

Bath

Well, my friends spent the summer doing their own thing around the country/ world whilst I patiently awaited their return. Term eventually started and I began my search for new friends in earnest, this search was indeed successful. I have now met many lovely students two of which you will also have the opportunity to meet when they visit Warwickshire along with some more of my older friends for the rally. During the term so far I've been boozing in the pub, walking (well rolling in my case) in the Quantock hills, eaten bangers and mash for dinner and watched a very impressive fireworks display (not all in one day of course!).

Later on this semester my BUGS friends are hoping to compete in a ready steady cook contest, meet up with their friends in Bristol to beat them at Quasar, consume mince pies, help the Scouts with the Christmas post and spend an evening Geocaching (if they ever work out how it is supposed to be done!). Well I had better leave you now and go and help the BUGS pack for the weekend.

Toodle pip Webster

Bristol

This year we have had an encouraging number of new members, who all seem to be just as insane as the rest of us! The term got off to a good start with an orienteering session, in which many people got lost and few orienteering posts were found - but it was enjoyed by us all. Our International Cooking Competition was as usual a great success. 17 teams of Scouts and Guides, and for the first time 2 teams of Rangers and Explorer Scouts, cooked food on the theme of Italy. We had about 15 different versions of tiramisu! Quote of the day had to be from Karla, the organiser, who spent five minutes wandering round going "Where's team 20? I can't find team 20!" We're looking forward to many exciting events, including Christmas Dinner, and our regular thrashing of the BUGS in the Quazar arena!

Cambridge

Over the summer CUSAGC celebrated its 50th Birthday with a successful Reunion at Kings College which was very well attended by people of all generations. During the last year we lost many old faces, both students and fogies that has resulted in numbers seeming rather depleted. However we have managed to recruit some new faces from amongst the Freshers though it is too early to tell how many of these will become regular attendees. We have introduced some of these new members to punting and we have also been cycling and climbing as well as enjoying trips to Laser Quest, the Cinema and the Fireworks display. We held a cheese and wine evening to introduce students to the leaders of local units, which was very successful, especially on the Guide side. This weekend we will be getting up early eat breakfast together and watch the sun rise over Cambridge and amongst other things we still have a formal Hall, board games and cooking to look forward to as well as our Winter Walking week just after New Year which this year will take us to the Brecon Beacons.

Lancaster

We spent Freshers' Week putting posters up round campus (so many we were running out of original ideas!) It must have worked as we got 42 members, about 30 new, including a few international students and some who've never been Scouts or Guides before. Our first social was a wide game and then some get to know you games, involving throwing a necker at everyone else. The next week we went on a challenge bar crawl to all 9 bars on campus, and played games like the Human Knot outside with everyone watching. By the time we reached the last bar, some people were so drunk they didn't mind pretending to be elves, pixies and dwarves. We organised a weekend camp at Silverhelme Scout campsite, which was a great weekend. Later in the term we're going on a night hike and having a Christmas meal. Some of us have also been busy planning our rally

Leeds

Well its been a busy first 6 weeks here in Leeds, we had a fantastic take up at our freshers fair, increasing our membership to the biggest its been for years. We had seven people go to our freshers camp, which we held jointly with Manchester. Our freshers camp was filled with a couple of trips to the station to pick up two of our members, that we left in Leeds on the Friday night.....oops we didn't mean to do it really. During the Saturday, we spent a few hours wandering round The Trafford Centre, we even got the signatures of the brand new pop sensation 'Phixx'. This term we have also had weekly pub lunches which have been fairly well attended, we have also had weekly evening socials, which have included a freshers barbeque, a cinema night and a couple of trips to our local Bowling alley, which does cheap bowling after 9.30pm. We have the most going to a rally this time in Warwick for a long time. This bodes well for the forthcoming year, with most of our senior club members either graduating or going abroad at the end of the year, we need to have an active group of freshers to take the club from strength to strength, it all looks good at the moment, as we have a half a dozen active first year's who will hopefully carry the club from strength to strength.

Leicester

Since the last Rally, SLUGS have been REALLY busy! New exec came into its real work and have blossomed nicely! We had a lovely summer trip to Alton Towers on a really hot day, so lots of cooling off on Ripsaw.... At this years freshers SLUGS recruited an impressive number of members from both Universities in Leicester. Two fantastic days were spent at Leicester University's Fresher's Fayre recruiting in the tried and tested method, we signed up over 30 members. A great big thanks to Graham Johnson for stepping out of retirement and helping us out. Towards the end of the week SLUGS ventured over to DeMontfort University's Fresher's Fayre for the first time... ever! We already had one member from DMU last year, but we decided it was time to make our presence known to everybody else at DMU. We signed up just shy of 30 students who were interested to know more about SLUGS, three of them even signed up as full members, thus taking our DMU member count to 4! Recruitment methods were the usual: leaflets, posters, chatting to passers by, leafleting the registration queue, etc. We offered all members the chance to win 2 tickets to Alton Towers when they signed up and a FREE Fresher's camp.

Fresher's Camp took place 17-19 October at John's Lee Wood Campsite and was great fun. We had fifteen or so members turn out for this. It was also the first time in recent years that we'd flown solo on Fresher's Camp and not run it jointly with Loughborough, so we were mightily proud of our

efforts. Catering was undertaken by the highly over qualified Nicola 'Anyone for seconds?' Swallow (SLUGS Chair) with assistance from Jenny Hills (SLUGS Treasurer) and yet again, Graham 'I've graduated... honestly' Johnson, the food was great! Activities at Fresher's Camp included Climbing, Abseiling, Shooting, Archery and a ramble to the pub on Saturday afternoon. My personal favourite was the ramble, especially when the catering party left the pub early to get back and start dinner and got half way back before they remembered that they didn't have the keys to the hut and we had to dispatch a second walking party, followed eventually by the hardened drinkers. We've surprised ourselves with the turnout each week at SLUGS so far this term. We've had a social in the pub, a 'points win pints' night, bowling where so many people turned up we hadn't booked enough lanes and a pub crawl.

Loughborough

Since the fantastic Oxford rally, which was very well attended, and where we once again fended off a challenge for the Gadaffy Plate, we have had our Fresher's Bazaar, signing up over 20 new members, Fresher's Pub Crawl, Fresher's Camp (which included spit roasting by the fire), a walk up Beacon Hill and a Guides Swimming Gala, organized and run by Scogui for the local division. We have also elected a new Fresher's Rep, Sarah Thompson, who is looking forward to the challenge of being on committee, and we wish her well over the year. In the coming months we are looking forward to playing skittles and wide games, before our traditional Christmas Meal in the last week of term. After Christmas and the inevitable exams, we have a packed programme in store, including a Fondue night, Pancakes, Egg games and a cheese and wine quiz night. We will also be organizing the annual Scogui Night Hike for local Scouts and Guides, which is always a great success.

Manchester

After quite a full summer season, with our Summer Expedition to Yorkshire, the Oxford Rally and our Annual Reunion and Summer Extravaganza, we have had another excellent year for recruitment, with about 20 people turning up regularly on a Thursday night. Our Freshers Camp was held jointly with Leeds SSAGO at Middlewood Campsite, just west of Manchester. This was well attended by both groups, and a fun time was had by all.

An almost entirely new exec has arranged a full and exciting programme for the term! So far we have had a Quiz Night, completed a Town Trail around the City Centre, taken part in UMIST's BeerFest charity event, had a Halloween Silly Games Night and a Bonfire Party. The rest of the term's activities include a trip to LaserQuest, climbing, curry and comedy, and our Christmas Meal. We have decided to add a new position of "Freshers Rep" to our exec committee, in order to have a different viewpoint on the activities we arrange.

We are muchly looking forward to the Lancaster Rally, and (of course!) the Easter Ball. The future's bright - the future's manssago!

Nottingham

The usual beginning of term things happened: Freshers Fair was a success, gaining new members and retaining the old members. The first few meetings included a pub-crawl, Bowling, pool evening and a progressive meal. The 1st week of term (freshers week) saw the delights of pizza, just for the old members to catch up on the gossips of the last rally and everyone's summer.

The definite high light of this term so far has been the White Water Rafting. It was cold and wet (even if you fell in or not), but so much fun, definitely recommended to those who enjoy an adventure. We hope to do a similar water sport 'thing' in the summer, when it's slightly warmer... Still to come, we have planned to go to the local comedy club, hold a murder mystery evening and to go shooting.

Sheffield

This term started with a mad photocopying session to try to produce as many posters and leaflets as we could to give out at the Freshers fair. The event itself went well with 50 people signing up who were interested and we now have between 15 and 20 people who come regularly, which has been a great success considering the club has not yet reached its first birthday.

The first week back we played lots of mad games (including twister of course) so that everyone could get to know everyone. This was followed by a night of food games the following week. We tried out a council built orienteering course the following week which was quite easy leaving plenty of spare time to go to Bar One (Union Bar). We held an international evening (one of the highlights was building the highest Eiffel tower out of plastic straws), a Halloween fancy dress drinking night and creating Edible Bonfires. This term we are looking forward to participating in a pizza and video night, a murder mystery evening, going bowling and making Christmas crafts.

Hazel Plummer

UCE (University Central England – From 2007 Birmingham City University)

Since our last rally in Loughborough, we have had a busy year. We were in Barcelona instead of being at the oxford rally, sunning ourselves. We started back with our best ever freshers fair, recruiting as many new members as old members, and haven't looked back! Some of our members were involved in running camps for various units over the summer, and our programme has been totally restricted, as have committee meetings. We now meet every week for a social and have 1 activity per month, with the option for more if people want to organise one. This was for personal reasons and is on trial at the moment. We have been to a firework display with our neighbouring club BUSAG, and coming events include a pudding party, our annual Christmas party, Christmas social -meal/ball, and our first ever service event for the scout & guide units in Birmingham. Members wise, our website up keeper received his Gold D of E. The club chair was given a very nice SSAGO award at Loughborough rally, and also an award at university for her work in running the club, and all our committee members now hold a warrant. We do several activities in association with the walking & climbing club, so have been to Snowdonia, and are heading to peaks next weekend, with several members being competent climbers and climbing in the BUSA competitions, as well as judging for the BRYCS series over the summer. UCE continues to grow and its 2 mascots are forever up to something!! Best wishes