

# A hairy finish to worldwide web mission

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WHILE some youngsters complain of little to do with their spare time, this was not the case for two former Banbury pals.

As part of a game that transcends cyberspace and the real world, Tom Gibbard and Jowan Barnes, both 16, attached fake moustaches to a number of Banbury landmarks last week.

Both teens play the San Francisco-based online collaboration game SFZero where players go out into the real world and complete certain tasks, posting proof on the website to gain points.

The pair – who both grew up in Banbury, but now live in other parts of the country – decided to attach fake moustaches to the Fine Lady and her horse, a music shop statue, the back of a bus and two smiling workers on the window of a wine warehouse.

“If you say you are art students people do not really think twice. It’s fun and the community is great,” said Tom.



“Other tasks we’ve done include digging a labyrinth at Great Yarmouth beach, making a giant

Monopoly board and dressing up as zombies.”

The better a task is completed, the more people will vote for it online and the more points it receives.

The task Mr Gibbard and Mr Barnes completed was named La Moustache Fausse and was the first task performed in Banbury.

It involved making moustaches with cardboard and string and sticking them on the landmarks with white tack.

The mission was to “execute an epic addition of a false moustache to a publicly-viewable image or multiple images over which you do not have original creative control”.

Mr Gibbard said: “We’ve both played SFZero for a while and we’ve both completed many tasks.

“While we were applying the moustaches, we didn’t get much reaction.

“We did see someone chuckling and taking a photo.”

SFZero is inspired by the work of a 1960s Marxist group called the



**ON THE NOSE:** Above, Banbury’s Fine Lady statue and her horse sport temporary moustaches, and left, Chalky’s statue gets the treatment too

Situationists and aims to get people to engage with the outdoors rather than watching TV or a computer screen.

Co-creator Sean Mahan explained: “We put a lot of effort into making sure that players are in charge of the

game, not us – it’s not our role to tell players what to do or how to live their lives. We want to provide something that helps them develop new means of interacting with the world beyond the repetition of everyday life.”

## In brief

### Tourism a boon for economy

TOURISM contributes more than £220 million to West Oxfordshire’s economy annually, with almost four million people visiting the district each year.

An Economic Impact of Tourism study carried out by Tourism South East shows that tourism-related spending – for example, accommodation costs, food and drink, and entry fees to venues and attractions – has increased in recent years.

The survey shows a rise in spending of £8.6 million over two years, from £212.8 million to £221.4 million.

### Gold medal for estate owner

GREAT Tew Estate near Chipping Norton has been presented with the prestigious 2008 Bledisloe Gold Medal.

Judged by the Royal Agricultural Society, the accolade was given to estate owner James Johnston.

Each year it is awarded to a landowner who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the successful land management and development of an agricultural estate in England.

## ‘We need more police’ claims councillor

MORE bobbies should be on the beat in the Banbury area to help prevent crimes like vandalism, according to a district councillor.

Cllr Rick Atkinson (Con, Adderbury) said it was not the fault of the police but more officers were needed. He was speaking after youths vandalised the boathouse near the lake in Adderbury and caused £1,000 of damage.

Cllr Atkinson said: “I saw the youths going down to the lake. The roof of the boat house was smashed, they sawed the drainpipe off and smashed tiles on the summerhouse.

“The next day they wrenched the door of the boathouse open and they took the boat out on the lake. It is now leaking and the parish council will have to pay to have it all repaired.”

He added: “I rang the police and they said they would attend and would try to send someone down later. If they had come on that Saturday



**FOOTING THE BILL:** Left, Cllr Diane Bratt, chairman of the Adderbury Lake Committee, with Cllr Rick Atkinson at the boathouse. Right, a smashed noticeboard at the site

night, it might have prevented the initial damage. It boils down to the fact that the police are undermanned. It is not their fault.”

Police attended the incident on the following Monday. Now Cllr Atkinson said the lake will remain shut from “dusk to dawn”.

Thames Valley Police Spokesman Toby Shergold said: “A call was received but at that time there was no evidence of a crime having been committed or being in progress so it would not be a priority for us to attend.

“At that time on Sunday morning, many of our officers



would be involved in policing in Banbury.

“Once the crime was called into us the following day, we attended. As criminal damage is not a priority crime, victims do not get attendance as soon as those who are victims of, for example, burglary or robbery.”



## Clowning around for birthday

PRIMARY school children enjoyed a circus-themed tea party (left) to celebrate a 100th anniversary.

King’s Sutton Primary School reaches its centenary this year and last Wednesday youngsters dressed up as clowns, strong men and acrobats to mark the occasion.

They learned circus skills, made clown bow ties and hats and finished the day with a talent show.

Acting headteacher Wendy Baldwin said: “It was just a really good way to start our celebrations and it was nice that the whole school was able to celebrate together. Next

school year there will be another party and the children will dress up in Edwardian costumes.

“Although the school was finished in March 1908, it did not open to children until September, so that’s our real anniversary.”

A birthday meal, organised by staff and the parent-teacher-friends association (PTFA), was enjoyed by all in the playground.

Miss Baldwin said: “The school has always had a really central place in the village. We’re very much a community school.

The children feel a sense of

history because of the building and they’re very excited about the coming year.”

In September children will be given an enamel centenary badge to help them remember the anniversary and the school would welcome any images and memories villagers have of the school.

Miss Baldwin has now finished her time at King’s Sutton school and will start as headteacher at Farthinghoe Primary School in September.

New headteacher Nick Peters, who has come from a school in Bicester, will take over the headship at King’s Sutton.



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