UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

THE BULLETIN

Published by the Information Office

Tuesday 18 May, 1976

HOUSING SCHEME FOR UNIVERSITY DISCUSSION

A University Discussion will be held on June 1 to consider proposals for the development of student accommodation in co-operation with the New Colebrooke Housing Society.

Last December Senate asked for a University Discussion to be held at a suitable time during the negotiations.

Under the First phase of the scheme 300 units would be built, probably on the East Slope next to existing accommodation, for completion by September 1978.

Ninety per cent of the accommodation would be allocated to University students and ten per cent would be available to Brighton Corporation for tenants chosen on the basis that they could be successfully integrated into the University environment.

A project group, including representatives of the Students' Union, USTA and Brighton Council, has been set up to work with the Housing Society.

Under the scheme the New Colebrooke Housing Society would acquire a sub-lease on part of the University site. Rents would have to be the equivalent fair rents set by the Rent Officer and would be collected by the University, acting as agents for the Housing Society.

Outline plans have been prepared by Pippen, Randall and Parkes, architects for the scheme, for an assessment by the local Rent Officer of likely rent levels. The University has agreed that the scheme should proceed to the sketch plan stage to enable a full assessment of costs and implications.

An individual tenancy agreement would be issued to each tenant, direct with the Housing Society. The University would underwrite the student rent element, ensuring that in a dispute students in housing association accommodation could be treated identically to other student tenants.

The University would probably collect rents from non-students on behalf of the Society, but would not guarantee this portion of the rents.

Non-student tenants would be chosen by a group comprising half University and a quarter each Housing Society and Brighton Council membership.

Plans submitted to the Rent Officer allow for a mix of two or three types of accommodation providing for 60 single units, 30 units for four people each, and ten units for 12 people.

There are difficulties in estimating the exact rent levels, partly because the exact level cannot be fixed until the accommodation is completed.

The University Discussion on Tuesday, June 1, will be held in the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre at 8.00pm. The meeting is open to all.

...more building news

- Work on the new squash court at the Sports Pavilion began last month. It is to be completed during the summer and the additional court will be available at the beginning of next session. The work is being carried out by Field & Cox of Brighton.

- Work will start on the East Slope Social Centre as soon as building regulations approval has been received by the architect. The Centre will take between three and four months to build.

- The new mezzanine floor in the Refectory has now been completed. After internal decorating and furnishing the accommodation will be taken over by the Senior Common Room, which will move from Falmer House in August.

- Hills Structures Ltd., the contractors for the new restaurant extension to the Refectory, took possession of the site at the beginning of this month. The site, immediately to the west of the Refectory, has been fenced off. The new restaurant should be completed by December 1976.

- Construction work on the new University access road is expected to begin soon. The road will link the existing campus roads to the new University entrance to be built at the top of the hill at Falmer as part of the A27 road improvement scheme.

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS - RESULTS

The four Broad Left candidates for sabbatical office were all successful in last week's Union elections. The new officers for 1976-77 will be:

President: Lindsay Thomas, a finalist in Applied Sciences who was Union Secretary in 1973-74.

Vice-President (Communications): Sue Newton, a postgraduate Certificate of Education student.

Vice-President (Finance): Gerry Traynor, a second year student in European Studies who was secretary of USTA last year.

Vice-President (Social Services): Sue Goss, a third year politics student in the School of Social Sciences.

About 1500 students voted in the elections on Wednesday to Friday last week.

Three of the new officers will take up their posts on the first day of the summer vacation. The new VP (Finance) assumes his responsibilities immediately as a result of the resignation of Kevin McNulty in the week before the elections.

AUT COMMITTEE

The new AUT local committee is:

Mr. G.A. Walker (Vice-President), Mr. J.H. Cheshire (Secretary), Dr. J.B. Ray (JNC Secretary), Mr. B.L. Claxton (Treasurer), Dr. M.B. Stevenson, Mr. A.S. McAllister, Mrs. P.K. Mardenstran, Dr. O.P. Darlington, Miss C.M. Broadway, Mr. D.F. Hogan, Mr. C. Brummitt, Dr. A. Knowles and Mr. A.L. Pollard.

The Committee will elect its own President.
THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

By Kathleen Manning and Ann Sharp, Co-Directors of the Schools Council Project on the Structuring of Play in the Infant/First School.

"Play is a reality which the child is disposed to believe in when by himself, just as reality is a game at which he is willing to play with the adult and anyone else who believes in it." (J. Piaget, Traité Principaux de la Logique de L'Enfant. 1924).

If you walk along the ground floor corridor in Arts B you will probably have noticed the labels on four doors that say "Project on the Structuring of Play in the Infant/First School." If you have wondered what happens behind those doors read on: the rooms are the focal point for a project, funded by the Schools Council, and extending all over England and Wales, in which teachers are engaged in action-research into the development of learning through play.

To many outside the world of the young child, it will seem extraordinary to spend time and money on developing play in school. The Black Papers on Education give the impression that when children "play" in school they are wasting time - time that should be spent on "learning" after all most children have toys at home and many have attended playgroups before they come to school.

But educationists and psychologists repeatedly state that play is essential to the young child's learning and development. It is the means by which the child adjusts socially and emotionally, solves problems, reasons, and uses language meaningfully; moreover it motivates learning.

Indeed if a child cannot play he or she cannot learn; infant education in this country has been famous all over the world and is founded on play. To quote the Plowden Report "Play is the central activity in many infant schools." Nevertheless it is no easy matter to organise an infant classroom with all its multifarious activities, and to set up play situations and develop them.

The claims of specialised areas of the curriculum, such as maths, science, or reading, tend to monopolise the teachers' time so that they ignore play as the medium for learning - it merely becomes an occupational activity. Play without the guidance of an adult soon becomes an aimless and repetitive pastime.

Despite all these difficulties teachers still acknowledge the importance of play as the "central activity" of learning and provide for it in their classrooms.

In a recent T.V. interview Professor Jerome Bruner, Watts Professor of Psychology at Oxford University, said: "If educational research findings are to be used by teachers the research must take the form of collaboration, they must involve joint planning."

This project meets both these requirements and it is based on teachers' demands for help in organising classroom play. Five hundred teachers in 250 schools throughout the country are actively engaged in recording the learning that takes place in children's play; they have met regularly in groups to discuss their findings and sent back records and reports to the project base. From these the team has produced a series of guidelines and video-tapes on play which are now being tried out in schools.

The four team members visit every teacher in school, frequently attend working party meetings and meet regularly with the L.E.A. Advisers in the project areas. The group leaders come to Brighton every term to discuss jointly the progress of the project.

By involving the teachers so closely there have been two main benefits: firstly, the teachers themselves have gained from the research, they have all developed their knowledge and ideas; secondly, the guides and video-tapes being developed are essentially practical - they take into account the realities of the classroom: the size of classes, differing backgrounds of the children, the size of buildings. In action-research it is not just the research workers who gain.

IN BRIEF

The Howard Society regrets that owing to the illness of Dr. Sheila Cassidy, the talk on "Chile" which was to have taken place at 6 p.m. on May 22 in the Meeting House has had to be cancelled.

* In the recent local elections, Tom Forester, an ex-president of the Students' Union and now a journalist on New Society, was one of the Labour councillors elected to Brighton Borough Council.

John Jacobs, Lecturer in Social Administration, was returned for Labour in the Lewes District Council elections.

GERMANY - 1917

Professor Ernst Schulin of the University of Freiburg (Freiburgim-Breisgau) is to give a lecture on "Germany and the historical turning point of 1917" on Friday, May 21, at 10.15am in A155. All are welcome.

Professor Marcus Coulliffe was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, by the University of Pennsylvania last month.

VISITING WRITER

Sussex University's first Visiting Writer, South African novelist Dan Jacobson, is visiting the campus this month. Last night he gave a public lecture at the University in which he read one of his own short stories and discussed it with the audience.

With assistance from the South East Regional Arts Association, the University is to invite each year an English-speaking writer, from Britain or overseas, to spend one or two weeks at Sussex to read and discuss his or her work, and take part in other activities with the public, students and faculty.

* Councillor D.S.W. Blaeker, JP, who is a member of the University Council appointed by West Sussex County Council, has been appointed High Sheriff of West Sussex.

Centre for Continuing Education

Southern Africa day school

A one-day school to study the problems facing southern Africa is to be held at the University on Saturday, June 5.

Dr. Michael Leigh, Dr. Ieuan Griffiths, Dr. Malcolm Segall and Mr. Tony Kirk will be taking part. The fee is £1.50 and further details are available from the Centre.

The late Victorian Weald

The principal features of change in the Weald from 1850 to 1914 will be examined by a residential weekend school to be held at Pyke House, Battle, on June 19 and 20.

Sessions will be divided between the study of historical documents and some fieldwork. Tutors will be Mr. J.R. Lowery, Rev. S.M. Short. The fee is £7.00 for full board and tuition (£4.50 for non-residents) and application forms, to be returned by June 4, are available from the Centre.
This autumn the Meeting House celebrates its 10th anniversary. A number of events will be held in the first week of November, including services, concerts and recitals.

Given to the University by Sir Sydney and Lady Coffyn, the Meeting House is a centre for religious and cultural activities on campus. The University Chaplain and the denominational chaplains operate from the Meeting House. They are available to all members of the University who may wish to discuss personal, moral or spiritual problems.

This first article looks at the Anglican and Baptist Chaplaincies, which serve the University, the Polytechnic, Brighton College of Education and the Technical College.

The Anglican Chaplaincy
There are two Anglican Chaplains, Austin Smith, based at the Chaplaincy Centre, and Andrew Robinson, who lives at Falmer.

The Chaplaincy Centre
Austin Smith, his wife, Alison, and their children, Helen and Jonathan, live in a flat above the Centre at 12 Hanover Crescent, Brighton.

The Centre is open day and evening and its position near the Level makes for easy contact with people working or living in Brighton or Hove. Austin and Alison try to make their home a place of welcome.

It is a base for the Hanover Society, which is open to all those involved in higher and further education, with the aim of offering a setting where people can eat and drink together, and share in discussion, study or worship. The Centre includes rooms for meeting and relaxation, a chapel and a bar.

Austin can normally be contacted at the Centre (Tel. 682355). He also visits the various colleges to meet people who want to deepen their faith in others and in God, however they may express it, in the context of their daily lives.

Falmer
Andrew Robinson and his family live near the University at St. Laurence House, opposite Falmer village pond.

Open house is held there on Sunday evenings to which all are welcome. Apart from his work at the University and College, Andrew also cares for the small parish church at Falmer.

He feels that many people in higher education are faced with decisions and significant changes in their lives at a time when they have to come to terms with loneliness or lack of meaning.

Andrew hopes that by offering a variety of group experiences, ranging from caring groups to meditation groups exploring prayer and using eastern techniques of meditation, people will be strengthened in their relationship with others and with God.

Judith, his wife, is a psychiatric social worker and they have a son, Dominic, aged 21. Andrew can be contacted at home (tel. 66928) or at Room 1, the Meeting House.

The Baptist Chaplaincy
The Baptist Chaplaincy is by London Road Station, at 178 Springfield Road (tel. 569758). Geoffrey Whitfield is Chaplain, and with his wife, Gill (and their three children), a centre has been established which is open to people from the Colleges and University.

In 1975 more than 100 students helped to turn a near-derelict building into a fine set of premises. A former coal cellar is now a crypt/coffee bar/seminar room/study room, and other rooms are available for groups and meetings - to say nothing of emergency accommodation.

Seminars are held each week for training people in counselling. Events from Growth Groups to Training Workshops in different therapeutic facilities, are held at weekends. On Sundays, supper is served from 8 p.m. and invited speakers stimulate discussion. People can drop in through the week for a chat, or to study ... or babysit!

The Chaplain can also be contacted every day at the Meeting House. Regular meetings in campus accommodation are encouraged, in addition to worship on Sunday mornings.

After a number of years as Minister in Moulsecoomb, with its complex needs, challenges and demands, Geoffrey is impatient with any religious practice that is other than relevant and meaningful. He says that if Christ has no significance today, then let the Faith be abandoned. Otherwise let it be seen to be real in personal terms and in global application. This at any rate appears to be the underlying attitude at the heart of the Baptist Chaplaincy.

Accordingly, there is a concern that people should become aware of what life is meant to be, hence the emphasis on Group discovery.

For those with a faith (or willing to discuss the possibility), there is the emphasis on rigorous thinking so that those who graduate and go to places of leadership and responsibility will go "with the world in their hands, a strategy in their heads and Christ in their hearts."
* James Gibb is to give a piano recital at the Gardner Centre on May 29 of works by Beethoven, Schubert, and Chopin. The concert will be in aid of Brighton Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Gibb has appeared as soloist with nearly all the major orchestras in this country. He has also given concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic and at the Prague International Festival. Last year he made a tour of eight Central American and Carribean countries.

A BBC Invitation Concert with the Boston Musica Viva will be recorded at the Gardner Centre on May 31 for future transmission on Radio Three.

The Boston Musica Viva was founded in 1969 by Richard Pittman, its music director, with the goal of expanding the audience for new music. It has established a reputation for performances that are outstanding for their technical bravura, expressivity and musicality.

The University of Sussex Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Laslo Heltay, will give a performance of Bizet’s Symphony in C and Beethoven’s Mass in C at the Gardner Centre on June 3.

The Brighton Festival production double-bill of The Lover, starring Vivien Merchant and Patrick Allen, and Friday, continues at the Gardner Centre for the rest of this week.

The University of Sussex Theatre Club will present Jean Genet’s The Maids from May 25 to 28. It is described as a disturbing, bitter and compassionate unveiling of human nature in all its splendour and misery.

Carrington - the development of the menage-a-trois of Dora Carrington, Lytton Strachey and Dora’s husband, Ralph Partridge - will be presented by the UOS Theatre Club on June 1, 4 and 5.

This original script, compiled by Andrew Anderson, was first performed with great success in Los Angeles.

* A survey of English water colours and drawings of the 20th century - From Sickert to Hockney - will be on view in the main gallery of the Gardner Centre from May 26 to June 10.

There are some 60 works in the exhibition, including paintings and drawings by Gwen John, Edward Burra, L.S. Lowry, Henry Moore, Paul Nash and William Roberts.

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

Both car mileage allowances and maximum subsistence allowances have been increased under new travel and subsistence rates agreed by the Chairman of Council.

Revised rates for car allowances are:

* Car mileage 12.5p (instead of 11p)
* Lump sum per annum £159 (£159) with a mileage rate of 7.5p (6p)
* Motor Cycle 2.25p (2p)

The increased rates are backdated to January 1, and the balance may be claimed.

New subsistence allowances, which apply from April 1, 1976, are:

* Maximum subsistence for an absence of:
  4-8 hours £ 1.75 (£1.25)
  8-12 hours £3.00 (£2.50)
  12-16 hours £4.00 (£3.25)
  over 16 hours £4.50 (£3.75)

  * for absence from home overnight to 24 hours

London £2.12.50 (£2.10.00)
Elsewhere £1.13.00 (£9.00)

* Overseas:
  Europe £20.00 (£12.50)
  N.America £22.50 (£15.00)

BOOKS FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

An exhibition of 800 recent and standard books from East German publishers will be on display in the Library from Monday, May 24 to Saturday, May 29.

They will be shown in 21 subject groups, comprising a wide range of topics in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Staff from the GDR book promotion organisation, Buchexport, will be available to assist browsers and to accept orders for subsequent delivery through a bookshop.

The exhibition will be open from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Admission free. Enquiries to Adrian Peasgood in the Library (04-860), who has copies of the exhibition catalogue.

Lecture on Brecht’s later years

A talk entitled “The later years of Bertolt Brecht; his work in the Berliner Ensemble” will be given in English by Otto Brandstädtler, Senior Editor of Aufbau-Verlag publishers, Berlin, on Friday, May 28 at 11.30 a.m. in the Library.

All are welcome to this lecture, which has been arranged in conjunction with the exhibition of books from the GDR.

The Problems of Southern Europe

A teach-in on the problems of southern Europe will be held on Wednesday, May 26, at the Gardner Arts Centre, from 10.30am to 5.00pm.

Strategic and economic problems will be considered by Professor Francois Duchene and Dr. Stuart Holland, and other speakers will include Edward Mortimer of The Times, and David Hine and Dr. David Golday of Oxford.

The teach-in, which is offered by the Contemporary European Studies MA programme, is open to all who are interested. Tickets are available from the Gardner box office, price 30p (students free).

OVERSEAS RELATIONS OFFICE

Study in Canada

Students intending to enter a Canadian university next session, whether already accepted or not, are invited to contact Pauline Osborne (05-124, Swanex House), who holds details of scholarships and other social and cultural functions offered in London this summer through the agency of the Canadian High Commission.

ACCOMMODATION AREA CHANGES

Changes in the Community Services administration were announced last week.

Brian Reynolds has been designated Accommodation Manager with overall responsibility for the co-ordination and staffing of the accommodation area, including the Accommodation Office and off-campus properties.

Colin Hill continues to be involved in business aspects of the accommodation area, but Joan Peskett will be responsible to Brian Reynolds for arrangements in off-campus properties.

Geoff Chaffey, Residential Services Officer, continues to be jointly responsible to USTA and Community Services, but in the future will concentrate more on community development and welfare.