

Cardiff Student Community Action – A Founders Tale

This is part of David Smith's biography & not to be reproduced without expressed permission

Academic Year 1969/1970

Following the experience of poor secondary school education system, David decided to attend Brooklands Further Education College, Surrey with a determination to capture his lost learning. Subsequently, he trained as a chef at London's Dorchester Hotel and became involved with organising catering workers as the GMB London catering branch secretary, serving as worker representative on the LR&LRE (Catering) Wages Council and the Department of Employment's Catering Advisory committee. David obtained a trade union scholarship to Ruskin College, where he had been actively involved in both Vietnam Solidarity Campaign demonstrations, anti-apartheid and anti racist campaigns during the time of Enoch Powell's 1968 'rivers of blood speech'.

After Oxford, Cardiff was a rather quiet place. David became secretary of the University College Cardiff (UCC) Students Union socialist society and was rapidly disillusioned by endless theoretical discussions. Similarly, the student traditional Rag, and the 'do good' approach of Cardiff University Social Services. However, through the empowerment experienced with the huge success of the anti-apartheid demonstrations an influential group of radically minded people was drawn together within the UCC Students Union Society (SUS). The impact of these demonstrations in radicalising students and those who eventually established CSCA was proven crucial.

Initially, David was elected to the Student Representative Council (SRC) to represent the social sciences faculty along with Cliff Warwick. Other members included John Le Corney and Chas Ball. Early on, we successfully moved a resolution supporting opposition to 'Stop the Seventies Tour' (STST) with financial assistance pledged to provide coaches to six rugby venues. David co-ordinated activities and tactics between South Wales with Peter Hain in London. Although we had a hugely successful November rally with Michael Foot MP at the Temple of Peace in Cathays Park, the thrust of STST organising in South Wales centred on the UCC SUS activists - often to the irritation of the SUS President Nick Jenkins. Campaign organising meetings were held in the SUS Upper Committee room, and included others such as Jack Brookes, Jim Callaghan's agent; and Bert Pearce, Secretary of the Communist Party in Wales.

Vocal support of the STST meant that David was elected by the SRC to attend the 1969 National Union of Students (NUS) in Margate conference to speak to a supportive SUS motion. In addition, his concern about the acquisition and potential demolition of local homes to feed UCC's expansion programme in the Cathays area meant that David found himself on a dry sounding but an all important UCC Sites & Buildings committee which proved to be a store of valuable information of which more later.

There were anti-apartheid protests at all 24 games in the 1969/1970 STST of Britain and Ireland. In South Wales, from November to January there were six Welsh games, including Swansea, 17 November and two in Cardiff on 13 December and 24 January 1970. These were large-scale demonstrations, whereas the others involved several hundred students for weekday matches. The latter meant, to the chagrin of the SUS Executive, that UCC students were able to mobilise very quickly to demonstrate in Newport, Port Talbot and Ebbw Vale following spontaneous SUS

lunchtime decisions made to activate the hire of coaches. Fortunately, these some of the matches took place on the half-day reserved for UCC sports activity.

The brutality students and other participants experienced at the Swansea demonstration was an eye opener for many with significant unprovoked attacks inside and outside the Mumbles rugby ground. Not only did this lead to the local Cardiff MP and Home Secretary ordering the Ken Oxford, Chief Constable of Mercia Police to hold an internal Police Inquiry. David gave evidence, but as to be expected, this was a white wash but it renewed our determination to oppose the tour and more generally racism. Locally, this also reinforced connections between fellow activists at UCC students such as Gulam Mayet and Harry Joshua and the Butetown community.

The November 1969 NUS conference held in Margate, overwhelmingly agreed a resolution supporting a NUS Student Community Action (SCA) programme. Alex Dixon, the founder of Voluntary Service Overseas was an impressive guest speaker in a conference plenary, followed by a large SCA NUS fringe meeting. This was where David first met speakers Alan Barr and Ray Phillips from Birmingham University Students Union Guild and instigators of the first SCA group. As mentioned previously a strong motion was also carried overwhelmingly supporting the Stop the Seventies Tour.

The following month, when the Springboks manager asked to meet UCC SRC representatives in the SUS bar this was a short polite occasion but not a meeting of minds. We were asked 'why should students and politics interfere in their favourite sport?' However, politics in sport was very prominent in South Africa and it wasn't just students. We became even more determined. This was reflected in various attempts to delay, stop or draw attention to 24th January 1970 game which had long term serious personal consequences for some involved who where unnecessarily charged with criminal conspiracy.

Interestingly, a recent Llafur – Welsh Labour History Society - anti-apartheid themed event failed to capture the significance of the role played by UCC students and its students union but it did capture the experience of individuals who subsequently played an important role several years later in formally establishing the Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement. It is important to note that English and Welsh STST activities had been quite separate. In the longer term this arguably provided the basis for the separate development of the UK and Welsh Anti-Apartheid Movements.

From January 1970 onwards, a series of meetings took place involving Cardiff University Social Services (CUSS), the Socialist society, Rag organisers, Cardiff Housing Action Group (because of university expansion), Cardiff People's Paper and the SUS Executive aimed at clarifying various concerns. Noticeably, CUSS appeared to be like a 'fish out of water'.

During this time, a public debate took place with, and about, Cardiff University Social Services (CUSS) about their Victorian approach to 'doing good'. This mainly focused upon the CUSS Ely Adventure Playground and highlighted the weakness of their community service approach. Our cry was "How can children and young people use this facility when students disappeared during their summer vacation?" My overall impression was that CUSS funding and volunteer numbers were seriously impacted by CSCA's arrival and that they needed to find a fresh purpose.

In late February 1970, students who felt empowered by the experience of huge successful anti-apartheid demonstrations were already an influential group of radically minded people who had participated in anti-apartheid SUS UCC lunchtime general meetings in the lower refectory at

Dumfries Place, Cardiff. This provided opportunity to raise concerns about the choice of Rag charities which were challenged in SRC meetings. In SRC meetings we successfully argued that funding should be aimed at local charities, supporting and engaging with local people. This positively impacted on future charities supported by Rag and future SUS funding decisions supporting CSCA.

To co-incide with UCC, SRC elections, in February 1970, the student 'Broadsheet' published an article by David entitled 'Why student community action?' This argued there was scope in the students union for the initiation of effective social action. This campaign was deliberately timed to occur with the SUS President election and our Broad left candidate Chas Ball won. This was crucial for cementing internal resources and support for SCA within the SUS.

To plan for the next academic year in May, a student community action (SCA) and self-catering weekend event took place at Rhos YMCA – David has the programme somewhere. The aim being to alert the 45 participants to the implications of 'student community action' and to informally consider future plans. At this time, the only specific proposal was a venture similar to Birmingham Guild of Students. This was an extensive activity involving many students over a short period during November 1970 but Cardiff SCA was to take a different direction.

There were no rushed decisions, except that the organisation should be inter-collegiate. Despite the problems this entailed, the organisers opted to work externally whilst maintaining close ties with the UCC students' union. Although initially criticised as a 'talking shop' UCC SCA recognised effective community involvement takes time and needs continuity. Not something which students unions are ideally suited. Further, with growing SCA influence there was also growing opposition to the idea that SUS premises and student sport facilities should be accessible to a wider community. Since this could be a serious diversion from our main purpose and we had no alternative but to accept this view. However, our work to stop UCC building student accommodation with study bedrooms of less than 100 square metres did hit home and was prevented. On a lighter note, good friend John Le Corney reminds me of the vital role my little grey mini van. "Not many students in those days had transport. I remember the van as a sort of Tardis which at a moments notice could discharge a large groups of students, banners, leaflets and an accordion and more".

At the outset it is essential to put on record my warm thanks to many brilliant, enthusiastic people who participated in creating and driving CSCA forward alongside the role of Adamsdown residents and many other friends and supporters. In June 1970, following first year examinations, energy was focused on an inaugural UCC SCA meeting. Those involved were mainly first year students and anti apartheid activists. David was elected chair, Mary Tyler, secretary and (the late) Lyn Davies, treasurer. Others present included, the (late) Peter Hamilton Hill and Ned Gates. This enabled funds and support to be obtained from the SUS with fine premises opposite the main SUS building at 20 Dumfries Place. Thus CSCA started its work in the autumn term of the 1970/1971 academic year. Notably, David also had a meeting with the President of University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (UWIST) SUS. They expressed no interest in CSCA or supporting such activities. As a consequence the UWIST Principal was not approached for support. It was at this time that CSCA was registered as a charity on a pro bono basis with the active support of David Greensmith a lively jazz musician and very helpful solicitor with Hardwicks.

During the summer period, David stayed in Cardiff – getting to know Adamsdown area and its people. Almost accidentally, he attended a Public Inquiry in Cardiff City Hall into the clearance of

eighty or so houses in Sun and Moon Streets – in a space now occupied by a new school off Metal Street. Residents were not represented or in attendance. David spoke to the Inquiry stating there had been little if any consultation. Residents objected to being moved to new Council estates far away from family and friends. Indeed, it was well known early death followed for older people. Opposition to wholesale clearance was then to become a unifying theme. The Provisional Slum Clearance Programme 1970-1978 affected 487 houses between Meteor Street in the West and Helen Street – nearly half the houses in this area. Central Area Redevelopment and the infamous 'Hook Road' beloved by City Planners were other monsters to be slain. By my estimate up to an additional 750 homes would be demolished if these plans proceeded. If they had, the city centre would be almost unrecognisable today. Success is one of the reasons why Cardiff retains its lovely Victorian Arcades.

Although briefly mentioned previously, the ideas behind work being undertaken by CSCA did influence the leadership of the students' union by engendering a wider sense of social responsibility. In particular, questioning expansion of UCC and the UWIST up Colum Road and the surrounding Cathay area became a highly controversial question. The SUS challenged why two institutions were required in the same location. Apart from the inadequacy of university proposals presented at a three-day public inquiry in Spring of 1971, students expressed concern about the potential destruction of many homes in a long-standing residential area near the city centre, known at the time by UCC as the 'student village'.

Academic Year 1970/1971

CSCA's stated aims were the long-term involvement of students, students' unions and institutions of higher and further education in Cardiff in the social problems of the city resulted from discussions in the previous nine months. Our full aims and objectives can be found in 'A brief for Adamsdown Community & Advice Centre' (September 1971) that David wrote, in what was to be a successful bid for Urban Aid funding. We were very thankful for the architectural experience of UWIST volunteers Martin Killick and the late Dave Howells in drawing up plans and supervising a local builder – not the easiest of tasks.

Based on an analysis of the shortcomings of the 'extensive' mass / week long approach to student involvement in Birmingham, Cardiff students decided upon a longer term strategy which involved 'intensive' work in one specific area – as discussed later. However, the idea of extensive student activities planned for November 1970 were not entirely lost mainly due to tactical reasons to overcome the suggestion we were 'just a talking shop'. Arising from Fresher's Week, we involved over 130 students from five colleges in different limited projects, including a children's Magical Mystery tour, an accommodation list for ex prisoners in Cardiff, a decimalisation help and decorating blitz for older people, an a hypothermia project based upon Birmingham SCA experience. We prepared the way for the 18 Iron Street playgroup & Junior Youth club, started a Saturday Adventure Playground. Gathering and sharing events occurred early Wednesday evenings so everyone could be involved in the wide range of work being undertaken. Apart from being of benefit for all, it served as an opportunity to introduce new students interested in more long-term opportunities with CSCA's.

Following a conversation with Peter Hudson, Director at Voluntary Community Service Cardiff, CSCA's one first major venture was working with other young people in establishing RIB – a Rights and Information Bureau at 58 Charles Street, Cardiff. This was launched in December 1970 with one volunteer and non student from RIB, Tony Latham, serving on the CSCA executive. In a style reflecting the attitudes of the more radical wing of social and community

work, RIB moved beyond its original remit on problems such as abortion, drugs and arranging bail and found itself giving advice to older people. Through its efforts, CSCA was able to persuade Cardiff Rag to fund RIB to employ three workers. At first students volunteered, as pressure for local control emerged this dwindled to almost none.

Secondly, building upon David's voluntary work during the summer of 1970, it became crystal clear that CSCA should focus its energies on one particular area. Adamsdown, a 'forgotten' area between Newport Road and Splott became an obvious choice. 'A brief for Adamsdown Community & Advice Centre' (September 1971) captures detailed research and work undertaken in building relationships with a wide range of local residents and organisations. Only after six months preparation did CSCA feel able to begin project work within Adamsdown with a view to building "a major innovatory institution in raising the living standards and common dignity of the people of Adamsdown." Cardiff Art College students and lecturers, who had made a huge Anti-Apartheid STST banner, and paraded arm in arm with black and white papier-mache costumes, were also involved with local parents in building Adamsdown Adventure Playground which was in the old cemetery on their doorstep.

In February 1971, with Social Services funding, 18 Iron Street opened as a Junior Youth Club; and as Pre-school playgroup three days a week for up to ten children, initially for three half days per week. A local mother (Marion) was appointed as the play leader with the hope that they would set up their own self-help group. They did and it was the first of its kind in Cardiff! It was an enormous success with new mothers being drawn in and attending College to obtain appropriate qualifications over several decades. In a report, at that time, David wrote "We are now considering ... establishing a 'Teaching Unit' as a further development..., providing a further possibility of relating curricula in teacher training institutions in the area to local community needs." This being "developed in conjunction with UC Swansea Compensatory Educational Unit in terms of determining suitable criteria and yardsticks for progress and parental involvement" was also considered."

In May 1971, as CSCA's chair, David met with Dr C. W. L. Bevan, Principal of University College Cardiff. With his strong support, it was agreed to fund a CSCA Field Worker on a continuing basis. Equally supportive, the new SUS President Chas Ball and the SUS magnificently provided a part-time secretary (Shirley) based in several rooms on the first floor at 20 Dumfries Place opposite the main SUS building with CUSS enjoying a small side office. David wrote other successful funding bids in this and the subsequent year in support of what was renamed 'Adamsdown Community & Law Centre' (AC&LC). These included: the University College Students Union, the Inter-Colleges Charities Appeal (Rag), Tenovus, the Variety Club of Great Britain, NACRO, the UK Community Relations Commission, Cardiff City Council, South Glamorgan County Council, the Nuffield Foundation Socio-Legal Programme and Shelter.

The role of Tenovus, a very well established, pioneering Cardiff based charity and its Director Bryn Calvin needs to be fully acknowledged. I made an appointment and Bryn provided guidance and was most helpful. Unbeknown at the time, their early support proved to be a crucial lever in obtaining subsequent grant aid from a wide range of sources. With Inter-Colleges Charities Appeal and the SUS we were able to claim 'we are supported by local charities why not you'?

To conclude this period several further points. We should record a joyous procession led by Peter Hamilton Hill and his accordion to open the Adamsdown adventure playground. On a more serious note, CSCA we were involved in campaigns for proper sites for travellers in Cardiff. David recalls a demonstration, led by one of the national traveller leaders, in front of the City

Hall/Civic Centre, with the traveller children playing in the fountains. Contacts made with University College Swansea SUS during anti springbok demonstrations led to several visits, the sharing of ideas and UC Swansea SCA being established. Finally, UCC was an early university to have a full time worker, with David attending most SCA conferences and served on the first SCA NUS Programme advisory group for several years.

Academic Year 1971/1972

By this time, David was very much catching up on all the time spent in his second year on CSCA business but now with the addition of Rod Caird as the CSCA Field Worker and a strong committee. However, during the autumn, David prepared two further successful bids for Urban Aid Programme funding for the 18 Iron Street, Pre-school playgroup, and Adamsdown Community & Law Centre. Some years later, David discovered the then Welsh Office Minister of State, David Gibson Watt MP, had spent one Sunday afternoon walking around Adamsdown with his wife. This had convinced him of the need for action. David was more than glad because the £3,400 allocated in the proposed AC&LC budget for the purchase of an old furniture shop at 103/104 Clifton Street had been purchased several months earlier at a Cardiff auction before grant aid was announced. David was pleased to mention this to his son several decades later at the Welsh Royal Agricultural Show.

In the autumn of 1972, a large public meeting was convened in St German's Church Hall chaired by Cliff Warwick, a former SUS President following Chas Ball, who was now CSCA chair. This was when CSCA formally handed over responsibility for the Community & Law Centre with the election of a residents management committee and with Edie Belcher as the first chairperson. This led into the appointment of Centre staff, with David as the Team Leader; the completion of the building under the careful supervision of student architects. Although CSCA had withdrawn, they were not gone. Substantial volunteering activities still took place. David vividly recalls in January 1973, Denise Murphy, our new CSCA Field worker and Cliff Warwick, the CSCA chair sitting in front of bulldozers in Nora Street in a last attempt to prevent the Council from demolish homes after a much contested High Court Action. Sadly, David was away undergoing a hospital operation in London at the time. Special thanks are due to a splendid architect John Brookes (UWIST Planning Department) who was a powerful friend in mobilising a strong technical case for rehabilitating older housing in preparation for future Public Inquiries. We built upon this work with Jim Grove Associates when the Law Centre was able to use the Green Form Legal Aid Scheme to mount a local consultation for Helen and Nora Street residents with the able contribution of Jane Hutt SM, now a long standing Welsh Government Cabinet Member. This use of the Green Form scheme was to be one of the keys to giving residents a powerful voice.

Meanwhile, the centre operated from temporary premises on the corner of Constellation Street. On completion, the new Day Centre with a Day Centre organiser, Doreen Everett, provided freshly cooked meals, lively activities and passenger vehicle commenced operation. A second playgroup opened on the AC&LC ground floor with a reception area, kitchen, toilets and offices for an advice worker and lawyer. It was officially opened in 1975 by James Callaghan, our local MP and Home Secretary, his wife Audrey who cut the tape and Lord Elwyn Jones, the then Lord Chancellor who had provided funding for this and other UK Law Centres. However, life as a community worker and local resident was not always plain sailing. David still has a strong recollection of being ostracised by certain residents arising from offering water to a local female traveller with three young children.

Prior to the Centre, of particular concern was the lack of any community focal point to which residents could turn, combined with the marked absence of three councillors, who were totally unable to engage with residents in bringing about necessary changes required. Of particular significance was the large-scale clearance of homes capable of rehabilitation and others to be cleared to make way for Central Area Redevelopment car parking and the infamous 'Hook Road' cutting Adamsdown in half. Then we had the shock of East Moors steel works closing with the loss of 5,000 jobs. This was the context for the formation of Adamsdown Residents Association (ARA) in 1971, chaired by Ron Hamer - an East Moors steel worker who was later to be made redundant and subsequently a Splott youth worker. Both Ron and David were keen that ARA should provide an alternative focus for community action and to provide a check and balance to the work of AC&LC.

As mentioned previously, the impact of the wind of change provided by the radical spirit of CSCA caused serious organisational decline for CUSS in terms of student numbers and activity. In the aftermath of the Ely Hospital scandal in 1969, and the arrival of (the late) Jim Mansell enabled CUSS to revive their work during the early 1970's through students volunteering in a Cardiff group family homes in what was to be the first UK supported living home for adults with learning disabilities. CUSS helped to create a Welsh national charity for people with learning disabilities (Cartrefi Cymru Co-operative) and has now evolved into Innovate Trust, a charity pioneering technology in care, with a continuing strong relationship to Cardiff University students. Interestingly in 2009, David joined forces with the Chief Executive of Cartrefi Cymru in championing the need for social care co-operatives, and supported his pioneering efforts to successfully convert this social care organisation into a multi stakeholder organisation, remarkably with both Co-operative and charitable status.

Reflections

Cardiff Student Community Action

The biggest challenge David faced whilst at CSCA where threefold. Thinking through how we would face up to the challenges presented by student community action both internal and external to UCC. Second, we could best support residents with both starting from scratch with very little local infra structure to work with other than St. Germain's church and the local primary school.

The third as Alan Barr remarks, "the ideas that knowledge and its pursuance should be assessed in terms of the value it should have to the community and that its assessment should be based upon experience and analysis of its ethical and social implications is not a new one". To quote a NUS and the Student Movement document: "The educational experience must not only develop within the individual sense of identity, but also help establish a sense of duty towards one's fellow man. ...Courses must be related to their social context so that knowledge is considered as an end in itself but essentially as a means of improving the quality of our lives together with those of others in society. No man is an island." Unfortunately, our relentless focus upon Adamsdown meant we had limited impact except with the development of Law Clinics initiated by the UCC Law Department – through Professor Phil Thomas who was one of CSCA's first trustee's and who had accompanied me to the auction where 103/104 Clifton Street was purchased.

Adamsdown

AC&LC was the UK's third Law Centre and the first in Wales. Without doubt, the most significant consequence of the AC&LC was its key role in using new legislation to establish the first tenant led community based Housing Association in Wales. Previously, territory occupied by professional interests. This must have come as a terrible shock to Eric James, head of the Housing Corporation in Wales. After our failure to save Helen and Nora Streets from clearance, the Green Form Legal Aid Scheme was used to employ Arnold Philips planning consultants to make a detailed technical case for rehabilitating 257 homes in what was known as the 'Planets Block'. This led to the formation of Adamsdown Housing Association (AHA) with David as its first secretary. In speaking with the City Council Chief Executive several weeks before a Clearance Public Inquiry was due, we learnt that a decision to demolish 257 homes had been reversed by the City Council because we now had the means to demonstrate these houses would be improved.

This proved to be a formidable vehicle enabling citizens to effectively challenge the City Council decisions to demolish homes capable of rehabilitation in several working class areas. In Adamsdown, the scale of investment has been enormous. Probably in the order of tens of millions of pounds over several decades. This was ably assisted by an early visit to the AHA premises in Meteor Street by Lord Goodman, chair of the UK Housing Corporation. No doubt prompted by the then Home Secretary James Callaghan, MP. AHA was the proud forerunner to other community led housing associations in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil and elsewhere. Although the AC&LC premises were demolished some years later to make way for a video games retailer, the legacy of the AHA remains and is now called Cardiff Community Housing Association. Sadly, AC&LC lost its local touch when it was relocated on the other side of Splott Railway Bridge, and was eventually transformed into Cardiff Law Centre, presumably due to pressure from the UK Lord Chancellors Department.

Cardiff

The work of CSCA and AC&LC has arguably had a wider impact on community action and community work in Cardiff and beyond. This work contributed to the collapse of the City Council's house clearance programme with stiff and well organised resistance, with Council officers complaining about the amount of time taken, with days preparing and presenting evidence at Public Inquiries. Instead, we were focused upon home, area and other improvement based upon public participation. AC&LC's work in establishing AHA provided precedence for establishing other housing associations such as Moors (now Cardiff Community) and Taff Housing Associations. The existence of the STAR Recreation and Community Centre was due in no small part to the desire of Splott councillors to catch up with developments in adjacent Adamsdown.

Beyond Cardiff

It is fair to say that the work of CSCA had a profound impact on the development of community work in South Wales. The work of AC&LC enabled the establishment of the first European Community / Home Office funded South Wales Anti-Poverty Action Centre (SWAPAC) as part of an EC Anti Poverty Programme. AC&LC led consortia of ten self-help groups from across South Wales coming together to create a form of Law Centre. David led a team of six workers, including a lawyer. SWAPAC became one of six UK 'Area Resource Centres' to support community development under a programme supported by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation evaluation programme and David served on the Foundation's Community Support Programme Advisory Group for a six year period.

Space does not allow a full account of SWAPAC's achievements. A number of examples are provided. Following on Adamsdown experience a community based Housing Association was established in Merthyr Tydfil which still exists today. Alongside this we helped to create Ferndale Home Improvement Service – a home repair service for low income owners occupiers providing training and employment for local people, managed through a multi-stakeholder model involving the local NMU Lodge, church, older people and others. Over time this provided the impetus for the 'Care & Repair' Movement which originated in Wales.

Prior to the operation of the UK National Co-operative Development Agency (1979) SWAPAC actively supported redundant female clothing workers in Merthyr Tydfil to establish Dowlais Knitwear Co-operative (1977). From 1978, this provided the impetus to create locally managed resources which led to separate Urban Aid funding applications being put together with local people and groups to establish four local Community Development Agencies, for example Antur Teifi. A federation, the Welsh Community Enterprise was created prior to the Wales Co-operative Centre (1982).

An Older Person's Welfare Rights Tribunal Support Unit to train lay people to represent claimants was funded by the Nuffield Foundation (1978). Initially funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, SWAPAC's base at Bethesda Chapel was turned into a Community Arts Centre and managed by local residents. Finally, Cardiff Broadcasting, a community based Independent Local Radio station was followed by one in Newport.

These events deserve book in their own right. Suffice it to say AC&LC's impact was wide spread with inevitable tensions and jealousies between activists with different ideologies, personalities and practices. However, without CSCA and its pioneering work in Adamsdown it is very unlikely that these developments would have occurred.

Finally, how was CSCA volunteering tied to political activism? The Anti-Apartheid /STST movements and the formation of CSCA were inextricably linked and should be seen in the wider context of the late 1960's and early 1970's. Very few students were members of a political party, but that is not the same as political activism. The STST Swansea demonstration did a brilliant job in converting students into varying degrees of political activism. It certainly motivated many hundreds of students across South Wales to consider taking action to address societal issues and the practical idealism offered by CSCA was an attractive offer. A fair number had similar views on the Vietnam War, racism and tackling poverty. In contrast to the original CSCA public service ethos, when David met CSCA officers some years ago the focus of volunteers appeared to be a pre-occupation with opportunities that would look good on a CV but was the previous idealism totally absent? Might the Covid-19 and the EU Exit crisis bring about a different world view? CSCA was certainly about getting people to think for themselves. David agrees with Thomas Paine that: "The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark." (1737-1809). CSCA is certainly a reminder that with enthusiasm, creativity and imagination much can be done without a great deal of money. Ends.