



**International
Voluntary
Service**



A Joint Newsletter from IVS and VAP - October 2024

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.

IVS and VAP Projects to volunteer on

There are many short term workcamp projects running in the next three month with a good variety of topics and countries around the world . The IVS/SCI database has 47 while VAP has 75. There is some overlap with the same camps appearing on both databases, however if 20 workcamps in Iceland are excluded the overlap is minimal. There is a reasonably wide set of topics available, particularly environmental work, however the 20 workcamp in Iceland are all in that category.

For more details of these workcamps:

for IVS/SCI listings start from: <https://ivsgb.org/service-civil-international/>

for VAP listings go to <http://www.vap.org.uk/>

VAP London Green Camp in November 2024

VAP is organising, in cooperation with the London Wildlife Trust and the Southwark Council, a 10 days environmental workcamp between 24 November and 2 December. Six international volunteers will be doing practical conservation tasks in the beautiful Sydenham and Dulwich Woods, working alongside local volunteers. They will also be working in nearby Dulwich Park with the local authority parks department. The group will stay at the quiet and leafy South London Scout Centre.



SAVWA Climate Justice Work Camp, South Africa

Addressing issues of climate justice in our community by creating a environment for young generations to understand through cleanup, awareness raising. Young people have historically led the charge against environmental, social and racial injustice. However, in the last several years, they have mobilized like never before on the issue of climate justice.

This work/study camp will have various community interactions and work on various activities within the local communities. Volunteers are encouraged to bring an open mind as we will have various activities to keep them busy for the work camp period



SCI database for Long Term Volunteering projects

SCIs new database for Long Term Volunteering projects has around 300 opportunities lasting 6-12 months hosted by SCI Branches and partner organisations around the world.

IVS has currently 8 LTV projects available there and a few others will be added soon. All the long term projects can be found on the LTV database of SCI at <https://longterm.sci.ngo/>

Long term opportunity at Hug Baan Dan Organic Farm Thailand

Volunteers are needed helping this community cultivate organic vegetables, harvest and store seeds, engage in cooking traditional Thai dishes and desserts using garden products, and participate in community cultural endeavours while also offering English learning opportunities for children.

Volunteers will engage in a range of community-centered initiatives, including collective farming endeavours like cultivating garlic and various crops.



Long term opportunity at Thornage Hall, Norfolk

Co-workers are wanted to work on this project which provides supported living and work and learning opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Support in the houses is needed with preparing meals, outings and weekend activities and attending festival celebrations i.e. New Years eve party, outings, communal meals. Evenings and week-ends are spent sharing leisure time, cultural events and outings together.



Report on IVS Workcamps at Camp Kernow In Cornwall

Camp Kernow's summer 2024 season welcomed fourteen volunteers from across the world including Mexico, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Germany and France. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment they brought to enriching children's summer camp experience was immeasurable and we are so grateful to IVS and its international partner organisations for facilitating these opportunities for cross cultural exchange.

As always, camp's kitchen was a hive of activity with volunteers sharing their country's cuisine with the children. We were treated to the most incredible Tiramisu we've ever tasted, Tacos and Enchiladas using fresh produce from the garden and French Crêpes for breakfast!

Weekends and free days were spent exploring Cornwall and beyond with opportunities to try surfing, go hiking and take a dip in the Atlantic Ocean! Thank you to everyone who helped make this summer such a success and roll on 2025!



Report on VAP workcamp at the Buddhfield Festival, Somerset 2024

This years volunteers were a fabulous bunch and it was a real pleasure to have them on site with us! They were all lovely, genuine and easy going people. They were all happy with their placements and each integrated really well into their teams. Each of them showed up everyday for work, made an effort to get to know the people in their teams (despite the language barrier) and worked really hard - which the team leaders really appreciated!

They were all open minded to the experience, given it was pretty different to anything they've done before, and were willing to try new things. They seemed to enjoy engaging in the evening activities - embracing all the various goings-on and really got into the spirit of the community. Each one of them seemed to get a lot out of their time with us and said they really enjoyed the experience!

So I would say all in all, we are pleased to say that this year was a real success!

Thank you for taking the time to recruit a great bunch of volunteers for us.

Many thanks and much metta,
Liv & the Buddhafield family.



Merger of IVS and VAP

Work on the merger is progressing steadily. The 2023 annual meeting of VAP agreed to merge and the decision was also made at the IVS AGM in June. The work of bringing the merger into being requires quite a lot of work of a technical nature, however there has already been progress on this:

- VAP had a different financial year, ending 31st of August, but this has been changed to the end of December to match that of IVS.
- The person who examines and reports on the accounts of IVS will also examine the accounts of VAP

VAP held a Special General Meeting online on 3 October to authorise the closure of Volunteer Action for Peace which will become a department of International Voluntary Service GB. Another meeting will be held on 4th November to confirm the closure. This will allow the retention of the partnership with the Alliance, and to exchange volunteers with Alliance members and with existing VAP partners including the main UK partner, Othona. The VAP database will be retained.

The constitutional Objects of IVS and of VAP are not the same (<https://ivsgb.org/vap/ivs-and-vap-objects-compared/>), however they are complementary in many ways and VAP have agreed that the IVS wording will be used by the combined organisation.

The biggest hurdle may be getting the acceptance by the Charity Commission (England and Wales) and Companies House. IVS is also registered with the Charity Commission for Scotland and they have already already expressed the view that if both sets of members agree then they will accept the change.

The original name of IVS was IVS for Peace and there has been discussion about changing the name back to that. This would also recognise that the full name of VAP is Volunteer Action for Peace. At the time IVS for Peace sought registration, the Charity Commission took the view that education for peace was acceptable, but action for peace was seen as unacceptable political activity. They have moved on considerably since then and it is understood we could now change to IVS for Peace. However any work on this will be deferred until after the merger has been completed.

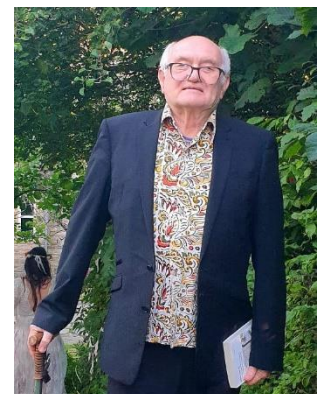
Members of the IVS Board of Directors

At the IVS AGM | June two members of the VAP Board, Nigel Watt and Paul Winter, were elected to the IVS Board, and a third member of VAP has been co-opted to the IVS Board, their Treasurer Gemma Taylor.



Gemma first became involved in international volunteering after university by partaking in a number of work camps in Europe and then Peru, which ultimately led to her relocating there in 2013. Following her volunteering she joined the board of Volunteer Action for Peace (VAP) – the organisation who had coordinated the volunteering in Peru – for which she was Treasurer from 2012 to 2024. Following this VAP merged with IVS and Gemma continues on the board under this merger.

Paul Winter's first international youth event was in 1958, in Edinburgh for the Festival, Scottish history and culture. The next five years, vacation travelling and volunteering across Europe were, on graduation, followed by four years as a teacher in newly independent Zambia. Back in England single parenthood provided a hiatus until teenage offspring no longer appreciated his presence while away on holiday. A 1986 London weekend taster with SCI and a CMP Bethnal Green Easter workcamp were the start of a long association with Christian Movement for Peace, Youth Action for Peace, Volunteer Action for Peace. And finally(?) back with SCI. What goes around comes around....



The IVS Board is now:

Richard Williams (Chair)	Paul Winter (Vice-Chair)
Nigel Watt	Rosemary Hobday
Gheorghe Zugravu	Tim Marc
Kerry Hardagon	Mohammad Rashid

IVS Memories book online launch

"IVS : 90 years and counting Volunteers' Reflections" is a selection of Memories, seventeen in total, from our Memories Project. Having so far collected over fifty stories the booklet focuses on the period after the previous IVS for Peace publication: post 1949 to present day. The 17 memories are a range of experiences - short, long, local, international volunteering examples and those that included a reflective element. We hope we have achieved this and the readers both enjoy and become inspired to support IVS going forward, whether as a volunteer, donor or member.

An online webinar is being held on Saturday 1st December from 5pm to 6.30pm UK time to celebrate International Volunteering Day on the 5th of December.

Several of the people who contributed to the booklet will be participating, reading part of the memory they provided, and recalling the impact on their lives are being involved with IVS. Chat will be available for questions and comments which will form part of the event.

A **link to the webinar** will be available on the IVS web site www.ivs.gb.org

Copies of the booklet can be ordered for £6 including p&p (£8 if to be mailed abroad) <https://ivs.gb.org/shop/> or by sending a cheque to the IVS Office, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR

Thank you everyone for contributing your memories and sharing your reflections on your experience with IVS and SCI. We are still collecting new memories, recent or older. Please send to memories@ivs.gb.org

IVS investment

The plan to put to use the legacy received by IVS has now been completed with the purchase and letting of the flat in Edinburgh. It's on the 1st floor of this handsome block of flats. The income from the flat will be used to help support IVS's administration.



How you can help IVS

Volunteer

IVS is mostly run by volunteers . The Joint Chairs of IVS, the rest of IVS's Board of Trustees, and the Fundraising and Newsletter Group, are volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer with us, do get in touch. We are looking for:

- an extra person to sit on the IVS Board as a Trustee
- a bookkeeper to manage the receipts, payments and bank accounts
- an extra person for 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 any of these opportunities please write to director@ivs.gb.org

Recent volunteers on projects

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@ivs.gb.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 £25 for each invitation we issue to a long-term volunteer as well as seeking some £1000 in NHS fees from that volunteer. Further information is on our website <https://ivs.gb.org/donate-2>

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