

The rule of 8 (not 6) - Geocaching

Richard and I celebrated the number 8 by finding 8 geocaches in one day. I won't say where these were but if you're interested in geocaching, we can recommend it. It's like treasure hunting but also uses Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and maps to help find locations. Its great for children too as they are more likely to walk a few miles if there are some distractions along the way. Visit www.geocaching.com for more information.

The first find. We had just parked the car and this was the easiest find of the day. Hidden on a street name sign by a beautifully kept memorial garden in a town centre.

This was a tiny glass tube with a very small and full log, but we squeezed our details onto it.



We then relocated about half a mile to a quiet road with a lovely patch of green in the middle – this cache was found behind some signage which is commonly seen (but never noticed)!

A nice chunky cache, it was easy to complete the log.



We then walked on to a nearby public footpath. Just a few yards in there was a patch of dense ivy growing and, once Richard had rooted around for a few minutes we found number 3. It was a hot day and the flies were a nuisance on this one.

The cache was a screw top glass tube and again it was easy to complete the log – apart from needing to lean on a knee to do it!



A little further on the same path and to its end spot, you find yourself walking beside a busy dual carriageway. Again, some commonly seen (but never noticed) signage was the hiding place.

A tiny, tiny container with an equally tiny log, but not too difficult to find.



Across the dual carriageway and there's a small park. Number 5 was around an ivy covered (ivy again!) tree. A very different container but still incredibly hard to spot for all that. And lots of flies again (but it was a very hot day).

This was a glasses off find for Richard (who sees close up better without his glasses). As you can see, we were a bit worn out by this one so then we had a lunch break. And very welcome it was too.



By this time we had moved a fair way from the car, so we trudged back, had lunch and then relocated. I've mentioned lunch twice now – it was an important part of the day!

We drove down a fairly ordinary suburban road, parked then found ourselves on a footpath which was adjacent to farm land. The final three were all located off of this path.

The first was an easy find, another tiny cache but in a fairly obvious and prominent position. And we also saw a tiny snake slither across in front of us. I am well outside my comfort zone now!



Off along the path to number 7. This one was in a clump of trees. Fortunately, GPS helps you locate the right clump of trees and this was a nice chunky container. A fairly easy find also. Log completed and spring in our steps as we headed for number 8.



Off along the path to number 8. Number 8 was always going to be a problem and so it proved to be. We thought at one stage we would be calling on our emergency caches to complete the set. There were conflicting hints for this one – some said it was in a slightly elevated position and some said it was at ground level. There were trees involved again (always difficult) and it was said to be a small cache. None of this is good.

But we persevered and in the end Richard spotted this one. Log completed and back to the car.



Denise and Richard Scorer

14 September 2020