JCR Committee Hustings Minutes

Meeting on 23.11.2023 at 20.00 UK time

List of Committee Members

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Names, initials, pronouns and \* to mark non-attendance | Role |
| Jacob Hougie, **JH**, He/him | President |
| Daisy O’Connor, **DOC**, she/her | Vice President |
| Oliver Law, **OL**, he/him | Treasurer |
| Luka Murphy, **LM**, he/him | Secretary |
| Salma Salifu, **SS**, she/her | Welfare |
| Julia Sinkinson, **JS**, she/her | Welfare |
| Luke Tyler, **LT**, he/him | Welfare |
| Jess Morrissey, **JM**, She/her | Academic and Access |
| Ryan Simpson, **RS**, they/them | Green |
| Ruth Chapman, **RC**, she/her | Catering, Accommodation and Facilities |
| Amit Ramakrishna Prasad, **ARP**, he/him | Sports and Societies |
| Neela Nee, **NN**, she/her | Ents |
| Saira Ahmed, **SA**, she/her | Ethnic Minorities |
| Cosma Rubben, **CR**, she/her | International Students |
| Harley Chidley, **HC**, they/them | LGBTQ+ |
| Maisie Johnson, **MJ**, she/her | Gender Equalities |
| Malachi Gee, **MG**, he/him | Disabled Students |
| Eleanor Lewis, **EL**, she/her | Class Act |
| Lucy Robertson, **LR**, she/her | Computing (non-voting) |

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# 0. Administrative Matters

Meeting begins at 20.05

**DOC, OL, SS, JS, LT, ARP, NN, SA, CR, MJ, MG, EL, LR** are absent.

# Vice President

## 1.1 Aoife Sargent (**AS**)

Good evening Corpus!

My name is Aoife Sargent, I am a history fresher, and I am here today to convince you to elect me to be VP.

I will not at this point begin listing all the head girl duties and assortment of organisational achievements I have that make me the perfect candidate, I wouldn’t be up here if I didn’t believe I could provide the leadership and support you deserve in this new academic year. Instead, I’d like to remind you what you deserve from your VP and what I will do for you.

I don’t know about every other fresher here, but having to correct my friends from home when they asked, “How’s freshers week goin?”, to ‘”you mean, freshers 3 days’ was at first funny and unique, then wildly saddening. The simple fact is that a couple of days is not enough to get comfortable in a new place. Because of this I promise that I will do everything in my power to lengthen freshers week to create space for more events – such as a microwave MasterChef session, better club nights more wholesome college swaps and much more. Moving is scary, but we can make it much less scary with time and support. (As a person with 84 cousins – I can event plan trust me.)

Instead of enduring the stressful college accommodation scramble version of the hunger games – I propose a reform to the balloting system. I know this will take time and effort, especially to achieve a group balloting system – but I am willing to push hard on this so you will all have a much less stressful experience come easter term.

I promise to push for cost-cutting solutions and support our elected treasurer in their work doing so. In the meantime, I will personally hold financial budgeting sessions at the beginning of every term. In this way my hope is that our freshers, and all of us, will be much better equipped to manage their own money.

Finally, and importantly, I want to make the job easier of our welfare team easier. If anyone here has been to any other colleges JCR they will support me in my proposal to upgrade to our JCR. Better setting, décor, activities, and by already popular demand (not just from myself and the other Irish students), Guinness on tap! In the interest of welfare – let’s not forget the addition of a college cat!

I will support our new president, Jess Morrissey in all her presidential endeavours.

I have only officially been a student at this college for 7 weeks or so. In this time, I have learnt many valuable lessons and hard facts, but the most important one and the most simple one is that Corpus is our home now. Let me be the person to make this, our home, in 2024, really feel like it. Vote Sargent!

## 1.2 Questions

From **Beth Scott** – What would you call the College cat?

**AS** – I think that Jess had the right idea with Corpussy

From **Michael O’Donnell** - How would group balloting work for accommodation?

**AS** – I know that other colleges do it, if we exert enough pressure, other colleges could do it

From **Omar Burhanuddin** – On your manifesto you say that you have the ear of Charles Read, what are the advantages of such a connection?

**AS** – He is this generation’s John Maynard Keynes, and he’s big on access as witnessed by his engagement with the Bridging Course. This might help us pull some levers with college.

From **JH** – This was raised by Jaimie Charles. Much of what you’ve proposed has been proposed before, how will you make it happen?

**AS** – Working with the MCR will help get these changes through, as well as creating more general pressure to create effective change via discourse with the student body.

# Treasurer

## 2.1 Alex Zlatev (**AZ**)

My name is Alexander and I’m running for treasurer. I am well-versed in making the best out of small things, like our budget. That’s how I got my small and dainty self for example. But besides that, I have a generous list of accomplishments in elected positions to attest for my competences as a representative. Besides, I like spending money, who doesn’t?

Now let’s reveal the financial proposals for this year.

The JCR purse, insofar as possible, shall provide an appropriate start-up for up-and-coming societies as to encourage students to pursue and bond over our shared interests.

Doubtless, many students allay the stress of the ever-so-demanding academic work through the leisure of sports. Alas, access to the much needed comfort found in sport was recently highlighted to me as barred for some students due to financial difficulties. I say no more. Be it because of a badminton racket or a mere pair of trainers, no student should have to feel alienated from their peers because they might not be able to afford the necessary sports equipment or attire. Our students deserve to be afforded not just an equal opportunity to study, but also to relax and look after their health. Simple as it sounds, allocating funding for sports equipment is a meaningful step towards making college a home like no other.

To this end, I shall work with the Access and Class Act Officers to ascertain that, as will all financial aid provided by college, access to this fund is streamlined, stigma-free, and underpinned by respect for privacy.

Much like sports, leisure must also be accessible to everyone. Hence, I shall allocate the appropriate funding to make events feel varied and truly unique. Holiday formals shan’t be neglected either as sparing a little extra for decoration goes a long way in making students from different cultures feel even more at home as Corpus.

To restore the beating heart of the JCR, monetary policy will also focus on increasing comfort in the Peli. Additions, such as a water fountain, dart board, pool cure replacements, new and varied board games, and perhaps even a Guinness pump are a few ideas, but rest assured small steps go a long way. I speak from experience.

So, vest your trust in me and I shall invest in you. Thank you.

## 2.2 Beth Scott (**BS**)

Hi everyone, I’m Beth, a first-year art historian, and I’m here to convince you I should be your JCR treasurer. Firstly, I will ensure that established societies are supported to the current standard. As a fresher, I was disappointed at the sports and societies fair, not because of the clubs themselves, but that there were so few of them. Comparing the 2022 to 2023 budget, there was far less funding for smaller societies, and therefore far fewer of them. I want to encourage people to establish new and different societies by making the application process easier and more streamlined, ensuring a wide variety of societies at Corpus.

Let’s be honest, the JCR is a bit drab and could do with a renovation. This year I will put enough provisions in the one-off purchase fund to renovate the JCR, including the purchase of a Wii. I also want Ents to put on better events. In the 2023 budget there was a decrease in general events funding, but Corpus should be sticking to a standard of excellent events.

Lastly, I want the gender expression and gender equality funds to stay well stocked. They are vital to college remaining an inclusive environment for all.

In terms of my experience, I’ve worked in a mortgage office and a charity shop and therefore have some experience with sums and management more broadly. I also only have 5 contact hours a week. Thank you for listening and Merry Bridgemas.

## 2.3 Questions

From **Erin MacCabe**– What would you sacrifice to ensure your spending commitments?

**BS** – In terms of funding societies, this wouldn’t take much money as smaller societies especially don’t require as many funds. I would redistribute the current budget, and understanding why we spend so much money on subject drinks.

**AZ** – Parties are useful but often monotonous, I want more varied events such as the ones in my manifesto and as Ents requires

# 

# Secretary

## 3.1 Isabelle Pallister (**IS**)

I forgot to play hard to get, so everything is on my manifesto, so I’m assuming you’ve all read it with extreme precision.

I’m Isabelle Pallister, a first year HSPS student, and so already I think that gives you enough reason to elect me so you can keep a politics student distracted and avoid me bothering you instead.

But just in case this isn’t enough for you, I will keep yapping.

I think I will an excellent secretary because of my undying love of bureaucracy.

In my time as a deputy head girl, just ignore the deputy part because I did more work than the real one, I was tasked with recording minutes for meetings with staff and students, and often times these were very large meetings as I was often involved with school-wide initiatives.

Additionally, due to my being extremely fun and cool, I think I am approachable to students and so I am happy for any issues to be raised if at any point someone feels as if their viewpoint has been misrepresented or I have made an error. This is also important for accessibility, which I want to ensure is a core concern of mine in both this specific aspect, and as applied to the social media; pertaining especially to image descriptions as well as seeking input from the DSO.

I also have experience in planning out agendas, organising events, and keeping students informed which I believe is applicable to this element of the role, but also as a more general responsibility as a member of the JCR/Corporeal writer.

Coming to Cambridge as a student from an unrepresented background, I understand that it can feel overwhelming when you’ve got assignments, supervisions, lectures etc., to work into your schedule, so I think if I take off at least some of this burden, I will have done my job.

In terms of the social media, I have an extremely tough act to follow, and I hope that I can at least not fail completely in comparison. In order to contribute to our award-winning sense of community at Corpus, I think that social media is a perfect instrument to amplify student voices.

As said in my manifesto that you have all read, society takeovers will provide the perfect opportunity for increasing participation. But I don’t want this to stop at societies. We have so many talented students and staff, and so I want everyone to feel as if their achievements, not just the academic ones, are rewarded.

Art, photography, backflips, running marathons; I have no idea what you all get up to, but if you want to share it with the world, I want to help you do that. This, along with my playlist of the week, where 5 to 6 students might be able to add a song, are just some of the reasons why you should vote for me.

The playlist of the week will also culminate into One Big Corpus Playlist, which we can then use to show off how elite our music taste is as a college, staff and students alike.

So, in conclusion, vote Isabelle Pallister.

## 3.2 Omar Burhanuddin (**OB**)

Thanks for coming! My name is Omar, I’m a History fresher, and I’m here to tell you why you should elect me as your JCR secretary.

Let’s talk about the Corporeal. At the moment, it can read like an extension of Careers Service communications. Most weeks, over half the newsletter is filled with copied-and-pasted corporate advertisements, trying to attract students to random networking events and research studies. While it’s important not to dismiss these things for those that are interested in them, it can mean that many students get bored, lose interest and generally ignore the Corporeal when it comes out every week. I have a few ideas about how to liven things up.

Firstly, all the ‘serious’ stuff would be pushed to the bottom of the email. Secondly, in each corporeal, there would be a submission box for a ‘meme of the week’ award, together with the 5 best submissions from last week as decided by the JCR themselves. The person who submits the meme most popular with the committee will receive a bag of Sainsbury’s Cookies (or a vegan alternative).

Thirdly – and I know that this is not an original idea, but it is not currently being done – I would include an ‘events timetable’ at the beginning of every Corporeal, and a larger timetable including all the big things such as cultural events, ents, festive formals, and so on, at the beginning of each term. Right now, it can be quite hard to piece together what to attend and look into further, because all the key dates and times are scattered around. This would make it far easier for people to work out their schedule. Finally, I would keep on doing what is currently great about the Corporeal. For example, the ‘Beyond the Reality Checkpoint’ section is very much here to stay.

Now let’s talk about JCR meeting minutes. Let me begin by saying that, having worked a couple of corporate jobs in my life, firstly as a Fundraising Assistant in my former school’s Development Office, and later when interning in an immigration relief NGO, I have attended and minuted a lot of meetings, many more than I’d have liked to. I have some idea of how to do – and how not to do – these things. Right now, the JCR minutes are not fun. They are very long, and the cheeky footnotes-to-pages ratio is painfully low. Beyond improving that, I would try to shorten them as much as possible.

Right now, they can frequently go over 10 pages, which means that nobody reads them. It is a good thing that right now, there is a tldr summary of key points at the beginning of the minutes documents. However, this is still pointless as long as there is no culture of going over JCR minutes within the college student body at large. I hope that, with time, that will change. In the meantime, I would publish that summary of key points in the weekly corporeal, so people have at least some idea of what’s going on.

I hope that what I’ve had to say reassures you that I would be a good choice for JCR Secretary! Thanks for listening, and I hope that you can vote for me with confidence.

## 3.3 Questions

From **JM** – How many words can you type a minute?

**OB** – Around 120

**IP** – Every time I type people go ‘Jesus Christ’, so that should give you an indication.

From **Leila Branfoot** – How good are you at making memes?

**OB** – At 15 I ran a SpongeBob meme account which gained 500 followers.

**IP** – As a cringy teenager I ran two separate meme accounts.

From **AZ** – How will you use your social media influence to empower other students to stand for roles?

**OB** – The JCR Instagram is run very well, I would do what they do currently. I would delegate to friends, which means that you’re on the cards.

**IP** – I would take things from the corporeal and make them accessible. If they’re just a link no one cares, whereas social media can lend the items a more personal aspect.

# 4. Access

## 4.1 Shifaa Rashid (**SR**)

Hello everyone! My name is Shifaa and I am fed up with saying “I live near Leeds”, which is why I am running for Access Officer.

When reading about the responsibilities of this role, I felt like I had already proven myself capable. Over this past year, I have worked very closely with the Access Team and have always helped when I can. I also am an Outreach Lead for Engineers Without Boarders and a scholar for the tech start-up Zero Gravity which propels high-potential students into top universities.

The reason why I am so heavily involved in Access isn't only because the UK has one of the worst rates of social mobility in Europe, but also because I was personally told that I would never get into Cambridge. I was never pushed by my teachers, and my ambition was never encouraged. Even though this really affected me, I couldn’t blame my teachers. Unfortunately, in some oversubscribed state schools, there just isn’t the time or resources to create opportunities for a select few. The focus is on ensuring everyone at least passes their Maths and English. School becomes about behavioural management - not about learning and inspiring. Thus, for some Cambridge remains merely a dream, whilst for a small proportion of others, it is an expectation. But despite these systemic issues, it is OUR reality. We have a responsibility to ensure that Cambridge reflects our society.

In my manifesto, I spoke about creating a Corpus mentoring scheme. I believe that through these interactions, we can show prospective students that Cambridge IS for people like them because education should be blind to class, race and gender.

I know I was NOT an anomaly at my school and I know that there are many students out there who will be heavily discouraged to aim higher because of circumstances out of their control.This is why I also want to work closely with the Liberation Officers on the JCR to offer extended support to people from non-traditional Oxbridge backgrounds.

It isn’t just about getting people into the door, ticking boxes and throwing money at them (although just to clarify I have absolutely no complaints about this please don’t take away my bursary), it’s about changing attitudes and fighting imposter syndrome. Because Access isn’t about taking opportunities from certain people away, it's about doing what we can to ensure that everyone has as fair a chance as possible at getting the opportunity to learn at the best university in the world. Thank you for listening.

## 4.2 Questions

From **JM** – Part of being access officer is running the Bridging Course. You were on it, do you have any changes that you would make?

**SR** – It’s quite an intense experience, even on the days off there were activities. We didn’t take much time for ourselves. I would implement a rest day.

From **Flossie Adrian** – What would you do to stop alienation?

**SR** – We need more discussions about intersectionality, people are, too often, placed in boxes. Why don’t the discussions in freshers’ week continue throughout the year? Let’s make this a year-round conversation.

From **Melita Rodrigues** – What was the highlight of the bridging course?

**SR** – It was the party at the end. It was documented, but those videos won’t see the light of day, people might lose their jobs.

# Green

## 5.1 Calista Eitel-Porter (**CEP**)

Hi I’m Calista! As a natural sciences student, I’m really interested in climate change, but not just studying it, also taking steps to fight against it. I have green ideas that would make corpus more eco-friendly, while benefitting students at the same time.

My first idea is to set up a second-hand clothes shop where we would accept clothes donations from students and then sell them at pop-up sales throughout the year. We could sell second-hand gowns at matriculation and have sales before events like Halloween and balls. I would propose a costume swap system for Halloween, where you can donate an old costume and get something else in return, so you don’t have to wear the same outfit every Halloween, but you also don’t have to rely on fast fashion.  The second-hand system could even be extended to kitchenware, so pots and pans left behind by graduating students could be sold for a couple pounds – which is actually something St Catz currently does.

My next idea is to set up a college recycling collection for items that can’t be put in general recycling but can be recycled at collection points. For example, things like crisp packets come under the category of soft plastics which can’t go in the blue bins here but can be recycled if taken to the supermarket.

Now, onto meat-free Mondays. I have heard the complaints so I would work to improve the meal-options by taking student recipe suggestions and discussing them with the Catering Officer and team.

Finally, to get people more interested and educated on sustainability, I want to organise green events such as a freshers week trip to the botanical garden which would be a nice relaxing event, and who knows, it might at least partly make up of the lack of green spaces in college that we’re actually allowed to walk on!

On that point, I want to mention that, in addition to these ideas I’ve explained, I am committed to making sure that the existing green projects at the college continue and are completed, like the new green space being set up in beldam terrace with food planters. I’m also always open to suggestions for other ideas or changes: I would be representing you as green officer, so I want to make changes that you want.

Now, why me? Well, I understand the practicalities of running events - for example, my job in partnerships and outreach at a school last year taught me to navigate admin. I also have experience starting new initiatives: at my old school, I started a refugee week book display and set up a series of ‘subject taster’ events to get primary school pupils excited about different subjects. This was part of my role on the Head Girl Team (our school’s equivalent of prefects) which taught me invaluable skills for representing the student body; skills that I would continue using here in the JCR.

## 5.2 Olivia Szydlo (**OS**)

This is not just about being green officer but about changing the world. This is about affecting the college and university long-term so that we can become more sustainable people. My first motion is to create motion sensor lights. The current ones are expensive and energy inefficient. Switching one lightbulb to motion sensors can save 84 pounds a year. We have to spend so much money on other things, as has been proposed, but I’ll leave the details the treasurer. Hopefully, this can free up a surplus of some sort.

We have to spend much time on our degrees and not researching how to be more sustainable. I propose posters, created with my little poster skills, to tell students where to find eco-friendly detergent, affordable clothing, food. We can use the money we save from the lights, which could range into the 1000s, or 100s, to buy sustainable products so you don’t have to buy it.

We only have recycling bins in gyps, we need more around college. Food is important, we all need food. At the Peli, the food sometimes isn’t the best and so it goes to waste. If students have more input more food will be sold which will benefit the college and us in the long-term. I recognise that I am not the only person running, and that this is a college effort, and so I’m willing to talk to everyone whether I’m elected or not. I’m Olivia!

## 5.3 Jonathan Baddon (**JB**)

Hi, I’m Jonathan and I’m a first-year historian running for green officer. I’m committed to helping create a college that works for you and works for the environment. Supporting sustainability and biodiversity to combat climate change is essential to me. This has led me to volunteer at a nature reserve and work as a gardener, giving me experience communicating environmental issues to the public and finding practical solutions to environmental problems.

As green officer, I will create a more environmentally friendly college while listening to the concerns of the student body. Meat-free Mondays have become contentious, but they don’t need to be. The cafeteria offers a great selection of vegan and vegetarian food, but attendance drops and people are put off meat-free meals because there are too many pasta options. I will work with the CAF Officer to create a cap of one pasta dish on Mondays so that there’s more variety to encourage people to try meat-free diets. Comparing vegan and vegetarian portions with regular portion, they’re also smaller sometimes which is an issue that could easily be corrected.

As climate change becomes even more pressing, we all need to be aware of the environmental impacts of our institutions. I will campaign for an audit of the products purchased by the college and champion transparency about the environmental impacts of college finances in collaboration with the treasurer and the finance department. Many students have mentioned that they would like more opportunities to enjoy outdoor spaces. I will support the introduction of more benches so that students can enjoy socialising outside. Finally, to encourage the use of bicycles and help students who don’t own bicycles, I propose the introduction of a bike-sharing scheme, potentially using bikes removed in the bicycle cull.

To summarise, a vote for me is a vote for better meat-free Mondays, easier access to bicycles and more transparency. I’ll do my best to represent your needs and help create a greener environment. Thank you for listening.

## 5.4 Questions

From **Flossie Adrian** – I’m less interested in how I as an individual can be green, but how college can be, so how would you pressure them?

**CEP** – I like Jonathan’s idea of more transparency. We need to look at what college buys, and also give them an incentive like cheaper green options.

**OS** – I’ve worked with schools and institutions before for outreach and sponsors. For larger projects like the botanic gardens, as Calista suggested, I think we can get sponsorship.

**JB** – As part of transparency it will be easier for students to see what the main issues are and fill those gaps. During green week students can volunteer to address an environmental cause

**BS** – What is your favourite animal or plant?

**CEP** – I love cats, in fact, I have one.

**OS** – I’m a plant person, I have many in my room, especially cacti. In terms of animals, I’m definitely a dog person

**JB** – Giraffes are cool because they have long necks, spider plants are also cool.

**IP** – Green initiatives can often put more costs on students, how can college support students while being sustainable?

**CEP** – Many of my ideas will save money, such as costume swaps. So far vegetarian options are cheaper than meat which helps.

**OS** – There’s a misconception that green means more expensive. Many eco-friendly things are. But cutting waste and having swaps will save money.

**JB** – Vegan options are cheaper and the bike sharing scheme will make transportation cheaper. Especially taking bikes from the bicycle cull will dampen the risk of theft.

# CAF

## 6.1 Ruth Chapman (**RC**)

Hi I’m Ruth, a third-year linguistics student, and I’m running for re-election as  Catering, Accommodation and Facilities Officer.

I want to start by saying that I’m sorry for all the emails you get from me, but they come from a place of love. I have loved being CAF Officer for the last term, as much as I spend all my time running around unnecessarily. I’ve been able to fix many problems that I’ve wanted to fix for years, I hope to keep doing more if you re-elect me. I want to keep going with the conversations I've started, and address issues that have been raised to me - I think I have the capacity to fix the problems or make things better.

What makes me worth re-electing? My biggest pet project is the Short-Lease Storage, which has meant meeting with the Domus Bursar and Housekeeping to introduce long-term plans that add to and improve the storage we already have, as well as working with Cosma to improve the quality of the International Storage Space. I've also been working on a few other things: the library's beanbags, the punts and campbed system have been given a bit more attention, Housekeeping now have a pretty good relationship with the JCR, which is saying a lot considering the previous one didn’t have a relationship with them.

But what do I want to do if I get re-elected? If I get re-elected, I want to focus on the areas I can improve. A lot of the catering feedback I get is about meat-free Mondays, because they seem to be universally hated - and this isn’t because vegetarian food is bad, it’s because the kitchen doesn’t put the best options on a Monday. Next term, I want to give students a greater say in the vegetarian selections, and let you guys suggest your favourite vegetarian options, so I can push for these to be what we get at Meat Free Monday. I know that 3 pastas is not a good idea, don’t worry I do know that you don’t like them.

I want to improve the laundry system for students, since there are often piles of clothes left out for days or weeks and they’re clogging up Beldam, and I think a colour-coded box system would help a lot - even if they need to be nailed down. I will fix this problem even if it’s at the cost of my degree. Finally, I hope I can address the issues with water coolers, so they can be replaced over the weekend.

I hope you choose me again for CAF Officer!

## 6.2 Questions

From **Neelakshi Dua** – What’s your favourite part of the role?

**RC** – I like being involved because I’m nosy. I get to see the things that don’t particularly matter but also engage with catering and housekeeping. I also get to see all the fun feedback about catering.

From **JM** – Currently a side in hall doesn’t depend on the portion size and that might dissuade people from getting healthier options, what can we do?

**RC** – Portions are supposed to be standardised. Sides should be a quarter of the plate, and mains are half. This comes down to staff, and I need to talk to Ian, I’m not sure what I can do about that.

From **SR** – At some colleges, perhaps Queens, there is a fixed charge of 3 pounds for a meal, can we implement that?

**RC** – I would like to have more control over price, but I know that the staff won’t be willing. I want food to be more affordable, but I don’t think college will go for that, but that’s not a reflection of my job or of catering.

# 7. Welfare

## 7.1 Neelakshi Dua (**ND**)

I’m Neelakshi, studying first-year Econs. I’m friendly always up for a chat, which makes me perfect for welfare. I won’t complain about work and will always be happy to chat. I’d like to think that I’m a friendly face in the library. In terms of my policies, I want animal therapy, arts and crafts, and more themed parties.

Imagine you are really stressed after a long day of supervisions and lectures, so practically every day. Imagine you have the chance to walk a fluffy dog along the beautiful streets of Cambridge. Petting a dog has been shown to be highly correlated with happiness. To pursue this goal, Heidi should come in more often, and we should know when she’s in so we can visit her. Staff also have pets which, after a little convincing, we might be able to interact with.

We need paint-n-sips so that people can reveal their inner artist, or chuck paint at a canvas. It’s a good way to relax and have a good time.

I want more themed Parteas – I would work with the international officer and the ethnic minorities officer for events such as Black Hstory Month to spice them up.

I hope you vote for me as the next welfare officer.

## 7.2 Brandon Davidson (**BD**)

Hey everyone - it is lovely to see you all! My name is Brandon, I use he/him pronouns and I am a 3rd Year Psychological and Behavioural Sciences student and I hope to be one of your Welfare Officers.

So, to start with, I just want to give a little background about me and why I think I am qualified to be a welfare officer here today.

Aside from doing a literal degree in mental health, I also volunteer weekly as a mental health support worker for the online messaging service ‘Shout’. In this service, people message in times of moderate and severe distress, and I both signpost them to the relevant professional services for their issue, but also use a range of de-escalation techniques to help people process their emotions, and just be there as someone to listen to and talk through one’s issues with. I believe this experience makes me uniquely qualified to fill one of the welfare slots today.

In addition, I am a 3rd year: I hope with these years of experience at this University that I am well accustomed with the unique challenges - both academic and social, that encompass being a student - and will both be able to listen to and provide support regarding any issue, no matter how big or small you perceive it to be.

I aim to create a ‘mental health signposting document’. This policy is more admin-focused, but is something that should be very simple to create. This document will aim to provide a roadmap of the different avenues you can access mental health support - and what this might look like for someone utilising them - both through the university or through the NHS. For example, how to contact your relevant GP, what to expect from the initial meeting, what are they likely to respond with etc.What I hope to do with this policy is remove the mystique and fog around accessing mental health support - no matter how severe. Admitting you need support is such a challenging initial step, I would not want anyone to be deterred by the daunting process of actually accessing that support.

Now, we all know the Parteas, we all love the Parteas. However, I think it’s about time that the welfare events demonstrate a bit more variety. Parteas, by nature, exist as both a social space, and a way people can speak to their welfare officers in an informal context. By diversifying the welfare contexts through coffee mornings, arts and crafts, movie and TV show viewings would encourage attendance and help better foster a community within the college. With a larger range of events, there will be something for everyone!

Finally, I want to continue the push for readily-available first aid supplies in public spaces without the middle-man of the porters. One way of doing this may be through liaising with Erika, our college nurse, or by allocating a small-portion of the budget to treasury basic first aid supplies. Thank you all for listening, and I hope you all enjoy the rest of the hustings!

## 7.3 Jakob Heathcote (**JHC**)

Good evening, my name is Jakob, my pronouns are he/him and I am a first year Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celticist. As an ASNaC, I am fortunate to enough have a good non-Corpus support base. While having alternatives for welfare is good, Corpus is for me as it is for many of you, the main place of support. It is for this reason I want to run as a welfare officer: to make welfare at Corpus better — to help you.

The single most important thing for a welfare officer is to be someone you can talk to. And it is this that is important for me above all else: being approachable to anyone and everyone at Corpus. But there are other things a welfare officer can do to help improve the overall welfare at Corpus. Perhaps one of the most essential events in any Cambridge week are the ParTeas. Not only is there free food but they are a great opportunity to catch up with friends and the welfare officers. Supporting ParTeas is something close to my heart, and if I were to be elected a welfare officer, I wish to make them more accessible by ensuring a greater variety of vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirement are met.

As welfare officer, I also promise to introduce more fun welfare events throughout the terms. These will range from board games nights to arts and crafts nights. Such events like these will be welfare alternatives for those who prefer a calmer Cambridge life.

Finally, but by no means least, as many may have seen on Pelikind or at the Presidential hustings or even these hustings, the issue of a more permanent welfare animal has been debated. Heidi is great. Yet, when Heidi isn’t here, what’s a Corpuscle to do? By working with the college and the president and the other welfare officers, I hope to get a permanent welfare animal, with a survey going out to you to decide whether Corpus wants a welfare cat or dog.

Welfare is the key to surviving Cambridge more generally. Having successful organised welfare events for the ASNaC freshers as well as having had welfare roles in youth groups previously, I believe that, if you were to elect me alongside the other welfare officers, I can make a difference in helping you.

## 7.4 Leila Branfoot (**LB**)

I’m Leila a first year MMLer, my pronouns are she/her. Do you like being happy, and dislike being sad? If yes, vote for me, but I also have good policy. I want college spa nights, at least twice termly. Who doesn’t love a bit of group relaxation? Picture a JCR, whale music, nail painting, massages. I feel less stressed just thinking about it.

If that’s not for you, I suggest the pigeonhole welfare service. You can text a JCR officer to have something given to a friend. It’s often the highlights of the week or month, and definitely beats the CUCA term card.

I also want to increase the volume of snacks at Parteas, they go so quickly. And let’s get some actual tea, maybe even crumpets too.

I promise, if it’s the last thing I do, we will get a cat. My cat Gary is 75% of my wellbeing, we are all missing cat energy in our lives, even if you’re a dog person. In Corpus we’re not getting enough pussy, I will do anything to make sure we get it.

On a serious note, I’m an MMLer which means I’m a good chat and so perfect for the role. Thank you for listening.

## 7.5 Questions

From a **College Member** – What do your courses teach you about living happily?

**LB** – MML is all about connecting with other people, which is the key to wellbeing. We need to share our experiences and find common ground.

**JHC** – As an ASNC the languages have taught me to be optimistic. I’ve also learnt to be more social at university, which is a skill I can bring to welfare.

**BD** – Doing psychology teaches me about depression which obviously transfers.

**ND** – The Easterlin paradox correlates money to happiness. If you have more you are, the happier you are the more you earn.

From a **College Member** - You can get a college animal, but not a cat or dog?

**LB** - I have a hierarchy of animals. Ideally, I’d like a racoon. It needs to be fluffy and docile, hamsters are useless for that. I reckon I’d get a rabbit.

**JHC** – Animals need to be stroked and pet, why have one otherwise? Everyone loves rabbits, so I’d get one of those.

**BD** – I had a hamster when I was 7, and so think its spiritual successor should come here

**ND** – Obviously it’s a pelican.

**AZ** – What is your most financially demanding policy, and how will you secure the funds?

**LB** – Getting a pet has maintenance costs such as food. The benefits are huge, so the joy is worth the few tins of cat food. Paying for more Partea food shouldn’t cost much.

**JHC** – Most of my policies are only a slight increase in what we’re doing. A pet is expensive, but this would be done with the MCR and the college which could lead to combined funding.

**BD** – I didn’t promise a pet, but by diversifying events we can redistribute money into different events.

**ND** – As an economist I’m great at budgeting and cutting costs. Arts and crafts and paints-n-sips have materials that can be reused for the next events.

From **Luke Thorne** – How would you run the welfare zones during slacks?

**LB** - I haven’t encountered one yet. Having a quiet peaceful zone with a closed door is an amazing idea that I’d like to continue

**JHC** – I’ve not been to a slack yet, but I’d like to keep it going. I’d like to introduce something for people who don’t go to slacks so that people can enjoy corpus without being uncomfortable.

**BD** – Tea relaxes me, so I think that’s what we should do.

**ND** – I’d have an alternative event such as, Netflix, board games or a movie.

From **IP** – Are you prepared to deal with the sensitive issues some people might bring to you?

**LB** – I spent 6 moths answering phones at a GP surgery and that prepared me for anything. Most importantly, I won’t judge you.

**JHC** – I’ve done some training in welfare, and no judgement and confidentiality are both key.

**BD** – When I worked for Shout there is extensive training on how to respond to sensitive situations in the best way

**ND** – I haven’t had much training, but most people know that I am a confidential person, and I always offer helpful outlooks. I’m here as a happy person to help others.

# 

# Sports and Socs

## 8.1 Michael O’Donnell (**MOD**)

I’m a first year, studying economics and I currently playing for the Corpus rugby team. This has allowed me to understand what a positive impact sport can have. I’ve made friends within and out college. This has also been expressed in the Corpus challenge, with its bop. These sports are netball, basketball, pool, table tennis, perhaps darts. This tradition, dating back a last century, has experienced a hiatus for the next year. I pledge to bring this back for the next year. This might be unlikely or near impossible. However, according to Corpus Christi Oxford’s website they are looking forward to its return this year, so there might be some hope. As your future officer, I will plan a successful challenge with my Oxford counterpart, as opposed to a T street challenge as my opponent suggests.

I want more sports societies which allow people to connect, within and beyond College. I’m often in the JCR, bar or library and because I sometimes miss my lectures, I’m pretty easy to contact.

This concludes my speech and I hope you all vote for your interest, primarily the return of the Corpus challenge.

## 8.2 Owen Marlovits (**OM**)

Hi, I’m Owen, I'm a first year engineer running for sports and societies officer. I chose to run for this role as I am deeply involved in many sports at corpus and thus it is my interest to do this role to the best of my ability. The current officer is not particularly good at responding. I was as disappointed as everyone else to find out that the Corpus challenge had been cancelled, but we must face the reality that lent term is fast approaching and we will be unlikely to change the mind of Corpus Oxford's dean and organise the challenge in time. Thus, I have proposed a T street challenge, this should be easier to plan and more likely to happen, where we could compete against St Cats or maybe Queens in various sporting challenges, culminating in formals and slacks at both colleges. I equally want the Corpus challenge to return to its original form but that will have to be put off for this year and we can try again next year.

For those of you that have tried to start a society you may be aware of the lack of response from the current officer, many people have instead just contacted another member of the JCR. I pledge to respond in some form within 24hrs and help to the best of my ability with the current process of writing funding proposals and statement of the purpose of the society.

Due to Corpus's small size many people have run into the issue of an insufficient number of people for their society to exist, this is especially an issue for sports teams (I've heard murmurs of some people wanting a cricket team). I will attempt to communicate with nearby colleges to see if we can create combined college teams so that we can achieve a greater variety of sports and allow people to do what they want to do.

Finally, the sports and societies roster on the JCR website contains many societies that no longer exist, I will work with the computing officer to update this.

## 8.3 Questions

From **Kitty Joyce** – The challenge was cancelled because they stole stuff for us, how do we stop this in future?

**OM** – We’ll have to rely on the dean, we can’t lock everything down.

**MOD** – In terms of our behaviour it’s been stellar, we are certainly more civilised. We need to be able to contact the dean of Oxford to combat tomfoolery.

From a **College Member** - How do ensure that women and non-binary teams receive the same funding?

**OM** – It’s important to me that they receive the same funding. This also forms part of collaborating with other societies, as well as across colleges, to pool funds and ensure a wider range of societies. I will work with the treasurer to make sure this happens.

**MOD** – I second this, I think pursuing sport teams that combine people from different colleges helps funding and numbers. We need a good look at the budget to ensure equal funding.

From **Madelyn Sala** - What uniquely qualifies you for the role?

**OM** – I’m currently involved in multiple societies and I’ve also tried to start one.

**MOD** – I can be quite persuasive, and considering my biggest challenge will involve convincing the dean of Oxford, that could be helpful.

# 

# Ents

## 9.1 Luke Thorne (**LT**)

I’m Luke a first year Phys Natsci, and I’d like to change our reputation of being room dwellers. I haven’t prepared a speech as I think speaking off the cuff is easier. Slacks are not awful but can definitely be improved. We need good music, which is hard to come by in Cambridge, in most of the clubs the music is shite. I propose a group Spotify playlist, where you can contribute 3 songs each. In terms of organising all of this, I will rely heavily on other people but I’m sure they’ll do a great job.

The pub quiz I went to was abhorrent, a group of 10 people won because of their overwhelming numbers. I will impose a limit of 6 people, and a 2-pound entry fee so that there’s a good prize at the end. A 30-pound prize among 6 people can go a long way. There will also be more drinks, somehow.

As for open mic, I remember it being pretty good. I particularly remember Jess running around with a piano. I would also introduce a talent show, beyond the open mics, because everyone here is so talented. I’ve seen the manifestos; the ideas are good and so I’d be more than willing to steal some of them.

As for the pool tournament, as an avid player I think that would be great, as well as table football. Have a look at the other manifestos for what I might consider doing. I don’t know if this is cheating or not, I’m definitely open to suggestions. I think that’s it

## 9.2 Livia Bell (**LB**)

## Friends, ravers and old sports of Corpus,

Do you feel that you are beating on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly towards the Taylor Library? Are you spiritually exhausted by the (frankly atrocious) Cambridge clubbing scene? Are you a fan of stirring rhetorical questions? If you relate, I may be the fresh new Ents Officer candidate for you!

Why me?, I hear you ask. I consider myself a strong candidate to be your Ents Officer this year because I have been grinding as an unpaid party planner since the ripe old age of 2. I believe that my experience in planning numerous Harry Potter, Wicked, Marvel, Scooby Doo and emoji themed parties over the years will help me to organise slacks to be the envy of Camfess contributors for years to come. I organised the yearbook and prom at my senior school – need I say more?

So, what do I bring to the table? As your Ents Officer, I will ensure that there is at least one social event taking place each week. The Peli will never be deserted.

I will arrange for existing events such as pub quizzes, slacks and film nights to be held more frequently. I will arrange more frequent open mic nights, which could be tailored to specific genres, including jazz, musical theatre, Bridgemas and more.  
Slacks will be reinvented – I will put the wristband system to death, and hold multiple slacks for individual year groups instead.

I will trial new events – think bar nights for significant sporting matches, Eurovision parties, karaoke nights, and cocktail evenings. I will introduce termly pool and table football tournaments, with Krispy Kremes and eternal glory at stake.

I will ensure that the entertainment facilities owned by the JCR are better preserved, which may be facilitated by the creation of a college-financed ‘Entertainment fund’. I will campaign for the refurbishment of the pool and football tables, and the maintenance and replacement of the JCR’s board games when necessary.

I will procure a wider variety of board and video games for the JCR, and create a game loan system to prevent them from going missing! I will bring you Wii and Mario Kart – the JCR will no longer be a place of ping pong and tears. I will source a dart board for the Peli, so that teaching people to play pool will not be the only option for the rizz gods of Corpus. Get practising.

As your Ents rep, I would also collaborate with other college members to trial a wider range of events. For instance, in the spirit of Mean Girls, I would love to work with the Gender Equalities and Access Officers to introduce a series of pink Wednesday coffee mornings, in support of local women’s health charities such as Maggie’s or Future Dreams. I will also democratically consult the entire student body (via Instagram polls) to determine which events would be most in demand, and decide on certain slack themes.

Summarily, I would love to act as your Ents Officer this year – in Gatsby’s words, the honour would be entirely mine, if you could attend my little parties!

## 9.3 Ella Ducker (**ED**)

Hi! I’m Ella! I’m a second year English student and I really do love a slack. I am there from the very beginning until the very end. I dance until I drop.

I do, however, also like the more ‘boring’ side of event organising. I'm currently producing a play in Corpus Chapel, and last year I produced a play in the Fellows’ Garden. So, I’ve built good relationships with College staff and have an understanding of their event planning process and the sorts of problems that often come up.

I also organised our end of year events in Sixth Form, gauging popular opinion and balancing this with what would work practically, putting on a week of fun events that ran smoothly.

I’d love to involve students more in the planning of events, inviting everyone to suggest and vote on themes and music for slacks. Pyjama party anyone?! I’d hope to work with Liberation Officers to have slacks after themed formals for more religious festivals and days like International Women’s Day.

I love decorating. My life here cannot begin until my room is perfectly decorated – my noticeboard went through 4 iterations! However, I’m conscious of the environmental impact of decorations, while tinsel is pretty it is pure plastic, and so would use reusable and recyclable ones.

Last year’s St Patrick's Day Sleck was so fun! I’d love to work with the MCR to hold more Clecks. Leck is also a bigger and better venue for joint events and this would mean no wristbands!

I’m part of a pub quiz team back home and enjoy making quizzes for events with friends and family. I’d love to have a fun variety of quiz rounds and change up the format of questions, making quizzes more fun and easier for everyone to get involved.

Pub quizzes have worked well on Saturdays, it’s nice to have something to do in College over the weekend, and so I’d like to hold more events over the weekend when it can be easy to feel a little lost, especially when starting at Cambridge.

Some of my favourite evenings have been Open Mic nights. It was particularly special in the chapel- I’d love to hold more here. It was so lovely to hear different types of music that evening and I’d love to encourage more people to perform different genres.

My favourite spot in college is the Fellows’ Garden. I’d like to have events there, and over in Leck Gardens, when it’s warmer. This could work well in Easter when we can’t have as many events because of noise restrictions and to provide relaxing events as a break from revision. Thank you for your time this evening.

## 9.4 Questions

From **Lucy Brougham** – How would you feel about join slacks or bops with other colleges?

**ED** – We’ve done a few in the past, it would be great to meet other people especially as a freshers’ event.

**LB** – We’re a small college so this makes sense. The one with Catz was a flop because not many people knew about it. I would work with the secretary to ensure that bops are well attended.

**LT** – You can’t really argue against it, they should be more frequent and better advertised so more people come.

From **ND** – What’s your favourite song or artist?

**ED** – I’m a Swiftie, before I go to bed I’ve been listened to a remixed version of Message in a Bottle.

**LB** – I’m a massive Britney fan with a playlist called girly pop.

**LT** – I love Kendrick Lamar, but my favourite song recently is The Copacabana.

From **JHC** – How do you plan to fund these events?

**ED** – I’d work with the treasurer and make sure to use reusable decorations.

**LB** – Discourse with the treasurer is definitely helpful. Some of these events wouldn’t cost much, such as tournaments and quizzes. An entertainment fund would be helpful to fund more expensive events such as slacks.

**LT** – What they’ve suggested wouldn’t cost much, a Spotify playlist is free.

# 

# Disabled Students’ Officer

## 10.1 Katie Meldrum (**KM**)

I could speak about change all evening, but I want to talk about being DSO. Being disabled makes things much harder. Being an officer can feel impossible. It even makes it hard on the rest of the committee because on bad days I’ll be a nightmare to interact with me.

I’m an information junkie and know lots about disability, I have an exceptional memory and am very passionate about the role. In daily life I often have to hide my disability, however I’d like to take up space on the JCR. Poppy Jaman recently gave a lecture on how mental health conditions are not a recipe for failure – some kindness often goes a long way. However, the darker side is often not talked about. I want to increase understanding among the student body. We often aren’t aware of many of the issues, because disability silences people in two different ways. Disabled people are silenced by their disability and society. I aim to work harder on issues that are often side-lined. For instance, some students don’t have diagnoses because that might be expensive to procure. However, you often need a diagnosis when dealing with university administration when applying, for instance, for dispensations around examinations. The ADRC is useful but they have little funding and so much of their work flies under the radar; the Crane Charity Fund was expanded so that students can find diagnoses for neurodivergence, meanwhile NHS waiting lists are about 5 years long. I want to make sure everyone knows what resources they can access. If you want my policies, you can read my manifesto.

## 10.2 Flori Sharpe (**FS**)

Hey girlies! For those of you who don’t know me, I am not offended because I live miles and miles away at the end of a treacherous deadly journey; Trumpington street accommodation. So, to quickly introduce myself, I am Flori I am a third year ASNC and the ASNC Soc Welfare Officer, originally from Peterborough, and my pronouns are they/them.

Being a third year means I am wise (sure), experienced (probably), and most importantly, excited to give back to the community that I am not quite ready to leave behind. After having faced numerous mental and physical obstacles during my time here, I am well acquainted with what works well in Corpus and what doesn’t. This leads me to the biggest thing I would like to do if I am elected to be your DSO. As someone who in first year was not sure if they were ‘disabled enough’ to access help, and seeing the same mindset in freshers and third years alike now, I would like to create a comprehensive document illuminating what support is out there and who can access it. The document would start with a foreword about what constitutes a disability, the legal definition being a long term physical or mental impairment and offering as extensive a list as possible of what this may mean. After this list, there would be two sections split into physical and mental which would offer a list of resources accessible from college, the university, and Cambridge services as a whole. This document would be a ‘living’ document, at the start and end of every term, preferably with Erika, myself and then future DSOs after me would review the document to keep the information up to date.

Even though I may love admin, I know that isn’t the most exciting thing to hear about, so I have some other slay ideas as well. I would love to help foster a sense of unity in the disabled community here, and to do this I have two main ideas. One; rebrand and reintroduce the ‘Disabili-teas’ making them more frequent and less like a libertea; doing this through having a few welfare focused events, and then some discussion events where members can share ideas, thoughts, and exciting news. Two; the possibility of a mailing list. I am aware that not everyone who is disabled is comfortable sharing that fact, be this to peers or their DSO, so to still have them a part of the community I would like to create a mailing list; keeping anonymity key by having Erika help create it with me. The mailing list would see an email sent fortnightly with updates on college events like the disabili-teas, any university wide events happening, for example workshops in the student services building, and wholesome news of the week pertaining to accomplishments from disabled people, be this celebrities or any news a corpuscle would like to share.

Whilst I may have some new ideas, I am really keen to explore some old ones as well which never came to fruition. Particularly, Cee’s sunflower scheme. Cee was DSO before Malachi and brought to college a project called the Sunflower Scheme. The project in essence is bipartite. The first phase would see corpuscles be able to make it known that they may need some provisions made in terms of accommodation. A sticker would be placed on their door which would highlight to bedders, porters, or any other staff that may need access to their room that the student inside may need longer to come to their door or may not be able to at all; helping to reduce questions or awkwardness.

The second part of the scheme would see students being able to access more help with everyday activities. The scheme would allow students to fill out a form mentioning what everyday tasks they struggle with which college would be able to help out with; namely, washing up, changing bedding, moving laundry to laundry rooms etc. Given staff and the disability champion have changed since this was first explored, I would like to see it re-examined. I do have some other ideas about hall and stim toys but see my manifesto for those.

I’ve also noticed a witty catchphrase is baso a requirement now so to finish my speech off; Go with the flo! For DSO! Thank you!

## 10.3 Questions

From **Ayesha Miah** – Do you have proposals for educating all students?

**FS** – I’d want a road map document concerning freshers’ week to get written immediately so that we could pass it around college.

**KM** – I agree with the freshers’ week talk, and Harley did a good talk for Pride Month. I want a similar one for Disability Pride Month. I’d also use the Instagram to promote good stuff so people know which events are on.

From **Madelyn Sala** – Do you have ideas about making college spaces better for disabled students?

**FS** – I want to tackle hall and JCR. Hall is overstimulating, I would think about implementing a quiet time, perhaps 30 minutes before hall usually opens.

**KM** – I want a disabled students fund to buy headphones, or things that make the library more accessible. We also need better accessibility statements for events and areas.

From **RC** – Do you have any interest in working with other colleges?

**FS** – I’m quite insular, so haven’t been to many colleges, but I would like to see how they operate. This might also include joint talks, or formals.

**KM** – Newnham have a disabled students fund, so I stole that idea from them. This would be easy to do, it was very successful. I would run a support group, perhaps across colleges to maintain numbers.

# 

# Ethnic Minorities

## 11.1 Ayesha Miah (**AM**)

I am a first-year geographer, she/her. Corpus is amazing but ethnic minorities face challenges. Many of us can tell you about casual racism, some people obviously didn’t get home training. I want to edit the workshops to work on racism and microaggressions, not all prejudice in one PowerPoint. I think we can definitely increase feelings of solidarity, so I would aim to run more events, such as pizza nights and game nights. I also want formals for ethnic and religious events. I think we should bring back the BME family schemes.

To tackle underrepresentation, I would encourage prospective students, through talks and open days. I know that other colleges do them because I attended their events. We definitely need wider student input on the role so that the officer knows what to provide or suggest.

Ethnic minorities aren’t homogenous, especially in light of intersectionality. There should be more collaboration between liberation officers and me so that we can tailor activities for everyone.

In terms of my experience, I am a geography student rep, I also work the STG hub, and the Corpus film soc. Please come to the film events. I love ethnic minorities. If you vote for me, I’ll make sure that everyone feels welcome.

## 11.2 Questions

From **Tridha Haritwal** – How do you secure funding for all of these events?

**AM** – I will talk to the treasurer. Many of these events have been done in the past so I don’t see why we can’t put them on again. In any case, game nights are cheap.

From **Melita Rodrigues** – How would the BME family system work?

**AM** – I want to gauge interest first, focusing on next year, operating alongside the college family scheme.

From **Lia Joffe** – How would change the college family scheme to ensure that people have a better experience, or would you change the scheme?

**AM** – We need to gauge interest first of all. When you write the form on your college parents it’s all about self-id, so we can try and match based on that

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# International

## 12.1 Tridha Haritwal (**TH**)

I’m a first year from India doing PBS. My policies include an online handbook to help students transition to life in the UK. This would include things that seem obvious to many of you. For example, it took me 4 weeks to set up a bank account and I didn’t know which medicine to take because they have different names in the UK. I want to make this process easier. The document would comprehensively cover medicine, credit cards, student discounts, and supermarkets, among other things.

I’d like to help students make a smooth transition; this includes revamping international freshers’ week. I want more welfare workshops that work on intolerance and casual racism. I think we should extend freshers week to ensure that people can relax a little more and work out how to integrate. I’d like to run events throughout the term, for instance, Parteas and socials. This is all part of creating a diverse environment so that students can meet people from other backgrounds.

I want to make holidays and slacks on festival days more elaborate. Diwali, Eid and Dia de los Muertos. I also want more themed formals like other colleges. In the long-term I’d want more accommodation for international students beyond being relegated to Bin Court and Bene’t street. I’d also like to increase the number of storage spaces available.

## 12.2 Questions

From **ND** – What’s your favourite part of moving to Cambridge?

**TH** – People follow the traffic rules here.

From **RC** – What did you enjoy about your freshers’ week?

**TH** – The constant events and being shuttled around everywhere, forces you to know people and settle in, even if you might feel exhausted.

# LGBTQ+

## 13.1 Ben Bowers (**BB**)

My name is Ben, I use he/him pronouns, and I’m a first year AMES student from near Manchester. I’m running for the role of king of the gays! I’m a trans man and I’m queer. And that has had a surprising amount of affect on my academic life than you might think. Putting aside the general prejudices of individual people, there is so much of what you might call “institutional ignorance” still remaining in academia today. It can sometimes feel as if teachers and admin staff just don’t know how to interact with you if you’re an openly LGBTQ+ student. Especially as a trans student, there’s so many little inconveniences that can pile up - from having the wrong name in the register to avoiding sports teams or clubs because you don’t know if they’d let you join. I believe, and I hope you would all agree, that LGBTQ+ students shouldn’t have to face anxieties that other students do not.

If I am elected for this position, I promise to not only be a figure for LGBTQ+ students to confide in and represent them, but I promise to always be working to make this college a safe and fair place for everyone. I will encourage open communication and conversation. There should be no such thing as silly questions - making identities into awkward or taboo topics will only create more isolation. Transparency and comfortability is an integral part of my proposals.

My first proposal aims to create more transparency in terms of societies, especially sports societies. Personally, since coming out as trans I have avoided sports teams that split the teams by sex, as I never know where I’ll end up. On the Cambridge SU website there is a trans-inclusion pledge that societies can choose to sign, essentially stating they accept the inclusion of trans students and, at the very least, trans students will be allowed to train with the team they feel most comfortable doing so with. My proposal is that on the JCR society list it should be visible whether or not a society has chosen to sign this pledge.

My second proposal is to do with admin. It appears that when creating UPAY and email accounts, the college uses the legal name of the students. My proposal is, very simply, that they should use the preferred names of the students when creating these accounts.

My third and final proposal is that I want to increase the number of LGBTQ+ events, particularly in pride month and LGBTQ+ history month. This includes formals, slacks, pub crawls, movie nights etc. As well as educational workshops and events. But I would also like to encourage that society events (if possible) could do LGBTQ+ themed events during these months. Such as in my society where we discuss literature in each event, we could, for example, look at the presentation of queer couples in literature for one event during pride month.

Ultimately, the environment at Corpus is one of the most accepting and tolerant communities I’ve had the pleasure of living in. As your LGBTQ+ officer, I would love to maintain and build upon this wonderful atmosphere, and represent your needs as king of the gays. Thank you for your time.

## 13.2 Questions

From **Harry Cullen** – What could college do to support trans students?

**BB** – They do work to make people aware, but there are many inconveniences, especially around admin.

From **HC** – I got asked this when I ran for the role, what’s the gayest thing you’ve ever done?

**BB** – I guess, love a man?

From **IP** – How would you organise a pride month?

**BB** – Obviously slacks and formals. I know that Newnham did a Drag themed formal. Maybe we could also have queer directed movie nights.

# Gender Equalities

## 14.1 Lily Brough (**LB**)

My name is Lily and my pronouns are she/her, I’m 2nd year HSPS. I’m big on well-being and activism. Gender equality has real world consequences, including gaps in degree classes. I want to focus on compassion, mutual respect, and inclusivity. This would improve the well-being of all in college. I am big on intersectional feminism, focusing especially on how inequalities compound.

I want bi-termly forums to talk about negative experiences with gender. I would also want an anonymous online form if people aren’t able to talk about them openly.

I want to ensure that college are using the right names and pronouns around college, for instance on students’ doors and documents.

I want to run intersectional events with other officers. I want craft nights and pub quizzes with other colleges. I’d like to continue the international women’s day formal and invite alumnae to talk about how gender equality has evolved at Corpus.

I would also want to focus on trans awareness and run events for men’s mental health month.

I want period products in bathrooms and ensure that they are sustainable. I want students with painful periods to receive support like heat pads and TENS machines. I also want to ensure the gender expression fund is well stocked.

I care about the community here and want to make a difference, that’s why I’m running to be officer.

## 14.2 Lucy Brougham (**LBH**)

I’m Lucy, my pronouns are she/her, I do first year English, and would like to be the officer. This year celebrates 40 years of women at Corpus, I am honoured to have done the same, although this is an appalling record. I want to continue the welcoming environment that I experienced here. 40 years is not enough time to erase a culture that has been developing since the Black Death.

I recently went to a talk by Sandi Toksvig who moved me to tears when discussing her experience at university here. Connecting to alumni who are female, trans etc., would help me understand how we have developed over time. I want to utilise the facilities here, such as the McCrum, to ensure that alumni can come and visit.

Corpus is exemplary when working on equality. I want to open dialogue with other JCRs so that we can learn from each other. I want a network for night safety, based on a similar programme in Manchester.

I cherish the ability to have safe spaces, such as Fem Soc, yet I believe that working towards equality involves conversation between all. We need constructive discussion, like the workshops in freshers’ week, to continue throughout the year.

Gender equality doesn’t exist in a vacuum; therefore, I will work with other liberation officers. This will require much work, but I will put the work in. I have been described as headstrong and bossy, which I think makes be perfect for the role.

## 14.3 Alice Abraham (**AA**)

Hi! My name is Alice, I’m a first-year English student and I am running for gender equalities officer because I want to actively help Corpus become a more welcoming college.

I may not have any experience of being on the JCR, considering I only just got here, but I’ve got a solid 19 years of feminism under my belt. I have also been a student council rep for all three schools that I attended, and thus I am experienced with leading and participating in student-led discussions. If elected, I would like to expand femsoc to include social events. The discussions we have been having are both eye-opening and reassuring, but some social activities would go a long way to create a strong community. I think we could also grow this community, with collaborations with gender equalities officers from other colleges.

Additionally, I wish to implement an anonymous reporting system for gender-based complaints, whether it be instances of transphobia, sexism or harmful gender stereotypes - stuff that is usually considered ‘too small’ to report, but can have a genuinely detrimental impact on a student’s self-esteem. We can use these anonymous reports to find trends, and act accordingly – this may include expanding the workshops at the start of term.

I would also collaborate with the LGBTQ+ officer to raise funds for the Gender Expression Fund – because for everyone to feel welcome, it is absolutely necessary that students have the ability and resources to express themselves in a way that is true to them.

I would also like to emphasise that taking an intersectional approach is what I consider to be the most important aspect of this role, and would like to look into collaborating with other liberation officers.

Ultimately, it is a sense of belonging that I want to foster for all students. I think Cambridge has a long way to go before women and transgender students feel especially welcome, considering the mass of old white men looking down at us from every wall, and the questionable Cambridge Union speakers they invite. I want to be someone who is actively helping. I’m sure a lot of us have felt like we don’t belong – looking at you stem girlies - I personally come from a gypsy family (who do not particularly value education) where I was the first person to go to uni and the first woman to make it to 19 without having a baby. In other words, I know the burden of breaking stereotypes, and I can confidently say how much easier this burden is to carry when those around you are welcoming. Please vote for me because I promised my grandad I would not go to uni and become a ‘woke feminist’ and I would love to break that promise.

## 14.4 Questions

From **Jessica Sambrook** – Who do you look up to and why?

**AA** – I know it’s very sappy, but my mum.

**LBH** – Not Alice’s mum, but mine as well because she’s so wise, but also Sandi Toksvig.

**LB** – I also love my mom, but Angela Davis has been especially inspirational.

From **AM** – What does intersectionality mean to you?

**AA** – It’s hard, because there is no gypsy representation, but it does impact my feminism

**LBH** – I want to understand other people’s experiences, and make sure I’m not speaking for them

**LB** – I want to understand how different identities can impact individual experience

From **AM** – How would you support women of colour?

**AA** – I want to expand femsoc to include discussion that include women of colour, Ayesha is my college wife so I’d be married to the ethnic minorities officer.

**LBH** – I won’t be married to the ethnic minorities officer, but I’d aim to run collaborative events to recognising when it’s not my place to speak.

**LB** – Have forums throughout term would help. I’d aim to make everyone feel as safe as possible to talk to different groups of people while feeling supported

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# Class Act

## 15.1 Harley Chidley (**HC**)

Hello everyone, my name is Harley, my pronouns are they/them, and I am a 2nd year lawyer.

You guys might know that I’m currently on the JCR as the LGBTQ+ officer, NOT the social media officer, contrary to popular belief. Although, this does mean that I am well-experienced and comfortable engaging with college administration on all issues of welfare and liberation.

I feel complete with what I’ve contributed to that role, but now I’m ready to take on a new challenge; promising the same level of enthusiasm that I’ve shown in the past year in the effort to give life a role which can only be described as currently dead.

Please know that I am excited, not intimidated, by working with a blank canvas here because it gives me lots to explore about what a Class Act officer actually means, and what it has to give - looking at other colleges for their example, and committing myself to matching them.

Obviously, I want to have fun with the role too, by hosting social events, be it formal or informal. Though my primary aim, obviously, lies in advocating for class issues. But I’m conscious this means something different to everyone.

Without getting too personal: since coming here, I’ve struggled a lot with my class identity, dealing with a lot of impostor syndrome, which is both isolating and debilitating, yet apparently “perfectly normal”, despite how unsettling that is.

But like I said, that’s just me. The point is I want to raise awareness of how class issues manifest themselves in others’ lives, so we can work on alleviating them.

One way of achieving this, I believe, is by developing the social fabric of college, perhaps through establishing a society - if people are interested in that. Also by bursting our bubble: I’ve been pointed in the direction of charities that work with class students, so getting on board with their efforts seems like a healthy starting point.

It’s not without a lot of thought that I'm deciding to run this year, trust me. And the Class Act Officer seems - personally - very different to what I’ve done before.

Let’s face it, being a massive fucking queer in Cambridge, let alone Corpus, when there is a strong and loud community here which makes it a lot easier to be confident about it. With Class, those conversations are much quieter. And whilst our college, in particular, has taken it in their stride to change this, I think we need more than just getting our foot in the door: we need loud and continued support too.

This is something I want to make happen. For you. But also for me. And I ask that you are gentle with me through this, because it is genuinely important to me. Speaking transparently, I’m still growing in confidence about this part of my identity every day. And at the risk of sounding like a total wet-wipe, this is a journey I would love for us to navigate together.

If you would have me. Thank you for listening.

## 15.2 Questions

From **FS** – As a class student myself, how would the role be separated from access and how will you make that happen?

**HC** – There is a lot of crossover, but there is also with lots of the other roles as well. I’d work with all of the liberation officers to ensure everyone is represented.

From **Flossie Adrian** – First off, proud of you babe. For other groups officers are the liberation officers, but with class act, much of the time it focuses on assimilation into Cambridge, how would you make it feel like we are taking up space?

**HC** – You’re right, it is important for me to be distinct and loud, because it hasn’t been in the past. Working with the charities will help.

From **MOD** – There is overlap with access, what are the differences?

**HC** – Access is with prospective students, so it doesn’t have to look at underrepresented categories. Class act should be more focused.

Meeting ends at 22.27