



Annual Report

2023/24

Senior Volunteer Network is a Christian organisation linking primarily retired teachers from across the UK, with schools overseas. We undertake short-term projects sharing our skills and experience. Some support is given online.

SVN is a registered charity No 1068049 Website: www.svnet.org

Michael Priestley, Chair of SVN, reflects

This past year has seen the restart of SVN members going overseas. A team linked with Mission Direct worked with teachers in Ugandan schools. It has also been good that Zoom meetings have continued with mentoring teachers of City Gates Academy School in the Philippines.

I would like to thank the leadership team for continuing to meet by Zoom. We have been able to consider how SVN can continue its role especially when political situations have prevented us being as proactive as we would have liked.

Our special thanks go to Dorothea Hall who has so effectively organised conferences and been our administrator for many years and has now stepped down from that role, although she remains on the team .

Thanks also to Jane Cain who manages our projects and to Susan Kimber who has taken on extra responsibilities and regularly produces our prayer letter and finally thanks to you our members who support us prayerfully and financially.

John Perkins, Chair of Trustees, reports

There are seven trustees who meet annually in June at Woodlands Chapel in Allestree, Derby. This is a legal necessity for a trust in order to be able to claim gift aid on donations and we have to report to the Charities Commission every year.

The meetings form a regular pattern. One of the most important things is that we are presented with some detailed accounts by our treasurer, Peter.

At our meeting in June 2023., we realised that the Bursary fund needed to be augmented. This was auctioned and we are grateful to Colin's Family Trust for additional funding for this.

We hear about various projects which have taken place or are about to. In this meeting a useful "cross fertilisation" of ideas took place. George was telling us about his future visit to Rwanda in November, and it occurred to John that he would be in the neighbouring country of Uganda at the same time, and so could easily stopover in Rwanda to reconnoitre a future project. This did in fact occur as the return flight goes via Kigali anyway.

Our meeting highlighted the need for more promotion of our charity and how we could achieve this. We are also looking to update our website.

Jane Caine Reports on SVN Projects

Projects

This past year has seen an increase in requests for SVN volunteers to undertake teacher training projects. There have been enquiries from India. But because of the political situation in the area this had not yet commenced. Possibly this will commence next autumn.

City Gates Academy, Philippines

Throughout the year, 5 SVN volunteers have continued to be involved in online mentoring of teachers at a school in the Philippines. The Headteacher reports her teachers are improving in their teaching and confidence beyond her expectations.

Plans are now in place to deliver a face to face conference this summer. The Mentors will also give classroom support to the City Gates school teachers.

Uganda with Mission Direct

Last November four volunteers went with Mission Direct to Kumi, Uganda, to train teachers in two schools. The local education officials shared their comments of appreciation.

Future projects

Rwanda

Two volunteers have been to Rwanda to discuss the viability of a project with their Education Officers. All went well and a project has been arranged for schools around Kigali for next November.

There are still places left for anyone to apply.

Contact: Jane Caine, Project Manager mrsjanecaine@hotmail.com

2024 Safeguarding Annual Report

At SVN we believe safeguarding is not just a responsibility but a critical aspect of our commitment to a safe environment when working on our projects. We take safeguarding seriously and everyone that's part of a project team will trust that good practices are followed.

Safeguarding Update: There is a new law, specific to England and Wales, intended to stop thousands of offenders from changing their name in secret. Offenders on community and suspended sentences will no longer be able to secretly change their name, as part of new rules to protect the public. From: Ministry of Justice and The Rt Hon Edward Argar MP_Published: 23 February 2024

Treasurer's Report for financial year ended March 2024

This report is a separate document. We want to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his commitment to looking after the SVN finances.