

Lovely Comes Back Stronger

By Saz

The last couple of weeks have seen trying times within Lovely. There have been many factors which have caused disorder, including the moderation of political threads, thread locking and probably the biggest being the technical glitch that "broke" our home for 4 days. In some ways this could have been worse than the Great Pre-Moderation of 2005.

During the Pre-Mod the message boards were all cloaked in a delayed view, which made conversations nearly impossible as each message posted would take a long while before it was "approved". But this way at least a message could be left on the boards which would eventually be seen, directing people with links to the hidden message boards (those which are set up by individuals within H2G2, and not part of the "dannywallace" site) that were unaffected. With the technical problem not even allowing anyone to view any message threads, would Lovelies evacuate never to be seen again?

When it first occurred on that Thursday morning, a browse around the BBC found warnings that all the messageboards were to be down for "planned maintenance" between 7am and 10am. However, by 11am, with many of the other message boards working and the Lovely home still inaccessible, it became clear that something needed to be done.

Without knowing how long the repairs would take, and with the sun shining outside for the first time in a long while, people were invited to either take advantage of the chance to get some air away from the forum (probably for the first time since Lovely began!) or to visit the Lovely Embassy which was set up by the CRIT team within the Archers forum, which was still safe to post in. Word was spread to a few citizens via email to let them know of the Embassy's location, and soon more of us were making ourselves comfortable.

The hidden H2G2 boards were also unaffected, however could only be viewed via H2G2, and not in the usual "dannywallace" format which we are all so familiar with, which made finding the threads a bit of a problem for those unfamiliar. Numbers in the Lovely Embassy continued to grow, and the place became cosy but crowded.

Razerbug, member of the Lovely Government opened up the Government forum, and started "temporary threads" for some of the main areas within Lovely. An invite to join this off-site forum whilst the maintenance issues continued was circulated and the member list of Lovelies soon grew into a healthy chunk of our community.

As always, there is a worry that any problems within the forum would affect citizen numbers, however the spirit of Lovely remained strong, and the Lovely Government would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the days whilst the forum was down. Those moments in the Lovely Refugee Camp (as the Government forum was nicknamed) echoed the real reason we're all part of Lovely, the friendships and the fun remained the backbone of the place. A reason we all keep coming back.

We would like to thank:

***Razerbug** – for his work with the Lovely Refugee Camp

***"Lovely" on Myspace** - for passing on the bulletins to keep as many citizens as possible informed.

***All the members of the Archers boards** who have been so kind in letting us post in the Lovely Embassy.

***The Truth** - for also passing on details via its contact list

***Leafstorm** - For keeping us up to date with progress during the technical glitch

***The BBC engineers** - For all their hard work in trying to sort out the problem as soon as possible

***All citizens of Lovely** – Thank you to all of you who will stick around in Lovely after the problem is sorted. You are what makes this country a nation to be proud of.

Archers Lovely Embassy:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbarchers/F2693945?thread=2351540>

Lovely Refugee Camp:

<http://www2.phpbb-host.com/phpbb/index.php?mforum=razerbug>

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Since the GA started in August, people have been saying we should interview the King. It has become such a regular demand, and I have become so disenchanted with the process, that of late I admit my answer has been along the lines of: "Well you go do it then, because I'm tired of trying." I apologise, both to the people who have had to listen to it, and to Danny Wallace for the inference that he couldn't be bothered. This clearly proves that he can. So here it is, at long last. The interview you have all been waiting for. Congratulations to AP for being the one to manage it, and thank you to the king for his time. I'm sure that in the end the whole thing was quite painless. (ed)

King's Question Time

The long awaited interview with Lovely's reigning monarch

By Amber Prophet

Well, it's been a long time in coming. We at the GA were extremely excited when we heard that the King was willing to do and interview with us. Excited and filled with anticipation and we swiftly swung into action to secure this exclusive. However, unfortunately, as swiftly as we swung, we were reliant on the extremely busy timetable of the King – what with going abroad and filming various shows, his time for interviews has been lamentably small. But no matter! For here, now, we have the exclusive that you have been promised. This is hopefully the first of a regular set of instalments within the GA as the Royal diary allows.

1. Is HTSYOC going to be shown in any other countries? We've had influxes of new citizens from the Netherlands and Australia. Where next?

Sweden! I've just done an interview with Swedish radio who are very keen on Lovely. I think they all feel a bit shy about signing up though – perhaps because they've already got a King. Come on Swedes! Join us! In Sweden apparently, when people address the King, they have to start by saying 'And how is the King today?'. I like that. But also, I got back from Belgium a week or two ago where a new country is starting. I had a hilarious night down the pub with its King, King Rob. His efforts are being documented by Belgian TV. I

saw some of the footage and it's amazing.

2. What is your vision for Lovely? Do you imagine us gaining some more territory or remaining virtual? If we get territory, what will it be used for? (Tea house! Tea house! Sorry I'm slightly biased)

I think that while more territory would be great it isn't a necessity. It's always nice, but we should remember that this community and country is a very special one, and one that works very well without what the UN see as a basic necessity. It is entirely plausible that countries like ours will one day change the way the UN and indeed the governments of the world see the concept of statehood. But yes, if we do get territory, we can definitely have a tea house.

(Woop!!!)

3. What is your preferred tea snack? Biscuit? Crumpet? Muffin? (sorry, you may be seeing a theme)

Biscuit.

4. Were you happy with the recent elections and the interest shown by the citizens in the formation of our government?

Absolutely. It has always been incredibly important to me that the citizens take the next steps, and that the existence of Lovely never relies on one person pushing it forward. I started a country... now you can run it. As for matters of election and whether I was happy with the result, well, I can say that I was happy that the Citizens had chosen their PM and done so via democracy. For the King to put himself in any one political camp would be dangerous.

5. Do you read the GA? Do you have a favourite article from recent editions?

I do, and, as I recently said somewhere, I admired your stance on bullying. We need to remember our one commandment: Be Good.

Danny

So, Lovely, the King has spoken! Next time you see him ask him, "And how is the King today?" and if/when we have territory look out for the new teahouse!

The CTU

By Babs

You probably know about the existence of CTU, but probably know little about its current work. So I thought I'd shed some light on the gloomy world that is <http://www.ctulovely.uni.cc>. Following a successful investigation into the attacks on Radio Lovely, we started on the Truth "hackings", for want of a better word. We are making steady progress with this and have communicated with Silentpress on many occasions regarding the investigation. We have recently received an influx of members, following our first posting on the American forums for the TV show "24". We hit our online record a few minutes after and we now have posted regularly since, and have received a high level of interest. Obviously, with regards to the official Secrets Act of 2006, I am forbidden to

reveal anything too dirty, but there we are. Obviously, there are always spaces for you, arrive at our website, post in applications, and after a quick e-mail verification process, you're in. Come and see us sometime.

Babs - CTU Special Agent

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The following article is taken directly from BBC – Science and Nature
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/hottopics/climatechange/aboutexperiment1.shtml>)

I've put this in because I think it's important. Despite all the scare-mongering that goes on in the media these days, we know very little about climate change. There is not much most of us can do about that, but here is our opportunity to help. I have downloaded the program myself, and it runs very nicely. It doesn't require any beyond the initial effort, and you get your own little globe to watch. So please, if you can, take part. Let's do our little bit for science. (ed)



We're organising the world's largest ever climate experiment, and we need your help.

We need thousands of people to help

Trying to predict climate change is hard. There are lots of factors involved – air temperature, sea temperature and cloud cover all play a part – as do dozens of other variables. Therefore, there are a huge number of calculations involved.

One solution is for scientists to use the largest supercomputer they can find. But even the biggest supercomputers are only so good.

We think you can do better.

Using a technique known as distributed computing, we're hoping to harness the power of thousands of PCs around the world. If 10,000 people sign up, we'll be faster than the world's biggest computer. And we're hoping to be even better than that.

More about climate prediction and distributed computing
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/hottopics/climatechange/moreaboutexperiment1.shtml>)

What do we want you to do?

Taking part is easy. All we're asking you to do is download a simple programme, which doubles as a screensaver. Once you've installed it, your computer will take care of the rest. You don't have to send us anything. You don't have to enter any data. In fact – if you decide not set the programme as your screensaver, you probably won't even notice it's there.

However, if you want to, you can follow the progress of your experiment on a 3D spinning globe.

If I'm not doing anything, how am I helping?

The experiment works by making use of your spare processing power. All you have to do is use your computer exactly as you normally would, and the programme will run calculations in the background. When it's done, it will send results back to scientists in Oxford, who will combine everyone's results. The more people who take part, the more complete their predictions about the future climate will be.

Take part in the experiment:

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/hottopics/climatechange/download1.shtml>)

The experiment has been created for the BBC by *climateprediction.net*, using BOINC software courtesy of the University of California, Berkeley.

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POLITICS

EPP Column

By Babs

Well, what a fortnight it's been, gosh, it seems like ages since I last spoke to you all, well, virtually. Firstly, I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone when we extend our warmest gratitude to Razerbug and the Government for their swift action and hospitality in times of crisis. Apart from my usual little rant, which I'm sure you will have received (if not, sorry) that's about it. We still await the results of the Government Application Interviews but I know that 3 EPP Members were interviewed, I wish them good luck. Thankies, I'll flit off to the boards now, tarra!

Babs - EPP Leader (apparently)

FFF Column

Quick Update

By FFF Foreign Minister - King of Hearts - Owner of FFF C&D

About 2 weeks ago, Lovely "crashed" into several obstacles. Posts were being modified left and right. Soon afterwards, there was fraud in the elections which later on was admitted by Evil Penguin Overlord. Within some time, forums of Lovely crashed. During this time, FFF offices within Lovely's forums were handicapped and could not be accessed. Fortunately, we were able to open about 2 FFF Temp. Liaison Offices within

Lovely's Refugee Camp and on H2G2 forums. During this ordeal, FFF struggled to keep contact amongst the other citizens of Lovely. At the same time, FFF noticed unprecedented support amongst the citizens rallying together and waiting anxiously for news from the government on the latest findings. Lovely's Government did an excellent job at providing news, updates and information about their findings. We congratulate them for this and thank them for their efforts.

Meanwhile, the FFF is saddened that Evil Penguin Overlord admitted to his actions. We feel for the other parties that lost votes. At the same time, we forgive him for his actions and hope that it will be a lesson for others. Also, an April's fool joke was launched on Lovely's forums stating that Preston's child was paid by Barc0de and FFF to hack accounts. First of all, we welcome such jokes as a token of fun within Lovely but we would like to make it clear that this joke is a bit overboard. FFF never condoned such actions such as hacking and never will. In fact, I personally in my capacity as FFF Foreign Minister had a conversation with Preston's Child a while ago where he offered to hack for us. We declined his offer. We don't support such actions.

At the same time, if Lovely or the Law Lords would like to setup a royal inquest or inquiry into this matter, I have the conversation saved to prove FFF's innocence.

We again thank people for making Lovely happier and safer!

OPINIONS PAGE

What makes Lovely so lovely?

By Saz

The BBC forum was down – inaccessible due to a technical error. A new temporary home was available, and word was spread via email. But would anyone come? Why, when finally given the chance of freedom from the boards which have chained so many of us to our computers for 6 months, would anyone seek out this new place? The sun was shining outside, a bright glimpse of life in the real world, which had been hidden in winter darkness for so long.

Who am I kidding, of course they'd come! The message boards are more than just a place to go to avoid work/school/boredom. It's a place where we can communicate with our friends, joke and laugh, hear about their days, it's a community of likeminded people and being apart from them is like being apart from a chunk of your own life. However we communicate with Lovelies, on forums, MSN, Yahoo, Myspace, Skype, by phone, email, or even meets, it just grows. Those we talk to are not just names on a screen, we identify with them all as people, people that (in most cases) we've not met, but are still undeniably our friends.

When I asked citizens in the Refugee Camp: "what made you seek out this board? What made you still want to post...?", I initially expected that much of it was down to addiction, we have spent so long with Lovely as a major daily part of our lives how else would we cope without a new outlet, and some of the answers that followed did echo that. Underneath however, the reason was much more one about friendships and the need to keep them alive.

Razerbug, who had initially set up the Government Forum and amended it into the Refugee Camp, gave his reason as wanting "all these relationships we've made to exist no matter how the BBC fuck up". Eloquent put, and a sentiment echoed by PAsTA "Whilst there is always msn and e-mail to maintain communications between people I have met in Lovely, the message boards are its lifeblood..."

Friendship was the main reasons given for Lady Londoner, Cuddly Carpy, Jonni Shirtguy, and many more... with Kandy summing this up nicely by saying "You're never alone in Lovely. It's a fab warm hug of a place".

Orion joked it was probably an addiction that kept him on the BBC boards, refreshing for 2 hours in the hope that the familiar yellow site would suddenly reappear before finding out about the temp home, and BJC wasn't sure if her addiction was linked to Lovely or the need to just type.

A few jokey mentions were made of "not having a life" - something we all fear deep down, but is that really true? Yes, we may be spending far too long on an internet message board, but personally I'd rather this as my life than wasting my time watching godawful TV, or wandering the streets aimlessly making trouble in the attempt at being "one of the cool ones". I'm not sporty, I have no dog to walk in the park, I can't drive or ride a bike... my friends are on the forum, so by spending my time on here I am living the life I want socialising with them. Yes, maybe that's sad to others, but it's a life I enjoy and so why should I have to change to suit what society believes I should be doing with my life, when I feel far more fulfilled with friendships since having joined Lovely. Society has evolved, the internet is now a big part of it, communication has changed with technology and we can now instantly speak to people from all over the world, and in a way Lovely is filtering out all the people who I'm most likely to enjoy the company of. Be it the ones that join up "for a laugh", the ones that share a sense of humour in the work of Danny Wallace, or the ones that just want to be part of something Lovely.

Is the BBC really that bad? The Pro-BBC side of the argument

By Citrus Burst

The BBC have been under a lot of national criticism lately among the citizens of Lovely due to recent events concerning the closure of long established threads and the unexpected failure of the Lovely website, possibly the BBC's worst blunder to date. This left many citizens sat at the computer in confusion wondering what to do next with direct communication tampered with and nowhere else to go. A vague error notice would appear every time an attempt was made to enter the forums leaving Lovelies frustrated and angry. To some, this was just yet another clumsy fault of the BBC website, sure to be fixed soon but leaving the citizens with nothing to do. But to others, this was seen as a potential threat to the existence of Lovely and the communication of its people. Alternative forums were quickly set up to host the vast number of citizens who sought asylum but there just wasn't the same feel to the settings we were so used to. We wanted our user-friendly yellow forums back but lets just think back to how we got so attached to them in the first place.

Sometime in August of 2005 after the debut of Citizen TV on BBC television, the BBC got behind Danny Wallace and kindly allowed our nation to build its foundations upon the soil of the BBC's own website. This website can be accessed by going to www.citizensrequired.com Those citizens already registered on the BBC website did not need to do so again and those who had not previously registered could now do so and avail of the various other forum topics to be found on the website. Everyone's a winner. Personally for me, joining as a new citizen back in August, I must admit to feeling slightly safer about joining such a micronation once being aware that the BBC were behind it. Of course the meeting and chatting to new people online was inevitable but I was previously aware of the repeated regard to safety implied by the House Rules and therefore felt

better. This desired level of safety would of course lead us on to the 'mods', the BBC's "renowned or resented" moderators. You choose. The most obvious mission of the mods would be to ensure that any posts which contain abusive or explicit material be removed from the thread immediately. Any sneaky attempts made by forum users to post offensive language is usually found out and removed which more than often tends to irritate those who may only mean it in a light hearted manner and would therefore lead to the growing unpopularity of the mods. I for one have had previous experience with regard to the breaking of House Rules which has more than often come about due to my enthusiastic use of foreign languages on certain threads resulting in a few rather patronising warnings via email. However, in spite of this, I feel that the general aims of the mods are sincere and I think it is important to have that kind of neutral authority on the forums as at least we know the rules apply to everyone with no obvious favouritism. There are so many users online that there will always be offensive content, which is better off removed so as to avoid insulting anyone. Another advantage the BBC has given to our section of the site is the exemption of pre-moderation (which we did undergo reluctantly for a short period but turned out to be more of a nuisance than anything) which I have found to occur on many other forums within the BBC. Depending on the server (and amount of chatty citizens) messages are usually made visible immediately after posting which proves more useful than days afterwards.

Many still argue whether we would be here at all if it weren't for the BBC. Maybe so, but would we have as many citizens? Would we just pass Lovely by, confusing it for yet another micronation with no real significance? But let's remember that it was the BBC who were behind it all from the start. On what channel was it that Citizen TV first aired anyway? My view is that it is only right that they continue to be behind us and the fact that they have remained so says a lot. Is it really our place to say whether they leave us alone already? Maybe we should leave them alone. Maybe the time will come when we citizens will get so tired of the constant muck-ups and we will put our dependence on the BBC to a vote. What will you decide? I don't know about you but I, myself am very grateful and also in turn very proud for our home to be associated with such an internationally respected media establishment which continues to provide quality entertainment on radio and television.

Modgate

The conspiracy unmasked!

Sub-Commandante, Shadow Home Secretary (FFF)

There has been a conspiracy in motion. A conspiracy against the people of Lovely. The BBC has sunk to a further low in it's destruction of Citizens Required and the scattering of her peoples. Now that the country is back up I call into question the motives of the BBC. I bring to light the continued destruction of political and democratic threads: The MP elections are being forced to take place in the Refugee Camp. The mods have engaged in these actions with the sole and clear aim of destroying the Lovely Society. But we will not be beaten. I call for the immediate withdrawal from the BBC boards and the independence of the people of Lovely from the oppressive grip of the BBC. The people of Lovely move with discontent. BBC domination, limited democracy, little input from the King. A cry is out for change and it must be answered. I shall look to the King for guidance but should none come then I shall look to the King no more. Though he took no part in the conspiracy, he has been party to a conspiracy of complacency, seemingly deserting his people. This is a sad time for Lovely but we can use it to grow stronger. Responsibility to the responsible: Let the government stand and lead us, let the Mps be elected and let the conspirators, with the necessary coming of time and circumstances, be punished!

Long Live Lovely!

Sub-Commandante, Shadow Home Secretary (FFF)

ARRRGGGHHHH CRISIS!!!!

By Marie

I am sure everyone was aware that one cold dark and lonely day last week we were all evicted from our home and could not access the message boards "how will we cope, what will we do, where will go? All very good questions and thankfully we had a few quick thinking citizens with the answers.

Well the first I knew about it was in the morning when I couldn't sign in. After a few attempts I gave in thinking it was the servers being rubbish again and figured they would be fine later and would try again. Arrgghhhh shock horror it wasn't and I still couldn't sign in later on in the day. But thankfully I had received an email explaining the situation and that a few of the Lovelies had found refuge in the Lovely Embassy over at The Archers who we should all thank for being so welcoming and brilliant hosts. After a while I received a second email informing me that the government boards (arrgghhh smiley overload) had been opened up for us as well. Thanks Razer you did a brilliant job as well.

The government boards were a whole new experience for some and the amount of smileys on there was sooo much fun I wanted to take them all back to CR but no they won't let us house them. It's sad I know but what can we do.

Anyway, after a while people started thinking the worst and the same old question kept being asked: "is this the end? Have the boards been closed for good?" Most kept the faith and tried to reassuringly say "no they won't close our boards for good, it will be fine" and Saz, who really stepped up to the plate, did a brilliant job in the absence of the PM and kept in touch with the appropriate people and also let us know every last detail she knew. Thanks Saz. *applauds* But I don't mind saying even I wondered about the fate of the boards by the second day. It did seem strange they were down for so long.

Then the unthinkable happened. The weekend arrived and everyone who experienced the premod crisis of last year just knew nothing would be fixed over the weekend. Now at this point it would have been easy to panic and run round like headless chickens but no, we stayed calm and grateful that we had other meeting points to sit and talk. So after a long weekend and no Lovely Monday morning arrived and hurrah, the boards were back. A good question to ask at this time would be "did everyone come back?" because our numbers dropped after the pre mod incident, but hopefully not this time.

So I will leave you with this one last question: why do our boards seem to be a low priority to the BBC and Leafstorm? Why do we seem to be the last ones to be fixed? And the pre mod veterans (that's what we are ") will know exactly what I mean.

Thanks for reading

Marie

The road to freedom

By Razerbug

It's almost a week ago, I have just got done checking my e-mails, waiting for word from that postproduction company I worked for the other day. Nadda... hmph.

So, what left? Same as always, I hit the buttons on my "web junkie" keyboard, which launch Lovely, my e-mail, and MSN simultaneously. Grand. I climb into the suit, the alter ego: The Razerbug. Ironically I'm someone who thinks they're good at art, animation and video, and at photography. For most of my life I've been Razerbug online. However I've never tried to draw, render, digitise, animate or otherwise say what Razerbug would look like, so you'll have to imagine. So I can't be very descriptive here. To quote the matrix, he's my Residual Self Image.

So Razerbug strode out into the world that most of this generation consider, if not an equally important part of their life, their whole life. Thankfully, and I mean this in the best way, Lovely isn't my only source of contact on the web. It's not even my home page (although it has been many times). So as the Razerbug stepped out onto the dark unloaded plains of cyber space he expected nothing shocking. He had his Government suit on, as a member of PM Mike's government, his Minister badge pinned in place. His postbag and cap slung over his shoulder, Tess, the black and white cat following close behind, wary from Kitizen Oscar's repeated advances...

Error...

That couldn't be right. All around Razerbug was white. All that stood ahead of him was a sign saying Error. Now he knew two things: Errors we're neither good, nor lovely. More over there was a major problem: Lovely was seemingly gone.

Well, no need for the minister mode. Slipping out of his suit, Razerbug was standing in his postmasters uniform. No need for the MP's badge, with no country to guide. Right, the mail then, no country to post to, but wait, Saz, Wonderful as ever, and as Deputy Prime Minister, Saz has word for Lovely! There is a problem. It's not a biggey, It's just the BBC. Lovely has the engineers in and like all of them they are going to spend more time drinking The Kings Cocktail than working.

Hmm. So, where does The Razerbug go? Where does the mail go? Nothing will stop the Lovely Mail getting through, but the country disappearing?

Of course, for Postman Raz and His Black and White cat, Tess has the answer: It isn't any message boards that make Lovely, lovely, hell, it isn't even His Majesty, it is the connections he inspired us to make. So, why was he standing in this white room with a sign saying error?

Thankfully, Saz had written everyone she knew, mail, and as postman I had such mail. The Archers, that's where we are.

In yet more of Rev's stunts, he and the CRIT team had created an embassy on, of all things, the Archer's forums. As The Razerbug climbed the stairs he saw a room above a quite, local bar, for local people. But it had a Lovely flag on it, held up with blue tack. So it was an embassy, Nice Rev, good on ya.

This was the last bolthole of Lovelies? We'd been reduced to hiding on the forums of possibly the most unfairly ridiculed radio show ever? It wasn't right.

Now I must point out that the people of the Archer's boards are extremely lovely! They should be praised and welcomed as being lovely without hearing the king's message, they brought tea and cakes, and even warm mild beer (which okay no one under the age of 50

drinks, but hey it was nice of them.)

But wait, Postmaster Razerbug had more post. A letter from the cricket forums, the only sport that breaks for afternoon tea. Test match special. Citizens where there too! This was going to get complex. As Razerbug dug through the postbag more letters emerged, Barc0de and the FFF party had retreated to the safety of their party HQ, a few people where hold-up in the infamous log cabin in the woods. Still more where lost in the deserts of H2G2. Something had to be done, but what?

Tess the black and white cat had the answer of course, she was licking the minister badge. Of course!

The Razerbug trudged up the information super highway, not daring to hitch hike, lest someone not know of the location of Lovely or its Government house! Finally a familiar sight, he'd only set it up a few weeks earlier and the place was empty. With no time even to sweep the cobwebs away, tarpaulin was thrown from rafter to rafter. Where the ministers refreshments bar stood, a sign was hung "Mike's Temp Bar and Grill". That would be okay, people could come and chat, have a drink... but wait, not everyone was a drinker.

A forgotten teapot probably intended to furnish some Government meeting or something lay in the ground. Well fuck it, I had tarpaulin to spare, and tables, a few and there we are, Tearooms.

Minuets latter, a couple of pieces of wood, and paint, and we have a general chat area. Damn, what did this look like, a refugee camp for Lovelies? We're we homeless? Well, yes.

Build it and they will come (famous saying) A couple of e-mails and adverts into the surreal world of the Archer's pub and Lovelies where donning wellies, striding through the mud and enjoying drinks or tea away from the rain. More tarpaulin, more citizens! Word of mouth spread as the real Lovely and soon there was everything, citizens got out of the cold in the Hotel/Casino, some rocked out in the Hard Rock Café, more still enjoyed a kings cocktail in the confuggled corner of the tea rooms.

Mad, how where you supposed to cope? 90 citizens and these where just the refugees? Moderators where needed, but not the irresponsible unknowns of the BBC. Citizens, helping citizens, it's Danny's dream after all. And just as it was all coming together, The BBC finished messing around, we where back, custard colours and all.

And it's good, it's really good. We're all together, all the friends and connections we've made, the things that really make Lovely, have re-sparked.

But for a moment, We had our own forums, and our own Mod's, We had control of our nation, and totally accidentally we had freedom, and the problem is, The Razerbug, pinning his Government badge back on and taking his Postmaster's cap off he's started to think; freedom was nice, freedom was achievable, and not just on free forums but as citizensoflovely.com, or Lovelycountry.com. Hell while we're at it, we could have gov.citizensoflovely.com or CTU.citizensoflovely.com e-mail addresses: PM@citizensoflovely.com Why not KingDanny@citizensoflovely.com or GA@wearelovely.com? It's all suddenly possible. The government now has plans: A new home page with up to date info! Pod-cast radio, and citizen made Citizen-TV broadcasts! It's all possible!

Don't give up on Lovely just because of this server glitch! If anything it may have set us free!

Of Politics and Power

By PirateAsTheArtist

A lot has been said of late about the role of politicians in Lovely; what is the point of it all? Does anyone, aside from the King, a handful of BBC and Leafstorm employees and a gaggle of Moderators, hold any sway when it comes to Big Decisions?

Lovely is a funny sort of place, existing largely as it does in Cyberspace, although perhaps more importantly in the hearts and minds of its Citizens, as a place of collective experience, joy, torment and drama. It means different things to different people, but most agree that it has been a positive force in their lives, be it through new friendships, entertainment or just something to do.

But how to “run” it: that is the almost impossible task placed before the Prime Minister and his Deputy, and also for the rest of their Cabinet. Whatever they do decide will face criticism from some quarter, since you can’t please everybody. Recent events have also brought into question what powers they actually have, as it is obvious that the means of communication so vital to maintaining momentum and keeping us all together is in the hands of others. Fortunately Razerbug came to the rescue by enabling the Lovely Government Forum to be opened up for use by any Citizens choosing to register there, and the DPM and others certainly played a major part in publicizing this through e-mail contacts and suchlike.

In the end, we need to be realistic about our expectations from our Government – they are not superhuman, they too rely on the technology at their disposal and the willingness of others to co-operate, just as we all do. The way I see it, the Government is there to provide guidance rather than rule, to gently steer the Nation in the right direction, to speak on our behalf to others when a united voice is necessary.

I should perhaps declare an interest, being (with Lady Londoner) a founder member of the Farking Party, which was founded to promote fun and creative ideas as cornerstones of our community’s aims. Both of us are standing in the as-yet unofficial Parliamentary Election (which was thrown into turmoil by the recent non-availability of the Citizens Required Message Board and the unfortunate actions of Evil Penguin Overlord) and also for Government positions.

Politics with a (small ‘p’) is a useful device for helping to shape the way things happen. As long as it remains that way, and avoids the pitfalls of slanging-matches etc. that bedevil “regular” politics (with a big ‘P’) we will be doing alright...

© PirateAsTheArtist 1st April 2006

Letter to the editor

Dear Sir,

It is with some alarm that I must warn the Citizens of Lovely about a scourge that has invaded our fair land and is laying ruin to the lives of those unfortunate Citizens who have crossed its path. It has been in existence for some years now, but only recently has it crossed our borders and begun laying waste to our fair and pleasant land. Little is known

of its origins or purpose, but I feel your readers should be warned of its presence – I speak of none other than The 20 Euro Cent Coin Of Doom!

I was first made aware of this malevolent item of currency on one of my recent visits to a gathering of Lovelies in Olde London Towne, one of my former stomping grounds before my relocation to my retirement cottage in one of the more pleasant corners of our fair land. Indeed, I was for a time in possession of this vile object, and yet I am unaware of how it became nestled in my money pouch along with my regulation IOUs and coins of the British Realm. All I know is that for the entire time it was with me, I was cursed with nothing but bad luck. This coin, if we can call it that, with its strange grooves and lack of Regal Bustiture, appears able to bring forth the powers of Hades and unleash them on anyone foolish enough to try and use its power. In particular, NO-ONE should attempt to stand this coin on edge, for therein lays only pain and misery. It would appear that the only way to relieve oneself of this curse is to unload the object on to an unwitting subject without their knowledge.

Fortunately I was able to relieve myself of this hideous monstrosity by passing it on, unseen, to less than upstanding Citizen, he of the proud antlers and purveyor of filth to the masses. Rather less fortunately, I am aware that he has subsequently unburdened himself by slipping the coin in to a clear plastic envelope, which contained an image of Princess Nicola. To my horror I have subsequently discovered that between the time of the aforementioned gathering, and the following invasion of Eel Pie Island, the coin managed to migrate in to the possession of yet another unwitting Citizen. All I know of its whereabouts now are that it was last seen in the abode of our resident Tea Expert, one Amber Prophet. I fear she is currently accursed, and I strongly urge her to pass on The 20 Euro Cent Coin Of Doom, discretely, if she has not already done so! Her lack of over-engineered over-size European Refrigeration is surely a sign of the black arts at work.

So, my dearest Citizens, I implore you to be on the lookout for this small yet powerful talisman, and to not let it fall in to your hands or pocketbook, for you may yet feel the burden of its curse!

Yours Spookily,

Colonel (Retd.) Oswald T. Disgusted of Onebridge Tells

Three reasons for joining the GA

By Babs

Now, you probably think I've gone mad, partially because I already was mad, wasn't I? Huh?! AAARGH! Anyway, we were sat in our weekly meeting (every other Sunday 9pm - MSN) being nice and goody two shoes for Schaf because he was in charge (God help us) and as usual we had our random outbursts: "Who's got their hand on my arse!?" and "If you were Jamie Oliver you'd be fit!" (Both accompanied by a suspicious blush emoticon from Schaf) until we had: "David Hasselhoff's eaten my hamster!" Followed by much speculation of the Hoff's possible motives before we discovered the Hoff was completely innocent and the hamster had simply slid down the side of the sofa in all the confusion. But then, the troubles of the adorable furry rodent had not ended with Schfa saying "AP (amber prophet) ate mine" which provoked gasping faces and noises from all corners of the GA Meeting Convo. And so we could not resist an opportunity to make a scene of an idea which had proved popular, recipes, with McMo, PAsTA and Schaf shouting recipes for hamsters including hamster jam, deep-fried hamsters, hamster nuggets and hamster kebabs?! My dancing hamster and cow emoticons seemed to be a big hit (Look at it go

Saz!) and the blame landed as thus "It was Miss Scarlet, In the Kitchen, With the Rope"

So, with only one GA hamster accounted for, discussion of hilarious videos including cat decapitation and penguin slapping and several rousing choruses of "Last Christmas", "Aga Doo", "The Macarena", "Woah! We're going to Ibiza" and "Never had a dream come true" by S Club (Much to Marie's disgust) and of course, PAsTA and his GRAMPophone?! We ended, singing into the night.

I suggest you come too, you're the ones benefiting, we don't do it for the sake of it, we do it for you. It's a laugh and it's worth the effort. See you on Sunday, or, I'll get Saz to get the spork...

CULTURE

THE LAST POST

By Mcmo

As we all know the BBC have been closing various threads recently and although they are gone we should not forget them. So by way of a tribute and yes, a farewell, I present the final posts from some of the threads.

First, the much loved and longest thread in Lovely:

Person above you

Message 45206 - posted by Twist

Is watching

Nice, A sentiment I think we can all share there I think.

There was one final post which was, to say the least, ironic:

The GA needs correspondents

Message 8287 - posted by barc0de : FFF President : Shadow PM,

The free press is still free.

Some people were taken unawares, mid-conversation

The Lars & Giddsey Show -

Message 2694 - posted by perfectsmiley_em,

oh no! sorry Lars

Punk Rock Citizens

Message 3708 - posted by Meaghan,

Yep, this is definately affecting me, and every other college student in Ontario

four letter words.

Message 1352 - posted by Mcmo - veteran of the Eel Pie Invasion**,

Hiya Nico Mcmo cold gone - feel fine - tums very full.

Hope Sazz nots dead - have food with dead girl none good - folk wood look!

We are supposed to be a nice nation!

Message 10249 - posted by Fiery Knickers**,

Got me flippin modded last time we spoke

Hello again

Hello you explosive panted lady !

- The Pub

Message 8999 - posted by Marie, owns 1/3 of physco's B&G lil' miss sulk
Not much been out for a couple of drinks tonight and watched my nephew in a cross country race today was cold but good

Morning Club

Message 1984 - posted by BEN
good morning people, how are you all on this fine morning?

Riot Squad HQ

Message 5813 - posted by darth armitage of th cgc,
hello people

The Ministry of General Debauchery

Message 3982 - posted by ID06, in search of the Shortest Threads** ,
Gen H, how old are you?

Many of the last posts appear utterly random. And completely in the spirit of Lovely:

Word dissociation

Message 226 - posted by Lady Clapham Dearheart-Trouserpress,
Static electricity

word association

Message 2364 - posted by Lady Clapham Dearheart-Trouserpress**
tempting

Breasts

Message 5321 - posted by Marie *hasn't learned to think before she speaks*
loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

Anyone from Birmingham?

Message 3287 - posted by (please lend me a few qu)ID
QUIMINGE!

The longest LONDON MEET thread of them all

Message 9022 - posted by |^^^| Princess Nicola - What the fark is going on with all the farking?
did you use the other F word? or did you use the more pleasant Making Lurve?

The Ginormous Sentence returns (in exile)

Message 4153 - posted by Lady Clapham Dearheart-Trouserpress** ,
a full moon or not (Thank you Lady O !)...

Yet another 12000 Reasons why we love a day at the cricket!!

Message 15535 - posted by Eacbie2,
I must take some responsibility, as I supplied the equipment and some of the raw materials to the factory
The biscuits look(ed) like kangaroo droppings

Coded Messages

Message 613 - posted by PirateAsTheArtist,
Saz pumps it up!!!!!!
I never drank the fish juice...

no you are all chickens....all of you
trying to start a fight

Resident super heroes

Message 2003 - posted by Miranda1989

Name: Andrew Finder

Powers: The ability to find anything regardless of how lost it is. Specialities; Keys, Phones, Remote controls and anything else you can not find

reply

Hey, I lost my name badge for work, any idea where it is?

Lovely Classrom

Message 2148 - posted by icepleasure, Check I.O.U. balance, Yesterday

I rest my case...

Reply

where do you rest it ?

oldies but goldies

Message 4928 - posted by Lady Clapham Dearheart-Trouserpress**,

Yeh, what are those #8217 ?...

Some were still trying to spread the joy:

WE IOVE U CUDDL Y CARPY!

Message 2949 - posted by Friend Computer XP,

SNUGGL Y CUDDLE WUGGLES !

Pyschopotato's Bar and Grill

Message 44405 - posted by DAVID BLUNKETT says : BREAKING NEWS : if there was no evil there would be no happiness TM©® **,

lets all party at my pub

What's your claim to fame?

Message 4518 - posted by Lady Clapham Dearheart-Trouserpress**,

You have a lovely turn of phrase GC.....

PIRATES WANTED

Message 16260 - posted by Marie, owns 1/3 of physco's B&G lil' miss sulk :-P and a rascal...moaning lil sod! an lkle cheat**,

is grabbed and kissed

XX

yarr ye be a cruel man me dear but i love ya for it

LOVELY MAY DAY EASTER PARADE

Message 3938 - posted by CitizenLove**,

oh deary

And one or two seemed to be taking it badly

Viva! Viva!

Message 11351, Check I.O.U. balance, 14 Hours Ago

This posting has been hidden during moderation because it broke the House Rules in some way.

(Comment on this)

The orphanage

Message 8909 - posted by Schaferlord Dearheart-Trouserpress Lovely needs more sexy girl ninjas., Check I.O.U. balance, 2 Weeks Ago
BECAUSE SHOUTING IS WHAT YOU DO TO REDUCE STRESS.

But for many there was the realisation of the inevitable:

strip club

Message 22356 - posted by Lady Londoner - Farkquar, - Mistress of The Kinky Boots and Mrs Komrade, Flasing is the new Rock and Roll, thats what makes it so infuriating !!The Word ass, three word story and the to A- Z thread were really good threads for anyone new to lovely to get to know everyone ...

I shall never come to terms with the fact that The Claim to Fame Thread has now gone

Last 2 Posts (seeing double) - twwo bOTLELAS GINB

Message 2025 - posted by ID06, in search of the Shortest Threads** , Party here, starting right now and going untl the thread gets closed. So it might only be a few minutes.....

Message 2026 - posted by CitizenLove**,
parties for a minute

Xmas thread

Message 7827 - posted by Ray of the Rovers,
I wanted this thread to keep going till next xmas
Message 7828 - posted by Ray of the Rovers,
minge

Counter terrorist unit

Message 8770 - posted by Trip (the Ice Fantastic) - Director of CTU - FLASE is just wierd.,

Oh yeah, a note for anyone who's thinking CTU's just a placeholder organisation and we never do anything...

Add another 3500 posts to this thread coz we've moved offboard and while admittedly not all of the posts on the CTU boards have been CTU related, most of the posts would have ended up in this thread.

And probably more because you can't edit posts here and people'd pop in and start arguing.

8729 + 3520 =

12249, the true number of posts for CTU.

Head of the Counter-Terrorist Unit

<http://ctulovely.uni.cc>

this country should be called Facistwhoremongerland

Message 2023 - posted by biffa,Riot Squad,
see what you mean
so it begins,
the implosion of these boards

So now let us all take a moment to remember our favourite threads

But do not be sad. Many have been revived in new and improved forms and no one was hurt in the clean up of the boards. Well, except Ray of the Rovers who may still be trapped...

Tea Appreciation Society

of Lovely going...anyone that agrees with me should state so on the listed email address below

Thankyou "Razerbug

honours@citizensrequired.com

The GA would like to express its support for this petition.

Beau Family Update

Hello!

Nice to see you to see you...NICE!

Anyhoooo, Welcome to another one of our insane family updates! Our first website, is yet to be finished, it isn't perfect, but was designed by Crown Prince Sub- Commandate and can be found at www.freewebs.com/beaugium

We moved swiftly to our temporary home in the Lovely Government forums and established a Beaugian presence in General Chat with our own thread, in which Razerbug was very kind to deposit another one of his amazing computery thingies where he made the flag look, erm, nice? Yes, it was on a pole overlooking a river, very nice. Have a look. Unfortunately we have had no new applicants, but, were looking for something different....
BEAUGIUM NEEDS CITIZENS!

Yes, you heard right, you may have tri-citizenship with us, Lovely and your original country like me. We cannot have the entire country be Royalty, join us as citizens, and let the fun begin...

Lots of Love,

Babs and the Beaugian Royal Family

Notable hideouts during National Crises

Compiled by Rogue

Devil's Alley:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2406276>

Sanctuary:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2274465>

Pirate Pete's Pirate Ship:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2389315>

Lovely Crescent (posh area):

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2300159>

Food Board:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2484597>

Chateau Le Gaz:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2488406>

Mike's absurd normality board:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2912157>

Sum random stuff / info about me:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2456590>

my empire
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2355085>

Meets:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2290323>

The Land of Tramps
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2753470>

Alpha Helix:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F2653145>

Secret Medieval Forest Glade:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/F3085881>

Secret Command Igloo:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/U2757353>

Secret Military Installation:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/alabaster/U2039197>

ENTERTAINMENT

Poem about Lovely

By Prestons_child

Lovely is a seriously lovely place
Where everyone is kind and sweet
Where not a single member of Lovely is a disgrace
Lovely is the best place for people to meet

King Danny on his throne
With PhyscoticMike and Saz running the country
But neither of them ever groan
For they love this place you see.

With the Psychopotatos with the spelling mistake
And the Hook or Crook game where nobody wins
Or the TAGG FC thread where the player's body ache
Not a thread goes unread and into the bin.

So Lovely is such a Lovely place
Where there seriously is no hate
Where nobody gets on anybody's case
Lovely is ten out of ten I rate

Ode to Lovely

By Anonymous

Danny Wallace woke one morn and said "I have a dream
Of a lovely friendly land, the best there's ever been
Full of lovely citizens, polite and never mean
Where people can be just what they want, a Lord, a Sir, a Queen!

And so to work our Danny set, his vision very grand
Tirelessly he slogged away for a utopia he planned
Where all graffiti, litter, tax, frowns and crime are banned.
Justice, politeness and being Good, the orders of the land.

And from this tiny embryo a lovely country grew
Where everything was clean and bright, shiny, fresh and new.
And on his creation Danny looked, he smiled because he knew
That people would take it to their hearts, and to his land be true.

The few initial citizens soon became a crowd
They named their country 'Lovely', allegiance was avowed,
Which really was a stroke of luck since leaving's not allowed
And everyone was happy, of Lovely they were proud.

Now Lovely is a home from home, a magical place to be
You can drop in anytime for a chat or a cup of tea.
There's always a friend at the other end, and that's a guarantee
A happy haven, a calm repose on life's sometimes stormy sea.

So come along, join in the fun
The future's bright as any sun
Already best, and we've just begun
Lovely's here for everyone.

Three poems by Anonymous

Junkie

Your head is spinning, just looking at it.
Any longer, it could make you feel quite sick.
But you continue anyway.
Lower the needle.
Into the much trod marks.
Perhaps a shout or pained yell?
And then simple and pure elation.
Exhilaration, like nothing else. And wonder.
What if you never come down?
And then the needle runs off towards the centre of the disc.

Poetry

A 'Piece of cake, really' the teacher said,
Writing these poems straight from your head.

Putting pen to paper, thinking in verse,
 Oh! How I wish I'd planned this first!
 Now the deadline is looming, I'm behind.
 Some manner of muse, I wish I'd find.
 This is the plight of the forced amateur poet,
 Writing a stanza, then choosing to throw it,
 Counting the syllables off on your hand,
 Finding things going not quite as you'd planned.
 But we have to do it; there are 10 to be moved,
 This one's down now, just nine more to prove!

Two Unrelated Encounters, Which Happened On The Same Day To Two Different People

Encounter #1

A flash.
 You could almost miss it.
 A memory in their eyes, quick flash.
 You knew them. Once they knew you too; eyes dash.
 To the ground.
 Strangers now.
 Forever.

Encounter #2

Pressed.
 Like two thumbs in a war.
 Two bodies against each other, pressed.
 Because city bus seats are too small in winter jackets; released.
 Bus jolts you apart.
 You knew each other.
 For a second.

TV WORDSEARCH

By Mcmo

I've coloured

C	W	O	B	L	A	C	K	A	D	D	E	R	T
H	O	W	T	O	S	T	A	R	T	Y	O	U	R
J	M	N	I	G	P	X	W	S	M	F	K	P	E
T	B	C	S	H	Y	H	E	R	L	F	A	Y	D
O	L	O	O	T	O	V	B	M	D	U	N	J	D
P	E	U	F	R	T	E	P	S	I	B	Y	B	W
G	S	N	Q	I	N	S	R	J	L	E	G	N	A
E	D	T	U	O	S	L	O	O	C	H	S	I	R
A	L	R	M	V	T	C	N	L	D	M	G	H	F
R	P	Y	K	N	I	L	T	S	E	K	A	E	W

ANGEL
 BLACKADDER
 BUFFY
 CSI
 CTV
 DR WHO
 FLUMPS
 HOUSE
 HOW TO ST,

Sudoku

By Cpeachok

	8		7	3		5		
4				1				7
				9		1	6	
9	2					8	3	4
		7				9		
1	5	8					7	2
	1	5		6				
8				5				6
		4		2	1		9	

Puzzle 0003

Lovely Horoscopes

The GA takes no responsibility for anything that may happen to you while acting on the advice of these horoscopes, unless it turns out to be something good. (ed)

By Mystic McMo

This fortnight's *Aries* horoscope.

Born between March 21st and April 19th

The next two weeks will be mostly made up of events beyond your control.

A man may tell you something.

Avoid eels and blackcurrants.

Lucky colour - Taupe

Lucky number - 53

This fortnight's *Taurus* horoscope.

Born between April 20th and May 20th

Taurus citizens should stay at home this fortnight. It's scary out there people.

Take up a new hobby - perhaps ant watching or colouring in.

Keith Chegwin is lucky for you.

Avoid the colour Blue

This fortnight's *Gemini* horoscope.

Born between May 21st and June 20th

For a Gemini dawn brings a new day and with each day comes a new opportunity to eat chocolate.

Seize your opportunities. One day your teeth will fall out.

Lucky Number - 9.46

Always wear something red. It will keep the mice away.

This fortnight's *Cancer* horoscope.

Born between June 21st and July 22nd

Cheese is important. That's all. Remember that.

This fortnight's *Leo* horoscope.

Born between July 23rd and August 22nd

The next two weeks will be good for the people around you.

Try and share your biscuits. Life will be sweeter if you do

Words are important. Learn a new one and use it incessantly

Lucky Colour - Avocado

This fortnight's *Virgo* horoscope.

Born between August 23rd and September 22nd

As the wisest and most perfect of the signs of the Zodiac there is no advice for you.

You already know what to do. Be kind to the weaker and less gifted around you.

Lucky Number – you don't need luck

This fortnight's *Libra* horoscope.

Born between September 23rd and October 23rd

Try and keep a balance in you life.

For example if you pick up something in your left hand, make sure to pick up something with your right also.

A small child will tell you the meaning of life. Sadly you will be unable to understand it.

Lucky animal - Otter

This fortnight's *Scorpio* horoscope.

Born between October 24th and November 22nd

You will not win the lottery this fortnight.

But on the positive side you will not be run over by a double-decker bus full of clowns either

Lucky Colour - Stripes

Lucky Person - Bob

This fortnight's *Sagittarius* horoscope.

Born between November 23rd and December 21st

There is no horoscope for you. I saw what you did last night.

You should be ashamed.

Lucky Number - as if!

This fortnight's *Capricorn* horoscope.

Born between December 22nd and January 19th

A vow of celibacy would be wise.
Dogs and armchairs are important for you this week
There is no excuse for bad grammar and spelling.

This fortnight's *Aquarius* horoscope.

Born between January 20th and February 19th

As an Aquarius the next two weeks will come as a surprise to you.
Ask a close friend to advise you on all aspects of your appearance.
Avoid leather furniture
Lucky Colour - Aubergine

This fortnight's *Pisces* horoscope.

Born between February 20th and March 20th

Attend to your inner octopus. Meditation, seashells and cellophane will reconnect you with your role in the physical world.
It is vital that you do not play on the railway lines.
Lucky Colour - Pinky Grey
Lucky Animal -Whelk

Birmingham It's Not Shit

By Lady H

Yes you did just read that correctly. It's not Shit and I will prove it to you all

Erm, possibly. My interest in all thing Brummagin comes from having spent the past 5 ½ years living and breathing in the West Midlands. Having been born and bred a Surrey girl I took the epic journey and moved North of WATFORD and ended up in Sunny Brum.

So what has it got to offer? I hear you cry. What can it give me? Does it really have a factory with Oompa Loompas? All these things and more I hope to answer for you.
Ok so interesting facts about Brum

- It is the home of Cadburys...mmmmmmmmmmmmmm
- It has more canals than Venice
- I live there!!!!
- Victoria Square hosts one of the largest fountains in Europe, with a flow of 3,000 gallons per minute; it is known as "The River" but has been nicknamed "The Floozie in the Jacuzzi".
- Bindley Hall, the world's first exhibition hall, opened in 1850 on the site now occupied by The ICC.
- Birmingham means home (ham) of the people (ing) of the tribal leader Birm or Beorma.

Lol ok so that hasn't incited you to rush forth and book tickets to visit then, no, ok.

I know that many people when you mention Birmingham think of grey 60's and 70's concrete buildings, an awful accent and spaghetti junction. I can assure you all those things still exist, but they are not an excuse not to visit.

For those of you who like shopping, it has one of the newest shopping centres The Bullring where you can buy anything from single Lego blocks to designer Smeg fridges, there is also for those of you who have money the Mailbox, designer brands with designer prices.

You don't like shopping; Birmingham's history mainly centres on the industrial revolution. Canals form much of the city; you can use canal boats to explore much of the midlands from Brum. There is also the art Galleries which are free to visit, the Ikon being my favourite as it has great displays from unknown artists and sculptors. There are two theatres which show West End productions, the NEC and The NIA which host amazing concerts and shows. The Sealife centre is fabulous and a must for those who have small children.

Eating and drinking. Well you have a city to rival most for choice and location. For upmarket a visit to the Mailbox would be an ideal choice. Japanese and Mediterranean dishes are abundant; The Arcadian offers a great night out with such a varied choice of bars clubs and restaurants I could fill a whole article writing about them. Broad Street is the place to go if you fancy a cheesy popstastic night with a choice of mainstream bars and clubs. If you come to Brum you have to have a curry, The Balti triangle offers some of the best curries you can buy anywhere in the country. You can do cheap, bring your own, not so cheap, they're all good. In addition have a Chinese from the Chinese quarter they rock ?

I guess I must mention sport lol, not my favourite topic, but there is football. Blues and Villa both have grounds, slightly further a field you have Wolves, West Brom, and Walsall. There are other sports erm, erm, erm, sorry I am rubbish at sports perhaps someone else could write an article on it ?

Ok so on to my favourite bit: Cadburys. Set in magnificent Bournville you can smell the Chocolate as soon as you get out of your car. Cadburys lorries trundle around the village which retains lots of its original charm. You can take the Cadbury world tour or just visit the shop. Either way it's an excellent afternoon out.

The areas out side of Birmingham are also fantastic, I've put some links at the bottom if the article so have a look. Discover Birmingham, it really isn't that shit!!!!

<http://www.cadburyworld.co.uk/en/cworld>

<http://www.birminghamitsnotshit.co.uk/>

<http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/>

<http://www.bclm.co.uk/>

Silent Pete's Reviews

FILMS

28 Days Later... (2002)

Directed by: Danny Boyle

Starring: Cillian Murphy, Naomie Harris, Christopher Eccleston

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0289043/>

Rating: 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌 🤩🤩🤩🤩🤩

Ice Age (2002)

Directed by: Chris Wedge

Starring: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0268380/>

Rating: 

Shaun of the Dead (2004)

Directed by: Edgar Wright

Starring: Simon Pegg, Kate Ashfield, Nick Frost

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0365748/>

Rating: 

American Pie (1999)

Directed by: Paul Weitz

Starring: Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0163651/>


Rating: 

Broken Arrow (1996)

Directed by: John Woo

Starring: John Travolta, Christian Slater

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115759/>

Rating: 

Ginger Snaps (2000)

Directed by: John Fawcett

Starring: Emily Perkins, Katharine Isabelle

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0210070/>

Rating: 

Donnie Darko (2001)

Directed by: Richard Kelly

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Jena Malone, Mary McDonnell

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0246578/>

Rating: 

Sneakers (1992)

Directed by: Phil Alden Robinson

Starring: Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier, Ben Kingsley

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0105435/>

Rating: 

They Call Me MISTER Tibbs! (1970)

Directed by: Gordon Douglas

Starring: Sidney Poitier

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0066450/>

Rating: 

Crossword

The Solution

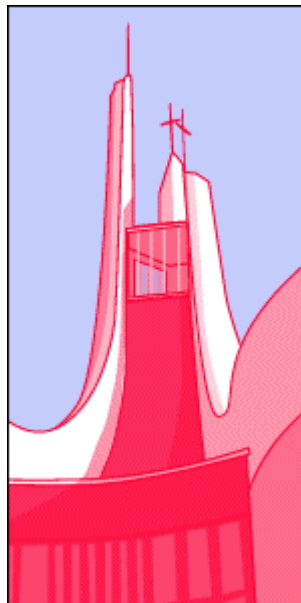
By Mcfarlmo

Here is the solution from the Crossword in the last issue:

1 P	U	2 D	D	I	N	3 G		4 S	A	5 D	E
E		O				A		C		I	
6 R	I	G		7 B	A	R		8 R	O	S	E
S		S		A		E		E		S	
9 O	R	B	I	T		10 T	E	A			11 R
N		O		S		H		12 M	13 A	S	H
14 A	I	D	15 S		16 U		17 F		R		O
L		18 Y	E	A	R		19 L	L	O	Y	D
	20 G		V		A		O		M		E
21 G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R		22 A	S	S
	Z		R		U		I				I
23 M	O	L	E		24 S	A	N	G	R	I	A

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F1 Thread Advert

By Babs

LOVELIANS!

Down in sports a long way away in the CR Message Boards, we have a little thread, called the F1 thread, most of you will be familiar with the Formula 1 system, ITV Sundays aka The Grand Prix.

To play our predictions game:

Rules:

Predict the top 5 finishers in order for each race and the pole position driver.

Points will be allocated as follows:

1. 2 points for predicting the correct pole
2. 3 points for each driver predicted in the correct finishing position
3. 1 point for each driver predicted to finish in the top 5, but in the wrong order.

Any disqualifications of a driver after a race also count and the points will be changed accordingly.

Predictions should be in before Midday GMT the Friday before Qualifying.

Should anyone forget/unable to submit then you it will be given as the default prediction. Where the default prediction is pole for the current leader in the drivers championship and the race predictions as the top 5 drivers in the championship in order.

T'is fun and motivates people to watch the Grand Prix next one... ARGH! TODAY!? Yes, today erm 3am, yep 3am, ITV1, Australia, I'll be up, and the DVD will be on the little red one that says REC, meh, see you there!

SPORT

BACK PAGE NEWS

POMPEY POWER BEATS TAGG

By Giddsey

Tagg 2-4 Portsmouth

Coach giddsey was so utterly outraged with his weakened side's performance, he left the stadium at half time and mysteriously disappeared.

Taggs afternoon started badly. Coach giddsey had decided to rest a couple of players. Lars was on compassionate leave, Ray was rested alongside babs, Rubble, and Jamie. Coach giddsey had one eye on the cup game, but boy did it misfire.

Prestons-child and Mrs Mop were the only proper tagg players on the pitch. As much as P-c tried and as however many ankles he bit, Pompey were rampant. A dismal first half saw Pompey lead 3-1 at half time. The only moment of joy for Tagg came with P-Childs overhead kick from 25 yards.

The second half incident in the tunnel wasn't seen on camera, but coach giddsey was heard to say, "you lot don't deserve to play for this club, you are all a shower of sh1t. Prestons-child it's all up to you son, I've had enough I'm off down the pub."

With no manager and only p-c playing well, (great 2nd goal from the ar\$e of P-C), the final score was no surprise.

2-4 Pompey. Unlucky lads, you know I'm concentrating on the cup, and that's why so many were rested.

Match report to follow.
Man City 1-2 Tagg

See ya at training lads.
coach giddsey

FRONT PAGE NEWS TAGG MANAGER VANISHED

During the second half of the dismal 4-2 defeat of TAGG FC against Portsmouth manager Giddsey went into the tunnel and after that no one has seen him since. DC Harry Batt stated "We are terribly concerned for the well being of Giddsey. We are not thinking that it is a kidnapping but we are questioning fans".

Hubble Rubble posted on the TAGG FC Official Website "We here at TAGG FC are extremely upset at the mysterious vanishing of Giddsey. We know for a fact he left the match but no one knows what happened after if you do know anything about where Giddsey is please inform the police". Giddsey has not got in contact with anyone and the Bar where TAGG FC famously go after winning matches is shut until Giddsey Returns.

Reported **Prestons_child**

FRONT PAGE NEWS GIDDSEY FOUND IN DITCH (ALIVE!)

Tagg FC need worry no more. Coach giddsey was found in a ditch earlier today. He was sleeping off a massive hangover after watching not only Brentford get beat by the Welsh scum, but also his Tagg squad mullered by Pompey.

Sources say coach giddsey uttered the words, "leave me alone I need to gather my head together, tell the lads I'll be back training soon"

Tomorrow night lads, see ya at the ground.
coach giddsey

BACK PAGE NEWS TAGG GIVE CITY THE BLUES

Man City 1-2 Tagg

Coach giddsey was delighted with the performance of his squad as they powered their way into the semi finals.

Coach giddsey's decision to rest essential players turned out to be a stroke of genius. The tagg team were fresh and eager to score. Taggs first came from a sweet move ending in new aussie signing Stephenovic, scoring. A refreshed Lars played a sweet ball to Jamie, who in turn knocked it far right to babs. Babs then swung a ferocious pass to Stephenovic who flicked the ball over his own head and smashed it past a bemused James. 1-0 Tagg

The 2nd goal came from Ray of the Tagg. It would seem the rest was what was needed. Prestons child picked the ball up deep in his own half, he cut a pass straight through city to nicknack who passed it via Mrs Mops head to Ray. Ray proceeded to wow the city defence and crowd alike with a series of tricks that left them for dead. Ray of tha Tagg then rounded the keeper, knelt on one knee and kissed the ball into the net and Tagg into the semis. 2-0 Tagg

Citys consolation was hardly worth mentioning, so we won't. 2-1 Tagg

Fantastic performance lads, we are in the semi finals of the cup for the first time in 15 years.

Cardiff here we come.
See ya in the bar lads.
coach giddsey

*This match is dedicated to the memory of k9 hero Jake Hughes. R.I.P.

BACK PAGE NEWS TAGG WIG OUT THE WIGAN

Wigan 1-2 Tagg

Coach giddsey was relieved to see his squad beat the plucky wigan boys.

Disaster had struck just before the game, leaving the coach with only two of his regular squad available. Babs and Prestons child were the only ones who managed to find Wigans

ground, the rest of the squad had disappeared. It would seem they got lost in the arcade at a motorway service station when babs decided to drive the team coach away in an attempt to steal all the thunder. Prestons child had been asleep on the back seat after a heavy night on the JD, so he made it to the ground.

Tagg were 1-0 down after the first 10 minutes and were struggling to keep up with the wigan boys.

Halftime saw an inspirational team talk from coach giddsey and the 2nd half proved to be a war. The equalizer came from babs. A mazy run around 7 wigan players ended with a thunderbolt from the boot of babs.

1-1.

Taggs second came late on in the game. Coach giddsey had urged Prestons-child to get dirty and put some pressure on Henchoz. P-c followed instructions and scored the winning Tagg goal. He rose high above the wigan centre half, nuted him right between the eyes, then poked him with a Spork. The ball rebounded into Wigans net.

2-1 Tagg.

Well played boys, you are a credit to Lovley and Tagg FC alike.
See ya in the bar.

coach giddsey

BACK PAGE NEWS SPIRITED EFFORT ENDS IN LOSS FOR TAGG

Man Utd 1-0 Tagg

Coach giddsey saw his players committed and ready to face an excellent Man Utd side. Unfortunately the news that Van Nistleroooy was back in the side always had the potential to be fatal.

Tagg started well, babs strong in the tackle, Jamie controlling midfield and Prestons child frightening the pants of Nistleroooy with his new found weapon of choice...a Spork.

Halftime was 0-0. Tagg came out to the 2nd half refreshed but strangely hyper. Whatever the reason for the hyperactivity, it backfired badly when Ray of the Tagg spazzed a ball through lars legs and into Nicknack who spooned it to the bemused Van Nisleroooy.

1-0 Utd.

Unlucky lads, good effort.
we'll be back, see ya in the bar.

coach giddsey

~ Next issue due out on Sunday 16th April 2006 ~