

Elle Gray
Student Support Officer

Union Council – March 2007

Activist Academy – Coventry.

This conference was designed to make the most out of student activism, with many workshops on smashing apathy and “organising” your student body to make it a strong and powerful campaigning organisation. Our delegation consisted of 2 students, Steve Baker as a permanent member of staff and myself as a sabbatical officer. This was to ensure that the things we learned would be embedded in the Union, rather than the good ideas leaving with people as they move on.

Rag new members and Volunteering meeting

Diana and I joined up the RAG and volunteering members meeting as the two different activities are of interest to both groups. I hope to continue this in future so we have a pool of people to help with both activities.

OAP Valentines Dinner

This was an amazing success and a lovely day to help out with, all credit to Diana and all the volunteers.

Student Support Issues

I have had a number of challenging support issues to deal with this month, ranging from students fee payments to racism allegations and halls incidents.

Amsterdam Hitch.

We had over 100 people attend the first meeting and 90 are booked to come on the hitch which is taking place 2-6th April. A lot of work is going into the preparations for the trip, including the safety planning, logistics and party for when everyone arrives safely. This trip should raise a minimum of £4,000 for our RAG charities.

Fairtrade Fortnight.

The People & Planet society organised a series of stalls giving out bananas and fairtrade goodies. They also organised a “question time” style debate on the Future of Fairtrade which was really well attended and gave a proper insight into the way forward for challenging international trade rules that keep people in poverty.

Campaigners Awards

I was short listed for 2 campaigning awards, one of which I have since won and the other I had an interview in London for and I am awaiting the result. The two awards both offer fantastic training packages which I will put to good use in my role as President next year!