

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

YOUR  UNION
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.yourunion.net



Mermaids Performing Arts Fund



Connect Eurasia, Refreshers' Fayre



St Andrews Union Debating Society



Charities Committee, Race2 St Andrews - Budapest



Union Table, Refreshers' Fayre



**EVERY
PENNY
SPENT
STAYS
HERE**

Did you know that every penny you spend in The Union goes straight back into funding your:

Societies | **Representation** | **Events** | **Support** | **Activities**

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Pool Table, Main Bar



One Union Awards Procession



Board Dinner, Club 601

Year in Numbers



£58,500.42

Raised by Charities

£4078.23

RAG Week +
Dare to Donate

£3492.15

RAG Week Total

57

Teams for Race2 hitchhike
from Scotland to Budapest



500

Raisin Packs were given
out with handwarmers
and snacks

300+

Consent workshops
given to 30 different
student groups via
GotConsent



100

Drink covers distributed as
well as information to avoid
spiking via GotConsent

800

Shag Packs with sexual
health resources



850

Candidates stood in the
Class Rep Elections

40

Trained volunteers to
support other students
through Peer Support



300

Student cases have
been supported
through our Advocacy
& Advice services

32

Wellbeing-related events
and services organised
through the Wellbeing
Subcommittee



13

Productions including
3 original full-length
student-written shows
put on by Mermaids
Performing Arts Fund

108

Students signed up to
volunteering opportunities
through SVS

1000+

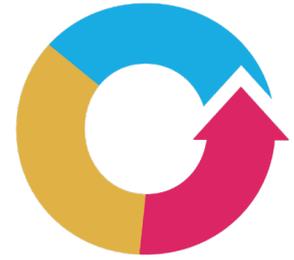
Volunteering hours (so far)
with Ents Committee

26

New shows with
St Andrews Radio



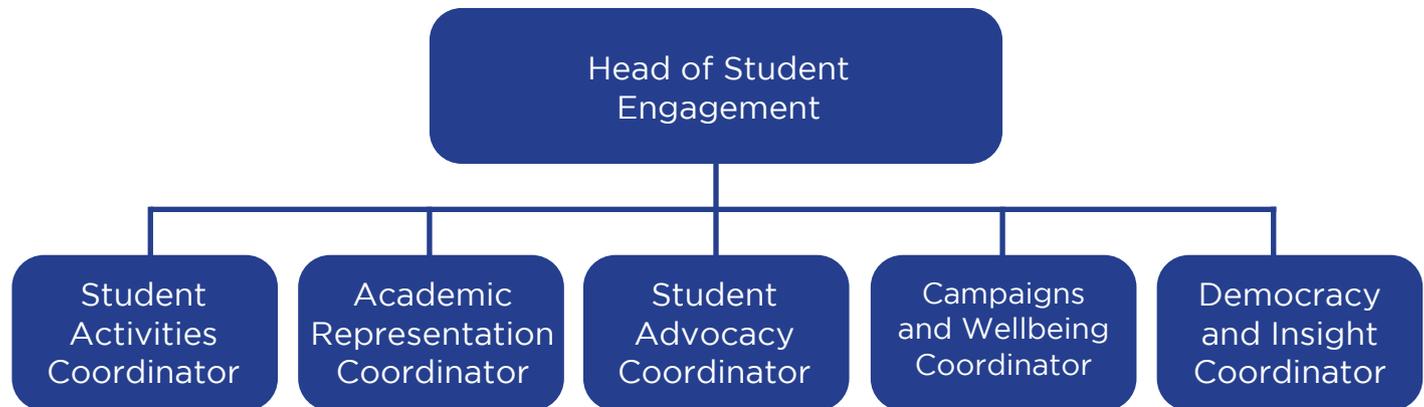
The Change Programme Update



The Change Programme was formally launched in January 2024 and the Change Team used Semester 2 of that year to gather data through interviews, group consultations and market research including student surveys. This culminated in the initial report to the Board of Trustees in July 2024, mapping out the changes for implementation in the 2024-25 academic year.

Some of the most important changes identified were in the need to strengthen staff support for key areas of the Union's work, specifically in the areas of student advocacy, student activities, events, and democracy & insight. These proposals were presented to the University and a formal proposal for an uplift in the funding for the Union was agreed, enabling these changes to be implemented. Due to funding challenges for the University, the uplift was agreed to be phased over two academic years. This meant that the Student Activities Coordinator and the Student Advocacy Coordinator were appointed but the other two posts will now be recruited for the 2025/26 academic year.

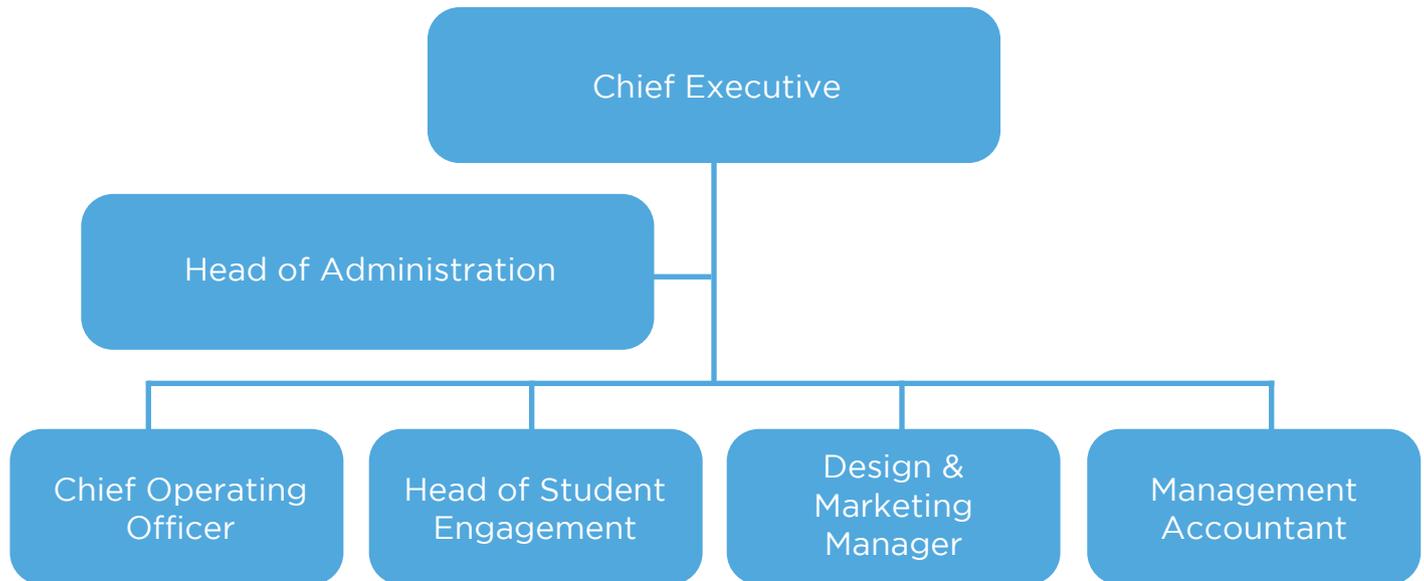
The change also recognised the need for a proper Student Engagement section within the Union and this was created, with the structure below.



In addition to the new permanent staff members, paid student internship positions have also been increased to build capacity to support activities across the Union as part of the programme.

These changes are designed to increase the capacity of the Association to meet the needs of the thousands of engaged students participating in activities, representation and support in a way that has not been possible previously.

The whole senior staff leadership of the Association also came under review, leading to a move to create, for the first time a Chief Executive role to take full responsibility for all areas of the work of the Association. Other roles were also reviewed, and a new senior management structure was proposed as below:



Recruitment for the permanent Chief Executive began with the selection of Peridot Partners as executive search partners in February 2025 and it is envisaged that the eventual successful candidate will start with the Association in August/September 2025.

These changes bring the Students' Association more into line with charity structures across Scotland and enable a senior staff lead for all aspects of the work of the Association, which will ensure focus on strategic objectives and delivery for student leaders at all levels.

Alongside the structural work, organisational culture was a key area identified in the research. The need to properly develop, empower and recognise staff both permanent and casual was prioritised. This has seen permanent staff days, a new staff forum established as well as staff surveys for both permanent and casual staff undertaken.

A lack of appraisal systems for staff was also identified and a new formal process was put in place which will see all permanent staff able to feed into objective-setting and personal and professional development.

These changes to increase the direct involvement of staff in decision-making in their own areas will speed up the organisation's ability to respond

to members needs. They are also designed to improve communication between all departments

One of the most important parts of the work for the Change Team was undertaking a review of the democratic processes of the Union. This is covered in other parts of the report and is expected to make significant improvement to the volunteer experience as well as student engagement in the policy-setting of the Union.

The Change Programme has, over the course of eighteen months looked at almost every aspect of the structure, function and delivery of the Students' Association. Change is always difficult for organisations and individuals, and more so when the structures and culture have been in place for many years without reform. The changes achieved would not have been possible without the support, hard work and involvement of officers, staff, volunteers and the support of the University in recognising the need to provide funding.

“

The need to properly develop, empower and recognise staff both permanent and casual was prioritised.

”

One Union Awards



Marking a milestone in student recognition, The Students' Association proudly hosted the inaugural One Union Awards on the 19th of April, a unified celebration combining the Student Excellence Awards, EduRep Awards, and Society Awards under one banner. From our class reps to volunteers, societies, and campaigners – the awards are an opportunity to celebrate the diverse and incredible students that make St Andrews such a special place.

This new initiative is driven by a desire to foster a stronger sense of community and visibility. By shining a spotlight on achievements across academic representation, student leadership, and society contributions, the One Union Awards highlight the interconnected efforts of our students whilst providing a more prestigious and memorable experience for nominees, winners, and attendees alike.

Central to the event are three distinct categories:

- **The Student Excellence Awards**, celebrating students who exemplify leadership, inclusivity, and community impact.
- **The EduRep Awards**, honouring academic representatives who have gone above and beyond to support their peers and enhance the academic experience.
- **The Society Awards**, recognising societies that have created welcoming spaces and delivered impactful events.

Beyond the accolades, the event is a celebration of the legacy our community continues to build. It's a moment to reflect on the collective achievements of students and staff. We are now able to not only recognise the remarkable work of the past year, but set the stage for future generations to carry forward this tradition of excellence, collaboration, and recognition.

Alice Hodges, Union Affairs Intern



Cheque to Charities Committee, One Union Awards



One Union Awards, Younger Hall

Association President

What a year it's been! I kicked things off with a promise to deliver the biggest shake-up of our Union since 1989 (no coincidence), and this year has been all about making that vision a reality. From governance reforms to student support initiatives, we've been driving forward bold changes to make Your Union stronger, more sustainable, and more impactful.

One of the biggest shifts has been our Change Programme. We've restructured our leadership team, launched the Democracy Review, and brought in new staff to better support students. We also secured a larger block grant from the University, ensuring long-term financial stability for the Association. None of this change is just for the short term—it's about setting up the Union to thrive for the next decade.

At the heart of everything we do is making student life better, and this year, we've taken major strides in supporting students during the cost-of-living crisis. The Campus Larder has expanded significantly, now with a refurbished space in the Union, a team of incredible volunteers, and plans to take it 'on tour' to halls. We're also working on introducing free breakfasts to make sure no student starts the day hungry.

Housing and affordability have been key battlegrounds. We've fought for more affordable University accommodation, ran an Accommodation Survey to amplify student voices, and worked with the Accommodation Officer and CASH to push for fairer pricing. On a national level, we relaunched the Save Our Scottish Universities campaign,

advocating for proper government funding for Higher Education.

This year hasn't been without its challenges. We've navigated the complexities of both national and international events, and their impact on our community, fought to protect student representation on University Court, and worked tirelessly to make sure your voices are heard in every major decision.

Looking ahead, the work doesn't stop here. With a new Executive Team, new Officers, and new forums, the Students' Association is entering a new era—one led by a new CEO and shaped by the changes we've worked tirelessly to put in place. The foundations we've built this year will support long-term improvements across representation, welfare, events, and societies.

There's still so much left to do, but we know all too well that change takes time - are you ready for it?

#YesWeCam

Cam S. Brown, Association President



Director of Education

In a global context that is seeing a decline in democratic participation, educational funding, and academic independence, I believe that student unions are crucial political stakeholders now more than ever. As a close witness to how our socio-economic context threatens the student academic experience, this year has bolstered my passion for educational policy development. If I had to summarise my time in one sentence, it would be “learning to do more with less”. Here is just some of the work I have contributed to:

- My guiding principle has been ensuring that all academic representation is better informed. For example, we have:
- Ensured that a revised Module Feedback process integrated access for student representatives.
- Better disseminated quantitative data from sources like the NSS, PTES, PRES, and such indicators to representatives.
- Briefed all students involved in quality assurance processes.
- We have successfully hosted five academic forums that have escalated a range of issues affecting students such as credit weightings, extensions, fees for students on placements, PG community, and assessment transparency for master’s level modules.
- We also sought to integrate the student voice at multiple levels of quality assurance practices.
- We secured an honorarium of £300+ for students participating in internal reviews.

- I was the student lead on the university’s Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review which met with 50+ students. We were the first HE institution to participate in this review.
- I liaised with national agencies such as Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland, Universities UK, and the Quality Assurance Agency to ensure national-level policy and quality work is accessible to non-traditional students.
- I have represented the Students’ Association at a number of national and international events such as the HEPI conference in London on the sector at the cusp of elections, an international summit in Hong Kong on the globalisation of knowledge and Artificial Intelligence, and a Scottish sabbatical day in Dundee.

It takes a village to change a 600-year-old university. Chase and Amy, our outgoing and new Academic Representation Coordinator; Sharanya and Daniel, our fantastic interns; and Phoebe, Emily, Will, and Callum, our amazing faculty and postgraduate presidents have been my cornerstone in realising all of this work. I could not have asked for a better team.

*Hitanshi Badani,
Director of Education*



Director of Wellbeing and Equality

Having spent my first term learning more about the role, my focus this year has been on providing students with the tools they need to seek support and enact change. During a time of global conflicts, political turbulence and growing anti-EDI sentiment, it is important that student unions celebrate the diversity of our members and centre social justice.

A core wellbeing project this year has been expanding our support webpages. I created a resource for unplanned pregnancy options, including access to abortion. This page counters global attacks on reproductive freedoms with non-judgemental information, empowering students with choice. We also worked with GotLimits to produce a drugs harm reduction webpage, reflecting a more welfare-centred approach to student drug use. Additionally, I built on last year by giving a presentation on supporting student sex workers at the Student Services internal conference. My work on the University and Union 2025-27 Student Mental Health Agreement will underpin these resources to make St Andrews more inclusive and caring for all.

I'm most proud of my work supporting student activism. I created the Student Activism Guide in time for Freshers Week, containing information on campaigning and tactics, your legal rights, and looking after your wellbeing. This is accompanied by our new activism library in the union building! It was also extremely rewarding to work with students on launching the Safe Nights Out

campaign and producing Equality Committee's zine for 16 Days of Activism. I hope these projects will inspire future generations to affect transformative change in St Andrews.

My two years as DoWell have been a whirlwind and unlike any other job I'll have. I'm grateful for the experience I've gained, and will forever be inspired by the incredible student volunteers who work every day to make St Andrews a warmer place.

Caitlin Ridgway, Director of Wellbeing & Equality

“

My two years as DoWell have been a whirlwind and unlike any other job I'll have.

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Development and Activities

This year has seen, as with most aspects of the Students' Association, a great deal of change. The greatest of which being our new Activities Coordinator, Archie, who has already had a monumental impact on the support we have been able to provide our student groups. Our Freshers' Fayre was particularly exciting as it was the first time we hosted the event in our building since the pandemic. It was phenomenal to have so many students and student groups back with us sharing in the joy of everything going on in the student community.

The team have collaborated on a variety of new training options to improve both the quality and the diversity of training options available. We have also been working closely with StAnd Together to incorporate positive society culture training into our "Got-A-Day" in May. The uptake of volunteer portal usage has been exceptional and as a result we have been really focussing on our commitment to greater volunteer recognition with our new volunteer recognition scheme (supported by SVS), including Volunteer of the Semester, and the Volunteer Portal Awards in collaboration with both SVS and the Athletic Union.

The day to day of activities can sometimes be a little more admin focussed. Especially now as we are currently working our way through all our policies and documents to make sure they best align with the new vision brought by the Change Programme, but we are so excited to see how everything will fit together in the new academic year. We have certainly faced some challenges, but we are so proud of what our societies and subcommittees have accomplished and we can at last say we may finally have sorted out all of the mail!

*Archie Ronald, Activities Co-ordinator
and Ellie Trace, Activities Intern*



Refreshers Fayre 2025

“

It was phenomenal to have so many students and student groups back with us sharing in the joy of everything going on in the student community.

”

Mermaids Performing Arts Fund



St Andrews Radio, Bell Pettigrew



Salsa and Bachata



Director of Events and Services

What a year for events and services at the Union! On the 30th of August 2024, we opened the doors of Club 601 for the first time in 18 months due to RAAC, and since then every event has been a hit.

This year has been dedicated to building a secure foundation for events in St Andrews, with the building seeing event attendance peaking at the highest it's been in the past 5 years. Some highlights include the first un-interrupted Freshers' Week held in the Union since 2019, the first ever Hallo-Week, Refreshers Week where we welcomed student collectives like Throwbacks, BPM, and Latin Flow into the club, and our All-Day St Patrick's Party.

With the club space available to us, the Events Creation team has been working to rebrand and revitalize our regular events. We've moved away from music-based themes for the BOP, cementing its reputation as a classic St Andrews night out. We've run successful collaborations between the Union and Sports Clubs for our Half-Time events, and worked with the AU on making sure Sinners is the place to be on the first Wednesday of the month.

As well as hosting our own events, having the full space of the building back has been great for our societies. Dance Societies have been able to use the space for their classes, and we've been able to have student productions back in the StAge. We've worked with societies and subcommittees

to host events on a bigger scale, with live gigs, club nights, award ceremonies, and more. I've also been working with the DoWell and other student officers to increase awareness around our Safe Nights Out and spiking initiatives.

Looking towards the end of the year I'm organising Graduation and Summer Ball happening in July, which promises to be a wonderful final event, both for me, and for graduating students.

Milo Hill, Director of Events and Services

“

This year has been dedicated to building a secure foundation for events in St Andrews.

”



Athletic Union President

It has been yet another fabulous year in the Athletic Union and we have been able to grow our partnership with the Students' Association. Like the Union, there is a place for everyone at the Athletic Union, whether you want to partake in sports or not. We've had another year of success and progress, and it has been an honour to be a part of it as the Athletic Union President.

This year we have worked super closely with the Association to bring you our Portal Awards to recognise our many volunteers across sports, societies and the wider community and those who have interacted with the skills builder awards. We have also been working together to share ideas with regards to committee training, where we have been able to share best practice, and equip our students with all the information they may need to become a committee member. I will be so happy to see our first Portal awards event take place on the 6th May.

Sports is such a fantastic opportunity for new and returning students. It is a way to keep active and improve both your physical and mental wellbeing. It is a way to make friends for life and feel apart of a community, and it is a way to build your skill set through many different avenues. There are many different ways to get involved and there is something for everyone, whether you want a competitive offering, or just something recreational to keep you active we have got your covered, beginner to elite level, indoor and outdoor sports, with 52 different clubs, we really can cater to everyone, we even offer internship schemes. Therefore I would always urge everyone, especially first years to get involved with the Athletic Union somehow.

Olivia King, Athletic Union President

“

We've had another year of success and progress, and it has been an honour to be a part of it as the Athletic Union President.

”





REPRESENTATION

Student Representative Council

Introduction

Your Union is a body, and representation is its beating heart. This year, your elected Officers and volunteers have shown just how powerful our collective student voice can be. Most of our reps are volunteers, balancing their roles alongside degrees, jobs, and day-to-day life. That makes their dedication all the more incredible: they show up, speak out, and give their time freely to make St Andrews somewhere we can all be proud to call home.

From championing fairer academic policies to building community for commuter and mature students, to raising awareness on issues like climate justice and cost-of-living, your Officers have been out there every day, making change happen. They've worked hard to ensure our university is kinder, more inclusive, and more responsive to the real issues students face.

A huge highlight this year was the consultation around the Democracy Review. Student reps didn't hold back—they offered honest, passionate feedback on how our structures can work better for everyone. That input has shaped a bold new system launching next year. The impact of the incoming Officer team will be built on the foundation of this year's reps, who weren't afraid to challenge the status quo.

Representation isn't always easy—but it's powerful. And this year, your reps proved just how much is possible when students lead the way.

And as the spokesperson for Your Union: I couldn't be prouder!

Cam S. Brown, Association President

“

Your Officers have been out there every day, making change happen. They've worked hard to ensure our university is kinder, more inclusive, and more responsive to the real issues students face. ”

Academic Rep Achievements

Our association has the privilege of housing one of the most engaged and extensive structures of academic representation in the country. With a team of 8 executives, 29 school presidents and language convenors, circa 140 postgraduate, and 380 undergraduate representatives; our network is far-reaching. Here are just a few highlights exemplifying its work:

- Organised representative elections with over 850 candidates
- Organised the 1413 Teaching Excellence Awards with over 250 nominations
- Chaired 2 PGR Forums and launched a plan to overhaul PG community (President of Postgraduate Researchers)
- Organised a textbook giveaway with 100+ books and re-launched the Faculty Journal publishing 41 student articles (Arts and Divinity Faculty President)
- Chaired 2 PGT Forums and worked to increase PG representation in tours and public-facing roles (Postgraduate Taught President)
- Worked with IT Services to address broad-based technological failures in classrooms (Science and Medicine Faculty President)
- Contributed to a reform of the Chinese studies course (Chinese Language Convenor)
- Revived the Ethnographic Encounters Journal (Social Anthropology School President)
- Redesigned the Senior Honours curriculum to improve student employability in a francophone context (French Language Convenor)
- Advocated for EDI improvements in lectures and seminars (Comparative Literature Convenor)
- Organised a music production masterclass (Music School President)
- Co-founded a peer tutoring programme delivering 14 sessions (Psychology and Neuroscience School President)
- Hosted 'lunch with a lecturer' events, including one catered by the Vegetarian and Vegan Society for 35 people (International Relations School President)
- Organised the St Mary's Conference on Bible and Theology with over 80 attendees (Divinity School President)
- Organised 9 weekly film screenings (Arabic and Persian Language Convenor)
- Hosted a Research & Party featuring 10 honours students' talks on their research, attended by over 50 students and staff (Mathematics and Statistics School President)
- Advocated for a fee reduction for students on industrial placements (Biology and Chemistry School Presidents)

This list is far from complete. I would like to thank every single academic representative for their work. Whether it is through convening SSCC meetings, attending various fora, or organising events; the legacies that they leave for future generations of students can assume many forms and may often go unnoticed. Today, we hope to take notice.

Hitanshi Badani, Director of Education

Saints LGBT+

I find myself writing my last report on our annual activities for Saints LGBT+ in what has been an incredibly tough year for trans and gender non-conforming people across Scotland and the UK. Last year in this very report I wrote about the importance of showing up and showing out for those in our community. I still stand by these words, and this year our projects, work, and overall theme has been wholeheartedly dedicated to support and community.

I started this year off with a goal to preserve the longevity of our organisation. Saints LGBT+ is built not by the words from the President/LGBT+ Officer in this report but the team of 13 volunteers and their respective teams of approximately 50 volunteers total. Historically the committee has seen serially reprised roles but this year was different with a lot of new faces. I am more than confident that this organisation (which has been going since 1977 may I add!) is in safe hands.

This year reps hosted a wealth of activities, spaces, and services for which this report will never, ever do justice. From an awesome 12th Drag Walk, to a spectacular shining Glitterball boasting the best show I have seen yet, to many copies of The Gay Saint now out in the wild, to Transfest and Queerfest our weeklong celebrations of identities, to community organising... the list could go on and on. I remain incredibly proud of the volunteers, and even if they never see this report, they need to know they have done a phenomenal job.

I may be about to leave student life and three and a half years of volunteering for the Association behind, but I know that Saints LGBT+ will continue to serve the community. I have never been so amazed, so proud, and had cheekbones so sore as from the work of Saints LGBT+ volunteers.

Jack Kennedy, LGBT+ Officer



Disabled Students Network

- We successfully ran the Disabled Students' Survey 2025, receiving over 100 responses, creating a foundational document for the direction disability activism takes at St Andrews for the next two years.
- Provided wellbeing support to a great number of students facing a vast range of issues during their time at University this year: this included advice and peer support regarding struggles with studies/attendance & helping students find quiet study spaces to suit their needs.
- Alongside the Carers, Commuters, Mature & Flexible Learners Officer, we drafted, submitted, and passed a motion calling for an audit of lecture capture software and recordings at the University, which will be a key mission for both CCMFL and DSN next year.
- We represented the needs and views of disabled students across a variety of Union and University issues: including the Plant Based Universities motion and changes to school practices regarding self-certificates of absence.
- Organised accessible collaborations with societies ranging from Pool and Cue Society and Yogi Soc to the Comedy Society and Inklight.
- We began conversations with relevant University staff members about the implementation of a campus access card system for disabled students.
- Worked alongside the Byre Theatre and Mermaids to push for wider performing arts accessibility.
- Organised an exciting, progressive collaborative event with Sexpression in which we discussed disability and sex, challenging outdated notions of the inherently asexual disabled body.
- Offered accessibility and inclusion advice to members of staff working on the Tertiary Enhancement Quality Review to ensure the review process was open to all students and their needs.
- Organised several popular events with Saints LGBTQ+'s Trans & Non-Binary Officer.
- Pushed a range of societies to be more accessible, carry out accessibility training, and end the dominance of non-accessible venues in town for society events.
- Made progressive early steps towards broader accessibility and inclusion of students with auditory and visual disabilities; including organising the university's first ever auditory disability meetup and introducing auditory and visual disability representatives to our committee at our AGM.

Jay Martin, SRC Disability Officer

Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners

Employability

Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners' biggest success this year has been in rebuilding the community and has seen an increase in engagement.

- We returned to Freshers' and Refreshers' Fayre.
- We hosted more socials than last year, starting a monthly cooking social in Semester 1 and starting a fortnightly pub and games night in Semester 2.
- This year we collaborated with the Disabled Students' Network, the Wellbeing Committee, and Widening Access and Participation.

Resources and advocacy:

- We created a physical commuters' guide that is available around town and digitally.
- We used our social media to spread awareness of resources and created guides on how to access them.
- We worked with DSN to draft a motion for the last SRC meeting of the year, requesting a review of the University's lecture recording policy, and an audit of the availability, quality, and captioning of lecture recordings - a project that will move into the next year!

The Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners committee has worked incredibly hard and their work has shown a lot of success, which has only grown over the year!

It's been an honour to be a part of Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners this year, and we hope that it carries this momentum on next year!

Amanda Cao, Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners Officer

- Highlighted concerns about working conditions and prevalence of harrasment to part-time staff currently in St Andrews, the DoWell took this further and developed a great motion which have encompassed a better idea of the Union's position.
- Trialled a more consistent meeting of the Careers forum consisting of employability reps representing each school. Very beneficial for the employability strategy and the Careers Centre for feedback and to engage more with students.
- Participated in the Employability Working Group and Entrepreneurial Education Working Group to highlight student issues and improve outcome.
- Helped develop and advise on both the University and Student Union Employability Strategy focussing on building confidence for students and creating better opportunities across the board.
- Judged the Enterprising Mind of the Year Award and saw the great work being done by other students.
- Focussed on trying to increase the importance of employability generally. Looking at how to make it not role specific and rather union wide.
- Focusing on changing the role and its position to create a more lasting impact in line with the Change Programme.

Thomas Carey, Employability Officer

Elections 2025



Pledge to vote, Piazza



Elections Voting, Piazza

98

Candidates ran in the election

2908

Individual Voters

400

Slices of pizza handed out during voting

860

Pop Tarts handed out during voting

1460

President of Union Affairs

1705

Athletic Union President

1505

President of Education

1345

President of Wellbeing and Community

1227

President of Student Opportunities

56

School President and Convenor Candidates



Elections results, Club 601



Elections Results, Club 601

31

SRC Candidates

10

Sabbatical Candidates

4

Trustee Candidates

SUPPORT



Introduction

Your Union provides support to students when they need it, whether that be through information about May Dip on social media, up-to-date signposting on the Support section of our website, or through the independent and professional guidance of the Advocacy & Advice Service.

This year, we expanded the Advocacy & Advice Service, with our full-time Advocacy Co-ordinator now in post. Having a member of staff whose sole focus is providing academic policy support, non-academic misconduct procedural guidance, and accommodation advice is essential to ensuring that students have a non-judgemental source of information when navigating university life.

Our annual work on Raisin continued this year, with staff and student volunteers on hand to ensure that participants in one of our most famous traditions were kept safe. We had First Aid, a bread and water stall, as well as guidance through the Academic Parents and Children's guides.

We have also held pop-up events to give away free sustainable period products in the Union. These are always well-received, and help us to make sure that fewer students face period poverty. We have also hosted STI testing pop-ups with the Terrence Higgins Trust, providing vital sexual healthcare and guidance to our students.

Finally, student-led initiatives like StAnd Together continue to support our students across consent and relationships, friendship and connection, alcohol and drug harm reduction, and solidarity around hate crime.

All of these initiatives come together to ensure that our students feel safe and supported while living and studying in St Andrews.

Caitlin Ridgway, Director of Wellbeing & Equality



All of these initiatives come together to ensure that our students feel safe and supported while living and studying in St Andrews.



StAnd Together

This year, StAnd Together has gone from strength to strength.

At the end of the previous academic year, StAnd Together was expanded to create GotSolidarity, which focuses on bystander intervention and EDI training. As it's a new Strand, the focus has been on research and preparing materials for future committees to draw on.

GotLimits did amazing work on Alcohol & Drug Awareness Week in Semester 1, creating myth-busting infographics on alcohol and drug misuse and dependency, a low/no alcohol pub crawl, and a film night.

GotConsent have delivered consent workshops to student groups to equip them with information on consent in contemporary life. They also pulled together infographics across the 16 Days of Activism on topics including the justice system, how the media impacts sexual violence, and activism.

PeerSupport provide an essential service, connecting students with volunteers who can help them feel less lonely. This year, the service has recruited new volunteers and focused additional efforts on publicity of the service, so that students who are struggling know that there's a PeerSupporter waiting to help them.

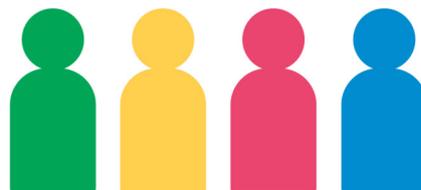
Each of the Strands have worked together to help make St Andrews a safer, kinder, and more equitable place to be.

Holly McDonald, Campaigns & Impact Co-ordinator

“

Each of the strands have worked together to help make St Andrews a safer, kinder, and more equitable place to be.

”



StAnd Together
Don't be a bystander, be a friend

Advocacy & Advice

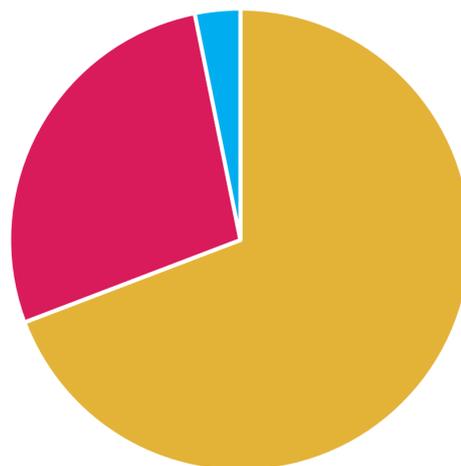
The Advocacy & Advice Service (formerly HelpHub), offers free, non-judgemental, and confidential advice to students on University academic, non-academic processes, policies and accommodation issues.

This year, we recruited our Advocacy Co-ordinator, Jackie, who works full-time in the service to provide students with the compassionate and professional guidance they require, on a range of issues from academic appeals to non-academic misconduct. The service is independent from the University, meaning that we can help students navigate University processes impartially and in a student-centred way.

In the last year, we have supported students with over 300 cases. As you can see from the pie chart, students overwhelmingly came to us concerned with academic issues (218 cases). This echoes the trend in previous years that academic queries are the most pressing issues students are facing. Housing followed behind, with 87 cases involving accommodation issues. Finally, non-academic misconduct issues accounted for only 10 of our cases in the last year.

Jackie now holds online and in-person drop-in sessions, complementing the time she sets aside for students to book appointments with her (you can contact Jackie at UnionAdvocacy@st-andrews.ac.uk).

We are looking to work with UG and PG students for earlier intervention on all issues. Now, more than ever, students are seeking advice from the service, and we continue to find new ways to reach out.



■ Academic issues ■ Housing ■ Non-academic misconduct



Jackie Mason, Advocacy Co-ordinator

GotConsent

- We have given consent workshops to 300+ students this year from over 30 different groups.
- We ran the Clothesline project in tandem with a visiting day in April 16th and 17th.
- We handed out 100 drink covers as well as information on how to avoid spiking and be a proactive bystander.

Clara Sousa, GotConsent Co-ordinator

GotLimits

- We led on the alcohol brief interventions work with SOS-UK to get students to reflect on their alcohol consumption.
- We co-created a support resource for the Union website on drug addiction and harm reduction signposting.
- We used a Union grant to purchase anti-spiking bottle caps and drug testing kits for a giveaway event.

Akshaya Pradhan, GotLimits Co-ordinator

PeerSupport

- This year we created new committee roles - Accessibility Rep and Saints Sports Rep.
- We co-hosted a tote bag and card-making event with EmpowHer for Galantines Day to enhance publicity.
- We now have 40 trained volunteers to support other students.

Ash Arya, PeerSupport Co-ordinator

GotSolidarity

- Worked with student groups and staff across the University to plan a bystander initiative training for next year and broader EDI training.
- Advocated for Report and Support to contain information about reporting classism - this will be launching soon.
- Worked on the Union's 16 Days of Activism campaign, including a gift drive for Fife Women's Aid.

Molly Reade, GotSolidarity Co-ordinator

Wellbeing Committee

The Wellbeing Subcommittee has organised 32 wellbeing-related events and services so far this year, including:

- A busy week of freshers events
- Collaborations with dog walking, art soc, Taylor swift soc, CCMFL, book club, kendo, rec sports and many more
- SHAG week: we gave out 800 SHAG packs containing condoms and sexual health resources and held pop up STI testing
- We manned a condom stall at Sinners and the Safeword Bop
- Movember flower giveaway: we gave out 200 roses to the men of St Andrews
- We sponsored free, accessible weekly yoga classes all year
- We gave out 500 Raisin packs with hand warmers and snacks
- We promoted student health by collaborating with the student health hub to encourage GP registration
- We collated support resources for students affected by the result of the US election
- A Wellbeing Summit for all wellbeing officers across the university to come together to share knowledge and ideas related to student wellbeing.

Lola Chirico, Student Health Officer

Equality Committee

• Across the 16 Days of Activism, for the SGBV Forum, we created infographics around Human Rights Day and how to be an activist. We also hosted a very successful gift drive for Fife Women's Aid.

• We created 'Rise Up and Speak Out,' our GBV activism zine, featuring submissions from students and alumni.

• We hosted a 'Safe Nights Out' Forum in Semester 1, organised by our Bars Manager, where local night-time economy venues came to the Union for training and best-practice sharing, to ensure students and customers are safe on their nights out.

Caitlin Ridgway, Director of Wellbeing & Equality

ACTIVITIES



Introduction

Our array of activities options available to students is, without a doubt, sector leading. We owe this to the phenomenal volunteer effort of all our officers and student leaders on subcommittees and societies. They are integral to what makes the St Andrews student experience so exceptional. Our subcommittees have been constantly improving or bringing new ideas to the table.

SVS has been a highlight, however, it is no mean feat bringing a subcommittee back from scratch, but their success and volunteer engagement is truly a testament to their hard work!

We have been making an effort to increase collaboration across the different areas of the union with societies engaging with the Disabled Students Network, Environment Subcommittee and Education Committee to streamline communications but also make sure that the needs and voices of all students are heard in the activities available to them. We have incorporated the feedback from these consultations into how we give grants and offer support and hope that this will continue to encourage student groups to strive to be the best they can be.

Activities Team



They are integral to what makes the St Andrews student experience so exceptional. ”



Mermaids Performing Arts Fund, Freshers' Week



St Andrews Union Debating Society

St Andrews Radio

- Full radio schedule: in total, 15 more shows this year than last
- Instagram following increase of over 100 in the last year
- 26 new shows broadcasting in semester 2 despite our broadcasting hours being cut
- Removed broken microphones and fixed speaker issues in the studio
- New studio decoration
- High attendance at Bell Pettigrew sessions with a full roster of performers
- Hearing Aid has increased visits to their online journal by 104% (compared to last year)
- Regularly hosting committee socials and show host socials
- Sounds of Sandys regularly giving student bands performance space, new Instagram page made for advertisement
- Effective online engagement through new marketing techniques: merch design competitions, posting the schedule, reposting show Instagram posts.

Jesse Anderson, Station Manager

Entertainments Committee

- We had an 87.5 % increase in membership numbers this year, allowing for more engaging training and events.
- We've had over 1000 volunteering hours so far this year, and that number will continue to rise as we finish out the year. We've also had record high volunteer turnout to these events which has been so exciting and allowed us to deliver better events.
- We've run the tech for 67 events so far this year, and will do much more before the year ends.

Luke Lynch, Marketing and Engagements Officer



Charities Campaign

The Campaign and its dedicated subcommittees have spent the year organising some fantastic events raising money for our three student elected charities: Richmond's Hope, Alzheimer's Research UK and Solidaritee!

From candle-making to hitchhikes across Europe, here are some highlights:

- The Events Team put on several successful events including an 80s-themed photoshoot, Boozy Bingo and Charity Ceilidh with Challengers!
- Challengers is organising a group skydiving event for students this summer and fall and is on track to raise over £2,000!
- RAG Week and Dare to Donate were a smashing success this year raising over £4,000 for our charities with collaborative events like Take Me Out, Dog Cuddling with Dog Walking Soc and a RAG x PALS Bubble Tea Sale!
- Race2 saw 57 Teams of students hitchhike from Scotland to Budapest during the Spring Break! The first-place team made it to Budapest in just 38 hours! Most importantly, they surpassed their fundraising goal and raised over £58,000 for charity!
- CATWALK put on their annual show this March and explored the theme of Metamorphosis through their fashion and set designs!

USACC has had a successful year and we can't wait to see who we will be supporting next year!

Union Debating Society

This academic year UDS has continued in our outreach efforts with the local community, hosted several major competitions and welcomed esteemed speakers to weekly public debates. Our volunteers have all worked exceptionally hard and we thank all of them for their dedication; without which none of this would have been possible.

Competitions:

- We won the SSDC pro-am this year!
- Hosted two major competitions (Bogwall and St Andrews Open).
- We ran our annual schools competition with local secondary schools in Fife.
- Ran the St Leonards annual debate day.
- Began online coaching with schools in Japan!

Public Debates:

- Hosted 20 public debates
- Collaborated with four societies: SMCS, VIP, CCJ, UNA.
- Hosted a panel on the Trump administration
- Guest speakers included MPs, academics, students etc.

To come:

- This summer we're sending three teams and two judges to the European championships in Copenhagen. Wish them luck and follow along on our socials!

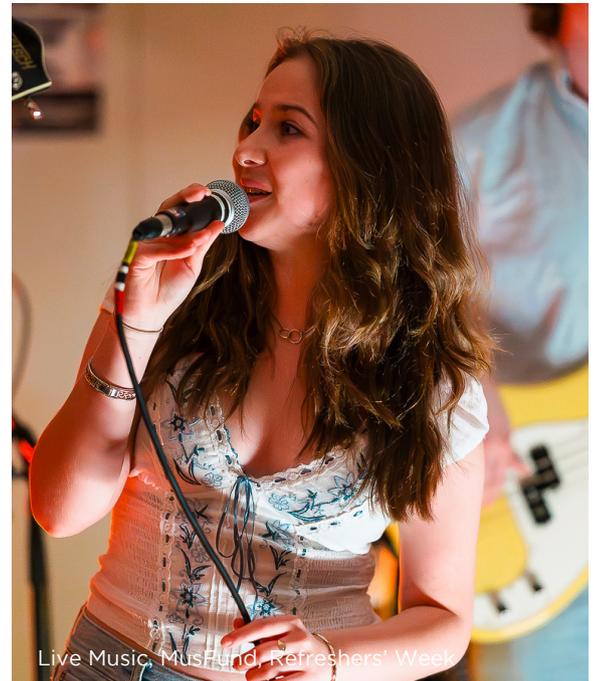
Jenny Douce, President (Debates Officer)

Music Fund

This year Music Fund have had a great year of sharing the joy of Music with the student body. We have continued our weekly open mic every Monday in main bar, supporting student bands and musicians from St Andrews and further afield including collaborating with loads of different student groups and themed weeks. A particular highlight being our Green Week Open Mic, it was lovely to see so many new faces getting involved in the work we do.

At the time of writing, we have our annual music festival event called MUSICFEST coming up. Our subcommittee has put a lot of love into organising this featuring 7 student bands, and a further 3 society groups; Jazzworks, Folk & Trad and Ukular Fusion!

One of our proudest achievements is that we have facilitated 3-5 events a week with our gear rental system, allowing smaller events and groups to grow! It is always a joy to be able to encourage student musicians in their development and performances. Overall, we have spent all year having a wonderful time working closely with other music groups in St Andrews to support the student music scene and are grateful for all we have been able to achieve.



Mermaids Performing Arts Fund

- Put on 13 productions this year, including 3 original full-length student-written shows. We hosted 6 workshops in partnership with the Byre Theatre, and affiliated 1 new student group.
- Established our new Engagements Subcommittee, to increase opportunities in student theatre, introducing roles like Fresher's Rep, Shadowing Coordinator and Diversity Officer.
- Kickstarted Mermaids' creative career support and alumni network, expanding our website with CV tips, internship advice, and industry insights and establishing an alumni database of 33 former alumni now working in the creative industries. From this, we introduced a semesterly alumni panel event on creative careers, which has been a big success.
- Our new Shadowing Officer role led to us introducing a brand new shadowing scheme with a greater programme of hands-on opportunities than ever before.
- After last year's success, the Barron Playwriting Competition was hosted once more, with an incredible 21 submissions, 6 more than last year. The standard of the short plays was fantastic, and £500 was distributed as prize money amongst the well-deserving winners.
- Our Christmas Ball Convenor and her subcommittee did a fantastic job organising Mermaids' annual Christmas Ball, this year with a Masquerade theme, which sold over 1600 tickets.

Louise Anderbjörk, Performing Arts Officer



St Andrews Voluntary Service

SVS had been on hiatus since 2021, until the previous DoSDA, Sam Gorman, reactivated it at the end of last year. With this being our first year active again, we hit the ground running with a full rebranding along with new and old volunteering projects for students!

Our committee of 12 have been working hard all year! Here is some of the things we have done...

- SVS has been active again for officially a year!
- Introduced 1 new mascot, Maurice the penguin!
- Created a new Volunteering Fayre for students to meet organizations SVS and Charities Campaign partner with.
- Established connections with over 35 organizations in the area through partnerships and marketing!
- 345 people have joined our mailing list!
- 108 students have signed ups for volunteering opportunities, with many students signing up for multiple opportunities!
- Incorporated possible graduate attributes for each volunteering opportunity offered.
- Ran over 10 events, including the re-established Give Back Weekend in April!
- Collaborated with Charities Campaign on the Gives Back Awards.
- Helped plan the Volunteer Portal Awards along with the Union and the AU.

Emma Hughes, SVS Convener and Volunteering Officer



Societies Committee

The Societies Committee has had a full-on year with student societies finally starting to get back to pre-covid engagement. We started it off with Freshers' Fayre back in the building and a phenomenal amount of Freshers' Fund grants. We also hosted our first Presidents' Mixer which was an incredibly well attended and received event that we hope to continue in future years to help facilitate cross-society engagement. We also hosted bank account helpdesks to support student treasurers with the signatory changeover process!

We have started on some other super exciting projects including streamlining medical society affiliation and our new society handover and reaffiliation guide which we hope will make everything clearer for all new society committee members. We are in the process of advising on and helping film the new training courses to help make them more accessible and fit better around the student schedule.

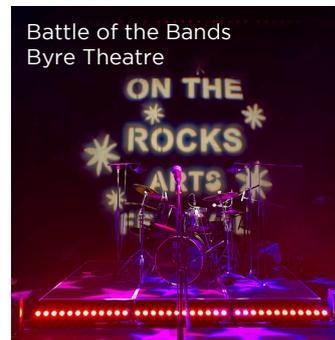
The societies committee can, at times, be a very admin-heavy subcommittee, but we would not have been able to be nearly as successful as we have without the incredible efforts of all our committee members. We have taken the time to think about every aspect of what we do and make it better for the students we represent, from creating a social media presence to offering more clarity on affiliation processes. Thank you to the Societies Committee and every member of our dearly beloved societies. You are what makes the St Andrews Student Experience so special, and it has been as joy to represent you as your Societies Officer this year.

Caitie Steele, Societies Officer 2024/25

On the Rocks

- Drastically increased the size of the Festival this year, going from 9 events to 14 events.
- Increased the number of venues from 1 to 6.
- Larger diversity of events: theater shows, workshops, jewellery making, and ensemble performances!
- Committee of eight people and twelve festival volunteers to help run Front of House for events!
- This is the sixteenth year of On the Rocks, and our theme this year was Sweet 16/Happy Birthday - we've also been putting candles at all our venues to help symbolize that.

Luke Lynch, On the Rocks Convenor, 24/25



On the Rocks Stickers

SPACES, EVENTS & STAFFING

Neon Sinners, Club 601



Operations Update

This year has been the closest we have had to a normal year post Covid; we have managed to relaunch our nightclub operation after a VIP opening at the end of August and have had some of the busiest nights on record since.

The efforts made by staff across the organisation to make this happen has been immense – and thanks must go to the key Departments that have made this happen; Bars, Customer Safety, Ents and the Building Team that top and tail each event.

Working with our (last ever) Director of Events and Services Milo, we have pulled off some of the biggest and most successful events and have exceeded expectations consistently. A special thanks should also go to our Events Consultant Ronald who has given his support in the background allowing us to get better and more use out of our spaces.

We also had permission to extend our opening hours to finish at 3am should we wish to, which allows us to maximise student experience for our late night offering.



St Patrick's All-Day Party, Main Bar

In our Catering department, with some additional recruitment, we managed to get our evening food offering back up and running and continue to develop our menu's as we begin to plan for summer and into next year. Rector's and the Old Union Coffee Shop continue to be popular and we have also been able to extend the Old Union Coffee Shops offering to 7 days which has been a great success.

Our outside Events wing goes from strength to strength and similar to some of our nightclub record breakers, we have been part of the biggest and most successful outdoor external events that we have on record. We are now in a position to offer bars, security and technical support to any student group planning an external party, be it a ball, dance event or anything similar.

Chris Clarke, Chief Operating Officer



Box Office Queue, Piazza/Box Office

Staffing Update

We have been delighted to be able to undertake some restructuring of our teams with both promotions and some new appointments:

- Nicole Assistant Assistant Catering Manager
- Scott Wilson Duty Customer Safety Walker Manager
- Rob Dibb Duty Facilities Manager
- Scott Cull Deputy Bars Manager
- Adam Ellahi Commis Chef
- Marc Fox Joined the permanent staffing team as a Bar Supervisor
- Sharon McLeod Kitchen Supervisor
- Archie Ronald Student Activities Coordinator
- Jacquie Mason Student Advocacy Coordinator
- Amy McLaughlin Academic Representation Coordinator
- Paris Triantafyllou Digital Communications Coordinator

As part of our restructuring, we have welcomed Rachel Hughes to our Senior Management Team, Natalie Bates as an Interim Head of Student Engagement and Antony Blackshaw our Change Director as Interim CEO. A special thanks must go to Antony, Natalie and all of the change team - including Graham Wood and Vicii Kirkpatrick - for their support and hard work over the last 18 months.

We must also take a moment to thank some of our key staff members who have moved on or retired: Dave Whitton, the Association's General Manager after nearly 29 years of service, Jillian Cowan, our Management Accountant with 25 years of service, Iain Cupples our HR and Advocacy Manager after more than 25 years, Lynn Duff from our Finance Team after 17 years, and Lesley Miller our Kitchen Supervisor after 16 years. We also saw the departure of Chase Greenfield, our first Academic Representation Coordinator and Chris Gordon (aka Flash), one of our Customer Safety Supervisors.

Chris Clarke, Chief Operating Officer

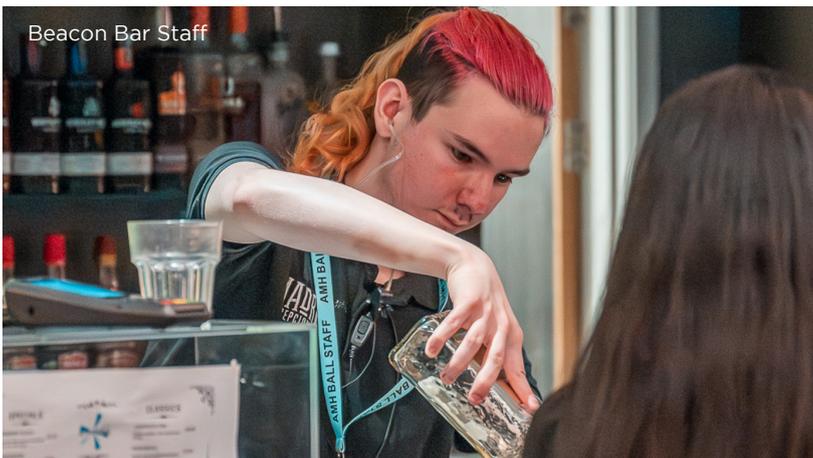




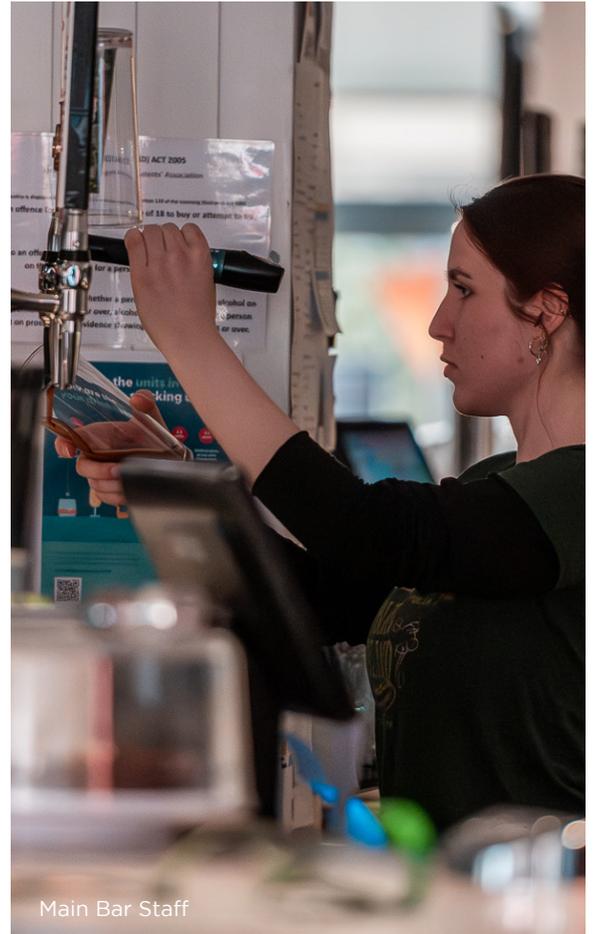
After Hours, Frequency X Amen



Fright Night Box Office Queue



Beacon Bar Staff



Main Bar Staff



Food in the Piazza

Closing

“Long live the walls we crashed through!”

This year has been one for the history books... bold, challenging, a little chaotic at times, but above all, joyful. We set out to do big things; and we did. But none of it would've mattered without the people who stood alongside each other, determined to make this Union, YOUR Union.

From Freshers' Fayre to the One Union Awards, from governance reform to glitter on the 601 dancefloor - we've lived every verse of this year with heart. You showed up early, stayed late, lifted others up, and made room for every voice. Whether you were front and centre or quietly keeping things moving behind the scenes: you made it count.

The Change Programme, the Democracy Review, the new staff, the systems, the spaces - they're just the beginning. The real legacy is you: the students, volunteers, and staff who believed that we could do more and be better, together.

To the incoming team: this is your moment. Be brave. Be loud. Don't be afraid to rewrite the rules. The castle is yours now - so dance in the halls and leave it better than you found it.

And to everyone who made this year what it was - I hope you remember it all too well. Because I know I will.

With love, legacy, and just a bit of sparkle from 601,

Cam S. Brown
The Last Association President



One Union Award Procession

“

**Long live the walls we
crashed through!**

”

Your Executive Team, 2025/26?



*At the time of making this document, we have gone to a by election.

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