

HOST *Matters*

Welcoming International Students

Issue No. 26 Spring 2014



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures for HOST's Photo Competition 2013/14. It has been a popular competition and we have enjoyed looking through all the entries.

Our judges had a difficult choice, but we are delighted to announce that Clare Warren is our winner with the above photo. Clare will receive a traditional hamper, HOST apron and a certificate signed by HOST's Chairman of the Trustees, Mark Pellew, CVO. Congratulations!

Keep reading to find out who won in our Commended categories.

The following photos are commended. Each wins a HOST apron and a Certificate signed by the Chair of Trustees. The full-size photos can be found on our website at www.hostuk.org, and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hostuk

Runner-up: Yan Jin Loo



This was Fun!: Karen Palmer



Out & About: Hao Shen, China



Holiday Celebrations: Unfortunately, we did not receive enough entries in this category to be able to choose a suitable winner. We will reinstate this category when we launch the HOST Photo Competition 2014/15

I have just had a nice weekend with a new student from Hong Kong and an Austrian friend. Student had specified she did not want to go where there were reptiles (as pets) and, having assured her of none, we met an adder on a walk! My Austrian ecologist friend was delighted, and student was brave and saw the funny side!

Katherine Leach, Somerset



High and Dry in flooded Worcestershire. Haiyi and Dantong visit the Lanigans

COME RAIN OR SHINE

Whether it rains, shines or storms, hosts are masters at finding things to do, and students just take it in their stride as being 'typically British'!



"We had to contend with pouring rain and some possible flooding but Aki remained cheerful as we did." **Jackie Reeves, Oxfordshire**

"Despite 14th February being the stormiest day to date of 2014, our intrepid Chinese visitors put up with a delayed train journey from Guildford, and a long detour round Bredon Hill to spend a weekend with us." **Sandra Lanigan, Worcestershire**

A host visit is a great way to see what real life in England is like. Things come up, people come to visit, it rains a lot and sometimes trains are late. But these things make a trip memorable, amazing, and absolutely worth a try.

Sarah Judd, Canada

A HOST OF HOSTS?

One of the most difficult things we have to do is tell students that we have been unable to find a suitable invitation for them on any of the dates that they are available. It's not the students' fault—we just don't have enough invitations to go round.

Recently, Emma, from our office, sent an email to all hosts, asking if you could find just one new host for us. We know that many of you have already asked everyone you know, and regularly accost passing strangers as well. And they always say the same, don't they? 'What an interesting thing to do! Oh no, I couldn't do it myself.'

Well, nearly always. But we did sign up a few new hosts thanks to Emma's appeal, and we're reminding you about it, just in case you haven't quite got round to approaching the person you thought. Perhaps you have a friend who would feel more confident if they hosted at the same time as you, so you could do things together. Or perhaps you could host a little more often yourself, if a friend would like to 'borrow' your guest for one of the days of their visit, leaving you free for your other commitments.

We currently have about 400 students on our waiting list—some have taken up residence there, having first applied in November. Our regional organisers don't like to pressurise you—so if you haven't been asked lately, but would actually be able to help with an invitation this summer, please get in touch. hosts@hostuk.org

**JUST
ONE
MORE**

WE'VE MOVED

HOST has now moved offices. If you need to send anything in the post, please note the change of address at the end of this newsletter. All other contact details, including telephone number, remain unchanged.



EVENT VOLUNTEERS

HOST is invited to many events throughout the year to speak to potential hosts and students about the charity. If you would be interested in attending events in your area, please contact Kimberley on spm@hostuk.org, or call the office.



Jerin, Wendy and Desmond enjoy some laughs

I had so much fun with Tim & family. I really enjoyed every moment with them, especially with their grandchildren - Desmond & Brennan. I really thank all of you behind HOST. It's really fantastic & sweet experience of mine. We went to countryside, had great views. I got to see & experience the happy family with LOVE, CARE, NURTURE. I would Love to make a return to them once I get my holidays.

Jerin James, India

In more than twenty years of welcoming HOST guests into our home, we have more wonderful memories than we can count and good friends all around the world. **Kate Weston, Glamorgan**



NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

2014 got off to a great start for us, as someone associated with HOST almost from the beginning was mentioned in the New Year's Honours List. Margaret Stevens has been awarded the British Empire Medal 'for services to international students in the UK'. Margaret became a host and the Regional Organiser for Cornwall in 1990. She was already offering hospitality, social activities and pastoral care to international students

in her area. In addition to her own region, Margaret has often acted as a temporary RO and so is known to hosts in Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Kent, London, Surrey, Herefordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, and the far north of Scotland. For the 5 years she lived in exile from Cornwall she was the RO for Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. And just now she is getting acquainted with hosts in Avon

Margaret edited HOST Matters for many years and is still acting as our Publicity Officer.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall presented Margaret with her medal at a party on 26 April. Amongst the 80 people there were 60 of the Cornwall hosts, 8 international students, and a former student who has been re-visiting her host since 2006 and came back specially for the occasion.

Margaret says: 'It's an honour for me, but more importantly it is a recognition of the value of what all of us in HOST are doing, making international students welcome.'



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I never really felt welcome to UK until after the warm welcome that I received from my hosts. Being with my hosts, their family and friends, brought me up close with British way of life that I could not have possibly encountered elsewhere.

Julius Kapembwa, Zambia