



GREAT TOWER

WOODHOUSE PARK 309km

YR HAFOD 151km

DOWNE 388km

BUDDENS 408km

YNULBURY 311km

GILWELL PARK 355km



POSTSCIRPT

ISSUE 425

2022-2023

Welcome to the 425th Postscript!

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Editor's note

Abbie Ramsey (Univ)

Welcome to the latest edition of postscript! Despite this being in OUSGG for 3 years now and being on committee previously, this is the first year I've even submitted an article (never mind editing it). OUSGG has been busy this year so I hope you enjoy reading about the wide variety of activities we have done together this year and thanks to everyone who submitted an article!

Committee

2022-2023

Chair—Jamie Church, St Hugh's

Table—Emma Hedley, St Catz

Secretary—Kaleigh Parks,
Pembroke

Treasurer—Raffaël Marth, Trinity

IT Officer—Will Hebberd, Keble

SSAGO Rep—Ceri Foster,
Brasenose

Brookes Rep—Elizabeth Shipley,
Brookes

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SSAGO Rep—Alex Berresford,
Teddy Hall

Events Coordinator—Isla
Ingham-Lenman, Teddy Hall

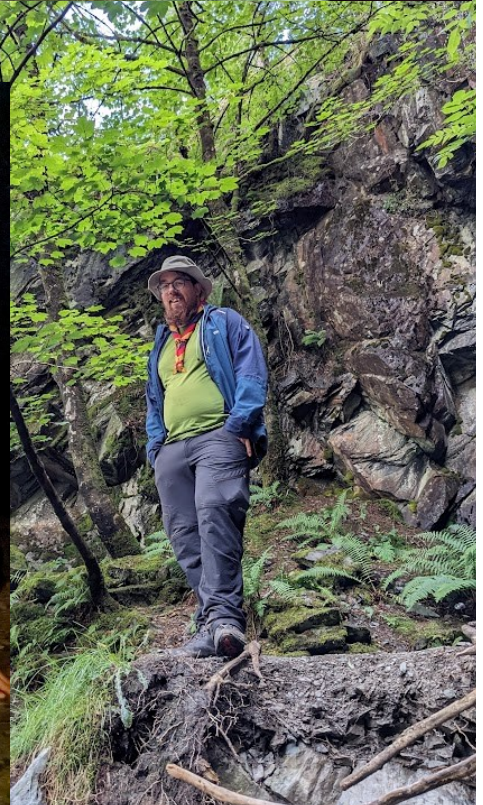
Chair's Report

Jamie Church (St Hugh's)

Having joined OUSGG as a fresher during my first (COVID) term in 2020, OUSGG meetings have been a regular staple of my Wednesday night, and the occasional weekend, during term time since! During my time as Chair, we have managed to return to rallies (something I'm told hasn't occurred since before the pandemic) which has now become a welcome staple of the OUSGG calendar! We have also had the usual assortment of activities, such as hikes, trips to the pub, punt and picnic, Burn's night, and of course celebrating Erik's birthday!

This year we have also held our first summer camp since 2016, in the English Lake District, which while phenomenally wet (even by Lake District standards...), was enjoyed by all who went! We are hoping to return a summer camp back into a yearly tradition.

I have enjoyed my year as Chair, and I can't wait to see what Raffaël and the rest of the committee will do over the coming year!



OUSGG Summer Camp

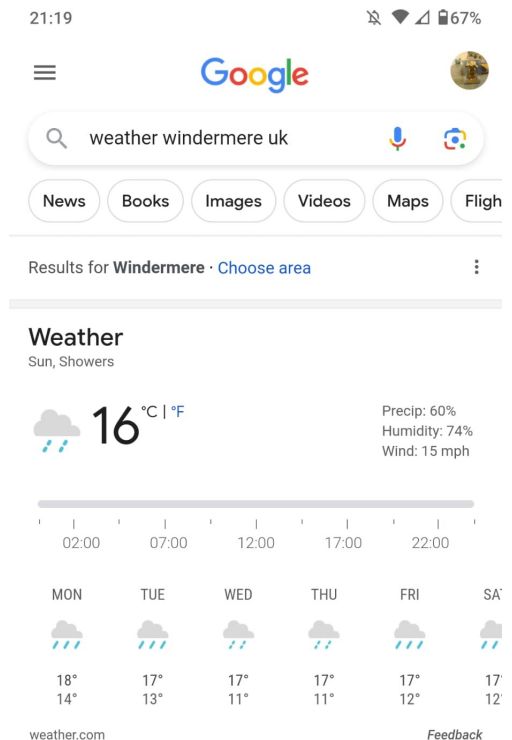
Abbie Ramsey (Univ)

On 10th July OUSGG set off to Great Tower in the Lake district for our first summer camp in quite a long time. We were all excited for the camp despite the forecast of rain for the *entire* week.

Mine and Alex's journey up in his car was fairly uneventful apart from a bit of traffic but Jamie was exhausted after spending about 6 hours driving and picking people up, we did all eventually arrive though (no thanks to my questionable navigation skills). As we arrived it immediately started chucking it down so we got the event shelter up as quick as we could and escaped to Aldi where it was thankfully dry. By the time we returned, our pitch was half mud and half puddle so we had to pitch our tents in some innovative spots but we managed to get everyone a dry, flat-ish place to sleep.

On our first full day we took a trip to Rydal Water for a short walk and some of us even went wild swimming! We ate lunch by the lake and a hoard of ducks tried to make friends with us but I think they only wanted us for our sandwiches and crisps so we left them behind to continue our walk up the hill. Jamie led us to Rydal caves where we climbed into some of the higher ones and used stepping stones to reach another.

Day 3 took us to Coniston Water for a pretty windy paddleboarding session, it definitely took a lot of effort to paddle away from the shore. We tried to stand up in the sheltered area but only Will was brave enough to stay stood up out in the middle of the lake! Once we returned the paddleboards, a few of us took a short swim across the end of the lake so all our efforts to not fall in earlier ended up not being worth it!



For our fourth day Jamie planned a day hike for us up Blencathra. Once we managed to find our first path (the rest of us saw the sign but Jamie walked past it and none of us thought to mention it) we started our ascent up a very, very steep path. The footpath carried on upwards and every time we turned a corner we thought it might get less steep but no! We carried on up the hill and stopped for lunch when we were nearly at the top, I was pretty excited for the jam wraps I'd made for my lunch but unfortunately they did not survive the hike very well and I ended up covered in jam (they we're still made a very nice lunch though). We split up into 2 groups around here and the path Jamie and I took went over the summit where there was phenomenal views, our descent was mostly okay apart from the 'shortcut' we took that was nearly vertical. Everyone was tired so our day ended with a well deserved pint in a nearby, sunny pub garden.



We checked the forecast for the next day and decided on a trip to Kendal to try and escape the incoming bad weather. Most of us headed towards the pencil museum where we got a pencil as our ticket, a quiz to fill in as we walked around and coloured pencils as a prize for completing the quiz. We also spent a very long time doing colouring pages in the museum (SSAGO is very easily entertained). Half of us then went to the cinema to see the new Mission Impossible and the rest of us went round the shops and toured round a good chunk of Kendal's pubs.



Our last full day took us to GoApe, as we were walking over it rained heavier than I have ever seen before, but we used our last bit of good luck with the weather and it stayed dry for our treetop adventure. After completing our GoApe training we started the course and faced a range aerial of obstacles from ladders, wire bridges and stepping stones to zip wires and leaps of faith. The zip wires were completed with varying success, there were some impressive running landings and many more less impressive landings (being dragged across the floor on our backs and ruining our coats). On our last section there was another zip wire but this time we had to land on another tree platform, not wanting to get stuck halfway on this one I took a small run and jump from the platform which ended up being a big mistake. Instead of landing on the platform I bounced off of the tree and started reversing over the zip line and to my dismay I came to a stop midair. As I awaited rescue from the GoApe staff I watched as the rest of the group laughed on - including Alex. He decided to not go so quickly in an attempt to not bounce off the tree but karma was on my side and he also got stuck midway across the zip line but he didn't even reach the tree! After our second rescue of the session was complete we moved on to the Tarzan swing where you jumped off a platform into a net, unfortunately there was one casualty of this activity - Will's hat, it was however rescued once we were done. That evening we started packing away some of our bigger kit but had to abandon site for the pub when the rain became unbearable.

We packed up and escaped fairly early the next day not wanting to spend the car journey home soaking wet but we all had a fantastic time and I'm definitely looking forward to whatever we plan for next year's summer camp and reinstating it as an OUSGG tradition once again!

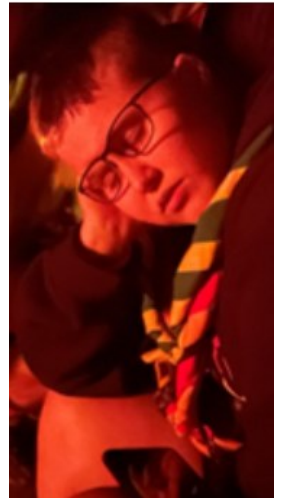


ReBuild-a-Rally

Alex Berresford (Teddy Hall)

M1, A43, A34, M3, M27. That's how my weekend began. A four-hour drive that should've been three in the blistering June heat. I didn't care. I was on the way to rally, the highlight of every term. With tunes and aircon blasting, the journey passed in blink and before I knew it, I was navigating the twisty roads around Braggers Wood, the campsite for that weekend. Pulling up, the atmosphere was already different to other rallies, being warm, dry and still light enough to not have to go digging for a headtorch before pitching a tent – a very relaxing change of pace. As the evening set in, dinner was served, drinks were opened, and the evening began as it does at all rallies – with a quiz. Again, perks of the summer rally meant that this was done outside, without the need for two coats, a hat and your friend's blanket. In typical SSAGO fashion, the rounds were chaotic, and the author lost the ability to count halfway through. As an amalgamation of Sheffield and Oxford, we just about managed to keep track of what was going on to come not last, which we considered a massive win. Following the quiz, the cards came out as we introduced people from various clubs to Mao, a card game that makes you hate the dealer and question your sanity. In other words, a lot of fun!

From around ten, people started to lazily drift towards the campfire, picking up into a rowdy orchestra of childish songs we all know and love. We journeyed through; Irish seas, heaven, hell, the quartermasters' stores and Chicago, all whilst never changing our socks. The days of the week came and went, many types of bears analysed and a very, very rare bird identified. At around two the singing petered out and anyone left at the campfire started heading for bed, although at least one person didn't quite make it before drifting off...



To say Southampton went a bit overboard on getting people up in the morning would be an understatement. Rather than have someone round bashing the two leftover pans, the PA system was used to continually blast Disney songs. And no, to my disappointment, there was no snooze button. A typical camp morning ensued, just with a bit more magic.

Most activities for the weekend took place in Southampton so there was a bit of a mad scramble to get everyone on the coaches on time. Some of the more popular activities were the monopoly run, bar crawl and impromptu IKEA scavenger hunt. Abbie even found time to have another nap!

However, some of us didn't go into Southampton as we had activities starting onsite. I spent my day hiking to and from the beach. The route took us through cute rural villages, fords and of course through the seaside town of Mudeford. We even had time to have a snooze in the shade with lunch, giving us a chance to escape the blistering midday heat. It wouldn't be a trip to the beach without a paddle and an ice cream, which we did in true SSAGO style. We took a quick Sainsbury's trip to wait out the worst of the heat and then powered back to site for a much-needed shower.

The relaxation didn't last long though, for the few of us back on-site news was spreading that - for whatever reason - there wasn't any coaches to collect the group in Southampton. Every driver around was drafted into the great Rebar rescue – including me. The quest took me deep into the heart of the city (the IKEA car park), where I came across four weary tavern goers in need of a ride out of town. By the time we got back everyone was safely back on site and dinner was being served.



As soon as we finished eating, the ceilidh got underway. The termly ritual of dancing at a campsite with semi-strangers with a (slight) risk of ankle injury. Walking boots recommended. They didn't help me much though; I spent a good 90 minutes with an ice pack strapped to my ankle after rolling it. Will still bullies me about the chair crutch. During the commotion we ran into the Cambridge lot and proposed the first "Varsity Ceilidh" where whichever group managed the most twists in certain dance won, we sadly lost, but hopefully set up a new tradition for summer rallies going forward.

Swiftly following the ceilidh was the silent disco, if you've never been to one the best way I can describe it is a club night in a field without the sticky floor, bouncers or inflated drinks prices. Everyone was given a coloured glowing headset with three different channels running three different playlists. When you took them off all you could hear was a medley of three songs being half shouted out of tune – a perfect way to spend an evening. Inevitably, in proper hive mind fashion, a Macarena party started organically to the complete wrong song which everyone joined in on – even across channels. It was closed out by cutting off all channels but one and finishing with Angels, where everyone joined into run in and out in a big circle – best explanation I can give, if you know you know. Perfect way to close it out. Similarly to Friday, there was a campfire, although a bit more chilled out as most people were exhausted from the long day, and many faced a second early morning with the Brownsea Island trip.

Sunday morning rolled around and to my displeasure, the Disney alarm clock was back. Sure, most of camp had to be off by nine to make the ferry, but I had a long drive home ahead of me and I could've done with the extra hour. However, once the rabble left, the site was much quieter, giving me a chance to doze in the shade and snack on lunch before the drive home.

From what I heard the trip to Brownsea was excellent. The closing ceremony was held at the scout stone - with an obligatory group photo. The entire weekend was very well run (ignoring the blip with the coaches), and as far as I can tell, everyone had a great time. On behalf of everyone here at OUSGG I want to say a big thank you to Southampton for organising such a great weekend, and that I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next one.



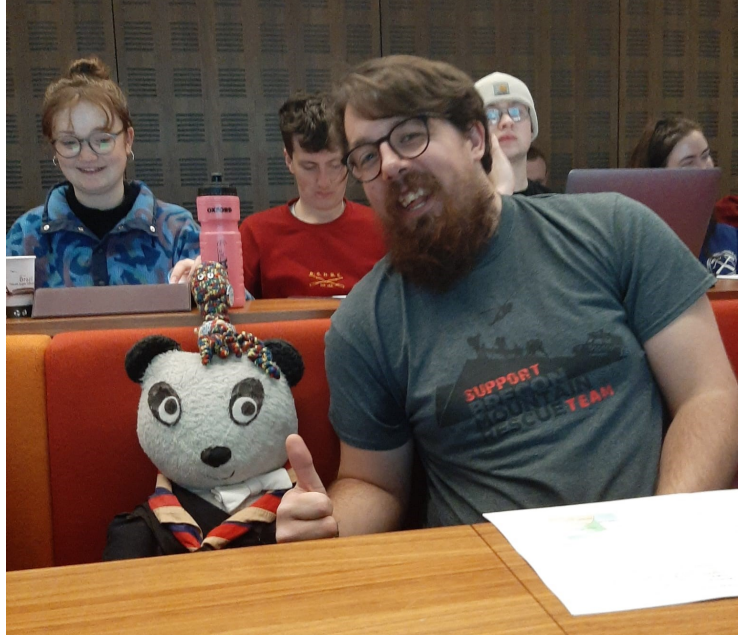
What a lava-ly day out for Erik

Jamie Church (St Hugh's)

On Eriks birthday, he came out for a day of earth science lectures. First, he went for a special lecture on volcanoes, learning how they are studied and how their subterranean activity is understood.

After saying hello to everyone in the department, with even the lecturers saying hi, he went for another lecture on palaeobiology! He learnt about Phenotypic evolution, and ideas such as Cope's rule, where evolution causes animal sizes to become gradually larger with new generations, at the expense of higher extinction rates. Not good for Erik's cousins!

Afterwards, he went for birthday celebrations at Pembroke, for a pancake night!



Bonus photo of our other mascot Squid on summer camp

Taskmaster

Raffaël Marth (Trinity)

It was that time of the year again where the bold and brave assemble for taskmaster. Whilst some of the tasks like throwing a coin into a mug or sorting a deck of cards were quite straightforward, some proved to be more complicated than anticipated. It turns out folding paper planes blindfolded does not make them go further and spelling out loud the Latin name for blow flies so people could get to the article in a Wikipedia race proved somewhat complicated. The difficult tasks continued with ambiguous phrasing in the task where contestants had to come up with their own challenges on the spot lead to people find out how hard it is to just sit on the floor if the others don't want you to and me drawing a surprising amount of cubes.

In the end we had to resort to our tiebreaker, so Kaleigh and Jamie had to show us bizarre ways to get from one side of the room to the other the fastest without breaking any of the secret rules which they had not been told.



(I couldn't find any photos from Taskmaster so please enjoy this photo of Erik at the freshers fair)

Centenarally

Abbie Ramey (Univ)

Towards the end of Hilary Term we headed up to Liverpool for Centenarally - a rally themed around and celebrating Liverpool SSAGO's 100th birthday.

On the Saturday we had lots of different activities to choose from, I did the rally classic monopoly run and a went to visit the Williamson Tunnels. In the evening not only did we have the usual ceilidh but the Liverpool University Big Band also came and played some jazz songs!



The Williamson Tunnels



Jazz music at rally!

A birthday celebration would not be complete without cake and there was plenty at Centenarally with each SSAGO group bringing one they had made. We took some OUSGG Chocolate Crumb Cake made by Jamie that you can also have a go at making with the recipe on the next page!

On Sunday there was a pram race with various SSAGO members being pushed in prams and most ending up on the floor at some point, though everyone managed to survive the race. Thanks to Liverpool SSAGO for a fantastic weekend!

OUSGG Chocolate Crumb Cake

Recipe provided by Kathryn Wright, alumni St Hugh's 1980

4 ounces block margarine (113g)
4 ounces sugar (113g)
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
3 tablespoons skimmed milk powder
1 egg, beaten
4 ounces sultanas (113g)
8 ounces broken biscuits (227g)

Melt the margarine and sugar in a pan, then stir in the cocoa, milk and egg and mix well. Remove from the heat and mix in the sultanas and biscuits. Press into a tin, cool and then cut into suitable portions

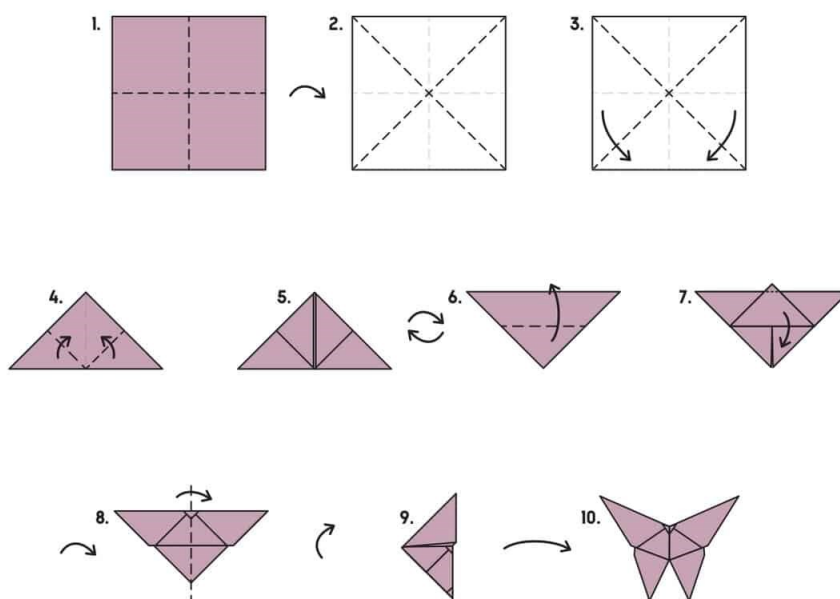
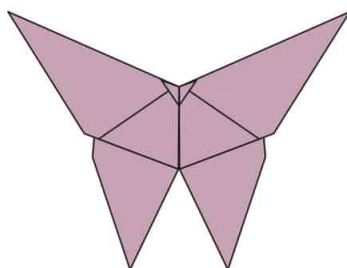


Another picture from Centenarally where we took some of this cake to share!

OUSGG Craft Night!

James Harris (Christ Church)

In Trinity Term we had a meeting on a Friday which meant I could actually attend!!! Six of us met up at the SU for an evening of snacking, chatting and paper folding. Isla taught us how to make cranes and Josephine taught us how to make some chatter boxes. We also tried making some butterflies with limited success. Here are the instructions for you to have a go yourself - good luck!



Rali Cymru

CRAI Scout Activity Park, Newport, Wales, 18th-20th November

Kaleigh Parks (Pembroke)



At the end of November, I joined six other members of OUSGG at Rali Cymru in Newport, Wales. We had a great weekend exploring the campsite, Cardiff and the surrounding area, and enjoying all the activities on offer.

On Saturday morning I joined most other rally participants on a Monopoly Run around Cardiff, which was a great way to explore the city. Our visit to Cardiff fell on the day of a rugby match, which unfortunately caused traffic and cut our time in the city, but meant we got to soak up the energetic atmosphere. In the afternoon we went our separate ways to enjoy the activities that we had signed up for. For me that meant heading back to the campsite for a Bushcraft-ernoon, where we were taught to make a delicious Welsh stew using a Dutch oven, followed by freshly-baked Welsh cakes and dampers over the fire. It was a fun (and yummy) way to keep warm in the chilly weather and gave me lots of backwoods cooking ideas to take back home and to my units.



The most exciting part of rally for me, however, was when I stole Warwick SSAGO's mascot, Roger! As a forfeit, a member of Warwick SSAGO had to eat Jamie's 'everything sandwich' - including cheese, ham, tuna, jam and salad. Amazingly, he managed it. As always, the evening saw everyone joining in with a lively ceilidh, as well as a campfire and silent disco. It was a great rally, and I can't wait for the next one.



Roger from Warwick SSAGO, stolen
by yours truly



Annual dinner 2023

Josephine Middleton (Wadham)

As our 104th year drew to a close, Oxford University Scouts and Guides descended on the Cherwell Boathouse in their best smart casual for a lovely, if slightly overpriced, meal. As a fresher this was the first annual dinner I attended, and one which, I am told, saw better weather than the year before, though that is, admittedly, a low bar. Highlights (and lowlights) for me include getting to see the Erik baby carrier in full operation, the dawning realisation as the food came that maybe a side was necessary, and a slightly disappointing peach dessert. However, overall, it was a more than welcome break from exams and a nice change from pesto pasta and takeaways.



‘That’s not Cream, it’s an abomination!’ OUSGG goes punting 2023

Alex Berresford (Teddy Hall)

Let’s set the scene. It’s the last Sunday of term, the hottest day of the year and there’s an active thunderstorm warning.

Perfect.

Naturally, the day starts with a trip to Tesco, we were picnicking after all. With a meal deal, cinnamon swirls and an overly large bottle of lemonade purchased, I was on my way to Cherwell Boathouse. On any other day, the walk would’ve been a lovely, calming stroll through Uni parks – imagine a gentle breeze and an ice cream. Well on this humid Sunday it could only be summed up by sweat and sticky suncream. However, I made the best of it, whipping out the sunglasses and pretending I cared about my tan, I ploughed on to Cherwell.

Overall, there were 5 of us – and Erik, the perfect amount for one punt – in theory. However, as soon as you consider all the stuff that we brought with us (which unfortunately, as SSAGOers, couldn’t be ignored as negligible) packing became a bit of a challenge. After some careful arrangement of bags and people, we were off!

Jamie started us off strong, pulling us out of port and getting us a good distance downstream, whilst the rest of us started on the picnic. It’s important to note that this included cream and strawberries, as this will be relevant later. I also want to make comment on the weather, as the conditions on the river were much more pleasant than in the park, with the temperature dropping off as the afternoon went on and ever-present shade from overhanging trees. Perfect for lounging around with a nice drink.



Over the next hour, we each took turns at the helm – to varying degrees of success. There were perhaps a few too many run ins with the bank and other punts to describe it as a smooth operation. However, this did keep the passengers on their toes, as dodging branches and poles became a bit of a necessity (especially with me steering). All of us will claim to be the least worst, however only one of us lost the pole (James), so he takes the crown in my mind, despite any contrary evidence of not hitting anything. Anyway, I'm the one writing the article, the final decision is mine.

Eventually, after rescuing the pole, we headed back to the boathouse, finishing drinks and hastily collating rubbish as we pulled into the pontoon. Emptying the punt was fairly uneventful, everything stayed dry – although we did discover Eriks gown had a bit of a dip at some point, oops. Well, uneventful, until a shout rang out from Jamie, "That's not cream, it's an abomination!"

Remember the strawberries and cream from earlier? Well, um yeah. More was spilt than any of us realised, and it mixed in a rather grim fashion with the detritus between the slats of the punt, leading to the "abomination" Jamie was referring to. Half a blue roll later, and the abomination was no more. With the monster slain, we said our goodbyes and headed off home – with a bit of pace mind you as storm clouds were looming. I made it back ok, but unfortunately for him, Will's detour to Tesco left him wishing he packed a coat.

Overall it was a very relaxing day, and I'm looking forward to it for next year.



(Jamie and the abomination)



Isle of Wight Revolution

Abbie Ramsey (Univ)

Over the Easter holidays I headed to the Isle of Wight to join SSAGO for Isle of Wight Revolution, a 5 day Explorer and Network camp. The week started off (as most camps seem to) with a few transport issues: minibuses being overly full with people and equipment, traffic delays and the bus from Liverpool even missed their ferry but eventually we all made it to site.



Throughout the week we took part in a huge range of activities from fencing to ukulele playing and from RIB rides to line dancing. Other activities included a trip to a wildlife sanctuary, a magic workshop and headhunters (a huge game of laser tag across the forest, and SSAGO of course won against the Explorers). Our swimming session was interesting with only half the group able to enter the pool at once, my group had to do water aerobics which we were not great at and spent most the time seeing who could splash each other the most. We also got to try tree climbing where we ascended the tree with just a rope and harness and got some amazing views from the top, Phillipa (one of Southampton's mascots wasn't as luck as she was thrown from the top of the tree.) Every evening there was a fancy dress theme and even more activities like a pub quiz, live band, fireworks and of course a big campfire each night!



The last day it was pretty windy and rainy with several tents looking like they may collapse at any minute, I had the unpleasant experience of waking up to it raining inside my tent (big thanks to my brother for lending me the worlds worst tent!) In traditional SSAGO fashion there was a few more transport issues on the way home with one minibus remaining on the island after we all left but I think we all made it to our correct ferries in the end. It was a great week and I can't wait to go back next year, hopefully with a few more OUSGG members, and see what other amazing activities we'll get to try!



OUSGG Games Night

Raffaël Marth (Trinity)

In Trinity term we met in Trinity College for a fabulous board game night to take a break from exams and revision. After getting into Trinity garden room, which might have been slightly oversized for the five of us (but hey, I got it for free and it's a nice room), the first hurdle we had to overcome was selecting a game to play. We chose Cluedo and after Jamie asked a combination of weapon, place and murderer no one else was able to exclude, he went straight onto winning the game. Next we played Codenames where we had to link groups of seemingly unlinkable words to lead our teams to the correct answers. The last game we played was Carcassonne, involving the previously unheard of plate tectonics expansion (Note to future self: don't use moving tables to play Carcassonne) and the successful construction of a true megacity.



The mighty realm we built together

Didn't make the cut!

Abbie Ramsey (Univ)

We did loads of different things this year and there's not enough pages to write about it all so here's a quick rundown of some OUSGG activities that didn't manage to get their own article.

Pub Quiz

We attempted the pub quiz at the Royal Blenheim again and (to the surprise of absolutely nobody) we once again took a pretty impressive loss. Maybe we'll have better luck next year!

Campfire

In Trinity term we took a short walk to Cumnor Hurst to spend the evening around a campfire - we also found a rope swing (which nobody fell off)



Climbing

A group of us took a trip up the hill to Oxford Brookes sports centre to go climbing! We spent a few hours bouldering and trying all of the different types of walls and routes on offer.



Escape Room

We took on a new escape room this year, getting locked in a room with a pirate. We managed to escape in an impressive 35 minutes!

(Many) walks and hikes!

Every term we try and fit in a few walks, usually a night hike and a day hike. We've walked along the towpaths, a day hike from Endstone, a Blenheim Palace hike and of course we started the year with our traditional night hike across Port Meadow to The Perch.



Burns Night

We celebrated Burns Night with traditional food including haggis cooked by Isla and had lots of fun playing card games the rest of the evening

Amalgam

Before Michaelmas term began a couple of us attended Amalgam (SSAGO and SAGGA's reunion) at PACCAR scout campsite. There was loads of activities on site including high all aboard, gladiator challenge, ziplines, Bob Ross painting, a scavenger hunt and of course Pimm's with SAGGA!



An OUSGG Puzzle

I	U	I	N	V	V	Y	L	I	S	E	I	P	E
I	I	H	I	K	I	N	G	L	E	K	A	R	N
I	I	E	D	L	I	U	B	E	R	P	M	H	O
C	N	V	G	E	R	P	I	I	D	I	K	S	I
E	P	N	L	R	O	A	U	L	K	K	D	E	T
I	N	I	P	I	U	R	I	N	I	E	I	U	U
L	P	U	K	S	V	N	I	N	T	A	N	G	L
I	Y	S	O	I	N	E	K	K	O	I	R	A	O
D	C	C	Q	E	L	E	R	R	D	T	N	M	V
H	O	Y	Q	U	R	U	E	P	A	T	K	G	E
Q	R	T	M	M	I	P	R	I	O	L	Y	N	R
A	A	C	R	R	N	D	I	I	A	O	L	K	I
I	T	I	L	U	U	H	K	U	P	E	L	Y	I
E	I	A	R	V	V	R	I	N	L	I	K	B	G

ERIK

CYMRU

SQUID

PUNTING

HIKING

REBUILD

LIVERPOOL

RAIN

CEILIDH

IKEA

RALLY

REVOLUTION