



# AQUAE SSAGO

Spring Rally 2020

Issue 3

## Rome has Fallen

The Roman SSAGO empire has finally returned to Rome Bath after it lay in ruins for 25 years. As Rome wasn't built in a day, the Senate (committee), along with some helpers, worked tirelessly to build up a weekend filled to the maximus for its legionaries (consisting of 295 gladiators from 39 clubs)!

### Friday XXI.II.MMXX

The SSAGO army marched from far and wide, some even crossed seas to reach the empire land, Briarlands Activity Centre in Bitton.

The committed gladiators were greeted at reception complete with columns, vines and themed bunting. The Senate had tried to think of everything – quiet camping areas, a large themed marquee complete with wooden flooring, fairy lighting and heating, hot food until 2am, entertainment and golden table wine bottles!



Once the armies had collected their limited-edition merch – ranging from neckers, to 'Dine like a Roman' tent flags, to a selection of our badges on offer (we promised you 2 in our bid but delivered 6!) – and set up camp, the weekend was underway [Photo 3]

The veggie Roman stew with rolls and choc ices to follow went down a treat – ignoring the Rally Treasurers complaints it was too spicy (it wasn't). Once the armies stomach was sedated, it was their minds that needed occupying! Some chose to catch up with friends from afar, whilst others joined our pub quiz!

### Saturday XXII.II.MMXX

Slowly but surely the gladiators arose to the smells of veggie and non-veggie bacon and sausage rolls – some even had them delivered to their beds by Bath BUGS willing freshers to complete the Roman experience. Once the opening ceremony was finished, the armies set out on their march (sorry!) to the coaches which would get them to the beautiful Roman city of Bath in under 20 minutes!



The legionaries had the option of many morning activities – gone are the days when it's either one



activity or a morning off. The legionaries could choose whatever suited their fancy – a monopoly run to see the sights (complete with a badge), a coffee crawl to get them through the morning, the first ever official SSAGO Morning Spoons, a morning hike from camp to town for those who fancied a hike as well as an afternoon activity.

Some SSAGOers even opted for a morning lie in on site after a long night before joining us for lunch in town! 24 SSAGOers opted to explore Cheddar Gorge on an all-day hike .



The rest of SSAGO crammed into Grove Street Scout HQ in the centre of Bath for lunch – with the Senate offering hot drinks to combat the cold weather! Then onto the afternoon activities; including the Roman Baths, a skyline walk, board game café, a visit to bath city farm, some headed to the Thermae Bath Spa, 2 pub crawls, the Jane Austen Centre, adventure golf, a brewery tour, a photography and sightseeing tour, bowling, trampolining, a visit to the fashion museum, a tour of the Bath Abbey Tower Tour, a hike to Baths very own aqueduct and even a detective tour!

The SSAGO army returned to site and were served fajitas on arrival (with all the trimmings!) and the marquee – otherwise known as the Forum – was alive once more. Reps even got to take their pudding (Swiss roll and custard) in with them to make the meeting more bearable! Those not suffering a fate worse than death (sorry exec, reps are long!), got to enjoy a ceilidh – with the additional challenge of doing it in their togas!

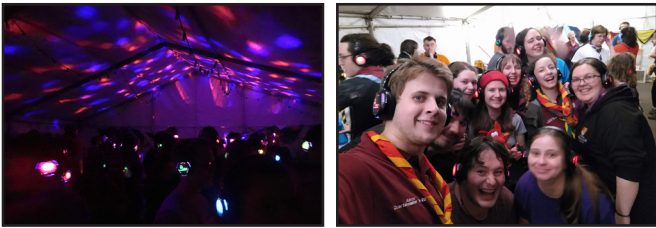


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Thanks to Owen from UOBGAS and the previous craft weekend, there was even a photobooth in the marquee – with props and themed backdrop (think chariots, shields, swords, helmets and so on)



After the ceilidh, a rally wouldn't be complete without a costume competition! Congratulations to our winner! [Photos 10] For those less keen on a ceilidh, a film showing of the Life of Brian and a campfire provided an alternative way to spend their evening. Finally, to round off the evening, the marquee was transformed into the club of all clubs for a silent disco. To quote Thomas William: 'Bath, sod a ceilidh, you've smashed it with the silent disco.'



And whilst the committee finally headed to bed around 3am, some SSAGOers were heading back to their tents to find their abode wasn't left quite how they imagined. Luckily, they found refuge in Brooks Lodge!

## Sunday XXIII.II.MMXX

Sunday morning rolled around far too soon, and staff were awoken to shouts from our food team that our beloved mess tent was about to be blown into the paella pan fire. Thanks to passing Stagers and staff who shot out of bed, we managed to hold down the mess tent long enough for all the bacon to be cooked for breakfast! Later, when taking the mess tent back to stores, our quartermaster wondered why the tent smelled

strongly of bacon, now he knows! Wouldn't be a Bath rally without fly away tents, right?

Despite this chaos, breakfast was served only 20 minutes late and the closing ceremony commenced with many thanks and finished with far fewer mascots being stolen than at Birmingham rally thankfully! As a final bid for the Gadaffy Plate and to be crowned the overall emperors of the weekend, PUGS were challenged by Lancaster to eat all the leftover food from the weekend – a combination of chocolate pudding, stew, custard, coffee, beans, guacamole (and more) – but PUGS forfeited as they couldn't quite stomach it after the previous night's events!

Finally, the weekend ended with an AGM that felt like it had no end and golden coins being distributed amongst those trying to escape the meeting! The weekend was so packed, we even forgot to take the standard SSAGO picture!



Congratulations to all those elected and the upcoming events in 2020/21 – turns out the Roman Rally Committee quite like organising things as half of them have been elected onto exec!



## Weekend Winners

### The Quiz: Glasgow SSAGO

“The Picts”

“With music and knowledge of our Roman neighbours as our strongest assets, we even managed to win the pub quiz”



### Monopoly Run:

1st Place: Team 1

Vanessa Juhaszova, Jenny Thyer, Emily Minion, Lucy Miller, Jack Woodward, Verity Roughton



2nd Place: Team 10

Sophie Foster, Elsie Daniells, Poppy Hall, Nicholas Bond, Sian Morris, Heather Grant, Ben Allen

3rd Place: Team 16

Rhys Pelpoe, Hollie Brown, Chris Waller, Dan Trickey, James Mckean, Eoin Gaughran



### Costume Competition:

Verity Roughton - Glasgow SSAGO

### Gadaffy Plate:

Lancaster challenged PUGS to eat leftover “burritos”. PUGS surrendered the challenge, so Lancaster won!



## Horoscopes

### Pisces

The full moon will bring a significant behavioural change for you. Make sure you lock your windows. Chains are optional.

### Gemini

Don't take anything too seriously Gemini, and refrain from making any major decisions. You might get the sense that something or someone is working behind the scenes without your knowledge. Trust your instincts.

### Cancer

Official government guidelines advise you to stay indoors for 14 days

## What's Next?

**City of Steel Ball - 3rd to the 5th April:** The next SSAGO event is City of Steel Ball! Join us in Sheffield at the Kelham Island Steelworks Museum for a brilliant celebration of SSAGO and the Steel City

- 📅 4th April
- 📍 Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield
- 🏠 Accommodation for only £10
- 🎵 After Party at Pop Tarts
- 🎶 Suggest Songs at <https://ball.ssago.org/pages/song-suggestions>



**Survival Rally 26th to the 28th June:** Got those summer blues? Longing for the summer after spending last night in a tent during February? Yearning for the moment you can crack open a cold one whilst chilling in the summer sun? Craving adventurous activities, delicious food or simply just a SSAGO event that doesn't clash with your graduation? Then look no further than Survival Rally!

Taking you back to basics UOBGAS and PLUGS are synergistically hosting the best Rally in SSAGO history (this summer). With basecamp located in deepest darkest Gloucestershire, aka Cranham scout centre, get 26th – 28th June in your diaries now.

We have kayaking adventures, bushcraft building, incident hikes, water fights, rabbit stewing and more all planned. We have a very special breakfast themed menu to fill you bellies, high quality camping arrangements and guaranteed good vibes that will make this an unmissable Rally.

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## Roman Roundup



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## Inside Scoop: The Many Faces of Planning a Rally

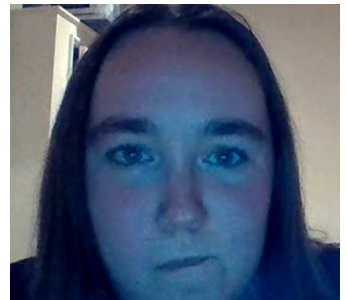
A year ago, at Outlaw Rally, a bid was made that changed our lives forever... well, probably took 5 years off our lives!

Chairing Roman Rally has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I suppose in some moments it could have been considered stressful, but now I look back, having a committee as awesome, competent and communicative as mine has made this experience so lovely. Seeing months of hard work come together, along with the support of SO MANY people who came and helped made me remember why I love Scouting/Guiding so much. SSAGO is a family and they never fail to come together when you need it the most. I really would recommend bidding for an event at the next AGM – it's definitely an experience worth putting yourself out there for!

I just want to say thank you to everyone who came and helped and thank you to those who messaged us afterwards to say what a great time they had. When you're running around organising things, it's easy to focus on what didn't go perfectly, rather than the smiling happy people in front of us! Thank you SSAGO!

**Adele Upton**

*Rally Chair*



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## Gratias tibi ago

**Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who helped keep us sane over the weekend!**

**BUGS:** Adam Stacey, Alex Shire, Hannah Brennan, Ellie Jackson, Megan Griffiths and James Mitchell – Thank you for all your support, sorry for dragging you into our mess! Thanks for being our runarounds, organising equipment and just generally being great sports! BUGS Love x

**Freshers:** Daniel Wilcock, Helen Harmer, Ian Pearse, Izzy Ebdon, Jamie Smith and Ryan Prydderch – The real MVPs! You didn't start this journey with us but you definitely helped us finish it! Thank you for doing any job we randomly shouted at you as I ran past over the weekend even though you guys barely know us!

**Ex-BUGS:** Daniel Morland, Lander King, Lizzy Morland and Rachael Botham – just when you thought you escaped! Thank you for saying yes when we didn't even really give you a choice. Your willingness to help in any way, ability to drive big things and awesome car parking skills were a dream <3

**Bath Scouting/Guiding:** Simon Crowden (Bath DC), Kirsty from Girl Guiding Bath, Lorna & Pam from Briarlands and MPV Paul. Without the support from Scouting and Guiding in our district we could not have achieved what we did! Thank you for driving wherever was needed, letting us scrounge all your tables and chairs, allowing us to use your sites/vehicles and I could go on. Without your support there is no way our budget would allow us to run a camp like this!

**First Aid:** Daniel Crawshaw – Not sure how we roped you into this but thank you for all your work on first aid over the weekend! It gave us peace of mind to know you were on the case! Also for the sorting the sandwich situation – but we won't speak of that

**Non-SSAGOers:** David White and Toby Parkes – Although neither of you are in Scouting, you still helped when I asked. Dave – thanks for basically driving wherever and whenever Matt told you to and for making me so many cups of tea I never actually had time to drink. Toby, thanks for helping with the Cheddar Gorge Hike and any odd jobs! We hope you enjoyed your first rally.

**Newsletter:** Oli Bills and Bob Alden – I really hope you had time to actually enjoy the rally! Thank you both for taking time out of your weekend to capture all the events! It means a lot to committee who now have some idea of what people actually did over the weekend.

**Food:** Phil Anthony, Sonja Hurmeranta, Sarah Wilson and Rachel Adams – A massive thank you to the 4 of you! The food was fantastic and your hard work did not go unnoticed! We hope the 4am starts weren't too horrific! Also thanks for saving Sunday breakfast and our mess tent!!!

**SSAGO:** Ethan Rose, Frances Milroy, Owen Jones, Thomas Stevens, Peter Eveling and PUGS – thank you for jumping in wherever we needed, setting up the photobooth or simply just providing words/alcohol of encouragement! Thank you to PUGS (except Josh - I haven't forgiven you for that proposal) for allowing us to shake up the rules of the Gadaffy Plate.

**Exec:** Thank you to Tom for being one of the first ones on site on Friday to calm our nerves and help with set up! Thank you to Reuben for the branding for the weekend (and the megaphone, I love the megaphone). Thank you to Lexie and Lucy for advice and reminding us to eat and drink. Thank you again to Oli for getting us into this mess adventure and providing support wherever possible.

**Finally, to committee:** Brittany Long, Caroline Nicholls, Maddy Brett, Matthew Ratcliff, Anna Scott and Leah Firmstone - words will never be able to express my thanks to you all. To say I kind of forced you into this wouldn't be a complete lie – so thank you for all your hard work, time, hours and emotions that went into this. I miss messaging everyday (although who am I kidding, we still use that chat all the time) and I can't wait until we're all reunited at summer camp!!