Who will pay for HE?

Government announces future of university funding

After months of delay, the government finally published its White Paper on the future of university funding this week. Although the document addresses many issues and is billed as a 10-year vision for the reform of higher education, it is the issue of fees that has generated most discussion.

It now seems clear that the current system of tuition fees of £1,100 - paid up front - will go. In future, universities will be allowed to charge fees of up to £3,000 per year, to be paid after graduation. In addition, maintenance grants for students from poorer backgrounds will be re-introduced and the first £1,000 of any fee will be means-tested.

The University of Sussex has not so far given any institutional consideration to these so-called 'top-up' fees, or to the level that it might charge. However, Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith has been outlining his personal views in recent months.

"Unfortunately, no education is free; the question is not whether it has to be paid for, but who pays for it," he says. "I think it is unrealistic for the full cost of higher education to be paid for by the taxpayer; some of the cost has to be paid for by the individual graduate. I therefore broadly welcome the changes announced by the government this week, including the abolition of the up-front tuition fee and the re-introduction of maintenance grants for students from the least well-off backgrounds."

In the case of Sussex, what level would the fees be set at? "My guess would be that Sussex will charge more than the minimum, and set its fees at a level that provides the additional funding necessary for the University but one that does not deter students from coming to Sussex."

Many people are worried about the rising levels of student debt and particularly about the effect that these new fees might have. "Average student debt at Sussex at the moment is £15,000," says Nik Goldberg, Education Officer for the Students' Union. "Estimates say that the debt could double with the introduction of these tuition fees." Education Secretary Charles Clarke has admitted that the new plans could mean students graduating with debts of £20,000 for an undergraduate degree.

"It's obviously not ideal," agrees Alasdair. "But you have to look at that against the rest of the package. The government is getting rid of the up-front tuition fee that many students currently have to pay. It will also pay maintenance grants to students from poor backgrounds and pay part of their fee as well. So I think taken as a whole, the package may be seen as a reasonable one."

Nik doesn't agree: "It would definitely reinforce our predominantly middle-class student base - we would have many fewer students from poorer backgrounds," he argues.

"It's true that more people are going to university, but we're not getting the people from poorer backgrounds or from ethnic minorities."

"The costs that students have to pay now are a real problem for students from poorer backgrounds," acknowledges Alasdair. "That's a real barrier to access. What's positive about the proposals now coming forward is that the costs will fall on students after they have graduated, when they are in a much better position to pay."

I am confident that Sussex will continue to have a socially diverse student body."

 Widening access is one of the issues addressed in the White Paper, which also considers a number of other matters including pay and human resources, research and teaching, degree classifications, capital infrastructure, and the freedom and accountability of the higher education sector.

But it's top-up fees that grabbed all the headlines this week.

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**Government White Paper: the key points**

- The current up-front tuition fee will be abolished.
- From 2006 universities will be allowed to set different fee levels of up to £3,000 a year, with repayments to be made when graduates are working and their earnings reach £25,000. The means test on the first £1,000 of fee is to be retained.
- There will be an 'access regulator', which will require universities to demonstrate that they have a suitably broad intake of students. This will be a condition of being able to charge students a higher level of tuition fees.
- The government's target of 50 per cent of young people entering higher education is retained.

- Maintenance grants of up to £1,000 a year will be re-introduced, possibly from 2004, for the poorest students.
- There is expected to be a 6 per cent real terms increase in overall higher education funding each year for the next three.
- There will be a new top grade for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in order to give finer differentiation at the top of RAE rankings.
- The Regional Development Agencies will have a new role in the higher education Innovations Fund (HEIF).
- Centres of excellence for teaching will be given additional funding.
The tequila connection

Sally Ainsworth
Biology finalist

Researchers in BIOLS are growing Mexican agaves — tequila plants — in one of their greenhouses. Are they preparing for a fiesta or is there some deeper purpose?

Green-fingered DPhil student Ivan Saldana Oyarzabal (pictured right) is studying Agave tequilana for two main reasons. First, the plant’s method of photosynthesis differs from that of 90 per cent of all plants on earth. (Photosynthesis uses the sun’s energy to produce carbohydrate from water and carbon dioxide.)

Second, tequila plants use rather interesting methods of photosynthesis to store their energy reserves. Agaves, and a number of other succulents such as cacti, use a method of photosynthesis known as CAM (Crassulacean Acid Metabolism). This is an evolutionary adaptation of typical photosynthesis to life in hot, arid regions where water conservation is of utmost importance.

In effect, CAM plants stop ‘breathing’ during the heat of the day by closing their stomata (small pores that allow gas exchange with the atmosphere and water loss by evaporation). They take in carbon-dioxide by night and store it temporarily, which provides a source of carbon during the day without the cost of water loss. CAM plants use only about one-tenth of the water used by other plants.

In most plants the main products of photosynthesis are starch and/or sucrose (ordinary table sugar) but in agaves the main carbohydrates are fructans (chains of molecules of the simple sugar fructose).

CAM metabolism is well understood in plants that store starch but Ivan’s goal is to find out how agaves do it with fructans and how this affects the levels of fructans available for tequila production.

Fermented fructans may give tequila its particular characteristics, but fructans are also very interesting in their own right. They are found in many plants but cannot (in the unfermented form) be digested or broken down by human metabolism. Many taste sweet and can be used in the food industry as low-calorie sweeteners. Although they do not provide direct nourishment, fructans have an important role in human diet because they encourage the growth of ‘friendly’ bacteria in the large intestine.

Ivan’s research links an adaptation to water scarcity in desert plants with a set of useful and exciting carbohydrates and a drink that may underpin (or undermine) some of our least memorable adventures. No fiestas yet, but we live in hope.

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 list of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website, www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research/refund.shtml

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships
Up to 30 three-year fellowships will be funded. This scheme is designed to enable outstanding postdoctoral scholars to obtain experience of research and teaching. Applicants must have obtained their doctorate within 2 years of taking up an award. Starting salary £22,191.
Deadline: 28 February

British Academy Conference Grants
Grants of up to £2,000 are available for the costs of hosting a UK conference. Priority is given to supporting the costs of overseas speakers. One-day conferences will not be considered. This deadline is for conferences starting on or after 1 June 2003.
Deadline: 28 February

ESRC New Security Challenges
This new 6-year programme will focus on international security but defined broadly to include threats to groups as well as nations; to the biosphere as well as the polity, and from military to political, economic and environmental security. Applications can be made in two streams: under £45k and over £45k.
Deadline: 28 February

Royal Society Conference Grants
Grants are awarded to scientists presenting their own paper or poster, or chairing a session, at an overseas conference, where conference participation is the purpose of visit. Grants are made as a contribution to international fares, registration and subsistence, and childcare when appropriate.
Deadline: 1 March

Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships
Up to 20 two-year fellowships will be funded. Eligible applicants should normally be under 35 and should be or have recently been a member of the UK academic community and intend to remain so. The Trust funds 50% of the fellow's salary, which is matched by the host institution. All fields are eligible.
Deadline: 13 March
Student attack: campus community responds

University security staff remain on alert following an attack on campus on 11 January, when a 20-year-old undergraduate was assaulted. A man was arrested and released on police bail last week but Sussex Police are continuing to appeal for information about the incident. Police posters appear across campus alongside posters from the Students’ Union giving safety advice.

The woman was walking past Bramber House between 12.30am and 1.30am when a man pulled her down some steps. The attacker threatened to kill her before assaulting her and running away. The student bit him on the left side of his neck and believes she drew blood. Brighton & Hove City CID are treating the incident as a “stranger rape”.

Full details are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/central/intranet. Anyone with information relating to the incident should call (0845) 6070999 or Crimestoppers in confidence on (0800) 555 111.

In the immediate wake of the incident, Professor Alasdair Smith, Vice-Chancellor, said: “Our first thoughts are with the student herself. The security of our students and staff is of the highest priority, which is why we have an extensive range of measures already in place. We hope that the CCTV footage we have passed on to the police will prove helpful. And we would appeal to anyone with information to share it with the police.”

The University and Students’ Union moved quickly to support the campus community in the light of this incident, the first of its kind on campus for over 10 years.

Night-time security patrols were immediately increased after the attack and all students were informed about it by email. Residential advisers - second and third year students who live on campus and support new students - were briefed about the incident, and the Students’ Union reissued safety advice for students. The student herself was given support by the specialist police welfare team and University student services.

Ros Hall, President of the Students’ Union, said: “We feel strongly for the student who suffered this attack. The University campus is usually a safe environment for students. The Students’ Union works hard to keep it that way, with up-to-date security measures for all our facilities, and good advice and support for students around their own safety. We want to help students feel secure as they live and study here throughout the year.”

Students who spoke to the local media in the days following the attack confirmed that they normally felt safe on campus. Helen Sloper, who studies geography, told the Argus: “I usually walk around the campus by myself. You don’t expect this sort of thing to happen. I thought I was quite safe here.” Media Studies undergraduate Katie Taylor said: “I live on campus and I’ve never felt unsafe before.”

The University has extensive security measures in place, including a 24-hour a day, 365-day a year security service on campus, a network of CCTV cameras, an on-request ‘walk-home’ service, emergency phones and subsidised attack alarms for students. A review of University security systems has recently taken place and a number of further improvements are being planned.

Any member of staff with concerns about security or safety issues should contact Andy Jupp, Facilities and Support Services Manager, on ext. 8652. Students should contact Marianne Lernaud, Welfare Officer in the Students’ Union, on ext. 3354.

Sussex students win Imperial War Museum film competition for second year running

For the second year running, Sussex students have won the Best Documentary category of the Imperial War Museum’s student film competition.

Helen Trigg, Georgia Moseley and Aliza Nimon made the 28-minute film called ‘The Other American Invasion’ as part of a course taught by Dr Ian Gazeley, Senior Lecturer in Economic History in SOC.

“The film looks at the British reaction to African-American troops who were stationed here during the Second World War,” explains Helen. “One in ten American troops were black and neither we nor the Americans knew how to handle it. The film is about the British government’s and the British people’s reaction.”

The film draws on archive footage from the Imperial War Museum and elsewhere and also on research carried out in the USA by Aliza, who is from Connecticut. At the time they made the film, Helen and Aliza were students on the MA in Contemporary History and Georgia was doing an MA in American Studies.

Helen is now studying for a DPhil, focusing on the First World War. Georgia has recently finished a 15-month producer training course with the BBC and Aliza has returned to the USA and is working at Harvard University.

“None of us had ever thought of doing film production before we did this course, but now all three of us definitely want careers in this area,” enthuses Helen. Last year three Sussex students on the MA degree in Life History Research won the same competition with a film about how the Second World War affected the status of women.

Health Week

Health Week on campus has certainly had a high profile, thanks to staff in the Sport Service who crowned around on stilts to promote it. A circus skills workshop was one of the wide range of activities on offer this week – and most sessions were well supported, according to Karen Dunster, Head of Sport. The annual event aims to encourage staff and students to improve and maintain a positive state of health and well being.

Letter

Dear Bulletin

I could not help noticing that during campus Health Week the good old Coffee Shop in Bramber House continued to promote the ‘Bloating Belly Breakfast’.

A little constancy in a sea of change ...

Dave Booth, BIOLS
Societies set out their stalls at Refreshers Fair

October happened all over again last Wednesday (15 January), with Mandela Hall hosting the Refreshers Fair. Unlike Freshers Fair, where societies are split up according to theme, the Refreshers Fair is one huge mélange of just about every society (and business) wanting the attention of students. So you could join the Mountaineering Club, sign a petition against the GATS agreement, get career advice from CDEC and/or buy a ballistic bath bomb from Lush – all on the same day. Amid the throngs of students wandering around, two particular societies stood out.

SCI-FI is not, as you might expect, a haven for Buffy fans and Trekkies. Rather, the acronym stands for 'Spinal Cord Injury – Fundraising Initiative'. The group was set up following the injuries suffered by a well-known campus actor, 21-year-old Jacob Berkson (pictured below).

The philosophy student was perhaps most famous for appearing naked on the cover of the Badger last March, he was also involved with People and Planet and other campus groups. On holiday in Israel he dived into a deceptively shallow swimming pool, hit the pool floor and fractured his spine, leaving him paralysed from the waist down.

The inspiration to form SCI-FI was the fundraising efforts of CCS and the philosophy faculty who raised money for Jacob after his accident. The group plan to raise awareness of the issue and encourage donations to charities working in the field.

Alice McNair, an English and Philosophy finalist, is particularly critical of campus accessibility: "Jacob hopes to return to Sussex next year and although there are many resources at his disposal, just physically getting about campus is a challenge. His work in societies meant he spent a lot of time in Falmer House. However, as he is in a wheelchair and there is no lift, he would find it impossible to get beyond reception."

SCI-FI hope to hold club nights, jazz evenings and art shows to raise awareness and funds for research into SCI. However, will they be repeating Jacob's Badger stunt? "We may well get naked on campus soon," says Alice with a wicked smile.

To contact SCI, email sci_fijacob@hotmail.com.

If you think ballroom quietly disappeared with the demise of 'Come Dancing', think again. John Sung, a Linguistics DPhil student from Boston, USA, is hoping to bring the cha cha back to campus.

"Every American city has a club," says John. "I first started learning when I was an undergrad at Carnegie Mellon University. But Britain is the ballroom dancing capital of the world."

John stresses that ballroom dancing is not only a sociable pursuit with all sorts of people taking part, but can also help you keep those new year's weight-loss resolutions: "In the States, ballroom dancing is often advertised as a 'dance sport' because it can be very athletic."

Surely, however, ballroom dancing is just about the least fashionable thing the painfully cool Brightonista could do? Well, it appears not, as the dance has taken on a Latin flavour and stars such as Christina 'dirty' Aguilera and J-Lo use elements of the dance in their work. Frilly ball gowns and tuxes are out, to be replaced by crop tops for men and sparkly but ever-so-skimpy outfits for ladies.

John points out the classes will start out with the basics first such as the waltz and jive, but who knows where it will lead? Classes are in Mandela Hall every Tuesday from 6–9pm.

See www.cogs.sussex.ac.uk/users/jjs21/ballroom for more information.
**Holocaust Memorial Day event on campus**

Holocaust Memorial Day will be marked at Sussex next week by a day of lectures, film and workshops about the lives of survivors and refugees.

"Then and Now: Survivors and Refugees 1933-2003", organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, takes place on Wednesday (29 January).

"The aim is to connect our historical research on the Jewish refugees of the 1930's with the present day debate about refugees and asylum seekers," says Professor Ted Timms, Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. "Our educational work is designed to counteract the prejudices which are being reflected in sections of today’s tabloid press, some of which were as hostile to Jewish refugees in the 1930's as they are to Islamic asylum seekers now."

Two new resources will be launched: The "Teacher’s Guide to Holocaust Denial on the Internet", written by Rebekah Webb and Chana Moshefska; and the Sussex Digital Study Pack. The day will also include a personal testimony of Holocaust survivor Janina Fischer Martinho.

There will be a screening of the film ‘The Lift’, which reflects the experiences of groups of migrants and refugees who settled in the East End of London, including Jews, Bangladeshis and Afro-Caribbeans.

The screening will be followed by a discussion led by the film’s director Marc Isaacs, and chaired by Judy Ironsde, director of the Brighton Jewish Film Festival.

The event is free of charge and open to all. A full programme can be viewed at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/egs/events_files/holOMEModay.html. For more information, contact Diana Franklin on 020 8381 4721 or by emailing D.Franklin@sussex.ac.uk.

**Calling rare bats**

A new survey using pioneering new techniques developed by a Sussex researcher has discovered three previously unknown colonies of one of Britain’s rarest and least-studied mammals.

Only seven colonies of the Bechstein’s bat were previously known in the whole of England. Now a survey funded by English Nature has discovered three new woodland roosts in Dorset.

The Bechstein’s bat is a woodland dweller that is difficult to identify in flight. It has very quiet calls that are not easily heard on bat-detector instruments. The bats’ roosts, typically located within holes in decidious trees, are also very difficult to find.

The new survey technique, developed by Frank Greenaway and Dr David Hill, Lecturer in Ecology at Sussex, involves playing recordings of Bechstein’s calls to attract inquisitive bats. These are trapped in netting, where they can be identified before being released.

Using this method, Bechstein’s were found in three woodlands in west Dorset. The survey also turned up several new records for the Barbastelle bat, another very rare and elusive species.

John Stobart, English Nature’s Conservation Officer for Dorset, said: "Until now the Bechstein’s bat has proved to be almost invisible to us. To find three new sites in one survey is little more than staggering, while the additional records for the Barbastelle bat, another of our rarest species, is a real bonus. The success of this survey technique is a major breakthrough for bat conservation."

**Children’s social behaviour project**

Brighton & Hove City Council has commissioned a team of Sussex researchers to carry out a major research project on the development of social behaviour and peer relations in primary school children.

The team is working with educational psychologists and seven local primary schools for three years on a project that connects academic research and educational practice in a unique way.

The research team, headed by developmental psychologist Dr Robin Banerjee, will follow approximately 360 children over three years of primary school (one group from Year 1 to Year 3 and another group from Year 4 to Year 6).

The children will be seen on a number of occasions and a diverse range of methods – including interviews, questionnaires, observations, and multimedia interactive computer software – will be used to achieve a sound assessment of children’s experiences. The project team is particularly interested in issues such as:

- how much control children feel they have over positive and negative events in their lives
- how children respond to and cope with negative events in their peer interactions
- how children think and feel about themselves
- what children understand about how others are thinking and feeling
- the emergence of established peer group systems, and the impact of this on children's social experience
- the emergence and development of disruptive behavior patterns during primary school
- feelings of anxiety and associated patterns of social withdrawal.

Throughout the study, the researchers will be working alongside School Effectiveness and Educational Psychology teams in the council to develop strategies for effective interventions that seek to enhance the social experiences of primary school children.

You can follow the project's progress at www.cogs.susx.ac.uk/projects/cstb/.
Obituary

John Hedges

John Hedges, who had just completed a DPhil in the USIE’s Centre for International Education and was due to graduate at the Brighton Dome next month, died on 6 January at the age of 35 after a courageous fight against illness.

John was an undergraduate in AFRAS from 1987-90, studying for a BA in English. He joined USIE’s Multi-site Teacher Education Research (MUSTER) team in 1998 as a research student and undertook fieldwork in Ghana, collaborating closely with the local research team there. His doctoral study focused on the experiences of newly qualified teachers in Ghana in their first posting.

He also undertook some part-time postgraduate tutoring and was for a time research officer on the MUSTER project, which examined ways of improving the quality of teacher education in Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago. John co-ordinated the development of the website (www.sussex.ac.uk/usie/muster) and helped edit the first series of Discussion Papers.

Dr Janet Stuart from USIE said: “We remember with affection and gratitude John’s many contributions to the MUSTER project; his warmth and friendliness to all; and his skills as teacher and communicator. John would have graduated on 21 February and we shall be thinking of him particularly on that day.”

Ken Simons

Ken Simons, who studied Social Psychology in AFRAS at Sussex in the mid-1970s, died suddenly on 8 January at the age of 49.

Since 1989 he had been a Senior Researcher at Bristol University, working on policy and services for people with learning disabilities.

First Class

Ex-Sussex student Sandra Clinton has won a Salters’ Prize for the Teaching of Chemistry. Prizes were awarded to four promising new members of the profession.

Sandra, who read Chemistry and Management Studies here from 1982 to 1985 followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, now teaches chemistry at Brighton, Hove and Sussex VI Form College (Bhasvic). Half of the £3,000 prize money will go to the college and half to Sandra herself.

The Salters’ Institute promotes chemistry and related sciences in schools, and encourages careers in teaching science and in the chemical industry.

Professor Tim Shaw, who graduated from Sussex in 1967 with a BA from AFRAS, is now (after many years working overseas) Director of the University of London Institute of Commonwealth Studies. He researches and writes on African and other Third World governance, international relations/political economy and development, and security studies/policies.

Small ads

TO LET: Double furnished room in 2-bed flat nr Fiveways. Available for spring term and Easter vac for quiet n/s student, pref PG. £300 pcm incl. Tel. 685825 (weekdays), 01892 544885 (weekends), email davidbryan@onetel.net.uk.

HOUSE CLEARANCE: Several items for sale: w/m, desk, TV, dining set, tea table, sofa, bike. Contact Martha on 249530 or 077 1541 1014.

FOR SALE: Very small piano, 6 octaves, wood finish, £400 ono. Tel. 621313, email Cjeni@britishlibrary.net.

FOR SALE: Blue Renault 19 RN 1.4, 1993/K. 60,000 miles, 6 mths MoT, 70–75 mph, £600 ono. Tel 07961 342806.

WANTED: Volunteers to help make up packs of questionnaires for huge ovarian cancer screening study. Travel expenses paid, refreshments provided. Contact Chris Leggatt or Julie Long on ext. 3017.

WANTED: Large display cabinet, 1.8m H x 1.6m W x 0.42m D. £50. Email f.c.yang@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Flat for Japanese visiting fellow, non-smoker, with wife and baby. Sep 2003–Sep 2004 in B’ton, Hove or Lewes. Reasonable rent. Email Satoru Matsuda on matsuda@kyotogakuen.ac.jp.
Keeping eBay at bay

FOUND: Male budgie rescued from Library courtyard Mon 30 Oct.

Rarely has a more curious item found its way into the Bulletin’s small ads, but it seemed a sensible place to attempt to reunite a feathered friend with its owner. And if you take a glance at page 6 today you’ll see that the small ads are still thriving. On sale this week are a mini piano and Ford Puma, among other bargains.

These days, however, you don’t have to limit yourself to the small ads. You can sell just about anything via the web - a phenomenon that has provided one of the few success stories of the internet age. Just a few days ago online auction house eBay celebrated tripling its three-month profits to £54m.

Many similar items to those on sale in this week’s Bulletin can be found on eBay. Dr Tai Yang from EIT is selling a large display cabinet for £40. On eBay’s UK site there are about 50 such items. Yours, for £175, is a display cabinet made from a genuine Speyside malt whisky barrel, with 13oz tartan wool interior. The only problem is its in Moray, Scotland! (And, let’s face it: it’s a bit odd.)

Dr John Gribbin from BIOLS is trying to let a house in Kemp Town. “We use the Bulletin as well as other methods such as pinning up notices,” John explains. “Past experience suggests that the Bulletin is one of the most effective ways to reach what, in advertising terms, is known as the target audience!” Margaret Khidhayir in SLI (French cottage for holiday let) likes advertising to campus as she can meet prospective buyers.

Stephanie Watson in IDS (female PG/staff wanted for Hanover houseshare) sees the very breadth of the web as its downfall: “People often read a newspaper if they think it applies to them, rather than search the internet, which doesn’t necessarily give such immediate or tailored results.”

So it’s the very limitations of the Bulletin that makes it so attractive. It doesn’t have worldwide coverage or natty little product pics – but then selling to someone in Fulmer is a lot less fuss than selling to someone in Fiji.

The Bulletin forms part of a campus community and selling things within this community could make the seller and buyer more confident. A Bulletin reader, for instance, might seem a more suitable tenant than any old person browsing friday-ad.co.uk.

But there are other reasons why the printed page survives. Navigating your way around websites, registering and repeatedly emailing is a hassle when you could simply contact someone on campus. Also, sites like eBay have become very fashionable places to offload all your old junk in the hope someone might value it, resulting in an awful lot of useless dross to wade through before you find the display cabinet of your dreams. And, of course, the Bulletin is free to Sussex staff and students, unlike both friday-ad.co.uk and eBay.

So it seems the parochial small ad fills a niche untapped by the big internet players. But that doesn’t mean the Bulletin can guarantee a result every time. Sadly, the owner of the lost Library budgie was never found, and so it was taken in by a kindly member of staff who gave it a warm home and a sea view.

But give it a try – and don’t forget the website: www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin/. Watch out, eBay.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

Readers may not realise that deer sometimes visit campus by night. The most regular are Roe Deer, which breed nearby.

These attractive native deer were exterminated from England and Wales by hunting, but in 1800 Lord Dorchester reintroduced a small number to Dorset. Their descendants slowly spread across southern Britain and are now colonising East Sussex and Kent. As Roe Deer prefer young thickets with easy access to woodland glades and weedy fields, it is likely that the great storm of 1987 increased the amount of suitable habitat. Roe Deer are goat-sized with a large, pale rump. Their most common calls are rapid barks like those of a small dog.

Another increasingly frequent visitor is the tiny Muntjac, introduced from the forests of south-east Asia to central England about a century ago. If you spot one, your first impression may be of a chestnut-coloured pig, as they often stand with a humped back. They have no rump patch but have pure white bellies. Brambles are a favoured food on campus, but elsewhere they destroy Bluebells and Primroses. Muntjac have an eerie bark given at intervals of several seconds.

Although Fallow Deer became extinct in Britain during the last Ice Age, escapes from deer parks resulted in free-living herds such as that on Ashdown Forest. Much larger and more gregarious than Roe Deer or Muntjac, they are notorious wanderers and occasionally pass through our area.

We all know that campus is now one of the few places left in the country where one can still find fine specimens of the genuine English Elm. Naturally we keep a watchful eye on our 20 or so trees that have managed to survive the combined ravages of Dutch Elm Disease and the 1987 storm. Two of the oldest are by the path between Bramber House and Arts D. One of them sports a group of large conspicuous 'fungoid' growths. These are 'bracket fungi' and a common feature of trees showing signs of their age. The one on ours is an elm specialist called Rigidoporus ulmarius that used to be quite frequent in southern and western England before Dutch Elm Disease.

The 'bracket' is the fruit body of the fungus and is a truly remarkable structure. The underside is pale dirty yellow in colour and has a kind of velvety texture. Under a lens it is seen to consist of a huge number of minute pores, each about 0.2 mm in diameter. The fungus' spores line the surface of these narrow tubes that extend deep into the bracket. Bracket fungi are one of nature's most reproducitively prolific organisms. A closely related species has been estimated as producing 20 million spores a minute for five months! Contrary to common belief, the fungus poses no threat to the tree and is not expected to shorten its life expectancy!
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 27 Jan

1.00pm Cognitive Research Group Seminar: Phil Higham (Southampton), Memory metamemory and report criterion effects in the encoding specificity paradigm. BiOLES EP Seminar Room 4D14.

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research-In-Progress Seminar: Robbie Shilliam (Sussex), Hegemony and the unfashionable problematic of primitive accumulation. Arts C219.

4.00pm Social Psychology Seminar: John Drury (Sussex), Understanding empowerment in collective action: From theory to phenomenology and back again. Arts D510.

4.00pm Economics Research Seminar: Mary O'Mahoney (NIESR), Investment in communications technology (ICT) and total factor productivity (TFP). Arts D520.

5.00pm USIE Open Seminar: Saville Kushner (West of England), Beyond the numbers game (again): Quantity and democracy in research capacity building. Arts C233.

Tue 28 Jan

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Marie Dembour (Sussex), Poland before the European Court of Human Rights: Five years of case law. Arts A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Kevin Bright (Brighton & Sussex Medical School), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.


5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Uwe Dornbusch (Sussex), Paleoglaciation of the Peruvian Andes. Arts C175.

5.00pm The Greening of poetry: Readings by Peter Abbs and Philip Wells. Meeting House.

6.30pm Professorial Lecture: Nigel Llewellyn (Sussex), Art and identity in 18th-century Italy. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Wed 29 Jan

1.00pm Holocaust Memorial Day: Survivors and Refugees 1933-2003. A2.

1.00pm IDS Seminar: Education and the Millennium Development Targets: Sheila Aikman (Oxfam), Civil society engagement with the MDGs: Advocacy and campaigning for participation and accountability. IDS 221.

4.30pm American Studies Seminar: JoAnne Mancini (Sussex), ‘Messin’ with the Furniture Men’: County, folk, and the anthropological response to modernity in the United States. Arts A155.

5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Maya Unnithan (Sussex), Contraction and development. Arts A1.

Fri 31 Jan

2.15pm SPRU Friday Seminar: Julia Rowntree (NESTA), Now that the power of technology means you can do more or less anything, what is it that I choose to do? EDB 121.

Mon 3 Feb

1.00pm Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Research Group Seminar: Tim Kirkham (Reading), Endocannabinoids and appetite. EP Seminar Room 4D14.

2.00pm Research on Languages and Linguistics Seminar: Seongsuk Choi (Sussex), Complex aspectual structure in Korean. Arts A155.

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Deianira Ganga, (Sheffield), The Italians of the Nottingham area: From potential returns into settlers. Arts C233.

Thu 30 Jan

12.30pm Centre for Environmental Research Seminar: John Plane (East Anglia), Chemistry on the edge of space. Peversey 1 2A12.

4.30pm History of Art Research Seminar: Andrea Morse, Renaissance and Baroque. Liberty Library Room.

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Lesley Pallett (European International Unit, Home Office), Development perspectives for the 'area of freedom, security and justice'. Arts A71.

3.00pm International Relations and Politics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Martin Coward (Sussex), Urbicida in Bosnia. C219.

4.00pm Economics Research Seminar: Pat Mahoney and Ian Hextall (Surrey, Roehampton), Performance mismanagement: A wheeze set to croak. Arts C233.

Wed 5 Feb

1.00pm IDS Education Seminar: Elaine Underhalter (London), Capabilities, social justice and the millennium development target for gender equality in education. IDS 221.


5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Keith Hallcrafter (Swanse), Unying migration completely: De-gendering or rational transformation? Arts C233.

Thu 6 Feb

12.30pm Centre for Environmental Research Seminar: Tony Stace and Tim Wright (Sussex), Chemistry of the ionosphere. Pev1 2A12.

5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Roger Yates (Action Aid), Humanitarianism since 9/11. Arts A1.

Fri 7 Feb

2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Nick Marshall (Brighton), The politics of interpretation in collective sense-making. EDB121.

Gardner Arts Centre

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

Performance

Sun 26 Jan
8pm Dylan Moran – Monster
Perrier Award winning stand up and the creative force behind Channel 4's Black Books.

Fri 7 Sat 8 Feb
Various times Dilly Cart - Jumpin' Beans
An enchanting multi-sensory show for children from 6 months to 6 years old.

Cinema

Mon 27 Jan
8pm Donnie Darko (15)

Wed 29 Jan
8pm 10 (12A)

Fri 31 Jan
8pm Changing Lanes (15)

Sun 2 Feb
8pm Rabbit-Proof Fence (PG)
8pm Morvern Callar (15)

Mon 3 Feb
8pm Road to Perdition (15)

Wed 5 Feb
8pm Bowling for Columbine (15)

Flicks for free: for every film in the spring programme, a free pair of tickets worth £3 to the first five Bulletin readers at the box office.

Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Allison Field, Peter Simmons and Benedict Brock. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 7 February, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 31 January. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
New Schools

Project planning for the new Schools

A range of projects is under way to support the start of the new Schools in autumn 2003. Future issues of the Bulletin pull-outs will give more information on the progress of these, including more detailed time lines and project milestones. Here are some of the major projects under way, with brief information about each.

In order to ensure that everyone is aware of how to feed into the various projects, as well as to get information on them, the Registrar & Secretary (who is co-ordinating the development of the new Schools overall) has appointed a co-ordinator for each project, usually one of the School Administrative Managers. Each co-ordinator is given the brief to support a range of projects, working with project managers and other members of the University’s senior management to ensure that projects keep to time and to ensure that changes and developments are co-ordinated and communicated to the University community.

Space and physical services
School spaces: Liz McVeigh
Plans are being developed to design and build new School entrances, lobbies and common spaces.
School locations: Liz McVeigh
Staff and subject-specific resources in the new Schools will be located together or near to each other.
General teaching space (GTS): Liz McVeigh
Teaching space will be upgraded and grouped together in a way that better reflects student need and the way that teaching is carried out today.
Physical services: Angela Pater
Estates & Facilities Management are working with the new Schools on issues such as mail facilities, portering, cleaning, and disabled access.
Catering: Angela Pater
The provision of catering outlets across campus is being reviewed in light of the new Schools.
Health & safety: Angela Pater
A revised management structure for health and safety is being devised.

Staff structures and processes
Admin and clerical support structure: Sam Riordan
Each School and its departments, staff and students, will be supported by a professional administrative and clerical infrastructure. Schools are working together to achieve greater consistency in practice, and to harmonise roles, functions and core processes. A common framework for the support structures has been agreed and each School is now considering its detailed implementation.
Admin and clerical support staff allocation: Sam Riordan
Clerical and administrative staff in the current Schools, Subject Groups and Graduate Research Centres need to be re-deployed to a post in the new structure, from 1 August. The new Schools are working together, to an agreed timetable, so that decisions about the allocation of staff are taken by the end of the spring term.
Admin and clerical staff development: Sam Riordan
A programme of staff development is being put together to support the creation of the new School structures. There will be some cross-School development for staff with particular specialist or professional responsibilities, or where there is an identified need for skills updating. Each School will also have its own programme with an emphasis, in the short term, on team building.
Equal opportunities: Sam Riordan
Each new School will need to ensure that the work in progress within the University’s Human Resources Strategy is implemented and firmly embedded.
Accountant posts: Sam Riordan
Each School will have a Management Accountant, devolved from the Finance Division, who will be part of the School’s senior administrative team. The detailed specification for this role will need to be determined so that the needs of each of the new Schools are met.

Finances
Unit planning: Sara Hinchcliffe
The annual mechanism for considering School academic plans and their resource implications is being reviewed.
Allocations to Schools: Sara Hinchcliffe
The process by which University income is allocated to the Schools and units is being developed.
School budget mechanisms: Sara Hinchcliffe
The process by which Schools allocate resources internally is being developed.

Academic planning
Committee structures: Sarah Butler
The new Schools will have revised academic and decision-making committee structures.
Organisation of postgraduate education: Nigel Llewellyn
Consideration is being given to how graduate teaching and research activity will be best clustered within the new Schools.
Old BA curriculum: Sam Riordan
New Schools, in particular those offering BA programmes, will need to ensure that the pre-2003 curriculum, and those students following it, are fully supported by, and integrated into, the new structures.
New BA curriculum: Sara Hinchcliffe
The implications of the new curriculum structures are being considered.

Student systems
PG and UG admissions: Laura Flynn
Procedures for admitting undergraduate and postgraduate students into the new Schools are being planned.
Visiting and exchange students: Laura Flynn
Procedures are being put in place for the management of the visiting and exchange student experience.
Study abroad: Angela Pater
The University’s academic and support systems for students studying abroad are being reviewed.
Student support systems: Sara Hinchcliffe
Systems for student support in the new Schools are being planned.

IT
Sussex Direct: Jacqueline Clarke
Sussex Direct (a personalised website for students and staff) will be developed to support Schools and their administrative processes.
IT support staff: Angela Pater
The provision of computing support in Schools is being reviewed and discussions will be held with the newly appointed Director of Computing Services.
School MIS: Jacqueline Clarke
The relationship of School management information systems (MIS) are being looked at, as well as how they are supported and interface with central systems.
Websites: Angela Pater
New School and departmental websites are being developed to reflect the new academic structures.

Communications
School communications strategy: Sara Hinchcliffe
Effective systems for internal and external communications in the new Schools will be put in place.
New administrators for the new Schools

The nine current School Administrative Officers and Arts Administrative Officers have been appointed to the following posts in the new Schools.

School of Humanities
Curriculum: Pauline Thorne (left)
Sussex Institute
Systems and Resources: Linda Gardiner (below right)
Flexible Study: Sara Hobden (below left)

School of Social Science and Cultural Studies
Systems and Resources: Rosa Weeks (below left)
Curriculum: Elizabeth Moore (below right)

School of Science and Technology
Systems: Sue Bullock (below right)
Curriculum: Magdalena Portmann (below left)

Individuals will take up their new roles formally in August but, in the meantime, each will be contributing to the planning for the new Schools, including bringing their experience and expertise to the development of the remainder of the School support structures.

Two posts remain vacant: School Administrator (Curriculum) in the School of Humanities. These posts have been advertised, internal to the University, with a closing date of 31 January. Full vacancy details are available online and anyone interested in these opportunities is welcome to contact the relevant School Administrative Manager for an informal discussion.

Newsflash
Over the last few weeks there has been extensive consultation with Deans and other staff on job descriptions for Heads of Department in the new Schools. The proposed job descriptions will be discussed at the Senior Management Group on Monday (27 January), for agreement and then dissemination. Watch this space for more information or see www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/newschools.

New directors for new Schools

Key academic appointments – the Directors of Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies and Student Support – have been made to the five new Schools.

School of Humanities
Undergraduate Studies: Dr Denise deCaires Narain
Graduate Studies: Professor Deborah Cherry
Student Support: Dr Nicola Woods

School of Life Sciences
Undergraduate Studies: Dr Liz Somervile
Graduate Studies: Professor Stephen Caddick
Student Support: Dr Carlton Wood

School of Social Science and Cultural Studies
Undergraduate Studies: Dr David Robinson
Graduate Studies: not yet filled
Student Support: Dr Ruth Woodfield

Sussex Institute
Undergraduate Studies: Laurence Koffman
Graduate Studies: Carol Kidward
Student Support: Dr Angela Jacklin

Working closely with and reporting to the Dean, each Director will play a major strategic role in the development of the School and, by extension, the University. As a full member of their School Management Group, they will work collaboratively with Heads of Departments and administrative colleagues, as well as with the Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Directors from other Schools.

Each post will be for two, three or four years, with a possible extension of a further three years. The postholder will receive up to 50 per cent remission from their normal duties.

Each Director of Undergraduate Studies, in conjunction with the Heads of Departments, will be responsible for the strategic development and management of the undergraduate curriculum.

The Director of Graduate Studies in each School will be responsible for the strategic development of the postgraduate curriculum.

The Director of Student Support will be responsible for the strategic development and oversight of student support mechanisms within the School and will work with the University’s Head of Student Support.

Open meeting on support structures

Work is in progress to develop and finalise the new Schools’ support structure.

“The University is committed to utilising the existing skills, knowledge and experience of its staff,” said Neil Gershon, Registrar & Secretary. “We will therefore seek, as far as is practicable, to match people to the most suitable post.”

For most people this will not include a formal application and interview process. The proposed timescale for completion of this process is Easter.

School Administrative Managers and newly appointed School Administrators will produce details of functions, roles and draft job descriptions for consultation with School support staff.

An open meeting for School administrative and clerical staff will take place on 13 February from 12.30 to 1.30 pm in Arts A1.

Draft information will be available in time for the open meeting. School Administrative Managers, School Administrators and Barbara Bush (Director of Human Resources) will be available to discuss the proposals.