1. Background

The Students’ Union (the SU) at Royal Holloway, University of London aims to be a key part of the student experience and to provide outstanding representation, welfare services and extra-curricular activities for all students at Royal Holloway. We pride ourselves on being able to be an integral part of the lives of all our students – not just typical 18-21 year old home students, but also mature, post-grad and international students, who make up a significant part of the community here. The SU supports over 30 sports clubs and 60 societies who play an active part in community work and act as keen advocates within the local community.

The SU is led by four full time ‘Sabbatical Officers’ elected by the student body, and these officers are aided by the Executive Committee and a team of permanent and part time staff members. The Sabbatical Officers cover numerous areas of the organisation’s work, such as campaigning, sports, societies, volunteering, commercial services, community engagement, charity fundraising, sustainability, communications, elections and much more. The wider world is at the forefront of our concerns, whether this be encouraging more students to vote in elections, campaigning over green issues or ensuring the considerations of the local community are taken into account in all areas of our activity.

Around 3000 students are housed in halls of residence on campus, and others commute from a distance or are on a study abroad programme, but many live in the local community – Royal Holloway is situated within close distance to both Egham and the village of Englefield Green – and the SU is always keen to ensure that all of our students are creating a positive impression within our local surroundings.

The SU feels it is important to produce a Community Strategy to ensure that we are aware of the community environment, carry on the good work we are doing, and ensure we strive to continue and improve our relationships and projects within the local community. The SU is very fortunate in that it has good relations with the College across numerous areas, and in particular the Community Liaison & Support office. We work closely with Helen Groenendaal, the Community Liaison & Support Officer, to ensure the SU is constantly working within the College’s community guidelines and that best practice is always shared.
2. Housing and U let

The SU undertakes a great deal of work with regards to housing issues in the local area. The SU Welfare Advisor, Tina Rainer, works hard to ensure students are treated fairly as tenants and also works hard to ensure students are always safe with regards to issues such as gas safety, multiple tenancies and deposit schemes. This work is championed through accommodation days held by the SU.

New to the SU in the academic year 2012-13, was U let – the SU’s very own ethical lettings agency. U let serves multiple purposes within the university community and the wider community also. No student fees are charged, and students are fully supported by approachable staff before and throughout their time as tenants to make sure they are being treated fairly and appropriately by their landlords, while at the same time landlords and members of the local community can feel a sense of comfort knowing that communication between U let and students will remain strong, and any issues arising from either side can be dealt with efficiently and appropriately. Not charging any fees to students will also put pressure on high street lettings agencies to follow suit or at least slightly reduce their fees, while the high standards that U let is already showing will push landlords to improve their own. Particular help and support is also given to international students who can often risk being exploited or having to pay huge amounts of money in advance due to not having a UK Guarantor. U let helps such students find alternatives to these lump sums, and supports them throughout.

At the AGM, the students of Royal Holloway passed a motion to mandate the Students’ Union to run a priority campaign around housing. Part of this will include working alongside U let and the Advice & Support Centre to actively campaign to put pressure on other agents to slow down the first term rush to get students signing contracts for properties – building upon the SU’s “Keep Calm and Don’t Sign” campaign of recent years – as well as educating students on their rights as tenants and campaigning for fairer treatment.

**Actions 13-14**

1. The SU should look to improve the methods of recording numbers at the accommodation days and events, and getting feedback from students about them.
2. **The SU should continue to champion student interest, ensuring a fair deal to student tenants – particularly through U let.**

3. **The Advice & Support Centre should create a summary of accommodation casework success stories, publicising it at the beginning of the Spring Term.**

4. **The SU should also be sure to sing about U let’s success, especially the number of students placed in houses, and the money saved from students not paying fees.**

5. **The Advice & Support Centre should also continue to target student houses with previous landlord/management issues and offer our service to them.**

3. **SSHH and Love your Neighbour**

   There is no denying that student life can sometimes get a little noisy - whether it’s a bit of loud music, walking home at night from the Union or any other excitement on a day-to-day basis. The SU has recognised that sometimes what is perceived as a little bit of noise by the student membership, can sometimes be a lot of noise for the resident who lives next door and has to get up for work in the morning, so it is for this reason that we run the SSHH campaign. SSHH stands for *Silent Students, Happy Homes* and aims to make everyone aware of the issues surrounding noise in our local community, and each of our three minibuses are branded with the SSHH logo to further spread the message.

   In recent years, rather than focusing only on noise, the SU and College decided to significantly broaden the campaign – Love Your Neighbour was the initiative born from this discussion, and is advertised as being ‘in conjunction with SSHH’. The SSHH elements of Love Your Neighbour include advice to students on appropriate noise levels, and encouragement to chat to local residents about how they can minimise noise disturbance in their particular area. Other advice given to students includes getting clued up about local waste disposal and recycling rules, and being courteous when event planning and car parking. The campaign was also aimed at local residents, encouraging them to be friendly to students, rather than immediately assuming they are all trouble makers.
Over the years, over 500 Love Your Neighbour packs have been distributed to local students and residents, including a postcard containing the above advice, information about the SSHH Bus, a window sticker and a tea bag (encouraging people to invite their neighbours over for tea). We have also held events for local residents in SU premises such as the annual Community Tea Party, and various performing arts events that local residents have been invited to. The Love Your Neighbour initiative has also played a part in organising volunteering events alongside Community Action – another way that the SU hopes to encourage better relationships between students and local residents, which will result in cementing the idea of the student as a responsible member of the local community.

Feedback so far has, on the whole, been positive, and any negative feedback has been taken into account. In the coming years, it is important that the SU places a continued emphasis on both SSHH and Love Your Neighbour

**Actions 13-14**

The SU should continue to work to improve local community relations within the SSHH and Love Your Neighbour brands, including the following actions:

1. **Having three SSHH/Love Your Neighbour related stories in the local press.**

2. **Hosting three Love Your Neighbour events throughout the year, including the annual Community Tea Party.**
4. The SSHH Safety Bus Service

The SU runs a heavily subsidised night time bus to ensure students get home safely after any event nights here at the SU. This is a welfare service backed and contributed to financially by College. The service has four designated pick up points; Medicine, the Students’ Union building, Kingswood Hall and Egham train station. The service starts at 9pm and continues late into the night, until all our venues are clear and the staff have been taken home. There are three pick-ups throughout the evening from Egham train station including the last trains of the night from Reading and London Waterloo. Kingswood, our off campus hall, has its own designated shuttle that runs to the main campus approximately every 20 minutes. Once on board the bus a student can be dropped off anywhere within a 3 mile radius of the campus.

In the academic year 2010-11, concerns were raised by the local community with regards to the noise students were making whilst leaving the non-res bus. To alleviate any concerns, our local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) sat on the bus to ensure the students were not causing any noise or disturbance. No concerns were reported, and in fact the PCSOs said how polite students were, indicating that the service was having a positive and beneficial impact on the local community. We also encourage our drivers to limit any noise impact of the service.
Actions 13-14

1. The SU should continue to operate this valuable welfare service to the betterment of the local community, acting on any complaints.

2. The SU should aim to increase the number of annual passes sold to students living in the local area and at Kingswood, year on year. These numbers should be recorded and monitored for comparison.

5. Campus Watch

Campus Watch is a joint initiative between the College, the Students’ Union, Surrey Police and Runnymede Borough Council. The main aim is to keep students safe on and off campus throughout their time at Royal Holloway. We use CCTV, posters, lighting and security patrols on and around campus to send the message to anyone entering campus that they are stepping into community that is caring, and proactive about safety and security. We need every student to play a part in Campus Watch for the scheme to be a complete success, so we encourage all students, staff and visitors to report any crimes, disturbances and any threatening or suspicious behaviour. Above all else, Campus Watch as an initiative is very visible on campus, and the SU and College are continually in discussions over how to improve it.

Actions 13-14

1. The SU should ensure that the Campus Watch logo is adequately displayed on any material concerning student safety on campus.

2. Campus Watch should be promoted by the SU during start of session.

6. Student Safety

Royal Holloway is fortunate enough to be situated in a safe area - this is reflected in the low figures of crime, and low student involvement in any issues that do happen to occur. Even still, the SU takes students’ safety very seriously,
and is in regular communication on such matters with the College. The SU has a
close relationship with the College’s Head of Security, and student safety is
discussed at the Royal Holloway and Runnymede Consultative Group, on which
the SU has two representatives. In addition, the SU has two ‘off-campus student
representatives’ who will be able to bring any issues of concern to either our
General Meeting or the Sabbatical Officers. The SU offers safety tips for students
on our website (www.su.rhul.ac.uk/support), and in our handbook given out at
the beginning of the academic year. These tips are also advertised throughout the
year using various channels of communication.

As well as offering tips to students on how to keep safe and handing out
personal safety alarms to those who wish to carry one with them, the SU and
College are keen to respond appropriately to any incidents that do happen on or
around campus. In the academic year 12-13 the SU and College responded to a
few isolated incidents during the month of January, by extending the hours of the
SSHH bus to 6pm until late (from 9pm until late) for the rest of the Spring Term.

Also in the academic year 12-13, Kenny Aruwa the SURHUL Vice President
(Education & Welfare) and Helen Groenendaal the RHUL Community Liaison &
Support Officer met with the Crime Reduction Advisor from Surrey Police and the
Community Safety Manager from Runnymede Borough Council. The four walked
around the campus and the surrounding areas, focusing on particular locations in
which incidents had happened before, in order to assess what changes could be
made to this area to prevent further incidents occurring. Various
recommendations were made regarding the areas in question, including the
removal of overhanging shrubbery and improvements in external lighting. This is
just one example of the way in which the SU and College work together with one
another, and with relevant local authorities, to improve the safety of everyone on
and around campus, and it is important that this working relationship continues
into the future.

**Actions 13-14**

1. *The SU should continue to work in close relationship with the College in order
to ensure that the SU is always aware of local area issues.*

2. *The SU should look to inform students of any relevant issues and information
where appropriate, and as agreed by the Community Liaison & Support
Officer.*
3. The SU should continue to host the annual Safe & Secure Day at the end of October, and numbers of students in attendance should be recorded.

7. PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers)

The SU has strong links with the local PCSOs, who are always keen to champion student interest and communicate our successes to local residents, and have consistently done so at events such as the Community Liaison Forum. In partnership with the SU, the PCSOs regularly offer tips to students on keeping safe, and who they should contact if issues arise.

Actions 13-14

1. The SU should look to give the PCSOs greater exposure on campus through Welcome Week activities, Market Days and Safe & Secure Days, in order to ensure that students are aware of their presence and involvement. The SU should aim to have them in the building at least once a term.

2. The SU should also engage with the PCSOs at any given opportunity in order to gather up-to-date information regarding safety tips and issues in the local area.
8. Community Liaison Forum

The Community Liaison Forum sits within the Students’ Union governance structures and its aim is to provide a forum to discuss, with local residents, any concerns that arise as a result of students living in the local community. This usually relates to noise disturbances, problems with recycling and litter, and end-of-session issues. The Community Liaison Forum also gives the Vice President (Education & Welfare) the opportunity to promote any work the SU has done with regards to the local community, the Volunteering Manager a chance to discuss the positive impact students have through volunteering, and also allows the Community Liaison & Support Officer from College to respond to any general student complaints directed at her office.

Actions 13-14

1. The format and set-up of the Community Liaison Forum should be evaluated with a view to implementing changes, in an attempt to improve the tone and output of the forum, in order to ensure productive results for all members of our community.

2. The SU and College should work together to ensure that all necessary people attend from both organisations to ensure informed and educated answers are available to local residents.

3. The SU and College should also work together to increase the number of students attending the forum in order to address the current imbalance.

9. Local Media

The SU has a strong link with the External Relations department at College and can therefore respond appropriately if any adverse press arises as a result of students. Student officers are trained in how to deal with the press appropriately, and all external media must go through the President to ensure we are always represented fairly in the local media.
**Actions 13-14**

In the coming year the SU should look to being more proactive with regards to the local media, ensuring that it submits positive stories concerning student success:

1. The SU should look to submit at least 5 student success stories to the local media, ideally having 3 published this year.

2. The SU should invite the local media to all community events, including the Community Tea Party.

**10. Off-Campus Representatives**

Off-campus representatives (Egham Rep and Englefield Green Rep) have been introduced over the past few years as a part of our governance structure. These representatives sit on the Inclusion and Representation Senate, and are there to ensure all off-campus students are adequately represented. The representatives are encouraged to attend the relevant meetings of the local residents’ associations (i.e. the Egham Residents’ Association and the Englefield Green Village Residents’ Association) and not only represent students at these meetings, but also bring back to the SU any issues raised. These reps are also encouraged to attend the Community Liaison Forum as student representatives.

**Actions 13-14**

1. The SU should work with the Community Liaison & Support Office to look at developing this position to ensure that it is truly acting as a link between students and local residents.

2. The SU should also work with the College to ascertain whether giving off-campus representatives a small budget, to aid in their engagement with local residents, would be appropriate.

3. These representatives should sit on all meetings (or as many as is possible) of the local residents’ associations, such as the Egham Residents’ Association (ERA) and the Englefield Green Village Residents’ Association (EGVRA).
11. Local Residents’ Associations

In recent years, we have been fortunate to gain positive links with the Englefield Green Village Residents’ Association, with their chair being a strong supporter of the work the SU does to improve relations in the local community. This relationship is characteristic of the links that we should be forming with various different groups in the local community, and the Students’ Union should work towards forming such connections, first and foremost, with the other residents’ associations in the area.

**Actions 13-14**

1. *The SU should endeavour to have representatives on all meetings of local residents’ associations.*

2. *The SU should also work with the College to encourage greater representation of the residents’ associations at the termly Community Liaison Forum.*

3. *The SU should consider using the local residents’ associations as a means of disseminating information about student success and the positive impact that the SU and College have on the local community.*

12. Best Bar None Accreditation

Best Bar None is an awards scheme for licensed premises, highly praised by Home Secretary Theresa May for its impact on fighting drunkenness in towns and cities, which is currently running in over 80 locations across the UK. It was developed by the Manchester City Centre Safe Project to address alcohol related crime and improve the night time environment. It was felt that in order for progress to be made in delivering a safer night time economy, a new partnership-style approach was needed alongside more traditional law enforcement activity. Best Bar None schemes provide an incentive for the operators of licensed premises to improve their standards of operation to the level of a commonly agreed national benchmark.

Best Bar None provides a much needed opportunity for licensees to demonstrate to official agencies just how well they manage their own businesses.
It is an opportunity for positive dialogue between the two sides, and the standards outlined by Best Bar None also provide a common reference point for community officers to work with their local pubs and clubs in tackling crime and disorder issues on an on-going basis. In 2007 an agreement was reached between Greater Manchester Police, the Home Office and BII, the professional body for the licensed retail sector, to develop the scheme nationally.

The SU’s Medicine Bar has, since 2006, entered and been accredited for the Best Bar None award, and in 2009 Tommy’s bar was entered for the first time, and has since then also received accreditation for the policies and procedures that we adhere to and promote.

In 2011, the Best Bar None awards scheme recognised Medicine & the Stumble Inn with the highest level attainable – the Gold Award – and Tommy’s Bar with a Silver Award, showing an increase in score over previous years. Between 2011 and 2012, the standard of each benchmark was changed considerably, with the introduction of 34 new criteria making each of the award categories much more difficult to achieve. Even with this change, both of our venues managed to attain the Bronze Award in 2012 and 2013.
Actions 13-14

In future years the SU should work towards achieving a Gold Award accreditation for both venues where possible.

1. The SU should pay close attention to any changes in the awarding criteria and do our best to respond appropriately.

2. This year the SU should aim to attain one award category higher than last year in both venues, which would mean a target of Silver Award accreditation for both Medicine and Tommy’s Bar.

13. Green Impact Accreditation

Green Impact is an accreditation scheme designed to improve the ethical and environmental responsibility of Students’ Unions throughout the UK, and is led by NUSSL (National Union of Students’ Services Limited). The scheme consists of over 200 criteria, designed to share best practice throughout the sector and encourage unions to change their habits if they don’t currently respond to each point. Certain criteria are essential to gain accreditation in Bronze, Silver and Gold fields.

At SURHUL, we are happy to announce that after gaining the Silver Standard accreditation for three years in a row, in the academic year 12-13 we were awarded the highly coveted Gold Standard accreditation – making us one of the most ethically and environmentally sound unions in the country.

Actions 13-14

1. The SU should aim to retain the Gold Standard accreditation in the coming year.

2. The SU should also pay close attention to any changing criteria, and be constantly seeking to improve its ‘green status’.
14. RAG (Raise and Give)

RAG is the charity fundraising arm of the Students’ Union, and aims to raise as much money as possible for a selection of charities – small, local and worldwide – by putting on events, venturing out onto campus and beyond with charity tins, climbing mountains, and working with the SU’s Clubs, Societies as well as all other students who fancy getting involved.

RAG’s busiest week in the year is the annual RAG Week where hundreds of students get involved in a range of events and activities, and the money raised is donated to the three RAG Week Charities chosen by the RAG Board each year – one of which usually being a charity based in the local area. In the academic year 2011-12, the local charity supported during RAG Week was Egham’s East to West who received approximately £2,600 as a result of the week’s events including our first ever ‘Jailbreak’ event where students had 36 hours to get as far away from Royal Holloway as possible without spending any of their own money. In the academic year 2012-13, Surrey’s Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity was the local charity chosen to benefit from the festivities of the week, receiving approximately £4,500.

Each year, a RAG Pantomime is held in the Students’ Union building to raise funds for a charity of the production team’s choice – the pantomime being open to the local community, and often sponsored by local businesses.

**Actions 13-14**

1. **The SU should aim to further increase the number of students involved in raising money for charity in association with RAG.**

2. **The SU should also promote the importance of charity fundraising with regards to Club and Society of the Year awards.**

3. **The SU should work more closely with local charities in order to help raise the profile of these charities, as well as raising funds for them.**

4. **The SU, RAG Board and the production team should work together to raise the profile of the RAG Pantomime, both on campus and in the local community.**
15. Community Action and Volunteering

The SU puts a great deal of resource into volunteering, providing an active link with Community Action, a College-funded scheme which is based in the SU building. Our clubs and societies are very active within this framework, and volunteering is seen as an active indicator in deciding prestigious awards at the annual ‘Colours Ball’ and ‘Societies, Media and RAG Ball’ such as Club and Society of the Year, which are keenly competed for. Here are some of the events that Community Action and the SU have organised during the 12-13 academic year that promoted volunteering and actively worked within the local community:

**Partners Conference: September 2012**
A host of charities and community organisations were invited to Royal Holloway, University of London for the first bi-annual networking event hosted in the
Students’ Union, designed to further boost volunteering at the College. The Community Action Partners’ Network Gathering saw over 35 representatives from organisations including Egham Youth Centre, British Heart Foundation, and The Boxing Inclusion Zone in Chertsey, for an afternoon of participative sessions and workshops.

**Get Involved Week 2012**
The annual Volunteering Fair attracted more than 200 students to discuss projects and fundraising opportunities with over 25 community organisations and charities, including the Scouts, Age UK, Alzheimer’s Society, British Heart Foundation, Feminist Library, Greenpeace and Love your Campus. This was followed by a number of volunteer introduction workshops including V Awards and the Passport Award. The week concluded with ‘Make a Difference Day’ during which over 150 students lent a helping hand to several projects in the local community. More than 500 hours of work were completed, with a number of SU clubs and societies taking part including American Football, Men’s Rugby, Netball, Riding, the Cheerleading squad, and the Dance Society.

**Christmas Volunteering: December 2012**
Once again, for the fourth consecutive year, Community Action partnered with local charity Age UK Runnymede & Spelthorne to help with the ‘Santa’s Workshop’ parcel scheme. More than 100 Royal Holloway students got into the Christmas spirit, wrapping and sending out parcels stuffed with food and festive treats to elderly residents in the community, delivered by Age UK. Student volunteers prepared packages of seasonal gifts, with a personally written Royal Holloway Christmas card enclosed, for 120 people who are isolated and vulnerable over the Christmas period. Members from a range of student groups gave their time to help with the initiative, including the Cheerleading squad, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, and Women’s Football.

Indeed, Santa’s Workshop was one of many volunteering activities in which students have taken part during the festive season. This includes the Egham Rotary Club’s Christmas street collection and Oxfam’s Christmas shopping event. In addition, American Football and Women’s Rugby supported Manor Farm Day Centre’s Christmas decorations and party, while Psychology students organised the Your Sanctuary charity children’s party. Absolute Harmony sung carols at the Englefield Green Christmas tree lights switch-on and the Dance Society performed at Merlewood Nursing Home. Those at Birchlands care home were treated to
performances from student ballroom and Latin dancers, and Heathrow Special Needs Farm received a visit from the Voices of Holloway show choir.

**Student Volunteering Week: February 2013**
Community Action celebrated 10 years of service to the local community, clocking up an amazing 50,000 hours of student volunteering since 2002. There are currently over 2,000 registered volunteers and over 180 Community Partner organisations regularly joining forces to enhance life in the local community.

At the anniversary reception, attended by the Mayor of Runnymede as well as some of the many students, staff, and partners who have been involved with Community Action over the years, Vice Principal Bob O’Keefe thanked everyone and spoke about the many milestones achieved in the last 10 years. Community Action’s 10 Year anniversary celebrations were scheduled to coincide with this year’s Student Volunteering Week. As part of this, The Inspire Project enhanced a local estate in Englefield Green, with students making hanging baskets and potting plants in the Students’ Union, which were delivered to the estate and given out to be displayed at the front of houses.

**Big Spring Clean: March 2013**
Since 2007, this event has responded to requests from the local community and completed a diverse range of activities including gardening, cleaning, painting, planting and litter picking. This year, more than 100 students were involved with over 20 projects taking place across Egham, Englefield Green, Virginia Water and Chertsey at local primary schools, churches, recreation grounds and other community hubs. More than 300 hours of work were completed across the scheme, with several clubs and societies offering their assistance. Mountaineering and Climbing were involved with re-painting the Exhibition Gallery at Chertsey Museum, Swimming Club dug over the school allotments at St Jude’s Junior School, and Women’s Football revamped the changing rooms at Manorcroft United Junior Football Club.

**Volunteering Week: June 2013**
Running as an official part of National Volunteers’ Week, over 20 projects took place in the local area, including pond cleaning at St Francis Primary School assisted by Women’s Rugby among others, tree planting by American Football at The Magna Carta School, and painting and decorating at the Surrey Association for Visual Impairment. During the week, seven activity workshops were also set up
in local schools and youth centres, including Italian culture sessions at Thomas Knyvett College and the Film Festival Society’s Stop Animation workshops at St Anne’s Heath Junior School. In addition, RHUL Sport hosted on-campus sports sessions, including Rugby, Tennis, Hockey and Ultimate Frisbee training for local schools. The week was supported by P&G, Surrey County Council local committee funding and the Royal Holloway Alumni Fund.

Volunteering Awards: June 2013
During a special awards ceremony on Monday 3rd June, individual students, as well as clubs and societies, were honoured for all their hard work, including Patrycja Skurzak who was awarded the Mayor’s Cup for Student Volunteer of the Year. This year Dance Society were awarded ‘Volunteering Society of the Year’ and Lacrosse were presented as ‘Volunteering Club of the Year’. In addition, Royal Holloway’s Alumni Fund supported a beautiful art installation which was officially opened by the Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Yvonna, laid to celebrate 10 years of community volunteering - now hanging suspended in the Windsor Building.

Student-Led Projects
During the year a number of SU Clubs and Societies have been involved with areas of longer term volunteering which include:

- Runway Project – partnering with Surrey Arts as part of the ‘Forgotten Festivals’ initiative to host celebrations inspired by the locality’s history, engage with the community, and involve high quality arts activity. The Dance Society was involved with the main performance, which was located at the Magna Carta Memorial at Runnymede.

- Forest Estate Community Hub – the Community Hub in Englefield Green was opened in October 2012 as a multi-agency partnership with the Royal British Legion, and Community Action has been highly involved with the initiative. Students painted it prior to the opening, have run three half term fun days, used it as base for our Inspire Project activities such as students giving out potted plants and hanging baskets on the estate, and creating colourful tyre planters. SU Clubs and Societies have also been committed in providing workshops for the young people in after school clubs – the Dance Society running weekly sessions, Drama Society running a selection of workshops with a performance at the last fun day, and Insanity hosting a radio workshop.
• BHF campus stock drive campaign – In May and June, Royal Holloway teamed up with the BHF (British Heart Foundation) to launch a new scheme to encourage students and staff to donate unwanted items and in-turn generate vital stock for local BHF stores. A team of dedicated volunteers distributed over 1,000 bags across halls of residence and in academic departments, working hard to raise awareness of the charity across campus. The campaign included a special collection as part of Volunteering Week in the Students’ Union, along with various activities and collection points across campus which the African-Caribbean Society and Absolute Harmony assisted with.

• Egham Youth Centre – Since February members of the American Football Club have volunteered to run weekly Flag Football sessions with young people at the centre on Wednesday evenings.
Actions 13-14

1. Ensure that students volunteering as members of the Students’ Union are known to be part of the SU, in order to raise awareness of the work we do in this area.

2. The VPSA should continue to encourage and ensure the active participation of clubs and societies to enable them to continue to flourish in this area.

3. The SU should continue to measure and record the number of club and society members taking part in volunteering and aim to build on this number in future years.

4. The SU should promote the importance of voluntary participation with regards to Club and Society of the Year awards.
Conclusion

Overall, we can see that the Students’ Union, Royal Holloway, provides many opportunities for students to play an active role in their community. In addition to this, the Students’ Union organises various initiatives, services and campaigns to ensure that students continue to be a positive presence in the local community. The Students’ Union will continue to improve in these areas, will develop new initiatives and will continue to listen to local community opinion when devising new and engaging local community initiatives.

End

Credits:

Kenny Aruwa - SURHUL VP Education & Welfare 2012-13
Katie Blow - SURHUL VP Education & Welfare 2011-12
Beth Rowley - SURHUL VP Education & Welfare 2010-11
Charlotte Bassam-Bowles - SURHUL VP Education & Welfare 2009-10
Lisa Harris - U let Lettings Manager
Phil Simcock - Community Action Volunteer Manager
Helen Groenendaal - RHUL Community Liaison & Support Officer
Sean O’Donnell - SURHUL General Manager 2003-2013