



PostScript

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Scout & Guide Group

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Fresher Fantasy

Always with its finger on the pulse, the PostScript office brings you the latest sensational stories from OUSGG's most controversial new member, Phil Alderton. Ever wondered what Erik looks like without the sub fusc... well someone has...

Foot-and-Mouth

Concern is expressed over the fate of Easter Activity after the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease. Still, at least we're not the Walking Club, who are left with little to do at the moment: an angle for the recruitment campaign, surely?!

Foot-in-Mouth

Bad, gag, but almost certainly coined first on the Peaks Trip. By Phil.

Rally Plans

In a shock move, OUSGG plans to actually go to the summer Rally near Nottingham. Will Chris finally attend a Rally after seven years in Oxford...? Looks like you'll have to wait until next year's PostScript to find out!

EPISODE IV:

A NEW ROPE

PEAKS TRIP TURNS-UP HANDCRAFTED OFFERING FOR THE Q.M.

EDITORIAL

Chris Seward, Jesus

Mike's missive is sooo big, there's no space for me... this shouldn't be allowed! Thanks for all the articles... keep up the good work, y'hear me ?!

CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Mike Haley, Merton

Well Hilary is history now and many members are set to escape the confines of Oxford for the long Easter break. I hope you all enjoy it and remember local Scout and Guide activities as well as the Easter Activity and plans for the Summer. I'll be still here and as I gaze out from the hill top hospital on the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside it calls out to be explored, but alas for the moment it is forbidden fruit, the spectre of foot and mouth disease hangs over it. This affects much Scout and Guide activity, it being responsible and directed by the chief executive of the Scout Association and MAFF to avoid unnecessary travel between rural areas and particularly on farm land, open country used by farm animals and forests used by deer. We've seen this limit the Peaks trip and may well to prevent the Easter Activity going ahead as planned. The challenge of this is ensuring all Scouts and Guides we are in contact with understand this and also suggest alternate ideas for outdoor recreation, including using water based

and coastal (hard in Oxford!) or park based activities to full effect.

Since my last address I can say the term improved, my dogs came in ahead of the pack, I'm comforted in thinking that OUSGG will not be caught out if the Libyan national anthem is played or if called to identify the distinctive tang of miso soup. I was impressed by Bill's ability to pitch a grapefruit and Chris's understanding of the finer points of the weighting of a lemon. The trip to the Peaks left us with a fine handcrafted rope, with an odour of oily dope, and indelible memory of a truly superb village pub.

Despite the real difficulties of being outside Oxford for part of the term and rushing out of surgery to get to meetings, I've enjoyed much of my tenure and appreciate the tolerance and support of members in coping with organisational problems. I wish Tristram all the best for Trinity.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond to Mike Haley's letter in the last edition (*PostScript* 326). As he points out, the issue of OUSGG doing more to help local Scouting and Guiding has been raised several times before, and he is right that OUSGG should not be just a social club. However, I think it is already more than that - even just sticking to purely OUSGG activities, it maintains an interest in Scouting and Guiding amongst its members, and gives them valuable experience. Having graduated and left Oxford, I have become a leader in a local Scout Troop. I think I can confidently say I would not have taken that step had I not spent three years in OUSGG whilst at University. Although I would never have considered becoming a leader whilst a student, being involved in OUSGG has kept alive my interest in Scouting and in the outdoors. It has also provided invaluable experience. On my desk there is an application form for Adventurous Activity Authorisation (Mountaineering and Hillwalking). One part of the form asks for details of recent Mountaineering/Hillwalking experience - without OUSGG, I would not have much to put there.

So, I think rather than all rushing out to find the nearest Scout Group where we can help, we should instead concentrate on our own activities. The group needs keen and enthusiastic people to organise activities, in order that we can recruit more keen and enthusiastic people. We need to make sure that OUSGG continues to have an overflowing termcard and a busy calendar of trips, and more importantly, a group of people dedicated to Scouting, Guiding, and OUSGG.

Yours etc, David Ball, ex-Keble

Dear Sir,

I write in response to Mike Haley's letter in *PostScript* Issue 326 regarding OUSGG members and what they do to provide service to local Scouting and Guiding. I too have often thought that personally I could make more of an effort to get involved with local Scouting. During my time as Scout & Guide Liaison Officer, I tried to get the Group more interested, but was far from devoted to this aim. During my considerable number of years in Oxford, I have seen many different faces of OUSGG. Certainly during that time the Group has consistently failed as a unit to interact fully with the local Movements; however, there have

always been individuals who have devoted some of their time to local Groups. Many of those who aren't involved in Oxford are still active at home. Somewhat ironically, I would say that the present time represents something of a high for involvement outside of OUSGG itself!

With regards to getting OUSGG as a body involved with local Scouting and Guiding, this must be a two-way thing. I am sure that when I was Liaison Officer, I pointed out to the local Commissioners (who should read this letter themselves eventually!), that they needed to keep on asking for help with things... expect little to be forthcoming, but perhaps once in a while we might get enthusiastic.

Unfortunately, at the moment, OUSGG membership is at a low, and so are the numbers coming along to regular meetings and trips. I would say with certainty that it is far more important that we concentrate on reviving OUSGG itself, before we go looking to provide service to others, lest we end up with no Group at all.

Yours, Chris Seward, Jesus

Dear Sir,

In issue 326 Mike Haley wrote expressing concerns about the direction OUSGG is heading. I am not really writing to reply to that as I am no longer an active OUSGG member. However WHERE ARE YOU OXFORD? I attended my third Rally this term (Cardiff) and, as with previous rallies, Ben Bateson and I were the only two representatives from Oxford! (For those of you who don't know, Ben and I were at Oxford for a year before escaping!!) I know what it is like at Oxford and I can't say much as I never went to a Rally while I was there either BUT why not give it a go? It is only a weekend away and it is really great fun. There are loads of like-minded people all gathering in one place and sharing ideas and friendship. The next rally is in the summer holiday 6-8th July so you don't even had the "I have too much work" excuse. Come on Oxford, join in the fun... you never know you might even enjoy it!

Yours, Linda Crawford, ex-St. Hilda's

PS. If you can't make it to any rallies this year then fine but PLEASE come to Nottingham's rally in summer 2002. Plug... Plug... Plug!

Well look at that: Linda finally loses her Fresher Status!

It's the return of:
PEDANT CORNER

Dear Sir,

I would like to complain at the way Oxford has been squashed, at the top of each page in the last edition (*PostScript 326*). If this continues, everyone will leave at the end of their degree with back problems from having to stoop to get through all the doorways. I hope the editor will not be promoting this lack of consideration in the future.

Yours etc, D.A. Ball, ex-Keble

The lack of doorways not being a concern then...?

Dear Sir,

In light of your award of a prize for the definition of the word "dfiscovered", will you be offering a similar prize for the definitions of "fluer-de-lys" and "youghurt"?

Yours etc, D. A. Ball, ex-Keble

No.

Dear Sir,

Phil Alderton has missed one point in his article "Lurid Logo?" (*PostScript 326*): what's with those dots? Surely as Scouts (sorry, I mean scouts), we should "Be Prepared!". Instead, we must "be prepared..." - which leaves one wondering, "for what?"

Yours etc, D. A. Ball, ex-Keble

I'm not sure I follow the pedantry in that one? Can anyone help me out? Surely we always had to wonder what we had to be prepared for: that was kind of the point. Perhaps then, "be prepared..." makes far more sense now?

OBITUARY - SCOUTNET UK

There were always two Scouting websites for those of us based in the UK. Good old Scoutbase, which became official and expanded exponentially covering everything from the book of games, via the incredibly useful e-mail directory, to the automatic neckerchief generator. Then there was Scoutnet UK. Predating Scoutbase, it was easier to read, unofficial, and (at times) more amusing. Indeed, for many, myself included, it was the first Internet Scouting site we ever found. Sure, until recently the user interface was simple (but clear), but the content was there. And how varied it was. The online quizzes were a particular favourite, especially when an automatic high score table was added. It hardly ever overlapped with Scoutbase, but then it would not have been so vital had it done so. As many are no doubt aware, one of the reasons the initial six-part release of "Scouting for Boys" was so popular among the youth of Edwardian England was its (illegal) serialisation on Scoutnet. Baden-Powell did not pursue this case directly, but the suit that was brought by Pearsons (the publishers) against the service remains one of the cornerstones of common law in this tricky area of copyright. It remains to be seen whether the archives of the service, containing such gems as their defiant link to www.scoutnet.de during the First World War, or their discussion in the 1950's of the impacts on Scouting of joining the European Coal and Steel Community, are to be salvaged from the estate of the deceased. The history of the Movement is indeed reflected in the pages of Scoutnet. Sadly, as of this week, it has ceased to exist. Actual details of the cause of death are currently in the hands of the coroner, but whatever caused the fatal blow, the virtual Scouting community knows it has lost a good thing, forever. It is survived by a mass of wiring, empty server space, and an offspring, "Baloo!"

Phil Alderton, St. Peter's

THE ANNUAL DINNER 2001

Mark your calendars for the 82ND OUSGG Annual Dinner to be held at Wadham College on May 19th

I know it's the same place as last year, but not too many colleges do dinners for outside clubs anymore. Added bonus, however, is that we get to eat in the glorious Wadham College Hall (at least that's what the Steward said). Menu to be sorted in the near future. To be followed by the Punt and Picnic Spectacular on May 20th.

Be on the lookout for invitations soon! Trinity Term, Saturday 4th week : Annual Dinner. Be there or be square!

Any questions, concerns and food restrictions to be sent to Bill Kurau (email: oxforddip@hotmail.com)

WEEKEND TRIP TO THE PEAK DISTRICT

Natalie Jones, Wadham

We set off from Hythe Bridge Street at 17:30 hours on Friday 23rd February. Our mission was to enjoy a walking weekend in the Peak District. Little did we know how difficult that was going to be. The traffic wasn't too bad on our exit from Oxford but it wasn't long before Chris brought up the topic of the dreaded foot and mouth disease. The evil walking club had tried to sabotage our plans by sending an email warning people not to go walking in the countryside, but we were going to see for ourselves, as we didn't think it affected Derbyshire. The journey was fairly peaceful, apart from the thump thump music Phil and I were forced to endure, with a stop for dinner where Mike felt the need to buy stores a new pot of poivre gris. Our accommodation for that evening was Taddington Barn, which had "some heating" and "separate flush toilets". No sharing there then.

On arrival at the barn Phil got very excited and started photographing the sleeping area. It was perhaps as well that he got it out of his system as his camera froze that night. Yes, "some" (but not a lot) of heating was the appropriate word and it was stuck in the kitchen so the sleeping area was cold. Mike had been sent with some Oxtail soup from stores to warm us up (thank you Stephen), which was a little on the solid side, and Chris had brought some out of date cup-a-soup. Who says vegetarianism isn't the way forward?



After supper we decided to go to the pub across the road. So near to the barn that I'm surprised Ben hasn't tried to organise a trip there. We had to run as it was quarter to eleven, but all was well and we settled down to enjoy the warmth and our drinks. It was very peaceful until we tried to get out and were forced into a lock in. (Just gets better doesn't it Ben?) The owner was really nice and, once she discovered we were staying in the barn, offered us a heater. Chris kept denying that we'd need it, claiming we were 'ard, but being a woman and having more sense, she gave me the final vote. Whilst there we had to suffer each other's conversation as we'd left the barn in such

a rush that we'd forgotten the cards. It turns out that Phil seems to have some sort of fetish about Erik being naked, but that's best left for another time... So we departed from the pub warm and with a heater. On our way out a rather drunken farmer spotted Phil and asked him where he was from. "Oxford University". Phil may have just as well said "Oxford, ra ra ra". The farmer went on to ask Phil what he was going to do with his Politics degree and me what I was going to do with my maths degree. Phil then decided Mike (the medic) would be a good example to illustrate that none of us knew what we were going to do with our lives. The conversation was very informative. Apparently, when I've borne children I should cook a nice brisket of beef, lots of fat, and put a few thick slices on a sandwich with a bit of salt. This, coupled with drinking and smoking, hasn't done the farmer any harm as he's still awaiting the heart attack he was promised eight years ago as a result of high cholesterol. He reckons that he has "bl**dy wide" arteries. Fortunately he didn't spot Mike cringing.



Camping Barns:
not as warm as pubs

The next morning dawned bright and sunny... and noisily as Mike sat in a balaclava decided to bang around packing up. We were treated to porridge and probably gone-off milk as we had spectacularly managed to move it round the barn to the warmest spots we could find. We had a little hot water, as there was a shower so washing-up wasn't much of a problem. We sabotaged Mike's plans for a pre-walk walk by rising late and so set off to Castleton in the Dark Peak area to meet Jo and Gareth (who for some unknown reason had decided to only spend one night in the cold). As we met at the car park it became clear that there was a spy in our midst. Jo informed us that we had been advised not to walk in the Peaks area. There went Mike's plan for a hike up Mam Tor. Thus ensued our first faff. (Any observant readers may notice the connection between Jo's arrival and the first faff...) It was eventually decided that we would drive back to Hope to do some shopping and search for an information centre. More accurately, look in the gear shop.

It was decided that we would drive up Mam Tor and take some photos then have a look round one of the many caverns near Castleton. Peak cavern was our preferred choice, which was the home of some rope makers. We arrived just in time to catch a tour of the caverns where we saw Father Christmas and his parrot, and a skull. When the tour ended we watched a rope making demonstration. It took an Oxford brain to work out how to break the peace of twine but the rest of the group was too scared to volunteer to actually make the rope. Missed out on OUSGG made rope for the quartermaster, but don't think you got away that easily as there was still some for sale... We then had tea in a rather swish teashop, where the tea came in cafetières. Afterwards we became aware of Gareth's withdrawal symptoms as he had been separated from a gear shop for at least four hours. Although there were sheep so I can't really complain.

We then set off to our sleeping "palace" for that night. Suspicions were aroused when we realised we weren't expected and there was a stranger, Paul, staying with us. By the end of our stay he was more scared of us than we were of him. This barn sounded a bit down market from the last one as it "used to be the pig sties at Ivy House Farm" and we could even "see the remains of the old feeding troughs". Wow! The pièce de résistance must have been the "650 breeding ewes with some beef cattle". What lucky cows they have up north. The barn also had "a flush toilet and tap outside" (we realised later just how unuseful this was) and apparently "electricity has now been installed". How did the piggies manage to cope? As an extra special feature, for one night only we had free insulation by snow installed. For dinner we had pasta and veg - including leeks - in tomato sauce (memories of Switzerland came flooding back - literally) and cake and custard (where we discovered that it is possible to botch up instant custard isn't it Gareth?). After dinner we decided to have a game of poker with a twist. Not being able to afford money, but finding that rice and matchsticks have no intrinsic value, we decided to use biscuits. It was decided that a bourbon was worth five custard creams. Some of us preferred to have as many as they could of one particular type of biscuit in their hands, whereas Phil enjoyed swapping and keeping his options open. If his secret plan was to touch all the biscuits in the hope that no one else would want to eat them, then he didn't count on the munching ability of



Jo. Eventually after Chris had seen Gareth's custard and raised him a bourbon we concluded Gareth was the winner. Phil however, despite knowing all the rules, should be glad he never came with us to the Dogs.

The next morning the barn no longer had a flush toilet and the tap produced no water. Paul had kindly left some bacon but this still didn't give some people an incentive to get up. Washing up was literally freezing as we went back to the traditional methods (from when Gareth was a lad) of using snow and sticks. For some people it was too easy to boil some snow in the kettle so cold fingers ensued. However the pan got special treatment. Fried snow and washing up liquid. Some members of the group had started to get itchy feet so we opted for a walk that wasn't across farmland - Ladybower reservoir. We planned our route and set off for the car park. Unfortunately the road we wanted to go along had been closed so some of us headed off towards Sheffield. Not Mike's plan at all. We tried to radio through to Jo and Gareth but lost all mobile 'phone reception (and people keep trying to tell me they're useful?) but eventually ended

up on the same car park. The tourist information centre (which had a lot of sheep) recommended forest walks so we thought we'd have a detour through some woodland then back via the reservoir. Only then we discovered that the farmers have started packing their sheep off on camping trips in the woodlands. Mike couldn't believe it and became convinced the sheep were stalking him - even though they were ahead - so opted for maximum impact, minimum distance followed by a wander along round part of the reservoir. After lunch Chris and I went to find a café and the others carried on walking. We were supposed to meet at the café a bit later but we received a 'phone call to say that they'd be late as Gareth had lost a bit off his camera so they'd spent an hour looking for it, to no avail. Gareth is now going to have to buy another one as James Bond had one. Not that television is influential or anything.

The journey home wasn't too bad and Phil and I managed to take over the radio with baABBA, where everyone joined in with "Dancing Sheep", "Knowing Me, Knowing Ewe" and "Sheepie, Sheepie, Sheepie" (must be fleecy in an ovine world).

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Helen Ensor, St. Hilda's

Minutes of the 119th F&GPC meeting held on 1st March 2001 at 1:15pm in Keble College

Present

H. Ensor C. Berry
T. Fenton-May W. Kurau
S. White M. Haley
P. Alderton C. Mowl
C. Seward R. Owen

Apologies

None

Minutes of the last F&GPC

Were passed with no alterations

Matters arising

None

Officers reports

Chair - Mike

Term has progressed much as originally feared, not many people have attended weekly meetings and not many went on the mid-term trip but it was fun!

Chair-elect - Tristam

We may be doing exciting stuff next term, he hasn't decided yet. Things already planned are a barbecue and talking about computers!

Treasurer - Richard

He's changed the signatures on the bank accounts now and will find out what has

happened to the bank statements. Will also chase up the matter of insurance.

Secretary - Helen

We're registered with the Proctors

Membership Secretary - Stephen

Have got some new members, amendments list needs to be sent to Chris for publication in *PostScript*.

SSAGO Rep - Phil

Nobody went to the last Rally; the next Rally is in July

Scout & Guide Liaison - Amanda

No report

Postscript Editor - Chris

It's going well, no articles as of yet for next issue, but he's hopeful!

N'n'N Organiser - Christina

She has got vast quantities of tea!

Quartermaster - Stephen

Has got most of stores in his car!

Internet - Richard

Has now got the passwords and Proctors forms and now

needs to do something with them! He will also find out about the options for our OUSGG email address eg ousgg@herald, ousgg.org etc.

Postscript Distributor - Natalie
She wants the file from Stephen.

Annual Dinner Organiser - Bill
Will most probably take place on Saturday of 4th week at Wadham.

Any other business

We need some more new members!

Possibilities to attract new members were:

Pidge every fresher a flyer at the start of next Michaelmas
Email the freshers who signed up at Freshers Fair early next term about next term's meetings

Make membership free for next term for all Freshers

Plug summer trip

Have a meeting next term to properly plan our Freshers campaign for next year

Discuss the matter further at the TGM

The meeting closed at 1:50pm

OUSGG Committee : Hilary Term 2001

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

QUOTES

Chris: "It's the one that's been gripping my gearstick all the way up."

Phil: "When the revolution comes I need a secure powerbase... and the Boy Scouts are as good as anything..."