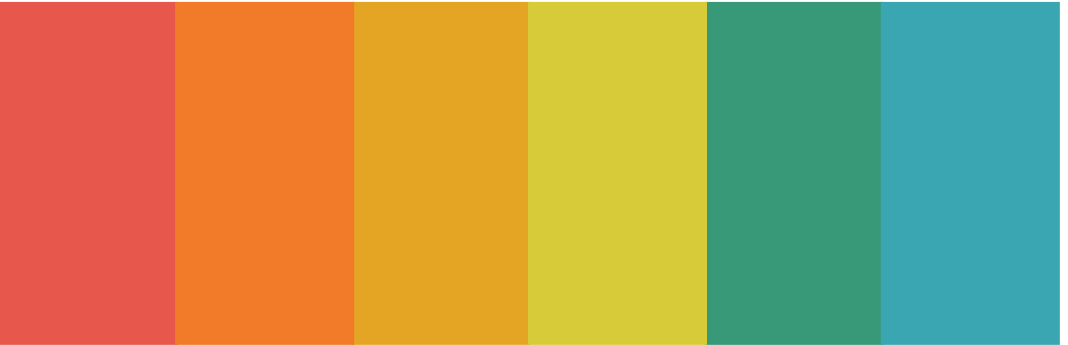


HALLAM UNION IMPACT STATEMENT

2010/11





WELCOME

"This year we got the chance to play a pivotal role in one of the largest National Union of Students (NUS) campaigns organised. Demolition was a campaign against the proposed changes to the university funding system. As many of our students live in the constituency of Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg we were at the forefront of media attention and got to appear on BBC's Question Time, The Politics Show and Look North. We would have never had the opportunity to have such a public platform to speak about our views in any other job.

We have also been busy representing students on a more local level by planning a housing fair so students can meet with reputable property owners as well as receive advice about contracts, deposits, budgeting for rent and other housing related issues. We ran a successful 'Get Active Week' campaign designed to encourage students not already taking part in sports to try new non-competitive options. Plus this year we held a Refreshers week to remind students that it's never too late to get involved in student activities."

HALLAM STUDENT OFFICERS 2010/11

HALLAM UNION IS PROUD TO SHARE WITH YOU THE IMPACT WE HAVE HAD ON OUR STUDENTS DURING 2010/11.

Each year we strive to improve how we represent our students, recognise achievement, enrich their experience, develop them for the future and support them as members of their community. This impact statement outlines the new initiatives we have put in place to improve our services in these key areas during 2010/11. Notable highlights from this year include:

- The refurbishment of the Activities Pod: Ready for the start of the autumn term we completely refurbished the Activities Pod. The new look pod is now a bright, modern, multifunctional space to fit the needs of students engaged in various Union activities including societies, volunteering, campaigning, sports and student reps.
- The Sports Department moving from Collegiate Campus to The HUBS: Students can now access volunteering, societies, student media, student reps, stage services and sports all from the Activities Pod.
- Getting the Best Bar None Award: Hallam Union was awarded the Best Bar Award for the second year running for its Bar Phoenix, the runner-up prize for the Best Club Venue Award and the Overall Best Bar None Sheffield Award. Hallam Union also achieved The NUSSL Best Bar None Gold Award. Best Bar None is a national award scheme supported by the Home Office and is aimed at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises.
- Receiving the Green Impact Gold Award: The Green Impact Award is a scheme to promote environmental best practice in students' unions.
- Getting the Inspire Mark: This honour was given to two of our volunteering projects which help primary school children engage with the Olympics.
- Improving the ways in which students can access information about the Union: we improved the website, which now consistently receives 40% higher web traffic than previous years, implemented a social networking structure and launched a Union phone app.

REPRESENTING OUR STUDENTS: HALLAM UNION IS A DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION THAT KEEPS STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF EVERY DECISION.

This is the first year we have had a Democracy and Communications Officer and as a result we have made advances in the promotion of our democratic processes. The success of this has been shown through increased web traffic to the Democracy section on the Union website making it the third most popular section. This helped increase the number of students nominating themselves for elected positions which means more were contested, creating a greater voting choice. We also introduced two other officer posts as a result of a referendum; Welfare and Community Officer and Activities Officer. Widening the scope of the officer positions means students are more equally represented in a wider range of areas.

We had a record number of Course Reps sign up meaning more opportunities to make changes to courses. Our students have also been involved in the project to improve areas such as timetabling and group work as well as contributing feedback to the University's Institutional Audit.



Kate Montague, studying PGDip Adult Nursing: *"The Institutional Audit was a way to have your opinions heard and for you to hear the experiences of other students. I found this to be a very valuable way to improve the university experience for a wide range of students and it was a great help to me when I ran for Volunteering Rep in the Hallam Union elections."*

We appointed a new full-time staff position to focus on researching student opinion. The research will be used to inform our campaigns to ensure the information we give to students is relevant to their needs and concerns.

Kat Boughton, studying Pathological Sciences: *"I campaigned to be the Disabled Students' Rep because it would give me access to key decision makers in the University. However, influencing University decisions has happened sooner than expected. Whilst I was campaigning, I held a "wheelchair challenge" to help students see life from a wheelchair user's perspective. One of the people I challenged is responsible for redeveloping the library and as a result I was able to highlight accessibility problems with the new plans. I am now in consultation with the planning team to ensure the changes being made do not disadvantage disabled students."*

A close-up portrait of Laura Willcox, a woman with long brown hair and blue eyes, smiling warmly. She is wearing a colorful floral patterned top and a silver necklace. The background is dark with faint, repeating text in a light color.

LAURA WILLCOX

DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

"I was elected to the newly created Democracy and Communications Officer position for 2010/11. My aim for the year was simplifying the democratic processes within the Union to make it more accessible and therefore more representative for all students. I am proud to say that as a result more students have engaged with democracy this year which has been shown through the increased web traffic to the 'Democracy' section on the Hallam Union website, pushing it to the third most popular page!"

RECOGNISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO RECOGNISE ALL THE GOOD WORK OUR STUDENTS ARE DOING.

Each year we hold a series of awards to recognise and reward the hard work of the students involved in Union activities. It boosts self esteem and helps students evidence skills and experience on job application forms.

This year has seen the introduction of the Hallam Union Student Awards (HUSAs). The HUSAs were developed by the Activities Officer, a new post for this year, to give students involved in volunteering, societies, student reps and campaigns a chance to attend an event, and receive awards at the same level of prestige as our annual Sports Ball. The HUSAs ceremony gave various student groups chance to perform or showcase their work as well as awarding nine students in a variety of categories.



Victoria Graf, studying International Marketing: *"I won the HUSA (Hallam Union Student Award) Student Rep of the Year Award for 2010/11. Just being at the awards night was like being at the Oscars but actually winning felt amazing because it meant all my hard work as a Course Rep had been recognised and that I had managed to make positive changes for the people on my course. I feel as though I have really grown through the whole experience and now I have an award to show for it!"*

We held a formal Hallam Award presentation ceremony for the award winners for the first time this year. The Hallam Award was developed with support from the University to recognise the personal progression and skills development of students who had volunteered to take part in Union activities. Speeches at the event from Martin Edmondson, CEO Graduates Yorkshire and Pat Quinn from the SHU Careers and Employment Service show how valuable the Hallam Awards are to students' employability.

We also continued with our established awards evenings, The Event, commemorating achievements made by students in volunteering projects and the Sports Ball which recognises student sporting achievements.

Piers Cadman, studying Health and Nutritional Lifestyles: *"I really had no idea that I had been nominated for the Club of the Year award at the Sports Ball, so it was a great surprise to be recognised by the Union."*



HANNAH KEIRLE

STUDYING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

"I was shocked to win the Volunteering England Gold Award for dedication because there are so many other projects and so many other volunteers. Winning the award has given me lots more confidence and the volunteering work itself has opened my mind to new things, and developed my character. It's even inspired me to apply for a course in leadership!"

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

WE STRIVE TO GIVE OUR STUDENTS A RICH AND VARIED UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE BY PROVIDING A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT THEY CAN GET INVOLVED WITH OUTSIDE OF THEIR ACADEMIC STUDIES.

It is our priority to provide a safe social space for our students both during the daytime and evening. We have been awarded the Best Bar None award for the second year which is an award given to licensed premises that operate responsibly. We also refurbished the Activities Pod to provide a multifunctional space for students to use for a variety of activities including group meetings, practices and performances as well as access media equipment and staff support.



Helen Francis, studying Sport and Exercise Science: *"I have been involved in sports, societies and volunteering which has helped my communication skills, kept me fit, and allowed me to engage with the wider community. This year I successfully ran to become the Activities Officer for 2011/12. I wanted to do this because I have had so much fun and therefore I wanted to make sure that other students have the same opportunities to enhance their student experience through Hallam Union as I did."*

We have widened students' opportunities for participation in Union activities with the creation of campaigns messaging volunteer opportunities. This year students have been supported to contribute content for our website on both the Advice Centre pages and the Student Life pages that contain information about student welfare. This, whilst helping us keep our website up to date with the needs and opinions of students, has given the volunteers an opportunity to use information from their course in a practical setting.

In addition volunteering placement options have been established so students can get relevant work place experience within a social enterprise. Our Democracy and Communications Officer has also supported students to re-establish a regular student radio broadcast.

Peter Spencer, studying Sports Journalism: *"SHU Radio has provided me with the opportunity to put into practice the skills learned on my Journalism course and has added extra value to my degree. Involvement in this society shows potential employers not only that you are proactive in seeking opportunities but demonstrates specific communication, organisation and teamwork skills, which could not be acquired elsewhere."*



MATT WILD

STUDYING LAW

"My job as Bar Staff at Hallam Union is more than just a job because the other staff members have become like a family. We regularly socialise outside of work and without this job I wouldn't have anywhere near as many friends. I have worked in other bars and they have never been as flexible as working for Hallam Union. If I have an early seminar, I don't have to do the late shift the night before, and it's great that the bar closes over the holidays as it means I am able to go home instead of staying just to keep my job."

DEVELOPING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE:

WE BELIEVE IT IS BENEFICIAL FOR STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS ADDITIONAL TO THEIR DEGREE TO HELP THEM STAND OUT IN A COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET.

The activities we offer are designed so students can access skills and training that are transferrable to their future careers. Activities such as societies, sports and volunteering have committees which students can join, exposing them to skills such as planning, budgeting and leadership.

Claire Perrie, studying History: *"I used to think of myself as a follower rather than someone capable of leading, but since I became a project leader on the Time Travellers volunteering project I have much more confidence. This has had a positive impact on my studies because I am more focused and motivated as well as being more relaxed when giving presentations. I can also use my work with Time Travellers as credits towards my work-based project module."*



This year we have increased the number of training sessions we offer and promoted these to all students through our website and newsletter rather than just to those already involved in Union activities. The training sessions covered a range of general skills including, leadership, project planning and careers workshops, practical skills including Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator as well as activity specific training such as autism awareness, working with older people and managing challenging behaviour.

Francine Gleadall, studying English Studies: *"The 'Working with Younger Children' training session was really useful! It was interactive and informative, and it provided me with some great tips, which I put into practice whilst volunteering in local schools."*

We also developed our Hallam Award training sessions to focus on developing students' skills in reflective writing so they can identify their contribution to the activities they were involved in, the responsibilities they held and skills they acquired. The aim is to help students highlight their skills and experience when completing job applications.

Rachel Arthur, studying Business and IT: *"The Hallam Award helped me evidence all the activities I had been involved in at the Union. I talked about it in a graduate job interview...and I got the job!"*



JOANNE LEES

STUDYING NUTRITION, HEALTH AND LIFESTYLES

"I am on the Health Volunteering scheme at Hallam Union which means I contribute information to the Union website about healthy living and nutrition. This opportunity has given me real insight into how I can put the theory learned on my course into practice, such as condensing very detailed information into easily understandable lifestyle tips that everyone can follow. I was buzzing when I first saw my work published and I'll definitely be including it on my CV."

STUDENTS AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO FEEL FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THEIR COMMUNITY.

We are in the early stages of implementing a newly created community strategy aimed at increasing student engagement in their local community and improving the relationship between students and the wider community. This year we started to recruit student volunteers to act as Community Reps who will be responsible for representing the student voice at local Neighbourhood Action Group meetings and Community Assemblies. They will also organise one-off events to help improve the community in which they live based on what both students and longer term residents raise as issues.



Tim Bei, studying Communications Studies: *“The Street and Break Dance society has meant that I am a student but I am also part of the community. I am now part of the street and dance scene in Sheffield which has given me the opportunity to explore the city beyond the regular student venues. I have bridged the gap between Sheffield being the place that I study to the place I call my home.”*

We also recruited a team of Community Researchers who will undertake a one-off project to survey residents in areas where there is a significant student population to find out about any concerns or areas in need of improvement. The information gained from this research will be used to inform further actions in the community strategy and to inform the work that the Community Reps will undertake.

A new community section on the Hallam Union website has been created to showcase the positive impact students are having in their communities, and the partnerships we have with local organisations.

Paul Stamper, studying Forensic and Security Technologies: *“I became a Community Representative to help try and improve the local area by planning community projects and by inputting the students’ opinion. Attending community meetings has been an enjoyable new experience for me which I have found both interesting and important for contributing to any potential change in my area.”*



ABBY KEMP

STUDYING MEDIA STUDIES

"I became a Community Rep because I think that it's important for students who aren't originally from Sheffield to feel welcome. In my role I can help address the negative stereotypes people hold about students and work with community groups to organise events to help reduce the divide between student residents and longer term residents. It's great to be able to speak directly to key people within the Council and be able to make a difference to the quality of life of students in my area."

A YEAR IN NUMBERS:

REPRESENTING

ENRICHING

COMMUNITY

RECOGNISING

DEVELOPING

NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES AND CASE WORK DEALT WITH BY THE ADVICE CENTRE:

8,301

NUMBER OF STUDENT REPS:

1,453

NUMBER OF VOTES CAST IN ALL ELECTIONS:

16,528

FUNDING THE ADVICE CENTRE GAINED FOR STUDENTS (£):

235,057

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR HALLAM AWARD:

295

NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING THE HALLAM AWARD:

105

NOMINATIONS FOR THE HUSAS (HALLAM UNION STUDENT AWARDS) :

26

NUMBER OF AWARDS GIVEN FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

14

NUMBER OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:

495

NUMBER OF PLACEMENT PARTNERS:

78

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AN ACTIVITY:

3,367

NUMBER OF WEB PAGES CREATED BY STUDENTS:

22

NUMBER OF SOCIETIES:

55

NUMBER OF SPORTS CLUBS:

43

NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS GIVEN TO STUDENT STAFF:

15

NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS:

24

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

84

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SURVEYED IN COMMUNITY AUDIT:

491



SCOTT STOREY

STUDYING NETWORK MANAGEMENT

"I got involved with Hallam Union because I wanted to set up a men's lacrosse team. They were very supportive and helped through every step of the process. A year later the team made it into the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) premiership league and got through to the finals! And on top of that, I got my work placement as an IT and Learning Support Advisor as a result of the skills and motivation I had shown setting up the club.

This year I ran for election to become an Assembly Rep. This gave me experience of campaigning which, without the Union, is something I would never have had the opportunity to do. Writing the manifesto taught me how to organise my thoughts in a way that others would understand, and how to sell myself.

I never thought that I would get to give my views directly to the key decision-makers in the University. Through the Union's course rep system I was able to change the marking system on one of my modules and get equipment so my coursemates and I were able to do lab work more effectively.

I also helped raise awareness of the Right to Recall campaign by knocking on doors and talking to local residents. I realised I was able to engage with the people I met and talk about an issue I felt strongly about.

I think starting the lacrosse team was a catalyst to me getting involved with so many other activities. Prior to setting up the team I was very shy. Now I am completely the opposite; I can't walk down the street without seeing someone I know!"

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11: WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

Each year we endeavour to organise a programme of events and activities that are appealing, informative and fun. This year there has been a real focus on campaigning, with Channel Four's Embarrassing Bodies helping us with our sexual health campaign, the housing fair helping students meet reputable landlords, Get Active Week promoting fitness and health and the Bargain Bazaar encouraging students to keep Sheffield tidy. We also supported the NUS on their campaign against the change in the university funding structure.



Fight the Fees March (Demolition)

November saw one of the largest student protests the UK has ever seen, and as many of our students live in Nick Clegg's constituency we played a pivotal role in the fight against the fees increase. The elected Officers appeared on The Politics Show, Question Time, Look North and local radio to talk about the campaign as well as organising coaches for students to attend the demo. They even managed to meet with Nick Clegg to ask him about the proposed funding structure face to face.

The Hallam Housing Fair

Each year we run a campaign urging students not to feel the pressure to sign up to housing contracts too early. As part of this campaign Jake Kitchiner, the Welfare and Community Officer, with the help of his team of campaigns volunteers organised Hallam's first ever housing fair so students could meet with reputable landlords and make an informed choice about where they are going to live.

Get Active week

Now in its second year, Get Active Week is a week long programme of fitness and sporting activities to encourage students not otherwise engaged in sport to be more active. The week included many non-traditional sporting activities designed to promote fun and fitness, with less emphasis on competitive sport.



EMBARRASSING BODIES

The Embarrassing Bodies Tour Bus, complete with show favourites Dr Christian Jessen and Dr Pixie McKenna, came to Sheffield to take part in the Hallam Union Freshers' Fair on the 24th September. The focus of the show was to educate students on the different methods of contraception available and what to consider when picking the right method. The Embarrassing Bodies Team ran an information stall at the fair, organised activities and saw students with specific problems in their mobile consulting room.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11 (CONT.)

Voting Launch Day

To help raise the profile of our elections, and encourage people to vote, Hallam Union organised a Voting Launch Day. Each candidate was given a space in the Union building to display campaign material and talk to students. The aim of the day was to give students the chance to meet all the candidates face to face in one place to help them make an informed choice about who to vote for.



Bargain Bazaar

Student volunteers helped organise a Bargain Bazaar on the 20th May to help students leaving Sheffield for the summer dispose of their unwanted items easily and ethically. The Bazaar was a bring and buy sale where students could donate unwanted books, clothes, jewellery. Hallam Union held a sale of the items, the proceeds of which went to the charity Safe@Last. The Bargain Bazaar was part of our "Keep Sheffield Tidy" campaign which focuses on students not leaving waste in the city as they move away at the end of term.

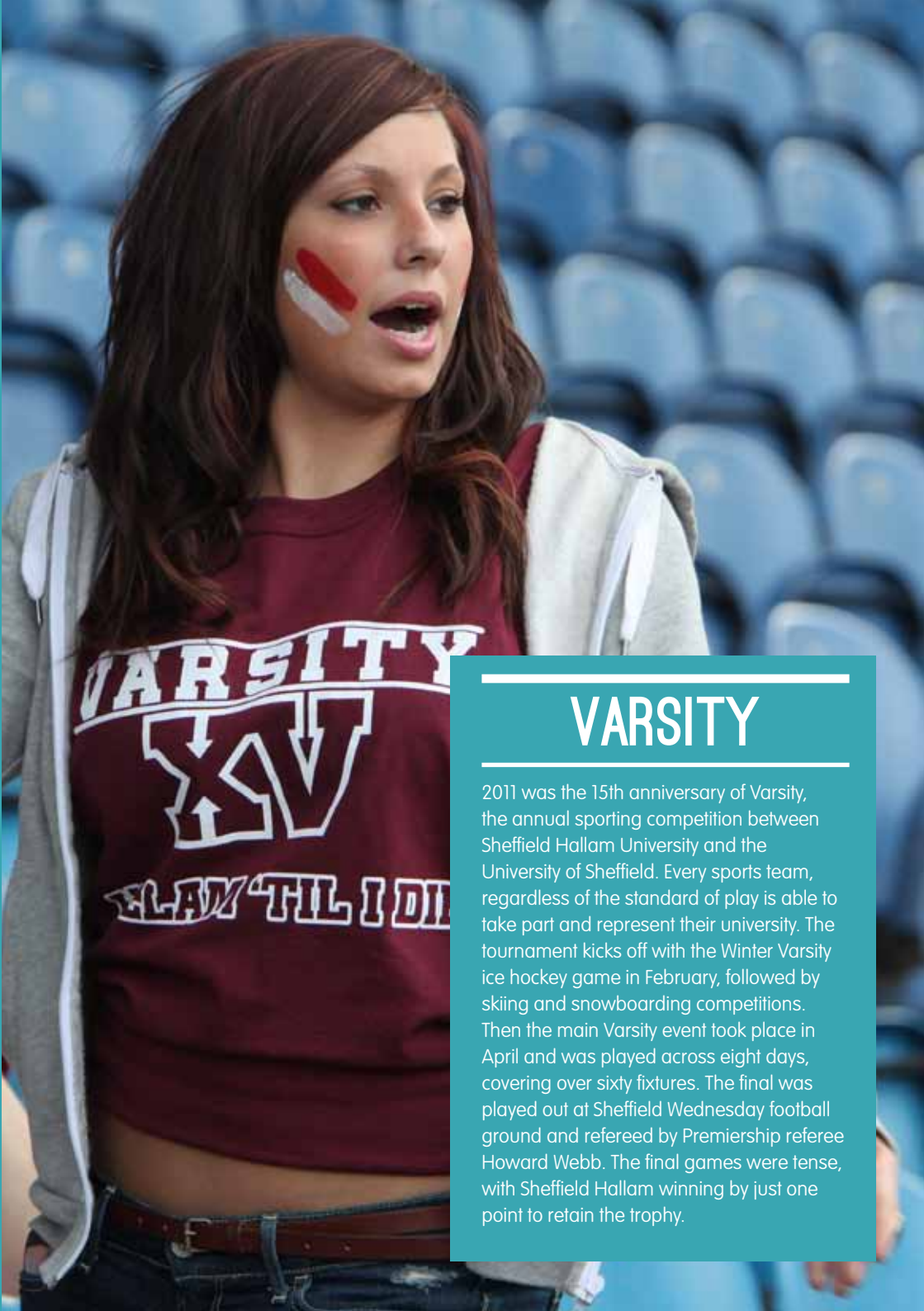
Flair

Flair 2011 was an art exhibition of student work that took place at The HUBS from the 16th to 19th March. Sheffield Hallam University students submitted work to be part of the exhibition and volunteered to assist in the set up and act as front of house throughout the event. The exhibition received some fantastic feedback from the public with one person describing the work as 'Truly inspiring and thought provoking'.

Cultural Olympiad

Two community volunteering projects organised by Hallam Union were awarded the coveted Inspire Mark for involving Sheffield's primary school children in the London 2012 Olympics. The two award winning projects, "The Games Club" and "Once Upon a Time," worked with both Hallam Primary School and Porter Croft Primary School respectively.

The Games Club taught children team building and communications skills through playing team sports and encourages children to improve their personal best in their favourite sports to increase self confidence. The children also took part in a 'mini-Olympics'. Once Upon a Time was an after school club that taught children about the myths and legends that surround the Olympics through art, story telling and play.



VARSITY

2011 was the 15th anniversary of Varsity, the annual sporting competition between Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield. Every sports team, regardless of the standard of play is able to take part and represent their university. The tournament kicks off with the Winter Varsity ice hockey game in February, followed by skiing and snowboarding competitions. Then the main Varsity event took place in April and was played across eight days, covering over sixty fixtures. The final was played out at Sheffield Wednesday football ground and refereed by Premiership referee Howard Webb. The final games were tense, with Sheffield Hallam winning by just one point to retain the trophy.



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