

Herts Uni Sikh Society

Here to establish projects to promote the Sikh religion, culture and history.

OUR VISION, VALUES & AIMS

- To unite all Hertfordshire University students interested in Sikhism and meeting other Sikhs
- Foster an environment in which the academic pursuit of Sikh studies can be furthered.
- Create a platform for debate and analysis of Sikh issues and concerns.
- To promote and facilitate the religious, academic, social and professional development of its members.

ACCOUNTS

Throughout the year, we relied on donations from the committee and have paid off all our expenses through this. Our balance for the start of the next academic year stands at £0.

INTRODUCTION

Report from Herts University Sikh society President

This year has been very experimental. Most of the team were new to volunteering for the society so we focused on creating a stable and progressive framework for years to come. We have held an event every two or three weeks and every event we held was different to anything we had done previously in the year. We held the standard events such as presentations, discussions, a movie night, trips and Kirtan programs and also unconventional events such as a discussion event with Hindu Soc and a Valentines Day Discussion. We wanted to see what worked well and what exactly an average Sikh at university would be interested in attending so we knew precisely what we should do for the following years.

In simple terms, our mission statement is to unite Sikhs and create a close-knit community and secondly to provide awareness of the teachings of the Gurus. By bringing a group together and producing discourse, we have fulfilled our ambitions. However, we are constantly evaluating and are carefully examining all aspects to ensure we are providing far more than what is expected of us. We don't simply want to fulfill our remit, but we want to raise the standard of sikh societies and make the most of the potential we hold. In terms of holding discussions, we are carefully examining our Sikh community in the search for both passionate and academically strong speakers who have the ability to educate and inspire our students.

During the football tournament, we saw strong solidarity between our participants and we saw the power of sport. It brought together all types of people and was also a great way of promoting good health and exercise. Next year we will be holding regular badminton and football sessions which will also be a great way of generating funds. We will also point our membership towards the weekly yoga classes held in our gym to give them mental clarity.

We want to create more awareness and raise the profile of the sikh society by holding bigger events with stronger promotion so not only every sikh knows who we are and what we do, but every student does. We want to do this by getting involved in inter-faith projects, blood donation days and take part in the Student Union's charity event, RaG (raise and give). Promotion will be better organised and there will be a stronger presence from the volunteers. In the future we also hope to attract young sikhs from the surrounding areas, such as from Hitchin, Letchworth etc. Our image should be one of a caring and lovely family, which is why we want all of our membership to know we are there for any emotional and spiritual problems - like a second family.

Financially, in order to strive and be self-efficient, we need to have a more business orientated outlook. This along with efficient planning and hard work, will take Herts Sikh Soc to its full potential.

Narvir Singh Khosa
President, 2009/2010

SOCIETY OFFICERS

Narvir Singh Khosa - President

Harpreet Kaur - Treasurer

Promotion Team

Amneet Johal - General Promotion

Anup Singh Bansel - Promotion Designer

Aneesha Kaur - Poster Promotion

Kamaldeep Kaur Bhachu - Poster Promotion

Shanika Ranjit - Online Promotion

Rajdip Kaur Aujla - Mobile Promotion

Other

Aman Sihra - Photographer

Lavpreet Singh - Minibus Manager

Amardeep Kalsi - Room Bookings

SELECTION PROCESS

In 2008/2009, emails were sent to those who were most committed to attending events during the year with the following questions:

- 1 - How would you run things?
- 2 - What events would you hold?
- 3 - Would you make any changes from what there is at the moment?
- 4 - How could you make a mark for Sikh soc at Hertfordshire uni?

For the 2010/2011 year, we have emailed everyone who has given us their details over the last few years asking them to email us back if they're interested in being part of the committee. Consequently, we have arranged a group meeting with both the old and the new committee members to ensure solidarity before the new year begins.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Number of paid members: 9

Average attendance for a general event: 20

Cost of membership: £10

126 students' added to society database, collected at freshers' fair.

MODES OF COMMUNICATION

Posters were great at attracting first timers who may have missed the fresher's fair or had not heard of the Sikh Society. However, it takes a lot of time to design, print and stick them up around the university and on many occasions for events, it just didn't happen.

Facebook is a great interface to message and find our sikh community. Yet not everyone has a facebook page and some don't check their messages very often.

Mobile text messaging - Instant messaging means it's great for on-the-day reminding as it is always checked promptly. However, the message is very limited and we were unable to send pictures or designs.

We have a website www.HertsSikhs.com but it wasn't been looked at by our students and may be discontinued next year.

SOCIETY ACADEMIC STUDIES

None have taken place.

WORKSHOPS

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb - 11 attended
Speaker: Harpreet Kaur (committee)
- Singhrow Productions - 15 attended
Speaker: Mokham Singh
- Valentines Discussion - 30 attended
Speakers: Kamaldeep Kaur and Harpreet Kaur (committee)
- "Is Religion Man-made or God-made?" - 40 attended
[Hindu Soc joint event]
Speaker: Rishi Handa (SOAS)

CELEBRATIONS

- First event - Cha and Samosa - 55 people attended
- Welcome back Kirtan Jam - 50 attended
- Guru Nanak's Gurburb - 11 attended
- Bandi Chor Gurdwara Trip - 15 attended

FRESHERS WEEK

We had a decorated stall where we gave out a Fresher's pack which were provided by BOSS and in exchange we were given the fresher's contact details.

MAJOR EVENT

Our biggest event of the year was the Kirtan Jam in January. It was a welcome back event for the second semester and had one of the biggest attendance numbers of the year.

SPORT

A charity football tournament at the end of the year. We saw strong solidarity between our participants and we saw the power of sport. It brought together all types of people and was also a great way of promoting good health and exercise.

Two of our members attended a 5K run held by Kings Sikh Soc in November.

Next year we will be holding regular badminton and football sessions which will also be a great way of generating funds.

WELL-BEING

Physical - Football Tournament, 5K Run at Kings

Mental - No such events

ARTS

We didn't provide any such events.

EXCURSIONS

- Collaborations Inter Sikh Soc event [Imperial University] - 10 attended
- Paint-ball event in December with Kingston University - 7 attended

ACTIVISM

Three members from the Sikh Society stood in the Student Union elections but unfortunately did not secure any places.

WITHIN UNI OF HERTS

We held a joint event with the Hindu Soc earlier this year and we worked together very well. In the future, we are hoping to open our inter-faith events up and invite all faith societies to attend.

NATIONAL BODY

We were given Freshers' Packs at the beginning of the year, but have not heard from BOSS since. We have tried to contact them about helping us but have not received any replies to our emails until AFTER the academic year had been completed.

ASSISTANCE

Assistance was provided by someone who would like to stay anonymous. Financial assistance was offered, yet we didn't take it as financially we've felt comfortable. It has been very useful to be able to get an outsider's opinion and advice.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

We have a good connection with the CEO of Khalsa Aid, Ravinder Singh and donated the money we made from our football tournament to them.

Most expenses this year has been on food and refreshments, so after some evaluation, we decided we needed to cut this down. Looking to the future, we want to improve this. This summer we have approached a sikh-owned restaurant by the name of Veer Dhara which is based in St Albans with the intent to create a long-term partnership. The owners understood our needs and have agreed to provide us free food for our first event and for future event will charge us the price it costs to make the item (e.g. each samosa will cost 12p), in exchange for distributing flyers at the beginning of the year. The owners have also opened their doors to their designer who lives in India who will supply us with any design work for posters and flyers.