Unique Sussex archives brought to life

The unique archives and collections held in the University Library are brought vividly to life in a highly illustrated book launched yesterday.

The collections featured in Poets and Polymaths range from the Bloomsbury archives, including the papers of Virginia and Leonard Woolf, to the New Statesman archives, the Rudyard Kipling papers and the Frank Muir and Denis Norden collection of radio scripts.

The Library also holds the Mass-Observation Archive, a unique sample of public opinion and experience spanning 1937 to the mid-1950s and from 1981 to the present day.

"The collections offer glimpses into the life stories of real people, from the most junior diarist writing for Mass-Observation to the most eminent literary figures," says Dorothy Sheridan, head of special collections. "Our aim is to present these collections in a creative and interesting way to enhance and inspire academic research use."

"I have tried to usher the personalities behind these special collections to the fore," adds Neil Parkinson, who compiled and edited the book.

Many of the collections owe their location at Sussex to Lord Asa Briggs, who was Vice-Chancellor from 1967 to 1976. "Historians depend on archives, written and oral, and how to interpret them is one of their major tasks," says Lord Briggs in his foreword to the book. "I like to feel that scholars, young and old, will continue to come to Sussex because it is a very special place on the historical map."

Visitors to the Library come from all over the world, with the Bloomsbury collections of particular interest to visitors from North America and Europe and the Kipling papers to those from the Indian subcontinent.

The production of Poets and Polymaths was funded by a Research Support Libraries Programme award.

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Red paint at Brighton's Balliol

Returning to campus brought back many memories for former ITN 'News at Ten' anchor Julia Somerville, who gave a talk on Tuesday (12 November) about her years at Sussex. "It's very exciting, touching and moving to be back here again," she enthused.

Julia came to study English in EAM in 1986, just five years after the University opened. "It married the merits of the Oxbridge system of small tutorials with the American idea of a campus university. It was actually nicknamed 'Balliol-by-Sea'. Sussex embodied everything that was new and modern; and I loved the idea of contextual studies.

"But in reality I came because I saw a picture of the terribly glamorous Jay twins in Honey magazine with their long hair, short skirts and Sussex scarves. After that I never looked anywhere else." Julia experienced a political awakening at Sussex, where the students protested about events in Rhodesia, South Africa and Vietnam. She remembers an incident when the American ambassador to Vietnam visited Sussex:

"Suddenly this tinfil of red paint goes flying towards the ambassador, misses him and hits his attaché! No one knew who it was but then I realised that my friend I'd seen earlier - with what I thought was a very fashionable stocking over her face - was obviously the perpetrator."

Julia also mused on the many famous bands that appeared in Falmer House during her time, including Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix and Cream: "They just played right there in front of us with no much stage or lights. It was informal, not like today."

Demonstrating and partying seemed to feature more strongly than studying, and Julia recounted a particularly embarrassing incident inside the Arts Lecture Theatre: "I fell asleep during the middle of one lecture and when I woke up I was completely alone and it was pitch black! I'd fallen asleep for three hours and my friends had just left me!"

Since graduating in 1986, Julia had been back once before, ten years ago. "I was touched when I came back to campus how the spirit of Basil Spence lives on. Buildings have been added but with a very sympathetic hand. I think those here now should appreciate how this mixture of green Downs, red brick and concrete is unique."
New £2.5 million research centre into migration, globalisation and poverty

whether internal or international, can also represent an important route out of poverty.

The centre will investigate the potential for migration to reduce poverty, for example the potential uses of money sent abroad by migrants working abroad, known as the remittance economy.

"When you have a global remittances at around 100 billion US dollars per year, there surely is potential for a beneficial impact," argues Richard.

Taking neither a pro- nor anti-migration position, the centre will also aim to provide useful information to potential migrants.

"The aim is not to stimulate migration but to influence policy that is relevant to migration in a way that maximises the benefit of migration to the poorest, and to protect the poor from negative consequences of migration," says Richard.

"One of the things we're interested in doing is developing a safe migration handbook that would be aimed at poor migrants to give them better information. We'll also be looking at how people weigh up destinations, particularly internal versus international migration."

The new centre will draw on partnerships with academics at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, the University of Ghana, the American University in Cairo and the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Tirana, Albania.

Stressed bacteria provide possible key to TB

Bert Jones
Biochemistry with Management 1999-2002

Microbes, like humans, suffer from stress. In their case this is due mainly to shortage of food and competition with neighbours. While tough on them perhaps, microbial stress is important to us, says Dr Mark Paget of BIOLS, because stressed microbes produce antibiotics, which help them to deal with competitors and which we can use for our benefit.

Streptomycins, our first 'magic bullet' against TB, is a product of Streptomyces bacteria; Rifampicin, another Streptomyces product, is still in the front line. Streptomycyes bacteria produce more than half the world's 10,000 antibiotics and several potent anti-cancer drugs.

Knowledge of the ways in which they react to stress can help us to make even more useful drugs.

Mark and his co-workers are using Streptomyces as a convenient model to study bacterial stress in general. Harmful bacteria also suffer from stress, and an understanding of the mechanisms involved should help us to combat these disease agents more effectively: Streptomyces is closely related to its 'bad cousin' Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which causes TB.

Fifty years ago, with the discovery of Streptomycin and the other antibiotics that followed, the TB problem seemed to have been solved. But drug resistance has systematically blunted our magic bullets. Once again, TB is a major scourge of mankind.

Approximately one-third of the world's population is infected; fortunately, most do not develop the disease, but each year there are about 10 million new active cases and about 3 million deaths from TB.

The BIOLS researchers have discovered a system in Streptomyces that can stimulate genes in the bacteria to produce more antibiotics. This involves a protein called SigR, which plays a part in switching on more than 30 genes in response to stress. As yet, the function of most of the genes is unknown, but at least one of them (-rclA) plays a key role in controlling the biosynthesis of a small signalling molecule called 'magic spot', which is necessary for antibiotic production.

It is significant that this SigR regulatory system also occurs in TB bacteria and is crucial in the process that causes disease. An important consequence of this research will be a greater understanding of the way in which these bacteria respond to stress while infecting humans.

"Streptomycines have provided antibiotics that have saved millions of lives," says Mark.

"Now they are helping us to unravel the workings of a notorious pathogen."

Research funding opportunities

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

AHRB Resource Enhancement
The purpose of the scheme is to support projects that are designed to enhance access to and the availability of research materials and resources of key importance to the arts and humanities. Funding is up to £300,000 over a period of three years.

Deadline: 29 November

BBSRC Fellowships
Five-year David Phillips Fellowships are for those with no more than five and a half years postdoc experience; three-year Research Development Fellowships are for new staff who wish to devote themselves to full-time research; and five-year Professorial Fellowships are for those at the height of their research career.

Deadline: 30 November

EPSRC, ESRC & NERC transdisciplinary Research Seminars
The objective of this scheme is to support the development of research across social and physical sciences. Groups should meet at least three times per year to exchange information and ideas with the aim of advancing research within their fields.

Deadline: 10 January

EPSRC Visiting Fellowships
This scheme enables scientists or engineers of acknowledged standing from within the UK or abroad to visit the proposer's institution to give advice and assistance. Support is provided for salary and travel and subsistence.

Funding is limited to 12 months per individual.

Deadline: No deadline

Leverhulme Trust Academic Networks
Aims to develop fields of research where the participants can benefit from an international exchange of ideas. It is expected that the outcome of a grant will be the creation or development of an effective research network.

No deadline
Letters

Dear Bulletin

The Vice Chancellor notes (Bulletin 1 November) that, on average, graduates earn more than non-graduates, and claims this gives a moral case that students should pay fees.

I observe that women live, on average, much longer than men, and make greater use of the National Health Service, so the same moral case indicates that women's National Insurance contributions should be higher than men's.

— Or is it not more persuasive to say that society as a whole benefits from the higher education undertaken by individuals and that, if higher education does lead to higher earnings, a progressive income tax system would bring suitable equity?

Dr John Haigh, SMS

Library's disaster planning seminar

A seminar in the Library last week (6 November) on disaster planning for academic libraries brought together delegates from all over the UK and Ireland with experts who provided practical advice about how to cope.

"The library community in the UK is becoming more aware of the need for systematic disaster planning," said Librarian Debbie Shorey. "The recent floods in eastern Europe, not to mention what happened in Lewes a couple of years ago, show us all how quickly irreplaceable material can be lost."

In October 2000, the river Ouse burst its banks during exceptionally high rainfall and a store kept by the Library in Lewes was seriously flooded. Approximately 40,000 items of little-used material held in the store were under water for several days and the salvage operation could not begin until over a week later.

Careful disaster planning helped ensure that the most precious material was salvaged first. Everything else was packed on pallets and sent to cold storage.

The Library subsequently received compensation through the University's insurance cover. Planning is now underway on how best to use the compensation for the future.

Copyright? Copy it right

The University has signed a new licence agreement with the Copyright Licensing Agency. This covers the copying of printed material.

One important change from the previous licence is that the provisions concerning study packs have been revised. The University is no longer required to obtain clearance from the publishers through the CLARCS scheme for each study pack and the cost of study packs is now covered under the basic licence fee.

However, there are still limits on the quantity of material that can be copied and the number of copies that can be made; and some material remains outside the scope of the licence.

For details of the new licence, see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/secretariat/copyright/index.shtml. The 'Fair Dealing' provisions of the Copyright Act still apply, and information about these is available at the same URL.

In addition to the Copyright Licensing Agency licence, the University also holds licences from the Educational Recording Agency, the Open University, the Newspaper Licensing Agency, the Design and Artists Copyright Society and the Ordnance Survey.

If you have a query on any of these licences, contact John Gaunt on ext. 8427 or email j.c.gaunt@sussex.ac.uk.

August start for parking charges

Linda Newman
Transport Manager

Car-park charging

Implementation of the new car-park strategy, including charges for parking, is deferred until 1 August 2003. This deferment recognises the level of disruption in the University in the coming months, both from restructuring and building works; the continuing effect of the work to replace the subway on the A27; and the time needed to install and prepare the parking infrastructure and administrative systems. There will be no further extension beyond this date.

Recommendations about the choice of infrastructure and systems have been made to Estates Sub-Committee of Council and include the following aspects:

- The parking system will include annual permits based on the costs decided by Council in July 2002. Annual permits will be purchased in full or through salary deduction in the payroll system.

- The occasional parking system will use a card with predefined units of parking (or an equivalent method) together with an enabling permit confirming the driver’s association with the University. In sufficient quantities, the cost of these may also be deducted through the payroll system.

- Administration of payment for permits and occasional parking by students is being finalised, including consideration of reduced charges for part-time students.

- Visitor parking and parking by those not covered by the permit systems will be controlled by pay-and-display machines, charging intervals of the full daily visitor rate of £5. A small amount of visitor parking for invited guests will be available.

- Parking charges will be levied Monday–Friday in both term-time and vacations.

- Parking charges for staff and visitors are subject to VAT, which is included in the agreed charges.

Infrastructure for the new strategy is being purchased and associated administrative systems and enforcement procedures are being finalised, including revision of the parking regulations, which will be presented to committees in the spring term.

Part-time staff will pay a charge based on their full-time equivalent salary level but reduced pro-rata, e.g. a member of staff working three full days a week (0.6 FTE) whose salary level would be £21,000 full-time will pay 0.6 of £150 for an annual permit. The cost would therefore be £90. If they were on a 0.8 contract the payment would be £120. These calculations will be undertaken by Payroll staff. Part-time staff may prefer to use the occasional parking system if their hours of work are non-standard.

Progress on other objectives of the Travel Plan

- If you use sustainable transport (e.g. cyclists, pedestrians) you can use the Sports Service showers free of charge. Just present your staff/student ID and say how you have travelled to campus.

- The resident student parking ban has been implemented, although enforcement has been delayed by a backlog of applications for permits. There is an appeals mechanism and about 30 appeals have been upheld. Enforcement of the parking permit system will commence before the end of this term. Car owners are reminded that they must display University permits when parking on campus.

- Discussions are continuing about the University car-share scheme, which should be available in the new year. Lifts and car-shares may be arranged within the University but also for accessing other local organisations such as the University of Brighton, East Sussex County Council and Lewes District Council.
In brief

Brian Behan dies
The Irish-born writer and playwright Brian Behan, who studied English as a mature student at Sussex from 1970–73, has died of a heart attack. Brian objected to the idea that he was more famous for being the brother of Brendan Behan (also a playwright) than for anything he had written and was a prominent local character in Brighton. He died on 2 November at the age of 75.

New University Treasurer
Ex-Merrill Lynch fund manager Consuelo Brook has taken over as the University's Treasurer from Douglas Baker. Mrs Brook, who lives in East Sussex, is formally responsible for the University's finances during her three-year term. She also chairs the Treasury and Investments Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Jim Ellis is resigning as chair of that committee and is leaving Council, the University's governing body.

Improve your badminton
A new weekly badminton coaching session is available in the Sportcentre for intermediate players. It started on 12 November and will take place every Tuesday (term time and vacations) from 12noon–2pm. Book in advance with the coach, Nikki Holness, on 330334. Each session costs £2.50 for staff, £2 for students.

Receptionist wanted
The Student Support Unit needs a receptionist for lunchtime cover: two hours a day, any time from 12 noon to 3pm, to suit the applicant. It pays £6.85 an hour. To discuss the post informally, call Brenda Giddey on ext. 7486 or email b.giddey@sussex.ac.uk.

Approaches to large group teaching

A Sussex first was achieved on 6 November when more than 100 members of staff from all parts of the University attended an inaugural Learning and Teaching Conference on ‘Approaches to Large Group Teaching’.

Professor Graham Gibbs, Director of Research at the Open University’s Centre for Higher Education Practice, kicked off proceedings with a challenging keynote speech. His central message – based both on pedagogical research and an extensive evidence base of what has and has not worked elsewhere – was that it is entirely possible to improve student learning in large groups without increasing faculty workload.

Success depends on two critical factors, he argued: using assessment as a lever to change student behaviours, and structuring much more carefully the activities that students undertake outside class.

One significant determinant of student success is the amount of timely feedback that students receive during their courses. With large groups, it is impossible for the tutor to give regular feedback to all students – but experience in other universities shows that regular peer- and self-assessment dramatically improves student learning and performance.

Ongoing student engagement with learning is also crucial, and one simple idea that Professor Gibbs asked delegates to consider is sampling student work for assessment, from a larger body of work that students would be required to produce throughout a course.

After tea, delegates chose from one of three parallel workshop sessions.

- Professor Stephen Brown – senior adviser from the national Technologies Centre – gave his participants the opportunity to experience the joys and frustrations of online conversations, by allowing them to communicate only with post-it notes. His message was not to get too hung up on the technology – good online learning and teaching is simply good learning and teaching delivered through a new and more flexible medium.

- Jane Hoy, Widening Participation Coordinator from Birkbeck College, University of London, encouraged delegates at her workshop to consider the implications of increasing student diversity in their classrooms.

- Neill Thew, Head of the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU) at Sussex, argued in his session that the most successful students are the ones with the most sophisticated understandings of learning. He asked delegates to imagine fully functioning independent students; identified the barriers between where they are now and that desired end-state; and outlined some steps towards removing the barriers. The image of a dead cat, with a smouldering gun at its head (student curiosity having killed the cat of received wisdom) may stay with participants for some time …

A number of colleagues from Sussex mounted poster and computer presentations of work they have been undertaking in the development of teaching and learning – many funded through the University’s Teaching and Learning Development Fund (TLDF).

Feedback from delegates has been very positive, with many commenting on changes they plan to make to their own teaching as a result of having attended the conference.

Neill Thew commented: ‘It’s always great to see people leaving an event like this enthused. It can be hard, though, to sustain that energy alone, and we’ll try in the TLDU to support colleagues to take their projects forward.’

The TLDU will be hosting some follow-up events over the next few terms on large-group teaching and assessment, and on getting students working well between formal sessions. Details of these will be publicised through the Staff Development bulletin and on the intranet.

Next year, the conference theme will be assessment and some likely sub-themes have already been identified: plagiarism, peer assessment, large groups and computer-aided assessment.
Futuristic cars – made of electrical tape!

Giant drawings of futuristic cars went on display in ENGG II last Friday (8 November), showing the results of an innovative new course. Dr Peter Childs, director of the University's Rolls-Royce Technology Centre, devised the Creative Styling course as a gentle introduction for freshers studying the BSc in Product Design.

The course involved students designing their dream cars and then displaying full-size renderings of them in electrical tape. "The use of tape allows students to refine their ideas on the life-size mock-up, as designs can seem very different to those initially devised on paper," said Peter.

"The course is meant to harness the eagerness of first years by providing an engaging and exciting task to complete while teaching valuable lessons about design. It proved the point that however beautiful the cars were, they were not necessarily practical in terms of ergonomics and squeezing in all the necessary parts."

Henry Whale designed his car with overtones of Aston Martins and Jaguars, evident in the curvaceous lines and classic grille: "It was really enjoyable to do and didn't actually feel like work", he said.

Another student, Paul Brown, used to customise cars for a living, so was more practical in his execution: "The basic frame of the car is based on my Golf! For the design, though, I just got my flexicurve and drew the shapes I most liked, bearing in mind the size of the engine, etc."

Rain doesn't stop play

More than 1,200 students braved the elements last week to attend Jobsday, the recruitment fair organised by the Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC). They were greeted by a mix of local and national companies offering a wide range of part-time and graduate opportunities.

The most popular stand appeared to be Warner Music, who were promoting an exciting graduate training scheme, including positions in A&R and marketing. (But the Holly Valance video playing on a loop may have helped!) Another graduate recruiter, Thales, were also very happy with the calibre of the students and saw the event as invaluable in raising their awareness among students.

Local employers also enjoyed a successful day. Among them were Inkfish, Lloyds TSB and the Royal Albion Hotel, who all reported lots of interest in their part-time vacancies.

Overall, exhibitors were impressed by the quality of the students. Crawley-based Baker Tilly, recruiting for graduate training contracts in chartered accountancy, found applicants to be "genuinely interested candidates who have potential!"

According to organiser Andrea Wall, this Jobsday saw the highest attendance for the autumn event. "It's testimony to our students that they all made the effort to come despite the atrocious conditions, and also for the employers, some of whom braved the M4 from Wales to be there!"

Now it's time to start organising the summer Jobsday (with the hope of better weather): 4 June is the date for your diary.

The journey starts here.

Students to benefit from new bursary scheme

Potential students who might not have been able to come to university for financial reasons are being encouraged to apply to Sussex.

The Rotherwick Foundation is to back a new bursary scheme that will see individual students funded to the tune of £3,000 for each year of their degree. The scheme, worth £81,000 over five years, also aims to maximise completion rates for beneficiaries of the scheme.

Robin Street, Head of Alumni and Development, and part of the team that bid for the money, said: "There is limited help for students who get into financial difficulties, but there is nothing to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply in the first place, other than a promise of future career prospects that can seem very distant." The Sussex Access Bursary will run for a trial period initially and will be awarded to between three and five students from autumn 2003. The £3,000 a year given to students would make it the largest single such scheme offered at Sussex and would go substantially towards paying for the cost of studying and living.

The Rotherwick Foundation is based in East Sussex and helps residents of local communities based both here and in Hampshire, with a particular emphasis on the advancement of education.
New deadline for voluntary severance scheme

The 31 December 2002 deadline for applications under the Voluntary Severance scheme was set when the scheme was announced in the summer and a number of applicants have come forward.

The Vice-Chancellor has been considering how the scheme might best continue to help the implementation of the strategic restructuring process and the creation of the support structures for the new Schools, given that all the details and implications of these changes will not be fully worked through by the end of the year.

He has therefore decided that the scheme should be extended until 31 March 2003, for any applications arising from two specific circumstances:

- For academic staff: The Strategic Restructuring group will be reporting to Council on 19 December. Without pre-judging their recommendations or Council’s decisions, the Vice-Chancellor has decided that academic staff should have some time to consider whether they wish to consider seeking early retirement or voluntary severance, in the light of the outcomes of strategic restructuring for their subject area.

- For administrative and support staff: In creating the new Schools, every effort will be made to match the skills of existing administrative and support staff to the staffing needs of the new Schools structures. It is expected that there should be adequate opportunities for all existing staff. However, if there were any cases where a member of staff’s skills and abilities could not ultimately be accommodated, it would again seem reasonable to allow them to consider early retirement or voluntary severance.

Applications made in these circumstances will be considered once the strategic restructuring or the staffing for the new structures are sufficiently advanced for reasonable decisions to be made about University requirements. As with any such voluntary scheme, acceptance of applications is not guaranteed: they will be approved only where they are in the interests of both the member of staff and the University.

Small ads

WANTED: Someone to rent a flat in Brighton/ Hove area. Call Trifonas on 07789443810.

FOR SALE: Scanner, good condition, £35. Email L.xiao@ids.ac.uk

TO LET: 1-bed furnished flat in Rodmell. £350 pcm incl. Short-term lets welcome. Contact Lee Hogarth on ext. 7106, tel. 483376 (eves), email leeh@biols.susx.ac.uk.

TO LET: Studio flat in Lewes, £110 p/w incl. 1-bed flat in Lewes, £150 p/w incl. See www.lewes-area-bed-and-breakfast.com. Tel. 476813 or email m.j.bolce@susx.ac.uk.

TO LET: 3-bed unfurnished detached house in Kingston. Garden studio and garage. Staff or faculty only. £380pcm. Refs required. Tel. 606928.

WANTED: Transcriber and translator from French into English of 16 substantial mss. letters by Prosper Merimee. Email sib@larkscrest.freeserve.co.uk or tel. 478776.

FOR SALE: Peugeot 106 1.1, K reg. MoT to July, tax to Dec. 28k miles. 2 careful lady owners. £1,300 ono. Email j.a.france@susx.ac.uk, tel. 01444 413159.

WANTED: Organist/choir director for St Andrew’s church, Alfriston. Sun am service, Fri eve choir practice. Two manual Morgan and Smith pipe organs. Tel. 01323 870376, email m.c.jones@susx.ac.uk.

FREE: to good home, two female cats, 7 and 8 yrs old. Healthy and house trained. Tel. 470140 or email s.h.l.thomas@susx.ac.uk.

TO LET: Tuscany holiday cottage in superb setting nr mountains. Florence. Sienna. Arezzo easily accessible. Ideal walking, sight-seeing, etc. Tel. 020 8699 8883. Website: http://freepage.virgin.net/gpck. Email gpck@virgin.net.

FOR SALE: Dark green upholstered two-seater sofa, good condition. £155 ono. Tel. 624314 or email frederica.notley@gardnerart.co.uk.

WANTED: Participants in food and drink research. Earn up to £80 per study. Email martin@central.susx.ac.uk.

WANTED: Child-friendly PG for after-school care. Must drive. £70 for 11 hrs p/w. Call 474133 or email shaundarcy@compuserve.com.
A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter, BIOLS

The 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' is well and truly upon us. Back in March we commented on the blaze of Blackthorn blossom and forecast that it might auger well for those partial to a drop of sloe gin later in the year. We are happy to report that the sloe crop has lived up to expectations and is looking good scattered around the boiler house and car parks at the north end of campus.

A word of warning for the uninitiated: sloes are not something that one would eat raw for pleasure! Not only are they extremely sour but they are also highly astringent. Indeed, so powerful are they that the 17th-century herbalist, Nicholas Culpepper, recommends them as a mouthwash to fasten loose teeth. However, the liqueur is another matter altogether.

Traditionally, sloes are picked just after the first frosts to soften the skins. In his book on British berries, our local expert, David Lang, recommends picking the sloes and half filling the bottles with equal weights of the fruit and sugar before topping up with gin. The bottles are sealed and left for three months, with occasional shaking before being decanted and strained, ready for Christmas.

Sloes are almost certainly one of the parents of the domestic Plum, the hybrid with the Cherry Plum arising naturally in the Caucasus, where it still occurs in the wild.

Ripe sloes have a bluish bloom that wears off, leaving them shiny black. This bloom is caused by waxes exuded by the fruit and makes the sloes reflect very strongly in the ultraviolet part of the spectrum, which is visible to birds but not to us. As foliage reflects little ultraviolet light, the sloes are very conspicuous to birds.

Although they taste sour to humans, especially before any hard frosts, sloes attract a wide range of birds, especially Song Thrushes. The fruits are so large at roughly 1 cm across that the thrushes often have great difficulty swallowing them.

At the moment most of the Song Thrushes on campus are territorial males; virtually all of the females winter elsewhere, some as far south as Spain. Thus most Blackthorn bushes are being visited by just one Song Thrush; if the weather gets colder, however, immigrants from farther north will visit in small flocks.

November is also a time of plenty for most seedeaters. Last year the crop of Beech seeds, which are called mast, was very poor. As we predicted then, several common bird species on campus such as Great Tits and Chaffinches had a tough time last winter, wandering over large areas in search of food. This year, although not record-breaking, the crop of mast should ensure easier survival. Look out for Grey Squirrels, including many newly independent youngsters, burying mast in hollow holes.

Below: Most of the Song Thrushes on campus are territorial males.

Facilities

What you see is what you get – comfy seats, lots of room and a Downs view (marred, only slightly, by the A27). There are no specific facilities for children, as they are not encouraged in the BIOLS block for safety reasons.

Opening hours

9am-4pm every weekday. Especially busy from 9-11.30am, 12.30-1.30pm and 3-4pm, when the scientists take leisurely lab breaks.

BIOLS coffee bar

BIOLS is part of the burgeoning Four Seasons empire, who, from their base at EURO, have also taken over CCS and EAM. Alexis, one of the Four Seasons managers, says their aim with BIOLS was "to bring the successful formula at EURO over to the science blocks".

Location

Go to the BIOLS main entrance, take a left, then up two flights of stairs (to level 4, confusingly), left again and way down at the end of the corridor.

Ambience

Eschewing the bold colours of arts common rooms for a clean, scientific feel, BIOLS is very, very white and very, very bright. It is almost dazzling in fact, with few decorative measures to lessen the blinding effect. This large café straddles a main thoroughfare so it always has a busy feel.

Clientele

The good people of BIOLS obviously have a certain amount of affection for their mugs, as all the customers in the coffee bar seem to bring their own (although some are suspiciously full of coffee before they enter the common room!). It would be nice to see this polystyrene-saving measure spread throughout campus.

Menu

There was a time when all you could get in science common rooms was limp cheese sandwiches and cup-a-soups. Now, thankfully, the tide is turning and BIOLS' menu has been thoroughly EURO'd with a huge selection of fresh rolls, baguettes, pastries and cakes alongside snacks and chocolate. Baguettes start from £1.75 but one of the specials such as houmous or onion and bhaji filling will be £2.50. Hot sausage and hot bacon rolls are £2.00 and come with tea and coffee; pastries, including Tiffins, Rice Crispies cakes and flapjacks, start from 60p.

Most popular dishes

"They love their cakes in BIOLS," says Alexis, "especially Tiffins and Rice Crispies cakes". In terms of baguettes, the usual suspects – tuna, egg and Brie – are the first to sell out. However, the special baguettes are also very popular: "We have three specials on and we still sell out!"
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 18 Nov
12.30pm Continuing Education Research Forum. TBA. Arts D310.

1.00pm Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Research Seminar: Lee Hogarth (Sussex). The role of conditional attentional orienting in addictive behaviour. EP Seminar Room.

2.00pm Research on Languages and Linguistics Seminar: Annis May Timpson (Sussex). Mother tongues/government speaks: Language, indigeneity and identity in the Canadian Arctic. Arts A155.

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Justin Rosenberg (Sussex). Book launch: The Follies of Globalisation Theory. C219.

4.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Luke Gibbons, Beyond the pale: Whiteness, Irishness and postcolonialism. EDB 121.

5.00pm Geography Research Seminar. TBA. Arts D710.

5.00pm USIE Open Seminar: Pat Drake, Angela Jacklin, Carol Robinson and Je Thorp (Sussex). Barriers to QTS for teaching assistants. Arts C 233.

Tue 19 Nov

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Research Seminar: Kevin Hardwick (Edinburgh), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.


5.00pm American Studies Seminar: Roland Marden (Sussex), title TBA. Arts A71.

Wed 20 Nov
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Rachel Sieder (SOAS), The political economy of international conflict: Peace making and peace building in Latin America: A comparative perspective. IDS 120.

2.00pm Qwory: Michael O’Rourke (University College, Dublin). Homoeropthophobia in 18th-century biography. Arts A71.

2.00pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: John Croft, Recital Room, Palmer House 120.

2.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Katy Mollin (Cambridge). Vicereassad in Nighttown: James Joyce’s Circe and the Photographs of Return. Arts D630.

4.00pm Physical Chemistry Seminar: Aliham El-Barbary and Natalia Martsinovich. DFT models of defects in minerals; Hydrogen in silicon and diamond; evolution of microstructure. Chichester 3R241.


5.00pm International Relations and Politics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Toby Dodge (SOAS/Chatham House). Coercive diplomacy and the Globalisation of Normative misapprehensions and empirical failures. Arts C219.

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Maria Laurent (Sussex). Migration and language. Arts C233.

Thu 21 Nov
5.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: John Rohl (Sussex), title TBA. Arts A155.

Fri 22 Nov
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Ken Mayhew (SKOPE, Oxford). The High Skills Vision. EDB 121.

4.30pm Philosophy Society: Peter Dews (Essex). The problem of evil in German idealism. Arts A155.

Mon 25 Nov
12.30pm Continuing Education Research Forum. TBA. Arts D310.


Wed 27 Nov

3.00pm Global Justice and Political Violence Seminar: Greg King (Bristol), The war against Bosnia: Foreign policy and media representation. EDB 340.


Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 465861 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Wed 20–Sat 23 Nov SUDS – Romeo and Juliet
Shakespeare’s classic is given a contemporary twist in their pacy and heavily stylised production by the Sussex University Drama Society.

Cinema

Fri 15 Nov
8pm Plein Soleil (Purple Noon)
Learn French with the Bulletin: first two readers at the box office get a free pair of tickets, worth £9

Sun 17 Nov
8pm Late Marriage (Natuna Meuheter) [18]
Learn Georgian and Hebrew with the Bulletin: first two readers at the box office get a free pair of tickets, worth £9.

Exhibitions

Until Sun 24 Nov
Machines that make art by David Williams Celebrating 100 years of Meccano, Williams has created a series of pieces of art that can, themselves, create other pieces of art.

Sun 26 Nov
12.30pm Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Kate McInnerny (fiance research consultant). Links between applied qualitative social research and oral history. Library Meeting Room.

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 29 November, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 22 November. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.