

ISSUE 49

AUTUMN 2022

SEEKER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE GEOCACHING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

**GEOCACHING IN
THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST**

**NIGHT CACHING IN
EASTERN
ENGLAND**





SEEKER 49

IN THIS ISSUE...

Cover: Autumn caching in London nr GC7C4C9. Courtesy of Griff Grof
Above: View from Cromer Pier nr GC6ZXV. Courtesy of Griff Grof



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.

- 2 CHAIR'S MESSAGE
- 3 NEWS ROUND-UP
- 4 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CACHING
- 9 THE UK GEOCOIN DATABASE
- 11 BEST PLACES CACHING TAKES YOU
- 13 NIGHT CACHING IN EASTERN ENGLAND
- 16 DEAF COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT
- 18 TOP TIPS: HOW TO GET PERMISSION
- 19 GAGB CITO WEEK 2022
- 22 GAGB ELECTIONS
- 23 MEET PATRICIA ELKINS/MSPATT
- 25 GAGB NEEDS YOUR HELP!
- 27 GAGB ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22
- 35 MEMBER DISCOUNTS

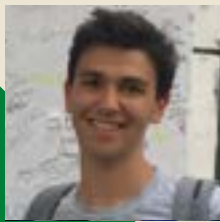
Meet the Committee



Chris Carpenter

Saza36

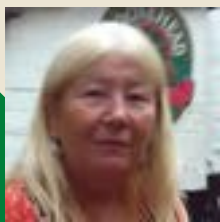
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Retail & Outreach



Craig Davidge

Cabbage187

GLAD Manager



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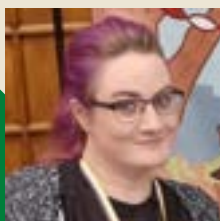
Seeker Editor



Alexander Buswell

mmmPIZZA

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Friends & Reps

Chair's Message



I hope this version of Seeker finds you well. Autumn is here and the nights are drawing in, but I hope you are still finding time to seek out a few caches.

This is the final edition of Seeker from the current committee. In this edition we see a write-up from one of the committee members following their trip to Seattle for the Geocaching 20th Anniversary Celebrations. In addition, we have reports on various events including the GAGB CITO Week. The final section is the GAGB's Annual Report, which covers everything we have achieved this year.

I would like to thank every member of the committee for their hard work during the year. Thanks also to our Friends and Reps for continuing to support us, especially the South-West reps, for organising several GAGB events within their region. A small number of regions are still in need of at least one rep, so please email friends@gagb.org.uk if you're interested.

The election for next year's committee is upon us, with nominations opening at 00:00 on Monday 7th November. Please consider standing for election, or simply nominate someone who you think would do a good job. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and good luck to all the candidates!

Chris - Saza36

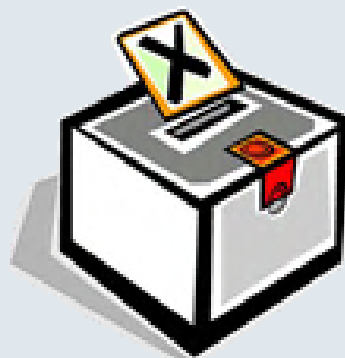


NEWS ROUND-UP

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

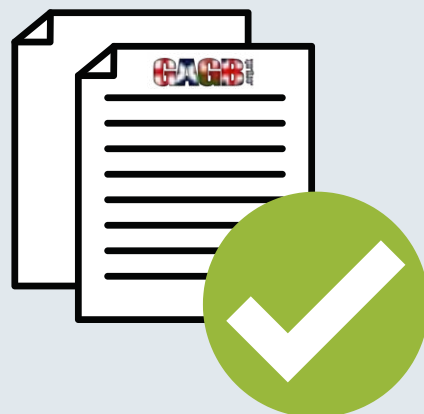
GAGB Committee Elections

Nominations for the eight committee members will be accepted from 00:00 on 7 November. More information can be found on page 22. If you are interested in standing, take a look at page 25 to give you an idea of the different roles and what being on the committee might involve.



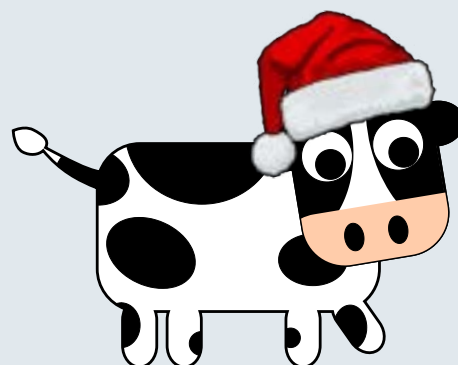
New GAGB Constitution

The GAGB's new constitution has been adopted, following its approval by the membership - 96.32% of the voting members were in favour of the proposed changes. The new constitution includes several important changes. Many thanks to everyone who voted and contributed their thoughts during the member consultation period which was held earlier in the year. You can read the new constitution [here](#).

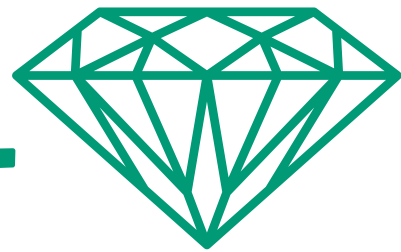


Milton Keynes Christmas Fayre

The Milton Keynes 2023 team are hosting a Christmooos Fayre on 3rd December ([GC9ZT3B](#)) as a fundraiser for their mega next year. The GAGB will be there, so if you are attending, come and say hello! We will have our shop, so a good chance for you to do a bit of Christmas shopping.



GEOCACHING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AND COMPLETING THE GEOTRIAD

BY ALEXANDER BUSWELL (MMMPIZZA)

Back in 2019, Geocaching HQ decided to announce that the Geocaching Celebration icon would be making a comeback, this time, to celebrate 20 years of Geocaching. I was at a geocaching event in Birmingham at the time of announcement and I immediately got straight into both saving and planning.

It was meant to be a three-week solo trip, starting in Boston, working my way down to Washington, ticking off new states as I passed by, before relocating to Seattle and then onwards to Vancouver. It was meant to be the most amazing trip of a lifetime. But then, we all know what happened next.

Flash forward to 2021, I drop all plans and

intentions on doing this trip as I had completely lost interest. That was, until it got postponed for a second time. Mum (skybluesam87) turned around to me and expressed her desire to now tag along and experience the 'Home of Geocaching', especially since this year marked ten years since we started the hobby together. It was a no brainer really. I made the decision to reignite my interest in the event and start saving once more.

It is now August 2022 and we have just arrived in Seattle-Tacoma airport after a long and tiring flight. But filled with plenty of excitement, we both found our sixth state, respectively. It was only a small micro outside



View from Mount Margaret

outside of the airport, but it was, ironically, the smallest geocache we found on the whole trip!

Once we arrived and checked into the hostel, we headed out to get food by the pier and attend a geocaching event nearby. It was then time to go to sleep and adjust to the time difference. Our second day comprised of once again, just exploring the city, planning out how we are going to get to the Seattle Center, etc. We also attended another geocaching event outside of Lumen Field, home of the NFL and MLS teams in the city. There, we met a German geocacher whom we first met back in Budapest in March. And to our surprise, he remembered who we were. That just goes to show how small the world truly is. Afterwards, it was time for an early night as we had four big geocaching themed days ahead of us.

FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST

We woke up at 04:00am and took an Uber to the airport where we then flew on the first flight down to Portland, Oregon. Once we arrived, we did the virtual in the airport, earning our seventh state, respectively. Once we got the car hired, we drove around fifty miles east into the deep mountainous, forest regions of Oregon. Our mission today was to find GC17, GC12 and the Original Stash Plaque. GC17 was the first geocache on our radar. We parked in a thin pullover and did the 1.5KM hike up the mountain towards the geocache. Once at the top, we found the geocache to our relief but not only that, we also saw some stunning views of the mountains. This is such a beautiful part of the country that we would have never seen if



mmmPIZZA at the original stash plaque

it weren't for this amazing hobby. Once we returned to the car, it was a short drive to the next parking spot. It was time to find GC12, the second-oldest active geocache in the world. When we arrived, we spotted a group of geocachers from Florida who were also doing the same mission. So, we introduced ourselves and tagged along with them. This walk was a lot flatter, but it was not before long that we all found this cache. It was a big black bucket. It was so refreshing to find if you are used to finding smaller caches on a regular basis. They planned to continue onwards to find a challenge cache that we were nowhere near close to qualifying for so parted ways and headed back to the car.

We stopped at a Dairy Queen fast food outlet for lunch, where the locals were baffled that two British people were in this area which quite clearly was not somewhere high on the tourism hotspots. One local told us he was

was fascinated with the town of Swindon because his friend told him about their 'magic roundabout.' It certainly took us by surprise! Once food was eaten, we drove up to the Original Stash Plaque which was quite an emotional experience as it was where this hobby all started. Geocaching has helped me massively during some tough times over the years, so it was nice to see where this pastime all started. We then headed into Portland to find a virtual before back to the airport and off back to Seattle.

SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST

Today was the big day of the event. We got our trackables together and headed to Starbucks for breakfast before arriving at the event for opening. All I can simply say was what an amazing event it was. They had a giant inflatable 2022 as the official logbook, a live band playing songs to which they had changed the lyrics to fit geocaching phrases, etc. And inside the event hall, plenty of stalls selling near enough everything a geocacher

could think of. We met up with Simon (Optimist on the run), who was on the West Midlands Mega 2022 committee and is one of our good geocaching friends. We had the pleasure of meeting geocaching legend WVTim, a gentleman who is known for his birdhouse themed gadget caches and is one of the most favoured COs in the world. We also met Joshua, the Geocaching Vlogger, known for vlogging his geocaching adventures on YouTube, TikTok, etc. Both were nice and friendly people, and it was a massive pleasure meeting both.

I, Mum, and Simon all went up the Seattle Space Needle together to admire the views before watching more of the live music towards the end of the event. We then met up with Fiona and Steve (fm1906 & nottins), two geocaching friends who prior to this trip, we planned to all go together to find the famous APE cache. They informed us about GCD, Washington's oldest geocache which was nearby.



The big 20th anniversary event in Seattle, organised by Geocaching HQ

So, we all discussed a plan and got ourselves prepared for the next day. The Geocaching 20th Anniversary Celebration was an amazing celebration, and it was a wonderful experience. I am so happy that we got to attend it and experience it with family and friends.

SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST

Today was the day of the APE cache hike. And we had an extra guest in the form of Simon. His flight was pushed back a day so the perfect opportunity to experience this trip arose. We all made our respective ways to the airport to hire the car and out we drove to Snoqualmie Pass, home of the famous 'Tunnel of Light.' We geared ourselves up with our headtorches and make the near three-mile hike through the old railroad tunnel. The experience of walking down this tunnel was amazing, and it was also surprisingly busy with local hikers, joggers and even cyclists. Once out the other side, we all headed straight to the furthest cache away and worked our way back towards the APE cache and Iron Horse, a geocache placed back in October 2000. The APE was a massive ammo can be surrounded by plenty of rocks. An amazing cache to find given there are only two left in the world. We then walked back through the tunnel before driving to a nearby restaurant for lunch and to replenish energy before climbing Mount Margaret to find GCD.

Once again, we relocated the car to the closest parking spot before the long hike up the Mountain. At one point, according to Steve's GPS, we were higher than Ben Nevis! It was a challenge, and I would say, for me at



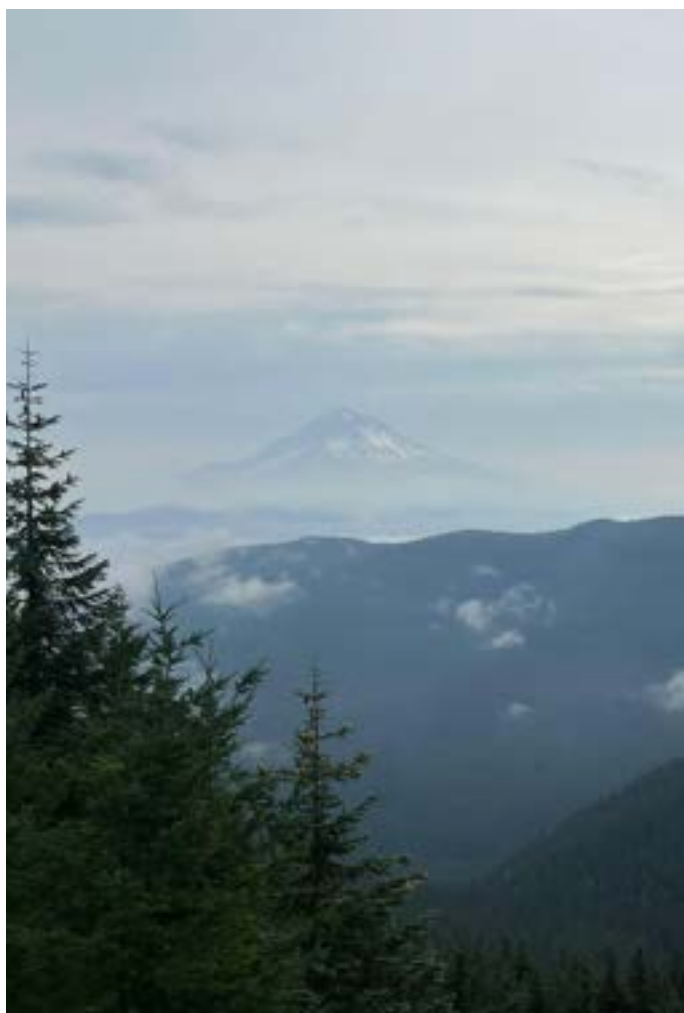
Before the hike



In the 'Tunnel of Light'



GCD, placed in June 2000



View towards Mount Hood

least, it was the hardest walk/climb I'd ever attempted. But we did it. We were blessed once more by amazing views and another large ammo can. We carefully made our way back down the mountain before sunset as we drove back towards SEATAC Airport to return the car and head back into Seattle. We all parted ways after a successful and tiring day

MONDAY 22ND AUGUST

The final day of the Geocaching Fab Four was a scheduled trip to Geocaching HQ. A visit here would complete our trifecta challenge. We arrived at HQ where we were once again met Andrew, a lacky who we previously met in Uttoxeter for the WM22 Mega Event. He gave us all the tour of Geocaching HQ and we also had time to look around. The only negative was due to Covid restrictions, time was



mmmPIZZA with a lackey at HQ

limited but we still made the most of it and signed the famous logbook as well. We explored the beautiful area of Fremont and did all the HQ geocaches before heading back to the main centre of Seattle.

So, that sums up the trip. We were there a week in total, but those four days were the main portion of the trip. After that, Mum flew out to New York City to meet family whilst I flew back home to return to work. In conclusion, this was an amazing trip and something I would do again if possible. It was better than I could have ever imagined, and I am glad I also had Mum there to experience it too give we had started Geocaching together. If you ever get opportunity to go out there and visit HQ, the plaque and find the APE cache, I say go. I promise you will not regret it.

THE UK GEOCOIN DATABASE

LAUNCHING ON 1ST JAN 2023

ARTICLE BY LEWIS GRANT



The UK GEOCOIN DATABASE hopes to bring geocoins to the wider geocaching community, through the use of a website and attending events.

It is the vision of sole geocacher NevilleDog_n_Humans (the author of this article). It started with having a few geocoins collected together since we started Geocaching.

The collection then grew and the interest in finding out information about the geocoins followed. After lots of information had been found it was thought it maybe a good idea to share this information with other likeminded Geocachers.

The database uses the official trackable names as registered with Groundspeak as its structure. It also has been broken down into categories and complete index which helps aid navigating the database.

Information is included within the categories helping to give background information. Each individual geocoin page contains images of both sides of the geocoin, its trackable icon on the geocaching website, finishes, editions, quantities, material, sizes, prefix, year, designer, producer, and references section. There is also a search

function which allows the user to search for geocoins within the database.

The first geocoin was designed and produced by Moun10bike in 2001. It was the Version 1 Moun10Bike Geocoin #002 (TB1D) which was the first activated geocoin on the Geocaching website. It was placed in the traditional geocache Light House Point (GC126C) on the 30th of September 2001 by geocacher Moun10Bike to celebrate his 100th geocache find.

Several years later, on November the 4th 2004 geocacher Alibags posted on the Geocaching Forum about designing and pricing up for the first UK Geocoin. This geocoin went on to be the first named geocoin registered with geocaching, with the first being activated by steviep on the 14th of December 2005 (TBPVN4).

This was closely followed by two personal geocoins by Team Badger and Pengy & Tigger, both were produced under the generic name Personal Geocoin. These were activated on the 15th December 2005 (TBMQ9Y) and 20th December 2005 (TBN63A) respectively.

The first event to have a geocoin produced was the Fourth Scottish Cache Bash in 2006, again under the generic trackable name

Personal Geocoin. Since these early geocoins to now many geocoins have been designed and produced for mega events (2008 Attendee Geocoin released in 2008 for The First UK Mega), national series (for example the Fine Pair Geocoins released in 2021), and to raise money for charity (such as the RNLI Geocoin released in 2022), to name a few example categories included in the database. However, unfortunately, the number of geocoins released is decreasing year on year.

The future for the UK Geocoin Database will

include the attendance at future events, growing the geocoins within the UK Geocoin Database Collection and having our own geocoins minted (the first two have already been released).

Although the database includes a large number of geocoins, it may be missing one or two so if you can help fill in any gaps or in any other way please get in touch through the UK Geocoin Database Facebook Page or via emailing info@ukgeocoindatabase.co.uk.



We asked:

"What is the best place that Geocaching has taken you to that you wouldn't have otherwise visited?"

Here is what you said...

Grotto Falls (GC2C4B) in the Smoky Mountains Gatlinburg USA - a very long hike up the mountains to stand behind a glorious waterfall and we encountered a bear on our way up.

- Debby Young

Winterton on Sea. And more specifically the Witches Finger! (There is a whole wiki page on it!) An amazing but spooky place which we would never have found if it wasn't for a lab adventure.

- Scott Kirby

A small Shinto shrine on a hill above Ashikaga in Japan, where I had a (difficult because of language issues) conversation with an old Japanese gentleman who had walked up to the shrine. I visited it 3 times but never found the cache.

- Malcolm Mather

The war graves near Chania in Crete... what an absolutely fabulous place, so well kept, such an emotional place that took my breath away. I asked my husband this same question and he came up with the exact same answer.

- Laura Stride

Rustlers Falls - GCRY6N - Hidden away waterfall that you can walk behind. Amazing location.

- Kevin Eaves

The Phoenix nights circular in Norbury, shropshire, even though it was on my doorstep I had never visited until this route and wow it was amazing.

- Karen Henderson

A rock on the outskirts of Haugesund.

We signed the challenges around the Greenwich Peninsula, including the 7 icons in 7 countries challenge. So when we went to Norway we had a look, and found only one letterbox cache near our route, which was this one. Well, it had us follow a trail of pictures, through an underpass with a lovely mural, into the woods and up this large rock. We found the cache, and the most stunning views and without geocaching there is no reason we ever would have had that.

- Lizzie Bell

We are there now!!!! The Taman Negara rainforest in Malaysia.

Probably the most remote geocache we're likely to do, certainly the only one for miles around!

- Clare Zsigo

GC938JG, my first experience of a letter box hybrid that retained the characteristics of letterboxing without a GPS device. Coords are directly in front of Callendar House, which I'd never have visited otherwise.

- Sine Mac

GC97Z45, it's the best series I've ever done, nearly every cache has an interesting element with puzzles, pulleys and all sorts of contraptions. It goes through some great woods too.

- Ian Wizla Owens.

Brunei. I arranged a stop-over there on the way to New Zealand so I could find a cache there. And it was a very memorable one! GC2P2YG

- Mark Bryant

GC43 - Europe's First

GC1C47M - Hippos Below (now sadly archived)

GC2YEVA - Web Footed Froggy's Stash Cache

GC2EEBO - Blue Max - because I had such an interesting story to tell about my visit - and sadly get another archived one

- Hywel Williams

Remnants of the Roman Wall in London (a Wherigo). Top of the London Fire Memorial in London (virtual). A small boat crossing the Rhine in Basel, CH (traditional). A "Where The Red Fern Grows" statue in Idaho (virtual - also one of my favorite childhood books). The Kremlin in Moscow (a Wherigo). Eva Peron's grave in Argentina (traditional). Todos Santos in Mexico (traditional). Old Faithful Geyser Yellowstone (earthcache), The White House, Washington DC (virtual)

- Alan Gerald

NIGHT CACHING IN EASTERN ENGLAND

BY HALEY OF THEROLPHSUK



Nightcaching is not for everyone, especially if you have a fear of the dark! We found our first night cache while we were on holiday in Torquay a few years ago and enjoyed the experience so much that we immediately agreed that we needed to set one out when we returned home (Why wouldn't we when we have so much forest to use?).

So planning began as we had our perfect location in mind.

We gained the permission to set the cache out and got to work, little did we know how difficult it is, how many nights we spent wandering through the deep dark forest working out where to place the reflectors, where to take people safely and where to hide the final cache location?

We had a location to start, with plenty of parking available and after weeks of getting the reflectors placed we decided that adding



Left: Handmade grave scene with hours of paper mache and latex to develop the severed zombie head and the hands emerging from the grave, this was lit up with a strobe light to add the lightning effect. The cacher had the choice to be brave and put hands into the Trick or Treat bucket using hands only to see if they would emerge with yummy sweets or something else less yummy! The severed head made from recycled chicken wire and plenty of paper mache, wrapped in bandages and acrylic paint to make him look troubled. Right: This is our 16 Yr old son, he was hidden up in the dark and just lurked with the intent to just make cachers a little unnerved often wondering if the figure was real or another scare feature figure!

the extra excitement of Dead ends would be fun, the cacher would come to a arrow reflector which gave them the chance to choose their path! Choose wrong and you'd be faced with red reflectors which meant dead end, so now they had to retrace their steps and rethink their path.

We then placed various electronic features which would be either activated by the torch light or movement and with the electronically skilled Dylan keen to get to work we soon had a few brilliant features in place which would give the unaware cacher a surprise as they unwittingly activated it.

The theme was born! DEEP DARK DELIRUM!
GC9GZBJ.

Between Us we developed a scare trail to follow using special reflective markers and with the option to choose the path taken one of which would end up a wrong turn marked with red reflectors, turning the cacher around to the place they made their choice, leading through the various types of forest and with the randomly placed scare feature which had all been created by us using recycled materials and a few cheap electronic items from eBay.

The end result was brilliant and we had so many cachers show up and thankfully they all made it through and signed the log while enjoying a fantastic laser show and a rewarding free hot chocolate made by us who were there to meet them all as they ascended



Left: This is a huge handmade feature, this was built over a week and was placed at the final cache location to be admired within its Web while signing the log. Handmade using recycled pipe protection and some chicken wire which we covered in expanding foam for the body and painted in weatherproof paint to protect it. A few little led lights to light up the spider to make the effect more fitting. Right: The handy man. This is a feature which from a distance is only noticed by the various reflective items with it, it isn't until the cacher gets closer that they then see the actual face and hands holding the tree. It's a very freaky looking feature which everyone mentions in their feedback.

from the GZ and log signing task.

Dylan and I are keen and creative and have now three nightcache which are themed and now working on more. We have had a few cachers asking for us to build them some electronic items to use themselves and we happily have done so and better still, we build them to order where requested.

We hope to see many more nightcaches pop up as we would love nothing more than to blog the experiences we have had and share them with you all.

There were many more features which we placed for the enjoyment of the cachers and had an amazing time building and planning the themed event but it was made so much more worth our time when we had a chat with the cachers at the end of the trail who all were so grateful for the experience and now hoping to get out to enjoy more night caching opportunities.

Don't be afraid! Come check the cache out and see if you fear what can not be seen within the deep darkness of the forest in Thetford.



The Screaming Man: This is a feature which we made to look like a cacher, holding a torch and stood by a tree facing away from anyone oncoming, dressed all in black except the footwear and in a way where cachers would see him in the distance by torchlight and approach wondering who and what the figure was, why is stood so still and what it may have been looking at if it was a real person, only to then be faced with the horrific blood curling screaming which would have been activated by the cachers torchlight and would have without a doubt been a scary experience.

AN OUTREACH EVENT FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

BY JENNTHEFUNKYRANGER

Earlier this year, Mel (Moirra Crackers) had set up an outreach event in London after being contacted by a new cacher, Marcus. Marcus is deaf, and wanted to hold an introduction to Geocaching for the local deaf community.

A family emergency meant that Mel wasn't able to go at the last minute, however as I was already going to be in London too that weekend I took over, and so on Saturday lunchtime I found myself at Stratford station, where a small group was waiting for me, including one of Marcus' colleagues who had come along as an interpreter. We headed over to the Olympic park, which was a trip down memory lane for me as I was last there ten years ago as a Games Maker. Not being a local made it hard for me to know where best to take a group of new cachers, so I'd had to have a look at the map and find a small cluster of caches. Through our interpreter, pointing at phones, and lots of gesturing, I explained what caching is, and the group all

had the app downloaded. We headed for our first cache, with us all spending a long time hunting, but unfortunately we started out with a DNF, not the best introduction! The CO later confirmed to me that the cache was missing. We headed onto another cache, which luckily I spotted straight away, and I was then able to let the rest of the group spot.

It was a warm, sticky day, and the young kids that had come along had tired by this point, so we called it a day.

However despite only finding one cache in the end the group were all enthusiastic, and Marcus hopes to run similar events in the future.

I've taken several people out as an introduction to caching before, however this was one of the most challenging intros I've done, simply from my lack of being able to communicate easily with the group, and it's given me an incentive to learn BSL.



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, as we can edit anything that comes in!

Please send submissions for the next issue by 20th January 2023.

If your content is included, you will receive a 10% discount on a GAGB Shop order over £10 as a thank you.



How to get permission to place a geocache

You must have permission to place a geocache on both private and public property. As the cache owner, you are responsible for determining whom to contact to obtain permission - this is where the GAGB may be able to help.

The GAGB hosts, maintains, and adds to the Geocaching Landowner Agreement Database (GLAD), which is the definitive and largest database of its kind, with over 200 agreements. These are blanket agreements, ranging from large areas such as Forestry Commission land to smaller private estates. Have a look through the database to see whether your prospective cache location is covered by any of these agreements, and then read the terms of the agreement (to ensure your hide complies) and seek permission! We are currently working on an exciting new feature which will make it easier than ever to view GLAD agreements and understand the area they apply to - watch this space.

If your location is not covered by any of the GLAD blanket agreements, you will need to find out who the owner is yourself. Don't let this put you off - it is not necessarily as challenging as it sounds!

If you feel confident doing so, you can visit the area and ask some locals - have a chat about who owns the field, hedge, path, wood, etc. They'll generally know and be able to give you a name, place, etc.

If that sounds a little daunting, then there are some convenient and straight forward alternatives. You can contact the Local Authority to check whether they know who owns the land (it might even be them!). Alternatively, for only £3, you are guaranteed to find out who owns a property from the HM Land Registry. This will provide you with an address you can write to - we've got an example of a letter you can send to a landowner on our website.

You will find that many private landowners, such as farmers, are happy to cooperate and may even provide guidance on what can be placed and where! However, if they do not give you permission, then don't be too disappointed - turn it into a positive... what you have done is avoid a future problem!

If you are entering into negotiations with a larger landowner, we can supply a draft agreement, which can be tailored to their specific requirements. No agreement is complete without the maps showing the boundaries of where geocaches are allowed or not permitted. If you cannot obtain this in digital form then we can help convert paper copies or screen copies from apps like Google Maps.

If you negotiate an agreement, please let us know so that we can add it to our database for others to use! Simply fill in this form. Good luck, and let us know if you need help!

CITO WEEK 2022

In September, the GAGB's CITO Week returned for another year. Here, we take a look at the CITO's that were organised and celebrate what they achieved.

In total, 3 GAGB CITO's were held this year. This number was significantly lower than previous years, although we noted that fewer non-GAGB CITO's than usual were organised for September, so we reckon the lower number is part of a more general trend - although we would love to see many more

next time. A cumulative total of 20 'Attended' logs were posted on GAGB CITO's. In this article, we take a look back at each CITO and what was achieved.

Well done and thanks to everyone who took part - you all did a great job and helped give something back!

GAGB 2022: Litter picking with the Wombles #3

This CITO involved litter picking around Whitchurch Airfield, and was hosted by silverfox11. Whitchurch Wombles, a volunteer litter picking group, helped out.

Overall, 16 bags of litter were collected, as well as a burnt-out bicycle, some guttering, a damaged shopping trolley, a child's broken scooter and other items.



CACB 2022: Water Wombles 2 (less green one)



The purpose of this CITO was to clean up the River Nene in Northampton. It was organised by Sal_Nich. Rated a Terrain 5, this truly was an extreme CITO which required watercrafts! In total, 5 bin bags of rubbish to be collected, and some stranger items were also found, such as two left shoes.

Photo credit: fizzwhizz



CACB 2022: There's a tree there needing care

This CITO involved caring for trees in the new woodland on The Mound in the Horsbere Brook Nature Reserve, which is near Gloucester. The stakes and guards were checked, and cachers got busy trimming back the grass and wild flowers around the trees. This CITO was organised by Monski.



Before



After

Reminder -

GAGB Committee Elections

All GAGB members are eligible, and encouraged, to participate (stand, nominate or vote) in this year's GAGB elections. As long as you are an 'active' member (i.e. you have interacted with us at some point in the last three years), you will receive a ballot to your registered email. Inactive members can request one even after that. More details and rules will be posted on the forum.

This year, there will be one election for the eight Committee Member posts. There will not be an election for the position of Chair, as the incumbent Chair was elected for a two-year term in November 2021.

Each candidate needs to be 18 or over, and nominations must be made in the relevant thread in the GAGB forum during the advertised nomination period. Each nomination must be seconded and accepted by the nominee within that same period in order to be valid. Where nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot. SurveyHero.com is used to generate the ballot. This streamlines ballot counting and adds a layer of confidentiality between the Independent Returning Officer (IRO) and those who vote.

The election will be overseen and run by Patricia Elkins (MsPatt), who will serve as IRO

Committee election (8 posts, 1 year term)

- Nominations open: 00:00 Monday 7 November
- Nominations close: 23:59 Friday 11 November (5 full days)
- Deadline to accept nomination and submit manifesto: 23:59 Saturday 12 November
- Q&A opens: 00:00 Sunday 13 November
- Q&A closes: 23:59 Wednesday 16 November (4 full days)
- Vote: 00:00 Thursday 17 November - 23:59 Sunday 20 November (4 full days)
- Result announced: morning of Monday 21 November

for the first time. Check out the next page to learn more about Patricia.

The IRO will make an announcement in the GAGB forums after the e-mails have gone out so you can check your spam filter, in case you don't receive the link to the ballot. The IRO may also send reminder and announcement emails.

Please also visit the GAGB forums to keep up to date with all the election news and follow us on our Facebook Page and Twitter for updates and announcements.

We encourage you to consider standing. Check out the next page for more information, including committee roles.

Meet **Patricia Elkins - MsPatt**

This year's Independent Returning Officer

Every year, the committee appoint an Independent Returning Officer to run the GAGB elections. For eleven consecutive years, our IRO has been Mike Malvick, aka Ladybug Kids, from Geocache Alaska. However, Mike will not be returning for a twelfth year in the role. We would like to sincerely thank Mike for all his time and effort over the years - every election has gone so smoothly, which is a testament to his excellent work as IRO.

The committee carefully considered who should fill Mike's big shoes - and we are pleased to confirm that **Patricia Elkins (MsPatt)** will be our IRO this year. Based in Texas, Patricia is a Board Member of the Texas Geocaching Association (TXGA) and a highly experienced cacher with over 32,000 finds under her belt. Get to know her a little better below...

“

Hi, I am MsPatt from Houston, Texas. I have been caching since May 2014, when my son and his Girlfriend introduced Geocaching to me at my Mother's day lunch. It sounded so interesting that I needed to see more, They introduced me to the "LPC" (light post cache - popular in the USA)... And this Hobby turned into a Subculture in plain sight. And very quickly into my Lifestyle. And I have been very active in Geocaching and within the geocaching community.

As a natural progression of Geocaching, I was asked to join the Texas Geocaching Association as a Rep for the SouthEast region in 2016. It was my pleasure to step up and give back to the Community that is so friendly and helpful and so interesting to be a part of so many Adventures. My role is to Educate the public on Geocaching and to Host events to teach Geocaching 101 classes to the public and to help promote



MsPatt meets Signal





MsPatt at GC43



A great cache and a great story!



Caches MsPatt found whilst visiting the UK

geocaching throughout Texas. Texas Geocaching Association hosts 2 events annually, which rotate through the seven regions.

Favorite cache type? I enjoy all types, but I really like the Adventurous ones, the road trips to see and experience different cities, towns, cultures, and meeting new friends.

Best cache? The hardest question, first thought is GC43, Because I left every Comfort Zone to get that cache! 1st International flight for caching, 1st time driving on the wrong side of the road, not to mention Roundabouts... I even drove through every County picking up caches.

UK Caching - in August 2019. Rambetta, 5472 and I, had nine wonderful days to explore the whole Island! We Started at the Piratemia Mega, and toured the countryside through Wales, up to Stonehenge, Walked in the footsteps of the Beatles on Abbey road. While picking up all the Webcams, Castles and we completed Scotland's 1st Geo-Tour. Ended our tour with the Aberdeenshire Mega. Overall in the UK, 2 Megas, 9 Webcams, 1 Geo-Tour, and many earthcaches, Virtuals, traditionals, and lots of Adventurous memories to last a lifetime. Read the full story in Seeker Issue 40.

I am currently working on TXGA's Roundup Event, it's the smallest of the two events. My personal challenges are getting every state in the US, and have 2 left. Alaska and Hawaii. I'm working on going after more Earthcaches and Webcams, and CITO's.

GAGB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

GAGB is only ever what we make of it – we can always do so much more. Take a look through these potential jobs and see if you fancy any of them. Please consider standing, and feel free to contact any of the incumbent committee members with any questions.

Main roles:

- **Vice-Chair:** depending on whether the Chair feels it is necessary, the committee can include a Vice Chair. They are responsible for assisting the Chair with their duties, as the Chair sees fit.
- **Secretary:** writes and circulates the minutes. The Secretary can also be responsible for communications, and may chase actions to ensure that they are completed by the next meeting.
- **Treasurer:** keeps the accounts in order, and submits a statement of accounts for the previous financial year (ending 30th September) by the end of October.

Public-facing roles:

- **GLAD Enquiries:** respond to enquiries from our voicemail and email systems from people who have found a cache on their land, and help to resolve the dispute. It's an important and varied role and you get to talk to all sorts of people.
- **General Enquiries:** listen to voicemails or read and respond to queries that are not from landowners. These could include a cache that had been found by a member

of the public, a new geocacher seeking help, or the media. For example, in the past Countryfile, Radio 2, Border TV, and others have asked for contacts and we've put them in touch with geocachers in the right area. This is an exciting role for a friendly communicator.

- **Social Media & Communications:** manage the GAGB's social media accounts; frequently post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This is a key way to talk to and interact with our members on a regular basis. This role can involve writing and sending out the GAGB's monthly newsletter.
- **Seeker Editor & Publisher:** responsible for sourcing (and writing) content that is useful, interesting, and entertaining. The publisher is in charge of getting the layout right and making Seeker presentable. The Editor and Publisher can be the same person, or different people.
- **Friends & Reps Coordinator:** leads our GAGB Friends and Regional Reps. Responsible for involving the Friends in GAGB activities and managing the Reps and all regional engagement initiatives.

Back-office roles:

- **GLAD Database Manager:** reviews the database of landowner agreements, spots problems, creates digital maps, and documents any new agreements or changes that come in. It also involves coordinating with the Groundspeak wiki and reviewers. Some simple HTML skills

are (ideally) needed to edit and create the agreements, but in the main it's a job for someone who is organised and likes things to be ordered, sorted, and clear.

- **Webmaster:** make sure pages display properly, fix any technical issues, and continually tweak and develop the site to make it ever-better with new pages, content, and features. If you know PHP, HTML5, Mailchimp or vBulletin (or are eager to learn), this is the job for you!
- **Shop Manager:** managing stock, sending out orders, and leading the effort to expand stock i.e. creating new promotional products. It is important to get the orders correct and promptly sent out. With between 3-7 orders a month, this won't be sweeping you off your feet!
- **Membership Secretary (Benefits):** reach out to external companies to get discounts for our members, freebies to help fundraising and sell advertising spots.
- **Membership Secretary (New Members Admin):** a role that is sometimes held by several people, this is where we catch spammers and fakes! Both the forum and Facebook have new member requests and responding to them promptly is important. It's a nice and simple daily 'add-on' role to have.
- **Outreach Officer:** responsible for leading the GAGB's efforts to promote and further geocaching in the UK, organising introductory events for the public and attending/supporting those held by others, including GAGB friends, regional representatives and external groups.

Other things we like to do:

- **GAGB Roving Events:** these are well-liked, and provide a chance for attendees to learn about what the GAGB does and tell us what they would like us to do!
- **Fundraising:** the GAGB often has a stall at larger events, and we need committee members to run it.

Meetings

We have online meetings, usually one per month, that tend to take place in the evening and last between 2 to 3 hours. The committee communicate between meetings using the forum and Facebook Messenger.

Time commitment

This greatly depends on the role. Some require a daily commitment, whereas others can range from every few days to every week. There might be more to do at certain times of the year. On average, you can expect to spend a total of one hour per week on GAGB matters. It is common for committee members to help each other out and work as a team to get things done.

Summary

You'll notice that we have more roles than the eight places on the committee! In the past, we have often doubled-up and shared roles. The Chair, and maybe even some GAGB Reps or Friends, will pick up tasks that none of the eight committee members can handle.

If you'd like to help then please get in touch, if you'd like to take on a role then please do stand, and if you think we are doing it all wrong then please stand and help us get it right!



GAGB Annual Report

Dec 2021 - Nov 2022

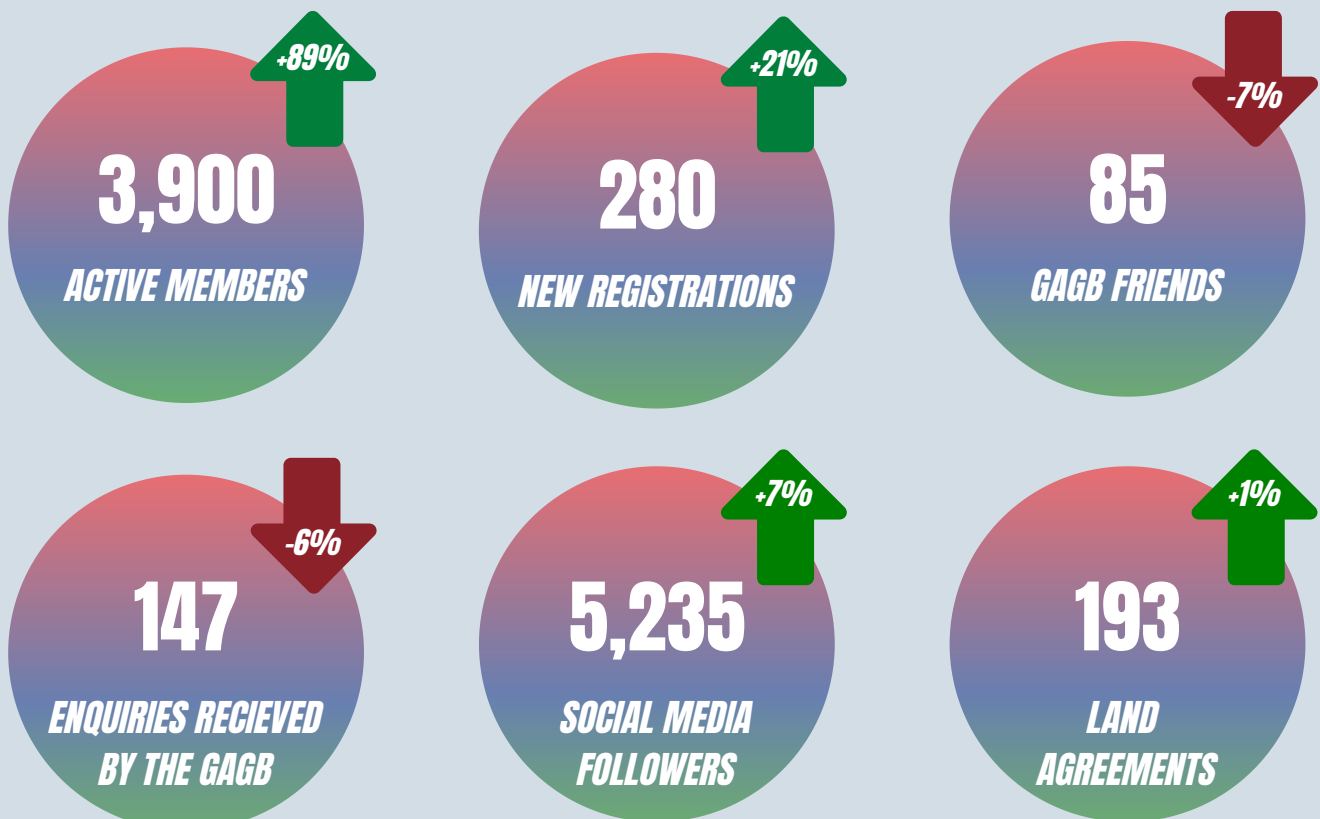
Chair's Introduction

Another year has flown by, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work during the year.

Focus again this year was on attracting new members, but also encouraging re-activation of old members. Historically we stopped emailing “inactive” users, but this has been changed. All opted-in members now receive our newsletter and Seeker magazine. We now have significantly more active users than last year and continue to attract an increasing number of new users.

We remained committed to supporting Mega events, sponsoring the South-East 2024 Mega. We also attended several events and assisted with an event in London for the deaf community, introducing them to Geocaching.

In the South West, our Reps organised several events on behalf of the GAGB – thanks again to them and indeed to all other Reps for their work during the year, including finding or acting as Duke of Edinburgh Assessors.



Secretary's Report

Eleven committee meetings have been held online in the 2021/22 term of office, in every month except August and November 2022. The members of the 2021/22 committee are, with attendance of meetings shown:

- Chris Carpenter (Saza36) (Chair) – 11
- Caz Turver (Border Caz) – 11
- Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof) – 10
- Jenn Hill (Jennthefunkyranger) – 10
- Alexander Buswell (mmmPIZZA) – 10
- Mel Read (Moirra Crackers) – 8
- Claire Harris (MxHarris) – 8
- Craig Davidge (Cabbage187) – 4

Contact with the Public

The GAGB have a telephone number and an email address where landowners, members of the public or geocachers can contact us. Messages can also be sent to our inboxes on social media and via the Message Centre on Geocaching.com. From 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022, we received the following (please note that subsequent replies are not included in the counts):

- Telephone enquiries: 22 (up from 11)
- Email enquiries: 98 (down from 100)
- Social media enquiries: 21 (down from 46)
- Geocaching Message Centre enquiries: 6

Excluding telephone enquiries, these can be categorised as:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| • Landowner complaints: 2 | • SWAG Weekend: 7 |
| • New or updated agreements: 3 | • CITO Week: 1 |
| • Permission enquiry - existing cacher: 6 | • Seeker or newsletter: 2 |
| • Media enquiries: 4 | • GAGB Reps or Friends: 20 |
| • General enquiry - existing cacher: 18 | • Shop: 0 |
| • General enquiry - new cacher: 3 | • Website or login issues: 7 |
| • Public - found 'stray' geocache: 4 | • Membership enquiries: 2 |
| • Public - DofE assessor request: 13 | • Constitution: 2 |
| • Public - other: 5 | • Other: 13 |
| • Events and outreach: 7 | • Spam: 6 |

Committee Members' Personal Reports



Chris Carpenter (Saza36) - Chair

I joined the committee towards the end of last year, appointed as joint webmaster, having previously helped with the development of the new website. In December I was elected as Chair and eased into the role by Arthur who kindly stayed on as Secretary.

During the past year, we have not achieved everything that I had hoped. We started one committee member down and two others have not been able to give the necessary time due to personal reasons. As we look to the election period, I hope to see new people coming forward to fill the gaps and spread the workload.

Don't get me wrong, we have achieved a lot, growing the membership, increasing our social media presence, renewing cache placement (GLAD) agreements, attending outreach and other events, editing and e-mailing out Newsletters as well as our Seeker magazine, running the shop, managing the funds and responding to day-to-day enquiries.

Where I feel we have failed is in our engagement with Friends and Reps. I am keen to involve these people more by updating them regularly with committee decisions and plans. I see the Friends and Reps as key promoters of the GAGB, for which we should thank and engage with them more. We also need to fill the remaining gaps where we have no Reps.

In addition, we need to pick up and continue the work started to negotiate new GLAD agreements.

I have fulfilled the role of Chair, Webmaster and Membership Secretary and look forward to working with the new committee when appointed. Thanks again to the outgoing committee for their hard work throughout the last year.



Arthur Griffiths (Griff Grof) - Secretary

Having reluctantly stepped back from the role of Chair last year due to a change in my personal circumstances, I chose to accept my nomination for a place on the committee, allowing me to remain part of the team for a seventh year. I have been active and enthusiastic, participating in all committee discussions and decisions. Remaining on the committee also

enabled me to provide support and guidance to Chris when required - I think he has done a great job in his first year as Chair.

I opted to take on the position of Secretary. In this role, I attended and wrote the minutes for every meeting, with the minutes always published on both the website and forum on time. Other secretarial duties included handling committee correspondence, whether that be with Mega committees, our independent returning officer, the media, or others. I also penned forum posts and responses on behalf of the whole committee when necessary. One of my final acts as Secretary this year was to produce the Secretary's report, which you can find on page 28, and compile the GAGB's Annual Report.

Aside from this, I was heavily involved in the process of amending the GAGB constitution. This involved suggesting and debating changes and additions, and drafting new wording/clauses for the rest of the committee to review. As the year progressed, I took the lead in pushing the new constitution through. I chaired a meeting to secure committee approval for the draft, and then produced a document outlining our rationale for each change. This also compared the new constitution to the existing one, for members to easily be able to see what changes we were proposing. I set up the ballot, wrote the email, and hit the send button. It was brilliant to see that 96.32% of voting members supported the changes - the newly adopted constitution contains some significant additions, such as a clause on regional representatives. Being involved in amending the constitution has, once again, been an honour - thanks to everyone who voted, got in touch, and commented during the consultation period.

I have also been happy to complete other tasks throughout the year and support others. For example, I assisted with the design and production of two issues of Seeker, and wrote articles/content for all three.

As another term of office draws to a close, I believe that the GAGB remains in a healthy position, particularly as the number of active members has increased for a second consecutive year - but of course, there is still more to do. It has been a tremendous honour and a privilege to have served on the GAGB committee in (almost) every role over the years. The GAGB turns 20 in 2023, and I am personally very excited to see how we will mark this anniversary.



Caz Turver (Border Caz) - Treasurer & GLAD

This past year has seen much more activity within the Geocaching Community thanks to the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions and it has been good to get out and about more.

I was able to represent GAGB at events including the post Christmas West Mids Mega one in January somewhere in Birmingham (don't ask me, I get lost there), the joint one with the West

Mids Mega Team at Eccleshall in April and of course Piratemia 14 in Bakewell in July and the UK Mega at Uttoxeter in August.

I attended all Committee meetings, kept all the accounts up to date so I could report the state of our finances at each meeting, ensured that all bills were paid and any monies received were banked promptly and produced a report of the previous year's accounting activities for the Spring edition of Seeker magazine. I am currently in the process of finalising the accounts for year ending 30th September 2022 and these will be available shortly.

I know many of you were disappointed that we were unable to release a new coin this year in our National Parks series, this was down to financial constraints, and we hope to rectify this in 2023.

I've been more involved this year in the GLAD database, sorting out a few things that needed checking out and updating, and some landowner queries. I've also dealt with some of the admissions to our Facebook group and queries there, and also posted for GAGB in other Facebook groups.

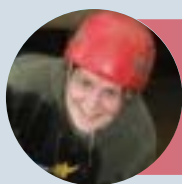


Mel Read (Moira Crackers) - Retail & Outreach

During the past year I have done two roles within GAGB, I have been shop manager which means checking orders and sorting to be posted, ordering clothing when clothing is ordered and arranging any personalised items ensuring these are done correctly. Sorting out stock and attending events including Piratemia and the West Midlands Mega, helping on the stall to sell merchandise and of course run the Map game ensuring we have the many prizes that people look for when winning, which is always popular with our geocaching friends.

I have also done outreach work, organising an event for Empowering the Deaf, sadly the first event we planned had to be cancelled due to the rail strikes, then the next event sadly due to a member of the family being seriously ill in intensive care I pulled out of this and Jenn, our seeker editor stepped in and kindly ran this event for us.

I would like to thank all the committee for all their support.



Jenn Hill (Jennthefunkyranger) - Seeker Editor

This has been my third year on the committee, and it has been another busy year. I have carried on in my previous roles with the newsletter and Seeker, as well as attending several events on behalf of the GAGB.

This started in January, when I went to the West Midlands Mega's winter fayre in Birmingham, to which we had been invited as part of the partnership with the Co-op, who have provided us with a grant to purchase GPS units for outreach projects to help get people into caching. This is all thanks to Ant of Sharant, West Midlands Mega and former GAGB committee member. During the event, I was part of a small group who took the Co-op rep out caching, and I think we managed to convert him!

The West Midlands team held another fundraising / outreach event in April in Eccleshall, Staffordshire. As part of this, we were able to introduce several more people to caching, as well as converting another Co-op rep!

The summer months saw me on the GAGB stall at both Piratemanía and the West Midlands mega. Through the sale of shop items and also the ever popular map game we managed to raise a good amount of money which will help us continue to support future UK megas with their fundraising.

At the end of August, Mel had organised an outreach event in London, but was unable to attend at the last minute, so I took over. I met a small group from the East London deaf community in Stratford, along with a sign language interpreter, to hold an introduction to caching event. I won't go into much detail about that, as there is a full article about this.

In September, my GAGB shirt was out again, as along with Mel (and husband Tony) I headed to the Hyke round Hykeham event in Lincoln where we had another stall. This was a smaller event than usual, however we still managed to raise a small amount of money.

My final GAGB event was in Beacon Park, Lichfield (which you may have visited for the Teddy Bear's Picnic side event at the mega), which was again another event with the Co-op, as part of the Lichfield Community Games event. We placed a few unofficial caches around the park for the day, and took out a few new potential cachers.

Seeker is a large job, and I have increasingly been finding it hard to put the time in needed to be able to publish a quality magazine, so I would like to say thank you very much to Arthur, who, on top of his own GAGB role, has stepped in to assist me with this. I have been doing this for the last three years, but I no longer feel I can do the role the justice it deserves, so I have made the decision that this will be my last year on the committee. I wish the future editor and publishers well, and look forward to seeing what a fresh pair of eyes can bring to Seeker.

Reports continue on the next page...



Alexander Buswell (mmmPIZZA) - Social Media

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to those who nominated me to do a second year of being on the GAGB committee. It became easier at times to learn more about social media promotion and it was an honour to take that role once more. This year proved a lot more normal compared to 2020/2021.

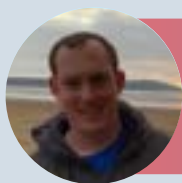
We made an appearance at all the Mega Events hosted this year with our GAGB shop, to which was successful at both events with plenty of sales. We also did our annual CITO Week again as well, to which was a success.

Lastly, I'd like to say a big well done to the committee this year for all their hard work and to Chris for his work as Chair for the first time this year. I strongly believe the committee this year did their upmost best to be able to help promote and highlight geocaching within Great Britain to the best of their abilities this year and I couldn't be more proud of everyone for their hard work.



Claire Harris (MxHarris) - Friends & Reps

The regional representatives role is something that people are still finding their way with but we've had some very active regional representatives arranging local events and taking on Duke of Edinburgh participants. I have been taking on a number of the Duke of Edinburgh participants myself where there is no natural rep to hand them to. I am pleased with the progress those active regional reps have made and I hope to see more new regional reps coming in that can fill the quiet areas next year. I am currently working on some guidance for Duke of Edinburgh goals so that there can be a standard baseline from our participants.



Craig Davidge (Cabbage187) - GLAD

An Annual Report from Craig was not received by the final deadline.

Appointed Members

The GAGB constitution states that the Executive Committee is able to delegate tasks to GAGB members if they wish - once they accept, these members become 'Appointed Members'.

This year, there was one Appointed Member, Sharon Reid (sharant). Sharon was appointed to be able to provide website support if this was ever required.

Former Committee Members

There were no resignations this year. However, the committee membership of Elizabeth Williams (dizzywelshgurl) was terminated in mid-January as she had not communicated with anyone on the committee, including the Chair, since accepting her nomination in early November. Elizabeth remains a GAGB Friend.

Regional Representatives

The GAGB's Regional Representatives in 2022 were:

- George Hall (CromScout) - Eastern England
- Cath Mackie (FiddleCath67) - East Midlands
- Benjamin Weald (baldbenny) - East Midlands
- Abigail Hamilton-Thompson (abiherts) - Greater London
- Sabrina Murray (Geocaching Womble) - North East (resigned)
- Rodney Kerrigan (RGK76) - Northern Ireland
- Rachael Mackenzie (Bumblerbee) - Northern Scotland
- Emma Thornton (emmathornton79) - North West England
- Matt Faulkner Collins (maattmoo) - South East England
- Imogen Michel (ImogenMichel) - Southern Scotland (resigned)
- Stacey Swinford (ChepstowRomans) - South Wales
- Rachael Hall (smhalls) - South Wales
- Susannah Bannon (susietirzah) - South West England
- Paul Bevan (big eddie) - South West England
- Chris Warren (Stoke Bunnies) - South West England
- Gwyneth Green (Zippysdedodah) - West Midlands
- Josh Hunt (JoshTHunter) - Yorkshire

Accounts

GAGB's financial year ended on September 30th. The accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer and audited. They are available to view [here](#).

Thank You

The Executive Committee would like to end the report by thanking all GAGB Regional Reps, Friends and Members for their engagement and ongoing support over the past year.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

15%
off

COTSWOLD
outdoor

CICERONE

20%
off

15%
off



5%
off

BASE OF TREE.COM
GEOCACHING SUPPLIES

10%
off



5%
off



5%
off

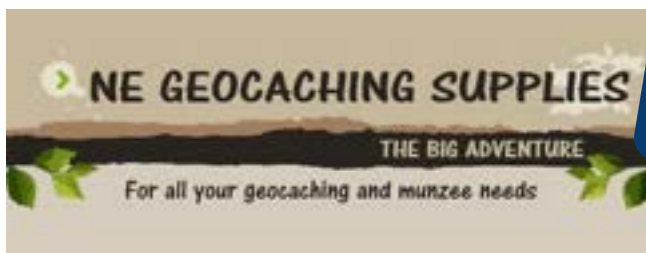
**RAINBOW
CACHING**

7%
off



UKgeocachers
Quality, Value & Choice

5%
off



10%
off

All codes are available to GAGB members at:
www.gagb.org.uk/member-discounts.php