



**Student Scout and Guide Organisation  
SSAGO Reps Meeting  
Lyons Copse Camp Site, Southampton  
20<sup>th</sup> November, 2004**

**9.30am**

**Present:**

Simon (Helmet) Andrews – SSAGO Chairperson  
Ruth Smith – SSAGO Secretary  
Mark Glendinning – SSAGO Treasurer  
Marcus Coupe – SSAGO Publicity Officer

Sarah Fisher – UEA SSAGO  
Richard Doveston – SLUGS  
Michelle Foy – Warwick SSAGO  
Edward Davison – SCOGUI  
Mark Hawkins – Oxford SSAGO  
Robert Gauld – Aberdeen SSAGO  
Lucy-Jayne Roberts – Herriot-Watt SSAGO  
Lesley Bull – St Andrews SSAGO  
Mike Walters – SAGUWE  
Carly Greenway – BUGS (Bath)  
Sue Armstrong – SNOGS  
Andrew McLennan – ManSSAGO  
Warwick Conway – Leeds SSAGO  
Julie Downing – Stings  
Ali Potter – UCE SSAGG  
Hayley Goldman – Indie Rep  
Mary Hall – Aber SSAGO  
Gemma Lawrenson – SLAGS  
Jemma Jones-Hayes – UCN SNAGS  
Laura Collins – CARDIFF SSAGS  
Rachael "dizzy" Hobbs – BUGS (Bangor)  
Emma North – Bath Spa SSAGO  
Samantha Langham – BUSAG

**1. Apologies for absence**

Mike Dixon – SSAGO Members Officer  
Naomi Potter – Durham SSAGO

Sian Thomas – Lancaster  
Jessica Mercer – Cambridge SSAGO  
Rob Tims – Bristol  
Heather Coupe – Indie

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Corrections to be made: Aber SSAGO's rep's surname is 'Willatts' not 'Illatts' as previously recorded.

Item 6 - the list of members of the SSAGO Ball committee 2005 is to be corrected to only include Michelle Foy, Edd Davison and to add Cerys Mayne from Warwick SSAGO.

## **3. Officers Reports**

### **a) Publicity**

Marcus distributed copies of the newly printed and re-designed SSAGO publicity leaflet for the reps to see. A Welsh version is required for our four Welsh clubs – the exec will look into this and report back, this will of course cost money!

### **b) Members**

Mike wished us to mention that clubs need to register ASAP and to thank the few clubs who have already registered.

### **c) Treasurer**

Mark summarised the accounts for all those present. Rally and Ball loans in and out were highlighted.

Mark thanked the clubs who responded to his request for votes on the new blanket badge design and hoped that all were happy with the new badges.

Mark highlighted the huge amount of money that SSAGO has spent out on merchandise so far this year, but reminded everyone that all lines had run out, or were very nearly gone and this expenditure would allow clubs and members to buy immediately and not have to wait months for clothing anymore.

Mike from UWE asked about the new design for the pin badges and it was confirmed that these new pins were still suitable for wearing on GGUK badge tabs.

The online PayPal shop has taken £180 so far and is proving to be brilliant for clubs who are far away and can't make rallies or don't want to wait. Hayley requested pictures of the actual merchandise for the online shop page. Mark is trying to recruit models for this purpose with little success.

Post and Packing rates are still being trialled and need to be adjusted again. Mike UWE asked if members could save on P&P by collecting at rallies, which they can, but Mark will not be taking the majority of stock to Scotland, understandably.

#### **d) Secretary**

Ruth reported that another issue of SSAGO news had been completed and was available to take away from the meeting. Club reports were still very slow to appear if at all from some clubs.

Ruth has been helping Mark with the redesign of the merchandise lines and dealing with e-mails and letters as they come in for the exec. She has also designed the poster for the SSAGO ball this year and is an ear for the ball committee.

#### **e) Chairperson**

Helmet commented upon the behaviour policy that has been much discussed in recent month and said that the policy will cover a 'tolerable' level of chaos. He also reminded all those present that anonymous complaints cannot be accepted under current rules.

Executive committee elections were mentioned, Helmet reminded all that candidates wishing to stand for election must be students at the time of election and should speak to the current exec to get an idea of what the roles really entail.

The bank account has caused the exec a lot of hassle. Mark commented that Alliance and Leicester had lost the first completed form and a replacement has now been received, it didn't help that Helen Llewlyn-Powell was in the states during handover last year, nobodies fault, but it slowed things down. The new account form will go in the post this week and this will enable the current exec to take control of the account.

## 4. Past Events

### a) Great Welsh Rally

Dizzy (Rachael Hobbs) from Bangor reported that GWR was 'good'! Dizzy's cheese toastie service gained special mention as did the Saturday activities. The accounts should be ratified and found to be in profit, these will be finalised ASAP. Dizzy wished to encourage more clubs to make an effort to attend Summer Rallies as 'they're so much more fun!'.

### b) Gilwell Reunion

Marcus reported that the executive committee (minus Mike) had attended the annual Gilwell Reunion at Gilwell Park in September. We had several indie members sign up. The exec wishes to push the Gilwell Reunion in future years and have a bigger presence as SSAGO and therefore would encourage members and clubs to attend.

The discussion turned to new clubs and recruitment techniques. It was suggested that recruitment ought to target the whole uni and not just attend freshers fairs, it might be an idea to use the phrasing 'ventures' rather than scouting and guiding. Royal Holloway club didn't get off the ground because they were being asked to register as a sports club and this was proving to be more expensive than thought previously. Julie (Stings) asked whether unions were able to make clubs to risk assessments and Mike (UWE) remarked that this was dependant upon the union's constitution.

## 5. Future Events

### a) Scottish Rally

Rob Gauld (Aberdeen) reported on behalf of the Scottish rally committee that they had had trouble securing a campsite originally, but this is now settled. Activities will be known soon and booking will hopefully open within 2 weeks.

Helmet asked about projected bookings numbers, Rob answered 150+

### b) SSAGO Ball

Michelle Foy and Edd Davison spoke on the Ball. Reminded all that it will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> and that collection from the train station or airports would be possible. There are real

windows at the hotel! The DJ takes requests, Dizzy (Bangor) asked if he has 'happy birthday'?

There is ample car parking, the hotel bar is for residents only and there will be a professional photographer (£2 A5 and £4 A4). Michelle briefly outlined the menu and answered Jemma's (Snags) question that food allergies can be catered for. Dress is formal.

### **c) Traffic Jamboree**

This event has been delayed by a year. The trial run was completed in the summer, Helmet reports that it's well worth the money! The trip is estimated to cost £250. There are some amazing sights on the trip and a stay at a castle in Germany owned by TSA.

## **6. CRB**

Mike still needs to talk to David Williamson about a few of the technicalities. Jemma (Snags) reported that she has trouble with her nursing student members who won't re-CRB. Dizzy asked about which address members should declare on their forms, Marcus answered that term-time addresses are temporary and home addresses should be used.

David Williamson has said that CRB checks from the same county as your club will count for SSAGO.

Mark Hawkins (OUSGG) asked about foreign students. 1 exec member is to be responsible for this.

Helmet apologised for all the hassle, but the checks are necessary.

## **7. Any other business**

- Mark Hawkins (OUSGG) asked about joint activity rules and reported that his CSNC had told them they were not insured. Mark replied that all SSAGO members are insured through TSA.
- Marcus spoke about the new club e-mail addresses and opened discussion to all those present. Mike (UWE) asked for a spam tally, Mark (OUSGG) suggested that clubs get a spam filter, Rob (Aberdeen) mentioned that clubs and national need to stop publicising the addresses so that they are not trawled from the websites, Mark (OUSGG) asked for a 'contact form' or similar in place of e-mail

links, Mike (UWE) suggested replacing the @ symbol with 'AT'.

A vote to change addresses from [name@ssago.org.uk](mailto:name@ssago.org.uk) to [club\\_name@ssago.org.uk](mailto:club_name@ssago.org.uk) was taken the results were:

name@ - 5 votes

club\_name@ - 10 votes

abstentions – 6

Aberystwyth asked if their new address could be club\_aber@ to avoid spelling mistakes, Aberdeen were asked if they minded, which they didn't.

- ManSSAGO reported that their Summer rally would take place the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in July, the website is under construction, the theme will be TV detectives and activities will be based in the city centre.
- Cardiff SSAGS reported that they are raising money for a trip to Canada for their Explorer belt and there will be a fundraising evening on February 19<sup>th</sup> – a barn/line dancing event.
- Michelle (Warwick) asked if clubs would like to help out with 'Frosty Camp' 5/6<sup>th</sup> January in Banbury for Kennilworth Cubs.
- SCOGUI announced that they will be hosting next term's Midlands challenge evening.
- Dizzy announced on behalf of Bangor and Cardiff that Welsh SSAGO Winter camp will be held 28-30<sup>th</sup> January at Bronierian, this event is open to Welsh clubs only.

**Meeting closed at 11.16am**

**Date of next meeting – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, Douglaswood Camp Site, Nr Dundee**

## **Aberdeen University Guides and Scouts**

- Spent an evening Bowling
- Had a Freshers Camp
- Chair Resigned
- Got A Mascot
- Oh and 3 new members
- Plans to see a Panto

## **Bath Spa SSAGO**

- 10 people successfully completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training walks. Eight people on Exmoor, Two in the New Forest.
- Currently signed up are an additional eight people, bringing DoE participant numbers to a total of eighteen.
- Additional Practice walks are scheduled for April, and a qualifying expedition in June and July 2005.
- Bath Spa SSAGO provided team building activities to Bath Spa University Students' Union on two occasions during the summer vacation, both involving large scale pioneering projects.
- Bath Spa SSAGO organised a repeated Avon (Scout County) SSAGO Bowling evening, and once we actually got lanes, turned into a very successful night. Attended by BUGS (Bath Uni), UBGAS (Bristol Uni) and SAGUWE (University of the West of England).
- Freshers Camp on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November: a weekend at the Campbell Rooms on the Quantocks, including a visit to Hinkley Point Power station, Bridgwater Carnival, and a day of outdoor activities on the Sunday.
- We have organised two evenings at Bathampton cubs, that is to be repeated again in December.
- We have created links with a number of Scout Groups in Bath City and Wansdyke Districts, placing around 15 new leaders/helpers with all sections of the Scout and Guide association.
- We have created links with Avon Scout Network, and have attended events, and will be organising an event in March 2005 for all Avon Scout Networks and BUGS, UBGAS and SAGUWE.
- Marshalled the Bath Half Marathon.
- Represented SSAGO along with Ruth Smith, at the Betty Clay Memorial Service (at Wells Cathedral).

## **Bath University Guides and Scouts**

It's been a wicked start here in Bath, we've signed up loads of freshers, more than past years due to the committee's hard work, and have so far have undertaken a varied programme of activities. Our freshers camp went brilliantly with wide games and lots of fire!! All in the pouring rain. Still spirits were high and we've got 10 signed up for the Bond Rally which we're all really excited about.

We had our annual Bowling Competition with BathSpa, UBGAS (Bristol) and SAGUWE (U.W.E) and are looking forward to doing more stuff with them in the future.

Other activities that we have enjoyed so far this term include: the Bath Skyline hike by night, pool competition, skittles and pubcrawl. Our plans for the rest of term are just as varied, from climbing to wine tasting! We are trying to do a lot of inter-societies stuff because it's a great way to try a lot of different activities and of course get publicity. Also, our French members are planning on throwing a crepe party for us!! Yum!

Look forward to seeing everyone again at the Southampton and sharing ideas for things to do for the rest of the year!

### **Birmingham University Scout and Guide Club**

Term started with a good freshers week, not everyone looked their Sunday best but we got a pretty good reception and secured the necessary numbers during the first meeting. Within the first week the Fresher's Balti and Hike were both relatively well attended (16&7). Lunch time meetings at the beginning of term saw a group of twenty turn up and this led us into the imaginatively named Fresher's Camp, where 12 of us went along to Blackwell, showed how bad we all were at archery and climbing before demonstrating our adeptness in a pub.

The secretary's Cheese and Wine evening went well, with us somehow all fitting into my lounge-getting out for top ups proved more arduous but everyone managed to cope. Normal Wednesday meetings have carried through the term and in the last few weeks the group has been able to go out to the Vale fireworks. As secretary I've represented the group at the Guild Council, though apparently I missed one, which I heard nothing about, slightly annoying as we keep hearing how more people should turn up yet they don't tell us. Anyway four of our number will be venturing down to Southampton, we're all looking forward to it so see you there.

### **University of Bristol Guides and Scouts**

With the graduation/placement of the majority of our members our numbers have been severely weakened. However with the High success of the Freshers Fair we've managed to get ourselves 50 new contacts for people of these 7 have had repeated business.

Our new members have helped out at our service event the ICC (International Cooking Competition). Due to severe storm warnings our initial bookings were 18 teams of 6 were reduced to 13. Despite Heavy rain we managed to get all alter fires lit and roaring for the African dishes to be properly cooked. Due to unexpected equipment charges this year the event made an overall loss of approximately £100, this is unheard of and has never

happened before. We shall have to raise next years prices to ensure future profits.

The early summer service event of Kahoutek was a super success making mahusive profits that we shall use to fund our tigantic promotion and recruitment scheme. The website has been overhauled to show the most up to date information about the club which has been vital in getting our new members.

### **University of the West of England (in Bristol)**

Firstly I apologise for it being late, things have been hectic in our club at the moment, our SU has instigated a new policy for the registration. This policy means that from the beginning of term we only have 5 weeks to get all our members paid-up and registered online. This is harder than it sounds

considering that we don't get our main influx of people to the activities until about the same time. We have subsequently been asked to remove our website and cease use of our e-mail until the second sign-up date in early January. So we've started swapping all of our contacts and website over to the county website who have been very accommodating.

We had 3 members attend the Great Welsh Rally. Both of which have fully enjoyed themselves and have promised to attend future Rallies. This as proven useful for promoting this to our other members that have yet to attend a rally.

Revamped the website to improve usability for our members that can't be bothered to use the National SSAGO site (which is very good). Added a forum for discussing issues, programmes and evening enjoyment.

Overall we've gained members since the Lancaster and not lost any with them graduating. Things are going fine, despite any setbacks.

### **Cambridge University Scout and Guide Club**

We've been very busy this term, recruiting freshers (and persuading them to stay!). Our freshers' walk, the main freshers' event, was a huge success. We've also taught some of the new members how to punt, and got everyone up on the coldest morning of the autumn so far to watch the sun rise. It looks like our recruiting methods have worked, as we've now got many new faces as well as most of the old ones. The next big event is our week away in Snowdonia over Christmas, and before that we have orienteering and gingerbread making to look forward to, among other things.



## Cardiff University Student Scout and Guide Society



Cardiff has seen the return of a number of steadfast third years and graduates who drive, organise and generally pull the society through when the exec are too tired/hung over/ busy studying. It's also been great to see an influx of very enthusiastic Freshers who, not scared away by Freshers camp, are bringing some new blood into the society.

Heading out to the west coast of Wales for Freshers camp was a bit of a gamble, but we were bursting at the seams with twenty-six people in attendance. Obligatory silly games and songs were supplemented with a rather wet day at Heatherton Sports Park playing pitch and putt, go-carting and stuff. Although we had a minor car crash (don't worry everyone's fine) a great weekend was had by all.

A new addition to the calendar, our weekly midweek meet has really taken off and it's provided a chance to draw back some second and third years who can't always make it to our evening activities. These meetings, and our strong connections with the local Scout Network, also mean the CRB process, although hotly debated, is happening surprisingly well!

As well as joint events with Network, we've had a Ready, Steady, Cook style challenge hosted by Swansea SSAGO, and there are grand things being engineered for a joint Welsh clubs winter camp, provisionally at Broneirion, in January.

Our new message board, uploaded over the summer, is great for spreading info, gossip and silly pictures and is invaluable for arranging things, saving us all fortune on mobile phone bills!

With thoughts turning to Christmas, and never ones to do things by halves, Madam Chair has kindly offered to cook a Christmas meal for the whole society! I'll give you an update in the next report.



## Durham University Scout and Guide Group



The highlight of DUSAGG's summer has to be the twelve members who successfully completed Wainwright's Coast to Coast route across England covering 190 miles. We walked through beautiful British countryside in wind, rain and sunshine with feet and shoulders hurting like you never knew they could, but we all got to the other end and celebrated by paddling in the freezing North Sea!

Before term began, many members helped to run the security team at this year's county Scout camp 'Confido'. We were busy on the radios

looking after visitors, car parking, lost property and ambulances to name a few.

The term began with the annual freshers fair, where our students union had taken the phrase 'outdoor society' a little too far and had given us a stall outside! After a discussion we were moved to a corner inside so many people were unable to find us, but we still managed to gain a good handful of new members.

The new DUSAGGers were taken on a Freshers walk around Durham so they could begin to find their way around their new city. We had a wet night at our local Scout adventure centre with climbing and crate stacking as well as some interesting dancing to well known classics such as YMCA!

The social events this term have been well received, giving everyone a chance to catch up after the summer and time to get to know our new members. The usual Tuesday lunchtime Club Coffee and Sunday night's Pub Thing have continued this term. We have been bowling and a scavenger hunt around Durham which involved teams finding coins, wood, passport photos, specific carrier bags, a map of the London underground and some river water. DUSAGGers also found the time to visit the North East's largest waterpark 'Wet and Wild'. An enjoyable time was had with a new experience for quite a few members, travelling through the Tyne Tunnel! DUSAGG attended the largest fireworks display in the North East for Bonfire night.

Freshers camp has been the highlight of this term, taking place in Westhall, between Newcastle and Sunderland. We had a tiring but enjoyable walk on the Saturday along the coast, but could not see the sea until we were on top of it due to the mist! That evening, DUSAGG went 'posh' and had a fantastic six course meal cooked entirely by themselves including party poppers and floating candles!

Coming up is a Blind Drop which challenges members not to get lost in County Durham countryside in the dark! We will also be present at the Remembrance Sunday parade at Durham cathedral and will be part of the procession afterwards.

We were unable to make the rally in Southampton as we are holding 'Midnight Madness' that weekend. This is a 20km incident hike arranged entirely by DUSAGG for explorers from all over the county. As the name suggests this event takes place in the dark. The route has been finalised and walked (in daylight!) and the bases are now coming together ready for the 10 teams to attempt. Last year the temperature dropped to -6 as we were sat frozen on our bases waiting for teams to arrive. This year, thermometers will be at the ready to see how cold it gets!

## **Leeds University Union Scouts and Guides**

We had a successful summer camp at Great Tower, on Lake Windermere, in spite of bumping into two other SSAGO groups at the same site! Since returning to University the group has vastly increased in size due to a good turn out at freshers fair. We held a party to welcome new members, and have various activities planned for the coming semester, including Freshers Camp at Bradley Wood this weekend, a Christmas Party and a Human Monopoly game across West Yorkshire!

## **Students of Leicester Universities Guides and Scouts**

SLUGS set off with a bang in September with the failsafe 'get to know 3 frshers' session in the pub! Then, as if by magic time had flown and we were knee deep in mud and beer at the Joint Freshers Camp. At this magnificent event all and sundry from the East Midland clubs indulged in a variety of exciting activities including a trip to a pub (singular), orienteering, archery and the customary silly games. Due to the superior wisdom of our chair many new games were invented, all involving squash..... guess you had to be there. I am sure all will vouch that the weekend was a roaring success. Since this epic few days in history the day to day running of SLUGS has continued with an evening of bowling an itellectual pub style quiz and of couse the Warwick Challenge evening. Numbers are strong but few freshers have braved an evening with us. We look forward to this year's rallys and ball!

## **Students of Liverpool Association of Guides and Scouts**

Freshers week(s) were mad with last min organisation and stuff. We initially had loads of interest but it seems to have dwindled rather dramatically and we're not sure y. We think it's because people just wanted contacts with units up here but don't want to commit to regular meetings. grrr!

Rebecca (as you know) came to your Freshers camp at John's Lee (Hurrah!! even though it is a mud pit!!) We were hoping to do a joint Freshers camp with clubs up here but that didnt happen!

We did do a v. successful incident pub crawl in which i got rather tipsy!

We went to watch the fireworks at Liverpool docks.

Played lots of silly games that included food, alcohol and making arses of ourselves.

A brief Remembrance Sunday/Armistice day information and discussion meeting

Playing Pool and stuff!

### **Loughborough University Scout and Guide Club**

We had a great summer camp at Great Tower in the Lake District (hello to the other SSAGO clubs we met there and thanks for returning the bike pump...). Activities included rowing round Lake Windermere, cycling up vertical hills in Grizedale forest and watching the football. We ambled round Ambleside and got puzzled in the illusion museum in Keswick. Overall it was a superb week and an amazing start to the summer!

Before term began the returners got together in Bradgate Park for some flag capturing around the oldest rocks in the country (apparently). We nearly broke our ankles in the dark but had a good laugh – and some all-important cake.

We had a record-breaking Freshers Bazaar, recruiting thirty freshers – hurrah! After hours of writing on pegs and attacking anyone in sight, it was nice to have a few returned! The following Tuesday we invaded several Loughborough drinking establishments for the Freshers Pub Crawl – everyone had a great time... even if they can't remember it! The second Scogui tradition for the freshers is Silly games, so we all smiled if we loved each other and stood on chairs in name order.

Freshers camp was a huge success! It was a bit soggy but the campsite staff didn't let that stop us, by giving us a hut to keep dry in – thanks for that! Sunday morning was sunny so we threw ourselves down the hill on mountain boards, danced the Macarena down the abseiling tower and crammed seven people into a one person tent! We discovered the joy of remote control trucks although we didn't take too much notice of the track we had to go round... We got 'blathered' on the assault course then ate angel delight to cheer up. Mmmmmm.

We elected a new Freshers Rep at the SGM; the retiring fresher-cake rep gave a poetic account: 'Scogui's a cake and it's all how you bake it'. So far since then the 'baking' has included a fantastic Halloween night (groovy costumes and lots of flour and mess) and transporting eggs across a room in true Blue Peter style.

This year looks set to be one of the best ever – as usual, more fun than p\*\*\*ing on an electric fence, as one ex-member so memorably put it!

## **Manchester SSAGO**

After a long year Manchester ssago was ready for there annual expo. This year we ended up in the lakes at great tower campsite, where a number of other ssago's were camped. The week consisted a bit of walking, a trip to a beach, a sail on Windermere, quite a lot of drinking and burning stuff and admiring the beautiful view. We even put "go faster strips" on our union minibus! We enjoyed the strips so much, we put some on the wheel as well.

After a long summer, we got back into the swing of things with Freshers fairs at both universities. We had great interest in the society and the first week was inundated with freshers to see what we did and who we are.

Since then we haven't look back, we have had a comedy night, taken part in a beer festival, played silly games and even had a bonfire. We've also had a fresher's camp, on a side of a hill, on a guide campsite, with no working toilets. Girlies were thoroughly unimpressed. Although it was a cold weekend, we went and warmed ourselves up at the local pub, were we sang karaoke well into the early hours. We were so amazing, the locals wanted us back the following weekend. So all in all, a great start to a new term at manssago.

## **Norwich (UEA) SSAGO**

Hello! My name is Sarah Fisher and I'm the SSAGO/Union link from the University of East Anglia (UEA) SSAGO. I don't have much to report as we are a brand new SSAGO group and are just trying to get on our feet. But nevertheless, we are a very energetic, excited, and very optimistic. After we had received our official recognition from the university several weeks into the term, we held elections to form a committee. A founding committee was thus created of at least seven people (President, VP, Secretary, SSAGO/Union Link, SSAGO/Guide link, SSAGO/Scout link, webmaster etc.) and we've had at least one meeting so far.

The initial interest was from over 30 people that wanted to join SSAGO at the beginning of the year. The group has a wide range of experience, some scouts, guides, brownie helpers, a former girl scout (USA), and even some who have never been involved in any organization before. On average since the beginning of the academic school year we've met about once a week doing a wide range of activities. This including meeting in the campus pub for socials, bowling, a ghost walk through Norwich, abseiling, and shooting! Some future plans are a thanksgiving dinner party, Christmas carolling at a hospice, a Christmas craft night, kayaking, rock climbing, camping, and much more!

So far everything has been very successful and the group is very excited to participate in future SSAGO events! Our group website is almost ready go and it can be found at <http://www.ueassago.escouts.net/index.html>.

## **Society of Nottingham Guides and Scouts**

We've been having lots of fun scaring the freshers ☺. The term started with the usual pub crawl and bowling, pretty self explanatory.

We are privileged to have a 'snog's house' – 5 snog's living together in one big house, this is perfect for a ready steady cook night, two teams in the two kitchens with random food ranging from baked beans and mangos to cockles! There were some inventive creations, some tasty and some not so tasty.

10 of us were brave enough to attend the East Midlands Freshers Camp, even though freshers were in the minority it was a great weekend.

We are sending a brave team up north to participate in 'Midnight Madness' organised by the Durham SSAGO, which is a night hike challenge. More would have gone, but was stupidly organised for the same weekend as the rally, more chose the down south, less energetic (more alcohol) rally option.

## **Oxford University Scout and Guide Group**

It's been a busy period for OUSGG since the club report to SSAGO. We had our annual summer trip in September: this year to Milan and the Alps in Italy. A small group of OUSGGers experienced the culture of Milan: taking silly photos from the tops of churches and stealing acquiring freebies from designer emporia. They then headed off to the Alps for some outdoor action in the form of walking in the mountains – and trying to stop themselves from singing 'The Hills are Alive...'

Back in Oxford this term it has been a busy term recruiting new members. Highlights from the meetings this term have included fair trade wine and chocolate tasting, bonfire and fireworks, climbing and going to the theatre to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Attendance has been pretty good for the term as a whole after a slightly jittery start and most of the freshers seem to be enjoying the programme.

The second ever OUSGG freshers camp took place last weekend at Youlbury campsite with 8 OUSGGers camping (including 3 freshers) and 3 joining us during the day. Activities included orienteering, amateur radio, air rifle shooting and of course a campfire. These seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended even if it was rather cold!

At the end of term OUSGG hopes to enter 1 (or possibly even 2) teams in the Tour de Trigs walking competition – just because some of us are just plain bonkers – a 50 mile 24hr hike! We are also looking forward to our Winter Walking™ event over the New Year when we will be visiting the picturesque Peak District.

## **Sheffield Students in Guides and Scouts**

After a very successful Freshers fair, Sheffield StinGS increased their membership to ~ 15 (from about 4). After a meet and drink session on the first week to get to know everyone we have been bowling, held a pub and pool night and been to the cinema. We attended the East Midlands freshers camp to which 6 of us went (including 3 freshers) and had a great time camping in the mud. We held a treasure hunt around the city centre with a list of scavenger items to collect on the way (including a clean piece of toilet paper and a McDonalds sweet and sour sauce satchet). To celebrate Bonfire night we had an outdoor BBQ (yes we know its November), toasted marshmallows and had sparklers. The rest of the term is to be filled with a pub crawl, Chinese takeaway night, trip to watch the Sheffield lights being switched on, a video night and a night clubbing.

## **Southampton University Scout and Guide Club**

We have had an exciting return back to uni and did really well at the bunfight, with lots of new freshers recruited. The good news continued with lots of them now becoming regular members. The main event at our end of the country is the Rally. All the plans are starting to fall into place and there have been no problems that have overcome us yet. We practiced the silly games and food on Freshers camp which we all enjoyed and we all now have an intimate knowledge of the campsite and biggest puddles. We have also had a hectic social calendar with bowling, pub crawls and a high wire aerial assault course to our name. All in all, a brilliant term had by all

## **Warwick University Scout and Guide Club**

Well we started off the year - as I'm sure most clubs do - in the bar. We had a lot (like 15) of last year's members at that social which surprised the exec no end! Anyways then we started on the freshers season: trying to put a stall together in the least amount of time and finding someone to man it!

So despite this good start we got our quota of 30 members, which was another surprise, due to all the wonderful people we lost last year. We ended up in another bar for our first fresher's social (I had such a sore throat it wasn't funny!) and we talked (or croaked) the night away. Next was a campfire. Fi sang some songs and we toasted marshmallows, but unfortunately we couldn't fulfil one of our fresher's dreams of lighting the fire with only 2 sticks! It was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves, but then give a scout fire...

Another (!) bar social in yet another bar gave us some plans for the Midlands Freshers Camp. This then happened that weekend and we sent 9 people from Warwick - a further surprise! We don't usually make that big an impact on group camps. Again, despite most of the club sleeping inside

at some point, a good time was had by all and our new members (and not so new) learnt how to put up a tent. Lets hope they can remember for Rally!

And so we went bowling to see how many people we could embarrass, unfortunately that turned out to be me when I fell asleep on the table but we won't go into that. You'll be happy to know that another bar social was avoided when Michelle invited us to her house for a takeaway. This is where we started collecting ideas for our oh-so-close by this time Midlands Challenge Evening. So we enjoyed our indian's (food!) and fish&chips and planned some games. Half the exec then went away and finalised the details, drawing maps, grids and nametags.

Our Challenge Evening then took place with 34 SSAGO members from the Midlands attending. They were sent around our campus to pick up foil, eat m&m's, act out campfire songs and be creative with newspaper. We then retired to a bar (not that we do that a lot...).

Fireworks next week and then Rally...See you then!