Senate and Council have approved the University's submission to the University Grants Committee (UGC) as part of the "Planning for the Late 1980s" exercise initiated by the UGC letter of May 9, 1983.

But they have also pledged their support for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVC&P) in its campaign of opposition to government cuts in higher education funding and have called on Senate and Council members to make all efforts through their personal and professional contacts to support and extend that campaign, with especial reference to Sussex.

The University's submission is the result of a wide-ranging discussion throughout the University which has taken place at many different meetings during this term, culminating in special meetings of Senate and Council at the end of November.

In introducing the University's response to Council on November 22, the Vice-Chancellor stressed that the submission was not a detailed budget for the next five years, but was a tactical plan which, he hoped, would achieve the best possible outcome from the UGC in respect of block grant funding of the University in the years up to 1990. An announcement from the UGC of the block grant is not expected until May 1986.

The University's submission, which was delivered by hand to the UGC in London on November 28, contains research profiles for all subject groups, but its strategy is based on the same aims as those contained in the University's reply of March 1984 to the UGC on "Development of a Strategy for Higher Education into the 1990s". They are:

1. A balance between the human scale of the institution and the requirements of developments in knowledge and its transmission, e.g., a university of 4,000-5,000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students (400-450 FTE academic staff) omitting certain large fields.
2. A standard of excellence in the academic work of the University, in its teaching, scholarship and research, which implies small group teaching, interdisciplinary teaching and course planning, a higher than national proportion of postgraduate students, and a rigorous approach to research needs and assessment (including attention to 'problem-orientated' research in interdisciplinary centres).
3. A balance between 'Arts-based' and 'Science-based' students and courses. The flexibility of academic and organisational structures (e.g., through interdisciplinary and through staff teaching outside their research fields) enhances our ability to adapt to changes in the patterns of applicant demand, societal needs, etc. We hold to the objective of moving towards a more even balance of the 'Arts' and the 'Sciences' if the necessary resources (e.g., laboratory and technical support costs) can be made available.
4. A concern for the region which called the University into being and for which it remains the only university institution; a concern expressed through services to industry and public organisations, the provision of mid-career professional training as well as traditional adult education, access to the University's facilities etc.

(3) a major international role. In teaching, research and public service, Sussex is a leading British university in terms of international relations, perceptions and recognition.

Sir Adrian Cadbury (right): pictured at the sherry reception before the Hitachi Lecture, with Professor Mary Eyre, Director of the Centre for Continuing Education (left) and Dr. Keith Middlemass, Chairman of History (centre).

**Hitachi Lecture**

Industrial relations in Britain are following a new course from which they are unlikely to be diverted and which may provide the best hope for reversing the country's economic decline.

This was one of the themes of Cadbury-Schweppes Chairman, Sir Adrian Cadbury, in the annual Hitachi Lecture on Industrial Relations given at the University last month.

Sir Adrian's lecture, entitled, "The 1980s: A Watershed in British Industrial Relations?", was the fourth funded from a grant of £30,000 given to the University by the Hitachi Corporation of Japan in 1982. Part of the grant supports the annual lecture by a prominent scholar, Continued on page 3
The D.G. Bridson Collection

For a man who spent his life working with the spoken word, D.G. Bridson, one of BBC Radio's pioneers of "creative broadcasting", had a remarkable passion for collecting photographs of works of art.

The fruit of his labours, the D.G. Bridson Collection, was presented to the University last month by Mrs. Joyce Bridson in memory of her late husband. The Collection was received by the Vice-Chancellor at a special opening ceremony on November 22 in the Collection's new home, Arts B131.

The Collection, which took more than 40 years to amass, comprises 929 volumes of photographic reproductions of a wide range of western paintings. The photographs were collected, mounted and labelled and bound by hand into volumes by Mr. Bridson in the study of his Highgate home and stored in specially built bookshelves. They now form a valuable addition to teaching resources for History of Art faculty and students.

As well as being known for his radio work, Geoffrey, or D.G. Bridson as he preferred to be known, was a man of wide literary and artistic interests. Born in 1919, he joined the BBC in 1935 and in his 23 years there his output was prolific - over 800 documentaries, plays and feature programmes carried his imprint. He was especially well-known for his documentary series, such as "America Since the Bomb" and "The Negro in America", and his conversations with major poets became classics of their kind.

People

GEOGRAPHERS IN DEMAND

Various parts of the African Continent have been hitting the headlines in recent weeks and as a source of informed comment the expertise of a number of geographers from the School of African and Asian Studies (Afras) has been in great demand.

Chairman of Geography, Dr. Ieuan Griffiths, has been invited to edit a series of 13 articles on Southern Africa for Geographical Magazine. The series, which will appear in consecutive issues beginning in March 1986, will feature articles written by Drs. Don Funnell and David Robinson from Afras as well as Dr. Griffiths.

Dr. Tony Binns took part in a public meeting held in Hove Town Hall last month. The meeting, entitled "Hunger: The Moral Injustice of our Time", was part of Oxfam's 'Campaign for Justice not Hunger', and featured talks by Frank Judd, Oxfam's new director and Dr. Binns. Dr. Binns writes on his visit to Africa's 'famine lands' elsewhere in this issue of Bulletin.

Dr. Ieuan Griffiths delivered this year's Eva Taylor Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society in London, last month. His lecture, entitled "Africa's Colonial Inheritance: The Straightjacket of Political Geography", is to be published in the Geographical Journal.

EAPS STUDENT WINS AWARDS

A first year student in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EAPS) was presented with two awards by the Duke of Kent at the final round of BP's National Buildarobot Competition earlier this term.

A robot built by David Franklin, a Control Engineering major in EAPS, his younger brothers Ian and Alan and a friend, Stuart Quick, won two class awards - the Industrial Robot Journal Award for ingenuity and the Institution of Electrical Engineers Award for consumer appeal.

The competition involved building a robot butler which would serve a selection of drinks to two people and would operate without the use of cables between it and the customer.

David's robot was one of 20 which reached the final round of the competition, held at the School of Electronic Engineers, Arborfield, Berkshire, in October.

HANS SINGER

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Hans Singer who recently celebrated his 75th birthday.

An economist and Emeritus Fellow of the Institute of Development Studies, Professor Singer was for 22 years at the United Nations where he had great influence on its development. He is particularly interested in food aid and child development and only a fortnight ago participated in a UNICEF and World Food Programme workshop on 'Food Aid for Children' in New York.

NEW PRESIDENT OF SCR

Charles Martindale (Euro) has taken over as President of the Senior Common Room from Richard Jackson (MOLS) who has completed a three-year term of office. Edward Bishop (MOLS) is the new Secretary and Leslie Ricketts (Sussex) continues as Treasurer.

Membership of the SCR is open to all faculty and staff of the University prospective members should contact one of the above.
Rent strike call

At a University of Sussex Tenants Association (USTA) Open Meeting on November 26, 1983, a vote for a rent strike was passed based on demands of

1. No education cuts.
2. Three Mandela Scholarships should be created.
3. Rents should not be increased by a percentage greater than the increase in student grants.

About 200 people attended this meeting with some 70 voting against a rent strike. It is by no means certain all present were USTA members but even if they were all tenants it means that, despite the USTA Executive proposal to ballot all members on such an important issue, less than seven per cent of tenants have committed everyone to a rent strike. Subsequently, the entire USTA Executive resigned.

A rent strike will achieve

1. A reduced contribution to the Community Development Fund which has provided many important one-off, and ongoing, improvements to life on campus for all the community. Funds might not be available to pay for a taxi to get emergency non-ambulance cases to hospital, for instance.
2. The Accommodation Account, and thus future tenants, being charged with interest on late payment of rents.
3. Additional work for University clerical staff.

From previous experience a rent strike will not achieve

1. A non-accommodation objective, i.e., three Mandela Scholarships.
2. A satisfactory climate in which constructive proposals regarding the level of future rents can be discussed. In the past rent strikes prior to discussions on rents have resulted in these being prescribed, rather than consideration being given to student views.
3. Good relations between tenants and Accommodation Staff, at all levels, which are important if the maximum benefit is to be obtained from University residence.

Tenants are asked to pay rent to the University at the due dates as legally contracted to do when they signed tenancy agreements - payment into an USTA strike fund will not discharge this duty and will not prevent the University from taking action against such tenants as debtors as has always been its policy and practice. Tenants might feel it advisable to request the new Executive to hold a ballot of all members to determine the degree of support for a rent strike.

B. E. REYNOLDS
Accommodation Manager

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Telephone facts and figures

The pictures above graphically show the dramatic difference between the old switchboard and the new one located in Sussex House.

But the change in technology is not the only remarkable thing about the new telephones. Deputy Estates Manager, Roger Bailey, has worked out the following facts and figures about the installation of the system - the largest free-standing Plessey IDX PABX telephone system in the country:

- 2,258 potential outlets (sockets on the wall) out of a possible maximum of 2,304 have been installed;
- over 2,000 miles of 0.6mm² copper wire were used (ranging from two pair to 200 pair cable);
- 20,000 cable clips and 10,000 cable ties were used together with nearly 2,000 Krone connector strips and 200 rolls of marking tape;
- over 30,000 individual cable connections were required;
- wiring contractors, Gratte Brothers, consumed 48 pounds (lb) of sausages in their weekly hot dog lunch;
- Gardner Centre bar takings rose by about £70 each Friday lunchtime when those involved in installing the system popped in for a drink (or several).

HITACHI LECTURE

Continued from page 1

industrialist or trades unionist while the remainder is used to fund research in the University’s Unit for Comparative Research in Industrial Relations.

Drawing from his company’s experience at its factory in Bourneville, Birmingham, Sir Adrian examined the ways in which industrial relations had changed to take account of changes in management structure and the shift of decision-making from company-level to unit-level. He suggested that single-union agreements encouraged a “working community” ethos by treating the workforce as a whole, and were thus in line with the management structure which had emerged from the competitive pressures of the market place.

The text of Sir Adrian’s lecture is being published by the Institute of Manpower Studies (IMS) on behalf of the Unit for Comparative Research in Industrial Relations and will be available in January 1986, price £2.35 (special price for members of the University). Copies can be obtained from the Publications Office, IMS, Manteil Building, (Int. tel 3682).
Africa

After the Drought?

Everyone has heard of Timbuktu, but few people are aware that it lies in the sub-Saharan west African republic of Mali. Mali and its neighbouring country, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), straddle the savanna-sahel zone of West Africa which in recent years has become synonymous with famine, extreme poverty and drought. A very gloomy picture was painted by Geoffrey Lean in an article in *The Observer* of August 25, 1985, entitled “Mali: the next domino.”

According to Lean, “Mali is the latest country to fall to the relentless sweep of hunger across Africa. The dignified Tuaregs, most famous of all the nomad peoples of the Sahara, are facing extinction as circumstances defeat even their 2000-year-old skills of survival. Three quarters of their animals, the basis of their livelihood, have already died. Emaciated families now stagger across the territory they once roamed with their herds. Many of them are converging on the vast inland delta of the River Niger, which should be able to feed not only its people and the nomads but the whole of West Africa. Yet it is inexorably turning to desert.”

Less than a week after the appearance of Lean’s article, I stepped down from the plane at Bamako, the capital of Mali. The night before, I was told, there had been a torrential thunderstorm - the potholed roads were still awash and the humidity was quite oppressive and reminiscent of coastal West Africa. I spent five days at Bamako staying with two United Nations Association Volunteers and with Ced Hesse, a former Sussex Geography student (Afras, 1976-79), who is now working for Oxfam as their Drought Officer, with responsibility for Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger - a total area far greater than the whole of Western Europe.

The Observer article generated a great deal of heated debate in Bamako, mainly because it was portraying a picture which could not be reasonably accurate six months earlier, but which bore little resemblance to the situation in Mali in late August. The rains were generally good, many refugees were returning home and the cholera epidemics had been brought under control. But this highlights the problem of making sweeping generalisations about such a vast region of Africa where rainfall may be adequate in one village but in another some 50 miles away it may be non-existent. Temporally too there is great variability; Geoffrey Lean’s article was obviously researched in the dry season when pastoralists, even under normal circumstances (whatever normal may mean), migrate southwards and when the land appears brown and is a threat to make it look as if it is being “swallowed up” by the advancing Sahara desert.

I spent 12 days travelling with Ced Hesse and the Oxfam project coordinator from Burkina Faso, Yacouba Zeba, and

The Land Rover comes to a halt before a flooded road on the Dogon Plateau, Mali.

I felt that I learned far more than I would from two or three years in some well endowed library. But I was conscious of the fact that I was there for only a short time during the rainy season and it would be most unwise to generalise on the basis of my limited observations.

We left Bamako, a rather sleepy city of 700,000 people situated on the banks of the River Niger, and travelled north-eastwards for some 400 miles through Segou and San to Mopti situated in the heart of the inland Niger Delta. The inland Niger Delta is one of the wonders of Africa, and potentially the rice bowl of West Africa. Here the River Niger braids into countless small streams sluggish moving across an almost flat plain before coming together again a few miles south of Timbuktu.

In early September the delta region was green and rice was growing in plenty around the ancient town of Mopti. We approached Mopti along a raised causeway with rice fields on either side and the town’s medieval mosque standing prominent on a small hill in the distance, overlooking the delta and the River Niger. For Mopti owes much of its importance to the Niger and is a major river port which bubbles with activity.

Next day we headed eastwards across Dogon country to the small town of Bandiagara and thence to the magnificent Bandiagara escarpment, which runs for over a 100 miles overlooking a vast area of stabilized sand dunes. Travelling northwards and following the line of the escarpment our Land Rover waded through farms crowded with waving millet stalks, in some cases over 10 feet high. The crops seemed to be growing in pure sand, but as we stopped on numerous occasions to ask the direction, farmers were really excited about the prospects of a good harvest.

The Sahel was indeed very green and where there were no crops there was a dense covering of prickly grass known locally as “cram-cram” which is to be avoided by humans but which cattle and other animals will readily eat. There was little evidence of any “desertification” and the healthy millet crop perhaps indicated that even areas which have been “desertified” in the past may be revascularised with adequate rainfall. But rainfall is the big uncertainty in this part of the world.

Vegetation became sparser as we moved further north, but everywhere there were thriving crops. In early September it was raining every three or four days. We saw many dead trees, victims of the last four dry years, but providing a valuable source of firewood. At Douentza we stayed with a Tuareg family sitting on thick leather cushions on the floor to sip sweet Malian tea, and eat roasted goat and millet.

Both the Tuareg and the Fulani, the two main pastoral groups of northern Mali, have lost many of their livestock in the last few years. In some cases only a few hardy sheep and goats remain. Valuable female animals have been sold and it will take many years to build up the herds to their former strength. Many pastoralists have sought salarial work in towns or have drifted into refugee camps. At Douentza the compound in which we were staying was surrounded by refugees’ tents. There had been many more a few months earlier, but the people had returned home to try to reconstruct their livelihood.

Rather short-sightedly, the main aid distributors in the Gao region (World Food Programme and World Vision) have not ordered any substantial food deliveries for 1986, believing that the rains of 1985 have improved the situation. So there is a danger that by March/April 1986 (during the scorching heat of the dry season) there will be even larger refugee camps, but with little food. Ced Hesse, on behalf of Oxfam, is trying to keep these people who have left Gao around the large semi-permanent water holes by distributing seeds and equipment, and training former pastoralists in market gardening. Further “food for work” schemes are planned to improve these ‘gardens’ - digging wells, installing irrigation systems and building earthen dams to capture rainwater. But the main problems are lack of time, internal regional politics and the vast numbers of refugees involved.

I travelled northwards with Ced Hesse to a remote village called Bambara-
Maoundé some 80 miles south of Timbuktu. We drove for over six hours across bare stony surfaces, grass-covered stabilised sand dunes, and crossed numerous streams and marshes. It took well over an hour to drag the leading Toyota pick-up out of deep mud using a tow-rope attached to the Land Rover. There were no roads, not even tracks, and ourtracking guide plotted the route by recognising trees on the horizon.

We had travelled over 800 miles from Bamako and it was like being in another world. We were greeted by hundreds of village people. We stayed two nights in Bambara-Maoundé sleeping under mosquito nets outside the rather spartan village dispensary. I asked if there was any bread in the village and was told that there was no flour anywhere in the region. However, to my surprise, next day a woman came into the dispensary compoud and unveiled a large tray stacked high with small round flat loaves - I felt obliged to purchase a good number since she had obviously baked them especially for the visitors!

The purpose of visiting Bambara-Maoundé was to check up on the distribution of food aid in the form of seeds sent to farmers in surrounding villages. Céd Hesse and his counterparts in Médecins sans Frontières, a Belgian team of doctors and nurses, had discovered that the seeds had not reached the right people and that perhaps the village hierarchy had embezzled much of the aid. The whole matter was a tricky one and I was most impressed with the expatriate 'diplomats', as indeed I was with the continuing friendliness and hospitality of the chiefs who were 'being investigated'. Visits to a number of surrounding villages did in fact reveal that farmers had not received the seeds. The scheme was an amicable one and the chiefs agreed to redistribute the seeds more equitably. The effectiveness of young and dedicated aid workers in implementing local 'grassroots' projects on behalf of non-governmental organisations struck me as being highly preferable to large, often impersonal development projects such as I had seen in other parts of West Africa.

From Bambara-Maoundé we travelled south towards Douentza, driving slowly after an overnight visit where a leaky fan belt had damaged the internal workings of our Land Rover. We had visions of being stranded for days in the middle of nowhere, in 12 hours of driving there and back we had seen no other vehicles. As we approached Douentza we saw a young boy harvesting fonio (wild rice) using an ingenious method which he swung through the fonio, catching the small seeds and collecting them in the basket. The fonio would make a valuable addition to his family's diet in the pre-harvest period, particularly as there was very little left from the scantly harvest of 1984. Granaries were empty wherever we looked, but an air of optimism was evident. A good harvest was on the way - perhaps the drought was over!

With a damaged engine our Land Rover just managed to limp back to Mopti where we spent a whole day getting a new water pump fixed. Or rather a 'new' second-hand water pump - we tried to find one that actually worked: Late in the afternoon we crossed our fingers and headed south-east towards Burkina Faso. It was dark by 6.30 p.m. and the heavens opened.

A young boy uses a special basket to collect fonio (wild rice).

We drove for three hours in the dark, the rain and the mud, reaching Koro, the last sizeable settlement in Mali before the frontier. Exhausted, we decided we had had enough and discovered a small delapidated 'campanet' (equivalent to a rest house in anglophone West Africa) where we paid the equivalent of £3 to sleep. In what seemed like a prison cell, with no electricity or toilets and only a bucket of water for washing.

Next morning we emerged from the 'hotel' at 6.30 a.m. and found a cup of coffee and some bread at a ramshackle 'bistro' where my neighbour was tucking into goat's head and rice. We made a hasty dash for the frontier post where a friendly official stamped our passports and we proceeded into a sort of no-man's land on either side of the border. The road was appalling with potholes several feet deep and totally neglected by road maintenance teams from either Mali or Burkina. At 1.45 a.m. we reached a large sign which told us we were now in the republic of Upper Volta (it obviously pre-dated the creation of Burkina Faso). Yacouba, the Burkinabe Oxam project coordinator, was overjoyed that he had at last reached his homeland. We had heard many stories from him about the virtues of Captain Thomas Sankara and the revolution, and we were told to address officials at the Burkina frontier post as 'camarade'.

Captain Sankara seized power on August 4, 1983 and set himself up as the Chairman of the Conseil National de la Revolution (CNR). Exactly a year later he changed the name of the country from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso, which means "the land of men of integrity". Since the revolution communal work parties have repaired roads and bridges, built rural clinics, developed small irrigation projects, and perhaps the most exciting project is the completion of the colonial-built railway from the capital Ouagadougou to Doré some 180 miles to the north-east.

Whereas Mali seemed to be politically sleepy, Burkina was fervent and exciting, whether or not one managed to find finer details of its left-wing policies. Things seemed to be getting done. Roads were a great improvement on those of Mali, there was an efficient national bus service reaching most parts of the country, a wide range of consumer goods (including beer) had been reduced in price, and self-help projects were to be seen everywhere. Ouagadougou, the capital, is a modern well laid-out city with tree-lined boulevards, street lights that work and impressive public buildings - a far cry from the decaying infrastructure of Bamako.

Ouagadougou and Bamako are keen rivals for the title of aid capital of West Africa, but Ouag probably has the edge: Oxam has well over 100 projects in Burkina and there were certainly many white faces on the streets of Ouagadougou. Everywhere we went in Burkina people were eagerly listening to their radios, the most popular programmes being the live broadcasts of tribunals in which individuals accused of crimes against the state, notably corruption, faced a barrage of questions from their military interrogators.

As I flew from Ouagadougou by Air Burkina to Cotonou on the coast, and then ultimately to Kampala for a conference, I reflected on what I had seen over the previous 12 days. The impressions I had gained were very different from those in that depressing Observer article. The part of the Sahel which I experienced was green and flourishing, but the underlying situation in this region gave no cause for optimism. Here was a region and its people desperately trying to get back on their feet after the second major drought in 15 years. Pastoralists had lost, through sale or death, most of their livestock - their basic wealth that had been nurtured over many centuries. Farmers' granaries were still empty in September 1983 and nutrition levels had undoubtedly fallen considerably.

Granaries stand empty.

But is this the end of the drought? Is this region at the start of a recovery period? The simple answer is that nobody can tell. The rainfall is so fickle in the Sahel that next year could quite easily be another dry one. It is also unwise to overgeneralise in spatial terms. Some areas and communities have in fact had below average rainfall in 1983 and there are still pockets of drought and hunger amidst a generally optimistic scene. The region will still require considerable external assistance for a number of years. Pasture growth may be encouraging, but herd reconstruction is a much longer process that may take a decade or more.

But as I left Ouagadougou on September 11, the air was humid, the clouds were gathering and it seemed that another storm was on the way.

TONY BINNS
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

The Gardner Centre looks like having a hit on its hands with this year’s Christmas show THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Advance bookings are well ahead of the Centre’s targets and ahead of last year’s figures. The show aims to recreate the simple charm and magic of Kenneth Grahame’s timeless story, which has been adapted by Mike Carter. It is directed by Colin Fisher who directed ‘The Gingerbread Man’ last year, and the Musical Director is Richard Holmes.

The enchanting tale of Mole, Ratty, Badger and reckless Toad will be delighting audiences until the end of the first week of the Spring Term, and seats are still available for most performances. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS opens on Friday, December 20 and runs till Saturday, January 11.

Prior to the Christmas show, the outstanding cellist Steven Isserlis gives a performance of the Bach Cello Suites Nos. 1, 3 and 4 on Wednesday, December 11. His continuing use of gut strings sets him alone on the international circuit and gives his playing a uniquely beautiful sound.

The Gallery shows new works on decorative themes by Peter Hawes until January 15. The works are on paper, and the themes running through them are developed from emblems and devices chosen for their timeless qualities. The materials used include soft pastel, gouache and water and oil-based inks. In the foyer are Robin Raward’s screenprints and photographs of the south of France. The Gardner’s craft showcases will be full of exciting and unusual ideas for Christmas gifts at a range of prices.

Highlights of the Gardner’s programme after Christmas will include Alec McCowen in KIPLING (January 16 – 18), a mime season featuring everything from the Chilean group TEATRO CHILENO de MIMOS to a hilarious mime version of THUNDERBIRDS, a National Theatre studio production of HAMLET, Jacques Loussier and the City of London Sinfonia with Bernard Roberts. Full details will be available shortly. Meanwhile the staff of the Gardner wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – and hope to help you celebrate both in style.

CHRISTMAS IN THE BOOKSHOP

A few titles of local interest as gift suggestions: WRITERS IN SUSSEX by Bernard Smith, with photographs of their houses by Peter Haas (£4.95). SIX MORE ENGLISH TOWNS by Alec Clifton-Taylor (£8.95), the book of the entertaining TV series, which includes Lewes. Fully illustrated.

FALMER PARISH REFLECTIONS by Doris Williams (£7.50) is a fascinating 145-page illustrated account of the history of the immediate neighbourhood of the University.

Maps and guides, such as Miles Jebb’s A GUIDE TO THE SOUTH DOWNS WAY (£6.95), make unorthodox presents. Newly published, THE LIVES OF LEE MILLER by her son, local author Antony Penrose (£16). Lee Miller, 1920s’ fashion model, highly gifted photographer and friend of many famous modern artists, lived locally for the latter part of her fascinating life.

Plus thousands of other books, as well as diaries, calendars, book tokens, Christmas cards and giftwrap paper.

Open 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Sussex University Bookshop.

SWEDISH CELEBRATION

Swedish students from Gothenburg University currently studying at Sussex will be celebrating the Feast of Santa Lucia by performing a candlelit procession this Friday, December 13. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration, one of Sweden’s Christmas customs, in the Grapevine, Refectory Building, between 6 and 6.30 p.m. Mulled wine will be on sale.

MEETING HOUSE CHRISTMAS APPEAL 1985

This year’s appeal is for the Nelson and Winnie Mandela Scholarship which enables a black South African student to study at this University. It is hoped that sufficient money can be raised for the fund which supports the scholarship to enable an increase in the number of those who can benefit.

By giving to this fund you will be able to help in a practical and positive way those who suffer from the consequences of apartheid in South Africa. Donations, please, to Barbara Barber, Room 3, The Meeting House. Cheques should be made payable to “The University of Sussex”.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - The Meeting House has the following designs of Christmas cards for sale: Winter Scene (new for this year), 4 for £1; Meeting House in the snow and The Chalice, 6 for £1. Some of the profit from sales will go to the Christmas appeal.

Small ads

MORRIS MINOR ESTATE, 64,000 miles, Tax, MOT, K reg, £195. Tel. Brighton 693286. B. Dresman, EAPS u/g p/h.


EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER offers part-time assistance with research in humanities subjects. Frequently in London & has access to major London libraries. Fees negotiable. Contact through R.M. Jones, Arts A167, ext.2084, evenings Uckfield 2370.

Small quantity SUSSEX HONEY for sale. £1.25 per jar. R.M. Jones, Arts A167, ext. 2084.

FOR SALE - verger’s black gown, hardly used. £10. Contact Yvette Stone, ext.2060.

FOR SALE - ACADEMICAL DRESS, 2 Sussex MA gowns, to fit heights 5’4" & 6’, and 1 Sussex MA hood. V. good condition and reasonably priced. Contact Pauline O’Reilly, Information Office, Sussex House (tel. 8209).
Fixing it for farmers

A discovery by scientists based at the University has opened up the possibility of creating a small-scale device to make cheap fertilizer from nitrogen readily available in the air.

The discovery, made by Dr. Chris Pickett and a visiting research fellow from France, Dr. Jean Talarmin, at the Agricultural and Food Research Council’s (AFRC) Unit of Nitrogen Fixation on the University campus, is an electrochemical process whereby atmospheric nitrogen can be converted into nitrogen fertilizer in normal temperature and pressure conditions. This new process contrasts greatly with the existing industrial method of producing chemical fertilizer which involves the use of very high temperatures and pressures.

The importance of the discovery is underlined by a United Nations prediction that the world’s agricultural output and hence the amount of nitrogen fertilizer put into soils, will need to double by the early part of the 21st century to support the predicted increase in the world’s population.

Currently just over one-third of the global nitrogen input into soils comes from industrially produced fertilizer, with the rest coming from biological nitrogen fixation (e.g., from decaying plants, manure, etc.). However the industrial method is capital-intensive, energy-consuming and requires sophisticated industrial plant and management. It produces cheap fertilizer but packaging and transport add, often substantially, to the cost to the farmer.

The world’s main source of nitrogen—the air, which is 80 per cent nitrogen gas—remains largely untapped by the plants which need it to grow. It is available only to certain bacteria which can convert it into a usable form in the mild conditions existing in the soil where they live (i.e., without the high temperatures and pressures required in the industrial process).

However Dr. Pickett and Dr. Talarmin have discovered a way of fixing nitrogen in mild conditions using a catalyst thought to resemble the catalyst used by nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

This catalyst can take up nitrogen gas and form a complex which will react with a derivative of sulphuric acid to produce ammonia. When an electric current is used to drive the system the catalyst will take up more nitrogen after the reaction is finished, thus making the process cyclic. The ammonia which is produced, unlike nitrogen, can be used by plants.

Dr. Pickett hopes that future work on this electrolysisynthesis of ammonia might provide the basis for the development of a small-scale ammonia-producing cell which could be used to produce fertilizer ‘on the spot’ using nitrogen from the air and electricity which could be generated by the sun or the wind.

External examiner system to be studied

The role of the external examiner in universities and public sector higher education is to be studied in a two-year nationwide project.

The external examiner system is seen as a major guarantee of quality and equality of standards in higher education and this will be the first systematic study of how it works.

The project will be conducted by the Centre for Staff Development in Higher Education, University of London Institute of Education, in association with Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology. The study is being undertaken with support from the Economic and Social Research Council, and is jointly funded by the Council for National Academic Awards and the Department of Education and Science.

Researchers will gather information on who external examiners are, their work, responses to their recommendations, and how much the system costs. An inventory of the best practices currently operating will be compiled and made available to external examiners and to the departments they serve.

The enquiry will involve questionnaires, interviews and a review of external examiners’ reports. It will map the networks of departments and external examiners, and will explore the examiners’ involvement with course design, course assessment, the setting and moderating of exams.

Particular attention will be paid to modular courses, practical and professional course elements, and continuous assessment. The enquiry will sample courses from the arts, the social sciences, science and engineering where they appear as both single subject and joint subject courses.

Computer copyright

Most people in the University are by now aware of the copyright laws, especially as they relate to the photocopying of copyright material.

However these laws have now been extended by the Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Act 1985, to cover the copying of computing programs.

In the wake of this Act, one micro software house, Micropro, has declared an amnesty for illicit users of its best-selling ‘Wordstar’ word processing package. Micropro, which has brought a number of prosecutions in the United States, estimates that for every legitimate copy of Wordstar—around 1.2 million worldwide—there are three or four illicit copies.

Micropro, which is the first well-known software company to introduce an amnesty, is now offering unlicensed UK users the opportunity to become registered users by paying £40 for a valid serial label (the legitimate package costs £29).
CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Weekend Schools at the White House, Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gates
January 24 - 26: The Natural History and Ecology of Woodland. Tutor: Eric Towner. The course will cover the origin of woodlands and forestry, their development and uses throughout history, and their wildlife, ecology and conservation today. There will be field visits and lectures/discussion sessions.
March 14 - 16: Chiliringian Quartet. Tutor: Michael Hall and the members of the Chiliringian Quartet. String chamber ensembles are being invited to participate in master classes and membrements of the Quartet. Observers are invited to meet the Quartet, observe the master classes and take part (if wished) in informal music making.

Further details of the above courses and other events are available from the Centre for Continuing Education in the Education Development Building.

RECENT BOOKS
Recent publications by Sussex authors include:
PSYCHOLINGUISTICS: Central Topics with Alan Cosbourn. Methuen. Paper. £8.50.

All available from SUSSEX UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP

SOUTHERN AFRICA CONFERENCE
The University of York's Centre for Southern African Studies will be running the 12th conference for postgraduate students from various disciplines and universities but sharing the southern African interest from March 25 to 27, at a fee of £35 including meals and accommodation. Further details from Mrs. Jean Wall, Centre for Southern African Studies, University of York, Heslington, York, YO1 5DD.

FELLOWSHIP
Smuts Visiting Fellowship in Commonwealth Studies, Cambridge. Applications are invited for the above fellowship at Cambridge for the 1987-88 academic year. The successful candidate will receive up to £9000 and possible additional financial assistance. Applicants should be members of staff of a university other than Cambridge or be otherwise suitably qualified. Preference will be given to promising younger scholars in the overseas countries of the Commonwealth who have shown distinction in their field of study. Closing date for applications: March 14, 1986. Further details from: Smuts Memorial Fund, General Beatrix House, The Old Schools, Carnewis, CB2 ITT.

JOGGERS BEWARE!
To avoid the risk of injury, joggers are advised NOT to use the road at the top of boiler house hill but to take the path through the beechn woods. Warning comes from the University Safety Officer after a number of 'near misses' on the corner. The bend is especially dangerous after dark as the road is not well lit.

OPERATION RALEIGH
Operation Raleigh, the multi-national, round-the-world expedition, invites applications from those aged between 17 and 26 for places on one of the three-month phases of the four-year expedition which ends in 1988.
Two former Sussex students have already taken part in the expedition, which involves scientific, conservation and community projects on land and sea. Further details are held in the Information Office. Level 2, Sussex House, or are available from: Operation Raleigh, Alpha Place, Flood Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 5ZZ. (Tel. 01-351 7941)

HOW TO GIVE MORE TO YOUR FAVOURED CHARITY - AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF
The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) can help you give more to your favourite charity - over 40 per cent - at no extra cost to yourself, by making an adjustment in the way that you give.
The basic idea is simple: open a discretionary covenant account with the CAF, pay the money you wish to give into this account and the CAF will recover the tax for you and add it to this sum (43p for each £1 you give if you are a tax payer). You will be given a charity 'cheque book' with which to make your donations to the charities of your choice as and when you wish.
For further details contact Peter Grove, Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2DD. (Tel. 0732 356323)

This is the last Bulletin of the Autumn Term. The Information Office would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the Bulletin this term.
The first edition of the Spring Term will appear on Tuesday, January 14, and copy must be received in the Information Office, level 2, Sussex House (tel. 8208) by no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, January 6. Publication dates for the remainder of the Spring Term are: Feb 4 (copy date January 27) and Feb 23 (copy date February 17).
We can only inform you if you inform us - so please remember to let us know about news events.

The Bulletin is for the information of staff and students of the University of Sussex. Published by the Information Office and printed by the University of Sussex Printing Unit.