Electricity is the driving force

University invests in greener transport

The University is moving forward with its commitment to the environment by greening its fleet of eight vans for maintenance workers on campus.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith fittingly described the purchase of four electric vehicles as "a good move" when Bob Grover from local dealer Becks of Brighton handed him the keys to the Peugeot Partner vans on 3 October (pictured above).

With a top speed of about 50 mph and a range of up to 50 miles, the new vans are ideal for the short journeys made by carpenters, electricians, delivery workers (such as Marie Whitebread, pictured right) and other staff who handle day-to-day maintenance of the University’s buildings and grounds on the 240-acre campus and elsewhere in the Brighton area.

Philip Cowling, from Estates and Facilities Management, expects the vehicles to save money and reduce air pollution on campus. He said: "Running fleet transport on ‘clean fuels’ such as electricity can bring about both significant cost reductions and major environmental benefits."

The main benefit of electric vehicles is that they produce no exhaust and thus no emissions, giving a reduction both in particulates and in gases such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide.

Amanda Hastings, the University’s Environmental Officer, said: "This purchase demonstrates the University’s commitment to promoting green transport. But it is not only good for the campus and local environment; it will save the University money on running costs as well."

It costs as little as 1p per mile to run a car on electricity compared with around 10p per mile for a standard petrol or diesel vehicle.

Another distinction is the almost complete lack of noise (except from the horn, which is very loud!). A clutch and conventional gearbox are also notable by their absence. Paul Russell, one of the drivers from Estates, said: "It’s just like an automatic, apart from it’s dead quiet and a bit slower. But it does pull away really quite quickly."

Power comes courtesy of the 13-amp sockets at four charging points on campus. The vans can be fully recharged overnight or part-charged when they stop for shorter breaks. Large amounts of electrical energy can also be recovered during braking, when the motor becomes a generator and recharges up to 20 per cent of battery power. The batteries are located both at the front (under the bonnet, pictured below) and at the back (in the place usually reserved for the spare wheel).

STEP towards success

Two Sussex students have proved a success with local businesses.

Oliver Smith, who is studying computer science and artificial intelligence, and Dougal Mountfield, who has just graduated in computer systems engineering, were awarded second and third place respectively in the Sussex heat of the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP).

The scheme offers undergraduates work placements with small and medium-sized companies where they are expected to help out with or set up new projects.

Oliver worked with Nordell Ltd in Worthing, where he was required to create and introduce an electronic computer scheduling system. He also developed the company’s website. Dougal’s placement was with Sensatec in Brighton. The company develops capacitive sensors and Dougal’s project was to create a non-contact heart monitoring system. He is pictured (right) receiving first prize of £500 at the national finals in London for the best exhibition of an electrical engineering project.

STEP. Each spent eight weeks working with local companies during July and August. At the end of their placements they gave presentations of their projects at East Sussex County Council chambers in Lewes. The judges were Tiffany flood from Shell Marine Products, Paul Stogge from the Learning Skills Council and the University’s Registrar & Secretary, Neil Gashon, who said: "The quality of the entrants’ presentations and projects was extremely high."
Bookmark

New books by Sussex authors

Richard D.E. Burton
(Professor of French and Romance Studies, AFRAS)

Blood in the City: Violent and revolution in Paris 1789-1945
Cornell University Press, £23.50 (paper)
The publisher says: "The Terror of 1793-94, the Paris Commune of 1871, the Dreyfus affair - explosions of violence punctuated French history from the start of the revolution until the liberation at the close of World War II. The distinguished scholar Richard D.E. Burton here offers a stunningly original account of these outbursts, concluding that recourse to political violence was not occasional and abnormal, but rather the usual pattern in French history."

Practical Temperature Measurement

Celine Surprenant
(Translator, Lecturer in French, EURO), Jean-Luc Nancy

The Speculative Remark: One of Hegel's Bons Mots
Stanford University Press, £35.00 (hardback), £11.95 (paper)
The publisher says: "This work pivots on a Remark added by Hegel in 1831 to the second edition of his Science of Logic. As a model of close reading applied both to philosophical texts and the making of philosophical systems, The Speculative Remark played a significant role in transforming the practice of philosophy."

P.R.N. Childs (Reader in Mechanical Engineering, EIT), R.K. Stobart (Professor of Automotive Engineering, EIT), M.R. Keikal (eds)

Total Vehicle Technology Professional Engineering Publishing, £119.00 (hardback)

Luke Martell (Senior Lecturer in Sociology, SCC)

Social Democracy: Global and national perspectives
Palgrave, £14.99 (paper), £45.00 (hardback)

All titles are available from the University Bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and have a book coming out in November, let us know on ext. 9888 or by email at Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

One last mutation

The MRC Cell Mutation Unit came to the end of its lifetime at the end of last month with the retirement of its Director, Professor Bryn Bridges OBE.

Bryn set up the Unit in 1970 with 12 staff, who were housed in one of the unsightly terrapin huts that adorned the North-South road in the 1970s. From these humble beginnings, the first of several expansions took place three years later when the Unit took over the whole terrace. In 1980 it moved to purpose-built labs, where it has been located for the last 22 years, with two further expansions to house the current staff of about 45 people.

These expansions were able to cater for the greater staff numbers that resulted from the Unit's increasing scientific status catalysed by Bryn's leadership. Bryn's philosophy was to hire talented people and then give them freedom to pursue their own research interests. The success of this philosophy is seen in the Unit's current status as an internationally outstanding institute in DNA damage and repair and its relation to human health.

Bryn's own research has centred on the ways in which mutations - permanent genetic changes - are generated. Mutations in humans are responsible for cancer, birth defects and hereditary diseases. Although Bryn's work has been largely confined to bacteria, findings on simple organisms can in nearly all cases be extrapolated to humans. Bryn is a recognised leader in his field and has made a number of outstanding contributions. In the Unit he has always been generous with funding, keeping his own group to only three or four people, whilst allowing his scientific staff to develop much larger research groups.

Apart from his research, Bryn has been a member of several government committees, most recently COMARE (Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment), of which he has been chairman for the last several years. For his research and work on COMARE, Bryn was awarded the OBE earlier this year.

The Cell Mutation Unit will be superseded by the Genome Damage and Stability Centre, which will remain in the existing building, prior to moving into the new genome building on its completion early next year. The Chairman of the new Centre will be Professor Alan Lehmann and the Director will be Dr Tony Carr.

Below: At a 'metamorphosis party', Professor Bryn Bridges (centre) ceremoniously passed on the ashes of the Cell Mutation Unit's first home to Dr Tony Carr (left) and Professor Alan Lehman.

Research funding opportunities

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

British Academy Leave Grants

Allows established mid-career scholars to undertake research while relieved of their normal duties. Grants cover the costs of replacement teaching. There will be up to 13 two-year Research Readerships and seven one-year Senior Research Fellowships.
Deadline: 31 October

Royal Society Research Grants

One-year grants of up to a maximum of £10,000 are available for research projects of 'timeliness and promise' in the natural sciences. Funding can be used for: specialist equipment, essential materials, travel, and fieldwork. Salary costs are not eligible.
Deadline: 1 November

Leverhulme Trust Fellowships and Grants

Provide either replacement teaching costs with or without research expenses (a fellowship) or research expenses alone (a grant), to enable researchers to complete their research. Funding is for 3-24 months with a max value of £17,800 for a grant and £20,000 for a Fellowship.
Deadline: 13 November

AHBB Research Grants

Grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 are available for: research assistants, studentships, the creation of an electronic resource; hardware and software; consumables; travel and subsistence; fieldwork; seminar group support costs; preparation for research for publication; secretarial support.
Deadline: 31 November

Nuffield Foundation Social Science Career Development Fellowships

For new post-docs with established scholars. Grants must not exceed £120k and can cover three years' salary for the post-doc, support of up to £15k (within the total) for the senior partner, as well as research project costs.
Deadline: 3 December
VC's voice

As we welcome new students to Sussex and welcome back continuing students, it is appropriate to reflect on how the events of 11 September and their aftermath have touched the lives of us all. The University is an international community, and different parts of that community are affected in different ways, but we are all surely united in horror at the loss of innocent lives.

One Sussex graduate, Karlie Rogers, lost her life in the World Trade Centre, and the sympathy of the University goes out to her family and friends.

Our students from the United States, from countries in the Middle East, and from other Islamic communities should be reassured that the University understands the particular anxieties and concerns that they will have at this time.

Universities have an important contribution to make to the debates and discussions that are generated by the current international crisis. Knowledge and understanding are valuable not only for their own sake but because they contribute to the improvement of the human condition. Conflicts of interest or of asserted rights are not removed by being understood, but better understanding can create a climate in which there is mutual respect for opposing positions and which favours accommodation rather than conflict.

I am grateful to the International Relations and Politics Subject Group for organising a University meeting on Wednesday 17 October (from 2pm to 5pm in the Chichester Lecture Theatre) at which we will have the opportunity to hear a diversity of expert opinion on the current crisis and to have an open discussion in a reflective and mutually respectful spirit.

On a happier note, last week brought the welcome news that the government is reviewing student funding. It is particularly welcome that the primary focus of the review is on the funding of students' maintenance costs. The issue of tuition fees has had much more political prominence than maintenance costs in the three years since maintenance grants were abolished and means-tested tuition fees introduced. But it is the costs of student maintenance rather than tuition fees that impose the barrier to entry into higher education to students from poorer families and to mature students. The review gives universities and student unions the opportunity to press for a more equitable system of student support as well as to assert the priority that higher education should have in our society.

Harvard Sussex Programme studies biological and chemical warfare


The appalling terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September have focused global attention on the threat of chemical and biological warfare - a subject an interdisciplinary group of Sussex researchers have specialised in for many years.

A little over a week after the attacks, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned governments of the risks of biological or chemical attacks and released a report on Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons. The report was edited by Professor Julian Perry Robinson, who leads the team of researchers based in SPRU - Science and Technology Policy Research.

The report, an update of the original published in 1970, was due for publication early in 2002. However, it was published early in draft form, at the suggestion of WHO Secretary-General Gro Harlem Bruntland after she had received a number of inquiries from governments following the 11 September attacks.

Julian heads the Sussex component of the Harvard Sussex Project (HSP), a collaborative project with researchers at Harvard University to promote the global elimination of weapons used for chemical and biological warfare and to strengthen the constraints against hostile use of biomedical technologies. The Harvard Director is the geneticist Matthew Meselson, a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

HSP has grown out of over 30 years of collaboration between Julian and Matt, during which time they have amassed a unique archive of documents on chemical and biological warfare and on disarmament and arms control in general, most of which is held in SPRU and is open to serious researchers.

Besides staff at Harvard and Sussex, HSP also has a researcher permanently based in The Hague at the international organization overseeing the implementation of the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

Julian will be giving a seminar entitled 'Should we worry about chemical and biological weapons?' on Friday 19 October at 2.15pm in EDB121. All members of the University are welcome.

Psychologist warns of risk of copycat attacks

A psychologist at Sussex has highlighted the increased risk of copycat terrorist attacks in the wake of those in the USA.

"The political and media reaction to the terrorist attacks in America has massively exacerbated the risk of copycat terrorism," says Dr Paul Marsden, contagion psychologist and Visiting Research Fellow at Sussex, who studies copycat phenomena ranging from infectious yawning to suicide and even murder.

"Extensive data from North America show that plane crashes thought to be suicides involving the deliberate killing of others rise unexpectedly following media coverage of other so-called 'murder-suicide' cases. "More worryingly, the rise in subsequent copycat events corresponds closely to the amount of media coverage devoted to these events," says Paul. He suggests the media could follow certain guidelines - such as avoiding repetitious or excessive reporting of an event - that might decrease the chances of copycat attacks occurring.

"Our voyeuristic and morbid fascination for disaster may have increased the likelihood of copycat terrorism," says Paul. "Only by understanding the situation that led to the attacks can we hope to move towards an informed solution that may help prevent such attacks from occurring again," he adds.

Paul's article 'Copycat terrorism: Fanning the fire' appears in the September issue of the Journal of Memetics, which is published by Manchester Metropolitan University.
The University of Sussex opened in a blaze of publicity 40 years ago with a modest home in Brighton and an intake of only 52 students. One of them was Ann Donnelly (née Baker), who three years later was selected by a quirk of alphabetical fate as a history maker and became the very first person to receive a degree from Sussex. She takes up the story.

"Fifty-two of us started at Sussex in the first week of October 1961. We gathered in a church hall on a sunny Monday afternoon opposite the two Victorian houses, 235 and 237 Preston Road, which were the University of Sussex. Presumably my husband of 35 years, Bob, was in the room at the same time!

The first week went by in a whirl. There was a sherry reception at the Metropole Hotel, a formal dinner in the Royal Pavilion with various dignitaries, a tour of the building site at Falmer and other introductions to student life. Routine stuff to an unsophisticated school leaver!

Facilities in Preston Road consisted of a small but excellent library, a Common Room with dart board, kettle and power point for the record player, a small work room, and a cellar with table tennis table. The nine tutors (all male!) each had a study used for tutorials, which were often conducted one-to-one.

My course was Sociology and Politics in the School of Social Studies. There were nine students in the school, and larger numbers in the two other schools, European Studies and English and American Studies. Of the 52 students, females numbered 35, with 17 men and the rumoured existence of a postgraduate.

Michael Lipton struggled to introduce me to economic theory for the first two terms. Patrick Corbett saved my group of four philosophy initiatives, and the significance of being tutorised in a group of three by Ass Briggs did not catch up with me until later!

Wearing undergraduate gowns we experienced our first and only leave-taking at the end of the first term: chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, a panel of tutors issued their verdicts on progress so far. Ordeal by individual interview!

The student body rarely came together, though most assembled for special lectures such as the one by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There were meetings to form the Students' Union and elect its first officers, Adrian Mugridge was the first President, with me as Treasurer.

There was a goldfish bowl feel about that first year. The emergence of a small community in the local and national media spotlight inevitably resulted in tensions as well as opportunities. Remember this was 1961, before student liberation. Looking back there were unspoken and unspoken expectations about student behaviour. One student was sent down during that first year for an apparent transgression and I and the others were unaware of any formal process or right of appeal. Student representation was a thing of the future.

I felt different – special if you like – but not part of an elite. The transfer to Falmer in October 1962 provided the long-awaited arrival of 450 new students. Only Falmer House was open at this stage, so dramatic productions would still have to be staged elsewhere, as The Glass Menagerie was in 1962. But midday refreshment was available on site, so takings at the Preston Brewery Tap slumped.

Publicity seemed relentless right up to the official opening of the University and the installation of the Chancellor, Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, in June 1963. Prime Minister MacMillan spoke at a ceremony in the Dome as the Pro-fumo affair broke (the famous 'many went, few returned' speech).

Graduation in June 1964 was in Falmer House. Was I nervous? Strangely, not until the very morning when I was summoned to a last-minute rehearsal with the Vice-Chancellor. There were 38 of us, I think (the others were doing their year abroad) and the first person on needed to get it right!

Local and national media had a field day; I did an interview for local TV and got a mention on the national news. My subsequent career in local authority social work was not seriously affected by my moment in the spotlight!

With my husband Bob, I look back on our time at Sussex with affection, a sense of privilege and much humour. Relationships remain vivid and precious though we only have limited contact as we are hopeless at keeping in touch. The nature of my Sussex experience gave me something very special and enduring."
Sport at Sussex

Party time
All users are welcome to the grand opening of the newly named SussexSport Cafe Bar at the Falmer Sports Complex on 26 October from 7.30pm to late, with bar promotions, nibbles and entertainment all night.

Fitness Room cards
Buy a yearly card (students £85, staff £105) before Friday 19 October and receive a free programme and induction worth £10. Buy before 21 December for free entry into a prize draw for a bike.

New drop-in cards
New termly and yearly cards allow you to attend an unlimited number of drop-in classes per term or year. There are 13 different drop-in classes to choose from; attend two per week throughout the term and save yourself money.

Intra-mural events
- 6-a-side soccer (outdoor): Tuesdays 12noon-2pm. £20 per team plus £20 loyalty deposit. Closing date Wednesday 24 October, first game Tuesday 30 October. Max. 12 teams.
- 5-a-side soccer (indoor): Thursdays 2-4pm. £18 per team plus £20 loyalty deposit. Closing date Friday 19 October, first game Thursday 25 October. Max. 8 teams.

Squash club
The squash clubs at the Universities of Sussex and Brighton have amalgamated to allow more classes for beginners and more opportunity for regular coaching at club nights (Thursdays and Sundays). The club has re-entered the Sussex leagues to help develop its links with the local community and gain experience from playing more competitive squash.

Squash taster day
In conjunction with the University of Brighton, the Sport Service is holding a free Squash Taster Day on Saturday 20 October at the Sportcentre from 1-4pm. Sessions include introduction to squash, play a top county player, beginner and intermediate group coaching, individual assessments and lessons. Call ext. 8228 to sign up for any session.

Environmental walks
Meet Amanda Hastings (Environmental Officer) at the Meeting House at 1pm on Thursday 18 October and Tuesday 13 November. Wear suitable footwear.

Healthy eating on campus
Professor Charles Abraham will give a short presentation on the research carried out during Health Week 2001 on Tuesday (16 October) at 4.30pm in the new SussexSport Cafe Bar at the Falmer Sports Complex. All welcome.

Out with the old and in with the old
If you think that the new Catholic chaplain looks remarkably like his predecessor, that's because ... he is his predecessor. The Vatican pulled the plug on Father Rob Esaile's appointment to a teaching job in Rome at the last minute, so his bishop has sent him back to Falmer.

"The Vatican haven't given me any explanation for their veto, but they obviously think I've got dodgy theology," commented Father Rob (pictured below). "So I look forward to the unexpected pleasure of catching up with old friends on campus."

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First class

Sussex graduate Ian McEwan has made the Booker Prize shortlist for Atonement, his ninth novel and his first since the Booker Prize-winning Amsterdam in 1998. The winner will be announced on 17 October at the Guildhall in London. Ian studied English at Sussex between 1967 and 1970 and received an honorary degree from the University in 1989.

Pulse, the Students' Union magazine, is once again on the shortlist for both the Guardian and Independent student media awards. It was last shortlisted as the Guardian's Student Magazine of the Year in 1999, after being runner-up in 1997 and winning the award in 1996. Pulse was runner-up as the Independent's Best Student Magazine last year, having won the title in 1999.

The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, has appointed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, as one of five new deputies to support her in her duties. The Lord Lieutenant is the Queen’s representative in the county and presents honours and awards on her behalf; supports a wide range of voluntary organisations; liaises with local units of the armed forces; and leads the local magistracy.

Sir Paul Nurse, who this week won the Nobel Prize for medicine, was a Research Fellow in BIOS from 1989 to 1994 and received an honorary degree from Sussex in 1998. He is now Director General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and his Nobel award recognises Sir Paul’s work on cell cycle control, which may open new possibilities for cancer treatment.

A newly appointed Lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Mauricio Terrones Maldonado, is to receive the 2001 UNESCO Javed Husain Prize for Young Scientists, awarded for outstanding research by scientists of no more than 35 years of age in the natural or social sciences or in technology. Mauricio will receive the prize – approximately US$6,000 and a silver medal – in Paris on 19 October.

Hurdler Helen Walker has only just arrived at Pennsylvania State University but has immediately made it onto the track and field team. Helen, who is studying Psychology with North American Studies in BIOS, chose the University for her year abroad because it has a specialist hurdles coach. Dr Penny Chaloner, Academic Director of North American Programmes, said: “Athletically Penn State is one of the ‘Big Ten’ in the USA and an outsider getting straight on to the squad is not a commonplace occurrence.”

CDU+SEO=CDEC

This summer saw the creation of the Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC). The result of a merger between the old Career Development Unit and Student Employment Office, it also has a new Director in Brian Nisbet (pictured right).

CDEC is now based in one location in Falmer House, and aims to cater for all student/graduate employment and career development needs.

The Employment Centre has extensive links with local employers and can help existing students find part-time, temporary or vacation work. It also produces regular jobs bulletins for graduates and finalists.

The Information Centre houses resources to help with every stage of career planning, from finding out about occupations and employers to researching postgraduate courses and funding opportunities. Individual drop-in sessions for careers advice are also available daily and a wide range of workshops and employer presentations are planned for the coming term.
Dear Bulletin,

Do the University examination regulations permit a successful candidate to appeal for a lower degree classification?

The Onion (www.theonion.com) recently carried an article about a student suing his university for awarding him a first-class degree.

If the Bulletin were to keep a cuttings column recording the unceasing attacks of the media on learning and higher education, it would never want for copy.

On 27 September, for example, the Independent had two educational supplements. One suggests that a lower degree classification is a blessing in disguise (employers are often quite open in their rejection of those with first-class degrees); the other ("You can keep your boaters and tweeds") points out how unfashionable Oxford and Cambridge have become for bright youngsters. The authors modestly omit to mention that, should this claim be true, it is the efforts of journalists like themselves that should take credit for this outcome. The "boaters and tweeds" jibe presumably comes from seeing photographs from the last century, because I saw neither in Cambridge in the 1990s. Perhaps 1950 is as remote and alien as 1890, and so indistinguishable to a youth whose understanding of history comes largely from the heritage industry and TV costume dramas? If you see boaters and tweeds today, blame it on that modern phenomenon: retro-chic.

Fashion is clearly a better money spinner than physics or history. Perhaps the Bulletin could sell to Southern Eye the rights to televise Sussex degree ceremonies in the form of an academic fashion show? Maybe the Vice-Chancellor could wear a toga and laurel wreath, and be raised above the catwalk to the cry of "Elevate Cancellorum" and a fanfare by buglemakers with the livery of Sussex? If you want the students, you have to show some enterprise. Go for it!

Dr Gavin Wraith
Reader in Mathematics, SMS

Jim Guild, Assistant Registrar in the Undergraduate Office, replies:

As Secretary to the BA Main Exam Board, I've never had to deal with an appeal for a lower degree classification. Such an appeal might be ruled improper anyway as it questions academic judgement, so how else might one succeed? Could it be on the grounds that the examiners were unaware of circumstances affecting performance ("At the time I took my exams I was as thick as muck")? Perhaps the academic irregularity or inadequacy might be cited ("My name was put in a lucky dip for a First -- and I won")? Or there existed some form of bias on the part of the examiners ("My stunning looks have blinded the Exam Board to the fact that I'm not the brightest fairy light on the Christmas tree"). It's unlikely I'll ever find out how such an appeal might turn out.

As for a degree of indulgent ceremonial at graduation, I'm all for a touch more glamour and decadence in our public outings. Bearing in mind the film 'Cleopatra', I'd like to see the ushers at graduation pulling a 20-foot high statue of Lord Attenborough from which His Lordship might descend to confer degrees whilst a choir of students in the late block would sing selections from 'A Chorus Line'. Lights could be dimmed and the staff checking students into their seats could brandish flaming torches for a dramatic flourish. In fact, a flaming torch would be helpful in getting graduands into the right seats on time ... just an idea.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOIS

Campus is acquiring a distinctly autumnal feel. Judging by the number of acorns littering the ground around the Science Car Park, this promises to be a good oak 'mast' year, which is welcome news to many of our birds and mammals.

A close inspection of the Science Car Park acorns will reveal that the cups are covered by a tangle of stout hairs, giving them a 'mossy' appearance, unlike the smooth cups of our native oaks. The leaves are also more deeply lobed and the twigs are downy. These are Turkey Oaks, native of southern Europe and Asia Minor, that were introduced as ornamental trees in 1735. The timber is of little value but the trees grow fast and produce fine specimens. Moreover they have now established themselves in hedgerows and wood margins over much of the country.

The common native oak of Sussex, the Pedunculate Oak, is scarce on campus, but there are some fine specimens south of Falmer House.

Look out for Jays flying high over campus as they carry acorns from oak trees. Each individual bird stores 3,000 to 5,000 acorns between mid-September and early November. Most of the acorns are buried singly in the ground away from trees. As Jays rarely carry more than five acorns at once (four in their gullet and one in their bill), and they often hide the acorns more than a kilometre from the oak tree, this adds up to a lot of flying for a bird whose flight is jerky and weak. Autumn is thus the easiest time to see these colourful crows with their pinkish body, black moustache, white rump and dramatic flashes of blue and white on its wings.

Over the rest of the year, Jays are secretive inhabitants of our woods who would be easily overlooked if they did not have such a loud screeching call. They will gradually retrieve and eat their stored acorns throughout the winter until next May or June, so all their hard work has long-term benefits. Despite their amazing ability to relocate up to 5,000 burial sites (even when the ground is under snow), Jays do not find all of their acorns and thus inadvertently help oaks to spread across the landscape.

Steve Parker, one of our security officers, stopped us the other day to tell of the Badger that he met on the Refectory Road at 1am carrying a Rat that it was vigorously shaking. This struck us as an unusual observation as in a straight race Rat would surely outpace Brock. This was confirmed by Professor Tim Roper from BIOIS, who said that he had never heard of a similar report in this country. He added that in Russia, where the soil is frozen for long periods and earthworms consequently scarce, rodents form a significant part of Badgers' diet.

Below: Turkey oak acorns, originally native to southern Europe and Asia Minor, were introduced to the UK as ornamental trees in 1735.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 15 Oct 5.00pm-6.30pm Women's Studies Research Seminar: Nira Yuval-Davis (Greenwich). World conference against racism and the politics of belonging. Arts A155.

Tue 16 Oct 2.15pm-3.00pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Jorg Monar (Sussex). The area of freedom, security and justice: Balancing different priorities and increasing implementation capabilities. Arts A71.

Small ads

FOR SALE Apple Mac system. 3 years old. Power computer, colour printer, modem, scanner, software, manuals, 50 floppy disks and container. No monitor. Light usage by one person only. £499. Offers (for whole or for individual items) considered. Call 01903 767681.

TO LET: 3-bed house in Hanover, fully furnished, all mod cons, easy access to campus, suit faculty/PG. £1,000 pcm. Tel. 677412.

FOR SALE: Renault 5 GTS, G reg (1989). 94,900 miles. Recently serviced, full service history. MOT to mid-Jan. Only two (careful) women owners! £500 ono. Email j.a.france@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Samsung 14" colour TV, silver cabinet, excellent condition. £40. Tel. 248102.

TO LET: Spacious 1-bed flat, shared courtyard, in village nr Lewes, for quiet, mature PG/Fellow, Oct–June. £550pcm. Tel. 020 7584 2011.

LEADERS WANTED: For 14th Brighton Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs. Beavers and Beavers of all ages). Meet Queens Park area. Contact Bryan at bpscouts@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Philips colour TV, 21in., Dolby surround. £160. Email sepultura_69_2001@yahoo.com.

SMOKERS WANTED: To complete an established scopolamine drug study, which pays £20 for 2–3 hours of your time. Drug administered via an (tiny) injection under the skin. Must be native English speakers. Contact Trudi Edginton, EP, ext. 8916 or email trudie@boils.sussex.ac.uk.

APPEAL: Link Romania Family Shoebox Appeal 2001. Fill and donate a shoebox as a Christmas gift to a family in Romania. Contact Brian on ext. 8597 to obtain a leaflet before end Oct.

ROOM WANTED: 22-yr-old German exchange student urgently looking for bedsit or furnished room in B'ton from now till end March. Tel. 01629417493 or email markusschonker@blue.net.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: CDE part-time PG student seeks room in house/flat or studio flat in B'ton. Easington, non-smoker. Tel. Lucía on 07855 137857 or email luciapalombi@libero.it.

TO LET: Self-contained flat, c. 500 ft. close to B'ton station. Double bed, lounge, small kitchen, bathroom, electric storage heating, £440 pcm + bills. Suit couple or single person, PG/staff only. Tel. 692969 or email jerry.lane@cccwcom.net.

FOR SALE: Tumble dryer £75, assorted small rugs £10, fancy hair dryer £5. All ten months old. Contact Sara on ext. 7042 or email s.humphreys@sussex.ac.uk.

Bulletin

Publications Officer Rachael Miller is taking extended leave for family reasons, requiring a reallocation of staff duties within External Relations. The Bulletin will therefore be published every three weeks during the Autumn Term rather than fortnightly, appearing on 2 November, 23 November and 14 December, and with a copy deadline of 1pm a week before each issue. As usual, we welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students. Ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk. Normal Bulletin service will be resumed at Christmas!