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\*\*\*SRC TRANSPARENCY REPORT\*\*\*

This post provides an update on the notable developments in college and outlines what the SRC Executive Committee (Exec.) has done, collectively and as individuals, throughout Michaelmas Term 2020. It focusses on the student experience at the college of St Hild and St Bede.

With great regret, I must inform you that, since my last transparency report in July, the global coronavirus pandemic has not ended. As such, it was once again necessary to not run a number of the physical events that normally take place during Michaelmas term; our Winter Ball, physical Halloween/St Hild’s Day/Christmas formals, and assorted other events were unfortunately cancelled.

One thing that was able to go ahead, albeit it in a somewhat altered sense, was freshers’ week. Many events were moved to a suitable online alternative, but there were two physical events run: a mocktails night and “freshtival”, a festival themed silent disco. A massive thank you must be sent to our frep team for their hard work in keeping this safe, facilitating the move-in and welcoming of a new cohort of Hild Beders. A special thank you to Josh Harpin (Head Frep) and Sophia Pym (Deputy Head Frep) for the insane amount of organisational work on their part.

Towards the end of freshers’ week, Thomas Bevan resigned his post as Vice President of the SRC. This triggered a by-election for the role, in which William Tyrrell ran uncontested and was subsequently elected. He took up the role immediately following this vote, and will hold the position until the end of Epiphany term 2021.

On the topic of formals, there were plans to host a physical formal for college livers-in towards the beginning of November. All preparations were complete, risk-assessments passed etc., before the announcement of a national lockdown led to University executives declaring formals an unnecessary risk. Recently, these executives have indicated that there may be capacity for socially distanced, reduced capacity formals to begin happening from the beginning of Epiphany term 2021, so watch this space!

In lieu of in-person formals Will Tyrrell (Vice President) worked on hosting an online ‘Zoom Halloween Formal’. Will has also recently been working on the upcoming online Christmas formal (23/12/2020), sign-ups for which are open now!

There was Vern Bar Quiz that was held in a multi-media format, with livers-in order to attend the Vern and play along in person, whilst livers-out and those self-isolating were able to tune in live on the Hild Bede SRC YouTube channel. Credit to Jack Rawden (Social Sec.) and Elliot Lewis (Tech. Officer) for their marvellous feat of modern technology to get this working.

Unfortunately, the announcement of a national lockdown and subsequent closing of our bar meant that the quiz had to move online-only once again. Massive credit to Jack Rawden (Social Sec.) and his co-host Hugo Bush for keeping this going and providing weekly entertainment. As advertised recently, Jack and Hugo will also be hosting a Vern Bar Quiz Winter Extravaganza, including interactive game segments, this evening (16/12/2020) – it promises to be a good time, get involved!

Other notable developments comprise of:

* The recruitment of members to various SRC standing committees, including Welfare, Ball, Finance, Ents, Communities, Liberations, Environment, International, and Steering
* The opening of the gym and various on-site social spaces to livers-in (in their household bubbles), and the scrapping of the gym membership fee for this year
* The planning of a Winter Market event early in Epiphany term (planned date 07/02/2021). This plans to deliver all the key features of a Hild Bede ball, including food, drink, entertainments, and stage acts
* A massive Hild Bede Does Movember fundraising campaign, raising £3408 for the Movember Foundation – including a 24-hour collaborative run/walk by SRC members
* The running of a Secret Santa, with gifts exchanged between individual livers-in, and livers-out households
* The running of University Challenge trials within college, and a subsequent match against the team from St Cuthbert’s Society, which the Hild Bede team won
* The design, and production, of a 2021 Hild Bede Charity Naked Calendar available to purchase for the next few days (see the SRC Facebook page)
* The running of various inter-MCR socials, and networking events
* The running of a Hygge event in collaboration with DU Nordic Soc
* The launch of ‘In Conversation with’, a series of interview and Q+A sessions with members of the Hild Bede Alumni Network
* The creation and subsequent delivery of frep welfare and liberations training programmes
* The running of online campaigns by the welfare team, namely Take Time to Sign and an Isolation Campaign for those self-isolating
* The running of Black History Month and Trans Awareness Week Campaigns on the Hild Bede Liberations social media accounts
* The running of various international campaigns, including a cookbook (see the Instagram account) and the training of proof-readers
* The setup of the ‘Hild Bede Find a Housemate’ Facebook group by the Welfare team
* The running of a Christmas card campaign in collaboration with DSVO, with cards sent to members of the St Giles Community. Regrettably, there were limited other opportunities on the volunteering front due to Covid restrictions
* The recruitment and training of Covid officers, who will be essential to the proposed restarting of college sport in Epiphany term
* The recruitment of Grants Committee and subsequent awarding of grants to various clubs and societies following a meeting of the committee
* The addition, following an online referendum, of a new memorandum to the SRC Constitution and Standing Orders, namely a letter addressed to Durham University as part of DPOCA’s Campaign: ’17 letters, 4 words: A racism free Durham’
* The running of a waste audit in collaboration with Greenspace, seeking to find waste to improve wastage provisions around college

Towards the end of this term the Leazes Road Program Board restarted, following its suspension over Summer. The University are still assessing the potential future development opportunities for the site on which Hild Bede sits.

At present, we are unsure what form a range of events in Epiphany term will take. Rest assured that every attempt will be made to maximise the benefits brough to SRC members, whilst ensuring that we act in a safe and responsible manner, within the confines of government and university regulations.

That’s all for this term! Any questions, please contact me at robbie.keywood@durham.ac.uk

Hild Bede love xx