Countdown to a House for the Future

A £1.2 million initiative to develop the house of the future has been launched here at Sussex by a team from the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU). Led by Professor David Gann and managed by Dr James Barlow, the team is aiming to revolutionise the British housing sector.

Driven by an emphasis on changing user needs, the project will analyse social, demographic and economic trends and use in-depth user surveys to gain a better idea of what people really want from home. According to David Gann, British housing is desperately in need of modernisation. "Industries in other countries like Sweden, the Netherlands and Japan are light years ahead of us," he claims. He believes houses should be built with the needs of the people who will live in them in mind, but unfortunately this is seldom the case. "At the moment, houses are built for Mr Average - and I mean Mr. They are built for men of average height, average age, average mobility, average income. We need to make houses for the people who live in them, and in reality no-one is 'average'.

"Needs are changing - more people live alone, there are more elderly people in society, and people spend a lot more time at home. We need to make the home a multifunctional space where people can play, work and do all sorts of things, but houses are still the same old boring box with the same things inside."

Several radical proposals are being considered by the team. In a bid to improve efficiency, eliminate waste and above all improve the quality of the product, the team is intending to reduce the energy wasted in the supply chain it takes to build a house. The idea is to avoid on-site construction by manufacturing different parts of the house - such as the roof, or the cladding - away from the site, and then put it all together later.

The team propose an even more revolutionary system whereby people in the social housing sector own the interior of their house, while the social landlord owns the structure itself. According to James Barlow, "Hybrid houses have been very successful in the Netherlands, where the condition of public housing has improved greatly since tenants have had control over the interior of their property."

Most sensibly of all, both owner-occupiers and social housing tenants should be able to choose certain things about the way their house is constructed.

continued on page 3

PRIMARY PGCE NO LONGER VIABLE

At its meeting next week, the University Council will receive a recommendation that the primary PGCE course should be closed from next year. The recommendation, which was approved by Senate this week, arises from the fact that the course is no longer financially viable.

Although the primary PGCE has obtained very good OFSTED inspection results and is a popular course which recruits easily, the programme has become too small to sustain. The Teacher Training Agency rules prevent the University from expanding the course to a viable level and this, together with the drain on resources of OFSTED inspections and the new DfEE initial teacher training requirements, has made the programme too expensive to run. No jobs will be lost as a result of the proposed closure.

USIE, which pioneered school-based teacher-training in the 1960s, will continue to run its successful secondary PGCE programme through the Sussex Consortium for Teacher Education and Research. It will also continue to maintain its strong links with primary education through its programme of continuing professional development covering both masters and doctoral programmes.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, "It is with regret that we are recommending closure of the primary PGCE. However, if the proposal is accepted by the Council, the University intends to strengthen its secondary PGCE programme and also its continuing professional development and doctoral links so that it remains a major provider for the region's schools and teachers."
Christmas approaches once more and I shall be forced to spend the whole ghastly period at Windsor with His Majesty (who currently thinks he's a pig farmer in Yeovil). Anyway, my attention has been drawn to some research done by semi-domesticated sociologists on why female students are outperforming male students. Boiling it all down to a simplistic statement, which grossly misrepresents the details of the research, it seems that women are better students because they are nicer people than men. This ambliveness furthers their academic careers and obviously assists them in becoming shop assistants, secretaries and homemakers. How nice.

A national survey has also concluded that our student population is a complete mystery to the academic community. Apart from having jobs which require an hour-per-week commitment which outstrips all their lecturers, (but on a much smaller stipend), they are very much the product of their age. They are only interested in education inasmuch as it can assist them in procuring a well-paid job with substantial pension benefits. This is the one fact which many of our academic colleagues cannot grasp: students are not, by and large, trainee academics. One can only giggle when distinguished academics express their exasperation at a student's admiration of Zoe Ball - as if most should name Richard Dawkins or Elaine Showalter. Some would say that we, the University, should discourage student employment. They should note that our Student Employment Office had 6000 enquiries during Registration.

The departure of Mike Fitzgerald from Thames Valley University is a blow against progressive ideas in HE and a victory for extreme left wing trade unionists who never fully accepted Fitzgerald. What is clear is that the external perception of quality assurance is almost as important as the processes put in place. Fitzgerald's action to protect the interests of his students has been turned into a dumbing down exercise. How unfair but how predictable.

The Christmas respite is greatly anticipated - despite the frantic chaos of family life, it is at least non-academic or non-administrative chaos. The upcoming year is unlikely to be more relaxing and by this time next year we'll be worried about a Continuation Audit, so I can only advise you to drink deep from the bowl of joy this festive season - for tomorrow we'll be sober.

Daphne Jackson
Memorial Fellow

Lesley Onura of Physics and Astronomy has recently been awarded a Daphne Jackson Memorial Fellowship sponsored by the Royal Society. This special Fellowship scheme for women returners to Science and Engineering was first launched in 1985 by Daphne Jackson who, for years was Britain's only woman professor of Physics. After Daphne Jackson's untimely death in 1995, the scheme was re-launched as a memorial trust and has helped many well qualified women to return to high level employment after a career break due to family commitments.

Lesley has been a Visiting Research Fellow in the Astronomy Centre since 1995 when she and her family of four children returned to Britain after living in Nigeria for many years. She will be working with Peter Thomas, reader in Physics and Astronomy, on the evolution of galaxy clusters using large scale simulations.

End of term meteor display

Those of us who missed the Leonids should get another chance to see a display of meteors in the night sky between December 7 and 15, according to Neil Bone of BIOLS, who is also director of the BAA (British Astronomical Association) Meteor section and whose latest book (Observing Meteors, Comets, Supernovae etc) is currently in the University bookshop. This time the display is the Geminids, currently one of the most dependable of the annual meteor showers. It should reach its peak in the early morning hours of 14 December. Bursts of up to a dozen meteors per minute have been seen previously and should be visible again this year, clouds permitting.

Last month, Neil was fortunate enough to see a spectacular and surprising display of the eagerly awaited Leonids from his home near Chichester. Surprising, because it was in the pre-dawn of November 17, about 16 hours earlier than the peak was expected; conditions were disappointing the following night and there were few sightings from this country. Unlike the Leonids, which are produced by debris from a comet, the Geminids are produced by debris from an asteroid (3200 Phaethon). The 'rocky' meteoroids penetrate further into the atmosphere and give off light for longer before completely burning up.

For the past 20 years, Geminid activity has been getting stronger and Neil will be collecting data from all around the country. The Geminids should be visible from dusk to dawn on 13-14 December emanating from high in the SE sky from mid-evening onwards. Activity should extend for about a day on each side of this peak, when the show should be worth watching.

Whistler Prize

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) has awarded this year's Whistler Prize to Diana Mortimore for her essay on 'Research Design for a Field Survey of a Rural Parish, based on Firle in East Sussex.' The award certificate will be presented to Diana by the VC at the Special Award Ceremony in January.

Diana is a CCE student currently studying for the Certificate in Practical Archaeology. She has also attended many CCE day schools in the subject of archaeology.
VC's Voice

In my last column, I made some critical comments about the proposals of the Quality Assurance Agency. Perhaps predictably, some have turned these remarks round on our internal academic audit system. That's fair game. We should give our own internal procedures the same critical scrutiny that we give the QAA. Indeed, as we prepare for "continuation audit" in early 2000, we have a good opportunity for that scrutiny. But there's a trade-off. The QAA promise us a "lighter touch" if it has confidence in our internal procedures for course approval, course monitoring and periodic review. Getting the internal mechanisms to work properly may be tiresome, but it will be less tiresome than a "heavy touch" from the QAA.

There are lessons from the way that regulation operates in the commercial world. If Camelot wants to launch a new lottery product, it does not finalise its proposal before submitting it to the lottery regulator - it consults the regulator informally, gets advice on what might be the problems and modifies its proposal in the light of that advice, so that by the time the formal proposal is made, most issues have been dealt with. In exactly the same way, every proponent of a new course or programme should get along to the Academic Office and discuss the proposal informally before it goes to the courses committees. This simple strategy would get rid of half the frustrations associated with academic audit.

I am mounting a campaign against the use of the term "Sussex House" except strictly as the name of a building. The phrase is often used to imply that the University administration is responsible for an unpopular decision that was actually made by academics. "My course proposal was turned down by Sussex House" invariably means "My course proposal was turned down by a committee of my academic colleagues". And when something really is the responsibility of the administration, it's better to be specific. To say "Sussex House has ruled this out of order" gives an impression of an impenetrable Kafkaesque bureaucratic machine; "the Exams Office says we're not allowed to do this" might persuade you to call up the friendly folk in the Exams Office and discuss the issue.

I welcome the latest AUT circular drawing attention to heavy faculty teaching loads - loads which are much heavier in the Arts schools than in most comparable universities. The AUT rightly links this to the issue of low student contact hours. Teaching patterns that worked in the 1960s may fail to satisfy either students or faculty now that student-staff ratios have risen. We all know that the University does not have money to throw at the problem (though in my next column I may have something to say about administrative costs) - it's for academic units to make the changes that are needed.

Suzi Clark writes in the Times Higher (December 4) "In these days of email and Intranets, ... university chief executives might be available to electronic supplications from ... academic staff and students. But name one email vice-chancellor, principal or rector who is accessible to staff complaints?" Answerer: vc@sussex.ac.uk.

The barrage of "keep duty-free" publicity has had its desired impact: the UK government has changed its mind, though the EU might not. The arguments are well-publicised: duty-free sales allow transport operators to make huge profits which they then use to keep fares down, retain marginal ferry services, and maintain employment. But if duty-free is a good idea for the transport industry, why not extend it to the education sector? Let schools, colleges and universities sell duty-free goods to parents, employees, and over-18 students, and we'd have a healthy flow of income to raise the quality of education, rebuild old schools and laboratories, keep open village schools, and save teachers' jobs. Remember you read it here first.

Countdown to a House for the Future

continued from front page

People could pick out their bathroom and kitchen systems from a wide range. They will have better information about the ways their home will perform, controlling aspects such as heating, ventilation, acoustics and what sort of stairs to have. Aspects of the 'smart homes' technology would be available too, with the possibility of a link-up to new interactive service providers for entertainment, teleworking and shopping.

This level of choice is already well underway in Japan, where people can visit their home through virtual reality before it is built to make sure they are happy with their choices. Neighbours are encouraged to participate in the process so that conflicts can be eliminated - an idea which would be of great benefit in Britain where disputes between neighbours are reaching epidemic proportions. And Japanese housing companies guarantee their product for up to 30 years - something which David Gann and James Barlow will also be recommending.

The project will draw together academic experts from fields as diverse as technology, management and sociology, from Sussex and Cardiff Universities, and put them in partnership with industrial collaborators from both public and private housing companies and major housing suppliers.

Construction of the prototype houses will begin next year, as part of a two-phase plan. After the houses are built, they will be evaluated and then, according to David Gann, "We'll have the route map to deliver high quality, affordable, innovative housing produced by competent, profitable producers." The countdown to the millennium will also be a countdown to the house of the future - the house for a Mr and Ms Not-So-Average-After-All.
Wallflowers of the World Will Benefit From New Shyness Scheme

Shyness can be extremely traumatic. A dry mouth, sweating palms, and a stomach full of butterflies are all symptoms with which many of us are familiar. But how many of us suffer this shyness as a pathologically crippling complaint?

Recent cross-cultural research at Stanford University suggests that around 50% of Britons are shy, while chronic shyness affects around 1-2% of children. Psychologist Robin Banerjee has been investigating the causes of this chronic shyness, with a view to setting up an intervention scheme which will stop the debilitating condition before it takes hold.

Robin, who is based in COGS, is working in partnership with the Shyness Clinic in Palo Alto, California, to develop the initiative which will attack the roots rather than the symptoms of shyness.

In the past, treatment programmes have concentrated on what the child does, teaching strategies for more appropriate behaviour in certain specific contexts. Robin points that that this approach can fail for two reasons – first because it concentrates only on the skills needed for those contexts rather than on general ways of thinking or behavioural strategies which would work in any situation.

Second, this approach makes the mistake of assuming that the symptoms are the sum of the problem, resulting in failure to make a correct diagnosis. As Robin points out, "Although social withdrawal is common in shy children, some shy children display disruptive behaviour as a way of coping with their social anxiety.

This behaviour can be similar to that of children with very different core difficulties, like Attention Deficit Disorder." He suggests that treatment of socially anxious children should focus on the ways they think and feel about social situations as well as the kinds of behaviours they display.

Robin also wants to avoid further stigmatising of chronically shy children, "Since there is already a clear correlation between shyness and loneliness, it is imperative that socially anxious children aren’t isolated further." It may not be the most effective strategy to take children out of a social context in order for them to learn how to take part in a social context, so Robin wants to incorporate the intervention programme into the school system. He will be getting both shy and non-shy children to discuss and role-play social situations, such as coping with being excluded from a game other children are playing.

Recent studies have shown that behaviour which Americans would label negatively as shyness are viewed in other cultures as a virtue, and Robin is wary of encouraging adults to label their children as chronically shy when they might be perfectly content the way they are.

Robin’s research, which he is conducting in partnership with Lynne Henderson at Stanford University, involves giving self-assessment questionnaires to children aged 8-11 and interviewing them about hypothetical peer interactions. His intervention programme will focus on samples of children who themselves report strong feeling of social anxiety.

So far, Robin’s research has revealed that chronically shy children are not missing out on the fundamentals of cognitive development. They have the basic tools which allow them to empathise with others, but they often have a flawed view of what others are thinking about them. As Robin says, “the basic process is there, but it’s got a bit distorted.” The concept of distortion rather than fundamental damage is extremely hopeful - it suggests that shyness doesn’t have to be a life sentence.

Clear, crisp vision is essential for effective studying. That’s why it is advisable to have a sight test early in the academic year - before you start to experience any strain or headaches.

Wilson, Wilson and Hancock specialise in student eyecare. We understand the problems caused by extensive reading - and the difficulty if living off a grant. So if you require spectacles or contact lenses, we will offer you the following benefits.

Bring a copy of this advert for:

- 10% discount on complete spectacles, including our wide range of designer frames such as Armani, Calvin Klein, Oakley etc.
- Free contact lens trial with money back guarantee.
- Free sight test for students under 19 years old or low income (HC2 claim forms available from practice).

Student Discipline

Members and employees of the University are reminded of the Ordinance on Student Discipline which says that: “Students shall maintain a standard of conduct which is not harmful to the work, good order or good name of the University.”

Under the Ordinance, all University members and employees should report any breach of University discipline to the Registrar & Secretary. The Discipline Committee refers alleged breaches of discipline to the appropriate Dean for action (if minor) or to the Disciplinary Panel if considered to be a major breach.
Christmas on Campus

The Christmas Poem

Christmas is approaching and the time has come for cheer
(Although the weather we've been having may instil a sense of drear),
Now’s a good time to smile and indulgently hear
Our perspective on the ‘joyful’ events of the year.
98 saw the coming of men that are wise
Well, two men, that is, let's cut it down to size,
Though to some their appointments were not a surprise,
Alasdair and Dickie will propel us into the skies.

For students, though, the year has been short on glee
Queuing in the chillsome wind to pay some pesky fees
But whilst that has crippled them and brought them to their knees,
Zoe Ball and Robbie Williams seem to keep them appeased.
Summer seems so far away but we're all still convalescing
Exams were seen by some as a distraction and a blessing
Certainly it wasn’t those over which we were stressing -
That match in the World Cup was far more distressing.
Here at the Info Office that event was eclipsed from afar
When September saw a discovery which caused a brouhaha -
An astrological story made Kevin a media star
The whole 'Planet Kev' thing was rather bizarre.
So, the year’s been eventful, dramatic and busy
New Labour, Ofsted, QAA - it's enough to make you dizzy,
But now it's time to relax, don't get in a tizzy.
It's Christmas - stuff your face and drink something fizzy!

Picture This.....

Talking of bubbly, a bottle will be
given to the most amusing caption
for this picture. Taken in the
summer on National Car Free day, the
picture features the VC
Alasdair Smith and Liberal
Democrat MP Norman Baker.
Entries by 16 December to the
Information Office (07)8888 or
e-mail: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Wind in the Willows Quiz

Two family tickets to the Gardner Arts Centre’s
production of the Wind in the Willows are up for grabs. All you have to do is drop your answers to the questions below in to the Information Office. The deadline for entering the competition is Tuesday 15 December, and the winners will be announced on Wednesday 16 December. Poop poop!
1/ Who was the illustrator of Wind in the Willows?
2/ When was the book published?
(a) 1890; (b) 1908; (c) 1932
3/ "The young man gives [Wind in the Willows] to
the girl with whom he is in love, and if she does
not like it, asks her to return his letters. The
older man tries it on his nephew, and
alters his will accordingly." Who said
that?
(a) Ezra Pound; (b) A A Milne; (c) T S Eliot
4/ For whom did Kenneth Grahame write
Wind in the Willows?
5/ Who wrote the acclaimed adaptation of
Wind in the Willows for the National
Theatre?
(a) Alan Bennett; (b) Mark Ravenhill; (c) Alan Ayckbourn.

The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful....Famous Names on Campus

A turl through the University directory will tell you that the campus is home to a host of celebrities. Never mind distinguished alumni, we could fill a Who's Who with the catalogue of paparazzi-magnet names gracing the University right now...

Peletti Townsend - His plea 'I hope I die before I get old' doesn't seem to have been successful, as the Who guitarist has engineered a shift from big-nosed maverick to big-brained boffin, and become a Sussex professor. At least it's still more rock'n'roll than advertising credit cards, eh Roger?

Nick Jagger - All attempts to disguise his identity with an erroneous N have been thwarted, as this man you wouldn't let your daughter date has been spotted on campus. Gone are the fulsome lips and lithe, leather clad hips, gone are the khatans, the drugs and the succession of leggy blondes. The man who wouldn't be dragged away by wild horses has found that rock don't bring no satisfaction and turned to investigating the trends of the employment world. Still waiting for a factory girl?

Mary Stuart - The hapless monarch demonstrates her commitment to continuing education through her dogged determination to remain at large in a world most people thought she had left 500 years ago. Wonder what she thought of the new Elizabeth film?

Richard Burton - Speaking of Elizabeth...the Welsh movie-giant himself has turned up at Sussex, and his allegiances have treacherously switched to France. At least he should know a thing or two about a decent tipple these days - a little French savviness can mean the difference between one's nose in a glass and one's head in the glass.

Robert Smith - From shoe gazing to stargazing, the Cure frontman has ditched the misapplied lippie and the spiky lacquered locks and gone for an entirely new sophisticated look which has gained him an altogether more salubrious new cult following in CPE.

Roger Taylor - From tennis balls to buckyballs, the ex-English pro has been working his alchemical magic in CPE. In his other incarnation as the raven-haired Duran Duran drummer, Roger's appearance in the Girls on Film video gained him the controversial title of 'wild man' of pop. The combined fame of these dual roles caused him to make an early transition from the pop charts to the periodic table.
ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

Janet Claydon, organiser of the University Rescue Team, lets us into the world of the brave die-hards of campus who are responsible for our well-being in the event of a fire, a chemical disaster...or a smelly fridge!

We have to do a lot of routine things as part of the rescue team, including servicing the breathing apparatus which we use in any emergency involving fire or chemical spillages, and maintaining the vehicle we have, which we use to get across campus in an emergency. The emergency vehicle is equipped with specialist equipment, and this also has to be serviced. The Team meet once a week in order to do this.

The other things can’t be predicted at all, so it’s hard to say what might happen in a single day. Last year we had about 80 calls because the fire alarm systems were so sensitive in the campus residences. Every time the Fire Brigade are called to campus we go to the source of the alarm and arrive before them. The team is trained to the same standard as the Fire Brigade in search and rescue techniques, so we can search the area and deal with immediate hazards within a very short time. We only get called in real emergencies now, because the alarm system has been amended.

The most dramatic call I can remember was an explosion in the chemistry lab, probably about five years ago, where the rescue team rescued researchers, made the area safe, dealt with a fire and carried out first aid. It was a very nasty situation. It was on the third floor and the window got blown out, which endangered people underneath as well. It was quite a challenge.

The Team is trained to a very high standard so they can use specialist first aid equipment We have a defibrillator which we use in cardiac emergencies. We use the emergency vehicle to make sure that we get to victims in time.

The most bizarre call we ever had was from the mosque, when there was a fridge which needed to be removed. We had to wear breathing apparatus to remove the fridge, because it used ammonia as the coolant. It was a very elderly fridge!

The team has been in operation for over thirty years, and in that time we have been to many calls. It is estimated that property worth hundreds of thousands of pounds has been saved by the prompt actions of the team. People working on campus have been saved from certain death and serious injury many times over, so the saving we have made in human terms is immeasurable.

I’ve been working on the team since 1990, but a few people have been on the team for longer than that. Peter Ballance has been on the team since 1977, and he deserves a special mention especially because he is retiring this year. The Rescue Team will miss him a great deal.”

W(h)ither fullerenes?
The prospects for fullerene applications will need to be reconsidered following the discovery by Dr Roger Taylor (CPES) that bulk C_{60} degrades on storage to give C_{50}O resulting from oxidative combination of two C_{60} cages. This has just been reported in Chemical Communications (1998, p.2497) and has been taken up as a special news item by Chemical and Engineering News (30 November), published by the American Chemical Society. Fullerene-containing materials will therefore need to be coated to protect against oxygen. The result conflicts with a report published in Science 1994, that fullerene traces are found in the 65 million year old KT boundary layer that resulted from the catastrophic meteor collision at Xihulu off the Mexico coast, since they should have oxidised long ago. Roger Taylor is therefore collaborating with a team of geochemists to re-examine samples of the KT boundary layer which outcrops at various sites in New Zealand.

Bioenergetics
There was considerable excitement in BIOLS recently when Nobel laureate Dr John Walker, from Cambridge, came to present the weekly Biochemistry, Genetics and Development seminar. John Walker, who works at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, won the 1997 Nobel Prize for Chemistry jointly with Paul Boyer and Jens Skou for their work on the structure and mechanism of action of the enzyme, ATP synthase. This is found in all plant, animal and bacterial cells and is responsible for the production of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) the source of energy for most biological processes.

John Walker gave a comprehensive and readily understandable lecture on the interrelation of the structure and function of this enzyme, to an audience of 160 members of the School. He inspired not only fellow researchers, but also a large number of undergraduates in the audience, who have commented that events like this help enormously to increase their understanding of the course material.
Dear Bulletin
As a member of the University Chaplaincy Team as well as a resident of Falmer Village and Priest-in-charge of the parish of Stanmer with Falmer, I would like to register my concern about the item in VC’s Voice (Bulletin, 13 November) on the interest Brighton and Hove Albion Football club have declared in building a new stadium development in Village Way North.

To put as the first comment that this would help to solve the University’s traffic problems would seem to be expressing a worrying sense of priorities. The valley between Falmer Village and the University of Brighton is designated farming land, and Falmer is one of the most lovely remaining small villages within the Lewes District and lies within an area of outstanding natural beauty. To carve up this valley and erect a large stadium with floodlighting, with all the accompanying road and traffic developments, let alone all the problems associated with football crowds and hooliganism, could hardly be an advantage either to the University or the community that live in the village.

I am glad to note therefore that the Vice Chancellor recognises that “a stadium in Falmer and the subsequent development that might follow, could change the whole character of the area in fundamental ways” and hope that he will indeed consult those who live in the area as well as those who come to work and study here, before he makes any official commitments on this matter that affects our local environment so seriously.

Andrew Robinson

Green Transport Policy?
The one-way traffic experiment may be reducing the evening queues, however it has not improved the campus for non-car users. Pedestrians are now fenced off from the busy North South Road. A more dangerous environment has also been created for cyclists travelling towards Lewes who now have to cross a lane of fast moving traffic at the campus exit.

It is time that the university addressed the cause of the problem: too many cars, rather than ineffectively treating the symptoms.

T. Green

ENGG

I’m considering moving to Lewes; lovely old town, but a mite expensive. Perhaps a caravan near the Kingston roundabout might be the solution? I was thinking about it as I sat for 30 minutes in the ‘Brighton bound’ traffic lane, waiting to get out of the university. We’re told to love our fellow-human beings, but it’s stretching a point not to feel a glint of envy as our fellow drivers speed by us in the next lane, home to an early dinner. Go to Kingston and reverse back, say the system’s founders. Good for the car, they say. How about the petrol? Most of the lower-paid watch their petrol gauge daily, and old cars like mine would squawk at the higher mileage.

The answer lays outside - with the Council. They may consider easing the traffic flow, when the seagulls move to their new home nearby (one ex-council leaders is nuts about football). In the meantime, I’ll go nuts, dreaming of some nice little place near Kingston.

Mary Clarke

New School in Ghana
David Dogbe, a research student in USIE, has opened a secretarial and accounting services school from his own home in Ghana for training rural children. The school, mainly for girls, has enrolled nine youngsters to give them a skill and hopefully help them to find a job. The school started in a small way after Margaret Ralph, a secretary in USIE, gave him her own electric typewriter two years ago. He has many girls wanting to enrol and is desperately in need of electric typewriters (in reasonable working order), typing ribbons, the old style typing chairs and any other office equipment which may now be out of date.

If any department or individual has any machines etc. to give away, could they please phone Margaret Ralph on 678260. David and his students will be most appreciative of your generosity.

Stella Baah and Joyce Botchway, trainees of the school look keenly as Cerrundle Taylor practices typing on the machine popularly dubbed “Our hope for years to come.”

Research Funding Opportunities
This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or UISI Home Page, under Research.

The Wingate Foundation awards scholarships to individuals undertaking projects of scientific, artistic, social or environmental value which are unlikely to attract major agency funding. The award lasts up to 3 years and the average total award is £6,500. Deadline 1 Feb 1999.

The Home Grown Cereals Authority funds research projects on cereal and oilseed crops. Main thrust of the programme is to promote the profitability and competitiveness of the agricultural industry. Deadline (cereal research) 18 Dec 1998; (oilseed research) 8 Jan 1999.

The US National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute invites research grant applications to conduct cell biologic, molecular biologic, and molecular pathologic investigations designed to investigate the mechanisms underlying airway remodelling and repair in asthma. Deadline for letters of intent 6 Jan 1999; submission 24 Feb 1999.

The US National Institutes of Health invites applications for research on fetal alcohol syndrome. Work should develop/test interventions that have the potential for preventing the syndrome. Deadline for letters of intent 23 Feb 1999; submission 23 March 1999.

Glaxo Wellcome’s Action TB initiative is seeking to expand its collaborative programme to include more research targeted specifically towards the design of new anti-TB drugs. A further five years of funding for the initiative was announced. No deadline.


The ESRC invites full fellowship applications under its One Europe or Several? research programme: “The Dynamics of Change Across Europe.” £300,000 in funds has been set aside. Deadline 6 Jan 1999.

The BBRSC and EPSRC jointly announce a second call for proposals in their Bioinformatics Initiative. Aims to fund applications which address key biological problems with state-of-the-art information technology. See RGCO for priority areas. Deadline: 1 March 1999.
The New Senior Common Room

All members and prospective members are invited to a free Christmas drink with us at lunchtime on Tuesday 15 December. Come and see the new facilities on the first floor of the Refectory (south end). New furniture, some 50 newspapers and magazines, coffee available (bring your lunch through if you want to) and see the University Challenge Mural. All for £18 p.a. - less than the price of a cup of coffee per week - and new members come half-price for the first year.

Sportcentre Info

Early Bird Offers - Book in advance for any of the Sportcentre courses for 1999 and save some money! All bookings made before Wednesday 23 December will qualify for a £2.50 reduction.

Back for 1999 - Yoga classes. Yoga General with Neville on Thursdays from 12 - 1 pm, and Iyengar Yoga Level 1 with Louise on Fridays from 12 - 1 pm and Level 2/3 with Louise on Fridays from 1 - 2 pm.

Library Opening Times

9 December - 23 December: The library is open from 9.00 am until 5.30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 9.00 am until 7.00 pm on Tuesdays. It will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. The library will be closed from 23 December until 4 January.

Computing Centre Opening Times

The Computing Service area in Chichester will close at 3.00 pm on 23 December and will re-open on 4 January at 9.00 am. During this closure PCs will remain available on a 24 hour access basis in Henry’s Bar, York House. Please be aware that:

• there will be no cover if equipment doesn’t work
• there will be no one available to refill paper in the laser printer
• there will be no cleaning of the room
• and the room will be shut by Security if the facility is misused.

If a fault or problem develops in this time it should be reported to the Fault Line (4141). The fault will be investigated on 4 January.

Health Centre Opening Times

The Health Centre will be open as normal until 25 December, when it will close. It will remain closed until 29 December, and will be closed again on the 1 January.

University Term Dates

Term will finish on 9 December, and begin again on 4 January, continuing until 12 March.

Refectory Opening Times

Essential maintenance works are due to take place in the Refectory kitchen from the afternoon of Wednesday 16 December 1998. As a consequence, the Laines and Down's Restaurants will close after lunch service on the 16th and re-open on Monday 4 January 1999. Food deliveries to individual customers and other catering units will also cease at this time. Throughout this period, until the Christmas closure, the Refectory Coffee Shop, Baguette Express, Library Bolthole and Sussex Tea Bar will open as usual, or as advertised. The Pitstop Take-away will also open lunchtimes during this period. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our customers.

Christmas Lunch in the Refectory

Downs Restaurant - Tuesday 15 Dec
Menu: Roast Turkey with Stuffed Bacon Roll, Bread Sauce; Roast Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts and Baton Carrots £3.75
Home-made Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce - 75p per portion OR £4.00 for both courses.

Small Ads

FLAT TO LET: 2 bedroom flat near Lewes Station. E550 pcm. Call 01273-476471.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: 3rd year SPRU DPhl student requires a room in shared accommodation from February 1999. Please contact Grove Steyn, phone: (01303) 249 816 or email: g.steyn@sussex.ac.uk

TO LET: Room in family house very close to London Road Station. Share kitchen and bathroom. £50.00 per week inclusive. Phone: Shirley 7678851 (x 8851) or email S.Holder@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Visiting research fellow seeks flat/house for 2 adults and a child in Brighton/Lewes from January to June, up to £500/month exc. bills. Please phone 0181 678 6372.

WANTED: Accommodation in Lewes from Jan. 1999 for new faculty and partner. Please contact Alex on ext. 2281 or a.colas@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Someone to help us develop our Intranet Web Sites. 15 hours per week. Experience of Front Page management tool essential. Contact Sharon at The Health Centre x8191 or swg@unimed.co.uk

TO ALL PET LOVERS: We are once again approaching the time of year when there will be a lot of discarded and hungry pets. Please can you help by donating any non-perishable foods or blankets. No money please, all donations go to R.S.P.C.A. Patcham. The collection point is at the Refectory Porters Reception.

TO LET: Bedsit available from beginning of Jan 99 in cottage outside Lewes. £55 p/w, no bills, no deposit. Own transport essential. 10 minutes from University by road. Tel: 483395 (day) or 858099 (home).

FOR SALE: A real bargain, nearly new Dynson cylinder vacuum cleaner, cost £20 will accept £75 for quick sale - owner has renounced housework! Contact Sue on (67)8384.

FOR SALE: TV set 14", remote control, very good condition, £45. Stereo - £5. E-mail: mab87 ; phone: 3081.

FOR SALE: Cottage, SW France 25 kms South of Carcassonne - all mod cons. Quiet village. 5 rooms & bathroom, sep wc, sunny terrace. Tel/fax: 326693, email: kgoodwin@lcl@sussex.ac.uk.

Christmas card

This year’s University card is a detail from the painting ‘Hausa Procession’ by Nigerian artist Jimoh Akolo. ‘Hausa Procession’, which is currently hanging in AFRAS, is one of three paintings by the artist owned by the University.

The card, which is a full colour reproduction, is priced at £3.75 for 10 or 40p per single card. Individual cards can be purchased through the Bookshop and the Students’ Union shop. Bulk orders should be placed through Chrissie Anthony in the Information Office on ext 3766 or email your order to information@sussex.ac.uk with a recharge code.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.