

# **PostScript**



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*Drawing of Erik the Panda by Sophie Glover.*

**Issue 423**

**2020-2021**

# Cover Page

The drawing on the cover page was submitted by Sophie Glover in response to a request from SSAGO for all clubs to submit a line drawing of their mascot, to be printed onto a tea-towel which was released as part of the Green Rally Yellow Rally merchandise. We all thought Sophie did a fantastic job of incorporating Erik into the OUSGG logo. Well done Sophie!

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### OUSGG PostScript

Issue 423

Trinity Term 2021



All views expressed in PostScript are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of OUSGG or any affiliated bodies.

## Editor's Note

As you start to read through this PostScript you may start to notice a theme appearing – the same theme that has defined the past 12 months. For those who have been living under a rock or in the future, face to face activities were suspended in Trinity term of 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the time we all assumed that this would be a minor interruption to normal life lasting a few weeks – how wrong we were. Here we find ourselves more than a year later still living with strict rules on meeting up socially and staying 2m apart to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Emma Hedley, Editor, St Catherine's

## OUSGG COMMITTEE 2020-21

**Chair:** Emma Hedley, St Catherine's

**Treasurer:** Emma Bird, Brookes

**Secretary:** James Harris, Christ Church

**SSAGO rep:** Emma Hedley, St Catherine's

## Chair's Report

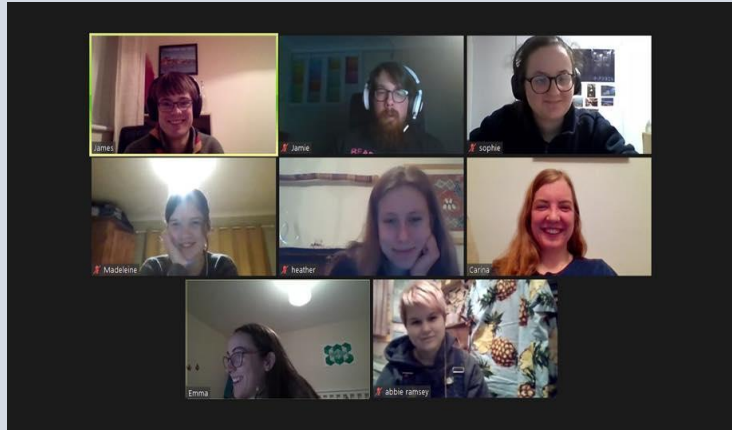
Michaelmas term of 2020 started with us being able to meet up in groups of 6, albeit with many precautions in place and a thorough risk assessment. We set out going for walks in small groups, and had a fantastic response to this from Freshers who were keen to get out and meet new people.

However, as restrictions became tighter again, heading into the winter with cases on the rise, we moved back to online meetings. We did many games nights, made woggles and did quizzes, all by the power of the various video calling methods discussed in another article in the magazine.

Being Chair this year, I hope will be like no other. However with the help of the rest of the committee carrying out risk assessments, organising booking forms, keeping records of attendance and always having an alternative plan when something unexpected happened, I believe we have done our best within an incredibly difficult set of circumstances to allow as many club activities as possible to go ahead while keeping people safe.

At the end of Hilary the 2021-22 committee was elected on zoom, as was done last year, and a photograph of the new committee can be seen in the top right. I will continue as Chair next year and I hope that we can have much more social interaction, but if not we will continue to adapt and thrive with whatever is thrown at us.

*Emma Hedley, St Catherine's College*



## Shout outs!

**The first shout out** must go to Carina Williams who at the start of the year did an incredibly thorough assessment of the risks associated with face-to-face meetings in time of COVID. The feedback we got on this risk assessment from SSAGO was so good I have attached a snippet below...

This was the best laid out/easiest to read risk assessment I've read so far, so thank you for that!

I have no concerns with your RA and am happy for you to restart. Best of luck with the term ahead :)

Thanks again, Carina, without this diligent work it would have been impossible and unsafe for us to have even limited face-to-face meetings this year.

**The second shout out** goes to an unknown SSAGO group from another university who managed to overrun their scheduled Zoom meeting by 8 hours! As we were sharing the national SSAGO Zoom account this meant our meeting couldn't go ahead until the previous meeting was stopped.

# Taskmaster

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021 a dog was terrorised, a group of supposedly adults shook biscuits down their faces, a £1,000,000 piece of art was created, and James managed to put on nine t-shirts in a minute. It was, of course, the OUSGG Taskmaster night! A gruelling set of challenges creatively dreamt up by the evil Taskmaster, testing stamina, artistic ability and willingness to look ridiculous. We were to send in our attempts at some of the tasks before the evening started; in a last-minute rush – typical of an Oxford student – Heather stabbed a pencil into a block of soap and put it on eBay for £1,000,000... which was then immediately taken down because apparently you need special permission for all items over £300. James took a time lapse of himself looking increasingly warm as he put on nine t-shirts in a minute. The group then met on zoom for an evening of hilarity as we completed tasks set by other players. Jamie's task was particularly memorable as we tried (with varying degrees of success...) to get a biscuit from our foreheads to our mouths. Not often do you see a bunch of adults desperately sticking their tongues out to try and hook the biscuit in! While Heather took an early lead in the points with her erm... sculpture (?), Madeline quickly threatened her place with an excellent drawing of a McDonald's restaurant. But in the end, a bin bag outfit placed on a dog clinched the win for Heather. It was a really fun night and will be even better when we get to do these activities in person again!



*Heather Ramsey, St Hilda's College*



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# Rating of ways we have met this year

## **Discord: 3/10**

Attempts were made to hold online meetings using Discord. These attempts were unsuccessful. Despite the fact that everyone else I know seems to be able to use Discord, we seemingly could not. A whole range of inexplicable technical difficulties (to a non-compsci student like me anyway) presented themselves throughout our Discord attempts, including screen-share related problems and a seeming inability for Emma H's sound to work reliably.

## **Jitsi: 3.5/10**

I don't remember much about our experiment with Jitsi, other than that it came recommended from James and the Maths department. I believe we experienced fewer technical issues than with Discord, but that ultimately it was abandoned due to its relative obscurity in a world where even the House of Commons runs on Zoom.

## **Zoom: 7/10**

I confess that over the last year I may have become a bit of a die-hard Zoom advocate when it comes to video-conferencing software, but technical issues were definitely less frequent than with other software and Zoom eventually became our platform of choice for lockdown meetings. OUSGG actually purchased its own Zoom premium subscription for Trinity 2020 – making that one of our very few expenses for 2020 – and then attempted to use the SSAGO account in Michaelmas, which was all going fine until we were unable to get into our meeting because another group “overstayed their slot by about 8 hours”. Still not quite sure what they were getting up to that whole time... In the end, for Hilary 2021 we just resorted to leaching off Emma H's premium account, so thanks for that Emma!

## **Face-to-face: 9/10**

After an online Trinity 2020, we were excited to be able to hold some face-to-face meetings at the beginning of Michaelmas 2020, although this was cut short by lockdown number 2 at the start of November. Armed with masks, hand sanitiser and our trusty COVID risk assessment, we were pleased to be able to actually meet some Freshers in person – even if we had to meet in multiple groups due to the Rule of Six (the reason that f2f does not receive full marks). At the time of writing (Easter 2021), we await SSAGO guidance on meeting rules for Trinity Term, but as the restrictions of lockdown 3 are eased, maybe we will finally get to all meet together in one group? Watch this space...

**NB.** Microsoft Teams was never even attempted, despite the University's questionable decision to make this dreadful and incomprehensible software the OU online meeting platform of choice.

*Carina Williams, Hertford College*



# **Virtual Rallies**

When a couple of hundred people travelling across the country to meet in a field is deemed unsafe, then the next best thing becomes 'virtual rallies'. These have been held several times now, but the first one I attended was 'Build-a-Rally' in November 2020. We should have been meeting in Southampton, however, due to the pandemic, online was the only option. It was originally intended that some activities could be done in person in small groups from within your university however due to the second national lockdown coming into force just before the rally this too was not possible and further changes were made to the activities. Boxes were sent to each participant with everything required for their chosen activities, plus a host of other 'virtual rally' essentials; this included a tea light and cocktail stick for toasting marshmallows indoors. Activities included a virtual bake off where we had to describe the texture of our own cakes and biscuits which were then scored by other participants and a virtual ceilidh where we danced around our own living rooms on Zoom. Other activities were offline and carried out alone, or within members of your household, such as a hike. I can't begin to imagine the logistical nightmare all these last-minute changes must have caused for the organising committee but, somehow, they pulled it off!

*Emma Hedley, St Catherine's College*

## **Melons are tastier than pumpkins: Halloween Craft Night 2020.**

I like Discord. It has the option to play music for everyone to hear, which I think is a great feature during OUSGG activities. However, our Halloween night was haunted with technical difficulties: we couldn't hear Abbie at all, Emma H sounded like a robot, and some people were deafened to the sound of ABBA's "Dancing Queen".

For those of us who managed to get Discord working, we had a lovely evening doing some creepy crafts to a soundtrack of Halloween songs. I dressed up as Pat

from the BBC sitcom "Ghosts" (would recommend) and carved a melon. Annabelle and Emma B worked on their Halloween decorations, making paper spider webs (which looked less and less like snowflakes as the night went on). Lilja decorated her nails with cute, spooky figures, and, when she wasn't fighting with her laptop, Emma H made herself a scary pumpkin mask.

*James Harris, Christ Church*



# **Port Meadow Pub Hikes**

What could be more welcome on a cold October night than a long walk through Port Meadow to (definitely one of my favourite Oxford pubs) The Perch. Still having to follow the rather annoying rule of six, we trekked through the mud and had lots of laughs along the way. Most of us almost fell into the canal - it was so dark on the way back, and we had two torches between the six of us! It was a nice way to get to know people, as I'm a fresher. The pint and chips we all had at the pub came very well received after such a long walk. We were also very grateful that they had outdoor heaters! The groups were well organised for old and new members alike, making it so much fun as we all got to know each other. As one of the rare activities in person during Michaelmas 2020, it was a great excuse to get out! Looking towards the future, I'm looking forward to when the whole of OUSGG can all attend the same pub!



*Madeline Sutton, Christ Church*

## **Walking the length of the Thames!**

To encourage more exercise while we worked from home in lockdown 3, a goal of collectively walking the length of the Thames (346km) was set... and WE SMASHED IT! Using Strava we tracked our walking, running, and cycling, and ended up at 418km by the end of Hilary term. It was great to see everyone getting involved in their own way and beating personal targets each week. Getting out and about wherever we were was a common goal for us all during a time we couldn't be together to share the OUSGG spirit. Well done to all!

*Emma Bird, Oxford Brookes*



## **Woggle making**

In February we made woggles out of paracord. James prepared and sent the OUSGG coloured paracord to each person. We then met on zoom, where James gave us instructions on how to make the woggles! With some difficulty, (and a few burnt fingers) we then managed to tie the ends on and braid the paracord together to form a braided length. We then tied the ends together and melted the ends with a candle to form the woggle! In the end we came out with a nice chunky woggle, that matches our neckers (for when we eventually get to wear them out and about again!).

If you would like to try it yourself at home, you can use this [video](https://youtu.be/xxAULUoOScc). Although please be careful!

<https://youtu.be/xxAULUoOScc>

*Jamie Church, St Hugh's College*



# Trinity Term hikes!

This term, after a long winter lockdown, we finally managed to meet in person for a night hike! We met at Nando's and headed through Botley Road and walked up the cycle path to North Hinksey Village, where we saw St Lawrence's Church, which dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Next, we had to cross the busy A34, which, after looking at it, we decided *not* to walk straight across. After further investigation we found an underpass a 5-minute walk away, where one of our members went in a tunnel underneath a road for the first time! From here, we walked up one of the only hills in Oxford (to a grand height of 117m above sea level). We came to a junction of footpaths and decided to take a slight detour through Hen wood, where we managed to see the end of the bluebells in flower, and walked to Chilswell Farm. Here we took a group photo overlooking Oxford before it got dark. We then walked down into Bagley Wood at which point it started to rain! Fortunately, it was just a shower, so we managed to avoid getting too wet. Here we had a nice woodland walk in the dark and travelled through into Kennington. Sadly, when we arrived, we found that the post office had closed 10 minutes earlier, so no cold drinks for us. We then walked across the railway and through the fields onto the Thames path. We walked along the Thames path, seeing people sleeping in their canal boats, and the occasional late-night cyclist and walker, following the path until we reached central Oxford again. We managed to get back into the city centre about half an hour before it started to pour down, so we were very lucky on our timings!

Overall, it was a lovely evening and was nice to be able to meet up again in person for the first time in 6 months, and I'm personally looking forward to (hopefully) more in-person activities with OUSGG over the coming year!

*Jamie Church, St Hugh's College*





# Annual Dinner and Picnic in the Park

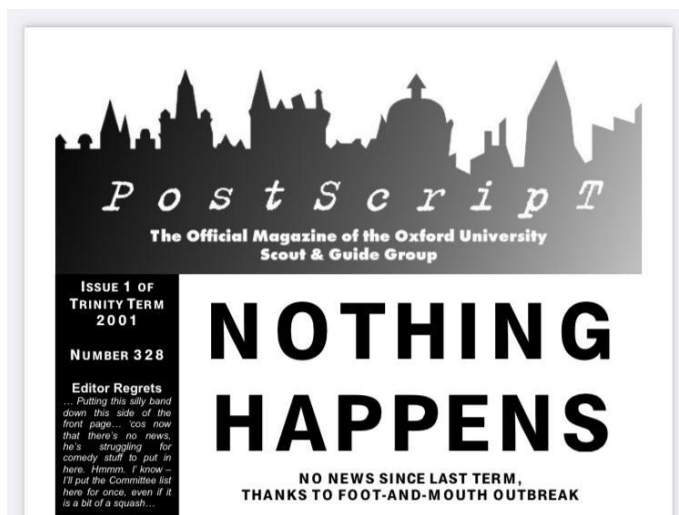
The tradition of Annual Dinner was not immune to having to be adapted slightly due to COVID restrictions and we apologise again that we were unable to invite all alumni from the last 5 years as is tradition. After a fair amount of searching, at quite short notice due to changes in the restrictions, we were able to book our meal at The Cherwell Boathouse. Everyone had a fantastic meal accompanied by some interesting musical renditions overheard from a wedding in the adjacent marquee. We also watched a line of at least 40 geese swimming past in one line spaced at intriguingly equal distances from the next.

Instead of punt and picnic we then finished off the term with a picnic in University Parks on a sunny evening. A special effort was made to find individually wrapped food to comply with the obligatory risk assessment. I think I speak for everyone though when I say the crackers and tiny individual cheeses were very tasty. The Mr Kipling cakes were also a big hit.

Emma Hedley, St Catherine's College



## From the archives...



20 years later and  
still no news...

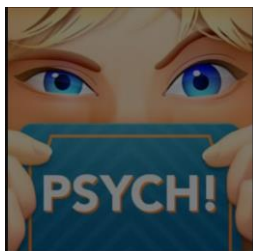
# Online Board Games Review

I was a big advocate of games nights before we were required to stay at least two metres apart, so online games made a natural addition to our lockdown term cards. We have played a number of different games over the last year. Here is a selection of my favourites, together with links to where you can play them.

## Secret Hitler

A bit like Mafia or Werewolf (so I'm told), the informed minority of fascists tries to overthrow the liberal regime by electing 'Secret Hitler' chancellor.

This great board game ([secrethitler.com](https://secrethitler.com)) has been adapted to play online at [netgames.io](https://netgames.io).



## Psych!

Michaelmas is normally filled with telling facts about yourself to new people. We took a break from tradition by trying to fool each other with fibs. In Psych! you get more points the more people you fool into believing your false facts.

It's available from the [App Store](#).

## Codenames

Each team has to make contact with their agents to win the game, but only their spymaster knows where they are. The spymaster gives hints, saying one word to relate a number of their agents' code names. One false move though can lead to a really tense game!

We played Codenames ([codenamesgame.com](https://codenamesgame.com)) on [netgames.io](https://netgames.io). We played the picture version in real life last year.



## Scribble

We gave each other prompts to draw, and then guessed what the drawings were. Someone had to then draw the guesses. This led to a chain of drawings and guesses, each slightly different from the last. It was funny when our guesses started wildly diverging leading to penguins becoming nuns!

Scribble is one of the six games in a fun suite of games we tried, called [outofcontext.party](https://outofcontext.party).

## Hodgepodge

We also liked the whacky recipe-based game Hodgepodge. Surprisingly, some of the recipes we came up with (almost completely at random) sounded pretty good!

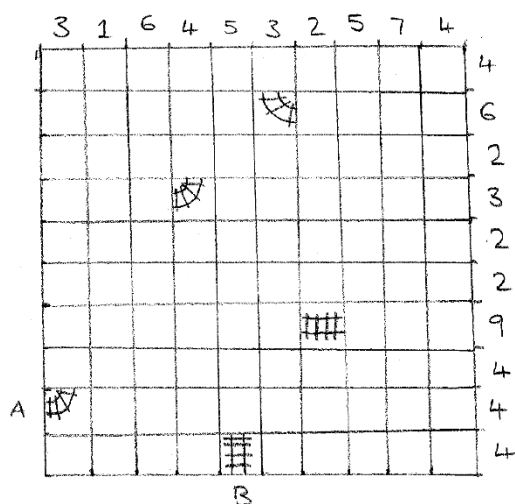
Hodgepodge is another one of the games on [outofcontext.party](https://outofcontext.party).

## Out of Context

*Party games fueled by your insanity!*

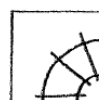
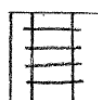
# Puzzle Page

Many people have got into solving puzzles to pass the time during lockdown and we have enjoyed passing some time making these.



Connect town A to town B by finishing the railway!

- In each cell, the track may continue straight or turn by 90°.



in any orientation!

- The numbers at the top of each column and to the right of each row tell you how many pieces of track must be in that column or row.
- The track forms one connected path (with no dead ends) and must not cross itself!

## OUSGG 2020-21

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

TASKMASTER  
TWO  
HIKING  
WOGGLES  
COOKING  
CRAFTS  
SIX  
ROCKS  
PANCAKES  
ZOOM  
NECKERS  
SCOUTS  
GUIDES  
SOAP  
STRAVA  
MELON  
GAMES  
PUB

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2266408/>

James Harris, Christ Church

# A-Z of OUSGG: COVID Edition

<b>A</b>	<b>Annual Dinner</b> – one of the few in-person events we were able to hold.
<b>B</b>	<b>Burns' Night</b> – Apologies there was no irn-bru this time. It was too heavy to send by post!
<b>C</b>	<b>Constitutional drama</b> – The Proctors decided this year we must comply with their standard constitution, which meant a few changes. Goodbye jelly babies.
<b>D</b>	<b>Discord</b> – It just doesn't work.
<b>E</b>	"Emma we can't hear you – again."
<b>F</b>	<b>Face-to-face</b> – that elusive way of meeting.
<b>G</b>	<b>Games night</b> – enjoyed by many – see our review of some of the games.
<b>H</b>	<b>Hikes</b> – lockdowns can't stop us walking (in small groups, 2m apart).
<b>I</b>	<b>Isolate</b> – thankfully something we largely avoided as a club but many individual members did experience this.
<b>J</b>	<b>Join the voice channel...</b> it's on the left.
<b>K</b>	<b>Knots</b> – We used cobra knots to make the woggles.
<b>L</b>	<b>Lockdown</b> – which one are we on now?
<b>M</b>	<b>Melon</b> – why carve a pumpkin when you can carve a melon?
<b>N</b>	<b>Neckers</b> – delivered socially distanced this year.
<b>O</b>	<b>Online banking</b> – maybe one day we will sort it properly???
<b>P</b>	<b>PostScript</b> – well you're reading it so I must have finally got it published.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Quizzes...</b> endless quizzes
<b>R</b>	<b>Rule of Six</b> – I shouldn't have to explain this by now.
<b>S</b>	<b>Social distancing</b> – stay 2m apart at all times.
<b>T</b>	<b>Technical difficulties</b> – I'm sure everyone experienced this at some point during online meetings – just some more than others...
<b>U</b>	<b>Ultimate Josh</b> – he faired quite well in our balloon debate.
<b>V</b>	<b>Virtual Freshers' Fair</b> – made sitting at a real freshers' fair all day seem very appealing.
<b>W</b>	<b>Weather</b> – very important for our ability to hold face-to-face meetings when you can only meet outside...
<b>X</b>	<b>Excellent risk assessment</b> – once again thank you and well done Carina!
<b>Y</b>	"You're on mute!"
<b>Z</b>	<b>Zoom</b> – slightly resentfully our most common method of meeting this year.



