A group of ex-Sussex students who won University Challenge in the heady days of 1968 were reunited this week for a special contest to mark the 40th anniversary of the TV programme.

'University Challenge Reunited' on Monday (29 April) featured the Sussex champions from 1968 battling the Imperial College team from 2000.

Pitting experience against youth proved a considerable challenge. David Blake, former economics editor of The Times, told the Argus: "I'm sure the buzzers were different last time. We had a bit of a problem with our reaction times."

Getting off to a bad start, Sussex were down 85 points to nothing before David got them off the mark by knowing that the 'initial teaching alphabet' was the invention of James Pitman in 1959.

After correctly identifying the Eiffel Tower on a Paris street map, two correct bonus questions and then another starter question, Sussex were starting to get into the match. Unfortunately, retired academic John Wilkes buzzed incorrectly twice in a row, which let Imperial College pull away.

Not many would have known that Alaska is the most easterly state in the United States of America, but David did — and this brought Sussex to within 15 points of Imperial College with only two minutes to go.

Unfortunately, Imperial College got in twice at the very end and edged to a 225 to 170 victory. Jeremy Paxman, who knew team member Peter Foge from his days at the BBC as a TV producer, admonished the Sussex line-up, "You got off to a terribly, terribly bad start — what happened?"

Despite the defeat, the team had obviously enjoyed being reunited. John Roberts, an oil industry consultant and journalist who now lives in Scotland, proudly displayed the loud shirts he wore on the original programme, but admitted that they no longer fit him.

"I’ve met David and Peter for the first time since 1968," said John Wilkes. "Our shapes may have altered, but we’re the same people."

Rough scientists take up the tropical challenge

Last summer, Dr Jonathan Hare went to a tropical island to film a TV series. But he didn’t join a tribe and he didn’t win a million pounds. And the challenges that Jonathan faced weren’t about survival or competition.

The BBC was more interested in Jonathan's skills as a physicist and director of the Creative Science Centre on campus. On the Caribbean island of Carriacou, TV presenter Kate Humble set him and four other scientists a string of seemingly impossible challenges designed to test their combined scientific knowledge, resourcefulness, ingenuity and team spirit. You can see how they got on in the new series of TV challenge show 'Rough Science', which returns to BBC 2 next week.

The six-part Open University series shows how the team of scientists stretched their diverse skills to the limit, swapping their hi-tech laboratories for a disused lime factory and a kit of only the most basic tools and equipment. It also shows them having a lot of fun in the process. "Doing science can be enjoyable, that’s the message," agrees Jonathan.

For the first programme, to be broadcast on Tuesday 7 May at 7.30pm, Kate challenged Jonathan to make a phonograph for recording sound. He enjoyed that but wasn’t so keen on the second challenge, to forecast the weather by constructing instruments for a weather station.

"It would be hard to make one in three years, let alone three days," says Jonathan. "It was a non-starter right from the beginning." In any case, he adds, it was easy to forecast the weather: very hot, humid and sunny, with frequent downpours. (Hence the ever-present mozzies.)

Kate Humble describes Jonathan as a "radio nut", so it was no surprise that she then asked him and fellow physicist Kathy Sykes to put together a radio transmitter and receiver. But his favourite task was making something called a parabola to catch the sun's rays and distil water. "I'd always wanted to make one," he says, "but I'd never got round to it."

For the last programme in the series, Jonathan worked with the chemist in the team to make fireworks for a grand finale. "That was really good fun," he recalls. "It was real Boy's Own stuff, making bombs!"

He lived to tell the tale and will be available for online chat via the series website www.open2.net after each programme.
Health hopes pinned on Sussex microscopy team

Dr Julian Thorpe, head of the Electron Microscopy Lab at the University of Sussex, will be working towards a better understanding of degenerative brain diseases thanks to a £247,000 grant from the Wellcome Trust. He is taking a very close look at a possible contributory cause of nerve cell death in a group of conditions related to Alzheimer's disease.

"Alzheimer's disease is characterised by 'plaques' which are outside the brain cells and also 'tangles' (marked * in the photo) which are inside the cells," says Julian. "In the group of diseases known as 'tauopathies' there are no plaques, except in Down's syndrome, but they do have the tangles."

The tauopathies include Down's Syndrome, progressive supranuclear palsy (which Dudley Moore died from recently), Pick's disease, corticobasal degeneration, and frontotemporal dementia.

In Alzheimer's disease, a protein known as Pin1 interacts with the 'tangles', which consist mainly of 'tau' protein. These tangles are damaged remnants of the cell's supporting 'cytoskeleton' which correlate with the impaired nerve function that leads to dementia.

"Pin1 protein is normally predominantly in the nucleus (marked N in photo) of a cell where it helps to regulate cell division," says Julian. "In Alzheimer's disease it has been shown that Pin1 comes out of the nucleus to bind with the tau protein in the tangles, but it seems there isn't enough Pin1 in the cell to cope with all the tau."

As Pin1 acts as a kind of housekeeper protein, helping other proteins to carry out their normal functions, this shortage of Pin1 may be what leads to the death of brain cells.

"It seems this depletion of Pin1 in the nucleus contributes to the death of the cell and we're going to use electron microscopy and biochemical methods to investigate," says Julian. "Our hypothesis is that the Pin1 protein is involved in these diseases as it is with Alzheimer's disease."

Julian will be using a transmission electron microscope (TEM) to study human post-mortem brain samples. The other members of the team at Sussex are Reader in Biochemistry John Kay, Research Fellow Simon Morley, Research Fellow Stuart Rulten and Nigel Cairns from King's College London.

New books by Sussex authors

Nigel Llewellyn (Professor of Art History, EURO) and Jean Wilson in the Times Higher Educational Supplement says: "Llewellyn corrects the false approaches that have beleagured the study of 16th and 17th century tombs... the monuments are not primarily to be approached aesthetically, but like so much else of the time, for their didactic and moral content. They were meant to please the mind, not the eye... This is an important work, not only for those interested in monumental sculpture and the culture of death, but for historians, art historians and cultural anthropologists."


"Cinemas of the Mind reconstructs and intervenes in the fascinating debates that have pitted the history of thinking about film. Combining key extracts from the major works of film theory with in-depth analysis and trenchant critique, Nicolas Tredell mounts a sustained argument for a new understanding of the relationship of film to reality in the wake of postmodernism."

Both titles are available from the University Bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and have a book coming out in May, let us know on ext. 8888 or email at Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

The Hon. Professor George Saltoti, Vice-President of Kenya and Sussex graduate, visited the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) last week to give a seminar on economic reform in Africa. He is pictured with Professor Keith Bezanson, director of IDS.

Research funding opportunities

British Academy Centenary Grants

This is a special initiative for long-term research project funding, worth up to £150,000 per year for up to seven years. There is no pre-determined funding model so the Academy is open to suggestions about how the money could be spent.

Deadline: 21 June (outline application)

European Science Foundation

The Collaborative Research Programme invites outline applications on Self-Organised Nano-Structures. Priority will be given to cross-disciplinary research and teams that should involve scientists in a minimum of two EU countries.

Deadline: 31 May (outline proposals)

EPSRC Framework 6 support

Travel grants of up to £20,000 are available for researchers to travel to overseas research institutions to start discussions with potential partners about collaborative projects under the EU's new Framework 6 programme. No deadline

PPARC PIPPS

Applications are invited for the industrial programme support scheme, which encourages long-term collaboration between academia and industry. Funding of up to £75,000 per year over a three-year period is awarded to the academic partner for RAs, equipment and consumables.

Deadline: 1 July

NATO Cooperative Science & Technology Awards are available for collaborative linkage grants and expert visits between NATO and partner countries.

Deadline: 1 August

(Physical & Engineering Sciences)

Deadline: 1 September

(Life Sciences, Environmental & Earth Sciences)

More details of these and other research opportunities are available from the Research Services Division. Please contact your Research Support Officer for more information. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website.

www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research/refund.shtml
Dear Editor

As staff of the School of European Studies who have been here throughout most of the period of the recabling work in Arts A, we would like to put on record how impressed we have been with the attitude of the different teams of men involved in carrying out all the aspects of this work. Not only have they tried to ensure at all times that corridors and rooms are kept as accessible as possible, but they have been unfailingly helpful in rearranging times to suit, wherever possible, and in cleaning the rooms after they have finished. They have been cheerful and polite, and have carried out the work quickly and (to our admittedly untrained eye!) what looks to be efficiently.

We have contacted Dick Morris, Network Upgrade Project Manager in the Computing Service, and asked him to pass on our thanks and congratulations to all concerned.

Marilyn Blackwood, Louise Gerber, Christina James, Jenny Money, Karin Owen

Dear Editor

I support the Vice-Chancellor's call (Bulletin, 19 April) for a radical revision of the way the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) is conducted. Effectively, he asks that all faculty members, whatever their publication record or research reputation, be submitted. This would greatly simplify the work involved, by eliminating the guesstwork about potential panel decisions, according to what proportion of eligible faculty are mentioned. His preference for a collegial, as opposed to a managerial, process is very welcome.

Dr John Haigh
School of Mathematical Sciences

Dear Editor

A memorial tree to a former biochemistry professor at Sussex has been relocated to make way for the new Medical School building on campus.

In 1972 a horse chestnut was planted in memory of Professor Asher Kornier, who had died a year earlier.

For 30 years it grew undisturbed outside the School of Biological Sciences, but this year – with construction work scheduled to begin on the Medical School in June – it was time to call in the removal men.

Last month a 'tree spade' machine dug a hole for the horse chestnut's new home just 100m away, between Falmer House and Sussex House.

Back outside BIOLS, the bladed then extended under the horse chestnut's main root ball to dig it up, before a hydraulic mechanism lifted it onto the contractor's lorry for the short journey down the road.

Once it had been lowered into the hole at its new site, the tree was watered, fed with nutrients and supported with cables. "It will need fairly heavy watering over the summer," explained Environmental Officer Amanda Hastings, who co-ordinated the move. "Two hundred gallons a week will bed it in and encourage new root growth."

Tree surgeons also took 50 grafts from the memorial horse chestnut. With an expected 50 per cent success rate, it could have up to 25 offspring around campus over the next few years.

Asher's widow Shirley Kornier witnessed the entire operation. Afterwards she said: "I was most impressed by the skill of the excavation and the complicated physical challenge it involved. I am deeply touched by the consideration that has been shown. My husband would have been delighted to know that a medical school is to be established."

The Sport Service has become the first University unit to gain the prestigious Investor in People (IIP) award.

Alan Gill from Sussex Enterprise (on the left of the picture) attended a ceremony on Tuesday (30 April) when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, presented Head of Sport Karen Dunster and her deputy Simon Tunley with a plaque and certificate marking the achievement.

"Staff are definitely our biggest asset," said Karen. "If staff are well trained, aware of the service's objectives and work with good communications systems, this is likely to improve the service offered to customers and our efficiency as an organisation."

The first step in gaining IIP was to bring in a consultant to have a thorough look at the unit's then practices. They concluded that the service needed a greater emphasis on feedback of staff performance and general communication. Focus groups and staff discussion followed, which led to the implementation of a series of changes.

These changes have included setting up a full skills and training audit, including action plans and targets in staff appraisals; revamping the staff induction process; and establishing a successful newsletter.

However, Karen was keen to point out that the personal touch can be as important as policy changes: "IIP helps you focus on some of the simpler things that don't require much work but can still make the difference, such as remembering to provide more praise and encouragement on an informal basis to staff."

You know your staff are doing a great job but it's easy to forget to tell them and say thank you often enough."

IIP is an ongoing process and the Sport Service will have to continue to build on their success to get their status renewed when it comes up for renewal in three years' time.

A bullish Karen, however, is confident enough to go for renewal a year early.
Staff by day, students by night

It's not only full-time students who can take advantage of the learning opportunities offered by the University. Staff can study part-time on many programmes, often enjoying free places or fee waivers.

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) offers a wide choice of taster sessions, short summer courses, open-entry courses, certificates, diplomas and degrees. Find out more at the CCE staff event on 10 May, from 12noon-2pm in EDB 341. Call ext. 8040 for details.

Tania Golds
Day job: Coordinator for Social Work and Social Care in CCS
Studying: BA in Landscape Studies – fourth year

“I had seen details of the CCE Landscape Studies diploma since I started working here in 1994, and thought it looked interesting, but it wasn’t until it became a degree that I really became serious about doing it. I initially planned to study when I retired and then thought – why not do it now, part time?

I did an A Level in Geography and am interested in ecology, painting, walking and the environment, so Landscape Studies really brought all my interests together. I shall probably specialize in local history now.

Studying with CCE has meant that I appreciate what it’s like to be a mature student, and this has helped me in my work at the University since many of the social work students I deal with also have to juggle commitments. People wonder how I fit in studying on top of working full time, but it is just like another hobby – you have to make the time for it and be single minded about what you want to achieve. It is doable, if you are enthusiastic enough!

Also it’s a great way to make new friends and can be lots of fun, especially on field trips when we go out into the woods and fields, identifying mosses in the pouring rain or rooting about in bunny poo for chalk grassland species!”

Pam Aslin
Day job: Photographic and Design Unit secretary
Studying: BA in Cultural Studies – fifth year

“I have worked at the University for 12 years, but it took me seven years to pluck up the courage to do a part-time degree. I started with the Art History certificate as I have always been interested in the subject but didn’t think I was clever enough to do a degree. However, I didn’t realise how much I already knew, and studying just reinforced my knowledge. In the end, seven of us from the Art History certificate went on to the Cultural Studies degree and we’re still all here, five years on!

I think everyone feels a bit embarrassed to begin with, but it becomes easier as you get to know other people on the course. The tutors are great – they understand what it’s like to go back to studying after being out of education for a long time. I have no other academic qualifications, but I just learnt as I went along – the study-skills tutors monitor and support you all the way through. Also, being on campus all the time is very convenient for the Library and other resources.

Doing this part-time degree has made me ready to learn more and given me an interest. It’s improved my confidence and organization skills and I’ve even been able to help my son with his A level work. I’d like to do other courses after this – I always see something that interests me in the CCE brochure. My advice is to pick something you’re interested in and go from there.”

Val Short
Day job: Visiting & Exchange Coordinator in CCS
Studying: BA in Cultural Studies – final year

“Since working here, being surrounded by people who are studying, I wanted to develop my interest in the history of art. I started doing CCE day schools and then went on to do the Art History certificate, and from there it was a natural progression to the Cultural Studies degree. CCE have a good way of seducing people into learning more and it worked for me!

This degree has helped tremendously with my work: I deal with visiting and exchange students and they need courses to slot into their degrees back home – I understand their problems and concerns much better now. CCE has also given me tremendous scope for continuing in higher education.”

Go see Mo
Former Cabinet Minister Mo Mowlam will be in conversation with Sussex alumnus Simon Fanshawe when she comes to the Gardner Arts Centre on Monday (6 May). The Brighton-based broadcaster, now a member of the University Council, will interview the outspoken politician about her time in government as part of the Brighton Festival.
We are sailing

Five students are back on dry land after flying the flag for Sussex at an international yachting event.

Frenchman Renaud de Saint Martin, currently on a year abroad at Sussex, had twice represented his home university in the Edhec sailing race at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Atlantic coast.

When Renaud told members of the University sailing club about the race, they formed Team Sussex and began their preparations.

These preparations seem to have focused more on raising the money to go than on sailing itself, and the team had just two days in a yacht together before the race began.

Communication was also an issue in the multi-national line-up, which included Dutchman Tjerk Michael de Graaff, German Alex Tayen and two Brits as well as Renaud.

"Given the lack of training and the difficulty with the many different languages spoken aboard, we were very surprised to do so well," says Jonathan Markwell, the sailing club's commodore. The team's final position was 8th out of 37 in their class ('First Class 8') and 4th out of the 17 international teams.

The race is, unsurprisingly, dominated by teams from French universities. There were entries from teams as far afield as China and Brazil, but the only other British entry was from the University of Westminster.

The International and Study Abroad Office supported the students with sponsorship to cover the entry fee and boat charter. Each team member had to find a further £300 for travel and accommodation expenses.

"Next year we hope to be much better prepared, with planning beginning straight away," says Jonathan. "This will allow us to raise more money from sponsors; to take more people to experience this amazing event; to take better advantage of the facilities made available by the organisation to promote Sussex to people from all over the world; and to win!"

Sports Fed awards

The annual Sports Federation awards ceremony is undergoing a full make-over this year, turning what had previously a low-profile ceremony into a swanky evening ball at the Hilton West Pier Hotel.

The revamp has been overseen by Kevin Flynn, Students' Union Sports and Activities Officer, and Karen Dunster, Head of Sport.

"The Ball is a celebration of some great sports activities at Sussex," said Kevin. "We've felt in recent years that, while many other universities have huge sports balls, we've been missing out a bit. So this year we've decided to pull all the stops out."

Awards will be given to a variety of students and clubs that have excelled over the past year. Full Blue awards are given to sportsmen and women who have achieved success at a national or international level, with Half Blues going to students who have competed at a county or national level. The Most Improved Club, Club of the Year and Sportsman and Women of the year are also awarded.

For the first time in their history the annual Sports Federation Awards will also acknowledge staff involvement in sports at Sussex. Every year many staff give up precious free time to help students - either through coaching, perhaps, or running dance classes. "We see this new award as a nice way to encourage, value and recognise the contribution that staff make to sport on this campus," said Karen. The event will be attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith. Representatives from the sporting scene in Sussex will also be there, including the director of the Brighton Bears basketball team, Ronce Kiwiald. Tickets are £25 from the Activities Centre in Falmer House.

Jubilee Bank Holiday

As most readers will be aware, the Queen's 50th Jubilee is being marked by a double-Bank Holiday on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 June. Unfortunately, as eagle-eyed finalists and second years will already have noticed, undergraduate exams have had to be scheduled over these days.

"All BA/LLB finalists and second years should check the exam timetable carefully," said Jim Guild, Assistant Registrar. "Please don't assume that the Bank Holidays mean no exams."

As in previous years, unseen exams for undergraduates will also be held on weekday evenings and Saturdays, as well as during office hours. "We know that these arrangements are not ideal, but they are the only way that we are able to schedule all unseen exams between mid-May and the end of the summer term," explained Jim.

He went on, "The students having to take exams on these Bank Holidays of course have our sympathy, but we have done our best to help at a practical level. For instance, we have liaised with Brighton & Hove Buses to meet our students' needs to get here on 3 and 4 June for exams that start at 9.30am. No. 25 buses will leave Palmeira Square at 8.24am and 8.44am to get here in time for the first exams on those dates.

The Computing Service and the Library will both be providing services to students over the two Bank Holidays.

The Computing Service will provide its usual Bank Holiday service: Chichester 1 will be closed but the 24-hour access PC clusters will be open, the campus network and link to JANET will remain active, and UNIX systems and printing facilities will be available.

The Library (and Bolthole) will be open between 9am and 6.30pm on both Bank Holidays (although lending facilities will be in operation only from 12.30pm on these days).

For students who need to take a break from all that hard graft, the Falmer Sports Complex gym will be open from 9am-6pm on 4 June, while Falmer Bar and East Slope Bar will be open as normal on both Bank Holidays. Essential refuelling will be possible by shopping at the Students' Union stores.

Robot awards

A Sussex robotics student is just one of 30 in the UK who have been chosen by the Royal Academy of Engineering to join its Engineering Leadership Awards programme.

James Heckle, 20, overcame stiff competition from hundreds of applicants at universities all over the country to win the award, which is worth up to £7,500 and is intended to accelerate his personal and professional development.

James is a second year undergraduate in the School of Engineering and Information Technology, studying Robotics, Cybernetics and Process Automation.

After graduating in 2004 he hopes to find a work placement in Japan, to gain invaluable industry experience at the cutting edge of robotics research. James has already started to learn Japanese and will use some of his award money for further study of the language and culture.

James will also benefit from a training and social weekend organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering, bringing together all the current award holders from the different year groups. In addition, James will be given assistance in career planning and will be allocated a chartered engineer as a mentor.
Re-appointment of the VC

Neil Gershon
Registrar and Secretary

As many readers will be aware the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, was appointed for an initial term of five years from 1 August 1998. At the time of the appointment it was agreed that any extension to the five-year period would be determined no later than 31 July 2002.

At its meeting on 22 March 2002 the University Council agreed to establish a committee to consider the Vice-Chancellor's re-appointment and to make recommendations to the meeting of Council scheduled for 5 July 2002. The Chair of Council, Sam Younger, is chair and other members are Lady Suzanne Warner, Vice-Chair of Council; Douglas Baker, Treasurer; Jim Ellis, Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; Professor Anthony Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; and Professor Alun Hawkins, Senate member on the Nominations Committee. As Registrar and Secretary, I am secretary to the committee. The committee wishes to consult widely within the University and the chair has recently written to all members of Senate and Council seeking their views. The committee would also like to hear from anyone else in the University who wishes to comment. Anyone wishing to make their views known should write to 'Mr Sam Younger, Chair of Council, c/o the Registrar and Secretary, Sussex House'. Envelopes must be marked 'Private and Confidential – Re-Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor' and should arrive no later than 15 May 2002. All comments will remain confidential to the committee.

Julius Carlebach conference

A seminar in honour of Professor Julius Carlebach, who taught sociology and Jewish studies at Sussex from 1968 to 1989 and who died on 17 April last year, is to take place in the Meeting House on 13 May.

Entitled 'Towards a cultural history of the Jews of Hamburg', the seminar will explore aspects of the history of Hamburg with special reference to German-Jewish cultural life and the achievements of the Carlebach family. "As Lecturer in Sociology he brought to AFRAS not only a lively sense of humour, but also a rich record of research," says Professor Edward Timms, Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. "He epitomized that interdisciplinary approach to education for which Sussex is justly famous."

An exhibition entitled 'The diverse life of Julius Carlebach, 1922-2001' will run from 6-31 May in the Library foyer. The exhibition will reflect his childhood in Hamburg, his experiences as a refugee in London, his time in the British navy, his social work in Kenya and his academic achievements at Cambridge, Bristol, Sussex and Heidelberg.

Mic Burton retires as Director of Psychological and Counselling Service

After 27 years at Sussex, Dr Michael Burton (Mic) retired last term from his position as Director of Psychological and Counselling Services.

Mic came to Sussex from Oxford and was originally a Lecturer in Psychology but went on to join the Counselling Service and to defend it from threat of closure in the 1980s. Under his auspices the department grew and thrived, nurturing some innovative forms of student support, including the Mentoring Scheme, learning support and the Assistive Technology Centre, many of which went on to become independent services. He oversaw the combining of the University psychotherapy and counselling services in 1992 to create a multi-disciplinary team housed under one roof in the Health Centre buildings.

The unit's activities expanded to include training and courses, including a flagship Diploma in Counselling. Graduates from these courses have gone on to staff the local counselling provision, taking with them an enhanced level of professionalism and depth of understanding gleaned from Mic's erudite and humanitarian teaching.

Student welfare was an issue dear to his heart and he initiated the cross-disciplinary student welfare group. Mic was also active in supporting academic staff in their pastoral duties, recognising - ahead of his time - that an academic career does not automatically qualify someone for such a role or remove their anxieties about it and that trained support can be invaluable.

His energy was and is prodigious, say colleagues. When he was not encouraging his team to undertake new projects, he would be doing so himself, whether liaising with heads of services from other universities, investigating the possibilities of Internet counselling or planning outreach services or support organisations for alumni of the counselling courses.

Even in medical retirement, it is hard to envisage him, doing nothing except cultivating his garden, although the presentation of a statue of Buddha suggests that contemplation could be on the agenda.
Café culture

The Bulletin guide to eating and meeting on campus

Falmer Bar

This is the number-one stopping-off point for those in need of liquid refreshment for the long trek ahead to the bus stop. A revamp followed the Students' Union take-over in summer 2000, turning this traditional pub into something altogether more continental.

Sue Kipling manages together with Tarek Khalil, a Sussex graduate himself. Food is provided by Mellow Munchers, run by Helen Piper and Andrew Freeman. Hellen's 'partner in every sense of the word'. Mellow Munchers also runs swanky bar 'The Saint' on St James' Street in Brighton.

Location
Ground floor of Falmer House.

Ambience
The wooden furniture and spotlighting lend a light and airy feel. On a busy Friday night, though, it packs out and finding a seat can be a pain. However, the back room is often quieter.

Clientele
Just about anyone at lunch. In the evening, expect second and third years taking a break from revision hell and admin staff bolting for the closest watering hole to Sussex House. Because of its location within USSU, clubs and society types are often found indulging in pre- and après-meeting drinks. But be warned: on Wednesday evenings, Sports Fed descends and takes over.

Menu
The portions of tasty pub grub are huge, which means a nice bowl of chips or nachos is good for groups and great for greedy-guts.

Most popular dishes
Paninis (£2.25) and burgers (£4.50), are bestsellers, says Helen, while Sunday lunch is going down a treat at £3.95. In terms of drinks, staff prefer the choice of ales available, currently Harvey's and Horsham Best (both £1.70), while the student vote goes to Kronenbourg (£1.70). New additions include Australia's own VB and Mojo, where lager meets Red Bull. Mmm.

Facilities
Pool tables, games machines and perhaps the biggest beer garden on campus, which seems to stretch all the way to the Library on sunny weekdays. From June webcams will also be included, linked to www.usu.net. Wheelchair users should note that the toilets in Falmer House aren't practical for usage.

Opening hours
Weekdays 11am–11pm, Saturdays closed, Sundays 12 noon–5pm.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

The recent fine weather has really brought on the spring flowers. This time last year we described the various kinds of violets that once again are making their appearance.

Another quite different but particularly prominent member of the spring flora is now in full sail growing along the wood margin between Mill Street and Tenant Lain Belt at the western entrance to campus. This is Alexanders, a tall robust biennial member of the Carrot – or Umbellifer – family with dark, glossy, green divided leaves with large lobes. Unusually for its family, the flowers are yellow rather than white. These attract many short-tongued flies including the Yellow Dung Flies, which often smother fresh cow pats where they lay their eggs. Many Alexanders plants have orange-coloured blisters on the underside of the leaves. These are caused by a rust fungus, Puccinia snyrni.

Alexanders is not native but hails from the Mediterranean and, like so many introductions of obscure provenance, its arrival is usually blamed on the Romans. Certainly it was used widely as a pot-herb and cultivated until well into the 18th century, when it was supplanted by Celery. Its name appears to be a derivation of the medieval petroselinum Alexandrinum or ‘parsley of Alexandria’. It has a rather curious distribution in Britain, growing commonly along hedge banks, roadsides and on cliffs as far north as Norfolk and north Wales but always within about 20 km of the coast. No one yet seems to have come up with a persuasive explanation for this distinctive pattern.

Many butterflies are on the wing. Look out for Orange Tips among the more numerous Small Whites. Only the males have the distinctive orange patches on their front wings. Seen from above, female Orange Tips have white wings with a black tip and a single black spot near the middle. This makes them easy to confuse with Small Whites, especially males (female Small Whites have two faint spots rather than one). They can be readily identified, however, from below: Orange Tips of both sexes have a delicate green motting on their hind wings that camouflages them at rest. Watching one of the unmistakable males is the best way to learn this pattern. Orange Tips lay their eggs on many members of the Cabbage family, especially Garlic Mustard. This pungent plant has flowers with four small white petals and is common in shady hedgerows and along wood edges.

Bird migration is now in full swing and will continue into June. As usual, the first summer visitors detected on and around campus this year were Chiffchaff (11 March) and Blackcap (27 March). Saint George's Day (23 April) produced extraordinary numbers of migrant birds, including two summer visitors more typical of the damp oak woods of western Britain than Sussex: Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler. What will May bring?

Below: Orange Tip butterflies are easy to confuse with Small Whites.
Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861  www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance
Sat 4–Sun 5 May
8pm Yoshi Oida – Interrogations
A theatrical journey into the world of the Zen masters.

Mon 6 May
6pm Mo Mowlam
In conversation with broadcaster and journalist, Simon Fanshawe.

Wed 15–Sat 18 May
7.30pm Ronnie Burckett
Julie Gailer’s personal journey to town and school as a child in southern Scotland.

Until 16 June
Photoworks – It’s Wrong to Wish on Space Hardware
A group exhibition based around space and space travel, including the work of contemporary photographers, archival photographs from NASA and astrophysical images from the 19th century.

Exhibitions
Until 2 June
Photoworks – Bridges

Small ads
FOR SALE: MG Midget 1979, flame-red, convertible. Taxed, MOT, record engine. Reluctant sale £1,750. Email m.c.jones@sussex.ac.uk or tel. 01323 899162.

FOR SALE: Graeco combi pushchair, cover and car seat £90. IKEA baby bath £10. Mothercare telescopic travel stair gate £15. Mothercare wooden stair gate £25. Tel. 474271 or email andyh@cogs.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Red Peugeot 406 Sri, F reg, FSF. £1,000. Tel. Martyn on ext. 2758 or email m.j.steenig@sussex.ac.uk.

URGENTLY WANTED: Friendly host families for visiting Japanese students. 13 Aug–9 Sep or 4–26 Aug. Payment £80 per student p/w for half-board. Contact Linda (ext. 3234) or Alexandra (ext. 7762) in the Sussex Language Institute.


FOR SALE: 1 clotheshorse, ca. 5’x3’x3; £8. 1 kettle (white); £6; 1 study lamp (white); £3; 1 bathroom (green); £2. All in excellent condition. Email lb033@central.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: IBM Thinkpad laptop: 2GB ram, 320GB hard drive, Pentium, 32 MB RAM, floppy drive, Windows 95. Keyboard needs attention. £125 ono. Email sckw20@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SAL: Table-top photocopyer, with storage cupboard underneath, on wheels, regularly serviced, good working order. £300. Ext. 7017 or email v.nicholson@sussex.ac.uk.