



PostScript

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Scout & Guide Group

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LOOK OUT FOR THE
NEXT AMAZING
ACTION PACKED
EPISODE OF 'SIMON'
NOW PROMOTED TO
PAGE 1 FOR YOUR
VIEWING
PLEASURE! BUT
THEN DEMOTED
AGAIN DUE TO
LAYOUT
CONSIDERATIONS!

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Welcome to 2002

(the first even numbered palindromic year since 88AD (I think))

Chair's report - Phil

Well, the last remnants of the vacation have disappeared and here I am back at my desk supposedly studying but instead doing emails. How did we waste time before the Internet? But anyway. Thanks to Christina for a superb term, and thanks to all those who went on "Winter Walking (TM)": the sticky toffee pudding was wonderful. If you didn't get away to the Lakes, I reckon you'll be bored with all the anecdotes by now, but there's one way to rectify that: go on the next vacation trip.

Quite why I ended up as chair is anyone's guess. I recall reading somewhere a quip that people get the government they deserve, but that seems oddly inappropriate and obviously wrong. But that's what I do for my degree, so I'd better change the subject... Hopefully, this term's programme should be as varied and as much fun as last term's, although you may notice a number of differences. No chocolate or black tie dinners, for starters. Or Bailey's and orange,

come to think of it. Rest assured I won't be forcing the classical greats down your ears every Monday but there should be something for everyone (music recitals to be held in my room after meetings - all welcome). I'm especially looking forward to the Morris Dancing in Third Week, and this Carrom looks to be interesting. As for trips away, don't forget the Birmingham Rally (February 15th-February 17th / Friday 5th Week to Sunday 6th Week): it would be really great to have a large contingent at a rally for the third term running. Other commitments mean I can only fit in a day trip to an as-yet-undisclosed-location, but if anyone wants to organise a full weekender, email the list. OUSGG's at its best when we're not in Oxford, trust me on this. Don't forget N'n'N on Thursdays: if you've never experienced the endless stream of quips, gossip, and in-jokes then come along. Heck, it's better than being in lectures. Have a great term.

A letter from a panda - Eri>

Dear Editor,

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a good Christmas. Sorry I was unable to attend Winter Walking this year, but I was at the end of a six month visit to Beijing University as Visiting Professor of Bamboo Studies. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again at the various activities this term and will hopefully be able to make it to my Birthday (Mmm... Pancakes). However, I feel I must complain about the treatment I have received since my return from Beijing. After a rather stuffy journey in the capable hands of Mr France, I was left all alone in a strange room in Lincoln, in the dark while everyone else went to the bar. It is hard being a panda, I can't reach the light switch. Further to this, I was enjoying seeing people at N'n'N and catching up on people's news when suddenly I was grabbed and bundled under a table. Quite what happened after that I'm not sure as I couldn't see. Luckily I was rescued later.

Yours stuffily, Eri>

ed: sorry Eri> but I'm not sure what I can do to help you. Maybe OUSGG should have an equal opportunities rep on the committee, they could campaign for bigger soft toys.

Winter Walking – *exciting people*

Were *you* there? Or did *you* miss out?

What people had to say while away:

Christina: I'm insignificant again.

Christina: I'm running out of men

Ben: I want girth rather than length.

Mike: We've only had Keith and Christina going down so far.

Christina: Yes, I was indeed talking to my clothes.

Chris: Apparently paper aeroplanes stick to your lips.
[chris tries it]
Aaaarrggggggg!

Christina: I'm running out of men (*yes she did say it again*)

Christina: Did we have many other women last night?



Mt Everest, maybe next year

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



**Baileys and Orange may
seriously damage your credibility**

Winter Walking in Rhyme and Verse

by Chris Seward and Natalie Jones

There once was a Scout hut in Cartmel,
Way south of any decent lake or fell.
Winter Walking™ was there;
OUSGG's lair,
The tale of which we will now tell.

Sixteen brave souls there were to start,
Three though soon they did depart.
The thirteen that stayed
No way would they trade
The rest of the trip to which they were part.

There was a trip leader called Phil
During the pub-crawl had over his fill
Back in the hut
In bed he was put
'Cos everyone feared he was quite ill.

The drinking, however, went on
'Till the whole vodka bottle was gone
Christina and Jenny
Had had one too many
And silence? Of that there was none

Keith claimed a dab hand with the map
Said "Christina's led us into a trap"
But leading a walk
Seems he was just talk
When his navigation turned out a bit cr*p

Ben set a mystery for New Year
Who dunnit certainly was not clear
Most of us toiled
'Till the plot it was foiled
... but Michael he just sat and drank beer.

Natalie and Chris craved many sheep
Only two of which they could keep
"Giggles" they named one
After all that had gone
And in bags with them they did sleep

Tristram and Angharad had brought
Double bed – cunning plan they had thought
Duvets and pillows?
They had billows and billows
But the rest of us seemed to have naught...

David and Jo they were quite old
The walks they took were mostly bold
Always early to rise
Others harder to prise
For of a morning the hall was c-c-c-cold

Gareth, he had bought a new hood
Thought too, it looked rather good
But we did conclude
It was really a snood
Seems Gareth is no longer a stud

So once again Winter Walking™ was great
All that attended would give it top rate
Those that weren't there
It seems so unfair
That until next year you must wait.

Walking in the Cotswolds – Keith

Christina struck again with her amazing ability to fix the weather for all of her terms activities with a warm but overcast day for the replacement to the midterm trip. The day didn't start well with the train station being packed with people from the university walking club having arrived at the station at the same time as us to catch the same train to the same place. Luckily for us the amazingly efficient Thames Trains struck again with the train being about twenty minutes late making it possible for everyone to buy their tickets before we boarded the train.

The route, well there wasn't one, Christina just handed the map (1:63000 ish, inch to the mile) to anyone that was willing to take it and said that we were to just work it out, now there is delegation for you. So Phil, Stephen and I got the map looked at it for a while and found two pubs at a nice walking distance from the train station and planned our route around them.

Arriving at Moreton in Marsh things started to look up, the weather was great, the walking club were lost and we were on our way. It didn't take long before we had taken our first (and only) scenic detour, to find out when the museum was of (it was aircraft if you were interested). The real reason was that with such a scale of map it appeared that the path lead off from the side of the museum but was actually leading out of the housing estate behind. So with a bit of scrambling though some bushes lead ably by Stephen we were on the housing estate and on our way again.

After a largely uneventful bit of walking we arrived at the first of the two villages and decided just to carry on as it was far too early to think about having lunch. Off we went over the stream down the lane, through the inevitable marsh, which somehow no one managed to get even half stuck in and then to the farm with loose dogs. For some reason on this trip about half of the people had some dislike of dogs for one reason or another, so it was with some nerves that we passed through the farm yard and back on our way.

On we walked down the road discussing whether to hotwire the LandRover which was nicely parked on the verge (we decided quickly that the owner might miss it so we gave up on that idea) we finally reached the second village (I can't remember the village names as I don't have the map here) where we had our lunch in a



nice pub that sported proudly the 'DLT triple top' champions plaque. Having all had our fill we started our journey back to the train station but before we could leave the village we had to make use of the facilities; conveniently opposite the pub was the village green with a seesaw ☺ and some swings (that were set too low

for me ☺).

The route back proceeded at a brisk pace as we were starting to worry about missing the train back and the number of hours of daylight left. All was fine apart from a strange little wooded area with odd constructions, and feed containers lying around the place. Fading light seemed to be dropping some peoples spirits so the traditional sing song was started

with such classics as 'The Quartermaster's Stores', 'You'll Never go to Heaven' and 'The Ants go Marching in'. For some unknown reason the singing seemed only to be half-heartedly taken up by some of the members with most giving up completely when we reached a built-up area.

So there we were back to the train station, all in one piece and before the

train turned up (on-time for once). This is my recollection of the events and my be completely wrong as it was over 6 weeks ago and Winter Walking fried my memory in the mean time.



The Next Rally – Alison

Well, I won't attempt to imitate the elaborate literary style of your previous SSAGO rep, citing a science course as the reason for my inability to construct coherent sentences in English.

But what I will attempt to tell you about is the Student Scout and Guide Organisation rally in Birmingham this term. This is a weekend where all the different Scout and Guide Clubs from universities across the country gather in one place to sing rude Scout songs (Guides you will be truly shocked!) and do some other exciting stuff.

If you don't trust me (why wouldn't you?) and want to check it all out for yourself, go to: <http://www.guild.bham.ac.uk/gangsterrally>. However, most of what you need to know is below.

It's being hosted by Birmingham on 15th - 17th Feb (end of 5th week) in a Scout campsite in South Birmingham (so not all that inconvenient for us) and the theme is "Gangsters".

The cost is £18 before Jan 25th, £20 before Feb 8th and £25 after that, with a possible additional charge of up to £3 for activities (marked with an *).

The activities are: Cadbury's world*, the Think Tank museum*, ice skating*, art gallery, shopping, swimming*, walking, sea-life centre*, pub crawl, cinema* and jewellery tour*.

And most importantly the fancy dress theme for the Barn Dance on Saturday night is "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly".

So if all this sounds like a good idea (really it is), e-mail or pidge me ASAP (to get the cheapest price) with your name (always a taxing one), whether you are meaty, veggie or "other" and your first, second and third choice activities, and pidge me a cheque for £8 made payable to BUGS (Gangster Rally)? We'll sort out accommodation and equipment (tents etc) nearer the time. Oh and e-mail me if you have any questions and I'll probably not be able to answer them.

alison.parker@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

CrossWord Sol – Jo

The solution to the crossword in the previous issue of PostScript is as follows.

Across:

1) Mondays 5) Pommel
8) New Years Party 10) Agree
11) Brush 13) Us 14) Map
16) Lake 17) Ups 18) Roma
20) Ho 22) Helm 23) Dip
24) Clio 25) She 26) Hi
27) Train 28) Bowra
31) Winter Walking 32) Drag
Up 33) Polemic

Down:

1) Michaelmas 2) Arete
3) Says 4) Chairs 5) Postscript
6) Marshmallows
7) Leys 9) Erik The Panda
11) Bush 12) Summer Trip
15) Odin 26) Hilary 28) Banal
29) Awed 30) Skip.

Congratulations to Matthew Bemand - a bag of Jelly Babies is on its way. Apologies for the rather obscure Bowra reference - go look at the weird statue in Wadham by the library.

Google Search of the Week – TFM

Search: "bailey's and orange" (I'm feeling lucky)

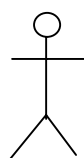
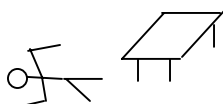
[snip description of a band the author doesn't like]

there are few combinations of ANYTHING that make my stomach turn more -- think bailey's and orange juice... think jagermeister and cheeze whiz. such a combination is SO repulsive that i never even thought of it before today. so -- why did i?

[ed: thus proving that computers are more intelligent than some people]

Simon

The morning after celebrating new years with his new friends Simon doesn't feel too well...



I feel GOOD!

Phil's page of Politics and Economics – Phil

There are other societies. Societies dedicated to a political cause, societies dedicated to alcohol (well, that's all of them - Editor), groups for sports, clubs for obscure games you've never heard of, plus, of course, a certain organization allowing you to swagger in silly clothes and play "stab your mate in the back" once a term. And then there's OUSGG. Although we moan at OUSU every year for placing us in what is, essentially, a crap position at Freshers' Fair, I can't help but not fail to understand their dilemma. We're exceedingly hard to categorise. And part of the problem is the group's name.

I noticed this at the Freshers' Fair. If I called out "Oxford University Scout and Guide Group", people would look at me, in a frankly concerned manner (they do that anyway, but I usually ignore it), then walk on. Or they'd call out some witty line. My favourite was "not for ten years". I was more successful if I mumbled past the offending words, so people would stop and ask me I'd just called them. At which point I could launch into my spiel and get them interested.

Now, I'm not suggesting we change our name. We are, after all the Scout and Guide Group of the University, affiliated to SSAGO etc etc. To call ourselves the OU Faff Club in an attempt to be cool would be as much of a deception as the realisation that the OU Pooh Sticks society probably only ever cross the bridge so they can go to the Pub, Oxford (note: I am not insulting OUPS in anyway. If they feel offended, we will challenge them at Pooh Sticks any day), or getting rid of Ventures and coming up with Explorers and lurid green logos.*[ed: I thought you did some kind of arts subject? this sentence structure makes no sense :P (If the English language was created by comp people it would be nice and un-ambiguous with lots of brackets!)]* The majority of people who do join have had at least some vague connection to Scouting or Guiding, and roughly know what to expect activities-wise. It is probably better, if the group is to survive, for us to go for those who know what to expect than to try to branch out. We shouldn't, though, ignore all the other potential members, deterred by a name conjuring up images of young children or, worse, college cleaners (I'm informed this actually happened once). Would they be deterred by a large Scout sign? *[ed: I think we're asking a slightly biased group here... maybe we should do one of those psychology questionnaires, and ask people two dozen times]* If they approach it with a prejudice, they will. If they see what we do, maybe they won't be. The name, remember, only matters when people join. When did you last call it by its full name, for example? We could rename ourselves to the OU Gurning Group and the current members wouldn't care. Potential members would. Yet "OUSGG" is not a good alternative. We need to sell ourselves. Sell, sell, sell.

If there is a point to this farrago, it is probably this. Unless we try, we will never get many of those who have never been involved with Scouting and Guiding. If we do try, we run the risk of losing those who have been. I don't think we have an image problem, more like no image whatsoever. When was the last time a cock-up of ours appeared on the front page of the 'Cherwell', for instance? I think the effort we put in last term needs to be repeated. SSAGO won't do it for us, and we all know their abilities at self-promotion. Keep on doing what we're doing, keep the programme varied, continually learn from past programmes, have trips geared to all capabilities, and the group will carry on. We're probably one of the most diverse and active (and easiest to climb to the dizzy heights of chairman) student groups in the University. Just change the necker colours. Please?

PS: Worryingly, what I've just written probably applies to the Scout Association as well. When will they ever learn, eh?

This space was going to be intentionally left blank, so you can tear off the contact update on the back of this page, but then I wrote this on it to explain why it was left blank, so now there is no point in writing this as it is no longer blank...

Letter to the Editor – ~~David (Pedant) Ball~~ Chris (Pedant) Seward

Sir,

I write in reference to the back-page article in Issue 332 of your publication entitled “OUSGG Alphabet”. Several incorrect entries are made and I would like to take this opportunity to rectify them for the benefit of all concerned.

Firstly it is stated that the initials “F&GPC” refer to the “Faff and general planning committee”. However, the OUSGG constitution (Section 5, subsection a.) quite clearly states that F&GPC stands for “Finance & General Purposes Committee”. It is, on the other hand, possible that the author of this article was attempting to “crack a funny” by assigning an alternative definition to the initials. Although the stated assignment clearly fulfils this purpose, it has been recognised for some time that the pseudonym for the F&GPC is in fact the “Faff & General Pedantry Committee”. I feel that it is important that this information be recorded correctly for future generations of OUSGGers.

Ed: Progress, it's called progress. As time rolls on things change.

Secondly, the entry “Punt ‘n’ Picnic – Punting with a hang over after the BTB” is somewhat ambiguous. I would be interested to know what style of punting incorporates the “hang over”. Perhaps this is a style adopted by students from other universities (in a similar fashion to the nonsensical technique employed by residents of Fenlands Polytechnic). I am also intrigued to discover what the initials “BTB” represent. If they refer to “Black Tie Dinner”, one would have expected this to be defined under the entry for “Annual Dinner”. Hence, assuming that this is not the case, perhaps BTB stands for “Brave Tequila Drinking”. Could the author clarify?

Ed: well, I seem to remember punting with a hangover, so I guess it does exist, and I don't remember you being brave with the Tequila... maybe next time.

Finally, I must protest at the entry listed as “Chris – OUSGG's fountain of knowledge”. As I understand the phrase, it is more correctly given as “fount of all knowledge”, or “font of all knowledge”. The implication of a font of knowledge is that an ignorant person may drink from the waters of knowledge contained within the font when guidance is required. In contrast, a fountain of knowledge presumably issues forth a spray of wisdom at all times thereby soaking all and sundry within earshot. Quite different.

Ed: The word fount is simply an old spelling of the modern word font, and I wished to remove any religious, and possibly offensive connotations from these highly PC pages. (You smelly old git.)

Yours pedantically,

Chris

CENSORRED

by Webmaster

This section had names and addresses of current members, and so has been removed.