

Postscript

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Welcome to OUSGG!

This is Postscript OUSGG's news letter, which I have the pleasure of editing this year. In this issue is an introduction to OUSGG, so all of you new to OUSGG have an idea of what it's all about. We also have articles on our summer trip, and the SSAGO rally - if you weren't there. Looking forwards we have information about our Winter Walking™ event. In addition to the usual plethora of articles we have the new regular feature 'Ou est Eri>|' which replaces the infamous 'Simon' cartoon series. Read on to find out more ...

Mark-Queens.

Chair's Report

The days of Pimms, punting (or should that be barging?) and vaguely reliable weather are drawing to a close to be replaced with the unpredictability of Oxford in Michaelmas term. I've got to get used to not being a fresher any more, and actually having some responsibility (maybe becoming Chair of OUSGG was a step too far in that direction – well, Chris is still around so its not like I'm really in charge!)

Anyway, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to a new term of OUSGG, for new members, freshers and old fogeys (OK, current members) alike. It was good to see so many new people at the freshers' meeting; I sincerely hope you like us enough to keep coming – even if you can only make a few weeks this year you are very welcome! I hope you enjoy all that we have planned.

I've resisted the urge to just take you to Brookes climbing every week, with maybe a weekend in the Peak District, and tried to plan a well balanced programme (that sounds too much like something out of POR or the Guiding Manual!), well at least something for everyone. If the activities don't suit you, address your comments to



Keith for next term, or even better, get yourself nominated for Chair-Elect!

Looking beyond this term, we have all sorts to look forward to. As well as Winter Walking and Hilary Term organised by Keith, we've got the rally at the end of the year (4th-6th July if you haven't already got it in your diaries/palm pilots) which although is undeniably going to be a lot of hard work and sleepless nights for the rally core-team is a great opportunity to show the rest of the world what OUSGG are capable of. If at the mention of "rally", images of cars and forests are springing into your head, then you clearly need to come to "Le Rally" on November 15th-17th to experience all that our umbrella organisation, SSAGO has to throw at you (sometimes quite literally).

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way so far: people who have replied to my countless e-mails, people who have given me advice (and feel free to say "I told you so" on the occasions when I haven't taken it and it goes Pete Tong), everyone who helped prepare/set up/man the Freshers' Fair stall, everyone who helped with the freshers' presentation and meeting, and people who have let me sleep in their spare rooms!

Enjoy the term,
The woman with all the power in OUSGG,
Alison Parker
Chair, SSAGO Rep and Rally Co-chair

THE OUSGG OFFICE ASSISTANT

*By Chris Seward, ex-Jesus
With help from Natalie Jones, Wadham*

Would you like some help?

Type your question here, and then click Search

Options

Search

Gone are the days when you had to learn stuff through experience, picking it up as you went. These days, if you get stuck you simply ask a paperclip. Now, in my opinion, your average paperclip isn't so smart. He might be good at holding things together and even have a good deal of flexibility. But if you ask me, he's just not Oxford material. Fortunately for the newer OUSGG member, we have our own little assistant, in the form of one Eri>| the Panda, and he's been around in Oxford longer than most of us have been alive. He has now been programmed with the knowledge of the most experienced OUSGGER of all time, and through simple pointing (you don't even need to click), you can call up this experience in order to make your time in OUSGG all the more fulfilling. Simply work out what thing you want to know about, point at it, and then read the handy description. Easy. The paperclip wouldn't have a clue.



Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony

A high-class affair held during Trinity term. After we have sampled the finest food and wines available at a carefully selected College, a tear-filled award ceremony ensues in which deserving members are rewarded for their efforts during the previous twelve months. Or, more precisely, their carefully concealed scandals are revealed for all to see.

Alison

Chair for Michaelmas term and one of the most enthusiasm-filled OUSGGers. Prone to short lapses in concentration in which she wanders off with the Mountaineering Club.

Baa

Noise made by sheep. Sheep are a big feature of OUSGG life. Or some OUSGGER's lives, anyway.

Baileys & Orange

Handmade beverage. Not for the weak-stomached. Don't look at it before you drink it. (You'll have plenty of chance afterwards).

Bar

Where Monday night meetings usually end-up. Also feature during the infamous OUSGG pub crawls (apparently... I can't usually remember). Not to be confused with "Baa".

Barge

What we did last summer. Anyone who has never commanded two-tons of throbbing diesel-powered metal hasn't lived. Quite a good way to do nothing whatsoever.

Ben

Ex-OUSGG member who left Oxford prematurely and went to Birmingham. Female members of the group are cautioned against this mysterious fellow who reappears with frightening regularity.

Caroline

When most people leave Oxford, they leave. Caroline, on the other hand, stayed. No longer a student, she haunts OUSGG meetings searching for cuddly toys, especially Eri>|.

Chris

An OUSGGER for eight whole years, by the time you read this article he will have finally left. Has been subtly directing OUSGG from behind the scenes for some time now. Will still be watching.

Christina

Fortunately for OUSGG's female contingent, this man-magnet has now departed. This is, conversely, not so much fun for the blokes. She'll be at the Rally everyone!

Democracy

A fantasy notion proposed before each committee election whereby there is a choice of candidates for each post. Don't ask Phil about this.

Email

How OUSGG communicates. If you don't read your email, you won't realise that the Chair has moved this week's meeting or asked you to wear fancy dress this week. Actually, maybe there are some emails that are worth missing.

Eri>|

OUSGG's near ancient mascot. Don't ask why we have a panda as a mascot. No-one knows. Other SSAGO clubs have mascots too, but ours is the oldest. Well, probably. His name is spelt with a backwards k. Why? Because it is.

Faff

OUSGG's favourite pastime. Requires no real skill and costs nothing. A great way of filling excess time. We even have a specific emailing list for it.

F&GPC

The Finance & General Purposes Committee. Since no-one can ever remember what F&GPC stands for, it's usually referred to as the "Faff & General Pedantry Committee", which is a more apt description.

Fresher

What you are until you've written an article for PostScript.

Gail

OUSGG's internet officer. No, it's not her fault that last year's PostScripts aren't on the web yet.

Hayley

OUSGG's overly keen Brookes member. Seems to have started another course, just so she can have a crack at Chris's record for the longest serving current member.

Hogan

A koala bear with a neckerchief who is passed between Annual Dinner organisers. No, we don't know why. Oxford's just like that.

In Jokes

Not funny until you understand them. Very funny if you do. Less funny if they're about you. Which they will be.

Jelly Babies

Traditional OUSGG prize. Recently suffered from bad press due to their non-vegetarian nature.

Jen

OUSGGER who has now gone to Fenlands Poly. Hopefully she'll be back lots, if only to keep Rob under control. Not to be confused with Jenny.

Jenny

OUSGG's resident alcohol sponge. Trying to reform. Allegedly. Might be better behaved now that Christina has gone on to better things.

Keith

Was "Chief Engineer" on the barge trip. 'Nuff said.

Knapping

What happens to Eri> at every opportunity. In fact, some OUSGG members have never actually seen the poor little fella, due to the amount of time he spends incarcerated elsewhere.

Lunchtime Meetings

They happen every Thursday at 1pm. A chance to spill crumbs on someone else's floor for a change.

Maddy

Membership Secretary and dark horse. If you get described as a "dark horse" it usually means that you haven't been on a trip yet. Never trust someone who hasn't been on a trip – they must have something to

hide. (Maddy is rectifying this this term though, so she's okay really).

Mafia

OUSGG's favourite game, played on trips. A great way to work out who's a good liar.

Mark

Editor of PostScript. Watch what you're saying when you're around him, otherwise you'll find your oral blunders in print. And the Chief Scout reads this y'know.

Michael

Northerner with an unhealthy obsession for a single beverage.

Mondays

The only night of the week worth getting out of bed for.

Monopoly

The theme for the SSAGO Rally which OUSGG is running. Oh, and one of Rob's bizarre obsessions.

Natalie

OUSGG's sheep loving Treasurer.

N'n'N

A.k.a. the Thursday lunchtime meeting.

Old Members

People who prove that just because you've got a job, it doesn't mean that you have to leave university. Distinct from members who are old.

Phil

Or "Philip Egbert-Flumpy Alderton-Smythe" as he is more formally known. OUSGG's resident constitutional expert. Don't get him started.

PostScript

This one is left as an exercise for the reader.

Punt'n'Picnic

The painful thing that happens the morning after the Annual Dinner.

Quartermaster

Committee member who's sole job this year is to work out what OUSGG stuff has been absorbed into Tristram's garage.

Rally

Activity-packed weekend hosted by other SSAGO clubs. Unless it's next summer, in which case it's being run by us. Careless.

Rob

Now one of OUSGG's eldest. Very wise.

Sam

OUSGG's quiet secretary. Watch out for him though: he has a vicious grin.

Senior Member

Every club must have one, to make sure that we're not doing anything wrong. We've just got a new one – hello to you if you're reading this!

Sheep

Bring joy and happiness into the hearts of millions. [*Not sure about this one – Ed*].

SSAGO

The Student Scout And Guide Organisation. The national body to which OUSGG belongs. We like causing them trouble (or so it seems).

Teashops

A good walk always finishes at one. Sometimes before it's even started.

TGM

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.

Trips

You won't be doing OUSGG properly unless you go on them. You simply won't.

Tristam

OUSGG's loudest member. Hell, Oxford University's loudest member. Ply with alcohol to increase volume.

Uniform

We only have a necker. Thus "full uniform" meetings tend to be avoided on the grounds of modesty.

Winter Walking™

The best trip of the OUSGG calendar. Miss it or miss out. Or, more precisely, miss it and miss out on understanding all of the In Jokes which formulate during this flagship of OUSGG trips.

"Where did all the time go?"

What you'll be saying when you leave Oxford. Or, what you'll be saying when you're trying to write a guide to OUSGG and the PostScript articles deadline is closing fast. One or the other.

Ou est Eri>|?

The French OUSGG version of 'Where's Wally'. In this issue of Postscript Eri>| is hiding on the summer trip still.



Sorry no prizes only hours of cursing your editor for inventing such an infuriating feature.

The Summer Barge Trip

Jenny Roberson and Caroline Berry – Wadham and ex-Keble.

We were sat round the table saying goodbye to those people too busy to stay the full week at Easter activity and the conversation turned to the summer trip. Among the many ideas suggested was that of a barging holiday: so many months and much faff later, 11 members of OUSGG found themselves boarding the Ripple (student accommodation) and Hardwick (penthouse accommodation)...

Having managed to all arrive at the same place at the same time (give or take a few hours depending on whether trains had to be caught or cars to be driven), the next major faff was food. Word of advice, don't take 11 people round 1 supermarket with 1 shopping list, it results in mega faff. Although the extra people come in handy when the two shopping trolleys needed to be lifted to a great height to avoid the detection system (guess whose idea this was when his name begins with T). [*I don't remember it actually working – Ed.*].

We managed to get all the shopping into Ripple while a couple of people went to rescue Hardwick, double park it and pass across half the food and the appropriate baggage. Christina then declared herself Queen of the penthouse barge and got it all ship shape while it "chugged off" (as Christina would put it) with Caroline at the helm. The rest of that day was spent chatting and discovering it's a really good idea to have warm clothes on the same barge as you, especially when the other boat was left miles behind. We did have two copies of our map which, with mobiles, would have been very useful, if it wasn't for the fact they both ended up on one boat! (Why didn't we take radios? – Phil). As far as driving was concerned, it was a chance for eager people to learn since the only difficult bit was a fairly short tunnel.

Hardwick eventually managed to slow down enough for Ripple to catch up (Ripple had a few problems with things [*aka plastic bags – Ed.*] round the propeller due to the duckweed round where we started). We eventually stopped, when it started to get dark, in a nice quiet cutting (good for not disturbing people since 11 people make lots of noise). Tea that evening was pizza and we managed to get everyone (well almost) sat together in the penthouse lounge to eat. We did need to cook the pizzas in shifts, since we only had 2 ovens and many more pizzas than this. Everyone gave up early since they were tired (might have something to do with Christina not being awake to persuade people to stay up since she'd only managed half an hour's sleep the night before).

The rest of the week went by nice and relaxed with very little happening really. We went up as far as Fradley junction, then made our way back again (there should be a book with the map in library if people are actually interested). Possibly we should've stopped a little sooner, but Chris wanted to finish his Risk game©. Anyway, Fradley was nice and we found a postcard shop - so it was worthwhile. I guess the best way to write up the rest of the week would just be to pick out the highlights. We managed a swing gate and our first lock on the second day, which everyone had lots of enthusiasm for it, though it was hardly any difference in levels (it was just there to signify the swap of canals from Oxford canal to Coventry canal). Did require someone to actually remember/know how to do locks!

I'll admit that I can't remember which days went with which events (very nice relaxing holiday), so I'll just write up what went on. I think the biggest splash of the week would be one only one person saw. Tristram reappeared soaking wet and complaining that the rope wasn't long enough! He'd been trying to moor the Ripple while everyone was still faffing over getting Hardwick through the lock (it must have been the little first lock). He was fine, and gave the people in the pub a good laugh by the sound of it (though we continued the entertainment afterwards). Anyway, even his phone survived when it was given a chance to dry out. As for more entertainment, the lock was followed by basically a hairpin bend, which was impossible to get round from where Ripple was moored. We managed to get the boat wedged between two banks and it required people to punt us round! Oh well, it was done better coming back (and we knew what was coming).

We got quite used to locks after our little starter session, and had a set of 11 in one day. Shock to the system for those who thought all they had to do was sit around. Some of the paddles were really stiff too, and provided our exercise for the week (that, driving and walking - for those energetic soles who went for a walk along the bank, a lot quicker than we were going). An important thing to remember is that nothing should be left on the top of a barge where it can easily be kicked in (luckily it was only a disposable camera!).



We managed a pub meal in the middle [*of the trip*], having eventually found the Pretty pigs pub by trying every possible road from the barge! Good food though, and followed by a very late drunken night. The next morning started far too early though, and sleeping in the kitchen, I [*Caroline*] got woken when people (mentioning no Keiths) decided it was time for a cuppa. He also made sure that we left at a "sensible" hour, usually including going to do all the engine checks and driving Hardwick, since it's residents liked their lie-ins. That morning they were still in their sleeping bags having their breakfast when the rest of us thought it was nearer lunchtime! Tristram had come to hijack the porridge (he liked jumping between the boats!) and made loads of the stuff [*Humm, yum, yum – Ed.*].

The rest of the trip seemed to be fairly empty of interesting things to report, though there was plenty to do from driving, walking and sitting round nattering, to playing games, doing locks and getting drunk. I had an absolutely great time, and wish I'd been to more OUSGG trips (this was my first proper trip, despite having been a member for 4 years!). I'm definitely hoping to come to more now (work permitting). Think the only thing left to say are thanks to Phil for all the organising and everyone else for making it a great break, certainly one I needed.

Oh, and the other thing would be to let people know what everyone was on the trip. We found lots of badges at Fradley's postcard shop and managed to get one for everyone, though some are less well matched than others. Anyway, they are as follows:

Captain	Chris (well it had to be really, and they didn't have an Admiral badge).
Tiller Girl	Christina
Bird Watcher	Phil
Fender Bender	Tristam
Miss-Chief	Caroline
Galley Slave	Hayley
Cabin Boy	Mark
General Dogsboddy	Sam
Mutineer	Jenny
Locksmith labourer	Natalie
Chief of Engineering	Keith (well it had to be really, especially since he took charge of all the engine checks, clearing the weed hatch and so on).



We all made it back in 1 piece.

Quote of the trip:

Chris: You just zip it out, and voom, voom, voom...

"You can quote me on that"

Mark-Queens

Keith: Who do you want to go between?

Chris: You just zip it out, and voom, voom, voom...

Phil: I haven't said anything quote worthy yet.

Phil: We only have 26 vowels.

Phil: ... so it tastes like custard for eight.

Tristam: How do you know which knockers have been locked on?

Mark (Me): It was the closest piece of leg.

Christina: It's up my skirt.

Caroline (at the tiller): So where's the tiller?

Christina: There are so many good boys around here.

Phil: I know.

Phil: My favourite carol is a seasonal song.

Chris: Just get Jenny on my lap.

Tristam: I don't have to press a button to open it.

Phil: Watch out Mark I'm about to hit you in the nuts.

Hayley: I like mine exactly 3½ inches long.

Christina: I could be a good cow, I think.

Keith: Yes, I can do whippings.

Chris (to Christina): If Hayley and Jenny move together you'll pop out.

Caroline: I am still feeling quite warm, and I not wearing very much.

Chris (to Natalie): You can have my mobile down your top any time.

Jenny: I've only had three so far.

Chris: Wow that's good tongue control.

Christina: I always get this kind of rubbish.

Jenny: I wish I got your rubbish.

Mark (writing quotes): I can't keep up.

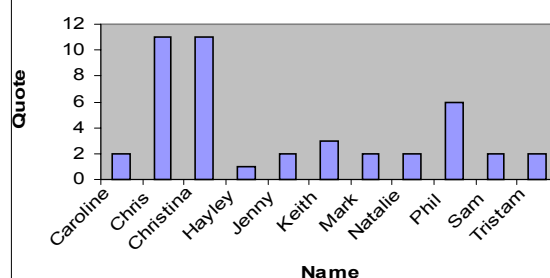
Christina: It's yummy rubbish.

Chris: Tristam's getting a lap dance.

Sam: Pictures at this time are not a very good idea.

Sam (to Mark): Can I just have a smell.

OUSGG Quotes League



Nottingham Rally

Well, as no-one else has submitted an article on the Nottingham Rally, I'd best write something – rather than just leave you with the quotes...

The Nottingham Rally was my first Rally, so I didn't quite know what to expect when I arrived at Beeston station, Nottingham, a couple of weeks after the end of summer term. I was picked up by a member of SNOGs (Nottingham's SSAGO group), in a white van and got a lift to Nottingham University's sports ground. On arrival it was raining as I pitched my tent amongst the others at the base of the rugby pitch. No one seemed to be about so I sheltered from the rain, before I realised that reception had opened, so I booked in with some freshly arrived OUSGGers to be told that the building had only yesterday been cleaned of legionnaire's disease! The serious business of food came next with a quick visit to the chip shop.

One piece of advice: chip paper is not a good starting point for a camp fire (as I, and a couple of SNOGs, found out when trying to start the camp fire) – paper tissues are much more effective. With the camp fire going I was recruited along with Keith, Richard and Sam to transport wood across to the fire site. By this time the rest of OUSGG had arrived and Christina cracked open some wine in celebration of her finals results. Wine on a camp how very Oxford! Needless to say we migrated to the campfire – from where most of the strange quotes originate.



SNOGs duck
Logo – can't
find any pics
of the rally.

Next morning it was time to organise into our 'Gold' teams (the rally theme was gold) and do a treasure hunt around Nottingham University Campus. The weather was lovely, and as a member of the 'All Gold' team I got to know the other members of my team well through the various tasks scattered around the course. We eventually worked out we needed to be back for lunch (the treasure), and bribed one of SNOGs to give us a lift back in the minibus.

In the afternoon it was time for the activities, which for me was Nottingham caves, located inside the shopping centre. Hours of fun walking round man made holes in the ground, in the dark; when it is a sunny day – my idea of fun apparently. After hooking up with the tail end of the pub crawl and the other groups, we were minibused to Nottingham's Students Union for a meal and the infamous barn dance.

OUSGG went for a James Bond, 'Man with the Golden Gun', theme in the Gold themed fancy dress, but lost out to Birmingham's 'Going for Gold' ensemble. The barn dance got underway after the fancy dress competition, and was good fun. It is certainly very energetic, particularly doing baskets – my shoulders haven't been the same since!

Sunday saw the silly games, which involved small tasks, tonnes of bribery of judges with chocolate, and cumulated in a massive water fight – which I admit I did try to avoid! It was then time for prizes – my 'All Gold' team won the silly games competition – before departing, after having had a great time.

Mark Hawkins – Queens.

Quotes:

Chris: Can I stroke Sam?
Keith: When you put your tongue out, surely that's the last one.
Rob: You have to be really careful not to slip it out in front of cubs.
Alison: The bushes are just as good.
Rob: I need to go and join Christina in the bushes.
Tristam: Alison has many positions.
Chris: I have lost my thing.
Christina: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I don't have one.
Phil: Of course I am a voyer. [*I don't really get this one – Ed*].
Tristam (to Alison): Bend over and swallow.
Phil (to Alison): She changes for this you know.
Alison: You have to suck quite a long time before you get any liquid.
Jen: I can't find the hole.
Chris: A cold shower counts as sex.
Phil: Don't wrestle a chimney sweep.

Winter Walking™

Come on Winter Walking, it'll be great. We will be staying at the Blackhills campsite (indoors Keith assures us), near Bradford, from the 29th December to the 5th January. It'll be a week of relaxing, walking (at all levels), and of course seeing New Year in. If you are interested in coming for all or part of the week, Keith has more details.

Contact Keith at:

winterwalking@ousgg.org.uk