

HOST Matters



Welcoming International Students

Issue No 33 Autumn 2017



Well suited!

When Marcus from Bermuda wrote that his normal attire was a zebra onesie, his Regional Organiser wondered if she would ever find a host for him. But as someone commented on seeing photos of Marcus with Sue, Sophie and Jinks Jenkin in Cornwall: 'Looks like a suitable match'.



The new year in the universities is well under way, and HOST is hearing from plenty of students who would love to have an invitation to spend a unique and memorable day, weekend or Christmas with one of our hosts.

Welcome!

We hope to have enough invitations to go round, as we hate having to disappoint anyone! Please offer an invitation if you can—and tell your friends about HOST. Thank you!

2 stories from Facebook

A smashing day out

My son and his lady-friend were staying with me the weekend Qieer visited. We took her to the FoodieFest at Tatton Park. Qieer is very interested in baking so she loved it, especially when she discovered that Candice Brown (Great British Bake-off winner 2016) was there and just happens to be a best friend of Simon's friend. Candice signed her new cookbook with a special dedication for Qieer. A great story for her to take back to China.

Sue Mowforth, Host in Cheshire

Come again?

When you invite international students to your home you can't be sure what will happen next. Will you wave them goodbye, never to be heard from again? Will they become lifelong friends? Or something between the two?

HOST loves to hear about repeat visits and ongoing contact between students and hosts—even, sometimes, stories like Jackie's below.

But one-off visits are perfectly fine too. As a wise host once said, 'You don't need to return my hospitality, just pass it on.'

Pass it on



Hosts Katherine and Alex Varden invited several recent guests back to a summer lunch at their home in Hampshire, to meet each other for the first time—and of course, to take a group selfie!

Action Replay in Uganda

Early in 2013, we welcomed Brenda, Ambrose and Danny—three mature students from Uganda at Aberdeen University. We had such fun together that they came back again and again, bringing more friends with them. We had to draft in friends and family to help with transport, and had picnics, games of football and ceilidhs all over NE Scotland.

This summer we went to visit them—6 of us.



The hospitality was unforgettable: lots of delicious food, laughter and joy. They even laid on a football match, and a ceilidh just to make us feel at home. Brenda had enjoyed the dancing so much in Aberdeenshire she had found some ex-pats who do ceilidh dancing every week, joined the group and is now one of the major players.

We have completely fallen in love with Uganda and her people.

Jackie Ross, Host in North Scotland





a selfie taken during a visit to hosts in Surrey

Why do some students say they have paid for their visit, when others have not?

No students pay for their visit, which we always tell them is given by the generosity of their hosts. But some students do pay all or part of the application fee, which for other students is paid by their university or scholarship funder.

HOST is barely funded by grants, and we have to cover our admin costs. It is up to each university to choose whether they help students with this admin fee or not.

Why do students spend so much time on their phones? I thought they came to share our way of life with US, not with all their friends.

Whether we like it or not, the instant sharing and constant communication which digital technology makes possible, are a non-negotiable feature of 21st century life.

Taking endless photos and immediately whizzing them across the globe, actually is part of the way in which students experience and appreciate our way of life.

But engaging them in conversation, giving their hands something else to do, or maybe even suggesting they try your own phone-free life for an hour... might be worth it.



Sarah and Bryan Bradbeer provide an occupation for their guest's hands!

students say



I had the best moments of my life when I visited a family through HOST UK at Christmas. It changed my orientation about the British and their culture.
Ibama Brown, Queens University Belfast

Few years has gone, but still remember and appreciate. Phan Phu Trang, on Facebook

HOST on Social Media

Students find us on the social media of course, but did you know that more than 70% of people in the 50-65 age group and more than 60% of the 65+ use Facebook? So we are also really keen to get more involved with current and future hosts via Facebook in particular.



We plan to share more images and stories about the 'hosting experience' and need your help.

- if you are on Facebook please *like* our page at www.facebook.com/HOSTUK/
- *like* posts we make - the more *likes* we get the more people Facebook will show a post to
- share posts you think could be of interest to friends or family—because they are feel good stories and we all need some of that.
- if you are on Instagram please use the hashtag #hostuk so we can repost your photos on www.instagram.com/official_hostuk/
- send Monika images from your HOST weekends that show what hosting is all about. Email them to socialmedia@hostuk.org

thank
you!

HOST has a brand new database. You will notice that messages to hosts no longer appear to come from their Regional Organiser—but don't worry, they still do. When you click Reply, your response will go to your RO. And it will really really help your RO if you reply to [messages](#)!

Are you—or do you know—a member of a **Livery Company**? These bodies give generously to small charities, but it does seem that you need to apply through a member. Can you help?

Like all small charities, HOST relies heavily for its finances on gifts from those who believe in what we're doing. If you would like to **send a donation**, please use HOST's [Big Give](#) page, or send a cheque to the office address below. **Thank you so much for your support.**

Please send your pictures, stories or questions for HOST Matters to the [Editor](#).

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