

The 2016/17 year of YSTV was a year of a largely new group of members picking it up and getting it back on its feet after a low period. The challenge last year was simply to be making and releasing content regularly. This year, the challenge has been to take last year's growth and work on quality, membership and output more carefully now we have a strong footing.

This kicked off with a heavily planned presence in freshers week, culminating in an all-day livestream from a gazebo at freshers fair to promote ourselves to an audience of students across campus and raise our profile. From this, we've managed to recruit an amazing group of new members who have fitted in wonderfully, working together on big projects and also on many of their own that have expanded the range of our content, such as *YSTV Rants*.

Integrating a new team always comes with some challenges, and one we've experience regularly is a shortage of equipment. We've overcome this by resurrecting our web booking system and updating it with our new equipment, and this allows members to request bookings of key equipment for filming and have this approved (or not) by tech team.

We experienced a reduction in our grant size from our union this year, and combined with the huge increase in membership and number of productions this year meant we had to get creative with how we fund our operations. The main component of this was a matched crowdfunding campaign done in collaboration with our Alumni Association, accompanying our **50th anniversary** celebrations! This involved heavily targeting our alumni to get donations in and we ended up over our target of £5000, reaching a total of over £6000!

This money is one of the things that has allowed us to support an increase in quality this year. The purchase of two BMD Video Assist monitors was key - these have allowed us to record in high-bitrate prores from our Canon C100, thus bringing an increase in image quality and allowing members to develop skills in colour grading and post-production. This has of course resulted in some huge files (some projects have been well over 200GB) and this has placed a strain on our tech and computing teams, who have been amazing in updating our server hardware and managing data to allow all this data to be reliably and conveniently stored.

As well as increasing the quality of our recorded content, we have worked hard to improve the quality and quantity of our livestreams. One of the ways we've done this is through the creation of makeshift OB vans, using a hire van and some heavy ingenuity to allow OBs to be set up in record time, and has allowed us to stream some events that simply would have been impossible otherwise, such as *Unibrass 2018*.

Overall, these things and many more have contributed to an absolutely brilliant year for YSTV, and we hope you agree and give us your vote!