New Dean of Medical School finds enthusiasm infectious

A founding Dean for the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School, due to open in 2003, has been appointed.

Professor Jon Cohen, who has been head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine for nine years, will take up the post in January.

"I am enormously excited by this opportunity," says Professor Cohen. "I don't underestimate the challenge, but I have been hugely impressed by the enthusiasm of everyone I have met who is involved with the project, and I am sure that the new school will succeed in producing great doctors."

The school, which will have an annual intake of 128 trainee doctors, is a joint venture by the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. Clinical training will be based at a number of local hospitals and general practices.

Through his rigorous approach to teaching, clinical work and research, Professor Cohen is highly regarded in the medical world. He has an international reputation in infectious diseases, particularly in his work on sepsis and septic shock. He is editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Infectious Diseases and is regularly invited to give keynote and named lectures at major international institutions and conferences.

He is also an advisor to the Department of Health and other national organisations, such as the Meningitis Trust. He serves on the Chief Medical Officer's review group on communicable diseases strategy and is a member of the Department of Health's joint committee on vaccination and immunisation.

Medical School will have £5.5 million teaching centre

A state-of-the-art undergraduate teaching centre has been proposed for the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

Detailed plans for a new £5.5 million building to be built on the Sussex campus have been registered with Brighton and Hove City Council.

Surrey-based architects Architon Group Practice have produced a design that will be sympathetic with the original 1960s buildings, which were designed by Sir Basil Spence, but with modern innovations.

The three-storey building will feature a glass atrium, a 250-seater lecture theatre, eight seminar rooms, a cafe and a computer suite.

The University's Director of Estates, Tony Middleton, says: "We see this as a major step forward in the evolution of campus architecture, bringing it into the 21st century."

If the plans are approved, work is expected to begin on the site next year in preparation for the school's opening in 2003.

The University of Brighton and the Royal Sussex County Hospital have also submitted plans for teaching buildings on their sites. All three building projects will largely be funded with a £17 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the National Health Service.

Director puts Sussex on the big screen

A new film starring Anna Friel which was written and directed by an ex-Sussex student will receive its gala screening at the Duke of York's cinema in Brighton this month.

Me Without You follows wild child Marina (played by former 'Brookside' actress Anna Friel) and the bookish Holly (Dawson's Creek star Michelle Williams) through their turbulent friendship.

This includes a spell at the University of Sussex in the early 1980s when both characters fall for Daniel, an academic, played by Kyle MacLachlan of 'Twin Peaks' fame.

"I always wanted to write about my time at university. It was such an intense period of my life," says director Sandra Goldbacher (pictured right), who studied French in EURO from 1978-82.

The film features many Brighton locations, although the Isle of Man was also used as a stand-in.

"Brighton is very cinematic," says Sandra. "The sea and the light make it so visual."

Sandra's previous films include The Governess, starring Minnie Driver, for which Sandra was nominated for a BAFTA award for Best Newcomer in 1999.

The gala screening is at the Duke of York's cinema on Wednesday 21 November at 8.45pm. The film goes on general release on 23 November.
Frank discussion at conference

The diary of Anne Frank has become one of the most widely read books of all time. It has gained important historical significance as both a document of the Holocaust and as an intimate account of a young Jewish girl’s life during the 1940s.

To coincide with a major exhibition about her life, to be held at Brighton College this month, the University is hosting a conference exploring the value and importance of writing diaries.

Speakers for the conference, to be held on 22 and 23 November at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, include Christoph Knuch, guardian of the Anne Frank-Fonds (a charitable foundation in Switzerland), who will be discussing the use of Anne Frank’s diaries in Holocaust education.

Professor Edward Timms, director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, will be talking about the diaries of two other Holocaust victims, Theodor Hacker and Viktor Klemperer, while Sussex research fellow Dr Deborah Schultz will examine the visual and verbal diaries of Jewish artist Arnold Daghani, whose paintings of the Holocaust form part of the Centre’s collections.

Academics from other institutions will be looking at other aspects of diaries, including how to use them as a teaching resource in primary schools.

Chana Mosheńska, director of educational programmes for the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the event’s organiser, says she hopes the conference will have wide appeal. “It should be of interest to anyone involved in writing life histories, children’s literature and the Second World War Holocaust,” she says.

Politics of Nazi period art examined

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies has been awarded a generous three-year research grant by the Leverhulme Trust to conduct a study of ‘Politics and Pictorial Narrative’ with reference to the Second World War and early Cold War period.

This interdisciplinary project, which began this month, will be carried out by Professor Edward Timms, director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, together with art historian Dr Deborah Schultz and a doctoral student with a background in history or political science, to be appointed.

The project will draw on the collection of artistic and commemorative work by Arnold Daghani at the University, which contains extensive material relating to this period. Works by Charlotte Salomon and Felix Nussbaum, as well as other contemporaries, will also be examined, as a basis for a comparative analysis of forms of Modernism outside the geographical as well as artistic canon.

“The interdisciplinary approach will illuminate the complex interactions between art, history and politics, exemplified by artists whose works are explicitly linked with the conditions under which they were produced,” said Deborah.

“In their work the personal and the public are subtly interwoven, thereby contributing significant documentation to our knowledge of a specific historical period.”

The project, which will involve co-operation with research centres in Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Israel, will result in a book-length publication and conference.

Research funding opportunities – postdoc fellowships

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.

BBRC David Phillips Postdoc Fellowships
Up to five-year duration for applicants with no more than five and a half years’ postdoctoral research experience. Funding for fellow’s salary and a research support grant of up to £200k over the five years for technical support, equipment, travel and consumables.
Deadline: 30 November

ESRC Postdoc Fellowships in Social Sciences
Up to 50 one-year fellowships available which cover the fellow’s salary and approx. £25k for research expenses. Applicants must have completed their doctorate within two years from the beginning of the award or expect to by 1/10/02.
Deadline: 11 January

EPSRC Postdoc Fellowships in Mathematics & Theoretical Physics
Up to 10 two-year fellowships are available to fund the fellow’s salary and up to £8k p.a. for travel, consumables and equipment. Should have a maximum of four years’ postdoctoral research experience.
Deadline: 14 January

British Academy Postdoc Fellowships
Up to 30 three-year fellowships are available in the arts, humanities and social sciences. No age limit to this scheme but applicants must have obtained their doctorate by 30 June 2002, but normally no earlier than 1 October 2000. Funding covers the fellow’s salary.
Deadline: 28 February

EU Marie Curie Postdoc Individual Fellowships
Non-UK EU nationals can apply for 12-24 month fellowships to be held at a UK university. Funding covers fellow’s salary, return travel costs and an institutional allowance. Fellowships must be under 36 and should have either a PhD or four years’ research experience.
Deadline: 13 March
A bridge too far

The Bridge over the North-South road, joining parts of the Pevensey building, has recently reopened as the new common room and tea-bar for the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences (COGS).

This is an early part of the University, designed by Sir Basil Spence and completed around 1965. It is now a listed building. Refurbishment, by Macdonald Design, was carried out in consultation with English Heritage, guided by Rob French in Estates.

The kitchen has been extended to include what once served as a photocopying room. The old cork tiles have been replaced by a laminated wooden floor in keeping with the original Spence floor at the foot of the stairwell, while a new carpeted section has been incorporated above to provide a more comfortable and contrasting seating area. Wooden slatted window blinds have been used in sympathy with the original kitchen shutters. The lighting tracks, replacing neon tubes, may be controversial, but provide interest while minimising intrusion into the original Spence ceiling. The full extent of the exposed brickwork, contrasting with typical shuttered concrete above, has been re-emphasised following removal of furniture.

The Bridge offers splendid views of the University buildings and park. Members of the former School and Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS) will remember the Bridge as the focus of School life, a place for animated research discussions and for conducting business with colleagues. It is hoped it will now play the same role for staff and students in COGS and neighbouring Schools.

COGS is keen to draw the attention of all members of the University to this facility, including patrons of the old COGS tea-bar, who will vouch for the quality of the food and the friendly service offered by Glynnis Walker and Mary Taylor.

'Green' electricity for Sussex

Sussex has just become only the second UK university to switch to 100 per cent 'green' electricity. The two-year contract with Ecotricity will supply the University with renewable energy generated mainly from hydropower and wind turbines, with a small amount being supplied from gas-fired turbines that harness methane gas from landfill rubbish sites.

"Green electricity has significant environmental benefits because we will no longer be using non-renewable fossil fuels such as coal and oil to power the campus," says Environmental Officer Amanda Hastings.

"The University will not be producing any more emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from its electricity use," she adds. "And it also makes our new electric vehicles even more environmentally friendly now that they are being recharged with 'green' electricity."

There are also financial benefits to the new contract as the University will be exempt from the payment of Climate Change Levy (commonly known as the carbon tax). This was introduced in the UK in April 2001 and is based on the principle that 'the polluter pays' to help achieve a 20 per cent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide by 2010.

The University is also at the forefront of the electric car movement. The University tendered for the electricity supply contract through CHEEP, which negotiates utility contracts on behalf of education organisations.

University gets the green light for traffic-light trial

Rob French
Special Projects Manager, Estates

A one-week trial using traffic lights at the exit from campus will take place in the week beginning 26 November.

Since late 1997, staff in Estates & Facilities Management have tried to persuade East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and the Highways Agency (HA) to run a trial installation of traffic lights at the exit. The idea itself, to try to improve traffic congestion at peak times, was first mooted at least two years earlier.

The HA have previously maintained that signal control could compromise safety on the A27, which is their responsibility. ESCC, responsible for the roundabout itself, have said that the congestion at this junction was not causing a problem to traffic on the minor road. The University was left to champion the cause alone.

Reports have conflicted in the past, some stating that signal control may offer the solution and others that it is not a viable proposal. The University has always argued that traffic lights might offer a solution not only to problems leaving campus in the evening but also for early-morning queues. The problem in the morning is generally nothing to do with the University of Sussex and has been getting progressively worse over recent years.

The trial, co-ordinated by ESCC but wholly funded by the University, should demonstrate whether signal control can offer a permanent solution. The proposed trial will cover the north roundabout only. If successful it may be extended to the south roundabout as well (the other side of the A27 from the University), with signal controls linked to ensure optimal traffic flows.

The trial will initially run during the evening peak hours only.
All in a day's work

Tanya Shadrick is head of Schools and Colleges Liaison, the team based in Sussex House responsible for promoting the University to prospective students through open days, campus tours and visits to schools. She is assisted by Laura Dewis, graduate intern Peter Edmunds, and part-time events coordinators Jayne Guildford and Linda Whitby-Eastwood. Sara McKernan, Widening Participation Officer, is a new addition to the team.

This time of year it’s rare to find all of us in the office together. I might be off giving a talk to a school in Hertfordshire and Laura could be out giving a campus tour. It used to be chaos trying to keep track of where everyone was before we discovered the simplicity of having a joint electronic diary.

We’ve just had our Autumn Open Day, which was an outstanding success. More than 2,500 prospective undergraduates turned up on campus, which was 2,000 more than last year. We tried a different system this year to get people to come. Rather than just notifying schools, we sent personal invitations to 6,000 people on our new database, which was created by keeping a record of anyone who requested a copy of the latest prospectus since last February.

As usual, I was worried that no one would turn up. But the numbers far exceeded our expectations. We had to put on extra lectures and our student guides were giving campus tours to groups of 80 instead of the usual 20.

The open days are one of the most enjoyable aspects of the job. They’re hard work and nerve-racking – especially during the early stages of planning when we’re trying to get more than 70 academics to commit themselves to staffing the help desks for particular subjects. But by the end of the day those same academics are buzzing with days to make their next stint even better.

Prospective students these days are far more selective in what they are looking for from a university. They often come armed with a sheet of paper with more than 40 questions and want to know everything from the University’s place in various league tables to job prospects to whether or not their room on campus will have an en-suite bathroom.

Most of them turn up with a parent, if not their entire family. And the families ask as many questions. It’s lovely when you meet those who haven’t had the experience of university before. Some of them feel quite overawed and humbled by the whole thing, and it’s nice being able to put them at their ease.

In fact, one of the things I enjoy so much about the job is the amount of people I meet during the day – and listening to their life stories.

We have the difficult days too. A French couple and their daughter arrived on campus having previously arranged to meet us and one of our academics. Unfortunately, the academic had forgotten about this meeting and had gone home. The family were on a day trip to England, so we had to contact the academic at home. Fortunately, he was a lovely man and came back onto campus.

Prospective students these days are far more selective in what they are looking for from a university

When we visit schools and sixth-form colleges, the most important thing is to give a positive view of Sussex without pushing it and sounding like we’re second-hand car sales people. Sussex isn’t necessarily a natural choice for students. Most young people don’t distinguish between the original universities and the former polytechnics, but I do remind them that Sussex was one of the Sixties campus universities, along with Warwick and East Anglia, and I think they appreciate that historical context. I also make positive comparisons with the University of Brighton – stressing the sort of things they’re good at and how they differ from us.

Usually the best reaction I get is when I tell them that Mel from the first ‘Big Brother’ was a student here and lived on East Slope. I say that she was sharing a flat here with six people – and that made her an ideal contestant for the Channel 4 series.

I suppose the other thing that helps is that Laura, Peter and myself are all Sussex graduates and we’re passionate about the place. We can describe our personal experiences of being a student here as well as reeling off all the facts and figures.
Students nominated for Royal Television Society Award

Three media studies students have had their film nominated for Best Factual Programme in the Royal Television Society Southern Region Awards.

Sian Jones, Catherine Walsh and Marie Shaw all graduated this summer with degrees in Media Studies. Their 15-minute film, entitled 'Crainh Y Cwm' (which translates roughly as 'The Valley's Scar'), is about the village of Capel Celyn in North Wales that was cleared of its inhabitants and then flooded in the 1960s in order to supply water to Liverpool.

"My teacher at school actually went to prison for trying to blow up the dam," says Sian, who did the interviews for the film in her native language of Welsh. "It's still a very emotional issue - one man we interviewed broke down in tears talking about it."

A force for change?

A film by three Sussex postgraduates has been selected for the Imperial War Museum's Student Film Competition, which runs from 10 November to 22 December.

Stephen Hill, Susie Passingham and Anna Nomikou all studied on the MA in Life History Research: Oral History and Mass-Observation in the Graduate Research Centre in the Humanities (GRC HUMS). Their 22-minute film, called 'A Force for Change? Women in Uniform', explores how the Second World War affected the status of women.

"The students took to the film-making process like ducks to water," says Media Studies tutor Dee Kilkeary. "All of them worked very hard to see it through, often editing late into the night. They surely deserve the recognition they have now received."

The film will be judged by audiences at the museum and their votes will help to decide the winners in the categories of Best Documentary and Best Creative Response to the Subject of War.

'A Force for Change? Women in Uniform' will be screened at the Imperial War Museum on the 16th and 28th November at 3pm, and 8 December at 1pm. For more information, tel. 020 7416 5293.

Royal Literary Fund Fellow 2001–2002

The Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Sussex this year is Robin Waterfield. Hosted by the University's Teaching and Learning Development Unit, his remit is to work with undergraduates and graduate students to improve their writing skills. The idea is to increase students' confidence in using language in ways that suit whatever project they are working on.

Robin (pictured right) has been a university lecturer in England, Scotland and America, and a copy-editor, commissioning editor and consultant editor for Penguin Books. But above all, for the last 20 years or so, he has been a writer.

Apart from book reviews (chiefly for academic journals), retellings of other people's books, articles, introductions and a couple of anthologies, his main publications to date are 18 volumes of translations from ancient Greek, a biography of Kahlil Gibran, a history of hypnosis, six adventure gamebooks for children and a couple of academic books on ancient philosophy.

If you feel that you (or, if you are a member of staff, one of your students) might benefit, don't hesitate to consult Robin on:

- Understanding and making the most effective use of the units of sense - sentences and paragraphs
- The most important punctuation, grammar, syntax and spelling rules
- How to assemble, shape and organize ideas - subordination and coordination
- Achieving simplicity, consistency and clarity
- Layering: how to make the most important points appear as such
- Self-editing and streamlining
- Writing under time-pressure

Robin can be found in his office (Arts A171) on a Monday or Tuesday during term-time. Email R.Waterfield@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 3125.

Meningitis - Knowing the signs can save a life

Most new students will, by now, have been vaccinated against the C strain of meningitis - if not, contact the Health Centre.

The vaccine does not protect against the B strain for meningococcal meningitis, so it is important to be vigilant about the symptoms.

The biggest problem is that most of the early symptoms are mild and similar to those you get with flu or even a hangover - for example:

- vomiting,
- pain in the back or joints,
- a headache, and
- a stiff neck.

And make sure you get urgent medical help if any of the following symptoms develop: severe dislike of bright light, disorientation, or a bruises-like rash that doesn't fade under pressure.

See www.meningitis-trust.org.uk for more information, or telephone their 24-hour helpline on 0845 6000 800.
Michael Nicholson

Michael Nicholson, Professor of International Relations since 1993, who died on 4 October aged 67, was the pre-eminent European scholar in the formal analysis of war and conflict and the possibility of peaceful resolutions of disputes, and was also immensely respected in north America.

Indicative of his standing was the recent award of the Lewis Fry Richardson gold medal for lifetime achievement from the European Consortium for Political Research. Michael was its first recipient, and was hugely pleased when informed about it shortly before he became ill.

He was born and grew up in Yorkshire. He went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1953, achieving a double first in Economics. He gained his PhD in Economics in 1963, also from Trinity.

John Maclean
Senior Lecturer in International Relations, SOC


He was Subject Chair at Sussex from 1993-96, during which time his administrative skills became legendary, so much so that his office became known as "the black hole". Michael gave as much time and care to teaching first-year students as he did to those doing research. He was a wonderful colleague - kind, thoughtful, stimulating and encouraging, especially to younger faculty members.

First class

Dr Tony Binns (Reader in Geography in the School of African and Asian Studies) has become only the third President of the Geographical Field Group (GFG) in its 55-year history. The GFG was founded in 1946 from the Le Play Society, which itself was established in 1902 to further the field-based work of the 19th-century French sociologist Frédéric Le Play. The GFG aims "to promote geographical field studies at home and abroad and to publish the results of such work".

Radio presenter Kerry McCarthy will be off to Alfy Pally in London on 9 November for the Student Radio Awards ceremony, held in association with Radio 1. Kerry, a presenter on the University's own station, has been nominated for best newcomer. Based in Norwich House, URF broadcasts to campus on 999AM.

Sir Paul Nurse, whose Nobel Prize for medicine was announced last month, was a Research Fellow in BiOLS from 1979 to 1984, and not from 1989 to 1994 as stated in the Bulletin of 12 October. The date of his honorary degree from Sussex (1998) was correct, however.

Pulse has scored yet another success in the Independent/NUS National Student Journalism Awards, announced on 27 October. For the second year running it was declared runner-up as best student magazine, this time to Nottingham's impact.

New division of Arts Subject Groups

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has announced the precise division of Subject Groups between the new Arts Schools, due to come into being in October 2003.

The membership of the School of Humanities will be American Studies; English; History; History of Art; Modern Languages; Music; and Philosophy. Meanwhile, the School of Social and Cultural Studies will take in Economics; Geography; International Relations and Politics; Media Studies; Sussex European Institute; Social Anthropology; and Sociology.

Linguistics and English Language may also be part of the School of Humanities, while Social Psychology could be merged into a unified Psychology Subject Group in a Science School.

The current intention is that the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Law and Social Policy & Social Work will all be part of a new institute.

University wins victory on VAT

The University has won a landmark legal appeal and is now set to receive up to £1.5 million in VAT back-payments.

From the inception of value-added tax (VAT) in 1973 until 1996 the University failed to claim back all the VAT it could have. In November 1996 a rebate was sought but refused by Customs & Excise. In an appeal last March the VAT Tribunal ruled for a rebate, but only for the period 1993 to 1996.

Now the University has won its claim in the High Court for full repayment for the entire period, which could amount to as much as £1.5 million.

Customs & Excise have been given until 7 November to apply for leave to appeal.

Small ads

WANTED: Native Greek speakers to help improve my conversational abilities. Email rawfield@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 3125.

WANTED: Flatmates for two 3rd Years for academic y.r. Cosy, warm house near Lewes Road, bus 25 and Sainsbury's, £50-60 pcm + bills. Tel. 07903 502067.

FOR SALE: HP Deskjet 420 printer, excellent condition with ink cartridges £55. Call 07813 022 002 or ext. 7298.

FOR SALE: Pine double bed (self assembly) £50, 2 pine bedside cabinets £15 each. Contact Helen Stewart on ext. 7435 or email H.J.S. Stewart@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Lone striker WTM flat-back four for kickabout, maybe more (5-a-side?). Contact Darren on ext. 8148 or email d.m.jones@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Samsung 14" colour TV, silver cabinet, excellent condition. £40. Call 248102.

FOR SALE: Apartment in Lewes family house offered to Spanish (or Spanish-speaking) student. Prefer. term-times only. Reasonable rent. Good facilities and access to shops and transport. Tel. Sarah Soutar on 479210 or 07776 278550, or email s.soutar@sussex.ac.uk.

TO RENT: Holiday gites in the Loire valley. Visit www.derekangela.com or email P.L.Reed@sussex.ac.uk for brochure and info.

WANTED: English conversation partner for international student or English/Chinese exchange. Email dysaaris@isimail.com.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 7 November

Pensions Assistant, Staffing Services (p.1, ref 026)

Library Assistant, Library (ref 050)

Apply by 15 November

Social Psychology Technician, Social Psychology Subject Group (ref 264)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/vacs or contact Staffing Services on ext. 8706, fax 877401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.

Apply by 7 November

Web Production Assistant, USIS (ref 269)

Library Assistant, Library (ref 050)

FOR SALE: Louis strikes WTM flat-back four for kickabout, maybe more (5-a-side?). Contact Darren on ext. 8148 or email d.m.jones@sussex.ac.uk.

TO RENT: Holiday gites in the Loire valley. Visit www.derekangela.com or email P.L.Reed@sussex.ac.uk for brochure and info.

WANTED: English conversation partner for international student or English/Chinese exchange. Email dysaaris@isimail.com.

FREE: 100 free tickets for the Brighton Bears basketball game at the Brighton Centre on Saturday 17 November at 6.30pm. Max of four tickets per member of staff, available from the Sportscentre reception from 6 November. A valid staff card must be shown.
Students 4 students

A new website written by and for students in Brighton is now online. Described as a one-stop resource for everything going on in Brighton, Students4Students is the brainchild of Tim Gold (pictured above), a social psychology finalist in SOC.

"It's basically an information site for students," says Tim. "The site aims to promote interaction amongst students with things like swap shops for books and CDs, a housing and employment noticeboard, club and cinema listings, and reviews by student journalists."

Other resources on the site include academic web links by subject, with the possibility of adding reading lists and lecture notes in the future.

With up to 20 students working on the site and contributing content to it, the intention is that the site will almost run, providing an ongoing information resource for all students in Brighton.

Anyone interested in getting involved in contributing to the site can contact Tim via email on tim@students4students.co.uk. The website itself can be found at www.students4students.co.uk.

Sussex graduate gets the top job at council

The man who took over as Brighton and Hove City Council's chief executive last month first got to know the area as a Sussex student — and met his partner during the first week on campus. David Panter, 39, studied experimental psychology in COGS for three years from 1980 and went on to build a career in health administration in London. The new boss (pictured meeting the Vice-Chancellor on campus this week) replaces Glynn Jones, who received an honorary degree from the University this summer for his services to local government.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

Autumn is now in full swing. The two main ways in which plants cope with the winter are by shedding their leaves or by stopping growth, so the grounds staff increasingly face the chore of clearing fallen leaves rather than mowing the grass. Virtually all of the thousands of trees on campus are deciduous, including one of our three native conifers, Larch (one of which can be found on the north-west of the Science Car Park). Our only common evergreens are the other two native conifers, Yew and Scots Pine, and a broad-leaved shrub, Holly.

The natural seasonal partner to Holly, at least in folklore, is Ivy. Our only evergreen liane unusually has its main flowering period in the autumn. The clusters of small yellow-green flowers are in bloom from September to November. Nectar is produced on the surface of the central disc at the base of the prominent stamens and is thus accessible to short-tongued bees, wasps and flies that congregate in large buzzing crowds on sunny days. As well as feeding on the nectar, wasps no doubt take advantage of the easy pickings from the range of small insects that also gather at the feast. The flowers are produced only on the mature shoots, which lack the familiar lobed leaves of the young stems that trail along the ground and clothe the base of the trunks.

The dramatic changes in vegetation during the autumn reduce the shelter and food available to animals. Combined with the shortening days and worsening weather, they mean that invertebrates on campus are rapidly becoming scarce. Most insects, for example, spend the winter as eggs, larvae or pupae hidden in crevices or the soil. Insect-eating birds therefore face a treble whammy: less food; shorter days in which to find it; but longer, colder nights to survive.

By contrast, some nocturnal predators such as Tawny Owls and Foxes are enjoying a food bonanza. The lengthening nights coincide with the annual peak in small mammal numbers. This year, Bank Voles are especially obvious, even by day, in the bushier areas of campus.

Along with voles, nuts and berries, autumn is the season of worm-cast! The amazing landscaping abilities of worms were first highlighted by Charles Darwin in Vegetable Mould and Earthworms, where he describes in extraordinary detail the part played by worms in converting the leaf fall to humus.

Surprisingly he failed to spot that the species that lined their burrows with leaves were different from those that produce casts. In a chalk valley on the North Downs in Kent similar to campus, he calculated that the worms produced annually 18.1 tons of worm casts per acre! This gives some idea of the food supplies available to any animal that can catch worms. Look out for Herring Gulls 'foot-paddling' on lawns to attract worms to the surface.

Below: Herring Gulls like this juvenile 'foot-paddling' to attract worms to the surface.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 5 Nov 12.30pm-1.30pm Continuing Education: Phyllis Creme (Sussex) and Celia Hunt (Sussex). Creative participation in the essay writing process. Report on a research project. Arts D101.

3.00pm-4.30pm International Relations and Politics: Ronen Palan (Sussex), International relations and social theories of order and change. C219.

4.00pm-5.00pm Social Psychology: Helga Dittmar (Sussex). Temporal discounting as a paradigm for studying impulsivity in ordinary and compulsive consumers. Arts D340.

5.00pm-6.00pm Women's Studies: Ronit Lentin (Dublin), Israel and the daughters of the Shoah. A155.

5.30pm-7.00pm Institute of Education: Julie Coutts (Sussex), Researching emotional intelligence in schools: A first attempt. A71.

Tue 6 Nov 2.15pm-3.30pm Sussex European Institute: Jim Rolls, Peter Holmes, Alan Winners (Sussex), Europe and the world trade system. A71.

4.00pm-5.00pm Experimental Psychology: Brian Butterworth (UL), Mathematics and the brain. Peavey 212.

4.15pm-5.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development: Chris Cardin (Reading) and Peter Chariton, Mixed topoisomerase poisons: Pharmacology and DNA binding modes. BLT.

5.00pm Media Studies: Sally Hunt (Sussex), Intelligibility and identity. Arts C219.


Wed 7 Nov 1.00pm-2.30pm IDS Seminar on Poverty and Vulnerability: Marcel Fatchamps (Oxford), Social roles, human capital and intra-household division of labour: Evidence from Pakistan. IDS Room 221.

5.00pm-6.30pm Migration: Margaret Byram (Kings). The implications of being a migrant-dependent society: Caribbean examples. D60.

5.00pm English: Peter Boxall and Nicholas Royce (Sussex), Short story forum. D630.

Thu 8 Nov 12.30pm-1.30pm Geography: Dominic Kniveton (Sussex), Climate change and the sun: A cosmic answer. Arts D710.

5.00pm History: Peter Burke (Cambridge). Language and purity in early modern Europe. Arts A155.

5.00pm-6.00pm Women's Studies: Denise Deccares Naran (Sussex). Speaking, writing, recognising the subaltern woman's voice: Recent fiction by postcolonial women writers. Arts A150.

5.30pm-7.00pm Institute of Education: Bethan Marshall (Kings). Formative assessment in English. Arts A71.

Fri 9 Nov All day CoCmm. Current research students. Location TBC.

2.15pm-3.45pm SPB: Speaker and title TBC. ED6121.


Mon 12 Nov 12.30pm-1.30pm Continuing Education: Sara McKerman (Sussex). Widening participation in higher education of young people with little or no history of further education. Arts C219.

1.00pm-2.00pm Experimental Psychology: Graeme Hallford (Queensland). Analyses of cognitive complexity in child and adult reasoning. Pevensy 2A12.

3.00pm-4.30pm International Relations and Politics: Sheila Lisle (LSE). The transnational capitalist class and global politics: Deconstructing the corporate-state connection. Arts C219.

4.00pm-5.00pm Sociology: Robert Trowler. Regulating television content in the digital age. Arts D310.

4.00pm-5.00pm Social Psychology: Paul Sparks (Sussex). Attitudes and the problems of ambivalence. Arts D340.

5.00pm-6.00pm Women's Studies: Denise Deccares Naran (Sussex), Speaking, writing, recognising the subaltern woman's voice: Recent fiction by postcolonial women writers. Arts A150.

5.30pm-7.00pm Institute of Education: Bethan Marshall (Kings). Formative assessment in English. Arts A71.

Tue 13 Nov 1.30pm-2.30pm Barlow Collection: Kevin McLoughlin (Asst Curator), Five easy pieces. Barlow Collection, Library.

4.15pm-5.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development: Tim Jackson (Asst Pharmacy) and Natasha Jones (Asst Pharmacy). A professional's approach. Room to be advised.

12.30pm-1.30pm Geography: John Web (La Trobe). The origin and water chemistry of coves in the limestone plain of southern eastern South Australia. Arts D710.

4.00pm-5.30pm Economics: John Litchfield (Sussex). Poverty dynamics: Winners and losers during reform in Vietnam. Arts D510.

5.00pm Theory and Research: Mark Bevir. The logic of intellectual history. Arts D540.

6.00pm History: Jon Mitchell (Sussex), Understanding national identity: or, Who are the Maltese? Arts A155.

Fri 16 Nov 2.15pm-3.45pm SPRU: Keith Sequiera (DTI), Public-private partnerships and innovation. ED6121.

4.30pm Philosophy: Adrian Moore (Oxford). What are these familiar words doing here? Arts A155.

Mon 19 Nov 1.00pm-2.00pm Experimental Psychology: Ben Taifer (Sussex), title TBA. Pevensy 2A12.

3.00pm-4.00pm International Relations and Politics: John Maclean (Sussex). Is international business ethics moral? C219.

4.00pm-5.00pm Social Psychology: Robin Goodwin (Brunel). Values and social representations of HIV/AIDS in central and eastern Europe. Arts D540.

5.00pm-6.00pm Women's Studies: Kate Lacey (Sussex). Women, radio and development in a multimedia world. Arts A155.

5.30pm-7.00pm Institute of Education: Keith Holmes (Brunel). Whose knowledge, whose values? Re-thinking. Arts A71.

Tue 20 Nov 12.30pm-2.00pm Centre for Life History Research: Carol Robinson, The experiences of primary teachers in their first year of teaching. Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm-3.45pm Sussex European Institute: Lesley Pallett (Home Office), From Tampere to Leiden. A71.

4.00pm-5.00pm Experimental Psychology: Kate Plaistead (Cambridge). Towards a definition of 'weak central coherence' in autism. Pevensy 2A12.

4.15pm-5.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development: Sasha Aksouchev (Oxford), CKK kinases and the regulation of transcription by RNA polymerase II. L7.

5.00pm Media Studies: Celia Lury (Goldsmith). Portraiture of the artist as a trademark: Damien Hirst, art and science. Arts C219.


5.00pm-6.30pm Migration: Christa Hager (Sussex), Class and ethnicity in post-colonial Kenya. Arts D640.

5.00pm English: Maud Ellmann (Cambridge). Moving pictures: Elizabeth Bowen's Eva Trout. D630.

Thu 22 Nov All day Centre for German-Jewish Studies: New Diary: New approaches to an established genre. Conference Room, Essex House.

Kevin McLoughlin (Asst Curator), Five easy pieces. Barlow Collection, Library.

4.00pm-5.00pm Economics: David Evans (OIS), Identifying winners and losers in Southern Africa from globalisation: Integrating findings from GTAP and poverty case studies on global trade policy reform. Arts D510.


Fri 23 Nov All day Centre for German-Jewish Studies: New Diary: Approaches to a new established genre. Conference Room, Essex House.

1.00pm-2.30pm IDS Seminar on Poverty and Vulnerability: Sanjay Reddy (Cambridge). How not to count the poor. IDS 120.


4.30pm Philosophy: Helen Steward (Oxford). Is there such a thing as a agent causation? A155.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Until Sat 3 Nov
6pm Peter Brook — Le Costume

Tue 13 Nov 8pm Forced Entertainment — First Night

Wed 14 Nov 7.30pm Mark Thomas — Dambusts: Tales of Dissent

Sat 15—Sat 17 Nov 6pm Iliberii Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-operative and Playbox Theatre Stolen

The first five Bulletin readers at the box office get a free pair of tickets, worth £20, for 17 Nov.

Wed 21—Sat 24 Nov
7.30pm Sussex University Drama Society — Our Country's Good

Exhibitions

Until Wed 14 Nov
Rosie Lleventon: A Long Way from the Bathroom

Cinema

Sat 10 Nov 8 pm Amores Perros
Sun 11 Nov 5 pm Elvis — That's The Way It Is
8 pm The Battle of Algiers
Sun 18 Nov 5 pm Immortal Beloved
8 pm Moulin Rouge

Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Peter Simmons, with regular contributions from Jacqui Beale. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 23 November, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 16 November. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.