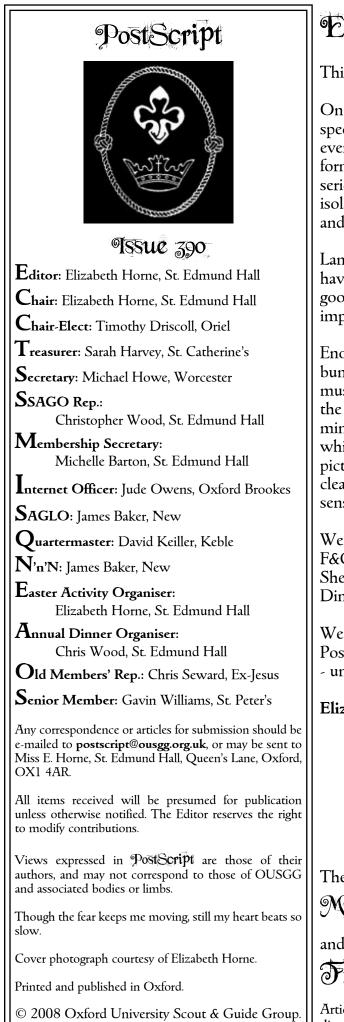
# Genetic Experimentation Goes Horribly Wrong

Hilary Term 2008 - Issue 3 of 3 An Oxford University Scout and Guide Group Publication



# Editorial

This issue of PostScript is miraculous.

On Saturday evening my computer crashed in a most spectacular fashion, refusing to wake from its slumber even after repeated attempts at rousing its recumbent form, leaving the practical production of this issue in serious doubt. Happily it recovered after eight hours' isolation from the mains, a hefty amount of salty language and some minor percussive maintenance.

Language and percussion aside, the isolation seems to have been equivalent to an exhausted human getting a good night's sleep after weeks of deprivation. The improvement in its performance is staggering.

Enough computer talk. Let's discuss content. It's a mixed bundle of articles this time, ranging from philosophical musings on the nature of nothing to scientific studies on the viability of mutant vomiting oranges and minute-byminutes logs of a night out on the town with OUSGG, which unfortunately presents a somewhat skewed picture of events. The moral, if there is one, seems to steer clear of OUSGGers who can't hold their drink, in both senses of the phrase.

We've also got all the news from the blisteringly quick F&GPC, and the first of this year's missives from F. T. Sheep. It may be two calendar months until the Annual Dinner, but it's only three academic weeks away.

We'll see you next term, for three more fun-packed PostScript issues. Try not to work too hard over the vac - unless it's writing articles for PostScript.

# Elizabeth Horne, St. Edmund Hall - Editor

The next issue of PostScript will be published on

Monday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Week,

and so the deadline is **Friday of 1<sup>st</sup> Week**.

Articles received after this time will be included at the Editor's discretion, or may be retained for use in future issues.

# Chair's Report

Elizabeth Horne presents her final stereo address.

All recovered from the events of the weekend?

The bar crawl on Friday of 7th went well, up until the point when people began throwing beer and we almost got thrown out of Far From The Madding Crowd, which is possibly the worst pub in Oxford to be caught throwing beer in.

And so the end is near - tonight will be my final meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed the meetings as much as I enjoyed planning them, and ideally far more than I enjoyed implementing some of them. Traveling with a six foor plank can be tricky, especially when it's a choice between bicycle and public transport.



I'd like to extend my thanks to Tim for providing us with rooms, to Pilly for agreeing to umpire the Assassins game in 7<sup>th</sup> week; to CUSAGC for coming over for the day and relieving me of their mascot, and to Sam for helping me plan the Paparazzi wide game night before.

No need to worry about OUSGG withdrawal symptoms: Easter Activity is only a few weeks away! Work-related stress is a serious problem in Oxford, especially as exams draw near. Easter Activity gives you a few days over the vac where work is actively prohibited, and it's the perfect way to relax and unwind in a non work-related setting.

C'mon! There will almost certainly be fire.

#### Elizabeth Horne, St. Edmund Hall

# Inside This Issue

Ancient architecture broken down into easily available, but archeologically frustrating, building materials.

• Genetic Modification of *C. Sinensis* as a Route to Overcoming Projected Quaternary Foodstock Shortages.

Tampering with DNA can be both fun and educational.

- **F&PGC Minutes** A whistle-stop tour through the quickest meeting OUSGG will ever manage.
- Nothing You get was you ask for.
- Chris & Nick's Night Out With OUSGG A blow-by-blow account of the shameful events of the last pub crawl.
- Some Call Him... Flossy? Let the nominations commence!

...and more!

#### GENETIC MODIFICATION OF *C. SINENSIS* AS A ROUTE TO OVERCOMING PROJECTED QUATERNARY FOODSTOCK SHORTAGES.

E. A. HORNE<sup>1</sup> and A. J. MERRIDEW<sup>2</sup>

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ABSTRACT: Genetic modification of existing organisms to ensure more efficient methods of food production are now seen as the only way in which growing demand can be met, but public opposition to this is still unfortunately prevalent. We attempt to alter public perception by achieving a non-threatening modification in *C. Sinensis*, and gauge its likelihood of public acceptance.

#### INTRODUCTION

Media hysteria surrounding the manipulation of alien genes into commonplace foodstuffs has been mounting since the introduction of genetically modified soya beans in the mid-90s, and despite widespread opposition amongst consumers around 90% of all soya beans cultivated for commercial purposes are now of this glyphosphate-resistant strain (Wikipedia 2008). As global populations rise, the need for biochemically advanced methods of foodstuff production will increase, as limited resources drive previously uneconomically viable agrispaces to become potentially profitable if suitably specialised cultivation-ready strains of arable species exist. Given the current hostility to 'GM' foods, and recent trends for low-intensity, highly inefficient 'Organic' production methods, it is imperative that consumer attitudes to engineered strains of existing species alter before their ubiquity becomes essential for the survival of mankind.

Raising consumer awareness of the positive aspects of consuming genetically enhanced foods is therefore of high priority. Given that genetic modification is usually only attempted to impart a positive survival trait to the species enhanced, especially resistance to one or more blanket pesticides such as Roundup, end-user appreciation of such alterations is minimal and, as no easily discernable improvement to the product is visible upon delivery to the consumer, tends to be mildly negative at best. A product with easily recognisable alteration, imparting a definite positive trait to the organism in question which makes it more appealing to consumers, is needed to alter the public image of enhanced crops.

Following several preliminary studies of the market *C. sinensis* was selected as a suitable target for such a modification, as a fruit widely enjoyed by the vast majority of the population, and with an already large bulk consumption market predicted to rapidly increase in size in 2012.

#### Method



#### **Experimental Procedure**

Visage genes were identified within the donor organism's genome using gDNA library techniques, and isolated using standard Viral procedures. vector insertion of the donor DNA into host C. cells was achieved using sinensis restriction enzymes, with resistance genes included in the inserted package to allow for isolation of the modified organisms via herbicidal discrimination techniques.

First crops of C. sinensis were grown in

Fig. 1: Sample fruiting body from earliest crops of C. Vulgaris, grown under hydroponic conditions.

hydroponic laboratory conditions, with seed stocks reserved for subsequent crop-scale cultivation.

Excellent uptake of the replicated genes led to near perfect specimens being obtained from the start of hydroponic production.

#### **Experimental Results**

True-breeding altered strains of *C. sinensis* were achieved after minimal attempts, creating a new species tentatively named *C. vulgaris*, displaying distinctive face-like markings and indentations on its skin *(see Fig. 1)*. After extensive toxicology tests, the fruits were proven to contain no inherent toxic or carcinogenic properties, and the next phase of testing approved.

#### **Public Reaction**

A focus group comprising around twelve persons in key demographic areas was used to appraise public reaction to *C. Vulgaris*. Feedback was universally positive, for both taste, texture and appearance of the fruits.





Fig. 2 (above) and Fig. 3 (right): Positive reactions to C. Vulgaris, encompassing both appearance (right) and taste (above).

The only observable drawback noticed was the oranges' tendency to vomit orange pulp if handled too roughly, with the mush being ejected up to five feet from the fruiting body in some cases. Accidental synthesis of genes similar to those employed by *Impatiens* to disperse seeds far from the parent plant has been blamed for this unfortunate by-product of modification, and is a suggested area of further study.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of initial practicality studies and focus group reaction, full-scale production of *C. Vulgaris* is projected to begin by 2010, with further increases in cultivation expected to mean a citrus market share of around 75% by 2015. If public reaction remains positive, despite the vomiting, perception of modified foodstuff may be sufficient to ensure acceptance of cow-mackerel by as soon as 2020.

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# Letters

Whatever happened to the "I saw this and I thought of you" advertisements for the Royal Mail?

# Pedant's Revolt

Madam,

I find it disturbing that our esteemed Internet Officer, Miss Owens, appears to owe Oxford Brookes. Could the nature of what she owes them be clarified?

Yours,

Another pedantic committee member

Miss Owens' unfortunate nominative misspelling has been corrected - although I find it amusing that a letter signed by a 'pedantic committee member' should arrive in my Inbox with a "Dear" attached to the beginning. Ed.

### Back In The Denim

Madam,

I would like to register my distress that so many members of OUSGG turned up to Monday

Nick

night's Assassins game wearing clothes that were not black. What was to stop people from mistaking them for mere hired killers? Standards are certainly slipping.

This letter was found attached to a throwing knife embedded in the Editor's desk, next to a box of Cadbury's Milk Tray, and was un attributed. Ed.

# **Questionable Content**

Madam,

While leafing through my various photographs of the term's activities, I was startled to discover incontestable proof that the Ex-Chair is in reality a time-travelling matron from the 1870s.

> Yours, D'Orsay Enthusiast, St. Edmund Hall

Uncanny. Ed.

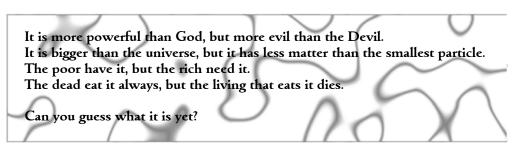
Whistler's Mother



# Nothing James Baker's new best-selling sequel to the hit article "Anything".

Nothing Gotcha!

Author's Note: Nothing should be on this page, as nothing explains nothing better than nothing. I don't think Lizzy would be too pleased if I submitted a blank sheet of paper though, so I guess I ought to write something...



According to Wikipedia, the source of all knowledge, nothing is commonly understood to mean the lack or absence of anything. Now, you'd have thought that would make it a pretty tough topic to write about. And you're right - it is. But it does link in particularly well with my article on Anything, so we'll give it a go. Anything in the name of science! (No pun intended.)

A quick recap for those heathens who failed to read Postscript 387 cover to cover and internalise it: Anything is a soft drink sold in Singapore that comes in six different flavours. Yes, you read right - six. Bet you're wishing that you lived in Singapore right about now, aren't you?

To be honest, I wish you lived in Singapore as well. In a nice way of course. Not because I don't want you around, or you smell, but because it would make the next paragraph so much more meaningful and relevant.

I want you to imagine a world without Anything. That means no more Fizz Up flavoured carbonated beverages. Ever. Could life possibly survive in such a dire set of circumstances? The answer is, of course, no (the proof of which is left as an exercise for the reader). Without Anything, the world would become an empty and desolate shell. The landscape would become barren and the sky would become a dreary shade of grey. Planet Earth would shrivel and die - becoming just another meaningless and insignificant speck in the infinite vastness of the Universe.

Government Health and Safety Warning
This article has crossed the line from depressing
to suicidal. The following limerick is provided as
light entertainment to boost morale.
A preoccupied vegan named Hugh
Picked up the wrong sandwich to chew.
He took a big bite
Before spitting, in fright,
"OMG, WTF, BBQ!"

Nothing, then, is a pretty bad thing. Which is why we should all do our utmost to make sure that there is always something. Anything will do. In fact, Anything would be best, because as we all know - a world without Anything would become



Well, there you have it. I hope you all now understand nothing, and have learnt nothing from this article. Tune in next time for the final part in this pointless trilogy, when I talk about Something.

# Chris & Nick's Night Out With OUSGG

A gritty look at the sordid underbelly of OUSGG's

# An Idea:

- 19:12 Dinner: an attempt at Cassolet, and half a bottle of champagne each. We can explain, honest.
- 19:46 Brainwave for PostScript article. Proceed to TJ's room to get pen and paper. Make no promises re. the return of these items.

### The Turf Tavern:

- 19:52 Arrive at the Turf. Rest of OUSGG are hard to find. They may be using STEALTH.
- 19:54 Chris brings beer to the table; all is well, if not numerically.
- 20:04 Conversation turns to teaching Furbys how to swear.
- 20:07 Luke complains of a cold backside.
- 20:10 Chris breaks pen.
- 20:09 Nick gets in trouble for telling Lizzy's friends to fuck off. Air is cleared.
- 20:17 Answer call on Lizzy's phone from "Mom".
- 20:23 Sarah calls; Lizzy doesn't have her number on her phonebook. Tut tut.
- 20:28 Lizzy disconnects "Mom" on phone, who is actually Chris. Hilarity for the rest of OUSGG. Lizzy is indignant.
- 20:29 Sarah arrives, with a half. WTF?
- 20:30 Nick breaks TJ's pen and then loses half of it the same pen that Chris broke.
- 20:34 Chris is "surprised" no-one comes to him for sympathy and compassion.
- 20:35 First Izzard based joke: "covered in ash". "I like my women how I like my volcanoes... covered in ash/degassing at depth" (delete as inappropriate).
- 20:38 Chris fixes pen.
- 20:47 Luke unzips Nick's pocket.

#### "You can fit 3 people in a double bed." - Chris

- 20:48 Nick's hair is surprisingly sweet.
- 20:51 Lizzy comes up with a flawless plan to turn Chris into Johnny Depp.
- 20:54 The Treasurer is the only OUSGG member not to know the Old Member's account has £319.49 in it.

## "*The Pint.*" - Shell

#### St. Edmund Hall College Bar:

21:06 Everyone has a Sony Eriksson. Oh, the irony.

# "When I get more drunk, I'll take off my jacket and show you my back." - Lizzy

- 21:13 It's nose time apparently.
- 21:14 Lizzy exaggerates for dramatic effect.
- 21:15 Charli arrives; there quite clearly aren't enough seats in the SEH bar.
- 21:16 Another person calls Lizzy, who doesn't have their number in her phonebook. It's "the Lipster!", whoever that means.
- 21:22:15 Everyone's going Aaaarrrggghhhh.
- 21:22:17 Nick throws phone on the floor during a time check.
- 21:26 LIBBY ARRIVES; SHELL AGAIN ASSURES EVERYONE SHE IS NOT DRINKING. NICK SWITCHES TO BLOCK CAPITALS, BUT SWITCHES BACK QUICKLY.

- 21:28 Shell is confused as to why Nick and Chris arrived at the Turf at different times. Surely this is not possible for a married couple? Truth is Chris just went to the bar and Nick went to the table.
- 21:29 Shell complains her birthday is during her exams.
- 21:32 Shell claims she is the Queen Bitch.
- 21:34 Shell agrees her birthday is called "Official Pseudo-Birthday". FACT.
- 21:40 Chris explains differences and similarities between cars and boats. Does he come off in any better light if you add in the context of insurance?

#### "Shell has quite big units." - Luke.

- 21:43 Nick breaks TJ's pen again.
- 21:54 Shell breaks board of JCR presidents, and blames Charli.
- 21:57 We lose Chris & Sarah. Hmm!!

"Is it Sam time?" - Sarah.

- 22:00 Sam arrives. Lizzy and Charli are still missing.
- 22:08 Escape from Teddy Hall.

#### Alfred Street:

22:17 I've broken the pen again; Lizzy has broken the cash machine.

"It saw Nick and thought, 'Ooh, quick and easy." - Sarah

"I was about to say I shouldn't be bending over and taking this, but I am." - Nick "Glad to see you're getting what you want." - Shell

#### **Chequers**:

- 22:28 Nick can't remember what he was going to write that was so amusing at 22:17.
- 22:29 Chris just felt something, a vibration.
- 22:35 Charli is finding something amusing; no-one else has a clue what.

"Well, Charli could run as fast as Courtney Birch." – Chris "Do you know who Courtney is?" – Nick "Well, I know her sister quite well." – Chris

- 22:41 Charli crosses her arms and takes up a defensive position.
- 22:45 Control back of paper regained from infidels. More discussion about Chris and Nick's "marital relations"

#### "Libby's OK, Lizzy and Shell are no good." - Chris

- 22:53 Apparently Lizzy has broken properly broken a chair at approximately 22:28. Poses for camera with the broken shell, not that Shell.
- 22:55 2 men standing at the urinals. One says to the other, "Do you come here often?" The other replies, "Every second pint".

#### "I want two men" – Shell

- 22:55 Chris' handwriting is getting more erratic and LARGER.
- 22:57 So is Nick's.
- 22:58 Sarah has broken the pen and is drunk, drunk enough to not be able to write properly.

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- 23:01 Sarah is taking photos of Nick with his own phone. Sarah has really f\*\*\*ed the pen; it is taking Nick ages to write anything. *(Might his state of severe intoxication also have played a part? Ed.)*
- 23:03 Nick is having problems.
- 23:04 Nick appreciates the irony Sarah is having with writing with this feckin' pen.
- 23:07 Everyone has a look at Lizzy's back! Ooh, sexy.

"Nothing gets between me and Nick." – Luke "Now is not the time for silly buggers. Go and grope Chris' arse." – Lizzy

#### Cornmarket:

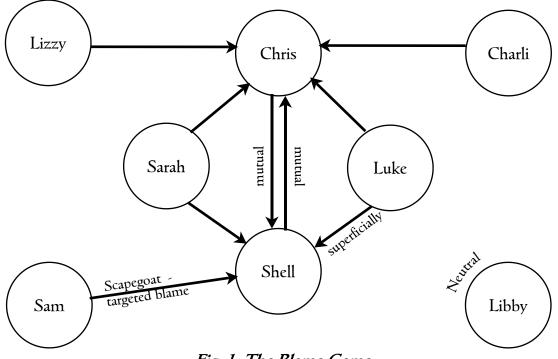
- 23:20 Sarah can't remember what she was going to quote. Something along the lines of it "only being Chris in Nick's life".
- 23:21 Nick and Sarah are lost; Nick doesn't know which end of the pen is which.
- 23:24 Sarah almost gets run over by Sainsbury's trolleys.

#### Far From The Madding Crowd:

- 23:31 Luke cannot decipher the notes in a logical order.
- 23:32 It's all about time stamps quite clearly.
- 23:36 Tap issues are happening.

#### "All she has to do is learn to turn a f\*\*king tap off." - Nick

- 23:39 Chris is in denial.
- 23:41 Chris is a bastard.
- 23:43 Chris and Nick agree to a drunken bet.
- 23:50 FIGHT! Chris vs. Shell. Water and beer spilt in anger. Shell retreats to the ladies' loos for tactics from master tactician E. Horne. *(And to attempt to scrub the beer out of her clothing. Ed.)*



*Fig. 1: The Blame Game. Who blames whom for the ensuing debacle.* 

23:57

- allegedly.

"You absolute f\*\*king bastard." - Shell

*"Shell bought it upon herself, she threw beer upon herself." –* Chris

"She then threw my bear upon herself." - Sarah

"She owes everyone a pint." - Chris

At this point Charli objects. 00:02 Charli owes everyone a pint also. So does Sarah. So does Libby. *(I fail to see how. Ed.)* Charli wants a glass of lemonade. Chris looks like he wet himself so it's all OK.

"I was in the ladies loos at the time so I can't comment" - Sarah

- 00:07 Lizzy delivers a press release: "As Shell's spokesman my client states that it was an unprovoked attack, and has no further comment."
- 00:08 Nick is still sitting on wet newspaper. What a dedicated journalist he is.
- 00:09Shell didn't say goodbye.00:10Libby is a bit old for all this.
  - "I like paper aeroplanes, I don't make enough of them." Somebody

### The Walk Home:

00:15 Leave The Madding, photos with strange cap.00:17 Charli likes seeing Chris' pashmina blowing in the wind.

End - with chips, cheese, mayo and coleslaw.

# Minutes of the 142nd F&GPC

The Shortest F&GPC to take place in living memory!

St Aldate's G&D's, Thursday 7th February 2008. Meeting starts at 19:00.

### Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved. Elizabeth Horne (EH) approved of the font, saying it was not designed by a paedophile.

### Matters arising

*Post Script back issues:* had not yet been printed, but were to be printed with the latest edition of Post Script on Monday.

*Printing costs:* currently, Post Script is being printed in Earth Sciences, where the paper is free, meaning that the total cost is less than if OUSGG got free printing but had to buy the paper.

Whispy: has been returned to CUSAGC.

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### Reports

#### Chair

The term is here now, right here, right now, right here, right now. It has gone well so far. Coming up is the bar crawl on Friday of  $6^{th}$  week, along with the normal meetings.

#### Chair-Elect:

Term is mostly planned, one week is currently missing. He has no pipeline, but does have a comprehensive system of carrier pigeon.

#### Treasurer

We have £388.32 in the current account (to be £650.72 when the Annual Dinner deposits have been sorted). The events account has £192.15, and the Old Members' has £319.49. Luke Cartey (LC) was shocked at the amount of money in the Old Members' account. The Winter Walking accounts have now all been received. EH was shocked by the fact that Jenny Robertson (JR) has paid for WW and for annual dinner 2007. *Secretary:* OUSGG has been successfully reregistered with the Proctors. The secretary received a note from the Senior Member, saying that the registration form had been sent onwards.

#### SSAGO

There is a rally this weekend (or next, thinks EH). It will be a Crystal Maze ralley, hosted by West Lancashire. EH asked whether the SSAGO rep knew anything about the SSAGO ball, to which he responded 'who?'. EH has emails which she will forward. There is also a Network gathering over Easter. Sarah Harvey (SH) asked if you can go if you're not technically a Network member. The SSAGO rep decided that you could.

#### Membership Secretary

There are currently 41 members, 22 current, 19 old. This does not include TFM. CRB checks are currently in progress, and will be sent off in the next couple of weeks.

#### Internet Officer

The internet exists, but is not 'still there'.

#### Motions

None.

#### AOB

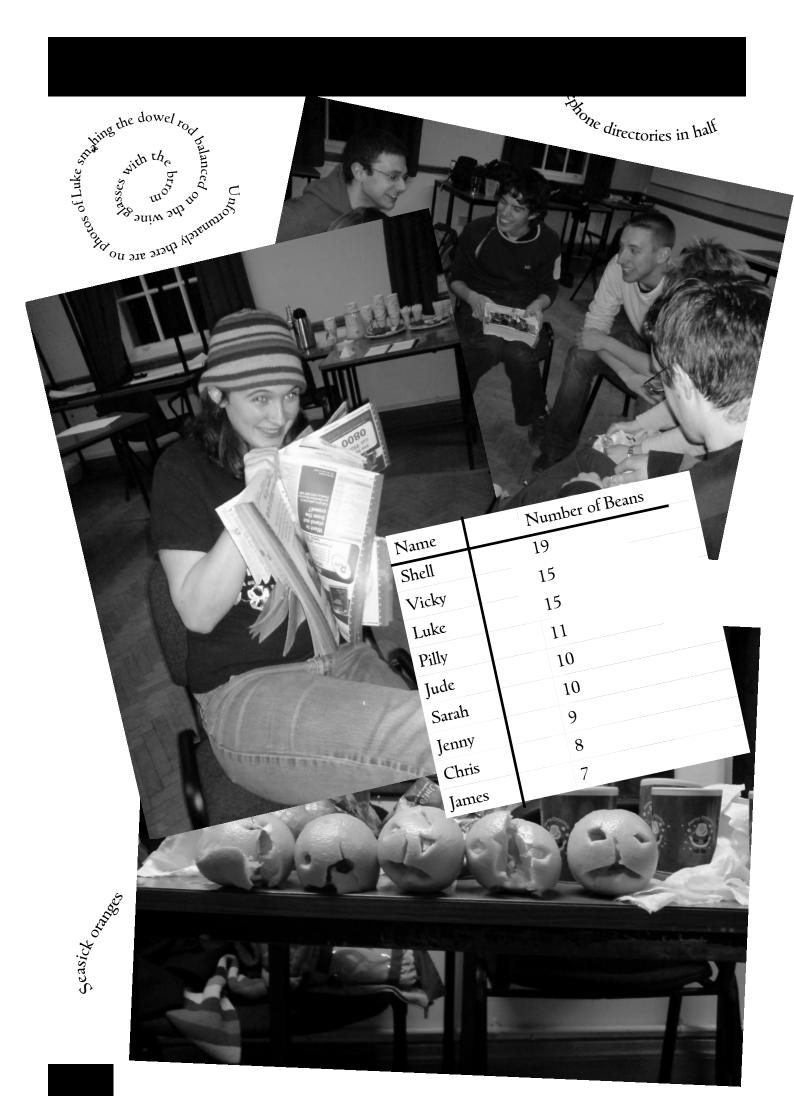
Chris Wood (CW) asked if Winter Walking was elected this term. Tim Driscoll (TD, 'the constitution') replied that it was. Nick Scroxton is apparently running for the post.

The Year In OUSGG articles are to be edited by EH. Since they are to be given to SSAGO, they should reflect the group appropriately. She will do it next week.

Jude and LC met when they were both on their way home.

EH had an email from a non-member about a newspaper article, which covered an appeal lodged with the Equal Opportunities Commission about Scouting's discrimination against atheists, as the promise requires God. He suggests that we follow the Principles of the Founder and support the Scout Association against atheists. EH is against this.

Meeting closes at 19:23.







# Some Call Him... Flossy?

This year's anonymous helper has kindly forwarded the following from message F. T. Sheep.

The 89th Annual Dinner is only two months away, and so the time has come for me to come out of whatever passes for ovine hibernation.

Some of you are known to me already, but allow me to introduce myself for the benefit of those I have yet to meet. My name is Flossy The Sheep, and I present awards at every Annual Dinner, given for those outstanding deeds of heroism, tomfoolery and insanity that set OUSGGers apart.

Send your award nominations to flossy@ousgg.org.uk, and help me to decide who to honour - and for what - in 2008.



Baa!

Flossy has spoken.

Email nominations to flossy@ousgg.org.uk

# **Other Events**

Monday of 0th Week: Trinity Term starts here! Full details TBC.

For full details of upcoming meetings and events, visit our website at www.ousgg.org.uk.