

Cambridge SCA

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020



Registered Charity Number
263361

Student Community Action

SCA's Purpose and Values

Our Purpose

Cambridge SCA exists to encourage the involvement of students in voluntary community work, providing essential services to disadvantaged groups within the community and giving students a valuable learning experience.

Our Values

- The equal rights of all individuals
- Belief in the value of practical activities that help to counter disadvantage within the community
- Cultural diversity and the two-way exchange of ideas between individuals from different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds.

Our Organisational Objectives

- Provide equal opportunities for all students to become involved in the organisation's activities
- Provide a variety of volunteering opportunities to students by running a variety of projects
- Provide opportunities for students to become involved in the management of the organisation and its projects
- Allow client group opportunities to guide the organisation towards providing the services that they require
- Work in partnership with other organisations

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Management Structure

The Student Community Action Executive Committee consists of Steering Group members, elected annually from students at the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University, and Senior Members who are appointed for 3 years. Election to the Steering Group takes place at our Annual General Meeting in March each year.

Executive Committee

Comprising of senior members co-opted for 3 years and student trustees elected annually.

Sue Long	Chair From 2017 to November 2019
Anthony Wheeler	Acting Chair from November 2019 - 2020
Paul Taylor	Senior Treasurer - SCA Exec from 2002 - 2020
Jo Haywood	Chair of Employment Sub Group Trustee from 2003 – 2020
Penny Wilson	Trustee from 2010 – November 2019
Dwight Patern	Trustee from March 2018 – 2021
Patricia Finnimore	Trustee from March 2018 – 2021
Katie Knight	Trustee from March 2018 – 2021
Josianne Chuisseu	Trustee from March 2018 – 2021

Steering Group 2019/20

Sarah Ashton	President
Katy Bennet	Vice President/Secretary
Mark Harvey	Treasurer
Kieran Kejiou	Artistic Creative Officer
Emily Servante	General Member
Eleanor Turner	Publicity Officer
Nicole Guo	Events Officer
Emily Williams	College Reps Officer
Vanessa Chuang	College Reps Officer
Alex De-Lusignan-Fan-Moniz	ARU Rep Officer

Office Staff

Caroline Ward	Manager (since 2009)	30 hours a week
Helen Vella Taylor	Volunteers and Projects Officer (since Sept 2019)	30 hours a week

Steering Group Annual Report – 2019-20

I would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all of the members of the Steering Group this year. Working together has been really enjoyable and we have also been very productive as a team!



The continued development of our presence on Facebook was a big focus for this year and Eleanor has been doing an absolutely fantastic job in keeping our page updated with news, updates and general hype around what SCA does. She has continued our use of Canva to create some wonderful posts, including the recent campaign for recruitment onto the Steering Group which has clearly worked very well considering the number of applications we have had!! Our number of likes has increased by over 200 people this year and some posts have had over 1,000 views! I really can't thank Eleanor enough for all her work on the page and leaving a legacy of fantastic posts for SCA to update in the future.

The whole Steering Group have worked together to run some really great events, under the lead of Nicole, our Events Officer. We had a very busy start to Michaelmas with the CUSU Freshers' Fair, alongside various college fairs too. In addition to recruitment events (of which there has been many!), we have also held a couple of volunteering socials and ran a formal at Pembroke college to fundraise. This event was particularly successful, and we raised a total of £216!! It was great to see so many new faces who were introduced to what we do. Thank you also to Katy, Eleanor, Emily S., Emily W. and Nicole for your help with wrapping the huge stack of Christmas presents.

In addition to the huge help everyone has been with these events, I would also like to thank Emily W. and Vanessa for their hard work continuing to engage college reps officers and working to recruit new reps in colleges that were missing them. Mark has continued to be a very dedicated treasurer and I am sure he will be very missed next year. Katy has also been great at helping to organise meetings and take minutes.

Katy and Emily have also joined me this year in attending the Employment sub-committee which has been personally very fulfilling in gaining a greater appreciation of the workings of the charity. It has also been fabulous to continue working alongside Emily S. with her multiple years of experience on the Steering Group!

We are all very excited to be handing over to a new committee who I'm certain will do a brilliant job - it will be great to see how they continue to work with Helen and Caroline as we seemingly get busier and busier! We would particularly like to see a continuation of developing a stronger relationship and community within our volunteer base, especially as word-of-mouth has proven to be one of our best forms of publicity. We wish them the best of luck with their projects in the year ahead!

Finally, on behalf of us all, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Trustees, as well as Caroline and Helen for their endless hard work and support. It has been great to get to know Helen this year as she settles in and both Helen's and Caroline's guidance have been vital to everything we have achieved this year as a committee. I will personally miss working alongside them and I know the rest of the committee who are leaving will too – thank you for everything you put into SCA!

Sarah Ashton
President 2019/20

Trustees' Report

We are proud that Cambridge Student Community Action continues to be an effective and well-respected organisation within the student and wider community. There have been several changes to SCA in the past year as we continue to adapt to the needs of the local community in Cambridge, which we exist to serve, and to our student volunteers.



In September we were excited to welcome on board Helen Vella Taylor as the new Volunteers and Projects Officer who brings so much enthusiasm and many new ideas to the role. We have been very fortunate to have her on board. This staffing change has also allowed us to experiment with different office opening hours and allow for more flexibility in staff working patterns. We will fully review this pilot at the end of the academic year but have already seen the value in more concentrated drop-in hours, a focus on appointments, and targeted recruitment and sign-up events. We would also like to take the time to thank Suzanne Buttress, the previous Volunteers and Projects Officer, for her commitment to SCA's values, clients and volunteers.

At SCA we are very fortunate to be able to draw on the skills, enthusiasm and commitment of our dedicated volunteers, student steering group and wonderful part-time employees. We thank each of them individually but would like to draw particular attention to Caroline Ward, SCA's Manager. She runs the charity drawing on her numerous skills to enable it to have the biggest impact possible in the community all the while keeping the experience unique, meaningful and memorable for clients, volunteers and staff alike. The trustees would like to note their thanks for Caroline's dedication to Cambridge SCA.

At the heart of SCA's governance is our commitment to young people. We have been thrilled to work with members of the student steering group, elected in March 2019, and particularly the three members who serve as full Trustees of the charity. The impact these young Trustees have on SCA should not be understated and the Trustees have recently pledged their support to the Young Trustees Movement to draw attention to, and increase, youth representation on charity boards.

There have also been changes on the board of Trustees. After many years of incredibly valuable contributions to the charity, we would like to thank Sue Long and Penny Wilson who have stepped down as Trustees this year.

Looking ahead, we will be very excited to share SCA's 3-year strategic plan later this year after consultation with our key stakeholder groups. We also look forward to recruiting several new Trustees to the board, including appointing a new Chair.

Last but not least, a final thank you to our funders and other partners who support SCA. Without you, we wouldn't exist.

Anthony Wheeler
Acting Chair since Nov 2019
Executive Committee Member since 2017

Manager's Report

This past year has been one of the most challenging, but ultimately most rewarding years I've had at SCA. Suzie left us in February to focus on her young family and so we recruited a wonderful new Volunteers and Projects Officer, Helen Vella Taylor. We had to wait until September before she could start with us so for 6 months I was on my own in the office. Although a little stressful at times, it was incredibly insightful to run all the projects and reconnect with a lot of our clients. The Steering Group and Executive Committee were both incredibly supportive during this period and I ultimately learnt a great deal about which Projects are easier to recruit and retain volunteers for. Helen has now been with us for 6 months and has proved herself to be a real asset to SCA by getting stuck straight in during our busiest time and running an incredibly successful recruitment drive. She has been a pleasure to work alongside and I am looking forward to seeing how she develops the projects and office procedures.



We have now been located in the Graduate Building for 18 months and are really making the most of the facilities here with the many meeting and training spaces that we have access to. As well as running our own training courses, we have also been able to use rooms to assist our community partners such as the Woman's Aid Centre to engage with the University Students and run courses and meetings for them. The kitchen facilities have also enabled us to develop our new project Sandwiches for the Homeless where we make sandwiches and snacks for up to 30 homeless people two evenings a week.

Financially this year there have been ups and downs. We were unsuccessful in gaining funds from the University's Society Syndicate for the first time in over ten years, with them citing our healthy reserves as a reason for their decline. Their funding has historically been a key source for general running costs. Thankfully, this year it didn't impact our overall budget too badly as we made unexpected savings on staff costs and overheads, but we will be very keen to re-engage with them as alternative sources of funding for general running costs are very hard to come by. On a positive note, the increased BBC Children in Need grant we secured last year resulted in our clients having lots more outings with their Big Sibs, an increased transport budget for volunteers and a trip to the Pantomime which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Cambridge City Council once again financially supported SCA, not only for the work we do for residents of Cambridge but they also acknowledged the support we give to other local Charitable organisations through our DBS Services.

The individual colleges and chapels continued to make a significant contribution to our financial security with over £5,500 from them collectively. This was mainly thanks to the letters sent out by our Junior Treasurer Mark Harvey, who boosted the letters this year with case studies of volunteers from each college. Support from local businesses has also helped to keep costs down, and we are particularly grateful to Tesco's for their FareShares food donations which have provided bread for all the sandwiches we have made for the homeless as well as some fruit and biscuits for Bounce, volunteer training sessions and meetings.

Anthony Wheeler, our Acting Chair since November, has been a welcomed and regular face in the SCA office. He is full of enthusiasm, fresh ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing how the Strategic Plan, for which he has been a driving force, will shape SCA's future.

Caroline Ward
SCA Manager, 2009 - 2020

Volunteers and Projects Officer Report

On this exact day last year, in this exact meeting, I made my first appearance as incoming Volunteers and Projects Officer, having just found out that I'd got the job. One year on, I am so incredibly proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation which makes such a profound difference to so many individuals in Cambridge. There have been some challenges and changes, but getting to know SCA's client base, volunteers (and of course the Trustees and Steering Group) has been a complete joy. Thank you especially to the wonderful Caroline who has made me feel whole-heartedly welcomed and supported in my new role.



We currently have 11 internal projects managed either by myself, Caroline or a student project Leader – an increase on last year's 10, with the addition of our very popular Sandwiches for the Homeless. Correspondingly, it has been a strong year for volunteer recruitment, especially in the Michaelmas term, our efforts being bolstered by the fantastic work of our Publicity Officer Eleanor Turner and wonderful College Reps. Our four one-to-one projects continue to be popular options for volunteers and it has been brilliant to see some fantastic relationships blossom between students and our clients.

Our children's group projects have been an area of particular success this year with Story Time and Craft Room evolving and retaining a strong volunteer base. Bounce, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our brilliant Project Leader Olivia Taylor, has triumphed, retaining a regular cohort of children. Homework Help in schools has also thrived with 18 volunteers taking part in four schools in Cambridge. Betty's Musical Entertainment Group has made a full turn around, having started the year with only one pre-existing volunteer, we now have 15 participants with a strong core group of regular musicians. We've even formed some connections with new care homes on the way.

Aside from our core internal projects, we've had some fantastic one-off events including our "infamous" Christmas Party, trips to the Pantomime and Partyman World of Play plus the annual Bonfire Night collection on Midsummer Common. We have successfully advertised a whole host of exciting external volunteering opportunities for organisations such as Care Network Cambridge, Anglesey Abbey, British Red Cross, East Anglia Children's Hospice, Centre 33 and Women's Aid.

Looking forward into 2020/21, I am enthusiastic to nurture SCA's budding relationships with Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, Queen Edith's Primary School and TBAP Multi-Academy Trust. I will continue to work closely with Cambridge Women's Aid to provide our volunteers with training for handling discussions and disclosures of Domestic Abuse.

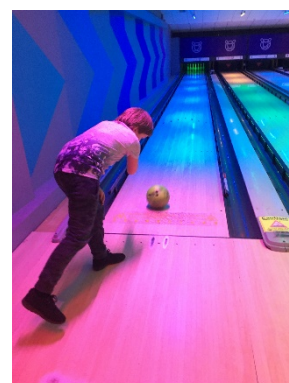
Now that I'm fully settled in the rhythm of SCA and the office is beginning to quieten down for exam season, I look forward to spending some more of my time thinking about new and exciting ways SCA can improve. All being well, this Easter Term I will be creating a new SCA promo film and thinking about ways to streamline our admin procedures. Bring on 2020/21!

Helen Vella Taylor

Volunteers and Projects Officer, Sept 2019 – present.

Big Sibs

Big Sibs is our largest and most popular internal one-to-one project – and with good reason! Volunteer befrienders are carefully matched to a disadvantaged child aged between 5 and 12 and they then make weekly visits to them during term becoming a mentor and confidant to them. We receive referrals from a wide array of sources, for various reasons including: disability, illness, poverty, young carers, bullying, domestic abuse, mental health and family instability of other kinds. One increasing trend for referrals are from LGBT+ children so we recently ran some volunteer training on this topic to ensure our volunteers are able to offer appropriate support.



Our volunteers serve as older 'Siblings' of the child, offering friendship, mentorship, attention or just to give them a break away from potentially challenging family or school lives. We've found Big Sibs makes a real difference to the children on the scheme, many of whom would not have gained access to similar opportunities otherwise. However, the scheme thrives because of its reciprocal nature; every time a young client benefits from the scheme, so too do our student volunteers who can momentarily leave the uni-bubble and get some perspective on real Cambridge life from the expert eyes of a local child.

A typical Big Sib's session might be spent doing some arts and crafts, baking, walking the dog in the park, or simply having a nice chat. However, some more exciting examples of what our Big (and



Little!) Sibs have been up to this year include: Visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum, punting on the Cam, drinking bubble tea, going to the cinema, bowling, climbing at the Cambridge climbing wall and visiting the Cambridge Colleges. Thanks to BBC Children In Need funding, we remain able to offer students a small budget per term to fund these more exciting activities and we have also been able to put on a fantastic Christmas Party and trips to the Pantomime and World of Play adventure centre. We also remain part of the Time Credits scheme which allows volunteers to exchange their volunteering hours for free entry to certain local attractions – a fantastic win/ win situation!

This year, over 50 Little Sibs have been supported by SCA volunteers – a figure that we have maintained from last year. However, a couple of cases have stood out as being particularly life enhancing. The family of one young client with Downs Syndrome contacted SCA and mentioned that the child was highly music orientated. We were able to match him with a music student (and previous Betty's volunteer!) who was able to lead music play sessions with him weekly. He was also given a ukulele from the 2019 SCA Christmas present drive, to add to the fun! We've received feedback that the client looks forward to his Big Sib sessions each week and they are both enjoying their jamming sessions together!

Helen Vella Taylor
Volunteers and Projects Officer

GOALS – Go Out and Learn Socially

GOALS is a befriending and life skills support project for clients aged 11-21 who have learning difficulties or simply need guiding and mentoring through the challenges of young adulthood. Following the same structure as Big Sibs, clients have been matched on a one-to-one basis with student volunteers, who are able to support the specific needs and 'goals' of the client. One client, who was referred to us because of their complex history of family conflict, benefited greatly from the scheme; her volunteer helped her improve her communication skills and confidence skills, which has had a positive knock-on effect on her relationship with her mother. This goes to show, despite winding down the project this year as the funding for it has come to an end, it has still had some brilliant impact. We've helped 6 GOALS clients this year, without taking on any new referrals. As we draw the project to a close, existing clients who are over 18 will be invited to join Taskforce if there is still a need for a volunteer.



Taskforce

Taskforce is an umbrella project covering the majority of SCA's work with vulnerable adults in the local community, all matches following the same essential format: a volunteer visits an adult (over 18) identified as needing support for 1-2 hours per week during term time.

Within this format, we cater for a diverse array of clients. We work with many elderly people suffering from loneliness and for them, having a regularly visiting volunteer can provide them with something to look forward to and a well-needed break in their routine. Some of our older clients require more practical assistance such as gardening, decluttering, assisting with post or shopping and even dog walking. These small tasks, whilst being manageable and sustainable for our volunteers, can give some respite to our older clients. We are also able to offer similar volunteer assistance to some non-elderly adults who are experiencing mental health issues or physical or learning disabilities. Furthermore, some adult clients are able to receive weekly TEAL support, including vulnerable women with children, who would be otherwise unable to access one-to-one TEAL support. As we wind down GOALS, we have also been transferring some younger adults to Taskforce for befriending and mentoring.



This year, Taskforce has impacted 12 individuals in a wide array of ways. Examples include one client with Cerebral Palsy and sensory issues contacted us seeking a volunteer with whom he could have intellectual conversations with about social and political issues. We were able to match him with a Politics student who has been reading *The New Statesman* with him and discussing articles each week. Another individual, who recently lost her husband (who was also a TF client), received support from an SCA volunteer during a challenging stage of her bereavement. The volunteer was able to take her along to a Formal Hall – an experience cherished by the client who has lived in Cambridge all her life, but never had access to a College Formal.

Helen Vella Taylor
Volunteers and Projects Officer

Lightbulb



Lightbulb, our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) outreach project, is continuing to engage and inspire young people across Cambridge! We have run lots of fun, messy and interactive activities to encourage children to love and join in with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Activities include making bath bombs, magnetic slime, Coca-Cola rockets, and parachutes for eggs.



Lightbulb has reached out to children of different ages, including Girl Guiding groups, Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth, and our Bounce! Club. Our young scientists have really enjoyed these activities – and our volunteers have had just as much fun!

Emily Bedborough
Project Leader from 2017

Sandwiches for the Homeless



Due to the frequent requests we were getting from students wanting to do something to help towards the ever increasing homelessness issue in Cambridge, this year we set up a new project called Sandwiches for the Homeless. Working in collaboration with the fantastic charity Caring for Cambridgeshire's Homeless (CCH), a team of 6 volunteers started making 50 sandwiches on a Tuesday evening for the CCH group to deliver that evening.

We use bread that would be otherwise thrown away by Tesco's so it is also a food waste project. It has proved so popular with the volunteers that we now have a Project Leader – the wonderful Issy Bruce, plus 29 volunteers on a rota who provide the sandwiches on Tuesdays and Thursdays when requested.

Caroline Ward
Manager

Craft Room and Story Time

Story Time and Craft Room are both weekly projects giving vulnerable children, who have experienced immense disruption and instability, a consistently positive and fun activity to look forward to in a safe and familiar space. The projects run as hour long sessions on consecutive days during term.



This term we have successfully split Story Time into two distinct half-hour sessions for pre-school and the older (Primary School aged) ones in order to better meet everyone's needs. The little ones enjoy being read to and exploring the pictures and textures in the books, whereas the older ones, having had to focus on an adult talking all day at school, tend to prefer engaging in dynamic child-led storytelling based on their own ideas. This format has enabled the older children's session to develop into a drama group, by encouraging active performance of the stories. These sessions give them more creative freedom and control which feels especially important given that many of the children often draw on their own lives. It's positive and healing for them to be able to do so in a safe and indirect way.

One of the most positive things about these projects is giving children with often very negative experiences of adults the opportunity to build trusting bonds with people other than their own mothers. As volunteers, we accordingly prioritise and commit to remembering and honouring promises (e.g. by saying we will come back tomorrow/next week and then honouring that), and remembering and taking an interest in things the individual kids have told us to affirm to them that we care.

Both projects are always a very popular choice for potential volunteers and we value having enough volunteers to give individual children the undivided attention on a one to one basis.

Creating more overlap and interaction between Craft Room and Story Time has been something really positive which we have developed further over the course of the last term, during which we have facilitated activities such as creating characters in Craft Room (e.g.: paper dolls or masks) and using them to make a story in Story Time the next week.

We also ensure that all craft activities are ones that the mums can work on with their children. This provides a really positive opportunity for them to do something creative and structured, but relaxed and not pressurised, together. Certain volunteers bring diverse and invaluable skills and experiences: one current volunteer speaks conversational French, to the delight of one of the mums (and her toddler) who speaks very limited English so was delighted to be able to communicate more fully and easily with someone there.

Story Time and Craft Room provide the volunteers involved with invaluable experience working with very vulnerable children with complex needs. It is the best thing I have ever been involved in and by far the best part of being at Cambridge. These projects also give volunteers (like me) who aspire to careers working with vulnerable children invaluable experience of not only safeguarding, etc, but also the opportunity to build the emotional resilience needed work with and build positive relationships with them.

Esme Friel
Project Leader 2018-20

Betty Stubbens' Musical Entertainment Group (Betty's)

Betty's group provides musical entertainment for residents in care homes for the elderly. I was project leader last academic year, and continued for the Michaelmas term to provide some continuity for the project as all the other volunteers had graduated. I have loved continuing with Betty's: it is such a special project that touches elderly people and students alike. We all find it a valuable way to have a break from the bubble of university life and make connections with new and interesting people; we hear fascinating stories from the elderly residents, and there is always a buzz of excitement and enthusiasm by the time we leave.



Every Wednesday evening during CU term time we visit a different care home and sing a selection of songs. We try to choose songs that will be familiar to the residents, and evoke memories from their past: our songbook for 2020 includes 'The Way You Look Tonight', 'Bridge Over Troubled Water', and two Elvis songs which are usually favourites among the residents! We encourage participation from the residents, and even those who aren't able to read the words or actively sing along can still feel included in the community spirit of our visits. We take a break halfway through the session to chat to the residents, which we find to be a vital part of the evening: we usually see a big increase in enthusiasm and smiles for the second half, along with more energetic singing. It is often powerful to see residents with dementia problems engaging with the music: even if they are unable to engage in meaningful conversation, familiar songs can stay with them and we often see these residents singing along, a rare smile on their faces. We also enjoy including the care home staff in our visits. On one particularly memorable visit to Metropolitan House, the staff brought out percussion instruments for us all, and even encouraged some of the residents to get up and dance along to the songs with them! It was special to see how the music brought the whole community of the care home together.

We were worried at the start of the year because all of the previous volunteers had left Cambridge, so we were starting from scratch with the group. However, a combination of social media publicity, SCA staff support and word of mouth has meant that we now have more volunteers than ever! It is a lovely group of caring and energetic volunteers. Everyone has varying levels of musical experience and different motivation to be there, but we all enjoy our visits and contribute our unique skills to the group. It is particularly exciting this year to have a saxophone player with the group. This adds musical interest to the songs and also gives confidence to singers! We are also lucky to have found two pianists, so we have twice as much support for the group! I am now handing over to two of the new volunteers to share the work of project leader, but I love Betty's so much that I will continue to go on the visits even when I am not organising them.

It is the breakdown of social barriers and meaningful relationships formed between volunteers as well as with the residents of the care homes we visit that creates such a special atmosphere for Betty's. Music can bring people together across all manner of social division, and all the volunteers absolutely love seeing the results of the visits. We have such a rewarding time, and above everything we have lots of fun together!

Kate Apley
Project Leader 2019-20

Bounce!

This year has seen Bounce go from strength to strength with more volunteers, more participants and lots of exciting activities to get involved with!

Bounce has provided an opportunity for a diverse range of disadvantaged children aged five to ten to socialise and let off some steam while playing interactive games, sports and craft activities. Strong bonds amongst the children and volunteers has helped foster an environment where the children feel welcomed, can have fun and have their needs met.



Each week varies in the activities but there is always a combination of crafts and games, with various sporting equipment and craft materials on hand to provide plenty of entertainment! This year, Ping Pong and the use of the basketball nets have been favourites amongst the children. We have also introduced a set of board games which have been a fun additional element to the sessions and the children have all loved and benefited from the variation of the sessions.

We have had some fantastic sessions run by external groups, including slime making by SCA's Lightbulb group; a dance workshop with the University's Dance Troop; a magician; and the Gates Scholars running a playdough-based competition. To finish of this term we have organised a trip to the Partyman World of Play, thanks to some BBC Children In Need funding and the children and volunteers alike are really looking forward to it!

The structures of the sessions remain flexible and are often altered to meet the needs and wants of the children attending. We are lucky to have access to a large sports hall and a healthy number of volunteers so it is not uncommon to have multiple activities running simultaneously with children choosing to switch between them. This creates a dynamic feel to the sessions and makes it easier to ensure that all the children can participate in the things that most interest them.

Our volunteers, pictured above, have been absolutely fantastic, building relationships with the children and enthusiastically engaging in all kinds of weird and wacky activities and games. Their commitment has been integral to Bounce's success this year. It has been clear how much enjoyment the children get from the sessions and it is great to see their friendships develop and their confidence grow as time goes on.

We have heard from parents how much their children enjoy Bounce and this has been demonstrated when they bring along friends, siblings and talk excitedly about what they would like to do next session. I know Bounce is a highlight of our volunteers' and our children's weeks and an important respite for parents. I look forward to continuing to work with Bounce in the future and look forward to seeing its continued success!

Olivia Taylor
Project Leader

TEAL (Teaching English as an Additional Language) and Homework Help for Individuals

TEAL/HW Help at home provides weekly support to young clients who either, a) are multilingual and need support with English communication, reading and writing or, b) are significantly falling behind their peers at school and need one-to-one support at their own pace. Following a similar format to Big Sibs, volunteers commit to helping the child for at least one hour per week during term time. We are able to support school-age children, be that primary or secondary.



The first session and home visit is spent assessing, in accordance with advice from the school, what level the child is working at and planning how the volunteer is best able to support them. Subsequent sessions are spent carrying out these plans with the aim of increasing the child's attainment/English level. This year, we have only taken referrals where a teacher has confirmed that the child is behind their peers and needs additional support. We have also started enforcing a 6-week initial duration for the project, after which point we are able to review the progress of the child and if the volunteer still feels their help is needed. This year we have been able to support 16 individuals, a figure that we can be very proud of, more than doubling last year's 7. On several occasions we have noticed that, as well as directly benefitting the children on the project, providing families with a volunteer provides a lot of relief to concerned parents unable to speak English and support their children in this area of their life.

Kim Green, a ESOL teacher, continues to support our volunteers with a 90-minute-long workshop to raise awareness of the difficulties children face when learning English as their second language, and gave many good ideas for activities to help them with this. The training was also offered up to people who were considering and not currently volunteering for the TEAL project, encouraging 2 new volunteers to sign up.

Helen Vella Taylor
Volunteers and Projects Officer

Homework Help Clubs in Schools

St Matthew's Primary School provides a vibrant and welcoming learning community to its pupils, some of whom face linguistic, economic, or social issues that can negatively impact their studies and confidence. Every Friday, 10 to 15 children bring their books to an after-school Homework Help session, where student volunteers provide small-group support under the supervision of a teacher. Our lovely volunteers have shown amazing commitment and dedication, allowing them to really bond with the students. The teacher recently commented, "The SCA Homework Help club is really appreciated as we are a large school and resources are stretched. Our school is very diverse in needs with many children who speak another language at home, so the one to one help is invaluable".



Vanessa Chuang
Project Leader

The Grove Primary Homework Help Club run by SCA Volunteers is dedicated to supporting students in years 3-6 with their school work. There are currently 7 volunteers who work with a group of approximately 11 children every week, under the supervision of a teacher. The volunteers help the students with their homework, and spend time talking to them and getting to know them. This is particularly successful as the children enjoy interacting with the volunteers. As the school is located in an area with reportedly high levels of deprivation, the club helps make a difference (however small) by providing supportive role models for the children.

Aditi Chidambaram
Project Leader

Homework Help at **Girton Glebe School** is delivered by SCA volunteers as an after school homework club. We started in February 2020 with 3 volunteers helping a small group of children who have been identified as needing some extra support with their homework under the supervision of a teacher. The children receive slightly more specialised attention on the subjects they find most challenging, and sometimes their teachers will give them tasks to work through with the volunteers. Although this project is relatively new, the children are excited to see us every week!

Alessia Phillips
Project Leader

Junior Treasurer's Report 2019/20

2019-2020 has been a sound year financially for SCA and this success is a testament to the industrious and extensive work of everyone involved with SCA, particularly Caroline and Helen.



First, SCA received £18,543 from Trust Grants this year. This is a decrease of 27% from last year. Regrettably, a large proportion of this decrease is attributable to us being denied funding from the Society Syndicate who had been consistent financial supporters of us for many years. Nevertheless, the grant reduction has been met with an expenditure reduction of £8575. A decrease in staff costs, rent and DBS check expenses is the cause of this expenditure reduction.

Second, we generated £11,072 in revenue from DBS checks. This is a decrease of ~£4,000 from the previous year. The decrease can be attributed to the introduction of a new online system and changes in eligibility requirements. We have welcomed these measures as it became apparent last year that there was a significant increase in time dedicated to completing DBS checks. As such, there was a consultation about whether to bring in an extra member of staff to work on the DBS or whether it was more worthwhile to reduce the number of DBS checks undertaken so as to concentrate on other activities. Fortunately, the introduction of these measures took the decision out of our hands.

Additionally, we have recently delivered our annual letters to colleges and chapels. Last year the colleges and chapels collectively donated £5400 and we anticipate this year we will receive similar support. It is worth noting, however, that significant fixed-donation agreements with certain colleges expired last year. We have been in contact with the respective colleges to try and renew these agreements and hopefully these talks will result in favourable outcomes for SCA.

Finally, this year saw the introduction of a popular formal dinner at Pembroke and the continuation of the annual Ceilidh. These events, alongside a number of others, raised £710 for SCA and can be attributed to the great work of the steering group who organise events such as these.

At the time of writing, we are awaiting the final accounts from the auditor but we are likely to have a surplus of approx. £2,000. A breakdown of SCA's income clearly highlights how invaluable our staff are to the continuation of SCA's activities:

- Grants from Trusts - £18,543 which is down 27% but our expenditure dropped by £8575 on the previous year.
- DBS - £11,072. DBS funding represents 18% of the year's income and a decrease in value of approx. £4,000 on the previous year.
- Colleges and chapels - £5400. Funding from colleges and chapels represents 9% of the year's income and a decrease of £3,470 as we didn't receive donations from a couple of the colleges who had previously given large grants.
- General donations - £883. Funding from Friends of SCA has increased due to a new monthly donor.
- Investment income – £1,686. Funding from investments represents 3% of the year's income and is almost exactly the same amount as last year.
- Fundraising events – £710. Funding from fundraising has increased by 1% this year due to a successful Ceilidh and formal dining events.

Mark Harvey,
Junior Treasurer 2018-2020

Our thanks go to the many organisations and individuals who support us financially and in many other ways, making it possible for us to help vulnerable people living in the Cambridge Community. We would especially like to thank the following for their generous help and support:

Our Funders

BBC Children in Need
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge University Societies Syndicate
The University of Cambridge Colleges and Chapels
The High Sheriffs Awards
#IWill Fund
The Youth Social Action Fund

Our Partners and Supporters

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Cambridge Women's Aid
Cambridge Wine Merchants, especially Brett Turner
David Hardy Project
Cambridge University Centre
Gates Scholars
Tesco Fare Share Scheme

Thanks also go to the many individual friends of SCA

And of course –

Our AMAZING Volunteers!!!

**Student Community Action
17 Mill Lane,
Cambridge
CB2 1RX
01223 350 365
mail@cambridgesca.org.uk
www.cambridgesca.org.uk**