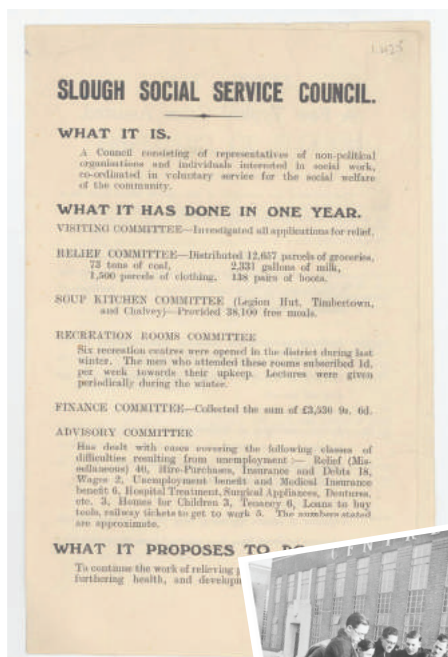


A history of

SLOUGH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE



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Slough Social Centre Cycling Club, 1930s- © The Greville Organisation Limited. Image supplied by Slough Museum
Page 4: Slough Council of Social Service Promotional Leaflet, 1933 - Image supplied by Slough Museum
Page 5: Slough Social Centre Cycling Club, 1930s - © The Greville Organisation Limited. Image supplied by Slough Museum
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Written by Carmel O'Brien and designed by Lorna Allen
Slough Council for Voluntary Service, 2012

Foreword

This is a memorable year for the Slough Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) as it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee. However there is no value in existing for 75 years nor in managing to survive on our past reputation.

Slough is a vibrant and diverse town and has been ever changing and this is reflected in the character of our community and voluntary groups. There always seems to be a new need to meet or an additional organisation with an idea for a project. SCVS fortunately shows no sign of flagging but rather it is constantly renewing its energies and purpose.

This booklet is a small record of some of the history of SCVS and it is dedicated to all the people of this organisation over the years whose success has contributed to the vibrancy of the town.

GENERAL SECRETARY/ CHIEF EXECUTIVES

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1937 – 1957 | Alfred T Carr |
| 1957 - 1962 | J N M A Nicholls |
| 1962 – 1966 | William Israel |
| 1966 – 1986 | Norman Nicolson |
| 1986 – 2004 | Adrian F T Hailer |
| 2004 – 2008 | Jonathan Blackburn |
| 2008 – to date | Ramesh Kukar |

The Beginnings

Slough Council of Social Service Promotional
Leaflet, 1933

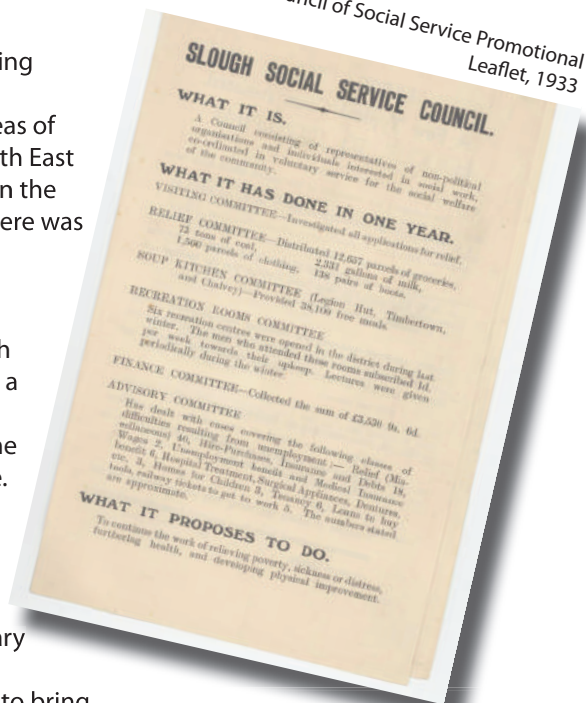
The establishment of the Trading Estate in the 1920s drew the unemployed from distressed areas of Wales and Scotland and the North East by talk of work still to be found in the town during the Depression. There was little effort in Slough to combat unemployment or its effects.

Initially two workers from Slough Borough Council decided to run a soup kitchen which was very successful. This went on for some two years improving all the time.

In 1932 a relief fund was proposed. The Urban District Council worked on suggestions for forms of voluntary service and looked for ways of harnessing the voluntary sector to bring some form of relief to the ever increasing number of unemployed.

As a result of the Prince of Wales' call to help the unemployed a Slough Social Service Council was set up on 25 November 1932. The rudiments of such an organisation had been taking place gradually.

It is worth noting that in its earliest days the Slough Social Service Council reached out to the people who were most in need and this is what SCVS does today via its support of the voluntary and community sector in Slough.



In 1932 cash payments were made for the relief of hardship. Meat, groceries, milk and coal were distributed according to circumstances and clothing was sent to those most in need thus the Slough Social Service Council was launched. A reading room was also opened, free dental treatment offered and an advisory service set up.

Then as now funding proved difficult and the organisation was forced to rely on donations. In those troubled times the Slough Council of Social Service adopted a non-political stance which remains to this day.

Slough Estates



Slough Trading Estates

Slough Council for Voluntary Service has been fortunate in receiving generous support from industry in particular from the Mobbs family and the Slough Social Fund. Slough Estates who were always active in the community created the original Centre in the Farnham Road and set up the Slough Estates charity. Sir Noel Mobbs Chairman of Slough Estates became Chairman of Slough CVS for 9 years from 1937 to 1946. The Slough Council of Social Service was successful largely due to the creation of the Slough Social Centre – five converted factory buildings devoted to community use. They provided basic health care, sports and social facilities to employees of companies on the Slough Estates. The outcome for the Slough Council of Social Service was its first office – free premises in the Slough Social Centre in 1937.

The growth in housing matched that of employment and the Manor Park estate was built. For those people in employment things had vastly improved. This had an effect on social values and the work performed by voluntary organisations. The All Good Causes Fund was created with a professional social worker and this centralised voluntary giving activity in the Town. The Rotary Club of Slough was very important in the operation of the Slough Council of Social Service and did much good work. In addition the Slough Council of Social Service helped raised funds to purchase the land for Wexham Park Hospital.

During the 1930s many voluntary organisations were created relating to social welfare, sport and recreation. There is no doubt that having a base at the Centre assisted in this respect. The Slough Council of Social Service helped provide knowledge and expertise and even more importantly a place to meet. We also provided starter grants and acted as intermediary between Slough Social Fund and the new organisations that were being created.



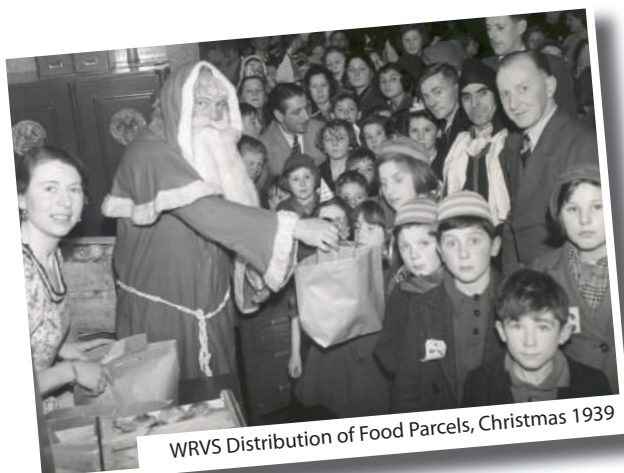
Slough Social Centre Cycling Club, 1930s

During World War II

A pivotal moment for the Slough Council of Social Service came in 1938 when central government, aware of the development on the continent, wanted to set up a national information service for all its citizens.

Where in Slough should it go?

It was decided that the Slough Council of Social Service should host the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). It was the founding of the Citizen's Advice Bureau in 1939 that provided information which led to the growth of further services. As a result, specialist advisory services such as Teenagers, Children, Widows and Marriage were developed.



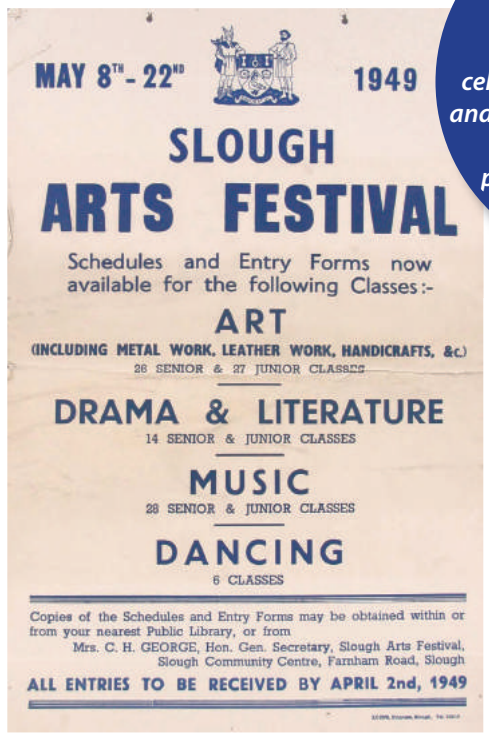
DURING THE WAR YEARS CHARITABLE ACTIVITY IN THE TOWN INCLUDED

- Comfort parcels to overseas servicemen
- Blood donor service set up
- Friendship extended to Canadian, American, Channel Island visitors and refugees



The Post War Years

Poster for Slough Arts Festival, 1949



Slough Arts Festival was established during the 1940's. The Festival celebrated the arts in Slough and included different sections including writing, photography, drama and music.

The immediate post-war years brought the arrival of the National Health Service plus a great deal of social legislation.

By the late 40s and 50s the development of numerous youth clubs, meals-on-wheels were formed.

SOME OF SLOUGH COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE'S ACTIVITY IN THE TOWN DURING THIS PERIOD

- Instrumental in the national development of Marriage Guidance Establishment of non-contributory invalid pensions
- Developed links with Slough's Polish community
- Appointed a social worker or immigrant youth
- Organised staff transport for Wexham Park Hospital

1960's

The 1960s was a time of large numbers of new-comers attracted by the town's increasing prosperity. The London County Council moved people to Britwell and Langley and then more overseas immigrants settled here.

Initially the Slough Council for Social Service provided meeting places for discussion, adopted immigrant leaders onto its committees and pushed for socially mixed housing aimed at social harmony.

The contribution of Slough Social Fund since inception has been pivotal. It provided the office in the Community Centre, paid for the equipment, administration and telephone. It also provided a grant of £500 per annum.

By 1963 support was also received from Bucks County Council, Slough Borough Council, Eton Rural District Council and Eton Urban District Council.

In 1963-64 the Slough Council for Social Service undertook a survey of local attitudes towards immigrants. The result was a Report "Colour and Community" which practically became compulsory reading in some universities and led to Slough becoming Britain's first town to appoint a Community Relations Officer. The Report also influenced the government's decision to set up the Race Relations Board.

Slough Community Centre



1970's

The Slough Council for Social Service needed a town centre location and the idea of running a day centre in William Street was discussed with Slough Borough Council with this objective in mind. Thus the major success of this period was the wide-ranging facilities for the disabled and the elderly. Of particular importance was the existence of the Day Centre in the Old Library in William Street from the early 1970s onwards. The Day Centre provided: *A place for socialising, Reasonably priced food; Hairdressing; Library; Auditory care; Literary help.*

It was the focal point from which SCVS represented the needs of the elderly and the disabled to the statutory authorities. We took people away to Butlins and Pontins and at one point we were Pontins biggest customer!!!

As the years progressed SCVS updated its advisory services and for the first time SCVS was recognised as the umbrella organisation for groups concerned disabilities and those wanting to maintain a national identity for minorities.

In 1973/74, in line with National Policy the name was changed to the Slough Council for Voluntary Service to reduce confusion with the Social Services Department of the Local Authority.



William Street Day Centre

The variety of groups supported by Slough CVS in the 1970s and 1980s reflected then as now the extremely diverse character of the town.

WHEN SCVS FIRST COME ACROSS GROUPS

- 1937 – SLOUGH CIVIC SOCIETY
- 1939 – CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
- 1941 – ALL GOOD CAUSES FUND
- 1945 – BRITWELL BOYS CLUB AKA
BRITWELL YOUTH AND COMMUNITY
PROJECT
- 1946 – WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
- 1947 – SLOUGH RSPCA
- 1950 – SLOUGH ARTS FESTIVAL
- 1952 – SLOUGH CO-OPERATIVE FILM SOCIETY
- 1963 – PAKISTAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION
- 1977 – VOLUNTEER BUREAU
- 1979 – SLOUGH TALKING NEWSPAPER
- 1985 – SADSAD
- 1996 – SLOUGH MUSEUM
- 1992 – SLOUGH CROSSROADS
- 1994 – SLOUGH HOMELESS OUR CONCERN
- 1995 – SLOUGH FURNITURE PROJECT

1980's

In 1986, SCVS front-line service commitments dominated its work. It ran a highly successful daycentre where about 500 older people came daily. It administered two local charities for the relief of poverty, a community project for unemployed people and it was shortly to take over and greatly expand a transport service for disabled people.

The function of a CVS became to support the work of local voluntary community organisations (VCO) through information, advice, guidance and training.

SCVS was now in a position to source groups' needs and to deliver training and 1-2-1 interventions. This gave rise to another consideration. As SCVS still delivered lots of direct services consideration was given to the need to separate from these direct services. This decision to float off services as separate independent bodies was taken. The sector was changing. In 1986 there

were about four paid workers in the sector in Slough. Ten years later there were 29 groups with paid workers. Slough had a few VCOs with a turnover exceeding £250,000 employing paid staff and having quite a few volunteers.

SCVS had also developed and was offering training, advice, consultancy, bid writing and partnership working and a paid community development worker.

In the 1980s, SCVS under the direction of Adrian Hailer started Slough Community Transport (SCT). SCVS also obtained funding to appoint a new Development Worker. SCVS took over the Volunteer Bureau which had been in existence for several years with dwindling results. The Bureau was run by SCVS until 1996. On separation from SCVS the Volunteer Bureau moved to offices in Kingsway United Reform Church, also on Church Street.

Slough Skyline



1990's

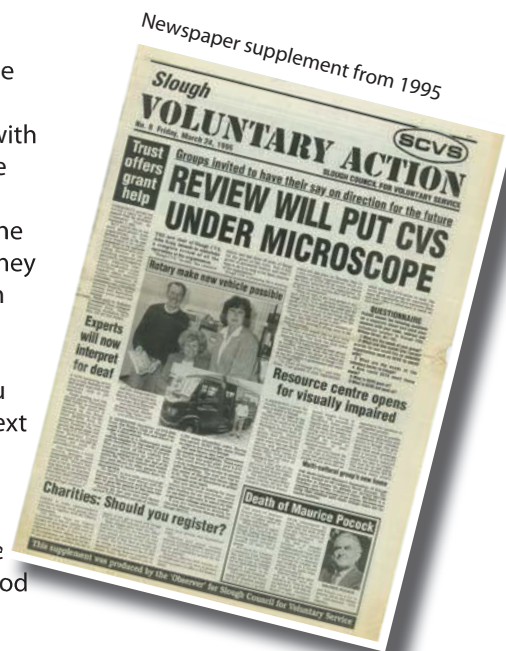
In the early 1990s SCVS had to make the decision whether to hive off its direct services or not. Discussion took place with the Committee of Management and the decision was taken in principle to separate. SCVS needed to move from the Day Centre and find the best building they could afford, and moved into 27 Church Street where they still are today.

In the meantime Citizens Advice Bureau was keen to move from the premises next to the Town Hall so in 1996 both organisations moved into 27 Church Street. There Slough CVS continued with its plan to bring independence to Slough Community Transport, All Good Causes and the Day Centre. SCVS continues to share the building with Citizens Advice Slough and Shelter.

SCVS assisted in the set up of the YMCA in 1994. Other groups that launched at the time included the Slough Furniture Project which started operating in February 1995 and Wexham and District Stoke Club was also formed in that year.



SCVS's premises at 27 Church Street



SCVS Chairmen

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1933 - 1937 | Charles Ford |
| 1937 - 1946 | Sir Noel Mobbs |
| 1947 - 1954 | Capt H W Weathersbee |
| 1955 - 1961 | T C Jacques |
| 1962 - 1965 | C S Symth |
| 1965 - 1969 | A F Dunlop |
| 1970 - 1975 | Mrs L E Grimsdell |
| 1976 - 1994 | Alan Griffith |
| 1994 - 1997 | John Keep |
| 1997 - 2012 | Eleanor Cryer MBE |
| Present | Janine Edwards |
| acting chair | |

The new Century

Of the many changes a new century brings to an established the big one to arrive as the door of SCVS was the advent of new technology. In 2002 SCVS received funding from the Home Office Active Communities Unit for a grant for upgrading its IT. SCVS had its first server and a computer suite in our training room!

Projects came and went – the Capax Project for work with BME communities ended but a successful application to the then Community Fund (now the BIG Lottery Fund) resulted in the Small Groups Project.



The Community Care Project funded by the Joint Commissioning Team of Slough Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust went from strength to strength.

The early 2000s were a time of plenty in some respects and Slough Borough Council funded a Community Development Worker. SCVS successfully applied to Capacity Builders for funding as well as the BIG Lottery Fund for funding under their Basis funding strand for money for training, governance and finance work. This project was initially for five years and has now been extended for another year. Striking while the iron was hot SCVS also applied to BIG Lottery Fund for funding under the second round of the Basis strand. This time the bid involved partnership work with our colleagues in Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Action and Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action – thus the Berkshire East Funding Project was born. This gave us a part-time Procurement Officer based in Slough for two years to help with the new funding model coming from central and local government – commissioning and tendering. We also have two funding advice workers covering Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell.

However as the 2000s progressed so the recession took it toll. Local Authority cut backs, the acclimatisation of the sector and local government to the commissioning process and the very much reduced return on investments on which many grant giving trusts depend means that money is in much shorter supply. Indeed for the first time in many years SCVS does not receive any core funding from Mars or Slough Social Fund.

Indeed the only major funder that appears to have survived intact is the BIG Lottery Fund as we all continue to gamble our way through the recession. With that in mind in the October of 2011 SCVS bid to the BIG Lottery Fund for money under the Transforming Local Infrastructure scheme and were successful. Thus as SCVS enters the second decade of the 21st century we have a Charity Mentoring Broker and a Donor Marketing Officer. As external funds decrease we are calling our local benefactors, business and indeed beneficiaries to support local groups.



Thankfully after a short gap we continue to be in receipt of funding for Capacity Building from Slough Borough Council. Slough CVS has expanded the amount of networking and partnership work we do. We run Slough Community bodies as the NHS and contribute to Slough Borough Council initiatives such as the Older People's Strategy Consultations and the Diversity Conference.

In 2009 the Slough Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum developed a Quality Assurance Programme along with SCVS for groups working with children and young people. The programme was well received within this sector and has been used well by groups in Slough. Simple Quality Protects has now been extended across the country.

The future

In the early summer of 2013 we will be hold our 15th annual Funding Fair together with our colleagues from Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest.

An even more exciting venture to look forward to is the development of a Voluntary Sector Resource Centre in the former Labour Party Headquarter building next door at 29 Church Street. We are currently in the process of purchasing this building on a long lease and hope to go ahead with the refurbishment shortly.



As in the past 75 years Slough CVS hopes to be there to weather whatever storms approaches and to continue to serve the people of Slough as it has done so for the past 75 years.

SCVS over the years

SCVS training room



Funday Sunday 2011



SQP Presentation



Slough Community Network



A Chronological History of SCVS

- 1932 The Slough Council for Social Service set up to help the unemployed.
- 1933 Affiliation with National Council of Social Service
- 1937 Slough Estates created the original Community Centre in Farnham Road. The outcome for the Slough Council of Social Services was its first office
- 1939 Founding of the Citizens Advice Bureau
- 1941 All Good Causes Fund created to centralise voluntary giving in the town
- 1945 First Open AGM
- 1962 Registered with Charity Commission
- 1964 Publication of 'Colour and Community' a nationally recognised survey of local attitudes towards immigrants
- 1973 Name changed to Slough Council for Voluntary Service
- 1977 Move to the Old Library, William Street
- 1996 Move to 27 Church Street and separates from Volunteer Bureau
- 2009 Initial launch of Slough Quality Protects Assurance Programme

Members and Executive Committee of the Council - 2012

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

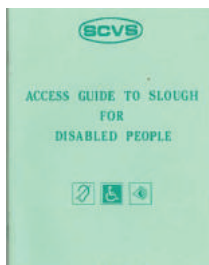
| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Mrs Eleanor Cryer (Chair) | - | Out going Chairman |
| Mrs Janine Edwards | - | Acting Chairman |
| Mr Alan Bevan | - | Treasurer |
| Ms Jacqueline Flynn | | |
| Ms Irene Goh | | |
| Mr Jamie Green | | |
| Revd Allen Walker | | |
| Mr Dele Williams | | |

OBSERVER

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Cllr Arvind Dhaliwal | - | Slough Borough Council |
| Cllr Sandra Malik | - | Slough Borough Council |

EMPLOYEES

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mr Ramesh Kukar | - | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mrs Jesal Dhokia | - | Operations Manager |
| Mrs Carmel O'Brien | - | Office Manager |
| Mrs Lorna Allen | - | Communications & Information Officer |
| Mr Martin Carter | - | Project Manager |
| Mrs Amanda Clarke | - | Administrative Support |
| Mr Warren Feagins | - | Capacity Building Co-ordinator |
| Mr Colin Gault | - | Governance Officer |
| Mrs Shaheen Kaiser | - | Training and Events Officer |
| Mrs Elizabeth Siggery | - | Charity Mentoring Broker |
| Mrs Carol Strachan | - | Donor Marketing Officer |



To celebrate Slough Council for Voluntary Service's 75th Anniversary a dinner & dance and voluntary sector awards evening was held on Friday 9th November 2012 at the Heathrow/Windsor Marriott.

The event was sponsored by:

