

News from Europe



Newsletter

Issue 8 April 2024

This month we celebrate the patron saint of Scouting.



Baden-Powell chose St. George as the patron saint of the scout movement. His choice did not surprise considering that he was raised by a priest of the Church of England in a country whose saint is St. George. However, this was not the reason for his decision. St. George was a soldier who went to battle armed only with his sword and faith and killed a dragon. This made him a role model for everything Baden-Powell believed a good Scout was. Scouts today don't roam the streets waving swords or literally killing dragons; however, they fight their own battles every day.

We are constantly bombarded with terrible news, there are conflicts, threats of war, immigration, poverty, disease, climate change and so on and so on. It would be easy to ignore all this and even just give up, but then we would betray everything Baden-Powell believed and

told us when he chose St. George as our saint.

When he faced difficulty or danger, no matter how big it was, even in the form of a dragon - he didn't avoid it or fear it, but faced it with all the power he had... This is exactly the way a Scout should face difficulties or dangers, no matter how big or scary they seem. They should face them with courage and confidence, using all their strength to defeat them, and there is probability that they will succeed.

According to Baden-Powell, a good scout must be: responsible, honest, dutiful, and devoted to helping others just as St. George was. On this day, 23rd April, we remind ourselves of our Pledge and our Scouting. Although the oath and the wording of law may have changed slightly over time due to religious, non-religious or other factors, the core values remain the same. It is our duty to be honest, responsible, courageous and with an open heart ready and willing to help others and ourselves.

Today's world is as challenging as the time of St. George; news travels faster, borders aren't as clear and conflicts between countries, religions and people are as common as before. This means that it has never been more important for Scouts to remember the qualities Baden-Powell chose for us, as well as the oath and laws by which we have agreed to live our lives.

Happy Saint George's Day, Agnes Thorvaldsdottir, International Secretary - Iceland

St Georges day was celebrated in many countries. The Celebrations took various forms and photos and information were posted on the ISGF Europe Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeISGF> - do take a look if you can.

The World Committee published a St Georges Day message, this was published on the ISGF website:

<https://www.isgf.org/events/st-george-day/st-georges-day-23-april-2024>

Also in April M.A.S.C.I. Movimento Adulti Scout Cattolici Italiani celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

They have organised a 'Relay' between each Region and each Region has also celebrated in its own way.

One very special event was an audience with the Pope



President Massimiliano Costa has brought greetings from over 6,000 Adult Scouts from all over Italy, giving the Pope a handmade ceramic vase full of lilies and clovers that represent Scouting and Guiding: on one hand the logo and motto of the Seventies M.A.S.C.I., "more life to life", on the other hand the image of St. George who kills the dragon, patron saint of Scouts and saint of Pope Bergoglio.



Stiftung Pfadfinden

Congratulate our founder Christa Nalazek from Bremen for being awarded "Bremen Woman of the Year 2024". In a celebration at the Bremer City Hall, Christa was honored for her volunteer commitment to German-Polish cooperation. "Mrs. Nalazek has been involved in many areas in various ways. However, the jury especially appreciated their efforts in the German-Polish Women's Forum of the partner cities Bremen and Gdansk, which deals with issues of equality and women's promotion. "

Christa has been active in the German-Polish company Bremen for decades. As a scout, she already promoted German-Polish encounters between BdP and ZHP in the 70s, led, supported, and promoted together with her husband Rainer (Dada). Christa belongs to the foundation number 148, she was one of the founders who entered the Stiftung Pfadfinden Foundation in 1998 in the Golden Foundation Book of the City of Frankfurt.

Radio Bremen appreciates Christa's commitment in a post.

<https://www.ardmediathek.de/.../Y3JpZDovL3JhZGlvYnJlbWVvL...>

UP COMING EVENTS



Registered to attend the 30th World Conference?

How and where are you arriving? Don't forget to let the organisers know, **How and Where** you are arriving. Provide the **place, date, time** and if relevant, **flight no.**

Driving, parking in the Hotel Car Park costs €12.50 per day.

If you wish to join the visit to the Alhambra, you **MUST** provide your Passport or Identity Card number.

There is still time to register, take part in the Conference and meet old friends and make new ones.

For more information: welcome@30wconf.org or <https://30wconf.org>

Sub Region Gatherings

Central Europe Sub Region – 11th Gathering, 3rd – 6th October 2024. Here you can find the link to register: <https://isgf-zentraleuropa.eu/srze-konferenz-2024>



Western Europe Sub Region

28th Gathering, 10th - 14th October 2025

The Netherlands



NSBR MEETING IN TØNSBERG, 6–9 JUNE 2025

We have rented the entire Hotel Borge by Husøysundet in the middle of the Tønsberg/Nøtterøy archipelago. There are good train connections from Oslo, from Gardermoen and Torp airports, and from Larvik where the ferry from Hirtshals arrives. The hotel is right down by the fjord and has its own jetty and beach. There is a heated saltwater pool in the garden, a tennis court and a 9-hole pitch and putt, and large, free parking for hotel guests. The bus from Tønsberg stops at the wharf.

The hotel is well equipped for courses and conferences, and has good hotel rooms.

We are planning many activities in the local area and will be outside a lot, but we will make it possible for everyone to participate. And of course there will be a traditional shot put - here we will reward both the best nation and the country with the best supporter team. Price for accommodation, all meals and activities will be approx. NOK 8,000 per person in a double room. **The final price and more information about cheaper accommodation will be in the next information letter or:**

<https://www.sqgn.no/nsbr-treff-i-tonsberg-6-9-juni-2025>

Do you have an event coming up? Let me know, it could be here.

Thank you to everyone who sent me information on their meetings, events and happenings. Please let me have your news. This is YOUR Newsletter and also your chance to have your say. Do You Like the Newsletter? Would you like a different format? Let me have your thoughts. sue.page3@btinternet.com