

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



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FOREWORD

What does 600 years of student culture look like?

In an ancient University town, it's difficult not to get a sense of our collective history. The annual cycle of Association Councils election and dissolution, the ebb and flow of semesters of academic study, even the Union's completed redevelopment - all of what we do borrows from and is placed in one aspect or another of our shared history.

For a time our subcommittees and societies, our elected representatives and councils, our events and activities, all act as custodians of our history and culture. Every member of the Association should be proud of how that custody has taken form this year.

We've set a number of records - the 336 nominations for the Teaching Awards and our busiest Freshers Week ever demonstrates our student body as uniquely committed to academia and the thriving social web that students construct themselves. We've hosted several esteemed guests, notably Game of Thrones' Maisie Williams - and furthered St Andrews' reputation as a place of culture and discussion. Our fervent campaign to save GP out of hours services at the St Andrews Community Hospital and our new sustainability policy defines our Association as one concerned with our community and its future.

There is a distinct joy in guiding those efforts for a year, building on centuries of past effort, and knowing that our own records and developments will also be inevitably bettered.

What does 600 years of student culture look like? It looks like a building where space can barely be found for all the activity going on, it looks like an events schedule punching far above our weight, it looks like dozens of Mermaids productions, hundreds of student societies, thousands of voluntary hours, and tens of thousands of pounds raised for charity.

It looks like a new glass building on old St Marys Place, a hub for students before dawn and after dusk. 600 years of student culture looks like the Students' Union, and we hope you enjoyed this year as much as we did.

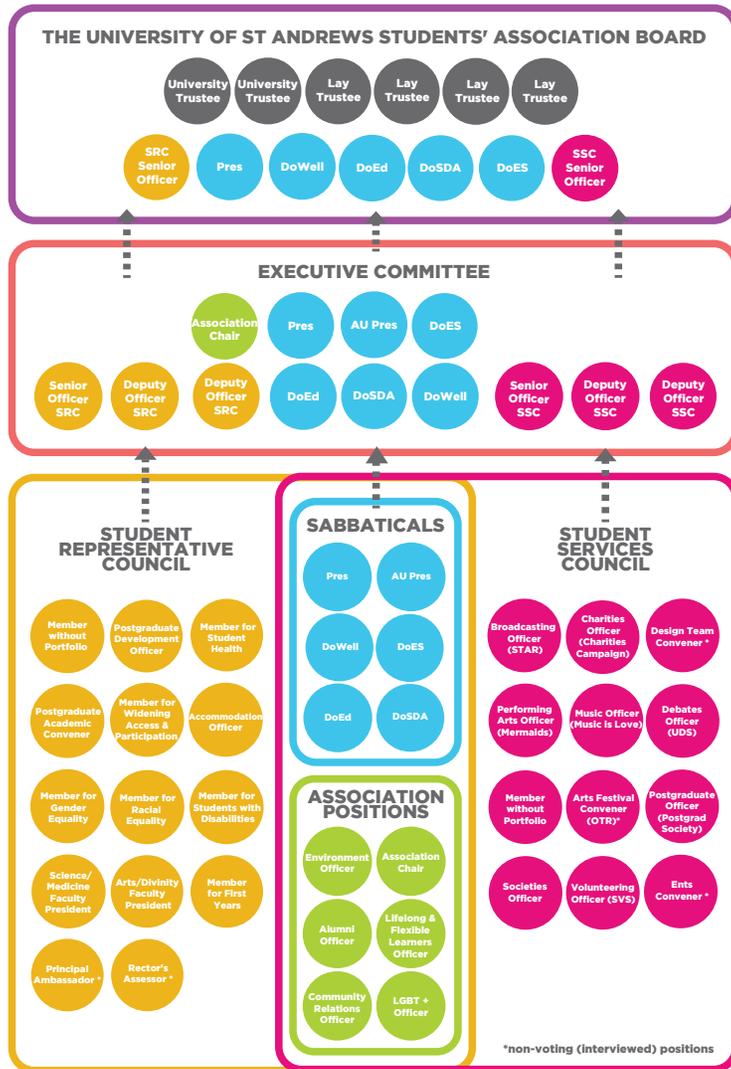
- The Sabbs

Your Sabb Team (Left to Right)
Nick Farrer | Director of Wellbeing
Paloma Paige | Association President
Jamie Minns | Director of Student Development & Activities
Fiona Murray | Athletic Union President
Alice Foulis | Director of Education
Adam Powrie | Director of Events and Services





STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE



OUR MISSION

The University of St Andrews Students' Association is dedicated to delivering an excellent student experience in co-ordination with the University and Athletic Union. We are student-led and student-run, dedicated to promoting an inclusive and progressive environment for students to develop into well-rounded and fulfilled individuals.

We represent students on all topics, ranging from areas such as educational experience, social responsibility and student wellbeing to the University and wider community.

We deliver and facilitate student development and charitable work through our wide range of subcommittees and societies.

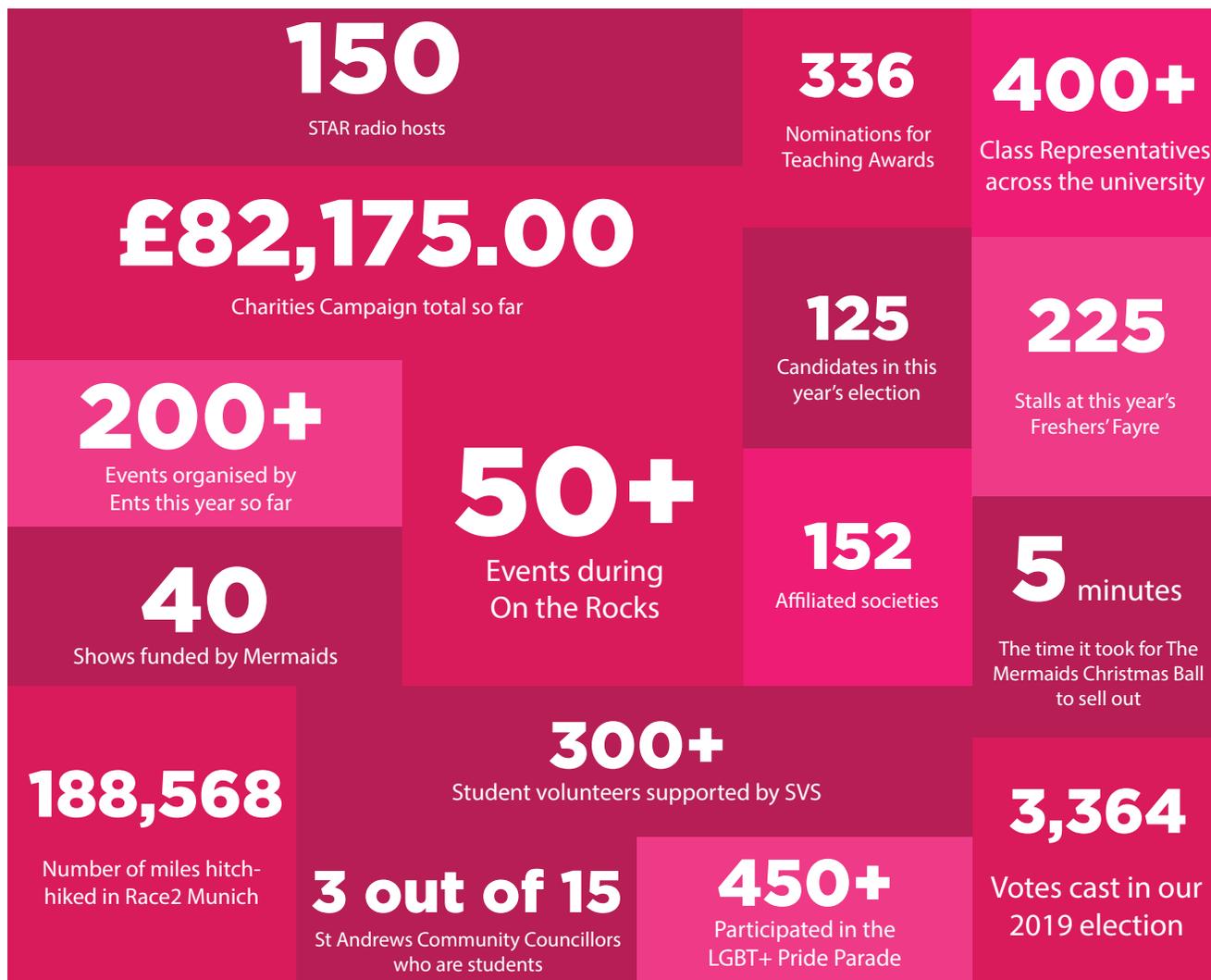
We provide and support a wide range of events and facilities for students that caters to a diversity of preferences and needs.





YEAR IN NUMBERS

The University of St Andrews Students' Association is run by student volunteers and although there are full time members of staff who run the day-to-day operations in the Union building, it's our volunteers who make the Association as remarkable as it is and create opportunities for the entire student body.



09/2018
FRESHERS' WEEK

08/2018
THE FRINGE

10/2018
RAISIN
WEEKEND

05/2018
MAY DIP

10/2018
FRIGHT NIGHT

12/2018
REVISION WEEK

12/2018
WINTER
WONDERLAND



04/2019
SOCIETY AWARDS

YOUR
UNION
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

04/2019
ON THE ROCKS
FESTIVAL

02/2020
MAISIE WILLIAMS
EVENT

01/2019
RACE 2
MADRID

01/2019
REFRESHERS'
WEEK



02/2019
BLOOD DONATION

03/2019
ST PATRICKS

03/2019
ELECTIONS

02/2019
CAREERS WEEK





STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Students' Representative Council, or SRC, is the legally recognised voice of students at the University of St Andrews and has been since 1889. Over the past year the 25 members of the SRC came together to discuss our external relations and our internal policies, and consider petitions brought to them by the student body.

Life is unavoidably political and St Andrews is no exception. We do not defer our student representation to the larger NUS. Our motions are not purely symbolic. Rather, our representatives use their mandate and tactically pass motions in order to tackle issues which have a real impact on students and enable locally-grounded action which effects meaningful change.

The SRC has worked admirably over the past year to amplify the student voice when key areas of the student experience came under threat. Whether it's been the loss of GP out of hours service at the local community hospital, the impact of Universal Credit on students across the country, but notably Scottish students, private housing market regulation, access to higher education in Scotland for refugees, hate crime, sexual harassment and gender based-violence -- the SRC has come together to give meaningful thought and outlined steps for collective action in response.

The SRC has expanded for the first time in a few years - in March 2019 welcoming a new Member for Student Health to their ranks, who will work within the Wellbeing subcommittee and assist their initiatives and lobbying in the areas of mental, sexual, and physical health.



SRC ACHIEVEMENTS

The SRC bookended the year focused on the community hospital, with the “Motion to resist the loss of GP out of hours service in St Andrews” in September - outlining urging students to participate in the consultation process, and outlining a publicity push and a door-to-door petition exercise. We closed with the “Motion to support the reintroduction of out of hours services at the St Andrews Community Hospital” at the last session in April, which outlined the basis by which the Students’ Association could endorse a solution to the deadlock.

November was a busy month as we passed the “Motion to lobby the University of St Andrews for equal access to education for forced migrants” which was brought to us by petition. The Equal Opportunities Subcommittee is now working closely with Refugee Action St Andrews, who introduced the petition, to continue the progress being made in relation to this motion’s action plan.

The “Motion to support student claimants of Universal Credit” outlined areas where the Universal Credit system was having a detrimental impact on students across the country and how its shortcomings were effectively acting as a barrier to widening access to higher education, particularly in Scotland. A full-fledged campaign was launched following from this motion and was the beginning of a coordinated press and political pressure campaign which St Andrews would spearhead alongside other UK Students’ Unions.

The “Motion to advocate for the concerns of St Andrews students, particularly regarding affordability, accessibility and security, to be addressed by any new, private, purpose-built, student accommodation in St Andrews” established robust principals which we agreed to base any future demands regarding local accommodation upon: namely ‘affordable, accessible, and secure.’ This built upon extensive student consultation during the design process for the contentious St Leonard’s Fields development.

It’s impossible to even briefly detail all the work the SRC has done this year on one page - we’re highlighting the tremendous work of the Equal Opportunities Subcommittee later on in the report.



JOINT COUNCILS 2018 - 2019

We would like to thank the members of this year's SSC & SRC for their hard work and dedication.



Photo: Joint Councils

Association President
Athletic Union President
Director of Events and Services
Director of Education
Director of Wellbeing
Director of Student Development and Activities

Association Chair
Association Alumni Officer
Association Environment Officer
Association LGBT+ Officer
Accommodation Officer
Association Community Relations Officer

Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Science & Medicine Faculty President
Postgraduate Academic Convenor
Postgraduate Development Officer

Member for First Years
Member for Gender Equality
Member for Racial Equality
Member for Students with Disabilities
Member without Portfolio
Member for Widening Access

Paloma Paige
Fiona Murray
Adam Powrie
Alice Foulis
Nick Farrer
Jamie Minns

Sneha Nair
Olivia Sutton
Lauren Davis
Zelda Kotyk
Lucy Allat
Morgan Morris

Gianluca Giammel
Alisa Danilenko
Ashley Clayton
Courtney Aitken

Avery Kitchens
Isabella Smith
Wei Wei Muller
Emily Muller
Robyn Wells
Ciara McCuminskey



ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

The Students' Association represents you on over 40 University committees and working groups relating to academic matters. These cover everything from the types of space you learn in to the monitoring of the quality of the teaching you experience. The Director of Education, Alice Foulis, has oversight of all our Education activities and is your voice to the University. Alice also focuses on employability and postgraduates, as well as overseeing all of our wonderful academic representatives. We have over 370 academic representatives who have been working hard to ensure that your time spent learning at the University of St Andrews is the best it can possibly be! Here is a selection of things that have been achieved this year:

- The Collaboration Statement between the Students' Association and the Proctor's Office this year focused on three key areas: The PG experience (particularly PGTs), technology-enhanced learning (TEL), and Enterprise Education.
- The position of Alternative Pathway convener was introduced, to represent all of those on non-traditional pathways. General degree careers representatives were also created, to ensure equal careers guidance and information for all students.
- All School Presidents and Modern Language Conveners received 'Got Consent' training.
- The 'Enterprising Mind of the Year' award was launched, to reward students who went above and beyond their module work by utilising any of the enterprise capabilities.
- Our academic representatives have worked with the University to help shape the University's Enhancement-Led Institutional Review document.
- We held several interdisciplinary careers events, including: The Humanities Careers Fayre (between History, Classics, and Philosophy), the Humanities Internship Fayre (History, English, Art History, Classics), the Alumni in the Creative Industries Panel (English and Film Studies) – all attracting 100+ students.
- The Faculty President of Science/Medicine and the School President of Physics and Astronomy worked together with the school to pioneer the first 'Wellbeing Day', which was a huge success.
- Engagement with PG Executive Forums has continued, and we have discussed several important issues this year.
- Education Committee has continued as a forum for collaboration and discussion, focusing on several important issues including: grade conversion, academic alerts, MEQS, and the overhaul of the Student Academic Representation Policy.

TEACHING AWARDS

The Students' Association has recognised excellent teaching at the University of St Andrews since the academic year 2009/10. This year, we received 336 nominations from students, highlighting staff members' wonderful contributions to teaching.

The shortlist:

Outstanding Teacher (Arts/Divinity)

Walter Pedriali
Stephanie O'Rourke
Javier Letrán (Winner)
Claire Whitehead

Outstanding Teacher (Science/Medicine)

Katherine Keenan
Chris Hooley (Winner)

PG Student Who Tutors

Amy Westwell
Ravi Thakral (Winner)

Academic Mentorship

Malinda Carpenter
Kasim Terzic
Nick Brooke (Winner)

Dissertation or Project Supervisor

Jonathan Keeling (Winner)
Nikoletta Manioti
Martin Campbell
Julie Harris

Innovative Teaching

Lori Leigh Davis (Winner)
Thomas Coleman
Antje Brown

Commitment by a Support Staff Member

Gail Reid (Winner)
Lisa Neilson
Lesley-Anne Harrison



ACADEMIC REPS

The Proctor's Award recognises excellent commitment to enhancing learning and teaching at the University. This year, it was given to Sophia Rommel for her incredible achievements as School President of Philosophy: particularly with furthering community, her work on the Equality and Diversity committee, interdisciplinary events, and her overall commitment to her department.

The Students' Association's School Presidents meet with the Faculty Presidents, the PG Academic Convener, and the Director of Education regularly at Education Committee meetings to address thematic concerns and issues that are identified in multiple subjects across the University. It also acts as a forum for collaboration and general discussion and furthers the community of academic representatives. Twice in each semester, the School Presidents also meet with the Proctor, the Deans of Arts and Divinity and Science, and the Rector at the School Presidents' Forum. The two Faculty Presidents and the PG Academic Convener also sit on the SRC and the Faculty Presidents sit on the University's Academic Council.



Art History SP
Biology SP
Chemistry SP
Classics SP
Computer Science SP
Divinity SP
Earth Sciences & Geology SP
Economics & Finance SP
English SP
Film Studies SP
Graduate Studies SP
Geography & SD SP
History SP
IR SP
Management SP
Mathematics & Statistics SP
Medicine SP
Music AP
Modern Languages SP
Philosophy SP
Physics & Astronomy SP
Psychology & Neuroscience SP
Social Anthropology SP

Arabic/Persian
Comparative Literature
French
German
Italian
Russian
Spanish

Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Science/Medicine Faculty President
PG Academic Convener

Meredith Loper
Roisin Gendall
Alisa Edward
Rebecca Hachamovitch
Martynas Noreika
Rachel Miller
Evan Margerum
Rachel Williams
Jessica Armstrong
Lyndsay Townsend
Jemima Williamson
Rhiannon Potts
Sahil Ali
Kat Lawlor
Philip Caraci
Kamilla Rekenyi
Kay McGillivray
Aileen Walsh
Amy Bretherton
Sophia Rommel
Amy Suddards
Winnie Li
Rikke Nedergaard

Anya Moffattova
Julia Whalen
Ciara Munnely
Louise Cameron
Eleanor Carter
Chloe Sides
Ingrid Vogt

Gianluca Giammei
Alisa Danilenko
Ashley Clayton



ELECTIONS

Students' Association Elections

We held the elections over a twelve day period, spanning Monday the 25th of February to the Friday the 8th of March. 125 candidates ran in competition for 61 positions, including 15 people running for the 6 sabbatical positions, all but one of which were contested.

It was key this year that we communicated to students the importance of voting as well as running - a multi-platform, multi-media campaign dominated the beginning of the year. With video we highlighted the work of different sabbatical, Association, SRC, SSC, and Academic positions; graphics highlighted staff testimonials about the importance of the work; a poster campaign before and during elections returned after a brief hiatus, and we promoted our active and engaged student democracy in partnership with the University's Instagram for the first time. The "Nudge" tool launched again in January, designed to encourage students to anonymously encourage their friends to run - which saw 223 uses before nominations opened.

The hard work of the Elections Committee and staff meant that our position as one of the most engaged Students' Associations in the country was maintained in terms of candidates and in terms of votes. 3,364 votes were cast, representing just under one third of the student body. By turnout percentage we appear to be top in Scotland and in the top 5 of the UK.

Class Rep Elections

Our 340 Class Representatives were elected and trained in September 2018. This year the elections were a great success, despite several technical issues, and we received 640 nominations in total (323 in Arts/Divinity and 317 in Science/Medicine). Although not every position was filled during the election process, these were quickly filled in the aftermath, and expansion packs were also selected during this time (library, social, minutes, and PG exec). Our most contested races occurred in the schools of IR, Geography & Sustainable Development, and Philosophy - with some posts receiving up to 14 candidates! During this time the Alternative Pathways Convener was also elected, as well as the conveners for Italian and for Comparative Literature (as these positions had not been filled in the earlier Students' Association elections of March 2018). The Class Representatives have done an amazing job this year, from fresh ideas for careers events to excellent feedback gathering for the Student-Staff Consultative Committees, and will be recognised for this dedication during the School Class Representative of the Year Awards and the subsequent Students' Association Class Representative of the Year Awards.



STAND TOGETHER

StAnd Together is the only joint project between the Students' Association and Student Services. Its focus is on wellbeing and mutual support, and it is currently made up of two student-led projects: "Got Consent?" and "Got Support?". StAnd Together is a key basis for a solid working relationship between the Director of Wellbeing and Student Services and has created fantastic opportunities for student volunteering and development in pursuit of a safer and more supportive St Andrews.

The "Got Consent?" initiative aims to raise awareness and educate students about sexual consent. Student volunteers lead bystander intervention workshops in halls of residence and other spaces in St Andrews to encourage members of our community to engage with the discussion on consent and to step in to support each other. This year Got Consent formed a committee of 8 and has been boosted by motions formalising workshops and made the mandatory attendance of a workshop as part of the matriculation process a goal of the Association. Got Consent is well supported as a way to make progress in preventing sexual misconduct and assault in St Andrews.

The second strand of StAnd Together, "Got Support?" is the StAnd Together Peer Support Network, and is usually referred to, simply, as "Peer Support". This is a one-to-one meet-up service open to any student looking for extra company and support from a peer at any point during their time in St Andrews. Its student volunteers are trained to listen well and signpost appropriately, can meet up for coffee or provide company at a society event, can practice language or social skills, and provide a friendly listening ear for any topic. Peer Support has launched a small committee of 3 this year to support the coordinator, and has seen referrals rise several times over the prior year.

It's been a fantastic year of growth and development - we're greatly looking forward to the new year.



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

WELLBEING SUBCOMMITTEE

The Wellbeing Subcommittee goes from strength to strength. Made up of multiple officers with remits over mental, physical, and sexual health as well as invited members from Nightline, Sexpression, the SRC, and StAnd Together, the Wellbeing Subcommittee serves as an organisational hub for student-led welfare initiatives.

This year they've carried on hosting popular events and campaigns. First semester was particularly busy - Academic Family Finding returned to great acclaim, as was the launch of our new "Paint-a-long with Bob Ross" event. We held a busy and packed Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week (yes - SHAG week) saw speakers from charities, teen sex education websites, a dominatrix, and a relationship therapist come together to make a week of awareness and engagement. We launched "#TakeCare Week" this year immediately in the run-up to Raisin with the Association President to best advise students on how to stay safe whilst engaging with the traditions. Our Mental Health Rep launched a campaign around Seasonal Affective Disorder, and our Revision Week brought Christmas crafting and therapy dogs to the delight of many.

Semester Two saw the return of Wellbeing Week - in its second year we went for the theme of "Reconnection" and we asked students to reconnect with their minds, their bodies, their communities, and their friends. We had talks, bubble wrap poppings, workshops, open mics, garden events, a poetry masterclass, and half a dozen give-it-a-go sessions with sports clubs. We collaborated with BEAT, Nightline, Peer Support, Sexpression, CAPOD, Transition, Dance, Yoga, Karate, Badminton, and Table Tennis. The brand new Wellbeing Fair which gave talks, acoustic music, and a series of student speakers went down a treat - as did the "F**k-Up Night" open mic which encouraged catharsis and good humour around bad situations. For May Dip we bought and distributed hundreds of towels for drenched, cold, and unprepared revellers.

Throughout the year we've been busy with the GP out of hours issue, as well as creating a new SRC and Wellbeing Committee position, the Member for Student Health.





EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Equal Opportunities Subcommittee, formed of a subsection of SRC and Association members, seeks to promote diversity and equality through events, lobbying, and information campaigns.

In collaboration with Black History Month UK, for the 70th Anniversary of the Windrush, we were delighted to invite the soul and reggae artist Scratchylus to perform in The Stage. His songs have been featured on BBC Radio London, ITV news, Westminster Abbey 70th Anniversary Windrush Memorial, 2018's Notting Hill Carnival and International Reggae Ska One Love Festival.

The heart of Equal Opportunities this year has been writing policy. The Association LGBT+ Officer's Joint Motion to Address Hate Crimes and Incidents in St Andrews evolved into a full and thorough plan which was accepted by SRC. It covered an important amount of ground - it committed Equal Opportunities to continuing work on the issue, lobbying for interaction with our Zero Tolerance Policy as part of matriculation, and outlined actions and a remit of member of Societies Committee to oversee the work. It's been praised by the AVP Diversity and I hope we're able to further the important foundational work and the plan outlined.



The collaborative 'Joint Councils Motion to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), within the St Andrews Community' outlined a larger university-wide approach for us to lobby and work for. Initial work modifying the matriculation process and working out how attending a Got Consent could be made a part of that process is now ongoing. It formalised the practice of certain groups (subcommittees, club captains in the AU) needing to go through a workshop. It also outlined the broad aims, scope, and the support of the SGBV working group for the next year.

The SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation undertook the work of creating a single unified Equality & Diversity policy this year. It collates and collects all of our commitments, policies, and processes related to Equalities and Diversity. The overall goal from the unified document is to set reviews and tracking, and allow Councils to modify policy - and empower them to strengthen our commitments in that area by grassroots.

Some fantastic work has been produced - and it's very encouraging that the new Equal Opportunities Subcommittee has met twice since Elections to help further the work done.





SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability is a key focus for the Students' Association and we are consistently working to improve our performance in this area. Our endeavors towards a more sustainable future are demonstrated not only by our commercial operations, but also through student representation.

Our principles

We consider sustainability in terms of three subsets: economic, social, and environmental. These are interlinked not only by their contributions to sustainability, but also by the ethical foundation that must bind them.

This year the Student Council approved updates to our Sustainability Policy. The 2019 version is now published on our website. Through this policy we commit the Union to delivering its agenda with minimal negative impact on the environment and the community, with a focus on cost-control.

We further commit to operating, investing, and conducting our general business in such a way that reflects the ethics, principles and worldview of the majority of the student body, as voted upon by its elected representatives.

Our team

The Association Environment Officer is a student volunteer elected by the student body each year. They work closely with the Association President to engage students in sustainable initiative and create positive links between groups within the student body, the University, and the local community, and further afield.

They also manage their own Subcommittee of student volunteers which takes the lead in running Green Week in Semester 1, as well as supporting student initiatives throughout the year. In 2018-19, we saw a significant increase to the number of projects the Subcommittee became involved with. The scope of these projects is particularly notable in terms of the participation across the student body and community.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Students' Association placed a strong emphasis on external relations this year, making innovative and active efforts to bridge any gaps between the student community and the local community. We diversified our methods of communication and engagement in order to highlight existing collaborations as well as to create new opportunities.

The Association Community Relations Subcommittee grew significantly this year, both in terms of members and scope of activity. This was marked by the first dedicated Community Relations Week in the Union calendar which took place in November. The week saw a number of events and campaigns including Hot Chocolate with Hamish, Beach Cleans, Wine & Cheese with Your Community Councillors, a screening of Chariots of Fire, and a Get to Know Your Neighbour competition which brought together locals and students under the Union roof and in other local venues as well. The week culminated with the annual St Andrews Day celebrations.

As important as the improvements to communicating student activity to the local community are, equally important is the change in how students perceive of their role in the community. Nothing summarises the increased student participation in local affairs better than the outcome of this year's Community Council elections which saw three students successfully stand for positions.

ST ANDREWS DAY

01.12.18

student market | ceilidh | parade | fireworks | the st andrews sessions





ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation remains one of the most pertinent issues for the student body, and one to which the Students' Association continues to direct significant resources. The Accommodation Subcommittee produced its annual How To Rent Guide for 2018-19 during Semester 1. The new Guide includes updated information about tenants' rights including how to give notice to leave under the new private let legislation. Additionally, we produced a brand new How To Move Out Guide during Semester 2 which takes students step-by-step through the process whilst keeping in mind their responsibilities as tenants, as community members, and towards the environment. Both guides supplement the advice and support we provide students year round.

The housing fayre we hosted kicked off Accommodation Week, to which 8 local letting agencies/private student halls sent representatives. We gave out over 250 How To Rent Guides and estimate there were around 300 attendees. The SRC Accommodation Officer delivered two 'How To Rent' talks, in collaboration with University Accommodation Services. She and her committee also ran successful drop-in sessions at each University hall of residence. The scale of these events speaks to the high demand from the student body for guidance and advice on this issue.

We have been working closely with Fife Council, St Andrews Community Council, the University, and various other external groups to seriously challenge the status quo under which the local housing market is inaccessible to so many cohorts of the community, particularly students. This year, the groundwork has been put in place for us to drive work which produces evidenced and well consulted solutions to the various challenges we face. Looking forward, a key aim of our external campaigning is a truly accessible housing market and balanced community.



ACTIVITIES

One of the core aims of the Students' Association is to foster and support the wide range of student-led activities. The St Andrews experience isn't just traditional academia – it is a thriving community of students. With over 150 societies, 11 'super society' subcommittees, and various Association projects, the Union is truly the hub of the St Andrews student experience.

From the Pitmasters' (BBQ) Society to the Conservative and Unionist Society, there have been a huge range of new societies affiliate to the Association this year. To date, 155 have re-affiliated for the new academic year. One event that truly shows the incredible variety of student interests is the Freshers' Fayre. Over 225 stalls were dotted around the Union building this year, giving new students the perfect introduction to all that St Andrews has to offer. We are very proud of the welcome societies gave to incoming students throughout Freshers' Week. Our continued work with Student Services and the Orientation mobile app allows for this.

Extracurricular activities are truly student-led in St Andrews. Over the past year, the Union has supported a charity hitchhike race that raised over £45,000, various student performances at the Fringe, the longest-running Pride parade in Fife and so much more!

Employability is incredibly important to us. Whatever activity you enjoy or society you are a part of, you are developing invaluable skills that will help you when you leave university. This year, we organized two events for the University's Careers Week. Undoubtedly, a highlight was Maisie Williams' 'Careers in the Performing Arts' talk and Q&A in Younger Hall. Over 800 students attended to hear the Game of Thrones star speak. In addition to Maisie's talk, our 'Careers in the University' event allowed for students to hear from staff members and learn more about working in St Andrews. We also launched the Employability Fund. The Fund gives students an incredible opportunity to create projects that will develop key skills for the future.

Our student volunteers make the incredible array of activities in St Andrews happen. Following the launch of the Volunteering Recognition Scheme last year, one student has incredibly already logged over 500 hours, meaning that they will be eligible for the Platinum Award, which can be included on their Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) transcript. All of our volunteers dedicate themselves to enhancing the student experience for others, and I would like to thank them for their continued efforts in making student activities happen.



SSC MEMBERS 2018/19

This year's Student Services Council (SSC) members have been incredibly busy organising our incredible line-up of student activities, and we thank them for their continued enthusiasm and dedication throughout the academic year.

This year's Student Services Council Councillors were:

Association Chair	• Sneha Nair
Association Alumni Officer	• Olivia Sutton
Association Community Relations Officer	• Morgan Morris
Association Environment Officer	• Lauren Davis
Association LGBT+ Officer	• Zelda Kotyk
Association Lifelong & Flexible Learners Officer	• Sandra Mitchell
Broadcasting Officer (STAR)	• Laura Mueller
Charities Officer (Charities Campaign)	• Niamh McGurk
Debates Officer (UDS)	• Matthew Singer
Design Team Convener	• Mika Schmeling
Ents Convenor	• Paul Lancaster
Member without Portfolio	• Shaina Sullivan
Music Officer (Music is Love)	• Casper Sanderson
Performing Arts Officer (Mermaids)	• Rowan Wishart
Postgraduate Office (Postgraduate Society)	• Cameron Rice
Societies Officer	• Kevin Phelan
SSC Arts Festival Convenor (On The Rocks)	• Chloe Ashley
Volunteering Officer (SVS)	• Adam Lord

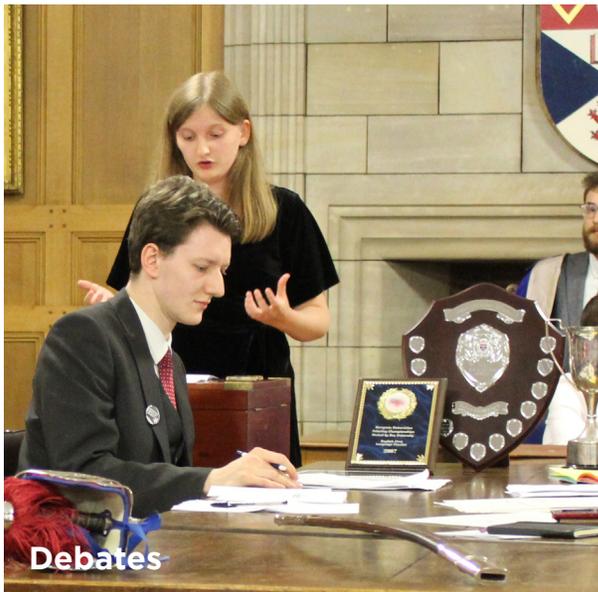




Charities



Mermaids



Debates



Saints LGBT+



CHARITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

It has been another busy year for Rory McLion and student fundraising. The student body elected Medecins Sans Frontieres, The Wave Project and Fife Women's Aid as their nominated charities for 2018/2019 and the Charities Campaign has returned to put on bigger, and better, student-favourites, such as Race2 and RAG Week, and tried new ventures.

The year started with a bang. The Charities Campaign and Saints LGBT+'s Drag Walk was awarded winner of the 'Best Collaboration' category at the 2018 National Student Fundraising Awards. The Campaign also took home runner up positions for Best Student Fundraising Group, Best Event and 2 nominations for Student Fundraiser of the Year. By the end of September, the Charities Campaign had over 75 committee members looking to fundraise in different means: whether this was working with the Athletic Union's Tae-kwon-do Club to put on a Kick-a-thon or the CATWALK team scouring the country for designs to showcase at this year's show.

This January, Race2 returned to Munich after a number of years. This year's Race2 has raised more than the last 5 races, raising over £45,000! A wonderful time was had by all in Germany once all of the teams of students made it safely.

In Semester 2, RAG Week 2019 saw Escape Rooms in the Union building and much more, as societies and sports clubs came together once more to raise money for good causes. CATWALK Charity Fashion Show had a great year too! At the time of writing, the Charities Campaign had raised over £85,000, and were hoping to reach £100,000 by the end of the academic year.



DEBATING SOCIETY

The Union Debating Society (UDS) has had a very successful year! This year's public debates have been some of the most exciting the UDS has seen, especially due to a wide range of speakers and topics. Some notable examples include our annual Parliamentary Debate, 'This House Has No Faith in Her Majesty's Government'. We brought back some old favourites including Willie Rennie MSP and Stephen Gethins MP, and we also welcomed Lesley Laird MP for her first visit to Parliament Hall. We were extremely excited to continue our collaboration with Saints LGBT+ for our annual Queer Question Time and to build new relationships with the Accommodation Officer and the Rector's Committee hosting our first Student Housing Forum.

It has also been an exciting year for the UDS on the competitive circuit. We saw unprecedented interest at our Freshers' Week events and have been able to welcome many new members to the society. It has been fantastic to get to see their improvement throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing this year's freshers achieving competitive success on the circuit for years to come. We are also excited to see that one of our freshers will be representing the UDS in Athens this summer for the European University Debating Championships.

Our teams and judges have performed very well in domestic and international competitions. Many of our Teams have broken into the out rounds of some of the most prestigious competitions in the country including Glasgow Ancients, the Newcastle IV, the Durham IV, and Edinburgh Women's. Sam Maybee and Malcom Risk also won the Strathclyde President's Cup and went on to represent the UDS at the World University Debating Championship in Cape Town as our 'A Team'.

Despite the challenges of hosting competitions in St Andrews, we have been able to hold the Scottish Championships, the ISOSS St Andrews Open, and one of the largest St Andrews Schools competitions to date. Many thanks to our sponsor ISOSS, who we have strengthened our relationship with over the course of the year. Also thank you to our Schools Secretaries who have provided trainings to schools in St Andrews, across Fife, and in Dundee in order to offer students the chance to experience debate training and competition regardless of their circumstances. In this effort we have also been able to almost completely eliminate fees for state schools for our annual schools competition in acknowledgment the funding difficulties that many schools have.



SAINTS LGBT+ ACHIEVEMENTS

Saints LGBT+ has had a tremendous year, with its flagship events returning bigger and better, and a swathe of new and returning wellbeing initiatives designed to better serve the community. The community, and the year, has been colourful, lively, and supportive.

St Andrews PRIDE, now in its 5th year, saw an estimated 450+ people march through an extended route through town to celebrate the LGBT+ people who live among us, and show that St Andrews is a place where people can live their authentic selves. We're proud to be the largest and longest-running pride parade in Fife.

This year for welfare saw the launch of the Queer Peers scheme - inspired by StAnd Together's Peer Support structure, Queer Peers are volunteers trained in active listening and signposting who make themselves available for coffee, or to attend an event, to broadly help first years feel like a greater part of the LGBT+ community. The Trans/ Non-Binary Clothing drive has seen great usage this year, and we've had a fantastic year of regularly occurring meet-ups for a diverse array of identities.

First semester was marked by two new well received events. Queer Academia, a panel discussion centred on the experience of being LGBT+ in the workplace and in academia, hearing from CEOs, professors, and lecturers, launched in November to great acclaim. Queer Question Time, in collaboration with the Union Debating Society, hosted an incredible panel of LGBT+ representatives and guest speakers who shared their opinions and perspectives on a number of LGBT+ issues and current affairs. We were very happy to bring back Transfest, now in its third year.

Second semester saw dRAG WALK, Queerfest in its 6th year, and Glitterball return on great form - the 9 student competitors for dRAG WALK absolutely stole the show and raised a great deal of money for the Scottish Trans Alliance. Glitterball returned after last year's weather-induced absence to rave reviews - The Saint called it "the happiest night in St Andrews". A fantastic venue, vibe, and a series of performances by local DJs, Jazzworks, and world famous Drag Race star Vivacious blew everyone away.

It's been a great year for Saints LGBT+, and we're looking forward to what the next committee has planned.

MERMAIDS ACHIEVEMENTS

Mermaids have enjoyed a busy year from start to finish. Mermaids funded 7 productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2018. At the end of Freshers' Week, St Andrews Night Live brought together acts from Mermaids and a majority of its affiliated societies to demonstrate to students both new and old the calibre of talent that is nestled away in this small town. We have provided funding for 40 productions this year and supported many other independent shows. Shows this year ranged from Greek tragedy to student writing to contemporary drama. In order to fund some of our productions, we put on the annual Christmas Ball. This year's ball raised over £14,000 to be put back into student productions.

As operator of the Barron Theatre, Mermaids is consistently working to improve the operations of one of the few entirely student run theatres in the U.K. Our 8 Freshers' shows, making up the Freshers' Drama Festival, showed the true scope of what can happen in the Barron. Outside of the Barron, 3 Mermaids shows went up at the Byre. The Crucible, The 39 Steps, and The Glass Menagerie were at the Byre, and we are very grateful for our continued relationship with them.

There has been a positive trend of engagement and apparent satisfaction with the theatre in St Andrews, whether it be reviews of plays or engagement at weekly workshops. This can be attributed to the hard work of the Mermaids committee and the creativity and drive of all the exceptionally talented students in St Andrews. The diversity of performance art continues to be impressive and it will be exciting to see Mermaids continue its success in the years to come.





OTR ACHIEVEMENTS

On The Rocks has had a great year working towards our festival that ran 5th - 14th April 2019.

Achieving our aim of making this year's festival even bigger and better than ever, we held a mini-festival in Semester 1 called 'On the Pebbles'. A taster of what was to come, we organised flash mob performances and arts and crafts sessions for local children in a scavenger hunt style festival.

For the main festival, we received a record number of event applications and successfully programmed a diverse and inclusive festival, featuring over 50 events hosted by a multitude of societies and individuals over ten days.

However, this would not have been possible without the help we receive from the Union and the Byre, as well as from other local venues across town. This year, we utilised more local venues than ever before in order to demonstrate that art is a discipline which can be displayed in any space; whether that be within a theatre or Castle Sands.

In light of our aim of making OTR accessible to everyone, we successfully expanded our Community and Outreach objectives and consequently put on more events aimed at the local community, such as our Groovy Green Golf art exhibition turn crazy golf course. Highlights of the festival included Just So's production of High School Musical at The Byre, Calypso, which was held on Castle Sands, and a production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night by Italian schoolchildren.

We also successfully reached out to local sponsors, receiving some generous financial support from local businesses both within St Andrews and from further afield.

With the support of so many, we have been once again enabled to host another fantastic festival and have been delighted to be able to recognise and display the diverse talent within the St Andrews community.

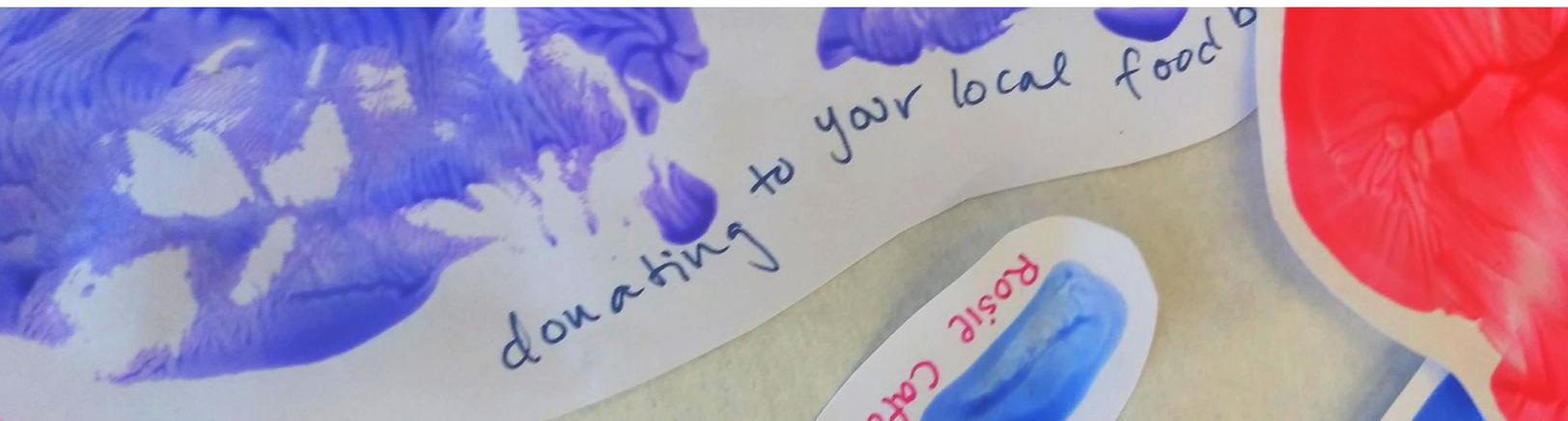
SVS ACHIEVEMENTS

It has been another successful year for SVS! We have had forty-three active projects, across eight project areas- ranging from youth, to animals and to the environment. This year, we were very proud to have over 300 active volunteers involved with SVS – an increase on last year’s number.

SVS volunteering highlights include Theatre and ‘Reading in the Community’, a collaboration with the English Department, where volunteers read aloud in library schemes and at local care homes. We appreciate St Andrews students lead very hectic lives, therefore we have facilitated more one-off volunteering opportunities than ever, this includes: Storehouse give-away days, helping at the St Andrews Flower Show, Sanitary Product drive, and SVS-funded aquarium trips with Families First.

Whilst perhaps not an exciting read, a focus this year has been to improve SVS’ risk assessments and ensure that SVS is fully GDPR compliant.

Our final event of the year, the Give Back Awards, an evening to celebrate all charitable, volunteering and fundraising efforts of the student body, in collaboration with the Charities Campaign, was an excellent ending to thank all our amazing volunteers! It was fantastic to see this event grow, with support given by Student Services, and contributions from university units who offer volunteering opportunities.





SOCIETIES & FAYRES

In the 2018-19 academic year, the Societies Committee (Socs) processed reaffiliation for 155 societies, funded over 50 grant requests and gave up countless hours supporting, training and advising our student societies. Reaffiliation required going through all societies constitutions, risk assessments, fiduciary forms and officially signing their affiliation agreements. At our weekly meetings, the committee reviews grant requests that fund a variety of events; from dance competitions to academic conferences. At these meetings, the committee also reviews requests to affiliate new societies and ensure that their aims and activities don't clash with any pre-existing societies.

Socs also offered weekly office hours in the Main Bar of the Union for students to drop in and speak to the committee face-to-face. The main purpose of office hours is to ensure grant forms are filled in correctly, but students often stopped by with any multitude of other questions. The Societies Committee also worked closely with the Cash Office to sort out societies' monetary troubles.

We are very proud of our societies' successes. AstroSoc and Women for Women International were shortlisted for National Society Awards, and we were delighted to fund their trips down to Manchester for the ceremony in order to celebrate their success.

At the 2018 Freshers' Fayre, we introduced two new areas/categories: Representation and Wellbeing. This made it easier for students to engage with two hugely important areas of student life at St Andrews.

In all, this year's Societies Committee strived to be an accessible resource for societies, and we enjoyed supporting them and the St Andrews student experience.



SOCIETIES AWARDS

With over 155 affiliated societies – a number that will never be exact because we are continuously affiliating new groups – almost every student will be involved in a society at some point in their studies. Our societies work tirelessly throughout the year to put on amazing events, increase engagement, and provide a variety of opportunities to students. We are pleased to be able to honour and reward their efforts at the Societies Awards.

Best Society:

1st place: Students for Global Health, 2nd place: Folk and Traditional Society

Best Event:

1st place: Chinese Students and Scholars Association, 2nd place: Taste of Asia

Best Contribution to Student Life:

1st place: Feminist Society, 2nd place: Yoga Society

Best Town and Gown Society:

1st place: Sexpression, 2nd place: Dance Club

Best Charitable Society:

1st place: Teddy Bear Hospital, 2nd place: Women for Women

Best New Society:

1st place: Oncology Society, 2nd place: Women in Computer Science

Most Innovative Society:

1st: Surgical Society, 2nd place: Comedy Society

The Anna Kennedy O'Brien Consistent Excellence Award:

1st place: Breakaway, 2nd place: Filmmaker's Society

The Centre for Academic, Professional and Organisational Development (CAPOD) Award:

1st place: Women for Women, 2nd place: Consulting Society





HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the Students' Association Honorary Life Members 2018-19:

Adam Powrie

Aine Bennett

Alexandra Gundobina

Alice Gold

Amy Bretherton

Andrew Sinclair

Carli Kovel

Catriona Aitken

Ciara McCumiskey

Ciara Munnely

Daniel Johnstone

Duncan Bowyer

Emma Thompson

Fiona Murray

Flora Smith

Gabriella Romney

Gianluca Giammei

Grace Cowie

Hanna Lawson

Harry Gunning

Heather Farley

Jamie Rodney

Jasmine Rodriguez

Jennifer Bre

Jessica Armstrong

Joshua Stevens

Katherine Lawlor

Kevin Phelan

Laura Mueller

Lewis Wood

Libbi Carruthers

Lorraine Callaghan

Lydia Thompson

Maddie Tarr

Matthew Lansdell

Matthew Singer

Matthew Taylor

Michael Sheffield

Mika Schmeling

Niamh Kennedy

Niamh McGurk

Oliver Savage

Prof. Paul Hibbert

Rikke Nedergaard

Rosie Brosnan

Ryad Khatib

Sam Maybee

Sammi Ciardi

Sarah Chamberlain

Shaina Sullivan

Sneha Nair

Zelda Tobias-Kotyk



SPACES

We have had yet another incredibly busy year in the Union, and all of our spaces have seen their fair share of society and subcommittee activities and events. The Stage continues to be well utilised by our performing arts societies. We have had a diverse and varied range of shows, dance shows and musicals throughout the year. The StAge has seen four Mermaids productions, two Just So Musicals, and a number of dance shows put on by the Blue Angels and Dance Club. The size of some of these productions has proven that the StAge remains a reliable venue when it comes to hosting large scale shows and events. Sandy's bar also remains a popular venue for society activities, with pub quizzes and comedy nights filling the calendar. On Friday nights, Sandy's is filled with karaoke goers, and our sports clubs are very much enjoying the more relaxed venue to host their weekly socials and club meals.

Rector's Café has continued to grow in popularity, and remains a popular spot for students and locals alike. A popular study spot, Rector's is often filled with revising students, who are fortunately often in dire need of a coffee or snack! In addition, the expansion of our food services has been very well received, and is proving very profitable for the Union overall. The Main Bar Diner now serves food from 11am to 8pm during the week, and profits indicate that students are taking full advantage of the brand new menu! During revision periods, the building is used as an alternative study space for many students. This has occasionally posed problems in terms of the availability of space for customers to eat and socialise. However, it is great to see that students find the Union a comfortable place to be, and Alice, our DoED, has done a great job in advertising the spaces available for students to study.

As a night-time venue, Club 601 is often the place to be on a Friday night, with the BOP themes going down a treat with students this year (who knew that you could have two sell-out ABBA BOPS?). Club 601 remains an incredibly versatile venue, highlighted by the range of events thrown in the space. Halloween, St Patricks Day and Christmas showcase how exciting the Club can be, and events such as Mungo's HiFi prove that the Club can be suited to students with different tastes and interests.

Overall, it has been a hectic year for the building, but by supporting our societies and subcommittees, we have maintained a varied and exciting line-up of events and activities. Going forward, we need to keep listening to students, and ensure that the spaces in the Union are being used for the events and activities that they want to be a part of!

FRESHERS & REFRESHERS

Freshers' Week

Without a doubt, this year's Freshers Week was one of the biggest to date. We really pushed the boat out and had some huge names grace the 601 stage. We had a spectacular showing from S-Club 3, who brought everyone's favourite nineties and noughties hits to life. Tinchy Stryder put on an exciting and enigmatic set, and Love Island favourites Georgia and Sam did a meet and greet for the most loyal Love Island fans. The Stickmen, an electrifying duo, had a sell-out show before the BOP, and was by far one of the most spectacular events of the week. Of course, there were the classic annual events such as Clan Warfare, Sinners, and Welcome to the Bubble, which are always very well received by our Freshers. A stand-out this year was a live broadcast by Radio 1's very own Charlie Sloth, who brought an incredibly funny, and slightly risky show to the Union. The Ceilidh and Mermaids Showcase were also highlights of the week.

Our DoSDA Jamie also made sure that the Freshers Fayre went off without a hitch - a difficult task considering we had over 200 societies showcasing everything that they could offer our students!

Nick, the Director of Wellbeing, also oversaw a number of Academic Family matching events, alongside the incredibly entertaining 'Paint along with Bob Ross' event, which certainly helped to sooth a few sore heads.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible Ents Crew, who devoted countless hours to the planning and execution of all our Fresher Week events. Also, a shout out to our blue shirted volunteers, who took time out of their busy schedules to assist with all aspects of the Freshers Week events. It goes without saying that Freshers Week would not have happened without these people.

Refreshers' Week

Refreshers Week remains somewhat of a mystery, as students are trying to balance a busy week of classes, alongside various nights out and activities. It is fair to say that Refreshers did not succeed in being as big as Freshers, however our bars and spaces remained busy throughout the week. We had a sell-out 'Rewind' night, and Afro-beats sensation Fuse ODG proved popular with those who made the journey to Club 601 on an incredibly cold January night. ABBA Bop take 2 was obviously incredibly popular (to the surprise of some) and the Hockey Club's Rodeo night was as busy as ever.



Photo credit: Lightbox Creative

ENTERTAINMENT

We have made every effort to vary and diversify the range of events on offer in the Union, and on the whole, students have been receptive and have engaged with a busy schedule throughout the year. From whole building events like Halloween and St Patricks Day, to chilled out Jazzworks Jam Sessions on a Thursday night in Main Bar, we have had a steady flow of customers wanting to spend some time in the building. I hope that in years to come, we continue to monitor attendance at events, and plan a schedule based around the popularity of events and student feedback.

Theatre remains a consistent part of our line-up, ably abetted by our own Mermaids Subcommittee and their affiliates. These groups consistently manage to put on spectacular shows and musicals, whether they be in the StAge, Barron, or Byre Theatre, and we owe much to them and their dedication in enhancing the student experience as a whole. The Comedy Society have continued to host a strong series of 'Sundown stand-up specials' in Sandy's bar, and have been great in encouraging new members to stand up and test their jokes on a crowd.

The next step is to take a close look at changing student culture and behaviour, and tailor our entertainments to best suit the needs of the student population. We must continue to work hard to offer a variety of events to students, and maintain the high quality of entertainment that we have seen this year.





SUBCOMMITTEES

Design Team

The Design Team is a small group of incredibly talented volunteers who dedicate their time to helping societies produce high quality graphics, as well as providing workshops for anybody who wants to learn more about Adobe, photography and many other skills. This year, they have helped over 20 societies and student groups, held 24 workshops, and increased the number of active volunteer designers by ~20%.

Ents Crew

From RAG week to Freshers' Week, the Ents Crew are the heart of all events in the Union. From everyday maintenance to setting up for our all building events, the Ents work tirelessly to make sure that both society events and events run by the DoES go as smoothly as possible. They have had a stellar year, doubling the number of active volunteers from 9 to around 20. They have assisted with over 160 events, including 3 fashion shows and a folk festival. They are always up for a challenge, and this year have exceeded themselves – it's easy to forget that the equipment in the venue is difficult to use, and their professionalism is truly impressive.

Music is Love

The student music subcommittee is responsible for ensuring that there are a variety of opportunities for students to experience and perform new types of music. This year, MiL have hosted regular open mic sessions at the Bell Pettigew Museum, as well as working with STAR to produce their increasingly popular monthly Live Lounges in Rector's Café.

STAR (St Andrews Radio)

St Andrews Radio has had a spectacular year with increased broadcasting time (14 hours a day), and increased participation from students and societies alike. They have hosted many events on a bigger scale than ever before, and better attendance, which should put them in good stead for their 10 year anniversary next year. They have also been working on providing better communication with hosts by having office hours, and have provided better training for hosts on both the technical side of hosting a show, as well as formatting and content. Their music magazine, Hearing Aid, has also been doing very well, and have been nominated for a Stack Award! STAR are moving from strength to strength, and it will be exciting to see how they continue to grow next year.



EVENTS
CREW

Your Stage

Your Lights

Event

EVENTS
CREW

YAMAHA
SPIRIT 112



SABB TEAM 2019/20

Bottom line left to right:

Shaina Sullivan - Director of Student Development and Activities

Amy Bretherton - Director of Education

Flora Smith - Director of Wellbeing

Jamie Rodney - Association President

Mika Schmeling - Director of Events and Services

Leah Allcock - Athletic Union President

POSTWORD

Consideration of the past necessarily becomes consideration of the future.

The past year hasn't been easy by any stretch - challenges stretched from the typical de rigeur of Students Association organisation to larger struggles which existed before we were in post and look likely to continue after we're in post too.

We would not have been able to tackle those challenges without the incredible hard work and diligence of the Students' Union staff. So too are we thankful for each and every volunteer, committee member, coordinator, and president of each and every student group, society, and subcommittee. As Sabbs, we'd also like to thank the University staff for their good will, good work, and co-operation.

The sabbatical team has cherished this year, and we'll continue to cherish it for the rest of our lives.

We wish the same good fortune we've found this year for the future sabbatical team as well. The Association is in good hands next year. We have full faith in the new sabbatical team and we know they'll endeavour to do right by the student body.

Faithfully yours,

Nick, Jamie, Alice, Fiona, Adam, Paloma

YOUR UNION

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Scottish Registered Charity, no. SC019883

