

Issue 396

PostScript

An Oxford University Scout and Guide Group Publication



On S'mores



Adventures of Erik



Summer Trip Fun!



Winter Walking

PostScript

Issue 396 - 3 of 3, MT08

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All items received will be presumed for publication unless otherwise notified. The editor reserves the right to modify contributions.

Contributions should be received by the Friday preceding the date of publication. Articles received after this time will be included at the editor's discretion, or may be retained for use in future issues.

Views expressed in PostScript are those of their authors, and may not correspond to those of OUSGG and associated bodies.

Editorial

Here we go then, the last editorial of term. And more importantly, the last editorial before Christmas! Yes, that's right, we're now in December which means I can start opening that Advent calendar that has been sat on my shelf tempting me for the past couple of days!

I tried my hardest to find a way to include an advent calendar in PostScript, but I'm afraid I've had to admit defeat on that front.

Anyway, on with the issue - and I'm pleased to say that this week we have slightly less filler than the last issue - huzzah! There's always room for more content though, so make sure you always keep a pad of paper handy in case you should be hit by a sudden wave of inspiration.

Michaelmas term has gone so quickly, but unfortunately I know that Christmas vacation is bound to go even quicker - which means that it'll seem like mere days before you're reading my rambling editorials again.

Before then though, we have the joys of Winter Walking! For anyone who hasn't been, it comes highly recommended for walkers and non-walkers alike, so cancel that New Year's party you were planning and come and join us partying up in the Lake District!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!



Chair's Report

So we're at the end of term already! Hopefully by the time you're all reading this we've survived the Christmas dinner and summer trip reunion and are enjoying sausages at the Big Bang after a faff-free AGM, ha ha.

So in the later half of this term we've been to see the Oxford Imps who provided a good show as always and had a pub crawl at the end of 6th week which allowed me to colour in 2 more pubs on my poster - woo! Ice skating didn't seem too popular so a few of us went to the old favourite G&Ds again instead!

Welcome again to those freshers who've joined us this term, and see you all after Christmas for Shell's term. Have a good vac!

Sarah



In This Issue

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More mail for the Editor

OUSGG Cocktail Book (pg 4)
This week's cocktail of choice is a classic OUSGG drink

The Amazing Adventures of Erik the Panda (pg 5)
Read the first instalment of the gripping new serial starring Erik the Panda

On S'mores (pg 6)
Sarah tries to find the perfect S'more

Winter Walking (pg 9)
Welcome in the New Year with style at Winter Walking

Summer Trip Activity Page (pg 11)
Something productive for you to do during your lectures

What's Happening?

- Monday, Week 1:** Fresher's Meeting (St Peter's College, 2000)
- Monday, Week 2:** Monopoly Wide Game (Meet at Carfax Tower, 1930)
- Monday, Week 3:** Film Night (St Peter's College, 1930)
- Monday, Week 4:** Bonfire and Fireworks (Meet at St Aldates Church, 1900)
- Monday, Week 5:** Ready Steady Cook! (To Be Confirmed, 1900)
- Monday, Week 6:** Ice Skating (Meet at Carfax Tower, 2015)
- Monday, Week 7:** Oxford Imps (Wheatsheaf, 1930)
- Monday, Week 8:** AGM and The Big Bang (Worcester College, 1800)

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms about the rampant misspelling of my name in issue 395 of PostScript. I do not, nor have I ever, spelt my name with an 'ie' at the end, and I have no plans to begin spelling it that way in the foreseeable future.

Lizzee Horne,
St. Edmund Hall

Ed: *My most heartfelt apologies go out to 'Lizzee' and anyone else who was affected by the typo. I will do my utmost to insure such a travesty never occurs again.*

Sir,

Further to my previous correspondence, I am happy to report that I have now found the missing hat. It was in our drying room, of all places.

Regards,

Phil Alderton, ex-St Peter's.

OUSGG Cocktail Book: Bailey's & Orange

as drunk by **Michelle Barton**

The failure that's a great success - Bailey's and Orange without the curdle!

Ingredients

- Martini class of Irish cream (or maybe several)
- Splash of orange cognac

Recipe

- Mix the above ingredients in a glass of your choice
- Enjoy!

The Amazing Adventures of Erik the Panda

told by **Tim Driscoll**

Part 1

Once upon a time, give or take a few days, there was a small stuffed panda named Erik, who was a member of the Oxford University Scout and Guide Group. OUSGG (as it was affectionately known by its members) cared a great deal about Erik, yet as the only panda in the group he couldn't help but feel left out.

He wasn't, of course. His friends took great efforts to involve him in everything they did, even if that meant smuggling him abroad in their luggage so he could join them on holiday, or letting him live with one of them and the others visiting regularly. But still, somehow, he-

BANG!! His thoughts were interrupted by the first firework as it whizzed into the dark sky. Like most members of the group he couldn't make it to every meeting, and he even avoided some of them whenever possible. The wide games, for example, were always a chore simply because he had to run in order to keep up with the other members of his team at walking pace. And any excuse would do to get out of a TGM, even if that meant he didn't get a say in where he'd be living for the next few months. It didn't matter too much though, since experience told him that one college room was very much like any other at the end of the day.

He loved this night though, even if he did have to watch it from the window of the minibus. He hadn't always done it like this, but a number of near misses had left him painfully aware he was flammable. Then again, the weather they had that evening made him feel glad to be in the warm and dry. And any minute now they'd... Ah yes, there was the singing starting up again, to accompany the light show. Erik joined in under his breath as the next volley of fireworks went off.

"Oh you'll never get to heaven..." Hmm, that was a new verse, he was sure of it.

Volley after volley of coloured sparks burst in the sky, punctuated by glows in the undergrowth from silver fountains he couldn't quite see, and all set to the constant background of singing round the campfire. They'd be onto the potatoes and marshmallows soon. That was something he regretted missing out on, but he had to agree that it wasn't easy to get toasted marshmallows to travel that kind of distance – they had a tendency to fall off the stick. Still, he could always have some when they came back to the bus. Occasionally, someone would visit to check he was OK, and he was glad of the company, fleeting or not.

It was strange, but there were even times when he missed tutorial work. Not that he'd enjoyed the late nights working, or having to rush around the libraries looking for the one book that he needed before they closed. It was just that he always had something to do, all those years ago in St. Hugh's.

The truth was, Erik felt old.

To Be Continued...

THE THERMAL PROPERTIES OF MARSHMALLOWS WHEN EXPOSED TO ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

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ABSTRACT:

In collaboration with Doumak Inc, the company which patented the extrusion process by which marshmallows are extracted, we have studied the thermal properties of marshmallows under various conditions of exposure to electromagnetic waves. This study has concluded that the optimal exposure time is four seconds which may need to be increased with the maturity of the marshmallows.

INTRODUCTION:

Marshmallows are confectionary which are made from sugar or corn syrup, water, gelatin that has been pre-softened in hot water, dextrose, and flavourings. The traditional recipe used an extract from the root of (*Althaea officinalis*) the marshmallow plant.

S'mores have been enjoyed as a campfire treat since appearing in the US Girl Scout handbook more than 80 years ago and consist of a marshmallow and chocolate sandwiched in-between two biscuits. Traditionally s'mores were prepared using a long metal skewer and held in the flames or embers of a campfire until sufficiently cooked. Recent advances in technology have allowed pioneering science to investigate the possibility that s'mores may be prepared by the exposure of marshmallows to electromagnetic waves with wavelengths ranging from 1mm to 1m.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Sainsbury's marshmallows and McVitie's digestive biscuits were used during this study. Each marshmallow was sandwiched between two chocolate digestives and placed into a Catz standard microwave for 10 seconds and observed with the level of gooeyness at each stage recorded. This experiment was repeated multiple times until all of the edible marshmallows had been consumed.

The study was performed under conditions two weeks apart resulting in a recorded increase in staleness during this time.



Figure 1: Scientific Materials

RESULTS:

Gooeyness Ratings:

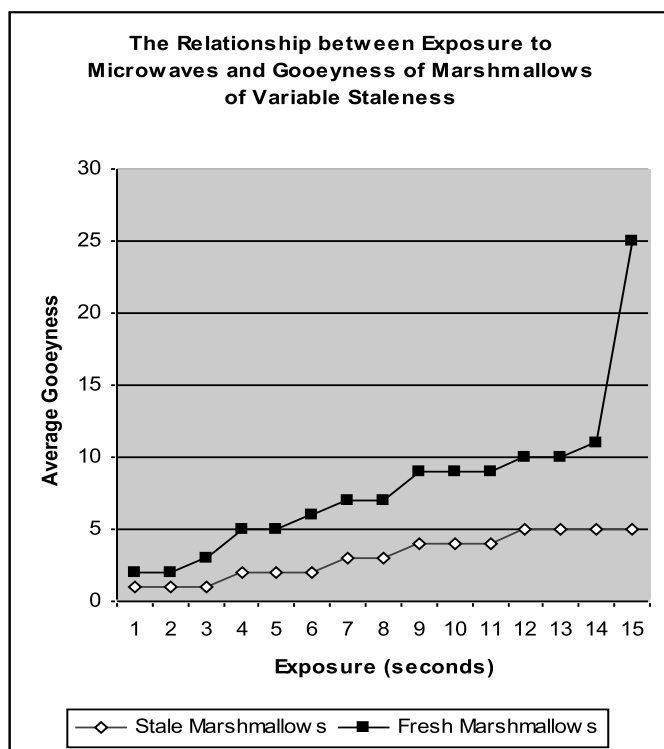
- 1) No observable change
- 2) Marshmallow becomes slightly fluid
- 3) Marshmallow at optimum oozyiness
- 4) Marshmallow gooey and expanding rapidly
- 5) Marshmallow severely inflated and escaping the boundaries of the digestive.

Duration of exposure to microwaves (second)	Average gooeyness level of marshmallow
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	3
5	3
6	4
7	4
8	4
9	5
10	5
11	5
12	5
13	5
14	6
15	No result obtained due to combustion of marshmallow.

Table 1: The squishiness values of fresh marshmallows when exposed to varying durations in the microwave.

Duration of exposure to microwaves (second)	Average gooeyness level of marshmallow
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	2
7	3
8	3
9	4
10	4
11	4
12	5
13	5
14	5
15	5

Table 2: The squishiness values of stale marshmallows when exposed to varying durations in the microwave.



DISCUSSION:

These results have concluded that the optimum time for marshmallow cooking in a microwave is between 4 and 7 seconds depending on two factors. The first factor is the age of the marshmallow and it has been found that marshmallow hardness increases linearly with age. The second factor is personal preference, shown by a recent survey of NnN attendees confirming that some persons may prefer

marshmallows at gooeyness stage three whereas others enjoy mallow which have reached stage four and must be consumed using a spoon.



Figure 2: Marshmallow as observed after 7 seconds.



Figure 3: Marshmallow as observed after 10 seconds.

REFERENCES:

Elizabeth Horne and Anthony Nathaniel. (2007) Postscript 380:5-8 **Quotation Usage as an Indicator of OUSGG Relative Hilarity, Sanity and Morality Indexes, 2003-2007.**

J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 20 (2008) 494231. EAG Jamie, GJ Davies, MD Howe, RPA Dullens and DGAL Aarts. **Thermal capillary waves in colloid-polymer mixtures in water.**



Meet the Survivors

This rainbow of OUSGGers all successfully survived Summer Trip 2008 - but can you identify all 6 of them? Even if you don't know everyone pictured, avid PostScript readers should be able to work it out with help from our Summer Trip special in Issue 394. What do you mean you've thrown it away?!?

Fancy experiencing an OUSGG trip first hand? Then come along to Winter Walking - details on the next page!

Winter Walking

e-mailed by **Nick Scroxtton**

It's back - the all-singing, all-dancing week of hill-walking, tea-shop visiting, food eating, drinking, games and drying rooms. Yes, it's Winter Walking™!

This year we're off to the Lake District, specifically Ullswater. We have booked a hostel a third of the way up Hellvellyn, and it's an ideal base for some good quality hill-walking. And if spending all-day out in the freezing cold climbing mountains isn't for you, then there'll be the usual variety of people walking the lower hills, people taking valley walks, and trips to tea-shops and, so I've heard, a pencil museum. It promises to be, as ever, an awesome week.

And now it's time to sign up and let me know if you are coming!

Here are the details:

When? 29th of December 2008 to the 5th of January 2009 (Monday to Monday, New Year's Eve is the Wednesday)

Where? At the Greenside Striding Edge Hostel, just above Ullswater in the Eastern Lake District

How Much? £13 a night (probably)

What Do I Need To Do?

E-mail me (nicholas.scroxtton@seh.ox.ac.uk) and let me know the following:

- 1) When you're coming
- 2) How many nights
- 3) How you'll be getting there (we can provide transport from Penrith if you're coming by train)
- 4) Any dietary requirements (terms and conditions of coming on Winter Walking states that you must eat one sprout at Christmas dinner).

People who have already said they are coming should let me know this as well.

At this point I no longer need a deposit from people, but if you'd prefer to pay £10 a night to me now (so you're not paying at the end of December) then send a cheque to:

Nick Scroxtton
St. Edmund Hall
Queen's Lane
Oxford
OX1 4AR

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions, otherwise see you all there!

F&GPC Minutes

as recorded by **Lizzie Horne**

These minutes are still AWOL. If you seen these minutes, or have any information relating to their whereabouts, please contact postscript@ousgg.org

They were last seen on 7th November, at the F&GPC (held at Cowley G&D's) at around 2045 in the possession of the OUSGG Secretary.

OUSGG Pub Crawl

as photographed by **Pilly Owen**



Summer Trip Activity Page

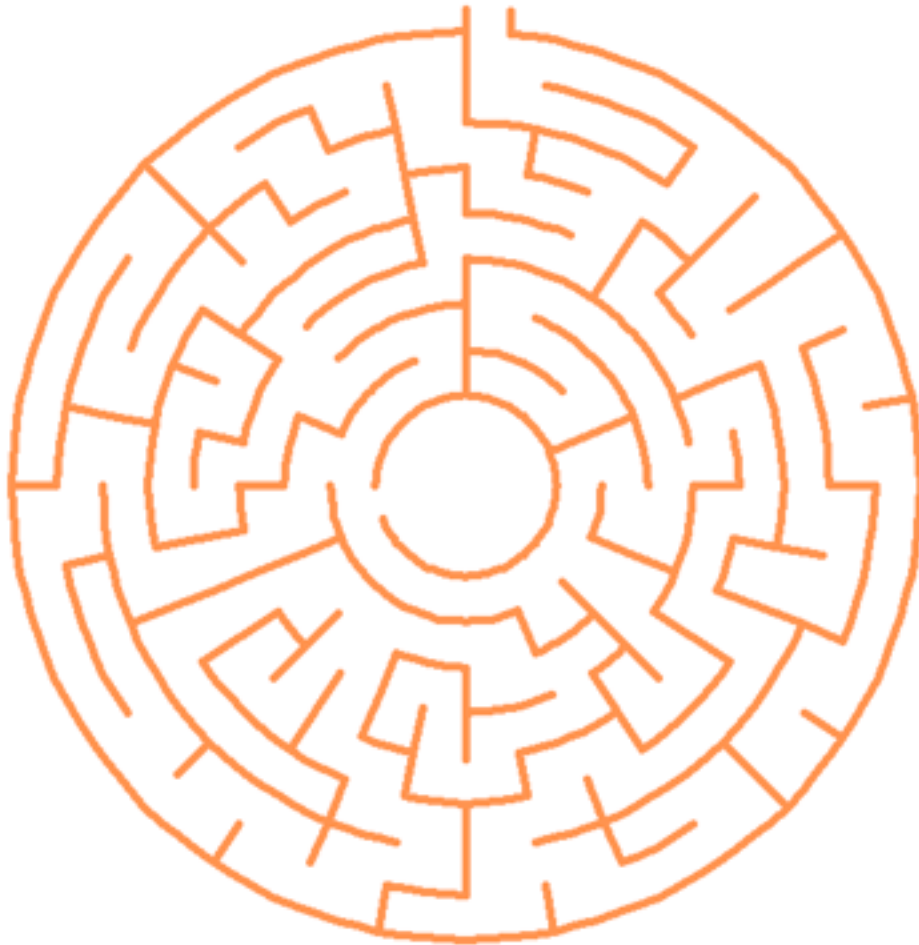
imagined by **Sarah Harvey** and **Jude Owens**



Pin the bruise on Shell!



Decorate your pants!



Can you find your way through Béziers back to the boat?

300 Issues Ago...

This week, we look back to a message from the quartermaster of yester-year (more like yester-decade, 1978 to be precise!)

Scientists! All prospective scientists, please note that the Q.M. has in his possession all the equipment necessary for the Cub Scout Scientist badge! It might enable you to reach your full potential. Magnets, bicarb., vinegar, electromagnets, lamps, mirrors, all are here!

Unfortunately, we no longer have such items in our stores, but I'm sure if anyone was *really* desperate to get their Cub Scout Scientist badge it could make it into someone's term-card at some point!

QuoteScript



I shouldn't feel like this after only three pints! I need to drink more!

Michelle Barton

An engraved hip flask? No. Thongs?

Michelle Barton suggesting presents for Lizzy's 60 year old teetotal mother

Erik is used frequently.

Sarah Harvey

I need to squat... Oooh, that's better.

Michelle Barton

I only need to wash my hair every ten days and we can do each other!

Michelle Barton to Nick

Stop clutching my breasts!

Lizzy Horne to Shell

Erik I do!



The next issue of PostScript will be published on **Monday 26th January**.

Please submit your articles by **Friday 23rd Jauary**.