A big welcome to the autumn collection

The summer lull on campus, of empty buses and quiet bars, came to an abrupt end on Saturday (28 September) as 3,300 undergraduates and postgraduates from all over the globe descended on Sussex. Over the weekend the thousands of freshers began exploring campus, with Park Village lounge packed out as new students sampled the colourful cocktails while meeting new friends.

Helping them to settle in, the University and Students' Union launched a revamped freshers' week. Traditional events such as freshers' fair were spiced up with four separate fairs focusing on sports, societies, trade and health; the freshers' ball was held in a futuristic big top next to Falmer House with different types of music in each 'pod'.

The residents of 1 Park Village got an early morning wake-up call on Monday (30 September) as the Channel 4 breakfast show, 'RE:SE', filmed Lucy Twyman, a neuroscience student from Canterbury, and her new flatmates settling into campus.

Presenter Al Conway (of C4's 'Shipwrecked' fame) chatted to Lucy in her bedroom and even picked out an outfit for her to wear at the freshers' ball. Lucy admitted, however, that she has absolutely no intention of getting up at 6.30 am every morning!

Meanwhile, URF (one of Britain's oldest campus radio stations) re-launched itself with a new frequency of 1431AM, which will allow it to broadcast over the entirety of campus for the first time.

On Tuesday (8 October) a notable graduate makes a return visit. Jane Root, controller of BBC 2, is to give a talk called 'Making it happen', focusing young minds on how to be innovative and take risks in life.

The best is left for last, however, as a huge fireworks display on Friday (11 October) marks the end of the freshers' celebrations. The event, for both staff and students, will be held outside the Gardner Arts Centre at 8pm.

Shell Morgan, who has co-ordinated the overhaul of the welcome programme, said:

"Students told us they wanted to be given enough time to settle in, register and find new friends before teaching begins. This new programme had a mix of social, academic and welfare induction events designed to give freshers the best possible welcome to Sussex."

In this issue... In the first of a regular series this term, a special pull-out on what the new Schools mean for you.

Fresh crèche for new arrivals

After many years of waiting, three sets of plans and six months of intense activity, new Crèche facilities on campus opened this week.

The most significant improvement is a new baby unit, housed in a former student bungalow in Norwich House. This expansion will allow the Crèche to take on more children: a total of 12 babies under 1 year (including Kim Whitmore, pictured right), 11 infants aged 1-2 and 19 toddlers from 2-3.

Janet Healey, Crèche Supervisor, says: "Childcare for young babies is particularly hard to find and we have always had a huge waiting list. These extra places will provide more support for student parents and also help the University to attract and retain staff."

The former bungalow has been converted into a large, open-plan play space with a cot room, kitchen and garden (with a specially designed play surface for babies who are not too steady on their feet). Existing security systems throughout the Crèche have also been upgraded to ensure supervised access at all times.

The final hurdle in the project was cleared with an inspection last month by OFSTED, which recognised that the Crèche had met all day-care standards and in most cases exceeded them.

Janet recognises that the wait has been frustrating for some parents, but says: "We will be bringing in children as quickly as possible. The settling-in procedure takes time and, with such a large number of very young babies, this period has to be spread over several weeks."

The University first opened a Crèche in 1972, initially for the children of students and two years later for the children of staff as well. The facility operates on a sessional basis, providing full- and part-time places.
In brief

Sustainable travel day
Highlights of the Sustainable Travel Day on Thursday (10 October) include an accompanied cycle ride from Halfords in Lewes Road, free breakfast for those using sustainable travel methods, a Bike Doctor to service cycles and carry out minor repairs, and a discussion on the University Travel Plan (1pm in Arundel 1B).

Student elections to Senate
Calling all postgraduates, mature students, international students and part-time students: you are eligible to stand for and vote in the election of four students to represent your interests at Senate, the principal academic committee of the University. Nomination forms are now available at the Students’ Union reception, Sussex House reception and from the USSU Education Officer. The closing date for nominations is Friday 25 October and ballots will take place in the week beginning 28 October.

Open language courses
Want to learn a language in a relaxed, friendly but academic atmosphere? EURO offers lunchtime and evening courses at a variety of levels in Arabic, Czech, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Polish, Russian and Spanish. Courses start from 14 October. Find out more on ext. 7258, email opencourses@sussex.ac.uk or www.sussex.ac.uk/UNITS/EURO/open/open.shtml.

Martial arts taster
Try judo, kickboxing, wado ryu karate, shaolin kung fu, shotokan karate and aikido, on Sunday (6 October) from 10am. Call the Sportcentre on ext. 8228 for details.

Try dive
Give scuba diving a try, on Thursday 10 October. Email phbale@hotmail.com or call 07900 491405. £10 includes kit hire and transport from campus to the pool.

Work begins on new underpass
Do you want the good news first or the bad news? The good news is that work begins on Monday (7 October) to build a new underpass between Falmer station and the University campus. The bad news is that the work is planned to take at least four months and will undoubtedly cause some congestion on the A27.

Work was due to begin in early July but was delayed because of issues about land use to the south of the A27. Although construction group Costain is contracted to complete the project by February, it is possible that cold and/or wet winter weather could cause delays during the construction programme.

Rob French, Special Projects Manager in Estates, explained what the work will involve: "Basically, the contractors will be digging a big hole in the Lewes-bound carriageway of the A27 and building one half of the underpass in that hole. This will be 30m to the Brighton side of the existing subway.

"At the same time they’ll be building the other half on a site to the south of the A27. Then they’ll dig another big hole in the Brighton-bound carriageway, and slide the second half into it. "Once they’ve ‘stitched’ the two halves together and relaid the road surface, they’ll fill in the existing subway."

Costain have broken down this work into five separate phases. For details of each phase (with planned dates, works and traffic management), see www.sussex.ac.uk/transport.

University staff from Estates have been negotiating with the Highways Agency and the construction companies involved to keep disruption to the absolute minimum. But where the new underpass is concerned, there will be no gain without pain.

Construction work will take place every day of the week except Sundays. Falmer House Road (at the main entrance to campus) will be closed from Monday to Friday each week between 10am and 7pm, and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. Motorists and bus passengers are likely to be most affected by the construction works, because of the speed restrictions and lane closures on the A27 that will be necessary. See www.sussex.ac.uk/transport for details of the effect the works will have on your travel to campus by car, bus, train or bike or on foot.

If all goes well, the new underpass will be in use by the end of January. Staff and students at Sussex have been waiting for many years for the Highways Agency to come up with the goods, so it will be worth the wait and the inconvenience?

When it is completed, the new subway will be nearly three times the width of the existing one, with improved drainage and lighting. It will also incorporate a cycleway and CCTV security cameras. Watch that space!

Parking strategy made clear
Linda Newman
Transport Manager

Following the University Council’s decision to implement the Travel Plan (www.sussex.ac.uk/transport), the new Parking Strategy is being finalised. Here’s what it means for you.

Charges
Parking charges will be introduced from January. The annual charge for staff earning above £22,000 (FTE) will be £500, for staff earning between £12,000 and £22,000 (FTE) it will be £150 and there will be a charge waiver for those earning under £12,000 (FTE). Student permits will cost £150 per year. Details of the charging mechanisms and procedures will be published this term.

Car-share scheme
A car-share scheme will be introduced this term. The parking charge for car-sharers will be £150 per year.

Pricing ban for students resident on campus
The parking ban for students resident on campus is effective from this month. It excludes students with disabled parking permits, residential advisors and students with families resident. Other resident students can appeal on exceptional grounds and may be allocated a temporary or permanent permit. Appeals should be addressed in writing to the Transport Manager, Hastings Building or by email to L.g.newman@sussex.ac.uk. From January charges will apply to all students parking on campus, except those with disabled permits.

Vehicle registration
All vehicles owned by staff or students and ever parked in campus car parks must be registered for a parking permit, obtainable from the Security Office in York House until the new system is introduced in January. Security staff will be enforcing the present system this term. Existing permit holders will be sent application forms this term for new parking permits.
Changing the way we work

Equalities is a mainstream and not a minority issue: all staff need to ensure that they consider equalities issues – race, gender, disability, age and sexuality, for example – in their everyday work. That's the message from Liz Burchett (far right), who started work this summer in the new role of Equalities Coordinator.

A key aim of the University's Human Resources Strategy (see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/hrstrategy/hrstrategy2.pdf) is "to promote diversity in the workplace", as well as "to raise awareness of diversity and embed that awareness into everyday activity". And it's Liz's role to take this aim forward.

Liz is grateful to all staff who have just completed a monitoring form asking them to submit details on ethnicity and disability. The information gathered will assist in identifying any areas of under-representation. "Accurate data is vital if we are to effectively deal with equalities issues and our legal obligations," Liz emphasises.

The University has new legal obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act. Mannie Kusumamuruwo (above left), a Race Policy Adviser from the newly established Equality Challenge Unit, outlined these obligations to key staff and union representatives at a meeting on 25 September.

"Structures and policies that hinder progress need to be examined," he said. "Practices that do not comply with the law will need to be modified. But fair and equal treatment is not only a legislative requirement; it makes practical and business sense for everyone."

The Human Resources Strategy recognises that further work needs to be undertaken to achieve a more ethnically diverse staff and student population, and to celebrate the diversity of an organisation that currently employs staff from more than 50 nationalities.

The University's new Race Equality Policy (www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personal/policies/raceqst.html) explores these issues in more detail: "The University has a general duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between people of differing ethnic groups," it acknowledges.

The Equality Challenge Unit will be approached to undertake a formal audit in the near future to assist the University in identifying what needs to change in equalities practice across the board. The Equal Opportunities Working Group, chaired by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Llewellyn, will continue to monitor progress.

"Equalities can become embedded into the organisational culture as the University restructuring and evolves," argues Liz. "The most vital factors are that there is commitment from senior management, awareness of the commitment to equal treatment of staff and students, and effective monitoring of what is happening."

Communication is a key factor in changing the culture. The Staff Development Unit and Equalities Co-ordinator will be working closely together over the next two years to develop and deliver training to raise awareness of equalities issues across the University.

In addition, Liz is interested to hear from staff who are interested in becoming involved in consultation on the University's Race Equality Action Plan and revision of the Equal Opportunities Policy. Contact Liz on ext. 7602 or email E.J.R.Burchett@sussex.ac.uk.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Tue 8 Oct
5.00pm American Studies Seminar: Allen Cohen, Haught Ashton in the sixties. Arts A71.

Wed 9 Oct
1.00pm IDS Seminar: David Leonard (Berkley), The political economy of international conflict – personal rule, economic enclaves, and conflict in Africa. IDS Room 221.

5.00pm Marie Jaheda Lecture: David King (Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government), Science policy in government. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Mon 14 Oct
5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Dann McCarthy (Swansea), Whispering trees: A multi-proxy approach to extracting climate information from trees. D710.

Tue 15 Oct
4.00pm COGS Seminar: Dylan Evans (Bath), The placebo response and the belief effect. Arundel 404A.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics Development Seminar: Olga Dickson (Cancer Research UK), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.

4.30pm Life History Seminar: Felix Rieper, An editor’s role in life history work; the Daghani memoirs. Arts A155.

5.00pm American Studies Seminar: Caroline Blinder (Southampton), title TBA. A71.


Wed 16 Oct
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Mary Kaidor (LSE), Oil and conflict: the case of Nagorno Karabakh. IDS Room 121.

Thu 17 Oct
5.00pm History Work in Progress Seminar: Carol Dyhouse, title TBA. A155.

Fri 18 Oct
2.00pm Sussex Sociology Symposium: Aids, risk and globalisation. Stretching sociology? Essex House Conference Room.

Swanborough Manor for sale

Historic Swanborough Manor, near Lewes, has been put on the market. It was given to the University of Sussex in 1963 by Lady Reading, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the founding of the University.

The University Library holds a collection of special papers on the manor’s chequered and fascinating history: it dates back to about 1200, when a monastery was founded on the site.

Initially, the manor was divided up to provide accommodation for graduate students and faculty, but from 1985 to 1997 was used as the Vice-Chancellor’s residence, in accordance with Lady Reading’s wishes.

However, the house is expensive to maintain and several specialist firms have been employed to advise the University on alternative options for its use. As the house is Grade I listed, the University has been advised that planning consents for the necessary work would be virtually impossible to obtain.

Earlier this year, Council took the decision to put the house on the market. At this stage offers in the region of £1.95 million are being invited, with the possibility also being explored of renting the manor on a short-term lease.

“The decision to put Swanborough on the market was not taken lightly,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith. “Sadly, the cost of retaining Swanborough Manor makes it inappropriate for a Vice-Chancellor’s residence in contemporary circumstances, and it is impossible to adapt it for other University purposes. I am in discussion with Lady Reading’s family about the options for the future.”

If the estate is sold, the proceeds will be used to provide new facilities on campus as part of the capital investment programme in new teaching and research buildings.

“We very much hope that the Reading family name will live on here on campus by naming one of the new buildings after Lady Reading,” says the Vice-Chancellor.

Small ads

TO LET: Furnished 3-bed house in Lewes, GCH, £700 pcm + bills, call 478468 or 475079.

WANTED: Men’s bicycle (racer or mountain), to borrow for autumn term or buy (up to £40). Call Ronnie on 475655 or email ripschka@cats.usc.edu.

TO LET: Double room in 2-bed Kemp Town flat. Suit visiting faculty, mature PG. 6-mth tenancy available, poss. extension to end June. £30 p/w + bills. Email j.b.pryor@sussex.ac.uk.

Spanish Tuition: Qualified native teacher, one-to-one & groups. Tel. 688937 or email sbpj4@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Furnished 2/4-bed house off Lewes Rd. £900 pcm + bills. Call Adam on 07810 768880.

FOR SALE: 4-bed modern detached house in Lewes. Detached double garage, south-facing garden. £395,000. Tel. 480775.

FOR SALE: 17-in PC monitor £130, baby swimming ring £5, ELC jungle sounds playmat £5. Ext. 7435 or email gfas@central.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Green upholstered two-seater sofa, good condition. £200 ono. Tel. 0790 5246149 or email frederica.notley@gardnerarts.co.uk.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 25 October
2 x Senior Lecturer (Historical Consultant), BSMS (ref 467 and 468)
Apply by 31 October
2 x Lecturer in Experimental Particle Physics, CPEB (ref 422)
Apply by 1 November
2 x Research Fellow, CPES (ref 1236)
Apply by 10 October
Professor of Primary Care, BSMS (ref 475)
Apply by 7 October
Research Fellow, CPES (ref 1236)
Apply by 4 November
2 x Research Fellow, BIOLS (ref 1248 and 1256)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vacancies or contact Staffing Services on tel. 8706, fax 8771401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.

Gardner Arts Centre

Box office: (01273) 665861
www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance
Wed 17 Oct
8pm
Henri Onigak Dance Company - Front Line, Shot Flow, Melancholy Thoughts.

Tue 15 Oct – Sat 19 Oct
8pm
Frantic Assembly - Pepshow.

Cinema
Fri 11 Oct
8pm Raise-ain (18)
Sat 12 Oct
8pm About A Boy (12)
Sun 13 Oct
5pm Cabaret (15)
8pm Pollock (18)

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

Bulletin
The fortnightly 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 18 October, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 11 October. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.