



CHV Digest

Winter 2024
Issue 1

A semesterly newsletter for alumni and supporters to keep you updated with CHV's latest news and announcements.

INSIDE

2023/2024 Review

An overview of CHV's activities last year, including our ball, group outings and funding.

Semester 1 Summary

An insight into our latest ventures, new volunteers and committee over the past semester

2025 Outlook

The exciting things we have planned for the coming semester.



2023/24 Summary

Despite some of the financial stress that CHV was under following the purchase of our minibuss, we ran a successful year of activities for the 12 groups we support.

The introduction of our new minibuss (Desmond) brought great excitement for both the volunteers and the children, as well as ensuring we were compliant with the new Low Emission Zone introduced in Edinburgh. Desmond has had a successful year, clocking up a mighty 5000 miles and is now well and truly a much-loved member of the charity.



We ran a massive 90 evening activities last year as well as day trips for every group, supporting over 140 children across Niddrie, Pilton and Sighthill. Last year also saw the continuation of our new Progressions Groups in Niddrie and Pilton, which support young people aged 13-17, with activities catered towards their needs and interests as they grow older.



Semester 1

We have had a successful start to 2024/25 and pleased to share some of our highlights with you.

Volunteer News

This year started impressively with over 100 applications from prospective volunteers, enabling us to increase our volunteer numbers to 7 in each group and also to assign designated cover volunteers. We are so pleased to welcome our new volunteers and are delighted to have had so much interest.

Some exciting socials have already taken place including watching the sunset at Calton Hill, an activity taster session and a trip to Gravity trampoline park. In November, our Fundraising team organised a brilliant ceilidh at Dropkicks which had more than 70 attendees and raised over £1000!!

We have also managed to recruit several new drivers, and our Transport Officer has secured the support of a chauffeur company who are generously providing us with some drivers free of charge. However, drivers are as always still needed so if you know anyone 21+ in Edinburgh who has held a licence for at least 2 years and is interested in driving for us, please encourage them to get in touch.



Financial Update

Purchasing the bus ended up costing more than initially quoted, which led to CHV using its reserves to cover the extra cost. This put a strain on our finances, and we are so grateful to all of our supporters who donated to our JustGiving or made private donations as well as to the organisations who provided us with funding.

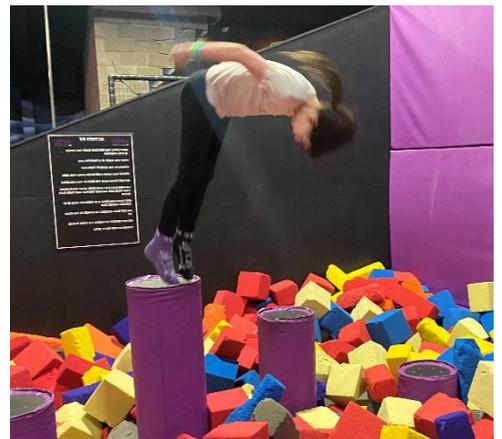
In addition, we have partnered with Scotmid as their Community Connect Partner for the East. This is an incredible opportunity for us where we have the chance to get £15,000 if we obtain the most votes! For anyone living in the East of Scotland, please consider signing up to Scotmid (it only costs £1) and you can choose to assign your votes to CHV [Scotmid Sign Up](#).

After a busy summer of applying to grants, we are now in a more comfortable situation for running costs but still in need of donations to start rebuilding our reserves, as these are an essential buffer for the charity, so any support would be very gratefully received. If you are interested in donating, please contact our finance team at finance.chv@eusa.ed.ac.uk.

Finally, we are excited to have over 20 runners in various events of the Edinburgh Marathon Festival, as well as some of our young people running the 5k. Keep an eye on our social media for how to support the runners to achieve their fundraising goals!

Activities

Some incredible evening activities have taken place over our first semester, such as trampolining, swimming, seeing the pantomime and going to the Chocolatarium. We have also secured some university funding to run cinema nights in the lecture theatres which has been an exciting addition for the young people.





Semester 2 Plans

Following a fantastic semester 1, we have some exciting things in store for the upcoming months.

Ball

Plans have started being made for our annual ball on 14th March this year. A sub-committee are working hard on organising this and it promises to be a great night for all.

You are of course very welcome to attend; tickets will be uploaded on the CHV EUSA Page and will be available to buy from the 14th February.

Edinburgh RAG

We are very excited to have been chosen by Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal (ESCA) alongside Street Assist as their partners for this academic year.

ESCA funds Edinburgh Raising and Giving (RAG), who raise a phenomenal amount for charity thanks to an exciting range of activities including sponsored hitchhikes and their famous charity ball. ESCA also funds the Meadows Marathon, an annual student-organised running event held in the Meadows to fundraise for charity.

We are looking forward to seeing all the exciting events from ESCA and are very grateful to have been chosen this year.

Day Trips and Camps

Next semester, we will be planning some exciting day trips for our groups. Some children have already started putting their requests in, including a trip to the aquarium, to an aqua park and going to the beach.

For the first time, we are running a Progressions (age 13-18) Camp this year, where the young people in the group have had a lot of input into what activities they choose for a residential weekend stay. They have also been tasked with self-catering, including meal planning and budgeting for everything that they will need.

Additionally, some of the children from our Niddrie and Pilton groups will have the opportunity to attend a residential camp around Easter time, priority given to children who have not been before. This promises to be so much fun and a highlight of the CHV year for all involved.



Newsletter

We plan on sending this newsletter biannually to keep alumni and supporters up to date with what we have been up to.

If however, you would no longer like to receive this, please reply to the email with the word UNSUBSCRIBE and we will take you off this mailing list.

If you would like to get in touch with us, please contact us on: executive.chv@eusa.ed.ac.uk or if it is about a donation/ funding, use finance.chv@eusa.ed.ac.uk.