

# NEWSLETTER

## News & Info

### St George's Day

April 23rd is the day when England venerate St George, their patron saint. Born near the year 280 AD, legend has it that St George slew a dragon, thereby liberating an entire village, including a princess, from the evil beast.

The symbol most associated with St George is a red cross on a white background, which has been the official flag of England for many centuries.



### Spring Weather Expressions

The rain that accompanies spring weather has given rise to some unusual expressions. Here are a few of them:

**right as rain** = in good health or working order

*"Once my broken leg healed I was right as rain!"*

**take a rain check** = postpone something for another time

*"Sorry, I'm not free for dinner on Saturday — I'll have to take a rain check."*

**save for a rainy day** = to save money (or other resource) for some future need

*"Aesop's fable about the ant and the grasshopper is about saving for a rainy day."*

## Humanity & Inclusion Celebrates 35 Years of Humanitarian Aid

Originally founded in 1982 to assist thousands of Cambodian amputees, Humanity & Inclusion (then known as Handicap International) is now present in nearly 60 countries worldwide and includes eight national organisations throughout Europe, the UK, and the United States.

### VO's Partnership with HI



VO are proud to have been working with Humanity & Inclusion for over 10 years, in both language training and translation. From the very beginning, we have had an excellent working relationship with the HI

staff, and we hope that our fruitful collaboration will continue for many years to come.

### HI Celebrates

Earlier this month, on April 11th, three VO team members — Kirsty, Jenny, and Bunmi — attended HI's 35th birthday party in Lyon, HI's international headquarters. *"Thanks to this event,"* says VO trainer Jenny Keicher, *"I now have a more concrete idea of what HI provides in the field. I also discovered how the city of Lyon is committed to HI's cause. It was a very informative and enjoyable evening."*



### Petition

HI has a petition called "Stop Bombing Civilians" that we would like to encourage all our readers to sign. Your signature can help end the use of explosive weapons to protect civilian populations around the world. You can find an English version of the petition [here](#).

*"We are immensely proud of our longstanding collaboration with HI, and very much enjoy working with such a dedicated and professional team."*

- Kirsty Voisin, VO Co-founder

## VOCABULARY

conjure - cause someone to think of something

swarm - move somewhere in large numbers

booze - alcoholic drink

debauchery - excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures

riotous - characterised by wild and uncontrolled behaviour

glide - move with a smooth continuous motion

hit (noun) - a successful venture

take off - to become successful or popular very fast

shenanigans - silly or high-spirited behaviour; mischief

get fed up - annoyed or bored with something that you feel you have accepted for too long

naughtiness - mildly rude, indecent or disobedient behaviour

crack down - to start dealing with someone or something much more strictly

take up the torch - take on a challenge or responsibility when someone else retires or leaves an organisation



## Spring Break

In the United States, the mere mention of the words “Spring Break” can conjure up images of warm and sunny beaches swarming with college students, not to mention booze-fuelled parties, bikinis, and about as much debauchery as one can handle. But believe it or not, the riotous spring break activities portrayed in movies and on television grew from a much simpler pleasure — that of gliding through water.

### A humble beginning

It all began with the construction of Florida’s first Olympic-size swimming pool in 1928. The pool quickly became a hit with competitive swimmers, who would come to warm Fort Lauderdale during their spring holidays. A forum for swimming coaches was organised, and before too long, thousands of college-age students were heading to Florida for the week-long break in their studies.

### Spring Break goes viral

Then in 1960, with the release of the film *Where The Boys Are* (about four female college students who go to Florida for their spring break), the Spring Break party culture in the United States took off, and quickly reached epic proportions.

Since then, several Hollywood movies and TV series have regularly portrayed the Spring Break shenanigans of young college students during their mid-semester break.

### Too much of a good thing?

Not surprisingly, the residents of Fort Lauderdale eventually got fed up with the constant noise and naughtiness brought on by thousands of young adults partying day and night. The city tried cracking down on the party scene by enacting stricter drinking laws. The mayor himself went on national television to “un-invite” all those young party goers.

But by then, other cities in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, even across the border into Mexico, had already taken up the torch, ensuring that the Spring Break tradition would continue for many years to come.