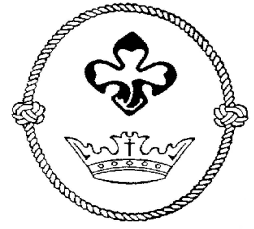




# Postscript



363: 8<sup>th</sup> Week, Hilary 2005

## OUSGGers Tie The Knot!



**Congratulations,  
Tristam and  
Angharad!**



## Postscript



Issue 363 – Third of Hilary  
2005

An OUSGG publication

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## Editorial

As another term draws to a close, many of us will be heaving a sigh of relief at having survived another eight weeks of work – and possibly even getting through another TGM without being lumbered with a committee post. Or alternatively, you might be starting to wonder what you have let yourself in for. *What on earth could have possessed me to volunteer for that? Why didn't I arrange to have a nice, relaxing all-night essay crisis instead?*

Still, at least you can console yourself with the thought that you will be safe at every TGM for the next year. Plus, if you're on the committee, and *have* to faff occasionally, then you will have the perfect excuse for work-avoidance.

As for the rest of you, when the Trinity Term TGM comes around, Be Afraid. Be *very* afraid...

*Alistair Green (St. Hugh's) – Editor*

## A Letter To The Editor

To anyone still interested,

In reference to "The Enemy At the Gates" and Chris' reply, I thought I ought to add an opinion. Unfortunately, it won't be as well written, but since it was writing itself in my head, I thought I'd share it. I mean no offence to any living person, creature, deity or anything else I may have forgotten, but felt the need to put across a different view, albeit with a guiding slant.

Anyway [*plunges in*], what this doesn't seem to cover at all, and in fact doesn't seem to be mentioned, is agnostics. Should they also be excluded? Surely an agnostic, willing to believe that other people can hold strong religious beliefs, although they haven't got one (defined) religion themselves, is more likely to teach tolerance and understanding of various religions than, for example, a strong Christian who thinks that anyone who doesn't follow the Christian belief will burn in hell and so needs to be converted. (I don't believe this is true of anyone in OUSGG, but it was quite an interesting thing to sit through at one of my cousins' weddings!) Certainly, within the guiding movement, you are not meant to influence the choice of religion, but to encourage them to explore the promise and what it means to "love my god". Should we now refuse to do Christmas and Easter themed events, or go the other way and wholly embrace every religion we can, teaching them as we go, but have no time for anything else?

To be really sad, quoting from the Girl Guiding UK website<sup>1</sup>,

*"Guides come from all kinds of backgrounds. Guiding is open to every girl or young woman – regardless of race, faith or personal circumstance – provided she is able to understand the Guide Promise to the best of her ability and is willing to make it. The Promise is a three-fold commitment which asks that a*

1 <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/xq/asp/SID.345/qx/new/about/article.asp>

## Postscript 363 – Page 3

Guide should do her best to:

- *seek spiritual development*
- *contribute to society*
- *live by a simple code - the Guide Law.*”

To me, spiritual development does not actually have to involve a religion. You can have beliefs, you can accept and be thankful for the world around you, without having a “god” to “love” and be thankful to. To me, tolerance is also an important part of guiding, and of life in general. To be able to accept there are many different religions that affect many different people and they may truly have a “god” they can love and worship is far more important than finding the pigeon-hole to fit in, just for guiding. If it comes to someone, then great, but Guiding is not a good reason to struggle and try to make one fit.

So, should I be kicked out of guiding (for religion-based reasons rather than general incompetence, which is an entirely different question)? Should I be allowed to poison innocent minds with my agnostic confusion? It’s not like I’ve not thought about my beliefs, and I am constantly aware of my feelings and what others believe around me. OK, so without knowing what I believe I may find it difficult talking to brownies about their promise, but at least I know I’m making them think and not influencing them. I find someone who parrots the promise is worse than someone who stops and thinks about it, and in doing so realises that they find it isn’t something they can promise. While guiding tries to get around it my letting you adapt the promise to your own definition of “god”, what if you don’t feel you have any definition? You could call your teddy bear “god” just to make the promise something you can keep, but to me, this lessens other religious beliefs so is worse than refusing to say it or further adapting it. Further adaptation is what I have done, but it is frowned upon by many.

There are many many discussions within the guiding community about the promise which surprisingly can end up very heated and not come out to one solution, some wanting to change it, some wanting a mix and match and others wanting to keep it. They’ve even held “spiritual forums”, which were weekends away to discuss it, but from what I have heard reported, even Buddhism (a well known religion) was pulled apart, let alone pagans, agnostics or (*gasp*) atheists.

I will now go hide back in my corner and leave the world to discuss (or ignore) this without me. I think all the useful contributions I can make have been written above, so it is probably not worth retreading the ground.

An anonymous agnostic

### **Easter Activity**

This year’s Easter Activity will be held at Islwyn Scout Parc in Newbridge, South Wales, from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> April (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Week). Since it is only a long weekend, even those living in fear of the dreaded f-word should be able to make it. The estimated cost is around £12 per night, including accommodation, meals and hopefully some activities.

Please contact Alison for more details, or to sign up. More information about the camp site is available at <http://www.islwynscoutparc.org.uk>.

## Minutes of the 133rd meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

### Present

Cat Blake (Secretary), San Snelson (Treasurer), Melody James (SSAGO Rep), Alistair Green, Luke Cartey, Phil Alderton, Roger Cotes. Jacqui Bradley, Michael Ramsden, Mark Hawkins

### Apologies

Gail Hedley (Chair)

Meeting started at 19:43.

### Approval of Minutes

Sam says they are fine.

### Matters Arising

Phil hasn't written up the stores list because he can't read his own handwriting. It hasn't been unpacked yet.

### Officers' Reports

Chair – no report received due to the nature of the term. Everyone felt that the term was working out well - except the lack of term card, but felt that this situation should only be used in emergencies – where no constant chair could be found.

Secretary - we have re-registered with the Proctors successfully.

### Treasurer –

General account = £678.44  
Equipment Fund = £158.44 (will increase when membership fund is shifted into it - £2 per member)  
Events Account = £234.70  
Ex-members Account = £149.40  
P.O. Account = £560.93 – but this doesn't include interest yet – probably 2 years worth to be added.

SSAGO Rep – 8 people are going on the rally. There was little interest in the SSAGO ball – although this may well be because of the date, rather than people not wanting to go. SSAGO challenge evening - was successful, with 2 other groups attending.

Chair Elect – Has got the file and things are progressing! Hopefully one week will be canoeing. Lots of outside activities promised!

### Motions

#### 1. Maps

It is noted that:

1. OUSGG had a team (Mark Hawkins and Sam Snelson) in the Tour de Trigs competition who were runners up in category B.
2. Mark Hawkins purchased 2 maps of the Banbury area (one 1:25,000 and one 1:50,000) at a cost of £11.68
3. That the maps have already proved useful to Phil Alderton on planning his walk last weekend.
4. That OUSGG are likely to use the maps again – either for the Tour de Trigs or a gentler weekend stroll.

It is therefore proposed that:

1. OUSGG purchase the maps off of Mark Hawkins for the price he paid for them
2. That the maps be put in the OUSGG library and used for the benefit of the group.

Proposed Mark Hawkins

Motion Passes – Opposition 0 Abstentions 0

### Photographer

It is proposed that, prior to the TGM, the Group should investigate the cost of hiring a professional photographer for the Annual Dinner and the level of interest from the membership of the Group of purchasing such a photograph.

Motion Passes – Opposition 0 Abstentions 0

Action – Phil to investigate this and report back to the TGM.

### CRB Policy

It is noted that:

1. The current OUSGG CRB Policy does not take into account recent changes in the SSAGO constitution.
2. OUSGG have to implement SSAGO's policy on CRB.
3. There were other problems with implementing the current OUSGG CRB policy.
4. Mark Hawkins has revised the OUSGG CRB policy.

It is proposed that:

- 1) The F&GPC of OUSGG adopt the revised CRB policy, attached and associated notes for the membership secretary.
- 2) The CRB policy is submitted as a motion at the HT05 TGM for ratification.
- 3) Copies of the CRB policy are placed in the membership secretary's, SSAGO Rep's and Scout and Guide Liaison Officer folders and made available to members on request.
- 4) When SSAGO policy on CRB is updated, OUSGG policy should be updated appropriately and ratified at an F&GPC and TGM as soon as possible. This should be done by a suitably competent member appointed by the F&GPC. In the intervening period SSAGO policy should take precedence over OUSGG policy, where the updated SSAGO policy contradicts or is omitted from OUSGG policy.

Proposed – Mark Hawkins.

Discussion – that CRB needs to be recorded – and the policy allows for the m/ship secretary to be able to do this – and therefore be aware of who has passed or failed. It was agreed that the SSAGO Rep should have access to this information as they have to deal directly with SSAGO – this amendment was accepted.

The motion was also amended – scrapping the final line of clause 4. With clause 4 of the above motion now reading,

4. When SSAGO policy on CRB is updated, OUSGG policy should be updated appropriately and ratified at an F&GPC and TGM as soon as possible. This should be done by a suitably competent member appointed by the F&GPC.

Motion Passes – Opposition 0 Abstentions – 1

Action – Mark to run the policy past the clubs committee for advice on data protection. Also Mark to contact the Scout Association about providing the m/ship secretary with a list of who has passed CRB checks.

### Any Other Business:

#### Postscript

The secretary of SSAGO wants both a paper and electronic copy of each edition, in order to be able to publish articles from it in SSAGO News. Concern over whether or not the author would be asked before their works – or parts of it, was published – Phil particularly worried about reports of sexual deviancy.

Action – Alistair to make it explicitly clear to SSAGO that if they wish to use Postscript material they must get the author's permission first. The author should be contacted through the Postscript editor.

#### Streetcar Named Desire

Can they borrow our dinner service? – Everyone agreed they could as long as they were willing to pay full replacement price if they damage it. And we want to appear in the credits! Michael to sort this out and report to Faff.

Meeting ended at 20:41.

## Hoots Mon!

Jonathan Harvey And The Insomniacs At The Film Night *were at the Scottish Rally*

### Oxford Train Station

**1:15pm** - Everyone supposed to be at train station. Total: 3 of 8 there, plus three people who were actually there, but had been told not to cross the bridge, so knew nothing about us. And Sam was just out of bed, packing desperately, while Jonathan was waiting slightly less desperately for a bus. Back at Keith's house, the minibus was later being picked up, and two people who were supposed to be there, weren't yet. Altogether, we were off to a great start.

**2:00pm** - We actually got started.

**7:30pm** - M6, just south of Lancaster - "lane closure due to accident. Abandon hope all ye who crawl along here..."

**9:00pm** - STILL M6, just south of Lancaster, having had our own little camp-fire session in the minibus. This lacked only two things: a camp and a fire. After sitting in this vaguely padded plastic hutch for 7 hours I am starting to think of orthopaedic surgeons I know, and Luke is down to his last few Jaffa Cakes - a true medical emergency.

**2:00am** - A snowy camp site just north of Dundee. Alison with consummate skill bumps and slides the minibus to a halt. Forms, forms, badges and a baked potato later we are pitching our tents in 4 inches of snow, and I am wondering whether this was such a good idea.

### Saturday

**8:30am** - Sunshine on pure snow. All is stillness and promise, and at least I still remember being warm at some point in the distant past. This was rudely shattered by the sound of canned bagpipes, as we were woken by a couple of people jogging sweatily through the site with an enormous speaker. Michael was up, Sam was still asleep (anyone surprised?) and the minibus drivers were stretching luxuriously on their nice, indoor, warm bunk beds. Grrrr.

Still, after a good breakfast we were off to Scottish games, and for a while the camp echoed to the mushy rumble of Robbie Burns as declaimed through mouthfuls of toffee, was thick

with flying hammer throws (well, OK, water bombs on strings), cabers and wellie boots. In the end the whole thing degenerated into a huge snowball fight, but not before an entire snow living room had been built, complete with sofa, TV, surround sound, remote control and dog. Meanwhile Sam had been having fun attending the reps' meeting. Nice.

Lunch was chiefly memorable for the fact that Luke was heard to say that he was full. The biggest lunch ever on a rally, I am told.

The afternoon meant activities. We went hill walking. The only thing lacking being hills. We did at least amble our way up a couple of hillocks to maintain some pretence of purpose. Many running snowball battles including the struggle for a random world war 2 pill box. Possibly the only time it has actually been fought over - things went ill with the defenders on the fighting platform, as their ammunition ran out very quickly...

The walk was also memorable for its seemingly aimless wanderings through pine woods, and in particular a patch of wood where all the trees had been blown over, lying like immense flattened grass stems. Negotiating this became a peculiar and unique feat of climbing as the level rose from end to end and we were eventually 6 to 8 feet off the ground. Every so often someone would fall through the foliage and there submerged voice would come through as under a tangled pine sea.

Meanwhile Sam passed an agreeable afternoon in his brother's bedroom talking about Greek translations of the Bible.

In the evening was the Ceilidh. During an enjoyable dinner of freshly caught haggis we were entertained with some very well read Robert Burns (no toffee this time) and some fine singing. Then it was down to dancing and a good time was had by all, once Michael had overcome his techie urges and Jacqui had suppressed her views on the band: "They weren't *spectacularly* bad... the fact that the caller was Scottish didn't help."

*"...at least I still remember being warm at some point in the distant past."*

Then came our moment of glory in the fancy dress. The event was partially hijacked by the Welsh contingent who, responding to the “Scottish” theme came up with “Welsh” dress (singing “You can stick your bloody thistle up your.....”). Then there were some proper Scottish costumes but the evening belonged to us. In a typically Oxford leap of logic, we (well, Phil) had decided to go dressed as train spotters. (“Trainspotting” - get it...?) Unfortunately no-one else, least of all the judges, actually worked out what was going on, which was why we triumphed by winning the award for “most random entry”.

After some more taped dancing we returned to the camp for a rather abortive camp fire and drifted off to bed after being denounced as a load

of “big wussies” by Sam. Mark was already asleep on his nice, warm, indoor, bunk bed.

On Sunday morning came the AGM, memorable chiefly for the sweepstake. All of us were willing Sam on with his bet of 2 hours 37 minutes. It was the only thing saving us from coma. After the worthy issues, the waffling reports on the frivolous, the pictures, the arguments and the ejection of one of our travelling companions for being “a prat”, the meeting lasted 2 hours and 42 minutes, and Sam was pipped by two minutes by someone else. We were gutted.

Still there was the 10 hour drive home to look forward to. Altogether we spent 36 hours on site and 21 hours in transit. Was it worth it? Of course.

***“We triumphed by winning the award for ‘most random entry’.”***

## **Only Four Months To Go Until...**



**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2005**

**Middlewood Scout Camp Site, Manchester**

**<http://www.ssagorally.org.uk>**

## **Top Five Reasons Why I Should Read Scouting For Boys, In No Particular Order**

*According to Andrew Freer*

- It's part of my heritage as a scout.
- This quotation from an artist whose computer was broken:  
“So, I was left with only one solution before digging out my old scouting handbook and learning how to make gunpowder...”
- The Bodleian is a copyright library, and I don't take enough advantage of that.
- So I can do my part to defend the empire.
- I'm a dreadful procrastinator anyway, so I might as well read a book rather than web comics.

## Tristram And Angharad's Wedding

*Photos courtesy of Sam Snelson*



Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2005, will go down in OUSGG history as the day on which Tristram and Angharad were married in Keble College Chapel. Of course, EriA just had to go to the service and wish them well, so he brought plenty of his friends from OUSGG with him.





## **Words of Wisdom**

**Alison:** Yes, I did keep poo in my fridge, and yes, my house-mates did notice... this was a food poisoning incident.

**Mark:** What's wrong with eating custard with a knife and fork?

**Michael:** I'm not an alcoholic – *I just listen to the voices in my beer!*

**Michael:** Who wants to be chopped in half? I'll just go home and get me saw...

**Luke:** Gillian, apparently you aren't allowed to play with Sam any more.

**Luke:** I'll follow you home.

**Gillian:** He's stalking me now!

**Luke:** I'm stalking the Jaffa Cake, not you!

**Hayley:** We're having a very dodgy exchange of various things tomorrow.

**Alison:** Know your own bodily spots.

**Alison:** I've got a banana and two cheese sandwiches to offer.

**Luke:** No thanks, I've had enough.

**Alison:** You can see the cleavage and everything!

*The following three quotes all occurred in the space of two minutes:*

**Alison:** Pass the Jelly Babies! I'm going to put them between my legs.

**Alison:** It's weird driving with something between your legs; it's a very peculiar sensation.

**Alison (to Mark):** There's no way you're putting your hand where the jelly babies are!

**Andrew (to Phil):** You had the hookers, then the Brownies.

**Phil:** What shall we nick – the clock, or Margaret Thatcher's bust?

**Phil:** We could play with each other...

**Michael:** It can be quite pleasant if you get lucky...

## Oxford's New Entrance Paper

Natalie Jones gives us a sneak preview

### *Oxford University Entrance Exam General Paper (All Faculties)*

#### 9 a.m. till Opening Time

#### Candidates must not:

- Write on more than two sides of the paper.
- Blow noses on exam room curtains.
- Dispose of empty Guinness bottles by throwing them at the invigilators.

Marks will be deducted for bad spelling, and writitinning whitch is dificilt to read. At the end of the exam, will candidates impale their answer papers on the nail provided on the front door.

1. What language is spoken by French Canadians?
2. Give the important characteristics of ancient Babylonian Empire, with particular reference to architecture, literature, law and social conditions, *or* give the first names of the Spice Girls.
3. What religion is the Pope? - Jewish, Catholic, Hindu, Anglican. (One only.)
4. Who won the Second World War? Who came second?
5. What is a silver dollar made of? - Gold, lead silver, poly vinyl chloride. (One only.)
6. Explain Le Chatelier's principle of dynamic equilibrium, *or* spell your last name in BLOCK capitals.
7. Approximately how many commandments were given to Moses?
8. There were six kings of Britain called George, the last one being called George VI. Name the other five.
9. Who invented Stephenson's Rocket?
10. Write down numbers 1 to 10. (Marks will be deducted for every number out of sequence).
11. Dublin is the capital of which country?
12. Name the odd man out - Cardinal Heenan, The Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury, Jack the Ripper.
13. Who was the winning jockey in the All Ireland Greyhound Derby 1971?
14. Who built the Great Pyramid? - Rameses II, W. B. Yeats, Wimpey, Amey Roadstone Corporation. (One only).
15. In the 1973 Sheepdog Trials, how many were found guilty?
16. At what time is the News at Ten? 9p.m., 6p.m., don't know.
17. Would you ask William Shakespeare to - Build a Bridge, Sail the Ocean, Lead the Army or **WRITE A PLAY?**
18. What holiday falls on January 1<sup>st</sup>? Christmas, New Year, August Bank Holiday, St. Patrick's Day?
19. Do you understand Newton's Law of Gravity? **Answer Yes or No.**
20. Approximately how many questions were in this exam paper?

## Out And About With EriX

Jacqui Bradley *presents another fiendish brainteaser*



EriX's last walk to him to the Martyrs' Memorial, where he sat on the steps to have his picture taken. But where has he been this week?



### 100 Postscripts ago...

At the beginning of Hilary Term 1994, even the Editor himself wasn't sure what issue number *Postscript* had got to. A whole page was dedicated to unconfirmed reports of EriX's demise, variously by *The Joke*, an arrow through the heart, being run over by a train or eaten by a shark. One can only assume that the "EriX Is Not Dead" protest march held on Broad Street and Cornmarket on Wednesday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week was successful.



*Wishing Tristram And Angharad  
A Happy Honeymoon*