

postscript

the publication of the Oxford University Scout & Guide Group



Ahoy, there!

Summer Trip

Dinghy racing, sand building and more!

Rejected promotional material

Spice up your society

A-Z

Handy guide to all things OUSGG

Issue 412

Issue 1 of Michaelmas Term 2010

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Issue 413 will be published on **Monday 5th Week Michaelmas (8th November 2010)**. Submissions should be submitted to the editor before midnight on **Friday 4th Week (5th November 2010)**. Submissions may be made digitally by e-mailing postscript@ousgg.org.uk.

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Ahoy, there!

Welcome, one and all, to the brand new term and with it a brand new-look PostScript. Yes, someone has left me in charge (again) - a dangerous mistake, I fear!

For the uninitiated, PostScript is our thrice-termly newsletter produced by some poor sap who didn't say no quickly enough last Trinity, with all articles contributed by **you**, the members! As well as serving as a record of our activities throughout the year, it gives you a chance to stretch your creative muscles.

We've got an issue packed - literally* - full of goodies, including reports on our sailing trip over the summer, a full A-Z of OUSGG and a very special peek at the inner workings of the OUSGG PR machine!

As ever, PostScript depends on you to function - so get on those thinking hats and send me those articles for the next issue.

Luke Cartey
Editor, Magdalen College

** The scourge of PostScript editors through the ages, ten pages of content - do you compress to eight or fill to twelve?*

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Chair's Report

Here we are again at the start of another Michaelmas term. You can count the number of meetings we've had so far on one hand (that's missing two fingers), but it's been a promising start to the term. We've seen plenty of new faces which is great, and I hope we'll be seeing a lot more of them over the coming weeks.



Our dapper chair

We've got a great term lined up for you all (or at least, I think so - but then I guess I would), with everything from Murder Mystery evenings to playing a giant 10 person Xylophone. There's also the annual bonfire, which this year is going to be bigger and better than ever as Oxfordshire Network have been invited along. And there's plenty more going on, but rather than bore you all with the details now I'll let you look it up on the website next time you're in need of procrastination activities.

I guess that's all I have to say for now, so I'll sign off here.

James Baker
Chair, New College

Congratulations!

Keith Crothers (Ex LMH) married Sarah Hamling on 25th September 2010, having met on stage at the 21st World Scout Jamboree 2007.



Our congratulations to both Keith and Sarah!

Sailing for Adventure

*In recent years, Summer Trips have taken a distinctly nautical theme - and this year was no different as we set sail for France aboard our very own sailing yacht - Discovery. We never quite made it to France, thanks to a rather inconsiderate wind, but we spent a week sailing up and down along the South coast instead. **James Baker** explains...*

Monday 19th July

We arrived on the Monday morning - after an very early start for most of us who had to travel to Southampton from Oxford - with most of us having little idea of the difference between our sheets and our stays. But we were reassured when we met our Captain and Mates (Pete, Tom and Andy) for the week who seemed to have a much better idea than us about how to sail. After loading up the ship with food and a short introduction and safety briefing, we were off into the deep blue yonder... of the Solent. It wasn't long however before we were all at home and we were racing past the Needles at a rate of literally knots.

Several hours later, we docked up alongside Swanage pier and found to our disappointment that it was all locked up. As it was getting dark, we decided to berth there anyway, and excepting several attempts to break off of the pier (with varying degrees of success) we spent a night on the pier (where we played a series of increasingly vicious games of Uno).



Tuesday 20th July

The next morning, the brilliant sun we had experienced the first day had been replaced by a thick sea fog. We sailed on anyway though and Pete caught some fish off the back of the boat whilst the rest of us peered anxiously into the fog on the lookout for other ships, buoys and floating fridges - all of which we were trying our hardest not to bang into.



We made it through the fog by lunchtime though and arrived at Weymouth safely. After a lunch of fish and chips and a wander around the town, we headed to the beach for an inter-watch sand sculpture competition. Port watch, went for a self-referential masterpiece - a giant bottle of port with a watch on the label pouring actual liquid (though unfortunately just sea water) into a glass. Starboard watch decided to go for a feeble recreation of the Titanic - it didn't even have the right number of funnels. Unfortunately however, the independent judge had little appreciation of fine art and went for the Titanic. Cretin.

After dinner back on the ship, we headed back into town for a trip round some of the local watering holes (in which took place a deeply involved conversation regarding toilet decor, but that's another PostScript article), and then it was back to our bunks to rest up for the next day of sailing.

Wednesday 21st July

Before setting off the next morning though, we had a dinghy relay race across the harbour. Keen to make up for being cheated out of victory in the sand sculpture competition, Port watch put

on a stellar showing and beat Starboard watch with seconds to spare. After that, it was back to a less exhausting way of travel and we sailed to Lulworth Cove - narrowly missing a sail race - for another play on the dinghy and a bracing swim for those foolish enough to brave the cold waters.

It was then off to Brownsea Island where we planned to spend the night. Unfortunately, by the time we got there we weren't able to anchor up close enough to the island to go ashore as we planned, so we spent the evening on the boat playing Mafia.



Thursday 22nd July

From Brownsea Island we headed across the bay into Poole where we spent the morning exploring the town (including a very tasty - and generous - sweet and fudge shop). Whilst in Poole we saw quite possibly the worst way to encourage people to recycle - street theatre where Indiana Jones, Lara Croft and assorted other action heroes tackled the evil recycling bin stealing bad guy. It certainly didn't make me want to recycle (any more than I do already), and given they seemed to be targeting the tourists more than the locals, I can't help feeling the council were wasting their money...



Once back on board we set sail for Portsmouth (well, Gosport more accurately) and experienced the roughest sea conditions of the trip... slight. Fortunately, we were all strapped on to the

deck and none of us went overboard, but there were a few hairy moments when the water actually came up over the bow!

Having made it to Gosport with the crew intact, we celebrated by heading to the harbour pub which was on an old light boat. It was an interesting experience to be drinking in a sloped pub that was bobbing gently, but an altogether pleasant one for the last night of the trip.

Friday 23rd July

Before setting off on our last day of sailing, we sent a couple of OUSGGers up the mast to get some birds eye photos of the boat and crew. We then went on a short trip around Portsmouth harbour before beginning the voyage back to Southampton. Once out in the Solent though, we decided to send the Dinghy out one last time to get a few snaps of Discovery as it sailed past. After a couple of runs, Discovery hit its targeted (the Dinghy) and we decided we should probably carry on with the sailing. At long last, the wind finally reared its head and we had a good run back into Southampton.

We made it back into dock and spent an hour or so clearing out our stuff and getting the ship.. errr... ship shape. It was then time to say our goodbyes to both the boat and the crew. We presented fudge and neckers to Pete, Tom and Andy as a thank you for keeping us all (mostly) dry for the past week. We'd all had a really fantastic week and it was slightly saddening to be land lubbers once again.



All in all, a Summer Trip worth remembering, and definitely one worth repeating some day.

More photos from the trip can be found at: <http://www.ousgg.org.uk/gallery/st10>

A-Z

Like everything in Oxford, OUSGG has plenty of lingo to understand - luckily we've provided you with an A-Z!

Annual Dinner – A black tie dinner, usually followed by an after party. Complete with good food, random awards and plenty of alcohol.

Bonfire Night – To be held this year on Monday of 4th week, at Youlbury. Join us for fireworks, baked potatoes, marshmallows and, of course, a giant fire.

Chair – The person in charge of the term's events. Elected termly, this job currently belongs to James.

Drinking – Not necessary, but very much encouraged. If, for once, there's a meeting that doesn't involve it, we'll make up for it by heading to the pub afterwards.

Erik the Panda – Our much loved mascot. Usually to be found with the N'n'N organiser, his birthday always happens to fall on the Monday before Pancake Day.

Faffing – An ability quickly acquired by all OUSGG members, used to clog up inboxes.

Girl Guides – “The female form of Boy Scouts, a highly biased and irritating movement with a stupid uniform, scary leaders and lots of Church-going ten-year-olds.” Or so says Urban Dictionary, at least. But don't worry, you don't have to be a Guide or a Scout to join us.

Hogan – Our other mascot, a small koala whose duty is to help Erik out at Annual Dinner

In-jokes – Believe me, we have lots. Oc-

asionally you'll actually come across someone who knows how they started. The origin of others is lost to time...

Jaffa cakes – A staple of the OUSGGer's diet. Found, for a short amount of time at least, at N'n'N meetings [*Depends on the size of the Jaffa Cake - Ed*].

Knapping – From which we must protect Erik. Threats come from other SSAGO (Student Scout and Guide Organisation) groups, as well as our own ex-members.

Lunch – Time for another meeting (also see N'n'N).

Monday – Our main meeting night where we do all sorts of fun stuff.

N'n'N – Held on a Thursday lunchtime, you bring your lunch, we'll provide the tea, coffee, biscuits and, of course, the gossip. N'n'N stands for Nosh and Natter and will, this term, be held at St John's.

Old members – Former members of the group who love us so much they refuse to leave us completely. Usually can be found at annual dinner and other important events. Do not confuse these with our current members, many of whom are just as 'old' but have managed to find a way to stay in Oxford.

PostScript – What you're reading now. Published three times a term, all the content is written by our members. Deadlines are optional. [*Some people disagree - Ed*]

Quotes – Whenever someone says anything funny, usually completely innocent comments which can be misinterpreted when taken out of context, this is written down to be published in the next edition of PostScript.

Rallies – Termly weekend camps organised by different SSAGO groups. Usually includes campfires, drinking, singing and silly games.

Summer Trip – A trip in the summer. See the report from the last trip on page 4.

TGM – Termly General Meeting, where we discuss important things and elect the next committee. Followed by a meal out.

Uniform – not required. We do, however, have a huge range of stash, and our own neckers.

Variety – We try to get as many different things into each term as possible. Check out our term card to see what we're doing this term.

Winter Walking – Held over the winter vacation, with optional walks of varying degrees of difficulty. It's your choice whether you want to climb the steepest hill around, or just amble to the local teashop or pub.

Xylophone – To be used at our African Drumming session in 7th week. Apparently it's 4m long.

Youlbury – Our local campsite. It has various activities such as crate challenge and high ropes and is the site for our bonfire night celebrations.

Zoinks! – I'm outta here!

Letters

Sir,

Every time someone uses Courier New, Copperplate Gothic, Comic Sans or Papyrus, God kills a kitten.

LH

Spying?

We don't spy on our Cantabrian cousions, oh no.



FOUND

One mens long-sleeved jersey shirt, size L, navy with pale blue sleeves. Screen-printed OUSGG logo, front only

and

One purple womens v-neck long-sleeved jersey shirt

and

One white bra

All believed to have been misplaced around the time of the Hilary rally, and subsequently forgotten.

All inquiries, claims or suggestions to Lizzy Horne.

Rejected Promotional Material

Lizzy Horne gives us an insight into some of the rejected promotional material for this year's Freshers' Fair.



“Hello, ladies. Look at your Chair, now back to me, now back at your Chair, now back to me. Sadly, he isn't me, but if you stopped joining lady-dominated student clubs and switched to OUSGG, he could actually be me. Look down, back up, where are you? You're on a boat - with the man your Chair could look like. What's in your hand, back at me, I have it: it's a termcard with two trips to that thing you love. Look again, the termcard is now diamonds. Anything is possible when your Chair is a member of OUSGG, and not a lady. I'm on a panda.”

Quotescript

- Shell:** He vibrated off the bed the first time.
- Luke:** I don't actually spend that much time in the ladies loo.
- Lewis:** Can I put my straw in your straw?
- Geoff:** Are you interested in fun?
- Fresher:** No.
- Jude:** NnN, it's more fun than having children claw out your eyes.

Fun Facts!

We signed up **202** people over the course of Freshers' Fair (well done), **63%** of whom were female. Our most female friendly member was **James**, with an incredible **2:1** female to male ratio. Jude and Paddy were the most (relatively) male friendly - **43%** of the people they signed up were men!

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Late articles will only be included at the editors whim (you have been warned!).