



Hello Hertfordshire scouts!

Welcome to a rather belated edition of 'International Matters', which will 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
- **21st September** International Day of Peace
- **22nd September** Al-Hijra, the Islamic New Year
- **10th October** World Mental Health Day
- **19th October** Hindu and Sikh Festival of Diwali
- **31st October** Pagan Festival of Halloween
- **20th November** Universal Children's Day
- **22nd November** Thanksgiving
- **30th November** St Andrew's Day

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

CUBS:

JOTI 2017

What is JOTI?

Cubs from all over the country will have the opportunity to join an online forum where they can talk to other scouts, of all ages from around the world. The cubs will learn about safety in forums as well as playing fun games relating to the countries they manage to contact - such as country bingo!

We will also have bases running throughout the day that the cubs will take turns to visit to complete activities. These will earn them the communicators badge. If you need even more of an incentive, cubs attending will also get a 2017 Joti badge!

Where/When?

Hertfordshire's 3rd Joti will be held at Freman College in Buntingford on Sunday 22nd October 2017.

Interested?

Leaders– to register your interest or for more information, email jotihertfordshire@outlook.com



SCOUTS:

World Scout Jamboree 2019

Congratulations to all the leaders who were selected at the training day held in July.

Thank you to everyone who applied and all who supported the event.



NETWORK:

Many Network members from Hertfordshire will have returned from the World Scout Moot, held in Iceland over the summer.

If anyone who attended would be interested in writing a small piece on their experience to appear in the next edition of International Matters, send me an email at

manon.burbidge@btinternet.com

A message from Mike Aston, County Adviser International

Worldwide Disasters

We have all been shocked by the severity of worldwide disasters over the last few days. Some have been natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes, others created by human interventions like the Rohingya refugees fleeing from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

All the countries and territories affected by the disasters have active Scout associations and those in the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands are overseas branches of the UK Scout Association. Antigua & Barbuda and St Kitts & Nevis are both member countries of the Commonwealth.

Young people may ask questions about the current situation and natural disasters, so here are some activities provided by the Scout Association that you can use to help them understand the situation:

<http://scouts.org.uk/news/2017/09/how-to-talk-about-natural-disasters/>

On a practical note, Scout Groups and Districts can give direct help to displaced families in the disaster regions by donating to ShelterBox who are actively providing support in the Caribbean, Mexico and Bangladesh. £590 provides a homeless family with a basic survival kit including a tent, water purifier, food etc.

Please visit: *<https://www.shelterbox.org/operations-update>* to keep in touch with ShelterBox activities and see more on social media at

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox/>

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

NETWORK:

Scout of the World Award (SOWA)

As some of you may be aware, the Scouts of the World Award (SOWA) has recently undergone an overhaul and been re-launched, giving Network members the chance to undertake a project of their choice within the themes of Peace, Environment and Sustainability. SOWA is the only award that is aimed solely at members of the Scout Network and differs from more traditional awards in that it is based on personal best effort rather than fixed standards. It is designed to be flexible whilst members may be off at university. As such, there are no fixed timescales for the award. You will need to complete the award by your 25th Birthday and cannot start before your 18th.

In order to complete SOWA, participants are required to attend a 'Discovery weekend' with additional hours of pre-discovery activity. This serves as a thorough introduction to the award and will also serve to broaden participants' understandings of current global issues. Having attended the weekend, participants are then allocated a mentor who will work with them to formulate a voluntary project along one of the three key themes of Peace, Environment and Sustainability (also referred to as development). Participants are then required to present what they have learnt through carrying out an evaluation and personal reflection, and should deliver a presentation to a relevant audience.

Subject to approval, completing your SOWA may also count towards other awards including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Queen's Scout Award. If you would like more information or would like to get involved in the Scouts of the World award, then please visit the UK Scout Network website where you will be able to request to join the award.

<https://www.ukscoutnetwork.org.uk/networks/uk/uk-scout-network/projects/scouts-world-award-sowa>

Written by Alex Hawkins, Global Support Team Member



A LOOK AT THE WIDER WORLD:

BHUTAN

Country Profile

Where: Southern Asia

Capital: Thimphu

Language: Dzongkha

Population: 742,800

Religion: Buddhism



Scouting was introduced into Bhutan in 1970, and as of 2015, there are approximately 30,000 members of the organisation, or 4% of the total population! The structure of scouting is primarily associated with the Bhutanese education system, and is divided into three sections; Cubs (primary school), Scouts (secondary school) and Rovers (tertiary or higher education institutions).

The vision of the association is to create a nation where youth is an asset, contributing to the support and well-being of society, and to enable young people to become productive, moral and responsible citizens. The national scout programme is diverse and includes activities such as friendship and adventure camps, blood donation drives, cleaning camps, forums and participation in jamborees.

To find out more, or to get in contact, visit:

<http://www.bhutanscouts.bt/index.html>



BADGES AND ACTIVITIES

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

GLOBAL ISSUES ACTIVITY BADGE:

Use the UN International Day of Peace on the 21st September to think about the areas of the world in conflict now, at some of the reasons why they are in conflict, the differences between the UK and these countries, and why peace is so important.

ARTIST ACTIVITY BADGE:

The Islamic New Year, Hindu festival of Diwali and Halloween are all approaching over the next two months, and could be the perfect opportunity to design a greetings card with an international theme!

CHEF'S ACTIVITY BADGE:

Did you know that each year, Halloween pumpkins create 18,000 tonnes of food waste in the UK? This year, use your leftover pumpkin flesh from your Jack O Lantern to learn about the traditions of Thanksgiving in the USA by making a delicious pumpkin pie!

Recipes:

<http://allrecipes.com/recipes/819/desserts/pies/pumpkin-pie/>



GET INSPIRED:

Other Upcoming Opportunities

A flavour of some other international events coming up in 2017! Be aware some of these have tight turn-around dates for responses...

SCOUTS/NETWORK

NATIONAL EXPLORER BELT → Oman, 2018

The Explorer Belt Expedition is open to all members of the Scout Movement who have had their 16th birthday by 5th August 2018 and have not celebrated their 25th birthday by the 19th August 2018. We will start and finish in Muscat and visit various locations in Oman. There will be opportunities during the 10- day expedition to visit the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Hajjar Mountains, Nizwa Fort, souks and kasbahs.

Interested? Send me an email and I'll forward you a flyer.



...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