



# PostScript

Oxford University Scout and Guide Group

# 400







Name That  
*Erik*



# PostScript

Issue 400 - 1 of 3, TT09

**Editor:**

James Baker, New

**Chair:**

James Baker, New

**Chair-Elect:**

Currently Vacant

**Treasurer:**

Tim Driscoll, Oriel

**Secretary:**

Elizabeth Horne, Teddy Hall

**SSAGO Rep:**

Sarah Harvey, St Catz

**Membership Secretary:**

James Baker, New

**Internet Officer:**

Michael Howe, Ex-Worcester

**SAGLO:**

Richard Owen, Ex-Lincoln

**Quartermaster:**

James Baker, New

**N'n'N:**

Michael Bedington, St Peter's

**Annual Dinner Organisers:**

Sarah Harvey, St Catz

Elizabeth Horne, Teddy Hall

**Old Members Rep:**

Chris Seward, Ex-Jesus

**Senior Member:**

Gavin Williams, St Peter's

Any correspondence or articles for submission should be e-mailed to [postscript@ousgg.org.uk](mailto:postscript@ousgg.org.uk), or may be sent to:

James Baker,  
New College,  
Holywell Street  
Oxford,  
OX1 3BN

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

It's here. The one and only 400th PostScript. And what's more, it coincides with the 90th Annual Dinner. That means twice as much partying (but hopefully not twice the hangover the next morning!)

I guess I ought to start by thanking everyone who contributed to this bumper 400th issue. It's taken quite a lot of work to pull it all together, but hopefully the end result is worth it. I certainly think it is.

I've enjoyed being the editor of PostScript, and I count myself quite lucky to have the 400th issue fall during my editorship. Of course, I still have two issues left after this one, and following this issue will be quite a challenge - but I'll give it my best, and who knows where that will lead us.

As well as the editor, I'm the chair for the upcoming term; and for those of you who haven't yet seen the programme (there's a copy on page 5), we've got an exciting term ahead of us. There's Geocaching, a trip to the Imps, a pub quiz, punting... the works!

In particular, we have a trip up to Youlbury in 4th week, where we're going to spend an afternoon having a go at the Aerial Trek. There are still places left, but I'll soon be offering out any spare places to non-OUSGGers so that we have enough people to make the trip worthwhile. So if you're interested in coming along, get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Finally then, I just want to say an extra special thanks to Lizzy and Sarah, who have worked hard to put on the 90th Annual Dinner - which I'm sure will be/was a superb occasion to kick Trinity off with.

So, here's to a good annual dinner, a good term, and the next 400 issues of PostScript. Cheers!

The next issue of PostScript will be published on **Monday 18th May**.

Please submit your articles by **Friday 15th May**.

# In This Issue

## **Name That Erik (pg 2)**

We all know we have the best Erik, but can you name these other wannabes?

## **90th Annual Dinner Guest List (pg 5)**

Just for the record, we've printed the guest list to the 90th annual dinner, held at St Cross.

## **Letters to the Editor (pg 6)**

You wrote them, so we've printed them.

## **The Amazing Adventures of Erik the Panda (pg 7)**

The fifth instalment of Erik's ongoing misadventures - what will he get up to this time?

## **PostScript Through the Ages (pg 10)**

A look back at the other centenary issues of PostScript. Haven't we come a long way since the days of the typewriter!

## **On the Subject of Fire Lighting (pg 12)**

There are many different ways to get your fire roaring. Find out which one suits you best.

## **Sudoku (pg 13)**

See if you can complete our exclusive Sudoku puzzle.

## **OUSGG Cocktail Book (pg 14)**

This issue, we'll be showing you how to make Podka.

## **A Reminiscence (pg 15)**

Join us as we drift merrily into the hazy days of the past.

## **Panda Facts (pg 16)**

Learn all you'll ever need to know about Pandas, and see if you can complete our bear word search.

## **Four Zero Zero (pg 18)**

Ten facts you didn't know about four hundred, and one that you did.

## **QuoteScript (pg 18)**

This issue's collection of examples why you should think before you speak.

## **The OUSGG Guide to Alpacas (pg 19)**

Make sure you know how to survive Easter Activity, with our handy guide to Alpacas.

## **The Wonderful World of Wikipedia (pg 20)**

Wikipedia is a weird and wonderful place. OUSGG is a weird and wonderful group. And now, with our handy map, you can find out how the two relate!

## **Planning Discussions Modelled as a Brownian Motor (pg 22)**

More scientific research for you to digest. This time, into the nature of faffing.

## **Monopoly Wide Game (pg 24)**

Have a gander at some of the photos that resulted from the wide game in 1st week.

## **OUSGG on IRC (pg 26)**

Find out how you can get your fix of OUSGG any time, rather than just Monday evenings.

## **Spot the Difference (pg 27)**

Some joker's been playing around with the group photo from Easter Activity. How many differences can you find?





# What's Happening?

**Monday, Week 1:** Wide Game (Carfax Tower, 1900)

**Monday, Week 2:** Geocaching (Carfax Tower, 1900)

**Monday, Week 3:** Photo Challenge (Carfax Tower, 1900)

**Sunday, Week 4:** Aerial Trek (Youlbury Scout Activity Centre, 1415)

**Monday, Week 4:** Evening Pub Walk (The Trout)

**Monday, Week 5:** Oxford Imps (The Wheatsheaf, 1930)

**Monday, Week 6:** Pub Quiz (Cricketer's Arms, 2000)

**Monday, Week 7:** Punting (Magdalen Bridge)

**Monday, Week 8:** TGM and Meal (To Be Confirmed)

Where not listed, times will be sent out by e-mail a few days before each event. For meetings not in Central Oxford, details of where we'll meet will also be sent out.



Rejected PostScript 400 Cover Art

## 90th Annual Dinner Guest List

*St Cross College - 2nd May 2009*

Philip Alderton • James Baker • David Ball • Michelle Barton • Sarah Berman • Caroline Berry • Gillian Bradley • Sue Brooksbank • Madeleine Bunce • Katrina Burton • Roger Burton • Luke Cartey • John Cotes • Sarah Cotes • Roger Cotes • Timothy Driscoll • Sally Evans • Angharad Fenton-May • Tristram Fenton-May • Andrew Freer • Eric Gordon • Alistair Green • Hayley Harvey • Jonathan Harvey • Sarah Harvey • Mark Hawkins • Derek Hilton • Elena Hilton • Elizabeth Horne • Janice Idale • Martin Idale • Davina Inkson • Jonathan Inkson • Fiona Jefferson • Gillian Jolly • Peter Jolly • Jeremy Key-Pugh • Ros Key-Pugh • Peter Lund • Guy Mason • Sarah Mason • Roger Miller • Christina Mowl • Hannah Mycock • Gareth Owen • Richard Owen • Jude Owens • Suzanne Potter • Alex Pownall • Jonathan Pownall • Jacqui Ramsden • Michael Ramsden • Jennifer Robertson • Jeremy Rowntree • Christopher Seward • Natalie Seward • Samuel Snelson • Tara Whitaker • Ian Williams • Joanne Williams • Noga Zivan

## *Letters to the Editor*

Dear Sir,

To commemorate the 400th edition of Postscript, any chance of including some recent highlights of this esteemed publication's glamorous recent past?

Yours truly,  
An Ex-Editor  
(Editions 376-384)



# *The Amazing Adventures of Erik the Panda*

as told by **Tim Driscoll**

## Part 5

A gunshot echoed around the clearing, and then there was pain.

\* \* \*

“So what happened then?” asked a member of his captivated audience, as Erik paused for effect. It was the evening of the OUSGG annual dinner, and not just any annual dinner, either. This was the 90th, a special event celebrating the longevity of the group, and looking forward to times to come. This was just the champagne reception, where Erik had been coerced into telling the tale of his adventures in China. Only one person had heard all this before – Paul, the ex-treasurer who'd flown him there and back.

“Well...” he continued.

\* \* \*

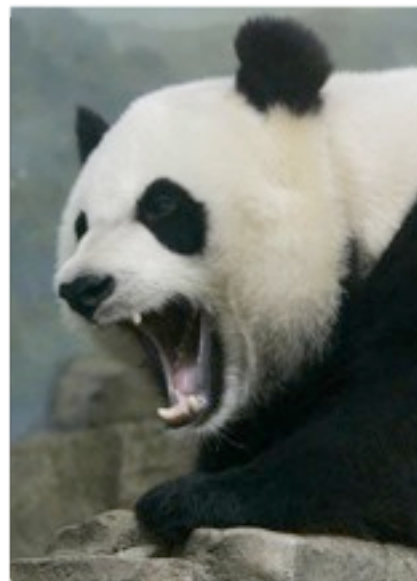
Rob had been too cocky. Ultimately, that's what did it. If he'd waited, he might have got away with it. As it was, some of the panda's were unrestrained (maybe a dozen, not counting those who'd rejected the offer of 'safety' and left the clearing). They heard the gunshot, understanding it's meaning as clearly as any of the men, and they weren't happy.

“BETRAYAL” boomed the voice of Big Xang, and the battle began. On the floor, his shoulder in agony, Erik looked on in awe. Until that moment, he hadn't realised how much he'd gone along with the western 'pandas-are-endangered/pandas-are-cute/pandas-need-our-help' mentality. And while there was truth in that, there was something else he'd overlooked. Pandas are bears, each one capable of knocking a fully-grown man unconscious with a single blow.

Of course, the men were armed. Added to the element of surprise, it would be a fairly even fight, possibly in the men's favour.

Except for Rob, who was shooting into the fray from a distance, with no-one able to get near him. Xang himself had charged the man, but hadn't even got halfway there before succumbing to a volley of darts. Erik realised then that there was only one panda in the clearing with a hope of stopping them...

\* \* \*



“Who?” demanded his eager audience, before arguments started to break out between various people, each of whom had a different pet theory. Some of them were right too. Before he could continue the story though, they were called for dinner.



He didn't normally eat much, but in this case was willing to make an exception. And the meal was very good. However, no sooner than most people (including him) finished their starters, he found himself pushed into continuing the story.

“As I said, there was only one panda there who had any chance of stopping Rob...”

\* \* \*

When no-one seemed to be watching him, Erik seized his chance, struggling to his feet, knife in hand. He charged at Rob, like Xang had before him, except that Erik was closer. He'd almost got there when he too fell to a tranquilliser dart.

“Stubborn idiot” muttered a poacher, stepping carelessly over his body. “You'd have thought the bullet would be enough.” Erik made his move, pulling the dart out of himself and jabbing it into the man's calf. The man yelped in surprise, before tumbling to the ground. Erik felt a second dart hit him from behind.

“Why won't you stop?!” yelled Rob, as Erik turned to face him. A third dart hit his chest.



“Stuffed. Toy.” Erik responded, and once again charged the pair.

\* \* \*

Erik gave a small prayer of thanks when the main course, a beautiful piece of lamb, came in at that moment. He hadn't planned it that way, but so far each course was timed perfectly to stop the story at a dramatic bit. From a storyteller's perspective, it was almost too good to be true. Almost.

\* \* \*

All around the clearing, the battle was reaching its conclusion, as the pandas who'd left earlier returned in a seemingly endless stream of reinforcements. The poachers had been winning, until they'd had to reload. Then, the pandas had seized their chance.

Many of them had run from the clearing, only to come scrambling back moments later with another returnee in pursuit. Rob himself was rummaging around in his bag, and brought out a stick of bamboo with some rags attached. He lit the makeshift torch.

Erik had just enough presence of mind to duck, as the flames swept over his head.

“Don't like fire, do you? Mr. Stuffed Toy.” Rob taunted, waving the torch at Erik to emphasise his point. “Now drop the knife, and back away.”

His eyes surveyed the scene, his remaining men were isolated and outnumbered. Very well then. “Catch!” he yelled, throwing the brand into the bamboo. In the same movement, he ran for the nearest van and started the engine.

Erik froze, unsure of what to do next. If one of his friends from home were here, they'd have a way...

*To Be Continued...*

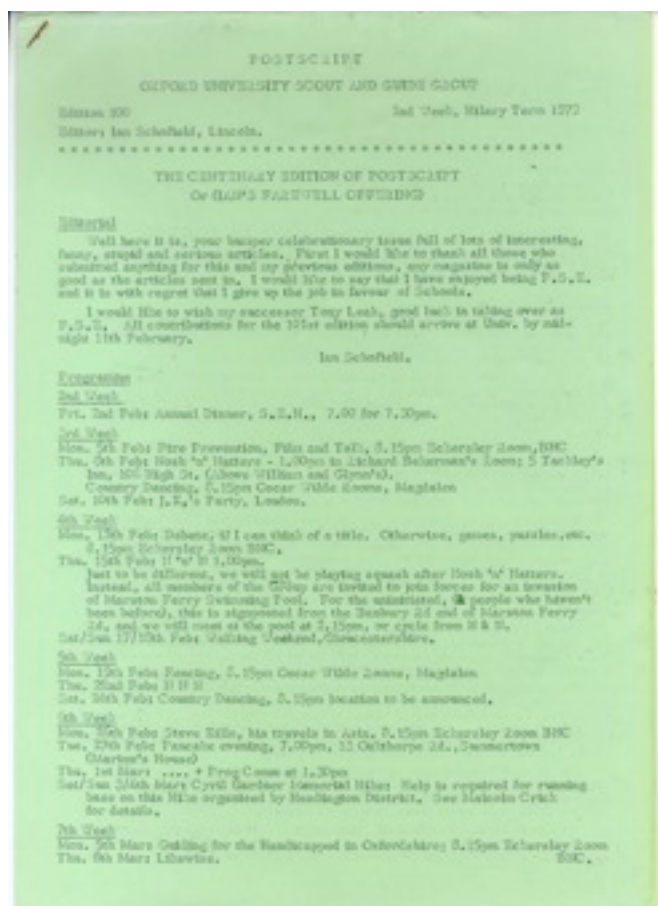
## Competition

How does Erik get out of this mess? Submit your answer by **Monday 11th May**, and the best/funniest/most original one will be used next time in the epic conclusion of Erik's adventures in China! The author's decision is final.

# PostScript Through The Ages

looked back on by **James Baker**

It's been around 40 years since the first ever PostScript, so it seemed a fitting time to delve into the PostScript archives and pull out the other centennial issues to see what treasures could be found lurking there.



**Issue 100**  
*2nd Week, HT 1979*

**Special Feature:** Green Paper  
**Low Point:** A disappointingly short Editorial  
**High Point:** A tribute to OUSGG Porridge, and some OUSGG songs

## Selected Quote:

Though you may yearn for egg, bacon and sausage,  
For black pudding, kippers, or other such forage,  
You'll have to keep wishing;  
It's established tradition  
That your day shall begin with OUSGG porridge.

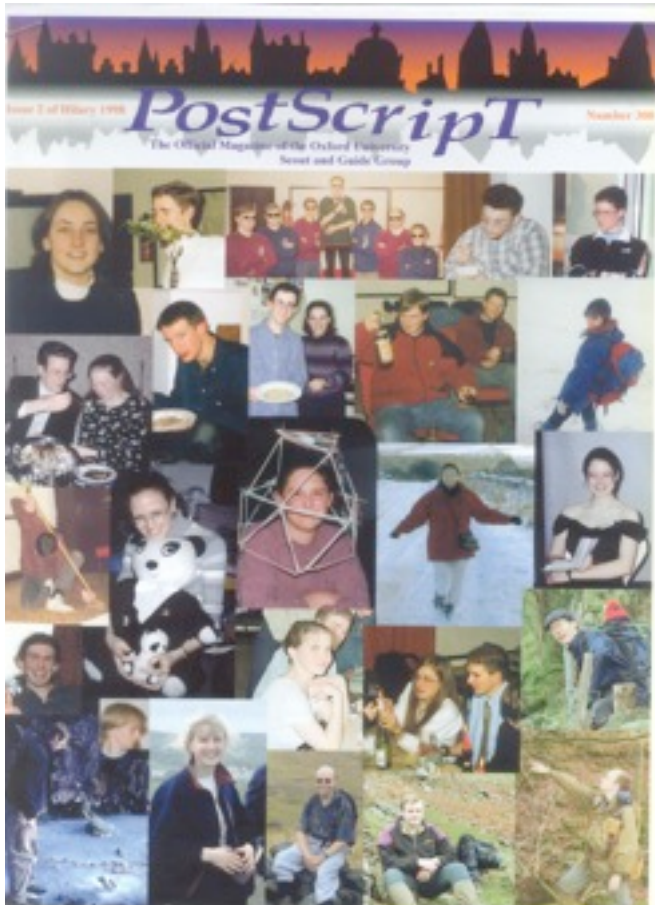


**Issue 200**  
*Number 1, HT 1987*

**Special Feature:** None  
**Low Point:** A lack of special features  
**High Point:** Winter Walking Quotes

## Selected Quote:

Andrew to Hagar: I wish you wouldn't keep doing that.  
Hagar: There's nothing better to do in the back of a car!



## Issue 300

*Number 2, HT 1998*

**Special Feature:** Colour Montage

**Low Point:** Alison's Article - "I'm doing Finals"

**High Point:** A recipe to make Chocolate Fudge Cake

### **Selected Quote:**

Oh no: we've all been turned into anagrams...



## Issue 400

*2nd Week, TT 2009*

To be announced in Issue 500, arriving at an N'n'N/Annual Dinner near you in 10 years or so.

So there you have it, a blast from the past - OUSGG style. It was strange looking back at the old type-written issues, and seeing people talk about Shillings and other such oddities. But I dare say that in another hundred issues time people will be laughing at the time when PostScript used to printed on this "paper" stuff.

If anyone is interested in looking through some of the old issues for themselves, then most issues are available from the Bodleian Library. The more recent issues (from Issue 277 onwards) are also available on the OUSGG website.

The OUSGG Archive also holds copies of PostScript dating back to the 46th issue.



# *On the Subject of Fire Lighting*

smouldered by **Geoff Hall**

While many people in OUSGG could probably light a fire, methods and efficiency vary greatly. Here are six methods of lighting fires, along with ratings for speed and preparation time.

## **1. The Classic**

Begin by collecting different size twigs/branches/logs. Sort them in to piles based on size, and produce some kindling of very dry wood. With kindling at the bottom, build a log cabin around the fire and light. As the fire grows, waft and add increasing sizes of wood as needed.

Speed - Slow

Preparation - Even slower

## **2. The Meths Method**

As above, but instead of kindling a meths soaked rag will serve as the base of the fire. Careful when lighting it however, as it has a tendency to flare up quickly.

Speed - Medium/slow

Preparation - Slow

## **3. Do Not Dispose Of In Fire**

For a different and perhaps remote way of fire lighting, the kindling can be lit by means of electricity. With the use of wire wool and a battery, connecting the battery across the wire wool will soon result in enough heat to light a fire. Combine with either method 2 or mains power for some more 'interesting' results.

Speed - Medium

Preparation - Dependant on ignition method

## **4. Great Balls of Fire**

Being in the army is like being in the Scouts, except that the Scouts have adult supervision. When you really get stuck, a call for a Napalm air strike is certain you get your fire roasting hot in seconds.

Speed - Fast

Preparation - Mach 6

## **5. Spreading Like Wild Fire**

This method is best used when someone else has done all the hard work for you. Simple collect a baked bean can full of oil, and attach a nozzle to the top. Place in someone else's fire, nozzle aimed at your fire until the oil reaches flash point. 3 drops of water down the nozzle should get your fire (and tent) burning in no time.

Speed - Fast

Preparation - Who cares, someone else does it

## 6. When Hell Freezes Over

This one's scientific. Simply produce a flying pig. This will of course mean that hell has to freeze over, and all that energy has to go somewhere (hopefully into your fire and not into you). This one can be tricky to pull off, so be prepared for a wait. Other starting points can also be world peace/end of third world hunger/a Scout using less than two boxes of matches to light their fire.

Speed - Fast

Preparation - Almost certainly a very long time

Please note, fire can be dangerous in the right hands and all these methods should only be attempted when there are no responsible persons around.

# Sudoku

created by **Sally Evans**

Have a crack at our exclusive Sudoku puzzle - you won't find this puzzle anywhere else!

For those of you unfamiliar with how to play Sudoku, the rules are simple. Each square, row and column has the numbers 1-9 in it. It's your job to complete the rest of the grid using the starting numbers given to you.

9			3	1	5		6	2
								9
	5	2	7			8		
8	4				3	7		
		9		7	2	3		
7			8				9	5
		7	5			1		6
3	8		4		9		5	
2				3				4

# OUSGG Cocktail Book: Podka

as drunk by **Lizzy Horne**

Mistaken a box of Perry for a box of *unbelievably* cheap white wine, while trying to keep down the cost of a society trip? Never fear!

## You Will Need

- Perry
- Vodka
- Healthy sense of misadventure

## Recipe

- Combine the Perry and Vodka together in a 50/50 mix.
- Enjoy!

NB: If mixed correctly, this will taste *exactly* like very cheap white wine. Just don't let anyone else see the box.

---

**NEW from OUSGG Publications**

The  
OUSGG  
**WINTER WALKING  
COCKTAIL BOOK**

Learn to mix this year's new and exciting cocktails, including

Cider Espresso • Sherry & Orange • Bailey's & Coke • Port & Ale

Plus all your old favourites!

Bailey's & Orange • Cheeky Vimto Light • Vodka & Squash

And introducing

Guinness & Lemonade

The cocktail they tried to suppress!

**Pre-order yours TODAY!!**



# A Reminiscence

as dreamed by **Phil Alderton**

Slumped in my favourite armchair, the sound of the blazing fire engulfs all my senses as I drift into a blissful nap. Well, almost blissful, save for a constant prodding in my ribs by an overexcited eight year old. Quietly annoyed that the young git had disturbed my nap, I prepare to feign interest in his naive questions. As I wake, startled, I rather hope he will direct his childish curiosity towards the framed confession from Lee Harvey Oswald hanging in the study, and quickly work out another set of lies about how it fell into my possession. Strangely, he wasn't interested in that. Not today anyhow. Instead, he points gormlessly at a fading picture I have on the mantelpiece, taken during my carefree days as an undergraduate at Oxford. I'd half-forgotten about it, tucked away as it is behind a couple of Minié balls and that fraudulently held Nobel Peace Prize ('don't ask questions' the committee had said - I didn't).

'Who's that?' he asks.

'Me, before any of this ever happened. I used to keep clean-shaven, until I got sick of the sight of blood in the morning. What a handsome young fellow I was. And still am. But that mustard jacket: what the hell was I thinking? Ah, the innocence of youth...'

'No, not you, silly. HIM'

I follow his finger to the rotund panda held by someone whose name I still don't know.

'That,' I reply, 'is Erik'. And before the boy can make his excuses, I drift into my reminiscences.

It was an exercise in escapism, mainly. The eight-week Oxford term was so draining, all students had to have a way out. Some drunk too much. Others played politics or acted or froze on the river in the early mornings of Hilary Term. Me, I just did something different. Mondays were the one night of the week where I didn't have to take myself seriously (not that I ever took the whole Oxford thing without a large dose of salt anyhow). We'd do things, we'd have fun, we'd succeed amazingly or, more commonly, fail miserably. But we were allowed to, nay, encouraged to. It was the only chance during those eight long/short weeks in which being crap didn't matter.

I remember one evening where we placed a snail on a piece of cardboard and placed bets on where the poor thing would end up after an hour. We all lost. He went further than we thought it would. But the sight of clever, articulate, brilliant people trying to egg on a snail to move in their direction will stay with me forever. If I recall correctly, we rewarded him with a piece of lettuce for his efforts and released him to a new, more fertile, part of St Peter's. We always looked after our own, you see.

And then there were the trips. Some big, some small, all memorable in their own way. For me, the highlight was always the evenings; once the day's business had been conducted and we were left in a hut having to amuse ourselves until tiredness overtook us. Über-tactical sardines, Chinese charades, all 549 (and counting!) Name Games, and, of course Mafia. It is only fitting that the best university society in the world should have been so keen on playing the best parlour game yet devised (Mornington Crescent notwithstanding). After all these years, I'm still abysmal at it.

Of course, even now if I close my eyes and concentrate I can hear fragments of conversations and of in-jokes and witticisms that are otherwise lost. It's still difficult to suppress a grin every time I pass a shipping container and my eyes still light up if a hut comes with its own drying room, though what one does in there eludes me to this day. There was also a complicated joke

which could only be told on New Year's Eve but was only ever half-remembered. Something about a guy and a hod, yes that was it...

I feel a poke in the ribs. I think it's time I woke up.  
*Phil Alderton, ex-St Peters (Chair, Hilary Term 2002)*

## Panda Facts

researched by **Sally Evans**

I was stuck for ideas for this momentous PostScript edition, but due to my desire to distract myself from my essay of doom, I decided education into the world of giant pandas was my only road to progression.



The **Giant Panda** (left) - A.K.A. Erik - is not to be confused with the **Red Panda** (right). As you can see both look very cute and fluffy and have distinctive rings around their eyes, which is why pictures were needed of both. However, the giant panda is a bear, whereas the red panda has its own family: Ailuridae.

### Giant Panda Fact File

Latin Name	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i> , "cat-foot black-and-white"
Location	Central-western and south-western China – restricted to mountainous regions
Diet	Almost exclusively bamboo, occasionally insects, bamboo rats, fish and other vegetation. Spends up to 16 hours a day eating.  The giant panda can't readily digest it's bamboo laden diet; it has to eat 12-15kg of bamboo a day!
Status	Endangered – threatened by habitat loss, and low birth rate
Numbers	About 1000 left in the wild
Size	Length: 160-190cm, Shoulder height: 65-70cm

Weight	85-125kg (male, although can reach 160kg) 70-100kg (female)
Age	Can live up to 34 years in captivity, 10-15 years in wild
Lifestyle	Mainly roaming around and feeding. Every adult has a defined territory but only encounter each other in the breeding season after which the male leaves the female to raise the cub alone – charming!
Reproduction	Reach maturity at 4.5-7.5. Females will usually give birth to cubs every 2 years from then. Gestation lasts 112 – 163 days and 1, occasionally 2 or 3 cubs are born.  If food is scarce, only one cub is raised. The cub being raised can eat adult food after 9 months, but may remain with the mother for a further 9 months after this.
FACT!	Unlike other bears pandas have an extra ‘digit’ on their front paws – their wrist bone is specially adapted to act like a thumb to grasp objects & gather food.
Panda Story	A story tells that pandas originally had just white fur. When shepherdesses were killed trying to save a panda from a leopard, the pandas attended a funeral wearing black garments. Their tears mixed with the dye in the clothes and stained their white fur. By rubbing their eyes and hugging each other parts of their bodies turned black and remained so.

## Panda Word Search

Can you find the members of Erik’s wider family in the word search grid below? They appear forwards, backwards, and diagonally.

K	T	O	K	A	K	E	U	K	S	B
C	G	N	W	O	R	B	L	A	P	S
A	R	I	K	N	D	P	L	I	E	O
B	I	X	A	V	U	I	E	D	C	L
L	Z	W	D	N	J	S	L	O	T	H
N	Z	G	I	Y	T	E	T	K	A	T
S	L	R	A	L	O	P	B	L	C	K
I	Y	I	G	Z	S	C	A	P	L	D
A	C	O	R	Z	L	T	A	N	E	Q
I	B	G	O	R	F	A	T	U	D	T
I	K	C	A	L	B	N	A	I	S	A

Asian Black  
Brown  
Giant Panda  
Gobi  
Grizzly  
Kodiak  
Polar  
Sloth  
Spectacled  
Sun



# Four Zero Zero

recounted by **Nicholas Scropton**

To celebrate 400 issues of Postscript, here are a few of my favourite 400-based facts:

- There are 400 grads in a circle. Only one under-grad is required as the world obviously revolves around them.
- 400 is the HTTP status code for a bad client request.
- The bus route 400 operated from Bolton to Stockport and Manchester Airport from 1970 to 2004, and was known as the Trans-Lancs Express.
- The 400th XKCD comic is about leaving your music player on shuffle during sex.
- Lee Dixon scored on his 400th appearance for Arsenal, a 3-0 win against Leicester at Filbert Street in 1999.
- The Boeing 737-400 has a maximum cruising speed of 912km/h.
- The 400 State Trail is the most beautiful bicycle trail in Wisconsin.
- The Olympus E-400 has the retro good looks of past Olympus film SLR's. Other headline features are the Supersonic Wave Filter for dust reduction, a 2.5" LCD monitor, three frames per second continuous shooting and an easier to use interface.
- A cup of stuffing has 400 calories.
- Kilkenny in Ireland was granted its royal charter 400 years ago.
- Alginic acid is e-number 400. It is a thickener, a stabilising and a gelling agent.



## QuoteScript

Just three quotes for you this time. Remember that you can send anything you feel quote worthy to the editor by e-mailing [postscript@ousgg.org.uk](mailto:postscript@ousgg.org.uk)

*The triple thing, you do three bits of it: the pentathlon.*

**Lizzy**

*There's one - let's go finger it.*

**Shell**

**Lizzy:** *It's the 90th.*

**Mike B:** *Aren't there only thirty days in the month?*

You can also view the archive of older quotes on the OUSGG website (look in the PostScript section). This issue's random quote from the archive comes from Issue 349:

**Hayley:** *David, you're going to melt that...*

**David:** *Details...*

# The OUSGG Guide to Alpacas

written by **Michelle Barton**

Originating from the camelids family, alpacas were bred in South America especially to make silly hats for the true OUSGGER as demonstrated.

Easily mistaken for llamas, alpacas are preferable for hat-making machines as they produce more fibre than llamas despite them being about half the size. Llamas are more useful for carrying heavy loads necessary for OUSGG trips, although this makes them less cuddly, so its probably more comfortable to ride an alpaca when blisters set-in.

Alpacas are domesticated species, but are still liable to suffer from shock with too many OUSGGers snapping away, so approach slowly and be sure to stand behind the fence rather sharing their field.

Whilst they may appear friendly, they have been known to spit if their food is taken away; this shouldn't be a problem though as we are all accustomed in dealing with hungry Scouts.

Alpacas perhaps have more in common with OUSGGers than is thought at first glance. They too seem to be unaware of the existence of hairdressers.

Finally, don't forget about our native animals, they too like to pose for the camera, even if they aren't as cute.



# The Wonderful World of Wikipedia

drawn by **Geoff Hall**

*[Ed: You'll need to rotate your copy of PostScript so the compass on the next page is the right way up for the directions in this article to be correct.]*

The image on the next page is a relationship map of Wikipedia. Each red circle represents a single page on Wikipedia, while each blue line represents a two way link between those two pages. (i.e, page A links to page B and page B links back to page A). The size of the circle represents the number of two way links from that page.

This particular map is focused around the article for the Oxford University Scout and Guide Group, which is a small circle between the South East outlying cluster and the main cluster, about half way. Every page shown can be reached via only one intermediary page from OUSGG.

The image is rendered in a way as to show relation ships, so each cluster is a set of related pages:

South East cluster - Scouting pages

South West cluster - Latin alphabet

North East cluster - Dates

North West cluster - Universities in England

If you look at the North West cluster, you'll see two mini clusters below, and 4 larger circles. The largest of these is the University of Oxford, and the other 3 are made up by Cambridge, Edinburgh and Bristol. The cluster they surround are a group of international universities, and the cluster below that [near Oxford] are the colleges.

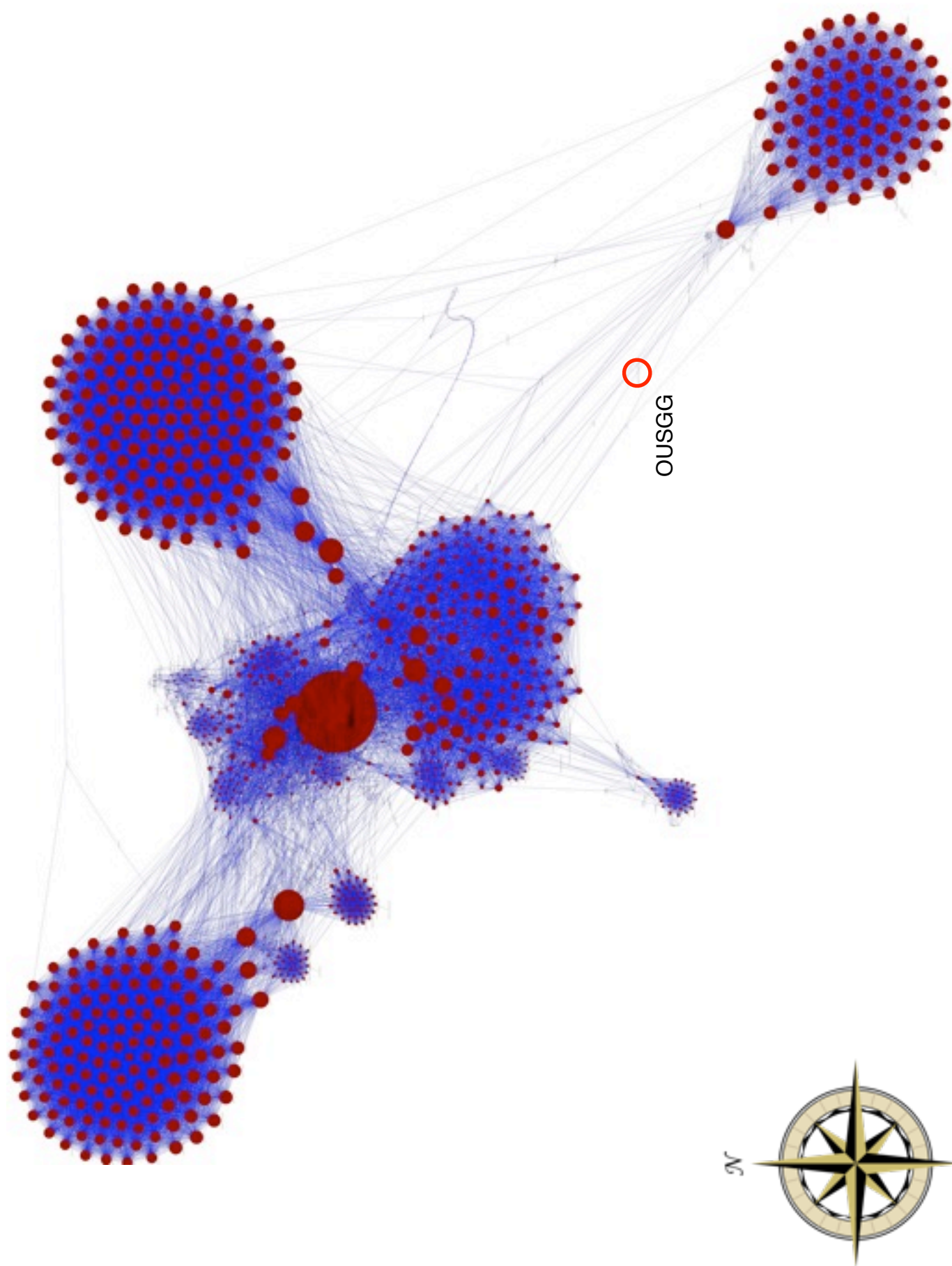
The largest circle on the map represents the United Kingdom, below it is a large irregular cluster with two tiny clusters attached on the West side. The large cluster is the countries of the world, roughly grouped by continent, while the Northern mini cluster is pages on economies and the Southern is pages on militaries.

Above the UK is a bit more disorganised, but there are groups of circles representing cities, different areas of the country, governmental/monarchic history, battles, legal system, science and engineering.

To the East lie 4 large circles connected to the North East cluster and a 'tail' of small circles - both of which are made up of pages representing years.

For the interested, the single circle between the two Northern clusters is Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame) and it connects The Academy of Music, September 22 and W. S. Gilbert.

The image was generated with data from Wikipedia and a program written in C#. It took 8 hours to calculate the correct node positions.





# PLANNING DISCUSSIONS MODELLLED AS A BROWNIAN MOTOR

A FREER<sup>1</sup> and J Q Public<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Department Of Contemporary Faff Analysis,  
University of Oxford*

<sup>2</sup> *Applied Faff Department, Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology*

## ABSTRACT:

Planning discussions, or "Faff", are postulated to behave similarly to a "Brownian motor". Attempts are made to determine limiting and driving factors, and a strategy is proposed for further research.

## INTRODUCTION:

The concept of Brownian motors was devised by Feynman as a thought experiment on perpetual motion machines [1], but they have since been discovered as a reasonable model of the driving mechanisms of various molecular motors found in life [2]. These simple motors work by controlled Brownian motion to achieve progress in a chosen direction. Random movement is allowed to take place. When movement in the right direction happens, energy is spent to lock the mechanism and prevent backwards motion. The meanderings of the motor gradually result in progress. In this study, it is postulated that activity plans are formed on a similar basis, with each step towards a decision marked by a phrase such as "Right! So we're agreed that...". Artificial discussions have been set up to plan an event.

Previous work has suggested that faffing may be increased by addition of a free energy source [3] or external driving factor such as a

tutorial deadline. In addition, we have investigated whether the addition of a social lubricant would improve faffing. Due to its well-documented effects [6, 7], alcohol was chosen for this purpose.

## METHODOLOGY:

Experimental groups were randomly chosen, and given the task of organising a group trip. Progress was measured by necessary details agreed; these were not shared with the participants before the experiment; but were measured after the faff ended. The following groups were selected.

- A. Control group (located in a college room)
- B. Procrastinating students putting off essays or tute sheets (online)
- C. Sugar-stimulated group (located in a room with lots of Haribo)
- D. Pub group (located in the Three Goats' Heads)

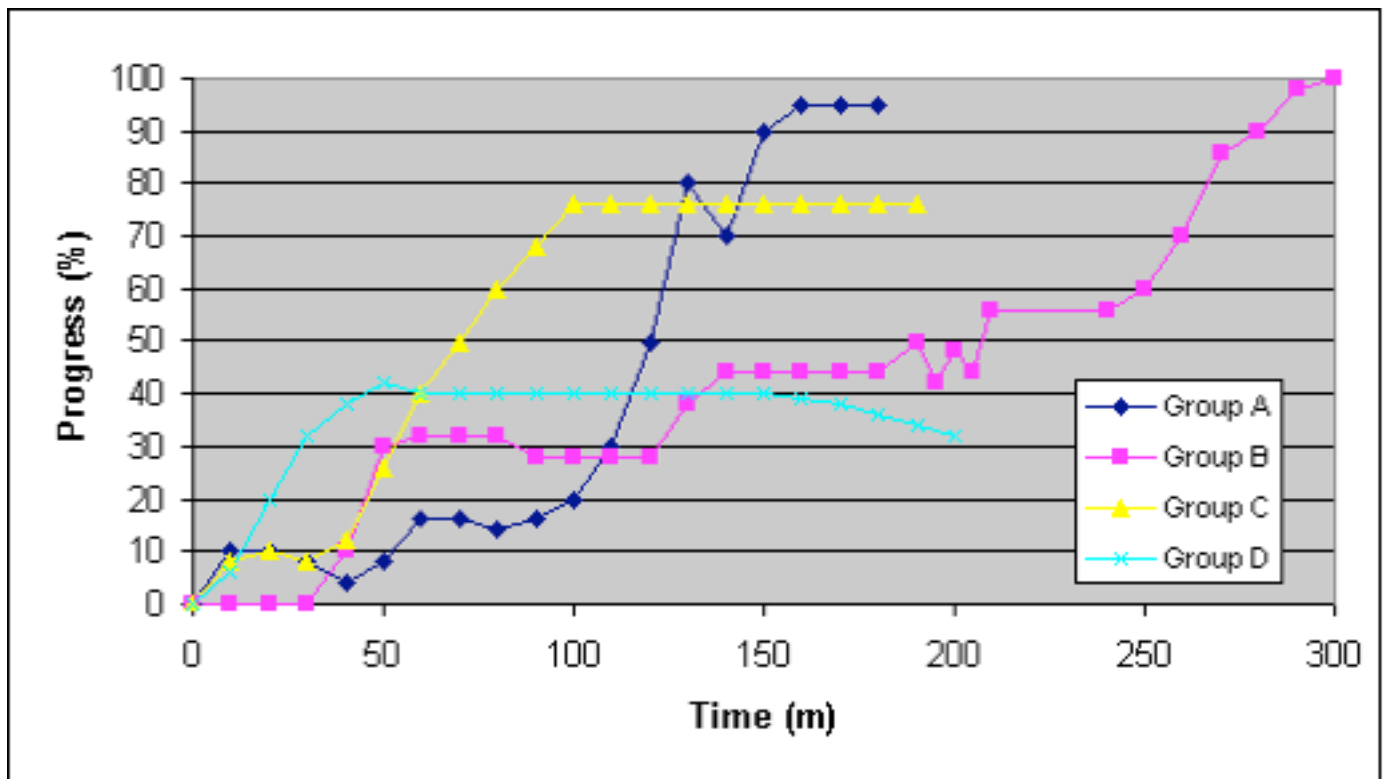
A proposed fifth group subjected to threats of crying pandas was rejected by the ethics committee.

## RESULTS:

Results were plotted (Figure 1) using the method laid out by Horne et al [8]. Result sets finish early if the group stops faffing.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the experiments:

- Sugar did appear to act as a beneficial stimulant, but at around the 100 min mark, the group became irretrievably distracted.



**Figure 1:** Time elapsed plotted against the progress made planning a group trip.

- Alcohol appears ill-advised in planning discussions, and appears to drive the faff towards irrelevant transportation matters
  - The procrastinating students were slow to faff, and frequently halted by bouts of conscience, but became most thorough after all other groups had gone to bed.
- Results were insufficient to derive mathematical models, but we did enjoy our holidays.
6. T Taylor, J Jennings, P Theakston et al. *The lubricative effects of ethanol* (1995)
  7. P Alderton, *Pub? – On the selection of drinking establishments*, (2009)
  8. E Horne et al, *Quotation Usage as an Indicator of OUSGG Relative Hilarity, Sanity and Morality Indices, 2003-2007, Postscript 380*, (2007)
  9. Plato *Republic* (c. 360 B.C.)
  10. Lord R. Baden-Powell, *Scouting For Boys* (1908)
  11. P Alderton, *On bibliographies as a means of name-dropping*. (2006)

## REFERENCES:

1. RP Feynman, *The Feynman Lectures on Physics, Vol 1, Chap. 46* (1963)
2. RD Astumian, P Hänggi, *Brownian Motors, Physics Today 55*, (2002)
3. C Berry, G Bradley, M Howe, *Sucrose and the human nervous system* (2005)
4. C Wood, *Rhubarb, Custard and the binary state of orchidism – Does email hinder procrastinating students?*, (2006)
5. M Ramsden, *Making world good* (2003)

# Monopoly Wide Game

photographed by **James Baker** and **Andrew Freer**

On Monday of 1st week, we left the comfort of our rooms to embark on another crazy OUSGG wide game. This time, the aim was to photograph the locations that appear on the Oxford Monopoly Board.

Below are some of the photos.









# OUSGG on IRC

blogged by **James Baker**

Run out of ways to procrastinate?

Feel you need more than your weekly dose of OUSGG?

Then you're in luck, because I'm here to introduce you all to the OUSGG IRC channel.

First off, I'm sure there are a couple of you who are wondering what IRC is (if you're wondering what OUSGG is, then don't worry - no-one else really knows either). IRC stands for Internet Relay Chat, and is essentially an easy way to have group chats on the internet.

So how does one partake in one of these group chats? For those of you who have a vague idea what you're doing, everything you need to know is in the box on the right. For those of you who don't, I've prepared a handy and easy to follow step-by-step guide below.

## 1. Find An IRC Chat Client

The first thing you'll need is something to connect to the IRC network with. For this, you'll need a IRC chat client. There are plenty available for free on the internet, and I've listed some of the most popular ones below. Just find one you like, head over to the website, and download!

### Linux

Konversation - [konversation.kde.org](http://konversation.kde.org)

XChat - [www.xchat.org](http://www.xchat.org)

### Mac OS X

Colloquy - [www.colloquy.info](http://www.colloquy.info)

### Windows

mIRC - [www.mirc.co.uk](http://www.mirc.co.uk) [\$20 Registration Fee]

XChat - [www.xchat.org](http://www.xchat.org)

### The Essentials

**Server:** [irc.oxirc.org](http://irc.oxirc.org)

**Port:** 6667

**Channel:** #ousgg

## 2. Create A New Connection

How you do this, will depend very much on which IRC client you are using, but detailed instructions will be given in your clients help. The details you'll need (i.e. the Server and the Port) are in the essentials box above. It will probably also ask you for a username - just enter whatever you want other people to know you by. If there are any settings you're not sure about, just leave them as the default.

## 3. Join the OUSGG room

Again, this will depend on the chat client, and you'll probably have to refer to the help for your client if you're unsure. Usually there'll be a graphical interface asking which channel you want to join, in which case you need to enter *#ousgg*.

If there isn't, you might need to enter the join command manually: `/join #ousgg`

## 4. Start Chatting

That's it! You can now faff away to your heart's content!









THIS IS OURS!!

400