Lost words from Woolf

Scholars, admirers and relatives of Virginia Woolf will be attending a special seminar this month to celebrate the discovery of a 'lost' notebook by the writer, which is now in the safe keeping of the Library.

The notebook was left forgotten in a desk for 35 years before being found during a house move. It will be published next week for the first time (as Carlyle's House and Other Sketches) by Hesperus Press.

The original copy has joined other Woolf notebooks and manuscripts in the Monks House Papers archive of the University's Special Collections. It is currently on display in the foyer of the University Library.

All staff and students are welcome at the seminar, which will be chaired by Dr Laura Marcus. Speakers include the book's editor Dr David Bradshaw and University of Sussex scholars, and it will take place in the Meeting House on 22 July, from 2.30-5.30pm.

Invited guests include Victorian Glendening (currently working on a biography of Leonard Woolf), novelist Doris Lessing and Virginia Nicholson, the granddaughter of Woolf's sister, Vanessa Bell.

"This is such an exciting find," says Sybil Oldfield, reader in English at Sussex and one of the seminar's panelists. "With so much already written and known about Virginia Woolf, who would have thought there could have been an undiscovered notebook? It was written in 1909, when she was still an unmarried, unpublished author, and helps to fill out the portrait we have had of her so far."

Sybil, who has written extensively on Woolf and is currently editing a book of letters written in response to her suicide in 1941, points out that the 60 pages of script demonstrate the young writer's efforts to hone her skills of description, particularly of people. It also reveals her growing interest in radical feminism and pacifism - themes to which she would return in her novels.

After Woolf's death, the notebook passed to her husband, Leonard. In 1968, while having all of her notebooks transcribed, he sent it to Wales for a young student to type up. But Leonard died the following year and the notebook was left in a drawer until a recent house move.

Dorothy Sheridan, head of Special Collections, said the notebook was a highly valuable addition to the original material from Leonard Woolf's estate already in the care of the University. "We are honoured and delighted by this gift," she said.

Changes to car-park charges

Council passed the following motion:
1. For the time being, registered users should be charged during term time only.
2. Consideration be given to charges for part-time staff being based on actual basic salary and not full-time equivalent salary.
3. The Transport Manager review the strategy and its implementation and present a report via the Estates Committee for wide discussion in the spring committee cycle. The application process for parking permits and passes was due to begin on 1 July. As car-park charges for University-registered users will now come into effect on the first day of the autumn term (8 October), it is possible to give consideration to the second part of the motion before the application procedure begins.

Once this has happened, details of the application procedure will be published at www.sussex.ac.uk/transport/ and will be sent individually to every person with a car registered on the current University database. Parking charges for external or non-University users will come into effect on 1 August as planned, and pay-and-display machines will shortly be installed in all car parks. Notices on the machines will confirm the charges payable and will clearly indicate that University registered users do not have to pay and display in the vacation.

The Transport Manager, Linda Newman, has received many emailed questions in recent weeks about the Parking Strategy. It is not possible for Linda to answer every enquiry individually and some frequently asked questions have been added to the website (www.sussex.ac.uk/transport/). Many emails have commented on the Strategy but have not asked specific questions. All comments have been recorded for the review that is requested in the third part of the Council motion.
Dear Editor

I would like to thank the 300 or so people who completed my questionnaire. The results, with their comments and an analysis, are available from www.biols.sussex.ac.uk/home/Jeremy_Maris/parking.

Council has agreed that, for the time being, registered users should be charged during term time only, with the daily rate pro-rata to the annual rate.

There will be a review of the Parking Strategy and its implementation in the next committee cycle, with wide discussion. I am sure that the campus trades unions, Transport Manager and other University officers will address the detailed comments that respondents have made.

Jeremy Maris,
Council member for non-academic staff

Dear Bulletin

I have read the comments that Jeremy Maris received after doing his survey and I do not think the University or Linda Newman realise the level of anger there is within the campus about the imposition of these charges.

Many of us do not bother to claim for small amounts of expenses we incur during our working days and one suggestion was that we make sure we do so in future. Can I suggest that others follow this procedure too and therefore make sure that they claim back at least what they are charged unreasonably for parking.

Mick Henry, CPES

Dear Editor

I do hope it is not too late to comment on your Bulletin article (30 May) about renaming campus roads.

First, it is wrong to say occupants of Mantell Building have been "forced to include" Boiler House Hill on their letterhead and I very much hope they have never done so. The correct postal address for all campus buildings is simply "X Building, University of Sussex, Brighton".

The internal roads were given names purely for operational reasons. When the roads were subjected to the Road Traffic Acts it was necessary to put the names into the public domain, so they now appear in parking regulations, for example.

Because the names were never intended to be used publicly, the existing road names are functional but extremely unimaginative. So I welcome the proposal to adopt new names, but suggest (as have others who have commented) it should extend further than the two names highlighted in the Bulletin.

The only exception to the names being unimaginative is Knights Gate Road, named after the feature at the top entrance to campus. But this name appears to be used only for a short stretch of road as far as the Innovation Centre. There is no reason why it should not extend the whole length of the campus ring road, from the A27 fly-over to the Boiler House, thus solving the problem of 'Boiler House Hill'.

With regard to the roads in the central part of campus, I would favour honouring people who have contributed to the development of the University.

Why not let alumni make suggestions on individuals worthy of being recognized in this way?

John Warmington,
Students' Union

Field trip with a difference

When 12-year-old schoolchildren from Vardean school in Brighton went on a field trip last month, they left their pens and notebooks behind. The pupils were given high-tech gadgets instead and encouraged to explore a local wood, using the personal digital assistants (PDAs) and hand-held radios to report back on wildlife or plants that they saw.

The children were taking part in the Ambient Wood project, which looks at how technology can best be used to support children's learning in a variety of ways.

The project was set up just over a year ago and is led by researchers from the Interact lab at Sussex. They are collaborating with colleagues at Nottingham, Bristol, RCA and Southampton. The aim is to find out the best ways of using the latest digital devices to support children's learning. Recent advances in the design of interactive technologies have allowed the possibility of designing 'mixed reality environments', where the real world is combined in some way with a virtual computer-based environment.

"Technologies such as these have the potential for providing innovative ways for enabling children to play and learn, through novel forms of interacting," says research fellow Eric Harris. "And they offer scope for bringing playfulness back into learning, as well as independent exploration, discovery and reflection."

For this latest trial, the researchers set up a wireless area network (WAN) in a wood near Lewes. When the pupils found an animal or plant, they used the hand-held radio to describe it to someone at a control centre. A message on their screens in response gave them an image or more information and acted as a record of what they had found.

The children then used their PDA recorders to share their findings with each other and reflected on their experiences in a 'den' area, before coming up with hypotheses of what will happen to the wood long-term under various conditions such as drought or lack of light.

In a further technological twist, the woodland activities were featured last week on 'Go Digital', a weekly BBC World Service programme that is also available online: see http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3035337.stm.

The Ambient Wood project is part of a £10 million initiative, funded by the EPSRC, running from 2000-06. It is concerned with innovation and, in particular, exploring the relationship between physical and digital environments.

Eight British universities are taking part, with about 100 researchers and doctoral students involved.
Extending the Library’s knowledge base

The Library will be investing thousands of pounds in books, journals and other information resources over the next few months.

Up to £500,000 is being invested in the Library’s collections following an insurance settlement that the University received for the destruction of the Library’s store in the Lewes floods of autumn 2000.

Subject Support Librarians have consulted all Subject Groups on resources to acquire and orders are now being placed. The intention is to have as many of the new resources available by the autumn as possible.

The information resources to be acquired include:
- Early English Books Online (a collection of over 100,000 books published in England between 1475 and 1700);
- electronic archives of journals published by the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry since the 19th century;
- British parliamentary papers published since 1801;
- and a number of 19th- and early 20th-century historical and literary periodicals.

Debby Shorley, University Librarian, underlines the significance of this investment: “The insurance settlement has provided the Library with a tremendous opportunity to extend its knowledge base to support teaching, learning and research in all subjects in line with the University’s new faculty structure. The scope and depth of these new collections is very impressive by any measure – and of course many are electronic, and particularly useful for researchers.

“We have also set money aside to develop our electronic library services further for the future. While the campus-based library remains at the core of our activities, we anticipate that electronic library services will become ever more important over the next few years.”

For further information contact Ben Wynne, Library e-Strategy Leader (b.b.wynne@sussex.ac.uk), or your Subject Support Librarian.

Correction

In the last issue of the Bulletin (27 June), a list of Fellows of the British Academy from Sussex omitted to mention Professor Robin Milner-Gulland, who was elected as a Fellow last year. Many apologies to Robin.

Support your bookshop

In the past decade Britain’s bookshops have gone from places of quiet contemplation to cut-throat competition. However, it’s unlikely that any of them will give you a discount simply for being a university employee.

In its continuing efforts to slave off the threat from the big chains, the University Bookshop offers every staff member a discount of 10% bought from their wide selection. If you haven’t been to the Bramber House shop for a while, it’s worth another look. As well as a wide range of academic titles, the shop also includes modern fiction, travel and children books, a range of stationery and, of course, an in-store Body Shop – all of which you can get the discount on.

You don’t even have to go to Bramer House to get the books. Instead www.sussexunibooks.co.uk lets you purchase them directly from your computer and have them delivered to your door.

In order to keep costs down, from 1 August the Bookshop will be ceasing its scheme whereby personal items you purchase can be deducted directly from your salary. Kristian Berggreen, Bookshop manager, says the salary-deduction scheme is “fairly cumbersome and costly to administer”. Kristian hopes that savings can be ploughed back into improvements at the Bookshop.

“Competitors would seek to just cream off the major textbook sales, without which the Bookshop would not be able to survive,” he argues.

It is good that Sussex and Brighton Universities have agreed to co-operate on the transfer of all these programmes to Brighton, but it will leave Sussex the poorer both in terms of its contribution to professional education (something to which I had thought Sussex was committed) and in terms of its reputation within the local mental health community.

Lawrence Suss, Psychological and Counselling Services

Professor Fred Gray, Dean of the Sussex Institute, replies.

I do not believe the University’s new structures were, of themselves, the reason for the reluctantly taken decision to no longer offer counselling, psychotherapy and counselling psychology courses and programmes.

As Lawrence will know, many colleagues across the University worked hard over several years to find a suitable academic and intellectual home and appropriate resources for the activity. Ultimately, this proved impossible, but not for the want of trying.

It is, though, important to emphasise the University’s commitment to professional education as witnessed, for example, in many of the programmes of the Sussex Institute, ranging through such diverse areas as education and law to social work and arts management.
University and Students’ Union sign historic agreement

The University and the Students’ Union have, for the first time, signed an agreement that sets out each organisation’s responsibilities in the provision of services to students.

A joint working party chaired by Dr Mary Stuart drafted a Service Level Agreement, which sets out the framework for the relationship between the University and the Union. It describes principles rather than detailed practice, which will be developed over time.

The underlying principle is that the provision of services by the two organisations is complementary to one another, and that the services are provided for the benefit of students.

The Service Level Agreement covers finance, communications, student welfare, sport and activities, entertainments and trading activities, as well as planning for the future.

New initiatives arising out of the working group’s discussions include the creation of an additional post in the Union’s Student Advice Centre, which offers an advocacy role and independent advice to students.

Additional resources have also been agreed to support a coaching budget, which the Sport Service will administer from October this year to provide qualified coaches for sports clubs. A new joint body will also be established to plan and co-ordinate student sporting activity from October 2004 by clubs entering BUSA competitions.

The agreement specifies that student journalists needing comment from staff about campus issues will go via the Press and Communications Office, which undertakes to ensure they “have access to accurate and timely information”.

Meanwhile, a primary focus with regard to trading activities will be the development of a joint strategy for campus retail outlets. “I am delighted that we have been able to reach this settlement with the Students’ Union,” said Mary. “The new agreement should help both organisations to provide improved services that genuinely meet the interests and needs of students.”

Council, the University’s governing body, approved the Service Level Agreement at its termly meeting last week (4 July).

Small ads

FOR SALE: Nissan Micra 1.1. Mot. grey. G reg (75K miles). Tax Nov. FSH. £350. Email m.page@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Renault 19 Chromade K reg (93). 106K miles. Mot March, Tax Nov. £650. 1-bed flat in Sussex Sq. Use of communal gardens. £149.500. Call David Reby on ext. 7334 or 570253 (aves) or email reby@biols.susx.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Candy white upright frost-free fridge-freezer, 3 y/o. £30. Buyer collects. Email J.A.Lane@sussex.ac.uk or call 07720 811167.

TO LET: 2-bed flat in Lewes. Suit faculty/PGs. £800pcm furnished/unfurnished. Available 1 Sep. Tel. 475717 or 07876 629690.

TO LET: Late-Victorian mahogany 6ft sideboard, with back and mirror. £300 ono. Email j.a.franagan or call June on ext. 3815.

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

FOR SALE: Epson Stylus 300 colour inkjet printer. £25. Two new ink cartridges, £9 each, £10 for two. Call Angela on 07753 317430 or email miangela@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: Volvo 240 GL estate. Blue. 1988, 1 yr tax & MoT. FSH £475. Email n.m.spiller@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: PC workstation. 2.4Ghz Athlon, 512 RAM, GeForce 2 Pro graphics, 19 in monitor, software. £400 ono. Call 0796 768058.

TO LET: 1-bed flat + office with garden nr Bttn station. Furnished or un. £750 pcm. From Aug. Call Margaret on 725621 or email: margaretan23@hotmail.com.

For further details, see www.susx.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/vacs or contact Staffing Services on (01273) 678706, fax (01273) 877401, email recruitment@susx.ac.uk.

First admissions cycle for Medical School nears completion

With 98 per cent of the recipients of BSMS offers having now returned their decisions to UCAS, the first admissions cycle of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School is almost complete.

Just under 50 per cent of applicants to whom BSMS made offers selected it as their first choice so that, by a combination of good luck and good judgement, it has received almost exactly the target number of acceptances.

The first entry will include students who have turned down the chance of a place at established medical schools such as Bristol, Nottingham, University College, King’s, Manchester and Southampton in favour of a place at BSMS, though no one has yet declined an Oxbridge offer to join it!

About 50 members of the inaugural class are now definitely identified – students who already possess the qualifications they need. The remainder must await the publication of the results of A levels and other summer exams before they can be sure that they will be joining BSMS.

Present projections are that 60 per cent of the first entry will be female and 40 per cent male, proportions exactly reflecting the applicant mix and those made offers, and close to the national profile of applicants to medicine.

Over a quarter of the first intake will be mature students – the majority in their 20s but a handful in their 30s and early 40s. The mature students are about equally divided between those who already possess a first degree, in subjects ranging from philosophy and artificial intelligence to microbiology and nursing, and those returning to study after a period in another career. A significant number have experience as health professionals.

Recruitment is also nearing completion for the BSMS-sponsored Access to Medicine course at Sussex Downs College, where a proportion of the students will be offered places guaranteeing progression to BSMS providing they achieve the academic level required on their Access course.

Bulletin

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Benedict Brook and Peter Simmons. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 25 July, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 18 July. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.