

CITIZENSHIP: THE FIGURES DON'T ADD UP!

By our sub-editor Minister for all things rocking!

The king has sold us out. When we signed up to become citizens we signed up for every single BBC message board. Also the population isn't just made up of those who signed up to become citizens it's made up of everyone who has ever signed up to use ANY of the BBC's message boards no matter what subject they are on.

Now I'm not really sure how many but I would think that the BBC would have a lot of message boards. Danny has used this to make the

country seem a lot larger than it is. It's quite possible that half the citizens of Lovely don't even know that they are citizens and have no idea what so ever of "How to start your own country" or Danny Wallace. This could mean that the population is still tiny in comparison to other micro nations. It could be as low as a 1000. The only real way to tell how many people signed up to the country and know about it is to check their IOU's. It is only possible to earn IOU's on citizens required message

boards. If they showed a list with everyone's wealth then we would most probably see a very large amount with 0 IOU's.

We have been lied to every week about the true population of the country. How can we trust a king that doesn't even tell his citizens the true population of their country?

Do you have any thoughts about this news? Contact us The Guardian Angel - Your Letters here!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since its original publication this article has sparked a great deal of controversy. The Guardian Angel received a number of comments from citizens who where concerned about the accuracy of the sources which this article was gained from. After much research and investigation, the Guardian Angel can announce that when a person signs up to become a citizen they also become a BBCi member and are therefore subject to their details being used by the BBC. However, the point that this article makes is about members of other BBC communities being added without their knowledge, which our investigations has led us to believe is indeed correct, as members from other communities have successfully posted on our boards and shared this information with us. Therefore the Guardian Angel stands by the ideas expressed within this article, although it asks its readers to remember that we only present you with the news, we don't make it up ourselves.

A LOVELY PASSPORT!!

The desire of many citizens was today granted with the introduction of Citizen Passports. As you may remember, in Episode Two of the current BBC2 series "How to start your own country" which is unfortunately due to finish tonight our King went to see the people of Pentagram, who furnished him with everything a country would need, such as a flag, a motto and of course, a passport. Since this time there has been increasing call for our King to provide his Lovely citizens with their very own passports, with a great deal of work done by the Foreign Office on the behalf of other Citizens. The Guardian Angel is therefore pleased to reports that our pleas have not fallen on deaf ears, and that our call was finally answered today! Yes, our very own passports are available to download from this area of the website The Passport Office

(http://www.citizensrequired.com/unit/gc_passport/passport.shtml)

Therefore fellow citizens, worry and fret no longer, we now have yet another way to show our never-ending support for our Lovely Nation! Click on the above link and construct your passport with pride, and remember to thank all the wonderful people at the Foreign Office for their work and support them if you can! The Foreign Office can be found at this address [The Foreign Office \(http://www.fefa.org.uk\)](http://www.fefa.org.uk)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

DOTA, AN INTRODUCTION

By our editor PiratePixie

You may not have realised it, but beginning life as a citizen of Lovely can be a stressful time. Introducing yourself to new people, wondering where you fit in and learning where the best places to chat are? Do you remember that? Well, help is at hand for new citizens! A citizen known as Agent0 has begun an organisation known as DOTA, which he has put into place in order to help the people of Lovely feel safe. One of its main aims is to: "make you fit into this fine country", although the agencies main aim does not seem to be in making us conform in a "Stepford Wives" type of way, rather it is to allow us to help our fellow citizens.

Agent0 is asking for a wide variety of citizens to volunteer to be interviewed so that they can share their experience and knowledge with fellow citizens, he can be contacted via the Dota website, <http://www.citizensrequireddota.tk/>

Please please take the time to help him out, Agent0 is a really great guy and I think this is an excellent idea of his. He's trying to help people get their voice heard and enjoy their time on the messageboards of our fair country without ending up in prison, which I believe is an extremely admirable thing to want to do for everyone.

Just as another point of interest, agent0 is also involved with the Government Security Agency, information about which is available from this website: <http://securityagency.tk>

So come, on be a helpful citizen, help out DOTA, which has been "keeping us safe since 2005"!

NEW STAMP ANNOUNCED!

A new stamp has been issued by the Glories' candidate for Postmaster General. It is the second stamp in a series to be announced in the coming weeks, and for the first time features King Danny 1 in full regalia. Future issues are

expected to feature popular Pirate, Cap'n Jim, and leaders of the main political parties.

The Country's First Stamp

The Country released its first stamp on 19th August 2005.

Suggested by (and featuring) Prettyontheinside, the stamp was put together (in about 5 minutes!) by TheArtistFormerlyKnownAs ThePrimeMinister, who is the Glories' prospective Postmaster General.

Here's an interview by newcitizen with TheArtistFormerlyKnownAs TheRealPrimeMinister (NB: He is considering changing this to PostmasterGeneral if The Glories are elected and he can officially assume this post).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

How do you see the postal service working in the new country?

It depends on how the country develops: since it is located in one flat, the infrastructure should be fairly straightforward - we'd

probably only need one Postman, and he could sort the letters on the kitchen table. There could, however, be a worldwide market in terms of stamp collectors, and that may lead to heavy demands for our stamps. Since most communication is currently performed over the Internet, I think that it is the external Stamp Market that would be the major factor. I am working on an idea for local Air Mail using some paper plane designs...

What do you think of the first stamp?

I'm really pleased with it. As soon as I saw the original photo, I thought it looked like it was made to be a stamp - the subject matter, proportions and framing were just right. I think it represents the people of our new Nation in a very positive way, showing two of our citizens happy and smiling. I believe it makes an important statement that our FIRST stamp does NOT show King Danny (except as a small inset picture like Queen Elizabeth II on UK stamps) or any of the people in power or claiming power, just citizens (and I wouldn't call them "ordinary"

as I don't think this description fits any of our citizens).

Do you have any other ideas for the stamps of other denominations?

Yes, I think there should be a stamp showing King Danny in his full regalia (!), and if The Glories win the Election, as I hope they do, Lady Reblet should feature on one. There has also been a suggestion that we have a Floast Stamp, but I have yet to see a picture of high enough quality to use...I suspect that Cap'n Jim of the Pirates would also be a popular choice. Regarding the Denomination issue, we have a little problem here at the moment in that the currency has not yet been decided: I have gambled on whatever it is being divided into Cents, and 25C seemed a reasonable figure to go with. There has been a suggestion that this may actually force the issue when it comes to deciding the exchange rate against other currencies - the 25C stamp would suggest something close to parity with the Pound.

INTERNET SAFETY - A REAL-LIFE PITFALL

By newcitizen

At the London Citizens Meet on Friday 19 August 2005, it was rather surprising to all when a young man turned

up with a friend and began espousing extremely virulent racist views. It was just as surprising when he

began talking about paedophilia. He was snubbed and ignored, as naturally no-one wanted to

reward his attention-seeking behaviour. He subsequently told people that he was a researcher from the BBC, researching paedophilia on the internet. Everyone realised that this was hardly likely - he had no ID and the whole idea was completely far-fetched.

This person has now popped up, today, on a London Meet thread, with a log-in name suggesting that

he was a BBC researcher. His first post was EXTREMELY offensive, and possibly libellous, and he was rapidly reported for the post (and for posing as a BBC researcher). The post was removed by the BBC within minutes. Throughout the day, he has been posting in a variety of different guises on that thread, and has also been impersonating others on the thread by signing on in a

name almost identical to other, genuine, posters, except for the reversal of 2 letters. Luckily, he is easily spotted - when his name is clicked, it soon reveals that his first and only posts are from today, on that particular thread.

But it does go to show how careful everyone should ALWAYS be when using the internet - you never know who is out there!

POLITICS

FLAWED AND DESPOTIC

By our new correspondent **Bob Appleyard**

King Danny's constitution was proclaimed as "Inspired by the noblest ideals", and speaks of a "new age of chivalry". However, the actual body of the constitution is not only vague and open to many different forms of interpretation, but betrays the very ideals it claims to hold dear.

Now, a constitution is not supposed to spell out every law, nor is it expected to last, unaltered, for all time. However, it is intended to set out the framework within which a country's legal system is constructed. It is a guarantee of the rights of the citizen, which King Danny informs us is what we all are. It also is intended to give checks and balances to the central power.

Before I continue, to highlight just how important the constitution is, I shall

quickly turn to a good example of a flawed constitution. The Weimar Republic, which existed between the world wars in Germany, had a very robust constitution, guaranteeing all kinds of rights for the citizen, universal suffrage, and a president that was subject to the Reichstag, which was subject to the people. However, there was one flaw:

"Art. 48. If a state fails to perform the duties imposed upon it by the federal constitution or by federal law, the President . . . may enforce performance with the aid of the armed forces. If public order and security are seriously disturbed or endangered within the Federation, the President . . . may take all necessary steps for their restoration, intervening, if need be, with the aid of the armed forces. For the said purpose he may suspend for the time being, either wholly or in part, the fundamental rights described in Articles 114, 115, 117, 118,

123, 124, and 153."

The fundamental rights referred to are property rights, habeas corpus, freedom of speech, and so on. Allowing them to be "temporarily suspended" on the whim of the President is all very dubious. Article 48 was invoked to bring Hitler to power, and to make him a despot, legally. This led to all kinds of worries for the world later on (though everyone in the West, especially the Times and the Daily Mail in the UK, were thrilled about him at the time). So you see, even a fairly solid constitution can be undone surprisingly easily, given the right people.

Danny's constitution is begging for this to happen. Alongside various vague promises that "The King will always want the very best for his Citizens" and that "Human rights are

guaranteed in full" rest some rather worrying phrases which do not appear to provide any of the checks and balances a document like this would seem to require. There is also the problem of interpretation: what constitutes "full human rights"? Which authority do we consult? Of course the king will want the very best for his citizens, but which ones? All of them? Probably not possible. How is he to decide? Without any clear guide, corruption can so easily follow. In spite of the right to vote beginning at sixteen (or fifteen for "boffins"), there is no description of what these votes are deciding, or what

mechanism these will work through. Are they secret, for instance, or is King Danny allowed to have a look in when he feels like it?

The role of the King, in this document, is as an autocrat, a dictator who can run the show as he pleases. The four ministers referred to, who are perhaps in charge of the most important tasks, and so should therefore be open to the most public scrutiny, are responsible only to the king, who can hire and fire them as he chooses. What are the chances, if a minister for the interior forced everyone to give half their earnings to the king, of that minister being sacked? There is

clearly no protection of basic human rights, even if they are proclaimed inviolable earlier on.

The last sentence is the kicker: "None of the above should be taken to imply any restriction on the King's power to conduct affairs solely in the light of his own incontrovertible wisdom." So the whole of the document is a sham, a pointless farce, which can be revoked if King Danny wishes to "promulgate more Laws in due course." It is, in fact, little better than window dressing for despotism; for remember, fascist regimes have constitutions too.

Bobbledybob

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH KIERAN COLLINS FOREIGN SECRETARY AND FOUNDER OF THE LEGO PARTY

By our sub-editor Comrade Bowl

CB: Good evening Kieran, nice to have you with us.

K: *Indeed it is great to be here Comrade, and may I take this opportunity to congratulate you on such a successful Newspaper, well done.*

CB: You make us blush. Anyway, the huge amount of effort you've put into evolving and progressing this nation has been duly rewarded with an OED. Was that a surprise, or would you have kicked off if you'd been overlooked?

K: *<laughs> It was such a shock, I was actually online the exact time it changed*

over and I noticed I had a funny sign. I panicked at first, thinking I had done something wrong, until I slowly realised what it was. May I say it is not only for myself. I believe I share it with all at FEFA, I have a great team. I most definitely would not have kicked off, especially as that same night I was picked as The Minister of Foreign Affairs by our Great King Danny live on Citizen TV, What a shocker that was! I felt so sorry for Rich, BUT! He is a Lord now so well done Rich and thank you all my National Ambassadors and Diplomatic Attaches at the Foreign Office.

CB: Hard work does pay off, it seems. Now, as well as creator of the new-look Foreign

Office AND founder of the Lego Party, are you prepared to hand over the foreign office reins should you fail to win the election?

K: *The Foreign Office, although my creation, is there to further advance our Great Nation. It belongs to the people, not me. I shall accept the decision of the votes and allow any winning party's Minister of Foreign Affairs to take over, I shall always be there should they need me, but it would be their baby.*

CB: Very noble. Have the current members of FEFA all been integrated into the Lego Party?

K: *<laughs> No, not at all! I'm not a dictator - indeed there are many in the Party who have nothing to do with FEFA, just like there are many in FEFA who are not in the Party. FEFA is FEFA and LEGO is a Party drawn together by people who share the same beliefs. FEFA is a multinational branch and encompasses many creeds, colours, religions and politics. Lego members all have the same political beliefs.*

CB: Excellent. So, briefly, how would you say you differed from the Glories, and where do you feel you improve upon their manifesto?

K: *Well, we aim to accept all in the building of this Nation. Our Manifesto and beliefs are funnily enough based around Lego. We have all had the Lego sets for Christmas where we are presented with a bag full of bits and pieces. You have a good idea about what you want, but you need to work to get there. Each brick plays its part, without it you will never get the perfect image or building. We see each Citizen, very much like a Lego building block, each must play its part for the Nation to work. We look at ways of best structuring ourselves without having to be too tied down in a set manifesto at this time. Indeed it would be rather silly seeing as our King has not yet finished the show, he may surprise us all this week with a bizarre twist.*

CB: No set manifesto? I thought the website (that you created) required any

prospective party to have a manifesto?

K: *Well, with that each party must have a manifesto, it does not have to be set, but they need a manifesto. The Lego Party have a manifesto, but this is not set, we can change it at any point before an election, just like any Party. For example, say the Lego Party had allowed guns in our manifesto in the first week - if that was set then we would be ruined as by week 3 or 4 the King banned all arms.*

CB: An ever-changing manifesto? I suppose you'll say it's 'evolving'? How do you plan to challenge the Glories dominance, after all they do have a considerably head start on you...

K: *I laugh at that comment. I was never aware of this being a popularity contest? I honestly do not believe that they have any head start at all. We have set up this Party like we aim to run this Country, with organisation and structure. If I may quote the leader of the Glories, this is how she sees her own Party, only yesterday*

"Right, so you may or may not have heard Kieran has decided to set up a sort of parliament. We need to organise ourselves a bit more and sort ourselves out! SO POSITIONS:"

This to me shows that we are the Party ahead of any game, we are indeed more organised than the Glories. Even though they have been around a lot longer they are still in the haze of confusion, whilst the Lego Party sores high above the clouds to the clear and peaceful blue skies above. We aim to win votes by our professional, coherent and simple structures. Common sense really.

CB: You say it's not a popularity contest, but in reality it is just that. Tell me, what did you make of the King's short-lived attempts to control the population by fear i.e. creating a jail for people speaking their minds?

K: *I am not too sure he aimed to "rule by fear". I applaud him for his actions. What other King would try something out "just for*

size" and be man enough to take it away and admit they were wrong? Not only is this a good thing for the King, it also shows that, although we love the King dearly, we will stand up for what we believe in - and our King listens. Surely this is a good example of Citizens working with the King? And surely it must stamp upon our memories that we can work things out do you not agree?

CB: My opinions are irrelevant here, but thank you anyway. Surely the fact that he's willing to dabble in Stalinist tactics is a minor worry for any prospective governments?

K: <laughs> 'That' is surely an outrageous claim for someone whose opinions are deemed as irrelevant? Quite obviously from that line of questioning you did not agree with my comments. Stalinist tactics is really a bit too much for what was tried out by our King. I do not aim to run the Government from afar, I am always on the message boards, looking at discussions and I must say that some of them can get very personal and bitter. Take for example the horrendous time Ivan from the PPP is having with one of his ex members hacking in, in his name and spamming the boards, trying to sabotage the Peoples Popular Party. This is not only unfair but is harmful to Ivan's reputation and that of his Party. I believe who ever is doing it should be sent to our prisons for life!

CB: But that's quite different from someone expressing an opinion, being thrown into jail and then having to guess why they're even there. And why can't members of the public communicate with them? I can't name any other country in the world that doesn't allow prisoners visitors...

K: Well I can't imagine any prisoners having any visitors if they are only in there for a day. Let's also be realistic here, how many of the prisoners actually stayed in prison? Sure their name was there but most of them went back on the boards ASAP under a different alias so lets keep that in perspective. Not nearly as Stalinist as you would have thought.

CB: How about awarding OEDs for 'revolution quashing', I think it was?

K: The question put before me was about the prison service, this however is entirely different. I do not agree that he should have been awarded such an accolade for, what I believe in some cases, was simple freedom of speech. Although I believe that Jedi Master Muscle wholly deserved it for his SportsFan's discussions and quite possibly for his Granddad's invention of the Chocolate Orange. What a fantastic Granddad, nice one!

CB: Proving beyond doubt that a lot of the awards were highly dubious (not casting doubt on your own, that's well justified).

K: <laughs> Well, if you look at the broad spectrum of the reasons for the awards, I believe in most cases they were truly deserved, especially that of West_end_girl, who I believe was instrumental in gaining some well deserved charity money for a fellow citizen. That, in my books, ranks a lot higher than anything I have ever done for this country.

CB: So, if you get into power and are given the applicable rights, how would you bring about a suitable and easy-to-use system of exchanging IOUs online?

K: We would instigate an online bank, a deposit if you like, where your IOU records are kept. From here a specially designated team of Citizens would hold them in trust. We would possibly even instigate an interest system where the longer you hold them the more you get back out. With such a system you would also be able to transfer from one Citizens account to another. Fairly straight forward process, structured and again, organised.

CB: It seems that whenever you or your party are questioned, three or even four of you jump upon the criticiser, thoroughly outnumbering them and stifling any point they attempt to make. Is this a premeditated tactic?

K: <laughs> Absolutely not, it simply shows the sheer solidarity of the Lego Party - we start as we mean to go! In the Parliament the voters can be sure that each and every Lego MP will stand up for what they believe in. Each MP understands the importance of being up to date and informed, off their own backs, about the issues we currently face. It just so happens that there were a lot of Party Members online at the time. It is also worth bearing in mind that the Glories and other Parties commented in our defence also, which would make our politically supported argument even stronger. Many of us have noticed that this certain individual has been "stirring" in many discussions often masking behind the "whipping up a debate" excuse.

CB: Indeed. Is there any headway on an actual election date?

K: Well, as the Parliament is solely being set up by me, it is not official as such. I think of it as the Foreign Office. With FEFA, I decided to try and organise something where people would feel like they knew what was what. We had ambassadors left right and centre for countries and people saying they were the only ones who were given the authority, all of which resulted in a right royal mess up and nothing but confusion, whereas now people simply go to FEFA. With the Parliament, I am going along the same lines - if someone else wants to give it a go, I say let them. But right now what we need is a bit of organising and that is what the Parliament site is doing. If you have a look at the message boards, the politics question is right back up there and Parties are trying to organise themselves so they can enter the Parliament, This can surely only be a good thing for our political system? It will also deter any Parties who can't get the numbers and do not take it seriously, For example, one of the rules for registering a Party is you must have a website, free or paid for. One Party disagreed with this stating they 'simple don't have time to make a free website'. My question to that is "Do we want a government like that? That doesn't have the time to make a free website? No, I don't think so. This will give

the voters a structured and organised branch where they can find out about all the legitimate Parties! If the Lego Party can pull off the achievement of organising a Parliament, what else do you, the voter, think we can do? Just like real Lego, the limit is as big as your imagination. So, if it can be organised, there is no reason why we can not have an election date! I just don't think the other Parties are ready, and the Lego Party is trying to help each and every Party become organised and ready for an election. WE ARE READY. The others will soon be ready too. We wish to fight a fair and clean campaign for all Parties and voters.

CB: Well, there's not much scope for argument with that answer. What message would you give to anyone accusing you of 'taking control' of the country? Bear in mind you can use as expressive language as you please in the GA...

K: <laughs> Well, I basically say to them 'criticise when you try it yourself'. I have no respect for people who simply go around accusing people of this and that. I thank all those Citizens out there who have supported me when I have been challenged in such a way. The claims of "taking over" are simply unfounded. I am loyal to King Danny and all our Citizens, whoever and whatever they choose to be and do. I am simply here trying to contribute, do my part. If someone thinks I am overstepping any boundaries, with enough support behind them I shall accept that decision. But single criticism and personal attacks hold no favour with me.

CB: And rightly so. May I say on behalf of the GA and 99.9% of citizens out there that you're doing an absolutely fantastic job of getting this country on it's feet. Mr Blair'll come a-knocking before too long... And finally, realistically, what are your hopes and visions for the future of the country once the BBC airs the last show on Wednesday?

K: I truly, truly hope that each Citizen will hold this experience deep within their hearts and make this the country we desire.

We are not even halfway through building this nation. So let's continue to add those Lego bricks and let's aim as far and as high as our imaginations can take us! Use the spirit of Lego and we, united and together, shall get to the promise land!

CB: I think you echoed the thoughts of us all there, Kieran. It's been a pleasure talking with you, and we wish you all the best in continuing to be an extremely important

pillar of this society.

K: *Not even a pillar, Comrade. It takes us all to make this work. There has never been an 'I' in 'team'. Thank you and may I also take this opportunity to thank all the Citizens in the GA that have helped make this a great start. You are all doing such a wonderful job. You should all get an OED - you guys deserve it more than me!*

CULTURE

Yarr! 19th September 2005 is International Talk Like A Pirate Day! Go to <http://www.talklikeapirate.com> for more information. Avast There!!!

FRIDAY THE 2ND OF SEPTEMBER- A LOVELY DAY?

By our editor PiratePixie

9.00am, a shrill alarm rings and is quickly turned off by a girl who can barely contain her excitement. After quickly showering and changing she rushes downstairs to eat a hearty breakfast, all the time singing to herself: "Today's the day!!" Today is the countries naming ceremony!" She gathers her things and leaves the house in plenty of time to catch the train that will speed her to Liverpool, a brief detour before the reason for her excitement; a train journey to the capital in order to be a guest of one Danny Wallace, King of an at that time Unnamed Country...

The above paragraph is what would have happened if life and the world was dictated by artistic people,

like writers and poets. It is unfortunately not a true representation of what actually happened on the morning of my trip to London. That morning actually began at about 9.15, when I literally tumbled out of bed having overslept. I was excited, but that was over-shadowed by the fact that I was very tired (self-inflicted, too much time on the messageboards), and grumpy because I was late. I managed to get most of the necessary tasks done in order to make myself at least presentable to the world, and then had to run for the train to Liverpool, where I had arranged to meet some of my fellow citizens so that I wasn't travelling down by myself. It was only upon reaching Lime Street that I realised

my short-sightedness, as I had forgotten to ask this citizen what they looked like (in fact I wasn't even sure if they were male or female!). After hanging round by our arranged meeting spot trying to give the impression I was a citizen (although I'm not sure it worked) I eventually gave up and boarded the train. Here was where my excitement decided to return to me, although it was primarily aimed at the fact that I was finally going to go over Runcorn Bridge on the train (Geeky fact, I have now gone over the Mersey every way I deem possible, except swimming!). Once this was over, I concentrated on speeding towards the capital, with the National Anthem ringing round my head and a huge smile on my face.

There are a few more tales I could tell about the train journey, but that's not the reason I'm writing this article. Suffice it to say I made it to London Euston and was finally found by a really wonderful girl who had just been awarded an OED, roving_ambassador for the north-west (Laura), and her friend Al. They were fantastic, making me feel totally at ease as we hurried through the madness that is the London Underground. We got to Leicester Square gardens with no problems and made our way to the Yates' (I think it was a Yates') where Laura had arranged to meet up with some citizens.

At this point, I'm really lost for words. I met so many wonderfully nice people in that Yates' that I can't possibly name them all. If you were there and I met you then "Hiya" I was the slightly quiet girl who was with the guy in the neck brace (I had arranged to meet up with some uni mates for a drink, unfortunately they're not citizens...yet!). There were lots of cool conversations about mad things...oh yes, one thing I will mention, it was here that I met West_End_Girl, another citizen who had deservedly won an OED. Again, as with everyone I had met so far, she was lovely and very friendly and was nice enough to let me and Al tag along with her in the queue (Laura was up at the front and got to be on the TV!). We seemed to spend a

lifetime in that queue! Luckily there were a number of ways to amuse ourselves, such as drawing pictures for the clever soul(s) who had decided to draw Danny a card and let everyone sign it, handing out flyers to passers-by and of course, singing the National Anthem! The whole thing was given a completely surreal sense by the fact that I got to shake hands with identitycard05, the countries first millionaire, who I had seen posting on the boards but never actually spoken to. I've got no idea how long we were queuing for, but we were eventually allowed through the gates, where we were presented with a flag, yey! We (this we is West_End_Girl, Ade, Al and I) made our way and picked out a fairly good spot just in front of the fountain. And again we waited! What a lot of waiting for our beloved ruler! Then Ian Lee came on to amuse us and give us a few rules, explaining that we might need a few different takes for the show...uh oh, this sounds ominous.

Before I knew it our beloved King was up on stage and addressing us. I can't remember what was said, but it was all delivered very regally and made me laugh and boo quite a lot (in all the right places of course!). We were lucky enough to have a sneaky peak at the last episode and then the name of the country was announced. We were Lovely! Yey! Here Danny quite forgot himself and

made a bit of a mess, forgetting that we were supposed to be singing the National Anthem, which of course we all did with gusto! And then, we did it all again...which was an interesting experience. It is very difficult to laugh in the right places, as you already know that the joke is coming up and although I was extremely glad to be there, there is only so much cheering a person can do when the rest of the crowd seems to have lost interest.

Then, it was all over, which was really sad. The time had come for me to say goodbye to all of my new friends, although as with most things that had happened that day it didn't go entirely to plan and I ended up running out of time and not being able to go for a drink after the naming ceremony.

That's it really. My adventure home was rather smooth, involving a broken down train and the National Anthem on continuous loop in my head, before I dropped into bed, and, if you're interested, I slept unbelievably well, dreaming of my country and how fab and groovy it was.

So, a completely fantastic day really, but a day which was unfortunately marred upon seeing the last episode of "How to start your own country". I want to assure everyone that the programme didn't do the day justice, as I felt that the cheers came across very forced on the television,

whereas on the day they were joyful and well...cheering. I won't go into my other reasons for feeling the day was spoilt by the following Wednesday, I'll simply leave you with my happy memories of a historic day in history. A Lovely Day? Yes, I think it was.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who took care of me on the day, especial thanks go to:

Laura (*roving_ambassador for the north-west*)

Al

West_End_Girl

Ade (*badgerade?*)

WingCo

Adamski

Identitycard05

Prince Tom and the people in the queue who were with him

Everyone else who met "**PiratePixie**" yarr!

Also thanks to **Ellie** and **Lee**, who are fab for

meeting up with me!

Oh yeah, the sensible bit at the bottom. While I went to London all by myself and arranged to meet up with people from the Internet, I only did this because I had a fantastic back up plan for if everything went pear-shaped. Please, please remember that its better to be safe than sorry and that not everyone is as truthful as they should be on the Internet.

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR NATIONAL DISH - FLOAST!

By The Artist

Here is the (edited) conversation that took place on the Citizens Required "General Chat" Message Board about two weeks ago that led to the birth of a culinary sensation...

Title: National dish?

LordElements: "Any ideas?"

stevex35: "beans and sausages on toast"

AlbertHeijn - Ambassador and Minister of Supermarkets/Hypermarkets and all things retail: "What about the whole toast genre? We could have toast with anything we like then! Cheese, Marmite, Jam, Weasels, The list is endless.."

Ginger Tommy: "FLAN!"

stevex35: "excellent idea.....chicken and mushroom pot noodle on toast"

Ginger Tommy: "or BANOFFEE PIE!"

LordElements: "I certainly like the toast genre idea."

stevex35: "is that toaster toast...or grill toast.....?"

Ginger Tommy: "Ahhh yes toast, but you see think of the endless possibilities of flan, it can be sweet or savoury to suit all tastes, and don't you think it is a little more refined than toast. Don't get me wrong, i love toast, with a large portion of my heart devoted to the welfare of toast, however, flan is excellent, and what an excellent word it is too. There is no word that gives so much satisfaction, ahhh flan."

Skullhead_McShank: "Please consider toasties"

LordElements: "Would it be possible to somehow combine the two into some kind of delicious hybrid, or would it be regarded as a culinary abortion?"

stevex35: "ok....flan is good and a lovely word too....and toast has been the saviour of many a student i suggest we combine the two.....and new national dish of Floast!!!!"

Citizen-B: "I like the versatility of toast. It also goes down well for breakfast or teatime. How about Tea as the national drink?"

Ginger Tommy: "YES, FLOAST! WOW excellent! that has my vote, can we get banoffee pie in there somewhere? or is that taking it too far? i sincerely apologise if that was a step over the line, but i am really, VERY excited about floast. It is almost a good a word as flan."

And the rest, as they say, is history... If you want to know more about Floast, visit <http://www.floast.tk>

AN INTERVIEW WITH... BABYJAFFACAKE AND MINISTER FOR COOL

By our editor PiratePixie

“Internet” and “Dating”. Two words which have been a couple for some time, although critics scorn the idea that people can meet over the internet, believing that people have to meet face to face in order to create that “spark” which is evident when you are with two people in love. These critics have not however met babyjaffacake and minister for cool, two citizens of Lovely. You’ve probably met babyjaffacake, she is one of the rays of sunshine on the messageboard, a feat which is reflected in her high level of IOU’s. And if you’re very lucky, you may also have met minister for cool, who is quite literally, cool. What you may not know is that they are a couple, and that they are engaged to get married. I was lucky enough to interview them before their big day.

They met roughly five weeks ago, when they were both in attendance at a Lovely fancy dress party. After some hi-jinks involving wetsuits and some yoghurt (all above board you understand) they hit it off straight away, although they unconsciously seemed to keep meeting each other on other threads. A brief msn relationship followed, although, as these things

are wont to do, I suppose it seemed much longer to the happy couple. This was followed by the proposal by Minister for Cool, although the question seemed to have settled itself, with it feeling like the next logical step to both of them. As they recount this story to me there is much laughter, and I get the impression that I should be using phrases like “made for each other” at this moment. Instead of falling back onto old clichés like this, I find myself using the words that I used in the interview:

You know in "real life" when you see people and you just get the feeling they're supposed to be together, well I'm getting this feeling from you, even though we're only having a typed conversation.

But enough of that, back to the wedding talk. If you’re anything like me, you’ll be wondering just how a Lovely marriage works. Would they be able to date people within the UK? The both think about this long and hard, and come to the joint conclusion that although they have a strong commitment to each other (well, they are getting married!) and they doubt

that anyone in the “real” world would come between them, they are aware of the possibility and I feel would cross that bridge when they come to it. Now I come to the crux of this article, the reason I have had the most serious case of writers block ever: expressing how these two people feel about each other, while also showing you that they are two “normal” citizens of Lovely. They aren’t crazy, or deluded, they’re just...in Love and in Lovely (a quote taken from BJC).

It all seems so easy, but in fact the Internet could indeed prove to have more pitfalls for a budding romance than the real world. I asked the couple if they have any advice for fellow Lovelies who may be in their shoes, and they offered the following helpful tips:

- Don’t reveal too much of yourself, too soon or they may just be going along with you
- Take it steady
- Take care of sending photos to people you are unsure of on the internet

And now the most important part, the wedding details!! Babyjaffacake and minister

for cool will be making their pledges to each other on Monday the 19th at eight o'clock, and are more than happy to share their wedding, their love, and even their Wedding Floast with as many Lovelies who know them as possible. It will be taking place in a thread which will be specially started in the General Chat section. Special guests will include cuddlycarpy and identitycard, who are both fantastic citizens as well as

good friends of the couple, and there is even a hope that King Danny will be present, although it still remains to be seen whether he'll put in an appearance.

This article deserves to be wrapped up in a cute, cool way. So I think I show you some of the beautiful things this Lovely couple said about each other in their own words:

"Minister for Cool says: **we couldn't avoid it. If we**

hadn't met in Lovely we would have met some other way"

"bjc says: like a two piece jigsaw "

"Citizen Rob says: **I think that on some level we have already met, just seem to know each other so well, so comfortable"**

"Citizen Rob says: **<squeezes hand>**"

"bjc says: <squeezes back>"

SPORT

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT NEEDED!

If you are interested in the job of sports correspondent, please contact us as soon as possible.

OUR NATIONAL SPORT - WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SPORTS THREAD.

By Newcitizen

The very first post on the Sports thread suggests **Football** as the new country's National Sport, and it has proved a popular one ever since, with at least two teams now in existence.

Subsequent posts have mentioned a variety of sports. **Skating'** (or **Sk8ting**) has been a popular choice, along with its ally, **Skateboarding**. Plans have been laid by the skaters for a skatepark in the new country, with a

mutually-agreed decision to share the space so that the boarders and bladers do not get in each others' way.

Internet Gaming is a sport that, as the poster suggests, would be a good choice as National Sport for a country whose home is online.

Poi, which is the sport (art?) of not hitting oneself with balls on bits of string whilst making pretty patterns around oneself, could prove attractive, and the (careful)

use of **Fire Poi** would save money on floodlighting in our new National Arena, whenever (and wherever) it gets built.

In an interesting new development, several ideas for hybrid sports have been suggested. Any one of these - **Tenball** (football, but played with rackets); **Pole Vault On Horseback**; **Catching The Javelin**; **Synchronised Cricket**; **Formula One Grand Prix Basketball**; **Roller Skate**

Trampolining or **Monkey Tennis** - would indeed provide the unique opportunity for our new country to easily win a Superbowl - cunningly, there would be no other countries for us to play! Oh, wait, didn't the Americans try that already?

Ultimate Frisbee sounds like a lot of fun to me. Apparently it's 'a sort of cross between **Frisbee** and **American " Football "**'. It can be played by mixed-gender teams, 'even at the highest level'. A 'key rule is

the notion of fair play, or 'spirit'. There are no referees - fouls and other infringements are sorted out by discussion amongst the players on the field'.

It's 'a sport which emphasizes fair play and individual responsibility, and where you can wear remarkably silly hats.' Another thing in its favour would seem to be 'the **3 Pint Challenge** (an upside down frisbee holds exactly 3 pints, the challenge being to suck it up through MacDonald's straws as

quickly as possible). What more could anyone ask for?' Not a lot, say I.

Rugby has had several mentions as a potential National Sport, as have **Cricket** and **Climbing**. Other suggestions have included **Podracing**, **Feather-Fighting**, **Jousting**, **Nosepicking**, **Tiddlywinks**, **Conkers**, **Hide-and-seek**, **Googlehacking** (not so much a sport as a way of life, perhaps?) and my personal favourite, **Hill-rolling**.

ENTERTAINMENT

POETRY

Since the last update of the citizensrequired website, you may have noticed that a few citizens have been posting with nice spangly OED signs next to their names. One such person is West End Girl, who has been awarded an Order of Excellence of Danny for "general goodness", which she puts down to the fact that she has been campaigning on behalf of her boyfriend, who is helping the charity Whizz Kids. The following poem has been written especially for this cause by **Shack, the Baron of Duston**:

Hugo Rollo Victor Tony,
Out of his head they came.
You'll never know just who he is,
If you just see a name.
So let me tell you all
About a chap called Hanan (Tim),
He's fit and strong and quite a guy.
He's nice but not so dim.
You see, this man, he helps the kids
And you can do it too.
By clicking on the link below,
And doing it right noo.
He's raising cash to help Whizz Kidz,
Whose lives are not so funny.
With this in mind we urge you to
Donate some of your money.
So click it now, and don't waste time,
Pop in a quid or five.
Do your bit to help Tim H
And change somebody's life.
This is the link, just at the end,
Please try and help this man,
Not Hugo Rollo or Victor

MUSIC REVIEW: THE KILLERS

One of the biggest bands to hit the stage in 2003 have made much progress in keeping the music world absorbed for the past 3 years.

Their brilliant album "Hot Fuss" hit the number 1 spot immediately and since then the Killers have been running gig after gig, people just can't seem to get enough of them and their incredible talent just keeps going on and on and on.

~ Next issue due out on Sunday 2nd October 2005 ~