

## Summary

I am the representative for societies, events and opportunities, meaning everything extra-curricular – the extra bits of the student experience that make university more than just three more years of study. In these sectors, we have had several achievements and developments over the past year. It has been a reasonably successful year in terms of a wider variety of free activities and programmes for students – Give it a Go and This Girl Can, to name two of our most well-received ones – and societies.

## Societies

This academic year, we started with around 18 official societies and have grown that number to 33 (as of March 1).

During the year, I have reopened a network for societies to communicate and feedback to the SU in the form of the Societies' Forum. This relaxed, discussion-based forum happens monthly and is a chance for societies to update the VPEng on what they've been up to and vice versa. During the forum, SU updates are also given including upcoming events, opportunities for paid or voluntary work and requests for feedback or suggestions. The forum does not have any voting responsibilities and there is no quorum or obligation to attend, but some societies have been regulars at these meetings and have been able to collaborate, advise or request problems be fixed.

The Union Awards are coming on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year and, as usual, there is a category for Society Awards. This year, the awards are:

Best Collaboration  
Inclusivity Award  
Event of the Year  
Public Engagement Award  
Society of the Year

The Union Awards will be held at Revolution de Cuba on the High Street and will be followed by our Summer Party.

## Events

We have seen an increase in the number of free, drop-in/drop-out events this year, with low-key pop ups in The Spark becoming a regular occurrence. At the time of writing this report (March 1), we are in the middle of the second week of Give it a Go (a fortnight of events brought to you by the Activities Coordinator).

Though I could not get numbers for every event we have hosted so far, I have done my best to get most of them, starting from Freshers' Week (highlighted in green) and continuing to present day. The events highlighted in red have been our events with the overall highest attendance.

Date	Event	Location	Student Attendance
20/09/2022	Garden Workshop	Solent Food Garden	19
20/09/2022	Karaoke	The Dock	46

22-23/09/2022	Freshers' Fayre	Sports Complex	2,812
26/09/2022	Solent Gaming Convention	The Spark	131
27/09/2022	Vintage Fair	The Spark	No data
27/09/2022	CRIB Trip	CRIB, Bedford Place	30
28/09/2022	Student-Parent Movie	LT1	2
28/09/2022	Petting Zoo	Parking Zone C	266
29/09/2022	Movie Marathon	LT1	31
29/09/2022	Arts and Crafts	The Spark	17
30/09/2022	Mini Golf	The Spark	85
30/09/2022	SU Pub Quiz	The Dock	43
10/10/2022	World Mental Health Day Workshop	The Spark	19
12/10/2022	Trans Pride Workshop	The Spark	37
24/10/2022	Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign	The Spark	20
27/10/2022	Pumpkin Carving (Halloween)	RM Concourse	20
28/10/2022	SHAG Week Pub Quiz/Halloween Night Out	The Dock	16
01/11/2022	National Stress Awareness Day Garden Workshop	Solent Food Garden	3
09/11/2022	Disabled Students Gaming Event	The Dock	10
9-11/11/2022	University Challenge Try-Outs	Palmerston Lecture Theatre	10
10/11/2022	Garden Workshop	Solent Food Garden	3
14/11/2022	Warsash Meet Up	Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis (Wetherspoons)	55
18/11/2022	Trans Remembrance Day	The Spark	15
18/11/2022	SU Pub Quiz	The Dock	16
	Vintage Fair	The Spark	130 sales
25/11/2022	Societies Expo	The Spark	Unknown
28/11/2022	Warsash Meet Up	Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis (Wetherspoons)	2
30/11/2022	World AIDS Day Campaign	SU Exchange	81
10/12/2022	Winter Ball	The Spark	200 approx.
17/01/2023	International Students' Mixer	Sharkey's, Above Bar Street	6
25/01/2023	Free Spirits: Mocktail Masterclass	The Dock	10
07/02/2023	Housing Fair	The Spark	191
13/02/2023	Petting Zoo	Parking Zone C	161
14/02/2023	Drag Bingo with Dawn	The Spark	70
15/02/2023	Tombola Pop Up (Elections)	The Spark	59
16/02/2023	Refreshers' Fair	The Spark	1,051 approx.
17/02/2023	Election Results Night and Karaoke	The Dock	31

### Voluntary/Paid Opportunities

Over the past year, we've been approached by a few local companies and charities and have approached some ourselves to seek out voluntary and paid opportunities for students. We also have advertised some in-house opportunities throughout the year including voluntary work on campaigns. These positions have been posted up on our Student Volunteering and Student Jobs pages on our website in the Get Involved drop-down.

We have had opportunities from:

Sholing Valleys Study Centre  
MAST Mayflower Studios  
Student Action for Refugees (STAR)  
Southampton Sporterium/Rees Leisure  
ABP Southampton Marathon  
Solent University

If you are looking for work or interested in volunteering, please go to these webpages.

### **Campaigns**

Well Read looks to research, read and promote fiction books with LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, or disabled authors, characters or themes. I have built an interesting list over the year, being able to read some of them as well. Below are a few (but by no means all) on my list:

*Our Wives Under the Sea* by Julia Armfield  
*Those Who Forget* by Géraldine Schwarz  
*Beloved* by Toni Morrison  
*Betty* by Tiffany McDaniel  
*Barbara the Slut and Other People* by Lauren Holmes  
*Am I Normal Yet?* by Holly Bourne  
*Girl Crush* by Florence Given  
*Cat Person and Other Stories* by Kristen Roupenian  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas  
*White Houses* by Amy Bloom  
*Babel* by R.F. Kuang  
*The Plotters* by Un-Su Kim  
*The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams  
*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo  
*Dominicana* by Angie Cruz

There are so many more out there and even more if you include non-fiction so if you feel compelled, please consider one of these fantastic books for your next read.

### **Projects**

The Book Exchange seems to be very well-received with a good balance in donations and takings. Thank you to those who have used this service, I hope it brought you a little bit of joy.

I am thrilled to announce that the first K9th Event will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Den. At the point of the AGM, it will have already happened and future me will probably be about to tell you if there will be another so I'll let her take it from here.

### **Closing Remarks**

I am incredibly proud of all the work the student body has helped us facilitate through feedback, suggestions and participation. I have found myself turning to the student body regularly for support and guidance and it has come from them in droves. So, thank you for providing some direction and keeping an open line of communication with me.