Sussex astronomer is a rising star

Three new planets orbiting distant stars have been discovered by a team including CPES undergraduate Kevin Apps. They are the first planets to be discovered by a British-funded telescope and by a mainly British team.

"This project is giving us a very important first glimpse into how our solar system fits in with others," Kevin says. "It also gives us a perspective on ourselves in that our solar system appears to be quite unusual."

The three planets were discovered using the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) in New South Wales, which began monitoring 200 stars in the Southern sky in 1998 and which is unusual in being able to detect much smaller planets than other telescopes.

Although these planets are too small actually to be viewed directly, the effect of their presence can be seen by the 'Doppler shifting' that their gravitational pull causes on the light from the star they are orbiting.

Viewing the light from the planets themselves will have to wait for new projects such as the Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI) now being built at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, NASA's Space Interferometry Mission (SIM) and the European Space Agency's Eddington and Darwin missions.

"Our solar system appears to be quite unusual."

Of the three planets, the smallest – known as a 'hot Jupiter' – lies closer to its parent star than Mercury does to the Sun, and takes just three Earth days to complete its orbit around the snappily titled star HD179949. The second newly discovered planet has an orbit more like the Earth's and takes 426 days to orbit the star called epsilon Reticulum. However, the planet itself is not Earth-like and is thought instead to be a gas giant similar to Jupiter.

Completing the hat-trick is another large Jupiter-like planet taking a leisurely 743 days to orbit the mu Ara star. The team also discovered a 'failed' star – known as a 'brown dwarf' – orbiting another star, known as HD164427.

Since the first planet outside our solar system was discovered by a Swiss team in 1995, some 46 others have been found. None of them are capable of supporting life as we know it. Kevin has been involved in two previous planet discoveries, in 1998 and again in 1999. Now a finalist who hopes to go on to postgraduate study in the States, he says of the latest discovery: "This is obviously very good for my future career."

The other British members of the team are Alan Penny from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Hugh Jones from Liverpool John Moores University. The project is funded by the UK's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), which funds research in particle physics, astronomy, cosmology and space science.

The sky's the limit

The American space agency is launching a new orbiting observatory, the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF), which will transfer data to space laboratories for analysis. The project, scheduled for 2002, is hoped to further our understanding of how stars and galaxies are formed.

Seb, along with other members of a team of mostly European scientists, will be studying that most feared of phenomena – black holes. These are massive areas in galaxies that have such a strong gravitational pull that light cannot escape.

"The belief now is that black holes exist in every galaxy," says Seb. "But we don't really know how they manifest themselves. An infrared telescope will pick up how these black holes work and tell us something about their history and how galaxies are being formed."

Seb's project, headed by US scientist Carol Lonsdale, is one of six selected out of 28 submitted to NASA for the mission.

"Although Carol is heading it, our team is largely European and I'm one of the three UK scientists involved," adds Seb, who was recently project scientist in infrared space study for the European Space Agency. The SIRTF project will build on his experience of mapping the skies to trace the history of star formation.

When the telescope is launched, the team will have 851 hours of observation time to cover an area of the sky equivalent to the space taken up by 500 full moons.

His work may involve what's happening 10 billion light years away, but Seb himself won't need to travel far from home. "I may visit the processing centre in California to begin with, but most of the analysis can now be done remotely," he says.
Bookmark

New books by Sussex authors

Marie-Benedicte Demaille (Lecturer in Literature)
Recalling the Belgian Congo: Conversations and introspection Bergnahn, £45.00 (hardback)

Roger Penn (Reader in Mathematics, SMS)
Geometry: An introductory guide Springer, £15.95 (paper)
The publisher says: "This book is intended to introduce readers to the major geometrical topics taught at undergraduate level, in a manner that is both accessible and rigorous. The author uses world measurement as a synonym for geometry — hence the importance of numbers, coordinates, and their manipulation — and has included over 300 exercises, with answers to most of them."

Alan Garnham (Professor in Experimental Psychology, BIOLS)
Mental Models and the Interpretation and Anaphora Psychology Press, £29.95 (hardback)

Rebecca Harding (Senior Lecturer in Science & Technology Policy Studies, SPNR & E. W. Patterson (eds))
The Future of the German Economy: An end to the miracle? Manchester University Press, £10.99 (paper), £35.00 (hardback)
The publisher says: "The book covers economic policy and macroeconomic performance since the election of the Schroeder government, up to the Alliance of Jobs' employment policy, German corporatism (including finance and industrial relations), the future of the corporate model in a global era and German innovation. The authors argue that while there are worrying aspects of macroeconomic performance, particularly high unemployment and net capital outflows, there are real reasons to be optimistic about Germany's future. The innovation system is dynamic, industrial policy is strong and the corporate model has intrinsic adaptability which has made it both durable and competitive through the centuries of industrialisation."

Robin Mansell (Professor, SPNR) and W. E. Steinmueller (Professorial Fellow, IDS)
Mobilizing the Information Society: Strategies for growth and opportunity Oxford University Press, £65.00 (hardback)
The publisher says: "A principal theme of Mobilizing the Information Society is that changes are governed by public decisions that establish the institutional framework in which the private sector operates. The quality and value of the information society for the citizen is not the inevitable consequence of market and technological forces. Policy choices, however, that fail to take market and technical influences into account will prove ineffective. The authors lay the foundation for improved theories of the process of change, more appropriate strategies to achieve desired aims, and more effective policies for mitigating the effects of dislocation and exclusion from the information society."

Filippo Osella (Lecturer in Social Anthropology, CSS) & Caroline Osella Social Mobility in Kerala: Modernity and identity in conflict Pluto, £19.99 (paper)

Martin Shaw (Professor of IR and Politics, SOC) Theory of the Global State: Globality as unfinished revolution CUP, £13.95 (paper), £37.50 (hardback)
The publisher says: "This ambitious study rewrites the terms of debate about globalization. Martin Shaw argues that the deepest meaning of globality is the growing sense of worldwide human commonality as a practical social force, arising from political struggle not technological change. The book focuses upon two new concepts: the unfinished global-democratic revolution and the global-Western state."

Alexandra Shepard (Lecturer in British History, CSS) & P. J. Withington (eds) Communities in Early Modern England Manchester University Press, £16.99 (paper)
The publisher says: "How were cultural, political and social identities formed in the early modern period? How were they maintained and what happened when they were contested? Community — that difficult word according to Raymond Williams — has suffered more than most from a problem intrinsic to historical analysis; the tensions between its past and current meanings. Divided into three parts, the book looks first at Community and Networks — how individuals were bound into communities by religious, professional and social networks. The second part looks at the importance of place — ranging from the Parish, to communities of crime, to the place of political culture. Finally the authors explore the value of rhetoric in generating community — from the King's English to the use of 'public' as a rhetorical community. Not only do the essays make incisive contributions to particular debates; their collection in one volume allows for an original, comparative, and thematic approach that is truly interdisciplinary, exploring the many ways in which people utilised communication, space, and symbols to constitute communities in early modern England."

Dorothy Sheridan (Mass-Observation Archivist), Brian Street & David Bloom Writing Ourselves: Mass-Observation and literary practices Hampton Press, £21.95 (paper), £53.95 (hardback)
The publisher says: "The authors of this book analyze the Mass-Observation Project as a way of understanding the nature of writing and the social conditions within which people write, the social purposes they use writing for, and how writing fits in with their life histories, all of which define writing itself. The authors are also interested in how writing is implicated in power relations, and how it is used to establish identities and to transform social situations and structures."

Richard Whitmore (Lecturer in intellectual History, EAM)
Republicanism and the French Revolution: An intellectual history of Jean-Baptiste Say's political economy Oxford University Press, £40.00 (hardback)
A new interpretation of political thought and political economy in France from the death of Louis XVI to the July Revolution of 1830.

Ruth Woodfield (Lecturer in Sociology, SOC)
Women, Work and Computing Cambridge University Press, £12.95 (paper), £35.00 (hardback)

All titles are available from the University Bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and have a book coming out in January, let us know on ext. 6880 or by email at Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Funding opportunities in the EU RTD Programme (1998-2002)

Research Training Networks
220m euro (£133m) available to fund the costs of appointing young pre- and post-docs to trans-national research networks for up to four years. All disciplines including applied social sciences are eligible. Funds also available for travel, consumables, workshops, meetings and overheads. The maximum amount of funding available is 200,000 euros (£121,000) per team (maximum of 1.5 euros million per network). For further information (application forms, guides for proposer, etc.), see www.cordis.lu/improving.

Deadline: 4 May

Quality of Life Programme
Funding available for RTD projects and thematic networks. Total budget available is 576m euros (£348m). The following research priorities are included: bioethics; the cell factory; environment & health; the ageing population; control of infectious diseases; sustainable agriculture; genomes (call for expressions of interest); neurosciences; public health; persons with disabilities. For further information, see www.cordis.lu/qlp/

Deadlines: 29 February, 15 March and 18 October

Environment and Sustainable Development Programme
Funding available for RTD and thematic networks. Total budget available is 65 m euros (£332m). The following research priorities are included: sustainable management and quality of water; global change, climate and biodiversity; coastal zone changes; coastal protection; city of tomorrow and cultural heritage (e.g. urban governance, damage assessment on cultural heritage, urban planning and improving economic development). For further information, see www.cordis.lu/easd/

Projects for items 2 and 3 require a minimum of two partners from two member/associated states (the average being 6:7).

Deadlines: 15 February, 15 October
In my earlier two columns this term, I wrote about the new academic developments we hope to see in medicine and in management studies. A third area of potential new development is in Media Studies and Media Sciences.

The Media Studies group is in an enviable position: combining a research rating of '5', strong student demand, and a good record of graduate employment. Media Studies as a subject is periodically the target of ill-judged criticism, most recently from the departing Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, but Sussex should be proud of our success in this field.

There are a number of ways in which the University could build on what has been achieved already. Further expansion of the existing programme is one attractive option.

Other possibilities would put more emphasis on different aspects of media production, an emphasis that would strengthen further the employment prospects of graduates. We should welcome developments that improve the employability of our graduates. I believe that a stronger focus on employability is not at all in conflict with the need for our courses to be intellectually challenging and to develop critical as well as technical skills.

New programmes within Media Studies with an emphasis on production would require new resources, technical as well as teaching, and we are bidding to the funding council both for additional student numbers and for funds to reconstruct the outdated studio facilities in EDB.

The flow of graduates from both of the local universities is now widely recognised as a key factor in the development of the creative industries in Brighton. Computing Science graduates are the mainstay of the local multi-media sector.

New degrees developed in the School of Engineering and Information Technology aim to strengthen our links with the local creative industries and we now aim to extend our range of provision by developing new programmes in Media Sciences, some of them in collaboration with Ravensbourne College, with whom we have a long-standing partnership and which is a leading provider of professional education for the media industries.

These are all very exciting developments, which could lead to the development of a new Centre for Media Sciences at the University. They underline the University's commitment to respond to the needs of a changing world while maintaining our aim of achieving the highest standards of academic excellence.

---

Jonathan's creative space

Schoolchildren from around Sussex have been getting their hands on Jonathan Hare's buckybells again. But this time they've been in his new laboratory.

The CPES research fellow opened the doors of his new Creative Science Centre (CSC) in the Chichester Building a month ago and has already held numerous workshops for young science students, including groups from Brighton College of Technology, Angmering School, Brighton and Hove High School for Girls and St Christopher's School in Hove (pictured).

Although he set up the CSC five years ago, this is the first time Jonathan has been able to host events on campus. "It's been a wonderful opportunity to bring people into the University," he says. "I can use this space so effectively."

A key member of the Sussex Fullerene Group headed by Nobel prize-winner Professor Sir Harry Kroto, Jonathan has been explaining the chemistry behind Buckminsterfullerenes. He has also been helping children to build simple electric circuits and has plans to organise workshops on satellite dishes and the construction of underwater cameras.

Next term he is collaborating with David Randall (BIOLS) and Peter Adamczyk (USIE) in various projects, including getting children to work out how to build dome structures out of bamboo.

Many of the tools and items of equipment for the new laboratory have been bought with grants for the Public Understanding of Science. Hewlett-Packard donated a digital camera, a scanner and a new PC.

As another strand to the lab's use, Jonathan is setting up a 'drop-in' alkaline battery reactivating scheme, which means that anyone with dead AA batteries can take them along and swap them for ones he has reactivated. "It takes 50 times more energy to produce a battery than the energy it gives out," he says. "It seems such a waste to throw them away."

Jonathan, who was awarded a NESTA fellowship this year to develop his creative ideas, has a few other exciting projects on the go, as well.

After the success of the first series of Rough Science, a BBC2/Open University co-production that involved sending Jonathan and other scientists to a remote Mediterranean island to see how they coped in the wilderness, a second series is now on the cards.

He has also been asked to co-present a new BBC2/Open University series, Hollywood Science, with actor Robert Llewellyn (from Red Dwarf), which will take a look at famous movie stunts to see if they could happen for real. It won't involve him travelling to Tinsel Town or mingling with the stars, however. The point of the series is to show you can do real hard science using a few low-tech props in your own back garden.
In brief

Christmas catering

Christmas lunch (roast turkey or veggie alternative with all the trimmings, plus Christmas pudding and rum sauce) will be tempting your taste buds in the Laines Restaurant, Bramber House on Monday (18 December). Costing £3.99, the meal is available from 12 noon to 2.15 pm. A more upmarket three-course Christmas carvery is on offer in the Orange Room, priced at £12.75 (plus VAT where applicable). To reserve a table for 12.15 pm on Tuesday (19 December), tel. Jenny on ext. 8221.

CVCP becomes Universities UK

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alsdaire Smith, attended the launch of Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, or CVCP) and its first meeting, which took place on 1 December.

Learner of the Year Awards

Do you know a student who has shown special effort to return to learning and whose experiences could inspire others to take part? To nominate someone – friend, employee or family member – for an Adult Learners’ Week individual, group or senior learner award (aged 50+), see www.niace.org.uk. The closing date is 12 January and the awards will be presented during Adult Learners’ Week in May.

University lays on school bus

Following discussions with representatives from the local education authority and Coldean schools, the University has decided to lay on a minibus from campus for children of Sussex students. The bus will run from January while plans are being drawn up for the longer term. Brighton & Hove Council decided at a meeting in October to axe the service that it currently operates between campus and Coldean, as part of a package of cuts in its home-to-school transport budget.

Prinny writes again

In 1998 and 1999, Prinny entertained Bulletin readers with his somewhat irreverent view of campus life. Now it seems that his gentle satire has had an impact far and wide (well – across the Academic Corridor anyway) ...

I have been abruptly woken from my mid-afternoon nap by an excited courtier, belatedly branding a cheaply bound tome called Managing Strategy by our esteemed neighbour, Sir David Watson. I cannot recommend this challenging document to you too highly, and my endorsement is not based on the delightful fact that I am quoted twice within its rough pages (pages 2-3 and 91-92).

I fear he has mistaken my light satirical touch for disaffection or even, Heaven forfend, sarcasm. "At the academic coalface of teaching, research and related 'service', strategic statements can be regarded along a continuum of negativity from indifference to world-weary cynicism," he writes. "Here, for example, is 'Prinny' - the anonymous faculty correspondent in the University of Sussex Bulletin - musing on strategy and change."

All around are the clamours for change ... I say we must resist it all. Universities are not about 'change' - they are temples of knowledge tended by middle-aged men in corduroy trousers who understand the laws of the universe. Universities aren't part of society, reflecting the needs of the populations - the sun-splashed ivy towers stand today as they always will. Wilson is devoting the pound, Bobby Moore is the best defensive player in England ... if we close our eyes, it will always be 1966!

"At the core of such cynicism is the issue of loyalty," writes Sir David. "Traditional academics do not regard themselves so much as working for a university as working in it."

This first use of my work fails to recognise the subtle use of ridicule to suggest that there may be amongst my colleagues individuals who don't appear to have read the Higher for the last 15 years.

In the section on 'Preparing for strategic management', Sir David quotes from my former Bulletin column to illustrate the "cynical and acerbic" view of senior management on the part of the academic community.

"Here is 'Prinny' from Sussex again," he writes, "musing on his (or her?) long wait during the spring and summer of 1998, for a replacement vice-chancellor."

Friends trapped within the Sussex

House bunker tell me that they can 'barely stay wake' with excitement over the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor. An advertisement, headed 'Smart Boy Wanted', has been placed in the window of the Post Office in the Refectory, and informs us that the actual work for finding Professor Charming has been given to a temping agency. Even more extraordinary - it seems that the agency is looking for suggestions, cutting down on the effort required in order to nab that fee, which can then be sent to them by popping a name on a piece of paper, putting it in a bottle and lobbing it off the end of the Palace Pier. The University has the opportunity to appoint someone who would lead from the front, armed with clear ideas, prepared to face up to the future. I fear that what we'll get is a safe pair of hands from an obscure source with a 'problem with the vision thing'.

"I fear Sir David has mistaken my light satirical touch for disaffection or even, Heaven forfend, sarcasm."

He moves on with this second use of my work to call it "self-knowingly destructive" - unfortunately, I am too resolutely philistine to know what he means by this. I thought the piece an elegant spoof on appointment procedures, displaying a weak pessimism about finding a genuine leader (a pessimism dispelled by the appointment of the Lad o' Pairs). And as for questioning my gender ... well! Has he no education?

If Sir David wishes to co-operate on any future books, I can be contacted via the Bulletin office - but not between 2pm and 4pm, when I'm doing my research into the effects of rich food on the napping process.

* Managing Strategy by Sir David Watson (Director of the University of Brighton) was published in March 2000 by the Open University Press.
Hero embarks on epic voyage

A new internet portal is set to launch today (Friday), providing an online information service to anyone interested in UK higher education (HE).

Hero, which stands for Higher Education and Research Opportunities, has been developed by a partnership of major HE organisations, including Sussex. The portal (www.hero.ac.uk) represents an opportunity for the partners to present themselves in a helpful way to a wide range of Web surfers who are currently bemused by the hundreds of different higher education sites.

The steering group that has been planning the service has appointed the Brighton-based new-media company, Epic, to design and operate the service under contract. A not-for-profit company, representing the major partners, will oversee and manage Hero.

The information is organised into zones covering major areas of higher education: student interests, research, knowledge transfer and collaboration with industry, learning and teaching, culture and sport.

The service is aimed at prospective students and their parents, current students and staff, industry and commerce, job seekers and employers, international audiences and the general public.

The portal provides relatively little content of its own and mostly consists of links to material held on individual websites in universities, colleges, research councils, research organisations, funding bodies and other HE agencies.

Information providers such as Sussex should benefit from higher levels of interested visitors to their sites, extended marketing opportunities and intelligent feedback about Hero’s users and their requirements.

The partners hope that the higher education sector as a whole will benefit from Hero in two ways: as a powerful marketing channel in the UK and overseas, and via the creation of a new platform for increased collaboration by users and information providers.

Dear Editor,
Having read the letter from Ian Elsott (cyclist in a permanent strlop), what about some consideration for the humble pedestrian? I walk to work every day and countless times I have been abused by thoughtless cyclists. Have a bit of courtesy and let the pedestrians know you are coming — ever heard of a bicycle bell? And give us some room when you are passing.
Sue Greton (pedestrian in a permanent strlop)
Undergraduate Office

Dear Editor,
I am writing to extend the grateful thanks of the Royal British Legion to all who contributed in any way to this year’s poppy appeal.
The collection taken on the campus raised the wonderful sum of £355.00, and overall for the area that includes Falmer and Stanner the sum raised was £621.33. Well done, everyone.
Mrs George
Honorary Organiser

Joseph Woolf — the end of the story

Plenty has been written about the life of Virginia Woolf. Not much has been said about the response to her death. Yet when Britain learned of her suicide in Sussex in the spring of 1941, the news created debate in the national press and her husband Leonard received more than 200 letters of condolence.

These letters, from friends, family, political figures, eminent writers such as T. S. Eliot and E. M. Forster, Jewish refugees and even a German prisoner of war, are part of the Leonard Woolf Papers held in the University Library. Now they are all being prepared for publication for the first time by Sybil Oldfield, Research Reader in English at Sussex.

“The letters are not just an eloquent and poignant body of writing, they also mark a significant moment in English cultural history”, says Sybil, who has previously written about Virginia Woolf’s pacifism. “It was the period of the Blitz, with hundreds of civilians being killed almost every day. Yet people still felt moved to mourn the loss to society of an irreplaceable artist.”

Virginia Woolf drowned herself in the River Ouse near her Rodmell home on 28 March 1941. Leonard Woolf believed his wife’s suicide was the result of the nervous exhaustion, anxiety and depression that had dogged her for much of her life and that was always particularly acute whenever she had just completed a novel. (She killed herself shortly before the publication of Between the Acts.)

Unfortunately, the reference in her suicide note to “these terrible times”, meaning her bouts of insanity, were misquoted as “these terrible times”, meaning the war, and triggered some unsympathetic reactions from those who thought she was wrong to take her own life while others were fighting for their country.

“Virginia Woolf’s suicide was not a defeatist, despairing reaction to the war, as was commonly thought”, says Sybil. “She was a pacifist, but she could see that Hitler had to be resisted. Although she and Leonard, a Jew, had talked of committing suicide in the event of Nazi invasion, it was not something she wanted to do. Finally, however, she felt she had no option but to spare her husband what she believed would be her imminent and incurable mental collapse.”

In brief

Budgie takes up roost in Saltdean

It looks as if the lost budgie of Bulletin (17 November) fame will be a permanent member of the Tugwell household, because no one has claimed the bird with no name. The Library’s Heather Tugwell says: “He has settled in very well and has started to sing, so he can’t be that unhappy. I have made a swing and a ladder, which he now clammers over and hangs upside down from and does a loop-the-loop. He’s quite a character.”

Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas, who has died aged 73, designed many campus buildings including Ashdown House, the Health Centre and the Trafford Centre. One of a host of architectural staff employed at Sussex as it grew in the 1960s and ’70s, he rose to become University Architect and Engineer and continued to do consultancy work after he left for a lecturing post in the architecture department at Brighton Polytechnic. Jim’s funeral was held on 5 December.

Learn a language

If your new year’s resolution is to learn a foreign language, contact the Open Course Assistant in EURO, Arts A132, ext. 7258, email opencourses@sussex.ac.uk. Part-time (lunchtime and evening) open language courses at a variety of levels are enrolling now for January.

All change in the SEO

Having set up and developed the Student Employment Office (SEO), John Sander is leaving at the end of December to do the same with the new Employability Skills Unit for the Creative Industries. This joint venture between Ravensbourne College and the University is funded by the DTI and DfEE.

Liz Murray (ext. 8146) will be holding the fort in the SEO until John’s replacement is appointed.
Mayflies and mosquitoes

Mike Jones Lecturer in Biology, BIOLS

Long ago, in the early days of the University, between the mid 1960s and the early 1980s, before the men in uniforms came home from the tropics and Mrs Thatcher realised that there was little danger of malaria in Finchley, a strange group of people - strange even by the standards of their other colleagues - worked in BIOLS.

Dedicated to finding out how mosquitoes find people to bite, they spent much of their working time in Africa. Even when surrounded by the delights of the swinging Sussex of that era, it was obvious that their hearts belonged in Keneba or Wali Kunda, beside the great, green, greasy, Gambian river.

Their leader, Mick Gillies, died a year ago this month but he left a book of memoirs which spans a major part of the last century and which, in passing, illustrates the huge changes that have taken place.

Born in 1920 into an upper-middle-class family, with four servants and a governess (his father was an eminent plastic surgeon), Mick qualified in medicine but his true love was natural history. During his early career as a junior medical officer in India and the far East, and as an embassy medical officer in Moscow, we see him slipping off at every possible opportunity to collect mayflies (in Russia, presumably followed by the KGB).

Eventually, in 1950, he found his niche, working on mosquitoes for the Colonial Service at Arusha in Tanzania. His experiences there led, in 1965, to the setting up of the group at Sussex.

The book spans a time of hope for the eradication of malaria and then of disappointment as the disease returned to its position as a major scourge of mankind.

Although he does not mention this, Mick Gillies was awarded the Chalmers and Christopher Medals by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for his now-classic field work.

Despite his eminence in the field of medical entomology, Mick always described himself as an enthusiastic amateur. To the end, he retained his interest in his first love, mayflies.


Chaplain celebrates silver jubilee

The sermon was given by the Rev Dr Colin Thompson, former University Chaplain. Also at the service was the retired Bishop of Truro, Michael Ball, who joined Sussex at the same time as Andrew.

Appointed as senior Anglican chaplain both to the University and what was then Brighton Polytechnic, Michael was also a priest in charge of the parish of Falmer and Stannier. When he left in 1980, Andrew became priest in charge and now has pastoral responsibility for five farms, two universities and two villages.

Andrew rounded off an exhausting weekend on 3 December with a special service in Falmer’s St Laurence church – where the preacher was Father Rob Esdale, Roman Catholic chaplain to the University – and a celebratory evensong at Stannier church.

Why Falmer is familiar

The latest recruit to the Press and Communications Office has a rather refreshing attitude to those thorny campus transport issues. Peter Simmons has gladly given up the stressful commute to work as Marketing Co-ordinator at an academic book publisher in London and is finding the journey to his new job a joy in comparison.

A Sussex graduate at both BA and MA level, Peter has returned to familiar territory. Some eagle-eyed Refectory regulars may recognise him from the 1996 summer vacation he spent as a Catering employee, while avid campus radio listeners may remember Peter’s weekly two-hour indie and dance show on the URF frequency in the mid ’90s.

As Assistant Press and Communications Officer, Peter will be involved with all aspects of media relations and internal communications. Tell him your news on ext. 8209 or email PJ.Simmons@sussex.ac.uk.
A creative approach to academic writing  

Dr Phyllis Creme (Teaching & Learning Development Unit) and Dr Celia Hunt (Centre for Continuing Education) are looking for student volunteers to help them explore the potential of creative writing for enhancing creativity in academic writing. Participants will be asked to attend a writing workshop one evening a week for six weeks during the spring term 2001. The workshops will use creative writing to explore the writer's relationship with academic language, the essay as an academic form and the institutional context of academic writing. Participants will also complete questionnaires and engage in interviews at the start and conclusion of the project. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Phyllis on ext. 4293 (email p.creme@sussex.ac.uk) or Celia on ext. 2154 (email c.m.hunt@sussex.ac.uk).

Cittie slickers  

Claire Hillman Alumni Officer

The Cittie of Yorke, an 'olde worlde' pub in the heart of London, was the venue for the latest meeting of the Alumni Society London Club. It was standing room only as over 100 alumni crowded into the atmospheric cellar bar for a night of food, fun, booze and, of course, intellectual discussion.

Alumni from all over London and the south-east braved the transport chaos to join the party. Robert Chambers (MAPS 1978-81) typified the lengths alumni will go to to attend such popular Alumni Society events; he had taken over three hours to travel from Hassocks by train, a journey that would normally take 40 minutes. Despite his travel trials he soon got into the spirit of the party and was last seen brandishing a rail timetable and wondering if he would get back home before Christmas.

The guest list handed out at the door caused much excitement as alumni attempted to put faces to recognised names. All generations from Sussex were represented, from the 1960s to the more recent graduates of the 1990s, and there were screams of recognition as old friends met up again.

The event was organised by Claire Simons (EAM 1992-95), who works in the Alumni Centre. She commented, "The London Club has a strong and loyal following and the events are always well supported. I was asked so many times when the next event was going to be, I think I'd better start planning another one straight away!"

Swinging Sixties ...

From the Bulletin, 10 December 1965
The place of film in the University

The Film Society is not surprisingly the largest of the University because the cinema is socially the most acceptable of the arts, partly because it incorporates visual, dramatic and sonoric effects and partly because the cinema caters so well for those seeking more entertainment and escapism ...

It is appreciated that the technical quality of the showing of films is inadequate and one of the Society's most immediate problems is the provision of two new speakers ('One the Waterfront' [sic] was barely intelligible with the American drawl made even less distinct by bad sound reproduction) and one new projector.

Letter from America

Tim Boeckers (EURO)
Year abroad student, Media Studies

It is boiling in Chile and almost impossible to leave the house before five in the evening. The semester has almost finished - finally, as we have been at work since the beginning of August and although getting good grades is easier at Católica than at Sussex, the work load is much heavier.

It is not quite as surreal as the pictures people paint of South-America but buses rides, for example, are always quite an adventure - firstly, because the drivers do not see the point of stopping but believe that their mission is to go as fast as possible, shooting through the town centre at 50mph and more. Secondly, the cocktails are customised with religious figures, stickers, disco-balls - anything you like, really - and you can immediately guess whether you can risk getting on the bus without fear or whether you might want to wait for the next one.

Thirdly - and this is the best bit - small traders and musicians travel on the buses: traders who have offers and sales skills that beat any US TV sales programme by far and musicians who range from unbearable to incredibly good. No chance to get bored, really.

Then of course there is the surreal aspect of Christmas in summer - you go into a supermarket, drenched not by rain but sweat, and you are confronted with Christmas decorations and 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas'. It's all wrong!

I'm quite sad now that I've only got one more month left here before going to Mexico and getting into the media business, designing webpages for La Neta (www.laneta.apc.org) and their customers. La Neta is the main internet service provider in Mexico for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and have already promised to take me down south to Chiapas to get in contact with the people who work with the indigenous population and Zapatista rebels. Can't wait. Enjoy a white - or maybe rather grey - Christmas, Tim

Remembering with red ribbons

Emma Allen and Alison Gale (SLS) were among students and staff who helped to create a large, glowing red ribbon by lighting a candle for World AIDS Day on 1 December. Leaves, ribbon and pens were also available for people to write their own personal messages and tie it to the World AIDS Day tree outside the Meeting House. A service was held in the Meeting House chapel to remember those who have died and those who live with HIV, and volunteers toured campus giving out red ribbons and collecting donations for local and international HIV and AIDS charities. The day's events were organised by UNISEX, a sexual-health project for the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. Based in the Student Advice Centre, Falmer House, the project provides information about sexual health and drug/alcohol issues at a drop-in service from 11.00am to 2.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students and staff who register with the project's condom scheme receive a free starter pack and can then continue to buy a wide range of condoms from UNISEX at heavily subsidised prices. For more information, see www.unisex.net.
Christmas vacation opening times

Minimum services days are from Friday 22 December to Monday 1 January inclusive. All services will re-open on Tuesday 2 January and the spring term will start on Monday 8 January.

The Sportcentre closes at 10.00pm on Thu 21 December and re-opens at 9.00am on Tue 2 January.

The Falmer Sports Complex will be open on Fri 22 December from 8.00am to 10.00pm and on 28 and 29 December from 9.00am to 6.00pm. It re-opens on Tue 2 January.

The Health Centre will be closed from Sat 23 to Tue 26 December inclusive and also from Sat 30 December to 1 January inclusive. There will however be emergency clinics on Sat 23 December and Sat 30 December from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. The Health Centre will re-open on Tue 2 January.

Vacation opening hours (16 December–7 January) for the Library are Monday, Wednesday–Friday 9.00am–5.30pm; Tuesday 9.00am–7.30pm; Saturday, Sunday closed. It will close at 3.00pm on Thu 21 December and will be closed from 22 December–1 January inclusive.

The Career Development Unit (CDU) will be open on Mon 18 December from 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm (with short interviews available from 2.00pm to 4.00pm); Wed 20 December from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and 3.00pm to 5.00pm (short interviews 3.00pm to 5.00pm); Thu 21 December from 10.00am to 1.00pm (no short interviews). It will be closed on Tue 19 and Fri 22 December.

Sportcentre's antidotes to seasonal stress

Take time out for some calm amidst the Christmas and new year rush, and follow the Sportcentre's five-day health plan, courtesy of the Sportcentre.

Mondays: Need to let off steam? Holistic aromatherapy from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Treatments last approximately one hour. Cost: Students £10.00, staff £18.00, public £20.00.

Tuesdays: Want to look a cracker? Beauty therapy from 9.00am to 2.00pm. A leaflet detailing all treatments and prices is available on request by phoning Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

In need of relief? Sports massage from 4.30pm to 9.30pm. Treatments last approximately 30 minutes. Cost: Students £8.00, staff £10.00, public £11.50.

Wednesdays: Rushed off your feet? Reflexology from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Treatments last approximately 45 minutes. Cost: Students £13.00, staff £16.00, public £18.00.

Thursdays: Relaxes rubbing you up the wrong way? Holistic massage and Indian head massage from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Treatments last approximately 30 minutes. Cost: Students £8.00, staff £10.00, public £11.50.

Fridays: Needles falling off the tree? Acupuncture from 9.30am to 5.30pm. Treatments last approximately 45 minutes. Cost: Students £14.00, staff £18.00, public £22.00.

Go on: treat yourself! Book a dose of therapy or treatment at the Sportcentre on ext. 8228.

Small ads

WANTED: Brighton College uniform for a 5’8” boy. Also text books for year 9. Tel. 473766.

WANTED: Accommodation for new lecturer (non-smoker) from 11 Dec. or later. Prefer flat or studio within reach of convenient public transport. Can supply local ref. Contact sycheli@ms.mpg.de.

FOR SALE: Pair of John Bowes Active 1 loudspeakers. 300 watts each, superb sound quality. £300 the pair. Ext. 8313 or email n.billingham@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Rover Metro, 1991 H-reg, new MOT, new exhaust, sun roof, radio cassette, good condition. £500 ono. Contact Melanie Green, email melanie@cogs.sussex.ac.uk or tel. (87)7167 or 0208 947 3867.

Room wanted: For DPhil student, Jan-Feb, near to campus. Email jvinhan110@lycos.co.uk.

To Let: Large room in beautiful flat in Kemp Town, from Jan. Short or long term, £300 pcm. Email davidforester@hotmail.com.

Exhibitions

Until Sat 20 Jan
Landscape - From Four to Foundation
Interpretations of the local landscape - in a wide range of media – by pupils from schools and colleges in Brighton, Hove and East Sussex.

Until Sat 20 Jan
Collection Cabinets: An Accessible Archive
PhotoWorks project by five young Brighton-based artists, exploring the changing values and meanings of objects, contained in the drawers of a cabinet.

Bulletins

The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 12 January, with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on 5 January. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8588 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!