

Aberdeen

Aberdeen have been busy scaring freshers this term, they all seem nicely integrated into the club now [although some have become closer than others]. Freshers camp and the 'Where's Woggle?' Pub crawl went very well and with the lead up to Christmas upon us we have a lot to look forward to.

Aberystwyth

- Successful Summer Camp at Kinver Campsite, Kidderminster in July.
- We recruited more members than ever before at our freshers fayre in september. Our membership has increased, we now have many regular fresher members.
- Eventful fresher's camp at Ynysgain Bach near Criccieth, North Wales, despite the hours it took getting there!
- Weekly pub socials and coffee socials proving to be as popular as ever.
- The annual AberSSAGO Treasure hunt was amusing yet somewhat predictable!
- Four of our members helping to staff the Bangor Rally.

Bangor

This club has failed to submit a report

Bath

This club has failed to submit a report

Bath Spa

We have had a great start to the year with many new people signing up at our Freshers Fair at the end of September. So far we have been bowling and have had our social night at the SU Bar, with our Freshers camp coming up and annual Ready Steady Cook evening, we are having a bumper start to the year. We have also attended the Avon Network Intense Camp during September, where we took part in a range of activities and even enjoyed a spot of Piano Bashing!

We are unable to attend this Autumn's Rally due to our Freshers Cam being held during the same weekend again.

Birmingham

So far this term, we've done the usual mix of activities, while trying to recruit enough members to keep going. We had a fair number of people talk to us at our Freshers Fair stall (but confused many more) as we had a couple of people in uniform around. We had a balti as a successful first meal, but an attempt at bowling was rather rudely aborted due to a league night rather rudely taking place at the same time as an advertised student night. Several people went tobogganing at the Tamworth Snowdome and we made our first appearance at the Midlands Joint Freshers Camp. We linked up with UCE and Wolverhampton to watch our University's firework display, and have also spend an hour in our library looking at our logbooks from the 1930s and 40s - its amazing just how similar things have remained in 77 years. Coming up we have a cheese and wine evening, night hike and yet another food evening.

Cambridge

After a relaxing(!) summer with a trip to Europe and a weekend away in Norfolk, CUSAGCers have settled down to the routine of having a variety of planned activities coming out of their earholes (not literally please understand!), including our annual debate, Marathon, a fantastic recruitment drive and plans for CTW.

As many final year students look to complete their CVs and find jobs, I feel us CUSAGCers have and will gain relevant skills this term suitable to impress any employer.

Sand castle building extraordinaire

We stayed at Hautbois Hall on our weekend trip away to Norfolk before the autumn term started. Many activities were enjoyed thanks to fabulous weather including some amazing sandcastle building, kite flying and literally flying on the aerial runway

Children's entertainer

Marathon is a day-night incident hike held every autumn for older scouts, guides and SSAGO members which we organise and run with 26 checkpoints including 5 challenge checkpoints. True to form it was another successful event this year with everyone, whether participating or organising, having a whale of a time.

Our cheese and wine evening (where we link up potential leaders with scout and guide groups) also went well, enabling clubs to continue in Cambridge.

Friend of the Chief Guide

Some might say this was the highlight of our term. Our annual debate was held with the motion 'this house believes modern scouts and guides are softies' with the Chief Guide and the SSAGO treasurer for the motion and the Scouting National Commissioner and our own CUSAGC treasurer against. The final result? We certainly are not!

Food lover!

We all love our food, so much in fact that we have a sunrise breakfast where we cook at sunrise (funnily enough) on the only hill in Cambridge. Add that to social lunches twice a week, our Christmas party and several formal halls and that's a lot of cake consumed!

Thrill seekers

Some of the activities which have already happened and are lined up for the rest of the term include cycling, punting, air rifles and ice skating. We also have CTW lined up, our New Year walking trip to Snowdonia and Tours de Trigs, a 50 mile hiking competition.

Wonderful parent!

Our recruitment has been very successful this year thanks in part to a parenting scheme. Each current member was allocated a couple of interested 'children' via e-mail and corresponded with them and accompanied them to our events. A cunning plan as Baldrick might say.

All in all, another fantastic memorable term, roll on 2007!!

Cardiff

The first few weeks for the new year have flown by, and have been as busy as ever. The term started with a hot, sweaty day in the Union at the Fresher's Fayre, which resulted in around 50 SSAGS members, with about 30 totally new members. The Fresher's BBQ and traditional pub crawl followed, the pub crawl given a new twist when all old gits were tied to a Fresher. It was then that we realised that our Social Secretary (Erin) has a bit of a penchant for tying people up! We've also had a very successful Fresher's camp in Lydney, Forest of Dean,, with some rafting and canoeing in a very cold lake, with most of the society receiving a dunking! Our latest event was Tesco's Super Challenge with SSWIGS, a cross between Supermarket Sweep and Ready, Steady, Cook with some Erin and Will silliness thrown in. This involved some daft challenges, lots of running, and some crazy food combinations. Chocolate custard pasta anyone?!

Durham

After the relaxing end to the Easter term DUSAGG spent ten days in the Lake District: walking, climbing and buying loads of outdoor kit in Keswick. The trip culminated with the Sunderland District DMA Challenge Hike, a light-weight hiking competition where peaks mean points but deviating from the route card is punished. DUSAGG entered three teams Soft-mints, Smints and XXX, two Poles also helped man a check point. XXX, who had submitted the hardest route, allowed under the rules won by a massive lead of 2640 points, with both other Dusagg teams also doing well.

Freshers fair went well with lots of people signing up and encouragingly around 30 people registered their interest to help with local units. We also providing more help to students in our other campus in Stockton who wanted to join DUSAGG but can't commute to Durham as easily.

As usual we were asked to help at Confido, the large County scout event with around 700 Young People and 200 Adults. It was busy to say the least but thankfully we had good weather for it and it didn't turn into a mud bath!

Freshers walk went well with some surprise additions to our group i.e. Chris Patterson – past president of Nottingham SSAGO and now a post-grad at Durham. We also had an actively day at Moor House as thanks for our help at Confido where we chilled, climbed, burnt things and had a go at crate stacking.

The social side has not been neglected with our regular Tuesday Club Coffee and Sunday evening social Pub Thing (if anyone has any better names for it please get in contact!). The freshers were also taken on a trip round the exec's houses in a Safari Supper. The cooking skills of the exec were highly praised – some people were very surprised that the Quartermaster could actually cook!

The highlight of the term had to be Fresher's Camp: our weekend away, this year was spent in a disused railway station at Kettlewell in North Yorkshire. The weekend included walking and chilling away from Durham. A disappointing lack of fried custard but an Omni-beast pie that's sure to become the stuff of DUSAGG legend.

Still to come is Midnight Madness, an incident hike for Explorer Scouts and Rangers. It is entirely run by DUSAGG members and involves an incident hike of around 20km entirely in the dark (see name for further explanation). Previous years have been cold so we may be breaking out the electric blankets!

Towards the end of term we'll be having more socials including Christmas meal and our infamous Full College Night Hike – even more challenging this year with the

addition of Butler College taking the tally up to 14 bars in just 5 hours. Finally, we are looking forwards to catching up with some of our past members at their New Year event in the Peak District.

Exeter

This club has failed to submit a report

Lancaster

This club has failed to submit a report

Leeds

To begin this academic year here at Leeds we maintained our steady influx of members with a decent intake of freshers. Whilst not huge, it does mean we've got good numbers turning up to our weekly activities and pub lunches, as well as the good sized group we'll be taking to Bangor. As for our activities this term, they have included a trip around West Yorkshire with our annual LUUSAGopoly and a night hike. Long may it continue...

Leicester

In contrast to last term, SLUGS has seen an action packed programme this term, crammed full of a mixture of traditional scouting activities and social events. We started the term as probably most other clubs did, with a big push by the whole club to increase our fresher intake (a big thanks to Sarah and Hopo who led the way!!!) and we can honestly now say that a chocolate fountain is the key to all freshers wallets!!! Midlands Joint Freshers Camp has also played a huge part in this term's programme and was enjoyed by all, so thanks to all that attended, and the rest of you may get to see those sexy blue JFC06 t-shirts appearing at events near you! Activities from this term including climbing, the progressive meal and belated Halloween games have all proved very popular and may well happen again soon!! The national bowling competition was also a big success so thanks to AUSAG for organising it! Plans for the future include the usual bar crawl, the annual Christmas meal and the possibility of a club camp early next year, so hopefully another busy and exciting time!

Liverpool (1st report received)

It's been an interesting few months for SLAGS! Since the swelteringly hot weekend that was Nottingham rally, club members have been out and about all over the country. Lots of our members have been involved in International County Scout Camps over the summer, doing things as varied as teaching Scouts to sing "Three Blind Jellyfish" whilst in a kayak (ask us to give you a rendition if you don't already know it!) and acting as a hyperactive host for a camp of 3,500 Scouts and Guides from all over the world. We've attended Gilwell Reunion (and helped to decorate tents with 90 helium balloons!), as well as a number of Network camps such as Mersey Moot.

We congregated back in Liverpool for the start of the new term, and have managed to pick up a few new freshers, including some Guides to even us out a little more! The autumn term is traditionally a very busy one, and this year's no different. So far, we've been on a Scavenger hunt around the city (via a few bars), covered ourselves

in flour for a Silly Games night, entered ourselves into the bowling competition and hung the freshers off climbing walls. Other activities have included a group trip to a local fireworks display (for those of us tall enough to see over the trees!) and a chocolate-filled fundraising evening for next year's Ball, which some of our members are currently working very hard to organise. We also attended Midlands JFC - unfortunately without any of our freshers! -and had a great time, in and out of the kitchen.

Liverpool (2nd report received)

Well since last rally, the SLAGS have been out and about doing all sorts of things. Over the summer we had members giving a helping hand to the activities at Charnwood and Chamboree as well as attending a few network camps along the way. Since returning to university - or some members now, to the world of work – we've added to our number with several new SLAGS and have been working our way through an action packed programme of events. We've been climbing, been on a pub crawl, taken part in the national SSAGO bowling competition, played silly games, attended/catered for a freshers camp (admittedly without any freshers), had a talk, and been to watch a fireworks display, usually drinking lots before, after and occasionally during the activities. As for future events we have a full programme running right up until Christmas as well as hosting the society Christmas, and helping organise a winter camp.

London

SLIC has had a few members go off to Switzerland with Greater London Middlesex West to do there Explorer Belt. All SLIC members that went have been granted there Explorer Belt.

SLIC went to a number of universities in the fresher's weeks and managed to get names of a lot of potential new members, which we are still waiting for to return there membership forms to be included in our numbers.

SLIC is still trying to sort out there necker, we have a design but the problem is getting the money together to buy them. We are going to start fund raising in the New Year and hopefully get them soon.

Loughborough

This term SCOGUI have introduced our Freshers to Loughborough with a pub crawl, town trail, silly games, a Halloween party and had enjoyed a successful Freshers' camp.

At the end of the last academic year several of the club members went camping to Cornwall. A fantastic time was had by all. The Freshers' camp was held at the Oaks Campsite near Loughborough again this year. This is going to be the venue for the spring rally 2007 organised by the club. A great time was had as usual with plenty of activities on offer.

During the rest of the term we will be doing crafts, learning first aid skills and celebrating Christmas with a meal at a local pub.

Manchester

We've had a great start to the year, recruiting a number of freshers though freshers week, and introducing them to the ways of manssago.

Our First night was a general meet up in our local haunt and then progressing onto Scu bar where many fish bowls were consumed!

Since then we've had a scavenger hunt, a film night on behalf of AMC. We then took advantage of Manchester's Comedy festival by going to a local comedy club for an evening of laughter. Recently we've had a Halloween evening with pumpkin carving, cakes, goody bags, lots of fake blood and silly games. We then celebrated Guy Fawkes Night with a number of fireworks from Lidl, a mini fire and lots of sweets and goodies! Our last evening consisted of drinking for charity, Manchester RAGS Beerfest where there are many beers and vodkas on offer for consumption including black pepper, chilli to lemon and cherry.

In between these nights we have also celebrated our 10th Annual Reunion summer Extravaganza, a camp where old and current members come together for a weekend camp. We also took our freshers to Bingley for a weekend of archery, shooting, and a lovely look around Ilkley!

Newcastle

This club failed to submit a report

Northampton

The start of this year has been an uphill struggle for us in terms of recruitment and retention, and although down, we are certainly not out.

A lot of our efforts for 2005/2006 were centred on creating and strengthening the ties that we have with the Student Union, as well as the local Scout District and Scout Network; both of which have developed extremely well. The Student Union has been helping us with our marketing, and the local Scout District is keen to get us involved in any/all of their activities, and provide us access to all of the facilities that they have available.

The summer just gone saw our first (all be it small) camp other than Rallies at Overstone Campsite in Northampton; thoroughly enjoyed by all who went, we hope to repeat the fun again next summer, this time with a few more people.

Why down, but not out? Recruitment for societies at University of Northampton is notoriously difficult, with most if not all of the SU focus placed on the sports teams. A lack of experience on our behalf is also creating a steep learning curve for us, regarding what does and does not work. Both of these predicaments combined means that NUSAG still does not have a steady interest from people that are willing to commit money to membership and ink to CRB forms.

Because we are still under the required membership quota of 5 members per club for the second year running, we have decided to dissolve the club and become a group of Indie's until we can confidently re-apply for club status.

Nottingham

We started the year with a good signup at freshers Fayre, and introduced the freshers to some of the more interesting Nottingham drinking establishments.

Since then we've also been bowling (including a first timers fluke score of over 150!), Ice Skating, had a progressive meal and been to the Joint Freshers Camp in Leicestershire (eating silly numbers of cream crackers, and spectacular falls out of trees included! (video's aviable on request!)).

Oxford

OUSGG are heading towards the end of term after an initially promising recruitment campaign. As of this report, we have 3 regular meetings to go, including the TGM, and are making preparations for Winter Walking (TM), which will be held in Snowdonia.

At the end of summer term, we accepted CUSAGC's invitation to their annual punt joust. In a joint team with University of East Anglia SSAGO, we gave a successful performance, to return with victory and an unwanted-looking mascot. Towards the end of the summer, we travelled to the Isle of Wight, where much time was spent on the beach or picking blackberries. Erik the Panda gained a nice tan, though that might have been just dirt.

So far this term, we've had a silly games night, film nights, a freshers' ramble, as well as a safari supper (which went very well), fireworks, and a wide game across the city. Archery is looking a little dubious, as it's hard to find a venue, and may be put off til next term. Unfortunately we won't be putting in much of a contingent of current members at the rally, so we'll have to see you in the new year.

Sheffield

We have done the normal social stuff... pub crawl, scavenger hunt, roller skating, walking in peaks, theatre trip etc etc etc

We have also attended Apex Extreme, which was good fun, but the participants were slightly exhausted by the end of it. Coming in at 4th place, by 14 points!

We ran our very first Give it a Go camp (Give it a Go being a scheme run by the Union to get people to try new things). We had 16 people join us, most of whom had never been camping before, you should have seen our six man, one pod was right in the ground, another was flying off into the sky, i've never seen such a wonky tent!! I blame our treasurer really- clearly shouldn't have left him in charge!!! he he!! :op Also attended JFC (well I attended JFC) and a few members went to Gilwell Reunion.

Hope thats ok, I'm a little tired- I do the same thing as SSAGO Rep but with the IChemE Student Council, but the only thing is, these meetings last from 9-5, oh the excitement!

Southampton

This term has seen quite a change in membership in the club with a large number of members graduating in the summer. We were however successful in recruiting lots of new members at our bunfight. We held our Freshers Camp locally this year (with 2 freshers attending) and organised our own Southampton monopoly run, which although we only had four people taking part, was great fun and we hope to organise it again in the future for local Senior Section members and Explorers.

Other socials that we have included this so far this term have included a trip to Playzone in Portsmouth and a "Pudding Party". There will be 10 of us attending rally this term, including 3 of our new members and it will be the first rally for at least half of us.

Prior to Christmas, as well as attending rally we will be taking part in the SSAGO bowling competition, going ice skating and having our traditional Christmas meal.

St Andrews

This club failed to submit a report

St Martins

This club failed to submit a report

Strathclyde

We are quite a new club and, therefore, the Bangor rally will be our first. We've started weekly meetings and a monthly activity/event (which seems to be working well) including a summer camp, pub crawl and bowling trip.

- The camp was at Fordell Firs where we did Archery, Climbing, Quad Biking and a trip to the pub: transport was (as always) relatively expensive but subsidised.
- Pub-Crawl on Freshers week went well and helped everyone get to know each other better (discovered mascot has Guinness fetish!!).
- Bowling – had one game and went out for Chinese after.

Upcoming stuff:

November: Bangor (obviously) – 4 members going (we are currently quite small).

December: Jagermeister & Circus night (Tuesday 8th Dec 8pm – If anyone would like to come please contact us through our website www.sugs.co.uk)

January: Climbing somewhere (probably Glasgow/Edinburgh).

Sussex

This club failed to submit a report

Swansea

With new t-shirts and fantastic flyers SSWIGS took Freshers' Fayre by storm. Ending with more paid members than the last 2 years and a very happy committee, things have gone from strength to strength already. The first evening saw a rather sticky jelly-related assault course plus a number of other silly and just as messy games. Members needed no enticing back, with people from the Swansea Institute getting in touch to join and the second evening was as well attended as the first. A newly introduced pub crawl in the 3rd week proved very successful, cowboys and Indians took to Swansea impressing others with their pole dancing and karaoke! 12 members attended freshers' camp, held at Caehopkin in the Upper Swansea Valley. Dan yr Ogof showcaves and Big Pit were visited, followed by a few hours of hiking around the beautiful Ystradfellte Waterfalls on the Sunday. Although bad weather prevented us having a full on campfire we made the most of our carved pumpkins to create an adequate effect indoors.

We joined Cardiff SSAGS for a supermarket sweep/ready, steady, cook evening which was a great success; for once we had more SSWIGS playing than SSAGS, now that has to be a first! We have also tidied the outside of a local Brownie hut that was looking very rundown, the Brownie's were thrilled to see it looking pleasant again and SSWIGS are proud to be putting something back into the community...the next plan is to paint the Brownie hut, but I'm not sure that yellow with pink spots will go down too well!

So far, so good. SSWIGS is going from strength to strength and all seem to be having a ball!

UCE

UCESSAGG has had a busy first term getting to know its new members and allowing them to find out what SSAGO is about through a variety of activities including fresher's camp.

The new academic year started with preparing for Fresher's Fayre in an aim to recruit lots of new members. Many current members helped with this and the amount of sugary freebies kept us going. The first 2 meetings were socials in the local pub, giving the new members a chance to find out what our society and SSAGO was about. Other socials included bowling and ice skating. UCESSAGG joined with Birmingham Uni to watch some fireworks on the Vale.. There was also a fair there so we went on a few rides, followed by a couple of drink at the union. A highlight for many was attending the Midlands Joint Fresher's Camp, where UCESSAGG were responsible for organising a wide-game. Other activities including shooting, back woods cooking and the very enjoyable bouncy castle. This gave fresher's some idea about what camping SSAGO style involves.

UEA

Since a slightly disappointing recruitment at SocMart we had a merry wine and cheese evening, been roller skating and practised our bowling for the competition arranged by Aberdeen (but it was not very good). Some of us also helped recruit for GGNorfolk at the Volunteers Fair held by the UEA.

Our first event this semester was a late Sunday lunch on campus in our "canteen". In the past we met in the pub for the first week but other socials meant that holding a conversation was nigh on impossible and there was competition from other clubs/societies meeting at that time. The Sunday lunch idea worked well and attracted the freshers out of their accommodation for some healthy food. Despite problems with getting a room on campus for wine and cheese (I owe my housemates for allowing UEA SSAGO into our house) lots of people came to and it was a success as normal. Bowling was popular although we didn't get any better. The local roller disco has a new student night... We were the only students there... Sam (Indie rep) beat all the regular goers in a high jump competition! None of us managed to find the time to volunteer at the Beer Fest this year, and only a few attended, but I think our club will try again next year. Last Monday we attended the Hallowe'en Special Ghost Walk where the actors spooked several of us. Afterwards we took advantage of the BBQ at the pub. Next week we are having a Scavenger Hunt on campus, to which we have invited the local Network, over 18 Senior Section and the Volunteers Society.

UWE

SAGUWE have had a couple of meetings so far this year with the main focus being on supporting other scouting events and attending national events such as Gilwell Reunion.

Warwick

When I opened my fridge the other day, I took a good look at what was actually in it. Some of it wasn't that fresh, in fact it had been there for ages. Other stuff wasn't fresh, but it wasn't in there before, whilst yet more was well...a little bit fresher. Still, mixed up all together, it was absolutely delicious, and that, I thought to myself, was a culinary reflection of Warwick SSAGO's term thus far.

The end of last term ended on a real high note for us, we spent a relaxing few days away in Derbyshire for our summer camp followed by our last social at the University's Gala concert. During the summer, we continued to make a good contribution to Scouting and Guiding in our own ways. Four of our members attended the Nottingham Rally and Michelle took up the post as National SSAGO treasurer. On a more international scale, one of our members spent seven weeks helping at Our Chalet, one of the Guiding world Centres, so looks like Warwick SSAGO really is going global!

October sent us back to uni to face the excitement of freshers weeks. Overall we have 35 members, 11 of whom are helping with various units. Two odd trends seem to have emerged. Firstly, we have attracted some members who have never been involved in either Scouts or Guides. Secondly, we have also gained a lot of non-fresher members, thus showing our increased activity on campus is really paying off! All this obviously leads to one conclusion- that SSAGO is the club for Warwick students and therefore the world!!!

All of our socials so far have been well attended and have included bowling, trips to the pub and a campfire, where gladly our 'revised' versions of some songs did not put the freshers off for life. At the time of writing, 10 of our members are heading off for the fun which is the Joint Midlands Fresher's camp. Further socials should include going to the cinema, a quiz night and, yes, more trips to the pub, before rounding off a very hectic 2006 with our traditional Christmas meal.