Campaign to Reduce Domestic Lead Pollution

Approximately one in 10 of Britain’s young children (below the age of six) is suffering with lead poisoning. A new campaign launched last week and led by Erik Millstone of SPRU is aimed at insuring that lead pollution is reduced.

Erik launched the campaign with a press release which received wide coverage in the media. In it he outlined the dangers of lead in the blood of young children and called upon the government to take urgent steps to eradicate lead pollution from drinking water and sharply to reduce the dangers from old paint.

Since the British government set a maximum level of lead in the blood of young children (at 25 microgrammes per decilitre) in 1983 the science of lead poisoning has rapidly progressed, but British policy remains unchanged. Scientists have now produced evidence showing that measurable harm is caused to the mental development of young children if their blood lead level is above 10 microgrammes a decilitre. Approximately one in 10 of British children below the age of six has more than 10 microgrammes per decilitre of lead in their blood. The evidence indicates that the children who are being poisoned are not just doing less well at school, it is also contributing to their disruptive and delinquent behaviour.

The widespread and growing use of unleaded petrol has resulted in lower levels of lead in the air and in our food but approximately half of all British homes are contaminated with old leaded paint, and approximately one in three receives its drinking supply through old lead water pipes. These two sources of lead pollution have been neglected for too long.

The campaign is calling for urgent steps to remove all the lead piping from our drinking water supply. The campaign also focuses on the need to ensure that the British public understand the danger posed by old leaded paint, and the danger to young children when old paint is sanded, scraped or burnt off. The government, the paint industry and the DIY retailers should all ensure that the British public and professional painters and decorators are properly informed and equipped to deal safely with old leaded paint.

At the moment it is extremely difficult for ordinary members of the public to find out if their homes are contaminated with lead paint or to learn how to deal with such contamination safely.

Families with young children living in homes built before 1945 should never dry-sand old paint, or power sand it, or strip the paint with a hot air gun or a blowtorch. Young children should always be kept away when old paint is being prepared for repainting. Lead poisoning is less likely if old paint it treated with either a damp water-proof abrasive paper or with chemical stripper. The area should first be sealed off, and special care taken to collect and safely dispose of the resulting waste. The area should then be cleaned thoroughly before young children are allowed to use it again.

□ Out last week: Lead and Public Health by Erik Millstone published by Earthscan at £12.50. Copies are available from the University Bookshop.

University Christmas Card

This year’s University card is a detail from the tapestry by John Piper given to the University in memory of Sir Sydney Caffyn. The tapestry, which hangs in the University Meeting House, depicts, in vibrant colours, Psalm 46 from which the motto of the University (‘Be still and know’) is taken. It was woven by the Edinburgh Tapestry Company and dedicated at a service of thanksgiving on December 15 1978.

The card is priced at £3.75 for 10 or 40p per single card. Individual cards can also be purchased through the Bookshop and the Students’ Union Shop.

Bulk orders should be placed through Christine Anthony in the Information Office on ext 3766 or email your order to: Information@sussex.ac.uk with a recharge code. Order early to avoid disappointment.
**At the Gardner**

**Film**
- Sunday 23 November
  - 3.00pm *Withnail and I* (15)
  - 6.00pm *Hamlet* (PG)
- Monday 24 November
  - 7.30pm *Twelve Angry Men* (PG)
- Tuesday 25 November
  - 7.45pm *Baraka* (15)
  - 11.30pm *Scream* (18)

**Music**
- Wednesday 26 November 7.45pm
  - Gogmagogs. String-playing beyond your wildest dreams!
- Tickets £8.50/£7.50 (£1 off concs)
- FREEBIES for the first 10 people to present themselves at the Box Office with this *Bulletin*.

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**Continuing Education Day Schools**

- **Saturday 29 November**
  - **Reminiscence: facilitation skills and professional boundaries.** The second of two reminiscence day schools. Participants will be encouraged to use their own experience where appropriate.
  - **The Green Man.** An exploration, with tutors Fran and Geoff Doel, of the symbolic force of the Green Man in Britain and Europe through church carvings, literature, art, the Robin Hood legend and seasonal folk customs.
  - **Heritage of Sussex.** Michael Smith will seek to show the varied legacy that Sussex has inherited.

**How to trace the history of your house.** Venue: E. Sussex Record Office, Lewes. Christopher Whittick will demonstrate the use of documentary sources to trace the history of a building.

**Stress and Time Management.** Always under pressure? Tony Evenson looks at the causes and effects of stress and at practical methods to reduce it.

**To enrol on any of the above courses please contact the Centre for Continuing Education on 01273 678926/8527/8040.**

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**News**

**Chemist in the House**

A CHEMISTRY student was invited to the House of Commons this week to display his work on fungicides.

Peter Thomson (GRC in CPES) was one of 25 chemists representing research chemists under 30 years of age, as part of the 'Chemistry Research for Britain' campaign and National Chemistry Week (14-21 November).

Peter's work concerns the properties of a substance called galbanoilide-B, which is an effective killer of *Candida albicans* (thrush) and *Botrytis cinerea* (a plant pathogen). This work is significant because the substances were produced in a novel way, which may be more cost-effective than current methods of anti-fungal production.

Peter's project stemmed from research by his supervisor Professor Phil Parsons, who invented a novel way of making galbanoilide-B. Peter said he was delighted to be invited to the House of Commons as it was an opportunity to promote the work done in Sussex laboratories, not just his own work.

Peter produced an exhibition-sized poster of his work which was entered for the Westminster Prize for most outstanding chemistry research on display.

The evening was sponsored by MP Robert Jackson, former Minister for Higher Education who has long enjoyed an interest in science and technology.

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**Cash in on imperfections**

**POLITICAL** correctness has arrived in the scientific community. Careful wording of certain topics can vastly affect the way they are perceived, and even generate funding, says a Sussex professor.

Peter Townsend (ENGG) is a firm believer in the power of positive or negative connotations, especially when describing solid state physics. All technology benefits from the imperfections in materials. "All products, from glass to paint to semiconductors, depend on imperfections. Without imperfect molecular structures, say of flints, we would never have had a Stone Age, as people would have been unable to break the stones."

Instead of using words 'imperfection' and 'damage', he prefers 'advanced lattice structural engineering' and 'ion beam modification'.

This jargon emphasises the difference between how experts use words and how the layperson might interpret them. As Peter points out, a patient may have a magnetic resonance imaging scan, which is more accurately known as nuclear magnetic resonance. The word nuclear, he says, implies danger, with connotations of disaster and contamination.

The judicious use of words was the topic of Peter's speech at the University of Sonora in Northern Mexico this month, as part of their physics department's 20th birthday celebrations. Speakers at the event included two Nobel laureates and a former atomic energy research director.

His talk included a guide to wording successful research applications. With tongue in cheek, he recommended a title using positive, emotive words, which appear to solve fundamental problems of nature, or involve friends who will benefit and are on the funding body.

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**Sportcentre therapies**

THERE'S more to the Sportcentre than squash and circuit training. Treat yourself to beauty therapies with Sandy, improve your health with acupuncture, or have a relaxing massage.

Sandy Naylor (right) is a qualified therapist who provides facials, manicures, waxing and make-overs. Her skincare products are pH balanced, non-comedogenic and not tested on animals, and come in ranges for men and women.

Titus Foster is qualified to practise acupuncture, shiatsu (acupressure) and the Bowen Technique, a treatment based on gentle manipulation of muscle and tissue using hand moves. These techniques can treat a variety of conditions including stress, back pain, arthritis and sports injuries. All therapeutic sessions begin with a thorough consultation, where Titus explains the techniques and ascertains what treatment is appropriate on an individual basis.

Gem Friar is a qualified masseur who specialises in sports remedial massage and relaxation.

*Bulletin* tried all these treatments and recommends sampling the options on offer. Beauty therapy is available on Tuesdays, acupuncture on Thursdays and massage on Fridays. All treatments are reasonably priced and must be booked in advance. To book a treatment, or for more details please contact the Sportcentre reception on 678228.
Daniel Coursey

A memorial service was held this morning (Friday 21 November) for Daniel Coursey who died last week of suspected meningitis. Daniel was an exchange student from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He was based in the School of Engineering.

Daniel's parents, who flew to the UK directly on receiving the news of their son's death, have been spending time on campus with University officers and with Daniel's friends. They returned to the US on Wednesday with Daniel's body, and have expressed their sincere gratitude for the affection and kindness shown to them by the whole University community. They were involved, along with Daniel's friends, in the planning of today's service.

The service itself was timed to coincide with the funeral in America. Following the service, a tree has been planted in Daniel's memory in the Park Village where he was living. The tree, an Amelanchier, is native to America and is known for "its blossoms in spring and its foliage in the fall."

Levelling the land

Two Sussex professors led conferences this year to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Putney Debates.

Professors William Lamont (CCS) and Blair Worden (EAM) addressed conferences in Washington and in Putney, where it is believed some of the debates took place.

The debates were mainly held between 28 October and 1 November 1647, when the Cromwellian New Model Army and their allies in London, known as the Levellers, argued for democracy after the first civil war.

The debates are best known for the argument over who was entitled to vote in parliamentary elections. Reformers demanded a vote for 'the poorest he in England' a revolutionary concept at the time which was eventually implemented in the 19th century.

Our knowledge of the debates stems largely from a transcript written by army secretary William Clarke, a paper discovered at the end of the 19th century. His paper transformed our knowledge of the revolutionary mood of the English civil wars, and it is thought that he is shown here as the black-capped figure in the foreground (see woodcut above).

Please give blood

South Thames Blood Transfusion Service will be at the University on Tuesday 25 November between 11.00 am and 1.45 pm and 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm. Please contact the Students' Union Reception in Falmer House on 8152 for an appointment. The blood you give at work is important because it is available during the day and can be processed and made ready for patients soon after donation.

Ann Blanshard

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Ann Blanshard who was a Technician in the School of Biological Sciences from 1969 to 1974. Ann and her husband Ken who recently retired from the University computer service, were at the forefront of the campaign to keep Hurstwood Park Neurological Centre open. This was in gratitude for the treatment and help Ann had received from the Centre. Our sympathy and thoughts are extended to Ken and their two daughters at this sad time.

In brief

Research Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk.

HRF/Funding Councils institutional Fellowships Scheme: To provide awards in the form of fellowships to support research projects that are linked to institutions' own research priorities. Deadline: 28 February 1998.

EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowships in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics: To help talented young researchers to establish an independent research career, normally shortly or immediately after completing a PhD. Deadline: 8 January 1998.

Canadian Studies Awards: Grants are available to assist in the establishment of international research networks in Canadian studies. Deadline: 31 December 1997.

Language Centre

Looking for a Language Course? Sign up now for weekly classes beginning after Christmas in: Latin for special purposes, German and Spanish beginners, French Elementary and short courses in Czech, Japanese and Italian. Please ask about other courses of interest to you. Contact Michèle on ext 2016 at the Language Centre.
Monday 24 November – Sunday 30 November

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

**Monday 24 November**

1.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Chris Darwin, Auditory objects of attention. Biology Lecture Room (E.P. 3.9)

2.00 pm Particle Physics Seminar: Ben Allanach (RAL) Increasing the predictivity of the supersymmetric Standard Model. Room Pevsey 2A1

2.00 pm Falmer Language Group Seminar: Nancy Maryboy (Northern Arizona University) Navajo ritual linguistics and philosophy. Room A155

3.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: A Balinski (Cardiff University) The spectrum of relativistic no-pair Hamiltonians. Room Pevsey 2A2

4.00 pm CULCOM Lecture: Claire MacDonald (De Montfort University) Grand rules: feminism, space, performance. CCS Common Room

4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar: Richard Gooday, Pattern formation in the avian inner ear. Biology Lecture Room

5.00 pm Sociology & Social Psychology Seminar: Jeesika van Kammen (University of Amsterdam) Women’s health and medical technology. Room D310

5.30 pm Women’s Studies Research In Progress Seminar: Claire MacDonald (Nottingham Trent University) Feminism and performance art: exploring current theoretical issues. CCS Conference Room

**Tuesday 25 November**

10.15 am COGS Open Lecture: Margaret Boden, Philosophies of mind and machine. Room C133

10.15 am British and American Universities, Past, Present, Future: Janet Collett, Patronism and procedure: the lot of women academics. Biology Lecture Theatre

4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Padraic Monaghan (University of Edinburgh) Reasoning with external representations: the cognitive effects of teaching with different modalities. Room COGS SC11


5.00 pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Jane Hindley (University of Essex) Development for whom? The struggle of the Nahua people against the Tlatelolco conspiracy in Guererro, Mexico. Room EDB 121

5.00 pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: Karin Fierke (Nuffield College, Oxford) Interactive games: constructing the new European security architecture. Room D640 (*Note these are Wittgensteinian games, not the ‘game theory’ sort)

5.00 pm Media and Cultural Studies Seminar: Peter Wollen (UCLA) Film and architecture. Room D520

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Barbara Lotzak, A conflation of porcelain. Room A155

6.30 pm Issues in Environmental Science Lecture: Sheila Holden (Assistant Director, Environmental Services Department, Brighton & Hove) Brighton and Hove transport policies and programmes. Chichester Lecture Theatre

**Wednesday 26 November**

12.30 pm Environmental Science Seminar: Laurence Carvalho (University College London) Lake eutrophic and nature conservation. Room MS3

1.30 pm Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Sid Cahn, Cold atoms in pulsed periodic potentials. Room Pevsey 2A2

2.00 pm Social & Political Thought Seminar: Peter Dickens, Mars and Bookchin on human nature: an appraiser. Room D630

2.30 pm USIE Faculty Seminar: Ivar Goodson (University of Rochester, New York State & University of East Anglia) The educational researcher as public intellectual: modernist dinosaur or postmodern prophet? Room D410

4.00 pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: Tom Adams, On his own music. Falmer House Recital Room (120)

4.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Colloquium: G Friezecke (Oxford University) Ground states of quantum many-body systems: what is known and how to prove it. Room Pevsey 1A1

4.30 pm Centre For Legal Studies Seminar: John Duns (Monash) Insolvency: problems of concept, definition and proof. Room D610

4.30 pm History of Art Work In Progress Seminar: Deborah Cherlly, ‘Her riot Hesper’s Zenobia: a question of another theatre A5

5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: T.b.a. Room D640

**Thursday 27 November**

11.30 am Economics Seminar: T.b.a. Room D310

12.30 pm Postgraduate History and Gender Seminar: Nicola Verdon (Nene College, Northampton) Changing patterns of women’s employment in rural England, 1790-1890: some case studies. Room D520

4.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Ian Stolerman (Institute of Psychiatry) Multiple stimuli properties of drugs. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: John Allen (Open University) Economies of power and space. Room D610

4.00 pm Chemistry, Physics & Environmental Science Colloquium: P Parsons, Oxidation, flames and explosions. Chichester Lecture Theatre

5.00 pm Sussex Development Lectures: Stephanie Griffiths-Jones, The impact of international financial flows on development. Room A1

5.00 pm History Work In Progress Seminar: John Mee (University College Oxford) Literature, politics and enthusiasm, 1790-1811. Room A155

5.00 pm Centre for Modern French Thought Seminar: Chris Thornhill (King’s College London) Reflections on Carl Schmitt. Room A71

6.00 pm Centre for Statistics & Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Peter Shearer (University of Hertfordshire) Improved leading indicators. Room 321, Brighton University Watts Building

**Friday 28 November**

2.00 pm SPRU Lecture: Gordon Kerr (BT Future Multimedia Unit, Ipswich) High-level systems research: making large-scale interactive multimedia systems more viable. Room EDB 121

4.00 pm Astronomy Centre Colloquium: E Kaukuk (Oxford University) The famous black-hole transient A0620-00: what can we still learn from it? Room Pevsey 1A1

4.30 pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Tom Stoneham (Oxford University) On believing that I am thinking. Room A155

**Small Ads**

FOR SALE: two single tickets for M-People concert on 8 December, south balcony seats, close together but not adjacent, selling at face value of £20 each. Contact Nigel ext. 4163 or e-mail: N.J.Pullen@sussex.ac.uk

TO LET: one-bedroom flat in Kemp Town, available for three to four months from mid-December (negotiable) suitable single person or couple. Contact 623274 or e-mail: safe9@sussex.ac.uk

ANYONE interested in joining a chamber choir next term. (Tuesday early evenings) to sing Renaissance polyphony and madrigals with the unaccompanied repertoire generally. Contact T.Dent via CPES pigeonholes for details.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: two bedroom unfurnished flat in Hove area from December. Have references and de- posit, please contact ext. 3853 or e-mail: l.rigby@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Electrolux 1100 deluxe washing machine, recently serviced, may be able to deliver, £80 o.n.o. Contact 0976 565720 or e-mail: kauar@central.sussex.ac.uk

MATHS TUTION: GCSE, A-level, or undergraduate level. Contact Paul Hammond (DPhil student) on 56253 or ext. 2880

ACCOMMODATION AND meals for a female student/graduate with Italian family in Florence for one - three months in exchange for conversational English. For details contact Maria Frosali on 0039 55 257 9629 after 7 pm

FOR SALE: gas cooker £30 o.n.o., sorry can’t deliver, contact Becky ext. 8258 or e-mail: R.E.Reid@sussex.ac.uk

TO LET: two bedroom flat in Brighton seafront square, fourth floor, small balcony, central heating, un/semi-furnished, newly decorated, £210 per week. Contact ext. 7350 or 01273 423443

FOR SALE: Alfa Romeo Giulietta, 1.8 RS (1984) some rust, sound engine, 2 months MOT and tax, £395 o.n.o. Contact ext. 3176 or e-mail: kallie@sussex.ac.uk

**Career Development Talks**

Free talks are given by employers to describe graduate opportunities in various fields. Please sign up in advance at the CDU.

Monday 1 December: Civil Service Outreach Seminar (Ethnic Minority) midday, top floor Refectory.

Tuesday 2 December: Public Relations Work, 5.30 pm in CDU Information Centre, first floor Falmer House

**Bulletin**

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or e-mail: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk