



PostScript

The Official Magazine of the Oxford University
Scout & Guide Group

ISSUE 3 OF
MICHAELMAS
TERM 2000

NUMBER 324

In this Issue:

Editor Resigns!

After a postbag full of letters pointing out mistakes in previous issues of PostScript, the new Editor bids fairwell.

Name Change

Following this term's waterlogged trips, the University Proctors ask that OUSGG be re-named OUSoGGy.

Puns Worsen

Editor requests that readers restrain themselves and not feel obliged to write in and complain about the poor quality of gag appearing in this column.

Snowdonia

Gareth: "They could be really big". Musical obsession pushes new members to the brink.

Year 2000 Ends

Watch the end of the start or the start of the end of the next or the last millennium with Winter Walking, the trip of the year... epoch... millennium... ice-age... whatever.


ALL FOR FREE !

BUMPER CHRISTMAS ISSUE

EDITORIAL

Chris Seward, Jesus

Blimey! Eleven pages of the stuff this time. My keyboard's positively smoking with all the use it's had putting this issue together. Anyway, there should be plenty of waffle to keep you all amused, at least until after Christmas.

Speaking of which: being as this is the Christmas issue (it being November and all), there's a festive theme cunningly hidden throughout the pages that follow. Please write-in to the *PostScript* office if you can correctly locate the hidden . A prize goes to the first

reader whose name is drawn out of Roadkill's hand-hole on New Years Day.

Thanks to everyone who has written articles for me this term - I hope you think it was worth it. And thanks to Natalie, Caroline and Sofa Lofa for making the last eight weeks an unorthodox, but fun start to the OUSGG year. See you all over New Year. Unless you claim to have something "better" to do. Unlikely, I think...



*Natalie Jones, Wadham
Caroline Berry, Keble*

Well this is the last time this term that you lucky, lucky people are going to have to read anything written by me. I've been fairly restrained so far but I'm afraid you can't escape a picture of a lovely little sheepie this time. He is the one and only Sofa Lofa and has basically been the brains behind the whole operation this term. Isn't he lovely? If you've not had enough sheep gazing from this picture then I recommend you go and look at the website:



<http://www.saveoursheep.com>

as there are more cutesie pies to look at there and even some funky baaing noises. Okay, I suspect you'll all have tuned out by now (unless of course you're Chris...) so it probably won't be worth writing any more. If there is anyone still out there, enjoy the vacation and the break from the nutter running OUSGG.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

May I congratulate you on a high quality first issue of our revered magazine? I feel it necessary however to point out the spelling errors. I am currently working to educate young minds in the ways of the English and our language. It was therefore shocking to find in an article written by an upstanding postgraduate of the finest academic institution in England, American spelling. Whilst these are not incorrect from a linguistic point of view, from an English point of view the matter should be rectified immediately.

I therefore suggest you write out ten times the word FAVOURITE and take it along to NnN for inspection.

May I also inquire as to whether the references to 'wrong time, wrong place' were a reference to an unfortunate incident last Michaelmas term? It is a well-known fact that Brookes students cannot read so I feel vindicated.

I am now off to check any mistakes that I have made in previous articles before being made to eat my words with strudel. Address any comments raised in this letter to "Pretending to know about English, Graz" where it will be claimed by all Assistants in the area.

Hayley Thompson, Austria

N'n'N has apostrophes in it.

Dear Sir,

In your recent plea for material for our esteemed journal you asked for "Gossip which isn't

censored by the Editor". This can only lead me to believe that you have chosen to censor material submitted to previous *PostScripts*. (Not that I'd know, not having had them yet, not that I'm nagging Stephen or anything...)

This is most concerning, as it suggests that either:

(1) submissions have been made that are of a shockingly depraving nature, with no artistic merit to redeem them;

or:

(2) the freedom of speech of OUSGG members is being compromised.

Now, I cannot believe the first to be the case (except possibly if Ben is involved), as OUSGG members are known to be fine upstanding members of society. This can only suggest the second possibility, that you, Sir, have been silencing the opinions of members in their own publication! We cannot stand for this abuse of power! I hope that this matter will be swiftly resolved.

Yours, Irate of Bristol.

Where's your evidence huh? I printed your letter didn't I? Eh? Leg... where is it? You're not standing on it, that's for sure...

Dear Ed.,

After a year over in the fens the number of current members who I know must be in the minority. If you do know who I am you might be vaguely interested to know what I'm up to now and where I am. If you're a Fresher or one of the second years I haven't met then you probably don't care, so skip to the final paragraph.

Cambridshire was too cold and damp. I managed to

avoid CUSAGC completely although I did see Stephen Geer once in the street but he didn't see me. Otherwise, Cambridge is, I have to admit, quite a nice place. But anyway, now I'm back in Oxfordshire, just down the road in fact. I'm now teaching maths at Radley College, near Abingdon, as well as being the assistant housemaster in one of the boarding houses. My address is Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2HR. I'm also engaged, with a wedding planned for the summer. Hopefully I'll get a chance to pop into Oxford on a Monday evening occasionally to relive happy memories of Oxford and bore you with stories about my epic cycling trip last summer.

Final paragraph: I haven't been able to get away from OUSGG completely and am still the Ex-Members Rep. My job is to keep an up-to-date list of former members and send out occasional news to those alumni who have coughed up a small sum of money. If anyone wants to write a short piece about what you've been up to this last year it would be gratefully received (although I won't need it until February). Response to the new Ex-Members scheme has not been overwhelming but about fifty people have signed up, with some more who have sent new address details. If any Old Members (not to be confused with Ex-Members) want to know more about the scheme or are in touch with any former members who I haven't already contacted they should write to me.

Matthew Bemand, Ex-Merton, ex-Chairman, ex-*PostScript* Editor, now Ex-Members Rep.

Congratulations...

LETTERS...CONTINUED

Dear Sir,

Some members may recall an email I sent to the group's mailing list during the summer vac. concerning the word "gibberish". I feel that it is worth repeating here for the benefit of those who were not members or were not paying attention to their email at the time.

Quite by accident as I was moving house, I happened upon the etymology of "gibberish". It appears that gibberish is named after a certain Mr Geber, a scientist who wrote down all his ideas in code so that they would not be stolen. They thus appeared to other people as "Geberish". Hence it would seem that the correct spelling of the word is "gibberish" and not, as the Editor would have it, "jibberish".

I trust that the editor will not exchange the letters "g" and "j"

in this article for comic effect (ha ha).

Yours, Mr D A Ball, ex-Keble

So it's supposed to be "geberish" huh? Well, logically, since "gibberish" requires alteration of the original word by swapping a vowel and adding a letter, I would argue that it should be spelt "jebberish". Ha ha.

Dear Sir,

I am angered by the disgracefully low standard of editing in recent editions of *PostScript*. The words "Winter Walking(TM)" have not been rendered in the correct font (Issue 322 pp6-7, Issue 323 pp1). I trust that this will be rectified in the next issue.

Yours, Mr D A Ball (ex-Keble)

In fact, this was a deliberate facelift for OUSGG's popular trip, which has borne the same logo for five years now, since I first introduced it in 1995. It was felt that the new

logo brings the Winter Walking brand smoothly into the twenty first century.

Dear Sir,

I would like to complain about the article "OUSGG: Alpha to Omega" in issue 322 of this esteemed publication. By using the Greek alphabet, the author has omitted the letter W. I fear that this has led to the far more important omission of Winter Walking(TM) from the glossary, which is not something that can pass unremarked upon.

For those who are not aware, I quote a letter written by the author himself and published in issue 297: "Winter Walking(TM) - Go to it if you do nothing else... Go to it if you do nothing else... Go to it if you do nothing else..."

Mr D A Ball (ex Keble)

I'd already started before I realised that w wasn't Greek for w. Sorry.

Winter Walking™ 2000-2001

Where: Westerdale Barn, North Yorkshire (see <http://www.yha.org.uk>)

When: 28th December 2000 – 3rd January 2001

How Much: £ 11 per night

Who's in Charge: Ben Bateson <BJB950@bham.ac.uk>
Maple Bank 6/46, The Vale, Church Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TE

"This former byre, with lovely views of Westerdale Moor and Castleton Rigg, is in the farmyard at Broadgate Farm in the North York Moors National Park. The numerous local walks include the Rosedale Circuit, and within three miles are the Coast to Coast and Lyke Wake Walks. Sleeping accommodation is in two ground floor rooms. It is equipped with bunk beds, electric lights, hot water, heaters, showers and a Calor gas cooker."



The Palm Pilot Diary of Stephen White, aged 20½ : Part III

We open the final chapter for your delectation...

Tuesday 11th July 2000

We eventually dragged ourselves out of bed, had breakfast and in light of the rain we consulted the noticeboard which suggested heading south to Brig as the only way to avoid the foul weather. After a quick evaluation of the costs we decided that taking the car-train through the Lötschenberg tunnel was the cheapest and easiest way to get there. Well the noticeboard was partly right - we had had lunch and even started a game of frisbee before the rain started. We decided - since we were so close - to try Italy, but didn't find the weather there any better. We played frisbee briefly before returning to Switzerland;

Customs: "What is your reason for coming into Switzerland?"

Us: "Because our tents are here!"

At dinner (omelette) Paul tried to take over from Mike as the spillage expert by dropping chocolate cake covered in squirty cream on his trousers.

Wednesday 12th July 2000

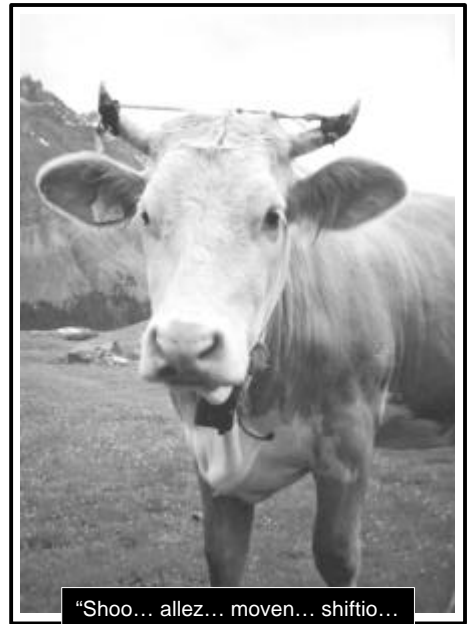
Breakfast was going to be porridge, but whoever bought the "porridge" obviously needs to improve their German: muesli doesn't soften very well. Never mind. I for one wasn't going to complain since I can't stand porridge.

The day's main activity was white water rafting, which everyone enjoyed - even those who thought that they wouldn't.

[Stephen: I'm removing a whole paragraph of your text here. I don't want Guide Commissioners writing-in and complaining again. For a small donation to the PostScript Editors' Benevolent Fund, I could arrange



The University's new swimming pool scheme was "ambitious"



"Shoo... allez... moven... shiftio... go away... nope: it's not working..."

for my transcript of your highly revealing information to "disappear", rather than be broadcast by email...]

Due to the weather we hadn't used the altar fire much and Chris was itching to play with it so we cooked baked potatoes on it for dinner.

After dinner we went to the pub again - primarily because it was dry!

Thursday 13th July 2000

SUN! It's sunny! How long this will last is unknown but in the meantime we can enjoy it and it might (possibly) even mean that I end up with a dry towel.

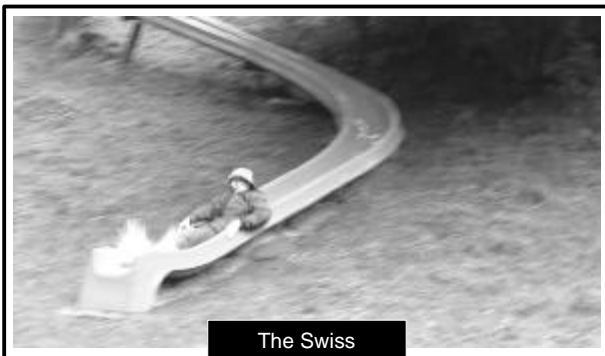
After breakfast followed by a slightly extended version of the traditional OUSGG faff we decided to take advantage of the sunny weather and actually go swimming (something Mike in particular had been pressing for for several days despite the weather). Natalie stayed with Chris who wasn't feeling his best while the rest of us went swimming and played table tennis. After this we walked "down" (Jo chose a route that managed to go uphill) to Blausee just in time to find the park closing so - after the requisite game of frisbee - we then walked back to the campsite via souvenir shops.

In the queue for the barbecue we were joined by a random bloke whose daughter is going to apply to Oxford.

Friday 14th July 2000

Today didn't look quite so good in weather terms as yesterday, so we had a bit of a lie in, which was followed by brunch. Predictably a faff then followed before we eventually decided to go to Blausee.

Blausee is literally a blue lake, but it has been made into a tourist attraction and includes a trout farm - and to most people's delight, an adventure playground (albeit a slightly damp one, but you'll have to see the photos for that one).



The Swiss
"Waterworld" was
a low budget affair



Jo decided that trout would make a nice change for dinner and egg fried rice and chicken and random comedy vegetables (Chard).

The evening featured the Camp Fire again, which this time included our song, although we failed to introduce ourselves (we all noticed at the time except for Richard who pointed it out at lunch the next day).

Saturday 15th July 2000

Climbing; lunch; Thun train (bloke who speaks good English saying English trains are infamous); fast tour of Spiez boat back to Thun; meal @ Alpenrose; bed.

[Well, another sparkling description from the Boy White sees me having to fill in the blanks. From the sounds of it, this was the day we went climbing on an indoor wall... all pretty easy if you've done lots of climbing before... but Climbing Instructors aside (!), people had varying degrees of success. Mike was quite good, as I recall. Abseiling in the afternoon was cancelled due (surprisingly) to bad weather, so a jaunt to Thun ensued. We took the train to Spiez (noting the lack of a "mins late" column on the information display), and then came back on a boat across the lake.

Our meal out in the evening was very pleasant - a nice way to round off the trip. Even if Mike did eat horse. We also spend a great deal of time trying to remember and write down the rules for cricket so that we could present them to the Scots, along with our hand-crafted cricket set.]

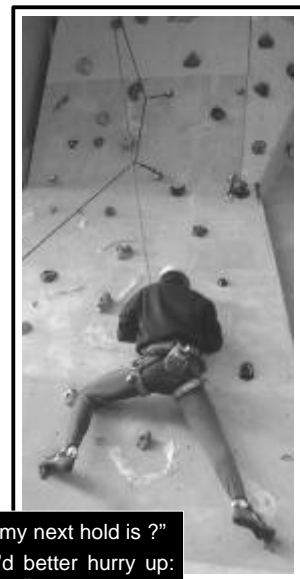
Sunday 16th July 2000

The first task of the morning was to pay the campsite. This was slightly more hassle than originally anticipated since the office didn't take credit cards or cheques, so we had to drive into town to get some cash out. Of course we had to get slightly too much out since cash machines don't do small change, so I spent the remainder on food for the trip. Once that was done we finished striking camp, and finally set off at about 11:30am.

[The drive to Reims wasn't too bad (apart from a slight detour at Metz for my car...), and once there we settled in to quite a good quality Youth Hostel (...which was full of Scouts, as it happened). Dinner was "chez MacDonald's", but other than that Reims was quite dull (it being a Sunday night an' all). A bit of cheeky card playing before bed was all the entertainment we managed.]

Monday 17th July 2000

[Well, Stephen's left this day completely blank... but I guess not much really happened. We came home, which was a bit of a shame I have to say...]



"Can you see where my next hold is?"
"Not sure - but you'd better hurry up:
Wolf's right behind you."

SNOWDONIA TRIP

Jen

As 5 p.m. was our decided start time it was only natural that we left Museum Road around forty five minutes later, after cramming enough stuff for a week into two car boots. The rain started to pour down before we even got on the motorway and the traffic was terrible. Throw in an hour's worth of "They Might Be Giants" (slightly dubious music for the uninitiated) and you could perhaps understand the sense of foreboding that set in somewhere north of Warwick. ("They might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants..." aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!)



Things continued in this vein once in Wales and the ham had been pronounced "forgotten" by several people who shall remain nameless. It was, in fact, in its Sainsbury's bag in front of the heater where it was destined to grow legs and walk back to Oxford on its own had it not been discovered. Another cunning plan foiled by the supersleuth skills of OUSGG!

I would like to say that Saturday morning dawned crisp, bright and sunny; that would however be a lie. It was the earliest, wettest, coldest, windiest... you get the idea. The more adventurous amongst us set off to conquer Snowdon in the name of all things good and the rest decided to be sensible and walk around a lake.

Well, we talked, laughed, got wet (and lost but nobody will ever admit to that) and then decided by far the best thing to do was finish before lunch and spend the rest of the day in a tea shop scoffing ourselves silly! Of course the plan involved not telling the mountaineers this and arriving back just before them claiming to have only just returned... things never work according to plan do they? Both groups got back at roughly the same time and then we all went and scoffed ourselves silly together!

Saturday evening involved driving into the village to go to the pub...

("They might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants...")

be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants..." aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!) Once there we were entertained by a local band, interesting is the only word to describe both their comparing and the insanely drunk sixty-year-old woman on the pull! A good night was had by all and then we decided to go back to

play Mafia and have hot chocolate.

("They might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants..." aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!)

I hear a voice in my ear indignantly saying that this occurred before last orders *and they had a late licence* but we shall not dwell on that even though some (I shall continue the remaining nameless theme) would probably prefer.

Sunday morning did dawn crisp, bright and sunny although most of us didn't see it as we were fast asleep. By the time we stopped faffing the rain had returned but admittedly not for long, it then started to hail. A short walk and a teasop visit later and it was time to go. ("They might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants..." aaaaaaaaaaaa aaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!)

Tarzan's holiday in Wales required clothing slightly more substantial than a loincloth



The early departure was somewhat made up for by the delicious food in Birmingham but the weekend finished too soon and I for one am looking forward to the next one, perhaps without, "they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants, they might be giants...?"

AUSTRIAN OBSERVATIONS

Hayley Thompson, Oxford Brookes

My first article for *PostScript* was an observation article where I wrote about the life I was observing in Oxford through OUSGG. I'm afraid that this is also going to be an observation thing but this time about the life here in Austria that I now find myself living.

I have now been here eight weeks and it feels a lot longer. I am looking forward to going home but I think that on the whole I am enjoying this big adventure. I have met so many people now and I can honestly say that everybody is friendly. People greet each other in the street with the traditional "Gruß Gott" or God's Greeting. People will bend over backwards to make you feel welcome and more so when they find out that you are foreign. Xenophobia is non-existent here. Today I was invited to a student's grandmother's flat for lunch; that would never happen in Britain.

Public transport systems out here are very good and cheap. The only down side is that they stop very early in the evening in comparison with Britain, like ten o'clock! I think the transport is deliberately cheap to make sure that you do not have to get into an Austrian car. Handbrakes are not used at all, foot brakes are operated with the left foot (if you think about it, this means that you cannot brake as you change gear) and corners are taken at silly speeds. Hang on, flashback to Sandfield Road being taken at 40 last year by someone who will remain nameless. Parking is fun here, as there seem to be no rules about parking straight / near the curb.

People are amazed to learn that I am English and don't drink tea or coffee but then I suppose there must be Austrians that don't eat Schnitzels. There are no set meals times here, especially for school children. School starts at 7.30 a.m. so most people eat breakfast very early. By ten they are hungry again but there is no set lunch break so they snack all day until they go home for a big meal which is mostly eaten at lunchtime. What I would call tea, eaten about six in the evening, is the same as breakfast - rolls, cheese and ham or sausages. This may be why all Austrians are so thin, I look positively obese compared to these people. It could also be because everybody smokes.

Smoking is a way of life here. There is no age limit, or if there is it is not enforced, and there are no non-smoking sections in cafes or restaurants. Schools have designated smoking zones for the students. Drinking is also a way of life. The legal

drinking age is 16 over here but people start earlier. It is quite usual for children to turn up to school drunk or with hangovers. With all this alcohol, I would expect that there would be much more violence on the streets at night but I have never seen any trouble. Perhaps that just shows what sort of area I grew up in? Graz is a very safe place to be. As a single female I feel safer here than in Oxford or Medway. I often walk home alone in the dark and then realise what I have done.

I have had several invitations from various people since I have been here and the biggest difference is footwear. It is normal to take your slippers with you. If you don't, all homes have baskets of spares for you. Every home has parquet flooring and people are proud of these and want to protect them. You are expected to take your shoes off at the front door and leave them on the doorstep. I tried to explain to people that in some parts of Britain, it is considered rude to take your shoes off in someone else's house without be invited to and they looked at me strangely. I seem to have that reaction a lot to life in Britain. My flatmate says "Everything is different in Britain to the rest of Europe." Admittedly I had just given him some marmite on toast but even so, I don't think we are that different are we?

Christmas is on its way here, so is the snow. The Christmas trees are appearing and Graz celebrates Advent in a big way. Austria is a very religious country but there seems to be the same consumerism attached to Christmas as in England.

As it is almost Christmas and the end of your term, I will bid you a long, happy holiday and a healthy, happy, successful New Year. It seems strange to be thinking of the New Year in November.

Friede sei mit Dir
H

Competition Time !

The bored amongst you may have visited the swish Graz website after it was publicized in the last issue. Well, your time wasting may just have paid off, because this month PostScript is running a Graz competition! Simply spot Hayley on the Graz website's live interactive webcam, save the image, send it in to the PostScript office and win a prize!

<http://www.graztourismus.at/>

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Helen Ensor, St. Hilda's

Minutes of the 118th F&GPC meeting held on 16th November 2000 at 1:15pm in Keble College

Present

H. Ensor S. White
C. Berry C. Seward
R. Owen N. Jones
C. Mowl N. Zivan

Apologies

Mike Haley

Minutes of the last F&GPC

Were passed with no alterations.

Matters arising

Richard has now done the refunds for the annual dinner.

Officers reports

Chair - Caroline and Natalie

Generally not very many people turning up to the Monday night meetings.

Chair-elect - Mike

Feels he's achieved only marginally more than Andy this term, having failed to attend any N'n'Ns and missed two meetings. Still doesn't have the Chair-Elect's file and is struggling to update the logbook (see above). With this in mind there is every reason to be sceptical about next term. There is a serious issue surrounding the start of next term, Mike having just learnt he will be in Northampton for the first two weeks of term. He's negotiating with the medical school to change this but for the

moment needs to assume he won't be able to make the first two meetings.

Term Plan:

1st Wk Wildlife walk/Skating
2nd Wk Fudge making
3rd Wk Frisbee/Indoor games
4th Wk Greyhound racing
5th Wk Fencing
6th Wk Basic Life Support (if not, Tai Chi)
7th Wk Pancake/Citrus party
8th Wk TGM

Other Activities:

Trip to London (Tate Modern, Show); Walking (Oxford Way); Trip to Northern France

(The matters arising from this report weren't discussed since Helen hadn't checked her email immediately before the meeting and hence this report wasn't read out at the meeting)

Treasurer - Richard

Still doesn't have all of the account details from Rob, also needs the mandate form back from Mike so that account signatures can be changed.

Secretary - Helen

We're registered with the Proctors.

Scout & Guide Liaison - Alice

No report, however Chris has been doing this job for the past year, since the Guiders can't get any response from the current officer.

Membership Sec. - Stephen

Has now got a list of all of the members and will pass it onto Natalie

SSAGO Rep. - Natalie

Needs to send the SSAGO registration form off.

PostScript Editor - Chris

PostScript is now back, bigger and better than ever. He has loads of articles for the next edition, so it should be a bumper edition for Christmas.

N 'n' N Organiser - Caroline

Apparently the biscuits haven't been that good this term but new ones have been bought along with some new sugar!

Quartermaster - Stephen

Needs to sort a few things out in stores.

Internet Officer - Stephen

The termcard has been put on the web, however some issues of *PostScript* still need to be put on.

Winter WalkingTM - Ben

It's happening and should be great fun. Eight people need to go to make it viable.

Any other business

None.

Meeting closed at 13:30.

OUSGG Committee : Michaelmas Term 2000

Chairman	Natalie Jones (Wadham)	Scout & Guide Liaison	Alice Lovegrove (Queen's)
	Caroline Berry (Keble)	Lunchtime Meetings	Caroline Berry
Chair-elect	Mike Haley (Merton)	Quartermaster	Stephen White
Secretary	Helen Ensor (St. Hilda's)	Postscript Editor	Chris Seward (Jesus)
Junior Treasurer	Richard Owen (Lincoln)	Winter Walking Organiser	Ben Bateson (Birmingham)
SSAGO Rep.	Natalie Jones	Old Members' Rep.	Matthew Bemand (Teacher)
Membership Secretary	Stephen White (Keble)	Senior Member	John Singleton (away)

--- TRANSCRIPT ---

Hi Mum,

I'm sorry, I won't be at home at New Year, I'm going to Winter Walking™ with OUSGG. Yes I know Great Auntie Cynthia will be visiting, but I'm sure you can manage without me. Just tell her I'm out getting lots of healthy exercise, she's supposed to approve of that sort of thing. No, the thought of extra turkey just isn't tempting enough - and I don't even like sprouts, you know that. Anyway, we'll have the banquet for New Year's Eve, as well as the silly games that beat watching the telly any day. Yes, of course I'll eat properly, despite the best efforts of all the fussy people, and brush my teeth and wrap up warm, and I promise not to climb any nasty big hills without due care, and I'll drive carefully... oh, did I ask if I could borrow the car? You didn't mind last year, and that was much further. I can pick up some other people, so I won't be driving on my own... what's that? Christmas cake? Well we've never had much trouble eating it all up in the past. And I can always take some with me, we're supposed to take a cake each. Like Guide Camp, you remember. Only much more civilised than that, you get to wash on OUSGG trips, and sleep in a bed and have a proper cooker and hot running water and stuff. Camping's strictly for the summer. Yeah, it should be a good trip, nice to see everyone again. I expect there'll be a few Freshers, yes, good chance for them to really get to know people. It makes all the difference going on Winter Walking... No you can't come, you're my Mum! What would people say? Yes, I know people have brought along random friends in the past but it's not the same... just 'cos you want to get out of the house too. It's in North Yorkshire this year by the way. Well it'll make a change, I've never been walking over there. When? Same as always, you know. Oh except last year yes, but that was 'cos of the millennium business. Same as always except for last year then. What's that? Yeah, okay, I'll phone next week then. N-night.

OUSGG Address List

Enclosed with this issue you will find the latest copy of the OUSGG Address List, complete with details for all of the new members. If there are any updates or amendments to be made, send them to the Membership Secretary and they will ensure that they find their way into future issues.

OUSGG Kitlist

It's not been published for a while, so appended to this issue is a copy of the OUSGG Kitlist, the definitive guide to all the equipment that you might need for a trip away with the Group. A copy also lives on the Webpage. Hopefully some of you may find it useful (see the above article!).

QUOTES

Chris: "You must have an urge for something?"

Hayley: "Something wet..."

Chris (about the 1999 intake): "This year's Freshers aren't that bad."

Mike: "There's nothing worse than a smug chaffinch."

Natalie (after suitable pause): "I'm not pregnant."



**COPY DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 325 IS :
23:59, 13TH JANUARY 2001 (0TH WEEK)**

ARTICLES TO: cseward@jesus.ox.ac.uk

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

WINTER WALKING™ : ALL THE THRILLS AND SPILLS

The Definitive OUSGG Kitlist

First published in Issue 305

For advice on selecting new equipment, see the Field & Trek Technical Guide (in the back of their catalogue, available from the Quartermaster) and (especially for clothing and boots) Chapter 2 of “*Mountaincraft and Leadership*” by Eric Langmuir (a copy of which resides in the OUSGG Library).

Items in bold can usually be provided by the Group for those who don't possess them (assuming there are sufficient spare - you should check in advance).

Equipment for a days hillwalking

The following items (or their equivalents) should be considered *essential*:

- Walking boots Not shoes, trainers or walking shoes, but something which provides sufficient ankle support. Boots should be waterproofed before use. (A look through *Langmuir's* advice on footwear is a must before buying a new pair of boots).
- Walking socks Usually two pairs are worn: a thinner inner pair and a thicker outer pair. Thick socks that provide extra padding in the ball and heel area are highly recommended (e.g., *Thorlo Trekking socks*).
- Clothing Obviously, this depends upon the conditions to be encountered. Comfort and warmth should be primary concerns, although clothing should also be versatile enough to adapt to changes in the conditions. (Shorts and a T-shirt are fine in the summer, as long as it's a warm sunny day and guaranteed to stay that way!)

Upper body : Many thin layers give better insulation than one thick one (and are more flexible). To fully benefit from “breathable” outer layers, inner layers must be made from synthetic fabrics (i.e.: not cotton).

Lower body : Jeans are **not** suitable - tracksuit bottoms or more specialist walking trousers are recommended (note though that if you wear thinner types of walking trousers (e.g. *Ron Hill Tracksters*), then it can be wise to wear two pairs in cold weather).
- Fleece/warm coat Something that will stand-up to the rigors of a days walking.
- Gloves Woollen, fleece or similar gloves are good, although they can become waterlogged easily and waterproof overmits are recommended. (Note that even fleece-lined gloves that claim to be water-resistant can become waterlogged in severe conditions, and in this case dedicated waterproof overmits can be the best solution). Thinner gloves can be useful for scrambling in the winter.
- Hat Or balaclava or similar. You lose more heat from your head than any other area of the body, so a hat should be as warm as possible and should cover your ears too.
- Waterproof jacket The ideal waterproof jacket for hillwalking is as long as possible (giving the top of your legs more protection), has storm-flaps covering the zips (a double storm-flap for the main zip is better), has drawcords around the bottom, waist and hood (to combat windflap); and has velcro (rather than elastic) adjustments at the cuffs. A map pocket might also be considered useful. *A good hood is essential* - either fixed or detachable is fine, although an internal wire around the visor of a fixed hood can be very useful. (It goes without saying that jackets made from breathable fabrics are superior).
- Waterproof trousers Often not needed, although a godsend when you do - if you don't use them much, a cheap pair is fine - although make sure you can put them on whilst you're wearing your boots (usually this means they have zips at the bottom).
- Watch Unless you can tell the time by the sun. When it's totally overcast.
- Rucksack The size of which will depend upon the rest of your gear, although make sure there's room to put any clothes you might take off. **No rucksack is 100% watertight**, so make sure you pack everything inside plastic bags (or a rucksack liner).
- Lunch And lunchbox if you don't like squashed sandwiches. Lunch is usually provided on OUSGG trips.
- Water bottle (1 litre minimum) For water, squash or whatever (although carbonated drinks are not recommended). Doesn't need to be costly - a couple of (e.g.) Evian bottles can be quite convenient.
- Spare jumper Or fleece. Could save you from hypothermia.

- Emergency food Mars bars, mintcake or Rolos provide energy quickly; flapjacks and other carbohydrates are useful for slower energy release; salted peanuts are useful in summer when you sweat more. Emergency rations should not be eaten until the end of the day, if then !!
- Whistle For use in emergencies only.
- Torch Must include spare batteries (which work!) and a spare bulb. Not an option.
- **Survival bag** You should never go walking without one, and they cost next-to-nothing. (A proper bivvy-bag is better, but rather more costly !)
- First Aid Kit Remember that if someone gets injured, you're supposed to use their First Aid Kit to treat them - so from this perspective it is wise to carry quite a good one. Boots sell quite good kits to use as a base. You should make sure you know how to use everything that you carry, and ensure that used items get replaced. Recommended contents:

Triangular bandage (more than one, preferably); crepe bandage (5 or 7.5 cm); more bandages; blister treatment kit (e.g. *Compede*); plasters; 3M micropore tape; antihistamine cream; tweezers; round-nosed scissors; antiseptic wipes; latex gloves; matches; coins and/or a phonecard (for emergency calls); painkillers (aspirin or paracetamol); throat lozenges; stomach settlers; rehydration salts (e.g. *Boots rehydrat*); any personal medication (like hay fever pills, asthma inhalers etc).

Other, non-essential, items which you may wish to consider:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| ○ Map(s), mapcase, compass | ○ Sunhat | ○ Snap lights |
| ○ Vacuum flask | (essential in summer) | ○ Sit mat |
| ○ Gaiters | ○ Sunglasses | ○ Camera |
| ○ Pair of ski poles | (essential in summer [?]) | ○ Mobile phone |
| ○ Sunblock | ○ Lipsyl | ○ GPS |
| (essential in summer) | ○ Swiss Army knife | ○ Small towel |
| ○ Insect repellent | ○ Spare laces | ○ Money |
| (essential in summer) | ○ Some toilet roll | |

Equipment required for a walking trip involving nights away

Some of this equipment may not be necessary, depending upon the nature of the trip - the trip organiser should inform you about this in advance (if not: ask). You may consider some of it unnecessary anyway.

Items as above, under 'Equipment for a days hillwalking'. Duplicate sets of walking clothes can be advisable in case the initial set gets wet.

- Large rucksack Or similar
- Clothing Obviously this'll depend upon the trip, but don't forget clothes/footwear to go to the pub in, plus clothes to sleep in (especially if your sleeping bag isn't great).
- "Washkit" Including things like toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, towel and deodorant (if you're to be socially acceptable after a days walking).
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow Inflatable ones are best, closely followed by a stuff-sack or rucksack filled with clothes.
- Sleeping mat A foam one if you're poor; a nice inflatable one if you're rich.
- Alarm clock Or Thomas will do, at a pinch.
- Cutlery Knife, fork, spoon, teaspoon.
- Mug, plate, bowl
- Teatowel Traditionally, there is a £1 fine for people who don't bring one on OUSGG trips.
- Proofing for boots
- String Often useful.
- Cards Or games, magazines, inflatable toys, imitation weapons...
- A cake Sometimes requested by the organiser on longer trips (not weekends).
- Swimming kit Again, sometimes suggested for longer trips.
- Clothes repair kit A simple one can prove useful.
- More money Especially if the trip is going to involve eating out.