Art of death goes digital

Death for the great and good used to be a lavish affair surrounded by pomp and ceremony on a grand scale. But the grandest thing of all would have been a magnificent monument in memory of your life.

Today thousands of carved stone tombs, adorned with effigies and heraldic symbols, can be found in places of worship all over Britain. Yet they have never been studied as a cultural art form and their existence has never been properly catalogued... until now.

Using the latest in computer technology and £136,000 funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), art historian Dr Nigel Llewellyn is about to conduct a pilot study to design a database of the funeral monuments of East and West Sussex.

If it’s successful, Nigel, who curated the hugely popular Art of Death exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1992, hopes to turn his project into a national database.

He said: “Our approach to death these days is to keep our response low key. But our ancestors confronted death very readily and made preparations before they died. These monuments often tell extraordinary stories and are of interest not just to art historians, but also to genealogists, social historians and those interested in local history.”

More than 300 local monuments dated between 1550 and 1900 are to be documented on the Sussex database, which will contain digitised visual images and text. The idea is that users will be able to identify and compare different monuments in an easy and accessible way.

The study, which Nigel will carry out in association with the Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art, the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences (COGS) and the Environmental Science Laboratory, is expected to take two years.

Two other bids to the AHRB by art historians on campus have also been successful. Dr Evelyn Welch has been awarded £252,000 for a three-year project that will bring together art, economic and cultural historians to explore issues of consumption in Renaissance Italy. “Our group is interested in whether art objects were bought and sold in ways that made them different from everyday objects,” she said.

A project led by Professors Craig Clunas and Partha Mitter has been awarded £31,000 to explore the connections among a diverse group of scholars around the world who work with texts on visual arts and aesthetics in India and China. “This research is aimed at a clearer understanding of the arts in a global context and of the network of cultures in the contemporary world,” explained Craig.

In a similar vein, Craig also leads a consortium that has received £250,000 from the HEFCE Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning, for a project entitled ‘Globalising Art, Architecture and Design History’. Run in partnership with the Open University and the University of Middlesex, the three-year project aims to support curriculum development in art and design history nationally, by incorporating art from outside western Europe and North America.

“The obstacles to diversifying the curriculum in art history are as much practical as ideological,” said Craig. “People want to incorporate other cultural traditions but are unsure how to proceed. This project is designed not to lecture people about change but to show them how to change in ways they already want to. I’m confident our experience here at Sussex can be of use in this.”

![Nigel Llewellyn examines a fine example of a funeral monument in Stammer Church.](image)

![¡Olé! Join the Gardner Arts Centre in a celebration of the music and dance of southern Spain with the internationally-renowned flamenco dance company Jaleo.](image)
It's never too late

The highlight of Adult Learners’ Week (20–26 May) for two Sussex students was a champagne reception at Hove Town Hall, where they hobnobbed with guest speaker, Simon Fanshawe, and the new Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Andy Durr. Julia Nalletambe (below right) and Carole Becker (below left) had been nominated to represent the University at the event, which celebrated the achievements of adult learners in the local community.

A study published by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) in the run-up to Adult Learners’ Week sets out why adults like Julia and Carole return to learning and underlines the potential benefits for them. The IES, which is based on the Sussex campus, carried out a review with NIACE, the national organisation for adult learning.

The study reveals that the biggest reasons for learning are job related, followed by the desire for knowledge and social reasons (to meet others). According to the findings, learning increases not just income, but also self-esteem and confidence.

This certainly seems true of Julia Nalletambe, who is in the final year of a BA in Cultural Studies. She has benefited greatly from the experience, says CCE’s Martin Ryle. "Julia has developed a new way of thinking, learning how to question and think critically."

"I feel more confident that I can work through things now," agrees Julia. "Through learning you gain the confidence to believe that you can do it. It has been a real experience going to university and I have made a lot of friends."

"Learning gives me so much pleasure, is hugely enjoyable and has added a new dimension to my life," she adds – so much so, that Julia hopes to go on to a part-time MA in Media Studies at Sussex.

Carole Becker is equally enthusiastic about her studies, in Mathematics with French. Carole thought she was 'done' with mathematics after her O Level in 1967, but 21 years later found herself writing on a university application form, "It is with some surprise that I find myself studying Mathematics, and enjoying it and able to do it!"

Carole is now in her second year at Sussex. According to Professor Charles Goldie, Dean of SMS, "She is not just able to do it, but is one of the stars of her year and a wonderful example of how students of all ages can mix and help each other."

"The intensity of her enthusiasm for her newly discovered subject and the breadth of her genuinely cultural interest in all things mathematical have an effect on all who meet her," he says.

VC's Voice

The current furore about Oxbridge admissions has some bizarre elements, but also some serious implications. None of us will find appealing the notion that the most important issue in higher education is undergraduate admission to Oxbridge. One might even have the mischievous thought that bias in Oxbridge admissions is good for the university system as a whole, by enlarging the pool of good candidates for other universities.

There are positive features of the discussion. It is good news that higher education is a politically hot topic, because public discussion of the importance of higher education will improve our chances of getting a decent level of public funding. And the University of Sussex should not fear a debate about university admissions from state schools, because we take an unusually high proportion of our UK undergraduate entry from state schools.

But the UK higher education system as a whole continues to have a very class-skewed entry, and we can expect continued pressure from politicians to do better. These are the same politicians who have done things, like the abolition of student maintenance grants, that make higher education less accessible to mature students and students from poorer families, but consistency has never been a requirement of political office. We may hope for initiatives that provide more funding for such students. We can surely expect initiatives that imply much more detailed intervention by politicians in the management of higher education, and that is not good news.

For a variety of reasons I decided not to live in Swanborough Manor when I became VC. I have now temporarily reversed that decision, and will live there for the next couple of months, in order to make more use of Swanborough during that period for University events. Minor internal alterations have been made to separate the public and private areas of the house, and I am very keen that use of Swanborough by the whole University community should continue. It is an attractive location for meetings as well as social occasions.

However, we have to face the fact that Swanborough is a mixed blessing for the University. We have a pressing need for capital investment on the campus, in new research buildings, improved teaching space, computer networking, and better student facilities. An under-used, medieval, manor house may not be the best use of over a million pounds of capital. And both in style and cost, it is not appropriate accommodation for the head of a modern university.

We have looked at the possibility of adapting the building for different university uses, such as a residential conference centre, but the size and condition of Swanborough makes such alterations hopelessly uneconomic. We have to face the possibility that the University should sell Swanborough. A university cannot lightly dispose of a generous gift, and if we do sell, we need to ensure that the proceeds are used in ways of which the original donor, Lady Reading, would have approved.

Bright sparks use

Fund-raising capers in the Creche

There were no 'knickers in a twist' when the Creche raised £900 in a recent sponsored nappy change. The money was donated to Leo House – a hospice for terminally ill children and their families.

Their next challenge is to try to build their own children's centre – out of Lego. The famous building-bricks company have created a new, large, soft brick and the Creche would like to purchase a starter set, which costs £149. They are asking people to support the appeal by sponsoring a brick for £1. If you think you can help, please contact Janet Healy on ext. 8356.
The swinging Sixties revisited

Remember the Sixties? Of course you don’t. For, as they say, if you remember the Sixties, you weren’t really there. But there are plenty of clues still left around to suggest what the decade was all about – including the remarkable, modernist architecture of the University of Sussex.

To mark Architecture Week 2000, the Gardner Arts Centre is holding an open day on Sunday 11 June for people to learn more about one of the largest groups of post-war listed buildings in the country.

Art historian Dr Maurice Howard will give an illustrated talk about architect Sir Basil Spence, whose earliest buildings on campus are now considered to be of national significance.

Together with other members of the History of Art subject group, Maurice will also lead tours of some of the listed buildings, including the Gardner Arts Centre itself, Falmer House and the Meeting House. Staff at the Gardner Arts Centre will be offering a backstage tour.

"When these places were built, it was an exciting time," says Dr Howard. "Sir Basil Spence had designed Coventry Cathedral, which was one of the most talked-about buildings in the country, and he had been involved with the Festival of Britain."

"The buildings at Sussex were designed to fit in with the Downs and the wonderful landscape. But they also reflected the modern views of what universities were all about. Now their uses are changing and we need to think about their future and why it’s important to preserve them."

All events in the Open Day are free. To book, contact the Gardner Arts Centre box office on 01273 685861.

* The talk starts at 1.00pm.
* The architecture tours are scheduled for 2.00pm, 2.30pm and 3.00pm.
* The backstage tours take place at 2.30pm, 3.00pm and 3.30pm.
* The café-bar is open from midday.

Meetings with the Vice-Chancellor – correction

Two dates for the Vice Chancellor’s termly meetings with staff published in the last issue of the Bulletin (19 May) were incorrect.

Please note the correct dates are:

* *Academic faculty*  
  13 June 1.00pm EDB 121

* *Administrative faculty*  
  28 June 3.00pm PEV1-A7

A bottle of pop

Well, the odds of hitting the jackpot were far better than one in 14 million. Of course, you had to be ‘in to win’: Elaine Stephen, who is responsible for ‘balancing the books’ in the Library, duly returned her Bulletin readership questionnaire by the closing date and was this week toasting her success in the prize draw with a bottle of the finest Moët & Chandon.

Commiserations if you had thought, "Maybe, just maybe": console yourself with the knowledge that your views will be invaluable in shaping the future of the Bulletin, which is set to be relaunched in the autumn.

And if you still haven’t told us what you think of the Bulletin, please spare a few minutes and return your questionnaire to the Press and Communications Office. No more bubbly, though.

Research funding opportunities

This is a selection of research opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants & Contracts Office. Contact Debbie, ext. 3812 or email D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFLIND on the Research website http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS home page, under Research.

The Nuffield Foundation invites applications for its Project Grants Scheme. Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 are awarded to research, developmental or experimental projects that meet a practical or policy need. There are five areas of special interest: child protection, family law and justice; educational research and innovation; access to justice; mental health; and older people and their families.

Deadline for outline proposals: 14 July 2000

The British Academy is inviting applications from established mid-career scholars for two-year Research Readerships and one-year Senior Research Fellowships. The awards are designed to allow the successful candidates to undertake/complete an approved programme of sustained research, while relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments. Applicants are normally expected to be under 55. Deadline: 31 July 2000

The EPSRC is inviting applications under the Computational Engineering Programme. Applications are invited for project grants, research networks, visiting fellowships, workshops and symposia. All applications, including project grants, will be expected to include the long-term objective of promoting collaborative links involving mathematicians and engineers.

Deadline: 30 September

The Leverhulme Trust has just announced a new scheme – Prize Fellowships. Awards of up to £50,000 will be made to outstanding young scholars of substantial distinction and promise in the following disciplines: astronomy and astrophysics; engineering; geography (excluding physical geography); earth sciences; philosophy and ethics; and economics. Deadline: 16 October 2000

The Royal Society’s Short-Term Study Visits to and from China, Korea and Southeast Asia are generally between two weeks and six months. The key objectives of the visits are to enhance the research capabilities of individual scientists, develop international collaborative links and enable participation in international programmes. See RGO for country-specific information.

The ESRC Research Fellowship scheme is open to social scientists at all stages of their career who would benefit from a period of concentrated research activity. Fellowships are normally for two–three years, cover the applicant’s salary and up to £15,000 per year for research expenses. Applications can be made at any time.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia
A new listing of events on campus is now on the web. This is still in its early stages but we hope it will be useful for up-to-date details of lectures, seminars and colloquia. Find it at www.sussex.ac.uk/ASIS/events.

Monday 5 June

4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Emma Halliwell, Body image concerns in adulthood: A qualitative investigation. D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Paul Dudchenko (Stirling). Neuronal basis of spatial cognition. BLR.

5.00pm BUGS (Bios Undergraduate Society) Talk: Dave Aplin, From South Africa to Namibia in search of beautiful animals and ugly plants. BLT.

Tuesday 6 June
12.30 Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Rena Feld (Lancaster), The voice: Spoken and written. Library Meeting Room.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Kirsten Mundt, The role of the COP9/PSI-like complex in cell cycle regulation and checkpoints in fission yeast. BLR.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Claudia Baenger (Universität Paderborn). Queering imperial realms. Reconceptualisations of power in Ulrike Ottinger’s Madame X and Michael Roes’ Narr und König. A155.

Wednesday 7 June
2.00pm Queery Seminar: Amalia Ziv (Tel Aviv), Girl meets boy: Cross-gender queer sex and the promise of pornography. A71.

5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Christine Roulston (Western Ontario), A room of one’s own: Narratives of domestic space. D640.

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Les Back (Goldsmiths), Cirmagos, Reggae Gyal and ‘Le Francais De Le Souche Recente’s’ Nation, diaspora and identity in football. D630.

Thursday 8 June
1.00pm Library Talk: Bet Inglis and Adrian Peasgood, Poets’ Papers – a talk about the Library’s current exhibition (now open to the end of term). Library Meeting Room.

Friday 9 June
10.30am–1.00pm IDS Workshop: Debt, poverty and development: The IMF – fact and fiction. Speakers from the IMF, Sussex and elsewhere will debate the IMF role, policies, impact on development and accountability, in the wake of Seattle, Washington and London on May Day. Room 120, IDS.


2.00pm Aesthetics Workshop: David Osmond-Smith, Beyond the metaphysics of the musical work. A135.

2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Andy Davies and Tim Brady, From systems to services: Building capabilities in Complex Product Systems. C133.

4.00pm Aesthetics Workshop: Berys Gaut (St Andrews), Creativity and imagination. A155.

Monday 12 June
4.00pm German Research Colloquium: Michael Brenner (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Moses Mendelssohn’s afterlife: The construction and deconstruction of a Jewish hero. Meeting House.

4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Benet Davetian, Sociology of courtesy. D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Alan Palmer (Nottingham), What does the auditory cortex do? BLR.

Tuesday 13 June
2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Frances Millard (Essex), Clearances and party systems in central Europe. A71.

2.30pm Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Raymond Hickman and Phil Ullayt, Changing the face of nursing: Public perceptions, the media and NHS reforms. Library Meeting Room.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Lucas Bowler, Analysis of differential gene expression in bacteria. BLR.

Wednesday 14 June
5.00pm Statistics Seminar: David Bohan (IACR, Long Ashton Research Station), Spatial statistics of sugarcane and their carabid beetle predators. PE2V2A.

Thursday 15 June
4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: John Towe (Royal Holloway), Control tricks, all of us! BLR.

4.30pm Politics & International Relations/Social and Political Thought Graduates Programme Seminar: Faleh A. Jabar (Iraqi Cultural Forum), The transformation of State–Society relations in the post-cold war Middle East. D630.

Friday 16 June
1.00pm Challenging Dominant Models of Sexuality in Development Seminar: Tracey Skelton (Nottingham Trent), Complexities of sexualities in the anglophone Caribbean. IDS room 221.


Small ads
WANTED: Mature graduate requires accommodation in quiet house with three years or postgrads. Impeccable references, non-smoker. Phone Dr Jack Lambert on 773546.

TO LET: Rottingdean, off High Street. Three-bed house, newly refurbished, unfurnished, GFCH, all appliances. Gardens, private parking – £210 pw. Tel. 692010.

FOR SALE: Toshiba colour TV, 21-inch with two compact electronic room aerials – £95. Desk lamp – £3. Email E.Sterianou@sussex.ac.uk or call 0798 1530 541.

WANTED: Flat for University couple up to £500pcm. Starting from August, preferably in Brighton or Hove. Please contact Thomas on ext. 8122 or by email T.Caspari@sussex.ac.uk.

ACCOMMODATION: Lovely studio flat available in Lewes from 15 June until early September. Quiet road, use of garden. £90 a week inclusive of bills. Tel. 476813.

WANTED: Cricket players required for local, league cricket club – home ground located at the University. For more information contact Simon ext. 7230 or Terry ext. 4237.

ACCOMMODATION: Available from 7 June to 15 or 20 July in Park Crescent. One-bedroom flat, fully furnished. Suitable for one person or a couple. Rent £10 per day. Call 685869.

FOR SALE: Volvo 340GL, MOT to 3/01, tax to 8/00, A reg, a bit rusty but runs! Available beginning of July – CH00 £200. Contact Lyn ext. 7432 or 245963.


SUMMER WORK/HOUSE-SIT: Sought by reliable woman – June to September. Fees £810, includes arts, admin, gardening, animal care, driving. Excellent references. Email hello@elleco.com.

For more small ads see the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin/

Campus activities
Language summer schools
Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian or Spanish. Five days immersed in chosen language! 10–14 July. Cost £120. Contact Sophie on (87)7258 or email opencourses@sussex.ac.uk.

Tennis tournaments
O’Reilly mixed doubles on Sunday 11 June at 2.00pm. £3.00 per pair, max. 12 pairs. Mixed doubles on Wednesday 26 June at 5.30pm. £2.50 per pair, max. 12 pairs.

To enter either tournament contact Palmer Sports Complex on (87)7125.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Thinking of TEFL as a career? Planning a year abroad? SLI run a ‘four-week’ course which is a fully accredited, internationally recognised qualification leading to the Trinity CertTESOL. Courses start on 3 July, 2 August (four weeks) and 4 September (five weeks). Fees £810 (for Sussex students). SLI also runs a one-week intensive ‘Initial teacher training for TEFL’ course at the end of every term. Next dates are 3–7 July. Fee £135.

For both courses contact Linda Gunn, Arts B131, ext. 2175 or SLI reception, Arts A, ext. 8006.

Bulletin
The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 16 June with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on 9 June. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads (20 words or less) from staff and students of the University. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.