

How has 2022 been for IVS so far?



Above: Camp Kernow in Cornwall

2022 marked the return of short-term voluntary exchanges in IVS after a break of two years caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We hosted six short-term workcamps with two different partners.

In Scotland, we received volunteers who helped organise the 'Doune the Rabbit Hole' music festival. In total, 12 volunteers attended the project which was shared with our friends at Volunteer Action for Peace.

In Cornwall, we worked for the first time with Camp Kernow, an environmental adventure camp for children. Volunteers joined the team as Environmental Adventure Leaders, supporting children in a residential summer camp programme which engages them with nature, traditional crafts, environmental issues and adventurous outdoor activities. In total 5 projects were organised, hosting a total of 6 volunteers - from Catalonia, France, Germany, and Mexico.

The Long-Term Volunteering programme in the UK remained very strong with 13 LTVs being hosted by 3 different local partners (Camphill School Aberdeen, Cyrenians Edinburgh and Camphill Loch Arthur). IVS works very closely with these three partners and there are good prospects of strengthening this partnership in 2023.

Nuno Doria, IVS Programme Manager

Membership

If you have not yet renewed your membership of IVS in 2022, or would like to join IVS, you can do this on-line at <https://ivsgb.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

Steve Davies

In August former IVS staff member Steve Davies died. Below, Franny Swift remembers him.



*Steve at the recent IVS AGM
(taken from Zoom)*

Steve (aka Charlie!) Davies 1947-2022

I first met Steve and Carole in the late 1970s when they arrived in Leicester to job share as workcamp coordinators for IVS after working as IVS field officers in the Comoro Islands. They were both a joy to work with: Steve such a leveller and problem solver, Carole creative and idealistic. Not that Steve wasn't idealistic, he was, he had many stories which he related with a gleam in his eye to demonstrate why for example he had stopped wearing ties on principle.

Of course there were far more serious principles behind the gleam which continued to guide him throughout his life such as his commitment to family and communal living as well as bringing people from all walks of life and all over the globe together to work positively and practically towards peace and mutual understanding.

A major ambition coincided with reorganisation within IVS when he and Carole moved to Old Hall community as we devolved to set up regional rather than centralised offices in Edinburgh, Leeds and East Bergholt as well as continuing in Leicester. Steve was a great storyteller and he continued to use these stories as he developed many opportunities for volunteers with workcamps, work weekends and longer throughout the south of England.

He continued to do that by inviting IVS 'oldies' to Old Hall every year for the 'Onions' weekend, stringing the annual crop for use by the community until the next year! His life and work has touched many people and I for one am grateful for his influence in mine.

Franny Swift

Diarmaid McGarrigle



Diarmaid McGarrigle of Glebe House died suddenly at the beginning of September. Below, former colleagues Helen Honeyman and Tom Ryder share their thoughts.

“All of his colleagues at Glebe House were today shocked and saddened on learning that Diarmaid McGarrigle has died suddenly. Through 40 years, Diarmaid worked at Glebe House in Kilclief, firstly as a volunteer then as the Centre Manager for the Harmony Community Trust. He retired in May of this year.

“His was a life spent in service and support to people from all communities in the journey towards a more peaceful, sustainable and shared society. People came from many countries to live and work in Kilclief so his loss will truly be felt locally and internationally.

"All of us at Glebe House offer our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Diarmaid's family and friends. Rest in Peace." *Helen Honeyman*

"Sad news for those who work for a more just and peaceful world. Diarmaid dedicated his life to the cause of bringing people together to foster understanding. He will be missed Glebe House, his native Derry, Donegal and in the hearts of his family and friends and volunteers from north and south of Ireland and throughout the wider world." *Tom Ryder*

IVS's very own Richard Williams writes:

"It was in Moscow in 1987 that I first met Diarmaid for an East West event in which about a dozen SCI international volunteers joined quite a number of country groups of volunteers on a variety of cultural activities in Moscow (where we queued to see Mr Lenin in his tomb), in what was then Leningrad, and in Tallinn. We had a week in a cultural centre on the Baltic coast with a symbolic day of voluntary work improving the fencing around a local centre. At one point each group had to sing a song, Diarmaid led our group in singing 'Old MacDonald had a farm' where everyone could provide the relevant animal noise in their own language. Decades later Diarmaid agreed that Glebe House should feature in IVS's 90th birthday celebrations with a tree-planting in September 2021."

Meet Nuno, IVS Programme Manager



Since November 2021 Nuno Doria has been managing IVS's exchange of volunteers. This has included short-term volunteering by British members going abroad and those travelling in to Britain to our projects here, which in 2022 have been in Stirlingshire and in Cornwall. Nuno's work also includes the administrative work so that volunteers from abroad can be placed on long term projects in various parts of Britain.

Nuno first became active within the international voluntary service in 1996 as a workcamp volunteer near New York, USA and has barely stopped since! In addition to his participation in several workcamps in France, Cuba and Belgium, Nuno has been involved with various international voluntary work organisations around Europe.

In previous roles, he has acted as a Workcamp Co-ordinator and Programme Manager in Paris with Association Concordia and Solidarités Jeunesses, a Staff Officer in Antwerp at the International Secretariat of Service Civil International, a Training Co-ordinator and elected Volunteer Official in Finland (at KVT) and Sweden (at IAL). Nuno took over the role as Programme Manager of Volunteer Action for Peace in 2005 and is also since November 2021 the Programme Manager of IVS."

Great Big Green Week

24th September - 2nd October 2022

The Climate Coalition, of which IVS is a member, is organising a Great Big Green Week. This is expected to be the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. You can find an event near you by visiting their website greatbiggreenweek.com

It lists 542 events and 90 local green weeks. IVS members can join events nearest to their home if they wish. A group of the London and Southern group members will be visiting Old Hall in East Bergholt for the first weekend of Green Week. The plan is to volunteer to do some work on the land, to contribute to the community. It is also an opportunity to meet face to face and reflect on how much Steve Davies gave to IVS.

Volunteering with the Othona Community



In August our friends at Volunteer Action for Peace arranged for a group of volunteers to join a project run by the Othona community in Bradwell on Sea in Essex.

Othona write:

“We just had a wonderful group staying with us, the first summer workcamp we have run since 2019. There were 10 international volunteers and a supervisor, Mariona, who is from Spain. We had people from South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Italy, Germany and France. A huge amount of work was done on site including painting, gardening, concreting and repair work, tidying in the Bank and much more. They very artistically painted the BBQ as well. Thank you to all of them for working so hard and being part of the Community for the last two weeks, we will miss you.”

IVS Joint Chairs

IVS held its AGM in June, and Neil Aldred and Mohammad Rashid were elected Joint Chairs. Below is some information about them.

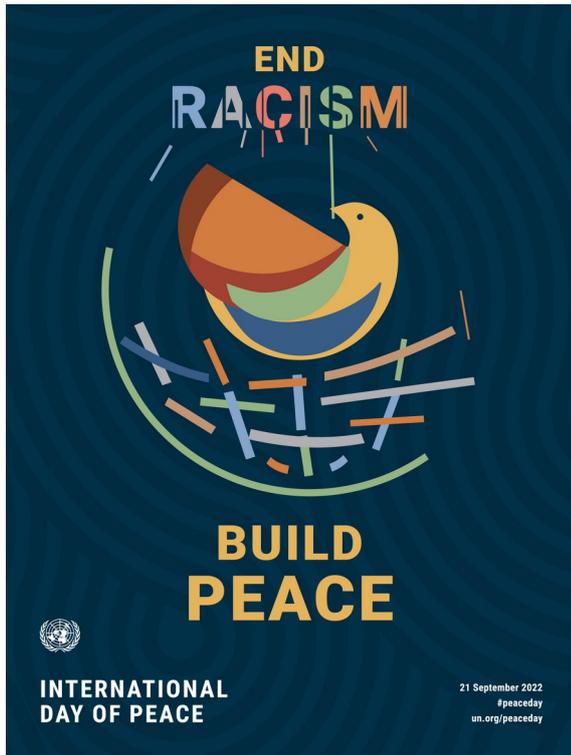
Neil’s experience with IVS began in 1972 when he was sent to Cameroon, an event which led him to a 23 year career in Oxfam, ActionAid and several African and panAfrican organisations helping to promote international development in a number of countries and myriad communities. In his current location in Ireland, he ran Ulster University’s International Development Programme, an environmental information centre and a Global Solidarity programme for the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). He is delighted to be back with IVS and hopes to be able to contribute to others’ experiences of meeting new people, cultures, perspectives and understandings.

Rashid has attended workcamps and meetings in Europe and North Africa, and participated with local and international volunteers. Some of the workcamps were based in remote locations e.g. one host was a rural community: Camphill Community in rural County Wexford in Ireland.

He says:

“I am early retired from my fulltime work. With my commitment to promote and develop volunteering for peace I will take charge of work in hand and use innovative and future proof action to help IVS successfully meet the objectives in their areas of activities.”

International Day of Peace - 21st September 2022



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21st September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

As conflicts continue to erupt across the globe, causing people to flee, we have seen race-based discrimination at borders. As COVID-19 keeps attacking our communities, we have seen how certain racial groups have been hit much harder than others. As economies suffer, we have seen hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities.

The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is 'End racism. Build peace.'

Further details can be found at un.org/peaceday.

How you can help IVS

Volunteer

Earlier in the newsletter we introduced the new 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:

- a) an extra person to sit in on our IVS Board meetings until June 2023
- b) an extra person to replace Steve Davies on our Finance Advisory Group, or to serve as Assistant Treasurer
- c) 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@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

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 ivsgb.org/donate-2

www.ivsgb.org

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