



PostScript

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Scout & Guide Group

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An Apology

The PostScript Office would like to apologise to those members and officials who received the last Issue rather late. This was due to three factors in tandem – late production, due to implementation of a new printing press; late dispatch, due to poor communication of instructions to the Distributor; late transit due to the Oxford postal staff having another stop. With luck, everything should now be back to normal...

An Apology

To the current PostScript Distributor, who was not credited in the previous issue's Committee list. Still, don't suppose you had the file by then anyway, so you probably weren't officially it...

An Apology

To Stephen, for the last comment.

A Disclaimer

The views expressed in PostScript are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by OUSGG, the Scout Association or the Guide Association.

OUSGG GOES TO THE DOGS

WELL: FOUR OF US DID, ANYWAY...

EDITORIAL

Chris Seward, Jesus

Well, look at that... a nice big (if boring) headline and a nice, juicy Chair's Address... that should keep this short. Mid-term issue... six pages... nice one. Keep those quality articles coming.

Some controversial stuff in this one too, so let's have some replies, eh? Ooohh – and spot the first splashes of colour in these hallowed pages. Oh – and come to the Lakes at Easter, won't you?

CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Mike Haley, Merton

The days are lengthening, the dawn chorus is getting stronger and snowdrops adorn the college gardens, winter is thawing into spring and for Oxford that means Hilary term is half through... So what happened to the first half of the term?

Well a mixture of organisational incompetence and very poor communication on my part. I hope you enjoyed "After Eight" and I'd like to pass on my thanks to those who brought games and helped to clear up and to Richard for his coffee perculator. Monday 2nd Week. Hmm... well I was assisting in theatre... fifty miles away, having failed to pass on back up plans, which unfortunately left the rest of you totally in the dark as to what on earth was going on, many thanks to Chris for

partially bailing me out. Well done to those who tried fencing - you showed some real flair, and Tristram's "light-sabre" technique was certainly entertaining. 4th Week. Thankfully no one else turned up expecting Dog Racing last Monday but this was still an appalling error. I hope some of you had a profitable evening on Tuesday! The Mid term trip to the Peak District has six likely attendees and anyone else interested in going should contact me immediately, but in view of my comments in my letter the Cardiff Rally really should be a priority.

I hope you all will enjoy the rest of the term's activities, particularly a sense of place and the citrus fruit games and come to the TGM full of new ideas to get involved with and reinvigorate OUSGG.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express a few thoughts about the direction OUSGG is taking. If you excuse a thought-for-the-day-type analogy then it reminds me of boats in the round the world yacht race which, having been driven by the powerful drive of the South Atlantic winds, find they gradually fade and are left drifting with little sense of progress or purpose. I am the sootiest of pots in saying this and I would like to refer you to articles published by Hugh Miller (*"The SGG of OU"*, PS287), Thomas Wilson (*"Better than Maths?"*, PS308) and Jo Miller, (*"What does OUSGG stand for?"*, PS309). These show, with far more clarity and authority, that this is a chronic problem; but one which the current members, with advice from our ample network of old members, have to deal with.

We have to ask ourselves why do many people who help in Scouting and Guiding not join OUSGG and why don't some of us (and apologies to those who do) do more to help local Scouting and Guiding? I know I haven't helped out in any Scouting activity for nearly eighteen months now, so what am I doing to:

"create a wider understanding and appreciation of the work of the Scout and Guide movements particularly among fellow students, by spreading the information by example"

and even more pertinently:

Dear Sir,

In issue 325 of *PostScript*, you offered a prize to anyone who could define the word *dfiscovered* (sic). Fortunately, the word appears in my copy of the *Dictionary of Unreal Words* and the definition is as follows:

dfiscovered *v. trans* Complained about, particularly in the manner of a post-graduate student who complains that he has to spend 12 hours a day in the lab, but still manages to find time to play *Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun* and write ridiculously pedantic letters to major snack manufacturers.

I would therefore like to claim the aforementioned prize, which I hope will take the form of a sweet jelly-based snack product, misshapen or

"-render service as a club to Scouting and Guiding and the community;"?

(With reference to P.O.R.)

In short nothing and I reflect that I have not fulfilled a full role as a member and should not have agreed to represent them as Chair. I have failed in this and would only hope others did not.

This sounds overly pessimistic and negative but I hope it will provoke a critical but positive reaction, so the good ship (or is that deep-water punt?) OUSGG can emerge from the doldrums to be powered towards the goal of achieving its stated aims. I have gained much from OUSGG and enjoyed it, the social side of the club is important and a quick glance at our Old Members list indicates the strong bonds that have been built up: but are we purely a social club?

Yours,

Mike Haley

*In the olden days, it was traditionally the Editor's job to throw an item in for discussion at the start of Hilary. Thanks, Mike, for writing an article that I could/should have written myself(!). Anyway - I **know** that there are those of you out there who will have some thoughts on this - please write in and let's thrash it out...*

otherwise, and suggest that the Editor is in line for a prize of his own - to wit, Gareth's Special one.

Yours faithfully,

B J Bateson

Thanks to Ben for this contribution, which indeed provides an explanation. He fails, of course, to include "selflessly wastes a load of time producing PostScript" in the list of activities. Nevertheless, he qualifies for the prize, which includes the copy of the Address List that he was due, a brand new packet of finest KP Hula Hoops and last, but far from least, the "Modesty Award" from last summer's Annual Dinner which I keep forgetting to pass on.



Pomp and Circumstance in Graz

Hayley Thompson, Oxford Brookes

'Oh no!' they groan, 'she's back!' Yes, I'm back here again after what felt like a very short Christmas holiday in England. I managed to have a day in Oxford and was glad to see it is still the same. This time I thought that rather than mindless ranting I would write to you about the Austrian *Maturaball*. On five hours sleep, so don't expect miracles.

The A-level equivalent in Austria is called the *Matura* and is taken at roughly the same time as the A's but is both oral and written. Whereas it felt like my whole secondary school life was building to the exams at the end of Year 13, Austrians build up to... a ball.

Preparations for the Big Day go on for at least a year, sometimes longer and virtually no schoolwork is done in the final year until the big day has passed. Teachers are inclined to let students off as 'they are excited'. Never in England!

One of my schools had their ball before Christmas but I was too chicken to go on my own and missed it. Last night however, I had to go to the other school's ball. I dragged two other Assistants with me for moral support. How glad I am that I did!

At 7pm I left my cosy flat in a posh ball dress, open-toed sandals, two coats and gloves. My mother would have been so proud! I met Helen and Vic on the tram, also looking like Michelin men. The ball was being held in the Graz Congress, the best ball venue. In a rush of generosity I had been given a free ticket so while Vic and Helen went to buy a ticket, I took the opportunity to look around.

A grand sweeping staircase rose up in front of me, overlooked by chandeliers. (OK, too tired for more romantic descriptive stuff). The *Maturanten*, the students soon to be leaving school, had to line up on either side of the staircase and wait for their family and friends. A huge whisper of 'It's Hayley', 'it's the English Assistant' swept down the stairs. I almost turned tail and ran! Every pair of eyes was trained on me: some hostile and others not so.

Rejoined by my friends I made my way to the cloakroom. I really didn't want to take that coat off! However, watching Helen de-robe soon put me at ease. Off came the scarf, gloves and coat. Then came a gilet. Then two cardigans! You've

probably realised that I am not the most elegant of people and do not feel comfortable wearing dresses. However, I'd come this far, now all I had to do was walk up the staircase amongst the students. Gulp!

It took forever as there were so many people trying to do the same as me, plus students kept stopping me. It gave me a good opportunity to look at the dresses. The boys have to wear suits, not necessarily DJs. The girls get dresses designed for them in the colour scheme of the evening. Yesterday it was white and burgundy. They all looked fantastic but some of the dresses just screamed 'wedding' at me. The students were nervous; their whole school careers had been building to this.

The evening always starts with a Polonaise. Traditionally there is a waltz but also some other types as well. Every school hires a professional choreographer so it is a highly polished performance. We had a good view by standing on the chairs that we had been sitting on. It was okay as long as you didn't move! When they had finished dancing, the band struck up a Viennese Waltz. It is the duty of the girls to dance with their fathers and the boys, their mothers. There was so much pride on the dance floor it was amazing that they managed to dance.



Is Hayley "elegant"? Your Editor has trawled the archives for evidence to the contrary. In this, the only surviving shot of Hayley from the Annual Dinner 2000, it is plain to see that elegance literally radiates from her. In contrast, however, Erik look bemused, Jeremy looks away, Chris looks drunk and Jo... well, she looks where she shouldn't.

continued...

Until midnight there was general dancing, both traditional and in another hall, a disco. Everybody learns to dance in school but it still surprised me to see the students fox-trotting instead of favouring the disco. During the evening programmes and roses were sold. So many students came up to talk or just smile that Helen and Vic asked what my secret was. I was amazed, it's hard enough to make eye contact in school, let alone smiles outside! I must admit to a little paranoia though!

The next traditional part came at midnight. Every year a girl is crowned Rose Queen for that year. This is the girl who is given the most roses during the night. The winner was given 200 (?) by her adoring father and boyfriend and a voucher for a holiday. What do you *do* with 200 roses? After this each class gave a presentation, with a cowboy theme running through it. We watched this from our earlier, precarious perch at the back of hall. Two classes did well but I wasn't impressed by the third, I suspect you had to be male! Due to these presentations I only worked eight hours this week as they were rehearsing. There were also lots of speeches. It is a well-known fact that

Austrians will clap at anything and they did. Again. And again. And again.

The aim of the evening is to say thank you to parents and other supportive people but also so that they can celebrate. They did have to work during the evening though, selling cakes, raffle tickets, roses, programmes, drinks and running competitions. It is a very expensive evening for the parents with most contributing over 100, plus clothing and money on the day. Any profits made go to the Matura holiday where the whole year goes on holiday - together. Think about your final year at school... I couldn't stomach it either.

Traditionally, the evening finishes at two but we didn't make it anywhere near that. Walking home in temperatures of -3 and no socks was not wise! The evening was highly charged for all the students and their families. Now the hard work starts for the students as they prepare for their exams and have to knuckle down. Perhaps in all the hours of study it is nice to remember that one evening when the whole world seemed to be looking. At them.

EASTER 2001: THE LAKES

Matthew Bemand, ex-Merton

The Lake District. Walk around lakes, through valleys and over hills. Relax in a cosy cottage in Keswick and spend evenings with your friends, not worrying about essays or revision plans. Surely this is better than anything else you might be doing between Thursday 29th March and Tuesday 3rd April?

If you've been on a trip before you probably don't need much persuasion. If you haven't, perhaps it's

about time? You might regret not going to **Winter Walking™** - why not come along on this trip?

The cost is £40, or £8 per night. If you want to come, send me an email (bemand@usa.net) or write to me at Radley College, Abingdon OX14 2HR. Cheques payable to M. Bemand.



OUSGG Committee : Hilary Term 2001

Chairman	Mike Haley (Merton)	Scout & Guide Liaison	Amanda Kerr-Munslow (BNC)
Secretary	Helen Ensor (St. Hilda's)	SSAGO Rep.	Phil Alderton (St. Peter's)
Junior Treasurer	Richard Owen (Lincoln)	PostScript Editor	Chris Seward (Jesus)
Chair-elect	Tristram Fenton-May (Keble)	PostScript Distributor	Natalie Jones (Wadham)
Membership Secretary	Stephen White (Keble)	Easter Trip Organiser	Matthew Bemand (Teacher)
Quartermaster	Stephen White	Old Members' Rep.	Matthew Bemand
Annual Dinner Organiser	Bill Kurau III (Wadham)	Summer Trip Organiser	Hayley Thompson (Graz)
Internet Officer	Richard Owen	Lunchtime Meetings	Christina Mowl (Keble)
Senior Member	John Singleton (away)		

Lurid Logo ?

Phil Alderton, St. Peter's

In a brave move, Phil elects to lose his Fresher status with his rather damning critique of Scouting's new logo...

i never liked the old logo. the "o" should never have been replaced by the fleur-de-lys - it would have been much better positioned to the left or the right. thus, when i heard it was being axed, i couldn't have been more optimistic. or, at least until i saw its replacement. i have spent approximately five hours staring at my wordprocessor, desperately trying to think of something positive to say about it. i wish i could marvel at its simplicity, or symbolism, or be able to interpret it in a thousand different, unique ways. alas, all i am left with is the ongoing question, "why?". why did they spend millions on it? why did we have to fill out a survey asking such questions like, "if the scouts were a brand of youghurt, what flavour would it be?". how did that help? upon reflection, perhaps they may explain that lurid green colour, which does not look healthy. i guess they used the successful marketing trick of pointing randomly at the colour palette, and praying. given that they seem to have nicked the "swoosh" thing from just about every relaunched company (eg sky, freeserve, amongst others), they must have had



some money left over. the best comment on it was one sent to me by a patrol leader from my troop in truro:

"gosh, aren't they clever! not only can they can make the most pathetic (for want of a better word) logo ever, but also choose the most vile shade of green ever (doesn't it look like bogie or something), and then, they can even swap the background and foreground colour, and add a bit of blue, then swap it again, and then add a bit of black, get rid of the blue and bogie, and make it black and white. so this is what our subs go on..." which just about sums it up, although he doesn't mention the other flaw in it: the design seems to have eradicated all the capital letters from the movement's name, which was hip and trendy about two years ago. worryingly, trying to write about the logo - sorry, "corporate image" (*sic*) - seems to do this too. still, maybe it isn't as bad as it looks. i mean, it is nothing compared to "explorer scouts". don't get me started on that one.

Hmmm... it's alright Phil... PostScripT makes up for a whole world of missing capital letters...

**COPY DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 327 IS :
00:01, SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 2001 [8TH WEEK]**

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

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(Or it was until that got written in it, anyway)



OUSGG KIT ORDER 2000



For those of you who haven't yet made an order, here is the form on paper so there is no excuse folks: get those orders in by end of 6th Week! Most of the items are available in the printed and embroidered versions, however, for printing we need a minimum order of ten garments, so printed ones can't be guaranteed. Although it would be nice if we could at least get enough orders for T-shirts to be printed, as this means you get OUSGG on the back as well!

Garments available:

	<u>Printed</u> (only if we get >10 orders)	<u>Embroidered</u>
1) T-shirts	£8.00	£11.50
2) Baseball Caps	(Embroidered only)	£11.50
3) Polo Shirt (Short sleeved with a collar)	£10.50	£14.00
4) Sweatshirts	£12.00	£15.50
5) Rugby Shirt – Plain	£18.50	£19.50
6) – Quartered	£20.00	£21.00
7) Polar Fleece Zip Jacket	(Embroidered only)	£30.00
8) Half Zip Polar Fleece	(Embroidered only)	£29.00

Colours available for each:

- 1) White, Black, Grey, Navy, Dark Green, Red, Blue, Cream, Burgundy, Yellow.
- 2) Black, Dark Green, Burgundy, Grey, Turquoise, Green, Cream, Navy, Purple, Red, Blue, Sky (light blue), White, Yellow.
- 3) White, Black, Grey, Navy, Dark Green, Red, Blue, Turquoise, Yellow, Sky (Light blue), Burgundy.
- 4) White, Black, Grey, Navy, Dark Green, Red, Blue, Emerald, Cream, Burgundy, Green, Light blue.
- 5) **Plain:** White, Green, Red, Burgundy, Black, Yellow, Navy, Blue, Dark Green (all with white collar I think)
Quartered: White/Navy, Navy/Burgundy-Dark Green collar, White/Spruce, Black/Red, Navy/Turquoise.
- 6) Navy, Dark Green, Black.
- 6) Dark Green, Navy, Red and Black.

This is by no means the total range that Shirtworks have to offer but is about all I can cope with!

Size guide: Small 36" 3-4 24" Medium 38" 5-6 26" Large 40" 7-8 28" Extra Large 42"/44" 9-11 30" XXL 46"

SSAGO

We can also obtain SSAGO Merchandise as follows:

SSAGO Scarves £4.75; Metal Pin Badges £1.50; Camp Blanket Badges £1; Metal Stick Badges £1.50
Scout Uniform Badges £0.75

Order Form

Name:

Address (College if applicable):

List here all the lovely garments you would like (please include, quantity, sizes, colours and whether you want embroidery or printing. Continue overleaf if you're really keen.) **Important:** if you ask for a printed item and we don't get more than 10 orders then I will order an embroidered one instead, so it is probably easier to pay the embroidered price and I will refund if necessary.

I enclose a Cheque for £..... made payable to "Miss. Christina.R.Mowl." If you are going to need your order posted to you then please add on an appropriate amount.

Please return with your cheques ASAP to Christina Mowl, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG. (or bring to N+N) : **DEADLINE – End of 6th week.**