

# EMMA DEAN-CARDIFF SSAGS

*Nominator: Paul Thompson-Loughborough*

*Seconder: Ian Drummond-Cambridge*



Hello, I'm Em, a PhD student at Cardiff University. For my sins I'm an active member of Cardiff SSAGS! You may also know me as Granny SSWIGS as I completed my undergraduate geography degree in the mighty Swansea.

## **Guiding/Scouting Experience**

At the young age of 7 I donned my knee length yellow socks and entered the world of Brownies. The fun has never ended as I progressed through Guides, Young Leaders and became a fully warranted Guider on my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am currently 'Tawny Owl' with a large and very active Brownie Pack in Cardiff. I'm the one that lets the Brownies get dirty and make lots of noise; it's great! I am also looking forward to completing my Queen's Guide in the next few months.

Whilst I've always loved my Guiding I hold great affection for Scouts, or should that be Scouting!?!?! I've helped with local Scouting events in Cardiff, been subcamp leader at the Welsh Explorer Scout Camp and worked as IST at the 21<sup>st</sup> World Scout Jamboree. Within the last year I completed my Explorer Belt in Tunisia, a Scout award that few Senior Section members are aware is open to them as well.

## **SSAGO Experience**

Back in 2004 when I first started at Swansea University no active SSAGO club existed. Hard work, determination and a lot of fun got it started and took it to the Best Society at Swansea University in 2007. During this time I was Social Secretary and President of the society; making lifelong friends and fond memories along the way. My most recent SSAGO role is secretary on the National Exec which I have

thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to this I chaired the 2007 SSAGO Reunion Event as well as performing secretarial and chair duties on the SSAGO 2007 Steering Group.

### Aim as SSAGO Chairperson

Over the past year there have been a few changes to SSAGO, in particular to the procedure of running a national event. I feel that it would be extremely worthwhile to have a continuation on the exec from this year to the next to aid the smooth transition to this new policy. Having written a large amount of the new National Events Policy Document I have a good knowledge of what this new policy entails and thus feel that staying on the exec would be very beneficial.

As well as ensuring that SSAGO continues to run smoothly over the next year I would like to ensure that the website is updated and easy to use. This will take time to work with a webmaster who can put it into a format that can easily be passed between webmasters from year to year. Within this I would like to look at the possibility of reducing the SSAGO paperwork by having an online membership system which could be tied into the ssagorally website and the messageboard to enable easy access to both of these for all members.

I would also like to continue my push from the past year to improve the working relationship between local Scouters and Guiders and all SSAGO clubs. I'd like to ensure that every club knows they are very welcome to National Events and to try to push for a presence from some big clubs who are rarely seen at SSAGO events. Whilst progress has been slow with making contact with local Scouting and Guiding the continuation over the next year will hopefully break through the barriers to help future generations of SSAGO members.

Finally, as a member of Girlguiding UK I'd like to prepare SSAGO to gear up to celebrating the centenary of Guiding. Back in 2007 SSAGO celebrated the centenary of Scouting by producing merchandise and publicising all that members could do to celebrate. By starting preparations in 2009 we can ensure a fun and successful celebration of the 2010 Girlguiding Centenary.

**Just coz she's keen.....  
Vote for Em Dean!**