

# City University Sikh Society

**Annual Report  
2010-2011**

**The City Sikh Society  
promotes activities that appreciate the  
culture, history and ideology  
of the Sikh way of life.**

## **OUR VISION**

Our aim for Sikh society here at City University is to create a wider understanding amongst the youth about the Sikh religion, its teachings, and knowledge of the history behind the religion.

In order to achieve this, we as a Sikh society aim to provide a setting through which students will have the opportunity to interact with knowledgeable Sikhs and be part of an interactive learning environment.

We aim to do this by promoting more students to join and attend events. Furthermore we promote the main principles of Sikhism, including seva, simran and equality.

We wish to provide this society for people from all walks of life to help everyone gain a better understanding of the fundamental beliefs of Sikhism.

## INTRODUCTION

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

City Sikh Society 2010 - 2011

I became involved with Sikh society after attending the election meeting which was held at the end of the academic year in 2010.

The main issue which we felt needed to be addressed at our first committee meeting was getting more people to attend the events, as well as having a wide range of events. Another problem we felt needed to be dealt with was the lack of continuity of upcoming events within City Sikh soc.

In the first term we were able to keep weekly meetings, where a good number of members would turn up. We would have interactive discussions about Sikhism. This helped people ask about certain topics, and discuss issues within Sikhism as well as sharing their personal views. However, often the talks would go off topic and there was a loss of structure; this made the talk sometimes feel futile. We therefore learnt that having a specific title to the discussion is constructive and sticking to that topic is more useful.

After the Christmas break we had a talk about Guru Gobind Singh Ji and an external speaker who spoke about the Sahibzade. By this time the number of attendees had decreased. We then decided to bring in a different range of events as well as creating social events to provide opportunities for members to meet others. We had a kirtan program within the university; this had a larger turn out. Getting the other university Sikh Societies involved proved very helpful for this event and it helped the members meet and network with other Sikh societies.

Other talks were held with external speakers. A talk on the events of 1984 was held in March and offered students the chance to learn about what happened during that time and share views and opinions regarding the events which followed.

A trip was also organised to visit the turban exhibition at the British museum - this was to encourage the members to learn about the importance of the dastaar or turban in our religion.

## MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

All those who wished to be part of the Sikh society team for the next year were asked to attend a meeting with the current committee members. At this meeting those willing to get involved were asked which roles they felt they would wish to fulfil. Everyone who wanted to be part of the team was given a role. The main roles such as president, vice president and Treasurer were voted upon and the remaining roles were designated to those willing to take on the responsibility.

### **SOCIETY OFFICERS**

President- Gurjeet Kaur  
Vice president- Manpreet Kaur  
Treasurer- Pavnish Kaur  
Advertising- Randeep Kaur

### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Number of paid members: 49  
Cost of membership: £3  
Although we had a large number joining at the start, the number of people attending events was between 5 and 15.

STUDENT SERVICES

## **ACADEMIC STUDIES**

Due to an insufficient number of people interested we were unable to hold any Punjabi classes. However an interest was shown in Sikh studies classes.

## **WORKSHOPS**

Lectures/ talks were given on the following subjects:

- Introduction to Sikh society
- Key principles of Sikhism
- Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji Gurburab
- Chote Sahibzade Shaheedi Divas
- Events of 1984

## **WELL BEING**

City Sikh society members took part in a helping the homeless run hosted at UCL as well as encouraging students to take part in a weekly classical kirtan class also held at UCL.

## SOCIAL LIFE

### **FRESHERS WEEK**

Unfortunately we were unable to have a stall at the Fresher week since we missed the deadline to confirm attendance (and because the Sikh Society was not fully registered as a society). However, we arranged for a stall to be put up at the end of October to recruit members which was successful in getting members to sign up, even though this was quite late in the term. Shortly after we put up the stall, we had a Cha and Samosa event.

### **CELEBRATIONS**

We held specific discussions and talks for occasions such as Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday and Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday.

### **EXCURSIONS**

Guy's Tower Kirtan Darbar- 6 attended  
UCL Langar – 5 attended  
Collaborations 2 – 6 attended  
Trip to British museum- 7 attended

### **COMMUNICATING MODES WITH STUDENTS**

During the start of the year we set up a facebook page where all the latest events would be posted. This enabled members to comment on which day best suited them for certain events. It also meant we could get information regarding events to the members quickly and in a cost effective way. We also had people (with lots of free texts) who were responsible for sending out messages to members regarding upcoming events. At the start of the year we also noted down the email addresses of the members who joined, enabling us to send them emails about the events that were being held or to inform them of events that were in the process of being organised. We sometimes used posters within the university to advertise events to students whose details we didn't have.

### **Financial Summary:**

The money from the membership fees was used to pay for the refreshments used at some of the events such as the cha and samosa party. Some of the money was used for posters the remaining amount was passed onto the new committee to use for future events.

### **THE FUTURE**

Initially, a lot (in fact the majority) of the committee were very new to running a society and did not have a lot of direction in terms of what should be done and what shouldn't.

To begin with our plans for Sikh soc events were very big but hardly any of them came into action. This may have been due to the lack of planning for these events ahead of time. Also it is very important to plan realistically for events which can be easily organised by the number of people in the committee.

I also feel perhaps another reason for low attendance to certain events may have been the results of insufficient time given for people to find out about the event. Sometimes events were planned only a few days before the event date leading to rushed advertisement and hence not giving people enough notice to come in for talks outside of lecture hours. Therefore, we advise future Sikh societies to plan ahead of time, giving members enough notice. Joint events with other university Sikh society are very helpful as they help share the responsibility of organising events and should be sought out.

The role of each individual committee member should be clear from the very start and ambiguity in this matter can lead to one member having to do the majority of the work. This can also unfortunately create tension in the team, which can not be good for our Sikh soc!

On a happier note don't forget to have fun – even if you're on the committee, you're a member too!