Cheeky chappies’ campus capers

In recent weeks many parents, keen to prepare their little darlings for campus life, may well have picked up the newly published Cheeky Guide to Student Life.

This saucy little book contains not only sensible advice, like the benefit of hardship funds, but also top university tips, such as how to get away with using your flatmate's bed as an ashtray (“deny everything”), and the best way to avoid lectures (“don’t go!”).

It is unlikely, however, that many people away from the south coast noticed that the jovial cartoon on the book jacket is, unmistakably, an image of this very university.

This could well be down to the fact that three of the authors — David Bramwell, Brian Mitchell and Dave Mountfield — met in 1988 as they began their studies in CCS. Brian savoured the atmosphere: “Sussex was vibrant but also slightly leftfield, while Brighton is a unique combination of affluence, hippies and bullshit!”

All three were involved in drama and music and spent their years performing plays and then repeatedly “spending lots of Union cash” taking them up to the Edinburgh Festival.

They got into a bit of bother, however, when their publicity for ‘What the Butler Saw’ contained pictures of women in “varying states of undress”. The Students’ Union said they were exploitative and took them down.

Later that year, a campus debate on pornography was called, but open only to women — “which we thought was a little unfair,” remembers David. “So we went anyway. The chair says, ‘I cannot talk — there are men present’. So a vote was called on whether we should be allowed to stay, and we were. She had no alternative but to storm out!”

Once graduated, Brian and Dave produced their own comedy act, ‘Mitchell and Mountfield’. This led to Mountfield appearing as a regular on Channel 5 panel game shows as well as a starring role in adverts for Iceland.

Mitchell, meanwhile, was busy co-writing and starring in ITV show ‘Slightly Filthy’, which aired last year.

Meanwhile, David Bramwell started producing the successful ‘Cheeky’ series of guidebooks, beginning with his adopted home town of Brighton.

“We were thinking about new ideas for guides when the idea of a student one came up,” says Brian. “The sort of stuff in this book is the stuff I wished I’d known about when I was a student: a book about bluffing your way through uni.”

They brought their comedic talents to work on this new Cheeky Guide. However, weren’t they worried they would be out of touch with today’s students?

“I was hopelessly out of touch even while at uni,” says Brian. “So we tested the book with current students, but in the end discovered that student life in many ways is much the same. The danger was we would come across as trying too hard to be ‘down with the kids’, which would be worse.”

When choosing a front-cover illustration, the gradients didn’t stray far: “Sussex is the most archetypal campus university, so what’s the point trying to make one up? Sussex people would recognise it as Sussex, and everyone else would just see it as a campus. It’s our homage to our time here.”

Student’s prospects improve thanks to award

A Romanian postgraduate student at Sussex has had the future of her studies secured thanks to a £6,000 award.

Silvia Murari (pictured) began studying for an MPhil in English Literature in GRc-Hums in January but was forced to return to her home town of Sibiu in Romania for financial reasons. She has now been able to return to Sussex thanks to a CSU Prospects Giclee Award.

The award scheme is run by the national Careers Services Unit (CSU) in conjunction with Prospect Postgraduate UK magazine. Every year, four institutions are awarded £6,000 each to help towards the living expenses of international students studying in the UK.

Sussex was one of the winners in 2002 and the money was allocated to GRc-Hums to award to an international student who could most benefit from the funding. “You should have seen my face when within one hour everything about my future changed,” says Silvia. “Students from my country yearn for such an opportunity.”

Silvia previously studied at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca in Romania, specialising in Anglo-Irish literature. She is now researching the writings of Irish dramatist Brian Friel, using a post-colonial approach to study his plays in their cultural and historical context.

Professor Norman Vance, Co-Director of GRc-Hums, was instrumental in getting Silvia to Sussex. His books were on Silvia’s reading list in Romania and she contacted him with her original research proposal. Dr Vincent Quinn, Lecturer in English in EAM, is now Silvia’s supervisor. “For someone studying English literature it is so important to come to England to see how it really is,” she says. “But it is really difficult to fund your studies when you come from a country in Eastern Europe that is not part of the European Union — which means you have to pay the overseas fees.”

Silvia recently worked for the International Office during freshers’ week and has also got in touch with her fellow Romanians at Sussex. “I discovered that there are ten Romanians here and I’ve got in touch with them and we all met up and one of them has now become a very good friend.”
Virtual chemistry lab teaches safety messages

Walk into Ben Zayas' chemistry lab and you may have to cope with dangerous fire and smoke or other safety hazards. You'll be in no danger, though, as this is a virtual reality lab, designed to be used for safety training.

Ben, a postgraduate student in COGS, has developed the Virtual Environments for Safety Training Laboratory (VEST-Lab) as part of his DPhil work. The virtual lab faithfully reproduces a CPES chemistry lab in three dimensions and allows users to navigate their way around, looking out for potential hazards and responding to emergency scenarios.

Ben will shortly be running a pilot trial of VEST-Lab with new chemistry students. "Research shows that navigating through a virtual environment helps students to recall spatial information at a later date," he says. "To create the virtual environment is not difficult – the difficult part is creating the scenarios such as fire."

Virtual reality is now well established as a training tool and is used to develop problem-solving skills among professionals as diverse as airline pilots (using flight simulators), fire fighters and workers on oil refineries.

At present, new students at Sussex are given lab safety training in the form of lectures and videos, neither of which offer the opportunity to practise responses to emergency situations. By allowing users to interact with the virtual environment, VEST-Lab aims to offer more effective safety training.

The virtual laboratory was based on photographs of the real laboratory in CPES, which were then transformed into the three-dimensional environment. Malcolm Strong, Buildings Resources Manager in CPES, helped Ben with his project by checking the safety information and also providing the voice-over in the virtual simulation.

"The benefits of chemistry lab safety training using virtual reality are obvious," says Ben's supervisor Dr Richard Cox, Reader in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in COGS. "We believe that VEST-lab will offer a significant improvement over current practice."

Ben's research is supported by the Mexican Council for Science and Technology, for which he will work when he returns home to Mexico on completion of his doctorate.

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

British Academy

Research Fellowships
One- and two-year fellowships are available for established mid-career scholars (aged 55 or under). Funding covers the cost of a full-time replacement lecturer, which enables the Fellow to undertake a programme of sustained research, while relieved of their normal teaching and admin commitments.
Deadline: 31 October

Leventhal Trust Fellowships
Open to all disciplines. Provides replacement teaching costs and research expenses of up to £20,000 for projects of various lengths and costs. You can apply for awards from £5,000 to £50,000. The maximum length of an award is five years, with maximum expenditure of £100,000 permitted in any one year.
Deadline: 12 November

AHRC Research Grants
Open to the arts and humanities. This scheme is designed to support both small and large-scale research projects of various lengths and costs. You can apply for awards from £5,000 to £500,000. The maximum length of an award is five years, with maximum expenditure of £100,000 permitted in any one year.
Deadline: 29 November

NATO Life Sciences & Environmental /Earth Sciences
The Cooperative Science & Technology Programme aims to establish links between NATO and partner countries. Support is available for Collaborative Linkage Grants and Expert Visits, and to organize Advanced Study Institutes and Advanced Research Workshops.
Deadline: 1 December

Royal Society Paul Instrument Fund
Open to pure or applied physical sciences. Grants are made for the design and construction of instruments and apparatus, building facilities, salaries, incidental expenses, running and maintenance costs. Priority is given to applications with a large element of originality.
Deadline: 15 January
Dear Editor

The late Peter Ansell,
Head of Security Services

I would like to thank all Peter’s friends and colleagues for their kind messages of sympathy, beautiful flowers, and donations received for the Renal Fund at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

I was overwhelmed by how many of them attended Peter’s funeral and would like to express my sincere appreciation of their thoughtfulness and support.

Carol Ansell

Dear Bulletin

Reading between the lines of Linda Newman’s report on transport matters (Bulletin 20 September), it would seem that the plan is already underway to change bus services later in this academic year so that Kemp Town and Woodingdean retain direct links to the campus, while Whitehawk, currently served by the existing 84 route, looks likely to lose its link. I would be interested to hear how such a decision, if it comes to pass, can be squared with the University’s continuing rhetoric about ‘widenning participation’.

Dr Andy Medhurst
Lecturer in Media Studies, CCS

Linda Newman, Transport Manager, replies:

I did not intend to give the impression “between the lines” that there will be any changes to the bus services. I have, however, made no secret that, at the present level of usage, the service 84 is not an economic proposition. It is sensible to recognise that the extension of the service 25 into Kemp Town might reduce the usage further.

As the University subsidises the 84 service, it makes sense for me to join the bus company in researching unmet demand for bus services in east Brighton to see how services can meet that demand better in future.

I share Andy Medhurst’s hope that the widening participation agenda will increase the usage of the existing service so that it becomes economically self-sustaining and I can move our subsidy to create yet another bus route for University staff and students.

Dear Bulletin

Those of us who are unfortunate enough to drive to and from campus will doubtless be aware of the inconsiderate and selfish souls who insist on using the left-hand exit lane in Knights Gate Road to jump the queue and drive straight across the roundabout.

This not only contravenes the Highway Code (it may even be a traffic offence) but it also enrages the drivers who are patiently queuing.

For those who cannot bear to queue, might I suggest a time-saving option: use the left-hand lane, but turn left and join the east-bound A27, then use the roundabout to rejoin the west-bound carriageway.

It will add a few miles to your journey but it will almost certainly get you where you want to go faster than if you had stayed in a long queue. It will also help to cut down on localised pollution and may even save fuel. My guess is that it will also improve traffic flow from the University.

As another incentive to deter the queue-jumping, might I suggest that the University install a webcam at the exit so that those who use the left-hand lane to go straight on can be recorded and perhaps named and shamed?

Andy Clews
Computing Service

Lowering the drawbridge of Fortress Sussex

Fortress Sussex may be a place you’ve never heard of. But it’s a place with which you’re very familiar – because Fortress Sussex is more properly known as the University of Sussex.

An impenetrable fortress is the perception that some people and organisations outside the University have of us, and it’s Sharon Phillips’ job to help lower the drawbridge.

As the University’s first Regional Development Officer, Sharon will work on enhancing the University’s regional presence by extending links with local businesses and the community.

She has two bases – in the Research Services Division and Sussex IP (which licenses intellectual property) – and her role encompasses all aspects of working with the region and the local communities.

Sharon’s background is in consultancy and training and she has previously worked extensively with Sussex Enterprise as well as the Learning and Skills Councils in both Sussex and Surrey. She was a visiting lecturer for Henley Management School, is a school governor and an Investors in People advisor, and led a European Social Fund project to place 400 graduates in Sussex businesses. So she’s got links in education and business all over the region.

But what is the region? “It can be defined differently for different agendas,” says Sharon.

The government definition of the south-east covers a wide area extending as far west as Hampshire and as far north as Oxfordshire, but for other purposes it is simpler to define the region as East and West Sussex (including Brighton and Hove). And Sharon also has responsibilities for the University’s involvement in the EU’s Intergen programme, which takes in parts of northern France.

Sharon’s first undertaking is to create a database of the University’s involvement in the region; she will be sending out a questionnaire to staff in November, asking about any local or regional bodies they sit on in a professional capacity.

Her key task, however, is to look at economic and regional priorities and to match them to the University’s own priorities, providing links and bringing cohesion. “I’m going to map regional concepts, ideas and priorities, and see where they fit with those of the University,” she says.

It is also the government’s expectation as set out in a recent White Paper, ‘Investing in Innovation’, that universities have clearly defined regional policies. Sharon’s role includes proposing a regional policy for the University of Sussex.

Possible benefits of this new approach could include more research and consultancy work for academic units; better links with local business networks (with the potential for sponsorship and/or partnership); places for students in local businesses; stronger student recruitment from the area; and curriculum developments to give employers in the region the skills that they need from graduates.

This new post has been financed for the first three years from HEPCE’s Higher Education Reach Out to Business and the Community (HEROBAC) fund. If you can help Sharon to help the University of Sussex to reach out, contact her on ext. 7554 or email s.d.phillips@sussex.ac.uk.
In brief

Win a scholarship to California
The William and Olivia Allaway Scholarship is open to most students on most undergraduate programmes. Simply tell the International and Study Abroad Office why your degree or future career would benefit from the opportunity to study at the University of California. For further information and an application form, contact Liz Wingfield in Arts B150. The closing date is 11 November.

Oyez oyez! Avis à tous les francophiles du campus
Tutorial fellow Christiane Freeman has set up an open, online bulletin board for all French natives and all students studying French at Sussex. The bulletin board has mentoring, cultural, and social functions. Go to www.sussex.ac.uk/vbulletin and click on L'Entente Cordiale, or email c.m.freeman@sussex.ac.uk for more information.

Mary Coppinger
A thanksgiving for the life of Mary Coppinger will take place on 6 November. Mary, who was one of the first seven administrators appointed to the new University of Sussex in 1961, died on 24 June. A tree planting outside Arts D at 12 noon will be followed by a memorial service in the Meeting House at 12.30pm and then a buffet lunch in the Quiet Room.

Council changes
The University’s governing body, Council, begins the new academic year with some new members. Professor James Fairhead and Dr Nicola Woods have replaced Dr Janet Collett and Professor Ben Martin. Baroness Kay Andrews has left to take up a whip’s post in the House of Lords and Professor Alan Howkins has also resigned. Finally, the new Students’ Union president, Ros Hall, replaces Dan Glazebrook as the students’ representative on Council.

URF takes to the air
This month, for the first time in its history, University Radio Falmer (URF) began broadcasting over the entire Sussex campus. Despite it being one of the oldest student radio stations in Britain, huge swathes of campus had been unable to receive URF at all.

However, the construction of an AM transmitter on the fields behind Norwich House means the patchy reception that has plagued URF should become a thing of the past. Jonathan Pascoe, station manager (pictured), is clearly excited by the new transmitter’s switch-on: “There’s a real buzz in URF now because finally, after years of groundwork, we can actually get on with the job of broadcasting a great radio station.”

The method of transmission had been an ongoing problem for URF throughout its 25-year history. The station broadcast through wires sunk into the ground, similar to an induction loop. Jonathan explains the drawbacks to this: “The loop only connected up York and Norwich House, East Slope and parts of Park Village. None of the newer residences on campus or other blocks could pick us up.”

After years of neglect, even this system was deteriorating rapidly and before long would have been inoperable. At times the state of the loop was so poor that Jonathan estimates only 100 people could tune into URF.

Then, in 2000, the URF studios were broken into and thousands of pounds worth of equipment stolen. The end result was that for the last few years URF has concentrated on re-equipping the station rather than broadcasting.

With the new transmitter, however, URF can broadcast all over Falmer and beyond to a potential audience of up to 9,000 people. The station hopes to sign a contract soon with Juice 107.2 to take over its advertising, and has already been nominated in the Student Radio Association awards.

Getting to this point has been a hard slog for Jonathan and his team. Rich Rust, URF chair, comments, “It’s been like a full-time job. First we had to raise all the money for the transmitter, from the University and others, and then we had to get it all up and running in the space of a week. It’s all been worth it, though!”

For the first URF meeting of the year, over 70 people turned up to try their hand in front or behind the mike. Jonathan has high hopes for the new recruits and for improved features such as a stronger news and music output: “We really think that URF will finally achieve what it was always supposed to do — to build a real community on campus and be the best station in Britain.”

To listen to URF, tune in to 1431 AM or for programme details go to www.urfonline.com.

Unisex keeps on growing
and is located in the old second-hand bookshop, on the first floor of Falmer House.

Mary is pictured with Kate Stickland, project co-ordinator (right) and Sally Hill, project worker (left). They are proudly holding aloft a selection of Unisex’s pot plants (each named after a different STI!).

Unisex, the University’s sexual health project, provides low-price condoms, sexual health advice and free pregnancy testing to staff and students.

Together with THT South, on Tuesday 29 October Unisex will be offering gay and bisexual men the chance of a free and confidential syphilis test. Testing will take place at the new drop-in centre from 6-8.30pm. For details, email unisex@sussex.ac.uk or call Sally on ext 8641. See also www.unisex.org.uk.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Mary Stuart launched the new Unisex drop-in centre this week by bursting a blown-up, glitter-filled condom!
Can’t cook, won’t cook

Amy Hawkes, a first year Social Anthropology student, won a meal for two at the Shore restaurant in Shoreham after winning a special freshers’ ‘Can’t Cook, Won’t Cook’ held in Falmer House on 7 October.

Chefs Kristin Smith-Wallace, from the Shore, and Ryan Tasker, from the Saint, cooked up delicious dishes with the help of Amy and her co-contestant, Mark Pearson, a Maths student.

The gastronomic creations, all under a liver a head, included tuna steaks with risotto; baked chicken and ratatouille; and raspberry cheesecakes. Unfortunately, Ryan and Mark accidentally put salt in their apple crumble instead of sugar.

Memories of Karlie

A year after the terrorist attacks in New York, the family of one of the victims is appealing to Sussex staff, students and alumni to share their memories of her.

Karlie Rogers studied German in the School of European Studies from 1993 to 1997 and spent her year abroad in Vienna. After graduation she worked for the Risk Waters Group, which was holding a conference in the World Trade Centre at the time of the attacks on 11 September 2001.

Her father Keith recalls that some of the best times his parents spent with Karlie was during her time in Brighton and Vienna. “It was in this period that we watched her mature from a rather shy little girl into the very confident and worldly woman that she became.”

“It is so comforting to us that so many people, whom we have never met, but who knew and remember Karlie, have taken the trouble to write to us over the past year,” adds Keith. “If anyone would be prepared to share their memories of Karlie with me, I’d love to hear them.” You can contact Keith Rogers via the Alumni Office.

Lunching with luminaries

Holocaust educator Chana Moshenska was honoured this week at a Woman of the Year lunch and assembly, hosted by newscaster Moira Stuart. The annual occasion brings together leading women from every walk of life, each one distinguished in her particular field.

Chana was nominated by Renee Goddard, a vice-president of the Woman of the Year organisation, for her Holocaust education work at Sussex and with local schools. “She came to the Holocaust Memorial Day event I organised for the University in January this year and was apparently very impressed.”

Chana developed the University’s events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in her role at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies as Director of Educational Programmes, which she held until September this year. She also organised day workshops for school teachers on teaching the Holocaust; events for school pupils; and last year’s ‘Dear Diary’ conference at Sussex, which was held to mark an Anne Frank exhibition in Brighton.

Chana joined a celebrity-studded guest list of 500 women for this week’s lunch at the Savoy hotel in London. She didn’t get to meet any A-list celebs but she did meet plenty of other interesting women.

“I sat at a table with a baroness from Wales, a Labour life peer who tried to persuade me to rejoin the Labour Party; a professor of gerontology from King’s College London; someone from the Royal Court Theatre who said that there are no tickets available to see Michael Gambon in the new Caryl Churchill play; and the managing director of publishers Chatto and Windus, who promised me books for the course on diapers that I teach in CCS.”

Chana discovered that coming from the University of Sussex was a good opening conversational gambit. “Women at the lunch were happy to tell me that they’d worked with people here, studied here or in fact had decided not to.”

Local trust funds IT to support visually impaired students

Visually impaired students at Sussex are set to benefit from a generous grant by a local charity.

The Blatchington Court Trust (BCT) is giving the University an annual grant of about £10,000 for the next five years.

Sue Yates, Head of Student Support, welcomed the news and said: “The University has recently extended its provision for students with disabilities and this latest donation from the Blatchington Court Trust will help us to expand our services still further.”

Plans for spending the money include putting key academic texts onto CD-ROM, and purchasing more specialist software and adapted PCs.

Over the last decade the Trust has given nearly £150,000 to the University, which has been used:

- for a major research project on young visually impaired people in Sussex
- to finance the Jubilee Scholarships, awarded to visually impaired students from the county
- to assist individual visually impaired students at Sussex
- to enhance specialist equipment in the Library, the Computing Centre and the Assistive Technology Centre
- and to support the appointment of the University’s Visual Impairment Coordinator, Jane Wigley.

BCT was set up as a grant-making charity after the sale of the Blatchington Court School for the Blind in Seaford in 1992. It helps with the education and employment of about 700 young visually impaired people in Sussex.

The Executive Chairman of BCT is Dr Geoff Lockwood, who helped to form the Trust while he was Registrar & Secretary at Sussex. Another BCT trustee is Lady Helen Trafford, widow of a former Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Try a new sport this term

Squash

- Squash taster day on 26 October, 1–4pm at the Sportscentre. Play a county-standard player and learn more about the game. Individual and group coaching. Open to all, cost £1.

- Squash roadshow for kids on 28 October, 10am–2pm at the Sportscentre. Run by the Sussex Squash Rackets Association. For children aged 6–11 years, cost £2.

Alexander Technique

The Alexander Technique helps you learn how to increase body awareness, put yourself in control of your body and health, and reduce stress and tension.

- Taster session on 16 October, 12noon–1pm at the Sportscentre. Free of charge.
- Workshop on 9 November, 10am–2pm. Cost £14 (students), £17 (staff), £20 (public).

Trapeze

- Workshop on 2 November, 10am–1pm at the Sportscentre. Learn the basics of static trapeze, no experience necessary. Cost £12 (students), £15 (staff), £18 (public).

Contact Sportscentre reception on ext. 8258 to sign up for any of these events.
Give as you earn

If you give to charity, here's your chance to make regular contributions directly from your pay packet before any tax has been deducted. The University has registered for the Inland Revenue payroll giving scheme (Give As You Earn) so that you can donate to your favourite good causes through your salary.

Payroll giving is the single most effective way to give regular support to charity. And on top of the tax benefits, the Inland Revenue adds a further 10 per cent to your donation (see table below).

The Sussex scheme is administered by an organization called Carpe Diem Charitable Giving, which will visit the University throughout the week of 28 October to answer any questions you may have and to register your donation.

Contact the representatives at:

- Bramer House stairwell & Sussex House tea bar: 28 and 29 October and 1 November 10 am–4 pm
- Arts C foyer & BIOLS tea bar: 30 and 31 October 10 am–4 pm.

Alternatively, contact the Payroll Office in Sussex House for a form.

You can donate to any charity you wish. One option would be the University’s own Mandela Scholarship Fund, a charitable trust that helps to counteract the terrible legacy of apartheid in South Africa by bringing two or three black South Africans annually to study at Sussex.

The Students' Union administers the scheme; the University waives fees for the Mandela Scholars; and staff and students together raise money to pay for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

To date 30 students have received Mandela Scholarships. Most of them study education, development, or policy-related degrees and pledge to use their new knowledge and skills to serve their communities back home.

If you are one of the Scholarship Fund’s current supporters, switching to the Give As You Earn scheme will save hours of administrative work, as tax is automatically deducted.

Table below shows Give As You Earn scheme examples

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<th>Description</th>
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Small ads

FOR SALE: Christmas plum puddings in aid of Stanner church spire appeal. 1lb pudding £5 (serves 4), 2lb pudding £9.50 (serves 8). Available at Stanner Village Stores or contact Father Andrew Robinson on 069928 or see www.falmer.org.uk.

TO LET: Two unfurnished rooms in 4-bed house in Ovingdean. Share with two females in 20s and dog. N/S only. Large room (with ensuite) £320pcm, smaller one £260pcm. Share bills. From 1 Nov. Ext. 2395 or tel. 07816 071542

WANTED: Weekend help with care of delightful 9-year-old autistic girl in Hove. £10/£15/£20 but must be seriously interested. Tel. Bob Towler on 267733 or email bobtowler@btinternet.com.

FOR SALE: Washing machine. Two yrs old, slightly damaged but functional, £70. Email simons@artisansw.com.

FOR SALE: 2 tickets for David Gray concert at Ears Court on 7 Dec, £54 the pair. Email M.Mistry@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Sony 3-CD, double-cassette player stereo, desk and chair. Call Mihri on 877325 or email mihri@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 1-bed furnished flat in Rodmell. £550 pcm incl. Short-term lets welcome. Contact Lee Hogarth on ext. 7106, tel. 483776 (evens), email lee@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Two oil-filled electric radiators, one large (with timer) and one small. Still under guarantee. £60 for both. Contact Jean on ext. 3777 or 698669.

WANTED: Metal-frame green/cream sofa-bed. £90 ono. Tel. 07946 437680. Email Cath. cullinne@gardnerarts.co.uk.

TO LET: 3-bed unfurnished detached house in Kingston. Garden studio and garage. Staff or faculty only. £700pcm. Refs required. Tel. 689268.

FOR SALE: Corolla red 5dr, 67k miles, F-reg 09, MOT Feb, tax Jan, sunroof, new brakes +tyres. £7,150 ono. Tel. 07968 810788.
Café culture
The Bulletin guide to eating and meeting on campus

IDS restaurant/bar
Deborah Rapson has had plenty of time since becoming IDS catering officer 10 years ago to overhaul the restaurant: "My brief back then was to overhaul the food to reflect the tastes of visitors from overseas while providing good English cooking," she recalls. "Since then we've added veggie and vegan meals and we can service functions."

Location
IDS is convenient for Arts faculty and students, being located right behind EURO in the shadow of the concrete rugby posts. Head towards the Library's disabled entrance and follow the lecturers (they're after beer, not books).

Ambience
Eschewing the fad to go all continental, IDS has stuck to its roots. This is a good, honest canteen with wholesome, filling food at reasonable prices. Downstairs has a cosy atmosphere but can be a bit dark. Upstairs is more comfy with big sofas and windows and a terrace for dining in the sun.

Clientele
In the past IDS has been such a well-kept secret that students have either thought it's a faculty-only restaurant or, alternatively, didn't know it existed at all. Deborah says times have changed but it is still overwhelmingly a staff and postgrad favourite.

Menu
A wide menu is centred around soup, jackets, salad, and an ever-changing meat and veggie dish of the day. A main course such as steamed steak and kidney pud or roasted vegetables with chickpeas costs between £2.00 and £2.75. Jackets range from £1.75—£2.60 for special fillings such as pesto and cottage cheese. Many dishes now come with vegan ingredients from Infinity Food. From November, healthy meals will be introduced which will show their value in WeightWatchers points. At breakfast, however, the fare is pastries or a full English fry-up.

Most popular dishes
The end of the week is busiest for Deborah: "There's a queue out the door for fish on Fridays. I think if we took the scampli and cod off the menu there would be a riot!" The scones, made on the premises, are deservedly popular.

Facilities
Probably the only restaurant on campus with four different rooms: eat in the canteen, lounge, terrace or bar – the choice is yours. Baby chairs are also available.

Opening hours
During term open every weekday
8.00am—2.00pm and 3.30—6.00pm.
Busiest between 12.30 and 2.00pm.

A walk on the wild side
David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

There has been a recent influx onto campus. Most of the newcomers were students from all over the globe, but others were gulls from a smaller but still surprisingly wide area.

Gulls can be hard to identify because their plumage changes for the first few years of life. Most gulls on campus in winter, however, can be identified using the following rules. A bold dark spot behind the eye identifies a Black-headed Gull. For gulls without such a spot, yellow-green legs indicate a Common Gull and pink legs usually identify Herring Gulls. But not always: Common Gulls hatched this year also have pinkish legs. Their breasts have brown streaks running from side to side, not downwards as in young Herring Gulls or missing entirely as in fully adult gulls of all species.

Ringing studies at Worthing show that, while most of the Herring Gulls are local, the Common Gulls wintering in Sussex come from Scandinavia and most of the Black-headed Gulls from the Netherlands north-east to Estonia.

Greenfinches are stout birds about the size of a sparrow and easily recognised by the yellow panels on their wings and tail. Small flocks are now feeding on the Yew bushes near the Boiler House.

Yew 'berries' are something of a paradox. The plant is a conifer, so by rights should have a fir cone. Instead, it possesses a cup-shaped red coat or aril protecting a single naked seed. Just to confuse matters further, many yews develop a cone-like bunch of distorted leaves at the ends of the branches, which are galls caused by a small fly. Another unusual feature of the yew is that it has separate sexes, the male plant having perfectly conventional male cones.

All parts of a Yew, except for the aril, are extremely poisonous, containing a cocktail of alkaloids like taxine and the cardiac glycoside, taxiflavin. There are instances of cattle having been found dead with sprigs of Yew still sticking out of their mouths!

Most of the birds feeding on Yew 'berries' – such as Blackbirds and Starlings – eat the aril. The seed coat is resistant to their digestive enzymes so the birds feast on the 'berries' with impunity, dispersing the seeds in their faeces. Greenfinches, however, eat the seeds after removing the aril and then stripping the seed coat where the toxins are concentrated. Look for the debris below Yew bushes.

Yew trees are famed for the great ages to which they are reputed to grow and for their use in making bows. It has to be said that most of the Yew used for the English long bow was probably imported from Spain and that the antiquity of individual trees is often exaggerated. Yew thrives on campus where it is welcome as, according to folklore, it provides protection to any buildings in its care.

Below: Yew berries have a cup-shaped red coat protecting a single naked seed.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 21 Oct
12.30pm Continuing Education Research Forum: Mary Stuart (Sussex). Making change agents for widening participation: Life histories of managers in further and higher education. Arts D310.

Tue 22 Oct
2.15pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Adrian Treacher (Sussex), Accounting for the European Union's emergence as a military actor. Arts A71.

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research in Progress Seminar: Wilma de Jong (Sussex), Pressure groups, the media and the international public sphere: Greenpeace vs Shell in the Brent Spar affair. Arts C219.

5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Andrew Church, Secret gardens and tales from the river bank: Leisur, nature and geography. Arts D710.

5.00pm USIE Open Seminar: Michael Young (Institute of Education, London), Sociology and education: Lessons from the UK and South Africa. Arts C233.

5.00pm History Work in Progress Seminar: Kay Schiller (Durham), title TBA. Arts A155.

5.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Simon Boult (Cancer Research UK), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.

5.00pm CEGS Seminar: Richard Saunders (King's College), Descentes challenge: Language, modularity and cognitive flexibility. Arundel 40A.

5.00pm Life History Seminar: Iris Gusme in dialogue with Vernon Saunders. Sources in life history: From BBC Radio in the 1940s to emails in the 2000s. Arts A155.

6.30pm Professors Lecture: Nick Hirschfeld (Sussex), 1+1=0. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Sat 29 Oct
2.15pm Richard Whitman (Westminster), The Europeanisation of EU Member States' Foreign Policies. Arts A71.


6.30pm History Seminar: David Allan Meller and Lindsay Smith (Sussex), The history of photography: A conversation on the state of the field. Arts A103.

6.30pm Migration Research Seminar: Darren Smith (Brighton), Re-theorising family migration: Emerging geographies? Arts C233.

Thu 31 Oct
12.30pm Centre for Environmental Research: Jim Lynch (Surrey), Environmental bioaugmentation. Pev 1-2A12.

5.00pm Martin Wight Memorial Lecture: Mary Kaldor (LSE), The idea of a global civil society. Arts A2.

Fri 1 Nov
2.00pm Sussex Sociology Symposium: Paul Virilio, title TBA. Essex House Conference Room.

2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Yvonne Rogers (Sussex), Transforming awkward face-to-face consultations into more equitable, fluid and congenial experiences. EDB 121.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861
gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Tue 22 Oct
8pm Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company – Ticklish – Using a quartet of dancers, video projection and the highly acute choreographic observations that are her trademark, Vardimon delves into the emotional boundaries where pleasure turns to irritation and a caress becomes a slap. Hot foot it to the box office with your Bulletin: 2 pairs of tickets (worth £21 each) going free.

Fri 25–Sun 27 Oct
Fri & Sat 11am & 2pm, Sun 12 noon & 3pm Theatre Rites – Catch your Breath
An imaginative look at how children define their sense of space. A fusion of extraordinary puppetry, gentle performance and choreographed objects and images, for 3- to 6-year-olds.

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