

A collage of images featuring children. The top part shows a group of children in school uniforms, with one girl in the foreground smiling and pointing towards the camera. The bottom part is a close-up of several children's faces and hands, with some hands raised in the foreground, partially obscuring the faces.

2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REVIEW



INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTARY SERVICE



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The large political uncertainty during 2019 has been Brexit. However, we are a resilient organisation and will continue to be internationalist in outlook; after all, we existed for 40 years before the UK became part of the then European Common Market, and we aim to continue to work with our international partners and volunteers through the transition period and afterwards.

At the Annual General Meeting in June 2019 our Vice Chair James O'Sullivan and Paolo Pagano did not seek re-election. Each in their own way contributed an international element into our deliberations which will be difficult to replace.

During 2019, our staffing situation evolved with several members of staff leaving for a variety of personal reasons. To assist with the consequential restructuring I asked Trustees if they could indicate where they could provide direct service to the management of IVS. Following the departure of Amy Blake (to work with Classrooms for Malawi) I stepped into the role of Acting Director in a voluntary capacity for the remainder of 2019, with Terri Kelly taking on more responsibilities in her new Vice Chair role. We were fortunate in gaining the services of a small complement of new staff during late 2019.

During 2020 Terri Kelly, Mike Crawshaw, Scott Fyfe stepped down from the Board with Rosemary Hobday and Lorna Murphy taking their places. The 2020 AGM agreed that IVS should go forward as a minimally staffed organisation with a reduced level of core operations.

To achieve our 90th anniversary in 2021, IVS will need to have an organisation that is relevant, viable and sustainable, one that can continue to project the ethos and values represented by IVS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and look forward to reporting to you again.

*Hilary
Campbell*



OUR VOLUNTEERS' WORK TO BUILD PEACE IN 2019-2020

During 2019, 18 volunteers were welcomed on incoming short term volunteering projects to Tara Kadampa Meditation Centre, near Derby and Leckmelm Farm, near Ullapool. 30 volunteers of all ages travelled abroad to short term projects helping a wide range of people and groups elsewhere in Europe and beyond.

5 volunteers spent longer with our bilateral partners in Kenya and Mozambique, and through Erasmus+ 29 volunteers spent 1 – 12 months in 18 different European Countries, and 9 volunteers spent 3 – 9 months on projects in Britain. Through SCI 22 volunteers (including 10 from outside Europe) spent 2 – 12 months on projects in Britain. For 2019 the most popular areas for outgoing volunteers have been Iceland, Italy, Portugal and Poland.

Through our Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020, our aim is to continue to develop our support for British charities with a particular focus on organisations that offer provision to those from areas of multiple deprivation. We are particularly proud to continue our long relationship with several Camphill Communities in England and Scotland.

In order to better focus our future activities for and provide a quality support to volunteers, the staff team have carried out some detailed analysis of the profiles of volunteers in 2019. In terms of age; the average age of our incoming short term volunteer is 31 years old and average age of our incoming long term volunteer is 26 years old. For short term volunteers the average age is slightly older at 34 years old. This, along with information about demographics will better inform our 2017 – 2020 strategic direction.

OUR UK AND OVERSEAS PROJECTS

We are pleased to have been able to maintain some continuity with previous partners in Great Britain and overseas.

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We are particularly proud to continue our long relationship with several Camphill Communities in England and Scotland.

Great Britain Partners:

- Leckmelm Farm, near Ullapool
- Camphill, Aberdeen
- § Tara Kadampa Meditation Centre, near Derby
- Tigh'a Chomainn Camphill
- § Tara Kadampa Meditation Centre, near Derby
- Corbenic Camphill, Dunkeld
- Camphill Loch Arthur, near Dumfries
- Cyrenians, Edinburgh
- § Success 4 All, Newcastle
- Let's Circus, Newcastle
- § Newton Dee Camphill
- Camphill Botton
- § Simeon Care for Elderly
- Tiphereth Camphill, Edinburgh
- § Simeon Care for Elderly
- The Bield
- § Independent Living Alternatives, London
- Wiston Lodge





FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

Appeals to members in Autumn 2019 raised £11,000. In December 2019 we attempted to raise further donations via the annual “Giving Tuesday” event

In 2020 IVS’s Fundraising Group reached out to British Quakers to rebuild contact with those who had participated in our work over the years and to gather stories of their experiences.

In 2020 we had to move to ‘virtual events’ as several European Union funded-projects, through Erasmus+, drew to a close. Participants were brought together through various video-conferencing tools to share their experiences of the different projects in which they had been involved.

By reaching out to past and current members we are aiming to receive memories from 90 people as a celebration of the 90th anniversary since IVS’s first international voluntary project in Brynmawr, South Wales, in 1931. To date, we are over halfway towards this target.

LATE NEWS

On 17 April 2021 Lord Frank Judd, the patron of IVS, died aged 86. He has written that, after the 1959 General Election, IVS was advertising for a new Secretary General:

“With some trepidation, I applied. My fears were that, with its strong pacifist traditions and many people having served their ‘alternative service’ during and after the war in IVS, my Royal Air Force service would count against me. But it did not. My interviewers seemed more interested in my previous international student activities when I had been President of the United Nations Student Association and a member of the Executive of the International Student movement in the UN.

“Anyway, the spirit of Pierre and Ernst Céréssole prevailed! Pacifists and non-pacifists could be peace workers together. Friendships forged in IVS/SCI with pacifists have been amongst the most enduring and important I have had.

” In 1959, IVS had twelve international projects in the United Kingdom; in 1966, we had 120. This extraordinary growth in activity was vividly demonstrating that, notwithstanding the grim nuclear and ideological stand off which overshadowed everything, there could be vision, hope, idealism and intercultural fun in building meaningful links across sometimes awesome frontiers in a spirit of solidarity and service.”



SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

In November 1920 Pierre Ceresole from Switzerland and Hubert Parris, a Quaker from Britain, had arrived in Esnes, a war-destroyed village near Verdun in North-Eastern France in order to start the reconstruction of houses with an international group of volunteers. This 'first workcamp' is the starting point for Service Civil International (SCI). This reconstruction project in Esnes lasted several months.

Between 1920 and 2020 Service Civil International has grown to a movement which, with partners, involves 133 organisations in 94 countries.

IVS is the British Branch of SCI. In December 2020 four members of IVS joined with over 60 other people to take part in a 'virtual' annual meeting spanning twelve time zones.

Reflecting on the event, Rashid was honoured to be the IVS delegate, and pleased to have been a part of SCI's 100 years. "There were a lot of papers!" Overall, a good experience for him.

Rosemary was very impressed by organisation of the event. "It was very well chaired."

Lorna remarked that the break-out sessions into smaller rooms were too short

At the end of the proceedings a 100th birthday party was organised by SCI France and another 60+ members from around the world joined the delegates with a short play on the origins of SCI, a birthday cake, and other celebratory images.

Origin of the Photos: Archives Pierre Ceresole: Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire Lausanne, IS1917, PC533



Photo 9: Pierre Ceresole and other volunteers in front the huts in Esnes, 1920/1921

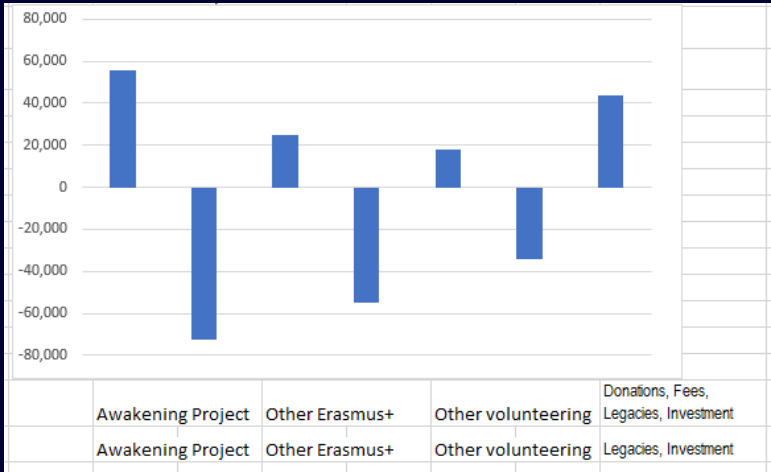


FINANCIAL MATTERS

2019 opened following a year in which we had had a small surplus in restricted funds but there was a loss in unrestricted funds. This shortfall was addressed in a number of ways: Seeking additional, unrestricted, funds including a special appeal to members and reducing our expenditure drawn from general, unrestricted, funds.

Income during 2019 was £142,037, expenditure was £167,262. This results in a deficit of £24,073 after taking into account of investment gains/losses realised during the year. This deficiency is being made good partly through receipt of a generous legacy of £10,310 which was eventually received in Spring 2020, and partly through additional, unrestricted, donations received throughout 2020.

Income and expenditure



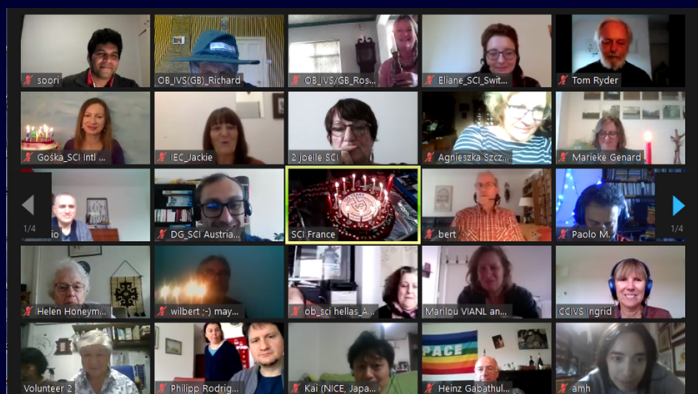


ONLINE PRESENCE

IVS has a growing social media presence on platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Linked In. We use these pages to advertise volunteering opportunities and share relevant information with our followers. We also promote virtual work camps and events, interact with other SCI branches and run fundraising campaigns online. (insert links)

We also email a quarterly newsletter, updating our members on all the exciting work we have been doing. Sign up to become a member now! (insert link)

Our website is also a great way to find out more about our current workcamps and contact us about any queries. ivsgb.org



Delegates at the annual SCI meeting held via zoom in December 2020. For full details see page 6

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

IVS is a charity with limited funds, and does not receive any government funding, so outside support is essential. The charity is run by a minimum of staff and active volunteers. We keep the cost of volunteering low to encourage people from all backgrounds to take part. That means we need to take on the role of fundraiser. Like many charities, IVS is under financial restraints, and we need to increase our income if we are to continue our work.

Now, more than ever, IVS's values are crucial to help build peace and intercultural understanding in a world where inequality and disasters are in no short supply. With your continued support, we promise to continue fighting for peace, day in and day out. If you have been inspired by the amazing stories of our volunteers' work, we would very much appreciate if you could send a donation. Every contribution helps, no matter what size, and we truly appreciate it. You can help us by donating once or regularly, although it is worth noting that a regular donation by direct debit give us a predictable income so we can commit to recruit, train, support and send volunteers overseas to support our work. Your donation will also enable many more volunteers from overseas to come to Great Britain to work with our partners and to support local charities to deliver hundreds of important services to those most in need.

Online payments:

IVS receives online payments via Stripe*. Just click on the DONATE button on the main page of our website and you will be taken to the payment form where you will have the option to make a one-off donation or a regular donation. You will also be asked if you wish your donation to qualify for Gift Aid. If you are a UK taxpayer, your donation could indeed be worth £25.00 at no extra cost to you. Please do not hesitate to ask us for further information about Gift Aid status by emailing us at info@ivsgb.org. If you experience any problems while using our online payment service, please contact IVS by email at info@ivsgb.org.

Payments by cheque:

However, if you would prefer not to use an online payment system, you can send us a cheque made payable to International Voluntary Service at IVS, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR. Please let us know if you would like your donation to qualify for Gift Aid and we will send you the appropriate form to fill in and return to us together with the relevant information.

* Stripe has been audited by a PCI-certified auditor and is certified to PCI Service Provider Level 1. This is the most stringent level of certification available in the payments industry.

Remember IVS in your Will:

If you have a passion for what we do and wish to help us continue the work we have undertaken for the last 90 years, you could decide to leave a gift to IVS in your Will. Please contact us if you need more information about how you can remember IVS in your Will.



OUR THANKS

The progress of IVS depends on our staff, volunteers, and members as well as, support from trusts, grants and other external groups. Promoting peace and understanding between people and nations through volunteering has always been our goal and has been made possible through your ongoing support.

IVS is mainly supported by a combination of grants, trusts, donations, and memberships that includes subscriptions, registration fees and donations. Thanks are due to all funders who supported IVS in 2019. We are especially grateful for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project on Young Trustees as part of Year of Young People; from the Corra Foundation for Capacity Building to develop long term overseas partners; and funds from the EU funded Erasmus + programme which have enabled volunteers to undertake both short and medium term periods of community service both within Britain and abroad, as an addition to the programme of international exchanges undertaken through Service Civil International.

Over the last few months, as the world came to a halt, our work continued. IVS wants to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made it possible for us to support worldwide charities and community groups. Without your help, through donations and grants, IVS could not continue our international support and fight for peace.

IVS is the British Branch of Service Civil International, Company registered in England & Wales No: 01354951. Charity Registered in England & Wales: 275424, and in Scotland SC039585