Jonathan ‘Crusoe’ roughs it in the name of science

Just when you thought you couldn’t take any more of the trials and tribulations of television castaways, the University has produced one of its own.

TV producers sent physicist Dr Jonathan Hare to a mystery Mediterranean island and told him to make survival equipment with little more than an old saucepan and his own ingenuity.

Jonathan, a member of the Sussex Fullerene Group headed by Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir Harry Kroto, was one of five scientists picked to take part in a new Open University series, Rough Science, which starts on BBC2 at the end of May.

But, unlike the Hebridean community from BBC1’s docu-saga, Castaway 2000, the Rough Science team were not expected to live in makeshift shelters ... or fall in love with each other. “We stayed in a very nice hotel on the island,” says Jonathan. “And we were far too busy working on the projects to become anything other than good friends.”

The four-part series shows how Jonathan, who also runs the Creative Science Centre at Sussex, used the island’s natural resources as well as odds and ends found in a deserted prison to put together some basic equipment.

He made a rudimentary crystal radio from a sawn-up saucepan (under the watchful eye of presenter Kate Humble, pictured above), a lump of a mineral called galena, and a mass of barbed wire. He also created a wooden record player powered by weights, a camera from bits of broken glass and mirrors, and a battery made out of seawater and pencils.

The rest of the team, which included a chemist, a molecular biologist, a marine biologist and an ethnobotanist, had to devise ways of making soap, insect repellent, dye and electricity. They also had to work out the longitude and latitude of their location in order to find out where they were (which turned out to be Capraia, off the coast of Italy).

“The point of it was to show how you don’t need much in the way of money or high-tech materials to create science,” explains Jonathan. “For me, it was great. I hadn’t made a crystal set for about 15 years and it brought back lots of magical feelings. You couldn’t just go down the shops and buy something. You had to make do with what you had.”

The series’ producers approached Jonathan at the suggestion of Sir Harry. “I helped them come up with some ideas and they then asked me if I wanted to take part,” says Jonathan. “Some scientists worry about looking a bit silly on TV, but that didn’t bother me at all. I think it’s important that people stop thinking of scientists as mad-haired boffins in kipper ties. Hopefully, this series shows us as real people.”

He spent three weeks on the “rugged and beautiful” island last year. “What was also great about it was working with others,” he says. “So much of your time as a scientist is spent working alone, yet when you work with others it’s the most wonderful thing. You’re sharing ideas and thinking creatively.”

Encouraging people to think of science as a creative activity is Jonathan’s passion and the reason why he set up the Creative Science Centre on campus in 1995. He runs workshops for school children, and recently spent a week giving talks and demonstrations at the Science Museum.

He has just been awarded a £48,000 fellowship from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), spread over four years, to develop his ideas.

A NESTA spokesperson said: “Along with his academic achievements, Jonathan is also a highly talented communicator of science, with a special ability to make its complexities accessible, entertaining and inspirational to all ages.”

• See for yourself by watching Rough Science, which starts on BBC2 on 26 May, at 7.30pm.

The Gardner Arts Centre has two pairs of tickets to give away for PME (Quebec) a Joyfully Satirical Theatre-Dance-performance-art piece. It will be held on Monday 22 May at 8.00pm. The tickets are free to the first two readers who turn up at the box office waving a copy of the Bulletin.
QAA commends Sussex for quality-assurance structure

The University has been praised for its wide-ranging and in-depth engagement with the management of academic quality and standards on campus. An audit of the institution has demonstrated that Sussex maintains a strong, central framework for quality assurance.

The audit was carried out by a team from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), who visited campus in February. They were presented with the University’s Analytical Account, a document prepared by the Teaching and Learning Development Sub-Committee and approved by Senate that describes the academic policies at Sussex. These include the way the University reviews and approves courses, its examining procedures, staff development and systems for dealing with student welfare. The QAA team held 16 meetings with a wide range of faculty, staff and students to discuss various topics. The audit process focused on four main themes: the institution’s quality strategy; academic standards; the learning infrastructure; and internal and external communications.

In particular, the draft report commends the University for:
1. its level of self-reflection on matters of quality management;
2. its comprehensive engagement in recent years with a wide range of matters relating to quality and academic standards;
3. the development of a strong structure to ensure the quality of courses is maintained;
4. its approach to tackling the consistency and comparability of standards across courses; and
5. its approach to considering the quality of written information provided to students.

Provided the University continues to monitor and enhance its procedures, the QAA concludes that "a reasonably high level of confidence can be placed in the University's discharge of its responsibilities for the quality of the education and the standards of the awards offered in its name".

Among "points for further consideration", the audit team has advised the University to further its work on the following issues:
1. aspects of its validation arrangements for programmes at partner institutions;
2. continued self-reflection to ensure a timely response to future developments, both internal and external;
3. the consistency of regulations and criteria for student assessment;
4. the planning and integration of provision for staff development;
5. the integration of welfare services within the overall provision for student services;
6. its approach to student admissions; and
7. the appointment of external examiners.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Colin Brooks said the report shows that Sussex is on the right track in its approach to teaching and maintaining standards.

He said: "I am pleased that the QAA echoes the confidence that we have in the way in which all our colleagues contribute to the quality of education."

The University will shortly receive the final report of the audit team; it will be circulated widely and will be made available on the WWW.

Britain's favourite fast food

Highly dubious research at the University has revealed that staff and students are extremely loyal not only to their preferred catering outlet on campus but also to their favourite sandwich filling.

The survey, which has been roundly criticised by social scientists for its dodgy methodology and small sample size, also found that French baguettes are extremely popular and that homemade butties seem to be a thing of the past.

The investigation of sandwich-eating habits at Sussex was carried out to mark British Sandwich Week, which runs from 14-20 May. "The sandwich is becoming the social measuring stick for lifestyles today," claim the event's organisers.

Crisps

Not all members of the University were eligible to take part in the Bulletin study. "I'm a crisps man, myself," said Peter Palmer, manager of the Media Services Unit (MSU), when approached in the vicinity of Palmer Bar. Others expressed interest in participating in any future study as part of a hypothetical British Cake Week.

Peter Ormerod (pictured left), an undergraduate in EAM, was enjoying a cheese and salad baguette from the EURO common room, but, he told Bulletin researchers, "I don't have sandwiches at all normally – only when I'm on campus."

Like Peter, University photographer Keith Hunt never brings his own sarnies: "I can't be bothered to make them in the morning." Only one obviously homemade sandwich was identified in the course of the research, suggesting that convenience is more important than price to the busy staff and students at Sussex.

Turkey mayo

Keith patronises the EAM common room: "It's too crowded in EURO." His regular choice is a turkey mayo baguette, which he considers to be good value at £1.55 – "And they make it up specially for me." He could be persuaded to vary his lunchtime diet only "if they did a sausage baguette, like a huge hot dog – that would be splendid".

Five years

On the grass outside the AFRAS common room, eternal student Cat Simmons dared to be different with a cheese-topped white roll, filled with egg and salad. Cat, who is studying in CDE said: "It's my fifth year eating AFRAS sandwiches. I don't go anywhere else."

- Fast foodies can find out more about the national picture from the British Sandwich Association on (01235) 821820.

I like mine cheesy! Loyalty to AFRAS for Cat Simmons, who is eating an egg and salad cheese-topped roll.

Wicked! Brumby Randell, a DPhil student, is delighted with her bacon, lettuce and tomato baguette from EURO.
Campus news
and events

Meeting the Vice-Chancellor
Each term, staff of the University are invited to a meeting with the Vice-
Chancellor and the Registrar & Secretary to discuss any matters or issues relating to
their work or the University. Details of the dates of the meetings can be found at
www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/secretariat/committee/

This term’s meetings are:
• Non-academic support staff
  1 June 1.00pm A2
• Academic faculty
  3 June 1.00pm EDB 121
• Administrative faculty
  8 June 3.00pm PEV1-A7

Disciplinary Panel
The Disciplinary Panel, consisting of four faculty and two student members, met on
9 May to consider a case referred to it by the Discipline Committee.
A student in AFRAS, a student in COGS and a student in GCRSS were found guilty of
taking part in action designed to prevent the Chancellor’s Society dinner from taking
place on 17 November 1999. They were found not guilty of joining with others in
gaining forcible entry by breaking through a fire door.
Bulletin readership questionnaire
What do you think of the Bulletin? We have sent out thousands of questionnaires from the
Press and Communications Office, giving members of the University community the opportunity to have a say
in the future of the publication.

New Student Support Unit
Following the award of £150,000 by the
HJFCE to the Student Services
division, two new appointments have been
made. Teresa Stone (on the left of the picture) joins the
University as Disability
Co-ordinator and Brenda
Giddley has moved from
Psychological and
Counselling Services to
become the Learning
Support Co-ordinator in the
newly created Student
Support Unit.
They will be working
alongside the many other units on campus
that are currently involved with learning
support, to complement and coordinate
existing support services.
Brenda will be responsible for students
who have a difficulty with the learning
process for cognitive reasons. This will
cover students with learning difficulties
such as dyslexia, but also those who are
having difficulties with their studies for
other reasons, which may not be easily
recognised. In the first instance current
students with learning support
requirements should be referred
by their sub-dean.
The main focus of
Teresa’s role will be
dealing with the
more practical
day-to-day issues that
arise out of
physical
disabilities, hearing
or sight
impairments
involving campus
access, personal carers, etc. Another large
part of her job will be dealing with students
prior to arrival as well as throughout their
course, so she will work closely with those
involved with the admissions procedure.
Brenda and Teresa are based in the Student
Support Unit at the back of Pevensey 1, just
underneath the physics bridge, and can be
contacted on ext. 7464/5.

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
REFUND on the Research website
http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or
USIS home page, under Research.
The British Council is inviting applica-
tions under the UK-Dutch Research
Programme, which aims to stimulate col-
laboration between the two countries in all
subject areas. Support covers international
travel and subsistence. The duration of vis-
its may vary between one week and two
months. Deadline: 30 June 2000
Applications are invited under the Royal
Society conference grants scheme for travel
and subsistence grants to enable UK
academics to participate in scientific confer-
ences overseas. Next deadline: 1 June 2000
The Realising Our Potential Award
scheme is currently inviting applications. It
aims to enhance collaboration between the
science base and UK industry. Eligible
applicants should currently be receiving
cash support from industry of at least
£25,000 for basic or strategic research.
Deadlines: NERC: 30 June; MRC: 17 July;
BBSRC: 28 July; ESRC: 31 October; EPSRC &
PPARC: no deadline
The EPSRC is seeking proposals from researchers for ‘partnerships for public awareness’ awards. The awards are intend-
ed to encourage researchers to communi-
cate the challenge and excitement of their work to the wider public in partnership
with other organisations or individuals.
Current or recent EPSRC grant holders can
apply for awards, which normally range from
£10,000–£20,000. Deadline: 14 Sep-
tember 2000.
The New York Public Library Centre for
Scholars and Writers has a fellowship
programme open to scholars in the
humanities and social sciences, and cre-
ative writers whose research will benefit
from access to the Library’s collections. The
award usually runs from September to
May and carries a stipend of £32,000.
Deadline: 6 October 2000
The Leverhulme Trust is inviting applica-
tions for support for academic collabora-
tions involving visits, exchanges, work-
shops and seminars. The duration of a
project is normally three years. There are
no closing dates for preliminary letters.
Deadlines for full applications: 1 Sep-
tember and 15 November 2000
The BBSRC is currently inviting applica-
tions for two new schemes: rapid generic
expression systems and structural molec-
ular analysis of rational targets. Support for
both schemes is available for up to five
years in duration. Further details can be
obtained from the RGCO. Deadlines: 12
June and 9 October 2000.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia
A new listing of events on campus will be on the web from Monday 22 May. This is still in its early stages but we hope will be useful for up-to-date details of lectures, seminars and colloquia. Find it at www.sussex.ac.uk/ULIS5/now.

Monday 22 May


2.00pm Palmer Language Group: Larry Trask. Getting it wrong in relative chronology. A155.

4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Nick Page, Fabian. The role of diversity at work: How being in a minority can affect your job. D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Michael O'Shea, Gas on the brain. BLR.

Tuesday 23 May


2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Martin Burch (Manchester), Europeanisation, Whithall and devolution. A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Juan Pablo Couso, Proximal-distal limb development in Drosophila. BLR.

4.15pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Michael Carrithers (Durham), Persons as victims and history as culture in East Germany. C233.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Dierk Eul (University of Chicago), Putting a new face on it: German Jews, American Jews, Israeli Jews and the origins of aesthetic surgery. A5.

Wednesday 24 May

1.30pm Student Writing Forum: Uses of study journals for enhancing learning on academic courses at Sussex: Discussion and exchanges. D621. Contact Phyllis Creme, email p.creme@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 4293.


5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Jewl Spears (Brookings College, Florida). Desire and desolation in the early poetry of T.S. Eliot. D640.

5.00pm Statistics Seminar: Anastasia Ivanova (University of North Carolina), The drop-the-loser rule in medical trials. PEV2A2.

Thursday 25 May

4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: John Stein (Oxford). The sensory basis of reading skills and dyslexia. BLR.

6.00pm Royal Statistical Society Local Group: Peter Atkinson (Southampton), Geostatistical analysis of air temperature and rainfall data in the UK: The UK 504, Watts Building, University of Brighton.

Friday 26 May

1.00pm Challenging Dominant Models of Sexuality in Development Seminar: Alan Sinfield, The production of gay and the return of power. IDS room 221.

2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Richard Whitely (Hitotsubashi University, Japan), Science transformed? C133.

3.00pm SLS Seminar: John H. Jackson (Georgetown University Law Centre), The WTO: Constitutional and jurisprudential developments. D630.

Tuesday 30 May

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Husseim Kassim (Birbeck College), The Europeanisation of air transport. A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Tim Humphrey (MRC, Harwell), Translation stress response in fission yeast. BLR.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Beat Lewkowicz, From communicative to cultural memory: Narratives and practices among Sorakonian Jews. A155.

Centre for Research in the History of Art Lecture 6.30pm Tuesday 30 May
Professor T.J. Clark (University of California)
Matisse's Woman with a Hat. A1

Wednesday 31 May

12.30pm SPRU Environment Programme Seminar: Katy Begg (Surrey). The clean development mechanism: Maximising GHG reductions and sustainability. SPRU 2A3.


4.30pm History of Art Research Seminar: Evelyn Welch and Michelle O'Malley, Aspects of the art market in 15th-century Italy. A103.

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

Thursday 1 June

1.00pm IDS Talk: Fabienne Peter (University of Basel), On health evaluation and the interpretation of health needs. IDS room 220.

4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Mark I. Friedman (St George's Hospital Medical School), Hunger and satiety from a peripheral perspective. BLR.

4.30pm Politics & International Relations/Social and Political Thought Graduate Programme Seminar: David Chauder (Leeds Metropolitan), Global justice and the end of sovereignty. D630.

Friday 2 June

1.00pm Challenging Dominant Models of Sexuality in Development Seminar: Mark Johnson (Hull), Writing against identity: Discreant images and diverse bodily knowledge. IDS room 221.

2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Ulrich Schnochn (Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, Germany), Indicators of the interaction between research and innovation. C133.

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 (87/529) or email opencourses@sussex.ac.uk.

Charity Sports Night
In aid of the Royal Alexandra Hospial on Wednesday 7 June from 6.00 to 9.00pm at the Sportcentre. Indoor and outdoor fun, teams of six required, at least two females per team. £12 per team (all of which goes to charity). Closing date: 1 June. For further details please contact Sam on ext. 8229.

Stop smoking
Save money and feel fitter. Smell the flowers, not the smoke! Stop smoking group with nurse Vel. Informal meeting on Wednesday 24 May at 3.30pm in the Health Centre.

Lunchtime recital

International families' outing to Thorpe Park on Sunday 18 June
All international families are invited to join a day outing to Thorpe Park (a large, family leisure park).

Please contact Gillian Hall in York House reception or on ext. 3994 for more details.

Small ads

FOR SALE: Ski-jackets (adults and childrens), salopettes (size 11–13). Contact ext. 8022 or email A.Drew@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Double mattress, six months old, excellent condition. Was £140, will accept £60. Buyer must collect. Contact Laura on (87/7360 or L.J.Dewis@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Two TVs. One small b&w approx. 25cm screen – £1. One 40cm, colour – £20. Both in good working order. Contact Alister on a.h.scott@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Portuguese classes by native speaker (ideally Brazilian). Either group or personal tuition would be suitable. Contact Richard Follett (EAM) on (87/7565 or r.follett@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Electra fridge/freezer. Good working order. £20. Buyer collects (Preston Circus, Brighton area). Please contact Wendy on (87/7091 or email W.J.Tozer@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Epson Stylus Photo 1200 Colour Ink Cartridge. Available due to embarrassing purchasing error! Unused, but opened packaging. Cost around £17: will accept £10. Contact Andy Clews on ext. 3139 or email A.Clews@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Dymon DC01 vacuum cleaner with replacement filters – £85.00. PC 486 66MHZ, Windows '95, Microsoft Office '97, Norton Anti Virus, 16MB RAM, CD-Rom, 585MB Hard Drive – £195.00. Contact Emma at e.peli@sussex.ac.uk.

Bulletin

The Bulletin will be published fortnightly throughout the summer term.

The next issue will be out on Friday 2 June with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on 26 May. 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. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.