



**International  
Voluntary  
Service**



## **A Joint Newsletter from IVS and VAP - April 2023**

IVS and VAP have similar objectives working for peace and international understanding through voluntary work and particularly workcamps. This joint newsletter has been produced in recognition of that.

### **Volunteering Opportunities through IVS/SCI**

To see the wide range of workcamps listed on the SCI database and accessible through IVS.(International) go to our web-page

[ivsgb.org/service-civil-international/](http://ivsgb.org/service-civil-international/) there are two links here:

- **short term projects (1 – 4 weeks)** >> <https://workcamps.sci.ngo/icamps/> In the year ahead there are already well over 330 projects all over the world.
- **long term projects (1 – 12 months)**, go to >> <http://www.longterm.lteg.info/index.php/project/publicIndex> Here you will find over 150 opportunities around the world but notably in Africa. 13 of the projects are in Great Britain.

**for example**

## **Kudagama School Sri Lanka International Summer Camp**

The camp will organise educational activities for children of this fishing village, do some manual work decorating the classrooms and facilities of the local school, and study minority groups and education in rural areas.



## **VAP Opportunities for Volunteering**

Through the Volunteer Action for Peace website

<http://www.vap.org.uk/projects.html> you will see a selection tool top right with three choices of project length

- 749 **short term projects (2 – 4 weeks)** are listed with start dates between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, and the Middle East The four projects listed in Britain are in July or August.
- 53 **mid-term projects** in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America during that time period
- 36 **longer term projects (over 6 months)** of which 1 is in Europe and the others in Asia and Africa.f

## 2022 example

### Manual project in Hungary



### IVS in Britain: **Camp Kernow Cornwall 2022**

'Camp Kernow was delighted to partner with IVS in 2022 and welcome volunteers from Spain, Germany and Mexico to its summer camp team. Volunteers supported children during their off-grid summer camp experience and assisted activity instructors in delivering a diverse range of experiences including bushcraft, climbing, trapeze and wild food foraging. It was wonderful to host children and volunteers from around the world and explore issues of sustainability and environmental action together. There were also lots of opportunities for cross cultural exchange and a chance to understand more about each others cultures, customs and cuisines. One memorable highlight was a Mexican Taco Feast with the hottest salsa we've ever experienced!'

Claire Coombe, Camp Kernow



Camp Kernow runs an innovative off-grid environmental adventure centre near Truro in Cornwall dedicated to reconnecting and engaging children from across the world with the natural environment and inspiring them to live more sustainably. Three further camps are planned by IVS with Camp Kernow this year.

### **Promotion of volunteering**

IVS want to ensure that the opportunity to volunteer for projects is made known widely, and particularly to students who are a category more likely to be able to participate in projects, If anyone has contacts with university authorities in Britain, perhaps careers services, please let us know [info@ivs.gb.org](mailto:info@ivs.gb.org). We have a Powerpoint presentation to make available to their students.

## **IVS Memories project: 90 years and counting!**

Good progress is being made on the memories project booklet. Contributions will be selected from 10-12 individuals to contribute to the booklet and asking them to re-write their contribution according to a tighter criteria in order to get some cohesion into the booklet. The themes will follow SCI lead - peace with others, peace with nature and peace with oneself. The plan is for publication later this year..

So far, we have collected over 50 personal memories of volunteering with IVS since we started collecting memories in 2021 our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We are still keen to collect more recollections, large and small, recent or from many decades ago and to learn about the impact your experiences had on you personally and the project where you volunteered. You may have been a staff member, a volunteer member, or a work camp host – all experiences are valuable

We have a small team working on devising a plan to make sure these memories are not only archived, but made accessible to as wide an audience as possible. Do get in touch if you can assist us in this task and also if you have publishing, writing, editing, or graphic design skills.

Please send your written or audio (if you prefer) and photographs (if you have them) to: [memories@ivsgb.org](mailto:memories@ivsgb.org)

Thank you.

Helen, Raj and Rosemary.

**A Tribute to IVS** from Len Farrow

In 1967 I left university to take up a job in Chester. As a new graduate in a new town I looked for a social group to join. Almost by accident, I found Chester IVS.

In those days IVS had a good network of local groups carrying out a variety of “social service” activities. Chester IVS was led by a man called Mike Spackman who has probably been the greatest influence on my life of anyone whom I have met.

Many local IVS group members saw the organisation as purely local but Mike encouraged us to join the national movement and to become involved. I did that and rose to the dizzy heights of becoming a member of the national committee. On the committee I served under the wonderful Douglas Childs and met great people from IVS and the wider SCI movement. People I met also introduced me to the wider peace movement. I worked with several “Secretary Generals” - Steve Dey and Nigel Watt stand out in my memory particularly.

As part of that movement, I became the Chair of the “Home Service Subcommittee”. We looked after local groups and workcamps pioneering “family workcamps” and international walking tours, among other things.

Over the years IVS influenced so many lives – not just the elderly people, children and disadvantaged adults with whom we worked but the member themselves. Through IVS I met my first wife and indirectly my second as I moved from computer programming to teaching in an FE college. Other friends changed careers completely – Chemical Engineer to Social Worker, Car Salesman to Nurse to name a couple. Some people even changed jobs to be employed by IVS and I was proud to have been a part of that.

The principle of bringing diverse people together to promote peace is as valid

today as it was in 1920 when Pierre Ceresole set up SCI and it is needed even more so keep it up IVS.

If you have memories which you would like to share your experience with IVS or of a specific project which you attended, in the last five years, or the past 50 years, please contact IVS at [memories@ivs.gb.org](mailto:memories@ivs.gb.org)

## **Development of SCI Long Term Volunteering website**

Work is continuing on the development of a new SCI Long Term Volunteering website to replace the existing LTV website at <http://www.longterm.lteg.info/>

Nuno Doria and Paul Barrow are part of the development team, along with members of the SCI International Secretariat. It is hoped that the new site will be available soon. Work will follow to upgrade the SCI website for short term projects.

## **IVS AGM**

IVS will hold our AGM on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June

In accordance with the Byelaws, Notice is given that IVS will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17 June 2023. It is hoped that the meeting can be a blend of in-person, in Harpenden, Herts, and on-line presence. For a resolution to be considered by the AGM it shall be received by the Chair, in writing, at least six weeks before the AGM.

Nominations are also sought for people to stand for the Board. Three members

will be coming to the end of their first term of three years. Members can also be co-opted to the Board for a period of up to one year.

If you wish to propose a resolution, or stand for the IVS Board, write to IVS at Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, EDINBURGH EH2 2PR or send an e-mail to [Director@ivsgeb.org](mailto:Director@ivsgeb.org)

More details about the AGM, including venue, nominations and any resolutions will be circulated to members nearer the time."

## **Membership**

If you have not yet renewed your membership of IVS, or would like to join IVS, you can do this on-line at <https://ivsgeb.org/join>. After completing the form you will need to continue to the payments section. IVS membership costs: £25 standard fee/£15 concession fee (students, unemployed, low income).

If you do not want to pay on-line you can send us a cheque for the relevant amount to the IVS office at Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR

## **How you can help IVS**

### **Volunteer**

The Joint Chairs of IVS. They, and the rest of IVS's Board of Trustees, are volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer with us, please do get in touch.

We are looking for:

- an extra person to replace Steve Davies on our Finance Advisory Group, or to serve as Assistant Treasurer
- a couple of people to assist IVS with its publicity and recruitment efforts.



If you are interested in either of these opportunities please write to [director@ivsgb.org](mailto:director@ivsgb.org)

Also, we would particularly like to hear from recent volunteers about their experiences, impressions and views on how IVS can establish a digital presence on social media. If you can help here please write to [info@ivsgb.org](mailto:info@ivsgb.org)

## Donate

IVS relies on donations to run its activities. A donation would help us to recruit, train, support and send volunteers overseas to support our work. It would also enable many more volunteers from overseas to come to Great Britain to support local charities to deliver hundreds of important services to those most in need. For instance, the UK government charges IVS £21 for each invitation we issue to a long-term volunteer as well as seeking approx. £800 in fees from that volunteer. Further information is on our website <https://ivsgb.org/donate-2>

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