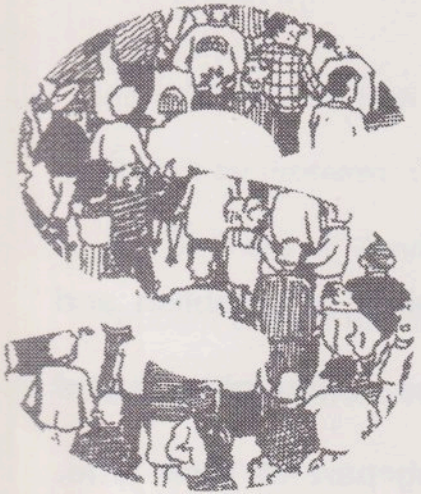


# **Swansea Student Community Action**



## **Annual Report 1993-1994**

**Swansea Student Community Action (SSCA) aims to establish and develop positive links between students and the community around them. This is done by students actively giving part of their time, energy, ideas and enthusiasm voluntarily to work with others. Through this process they learn many new skills, as well as building positive relationships with people in Swansea's communities.**

# CONTENTS

Foreword by Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG . . . . .	2
Report by Professor D. Hywel Francis, Chair of Board of Management . . . . .	3
List of Board of Management & Student Executive Committee 1993/94 . . . . .	4
Student Chair's Report . . . . .	5
Student Treasurer's Report . . . . .	6
Income/Expenditure 1993/94 . . . . .	8
Swansea Student Community Action Project News . . . . .	9
Staff Reports . . . . .	13
Percentage of student volunteers interested in projects . . . . .	18
SSCA representation in Faculties . . . . .	19
SSCA Active Volunteers in Projects . . . . .	20
Acknowledgements . . . . .	Inside back cover

**Swansea Student Community Action (also known as SSCA) is a Registered Charity No. 256146 based on the campus of the University of Wales Swansea.**

**Swansea Student Community Action, Mandela House, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP. Telephone No: 0792-295743.**

*James Callaghan*



House of Lords

I send my congratulations to Swansea Student Community Action on another active and successful year's work in caring for those members of the community who need assistance.

A glance at the Annual Report reveals the wide range of help that is needed and of the activities that the student members of Community Action undertake - reading for the blind, shopping for the disabled, gardening and decorating pensioners' homes, working with children of single parents are some of the activities. Indeed the student community seems to touch almost the whole range of human need.

I send my warmest thanks to the many students who volunteer every year. For obvious reasons, yours is a changing membership and I am glad to see that it does not falter. The helping hand of the students gives new hope and tremendous encouragement to the weakest in the community.

I am sure that many students will acknowledge that they themselves benefit from their voluntary work by coming to understand the complexity of life for many of our citizens. Through their work, students acquire skills in organisation and management, they come to comprehend the need to prevent groups from being alienated, and recognise that in one way or another, we are all interdependent. Your work also shows that if society is to work well, then all of us have responsibilities as well as rights, and I thank you for your great contribution.

James Callaghan

**PRIFYSGOL  
CYMRU**

Adran Addysg Barhaus Oedolion  
Canolfan Addysg Barhaus  
Coleg Y Brifysgol Abertawe  
Parc Singleton  
Abertawe. SA2 8PP

Teleffon: (+44) 0792 295277

Ffacs: (+44) 0792 295751



Cyfarwyddwr Director  
Yr Athro / Professor Hywel Francis

**UNIVERSITY OF  
WALES**

Department of Adult Continuing Education  
Continuing Education Centre  
University College of Swansea  
Singleton Park  
Swansea. SA2 8PP

Telephone: (+44) 0792 295277

Fax: (+44) 0792 295751

This year can be summarised as being one of struggle, and Swansea Student Community Action has once again shown how much it can achieve in the face of adversity. The high standard of its work has never faltered, even though the group are now confronted with greater financial problems than ever before.

SSCA is clearly a very cohesive organisation which plays a major role in the community of Swansea, and we are indebted for the recognition we receive, both from the various agencies in the community and from College.

Our new Development Worker, Christine Fielder has added much to the management of SSCA, and together with members of the Board of Management team has succeeded in clarifying the essential needs of SSCA, as well as making great efforts in the difficult area of fundraising.

Unfortunately, our Admin Worker, Gina Threlfall is leaving us this Summer to pursue her part-time studies. I would like to thank Gina on behalf of the Board of Management for all the good work she has done for SSCA, and to wish her well in the future.

Jason Jones our Project Support Worker, is also leaving us and has given SSCA sterling service. Our thanks must also go to him, and our best wishes for his future endeavours.

SSCA face the next academic year with much hope and determination that they will be able to carry on the work that is so sorely needed in the community, and I trust that the financial support to enable them to do this will not be denied them.

*Hywel Francis*

**PROFESSOR D. HYWEL FRANCIS  
CHAIR SSCA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 1993/1994

## Chair

Prof D. Hywel Francis - Head of Continuing Education, University of Wales, Swansea.

## Vice-Chair

Rev. Chris Darvill - University Chaplain

## Community Rep

Ms. Eleri Thomas - Development Worker, Social Services Volunteering Project.

## SSCA Executive Chair

Ms. Rachel Dimond

## SSCA Executive Treasurer

Mr. John Collins

## S.U. Rep

Ms. Nicki Foster - S.U. Treasurer

## Project Co-Ordinator's Forum Rep

Mr. Keith Burnett

## In attendance:

Development Worker - Christine Fielder  
Student Secretary - Jane Amner  
Either Project Support Worker - Jason Jones  
Or Admin Worker - Gina Threlfall

## STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1993

Chair	-	Rachel Dimond
Vice-Chair	-	Richard Jones
Secretary	-	Jane Amner
Treasurer	-	John Collins
Social Rep	-	Phil Hitchings
Publicity	-	Sally Drake
Transport	-	Phil Rimmington
Project Leaders Rep	-	Keith Burnett
Equal Opps	-	Glen Graham

# STUDENT CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



When the Exec had their Evaluation Day at the beginning of this term we looked back at our 'ACTION PLAN' which we devised when we started as the Exec. We were all pleasantly surprised at how much we had actually achieved.

Our first task was continuing on what the previous Exec had started - **RESTRUCTURING THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**. Instead of there being a large Board of Management and Exec - the Board of Management has been split into three smaller groups, which are hopefully more efficient. A Special General Meeting was called to approve the new Constitution.

The **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT** now consists of seven people - over half of which are students. These people are the Trustees. This group has been helping us to find outside supervision for the Workers and also looking into funding for the Project Support Worker's post and where to apply for money.

The **FINANCE SUB-GROUP** has been created as has an **ADVICE & DEVELOPMENT GROUP**. In this last group people from the Community and College attend to share their experience and knowledge on queries which we have.

So far they have been really helpful in drawing up Contracts for the Workers and in the setting up of the Fundraising Group.

This last group is organized by the Vice-Chair, as are the **OPEN MEETINGS** which have been re-established this year. Open Meetings are a way for information to flow within SSCA and for volunteers' voices to be heard.

So far Open Meetings have covered the structure of SSCA, the election of the Project Co-Ordinator's Rep and the current proposals of new Exec members.

A big **THANK-YOU** to everyone involved in all the above groups for all your help, advice and support during the year.

This really has been a year of changes - and it all started with a change in location - SSCA moved. We are now on the 3rd floor in Mandela House. Our office is now slightly larger, with a back room which is used for meetings, and is where Gina now works.

The major change which SSCA experienced this year was the departure of John Evans as Co-Ordinator, and the subsequent arrival of Christine Fielder as Development Worker. We are all really pleased with the choice we made in appointing Christine as she is great!! We hope that this first year has not been too chaotic for her.

The change in Workers led to us organizing a farewell party for John in November which many people went to and where we all had a good time.

We also finally got around to drawing up Contracts for the Workers - in Jason's case one year late!

For myself, the whole process of appointing a Worker has been an experience which few students at university have. From helping design the job advert, being involved in the short-listing of applicants, then the interviews and finally drawing up of Contracts. Something which none of us had any experience of - but which with help we managed.

In our **ACTION PLAN** the word **FUNDING** kept cropping up, and although we haven't actually increased the funds we have hopefully set up the mechanisms to do so! A **FUNDRAISING GROUP** has been set up with a representative sitting on the Exec. Another element, as mentioned earlier, is finding other sources of funding for the **PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER'S** post. One of SSCA's main drains is via the **BUSES** - and for this reason a minibus fund has been set up. The money to establish this comes from the insurance which we received due to the write-off of our better bus.

Thank you to SSCA for giving me the chance to be Chair this year - I have achieved things which a year ago I wouldn't have thought possible - and this is what is so wonderful about the SSCA network. It gives students the chance to participate in, organize events and gain experiences which they could gain nowhere else.

From myself, and the rest of the Exec I would like to thank Christine, Jason and Gina, members of the Board of Management and everyone else who is involved in SSCA for all the support and encouragement which they have given to us all this year.

**RACHEL DIMOND**  
**SSCA CHAIRPERSON**

## SSCA TREASURER'S REPORT



Swansea Student Community Action has undergone change in many ways over the past year; the area of Finance is no exception. As charitable organisations become more financially accountable for their income and expenditure, formalized financial structures, to ensure efficient record keeping, have become a necessity. This is, therefore, the direction in which SSCA has moved.

The Board of Management restructure has led to the creation of a Finance Committee in order to continually overview the financial management of SSCA.

This year, for the first time, the Finance Group has been able to allocate financial budgets to individual projects, whilst acting as a point of contact between bank account statements and Project Co-Ordinators. The Board of Management has also been kept up to date with SSCA's financial affairs and have taken a keen interest.

More recently, we have purchased a replacement minibus and have set up separate accounting facilities for SSCA's transport services.

Thanks must now be given for the continual support which SSCA has enjoyed over the past year.

- Thanks is given to the University College of Swansea for their funding our Development Worker and Admin Worker; without which, none of our work could take place.
- SSCA has enjoyed a good relationship with the Students' Union this year; this has been seen practically in joint projects, in day-to-day relations and in their approval of our grant towards the administrative costs of SSCA. Thanks to Nicki Foster, Mansel Rees and Nick Tregonning.
- Also thanks to all the groups/individuals who have supported us financially.
- Thanks are also given to Malcolm Ace, our Honorary Treasurer for the last couple of years for his help and support. Sadly Malcolm is no longer at UCS, and we are currently looking for his replacement.
- Thanks are given to Coopers & Lybrand, from whom we have just received a draft copy of accounts for the year ending 1992. I propose that Coopers & Lybrand continue to act as our auditors for the following year. This has been seconded by Phil Hitchings.

This year has, therefore, been a successful year for SSCA in financial terms, despite the many challenges which we have faced.

However, there is still much to be done. With the help of the Advice & Development Group, a Fundraising Group is now being set up, another important step in the development of the Swansea Student Community Action financial structure.

It now remains for me to say one last thank-you to the Staff and Executive Committee for all their many comments, some of which were words of encouragement, over the past 12 months.

**JOHN COLLINS**  
**SSCA EXEC TREASURER**

# SSCA INCOME/EXPENDITURE

The latest audited accounts show the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 1992.

1992

£

## Income

General .....	18,056
Kids Away Project .....	6,272
Hoppits Holidays .....	6,575
	-----
	30,903
	-----

## Expenditure

General .....	27,544
Kids Away Project .....	3,954
Hoppits Holidays .....	4,580
	-----
	36,078
	-----

**Deficit for the year** ..... 5,175

# PROJECT NEWS

## Off to the seaside!



Children, students, volunteer helpers and taxi drivers pictured at University College Swansea before setting off for Barry Island on a trip organised by Swansea Students Community Action and the Swansea Taxi Owners Association.

**KIDS AWAY**  
Trips to Barry Island, an Xmas Party and a Treasure Hunt provide stimulation and fun for social services referred children.

**CONNECT**  
A social club for resettled homeless people. Highlights include discos, and celebration nights.

**GARDENING & DECORATING**  
Mowing lawns and painting kitchens is all part of this voluntary project. A practical way of assisting elderly and disabled people.

## Minibus appeal



The damaged minibus is examined by student transport administrator Chris Spicer, right, and Chris Jones, publicity officer.

**YOUNGSTERS** seem certain to miss out on weekend trips because their only form of transport is facing the scrap heap. The minibus owned by the Student Community Action Group based at University College Swansea are on their last legs.

### Repairs

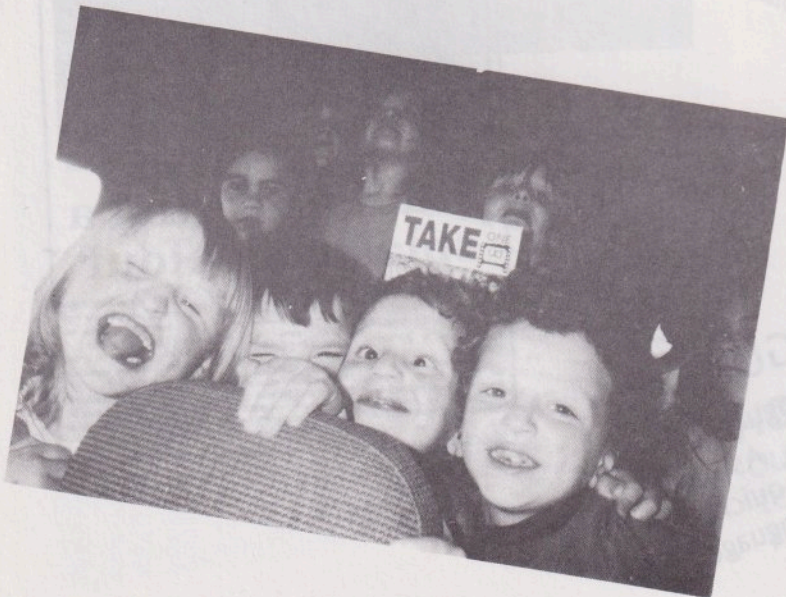
One needs more than £1,000 worth of repairs to get a bus working and the group are unable to raise the money.

The buses are used by the students to take their children away on weekend trips. New resources from the action group

have launched an appeal to help raise extra funds to replace the old buses which have been used regularly every day.

Chris Spicer, publicity officer, says: "We are totally reliant on the minibus as they are in a bit of a state. If the buses were to be scrapped we would be forced to use public transport."

Chris Spicer and Chris Jones would like to see their appeal to help the minibus replaced. They would like to see the minibus replaced by a new one. They would like to see the minibus replaced by a new one.



**CRECHE**  
Volunteers support staff in the Students' Union Creche on campus, for under 5's, many of whom are from overseas.

## PROJECT NEWS

### BUNCH OF GRAPES

Students visit children in Singleton Hospital providing play activities and games. A new initiative this term is painting a Mural at Morriston Hospital.



### PENSIONER VISITING

Students visit elderly people in a Nursing Home near the University, and work with Age Concern's Lifeline scheme.

### READING FOR BLIND STUDENTS

Reading literature onto tapes for visually impaired students at University.

### SPLASH!

Takes children from a large estate in Swansea to the local Leisure Centre. The children can be very challenging in terms of their attitudes and behaviour.



Volunteers from Swansea Student Community Action brighten up a corridor. Pictured are: Julie Eames, Gail Pearce, Claire Smale, Jonathan Bryan, Lucy Evans and Rebecca Harvey

### Students bring a splash of colour

STUDENTS have brought a splash of colour into the lives of patients at a Swansea hospital.

A group of volunteers from the University of Swansea Wales offered to brighten up a corridor in the outpatients department of Morriston Hospital.

By David Redding

They gave up their weekend free time to paint a colourful mural which has delighted patients and staff.

Outpatients manager Ian Phillips said he was grateful to the young volunteers from Student Community Action for their work on the mural.

He said: "It is very bright and when you contrast it with the other wall you can see how it lights the place up."

"I love it and I think it will appeal to everyone, especially children."

"We are very grateful to the students from Swansea for giving up their Saturdays to create it for us."

### SIGN LANGUAGE

Charlotte teaches Sign Language to students in a positive way. As she herself is deaf, volunteers quickly learn to communicate in Sign Language

# PROJECT NEWS

## Plea for help with holiday for disabled

**VOLUNTEERS** at Swansea University College are urgently calling on businessmen and travellers to help them with an Easter trip for disabled children.

The Student Community Action group are planning to take five handicapped children from their Hoppel group away to the magical Kingdom of EuroDisney.

The group has been given five free tickets to the theme park in France, but it desperately needs help with the flights and travel arrangements.

One of the organisers, Carolyn Howell said they needed people to donate any spare air miles.

She added: "We want to send the kids on a really special trip."

There are about 70 children in the Hoppel group and the five lucky winners will be picked from a hat.

During the term the kids are taken away on day and weekend trips which have been organised by the group.

The Action group are pleased with closure with the Government's ban on Swansea 295743.

By Susan Ridd



Ticket to ride - Carolyn Howell from Swansea Student Community Action with the Euro Disneyland tickets.

## HOPPITS

Weekend, day trips and socials for young people with learning disabilities and their families and Mickey Mouse!

## PHAB

Able bodied and physically disabled people meet together for cinema visits, bowling and fun!

## LINC

Learning in the Community involves volunteers with people in the Swansea area for whom English is not their first language. Overseas students and their families benefit from these links.



## Students help out

**BIG** hearted Swansea students are helping more than 850 needy people in West Glamorgan.

Membership of the Student Community Action group based at University College, Swansea, has reached an all time high and volunteers are helping more people than ever before.

The 450 students give up their free time to work mainly with the elderly, children and the disabled.

They also work in crime prevention and social services schemes.

The 26-year-old group now operates more than 25 projects.

By Susan Ridd

But most are struggling financially. And the volunteers are constantly looking at ways of raising funds.

The students are currently trying to raise enough money to replace two minibuses.

The vehicles are in constant use and are beginning to show their age and become unreliable.

Anyone wanting to help Swansea Student Community Action group is asked to contact them on Swansea 295743.

## HOMELESS SHELTER

Out on the streets at night students talk to homeless people, visit the shelter and help with the soup run.

# PROJECT NEWS

## TUESDAY NIGHT CLUB

A detached youth project working with 14-17 year olds. An activity weekend at Clyne Farm, provided a highlight for this project.

## FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Weekly meetings, involving basic literacy and numeracy skills for adults with learning difficulties, is the starting point for the developing friendships.

## Come and join the Tuesday Night Club

### Having fun on streets of Bonymaen

STUDENTS from Swansea's University College are giving up their free time to help youngsters on one of the city's biggest council estates.

The Tuesday Night Club has been set up to help give the youngsters something to do. "Every week they take a man bus to Bonymaen and hang out on the streets with the children. One of the project leaders, Matt, said: "They need to be a community centre at Bonymaen but it was burnt down. "This is what the youngsters want to do. We just go up there and talk to them and listen to what they have to say." The group of youngsters are mostly boys aged between 13 and 16. Matt added: "The Cross at

Report: Susan Buchanan, Pictures Bill Graham

Bonymaen is a place where youngsters from the area have been hanging out in for years. "Some of the residents that the gang of kids surrounding, for youngsters we take them bowling or out town. The youngsters hope to convert it into a mobile youth club. And they have applied to the Poppen Trust for help with their funding. Project co-ordinator of the Swansea Student Community Action group, Christine Fielder said: "We are engaged for cash and are constantly looking at ways in which we can raise money to fund our

project." Matt said: "At first it was quite hard for us to be accepted by the youngsters. We have had bricks lobbed at us. "But they see us as friends now. And I get a lot out of it. It shows me a totally different side of life." The SSCA has been established at the university for 26 years. And membership has increased to an all time high this year with 300 students involved in 18 projects. The students try to break down the barriers between themselves and the community.



Students and kids together on town ground near Bonymaen Cross



## Special fun for city youngsters

MORE than 100 children will have a fun-filled day out — thanks to the big-hearted students of University College, Swansea. Members of the volunteer Student Community Action Group have organised an afternoon of face painting, parachute games and a bouncy castle for children

who attend their Hoppy and Kids Away schemes. These schemes deal with children who have learning difficulties or are socially deprived. **Pantomime**

A special visit from Santa will add to the festivities and students from the drama society have agreed to put on a pantomime.

Organiser Sally Drake said: "These events have been very successful in the past. The kids have a really great time. "The parents get to have a break and the children get an afternoon to remember. Prizes and presents have been donated by local businesses and the party will take place at the Taleisin annex on the university campus on Saturday December 4.



## NIGHTLINE

A confidential listening service for students run by students.

## GINGERBREAD

An activities based club for children of single parents at a local community centre.

# STAFF REPORTS

## DEVELOPMENT WORKER



### Introduction

Following alterations to the structure of SSCA last year, which involved the formation of an **Advice & Development Group**, a **Finance Group**, and a smaller **Management Group** who are our Trustees, the departure of John Evans was probably the most noticeable change.

My employment, along with a new job title of **Development Worker** began in August 1994. An abundance of new challenges were before me, the accidental writing off of the minibus being just one of them.

The term began with Freshers' Fayre, Intro Night, Office Open Day and projects' first meetings. Some 400 volunteers registered and have gone onto, and will continue to, gain practical experiences and skills whilst working in the the local community. Many students, having been committed volunteers will become Project Co-Ordinators and will learn the important skills of leadership, group organisation, motivation and supervision of other volunteers. Some volunteers having been with SSCA from their first year, will become involved in their second and third year, in the SSCA Executive Committee. Here they may gain practical experience in the running of a large organisation and the making of responsible decisions, drawing on the many skills they have gained as volunteers with SSCA.

We believe that an awareness of current issues, such as disability, homelessness, special needs and equal opportunities are important upon graduation, and encourages the Swansea graduate to be one who is not only of a high intellectual capacity, but has a high standard of personal development as well.

### SSCA in the Community

SSCA has built up good relationships with local organisations, and continues to work with groups such West Glamorgan CVS, Age Concern, Social Services, St John Ambulance Brigade, Crime Prevention Panel, Drugs Prevention, Community Safety Officers, the West Glamorgan Disability Forum and others. We have been asked to participate in multi-agency work, which emphasises the positive way in which we are accepted into the community. Links with other voluntary groups continue to grow. We are constantly looking at ways to develop and strengthen our work with the voluntary sector, statutory organisations and businesses, and have been asked to present our work at seminars for WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Service) and the West Glamorgan Disability Forum.

## **This year in SSCA**

This year we produced our handbook onto audio tapes so that partially sighted students may find out more about our activities. Our volunteers are referenced and issued with I.D. cards, in line with other large voluntary organisations.

St. John Ambulance have assisted us by providing First Aid Training for a large number of volunteers, who have now received their certificates. We hope to provide more involved First Aid training for students who would like to form a support group for the projects.

Our input to projects such as **NIGHTLINE** and the **SHOPPING PROJECT** has furthered links with the Students' Union, whose support, advice and co-operation is much appreciated.

Networking with other SCA groups has proved to be a great success in the region. Our students have travelled to Aberyswyth to launch their SCA group and meet up with other SCAs, providing and benefitting from training workshops and information sharing. Regional meetings have taken place in Plymouth and Bristol, and we plan to participate in a conference in Cheltenham. Sadly, funding restrictions did not allow us to take part in the National SCA Network Conference in Loughborough.

The second term of my employment focused on training events for volunteers. A training strategy highlights the need for constant on-going training and forms the basis for our **SCA TRAINING WEEK**, which includes a **BLINDFOLD BOWLS CHALLENGE** as well as workshops and meetings to cover a variety of issues. We also hosted a **NETWORK TRAINING DAY**, sponsored by the Co-operative Retailing Services Member Relations Group, giving us quality training and the opportunity to reciprocate invitations from other SCA groups as well as other voluntary organisations in West Glamorgan.

The recently formed Advice & Development Group has provided an opportunity for the students and staff to discuss and gain knowledge and advice on relevant issues in a friendly forum, and the group is hoping to extend its membership to people with a working knowledge of, and interest in, SSCA. The Management Group, half of whom are students, play a very active role in the organisation.

Funding from the University and the Students' Union provides essential support to SSCA, which enables us to provide a secure framework supporting our volunteers. Other financial restraints have led us to evaluate the need for minibuses and project funding, and has demonstrated a requirement for a Funding Sub-Group to consider funding issues.

## **CONCLUSION**

To conclude my report on 193/94 in SSCA, I would like to say that it has been both stimulating and rewarding to meet and work with such a dedicated team of volunteers which, from the Board of Management to the Executive Committee, Project Co-Ordinators and all volunteers, has made me very welcome and been supportive.

I thank everyone for that, especially my colleagues Gina and Jason with whom I have worked so closely.

Sadly, Gina has decided to leave us, but it is hoped that we will not lose the benefit of her experience and the office organisation that she has instigated, and that she will become a member of the Advice & Development Group, continuing her interest and valuable input into SSCA.

Funding for the post of Project Support Worker is still in jeopardy, and if not forthcoming would create a backward step for SSCA. Jason has fulfilled his role in SSCA with enormous vigour and dedication, providing support for volunteers both individually and in groups, and strengthening links within the Students' Union.

I look forward to the new challenges of 1994/95 with a new Student Executive Committee and a new team of Project Co-Ordinators.

**CHRISTINE FIELDER**  
**SSCA DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

## PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER



Over the past year Swansea Student Community Action has become almost a 24 hour volunteering organisation. From the first student making their way to the Student Union Creche at 9-30am, a chain of volunteering begins at the Singleton Hospital Childrens' Ward and a local nursing home for elderly people. Some teach English to international students and their families, and others assist children with reading in local primary schools. Most spend an hour on the projects, but some spend up to three. Wednesday

is our most active afternoon with a team undertaking practical Gardening & Decorating for elderly people, and a Shopping Project taking students with mobility difficulties into the town centre.

The majority of projects take place in the evenings, however, and these are usually group projects and can last the whole evening: **Monday** sees Splash! taking children swimming, and the PHAB Social Club taking young people with physical difficulties to a local pub. On **Tuesday**, basic literacy and numeracy skills are taught to adults at Friendship House, and the Tuesday Night Club organises activities for teenagers on a local housing estate. **Wednesday** is our course evening with a 25 week Sign Language course, and Emergency First Aid available to all our volunteers. On **Thursdays**, the Connect Group organise social events for resettled homeless people, and **Friday** nights are spent with Gingerbread arranging games and activities for the children of lone parents. Every evening during the winter students work at Swansea's emergency Night Shelter.

Almost every weekend our two minibuses are used to organise residential activity weekends. Kids Away takes Social Services referred children, while Hoppits works with young people with special needs. Here, volunteers are on call from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening. We have almost completed the 24 hour cycle this year, by helping launch and provide volunteers for a confidential listening and information service for students called Nightline. With volunteers on shift 8pm-8am seven nights a week, there is almost always an SSCA volunteer at work in Swansea or beyond!

I joined SSCA as the inaugural Project Support Worker in November 1992, to 'provide advice, information and practical support' for the growing number of Project Co-Ordinators created to achieve our 24 hour service. As a former SSCA volunteer and Executive Committee member, it was a great pleasure to give back a few of the valuable skills I learnt over two years. Since then I have provided training, support and information through individual contact and the Project Co-Ordinators Forum; and where possible give an informal interview to all new volunteers and make sure they can get involved. My goal has been to try and increase communication throughout the organisation. This has been achieved through a termly newsletter for all volunteers, and a fortnightly news-sheet for Project Co-Ordinators. I have undertaken extensive research on Equal Opportunities to ensure volunteering access to all students regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexuality, nationality and medical status.

The most satisfying part of the job has been improving relations with the Students' Union. This has been undertaken through the joint operation of the Shopping Project and Nightline (also involving University staff), both being examples of students working for other students. We also joined a nation wide SCA Anti-Voluntary Membership campaign, where the Government's proposals for Students' Union reforms threatened the survival of SSCA. Letters were written to local MPs and the Education Secretary - John Patten, a volunteer took part in a presentation to the Department for Education, and a delegation successfully lobbied the House of Commons in January.

The job has also taken me away from the office, encouraging volunteers to network with other SCA groups in universities throughout the South West/South Wales region and nationwide. I helped organise the Regional Training Conference at Bristol last November, and co-ordinated a Swansea delegation to launch a new SCA group at Aberystwyth University.

The greatest challenge has been to increase communication between Project Co-Ordinators, Executive Committee, staff and volunteers. A rather vague job description has developed into a varied and exciting position - a Project Support Worker seems to dabble in everything! Despite my leaving SSCA in the Summer, I hope the position will be able to continue and develop, as it is essential for a diverse growing organisation like SSCA.

**JASON JONES**  
**PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER**

## ADMIN WORKER



I am grateful for the opportunity to write this report on the Admin Worker's post, as it is for me a valediction.

So much has happened since I first came to SSCA with the creation of this post, three and a half years ago, that it would be difficult for me to single out in such a short piece, any one incident from the many happy memories that I have.

Like the organisation itself, the work has expanded beyond all recognition, and it is due to this factor, as well as health problems and my own desire to return to part-time studies, that I feel it is time for a change of Worker. At least now the systems are set up in place, and one is aware that momentum will help carry them on in an organised way. This is in contrast to the time when I arrived at SSCA, and regularly sat with my eyes glued to the VDU, in one tiny room with bodies literally draped or placed in every possible space to be found. Including on, and propped up against me and my desk! How very differently we operate nowadays.

Obviously, SSCA is a very fluid organisation - change is the very nature of its being. However, the core, which is the body of students who run and lead the work that is done, is somehow self-perpetuating. Each year it is handed over to the next group with the same aims, objectives and enthusiasm. I am very proud to have worked with such committed and caring young people - many of whom take on tasks that older people would flinch from. I have been empowered both by them and the organisation, and can only give them all my thanks and every good wish for their continued success.

I must also offer my thanks to the members of the Board of Management, the Advice & Development Group, and my co-Workers - Christine and Jason for their support and friendship during my time with SSCA. Their input is also vital to the organisation, and complements the students' work, so that the end result is a structure that fills a very large gap in the community of Swansea.

**GINA THRELFALL**  
**SSCA ADMIN WORKER**

# PERCENTAGES OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN PROJECTS

At registration the following information shows the percentage of student volunteers interested in projects.

ACTIVITY DAYS	7.33%
AGE CONCERN LIFELINE	2.44%
BABYSITTING	1.33%
BUNCH OF GRAPES	14.67%
CEFN COED	2.44%
CONNECT	7.11%
CRECHE	13.78%
DISABLED SHOPPING	0.44%
DRIVING	6.67%
FIRST AID COURSES	10.89%
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE	7.78%
GARDENING & DECORATING	9.78%
GINGERBREAD	10.67%
HOMELESS SHELTER	12.00%
HOPPITS (YOUNGER)	11.78%
HOPPITS (OLDER)	8.44%
KIDS AWAY	20.67%
LINC	6.44%
MIND	2.44%
PARKINSON'S CLUB	0.66%
PENSIONER VISITING	7.11%
PHAB	6.89%
PLAYSCHEME	2.89%
POOH BEAR	14.89%
READING FOR THE BLIND	8.89%
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED	0.67%
SIGN LANGUAGE	10.44%
SPLASH!	6.22%
TUESDAY NIGHT CLUB	5.56%
TULATH HOUSE	0.89%
XMAS PARTIES	8.89%

This table reflects the number of volunteers interested in projects. However, 64.22% were interested in more than ONE project, and this is not shown in the above figures.

The percentage of volunteers interested in a single project is 35.78%.