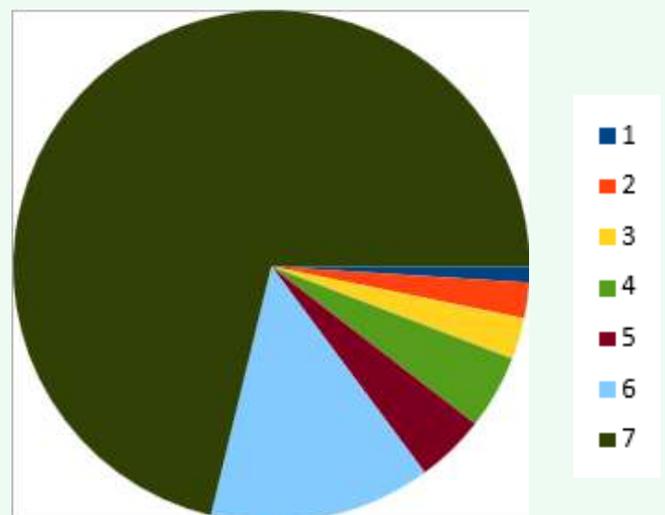
- 1) We received a small number of donations from very nice people who support our aims.
- 2) The bulk came from sales of geocoins, tags, caches, pens, badges and other essential geocaching equipment at events and from our online shop.
- 3) The remainder was raised by our ever popular map game at events and also a "guess the date in a diary" fundraiser.



EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure for the year was £3,205 and this shows what it went on:

- 1) Paypal and Zettle card payment machine fees.
- 2) The cost of our dedicated telephone line for use by Landowners and members of the public who find geocaches and don't know what they are or want them removed.
- 3) Miscellaneous small equipment and admin costs, e.g. Postages, hand sanitizer, glue guns, table hire, GPSr cables.
- 4) Website and survey costs.
- 5) Insurance.
- 6) Donations to Mega committees.
- 7) Purchase of stock, the bulk of this being the production of the South Downs geocoins which went on sale in July.



As you can see, like the year before we spent more than we received - but all is not doom and gloom because we actually held stock with a retail value of over £2,500 more at the end of September 2021 compared to what we had at the same time in the previous year.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that we are coming to the end of the pandemic and life can return to normal in 2022.

Border Caz
GAGB Treasurer

Seeker needs YOU!



We rely on content sent in by our members to help produce Seeker, as it's your articles, and photos that we publish. If you have anything you would like us to include in future issues please send these to editor@gagb.org.uk. If you would like to contribute but writing isn't your strength please don't let this put you off, we can edit anything that comes in.

A Co-Operative introduction to Geocaching

Ant Reid (Sharant)

The GAGB has partnered with the West Midlands Mega crew to host a series of “Intro to Geocaching” events - you may have seen them in the GAGB’s events calendar, or as an icon when you look around the geocaching map. What are they? Why come along? What’s going on? Ant (team Sharant) went to his first such event in Birmingham on 22 January, and explains the concept.



What is the aim?

During lockdown, a lot of people have started geocaching without access to events, to other more experienced cachers, to find out about what is good and what is bad practice. There are lots of people who just do not know where to start, so don't. The GAGB has long wanted to promote 'Intro' events to help with this. New geocachers can see complex, as well as simple caches, ask questions about the apps and maps, figure out which cache types to look for and which to avoid, and why people get annoyed when a T5 cache gets replaced in a too-easy spot.

It's a way of bringing together experienced and friendly geocachers with enthusiastic beginners who want to know more.

How do these events work?

The GAGB partnered with the Central England Co-operative Society to buy several GPS units, and then partnered with the West Midlands Mega crew to provide funding for venue hire and so on. Each event has some caches laid out nearby - often 'real' but sometimes 'fake' simple caches that are like a training circuit. The GPS unit is pre-loaded to make it easy to get going, and someone from the organising

crew accompanies the beginner to help, explain, and occasionally taunt them as they learn about how to find, sign, and replace the caches. When they are interested to know more, the crew give them advice on apps and logging, and show how to do that bit - usually the event becomes their first ever 'find'!



What has the Co-op got to do with this?

The Central England Co-op has five key principles that guide their community involvement and these events tick every single box - from environmental awareness, to fitness, engaging young people, and more. So the Co-op agreed to provide some seed money, promote the events where they can, and support the events in person too. In return, each event usually has a raffle (to raise money for the West Midlands Mega in August 2022), and each Central England Co-op member gets a free raffle ticket - nice!

And if that means more visitors to the West Midlands Mega event in August, well that's good too!

Why should I go? I know all about geocaching

That's why you should go! If you've ever cursed a muggle or newbie, if you ever found a geocache left in the wrong place, if you've ever wondered why your cute-but-obscure hint leads to DNFs among new geocachers, come along and meet some, and help them to understand our game.

You'll get a few extra icons, usually some coffee or tea, some great chat with other experienced geocachers, and maybe find a new friend or two as well. And you don't need to buy a raffle ticket, but every ticket sold means this year's Mega event gets a little bit better...

Thanks go to the Central England Co-operative Society, the GAGB, and the West Midlands Mega crew for making these events happen. If you want to host one in your area just get in touch with GAGB and talk to your local GAGB representative.

One I often forget - read the description! It's amazing how many COs place the most helpful hints in the description, rather than in the hint

Bring snacks! Extra socks, and friends!

If caching alone share your location with someone via Google Maps so that they can track your movements. If your phone is capable of doing it, set up the SOS facility.

Adventure Labs don't have a limit on how many times you can answer, so if you need a number and it's too dark to see, just keep putting numbers in and you'll eventually get there

Your Geocaching top tips

We asked on Facebook for your top tips. Here is what you said:

I take a pencil. They generally always write on logs regardless of moisture on the paper or surrounds, whereas pens often don't oblige on damp logs, or in the rain.

When setting a caching trail, put the numbers first so that those who use GPS can see immediately which is the next cache

Always keep basic caching gear in your car or bag, that way you will be able to cache whenever you feel the urge.

When searching - two questions - where would I hide it? And what looks out of place? Both work wonders for me and often yield results

For urban caches, consider investing in a hi viz vest and clipboard. This is the ultimate urban camo!

If you are caching using a phone, make sure that you have downloaded all the caches offline before you leave home. How many times do I see "couldn't find it, no signal"!

Spare bits of paper to replace soggy logs - do the COs a favour. Without them there would be no hobby

Ask "where would I hide it?"

Have a spare pair of trousers in the car ready for when you fall over into a muddy puddle (didn't happen to me, honest)

Charge your phone fully the night before! (If caching by phone)

Pencils generally always write on logs regardless of moisture on the paper, whereas pens often don't

More top tips

Bring snacks!
Extra socks and friends!

Have a caching bag as well so you can just pick it up and go. Pen, pencil, tweezers, plasters, gloves, torch and spare logs are basic items.

If you think you have enough pens, take another one (and get used to using a specific pocket/place for various items so you can grab them easily & quickly).

Don't discount anywhere.

Bottle of water! In my early days I did a fairly big series one summer's afternoon and got thirsty half way around in the middle of nowhere. I was dehydrated when I got back to my car where I had water..... I never did that again!

Don't give up too quickly. Read the description again, read the activity and step back and then try again.

I always carry pens and when geocaching. I have a range of pencils from 1.5cm to 6cm in length.

Use gardening gloves for putting your hands into mucky places!

Spare Paper, pens, and tweezers; and don't forget the plasters for them wild bushes

Get a decent portable charger – saved me MANY times!

Never ever rural cache in the summer wearing shorts, doesn't matter how hot and inviting the sun

Always have at least 3 pens - one to use, one to lose and one for back up.

EVEN MORE OF YOUR TOP TIPS

Take plenty of tweezers, I seem to leave mine behind!
Oh and a packet of fruit pastilles 😊

Never leave the house without a pen. You might not be planning to cache that day but take one anyway, just in case.

Buy tweezers that are orange or pink. Easier to see when you drop them in thick grass

First event?
Don't be worried.

And last but not least, a very important tip from the Piratemia committee:
Tick another off your bucket list by booking and going to Piratemia

2021 IN PICTURES

We asked on Facebook for your memories of 2021 in pictures. This is what you shared with us.

All photos have been credited where possible. Thank you to everyone for your submissions. The originals can be found on our Facebook page, along with their stories



Jill Turner (Justjill27)



Kathryn Keresley (Justjill27)



Chris (Saza36)



Steph HUGHAN (TeferTheCat)

Pete Mason
(The Amasons)



Kim Leonard

Charissa Louise
Garrod



HuggableHamster
& Smudgepuss



Left - Lou Walker (walkerway1)



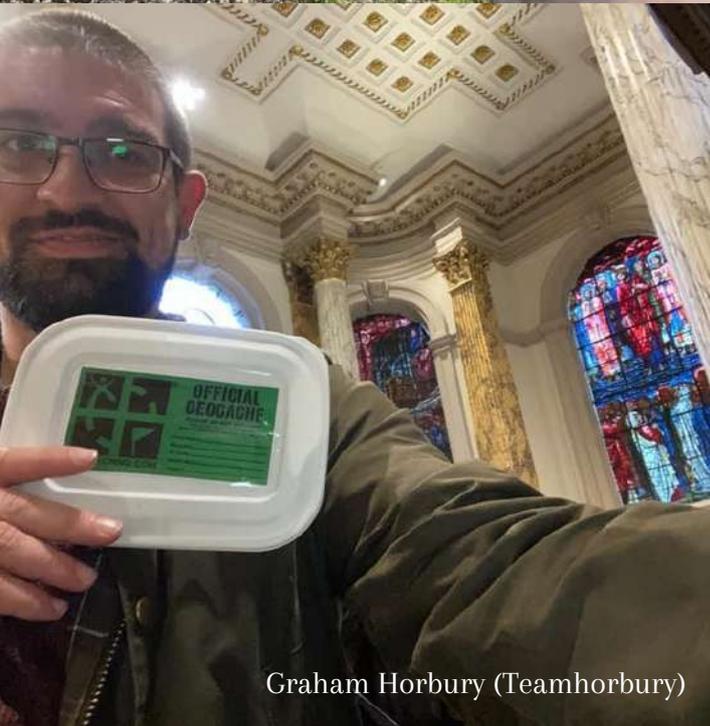
Below - Emma Taylor (Moofnoo)



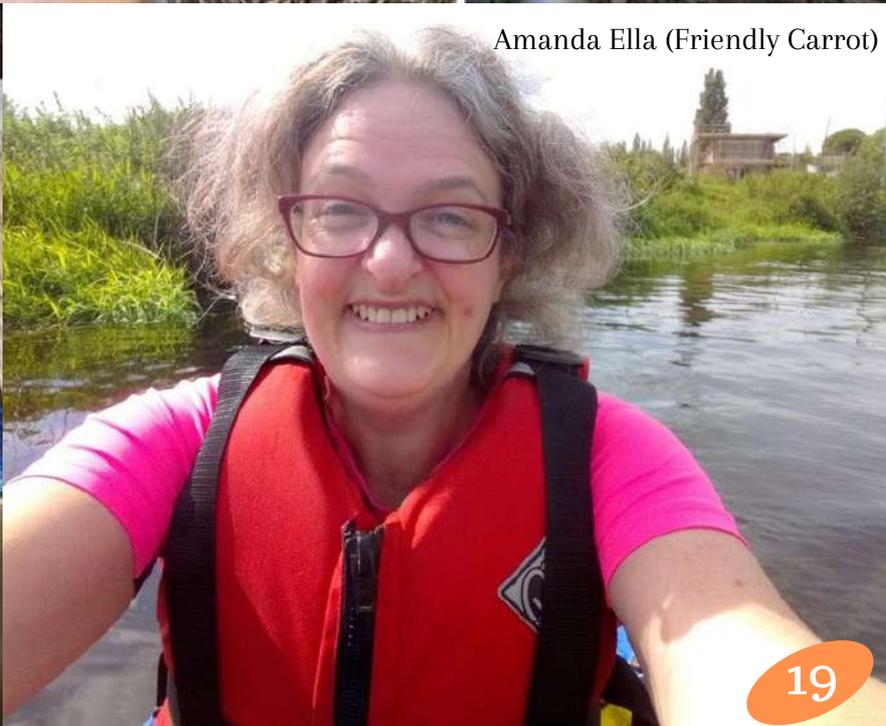
Right - Zenna Widger (Zenna91)



Murray Kohn (MuzzaDazzler)



Graham Horbury (Teamhorbury)



Amanda Ella (Friendly Carrot)



Left -
Mike Crook (mykey987)





Above right - Scott Kirby (TheSpecialAgents)
Below - Kara Penny (wildOne)



Right -
Mike Crook (mykey987)





Jill Beech



Kim Conor (TheConorClan)

PUZZLED BY PUZZLES?

You have seen that blue question mark on the map. But what really is it?

This is a mystery cache, and actually covers several different options. It could be a puzzle you need to work out before you go, which range from very simple, to fiendishly difficult. It could signify the bonus cache to a series, where you collect information as you go from caches on the series, or from the listing in a set of adventure labs. It could also be a challenge cache, where you have to fulfil certain criteria to claim. The main thing to remember is, other than challenge caches, you are not looking for anything at the published coordinates!

Bonus caches

This is often one of the simplest ways to find a mystery cache. If you spot that a series has a bonus cache, have a look in the cache container for the information, this is usually written on the log, or on the lid. In it's simplest form you will be looking for six numbers, with the bonus coordinates being, for example N52 12.ABC W002.05 DEF. Sometimes you may have a much more complex formula, with more numbers to collect, and needing a calculator, for example N52 12.(A/3*B) (D-A-E*Q) (55/Z²). I hate maths, so I dread seeing ones like this! You will need to note the information down as you go along, though with Adventure Labs it's easier to keep track, as it will remain in the journal in the adventure.

Challenge caches

Love them? Hate them? These divide opinion amongst cachers, and many people feel they should be an icon of their own. These generally are at the published coordinates (meaning the published coordinates also need to confirm to the 161m distance rule). To claim the find, you will need to conform to the criteria listed on the cache page, this could be "complete two DT grids", "find 100 large caches" "find 50 caches in a certain county" etc. If you find the cache but haven't met by the criteria then you can sign the log, but can't claim the cache online. You can leave a note, and then convert that into a find if you then do meet the criteria at a later date. Challenge caches can be a great way of setting yourself a caching target if you have a few in your area.

Puzzle caches

Puzzle caches involve work to be done at home before you head out. Some caches can be solved in a matter of minutes (even seconds), some may take hours. Or longer. Often the page includes a checker, so you can see if the coords you have worked out are correct before heading out, and some cache owners will provide the hint for the cache in the checker too, to avoid giving anything away as to the final location.

Have you taken a look at the GAGB's pages on puzzle solving?

[Click here](#) for tips on solving puzzles, and [here](#) for a list of useful websites.

Jasmer Grid

Those of you who have been caching a while are probably already aware of the Jasmer grid. But for many new cachers, this will also be a new idea. So what is it?

The first cache (called a stash at that point) was placed in May 2000, the month that GPS signals became available for anyone to use, not just the military. The Jasmer grid is a very simple concept, to find a cache placed every month since May 2000.

Finds by hidden month													
Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2000	X	X	X	X		1	1		1			1	4
2001	1		1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	1	2	18
2002	2	2	6	6	9	6	3	5	2	2	1	3	47
2003	3	3	6	6	5	3	3	2	6	5	2	2	46
2004	4	4	2	25	3	5	1	2	4	2	5	3	60
2005	2	10	3	5	6	5	3	12	5	9	2	2	64
2006	4	1	5	8	1	4	1	1	3	9	13	4	52
2007	3	1	4	11	6	4	5	6	7	21	5	10	83
2008	8	11	12	11	11	3	5	6	5	7	26	5	110
2009	9	5	16	21	14	19	26	13	18	9	4	6	160
2010	9	21	27	19	20	11	52	38	45	40	18	29	338
2011	35	40	110	56	73	40	70	110	14	30	19	30	633
2012	67	55	78	64	76	16	104	90	92	87	29	26	786
2013	73	76	176	66	68	136	48	178	118	132	53	154	1296
2014	418	32	39	109	62	50	38	25	85	55	30	25	974
2015	20	59	44	54	91	100	74	46	52	36	15	51	642
2016	41	84	78	184	43	29	29	67	56	20	16	17	664
2017	14	28	57	36	104	80	50	132	24	32	14	17	568
2018	24	77	28	14	41	61	23	79	27	23	27	36	460
2019	14	36	100	43	113	96	21	35	27	52	9	22	568
2020	76	313	60	130	70	132	115	24	46	60	15	14	1075
2021	24	16	34	64	55	65	98	35	12	5	6	2	416
2022	2												2
	853	874	912	931	892	867	771	909	651	649	316	463	

I have been caching since February 2012, so for me, filling the grid as far as I have has been relatively easy. However, as time goes on, getting those old caches in has been harder, and harder, and will involve travelling, so completing the grid does involve investment in both time and money, so if you want to take on this challenge it is definitely a long term goal!

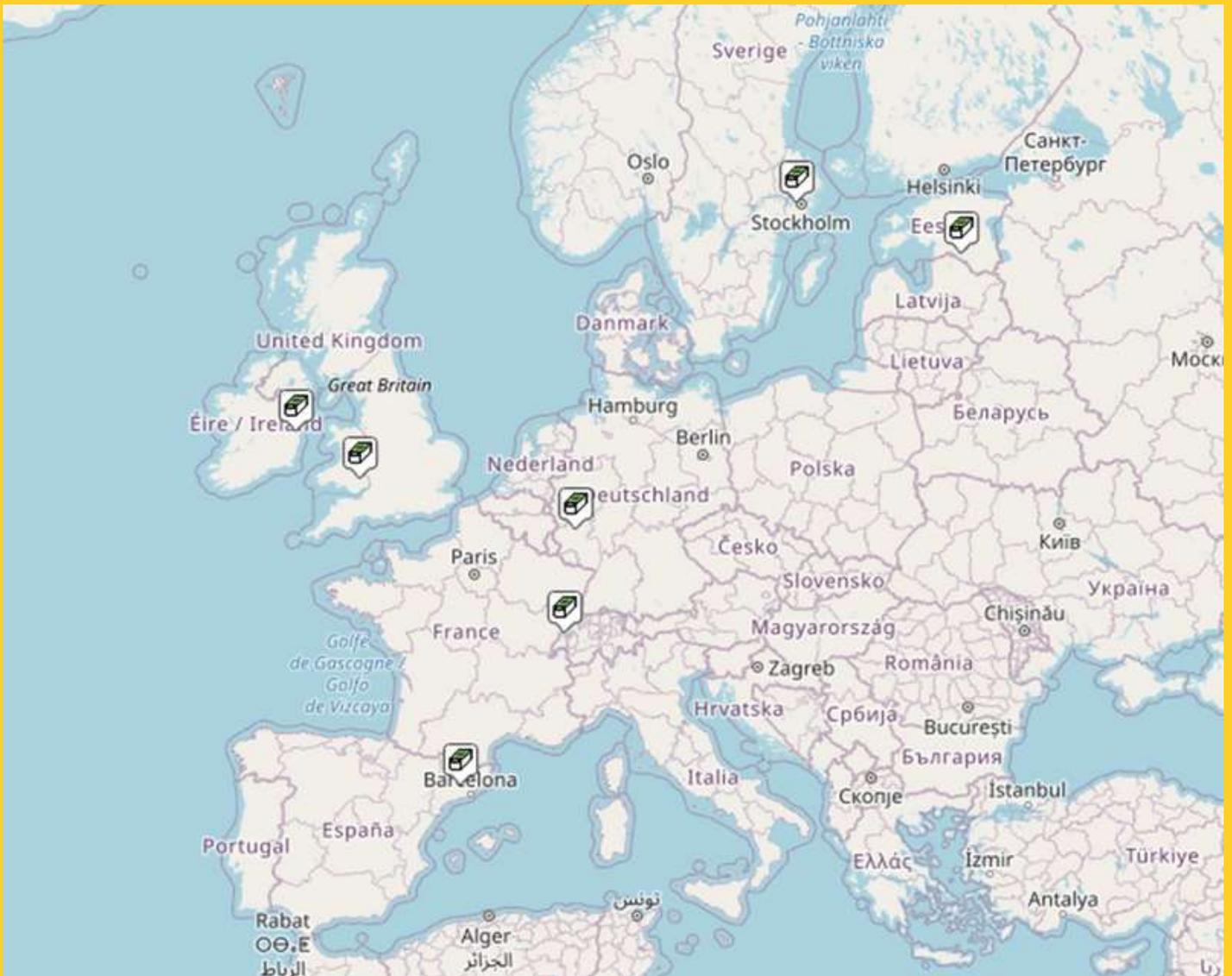
I currently have five months left to fill, but by the time you read this I will (hopefully!) have found February 2021, with a trip to South Wales, the only month left that I can still get in the UK. After that, a trip to Stockholm will fill in one more month (annoyingly, I managed to miss this one when I went to Stockholm in 2015), and then the final three will involve a trip to America's west coast.

I filled in five days in one go a few years back with a trip up to Northumberland, which has quite a few older caches available, and to get three I also had a trip over to Denmark ([click here for more information about that one](#)), hiring a car to get to them quickly. One of these has since sadly been archived.

If you have decided now this is a challenge you want to go for, how do you find the dates? The image of my grid has come from <https://project-gc.com/>, a free to use (with a paid option for certain functions - this bit is available without paying) website with loads of good search options.

Once on Project GC the link you need to find which months you need is here: <https://project-gc.com/Maps/MapHiddenMonth>

You can filter by country, then by region if you still have a lot to go, or, if you are like me and don't have so many now you can also search an entire continent. This is all I have left in Europe, it may look like a few, however other than the cache in Stockholm these were all actually published in the same month.



So why not set yourself a new challenge? If this involves any road trips or exciting adventures, we'd love to know about them for future issues of Seeker.

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