



SSAGO NEWS

SPRING TERM 2001



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Spring Term 2001



Issue number two for this year, and once again thank you to all the clubs and individuals who have contributed. One theme is addressing the most common concerns voiced by club reps - how to get a club going, and then how to keep it thriving. The best people to comment are those who have done just that, so, for ideas look at the articles from Cardiff, Southampton and Heriot-Watt.



Also included in this issue are a handful of the opportunities available internationally within Scouting and Guiding, from a summer job at Gillwell Park, to the 2002 Jamboree in Thailand.

More details can be found from the Scout and Guide Websites, linked to the SSAGO web page - www.ssago.org.uk. We have also been busy putting on all the forms you need, and hopefully soon the updated "How to run a rally guide" and SSAGO News will also be available.

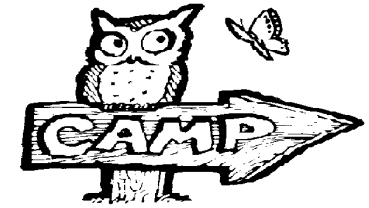
Finally, from all of this year's Committee, thank you for a great year, many challenges and a lot of fun. Good luck to the new one!

Exec Committee

Chairperson : Alistair Hutchinson
Treasurer : Paul "Pam" Teulon
Secretary : Caroline Banks
Members Officer: Keira Stobie
Publicity Officer: Diccon Booth

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Adverts



Seasonal Staff Opportunities at Gilwell Park

Seasonal Contracts May - Sept (minimum 4 months)
to assist in the running of the National Headquarters Campsite

Short Term Voluntary staff also required all year round (minimum 4 weeks)
For further information please call Skippy Roberts on 020 8498 5410

A little further afield - The 20th World Jamboree

The Jamboree will open on 28th December 2002 and close on 8th January 2003. Thailand will welcome 30,000 Scouts aged 14 to 18 (at the start of the Jamboree) and Service Crew Members aged 18+ to the Jamboree site which is situated right next to the sea and a lovely sandy beach. This will give unprecedented opportunities for water activities and as the temperature will be a quite moderate at 20 - 25C it is expected that all participants will find it comfortable.

The official Web Site for the Thai Scout Association about the 20th World Scout Jamboree is at <http://www.worldscoutjamboree20.org>

Starting a club

Okay. Starting a club.... Although we had a (sort of) existence here at Heriot-Watt already, that was only useful in that we already had a bank account and were affiliated to the union, so essentially we started over. The following is a combination of what we did and what we would have done, in no particular order... it's a bit long, methinks, but never mind.

- find out how many of your existing uni friends/folk in your hall of residence are Scoutey/Guidey people, and whether they would be interested in a club. You may be worried that the society will turn into a "me-and-my-friends" clique, but don't be!! This is just the beginning... If you can't find anyone else interested, don't give up, there's BOUND to be some others in your uni hiding in the woodwork somewhere - having several folk to start with just makes it easier.

- Send for the bumf!! The SSAGO Information Manual has some quite useful stuff in it, just wade through and use what you want.

- get in touch with local Scout and Guide highhedians; some (like ours, an ex-St Andrews member) have SSAGO experience you can use, or a database of volunteers/leaders/ventures/rangers which you can skip through looking for @youruni.ac.uk email addresses or halls of residence addresses. They SHOULD be willing to help, as you will be getting outsiders into the organisation too - some might even offer you money from a development fund.

- call a meeting, inviting everyone you know about who might be interested, and publicising it round the campus and in your local Scout and Guide newsletters. If your union won't pay for photocopying, ask the Scouts/Guides.

-Remember that most folk will want excitement, adventure and really wild things, so push those aspects - OK, you may not have a programme yet, or even a committee, but you will still have an idea of the sort of things you want to do.

- At the meeting, ask for volunteers to be on the committee. If you don't get any, pick some. Ask for suggestions for the programme. Drink some alcohol.

- Get the forms for SSAGO, Scouts, Guides, the bank and the union filled in and out of the way quickly.

- Make up a basic programme for the society's first term - simple stuff to start with, perhaps a regular pub meeting with bowling or something thrown in, and a camp – either your own or someone else's (eg Rally).

- Whatever you do, make sure you apply for money from the union to do it.

- Your committee will groan and moan at all the paperwork and boringness of being on a committee (especially if they're all new to the whole committee thing, or (like us) are all 2nd years who have had no involvement with the union...), but remember that you won't have that many meetings, and most forms are a one-off.

- Fresher's Fair. There's no point in pretending you're not a S&G Club in case folk don't think it's cool - you'll just get a pile of folk joining who will never go to stuff.

- Get promo posters and leaflets from the local Scouts/Guides (ours had a whole load of "Join SSAGO" leaflets already - otherwise get some flyers copied with a contact on them).

- If people ask "what do you do?" say "EVERYTHING - provided folk want to do it (and it's legal), like camping, hjfw, jajdkifi (insert your own ideas here) - we're the Scout and Guide Club".

- You might get some folk wanting to be leaders or something
- write them down anyway and forward their details to your new friend at S/G HQ.

- The new blood will want something good as a first activity - remember how many societies you joined but didn't go to?? In first term you want to have a pile of high profile things happening, also last term (so folk remember to come back next year). Don't neglect the other term(s) though, just remember that you need to get things organised early (to avoid "oh it's the freshers fair – what are we doing this term?" and "oh no finals finals we can't organise anything")

-After a while, get some of the new faces on to the committee. The first lot served their purpose, but if you keep the original folk in for too long it will become that hated "we-were-friends-anyway-and-now-we've-made-a-society" group of which there are far too many.

OK, I know it's hard. We had it lucky - our Scout contact is great, as is the Union's Student Activities Co-ordinator, the Union like giving out cash (a couple of the sabbaticals are Ventures or Leaders), and several of the folk in my halls were Scouts or interested. We're still very much a Scout-based group, but the Guideys have infiltrated and hopefully we'll get more next year; we had 40-odd members after the freshers fair (though we've yet to see quite a few); and on Monday night eighteen of us got pissed together.

Colin Fitch

Starting/Reviving a SSAGO Group

I've been asked by Keira to write a little piece with a few words of wisdom about starting and/or reviving SSAGO groups. I'm not really sure what to say, but here goes...

As a way of starting, I'll say why I've been asked. I've been at Southampton for 16 months now, but when I first arrived, as far as I could work out, there was no SSAGO group here. Contacting the then Members Sec revealed that there was a group and I got involved with it. Several activities happened, but then suddenly stopped in November 1999. By the start of our Semester 2 in February last year, I'd still not heard anything, so I started to make noises and eventually at the end of February 2000, Diccon and I decided to try to revive Southampton SSAGO. Since then the Club has grown slowly and we should now have 7 of us at the Cardiff Rally.

So how did we go about getting things going down here? Well, to start with we inherited a list of interested people. Between us, Diccon and I came up with a programme of events for the rest of that term and then blasted their email accounts with information about what we were doing. It worked to a certain extent. Some were interested and turned up. Some weren't and didn't. Some replied saying "Please take me off your list – I haven't got time for SSAGO".

From the start, we initiated a weekly time and place where we'd meet. This is a good idea if it's well advertised as members and potential members know where and when you will be. Lunchtime meetings that worked well at some Clubs I've been in haven't been successful here and this Semester, we're changing to an evening in a local pub. Part of the problem is making yourself recognised. A small group in a large room filled with others is hard to find, especially if you don't know who you're looking for.

Bigger groups and/or a room to yourself help, but if you haven't got the members to form the big group or justify a room to yourself – well, it's a catch-22 situation.

To start a Club from scratch, I think I'd say it'll work best if you've got a group of friends who are interested. You'll avoid the problem of trying to recognise one person and you'll have a better idea of whether people are going to turn up for events etc. We haven't had this in the last year or so, and that's where we've suffered.

Another secret to success is communication. Letting your members know what's going on each week, or providing a method of finding out is vital. To do this, you need to get a website and email address working ASAP. To do this, we had to get ourselves fully recognised by our Union. Talk to your Union to see what needs to be done and whether they've got any advice for starting Clubs and Societies up. Register with SSAGO – the first year's free and you can then attend Rallies and other events. A presence at your Freshers' Fair is also important. With hindsight, we suffered this year in being between the Scouts and Guides stalls. Seeing uniforms to either side did put many off joining us.

Our approach here in Southampton is always changing. We've tried fun activities. We've tried service events. We've had some success. We've suffered from not having the core group of friends who turn up to everything and drag people in. Be flexible, find what works with your members and keep at it. It can be VERY frustrating from time to time. There are times when you do feel like throwing it all in – “Why AM I bothering?”. But when it works, it is incredibly satisfying.

Phil Cole

Club news ...

Since revamping ourselves in October, Heriot-Watt SSAGO have (slowly) got better and better. We meet every week, sometimes just in the pub, but often to do another activity in combination with the drinking - we've had a service weekend at the local Scout campsite, been bowling and pub quizzing/crawling, and 10 of us are going to JanJits, a Venture/Ranger camp south of Edinburgh at the end of January (yes, in tents - nae probs for the teuchters).

Our programme for the rest of the year pans out to have at least 1 Venture/Ranger camp per term, attendance at the Rallies if we can get there for less than £100, and a weekend doing something different just with the club – as well as sailing and sub-aqua courtesy of the local Scout and Guide groups. (PS - seeing as we forgot our cameras, if anyone has pics of Craig and I from the autumn rally we'd love to see them - we were the ones in the tartan neckies)



Colin Fitch

The first real term is over! Since the last report went in, Southampton have attended a fireworks display with a local Venture Unit, bowled, helped with, or rather intended to help with, a Ranger Night Hike (it was cancelled by the Rangers during the afternoon) so we had a short circular route from the car parked in the pub car park to the pub instead. Five of us travelled to the Durham Rally and a week later five of us joined Warwick SSAGO for a campfire in the New Forest. This term will be starting late due to semesterisation at the University, and we're hoping to go walking and climbing when the term does start.

Phil Cole

University of Warwick Scout and Guide Club Report.

Since the Durham rally, which two members went to despite the lack of trains, floods etc. The next weekend, we went to the New Forest for our club's termly camp. The weather wasn't too bad and we were able to have a fairly relaxing weekend. Some members of Southampton SSAGO joined us for a campfire on the Saturday evening. We also drove up to Birmingham for BUSAG's Challenge evening. There we had practice at various silly games including bridge building with spaghetti, or rather bridge collapsing for some!

We went to our Wednesday student union event; decadance, which is now known to our club as Neckadance. Part of our neckers glow in UV light and we have even had one or two new members from people recognising us at these events.



Our last event of the previous term was our Christmas meal, we went to a chinese restaurant. To my disappointment, I was the only one unable to eat with chopsticks!

This term, so far we have tested out the local ice rink. Our future plans include: pancakes, club elections and a campfire, as well as a club camp and the rally, and regular socials in a union bar.

Melanie Mason

SCOGUI - We have come back to University for the most exciting time of year, Christmas exams!

Since last report, we have done many things. We had a cheese and wine evening with quiz questions at our Secretary's house. Mini pioneering saw the "creative" side of our members whilst the Beacon walk tested their endurance. A couple of socials even gave us chance to relax.

We also had a fun night when Nottingham and Leicester joined us for one of our meetings at our union. This was a team building session and included walking around the union in a conga line blindfolded. Most of us opted not to step into the Union for a few weeks afterwards!

Christmas shopping and culture found some of us descending on Leicester to the museum, pubs (obviously – but we had SLUGS show us all the best joints in town) and then hunting for gifts for loved ones. To end the term we had our annual Christmas meal at one of the local pubs and the food was delicious and everyone looked gorgeous.

To welcome everyone back from the Christmas holidays, we went to Leicester Mega-Bowl Centre to socialise and vent our pre-exam tension. We have a full program arranged for this term yet again with activities including 3-legged pub crawls, pancake night (we have to have this since it's Shrove Tuesday), and letterboxing to name just a few. For more information on this terms activities visit our website: (www-lsu.lboro.ac.uk/clubsocs/scogui/)



For weekend activities, we are arranging a night hike for the local Scouts and Guides around our local campsite (where we held the Loughborough Rally). We are also planning to go to a Camping Barn in March but the place is yet to be decided. Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 6th March and all the committee will stand down (except for Fresher's Rep as this is elected at our Semesterly General Meeting) and elections will take place.

Rally News



It's a quick trip to the candy shop on the good ship lollipop where the bon-bons play on the sunny beach of peppermint bay. Yes, this is the stuff dreams are made of: the Sweetie Rally! All the fun of the sweet shop without your parents to tell you that "You are going to make yourself sick"!

Activities include raft building, climbing/abseiling, A-frame racing, shooting, pubcrawl, archery and a service project, not to mention silly games, jelly surprise dessert, a barn dance with Rannygazoo, and "chat-up totty time"!!

More details can be found at our website: www.thesweetierally.co.uk, by email at sweeties@johnsy.org or by phoning Raff on 07801 253461
Take my advice, put your dentist on standby!

Stop Press

Event in Edinburgh open to SSAGO Groups Heriot-Watt Student Scouts and Guides are hoping to run a scavenger hunt event round Edinburgh (for Ventures, Rangers, Leaders and SSAGO) sometime next term. Although it's Way Up North for most clubs, we thought we'd invite you all anyway!!

The event will be a Saturday afternoon, space will be provided to kip overnight, and (if folk have come a long way and want us to do it) we might co-ordinate some sort of activity on the Sunday (sailing/canoeing/bowling/other ideas welcome) to make it worth travelling the distance (as if an invite from Heriot-Watt isn't enough!!).

Dates and final details are yet to be set..... but to register interest you can email hwssago@excite.co.uk. Info will be sent to all the email addresses listed on the SSAGO website (and also on our website at www.zyworld.com/hwssago) when we've set the dates!!



YOH - SSAGO hits the Netherlands

We hope you will apply for the Youth Orientation Hike in Mook. This is the fourth YOH in a row and we are very proud to be able to invite you for an international scouting camp again. The activities during the YOH (12 to 16 April) will be of a higher quality than they were before. Therefore, the YOH will be a challenge for participants, as well as staff members. One thing will be obvious; YOU WILL EXPERIENCE THE YOH 2001.

Summary of the Youth Orientation Hike 2001

What : Youth Orientation Hike (participants over 18)

When : Thursday 12 of April noon till Monday 16 of April noon

Where : Mook/Nijmegen (Eastern part of The Netherlands)

Costs : 80 pounds

Niels Meijerink

International commissioner JOH

+31 (0)6 15547536

JOH@scoutnet.nl

www.scoutnet.nl/~joh



If you want to talk to one of last year participants from the UK, you can contact Jules Spike. He can explain the activity in more detail and give some help you with your preparations. Most of you should know him as one of the 'oldies' within the SSAGO Jules Spike J.Spike@netcase.co.uk

From Cardiff ... building a society

Running a Society with approximately 50 members is definitely hard work but enjoyed by the entire executive. As a Society, we meet every week and have a core of 20 members that attend events on a regular basis. We have found that things don't always go to plan, sometimes quick thinking and rearrangements are required. However, here are a few things as a Society that we do, that have helped us build on our membership over the years to make us a large, active and friendly Society:

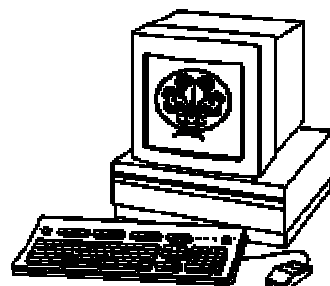
- Regular Exec meetings. Usually in the Students' Union at lunchtime, over a plate of food. The informal atmosphere is great, tasks are divided between the Exec and we check that jobs have been completed.
- Production of a 'Freshers' Pack'. Given to every new member, it contains: Welcome letters from the Society and local Guide/Scout Association, Diary of forthcoming events, map of meeting points and an advert for Freshers' Camp.
- Recruitment stands at both Companies and Freshers' Fayre, to attract as many new members as possible. We have lots of photos on display and even a play tent to grab people's attention!
- Freshers' Camp. An annual indoor camp held early in the Autumn term to introduce new members to the Society.
- A log book. Kept by our Social Secretary. Includes information on each event, how many members attended and how popular it was. This has been a very useful source of information for programme planning!
- Regular email outs! To remind all members of the forthcoming events.
- A Newsletter. Including articles about the Society, its Members and diary dates. Sent to all members, past and present, and the local Guide and Scout Association.
- Web site. Members can check dates for socials and smile at the embarrassing photos.
-

Events with local Venture and Ranger groups. Fun for both parties, these events have worked well. Also increasing the awareness of SSAGO within the Pre-Uni age group.

- Sound links with local Scout and Guide Association. Remember to invite key members to your AGM, allowing the continuation of links from one year to another.
- Close links with the Students Union. Make them aware who you are, you will possibly get more money!!!

So that's what we do!! We are also hoping to create an 'Exec Pack' to ensure a smooth hand-over to next lucky people on our Exec. This will include important dates, such as when membership cards need to be made and Freshers' Camp booked. And also contact details of useful people in the Guide and Scout Association and the Students' Union.

Alison Carpenter



Admin ...

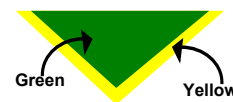
If you change address, please let me know asap, or you won't be getting any info out of us!

Any new minibus drivers? Please complete the SSAGO form

Any queries see Keira Stobie, Members Officer

Flat 2, 4 Cotham Grove, Cotham, Bristol BS6 6AL

Merchandise



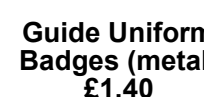
SSAGO Neckers
£4.50



Scout Uniform Badges (cloth)
60p



Blanket Badges
75p



Guide Uniform Badges (metal)
£1.40



Lapel Badges (with clutch or stick pin fastening)
£1.40



In case you were wondering, badges are not to scale!



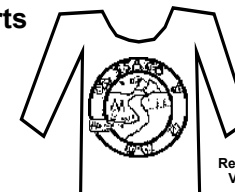
Rear View



Front



Sweatshirts
£11.00



Rear View

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts
Available in S, M, L, XL
Black, Green, Navy, or Wine (Burgundy)

The essential gear - available from the treasurer by post or at rallies

**Please send payment with order (cheques made payable to "SSAGO") to:
Paul Teulon, SSAGO Treasurer, Fitzwilliam College,
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