

A LOVELY CHRISTMAS

By citizen Saz

The biggest ever citizen created event is almost upon us! Bigger than a mere local meet, citizens are planning to travel from far and wide to be involved in the FIRST EVER Lovely Citizens Christmas Party.

- The date: **Saturday 10th December**
- The place: **Just off Oxford Circus, London**
- The time: **6pm onwards...**

Due to be held in a secret location in London, the event will require special wristbands to allow entry. So how do you get one of these coveted wristbands? They're not for sale on eBay, and can't be sold to you by touts outside the door. The ONLY way to get one is to sign up to the Christmas Party via the forum

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1094195&latest=1>

It's that easy! By simply saying “yes” (as a certain King did quite a lot), you can be part of Lovely history.

So what precisely makes this party so great then, and why should YOU risk the cold winds outside to come along. Well, apart from the chance to meet up with a huge list of citizens from all around the world (well, Norway and Scotland are already sending representatives, that's as good as world wide), some well known on the forum, some less regular posters, there's charity fund raising, plus a good ol' favourite... drinking (in moderation, we're well behaved citizens who don't want to end up in airports with our passports and tickets to Mongolia) and maybe even some singing.

The night is hoping to be a grand event, with citizens all converging in a public house off Oxford Street. For one evening only, you can get the chance to mingle with “forum stars”, put faces to names, and in fact, put proper names to citizen names! There's a 'Secret Santa', where all guests are invited to bring along a wrapped gift of “something Lovely” which will be added to Santa's sack. This gift will then be swapped for another from an anonymous donor.

Even celebrities have heard of this party and are rushing to be involved. Several names well known in entertainment have offered items to be used in the charity tombola/raffle, and the only way to get a ticket for this is to be there on the night! Monies raised from both the raffle and the sale of customised Santa hats (available for a minimum donation of only £1 each) will be donated to charity.

Places are strictly limited, but with under two weeks to go there are still a handful of spaces left. Friends and relatives are welcome to come along if you're cautious of coming alone but ONLY IF THEY ARE ADDED TO THE GUESTLIST. Those who turn up without being mentioned may be refused entry, so please make sure you're added as soon as possible if you're interested.

Want to be a part of it? Request to be added to the guest list NOW... before it's too late!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1094195&latest=1>

Christmas Party Website: <http://continue.to/lovelyxmas>

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TO SERVE AND PROTECT

An article on the Lovely Security and Defence Forces

By Trip (the Light Fantastic) - Head of the Counter-Terrorist Unit, and Bobness - Chief of Staff for Defense

Lovely Armed Defence Forces:

Lovely Royal Navy (inc Lovely Royal Marine Commandos and Fleet Air Arm)
Lovely Royal Air Force
Lovely Royal Army (inc SAS)

Lovely Security and Intelligence Services:

Counter-Terrorist Unit (CTU)
Lovely Secret Service

We have taken a lot of flak over the past few months, some of it deserved, some not. The Defence and Security Forces are here to ensure a fair, honest and open society is maintained for all. To the 'rebellious' groups, we have always tried to offer freedom of speech against the establishment in exchange for rebel decommissioning.

This was a highly successful tactic with the Vivas and resulted in those wishing to pursue violence, terror and oppression retreating to the CIS. Those Viva members who wished to be part of a democracy remained, and they are now attempting to make a political impact on our Country.

We want the bulk of the country to be safe from any attacks; but some may suggest that this is leading to a withdrawal of civil liberties and morals.

Some would point to the cutthroat directorship battles in CTU as of late, whereas others would point to the ruthless dissolution of CTU DS, the repeated arguments; both internal and external, the stifling of the smaller organizations and the resistance to change; the list goes on.

Supporters of the security services would point towards the successful dismantling of many terrorist organizations by the Security Services, the fairness of the security services,

its willingness to provide jobs for citizens and the chaos that is the boards on a regular basis.

Who to believe? Both.

The security services have done some marvellous work, but there is much work to do.

The boards without the security services would be nothing. The security services have helped to dismantle many a threat, and bring some order to the chaos that is Lovely. They have organized citizens in a way which no other group can claim. They have shed light on some of the darkest threads on the boards, and opened them up so the citizens may use them again. Without the security services many of the sections of lovely would be off limits to anyone but those who wish abuse upon others.

However, of course nothing is perfect. The security services need streamlining, and the introduction of the Joint Intelligence Defence Committee may help to work towards this goal as the security services begin to work better in tandem.

The security services also need to stop the internal warring if they wish to present a united front. Too many arguments have been had and the results have been too violent for the stomachs of some citizens. They find such a dark security service deeply disturbing: a blot upon their vision of Lovely. Perhaps the security services need to lighten up a little to be more accessible to the citizens of Lovely.

The defence services are completely different matter. The defence services are much lighter than the security services, for many would say they have achieved much, much less. Perhaps this is simply because of the very nature of Lovely; perhaps a cybernation has little need for Armed Forces. However, they do serve as a powerful reminder of the power of the defence services.

Some would say it would be better for the defence services to be amalgamated into the security services, and with the introduction of JDIC, with the help of the Law Lords and Lord Ball, perhaps this is what will eventually happen. However, a strong defence force will always be needed to back up a strong security force.

There are many things that could be said about the Lovely defence forces and security services, and we understand the feelings some citizens have about the dark nature of these organizations. But with certain ever-darker elements of the country out there waiting to strike, is it not better to fight fire with fire?

BULLYING IN LOVELY

By Psychoticmike

Bullying on the boards has been an issue of increasing concern over recent weeks. It is causing some citizens to consider whether it is worthwhile to post on the BBCi forums. It takes many forms, but is basically intentionally upsetting another person. Whatever the method.

Often the aggressor is merely joking, but the problem arises when, after being told that such jokes are found to be insulting, the person persists. The method of communication is partially responsible, as the inability to portray tone of voice often causes misinterpretation

of intention and meaning, often for the worse.

There is a fine balance between friendly banter and unpleasantness. And without knowing the history, it is almost impossible to judge which it is much of the time. Sometimes someone may be making a joke, and unintentionally cause offence. Often stating an objection pleasantly will solve the problem, and differentiate the bullies from the jokers. As a bully will carry on after being told the comments are hurtful or upsetting, and someone who is merely joking will almost certainly apologise.

Some, myself included, find patronising very offensive. I feel too many people believe that age equals maturity, while, though there is a correlation between them, there are many mature teenagers, and several adults who seem puerile. Comments such as "I don't take advice from anyone who does homework" implies prejudice towards younger age groups, and a great amount of disrespect.

Stalking is generally the worst form used though, where the bully follows their chosen victim through their discussions, in order to irritate or upset them in other threads. This often exaggerates the irritation caused by the other methods employed, as the same aggressive and unpleasant behaviour is duplicated in many threads, and could be considered by some to be a form of offensive spamming.

An anti-bullying petition was recently started to campaign against such activities.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1462961&skip=420&show=20>

Hopefully as the number who signed this increases, we can push towards stopping the few objectionable forum users from acting as such, and make the country a better, happier place.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CIS Collapses

After publication of the controversial article 5

By Joshua Coales

The CIS was a group of micronations with members including new-empire, new-oscland, nova-England, woodstania, and many more. Recently however it seems to have suffered a fatal blow after the publication of "article 5" in the CIS constitution:

Article 5

The Confederate Forces will serve to uphold the Collective Interests of the Member States of the CIS. To Act Independently to outside influences thereby protecting ourselves from attacks and actions such as economic sanctions and military blockades. Each Member State will Uphold it's Obligations to the CIS as it's Ultimate Political Priority and Not Join any Other Collective Alliance

Both new-empire and new-oscland were outraged by this as they were both members of UNES (<http://www.freewebs.com/united-stuff>) and UMOP (<http://www.mmglad.co.uk/foreignaffairs.html>) - other collective alliances - and they got straight to work at contacting the founder of CIS. Subsequently both resigned from their posts as members of CIS and told the Micronational Cartographical Society (MCS) - a highly respected mapping company that only accepts the best micronations - about the controversial article published by the CIS.

The ruler of Treithar, who was said by the CIS to be their ally, threatened a lawsuit against the CIS regarding said article 5. Soon after that the founder of the CIS quickly deleted both new-empire and new-oscland from the members, and a little later he deleted the entire site, saying: "I've hidden the CIS site from its enemies". Their site was <http://www.freewebs.com/theCIS> but that has now been deleted. We are wondering where it will get moved to next.

More recent information

I have received new information in the form of an e-mail addressed to king Thomas of gosling and a conversation with the leader (or dictator) of the CIS. In the e-mail in question I was called a s**t spreader as well as a spammer. The leader of the CIS has planned a peace talk at the week-end, which will include him, me and king Thomas of gosling. He also said he would not let me back into the CIS if I wanted to re-join, and stated that a whole line of micronations are queuing up to join. However, the fact that the website has been hidden suggests otherwise. He also incorrectly claimed that the CIS was created long before the UNES and UMOP. Seeing as the UNES was created at the fall of USC [the USC being a micronational group that collapsed like the CIS has] and the UMOP has been around for so long it has outlived the USC, this is clearly incorrect.

Also in the conversation I had with him he distinctly avoided my question about what the lies were that I had allegedly been spreading, and he refrained from answering when I asked him about his comments on the fact that he is a member of UMOP, which is clearly against the rules stated in the recently published article 5. He also made claims to have a copy of the charter that all the rulers have signed, but to my knowledge I have never received such a charter and certainly never signed one. When I alerted him to these facts he quickly blocked me.

Countries like Treithar (<http://www.treithar.net/>) also have opinions on this matter, and although the ruler of CIS claims to be 20, many believe that he may be younger (due to the actions he has taken and the grammar used). However, at this point our only hope of receiving more information is the peace talk at the weekend. Until then we cannot know what will happen.

The New Utopia?

We met up with Kieran and Rob to discuss a new scheme, one which is hoped will continue to expand and improve and ultimately help the world. A micronation by the name of "Swizzleland".

However, Swizzleland is more than just another micronation, it is hoped that with the support of those who want to make an actual difference it will continue to grow into a community which will question how we as individuals as well as how our governments may impact the lives of others.

"...we aim to develop this idea so that we build up a truly inclusive community online that will be educated about the problems of Trade Justice, Poverty etc and create hub for young and old alike to discuss the political issues that plague our world" - Kieran, November 2005

The long term goals may seem idealistic, but with the passion and drive demonstrated by both Kieran and Rob during the interview, who can say what may happen, but this seems more than mere “micronations project”. The format of a micronation is a cleverly chosen one, in which members are made into an actual community working for change rather than simply a group of people with similar ideas and ideals. It allows the members to be part of what they hope will be a better future, and to see that future begin instantly as soon as they join. Rather than just hoping for change from the usual, citizens of Swizzleland will be able to evolve the political structure day by day, and understand how the changes work to benefit not only themselves, but many others in society.

Swizzleland has aimed high, but it is only by seeking a goal higher than the expected that we will find out where our true boundaries lie. It is even hoped that in the future, Swizzleland will be used in conjunction with schools as a study resource and discussion point encouraging children to become involved and interested in politics at a young age in order to assert their own control over their own futures.

“not overnight, it will take time. Believe that this could capture imagination, especially young people and start to influence thinking at an early age ... [We hope to make] the website a resource for teachers, providing discussion points and documents etc for classes, trying to get the kids to join us - make them officially care.” - Rob, November 2005

The citizens of Lovely are encouraged to work alongside and with Swizzleland, sharing beliefs for a united future against poverty and peace world wide. In the final words from Kieran:

“Come What may, the people shall know the truth and I will fight until my dying day in the hope that one day, yes one day. My brothers and Sisters of this beautiful world shall be able to live in peace, prosperity and a thirst, not just for tea, but LIFE!” - Kieran, November 2005

For more information on Swizzleland, and the ideas proposed, please visit:

<http://www.portyscouts.org.uk/home.html>

POLITICS

PARTY OF ERINYES

An introduction

By Cuddly_Carpy

Well hello indeed dear citizens of Lovely, I am Cuddly_Carpy, you may know me from the boards. If you didn't know already I am leader of the Party of Erinyes (PoE), an official political party of Lovely. I wasn't the leader to begin with. To begin with our leader was a good friend of mine called Erinyes. He got a bit...annoyed shall we say about the amount of IOU spammers around, and so he thought up a way to get over this. He then wondered how to put his idea across, and came up with the medium of politics. Thus the PoE was born. I was the first recruit, being a good mate of his already. I was put in charge of PR, which was fun I admit. I think I'm unique in my way of recruiting, just kind of asking around for interested individuals who are dedicated to Lovely and have the same ideas as the party.

Well I guess that was The Beginning as it were. Ah, those were good times. Good conversations, good people. So now what's the party like? Well, for a start I am now Party Leader. This change occurred soon after Erinyes started Music College. I've seen his text book, I've seen how much work he's got to do, and believe me, he has no time to be on the computer doing anything but work. What little time he does have he spends at his part time job bringing in money so he can keep his flat. I was second in command, so leadership was passed to me and Mike was made Second in Command.

I guess that's about all there is to the hierarchical system in our party. It's just titles really. Everyone has a say in what we do, or at least we try and get everyone involved. Everyone has written their own manifesto for their department, which the rest of us have commented on, maybe offered changes and such, generally making sure we're all getting along and having the same ideas.

This system works rather well for us. The way I see it is, if we had a more rigid system, we'd end up having people who were unhappy and being ignored, and then they'd be rebellious, and it's just all go wrong, which I don't want. I love the conversation that goes on between the party members; we're not just a party, we're good friends too.

Most of us are also regulars on the boards. We want to be a party for the people, we want to change Lovely for the better, and that's going to be what you guys want. The community is what has made this country, so the community is what should dictate how it should work and what needs to be changed in order to make it better and better.

Feel free to talk to any of us. Members of the PoE normally have PoE in their nick-name somewhere on the boards, or you can find the PoE threads and ask questions.

We have a website if you want to find out more about us, the manifesto and our members

<http://www.partyoferinyes.bravehost.com>

The Party of Erinyes – Helping make Lovely lovelier

An update on **THE PARLIAMENT** Democracy in action

By Psychoticmike

Over recent weeks, there has been a growing call for elections, as promised by the government in the early days of the country. Two weeks ago, this promise was fulfilled by the current foreign minister, Kieran Collins, who went beyond what his position required him to do and attempted, successfully, to compensate for the inaction of his fellow cabinet. <http://www.theparliament.org.uk> was established; the first two parties, PoE and RV, were officially recognised, and a forum – <http://www.theparliament.org.uk/phpbb2/index.php> - was created for both party ministers and citizens to discuss political issues regarding both the present and future of Lovely.

There has been criticism from some quarters, comment such as “the only person who has a say in the parliament is Kieran”, and accusations of megalomania have been made.

Kieran has proved these accusations false however, having set up and stabilised the parliament he now hopes that its future will move away from him. He is fully aware of the injustice of one person running the main governmental body, and believes its future to be "in the hands of the people and the MP's they will one day elect".

The parliament site and its numbers are continuing to expand, and several parties have increased their recruitment efforts in hope of joining it. Kieran has assured us that he will continue to "recognise such parties on behalf of His Majesty" and update the site when necessary, until the time when there is sufficient interest and care by the general public that he can hand power over to the citizens of the country.

CULTURE

Questions and Answers

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I have set up a thread to take your questions:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307713?thread=1529933>

So far, the response has been a little limited, partly because I only started it the other day, but here they are, complete (mostly) with answers:

**Q. Who would win a fight between a lion and a tiger?
(noneforyouhiggins)**

A. Aside from the fact that Lions live in Africa and Tigers in Asia, so they would never meet in the wild, according to computer simulation, the lion would win.

**Q. Ted sails away on his boat, he is gone for 3 years, during which time every plank, rope, sail, fibre, etc. is replaced. When he comes back 3 years later his brother is watching for him. When he sees the boat he says "Look, there is Ted's boat". But since it has all been replaced, is it still Ted's boat?
(Oak)**

A. Yes, assuming that Ted replaced all the items himself, and paid for them. It is still a boat, and it still belongs to Ted.

**Q. How much radiation do I need to expose myself with to become 50ft tall?
(Schaferlord)**

A. Exposure to radiation will not make you taller, but too much of the wrong kind will certainly kill you. If you were exposed to sufficient radiation from the right direction, it is conceivable that your shape would eventually be distorted by the impingement of tiny particles on your bodily structure, such that you might grow to 50 feet, but it is unlikely that you would be able to support yourself to stand up after such an ordeal.

Q. How long in front of an open microwave would I have to stand to get that much radiation?

A. An open microwave oven should not emit any radiation if the safety cut-out is working. If not and you were standing in front of the microwave, it would just warm you up a bit. Please do not try this at home.

**Q. What's the difference between a boat, a ship and a yacht?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. A boat is a watercraft, usually smaller than most ships. A ship is a large, sea-going watercraft. Conventional wisdom has it that a boat can fit on a ship, but a ship can't fit on a boat. A Yacht is defined as any vessel, (except a dinghy) used for pleasure cruising and/or yacht racing.

**Q. What's the difference between a porpoise and a dolphin?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. The porpoises are small cetaceans of the family Phocoenidae and are related to whales and dolphins. A key difference between them and dolphins is the shape of the teeth and of the head. Porpoises tend to be smaller and stouter than dolphins, and have small, rounded heads and blunt jaws instead of beaks. Their teeth are spade-shaped, whereas dolphins have conical teeth. A porpoise's dorsal fin is triangular, rather than curved like that of many dolphins.

**Q. Why are teacakes called cakes and Eccles cakes also called cakes when they are clearly not cakes?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. The term "Cake" is open to interpretation, hence the debate over Jaffa Cake: Cake or Biscuit?

**Q. Why cant I think of a decent question?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Because your mind is focussed on other things, or you can only think of indecent questions.

**Q. How much will I enjoy my weekend in London on the 10th?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Immensely, I am sure, if you attend the Lovely Christmas Party...

**Q. Is this enough to help you write your article?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Yes.

**Q. What shall I cook for dinner?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Treat yourself - have a takeaway. I would gladly cook for you myself, but am so far away it would be cold by the time it was delivered.

**Q. Will the world end if I don't get my own way?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Perhaps.

**Q. Shall I buy a whip?
(Baby Jaffa Cake)**

A. Only if you want to get your own way.

Please post more questions on the thread for the next issue!

SOCIETY

Autism Article Follow-Up

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Following my article in the last issue of the Guardian Angel, there was an item on the BBC News Website last week regarding autistic traits found in non-Autistic members of the families of people with Autism. This I found fascinating, since I hinted at this in my article too! Here is a link, in case you missed the news item:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4464434.stm>

EGO

By psychoticmike

One factor I have noticed about society is how very few people actually praise themselves, generally out of fear of seeming arrogant or rude. Ego is not a bad characteristic, it shows a person has pride and confidence. It is far too often viewed as being identical to arrogance, which is pride taken to such an extent that the person becomes oblivious to their faults. Arrogance, or being “stuck up”, is a fault, however the extent to which people seem to defend themselves against arrogance leaves a lack of satisfaction and self-esteem in society.

There are far too many cliché's and false beliefs that encourage such thinking. “It was nothing”. It wasn't nothing, if it was nothing people wouldn't be complimenting or thanking you for it. Be glad that people acknowledge you deserve credit. Comment on any success you achieve. When people compliment you, accept it, when people insult you ignore it. Far too many people get that the wrong way round. It's often termed bragging or boasting, both of which now have too many negative connotations to be considered acceptable now, always being associated with being done in excess.

Those who do praise themselves, have plenty of ego, brag, are often more confident and are either viewed as amusing or irritating. The latter often caused by envy and resentment, and the former by those who realise the good qualities, and have praised the person previously. It is important not to resent others' qualities, but focus on your own and be proud of them.

And before people ask, I'm not a therapist, just a teenager who thinks an unhealthily large

amount about psychology and society.

LOVELY RP

The Dark Side Of Lovely

By Kael

Hello one and all. This week I will be looking at gangs and criminals Also later in this article I will be getting comment from many lovelies on what they believe is the biggest threat to our life and culture.

Gangs

There are few gangs in lovely, but I believe I have whittled it down to three.

MoM- Started on the 11th of September 2005 by godfathermom1, their criminal activity is not very high as they have not been interfering with lovely in itself but with other gangs like the plankton massive (which never really kicked off) and mafia (started off by themobking) They have 20 recruits thus making it the biggest "gang" but not the biggest criminals.

CgC- The carpe gour collective started on the 5th of September, the littlest gang in lovely but possibly one of the most violent, started off by princess Keitha and prince Kael, who had had enough of the security of lovely and jerked life back into place Their name means brotherhood of the wolfs as the two founders were both bitten by a wolf earlier on in lovely. Keitha means she-warrior and Kael means mighty fighter. Their criminal activities have since calmed down but once the three get back together hell will once again break loose.

The Vivas- now I am not sure if I have the right to call this group a gang or a political party, they have great ambitions for this country but many of them argue how to take control. Since the war they have gone underground but are still in everyone's memory. Psychotic mike, a fellow writer, is a member and his views are calm and political whereas others like sep and biffa's views are violent. Their numbers almost reached a hundred once.

Criminals

There are many, many criminals in lovely, some have Come and gone (i.e. trip and Crouched_potato_smitten_wombat) but many have been the same criminal all the way (i.e. baby jesus). Now when many loyalists try to stop them it ultimately leads to war, and for those who do not know this, lovely was in a state of cold war about a month ago. I will be covering this soon. As it stands right now right here there aren't many criminals. Many have been locked up because of their comments in the pre-mod depression, but they are not true criminals. As for baby jesus' whereabouts I have no idea, but if someone does see him can you get in contact with me as I would like an interview.

Threats on lovely

This is what people believe are the greatest threat to lovely:

Psychotic mike - see his article for his belief

Id05 - apathy and rumormongering

Reddler - believes he is the biggest threat
My mum Lady Rebel - Spammers or it being shut down by the BBC
West_end_girl (my 2nd mum) - The un-lovelies
Trip - Violent arguments over petty things

ENTERTAINMENT

An Entertaining Present

By Jitsu_ste

Well we all know it's coming, most of us are dreading it, the bloodshed and tears. No I'm not talking about the local derby between united and city or a war that could destroy our way of life. No it's worse than that, it's Christmas.

Well we've known it's on the way since September when the decorations went up and all the presents hit the shelves and the amount of cheap to make but expensive to buy toys advertised went mad. It seems Christmas starts earlier every year, and as Easter started in January at my local shop it's all getting worse. So the build up and possible disappointment is bigger.

So as your entertainment correspondent I'm going to give some tips on some entertaining presents to give to people and a good place to find them.

The presents for the teenage to 30 something male

Well as you should know we men like to play computer games. You can't go wrong with the new Matrix game Path of Neo. You get to play Neo right from the beginning of the trilogy. Starting at the escape from the building to the I Know Kung Fu training and through to the burly brawl and more. The game expands on the films and more tasks are available than in the films. I love the way you get to play the lobby to find out how good you are at the game and choose your difficulty level. You then get to start the game from when you get the phone. I've been playing for a while and still have loads to go which is always a good sign. Batman begins is a great DVD for men. Loads of great fighting and made really well too. Christian Bale is amazing with the learning to fight and kung fu sequences looking great. War of the Worlds is a great one if you love special effects. Not the best acting, but a good film that keeps your attention. However, it's an American remake. Hollywood has got it's hands on part of the film. I won't spoil it though.

A DVD for the girls of that age is a hard one for me as I'm male, so I've taken some advice on those choices. Desperate Housewives has just come out on DVD. The complete season is out now. My sister loves that. There's also a new version of Titanic out which has 4 discs. I think that may have gone bit far with special features. It has 'My Heart Will go On' music video from Celine Dion but I'd keep well away from that. There is also the double film set of the two Bridget Jones films in one box. Not too bad for a bloke to sit through, as it's funny as well. Another one a female friend said would go down well is the new film 'A Very Long Engagement' where a woman goes searching for her fiancée who went missing in the trenches of the first world war. I'd include a box of tissues with that gift as it seems like it'll be a weepy to me.

Well for either men or women there are a few. If you know someone with a multi region DVD player the complete series of Lost is available from America quite cheap from amazon.com. A real hit with lots of people lately. Also there's a few Comedy DVDs available. There's the new Jimmy Carr stand up show, he's got a great dry sense of

humour and I can't wait to get this one myself. His last DVD, where he put the following advert in a paper: 'Lost, Virginitiy. Yes! Get in.' was a Christmas present to be proud of and I'm sure that this one won't disappoint either. There's also the latest Dave Spikey DVD. If you know Phoenix nights you'll know Jerry the Saint StClair who Dave plays, but not many know he also helped to write it. I've been to see Dave Spikey live twice and can say hand or heart that he is one of the funniest comics that I've ever seen, I was laughing so hard my throat hurt and tears were running down my face. He's a brilliant double comedy award-winning guy, and even came on to the stage to do an encore as Jerry StClair complete with black bin bags. House of Flying Daggers is also great if you know some who liked Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon. The fight scenes are amazing and it has a little romance in it too.

Music is a passion of mine, and with such a great abundance of British talent going around at the moment a few suggestions are ripe for the picking. If you're into the energy filled stuff going around lately there's bands such as The Subways (Young For Eternity) who put a great deal of energy into there performances. Maximo Park (A Certain Trigger) are another new British band who have a great energy to put across in their performing and are storming the Radio 1 play-lists. If your intended present recipient is into a mix of musical genres Hard-Fi (Stars of CCTV) have a list of influences including reggae, hi-hop, ska and punk-rock, combining to make their great type of music which is quite different from the norm. If you want something a little more political Bloc Party (Silent Alarm) are your guys. Their anti -war and -Bush messages are put across well in their album, which has just had a re-release with a DVD, so well worth getting. Kaiser Chiefs (Employment) is a band that many people are also raving about recently. It is going down a storm with most people I know. They are also releasing a DVD soon called Enjoyment which hopefully will be out for Xmas. If your stocking filler is for a metal addict My Chemical Romance (Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge) are doing well, their most recent album came out in 2004, but they've only just become known on our shores as Zane Lowe and Jo Whiley started playing them recently. A good mix of angst, despair and anger for a band that have been going for a little while but are new to us.

If you're looking for something for the older generations in your buying list or, just people who appreciate the more mature side of entertainment, you cant go wrong with Tim Burton's Big Fish. A great tale about a lot of tall tales, the story of a storyteller and how his life affects so many people in a great way. If you know Burton and his attention to detail you'll know his sets are always beautifully dressed and films made with a great determination to create perfection on screen, which happens with most of his films. If they like the lighter side of life and comedy Classics the Goon Show is now available on many CDs and a few books accompany them now. Now the Goon Show leads on to my next suggestion. They were the pioneers in alternative comedy and they greatly influenced the guys from Monty Python. Their complete movie Box-set is going cheap on play.com: only £15.99 for the four films on five discs.

Well hopefully my suggestions help you buy gifts for your loved ones that don't end up being the pair of socks or dodgy after shave & perfume that you usually get in a rush in the run up to Christmas. All these gift are available on play.com at a good price and as you're on the net a bit anyway being in Lovely why not get some shopping done while you chat. But the best thing about it is they don't charge for delivery; I got most of my shopping done there last year and all came in plenty of time plus pretty much everything was cheaper than the shops. If like me you fancy getting yourself a present while you're on there Tim Burton's masterpiece Nightmare Before Christmas is going for the tiny Price of £6.99, a must for watching at Christmas. So until next time, happy Shopping and get them something entertaining, unless you don't get on well in which case the novelty socks from Poundstretcher are a great choice.

ADVERTS

LOVELY JOB CENTRE OPEN:

Seeking employment? Need staff? Visit the Job Centre:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2293115?thread=1557014>

SECRETARY WANTED:

Hardworking, busy citizen seeks secretary to assist with general typing duties, note taking and refreshments. Computer experience and a polite manner a must. Contact:

ecaps1@yahoo.com

SPORT

World of Lovely Sport

The Lovely Sports Report, by giddsey.

Hey Readers,

giddsey here, and I'm gonna give you a tour of the wonderful world of sport in Lovely, and no sign of Dickie Davies!

Since joining lovely I have seen many forums come and go, but I think now we have a regular number of threads being used. I have attempted to find all the main protagonists on sports and interviewed them. What I will say is, come and join us you will find some friendly people and some leftfield activities as well as the traditional sports.

Anyway read on and if you want to visit any of these sports threads, jog on!

INTERVIEWEE: LARS_DUDLEY, THE LARS AND GIDDSEY SHOW AND PREDICT THE SCORE FORUMS

How long have you been in Lovely?

- *Since sometime between the first episode finishing and the second episode starting....*

Why did you become a citizen?

- *Dunno.. thought it seemed like a laugh and my brother signed up before me with his mates so I thought why not...*

What is your thread all about?

- *Well, its not really my thread. Its the Lars AND Giddsey show which is where Giddsey and I "host" a thread where we discuss the main issues of the footballing world with other people. There are a few regulars (ladymarie and occasionally Gaz) and of course theres our token Scot, Dizzydolan No football show is complete without a Scottish presenter. Basically its like Match Of The Day, but its more "footballing news of the day". Predict the score... The thread is about predicting the scores for the upcoming sporting*

events (but mainly used for football...) and gaining points for your correct estimates. You get 3 points for guessing the correct winning team, correct score and correct goal scorers. You get 2 points for the correct outcome and correct winning team, and you get 1 point for the correct winning team. So you could just say "Man Utd will beat Liverpool" and if you were right you'd get one point, or you could say "Man Utd will beat Liverpool 1-0" and if you were right you'd get 2 points, or you can say "Man Utd will beat Liverpool 1-0 and Rooney will score" and if you were right you'd get 3 points... easy peasy right? I'll stop waffling now....

How often do you post?

- Usually at work when I'm bored but ironically I'm posting this at home because I'm in my room waiting for the footy to start...

Was this your first posting?

- Er no, don't think so.

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- Giddsey, Dizzydolan, Ladymarie, Twist, Lady H, Punk Rocker, Minister of all things rocking, Gaz, Lady Londoner and anyone else I talk to (not that many really!) that I might have forgotten..

Finally do you agree with the following statement? "The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideals, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- Thought that was the idea in the first place? That people would become "citizens" and "live" in Lovely...? I'm not too fussed whether Danny is King or whether it's about his ideals or not to be honest as I'm not here to be a brown nose but I suppose I agree with the statement....

Lars_Dudley, Packs Steve Bruce's lunchbox.

The Lars and Giddsey show. Lovely's own MOTD

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1295116>)

Predict the Score!!! (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1100629>)

INTERVIEWEE: LAURA, MOTOR RACING FORUM

How long have you been in Lovely?

- I have been in Lovely since about September 20th, I'd have liked to have joined earlier, but I didn't have the internet until I moved to Uni!!

Why did you become a citizen?

- I became a citizen because I saw Danny Wallace on Breakfast news (he knighted Natasha Kaplinsky!) and I thought he was quite funny and the idea was ace! So I watched HTSYOC on TV (also citizen TV, which was difficult, as in Scotland citizen TV was at midnight!!!). Then I wanted to join up.

What is your thread all about?

- My thread was originally designed to find other F1 fans, as I don't know that many people into it! It seems to be in a minority compared to football, rugby, etc. But I was convinced there were others out there! Everything has developed from there, we now have the LGPC (Lovely Grand Prix Championship). The idea was taken from Ambassador_Smith's

Spexico design as seen on Citizen TV. We have 18 citizens entered now, we have 18 countries from the A1GP (we didn't manage to get 25 citizens unfortunately) and each race weekend we do a draw and each citizen is assigned a country, and points are given according to how successful that country is that weekend. We haven't been officially recognised by Danny, but the Championship seems to be going well. At the end of the A1 season, our new championship season will use F1.

How often do you post?

- I post a bit less now, Uni is catching up with me, but usually every couple of days, I tend to focus on this thread more than anything.

Was this your first posting?

- I don't think this thread was my first post, I think I introduced myself on a couple, but it was definitely my first thread, and I'm delighted with its success

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

A BIG shout out to cisco, for being a massive help with the LGPC, Ambassador_Smith for giving us the idea in the first place and ThatKidWithTheThing for helping us sort out the rules and regulations when we were trying to get the LGPC off the ground. Thanks also to everyone posting in this thread, especially the competitors of the LGPC.

Finally do you agree with the following statement?"The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideals, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- I like Danny and his ideals, I understand he is busy, but it would be nice if he posted every now and then. We all have things to do, but a post only takes a couple of minutes. Also, we have been promised more citizen TV and nothing more has been said about it, which is a shame. I emailed him about the LGPC and I heard nothing back, not even a courtesy email, sadly. I'd like it to stay about Danny, but it's becoming less and less so.

Laura, F1 supremo.

Does anyone like Formula 1

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1052798>

INTERVIEWEE: PUNK ROCKER, EXTREME SPORTS

cracks fingers and sits back in chair

How long have you been in Lovely?

- For almost 4 months. I think I joined in mid-July. (Cant remember the exact date.)

Why did you become a citizen?

*- Because I was not happy with the capitalist nation that I was once a part of. They spoke of democracy, freedom and peace but instead I found myself being chased by the old bill, my opinions and views ignored, with riots going off left right and centre - Where's the democracy, freedom and peace amongst this lot??? I was also not happy with my former leader Tony Blair. *cough*FASCIST*cough**

What is your thread all about?

*- Hmmm... *sips red-bull to maintain concentration* Well there were already threads for the more traditional sports: Football, Rugby, Cricket e.t.c So I thought I'd start one up for the*

sports that are clearly being overlooked...Who wouldn't want to jump out of a moving vehicle on a skateboard down the M25? WHO-eh?

How often do you post?

- Like every few days duuuude.

Was this your first posting?

- Nooo...my first was one the late 'Society of Punk' thread. Dunno where that is now.

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- Everyone I've ever had a conversation with...HELLO! Hope your all well.

Finally do you agree with the following statement? "The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideas, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- True. Because now that he's left, gone, had a baby on BBC3, moved house, changed jobs, got a new haircut, bought a new car, possibly a new house in the country, there's nobody left to run this place apart from us lot.

Punk rocker, extreme to the max.

Extreme sports. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1235328>)

INTERVIEWEE: DIZZYDOLAN, CELTIC FC FORUM

How long have you been in Lovely?

- I've been a citizen since the end of the airing of the first program.

Why did you become a citizen?

- As I though it was a great concept, something which had passed through my head a few times too.

What is your thread all about?

- This thread is all about The Old Firm (Glasgow Celtic and Glasgow Rangers), but is also to incorporate other general Scottish football topics, no matter how vaguely connected to Scottish football and also for any other banter that other thread users wish to add in!

How often do you post?

*- I post several times a day, as such, I'm fairly high up on the IOUs list, not something that really matters too much to me though. Was this your first posting?
I'd posted far to many posts before this to remember which number this was.*

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- A big shout out to Giddsey, Hobo, Lady H, Lady London, Lady Reblet, DJ Jazzy, PirateAsTheArtist, Babyjaffacake, Friendly Computer XP, Miranda, Kael, Kieran, coolmin, barcode, CitizenLove, perfectsmiley_em, psychoticmike, ladymarie, EVIL_MONKEY, maggot, Lars_Dudley. I'm sure there are others, apologies to those not mentioned that should have been, just give me a virtual slap the next time we meet on the boards.

Finally do you agree with the following statement? "The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideals, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- I agree with the statement as there is no interaction with Danny Wallace on the boards, the site has not progressed any more in a long time either. It is now more of a community online here and with that goes the assorted mix of folk that inhabit it. I'd like to see another series and more development made to what the program set out to do, to turn this from not just a virtual country, but into something real!

Dizzydolan! Scotland's finest.

Old Firm. Celtic are dominating the Gers

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1421073>)

INTERVIEWEE: JLSLYGO9(\$5.92), LIVERPOOL F.C. RULES FORUM

How long have you been in Lovely?

- I have been in Lovely since the start of September.

Why did you become a citizen?

- I became a citizen because one of my mates was one and I'd thought it would be a interesting experience.

What is your thread all about?

- The thread is about how Liverpool FC rule the world!

How often do you post?

- This thread has gone a little quite lately. I how ever post regularly on the site. I'm 54th or so on the rich list!

Was this your first posting?

- No it wasn't. I can't remember what it was sorry.

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- If you mean in terms of mentioning people then I'd like to give barcode and the FFF a shout.

Finally do you agree with the following statement? "The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideals, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- Sort of. It is becoming less about Danny but there is still a lot of focus around him in some areas of the site like the elections thing which I'm sure your all aware of.

JLSlygo9(\$5.92) Liverpool's No1 fan.

Liverpool F.C. Rules (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=946542>)

INTERVIEWEE: SQUIRESSDUCKIE, BOUNCY CASTLE

How long have you been in Lovely?

- don't know exactly since the summertime

Why did you become a citizen?

- not really that sure, it sounded fun and interesting and it couldn't exactly hurt

What is your thread all about?

- its not my thread, its lady r's thread i didn't start it, but its a bouncy castle, and is lots of fun as bouncy castles are

How often do you post?

- depends, ummm most week days when im on the computer "doing work"

Was this your first posting?

- no, and i cant remember what my first posting was sozzle, these answers are a bit pants aren't they, i said i wasn't a very interesting interviewee

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- anyone whose hard of hearing, i don't really like shouting though as its a bit rude

Finally do you agree with the following statement? "The country of Lovely becomes less and less to do with Danny Wallace and his ideals, and more to do with the people living in Lovely via the message boards?" Discuss.

- i do agree, but i don't think its a bad thing, as a country should be focused around the people in it not the leader or it would be a Nazi style dictatorship, and it doesn't really matter as whatever its about or who its about its jolly nice and so are the people on the message boards

hope that's ok sozzle for being a bit boring

Squiress Duckie, looks after your shoes on the Bouncy Castle

Bouncy Castle (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=1172746>)

INTERVIEWEE: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE L.F.A. OWNER OF BOWFLAT UTD, BOWFLAT UTD F.C. FORUM

How long have you been in Lovely?

- I have been a citizen since the first time it was on TV I joined straight after watching the first show.

Why did you become a citizen?

- I became a citizens because i thought king Danny's is a great king and thought that the citizens of his country would be as mad as he is. i believe that is true and there are a couple that easily beat him.

What is your thread all about?

- My tread is bout tryin to get people to join or as least support bow flat united.

How often do you post?

- I Try to post as often as i can so my threads are up 2 date and on the first page also this earns me some ious.

Was this your first posting?

- No it isn't my first posting i have been for a while.

Who would you like to give a shout out to?

- I would like to give a shout out 2 all the bfu players and hopefully some of them that have been away will come back.

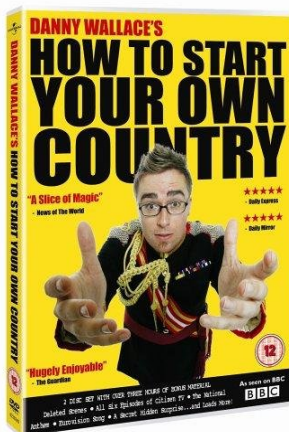
Don't let the Sun go down on Lovely

By Razerbug

Lovely was, and I hope can one day be, the greatest nation on earth. We had a king with high ideals, media contacts, prime time TV slots and public speaking skills, and his high ideals touched over 50,000 unhappy British citizens and, for a time, it was lovely.

In just the first 6 weeks of the show, we saw our country grow, get a name, a national anthem, a flag, government system, currency and status. We launched a failed invasion, and a failed Eurovision entry (the second more dangerous than the first really). Our chests swelled with pride because it seems this wasn't just talking, this was doing! And for a time, it was lovely.

About half way through the run of the show; our king had become less and less accessible, but this was to be expected, we numbered in our thousands, and we still felt our king was listening to us and making our words into actions.



By the time the show went off air, we where a nation, we didn't have land, and this meant we couldn't stand with the nations of the earth, but we had ideas! We had voices and we had The Internet, and we used them; Lovely soon had schools, universities, a football association, churches, a bank, a museum and of course a fine free press. And for a time, it was lovely.

But where is our King? – No one can remember when he last posted in general conversation with his subjects. His last e-mail was over a month ago... even that was just to let us know about dannywallace.com. Does anyone remember Join Me? This was Danny's first "cyber nation" of sorts, uniting people of a like mind under good morals and ideas. For a while, this was in national newspapers and paved the way for Danny to put out a DVD.

Yet now, although it still exists (and I suspect many Joinees are now Lovelies) it seems to have been forgotten. I fear for Lovely. If we sit back and internalise and stagnate in our increasingly spammed and trolled message boards we will disappear. We need to be growing and accomplishing new things at the same rate we were when Citizens TV was on the air. There is still so much more we could accomplish, there's still a long way to go from being a funny idea to being a real country – which was Danny's initial aim... right? The only new thing to have appeared for Lovely, since Danny went off air is another book.

We need to get territory, get our seat on the UN, play England Vs Lovely international, show other nations how they can and should behave and help nations "stop the mugging and start the hugging" – Hell, I'd settle for that Eurovision act.

We need charisma, we need to be seen by the nation, need someone who can walk up to presidents and princes and talk to them like equals... in short, we need out King back!

There's so much still to do Danny. Lead your people forward!

The Theory of Being Relatively Lovely

By the curator of lovely records

Tom Cruise is a successful guy. He's a multi-millionaire acting giant (in box office not height terms, obviously) who has dated some of the world's most beautiful women, and has succeeded in getting 'That-Girl-From-Dawson's-Creek-Who-Took-Her-Top-Off-In-That-Film' pregnant.

With Tom, you have a man who appears to have everything he's ever wished for, and probably a bit more. It has often beguiled me to know how he built this incredible career, with seemingly such little talent. Well I have the answer. Tom Cruise has followed the same set of rules throughout his entire working career, and whilst some outsiders may mock and taunt, there is no denying that it's worked, and would probably work for anyone in his position.

Some of you may assume that I'm about to launch into a recruitment drive for the Church of Scientology, make you all use your first initial instead of your Christian names so that you too can sound pointlessly mystical like L. Ron Hubbard, and that I'll then ask you all to set up a Standing Order for 10% of your gross income to be sent directly to me. As good as that sounds to me, (my bank details are available on request), I'm afraid you'd be wrong.

Whilst I'm sure Tom is happy with his beliefs in his chosen religion, it's the OTHER set of rules that he has followed that I'm referring to; a set of rules that I'm not entirely certain if Tom himself knows he's followed. I shall call it "The Tom Cruise Theory". Granted, this theory only applies to his working life in the movies, but then that's where we see him the most, so it must be true.

"The Tom Cruise Theory" is a storyline that the vast majority of his films follow, consisting of:

- Step 1. Tom is a brilliant <insert job title>
- Step 2. Tom has some sort of tragic experience
- Step 3. Tom loses all his confidence and becomes a rubbish <insert job title>
- Step 4. Tom meets a beautiful girl, but sadly has already quit being a <insert job title>.
- Step 5. Tom heroically regains all his confidence, because at least the girls still like him.
- Step 6. Tom once again is a world beating <insert job title> and lives happily ever after.

Now, for Days of Thunder, insert "Race-car driver", for Top Gun insert "Fighter pilot", for Cocktail insert "Barman", for Jerry Maguire insert "Sports Agent" and so on, and so forth. When Tom has made a film that deviates from his tried and tested theory, it seems to be, more often than not, a roundly criticised flop. (Vanilla Sky, Eyes Wide Shut....) As you can see, having a theory by which you live your life can make you a success in your field.

Just like Hollywood, The Nation of Lovely is a complex but civilised society. Just like every other country, it is crammed full of citizens with differing opinions. One of the areas that causes endless debate is the subject of what some call "false loveliness" but that others see as simply "being nice".

On the one hand there are Citizens with the perception that Lovely is over-run with sycophants and cliques that will ultimately bring destruction to Danny's Flat, in much the same vein that the (formerly) Ginger Chris Evans sacked his "production team" of best

friends and ex-girlfriends from Virgin Radio's breakfast show because he tired of the fact that they would even applaud his ability to single-handedly flush the toilet

On the other hand, there are Citizens who don't see anything wrong with a hug to say hello, and a hug to say goodbye, and a hug to ensure people have a nice lunch hour, and a hug to say 'see you in the next thread'. These Citizens see themselves as being friendly, and encompassing the very nature of being a Citizen of Lovely.

There is nothing wrong with being friendly, nor is there anything wrong with being more emotionally reserved. Without either, our society would quickly fail through a lack of public interest. Like Eldorado.

I personally believe Lovely is in need of something. Something that can make us even greater than we already are. We need a Tom Cruise ethos. Our very own theory of living. The Theory of being relatively Lovely, if you will.

The Theory of being Relatively Lovely is simply a guideline to how we can all have our opinions, stick to them, win our debates and then all still get along at the end. It has no rules, only suggestions to make Lovely just as great, if a little less psychologically turbulent.

Carefully named after the famous King Midas, the greedy and selfish King from Greek Mythology who wished he had everything he touched turn to gold, only for him to forget to read the small print of his pact with the god Dionysus and go a bit loopy. I am drawing no comparisons between King Midas and our King, and I'm not saying we'll end up loopy, it's just that his name makes a nice acronym for the purposes of remembering our social code of conduct. Allow me to explain the Midas touch, in the style of a catchy American Cheerleader Chant.

M is for Make Contact

I is for Investigate

D is for Decide

A is for Act

S is for Stay in touch.

Put them together and you get the Official Tom Cruise seal of life-affirming approval. Told you it was catchy.

Make Contact. A simple Good Morning, with or without a hug, makes people feel welcome and warm inside.

Investigate. How are they? Who are they? What is that stain on their chin?

Decide. Do you get along? Do you enjoy the civilised debate? Do you want to be seen with someone with marmite on their face?

Act. Do something. Wipe that Chin. Explain why you don't agree. Amend your approach.

Stay in touch. By staying in touch, not only do we go back to Making Contact, but we can maintain a level of civility to each other that will stop cavernous rifts forming within our lovely land, and perhaps by making contact with that person for a second, third and fourth time, we might even find friends where there once were enemies.

If it works for Tom, Why can't it work for us?

~ Next issue due out on Sunday 18th December 2005 ~