

WINTERREISE

A winter walker's tale



ANNUAL DINNER PLANS!

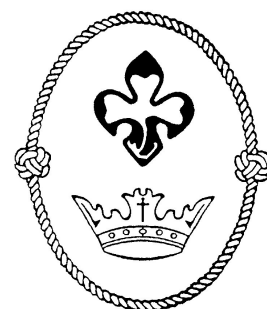
We're almost 85

FINANCE AND GENERAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES!

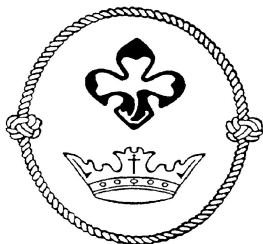
Not that we're short of articles or anything

DRYING ROOMS!

The mystery is not revealed, sadly



postscript



Issue 353

Second of Hilary 2004

An OUSGG publication

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Chair-Elect: Jacqui Bradley and
Jenny Robertson

Treasurer: Maddy Bunce

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Summer Activity: Alison Parker

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**Deadline for issue 354 – late Friday
Seventh Week (5th March)**

Any items received will be presumed to be
for publication unless otherwise notified.
The editor reserves the right to modify
contributions. Turn around, touch the
ground, and no returns.

Views featured in *Postscript* are those of
their authors, and might not be those of
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"We may be barbarians, but we pay for
our pillaging" (Niles Crane).

Scout and the City

Look wide, as the Senior Scouts used to say. I did, and I've now got further evidence that the end is coming. Consider the following initially independent events:

- Classic FM got worse *after* firing Henry Kelly
- Michael Howard is elected leader of the Conservatives and seen as their saviour
- The number of OUSGG computer conversations is on the rise, despite a relatively stable number of Comscis
- Oxford have won the boat race twice in as many years (and will do this year, too)
- OUSGG won a fancy dress competition

When seen together, it is certainly clear that there are strange forces at work. What it all means is beyond the scope of this column, and this third-rate philosopher. I did try and look for references in scripture, but neither the *Linux Cookbook*, *Scouting for Boys*, or the infallible *Penguin Guide to CDs* had prophecies that could be interpreted in the light of recent events. As such I'm now in a process of spiritual confusion, and will probably embark on a pilgrimage to the holy land (well, the pub) and seek the meaning of the signs. Or maybe I'm just bored and had to fill a column. Your call.

Phil Alderton, Editor
PS

Inside...

Not much, really.

In fact, it's rather amazing there's eight pages, given how packed 352's eight pages were.

From the top

Sam Snelson, *Chair*

So it's halfway through the term and everything seems to be going surprisingly ok, although no doubt there will be a few hurdles to cross before the term is out. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped the term reach this stage, especially those who ran courses in the Safari Supper last Monday (Roger, Mark, Sarah) - it all seemed to go pretty well.

I'm pleased to say that attendance has been very high for the past weeks and we seem to have a large contingent of keen new members eager to take up committee posts (ok none of them has expressed an interest of doing so but I'm sure we will be able to persuade them). Hopefully the attendance will continue high for the rest of the term.

We have been seeing many new faces at N'n'N, held this term in Cat's room in St Anne's, but it would be nice to see more. It is held every Thursday at 1:00 and details on how to get there can be found on the termcard.

Coming up this term there will probably be a trip out to the Cotswolds on the weekend of seventh, organised by Phil, and of course there will be the Easter activity in the upcoming vacation, organised by Michael, both of which sound very good.

Ok I think that's pretty much all, I'll just finish by saying thanks once again to everyone who has helped out and I hope everyone enjoys the rest of what the term has to offer. **PS**

Apologies

...are owed to Christos, who sent me some great pictures of last term's ice-skating, which I've lost. **PS**

Words of Wisdom

Mark: Daisy doesn't moo, she just toasts

Maddy: Fergal Keane was a sixth-form thing

Phil (*in a discussion about German hyperinflation in the 1920s*): There's those really tragic pictures of people carrying money in lawnmowers

Alison: Does anyone else want to feel Hogan?

Kat (*from Queen's*): I won't get to sleep tonight because of Mark and Sarah making too much noise next door

Maddy: "Starboard" - sounds like "right"

PS

The Sound of OUSGG

Act 2, Scene 1 – The group (who for some reason always walk through Oxford in height order) are sitting on the steps of the Martyrs' Memorial. Most are looking at a map. They are quite clearly arguing, but for some reason the sound has failed. Being a musical, this is either a tragedy or a piece of divine intervention. An apology caption appears whilst the audio circuits are checked. Several people storm out, demanding refunds.

PS

Apologies

...to those who adore the *Sound of OUSGG* and wish the editor would stop making crap excuses for not continuing the saga. **PS**

A Wand'ring Minstrel, I

Johnathan Harvey *walks in winter*

As my train rumbled slowly on, I looked out of the window at the Welsh countryside. As it was night, I couldn't see a damned thing of it, but I presume at least that it was there. My family had collectively declared me insane, imagining some orgy of rugged masochism, with us struggling bravely, Scott-like, against fifty mile an hour blinding snow until, dropping with disgustingly hearty exhaustion, we pitched our tents and settled down to thawing our fingers and warming a pot of gruel. Having spent some time with OUSGGers myself, I suspected the reality would be somewhat less extreme and, thankfully, I was not disappointed.

The hut was spacious, well furnished, and we even had mattresses. Not a husky in sight. The first thing that greeted me as I clumped through the door with my rucksack was a table full of alcohol: things were looking up. This was, above all, to be a trip of initiations, discovering and learning the whimsical ways of OUSGG: I had, as it turned out, arrived in the middle of a classic *Faff*, one of the most ancient and venerable of its institutions, I was lead to believe: everyone spread about in straggling, ever-changing groups muttering good-naturedly about tomorrow's route without getting very far. After wandering the currents of debate for a while, the *Faff* whisped out and mysteriously resolved itself as agreement emerged out of the fog. There is, I have found, no point in fighting against a *Faff* – you just have to learn to let it wash over you and wait for something to emerge.

There followed another traditional pastime: ritual murder and public lynching in the form of *Mafia*. Fortunately, I knew something about this game, having played it before with Trinity College Choir, plus some random Australian, in the basement of a youth hostel in Salisbury, shortly after a rather more bizarre game involving pants. Yes, pants. Don't ask... Unfortunately for me, when my moment of glory as a Mafioso came, disaster struck, or rather cracked, when my

elbow clicked at the critical moment. Ever afterwards, I never survived a round – apparently, I had 'shifty eyes'. Doesn't bode well for a trainee nurse, does it...

Oh yes. Walking. On each day there was a 'hard core' walk, and a 'wimpy' walk. Personally, never fancying myself as much of a Shackleton, I plumped for the wimpy walk, which was quite enough for me. The country (when I could actually see it) was of course spectacular. It is stark, hard and beautiful in a muscular, severe way quite alien to us soft shire-dwellers. We are ants, moodily tolerated by an ancient land of memory and stories. I have been in few parts of the world where the presence of the Earth is more keenly *felt*, and it was a hugely impressive experience, even if I was largely on the wimpy walks.



I hope you will forgive all this Romantic crap, but amid all the fuddle about boots and thermals and *Faffs* over map-reading, we should always take time to raise our heads, look about us and be humble before Nature. I hate to be a clichéd old bore, but with the cocoon of society wrapped so snugly around so many of us, it is easy to forget our place in the world. Here, we are inspired and reminded.

Anyway, that's enough of that. After a day's* walking, the transition back to society took the form of a quest for another mythic institution – a

Tea Shop. The search for the perfect *Tea Shop* is somewhat akin to a Scotsman's Platonic search for 'the perfect dram', with each individual shop falling nearer or further away to the *Tea Shop in Itself* in terms of décor, atmosphere, authenticity oh, and tea. I think the best example we found was *Pete's Eats* in Llanberis. Decorated in that essential amateur Dulux Gloss on wood style, packed with photos of outdoor types doing moderate to severely insane things, the killer was tea that came in pint mugs. Say what you like about the tea itself – a pint is a pint. The only downside for me was in a way that there were so many other hikers there too, hobnailing round with their Berghauses and fancy walking poles. Yes there was the comradeship, but I began to feel too much of a tourist.

Evenings were spent in fine style, with excellent food (cheers guys) and home grown entertainment. Deprived of our TVs and computers, for once we had to make our own fun. My experience on *The London Game* (a game based on the Tube map) came in very handy when I next visited London, though I had to restrain an urge to "discover Kensal Green", and we all got to ride roughshod through (American) history in *Chrononauts*. Initiation rituals continued, however, in the form of *Psychiatrist* and *The Dream Game*, where some poor wretched soul sweats to discover the bizarre secret rule the controls the game whilst everyone



else laughs at them. Usually involves something along the lines of the last letter of the first word being the same as your auntie's cat's initial. In poor old Christina's case, it was responsible for

her ending up in a French field, with no clothes on, being 'touched' by Tony Blair. Is there anything that man's not into? I won't give away the answer, as it will deprive some other undeserving soul of the privilege of being humiliated...

Anyway, I've waffled on far too long already, though as this is my journalistic debut I'm keen to make the most of it. It was a great trip, and I'm sure we're all very grateful to Sarah for doing all the donkey work organising everything. I look forward to next year!

*A phrase meant often in a fairly loose way...PS

Time was...

"When walking with a lady or child, a Scout should always have her on his left side, so that his right is free to protect her. This rule is altered when walking in the streets; then a man will walk on the side of her nearest to the traffic, to protect her against accident or mud-splashes etc. In meeting a woman or child a man should, as a matter of course, always make way for her, even if he has to step off the pavement into the mud. So also riding in a crowded tram or railway carriage, no man worthy of the name will allow a woman or child to stand up if he has a seat. He will at once give it up to the woman and stand himself. As a Scout, you should set an example in this by being the first man in the carriage to do it. And in doing so, do it cheerfully, with a smile, so that she may not think you are annoyed with having to do it.

...

Of course, in accidents, men and boys will always see that the women and children are safely got out of danger before they think of going themselves. In two wrecks which occurred in 1907 on the south coast of England, viz., the *Jebba* and the *Suevic*, it was very noticable how carefully arrangements were made for saving the women and children and old people, before any idea was given as to how the men were to be rescued. You should carry your courtesy on with ladies at all times. If you are sitting down and a lady comes into the room, stand up, and see if you can help her in any way before you sit down.

Don't lark about with a girl whom you would not like your mother or sister to see you with.

Don't make love to a girl unless you mean to marry her. Don't marry a girl unless you are in a position to support her and to support some children."

Robert Baden-Powell, *Scouting for Boys* (40th Edition, 1948) PS

Minutes of the 129th F&GPC Meeting, held on Tuesday 3rd February in The Queen's College

Present:

Sam Snelson (Chair), Maddy Bunce (Treasurer) Jenny Robertson, Jacqui Bradley (both chair-elect) Phil Alderton (Secretary), Mark Hawkins (SSAGO Rep.), Michael Ramsden, Alistair Green

The meeting was declared quorate and opened at 17:52

Apologies:

Alison Parker

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

The minutes were approved. Sam thought they were not witty enough. Mark was disappointed by the line spacing.

Matters arising

New members had been added to the mailing lists

Officers' Reports

Chair

Term seems to be going well. High turnout, especially yesterday. Hopefully, the rest will go well as well.

Chair-Elect

Term's under control. They know vaguely what we're doing. It might be case that there might be some additional charges for meetings.

Treasurer

Winter Walking accounts are yet to come. She was supposed to present Natalie Jones' report to AGM, but forget to do so. It's lovely, apparently. It will be handed to the TGM. The Barclay accounts are still not shut.

Current balance is £632. 73. We got £283.31 back from the rally, of which £100 originally came from the old activities account and ought to be returned to the events account. There was a discussion about this, as Events is supposed to be cleared when not in use, but some thought that it might be good to have a base for deposits and things. The events currently has £62.08, but will be boosted by this £100.

Secretary

We are registered

SSAGO Representative

The next rally is at Lancaster - four people are going.

The SSGAO AGM will be held there..

2 issues:

CRB [groans from meeting]: SSAGO have proposed that those who do not have CRB checks will not be allowed to go on rallies, with the caveat that those who have had the form sent off will be assumed to have been cleared. There is an alternative proposal that instead of this, organisers of rallies may negotiate with staff on the campsite to allow non-cleared attendees. It was debated whether this meant the Freshers could not attend the Autumn rally. The problem is that SSAGO formally register new members in Spring, although it was mooted that informing the SSAGO membership officer with a provisional membership list is an acceptable workaround. It was noted in passing that only those people who joined SSAGO after 1st July 2001 need to be checked.

Honorary SSAGO membership:

Given to people who have contributed to SSAGO. Rannzygazoo were awarded it

last time. Any suggestions to be forwarded to Mark.

Motions

"That some of the surplus money from the rally be used to finance a party to celebrate the rally"

A retrospective motion to approve a large expenditure. OUSGG received £280 from the rally, of which £100 was the original loan.

Although we have not yet received the receipts from this, it was important to authorise it.

Maddy to email Tristam for receipts.

Votes for: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Abstentions: 1 MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: Maddy to email Tristam for receipts

"The Quartermaster requests the permission of the F&GPC to look into the possibility of replacing some of the more dated equipment in the stores, including possible purchase of stove(s), tent(s), a games box, but definitely not new rope"

This is fairly self-explanatory. A lot of the equipment is out of date, especially the tents, of which there is doubt if all the tents have all the bits or are waterproof. Two or three are good, the rest are in bits. Quartermaster wishes to get a couple of new tents, definitely a game box (including an OUSGG copy of "FLUX") which would be similar in size to the first aid box, if not smaller.

When questioned about the stoves, the Quartermaster replied that they are in a poor state, and that one good one is better than two crap ones. He will look into dual fuel models.

The chair requested the motion to be split into two parts:

"That OUSGG should acquire a game box"

Votes for: 6 | Votes against: 0 | Abstentions: 1 MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: Michael to obtain game box

"That the quartermaster should examine equipment and look into possibility of replacing some of the more outdated equipment"

Votes for: 7 | Votes against: 0 | Abstentions: 0 MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: Michael to do so.

"That OUSGG should release £300 from the equipment fund for the purchase of a large multi-bedroomed tent for use on rallies and camps."

This motion was withdrawn due to a lack of information.

"That the F&GPC investigate ways of replacing the chipped, cracked, and tatty looking mugs in the N'nN box, due to concerns over hygiene or aesthetics, either by a group purchase of new mugs or by other means."

After a discussion about what "by other means" actually meant, and where new mugs should be brought from, an amendment was moved saying OUSGG should release £20 for this, which was carried. It was also decided to fund the replacement cups out of the main account, for the use of rally supplies last term for N and N meant that costs had been reduced last term. Sam agreed to look into getting some, but asked members with ideas about where to obtain mugs to contact him.

"That OUSGG should release £20 from the main account to cover the cost of new mugs for N&N"

Votes for: 7 | Votes against: 0 | Abstentions: 0 MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: Sam to get mugs

Any other Business

The secretary noted the the Clubs Committee would soon be moving out of Bevington Road, and that the Proctors needed to be informed about our requirements. The Secretary offered to contact the Proctors about this. The Quartermaster asked for an inquiry about whether the new property (location unknown) would have some exterior storage facility for gas bottles. ACTION: Phil to write to Assessor

Mark had received an email from Oxfordshire Network about a "winter walking" event they are running in April. He asked if we should sue.

Sam recently received an email about the Oxford University Trip to Russia. He will forward it to the members list, including the secret part saying that if he gets 10 people to sign up, he gets a free ticket. ACTION: Sam to forward this email on.

The meeting closed at 18:34 PS

The 85th Anniversary Dinner

Caroline Berry and Sarah Berman cordially invite you

Don't forget this year is a big annual dinner, being our 85th year of OUSGG! Come join us in Wolfson College, 7pm on Saturday 2nd week Trinity (8th May) for this wonderful event. It's an opportunity for food, drink and merriment with lots of friends, new and old (oh, and a few speeches).

As well as all our current members, we invite back anyone who's been a member of OUSGG (and we can get in contact with). They're a lovely bunch of people (after all, they were us some years ago) and have some great stories (including Erik's (well, Eric's) first meeting...). They also got us involved in ceilidh dancing at the 80th Anniversary dinner, so we may organise that for afterwards if we've got the strength and people think it is a good idea!

Now to set your mouth watering with our lovely menu ;) Start with a choice of Crispy bacon and watercress salad (well we had to get bacon in there for TFM!) or Goat's cheese with walnut dressing (suitable for veggies). Follow this with one of Roast duck with plum sauce, salmon wrapped in pancetta or aubergine and roast vegetable stack (veggie). As well as all the wine (or soft drinks if you prefer) we will have a lovely dessert of mixed berry pavlova. To round it off, we'll have the normal port and coffees. Anyone worrying about allergies should let us know as soon as possible so we can organise a sensible alternative.

Important details:

Date: Saturday 2nd week, Trinity 2004 (8th May)

Time: Predinner drinks start at 7pm.

Location: Wolfson College. There will be parking in college, though probably only useful to old/ex members who aren't planning on drinking.

Rough cost: This hasn't been finalised since we need to confirm wines etc, but is likely to be somewhere in the region of 30 pounds.

Dress code: *Black tie*. If you're not sure, ask at N&N and people will come up with suggestions (hopefully sensible).

Allergies: Let Caroline or Sarah know ASAP (preferably by emailing annualdinner@ousgg.org.uk).

One last note for the Saturday, it's been suggested that people investigate booking of college guest rooms for some of those coming back. If you think you have anywhere suitable, please let us know (unless you want to organise it directly with an old/ex member who has a use for one).

Punt and picnic

On the next day, we all drag ourselves out of our beds and hangovers for a pleasant lunchtime on the river. Generally, this is a picnic followed by punting up and down the river to relax and unwind. The biggest headache with this is for the organisers (well, for those with severe hangovers, then the organisers) and we will need people's help with college punts, in the hope of keeping the cost down.

When: Sunday 3rd week Trinity (9th May).

Time: To be arranged later

Where: On the Cherwell

Cost: Depends on the cost of punts and food, and unfortunately I've not got the previous budgets to hand. Would expect it to be in the region of 5 or 10 quid though

Anyone wanting to come to either, or both, please can you let us know. We shall endeavour to send out exact costs in the near future, and hope to get cheques in by the end of term! **PS**



Glamour at 2002's Annual Dinner

The OUSGG 2004 Collection

Sarah Berman *introduces this year's exclusive range*

This is the moment you've all been waiting for: the chance to get your hands on some stylish customised OUSGG clothing!

The items below are what I was planning to order, but if you want anything else then take a look at the *Shirtworks* website and let me know what you'd like and I'll see what I can do.

If you'd like some kit then simply take your pick from the list below, email the order to sarah.berman@queens.ox.ac.uk by Thursday of 6th Week (26th Feb) and send/give me a cheque (payable to Sarah Berman) for the appropriate amount. For each item I need

- A) screen printed with OUSGG logo on left breast and large 'OUSGG', Oxford skyline and Erik on the back
 B) embroidered with OUSGG logo on left breast
 C) embroidered with OUSGG logo with 'Oxford University Scout and Guide Group' below on left breast

For screen printing we need a minimum order of 10, so be aware that this option may not be viable, however I am hopeful that we will have enough orders to do it. *Shirtworks* recommend that T-shirts be screen printed and not embroidered.

The items are.....

	ITEM	Price A	Price B	Price C	Sizes
1	T-shirt	£6.95	£8.95	£10.00	S-XXL
2	Women's Fitted V-neck T-shirt	£8.45	£10.45	£11.50	S/M, M/L, XL
3	Polo Shirt	£9.95	£11.95	£13.00	S - XXL
4	Sweatshirt	£11.15	£13.15	£14.20	S - XXL
5	Hooded Sweatshirt	£14.65	£16.65	£17.70	S - XXL
6	Plain Rugby Shirt	£17.95	£19.95	£21.00	S - XXL
7	Quartered Rugby Shirt	£18.95	£20.95	£22.00	S - XXL
8	Fleece Jacket (full zip)	N/A	£19.95	£21.00	S - XXXL

Prices refer to options A, B, C above

If you would like guidance on sizes then do ask. If you desperately want XS in anything then I'll see what I can do, but I think it costs more.

Colours available are:

1. white, cream, green, dark green, blue, navy, sky blue, red, maroon, orange, yellow, black, grey, dark grey.
2. dusty pink, cocoa, camouflage green, nude, stone, turquoise, khaki, red, burnt orange, purple, navy
3. white, black, blue, navy, sky blue, maroon, red, green, grey, light grey, yellow, orange, cream, beige, purple, lilac

4. white, black, green, dark green, grey, light grey, dark grey, red, yellow, blue, navy, sky blue, purple, maroon
 5. black, grey, light grey, dark grey, beige, dark green, maroon, red, blue, navy
 6. white, black, navy, blue, green, dark green, light green, maroon, red, yellow
 7. navy/jade, navy/maroon, black/red, white/navy, black/gold, bottle green/red, navy/sky blue, navy/grey, white/red, navy/purple
 8. black, blue, navy, red, maroon, dark green, purple, grey
- PS

