Archive throws light on wartime blackout

The Mass-Observation Archive has been helping a family to learn what life was really like in World War II for Channel 4's new series, The 1940s House, which began last week.

Like its successful predecessor, The 1900 House, broadcast in 1999, the series shows a modern household struggling to adapt to the conditions of a past era. On this occasion, the Hymers family has been coping with life on the Home Front in wartime suburban Kent.

To help the 21st-century family move into their roles, production company Wall to Wall Television asked to use a wartime diary from the Mass-Observation Archive, which is one of the Library's Special Collections.

The Archive includes the work of social research organisation, Mass-Observation, covering the years 1937 to the early 1950s. During this period, members of a Volunteer Panel produced a personal insight into daily life, showing the thoughts and feelings of British people, without the filter of the official political line.

After visiting the Archive, one of the producers chose the diary of Alex Daniel, a middle-aged teacher from southern England, who recorded his relatively privileged wartime existence until VE Day in May 1945.

The diary arrived at the West Wickham semi-detached house in April, just as the chosen family began living their temporary lives. As well as reading up on the period, the Hymers immediately had to take air raid precautions, including the preparation of blackout materials. Viewers of last week's opening episodes saw how claustrophobic this made them feel.

The TV series condenses six years of war into a handful of programmes, so in only a matter of weeks it was 1945 and blackout restrictions were lifted, as Mr Daniel had recorded for Mass-Observation: "The early scramble for curtain material, torches, low voltage bulbs; the careful drawing of curtains; nailing up of paper so as to exclude every chink ... the dark dreariness coming home at night - all of it now to end."

On the eve of VE Day, Mr Daniel went to bed and slept with his curtains drawn back. For him, "it seemed to symbolise the beginning of peace somehow". For the Hymers family, the end of the war meant the end of a unique historical experiment - which had been made possible with a little bit of help from the Mass-Observation Archive.

Bryn Bridges radiates success

Professor Bryn Bridges, director of the Medical Research Council Cell Mutation Unit, has been awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list.

The honour acknowledges Bryn's work on the cellular effects of radiation and the possible implications for human health. Bryn, who received the letter notifying him of the award three weeks before Christmas, says the honour was "unexpected" and that it is "a reflection on the work done in this unit over the last 30 years". The Cell Mutation Unit was set up in 1970 to study DNA damage and repair and Bryn - who retires in September this year - has been at the forefront of its work since the very beginning. As well as being director of the unit, he also heads the bacterial mutagenesis laboratory, investigating such issues as antibiotic resistance and the cellular processes involved in the development of cancer. Although damage to DNA can be repaired by cells, it can sometimes lead to permanent changes - known as mutations - that can be inherited. Such mutations may cause cancer or other disorders.

Since 1993 Bryn has also acted as chairman of the government's Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE). The committee has investigated important issues of public health - for example high incidences of childhood leukaemia - around nuclear sites such as Sellafield, Dounreay and Aldermaston.

Bryn intends to continue in this role after his retirement. "All of our recommendations have been accepted by the government, I think we do a very important job", he says of COMARE.

Other Sussex figures receiving honours included Dr Richard Jolly, former Director of IDS and now Research Associate and Honorary Professor, who has been made a Knight of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) for his contribution to international development and reduction of poverty.

Jim Braithwaite, a lay member of Council, received the OBE.
Survivors remember the Holocaust

Holocaust survivors will be among those attending a special day of remembrance at the University to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day 2001.

The free event, organised by the Centre for German Jewish Studies, takes place on 24 January and is open to all students, teachers and interested members of the public. It will include film shows, talks and discussion groups, focusing on the theme of Holocaust Education Through Film.

Guest speakers include Sue Reed, director of the TV documentary 'Children who Cheated Hitler', which tells the story of the rescue of Jewish children from Europe, and one of the 'rescued children', Bea Green.

A session of film clips showing experiences in the ghettos and the camps will be followed by a talk by another Holocaust survivor, Janina Fischler-Martinho.

Luke Holland, an independent filmmaker from Lewes, will speak about using film as a vehicle of remembrance and will show footage about gypsies, gay people, the experiences of slave labourers and other victims of the Nazis. There will also be a panel discussion about the importance of film in Holocaust education with Judy Ironside, director of the Brighton Jewish Festival, and broadcaster Simon Fanshawe.

The day will end with a showing of Hannah, an award-winning modern Austrian thriller about racism in Europe and the rise of the neo-Nazis.

The event has been sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees. Chana Moshenska, director of educational programmes at the Centre for German Jewish Studies and event organiser, said: "The point is to remind people that the issues of the Holocaust are relevant today because they are issues of racism and multiculturalism. Film is a good medium to use for this because the message is so vivid."

Holocaust Memorial Day is actually on 27 January. Because this is a Saturday, a holy day in the Jewish week, 24 January was considered a more appropriate day for this event.

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.Fox Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website, www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research.

AHHR Research Centres
The scheme supports existing as well as new research centres and provides funding for five years up to a maximum level of £875,000. Eligible costs include: refurbishment, capital equipment salary costs for the centre's director, research assistants, essential support staff, consumables, travel and subsistence, and dissemination costs.
Deadline: 28 February

Leverhulme Special Research Fellowships
This scheme will fund a two-year research post for those with a proven record of research who have not yet held a full-time established academic post in a UK university. Applicants must have a doctorate and should normally be under 35 years. Applications will be considered in all subject areas.
Deadline: 14 March

Royal Society/NATO
Twelve-month fellowships for postdoc scientists from East and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. The fellowship covers UK living expenses, and contributes towards travel, research consumables and conference and subsidy visits. All candidates should have obtained their PhD during the last five years.
Deadline: 15 April

Leverhulme Trust
Proposals are invited for standard research project grants, pilot project grants and large project that can vary from £15k to £500k. Eligible funds include: research salaries, teaching replacement, research studentship, secretarial and technical support, travel and subsistence, and consumables.
Deadline: 15 April

Royal Society International Exchanges
The following three schemes are available: study visits of between 2 weeks and 6 months; fellowships of 6-12 months' duration to the UK; joint project grants for up to 3 years to support collaborative links between British and overseas research groups.
For country eligibility and closing dates, see www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding/country.htm
The hole truth about the science car park

Eagle-eyed Bulletin readers will have noticed a huge hole that has been dug out of the chalk at the bottom of the science car park. And concerned car drivers will have been wondering what advantage the University will gain from losing all those valuable parking spaces.

The answer is that construction work has begun on the Genome Damage and Stability Centre, which will bring together staff who are currently located in BIOLS and the MRC Cell Mutation Unit.

"To be a centre of excellence in modern biology you need to take a multi-disciplinary approach - hence the new centre," says Professor Bryn Bridges, director of the Cell Mutation Unit.

Scientists with expertise in the areas of DNA repair and the cellular consequences of DNA damage will benefit from interaction with colleagues who work on cell cycles, chromatic structure and function, DNA replication, nuclear architecture and protein structure.

When it opens, the new centre will contain 10 to 12 groups, totalling approximately 80 researchers and 15 support staff. The planning of the building has taken into account the need for large, flexible laboratories, with office space between them to promote interaction between the user groups.

Walter Lilly & Company is the main contractor on the three-storey building, which is due for completion a year from now, in January 2002.

Online and looking fine

The University has begun the new year with a new-look website. The aim of the revamped site, which went live on Monday (8 January), is to make it easier for users to find the information they need and to reinforce impressions of Sussex as a modern and forward-thinking institution.

Richard Tammar, the University's web editor, says that the old structure failed satisfactorily to address the needs of the many different audiences visiting the Sussex site, including current staff and students, potential applicants, research and business partners, alumni and the media.

"There were so many links at the top level," says Richard. "You found yourself reading through all of them and guessing the most appropriate route to the information you needed. The most important thing from my point of view is that it's as straightforward as possible for people to find information. That's my prime goal. Others were concerned that the look of the site was becoming a little bit dated."

Over the last few months, Richard and the website team have undertaken a restructuring of what he calls the site's "information architecture". "The site's been fundamentally reconstituted from the point of view of our audiences," Richard says. "We've given them content specific to their needs."

From the University's home page, the 'Life at Sussex' portal is the route to information for current staff and students, while 'Courses at Sussex' is for all potential students: undergraduates, postgraduates, part-time and international students. The other headings address various other external audiences.

Apart from the hierarchy of links, other ways of finding information include the site's search engine and the A-Z, which is much more comprehensive than before (with nearly 700 entries compared to less than 200). Accessibility has also been taken into account, with text-only versions of all menus and central pages maintained by the USIS team.

The look and feel of the site was put out to competitive tender and Dot New Media, a web design and consultancy firm based in Lewes, were commissioned to undertake the project.

Most of the feedback before the new site went live was positive, with praise for the clearer layout and modern look (although some people didn't like the colours!). "People have said that it's much easier to navigate than previously," Richard comments.

Even though the site has gone live, it's not too late for users to contribute their thoughts and feelings: a new and permanent feature is a feedback button at the bottom of every page maintained by USIS.

As Richard points out, "Nothing is set in stone: pages are being published all the time. We've designed the system for maximum flexibility; if we find that the structure of the information is not ideal, it's relatively straightforward for us to restructure it in accordance with the needs of users."
Jacqui Bealing
Press Officer

There’s no getting away from all the reminders that 2001 is the year of space odysseys.

Professor Margaret Boden the AI grand dame of COGS, was interviewed on Radio 4 (28 Dec), looking at Arthur C. Clarke’s vision of the future and asked how real his predictions were.

And while we’re on the theme of other worlds, star undergraduate Kevin Apps was interviewed on Southern Counties Radio last month regarding his role in the recent discovery of three more planets.

More space-age coverage came with Professor Andrew Liddle a Big Bang expert working on the launch of the Planck satellite, who was highlighted in the Times Higher Education Supplement as an astronomer to watch.

Closer to home, Professor Richard Wilkinson of the Trafford Centre talked to the Independent and the Times Higher (22 Dec) about his research on poverty. We’d all live longer if there were income equality, he says.

And the German-Jewish Centre had enormous coverage in the Mail on Sunday review section after it was announced that Ben Elton’s father, Professor Lewis Elton, has donated to its archive the family’s papers about escaping the Holocaust. “No story from that time should be forgotten,” Ben Elton is quoted as saying.

And finally ... The Press Office new boy, Peter Simmons, forgot for a moment that his job is to get media coverage for the University, and ended up in print himself. Peter asked Which? magazine (January) to improve the internet site for his acoustic guitar act, Harbour. Check out www.harbourmusic.co.uk to see what you think and order his CD.

Fifteen of PC Nigel McNeil’s 25 years with Sussex Police have been spent in community beat work in and around Brighton. His latest patch covers Bevendean and the two university campuses at Falmer.

I came on this beat from the end of August. At the moment, because it’s relatively quiet, I’m up here perhaps one, two days a week. In October time, when it was relatively busy, I was spending half my time here and half at Bevendean. It depends what’s going on.

Issue number one here is car crime. You’ve got in the region of 2,500 unattended cars in car parks – and some are pretty isolated. Especially night times, it’s an attraction for people with criminal intent just to wander over and help themselves. And in September and October, it was basically out of control: they were having a field day.

The security officers lacked contact with the police and there were a few complaints that the police response was pretty poor. So now I regularly drop into the security offices on campus to have a chat and see if they’ve got any problems. We interlink and we work closely now. The security lads are confident that if they call the police there is going to be some response.

So in October we had criminal activity, mainly through the car parks, and as a result we got an operation organised. Operation Graduate, it was called. That was one evening in November, where we worked alongside security officers, targeting the car parks, using the CCTV on campus. If anything suspicious was seen, we moved in and dealt with it.

But by that time, everything had quietened down, because the main people that were causing crime up here had either been arrested and remanded in custody or been frightened off.

For example, we had one fellow that we know commits crime over here. One particular day his car was left on double-yellow lines and the security lads just put the clamp on it. We couldn’t prove that he had actually stolen anything but he had to go to the security office and give all his details, which he was very unhappy about. From that time, he hasn’t been back.

The security officers had immense trouble with one individual throughout last year. He was doing very well stealing pedal cycles and cars. He was a regular visitor to the University and he knew the layout.

Crime figures from November have been very encouraging. If you contain the main players ... that really has an effect.

One particular day in October, he was spotted in a stolen car in Lewes. There was a helicopter and two cars in a follow trying to stop him. He came on to the campus at a certain stage, maybe to change vehicles or decamp and disappear across Stanner Park ... but the cars went back out and he eventually crashed just outside campus.

Not only did he have a string of offences up here; there was also a serious sexual offence committed in Lewes on that same day. He’s on remand now; there’s a whole list of previous convictions. This man is probably not going to be troubling us for the next couple of years.

So from my point of view, it was a lovely result, because he’s taken out of the equation. Crime figures on campus have plummeted and that’s a good result for everybody: the police, security, members of the public.

We’ve got the main offender locked up, as far as I’m concerned.

And the crime figures from November have been very encouraging. If you contain the main players, which we seem to have done recently, that really has an effect. But we can revert to Operation Graduate if the crime increases. I’m very conscious of the crime figures and if there’s a problem up here, I’ll get things organised.

If somebody suspects a crime, it doesn’t matter who they contact: the security officers on campus [ext. 3333], myself [pager: 07659 800800, no. 810083], the police station [0845 6070999], or even 999, if someone’s just about to break in to a car. Alert us, alert the security officers: we all work together, hopefully it all works out.
Staff and students get fit for nothing

Free fitness sessions, exercise classes, blood pressure and lung check-ups, dietary advice and spiritual healing events are being offered to staff and students next week in an initiative to promote health and well-being on campus.

More than 40 sessions have been planned for Health Week, which runs from 15–19 January. As well as the various courses already being run at the University’s two sports centres, there will be group jogging sessions in nearby Summer Park, meditation groups at the Meeting House, and talks on feng shui in the workplace and how to prevent RSI. There will also be beginners’ classes in trapeze, African dance and street dance, while everyone is being encouraged, at the very least, to have a lunch hour. “A lot of people already take advantage of the facilities on campus,” says head of sport, Karen Dunster. “But we want to reach a wider spectrum. We particularly want to see people using their lunch hours to do something active.”

The initiative is part of a longer-term project to promote health and well-being on campus. It was inspired by an international drive to make universities ‘healthy’ environments in which to work and study. Sussex social psychologist Professor Charles Abraham will be leading some research to analyse aspects of the week’s success.

In support of the initiative, Registrar & Secretary Neil Gershon said: “The health of students and staff is a vital component for a thriving university community. This is a demonstration of this University’s commitment to promoting positive health in every sense for all its members.”

VC gets MOT

The results of the mini health check-up that Professor Alasdair Smith received are being kept a closely guarded secret, but the Bulletin can reveal that the equipment for the lung function test has not functioned properly since the Vice-Chancellor’s session.

As part of Health Week, Occupational Health Advisor, Chris Barker, and Fiona Whitfield from the Sport Service will be offering mini health check-ups every day between 1pm and 3pm in the Arts C foyer (Mandela Hall on Tuesday).

The check-ups take approximately 15 minutes and include tests of blood pressure, lung function, flexibility, height, weight, body fat, body mass index and vision. All participants will receive free vouchers for a follow-up Fitness Room induction or programme.

Take your seat for some get-up-and-go

Jacqui Bealing Press Officer

It’s 4pm, you’ve been slumped at your terminal all day, your mouse hand has cramped and you have an ache creeping up your spine. Time for another coffee? Or maybe you’d prefer something more therapeutic.

As part of Health Week on campus, massage therapists Chris Pegg and Claudia Burton are offering Indian head massages while you sit at your desk. The 20-minute treatment, which doesn’t require you to take off any clothing, is designed to improve energy levels, soothe away stress and promote a sense of well-being.

In need of an energy boost myself, I played guinea pig to Chris’s first on-site treatment. While my colleagues beavered away on the Bulletin, I closed my eyes and let Chris’s well-trained hands press and pummel my shoulders and neck.

She advised me that it’s best not to talk during the treatment as I wouldn’t be able to concentrate on what was happening to my body. So I sat quietly and breathed deeply as she worked her fingers up my spine, across my shoulder blades and then progressed to the tense muscles in my neck. This is the most common problem area, she told me, and it’s largely caused by poor posture and constant use of a computer mouse.

At the end of the 20 minutes I felt livelier, more clear-headed and willing to tackle the dullest of tasks with vigour, much to my colleagues’ amazement. Phew it was going-home time.

Chris advised me to drink some water as the massage can release toxins into your body that may cause headaches. Other than this, it was one of the most relaxing and pleasurable experiences I have ever had with my clothes on.

The price is £3.00 per on-site massage. Call ext. 8228 to book.

Sport at Sussex

Intra-mural soccer
- 5-a-side (indoor) on Thursdays from 2–4pm at the Sportcentre. C15 per team plus £20 loyalty deposit. Maximum eight teams. Sign up by Thursday 18 January, first game Thursday 25 January.
- 6-a-side (outdoor) on Tuesdays from 12 noon –2pm at the Falmer Sports Complex. £18 per team plus £20 loyalty deposit. Maximum 12 teams. Sign up by Thursday 18 January, first game Tuesday 23 January.

Fit for a year
Get free entry into a draw for a mountain bike by buying a year’s card for the Fitness Room: £85 for students, £105 for staff.

New classes and courses
Due to popular demand and feedback from course evaluation, this term the Sport Service is running three new courses:
- an Advanced Latin American and Rock ‘n Roll on Mondays from 1–2pm, with Carol;
- a level 2 Contemporary Jazz on Tuesdays from 2–3pm, with Matthew;
- and an additional Khai Bo class (incorporating the dynamic punching and kicking of the martial arts with Western boxing) on Thursdays from 4–5pm, with Robbi.

Also new this term is a Food for Mood course with Amanda Geary, who runs the Brighton Food for Mood project. Try the free taster session on Monday (15 January) from 1–3pm as part of Health Week.

Workshops
- Alexander Technique, with a focus on the workplace: Sunday 11 February, 8.30am to 3pm. Attendance also entitles you to one half-price introductory lesson with the course tutor. Try the free taster session on Thursday (18 January) from 12.30pm to 2pm as part of Health Week.
- Feng Shui: Saturday 10 February, 10am to 4pm. You will need to bring a plan to scale of your home or office, as the session includes a practical session to help you to apply the concepts. Try the free taster session on Friday (19 January) as part of Health Week.
- Raqs Sharqi (Egyptian folk dance): Sunday 4 March, 10am to 1pm. For further information or to book a place, contact the Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.
Barbara goes out of print

As clients of the University's Printing Unit will know, the door of Barbara Pettett's office has long been a shrine to pearls of 'office wisdom'. One of the homilies in her collection is "Hang in there baby, Friday's coming!" – and Friday finally came for Barbara on 5 January, when she retired from the Unit after more than 30 years.

Presenting a huge pile of retirement gifts to Barbara at a party in the Meeting House, John Gaunt highlighted her friendliness, good humour and hard work, and said that she had been "central to the working of the Printing Unit over many years".

Travel far and wide

We have the technology ... The Media Services Unit (MSU) has just launched a videoconferencing service, allowing you to participate in conferences all over the world without even leaving Falmer.

Videoconferencing is a computer-based audio-visual link between campus and one or more remote sites using cameras, monitors, microphones and speakers. Like a telephone, it can be used worldwide, provided that each participant has access to the correct equipment locally.

As well as conferences, other applications include: interviews of potential staff and students overseas; viva examinations; distance teaching and learning; research work-in-progress updates; and meetings.

MSU offers the service from Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. Out-of-hours access is available by arrangement.

The videoconferencing suite is located in the Hastings building, in a meeting room for up to 10 people. Videorecording and playback are possible, as are PowerPoint presentations.

The service is confidential: as soon as MSU staff have established the connection and set the volume levels, they leave the room, returning at the end of the session.

For costs and further details, contact MSU, EDB 252, email msu@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8022/2519.

French is good at English

Over the last two months, Rob French, Special Projects Manager in Estates, has won the Guardian weekly prize crossword no less than four times. In true spirit of investigative journalism, the Bulletin tracked him down to find out the secrets of his success and what he's doing with four copies of the Collins dictionary.

Envious colleagues – including one senior manager, who has apparently been striving unsuccessfully for 14 years – will be shocked to hear that he got one prize by mistake, without even completing that week's puzzle. And another entry was in the name of Rob's lodger, who had helped him to solve it.

Up until his lodger moved in, Rob had been attempting the Guardian cryptic crossword for three or four years without success. Before that, though, he had won The Times crossword four times in five years.

He changed to the Guardian when he began to find The Times – which used only one compiler – too easy. "I got in to the pattern too much: clues repeat the same motifs, and on occasions you can even get the same clue."

For this reason, Rob advises beginners to stick to the same newspaper, and preferably the same compiler. He has a few other tips, as well: "I've been learning the protocols of cryptic crosswords since my teens, when I used to do the Daily Telegraph with Dad. He didn't win, because he didn't send them off!"

Rob used to try sending his crosswords in envelopes of different colours and sizes, but the breakthrough came when he began enlarging his completed entry to A4 and faxing it through just before the deadline.

But what can he possibly want with four Collins dictionaries? He gave two away for Christmas, to his sister and his mother – who were very decent about receiving recycled goods!
Letters

Dear Editor,

In reply to Sue Gretton (Bulletin 15 December), I would like to expand on Ian Eiloart's point that unsuitable cycle paths are worse than none. One problem with the cycle path by the A270 between Coldean Lane and Stannar Park, for example, is that it is too narrow to be shared comfortably in two directions between pedestrians and cyclists. It comes after a piece of long, straight road where we cyclists have been stretching our legs and lungs, but it has an uneven surface, and gets flooded in places; these both contribute to short tempers.

The main road has a good surface but the traffic is fast and probably not expecting to see bikes, because of the presence of an 'official' cycle path. The choice for us at the moment is either to negotiate with pedestrians and physical inconveniences, or to hope optimistically that the motor vehicles coming up behind us at 50 mph, or more, do actually see us, and behave considerately rather than hooliganly. This isn't so bad on the A270 but it is a nightmare (especially after dark) on the narrow B2123 over the hill towards Woodingdean, where there isn't (yet) a cycle path.

Pedestrians and cyclists can share paths, but they need to be of good quality - wide enough, with a good surface, and well lit, so that we can concentrate on the pedestrians rather than on the path.

On the subject of bicycle bells, which Sue mentioned - I find that pedestrians by the A270 often do not hear them, perhaps due to traffic noise, or wind noise, conversation, personal stereo, or absent-mindedness. I know it's very alarming for a silent bicycle to suddenly appear on one's shoulder; that's why I do use a bell, but please note it means a polite 'here I come', not an aggressive 'get out of my way or I'll run into you'. Bells don't have a very wide range of expression so they are easily misinterpreted. Actually I did once bump into a pedestrian, by accident, and it was the bike that suffered the most damage.

I wish more people would cycle regularly, then we might get the authorities to provide better facilities. Strength through numbers.

Anna Lloyd
Postgraduate, COGS

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

Few birds sing in January, making it a good time to learn their songs. Common winter songsters on campus include the tiny Wren, with its amazingly loud trills, and the Song Thrush that methodically repeats musical phrases ('Lest you should think he never could recapture / The first fine careless rapture'; Robert Browning).

Another familiar songster is the Robin, whose clear, jingling warbles can be heard all year. Youngsters of both sexes start singing in defence of individual territories during their first autumn. Most males remain on the same territory for life and stop singing for only a few weeks each summer while they moult. About two-thirds of females, however, winter away from campus (nobody knows where) and they sing only while unpaired. Pairing begins in December and the increased singing by unpaired males is why Robin song is currently so obvious. Most of the 'resident' females pair by mid-January, but the females that have wintered elsewhere pair later and so have less choice of breeding territory.

The recent cold snap reminds us that Robins often face the problem of sharing a territory when their usual prey (ground-living insects and spiders) are scarce. Fruits are then important, and the most heavily used on campus are those of Spindle, known as 'Robin's Bread' in Germany. Fortunately for local Robins, Spindle is commoner on campus than in the surrounding area because of the University's planting policy. Every year, Estates spend about £10,000 on woodland management and plant about 40 trees, which more than offset the losses caused by the University building programmes. Natural events are a much more frequent cause of tree losses. Another casualty of the recent storms that did for the Sycamore outside the Meeting House was one of the Monterey Cypresses between Biology and the Science car park which lost about half its canopy. The rather ragged line of seven trees is a relic of the pre-University park landscape. It is a tree with an interesting history, as in the wild it is confined to but two small areas of rocky coast, south of Monterey in California. However, following its introduction in 1838, it has proved to do very nicely in the milder parts of southern and south-west England, producing much finer specimens than in its native home!

Autumn is always reckoned to be the best time for fungi but a recent walk along the woodland path on the east side of campus turned up a lobed purplish-brown gelatinous growth, about 5 cm across, on a fallen log. This is the fungus commonly known as Jew's Ear, the name actually being a corruption of Judas' ear. It usually grows on Elder and there was a medieval belief that Judas hanged himself on one. In spite of its somewhat unappetising appearance, it is regarded as a great delicacy in China, where it is even cultivated. This particular specimen is destined to end up as part of a second year Systematics practical class!

Swinging Sixties

From the Bulletin, 19 January 1965
Gifts and donations
The University has accepted with gratitude the following gifts and donations:
A silver bowl from Sir Alexander Grantham, G.C.M.G.
Two silver tea-caddies from Mrs. Marjorie Miller
A silver ash-tray from Miss Mary Brasse
A silver matchbox from Mrs. Pinto.

From the Bulletin, 1966 and 1967
Damage to lawns
Once again, with the onset of adverse weather, considerable damage is being caused to the turf and landscaping around many of the University buildings by persons taking short-cuts across the grass, thus causing unofficial paths to develop with disastrous effect on the grass.
Such damage to the surface leaves a scar which takes many months to eradicate and members of the University are therefore earnestly requested to refrain from taking such short cuts and thus contributing to this cumulative damage, and to avoid passing over the grass during wet weather or when the ground is soggy.
This request is made in the interest of all, with a view to preserving to best advantage the scenic amenities of the University.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Tue 16 Jan
12.30pm Geography Research Seminar: Chris Barrow (Swarase), Global experiences of river basin planning and management. D710.
3.00pm SPRU Seminar Series: Rod Multiram (Railway Safety), Rail safety, perceptions of safety and the contributions of engineering. Royal Academy of Engineering, London.

Wed 17 Jan
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Raoul Bianchi (North London), Migrant tourist workers in Southern Europe. Arts D30.

Thu 18 Jan
12.30pm Geography Research Seminar: Chris Barrow (Swarase), Global experiences of river basin planning and management. D710.
3.00pm SPRU Seminar Series: Rod Multiram (Railway Safety), Rail safety, perceptions of safety and the contributions of engineering. Royal Academy of Engineering, London.

Fri 19 Jan
4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Graham Hitch (York), Exploring memory for serial order. Pevensey 2A12.

5.00pm Women's Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Sarah Cheang (Sussex), The Orient in London: Women, popular missionary activities and things Chinese, 1930-1940. A155

Tue 23 Jan

Wed 24 Jan
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Neil Thew (TLDU, Sussex), The Institute for Learning and Teaching and part-time staff. Arts D310.


Small ads

FOR SALE: Apple Power Mac 7600/120 48Mb RAM, 1.2gb hard disk, CD-ROM, floppy, sound in/out, video input, great for music. Mac OS 9, MS Office 98, Photoshop, Illustrator, QuarkXPress, etc. £450 ono. Tel. 620201.

WANTED: Self-contained studio accommodation in Brighton or Hove for member of staff. Email Lindsay on lj.mullard@ sussex.ac.uk, or call ext. 8497.

THANK YOU: To all friends and colleagues in Sussex House for the generous gift received by Peter, the porter, and Jean in the tea bar.

FOR SALE: Single futon (seat/bed), good condition, £100ono, buyer to collect. Contact Sue on ext. 8955 (am only) or email S.Turnbull@sussex.ac.uk

WANTED: New researcher seeks accommodation in Brighton or near campus, beginning 31 Jan. Contact aarons@ucbink4.berkley.edu.

FOR SALE: Golf 1.1, A reg., 10 mths' MOT, bodywork in good condition. 350 Ext. 3994 or tel. 308339.

TO LET: Large room in beautiful flat in Kemp Town. Short or long term, £300 pcm. Email davidforrest@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: Black Saab 900, S reg., high mileage. Perfect working order, MOT, sun roof. Offers around £1,000. Tel. 476109.

REQUIRED: Evening bar staff for Hove Bridge Club, 3rd Avenue. Contact Julian/Sarah on 270884 or John Elliott on 775752.

Gardner Arts Centre

Box office: (01273) 685561 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

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 A Photosworks project by five young Brighton-based artists, exploring the changing values and meanings of objects, contained in the drawers of a cabinet.

Mon 15 Jan
8pm Ferris Bueller's Day Off (15) 
A teenage student enjoys an aimless day playing truant.

Tue 16 Jan
8pm Billy Elliot (15)
Billy delightfully takes boxing classes each week, but it's ballet lessons he's really interested in...

Wed 17 Jan
8pm 0 Brother Where Art Thou? (12)
In the depression-era deep South, three men escape from a chain gang – welcome to the wonderful, weird world of the Coen brothers...

Thu 18 Jan
8pm Nurse Betty (18)
After witnessing her husband's murder, fantasy becomes reality in Betty's mind as she drives to Hollywood to meet her true love, soap star 'Dr. Ravel'.

Fri 19 Jan
8pm Dancer in the Dark (15)
Song 'n dance fantasy meets gut wrenching melodrama. Bjork excels as the partially sighted single mum who works in a factory to finance her son's eye operation.

Sat 20 Jan
8pm The Golden Bowl (12)
Based on Henry James novel, the relationship between a tycoon, his daughter, an impoverished Italian aristocrat and his former lover are threatened by a past affair.

Sun 21 Jan
5pm Latcho Drom (U)
A beautiful portrait of Romany culture, starting in India and following a trail across Europe. Sumptuous photography, wonderful music and dancing.

8pm Purely Beitel (15)
Two Newcastle kids try every means to find the £1,000 they need to buy season tickets for Newcastle FC.

Mon 22 Jan
8pm Manhattan (15)
Episodes in the sex life of a TV comedy writer with an obsession about New York.

Public Lectures Spring Term

Tuesday 13 February
Professorial Lecture
Craig Clunas Professor of the History of Art

Givers and Receivers in Chinese Art

Tuesday 5 March
Professorial Lecture
Edward Hines Professor of Experimental Physics

Taming the Wild Atom

6.30pm Chichester Lecture Theatre
Drinks reception at 6pm

Bulletin

The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 26 January with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on Friday 19 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. 8808 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.