Thanks for YOUR VIEW!

We would like to thank all those students who took the time to complete the YOUR View survey last term. Hearing your views and opinions is important and helps us to better plan for the Guild’s future, and ensure we’re providing the services you need.

Of those who completed the survey 86% said the Guild had made a positive contribution to your time at university. 81% agreed that it’s easy to find and access help at the Guild. 66% believed the Guild provides a voice and represents you to the University, and over 74% said you have a good or really good understanding of the Guild.

Three respondents were picked at random to receive cash prizes as a thank you for completing the quick, on-line survey. Top prize winner, Peter West-Oram (PhD in Philosophy, third year) collected a cheque for £500, he commented: “I really appreciate the opportunity to give feedback to the Guild on its work, I think that the Guild does some great stuff, but it is always nice to be asked for one’s opinion.”

Two lucky runner-ups were also presented with cheques for £100. Gemma Hollins, second year, Chemical Engineering commented: “I completed the survey to give honest feedback on the Guild and was more inclined to take part because of the enticing cash prize. I was extremely shocked when I received the email saying I had won £100 but obviously very happy. I plan on putting this money towards saving for a new car”.

A Night to Remember

It’s that time of year again and preparations are being made for Grad Ball 2013. For the fourth year running the event is being held on campus! This year it will take place on Thursday 6th June.

With top name acts, a free funfair and silent disco it’s bound to be a night to remember, and the perfect way to celebrate the end of the year in style.

Tickets for the Grad Ball go on sale on Friday 26th April from 5pm for V.I.P Dinner tickets and 6.30pm for After Dinner tickets at the Guild.

Due to the high demand for Grad Ball tickets on ticket sales day, we would like to advise all students who wish to purchase tickets that a queue is to be expected, and therefore suggest dressing appropriately for the weather.

guildofstudents.com/gradball2013 @gradball2013

We Want Your Unwanted Items

Junkbusters is back for a second year. The joint initiative of the Guild of Students and University of Birmingham collects unwanted items from homes in Selly Oak and donates them to the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Last year, a staggering 1,128 bags were donated raising in excess of £9,000 for BHF, the nation’s heart charity.

The Community Wardens will be posting bags through your letter boxes from Thursday 14th March. We hope you will help by filling these bags with your unwanted items: clothes, shoes, CDs and DVDs, kitchen accessories and crockery, stationery, books, small electrical items in full working order e.g. kettles, lamps, hairdryers, audio equipment, and toasters (no rice cookers).

Filled bags should be left on doorsteps from midday on Friday 22nd March. Our Junkbusters, riding on ECO1 the environmentally friendly milk float will collect bags between 12 and 2pm.

guildofstudents.com/junkbusters

Postgraduates – Still Deciding Where to Live?

Are you continuing your studies in Birmingham in the next academic year (2013/14)? Have you decided where you are going to live and who with?

If you have not started thinking about accommodation for next year yet, don’t worry. The Postgraduate and Mature Students Association (PGMSA) and the Student Mentor Scheme have organised the Postgraduate Housing Event.

The event will provide you with all the information you need to know about finding a house in the private sector. It will also be an opportunity to meet like-minded people who you may want to live with next year too!

The SHAC (the Guild’s lettings agency) and LIVING will also be present, providing you with the opportunity to view available properties in the private sector.

This event taking place on Wednesday 20th March in the Amos Room [Guild] between 6.30 and 8.30pm is for postgraduate students only.

If you have any questions about this event or would like more information please email mentorwelfare@guild.bham.ac.uk

@GuilofStudents
Tweets of the Month
@coralmycroft “Just done my @GuildofStudents election votes ^^ #goodstudent”
Congratulating to the Guild Officer Team 2013/14

Voting in the 2013 Guild Officer team Elections closed on Friday 8th March 2013. A 1.1% of you voted - the second highest turnout in the Guild’s election history. Last Saturday (10th March 2013), the results were announced live on guildstudent.co.uk. Here are the results!

Subsidiary Officers:
- President: Nol Junction
- Vice President (Activities & Development): Riley Knight
- Vice President (Education): Dave Charles
- Vice President (Sport): Nicki Harris
- Vice President (Welfare): Adrienne Bayliss

Non-Subsidiary Officers:
- Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism Officer: Georgina Levine
- Community Action Officer: Rob Burgin
- Disabled Students’ Officer: Tom Palmer
- Environmental & Ethical Officer: Rachel Cowper
- Ethnic Minority Students’ Officer: Madi Mallick
- Home Students’ Officer: Jojoal Pahal

International Students’ Officer: Max Chen
Lebanon, Gaza, Israel: Trans and Queer Students’ Officer: Solarel Rabinamarzan
Malaysia & Pacific Students’ Officer: Tim Lee
Women’s Officer: Max Bohland

Students’ Union Officers:
- President: David Franklin
- Vice President (Activities & Development): Riley Knight
- Vice President (Education): Dave Charles
- Vice President (Sport): Nicki Harris
- Vice President (Welfare): Adrienne Bayliss

Student Officer Committees:
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee
- Sabbatical Officers: Vicki Harris, Jethro Lee, Poppy Wilkinson, Ellis Palmer, Roz Burgin, Erin Lee

David’s Column

Hello again.

The Easter break is almost here. Essay deadlines, revision... and for many; you might be looking at your last few months of University.

Trust me, I know it’s tough. You may have noticed that this term the Election on campus recently – we had the second largest turnout ever with almost 7000 students voting and now we’ve got a team elected who will make the Guild from June. I’d like to wish a massive congratulations to all of the new Guild Officer Group.

But before your 2012/13 team are out they’re still here and working hard for you. Make sure you get the chance to ask questions and hear from you, university staff will also have the chance to ask questions and hear from you.

The Arts and Science Festival is a free week-long festival celebrating the identity of the University of Birmingham as an exceptional research institution.

Still Time to Nominate!

There’s still time to submit nominations for both the Student Employer of the Year (SCOTY) and Birmingham Volunteer Awards. The Birmingham Volunteer Awards are a prestigious mark of excellence to celebrate and reward the achievement, dedication and leadership of student volunteers at the University of Birmingham. The deadline for nominations is 4th March (guildofstudents.com/volunteering).

Nominations for the SCOTY Awards close on 12th April (hase.org.uk/volunteer). Being nominated for or winning a SCOTY award is great for your CV and can really make you stand out! Regional winners will be offered a place on the ‘SCOTY Winners Emerging Talent Programme’, a training event designed by Teach First and National Association of Student Employment Services.

Carnival RAG Escape & Evade

Taking place on 23rd March 2013, Carnival RAG presents the ultimate global adventure, Escape & Evade. The international adventure gives participants just 40 hours to get as far away from Birmingham as possible without spending any money.

Your President, David Franklin, and Vice President (Welfare) Kathleen East will be leading up, and your Vice President (Activities & Development) Ollie Coote and joint Student Co-Treasurer Simon Lee to take on the challenge.

What makes your group stand out from the rest? EVERYTHING! Only one group has its own special set of skills and experience to offer; if I were a group because you get to meet great people, listen to amazing music and put on a wicked music festival for your friends to enjoy, while knowing that at the end of the year you’ve raised loads of money for some really worthwhile charities.

Focus on... Valefest

This year’s Vale Festival will take place at the Vale, Edgbaston on Saturday 1st June. There is an all day event at the festival on Saturday 1st June, with the theme being “A Day at the Races”. The event will feature live music, vintage cars, and a host of other activities. For more information, please visit valefestival.com.
Friday 15th to Saturday 16th March
Gilbert & Sullivan presents Orpheus in the Underworld
7pm, Arthur Thomson Hall, Medical School.
Join Gilbert & Sullivan in Ancient Greece for Offenbach’s rip-roaring and rather risqué rewriting of an ancient tragedy, and the original setting of the famous “Can-Can” gallop: Orpheus In The Underworld!

BUDS Dance Show: The Big Event
7.30pm; with 2:30pm matinee on Saturday, Deb Hall, Guild of Students.
Tickets: £5 Email: guildtickets.co.uk/BUDS

Friday 18th March
Polish Society: Cooking Class and AGM
7pm, Oasis Room, St Francis Hall.
AGM to elect the committee for the next Academic year 2013/14.
aLive Fridays
7.30pm-1.30am, Joe’s and Beorma Bar. Burn FM, The Footnotes Comedy Society & Carnival RAG present: Comic Relief 2013.

Sunday 17th March
Watch This present Batman
7.30pm, Underground, Guild of Students. The 48 hour student-written adaptation of the legendary Dark Knight’s adventures with funny twists, rehearsed by the cast in only 48 hours. Tickets: £5 Email: watchthis@guild.bham.ac.uk

Fab ‘n’ St Patricks Day
10pm-3am, Guild of Students. The Guild’s most popular home-grown event right on your doorstep! Tickets: £4

Monday 18th March
Second-Hand Textbook Fair
10am-6pm, Amos Room, Guild of Students.
This first Textbook Fair is for books relating to the College of Social Sciences (Business School, Education, Government and Society, and Social Policy). If you want to sell or buy course books, see guildofstudents.com/bookfair to see how you can get involved.

Tuesday 19th March
Guild Awards
7pm, Great Hall, Aston Webb. An evening to celebrate and recognise the fantastic work of University of Birmingham students. SOLD OUT!

Wednesday 20th March
Miscellany Gala
7-11pm, Deb Hall, Guild of Students. An inter-society themed formal event with live music and food. Tickets: £15; available from the organising groups: Tabletop Gaming, CVG, FilmSoc, Humans vs Zombies, Anime & Manga, and SciFi & Fantasy.

Wednesday 20th to 21st March
ThreeBUGS present Wuthering Heights
The Edge, Digbeth
Email: finge@ Guild.bham.ac.uk
Lecture Accessibility for Disabled Students
2-5pm, Guild Council Chamber. To provide information to lecturers on how they can better make lectures accessible for those students with a disability. Email: a.connolly@ guild.bham.ac.uk

Thursday 21st March
Guild Council
6pm, Guild Council Chamber. Guild Council is the highest student decision making body within the Guild of Students. Guild Council passes motions ranging from making a commitment to provide mobility and access arrangements for disabled students, right the way through to taking a stance on the Government cuts to Higher Education funding. Email: councilchair@ guild.bham.ac.uk

Friday 22nd March
ThreeBUGS present Underworld
Gilbert & Sullivan presents Orpheus in the Underworld. The Wayfarers’ Easter Trip to one of the most beautiful regions of the UK. £27

Sunday 24th March
Grad Ball Tickets Sales Day
5pm for VIP Dinner tickets. 6.30pm for After Dinner tickets. Underground, Guild guildofstudents.com/ gradball2013