

PostScript

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Scout & Guide Group

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In this Issue:

Editorial

Senior management call back an old Editor to shake down OUSGG's premier publication and usher in the glory days once again...

Chocolate Chip?

As biscuit tax soars demonstrators blockade Tesco in an effort to keep N'n'N fueled-up with the right cookies.

Kandersteg 2000

Stephen's Palm Pilot brings you every last detail from the Summer trip of the millennium.

Gareth Missing!

OUSGG's psychologist speculates on the fate of the Group's favorite Old Blaké Member

OUSGG:

Alpha to Omega

An alphabetical tour of the Group to help new members settle in.

PLUS!

Sofa Speakings

Let's Trip Out

Page Numbers

WELCOME BACK!

EDITORIAL

Chris Seward, Jesus

Hiya. It's good to be back, isn't it? Of course, the naïve amongst you might, perhaps understandably, assume that the above headline refers to you lot coming back to Oxford. Anyone who's been around for a while though, will instantly recognise that, in fact, it is an egotistical reference to the fact that someone has let me edit *PostScript* again.

As I recall, I first did it during my second year in Oxford, way back before the mechanical printing press was invented... but look how things have come on since then? Lightbulbs, paper, computers even – all of these things created by mankind to help me bring quality news to a discerning audience.

Speaking of which – enough about me: how are you? Did you have a good summer? How's Oxford now you're back? Really? You weren't on the Switzerland Trip? Oooh, you missed a treat – bad luck. Oh, you're a Fresher? Couldn't really have been there then, I suppose. Better check out the run down on OUSGG starting on page 2.

How do you make up for being a Fresher? Well, it's tough, I'll grant you that – there's only one way to get out of it I'm afraid. You'll have to check out this term's trips, all advertised in this

issue, then sign-up for them all. Go along. Have a great time. And when you're done there, come back to Oxford and write a nice lengthy, relaxing article about them for this high impact journal... thus instantly and officially erasing your "Fresher" status forever! Bonus.

"Groan" says the rest of OUSGG, as they realise the tactical error that is letting Chris take the helm of this papyrus swathed juggernaut once again. If anyone can actually remember back to when I last got to put "*PostScript Editor*" in my .sig file (not that I had one), you'll recall that *PostScript* was at a peak time for scandalous articles and gossip; that quotes were at an all time high; that Guide Commissioners would write in

and complain (oops!!); that poems littered the pages like leaves on the ground in the finest of autumns; that jibberish was spelt correctly with a "j" and that OUSGG members hung on every word that was printed.

Help me to launch a new era for pointless journalism by writing for *PostScript*. All contributions are gratefully received. Especially scandalous ones.

Go on: you know it makes sense.



"Read all about it"...
with a magnifying glass

Hello.

We were told we could say what we liked in this, so as you'll probably gather we will be doing just that. Maybe some of you are wondering who we are. You're not alone. This is something we contemplate on a regular basis. Maybe some of you aren't. So why bother reading this? Either way you're going to be told. Look away now if you are going to be watching the highlights later on.

We're the Sofa for OUSGG this term. Great new deals on three piece suites can be found in the Michaelmas DFS Sale this week, but remember, offers must end Sunday. This term's competition is to spot as many mistakes as you can in the termcard. We appear to have produced one as if by magic (never did get the hang of getting those rabbits out of that hat...) but it's not up to usual OUSGG standards. We thought it would bring a little more excitement into the lives of all

those prospective pedants out there.

We'd also like to say hello and welcome to all the Freshers out there who have decided to read this, and to anyone else who has spared the time and eyesight. So, hello and welcome.

We hope everyone enjoys the term, for those in Hawaii it will probably be quite sunny so don't forget your hat.

OUSGG: ALPHA TO OMEGA

Chris Seward, Jesus
(and thanks to Caroline for trying to help)

α is for **ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARD CEREMONY**, the spangly, food filled Trinity Term event for the smartly dressed OUSGG member.

β is for "**BAAA**", and exciting sound made by sheep... and is also for **BEN**, an overly friendly member who's now moved to Birmingham's BUSAG.

γ is for **GEAR SHOPS**, havens placed upon this earth as outlets for our financial surplus... and is also for **GARETH** who is a gear shop in his own right.

δ is for **DEMOCRACY**, a fantasy notion proposed before each Committee election, whereby there is a choice of candidates for each post.

ε is for **ERIK**, OUSGG's panda mascot: older than any of us and clothed in *sub fusc*. Don't try and persuade him to sit your exams – the Proctors will recognise him.

ζ is for zeta, the sixth letter of the Greek alphabet and nothing to do with OUSGG whatsoever. Okay, okay, even I can't think of something for z. Sorry.

η is for **EMAIL**, the communication technique of the third millennium. Check it regularly or risk the wrong place, the wrong time and the wrong week...

θ is for **TRIPS**, a core OUSGG activity which serves to bring members closer together in the pursuit of adventure. Go on as many as you can.

ι is for **IN JOKES**, of which there are many. Once you understand them all, you can sit back and know for sure that you are a true member of the Group.

κ is for **KEYBOARD**, an instrument which you will use joyfully and often when creating *PostScript* articles for your favorite magazine.

λ is for **LUNCHTIME MEETINGS**, or N'n'N as they are more usually known. There's a prize for the most innovative lunch that is brought along each week.

μ is for **MONDAYS**, the only night of the week truly worth getting out of bed for. Check the termcard for details. Check your email for the correct details.

ν is for **N'N'N**. Wait a sec, I've already mentioned that, haven't I? Oh, well – it happens quite a lot, so two mentions isn't too bad, I suppose.

ξ is for the most annoying squiggle of a letter I ever came across when I was doing Maths. No: I can't think of anything for x. Going well this, isn't it?

O is for **OLD MEMBERS**, people who prove that just because they've got a job, it doesn't mean you have to leave university. Distinct from members who are old.

π is the sort of foodstuff that will win the prize at N'n'N. However, bring them too often, and people might start to enquire as to which person consumed a large number.

ρ is for **RALLY**, the termly SSAGO event which we sometimes go to. Unless it's really far away. Or there's accidentally another trip that weekend.

σ is for **SHEEPIES**, little fluffy white cute balls of wool that populate the countryside throughout Britain, bringing joy and happiness to people everywhere.

τ is for **TGM**, the meeting which caps off every term during which new Officers are "elected". To alleviate the boredom of this, it is always followed by a nice meal out.

υ is for **UNIFORM**, the only component of which we have is the necker – get yours at bargain price from the SSAGO Rep. It's a quality piece of work in red, blue and gold.

φ is for **FAFF**, OUSGG's favorite and most practiced activity. You'll pick up this skill in no time and it'll help you fit right in. Or it'll drive you nuts, one or the other.

χ is for **CHRIS**, Editor of *PostScript*... and this article. Good guy who'd been here a while. Likes telling people what to do. Humour him – he's only trying to help.

ψ is for **PSYCHIC**, what you'll have to be to gain anything from this list. Looking back at it, there's quite a lot missing. Not sure how the Greeks survived with so few letters.

ω is for **OH MY GOSH**, look at the time. I'll never get the rest of *PostScript* done at this rate. You'll just have to work the rest out for yourself, I'm afraid. Oops.

LETTERS

An Apology

Now, this letters page is supposed to be filled with stuff that you lot send in to bring up issues, provoke debate and generally make your point. And I had actually got a letter to print here. Only it was an email. It was from "Disgruntled in South Wales", and it pertained to the award (or not) of "Gareth's Special Award" at last Trinity's Annual Dinner.

Unfortunately, I've just opened up the Word file that I chucked it in a few weeks back, only to discover that it

has mysteriously vanished! An early cock-up for the new Editor it seems. Please accept my most humble apologies and rest assured that the appropriate sector on my hard disk has been duly punished. It won't happen again.

However, if "Disgruntled" would like to furnish me with a fresh copy of said document, I will be happy to add it to the (no doubt bulging) *Letters Page* in the next issue.

And if you believe any of that, you'll believe anything.

The Editor

Camp : Help Wanted

The Scout Group where I am an ASL are holding a camp at Youlbury running from the 20th October to 24th October... (weekend of 2nd-3rd Week I think)... Would anyone be willing to help out a bit during the camp?

The chances are that there will only be one leader there if no-one is able to help... I will probably be there most of the weekend.

Thanks,

Richard Owen, Lincoln

OUSGG Committee : Michaelmas Term 2000

Chairman	Natalie Jones (Wadham) Caroline Berry (Keble)	Scout & Guide Liaison Lunchtime Meetings	Alice Lovegrove (Queen's) 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)

The Palm Pilot Diary of Stephen White, aged 20½

If only Adrian Mole had had the level of technology that OUSGG possesses, he too might have been able to get to Kandersteg this summer. Exclusive to PostScript, the highly sought after account of this expedition from the perspective of Stephen's shiney pocket friend is serialised for your occular pleasure over the course of this term. First up, it's the catchily titled "1st to the 5th July"...

Saturday 1st July 2000

I set off towards David's uncle's (Jonathon since calling him David's uncle all the time sounds silly) at just gone 4:30. I'd intended to leave at or before 4, but not starting the packing until after lunch destroyed that idea. The journey went well and I arrived at about 7pm, just in time to see David & Jo walking down the road. I parked in the lane and then ran down the road after them. I failed to catch them up, but correctly guessed that they were heading for the station. I found them there waiting for Paul to arrive on the non-existent 7pm train. He arrived at 7:20.



We then had to wait for Jonathon to arrive. He'd been driving a truck taking racing cars to Silverstone and back, and evidently had a lot slower journey than I did.

When he returned we had pizza and then went to bed - discovering in the process that Paul had forgotten his alarm clock.

Sunday 2nd July 2000

Chris, Natalie & Richard had to set off straight after Wadham Ball - i.e. at 6am. Amazingly they made it to us at only slightly after quarter to 9, and more amazingly we were not only up but even had the car packed. Anyway we moved some stuff into Chris's car (despite his claims that the boot was already full) and set off for Dover in plenty of time for the 10am ferry - which was helpful since that was the one that we were booked on.

We had breakfast on the ferry before arriving in Calais and setting off on our long drive across Europe. David and I drove David's Renault. We didn't have any major problems, with the only real incident being a particularly annoying French fuel station that had an automated system that wouldn't take any of our credit cards. In our haste to leave we managed to leave the filler cap by the pump; fortunately we realised this not much further along the road and returned for it.

We stopped a couple of times at pre-determined points to meet the other car (Chris's automatic, Jo was unimpressed at the lack of a clutch pedal [*Didn't stop her using one!* - Ed]). The last time was at a service station just inside Switzerland, where we had spaghetti bolognese, before completing the remaining leg of our journey and arrived in Kandersteg at shortly after midnight. Some KISC (Kandersteg International Scout Camp) staff drove our kit up to our site (there were lots of them hanging around waiting for 122 Irish to arrive), where (after we'd found torches) we discovered how to erect our tents. Sleep followed fairly shortly - the drivers were tired after the drive and Richard and Natalie were still tired after the ball.

Monday 3rd July 2000

For some reason we didn't get up especially early. I finished booking into the centre as Jo, Paul and Natalie set off to do the first and most important task of the day - buying food. I caught them up as they headed into town and we bought breakfast. Back at camp we had breakfast followed by a traditional OUSGG faff deciding what to do for the day.

In the end we decided to go for a not too adventurous walk, following the river Kander towards Seldon. The route started by heading up a particularly spectacular and steep river valley, then flattened out and headed towards a little

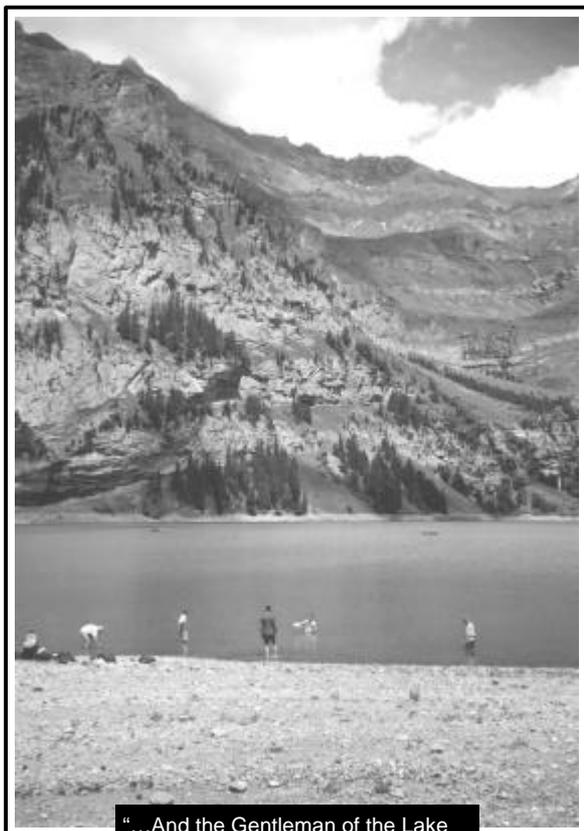
shop where we bought coke and/or ice-cream. After this we continued along the (now flat) valley towards Seldon before turning and following the road back down into Kandersteg.

Back in Kandersteg we bought and then made dinner - fish in tomato and vegetable sauce with rice.

After diner we headed into the village (to Des Alps) where we had a drink and failed to do Richard's crossword. At 11ish we returned to the campsite where we watched some rapidly approaching thunderstorms up until the point where it actually started raining and we went to bed.

Tuesday 4th July 2000

The morning started in what is quite possibly the worst way for a morning to start when camping - that is with a continuation of last night's thunderstorm. With the weather looking so wonderful we decided on a day trip into Bern as the day's activity. Most of the day in Bern is probably better documented in the photos I took rather than written down here [*specimens not submitted*]. We did have fun trying to leave Bern, or more specifically trying to find the car in the car park.



"...And the Gentleman of the Lake rose out of the waves and presented David the Pedant with his frisbee."

The evening meal was chicken in a tomato and vegetable sauce - so basically the same as yesterday's, but nicer since I'm not keen on fish. Oh, to make it look more different we had it with pasta and fish.

After dinner David and I went to the programme office, which was unhelpfully closed.

Wednesday 5th July 2000

I started the morning by disappearing off down to the phone box to ring Kerry at 8:30 - which was 9:30 here so I didn't have to make a special effort to get up early. She declared me mad at wanting to ring her from Switzerland, but seemed pleased that I'd bothered to do so non-the-less.

When I returned David and I went to the programme office again, this time (more helpfully) finding it open. Met David Patchell (a friend from Hampshire Venture, who I knew was helping at KISC); BRIEF chat.

Oeschinensee

[Stephen doesn't seem to have written anything about this, unhelpfully. Er, er - we walked up to a big lake near Kandersteg. It had water in it. The we bimbled along to a big slide thing which we all had a go on. Which was nice - Ed]

Chris decided to make a campfire to sit round after the meal, unfortunately in doing so he moved a rock under which there was an ants nest. This had the side effect of spreading the nest across a large proportion of our campsite. We watched the ants as they quickly gathered up their eggs or larvae or whatever it is ants have and scuttled off with them to wherever they were trying to re-form their nest.

In the evening we had a faff planning hikes and I wrote postcards to all the important people followed by ones to ISZ & hack before it got too dark.

[Well there's a lesson for you. When Stephen sends you a file saying something along the lines of "it's not quite ready for publication", what he means is that it's been poured straight out of his little pocket computer and is, in fact, half garbled. Oh well, never mind. I'll tidy up the next installment in advance, rather than leaving it 'till the last minute and then not having time. Going well this issue, isn't it? - Ed]

Want more? Same Bat Time; same Bat Channel.

Winter Walking™ 2000

OK... let's start with the basics, for the benefit of Freshers. I am an OUSGG Old Member studying at Birmingham, much beloved to the older members of the group (that's a point, can someone send me my Old Member's application form please?). Despite this, I somehow still manage to get myself elected onto Committee positions, which is directly contrary to large lumps of the OUSGG constitution, and indeed some of the University's constitution.

So, this year I am (again) Winter Walking organiser, and it's my job to tell you what goes on via the best medium available. This will be an email list later on, but right now it's our beloved *PostScript*.

OK, Winter Walking is OUSGG's (slightly weird) way of celebrating New Year. So, from Thursday 28th December

to Wednesday 3rd January, we will be shacking up in a bunkhouse in the Lake District. Lots of walking will happen, from the short and easy type (generally featuring me), to the ridiculously tough and climbing type (province of Chris and assorted Old Members). There will, naturally, be much quaffing of ale (or desired beverage), cracking of in-jokes, and generally having a good laugh.

The cost of this trip I am pessimistically setting at £11 per person per night, but there should be a substantial refund, unless you don't pay me enough (Stephen!). If David Ball is reading this and wants to come, I haven't forgotten that I never refunded him for Easter's trip, so he is £48 in credit.

But, before we do anything, I need to know numbers and soon. So if this sounds at all fun (and you will be

Ben Bateson, ex-St. Catz

thoroughly persuaded that it is), fill in the application form [*see back cover*], and return to me at:

Maple Bank 6/46
The Vale
Church Rd.
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 3TE

I'm assuming you will have the sense to stick them all in the same envelope this time. The deadline for this is As Soon As Possible, preferably no later than end of 2nd week [*optimistic, being as this is only being published on Monday of 2nd - Ed*].

Obviously, everyone has lots of questions, so the best thing is to email them to me at:

Bjb950@bham.ac.uk

And you might even get a sensible reply.

Tripin' Out!

Chris Seward, Jesus

Cotswolds Day Trip: Sunday, 4th Week (29th Nov)

Snowdonia Weekend Trip: 6th/7th Weekend (17th - 19th Nov)

Everyone needs a break from the hurly burly of Oxford life once in a while. Here in OUSGG we provide the perfect medium for such escapes, by way of our line of quality outdoor trips. This term we have not just one, but two whole weekend situated excursions to offer the member looking for that little bit "extra" out of their subscription fee.

Sunday of 4th Week will feature a short taster trip, designed to take in a few rolling hills in the nearby bumpy green pastures of the Cotswolds. With a minimal cost, you can hardly say no.

At the end of 6th Week, we'll be heading out to the spectacular mountain ranges of Snowdonia National Park, for a full weekend of festivities amongst the finest peaks Wales has to offer.

The fine details of these trips are yet to be ironed out, but promotional literature will be issued soon. Keep an eye out, check your email and ask me for more details if you want to come along.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

AUSTRIA CALLING

Hayley Thompson, our Austrian correspondent, writes with her first experiences of taking the OUSGG message overseas.

THREE-PIECE SUITE?

Revealed: is the OUSGG sofa just a two-person show, or is there more furniture pulling the strings behind the scenes? An exclusive report.

**ON SALE
THURSDAY 5TH WEEK!**

**COPY DEADLINE :
11:59PM, 4TH NOVEMBER**

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

Winter Walking™ 2000 Application Form

I would like to attend Winter Walking on the following nights (circle as appropriate):

Thursday 28th Friday 29th Saturday 30th Sunday 31st Monday 1st Tuesday 2nd

and enclose a cheque for £11 per night, payable to **B J Bateson**. I therefore trust him to get the accounting right this time, and not scribble everything down on piddly bits of paper.

Because of personal preference/religion/being bloody awkward I cannot eat the following food(s):

The food(s) I would most like to eat over the course of the trip are:

My preferred beverage is:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lager | <input type="checkbox"/> Cider | <input type="checkbox"/> Other poncy drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-alcoholic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guinness | <input type="checkbox"/> Bacardi and Coke | |

I will be travelling from using the following mode of transport:

- Train
- Car
- Comedy Car (anything old and liable to break down)
- Other amusing vehicle (please state):

Anything else the trip organiser should know about (use other side if necessary):

.....

Weekend Trips : Literature Request Form

I am interested in finding out more about the following trips this term:

- Day Trip to the Cotswolds, Sunday of 4th Week***
- Weekend Trip to Snowdonia, end of 6th Week***

and wish to be kept up-to-date with the latest up-to-the-minute information as to the progress of these events.

My name, address and email address are as follows:

And my preferred small furry animal is:

[Please return to **Chris Seward** (Jesus College) as soon as possible]