Isle of Thorns is up for sale

Estate agents Strutt and Parker have been instructed by the University to handle the sale of its training and conference centre at the Isle of Thorns, situated in extensive grounds on the edge of the Ashdown Forest.

The University's links with the estate at Chevening Gate go back to 1964, when it was used for courses, sporting activities and recreation. From 1970 the University held the property on a 21-year lease from the Manor Charitable Trust until it acquired the freehold in 1992.

"The University has been associated with the estate for many years and Council's decision to sell was taken after careful consideration," said Charles Dudley, Director of Student Services.

"It will be sad to see it go, but internal use has diminished and funds are required to meet legislative requirements and customer expectations. The income generated from the sale will then be available for projects on campus."

The Isle of Thorns was conceived and laid out in the 1920s as a centre offering adventure holidays in the country for young people from the London area.

The sale has attracted early interest from prospective buyers looking for all types of development - leisure, conference and training opportunities.

In addition to the 46-bedroom training centre, which was built in the 1960s, the 51.5 acres of grounds contain a lecture hall, summer camp, play barn, changing rooms and pavilion, and an obsolete swimming pool complex. The site also offers extensive sports grounds, a camping field, amenity woodland and a lake.

Tim Page Ratcliffe, from Strutt and Parker's Lewes office, said: "The sale has attracted early interest from prospective buyers looking for all types of development - leisure, conference and training opportunities."

The property is to be sold by informal tender and the closing date for offers is today (Friday).

In a separate development, the University has also put a Brighton public house, the Sea House, on the market. Estate agent Graves Jenkins is asking for offers in the region of £250,000 for the seafront property, which is part of the Kings Road site that the University acquired in 1995 to build a residence for postgraduate students. A spokesman from the firm said: "We expect to receive plenty of enquiries from owner occupiers, developers and investors."

Emma is king at science student finals

Physics student Emma King has made history at the "Oscars" of British science education, by becoming the first woman to win the prestigious title of Science, Engineering & Technology Student of the Year.

Emma's trophy was presented to her by Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation, on the evening of 14 September, at a magnificent gala dinner in the Great Hall of the London Guildhall.

Hundreds of key influencers from the worlds of business, government, academia and the media gathered to see Emma tasting the limelight for the first (but probably not the last) time in her scientific career.

Her university supervisor, Professor Ed Copeland (EPS), looked on proudly as Emma received first the trophy for Best Physics Student of the Year and then the overall title, together with two cheques for £500 each.

The Science, Engineering & Technology Student of the Year Awards are Britain's most important awards for science and engineering undergraduates. First presented in 1998, they were created to meet the widely perceived need to raise the status of technology education.

The awards rounded off a spectacular summer for Emma, 22, who graduated from Sussex in July with the Roger Taylor prize for the highest marks in the Master of Physics degree. She also won the prize for the best final-year physics project, on scalar fields in cosmology.

In her project dissertation, Emma used ideas from particle physics to explain recent observations that the universe appears to be expanding at an ever faster rate. "It involved lots and lots of algebra, and hours sitting in front of a computer," she said.

Emma will begin postgraduate studies this autumn at the University of Cambridge. "After that I would love to become an astronaut," she said. "But I don't think they'll let me in, because I get migraines."
Vanessa's coming home

The start of the new season always creates football fever in the School of Mathematical Sciences (SMS), but this time round the transfer of Dr Vanessa 'Nobby' Styles to Sussex is causing a particular stir. As a DPhil student in SMS, Vanessa was a keen player in the weekly soccer match between staff and postgraduates. Her success in winning a Leverhulme 2000 Special Research Fellowship means that she will shortly be lacing up her boots once more.

Research grants and contracts

Electron beams
Professor Terry Clark and colleagues in EIT have been awarded £490,000 by the EPSRC to set up an electron beam lithography facility, which will foster interdisciplinary links between research groups, including those in biological and cognitive sciences.

Learning goes on after graduation
Better continuing professional development for new graduates is the aim of a major new research project to be conducted by Sussex's Professor Michael Ernst and Stephen Steadman, together with Professors Carolyn Miller and Frederick Maillardet from the University of Brighton. The joint project will investigate three groups of graduates (accountants, engineers and nurses) through their first three years of full-time employment, examining the factors affecting their learning and approaches to facilitating it. For employers and for teachers of professional and vocational education, the research will provide better evidence on the transition from higher education to work, how and what knowledge is used that has been acquired in higher education, what is learned in the workplace, and its implications for relevant programmes in higher education. The project is one of nine (worth a total of £7.5m) announced in September by the Economic and Research Council (ESRC), whose Teaching and Learning Research Programme aims to raise the attainment of learners in all UK education and training settings, from pre-school to lifelong learning.

Centre for Byzantine Cultural History
A Centre for Byzantine Cultural History is to be established at the University of Belfast with funding of £900,000 over five years from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB). Sussex is one of the partners in the project and art historian Dr Liz James will be taking part in research under the partnership.

Deflated soccer balls
Since the first pure samples of C_{60} and C_{70} were isolated at Sussex in the early 1990s, closed-cage carbon molecules (fullerenes) have been the centre of chemists' attention worldwide. In the latest issue of Angewandte Chemie, one of the prime chemistry journals in the world, Roger Taylor (CPES) and his collaborators at Moscow University describe the X-ray structure of an unusual fluorinated fullerene, C_{60}F_{18}.

Uniquely for a fullerene, this is spherical on one side only and has one face that is completely flat, making it look like a soccer ball with the air let out. (The binding of the fluorine causes a number of the double bonds to be broken, resulting in a belt of C atoms coupled to their neighbours only by single bonds.) The first truly 'aromatic' closed-cage carbon molecule, C_{60}F_{18} has unique properties. Roger said: "The unusual electronic properties of the fluorinated fullerene cage make this compound a particularly interesting candidate for future applications in photovoltaics and photonics."


Research funding opportunities
More details of these and other research opportunities are available from Debbie in the Research Services Division (RSD), on ext. 3812 or email D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website, www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research.

Leverhulme Trust Prize Awards
Scholars aged under 36 can apply for a two-year prize award of £50,000, for any purpose to advance the prize holder's research, except to enhance his/her salary, capital items and equipment; institutional overheads. Contact RSD for eligible fields. Deadline: 16 October

AHRB Research Leave Awards
AHRB Research Leave Awards relieve scholars of teaching and administrative responsibilities in order to bring a research project to completion. The AHRB-funded leave period of either three or four months must be preceded by a contiguous period funded by the institution. Deadline: 31 October

Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowships & Grants
Candidates over 30 can apply for either research expenses over and above normal living costs or replacement teaching costs. Maximum value is £17,350. Tenable for between three and 24 months. Deadline: 13 November

Leverhulme Trust Study Abroad Fellowships
Applicants over 30 may seek replacement costs to provide cover whilst overseas; travel to and within the overseas country; a stipend to meet overseas living expenses; and essential research costs. Maximum value is £20,000. Deadline: 13 November

BBSRC Industrial Partnership Grants
This scheme aims to encourage greater exchange of knowledge between industry and universities. Applications are invited from researchers in collaboration with UK industry. The industrial contribution can be either in cash or kind. There is no minimum threshold. Deadline: None
Editorial

Continuity and change
Alison Field Communications Officer

So here it is as promised, a new look Bulletin. Although the name’s still the same, much else has changed. The survey questionnaire we sent out in the spring elicited hundreds of responses from a broad spectrum of staff, students and friends of the University. Not all of you agreed with each other. (As a case in point, pleas for more about research were balanced by others for less.) However, certain messages came through loud and strong.

It was particularly heartening to read the many comments from readers who said they liked the Bulletin exactly as it was. But there were also requests for change.

An interesting one was the widely expressed wish for a letters page. Now, obviously we can’t print letters if we don’t receive any. So if there’s something you wish to say to your colleagues — about things that are happening on campus or in higher education more generally — say it here.

There was a clear demand for more colour and greater attention to design. The University blue should brighten things up, and the new layout is intended to make reading easier on the eye.

Opinion was divided on how frequently the Bulletin should appear, with fairly similar numbers favouring weekly or fortnightly publication. But the time has certainly come to recognise that things don’t grind to a total halt on campus once term time is over. From now on, then, the Bulletin will appear fortnightly throughout the year, including vacations.

Many thanks for the suggestions that came flooding in for new content. If we had followed up every one, in this issue you would be enjoying crossword puzzles, an agony aunt (any contenders?), recipes, TV listings and gardening tips.

What you will be getting is a number of new features and series, together with old favourites like the VC’s Voice (see next issue) and All in a Day’s Work.

Please tell us what you think of the revamp. Remember that the Bulletin should be relevant to everyone in the University community. One way to make sure that happens is to send us your news, stories, letters and comments: email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk, or pop in to the Press and Communications Office, 230 Sussex House.

Alumni in the public eye
Andrew Davidson
(EAM, 1995–1998)
Melanie Hill
(COGS, 1994–1997)

40,000 applicants, 24 cameras, 11 housesmates. 2 Sussex alumni.

Not quite a fly-on-the-wall gameshow, not quite a docu-soap, Big Brother was undoubtedly this summer’s hot screen hit. It kept six million TV viewers on tenterhooks for nine weeks and made mini-celebrities of two Sussex alumni, Andrew Davidson and Melanie Hill.

The two graduates were at Sussex at the same time, but had never met until they entered the Big Brother house in East London. Within hours, they had discovered the campus connection and ‘Randy Andy’, 24, had revealed he fancied 26-year-old Mel, who famously objects to comparisons with her Spice Girl namesake.

While Andy was out of the reaches of the media in the Big Brother house, his father told the Evening Argus: “Brighton is a great place for bars and nightlife, so he really enjoyed himself there. He had a great time at Sussex, a pretty wild time, but he worked very hard too.”

He must have done some studying, because Andy — who went on to become a business development manager for American Airlines — got a 2:1 in his English and Media Studies BA.

There wasn’t much of anything to do in the Big Brother house, but just before he left at the end of week three, Andy offered one of the programme’s few hints of romance in the form of a lingering kiss with Mel.

Once Andy had been evicted, Sussex hopes rested on Mel, who had taken extended leave from her job as a sales and marketing executive in the banking industry to appear in the show.

Nominated only once and swiftly evicted in week eight, Mel didn’t manage to win the £70,000 prize and make her mum proud. At least she did that back in 1997, when she graduated from Sussex with an upper second degree in psychology — which she described on the Big Brother website as her greatest achievement. Quite right.

Why Petra loved cosmopolitan Sussex
She’s been chosen by Cosmopolitan magazine as one of its ‘Women of Achievement’ for 2000, but in 1984 her teachers advised 16-year-old Petra Boyton to leave school.

Undaunted, Petra moved to a local technical college and went on to take a BA in Social Psychology at Sussex. Petra received a full maintenance grant for her studies, from 1986–91. “I wouldn’t have been able to come otherwise,” she says.

“I had a wonderful time at Sussex — I absolutely loved it. I walked out of the underpass and I thought, I just want to be here. It was so international: at Sussex you got used to mixing with people from all over the world.”

Petra’s tutors in SOC included Helga Dittmar, Peter Smith and Barbara Lloyd. “The teaching was excellent: we had really diverse courses and very enthusiastic teachers.” She then embarked on a PhD at Aston Business School, in Applied Human Psychology. “I was very sad to go, actually,” Petra recalls, “I went from the leafy fields of Sussex to Spaghetti Junction — and Aston was a lot more conservative.”

Now a Wellcome Research Fellow at London’s Royal Free Hospital, Petra is the editor of the Psychology of Women journal and lectures for the Open University. Not surprisingly, she also visits schools — especially in deprived areas — to persuade teenagers to continue with their education.

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Email: admin@gb057.u-net.com
All in a day's work

It's been all systems go this week for Registration Officer, Anne Johnson (aka 'Queues Officer'). Together with colleagues in the Student Systems Office, she co-ordinates the freshers' hectic whirl of welcome and orientation events. Then there's the small matter of registering all 9,000 students on the University's database, collecting their tuition fees and dispensing student loans.

We start planning quite early. In early May we published the framework timetable, with dates of the main registration, induction and social events. Between May and the end of June we collected detailed information from Schools, SRCs, the Students' Union and other units, and wrote the registration and welcome booklet itself.

The booklet went to press at the end of July, once we'd got feedback from the draft. In early September we sent all students a registration pack, including the booklet, which should tell them everything they need to know for the first week or two.

Although there are separate booklets for postgraduate and undergraduate entrants this year, the two freshers' weeks are virtually the same. A few induction events are specifically aimed at one group, and the welcome speeches are different, but almost everything else is replicated in each programme. It's easy to forget that a lot of postgraduates are only 21.

I've even heard about relationships springing up as a result of meeting in the queue, lifelong friendships forming ...

Most of the summer vacation is spent preparing for the registration event itself, and finalising the detailed arrangements for induction and welcome events. The Student Accounts Office and other Registry offices are also very busy during this period in the run-up to registration.

This week is basically welcome and orientation for freshers - the proper academic work starts in week one. Because it went so well last year, we've built on the same model, but the social programme's got more things going on. As a result of the feedback we got in 1999, there's a lot more involvement of student societies and there's a lot more happening this weekend.

The registration event in Bramber House is the busiest part of my job, and lasts almost a fortnight. Registration used to be much more paper-based, but now all 40-odd staff have a networked computer so they can look up the student's account and print it straight off the student records database. It's helping us to have more up-to-date information and be more efficient - the aim being that people don't have to queue so much.

In 1998 there were massive queues; we were unprepared for the impact of the new tuition fee arrangements for UK students. However, I was impressed by the stoicism of our new students, many of them standing in the queue for hours. A lot of them bonded - I've even heard about relationships springing up as a result of meeting in the queue, lifelong friendships forming ...

Last year, thankfully, we were better prepared and there were very few queues. People brought along cushions and Thermos flasks expecting to have to queue again, but many of them didn't, because we'd allocated more time to registration.

Also, in 1999 we introduced the new 'fast-track' registration system for returning undergraduates, which allowed many of them to simply collect their registration cards from School offices. About 1,500 have qualified for fast-track this year - a third of our returning undergraduates - so that should help to reduce the queues at registration.

Registration arrangements for 2000 have virtually stayed the same because it went so well in 1999. So, fingers crossed, I'm hoping to lose the title of 'Queues Officer' at last!

Full details of freshers' week and registration are on the Web at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/sso/regwel.shtml.
Sussex sets out along the Coastal Highway

A project that aims to find out why some young people don't go to university was launched in September.

Funded for three years by a grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Sussex Coastal Highway is a partnership between the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, University College Chichester, nine further education colleges and eight secondary schools on the Sussex coast.

The project aims to work with school and college students from communities of local deprivation in Brighton, Chichester, Hastings, Nevhaven and Worthing. It will be identifying and responding to the needs, perceptions and aspirations of specific groups of students in these areas.

Project manager Jacky Harding said: "Over the next three years a number of exciting initiatives will take place. These include raising awareness of higher education through open days, summer courses, weekend schools and evening provision.

"We will be informing parents and carers of the benefits of higher education for their children; and providing opportunities for young people to talk to current university students about courses and student life."

Working closely with Jacky will be Sara McKernan, the new Widening Participation Officer at Sussex. Sara will also be helping to develop the University's internal strategy and will be co-ordinating a new group, set up by Pro Vice-Chancellor Mary Stuart, to help her to monitor and direct the University's overall policy in relation to issues around widening participation.

Stuart takes a STEP up the career ladder

As a computer science student, 28-year-old Stuart Roberts from COGS knew exactly where to look when he decided to find a summer job in line with his studies.

Using the Internet, he found information about the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP), a national scheme that gives more than 1,500 undergraduates eight weeks' work experience with small and medium-sized businesses.

Stuart was offered a work placement at the Talking Newspaper Association in Heathfield, only six miles from his Uckfield home. The placement and his subsequent written report were so successful that Stuart went on to win a STEP prize for being one of the 'Most Enterprising Students' in the Sussex area.

Stuart's brief was to design and build two websites for the Talking Newspaper Association (TNAUK), a registered charity that provides newspapers and magazines on audio tape, computer disk, email and CD-ROM for visually impaired and disabled people.

There were a number of specific requirements, principally that the sites could be navigated by blind and partially sighted users: "The project was challenging as I had to understand my target audience, who would be receiving the information predominantly by sound rather than by sight," recalls Stuart.

"There were a host of challenges and problems throughout the project," says the charity's chief executive, Tim McDonald: "It was Stuart's quiet confidence that impressed most people. There were times, I am sure, when he did feel under pressure, especially when he found himself on the receiving end of conflicting requests and requirements. But his response was always cool and measured and he sought clarification wherever there was doubt or ambiguity. He certainly never lost interest or commitment."

The Talking Newspaper Association has received positive feedback on the sites that Stuart created (see www.tnauk.org.uk).

Tim McDonald says: "We now have two websites that are models of their kind and are extremely important tools in helping us to raise our profile."

Although Stuart returns to his studies next week, the charity has asked him to return on a part-time basis as webmaster to maintain the sites. Tim McDonald says, "I have just one regret—that I am not able to employ Stuart right now on a full-time basis."

At the end of the summer, all STEP students produce a written placement report and present the results to a panel of judges, who look for evidence that each project achieved its intended outcomes, brought about change in the company, and gave the student experience that he or she would not otherwise have gained.

Stuart's involvement in the STEP scheme expanded his knowledge of computer programming and developed his communication and time-management skills. "It has taught me a great deal about how a business works," he says. "I could only get this sort of experience from being in a working environment."

The Registrar & Secretary, Neil Gershon, was in the audience at Pelham House, Lewes, as Stuart and the other six entrants from the University of Sussex presented their work to the judges last month.

"The projects themselves were interesting and demonstrated how much students can achieve when given the opportunity," Neil says.
Music faculty have elected undergraduate Darren Laine as the third Sir Thomas Beecham Scholar for his contribution to music at Sussex.
The Royal Society of Chemistry has recognised Serena Margadonna’s postgraduate research in inorganic chemistry with the Laurie Vergnano Award. Layla Paggett’s outstanding results in her maths finals brought her a prize from the Institute of Mathematics and Applications (IMA), which makes the award to only two students each year.
The Guardian newspaper revealed last month that Students’ Union magazine the Pulse has been shortlisted for Student Magazine of the Year in its 22nd Student Media Awards. The winning magazine will be announced at a ceremony later this year.
Veteran fencer, Professor Peter Townsend (EIT), was placed 13th in the sabre and 20th in the foil at the recent World Championships near Budapest.
Professor Helen Wallace, co-director of the Sussex European Institute, was one of 35 scholars to be elected a Fellow of the British Academy at its 2000 AGM.

A new occupational health service for you

Chris Barker and Lorraine Demott plan to spend 17 October rolling about on the floor of the Arts C foyer. And they hope you’ll join them.

Chris, the University’s newly appointed Occupational Health Adviser, and Lorraine, a Back Care Adviser, will be teaching back care exercises as their contribution to national Back Care Week, which runs from 16 to 22 October. They will also be able to answer any queries about back problems.

Chris said: "We hope to make it a ‘drop in’ event, with information on how to look after your back. Hopefully, we will be able to demonstrate a chair and some other artefacts that could help to reduce work related back pain. Answer a simple question, and you could also win a prize."

The event is the first of a number of health-promotion initiatives planned by the Occupational Health Department at Brighton Health Care NHS Trust, which has been contracted by the University to provide an occupational health service to all employees.

As well as Chris and Lorraine, the contract also comprises the services of a Consultant in Occupational Medicine and a Counsellor. All members of the team are qualified and experienced.

“We aim to provide a confidential, objective and professional advisory service on work-related health matters to all employees,” said Chris. Any member of staff can contact her directly for advice and support: all advice offered will be confidential and recorded in your occupational health record.

Basic eye checks can also be carried out on staff who use VDU screens as part of their job. A range of vaccinations is also available, free of charge, if they are necessary for work-related purposes (for example, if you are working abroad or you are a first aider).

Managers may also refer staff for advice if there are concerns about a health problem. “In this instance,” Chris explained, “I would be able to advise on, for example, changes needed to working practices or environment, or a rehabilitation back-to-work programme.”

Chris is not able to provide a GP or treatment service. (Any minor accidents at work have to be treated by a recognised first aider.) “Nor do I have a couch for those wishing to rest!” she said.

The occupational health service is based in Hastings Building, where Chris can be contacted on ext. 7255 or via email on C.H.Barker@sussex.ac.uk.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 12 October
Mechanical Workshop Technician, CPES (ref 433)
Lecturer Assistants (refs 462 and 463)
Bookstack Assistant, Library (ref 464)
Installer/Telephonist (ref 465)
Receptionist/Controller, Security Office (ref 466)
Office Assistant, University Royal Naval Unit (ref 467)

Clerical Assistants, CCE (refs 468 and 469)
Cleaner, CPES (ref 472)
Duty Manager, Sport Service (ref 461)
Programme Secretary/PA, SEI (ref 470)

Apply by 16 Oct
Peptide/Protein Chemist, BIOLS (ref 436)
Molecular Biologist, BIOLS (ref 437)

Apply by 20 Oct
Subject Assistant, Geography (ref 471)
Research Fellow, SEI (ref 476)
Clerk, Man. Accts (ref 479 and 480)
Porter, BIOLS (ref 481)
For further details of all posts, see www.susx.ac.uk/units/staffing/personal/vacancies or contact Staffing Services on (01273) 678706, fax (01273) 677401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk
Talis launches library management system

Retiring Librarian Adrian Peagood and his successor Deborah Shorley were among the guests at the launch of a new Web-based library management and catalogue system on 27 September.

Also enjoying the drinks and nibbles were senior staff from Talis Information Ltd, which has been developing the system over the last year in collaboration with Library staff. "This new product has generated real interest from Talis customers in other higher education institutions," said Maggie Fieldhouse, who was responsible for overseeing the project.

The new system is accessible via the Sussex website (www.sussex.ac.uk). It offers a more user-friendly interface and a number of significant new features:

- A more sophisticated search system enables users to search the Library catalogue by author and keyword, and by author and title.
- The keyword facility has also improved: the system will search for a specific word anywhere in the catalogue record, i.e. including subject information and subtitles.
- Members of the University can access personal information by entering their Library card number. Once in this section, they can see details of books out on loan, place reservations, renew books and check outstanding fines.
- Staff and students can now search for reading lists by course or tutor. Direct links then take them to the catalogue record to check availability of material or, from terminals within the Library, to external Web resources on campus.

Press cuttings

Wee poms
Dr Al Thomson and Lani Russell from CCE have been honing their media skills over the last few months, as part of an oral history research project on 'ten pound poms' who found a new life in Australia was not to their liking and came back to Britain.

Al and Lani have done any number of broadcast interviews and have appeared frequently in the press. But when their search took them to Scotland, the duo finally hit the big time, with none other than the Alloa & Hillfoots Wee County News printing their appeal for returnees to get in touch.

Is the Alloa & Hillfoots Big County News out there somewhere?

Brighton cool and London lost
The Sunday Times Good University Guide, published in September, offers a 'student view' from Toby Rumbold, this year's President of the Students' Union.

Toby's rather lame response to a question about the University's worst feature suggests he harbours ambitions to pursue a diplomatic career: "The campus is in a valley and everything is on a slope," was the most damning he could offer.

Asked to describe the typical Sussex student, Toby came up with "trendy, Brighton cool and London lost types". In time-honoured Bulletin tradition, a bottle of bubbly is on offer for the best definition of each of these terms — or for conclusive, photographic evidence of either Sussex type.

Swinging Sixties...

From the Bulletin, 19 October 1965
Chamber Orchestra

An attempt is being made to form a small chamber orchestra of high standard. It is hoped that the main body of players will be a permanent group of faculty (and wives), with students filling vacancies as they arise. However, standard of performance will be the main consideration in selecting players, and auditions will be held as necessary. The orchestra will rehearse and, if a high enough standard is reached, perform classical and modern works.

From the Bulletin, 19 October 1965
Reminder from the Senior Proctor

Members of the University are reminded that stiletto or similar heels of small size may not be worn in any working building even when fitted with plastic plugs, and may only be worn in social and residential buildings if fitted with effective plastic plugs.

Furniture has a new future

It was out with the old, and in with the new. Refurbishments all over campus this summer kept the Environmental Officer, Amanda Hastings, busy as she worked with colleagues to ensure the best possible use of any furniture that could be re-used or recycled.

A number of departments on campus were able to make use of some items of furniture from Sussex House. Amanda then arranged for two local recycling companies — Furniture Now, from Lewes, and Brighton-based Ecosys — to take away any remaining furniture that they could refurbish and re-use or recycle.

Only damaged pieces of furniture and upholstered chairs were put in to skips. "The upholstered furniture cannot be re-used," explained Amanda, "because the seat materials and stuffings are not fire retardant, so they don't comply with fire regulations."

Elsewhere on campus, Mary Ticehurst (Buildings Manager of the Park Houses) arranged for desks and bedside lockers from Norwich House, beds from Lancaster House and curtains and mattress covers from other residences to be donated to a local company, the Wood Recycling Project. These particular items of furniture are going to Romania to furnish schools.

Another success story in diverting waste materials from landfill comes from BIOLS. Maria Ribeiro, a research student, got in touch with Amanda to ask where she might be able to recycle over 500 unused petri-dish lids.

Amanda contacted the SCRAP scheme (Schools, Community, Recycling and Play) in Lancing, which is part of a nationwide network. Local businesses and organisations give the SCRAP scheme any safe and useable but unwanted materials such as wood, paper, foam, fabric offcuts, plastics, adhesives, etc. Community groups and schools then use the materials for art classes or play schemes.

The SCRAP store were delighted when Amanda offered the petri-dish lids as they can be used for mixing paint or glue in art classes. Nearly all have been used up already. "Let's hope that the biologists have done enough experiments to keep the SCRAP store supplied in the future," said Amanda.
**Lectures, seminars, colloquia**

**Thru 12 Oct**
5.00pm Annual event in honour of Marie Jahoda — sponsored by SPRU. Debate on GM foods: 'The elements of public policy and corporate strategy are now in place for the development of GM foods in the UK'. In favour: Professor Alan Malcolm (Chief Executive of the Institute of Biology) and Dr Sandy Thomas (Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics). Against: Lord Peter Melchett (Executive Director, Greenpeace UK) and Dr Erik Millstone (SPRU). Meeting House.

**Mon 16 Oct**
1.00pm-2.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Dan Wright, Misinformation and eyewitness memory. BLR (EP3.9).

**Tue 17 Oct**
4.00pm-5.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquia: Professor John Stein (University Laboratory of Physiological, Oxford), The senory basis of reading skills and dyslexia. BLR (EP 3.9).

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics Development Seminar: Amanda Simcox (Ohio State University), Argonists and antagonists of EGF-receptor signalling: lessons from flies. BLT.

6.00pm History of Art Lecture: Mikeal Bal (Amsterdam), Memory acts. A1.

**Wed 18 Oct**
4.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Michael Samers (Liverpool), The political economy of illegal immigration and informal employment in the EU. D630.

**Thu 19 Oct**
12.30pm-2.00pm Geography Research Group Seminar: David Pinder (Queen Mary & Westfield), Utopianism, and the city: imagining urban futures. D710.

5.00pm History Research-in-Progress Seminar: David Kynaston, The City of London in 20th-century British history: missing link or just misunderstood? A155.

6.00pm Royal Statistical Society Local Group (RSSLG) — Mora Muggleton (MRC Institute for Environmental and Health), Statistical issues related to the setting of standards for sea bathing water quality. PVE17.

**Fri 20 Oct**
2.15pm SPRU Seminar Series: Keith Pavitt, Innovating routines in the business firm: what matters, what's changing and what is staying. EDB120.

**Shorts**

Student elections to Senate

Calling all postgraduates, mature students, international students and part-time students: you are eligible to stand for and vote in the election of four students to represent your interests at Senate, the principal academic committee of the University.

Nominations forms are now available at the Students' Union reception, Sussex House reception and from the USSU Education Officer. The closing date for nominations is Friday 20 October and ballots will take place in the week beginning 23 October.

University committees on the web

Pages providing information about University committees, and about other working groups and teams, are now available on the web. See www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/acs/committees/comhome.htm.

The Students' Union wants you

Enjoy the benefits of student life without going to a single lecture, by taking out associate membership of the Students' Union. Pay just £4 at the reception in Falmer House and you will be eligible to participate in Union activities (except voting and elections), such as sports or clubs and societies — join up in the Activities Centre on the first floor.

**USIS on the move**

Richard Tammar and his colleagues in USIS are now spinning the University's website as part of the External Relations Section. They have moved from the Library to offices in Sussex House, but have kept the same telephone number (ext. 8745) and email address (usis@sussex.ac.uk).

Open language courses

Want to learn a language in a relaxed, friendly but academically rigorous environment? EURO offers lunchtime and evening courses at a variety of levels in French, German, Czech, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Russian and Spanish. Courses start from 16 Oct. Find out more on ext. 7259, email opencourses@sussex.ac.uk or www.sussex.ac.uk/UNITS/EURO/openopen.s.html.

**Bulletin**

The Bulletin is published fortnightly and the next issue will be out on Friday 20 October, with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on 13 October. 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. 8898 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

**Exhibitions**

Until Sat 28 Oct Manic Mechanics by Johnny White

Mythology meets scrap metal in a fantastical show of movement and sculpture. Turn a handle and see the bizarre offspring of Johnny’s mischievous imagination burst into life.

Until Thu 30 Nov Anita Barret

Five large-scale photographs represent part of a project that deals with the artist's views of a world increasingly reliant on electronic communication.

**Gardner Arts Centre**

Box office: (01273) 685861

**Theatre**

Fri 6 Oct
8pm The Look of Love
Thirty professional singers and musicians play some of the most distinctive voices in the contemporary music arena.

Sat 7 Oct
8pm Jodie Tuzoe possesses one of the most distinctive voices of the most distinctive voices in the contemporary music arena.

Tue 10 Oct
8pm Théâtre Mélanie — The Cinnamon Veil
An epic tale following the notorious Vasco de Gama as he crosses the path of the legendary Sinbad the Sailor. Performed with original music and dance.

**Thru 17 Oct**
8pm Scarlet Theatre — Sisters and Others Two versions of Chekhov's Three Sisters. The Sisters is the woman's story, while Others focuses on the private worlds of the men. The first five Bulletin readers at the box office get a pair of free tickets. Once they're gone, tickets for University staff still available at the concessiory price of £5.

**Sat 14 Oct**
8pm Captain Corelli's Mandolin The highly acclaimed stage adaptation of Louis de Bernières' wonderful book.

**Thu 17 Oct**
1.30pm and 7.30pm Théâtre sans Frontières — Le Chat Noir A traditional Celtic folk tale of mystery, told in simple French.

**Cinema**

Sun 8 Oct
3pm Boys Don't Cry (18)

6pm Not One Less (U)

9pm Virgin Suicides (15)

Mon 9 Oct
5pm Aliens (18)

Wed 11 Oct
6pm Ghostdog: The Way of the Samurai (15)

Thu 12 Oct
7pm Meetings with Remarkable Men

Fri 13 Oct
7pm Film

9pm Friday the 13th (18)

Sun 15 Oct
3pm Sweet and Lowdown (PG)

6pm The Fifth & the Fury (15)

9pm Gangster No. 1 (18)

Mon 16 Oct
8pm Millers Crossing (18)

Wed 18 Oct
8pm One Day in September (15)

Free tickets for the Gardner Arts Centre

The Gardner Arts Centre on campus is looking for actors to work on a voluntary basis, in return for free tickets to shows at the Centre. Training in all aspects of front-of-house will be given and there is an option to gain experience in basic box office and marketing. If you are interested, contact Susan Snolle on (01273) 685447 or email gardner-art@pavilion.co.uk

**Small ads**

**FOR SALE:** Baby upright piano and stool. Very good condition. Ideal for child or adult with limited space. £325 ono. Tel. (01273) 603856.

**WANTED:** Studio flat/on-stream flat/room to rent for German Lektörin (female non-smoker). Email uspekakt@sussex.ac.uk or tel. 07844 441916.

**APPLE MAC TRAINING:** in Word, Excel, FileMaker and PageMaker, available on a one-to-one or small group basis. Terms negotiable. Tel. 01903 767661 or email a.gilmore@sussex.ac.uk.

**HOUSE TO LET:** Spick and span 4-bed house, close to Brighton Station? Dials/Preston Circus — suitable postgrads/ finalists. Available 8 Oct. £900 pcm. Contact A.M.Okley@sussex.ac.uk or tel. Angie on (67)3019.

**WANTED:** Media people with a personality and GSM — enough to get you up and running at 6am! Support and experience on a lively local radio station breakfast show in return for your undying loyalty — no pay, it’s just for love! Tel. Steve Lewis, Cable Radio on (01273) 418181.