V. exciting new volunteer project

More than 55 organisations turned up last week (24 October) for the biggest-ever Volunteers Fair to be held on campus. Organisations as diverse as east Brighton’s ebu regeneration scheme, Travellers volunteer abroad programme and our very own Gardner Arts Centre attended, eager to sign up new students.

The fair was the first to be held under the banner of Project V, the University’s new volunteer initiative. The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) and the Students’ Union jointly bid for funds from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to set up Project V.

The HEFCE funding has been used to appoint a volunteer coordinator, Karen Belton (pictured). Based in the Activities Centre of the Students’ Union, Karen is keen to dispel some of the confusion that exists over volunteering: “Some people seem to think volunteering is all the classic and worthy image of ‘doing a good turn’. In fact a lot of people volunteer and don’t even think of it as volunteering because they’re having too much fun. Project V is about recognising and making available the full breadth of opportunities out there.”

Karen is currently working with CDEC on a website that will match students’ interests to volunteering opportunities. Meanwhile CCE are beginning a course next week entitled ‘Volunteers in the Community’. This will allow volunteers to hone their skills, reflect on their experiences and gain 24 higher education credits.

In the new year Karen plans to open a dedicated Volunteer Bureau: “Hopefully this will be centrally located within the Students’ Union and will allow people to browse opportunities in a relaxing environment.”

But isn’t volunteering these days just an exercise in CV cramming? Karen disagrees: “People get involved in volunteering for loads of reasons. They might want to help out or learn new skills. Just as painting a community centre can be volunteering, so can doing a bit of graphic design or marketing for a society or charity. Through this people can bolster their CV while doing some really important work.”

Karen is keen the high profile of Project V should be used to funnel students into both on- and off-campus opportunities: “I’m working very closely with Vicky Ornellas, the Club and Societies Coordinator, to make sure we can promote the benefits of volunteering within the Students’ Union. However, I’m also getting together with groups in town so there is the widest possible choice out there.”

Volunteering isn’t something new to Karen. In the past she has been involved with a variety of community organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Hindu Women and Elders Society, and Cherish, a youth club for people with learning difficulties: “Volunteering for me has been great in terms of experience and confidence. I really do believe in giving something back and I saw the role here as a good opportunity to raise the profile of volunteering.”

New Welsh Secretary is University of Sussex graduate

Peter Hain MP has become the first Sussex graduate to enter the Cabinet. He was appointed Secretary of State for Wales in the recent government reshuffle. Peter Hain first rose to prominence as part of the anti-apartheid movement’s high-profile protest against the South African rugby tour in 1970. He completed an MPhil in Politics at Sussex in 1980. His younger son is also a Sussex graduate.

Elected MP for Neath, south Wales, in April 1991, Mr Hain was a foreign affairs whip between 1995 and 1997 and shadow employment minister from 1998 to 1997. After the 1997 election, he joined the Welsh Office before going on to the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry. Mr Hain became minister for Europe after Labour’s election victory in 2001 and he will continue his work on the future of the European Union in his new post.

Peter Hain is one of 12 Sussex graduates who are MPs. The others are Tony Baldry (Banbury), Hilary Benn (Leeds Central), Roger Berry (Kingswood), Peter Bradley (The Wrekin), Ben Bradshaw (Exeter), Michael Fabricant (Lichfield), Andrew George (St Ives), David Lepper (Brighton Pavilion), Dan Norris (Wansdyke), Chris Pend (Gravesham) and Martin Salter (Reading West).
Conference discusses vehicles of the future

Following in the tyre tracks of the first Total Vehicle Technology (TVT) conference last year, car designers, manufacturers, developers and academics will meet on campus again this month for TVT 2002.

Keynote speakers from DaimlerChrysler, Fiat-General Motors and BMW will address topics such as the future shape of the passenger car and emerging propulsion technologies. Other issues under discussion will include recent developments in hybrid vehicle design, and control and software systems in cars of the future.

Debates on whether cars are fashion accessories and where tomorrow’s automotive engineers will come from will also be held.

The conference is supported by the Automobile Division Southern Centre of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and draws on the links between the University and local engineering companies such as Shoreham-based Ricardo and TWR in Worthing (whose new 3Pv car is pictured above).

Nick Owen, technology manager at Ricardo, told the Argus, “This is a diverse conference covering a whole range of new technology and a fantastic opportunity to see what people are doing.”

Sensor brainwave to read our minds

Sussex scientists have developed a remarkable sensor that can record brainwaves without the need for electrodes to be inserted into the brain or even for them to be placed on the scalp.

Conventional electroencephalograms (EEGs) monitor electrical activity in the brain with electrodes placed either on the scalp (involving hair removal and skin abrasion) or inserted directly into the brain with needles.

Now a non-invasive form of EEG has been devised by Professor Terry Clark and his colleagues Dr Christopher Harland and Dr Robert France in the Centre for Physical Electronics.

Instead of measuring charge flow through an electrode (with attendant distortions, in the case of scalp electrodes) the new system measures electric fields remotely. An advance made possible by new developments in sensor technology, Terry says: “It’s a new age as far as sensing the electrical dynamics of the body is concerned.”

The Sussex researchers believe their new sensor will instigate major advances in the collection and display of electrical information from the brain, especially in the study of drowsiness and the human-machine interface.

“First possibilities for the future are boundless,” says Terry. “The advantages offered by these sensors compared with the currently used contact electrodes may act to stimulate new developments in multichannel EEG monitoring and in real-time electrical imaging of the brain.”

By picking up brain signals non-invasively, we could find ourselves controlling machinery with our thoughts alone: a marriage of mind and machine.

The same group of scientists has already made remote-sensing ECG units as well, which can detect heartbeats with no connections.

Workshop on communicating and learning through digital technology

The Human Centred Technology research group recently ran a workshop on campus for PhD students from around the country working in this subject area.

The workshops have been held annually since 1997 and this year’s focused on ‘Communicating and Learning Through Digital Technology’.

“A special feature of the event was that it was organized entirely by research students and postdocs and so formed a very valuable part of their research training,” said Professor Benedict du Boulay. See www.cos.susx.ac.uk/lab/ict/hctw/2002for details.

Research funding opportunities

More details of these and other research opportunities are available from the Research Services Division (RSD). Please contact your Research Support Officer for more information. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see COS at www.cos.com.

Wellcome Trust Society Awards
To support academic research or large-scale activities that make a significant impact on public engagement with science. Three themes: young people’s education; broadening access; and the arts. Projects are funded for up to three years and can include workshops, public talks and art projects. Deadline: 1 December

Royal Society/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships
Seven awards are available to relieve academics of all their teaching and admin duties. Awards can be between one term and one year, starting from 1 October 2003. Funding will cover costs of a full-time replacement and up to £2,500 for the fellow’s research expenses. Deadline: 6 December

Royal Society University Research Fellowships
Applications are invited for approx. 45 one-year fellowships. Applicants must have a PhD and 2-7 years’ postdoc experience by 1 October 2003. Funding covers salary costs and research expenses of up to £13k in the first year and £17k thereafter. Open to EU nationals – some restrictions. Deadline: 10 January

ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships
Fifty awards to fund new social science researchers for one year. Applicants must have completed their doctorate within two years from the beginning of the award or expect to do so by 1 October 2003. Funding covers the fellow’s salary costs and approx. £1,400 for research expenses. Deadline: 17 January

EPSRC Advanced Fellowships
Up to 40 awards for outstanding young researchers with 3-10 years of postdoctoral experience. Fellows are expected to devote themselves to full-time research for up to 5 years. Funding covers salary costs and £24k p.a. support fund. Grants also available for project costs. Deadline: 24 January
The government had promised to produce a long-awaited 'strategy paper' on higher education before the end of November. When it appears, this will be the next stage of a national debate on student funding and the funding of higher education which was launched at the Labour Party conference in September 2001 by the Prime Minister.

Inevitably, there is press speculation about the likely contents of the strategy paper, particularly focused on tuition fees. Some speculation is clearly wrong: it would be legally impossible for the government to identify a number of 'elite' universities who would be permitted to charge higher fees than the rest. But there is no doubt that some form of fee deregulation is under serious discussion – the Minister for Higher Education, Margaret Hodge, has confirmed this.

An ideal outcome would be public funding for an expanded higher education system at a level that is competitive with the highest international standards. But it is unrealistic to expect the required resources to be provided entirely by the taxpayer. Graduates on average earn substantially more than non-graduates, so there is a moral as well as a political case for part of the cost of higher education being paid by the individual who benefits. The central questions are how best to organise this and how to balance public and private contributions.

A 'graduate tax' has superficial attractions – there would be no 'up-front' cost to students, and the post-graduation contributions would be dependent on income. But a graduate tax is still a tax, whose proceeds would take time to build up, and would accrue to the Treasury in the first instance. Additional funding for universities would remain subject to the vagaries of politics.

Deregulation of fees is the better way to channel additional income to universities, because it links the payment with the individual student's experience. With an expanded student loan scheme, the payments would actually be made after graduation and can be made income-contingent.

The biggest danger of fee deregulation is that it would worsen the already shameful social class bias in our higher education system, by raising the financial barriers to students from poorer backgrounds entering the best universities. Deregulation of fees, if it comes, must be accompanied by serious measures to address the issue of access: the restoration of maintenance grants and the creation of fee bursaries for students from poorer families.

Universities have been subject now to a prolonged period of uncertainty about the government's strategy for higher education. It is intolerable that the appointment of a new Secretary of State has led to a further period of indecision. This country is well served by its universities, and the universities have earned the right to expect some political courage and decisiveness.

Finally, we need to think hard about the implications for the University of Sussex of the deregulation of fees. The world in which we operate will become even more competitive. I certainly don't want to make Sussex socially exclusive, but we must continue our current efforts to make the University even more attractive to potential students, so that we are strong enough to control our own destiny in the new world.

Changing the way we work

Helen Bonnicky
Deputy Director of Human Resources

I can confirm that the pay award for this year has now been settled at an average of 3.5 per cent. The common settlement date for most staff is 1 August and Payroll staff have been working hard to ensure any arrears due were also paid in October's salaries.

The higher education sector is moving closer to a pay system designed around a single pay spine. Basically, this takes the existing hundreds of pay points currently contained within a number of national scales for all higher education staff and reduces them to 92. Work has started within the University to look at how a single pay spine can be achieved. This is a key milestone in ensuring all staff are paid fairly and equitably for the work they do.

But that's not all that's happening on pay and grading: here's the rest of the action plan for this academic year.

Audit of salaries across local employers

In conjunction with assessing our pay rates within the HE environment, we will also be undertaking a review of salaries of other local employers to see how we compare with them, and will use this information to inform our approach to recruitment and retention issues.

Equal pay audit

We will be carrying out an equal pay audit to identify any gender bias in the current pay systems, to ensure it is not carried forward to the new system. One of the driving forces for the move to a single pay spine within the HE sector has been concerns over the equality of pay rates between groups of staff: for example, how the role of a cook can be compared with the role of an electrician.

Job evaluation

Job evaluation is a way of describing, comparing and hence 3 grading jobs, using a rational framework of factors and criteria. A number of products can perform this exercise and we are assessing the best system for the University to use. We have carried out a small pilot of a job evaluation system and will now consider extending it to other parts of the University; having reviewed the results, we will be in a position to decide what product will best suit the University's needs.

Promotion and regrading processes for part-time staff

Over the years many of the processes used to address promotions, re-gradings and performance payments have not necessarily considered issues relating to part-time staff. It is our intention to look at these processes and ensure they are in line with good HR practice, develop more helpful criteria and – where possible – streamline them.

We will be working with groups of staff, trade unions and formal committees on these areas, and further information will appear in the Bulletin as it is available.

The fuller picture and how these issues fit in with other HR initiatives are outlined in the HR Strategy: see www.sussex.ac.uk/ Units/staffing/hrstrategy/hrstrategy2.
It's not just students who are freshers

It's been a month since the summer-time serenity of Sussex was smashed by a slew of students and it's starting to feel all very normal again. However, back in October, it wasn't just students who were freshers. Alongside them a number of new staff began their time here as well. The Bulletin spoke to a few of the new clutch of academics to ask them what they thought of their new surroundings.

As for Brighton - well it's notorious, ain't it? I've heard most from Private Eye, who go on about how the council keeps trying to project this image of itself. I think it's charming, though. One way Brighton has fulfilled my expectations is how ridiculously expensive it is - so much so, I actually live in Eastbourne.

"I specialise in the work of Mauricio Kagel, an Argentinean-German composer of contemporary music. While at Sussex I aim to do some good work and live a happy life. What else could you wish for?"

Dr Roland Marden (above) is a Lecturer in American Studies whose specialisation is how the concept of rights was assimilated into popular discourse in 18th-century America.

"I actually attended Sussex as an undergraduate in the late '80s, reading American Studies. I really enjoyed myself so I grabbed the opportunity to return to campus and to Brighton itself. I have loads of fond memories of the department and it is a pleasure to have my old tutors as colleagues now.

"This is my first real academic job since finishing my PhD in Political Science at City University in New York. Hopefully my current position will lead onto other opportunities."

"This year I'll be teaching a range of courses in American Social Studies, financially enough exactly what I did my degree in!"

Dr Bjorn Heile (below) moved to Sussex from Southampton University. Born in Berlin, he studied there and at Exeter. He will be lecturing in music in CSS.

"I really didn't know much about Sussex before I came here. In fact it's only since I've been here that I've learnt it was one of the 'radical' universities in the hippy era.

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Dear Bulletin

It was nice to see that the Bulletin (6 September) highlighted our big experiment on the Vega/Sussex engineering/NESTA outreach workshop.

However, it was really a long way from a single-handed exercise and the project required much more help than any other with which I have been involved.

The tremendous efforts made by Phil Watten and his colleagues in EIT and Gill Watson of the Vega Science Trust, not to mention Jonathan Hare (who was co-presenter), need to be acknowledged. Furthermore there was much behind-the-scenes back-up by engineers and teachers in Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leicester and London as well as organisers from NESTA.

Professor Sir Harry Kroto, CPES

Dear Bulletin

Now that WeightWatchers are successfully running two lunchtime sessions on Tuesdays in the Meeting House (thanks to Teresa Davis), may I applaud the initiative taken by the catering staff in IDS in offering a couple of ‘healthy eating’ dishes that clearly indicate the number of WeightWatchers points per portion, thus enabling those following WW to ‘eat out’.

So come on, all you ‘cateries’ on campus, consider the gauntlet thrown down and follow IDS’s excellent example!

Jenny Money
Sussex Centre for Migration Research

Underpass update

So far, so good! Work on a new subway under the A27 is currently on schedule. There are now two very large holes in the ground, each of which contains one partially built half of the new underpass. On police advice, the contractor has closed Falmer House Road for the duration of this phase of the work (which is scheduled to last until 8 December). Throughout the works, information will be updated as necessary at www.sussex.ac.uk/transport.

Geography

Although normally known for studying painfully slow geographical processes, the Geography subject group has moved with un-glacier-like speed to produce the first of the new Arts websites to go online.

“There were a great deal of inconsistencies between School and departmental websites,” explains Richard Tammar from the Web Team. “What was being said in one place didn’t necessarily match up with what was being said in another.”

With the new Arts curriculum for 2003 involving more combinations of subjects than before, it is even more important that information on the web is consistent.

“There were also problems for people trying to publish information because the task of producing web pages is quite technical and it was all very ad hoc,” says Richard.

In April, an awayday to Lewes brought together subject group co-ordinators and subject group chairs across the Arts in order to discuss what they needed from their websites and how to solve the existing problems.

One result of the awayday was the formation of the Arts Website Working Group: Richard Tammar from the Web Team, Paul Allpress from the Academic Computing Unit, Elaine Saunders and Jeremy Lane from Humanities and Mike Barrow and Martin Wingfield from Social Science & Cultural Studies.

This group agreed the common architecture and ‘look and feel’ of the new websites. All the sites have the same menu tabs at the top, such as ‘news and events’, but there is also space for customisable information that may apply only to some subjects.

“We developed a web-based content management system which means that people no longer need to know about html or ftp to publish on their website,” says Richard.

Training has been provided on how to use the new system, which has been available since September for the development of the new websites.

“It’s a very good system,” says Martin Wingfield, who is responsible for the Geography web pages. “I used to spend time converting text into html but now I can just cut and paste into the new system. So it now takes me about a quarter of the time than it did before to put a faculty profile on the web, for example.”

The new Geography website can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/geography. The web pages for the remaining 13 Arts subject groups will go online as they are finished before Christmas.
Large group teaching conference

Approaches to large-group teaching will be discussed at the Learning and Teaching Conference on 6 November organised by the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU).

The conference will include a keynote address from Professor Graham Gibbs, Director of Research at the Centre for Higher Education Practice at the Open University, on ‘Improving student learning in large classes: Evidence and effective strategies’.

Three parallel sessions include ‘Teaching and student diversity’ with Jane Hoy from Birkbeck College, ‘Large group teaching for independent student learning’ with Neil Thew from TLDU and ‘Managing on-line learning’ with Stephen Brown from TechLearn.

A number of TLDU-funded projects will be showcasing their work in the form of a poster display.

For more information about the conference, which runs from 1–6pm on 6 November in Bramer House, contact Linda France in TLDU on ext. 8714 or email L.France@sussex.ac.uk.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 6 Nov

Secretary, USIE (ref 468)  
Apply by 15 Nov

Data Management Assistant, CCE (ref 500)  
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer to lead the PGCE, USIE (ref 495)

Small ads

FOR SALE: Gent’s Claud Butler Action Sport bike, 700c (27”) wheels, 18 speed, rear child carrier: £50. Lady’s Apollo Riviera bike, 700c (27”) wheels, 8 speed: £25. Twin side-by-side buggy with fitted shopping baskets. Strong but folds easily: £50. Email J.K.Welling@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 7299.

WANTED: Lunchtime swimmer seeks lifts to Lewes Leisure Centre. Tel. 7299 or email J.K.Welling@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Large selection of psychology textbooks. Tel. 248020 or email bcuro@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Furnished room in owner’s house near Fiveways. Suit staff/PG/mature student. Must like cats. £250 pcm + bills. Call Jan on 33023, email janet_tusono@hotmail.com

Obituaries

Nigel Stannard

Nigel Stannard, former artistic director of the Gardner Arts Centre, died of cancer in the Martlets Hospice, Horsham on 19 October. He was 67.

Coming from a London theatre background, Nigel was appointed to the Gardner Centre in 1973. One of his first successes as artistic director was the establishment of the Centre’s Christmas show, rejecting ‘smutty’ pantomime and instead targeting each show directly at the children for whom it was intended. The first show in 1973, ‘Winnie The Pooh’, was a sell-out, starting a tradition that continues to this day.

Nigel’s artistic connections guaranteed for Sussex audiences a strong and exciting programme of theatre, dance, drama, opera, concerts and art exhibitions. The major touring companies of the day visited the Centre time and again, theatre impresarios staged new productions there before they went on to London; and Cameron Mackintosh started many of his earliest shows there.

Nigel also encouraged the best in amateur theatre, staging memorable performances by New Sussex Opera and recruiting the finest directing talents to work with university students, including Kenny McMan, who originated the ‘Inspector Morse’ TV series.

In the early 1980s Tory cuts in the education budget threatened the Centre with closure and Nigel led the campaign to save it. Such was the Centre’s artistic reputation at the time that stars from around the world wrote to the Argus to express their concern. Eventually, the Centre was saved from closure and a new company, Gardner Arts Centre Ltd, was formed to run it.

Nigel departed for the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton in 1985, leaving the Gardner Arts Centre as one of the few art centres in the country whose financial accounts were in the black. Three years later, he retired to live in Spain.

Robin Street 
(Gardner Arts Centre house manager, 1973–1988)

3,000 visit open day

"We expected about 1,500 people to turn up. In the end more than 3,000 did!” says Tanya Shadrick on one of the most successful open days Sussex has ever held.

The open day, on 19 October, is one of two held yearly. The October day is a fairly new initiative and is designed for Year 13 students making last-minute decisions before they have to complete their UCAS forms.

"It can be fairly intense," remarks Tanya, Head of Schools Liaison. "Unlike the summer open day, where everyone is just getting a feel for university, at this one they've all got really specific questions and detailed queries about everything!"

Over 100 academics and student helpers were present to give an insight on courses and university life. Meanwhile, more than 3,000 people were shown around ten rooms to get an idea of housing provision.

Talks were also busy, with Psychology filling the Chichester Lecture Theatre. "Andy Field said to me that next year it might be an idea to book the Brighton Centre for the Psychology talk!" taunted Tanya.

TO LET: Furnished room in owner’s house near Fiveways. Suit staff/PG/mature student. Must like cats. £250 pcm + bills. Call Jan on 33023, email janet_tusono@hotmail.com

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WANTED: Lunchtime swimmer seeks lifts to Lewes Leisure Centre. Tel. 7299 or email J.K.Welling@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: People with spide or snake phobias, for experimental psychology research. Ext. 2953 or email B.S.Thompson@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Furnished 3-bed house in Lewes for mid-Dec–Jan (longer if needed), Garage and front/back garden. £180 p/w. Email czechdays@totalise.co.uk or call 474338 after 2pm.

FOR SALE: Diving gear. Women’s semi-dry suit (5th 8”) £15, boots size 5-6 £7, Tusa fins £10, small gloves £7, weight belt and 3 weights £10, canvas Typhoon bag £5, BCD (old style) £35. Ext. 7435 or email ogef@central.sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Green BSA 3-speed lady’s bicycle, £20. White exercise bicycle with speedo and timer, £20. Tel. 480775 (Lewes).

WANTED: Dedicated drummer for 6-piece ‘Blue Wave’ band with original songs, for imminent gigs and recording. To audition, contact Cath on C.J.Hughes@sussex.ac.uk or Andy on 07979 853579.

FOR SALE: White Ford Fiesta 1.1, K reg. 49,000 miles, two owners, MoT to June, £890 ono. Contact Fiona on 01903 831427 (eves) or Wendy on ext. 2841, email w.doyfels@sussex.ac.uk.

MASSAGE CLINIC: Indian head massage, back massage, Reiki II and sports injury massage available every Fri during term-time, 11am-3pm, in Falmer House. £8 students, £10 staff. To book, contact Students’ Union reception, ext. 8152. 
STARS scheme re-launched

The Student Academic Representatives Scheme (STARS) is to be re-launched by the Students' Union in order to increase its profile across campus.

Undergraduate and postgraduate STARS sit on all School committees and attend subject group meetings, giving a student perspective on academic matters. Since the scheme was launched in 1999, hundreds of students have become reps and have been involved in major decisions including the Schools restructuring and curriculum changes.

Nik Goldberg, Students' Union (USSU) Education Officer, undertook a review of the scheme and concluded that although STARS was effective in providing students with an academic voice, it lacked some support functions from the University and the USSU.

He also found that there was a lack of accessible information about the scheme. "One way we've decided to counter this is to launch a STARS website. This will allow students to find out who their STARS rep is, read reports on their work and access academic issues. The site will also include a message board and allow online voting," says Nik.

He has already held a successful profile-raising event: a 'Stars in their Eyes' song contest in East Slope bar on 24 October. "It was packed to the rafters," says a jubilant Nik.

Students were due to elect their STARS reps for 2002/03 by 31 October to fill 260 available places. The reps will go on a special training course, acquainting them with the academic structures at Sussex. Even if the posts are not all filled, new reps can join at any time in the year.

All reps can earn academic credits for their work through the new project V scheme, while two lead reps also sit on USSU's Executive Committee and report on academic issues.

Nik concludes: "This scheme is important because not only does it give students an input on their courses, it also means the Schools and Students' Union have a vital direct line of communication on University and external issues in higher education."

USSU funding

The state of the Students' Union finances has recently come under close scrutiny, with articles appearing in the THES and Badger and on the Guardian Education website. The Guardian's headline, 'Sussex student union facing liquidation', in particular may have caused some concern among students and staff.

A detailed look at the figures shows that the USSU's funding comes from several sources and that the problems lie with the variable contribution from commercial activities.

USSU received a block grant of £470,000 for the year 2001-02 from the University and has also in the past been supported by revenue from Sussex University Students' Union Services (SUSUS) Ltd, a subsidiary company that runs a number of the campus bars and shops.

SUSUS' contribution to USSU was £158,554 in 1999-2000 and £151,887 in 1998-1999. However,

following its acquisition of the newsagent in Brambre House and Falmer Bar/Hothouse, SUSUS' profits fell in the year 2000-01. As a result SUSUS made no contribution to USSU in that year and USSU consequently had a deficit of £16,000 in the year ending 2001.

Provisional figures for USSU finances for the year ending 31 July 2002 show a deficit of £96,000.

At a meeting between USSU sabbatical officers and senior University managers on 21 October, all parties recognised that there is both a short-term funding problem for the coming year and a longer-term structural funding problem.

As a first step to tackling the short-term problem, it was agreed that the University will take over the childcare provision currently offered by USSU.

The possibility of arranging a joint emergency funding package is currently under discussion.

In brief

New Director of Estates and Facilities Management

David Kirkwood, currently Director of Estates at Bournemouth University, has been appointed as Director of Estates and Facilities Management to replace Tony Middleton. David will take up his post either on 1 January or 1 February 2003, dependent on his discussions with his current employer. In the meantime, William Salder, Head of the Projects Section, is Acting Director.

Staff Xmas discount shopping night at Boots

University staff can take advantage of a 10 per cent discount at Boots on the following Thursday evenings from 6-9pm: 7 November, 28 November and 5 December. Invitations are available from the Personnel Office.

Participants wanted for hearing study

A Sussex experimental psychologist is running a study on pitch perception and needs some hard-of-hearing participants. The experiment, which involves listening to sounds played over headphones, is done in one-to two-hour blocks and could take up to 15 hours. Participants are paid £5 per hour. Contact Dr Louise White, tel. 07950 263377 or email louise@biols.susx.ac.uk.

How to get here

A new leaflet with information about how to get to Sussex is now available. The leaflet includes updated maps of the campus and the surrounding area, as well as information on the various travel options available to visitors. Contact Will Barker in the Print Unit on ext. 8216 to order copies.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 4 Nov

1.00pm Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar: Martin Yeomans (Sussex). How does palpability modulate cues associated with satiation and satiety? EP Seminar Room, BiolOCS.

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research in Progress Seminar: Martin Shaw (Sussex). Risk-transfer militarism and the historic illegitimacy of war. Arts C219.

5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Will Pilfold (Sussex).

Tue 5 Nov
2.15pm Sussex European Institute Research in Progress Seminar: Gisela Stuart MP. The EU's convention: A view from the presidium. Arts A71.

4.15pm Anthropology Postgraduate/Faculty Seminar: Charles Stewart (Sussex). Millenarian dreams in a Greek mountain village. C233.


5.00pm CeilCom Research Seminar in Media & Cultural Studies: Kate O'Riordan (Sussex). Mediated identities and the ethics of internet research. Arts C219.

5.00pm American Studies Seminar: Vivien Miller (Middlessex). title TBA. Arts A71

Wed 6 Nov
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Mark Schneider (International Crisis Group). The political economy of international conflict. IDS C21.

2.15pm Anthropology Postgraduate/Faculty Seminar: Karol Swernson. Solar influence on Climate. PEV1-2A12.

5.00pm History Work in Progress Seminar: Peter Read (Australia National University). Incorporating the incorporeal - how do we allow ghosts into our histories? Arts A155.

Fri 8 Nov
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Ursula Huws (Analytica). The commodification process in understanding technological change. EDB 121.

4.30pm Philosophy Society: Murali Ramachandran (Sussex). "Is, Arts A155.

Mon 11 Nov

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research in Progress Seminar: Stuart Paterson (Keele). Shutt up and shop: Consumerism, ecology and international political economy. Arts C219.

5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: John Parry (Sussex). Places to think with: Developing children's thinking through multisensory in the context of local wildlife areas. Arts D710.


Thu 14 Nov
12.00pm History Work in Progress Seminar: John Gurney (Historical Manuscripts Commission). title TBA. Arts A155.


Fri 15 Nov
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Jennifer Whyte (Sussex). Innovation and users: Virtual reality in the construction sector. EDB 121.


Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 655861
www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Mon 4 Nov
8pm Kimmio Pohnjene and the Tapilola Sinfonietta
One of Europe's most compelling live performers with Finland's most adventurous chamber orchestra. Extraordinary soundscapes are created through improvisation and dramatic use of live loops and sampling.

Thu 7 Nov
8pm Dr Phil Hammond - 80 Minutes to Save the NHS!
Dr Phil (Struck Off and Die, Private Eye, Trust Me I'm a Doctor) and his irreverent health revolution.

Fri 8 Sat - 9 Nov
8pm Theatre O - The Argument: A Family Portrait
Building on their unique and exciting performance style, Theatre O uses the extremes of comedy, tragedy, music, physicality and language to compose a picture of the known and the unknown within all of us. Save £2 by presenting your Bulletin to the box office: 2 pairs of tickets to grab.

Sun 3 Nov
5pm Stuart Little 2 (U) 8pm Shigih Sui De Dan Che (Beijing Bicycle) (PG)

Wed 6 Nov
5pm Pather Panchali (U)

Sun 10 Nov
5pm Dogtown and the Z-Boys (15) 8pm Lantana

Mon 11 Nov
8pm Eight Legged Freaks (12)

Exhibitions

Until Sun 24 Nov
David Williams - Machines That Make Art
Inspired by this year's 100th anniversary of Mecanno.


4.00pm Centre for Southern African Studies Seminar: Penele (Sussex). Building capacity for community economic development: The case study of the Kat River valley. Arts C162.

4.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Alison Douglas. Whose life was that of Mary Monaghan? The elusive lives of the Irish Chartier school children. Arts D300.

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Richmond and Takwo (Sussex). Return migration and socio-economic changes in West Africa: Is family the weakest link? Arts D310.

Thu 14 Nov
12.00pm History Work in Progress Seminar: John Gurney (Historical Manuscripts Commission). title TBA. Arts A155.


3.00pm History of Art Research Seminar: Saloni Mathur (UCLA). The Indian village in Victorian space. Arts A2.

Bulletin
The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Peter Simmons and Benedict Brook. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 15 November, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 8 November. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.