

## International Matters – April 2016

### St George – a truly international saint!

St George is a well loved martial saint who enjoys patronage of eight European countries, including England. Among this line-up are Portugal, Serbia, Russia, Catalonia and Aragon (both contained within modern Spain), Montenegro, Georgia and Greece. Outside Europe, St George is considered the patron of the old Kingdom of Ethiopia, as well as of the Christian communities of China.

Symbolically, the well known motif of St George slaying the dragon can be traced to pre-Christian myths current in Europe and the fertile crescent of the Middle East. In it we recognise Marduk overcoming Tiamat in Mesopotamian myth, Zeus casting down Typhon in Greece and Set slaying the dragon Apep from the Egyptian corpus, among other similar interpretations. Within the Judeo-Christian tradition, the same symbolism is also evident in the icon of St Michael the archangel overcoming Satan. These motifs can variously be read as the struggle of 'good' to overcome 'evil', the perpetual seasonal struggle of light and dark parts of the year, or the initiatory inner battle of the conscious will imposing itself on the latent unconscious. It's getting late; I'm not going to go on in this vein. You get the idea..... GOOD v EVIL!



Mike Aston

### For all Explorer Scouts and Network members



And now for something completely different: 'Scouts Western Australia' is holding a Jamboree in Thailand from 14-21st December 2016. The cost is \$250 USD and the theme is **Scouting has no borders.**

Quirky? **Definitely** Challenging? **Certainly** Temperature? **Hot**

Want to know more, then visit:

<https://Intscouts.com.au/eoi-thailand-friendship-jamboree-2016/>

or go their Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/Everything-is-Possible-Jamboree-Thailand-247217105614348/info/?tab=page\\_info](https://www.facebook.com/Everything-is-Possible-Jamboree-Thailand-247217105614348/info/?tab=page_info)

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## For all Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders

Here are some dates and events in June & July which could provide an opportunity to cover one or more aspects of the Our World Challenge Award and the Global Issues Activity Award for your section. Please send images and text of what you achieve to [Scout@kcitedemon.co.uk](mailto:Scout@kcitedemon.co.uk) and, with your permission, we will publicise to inspire others.



1 June International Children's Day

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/i/internationalchildrensday.asp>



5 June World Environment Day focusing on **Illegal Wildlife Trade**

<http://web.unep.org/wed/2016>



7 June – 5 July Ramadan (Islamic month of fasting)

<https://www.primarytreasurechest.com/topics/celebrations/summer-celebrations/ramadan.html>

There are mosques in [Bishops Stortford](#), [Borehamwood](#), [Elstree and Borehamwood](#), [Hatfield](#)(2), [Hemel Hempstead](#)(2), [Hitchin](#), [St Albans](#)(3), [Stevenage](#)(2), [Watford](#)(3), [Welwyn Garden City](#)



8 June World Oceans Day <http://www.worldoceansday.org/organize-an-event/> offers advice on organizing an event – perhaps focussing on the humble but dangerous plastic bag!



12 June World Day against Child Labour

<http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/WDAACL/lang--en/index.htm>



20-26 June World Refugee Week **Particularly relevant at this time**

<http://refugeeweek.org.uk/info-centre/educational-resources/>



14 July Bastille Day Have a French evening

<http://www.euroclubschools.co.uk/page76.htm>

<http://bastille-day.com/quiz>



18 July Nelson Mandela Day

<http://www.mandeladay.com/content/landing/mandela-day-resources>



19 July Dharma Day (Asalha Puja) celebrates the day the Buddhist religion became established

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/buddhism.htm>

There are Buddhist Temples in Great Gaddesden, Letchworth and Watford.

For more information about various faiths and their festivals, visit:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions>

**For all Leaders and Network members**



Some readers may recognise one or more of these badges which signify membership of various UK international Scout Active Service Units (or Scout Fellowships as they were known up to 2010).

From 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, it has been decided to combine all the units under one umbrella to be known as the International Scout Support Unit (ISSU) managed by George Devine (one time ACC-International in Cambridgeshire and HQ Africa Adviser). Special interest groups, such as Network Russia, KISC, Uganda Network and the UK-Arab Region will continue to support specific activities in their geographic areas. Membership is open to any member of the Scout Association over the age of 18 and an application form can be obtained by [clicking here](#).

To give you some idea of an interest group, here are the aspirations of the UK-Arab Region group.



Interested in Global and International Scouting in the Arab Region?  
Why not join the UK-Arab Region group within ISSU?

**WHAT we do**

We aim to provide a forum for Scout Association members who have an interest in Scouting in the Arab Region and those members of Arab Scout Region Associations who have an interest in UK Scouting.

## HOW we do it?

- By promoting an awareness of Scouting in the Arab Region.
- By offering experience of Scouting in the Arab Region and increase understanding of life and culture in the region via study visits, cultural exchange, Explorer Belt expeditions etc.
- By providing links with associations and groups in the region.
- By offering advice and support to assist individuals and groups from The Scout Association visiting the Arab Region.
- By encouraging and supporting attendance at events/camps in the Arab Region.
- Responding to requests from Scouting in the Arab region and providing appropriate support.
- By giving support to Scouts from the Arab Region settled or studying in the UK.
- By welcoming visiting groups from the Region and offering support.

## Previous initiatives have included:

- Familiarisation visits exploring the structure of Scouting & Guiding in Egypt, Tunisia and Oman.
- Organising Explorer Belt expeditions in the Arab Region.
- Supporting incoming visits from the Arab Region to the UK.
- Facilitating cultural exchanges and Hajj Pilgrimage attendance.
- Supporting Syrian refugee children via the “Toys for Smiles” project.

## Future Plans

We are taking the opportunity afforded by the creation of the International Support Team to re-evaluate how best to support Scouting in the Arab Region. Many of the 23 national organisations are experiencing instability in their country and yet Scouting is flourishing from Mauritania in the West to Iraq in the North and from Oman in the East to Somalia in the South.

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## For all Leaders and Network members

### Unfinished Business 2017, 2018, 2019.....

Hertfordshire Scouts have travelled far and wide over the last few years. The most rewarding expeditions have been those involving projects working with local Scouts to improve community facilities in deprived regions.

We have three such unfinished projects awaiting some TLC – but we do need energetic leaders to step forward to join the leader team for a particular project.

### Rodrigues



The first is on the island of Rodrigues, an autonomous outer island of the Republic of Mauritius. There are 19 Scout Groups on this tropical island in the Indian Ocean, equipped with a rundown central hostel with bunk beds, known as Paul Cathan House.

There is also an interesting project involving the production of honey by families with special needs.

Opportunities to dive on the

unique coral reef and take a few days stopover on the island of Mauritius are possible.



## Lesotho



This is a rondavel that Hertfordshire Scouts started and the Lesotho Scouts completed. It is located on the lower slopes of the Lesotho highlands and stands on the national training ground along with a potential chicken farm and



fresh water well. There is much to be done in the area but time can be taken off to go pony-trekking in the Highlands and visit an African safari park to see the Big Five and many more.

## Brich Gunj, near Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island Territory, Bay of Bengal



A site has been identified by the Education Department for a Scout & Guide adventure and refuge centre not far from the capital Port Blair. A team needs to visit Port Blair and kick start the project. Opportunities to visit the city of Kolkata en route, experience tropical rain forests and the best scuba diving in South East Asia.

All three locations lend themselves to the possibility of gaining Explorer Belts and achieving elements of the Queen's Scout Award and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

There are funds available to support any of the three projects and plenty of help available from the County International Team.

In the first instance, please contact me for an initial briefing and further information.

[mike@kcited.demon.co.uk](mailto:mike@kcited.demon.co.uk) or call 01707 658644

Mike Aston County Adviser International

**And don't forget – if you are travelling abroad this year with Scouts or as an individual ask Peter Makewell for a Visits Abroad Pack by email to**

**[acc.international@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:acc.international@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk)**

**or call 07801 480946**