

Hello Hertfordshire scouts!

Welcome to a brand new edition of 'International Matters', which will hopefully be coming out 4 times a year, to keep you up to date with all things global in the county and further afield. If you have any suggestions, or you would like to advertise an international trip or event, just pop me an email at

manon.burbidge@btinternet.com

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DATES/FESTIVALS

- ♦ **2017: UN Year for Sustainable Tourism**
- ♦ **28th January– 15th February: Chinese New Year.** 2017 is the year of the Rooster. Those born in this year are said to be punctual, independent and humorous. Celebrations end with the Lantern Festival, marked with lantern parades, while traditional foods such as Tangyuan are eaten. Read on to find out how a scout from Hong-Kong celebrates Chinese New Year! (London will be full of events and festivities during this time: visit <http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/chinese-new-year> for more info!)
- ♦ **28th February: Shrove Tuesday**
- ♦ **13th March: Holi.** Holi is the Hindu festival of colour, signifying the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. It is celebrated in India and Nepal. The festival includes friendly coloured powder-paint fights in public spaces, singing, dancing and visiting family. London will host a range of Holi-themed events around this time, **otherwise 'Colour Runs' are held throughout the year.**
- ♦ **17th March: St. Patrick's Day**
- ♦ **11-18th April: Passover**
- ♦ **16th April: Easter Sunday**

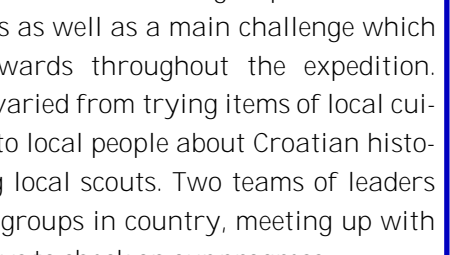
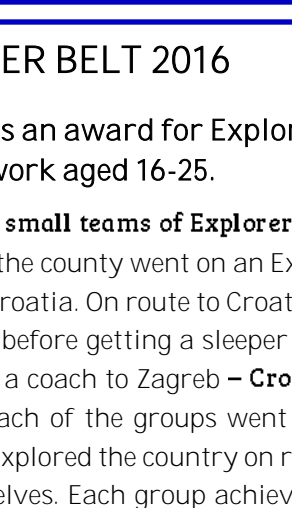
News from the County

The summer of 2016 was a busy year for international activities in Hertfordshire. Expedition locations included Swaziland and Croatia, which you can read more about below.

SWAZILAND 2016

"Once again, Hertfordshire scouts led an expedition to Swaziland in the recent summer. We continued our partnership project, the building of a community centre in Malibeni on a site we had cleared in 2014. **It's not all hard work; but it is all great fun!** The expedition began with a trip to Kruger National Park in South Africa, where we spent two days on safari and relaxing after the long flight. Whilst working on the project in the following weeks, we stayed with Gogo Khoza, the grandmother of one of the Swazi Rover Scouts we work with. Her homestead is the perfect place to experience Swaziland with chickens clucking around your feet and real family life going on. The expedition ended with a few days of relaxation and fun including a wonderful day of white water rafting and abseiling, as well as a short stay in a hotel. Another expedition will be going ahead in the summer of 2018, so come and join the team and have **an experience that you will treasure forever.**"

-Katie Goodwin, 2016 participant-

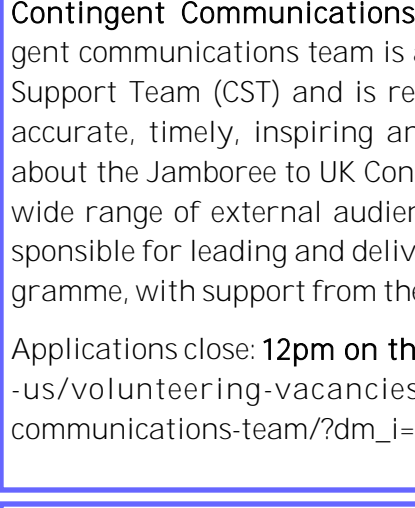


Interested in getting involved? Deadlines for the 2018 expedition is **2nd February 2017.**

Visit <http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/international/county-expedition-ekhaya-eswaziland-2018/> for more information!

EXPLORER BELT 2016

The Explorer Belt is an award for Explorers and Network aged 16-25.



"This summer several small teams of Explorers and Network from across the county went on an Explorer Belt Expedition to Croatia. On route to Croatia we spent a day in Zurich before getting a sleeper train to Ljubljana and then a coach to Zagreb – Croatia's capital. From there each of the groups went their separate ways as we explored the country on routes we had planned ourselves. Each group achieved 10 smaller projects as well as a main challenge which we worked towards throughout the expedition. These projects varied from trying items of local cuisine to talking to local people about Croatian history and meeting local scouts. Two teams of leaders supervised the groups in country, meeting up with us every few days to check on our progress.

It was a great experience and really allowed us an insight to how local people lived in a different country which just visiting as a normal tourist wouldn't have allowed. Thanks to all the leaders who made it possible and also to the people of Croatia who were **really friendly!**"

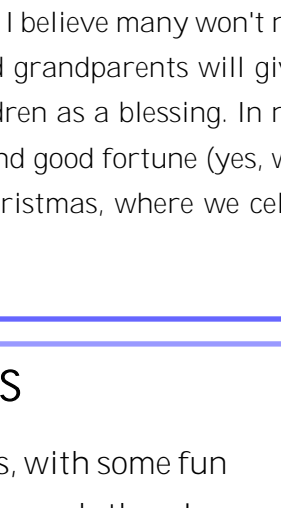
-Matthew Foskett, 2016 participant-

24th WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE NEEDS YOU!

Want to get involved with the UK Contingent for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree to the USA? Applications for members of a Contingent Support Team and a Contingent Communications Team are now open.

Contingent Support Team: Members of the Contingent Support Team will work in partnership with senior volunteers, the Events Team and other UKHQ staff to deliver The 24th World Scout Jamboree will take place in USA during July and August 2019 for young people and adults from all parts of the UK.

Applications close: **12pm on the 12th February.** Visit: http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/volunteering-vacancies/24th-world-scout-jamboree-uk-contingent-support-team/?dm_i=31ME,DOEC,2CKWE9,1DW10,1.

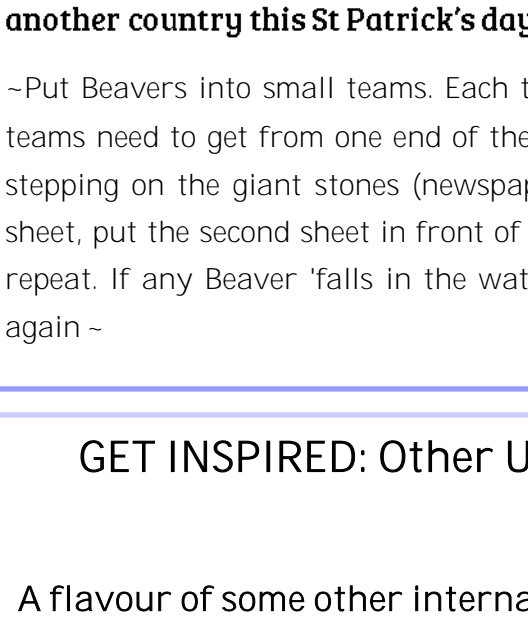


Contingent Communications Team: The UK Contingent communications team is a part of the Contingent Support Team (CST) and is responsible for delivering accurate, timely, inspiring and relevant information about the Jamboree to UK Contingent members, UK Scouting and Guiding and a wide range of external audiences. Individual members of the team will be responsible for leading and delivering specific aspects of the communications programme, with support from the UKHQ.

Applications close: **12pm on the 3rd February.** Visit: http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/volunteering-vacancies/24th-world-scout-jamboree-uk-contingent-communications-team/?dm_i=31ME,DOEC,2CKWE9,1DW10,1.

A Look at the Wider World:

Douglas Lau, a scout from Hong Kong currently studying at Durham University, writes about his experiences as a scout and how he celebrates Chinese New Year.



"Scouting in Hong Kong has a very similar structure with that of the UK. We have grasshoppers rings (beavers), cub scout packs, scout troops, venture scout units (explorers) and rover scout crews (network). The Scout Association of Hong Kong is run as a separate organisation from the Girl Guides, but scouts also welcome female members. Hong Kong is a tiny city, smaller than Greater London, and only less than 20% are flat lands, but is home to nearly 100,000 scouts. We participate in a wide range of outdoor activities, in which hiking is the most popular one since we can reach any trail from the city centre in less than 30 minutes. Moreover, we put in a lot of time in social services or environmental projects. It is easy to consider that what we are doing is rather old-fashioned, but we are proud to maintain some of the best practises and values, which is serving our society and educating young people.

Stepping into 2017, it's the year of the Rooster. Chinese New Year is arguably one of the most important celebrations of my culture. It's the occasion where the whole family gathers under one roof, and quite possibly, the only time of the year that you will see the son of the sister of the husband of the sister of your father! Fun fact, each member of the family tree has their title. Therefore you will never mix up which aunts or uncles or cousins are which. Traditionally, the celebration begins **two days before New Year's Day; every family member participates in cleaning the house from top to bottom and making sure everything is spotless before New Year's day.** There are also numerous rather weird and superstitious practices, for example, you are not supposed to wash your hair or sweep the floor after New Year's Day in order to keep the luck inside your house. One tradition that I believe many won't reject is receiving red packets from the elderly. Parents and grandparents will give out some money contained in a red envelope to their children as a blessing. In return, the children will wish them good luck, good health and good fortune (yes, we all love money). Chinese New Year is pretty much like Christmas, where we **celebrate the importance of family and the love for each other.**"

BADGES AND ACTIVITIES

This edition focuses on the Beaver Activity Badges, with some fun international themed ideas on how to work towards these!

COOK'S ACTIVITY BADGE: Use the Chinese New Year as an excuse to bake some super simple dragon cookies, which will count towards one of the three dishes for this badge! Recipe can be found here: <http://www.jamieoliver.com/news-and-features/features/make-dragon-cookies-chinese-new-year/>. Alternatively, get pancake flipping on Shrove Tuesday!



CREATIVE ACTIVITY BADGE: The Hindu festival of Holi is all about getting creative with colours! Tick off the 'try a craft' section with these 'painted people!' Get the instructions at <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/painted-people>.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY BADGE: Learn a game from another country this St Patrick's day by playing 'Giant's Causeway!'

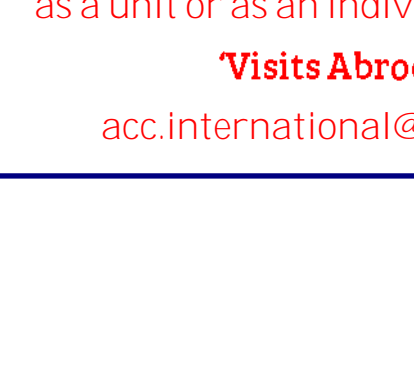
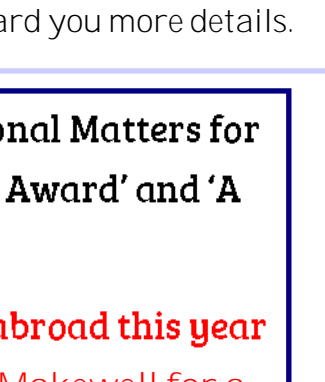
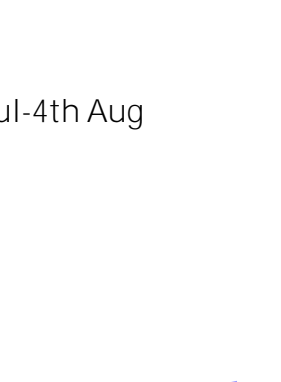
Put Beavers into small teams. Each team has two sheets of newspaper. The teams need to get from one end of the hall to the other by only stepping on the giant stones (newspaper). They all step on one sheet, put the second sheet in front of them, all step onto it, and repeat. If any Beaver 'falls in the water', the team has to start again -



GET INSPIRED: Other Upcoming Opportunities

A flavour of some other international events coming up in 2017!

- ♦ **NORD, Norway:** 1st-8th July
- ♦ **13th Canadian Scout Jamboree:** 8th-15th July
- ♦ **Estonian National Jamboree:** 8th-15th July
- ♦ **Denmark Jamboree:** 22nd-30th July
- ♦ **World Scout Moot (Iceland):** 25 Jul-2nd Aug
- ♦ **International Rover Week (Kandersteg):** 25th Jul-4th Aug
- ♦ **German National Jamboree:** 26th Jul-5th Aug
- ♦ **Kent International Jamboree:** 29th Jul-5th Aug
- ♦ **Poacher 2017 (Lincoln):** 29th Jul– 5th Aug
- ♦ **NIJam (Northern Ireland):** 29th Jul-5th Aug
- ♦ **NICES (Netherlands):** 29th Jul-12th Aug
- ♦ **RoJam 2.0 (Romania):** 4th-15th Aug



If you are interested in any of these events, send me an email at manon.burbidge@btinternet.com and I will forward you more details.

Don't miss the next edition of International Matters for information on the 'Scout of the World Award' and 'A Case of Malaria'...

...And don't forget: if you are travelling abroad this year as a unit or as an individual, ask Peter Makewell for a 'Visits Abroad' pack by email at

acc.international@hertfordshirescouts.co.uk