



**International
Voluntary
Service**



A Joint Newsletter from IVS and VAP - December 2022

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/ there are two links here:

- **short term projects** 1 – 4 weeks >> <https://workcamps.sci.ngo/icamps/> Over the period 1 Dec 22 – 30 April 23, you will find 26 projects including one or more in Spain, Sri Lanka, Iceland, Nigeria, Botswana, Togo, Thailand



“Christmas for All” social and solidarity action project, Togo

- **long term projects** 1 – 12 months, go to >> <http://www.longterm.lteg.info/index.php/project/publicIndex> Here you will find opportunities in Ecuador, El Salvador, Great Britain, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **other Long Term projects**, in Kenya and Thailand may be found at <https://ivsgb.org/sustainable-volunteering/>

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

- 19 **short term projects** are listed with start dates between 1 December 2022 and 1 May 2023 in Ecuador, London, Iceland, Thailand, Japan, Palestine, Mexico,
- 5 **mid term projects** in Ecuador, Mozambique, Mexico. during that time period
- 7 **longer term projects** in Ecuador, France, Japan, Mozambique,

VAP workcamp at Dulwich in London - also open to IVS/SCI members

Volunteer Action for Peace is once again organising a pre-Christmas workcamp in London. From 11 to 21 December a group of 8 international volunteers will work on different environmental projects with the London Wildlife Trust completing practical conservation tasks in the beautiful Sydenham Hill Woods, working alongside local volunteers.

London Wildlife Trust is an urban nature conservation charity working to improve London's green spaces for people and wildlife. Volunteers will also be working in nearby Dulwich Park and Belair Park with the local authority parks department.

The group will be accommodated at the South London Scout Centre in the beautiful leafy area of Dulwich.



Commemoration marking the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the British Asians from Uganda in the United Kingdom.

This event, was organised by the British Asian Trust to remember that on 4th August 1972 some 60,000 Ugandan Asians were given 90 days notice to leave the country by former Ugandan President Idi Amin. Almost half of these arrived and settled in the UK. The first evacuation flight arrived in the UK 18th September 1972 carrying 193 passengers.

IVS volunteers worked for up to six months to help the Ugandan Asians both at Stanstead as they arrived, and also at one of the reception centres - Greenham Common.

Tim Marc's report on the Commemoration and some further information from one of the original volunteers, Anne Rivington, can be found here <https://ivsgb.org/ugandan-asians/asians-from-uganda/>



IVS Memories project: 90 years and counting!

So far, we have collected over 50 personal memories of volunteering with IVS since we started collecting memories in 2021 our 90th 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

Thank you.

Helen, Raj and Rosemary.

Contact with former volunteers

Were you (or your parent or grandparent) in Italy in 1963?

In 1963 a British volunteer travelled to Locri, in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy. He joined a group of international volunteers tasked with building a bridge, the 'Ponte del civilista'. Almost 60 years on the bridge is still standing, but where are the volunteers now? One of the two British participants is keen to re-connect with them. IVS's archives do not have details of this activity.



Can you help? One of the other participants was, at that time, a British Police cadet, another was someone who went on to work with the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome. Do you know anyone else who attended that project in 1963?

If you do, or you have memories which you would like to share, of a different project which you attended, in the last five years, or the past 50 years, please contact IVS at memories@ivsgb.org

International Volunteer Day 2022

SCI's contribution to this recent day can be found in a video on Facebook in which volunteers are thanked in many languages: <https://ivsgb.org/international-volunteer-day-2022/>

VAP AGM

VAP held its AGM on 18 September, The existing committee was re-elected. Nigel Watt remains Chair, Paul Winter Vice Chair, Treasurer Gemma Taylor (based in Peru!).

The year showed an increase in the number of international volunteers coming to workcamps in the UK (including to IVS' camp Doune the Rabbit Hole. The last group of of European Solidarity Corps volunteers finished - and sadly the UK is now excluded from the scheme.

VAP is looking at options for the future, What can it usefully do in this changing world?

Nigel Watt

SCI's Exchange Platform Meeting (EPM)

I was very happy to represent IVS at the EPM in Braives, Belgium from 10 to 16 October 2022.

This was a very special occasion for the whole SCI movement, as after two years of online meetings due to the pandemic, one could feel the sheer energy amongst all the participants. It was also on a personal level a very special meeting as it was my first international meeting of SCI since I joined the ICM of 2005 in Switzerland.

This year's topic of the EPM was "Volunteering as a Tool for Youth Inclusion". SCI Belgium hosted the event on a charming old farm and did a great job at it. The contents of the meeting were also extremely interesting as the prep. team made sure to include the movement in the setting of the agenda topics.

Besides the more practical workshops related with the exchanges of volunteers (SCI insurance, Communication in SCI, the Future of the Online Placement System), there was a wide variety of sessions focused on the current challenges and possible solutions that SCI member organisations and partners currently face.

We joined workshops on Working on Inclusion, Decolonising Volunteering, Project Management in SCI, Visa Procedures Management (which I was asked to facilitate), SCI's Vision and Strategy and many more.



Finally, I also attended the meeting of SCI's Africa Working Group which IVS became a supporting branch. Together with Kerry Hargadon I will represent IVS in the Steering Group which is now composed of three SCI Branches (SCI Germany, KVT Finland and IVS), one SCI Group (VWAN Nigeria) and two partner organisations (ASTOVOT Togo and Kipepeo Kenya).

Overall, it was a very useful meeting that gave me the chance to not only feel the pulse of SCI but also to make sure IVS goes on playing an active role on the international work of our movement.

Nuno Doria, IVS Programme Manager

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://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

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:

- 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 <https://ivsgb.org/donate-2>

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