What are you looking at?

CCS psychologist Brian Bates has been mugging up on faces in order to co-write the book of the current BBC1 TV series 'The Human Face' with John Cleese.

"I first met John Cleese about 15 years ago at a seminar at Kings College in Cambridge and we hit it off really well," says Brian. While John worked on the scripts for the programmes in California, Brian drafted the book chapters. He says, "We exchanged drafts by fax and the process worked very well."

The book and the TV series explore the social and psychological development of the human face through issues such as identity, beauty and expression. Our fascination with faces is clearly deeply seated – new-born babies whose eyes can hardly focus are immediately drawn to faces more than any other object.

Questions raised in the book include, what happens in our brain when we recognise a face, and how does a person who can no longer recognise his parents cope? Are you one of the few people who can spot the 'micro-expressions' that indicate someone is lying to you?

Brian has worked extensively with actors before and his 1987 book The Way of the Actor led him to work at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) with actors including the then unknown Kenneth Branagh and Ralph Fiennes.

John Cleese was a Visiting Research Fellow in CCS from 1988 to 1991 and has a long-standing interest in psychology, having previously co-authored Families and How to Survive Them. His third wife, Alyce Faye Eichelberger, is a psychotherapist.

Brian has been busy promoting the book on both national and local TV and radio while the series has been on air this month. The series ends on 28 March with a programme dedicated to famous faces.

Pulling together for Comic Relief

A dozen members of the Rowing Club found a funny way to bring in cash for Comic Relief: in the space of six hours they rowed 100,000 metres between them – and all of it on dry land. Red-faced Tom Pattichis (pictured in action) said that passing shoppers in Brighton's Churchill Square gave about £500 in loose change, while club members raised an additional £1,500 from individual sponsorship.

Rowing was also the theme of Red Nose Day (16 March) back on campus, where Sussex staff and students raised £124 for Comic Relief with a marathon session at the Falmer Sports Complex. Alice Copesy (BIOLS), said "Pants to poverty" with support from fellow research student Sarah Dorling, as well as (l-r) Ian Salisbury, Terry Cooper and Matt Lindner from the Sportservice.

A Red Nose Day workout at the Sportcentre raised a further £130, and an evening of line dancing in Mandela Hall netted £750.

Teenage technologists team up

The 15th series of SmithKline Beecham Masterclasses in Technology concluded its programme on 10 March with an exhibition of participants’ work and presentation of certicates by Professor Alasdair Smith, the Vice-Chancellor.

Over the winter months, 64 teenagers from 16 schools in East and West Sussex have spent their weekends on campus, studying underwater technology, astronomy, rehabilitation engineering and geodesic domes, with experts from industry and the University. The 13- and 14-year-olds also attended a lecture at the Royal Institution in London and enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum and associated IMAX.

The series aims to give the pupils an awareness of the research, development and testing procedures used by technologists in all aspects of engineering and associated industries, showing how the knowledge of physical laws, properties of materials and systems of control are applied to achieve these ends.

"The series highlights the importance of design, problem-solving and teamwork," said USIE’s Peter Adamczyk, who is joint co-ordinator of the programme. "The problems can range from high to low tech and often require scientific investigations and prototyping before final designs or technical solutions can be proposed."

An important part of a Masterclass is the time spent by teams evaluating progress and reporting back their findings and recommendations. "The problems considered are deliberately chosen as authentic industrial examples in the field. They are open-ended in nature, so there is usually no single ‘correct answer’ and teams are encouraged to suggest solutions based on their own research and ideas," Peter said.

USIE staff run the Masterclasses in conjunction with teachers from East and West Sussex, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, which promotes the understanding of science to young people; and SmithKline Beecham, which funds the series.
In brief

IES reveals skills shortages
Europe's prosperity is at risk if its supply of graduate science and technology skills does not meet market needs, according to a report by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), which is based on the University campus. IES research across the EU for the European Commission revealed shortages in skills such as IT, and under-utilisation of other, expensive developed skills such as life sciences and some areas of engineering.

Isle of Thorns sold
The University has sold the Isle of Thorns training and conference centre to the Cats Protection League. Contracts have just been exchanged and trading will cease at the end of March. The University acquired the freehold of the estate, which is located on the edge of the Ashdown Forest, in 1992.

Sussex Symposium
The third Sussex Symposium for academics and business leaders covered the latest technological developments in web content creation, management and delivery. The all-day event, held on 14 March at the Gardner Arts Centre, was organised jointly by the University’s Business Services Unit and the Sussex Innovation Centre and sponsored by Adobe Systems.

Students revive rag week
Sussex students who revived the tradition of rag week have raised more than £700 for charity. Fund-raising events included a film night, trampolining, a raffle and a games night. Toria Barratt (EAM), who chairs the raising and giving (rag) committee, told the Evening Argus: “There has not been a rag week for several years. We revived this as a fun way of raising money for charity. We are thrilled with the results and hope for even more success in the future.”

Letters

Dear Editor,
I am sorry to note Margaret Khidair’s feelings (Bulletin 9 March) in regard to the University policy on smoking. Once a policy has been introduced by Council, it is the responsibility of everyone to follow the policy even if they personally disagree with it. All I can do is reiterate the policy as shown within the Health & Safety Committee minutes (www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/safety/ssc/ssc-93/ssc-93-3.pdf) and state case law in this area. Current case law makes it clear that no employee has a right to smoke whilst at work or on property owned by the employer.

I can therefore confirm that the University policy on smoking is in line with interpretation on smoking at work by the courts and the general consensus within lead bodies such as the Health Education Council in this area. I can also confirm that the smoking policy has been introduced and appears to be working in all areas of the campus.

For further information, please contact the Health & Safety Office.
Clive Parkinson
Director of Safety

Dear Editor,
You report in your last issue (9 March) that the Politics subject group was awarded 23 out of 24 in the recent QAA review. This is not correct and it is not just a minor mistake.

At Sussex we have an International Relations and Politics subject group, with International Relations making up over half the faculty of the group and undergraduate intake. Moreover, three International Relations MA programmes form the entirety of the subject group’s active taught postgraduate programmes and the overwhelming majority of research students.

It ill reflects the Bulletin that it can forget a most dynamic and active part of (on several counts) the largest subject group in the Arts area.

Dr Julian Saurin
Lecturer in International Relations, AFRAS

International academic exchange agreements

Dr Enikő Magyari-Vince from Cluj is pictured (on the right) with Dr Barbara Einhorn (centre) and Professor Hildegard Maria Nickel (left), Academic Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Women’s Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin, who visited Sussex in February to give a research seminar on ‘Gender in transition in post-unification Germany’.

Professor Nickel’s visit followed a trip to Berlin in December by Barbara, who presented a paper to a conference on the history of women’s involvement as students and professors at the Humboldt University.

In November last year the two universities signed a Socrates agreement – due to begin this October – for an exchange of students (from Berlin) and faculty in gender studies (from Sussex).

MPs back bid for medical school
Sussex Members of Parliament have lodged an amendment to an ‘Early Day Motion’, calling for the government to accept the bid by the Universities of Sussex and Brighton to set up a new medical school with local NHS trusts.

The original motion was tabled by a group of MPs in support of a medical school serving Hull and York. Sussex MPs, led by Des Turner (Brighton Kemp Town), David Lepper (Brighton Pavilion) and Laura Moffatt (Crawley), submitted an amendment calling for the government to accept both bids.

The MPs said while they fully supported the Yorkshire bid, the proposed Brighton medical school would serve an equally large population, where healthcare also needs improvement.

Mr Lepper told the Evening Argus: “We want to do all that we can to promote the Sussex and Brighton bid. One of the bids being successful should not mean the exclusion of the other. The government needs to approve both these bids to meet its target of 1,000 extra medical school places per year.”

Dr Turner said: “There are two bids in for totally new medical schools but they are not in competition. We both have large areas of the population which do not need a medical school and that means we could both reap the benefits.”

The MPS said a medical school would result in more highly trained staff in local hospitals, because research shows that doctors and nurses are more likely to stay in the area where they have trained.

Brighton and Hove’s three Labour MPs had previously written to Health Secretary Alan Milburn, saying that Brighton is an “outstanding candidate”. Speaking at the University on 21 February, Hove MP Ivar Caplin said the school would represent another centre of excellence in the city.

The government is expected to announce the successful applicants in April.
A ssiduous readers of the Bulletin over the past year will be aware that major academic developments are under way at the University. Some of them have significant implications for the physical development of the campus.

Work has already started on the new Genome Centre, and there is an impressively large hole in the ground in the south-west corner of the Science car park. If our application with the University of Brighton to create a new medical school is successful, it will require new teaching and laboratory space close to Biological Sciences. Further developments in bio-medical science and health research will follow the medical school.

Work will start soon on the new Freeman Centre, which will provide new accommodation for SPRU and Brighton University’s CENTRIM near the entrance to the campus above the Innovation Centre. We have plans to extend the Innovation Centre itself, as a central part of our strategy of building links with business and the community. Planning permission for an Innovation Centre extension has been obtained, and even before the project has got under way, a further extension is being considered.

Several different groups in the sciences have strong interests in nanoscience and nanotechnology, and Deputy VC Professor Tony Moore has been exploring with colleagues the possibility of a major initiative at Sussex.

The strengths of the University in the humanities and social sciences, in both teaching and research, provide the impetus to investigate developments such as a centre for the visual arts and additional state-of-the-art facilities for learning and teaching. The improved research funding now available through the Arts and Humanities Research Board should encourage ambitious plans in this area.

Making the University more attractive to students is central to our long-term strategy, and that means investment in our infrastructure. Plans are well developed for additional accommodation at the north end of campus. At an earlier stage of development were plans for a centre for graduate students. Sports and social facilities are important to the quality of student life and we are exploring the possibility of a further major improvement in sports facilities.

The sale of the Isle of Thorns deprives the University of its residential conference facility, but a high-quality residential conference facility on the campus would be of great value to the University and the wider community and this too is under discussion.

A healthy institution is always changing and new building is one manifestation of institutional change. Change has to be planned carefully, of course. Some universities have got into difficulties by letting their ambitions get out of line with their financial resources. And we don’t want to turn the University into a permanent building site.

A key concern is car-parking: new developments can reduce the number of car-parking places, while at the same time increasing the demand for car-parking. A transport plan, including a strategy for car-parking, has to be an integral part of a campus development plan.

Watch this space.

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**Bookmarks**

New books by Sussex authors

**Brian Bates (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, CCS) with John Cleese**

The Human Face

BBC Worldwide, £19.99 (hardback)

The publisher says: “The Human Face tells the fascinating story of the evolutionary, social and psychological development of the human face.”

**Richard Coates (Professor of Linguistics, CGGS) and Andrew Breeze**

Celtic Voices, English Places

Shaun Tyas, £30.00 (hardback)

**Gabriel Josipovici (Research Professor of English and European Literature, HUMS)**

A Life

London Magazine, £15.00 (hardback)

**Russell King (Professor of Geography, EURO)** and Nancy Wood (Senior Lecturer in Media Studies, EURO)

Media and Migration: Constructions of mobility and difference

Routledge, £55.00 (hardback)

The publisher says: “This title explores the close and vital relationship between the contemporary media and immigration.”

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**National Science Week**

As part of National Science Week, 600 students from eight local schools have been taking part in the Science with the Community programme in BIOLS.

Sussex scientists including Professor Mike Tribe, Dr Lucas Bowler, Dr Neil Crickmore, Dr David Hill and Dr Martin Yemans went out to the schools to talk to children in years 7 to 11, who then made posters either on the subject of the talk or on a national curriculum topic.

“The talks went down very well,” says organiser Dave Randall, who visited Longhill School in Rottingdean. The pupils at Longhill subsequently presented a poster entitled ‘Microscopes, Cells and Organisms’.

The eight groups came together on campus today to present their posters to the rest of the participants. As part of the day, Professor Mike Land and Ben Tatler also gave a talk on ‘The Active Eye: Why we move our eyes, what we see, and why we don’t see’.

Meanwhile, Dr Jonathan Hare set a science challenge that provided an opportunity for each group – including the adults – to take part in a practical application of the science. National Science Week is coordinated by the British Association for the Advancement of Science and supported by the Department of Trade and Industry. Held every March since 1994, the scheme involves thousands of events and activities designed to teach people more about science and allow them to get involved.
Hidden victims of the Second World War

An article in the Independent last month focused on an area of victimisation within England and Wales during the Second World War that has remained hidden until recent times.

More than 100 tenant farmers who were thrown off land more than 50 years ago when they failed to meet food-production targets have recently formed the Dispossessed Farmers' Association, which will be appealing under new European human-rights legislation for belated compensation.

The farmers were evicted - often without warning - under the Defence of the Realm Act, by the all-powerful County War Agricultural Executive Committee (the 'War Age').

Professor Brian Short (CCS), a geographer whose research interests embrace the activities of these committees and their impact on rural communities, was able to provide vital information using newly available material obtained from the Public Record Office and via oral history.

By 1946 more than 1,800 farms in England and Wales were still held by the 'War Age'.

Astonishingly, farmers were graded A, B or C by other locals and those graded C might in some cases be evicted.

Brian said: "Families were made to feel like pariahs in their communities, although some War Age took their roles more seriously than others."

In one notorious 1940 case, a Hampshire farmer was shot dead by police for refusing to leave his life-long family farm.

"The case of George Walden was most incredible," said Brian. "When he refused to leave, police dropped gas bombs down his chimney. But he had his gas mask and refused to move. In the end they came back armed. The coroner's report described it as 'justifiable homicide'."

While it could be claimed that with wartime food-shortage emergencies, the 'War Age' were basically successful in their aim to ensure continuity of food supplies, the social cost - arising from the sometimes callous treatment of farmers - is still felt today and the new Association has attracted much media interest. Following the article, both Radio 2 and BBC TV's 'Countryfile' have approached Brian for his participation in items on the issue.

Small ads

**FOR SALE:** Farmhouse-style bungalow, 2 acres, farm buildings, and sheds, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen/diner/large sitting room, £475,000. (62566)

**FOR SALE:** Red Capri Laser, D reg, well maintained, long MOT. Much-loved car used daily; large dog forces sale at £1,300. Tel. 571555 or email j.r.gribbin@sussex.ac.uk.

**FOR SALE:** Wanted: Small trees, young fruit trees, and shrubs for a small garden.

**FOR SALE:** Large single room in fully furnished, non-smoking house in Elm Grove area, to share with one PhD student and one post-doc. £267 pcm excl. bills. Available from 22 April. Email d.taylor@sussex.ac.uk. 7435 or tel. 687384 (evenings). PGs or mature students only.

**FOR SALE:** Challen 988 piano, overstrung, vgc. £800 ono, buyer collects. Tel. 479605.

**FOR LEASE:** Strange ground-floor studio flat, with private patio, in the Mews area of Eastbourne. Easy reach of station and seafront. £80 pw. Contact Annabel on ext. 8314, email A.C.Blake@sussex.ac.uk.

**FURNISHED:** Large, sunny room at Highdown/Dyke corner from 28 March. PG/mature student, long-term rent welcome. W/m, power shower, weekly cleaner. £265pcm + gas/elec/phone. Tel. 306267 or 7748298926.

**FREEDOM:** Sasco roll-fronted, lockable TV/video/storage cupboard on wheels. Also 2-door lockable cupboard. Contact Sue Burnham on 3039, email S.Burnham@sussex.ac.uk or Erica James on 3017, email E.James@bios.sussex.ac.uk. Donation to Cancer Research Campaign appreciated.

**CHILD CARE NEEDED:** Collect children from school (Preston Park/Feversham area), bring them home and look after them, 2-3 days p/w from 23 April. Contact Michael or Teressa on 687101 or 561071 (home), email gasierkem@lineone.net.

**FOR SALE:** Eurostar ticket to Paris. One way on 4 April. £20. Tel. 883851.

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**Gardner Arts Centre**

Box office: (01273) 685861

**Theatre**

Sat 31 Mar
8pm Simon Day
Billy Bleach, the peroxide-permed pub know-all; Tommy Cockles, the self-styled music hall legend; Carl Hooper, Australian investigator; and Dave Angel, eco warrior... the star of the Fast Show returns.

Your chance to win a free pair of tickets, worth £20: just name two other stars of the Fast Show. Entries to the Gardner Arts Centre box office by 28 Mar.

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**Exhibitions Until Wed 11 Apr**

Brighton and Hove Camera Club

Display from one of the largest photographic clubs in Britain.

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**Cinema**

Sun 25 Mar
5pm Singing in the Rain (U)

8pm Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (12)

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**Staff vacancies**

Apply by 3 April

**Management**

**Accountant, Finance Division**

Fixed term until December 2001.

Informal enquiries to John Sanders, Deputy Finance Director on ext. 8305.

Apply by 6 April

**Residential Assistant**

East Slope & Brightelm

Applications can be made to the University Personnel Office, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1NF, quoting ref. 157, or via email to j.r.gribbin@sussex.ac.uk.