The following is a (belated) record of the activities of the Hild Bede SRC in Epiphany Term 2022, and is intended for transparency purposes.

Epiphany Term was overshadowed by the news of huge changes to the Hild Bede estate, in particular that Riverside Site would not house students from 2022-23, and that Caedmon Hall would be closed at the end of the academic year. The SRC worked with College staff to manage communication of the changes to students, including a Q&A session in the Vern with Rebecca-Amy Jackson (SRC President), Simon Forrest (College Principal), and Laura Todd (College Vice-Principal). The SRC also released a feedback survey about the estate, where students could leave comments about the state of accommodation. These comments were passed on to College Management.

After the two week ‘soft start’ to term with a lot of restrictions, there was a ‘return to normal’ in terms of events, as at long last, formals were able to occur without Covid restrictions, organised by Courtney Power (Vice-President), with assistance from Joseph Butron (International Officer) for the Lunar New Year formal, and Eleanor Lowe (Sports and Societies Officer) for the Clubs and Societies formal. There was also a formal celebrating St Patrick’s Day towards the end of term. These formals were excellent events for all students, staff, mentors, and SCR members who attended. The Unsung Hero Award was also given to Katie Notley and Lawrence McLeod at the St Patrick’s Day formal.

The Spring Ball, held in the last week of term at the Beamish Hall Hotel, was a new addition to our calendar of events, and was planned in order to provide an event opportunity for those who had missed out due to Covid, as well as to mitigate issues of event capacity caused by both Covid and higher student numbers. The organisation of this was led by Rebecca-Amy Jackson, Georgia Allison (Ball Officer), aided by some members of the Exec and Ball Committees. It was the first ever external Ball hosted by the SRC, and significant credit must go to those who managed to pull it off.

The SRC also hosted Refreshers’ Week, aimed at first-year and second-year students who had had less opportunity to attend events due to Covid. The programme included a club night in Newcastle, a quiz with an increased bar tab prize, a Bedo’s Bingo, karaoke, a board games night, a Refreshers’ Sports and Socs Fair, and the ever-popular Petting Zoo. There were many volunteers from the Exec and Ents Comm who helped with this, but Hugo Bush (Social Secretary) and Angus Webb Hammond (Technical Officer) deserve particular credit for their efforts at the back end of these events, and all events throughout the term such as the weekly quiz.

A new executive committee was elected in the second half of the term, in four rounds of elections, with hustings in front of full SRC meetings in the Vern. The first round of elections was run by a member of Steering Committee, James Milburn, as the Chairperson was also a candidate. The successful candidates were:

* Ciaran Duggan (President)
* Georgia Allison (Vice-President)
* Brandon Holmes (Postgraduate President)
* Lauren Cockerill (Treasurer)
* Laila Hatcher (non-male Senior Welfare Officer)
* Calvin Su (non-female Senior Welfare Officer)
* Georgia Organ (Sports and Societies Officer)
* Angus Webb Hammond (Chairperson)
* Salome Johnson (Communities and Liberations Officer)
* Luke Nash (Publicity Officer)
* Fabienne Druitt (Ball Officer)
* Toby Saunders (Senior SU Representative)
* Abril Vilajoana Feixas (International Officer)
* Annabel Hay (Social Secretary)
* Toby Watkinson (Technical Officer)
* Cosmo van Steenis (Environment Officer)

A change was made to the Constitution by referendum to allow a pair of people to run for the role of Head Frep, and Phoebe Micklefield and Mayen Usanga were jointly elected to that role late in Epiphany.

The SRC marked LGBT History Month in February with several events, including the revival of Turn the Vern, an LGBT event in the bar which ran every Saturday in February. The first of these saw a brilliant performance by the drag queen Sarah Tonin! There was also a screening of the film ‘The Imitation Game’ in the Joachim Room.

The SRC also held an Earth Day event in collaboration with Castle JCR, with guest speakers, a fair for local sustainable businesses, a tree planting session, a raffle which raised money for an environmental charity, and a Vern party complete with a silent disco, a photobooth and a food van. This was organised by Becca Jackson and Rosanna Hine (Environment Officer)

Other activity included:

* An inter-MCR formal held during the holidays, organised jointly by Zoë Forbes and Brandon Holmes (outgoing and incoming Postgraduate Presidents respectively);
* Preparation and execution of a Pre-Freshers’ Fair on the Post Offer Visit Days;
* Creation and dissemination of a breakdown of the SRC Levy, by Becca Jackson and Robbie Keywood (Treasurer);
* Several events for Sexual Health and Guidance Week, including a charity quiz which raised over £400 for the Terence Higgins Trust, co-ordinated by Senior Welfare Officers Jared Firth and Martha Kean;
* Various fundraising events for the Ukraine crisis, including at the weekly quiz, led by Sam Wildish (Communities and Liberations Officer);
* A Macmillan Coffee Morning, held in Joachim Room.