



Christmas in Exeter 2014

Are you hoping to have a student or two sharing your Christmas this year? Please let me know as soon as you've decided, so that I can do everything possible to find the right guest for you. Thank you.

Why Cornwall and Devon all of a sudden? Well, the RO for Devon sadly had to give up her work with HOST some months ago, so I offered to look after Devon as well, until such time as a new resident volunteer steps forward. Actually, the number of active hosts in the combined region now is approximately equal to the number in either region a few years ago. So, despite the paragraph to the right below, we do need more new hosts!



Student from Cambodia with her hosts' daughter in Cornwall



Compulsory West country experience



student from Indonesia enjoying a 'ride' on a steam engine in Cornwall

The summer and early autumn were exceptionally quiet in HOST. And since the beginning of September only 6 students have had visits in our region. So far, there are 19 visits arranged for the next 2 months. And currently I have **7 students waiting** for invitations—I think this will increase as Christmas approaches. I'm afraid this reduction in numbers has to do with many students now offering only very low travel budgets, which means that if there is no megabus to the host's location, they cannot get to it. So if you haven't heard from me, it's not that I have forgotten you, but just had no student to offer you. However, if you ever want to offer an invitation for a particular weekend, please get in touch with me—I can always ask my fellow ROs if they have a student who might be suitable.

[My host] a fellow car enthusiast, took me out for a spin in his prized possession--a 1965 Sunbeam Rapier. I was surprised when he asked me to drive it--and it was quite the experience. *Justin, USA, Devon*

I also got to witness the sheep shearing competition (a first of a kind for me). The country side is a refreshing place to be. Awesome, awesome and once more awesome is all I can say. *Moses, Namibia, stayed in Devon*

the things they say

It was great because [my hosts] are kind and conscious human beings. *Good news from Maria Laura, Colombia, about her hosts in Cornwall!*

I left very inspired to do more and be more in terms of being of service to others. *Jen, Namibia, Cornwall*

Are you on Facebook?

Would you share an item about HOST with all your friends? Please click the  icon for my FB page, where you will find a public post for you to share. If you could add your own few enthusiastic words, so much the better! Thank you **Regional Organiser Margaret Stevens** mstevens@btinternet.com
HOST www.hostuk.org