Hair-raising antics were the order of the day as staff, students and children joined in the fun for Comic Relief on Friday 14 March.

Children from the campus Nursery rolled red tomatoes with their noses (pictured below), while some of the University's top athletes competed in an egg and spoon race outside Bramber House (bottom right).

Even the 200th meeting of Senate entered into the spirit of the occasion. Senior managers Professor Alasdair Smith, Neil Gershon and Professor Tony Moore each set an example to their fellow Senators by sporting a big hair red nose (above).

Barbara Bush, Director of Human Resources (above right), was in the thick of the Comic Relief action and looked forward to a slice of the special cake made by Shell Morgan, one of the co-ordinators of the day's events.

Senate, School Offices, Human Resources and the Computing Service collected over £700. Staff and students in EFT made an exceptional effort, raising more than £220.

Red clothes and hair brightened the campus, and so did the thought that every penny raised will go to support underprivileged children and adults at home and overseas.

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**Archive papers at Sussex consulted for the film 'The Hours'**

The film 'The Hours' — which is up for nine Oscars this Sunday (23 March) — was aided by research using archives on Virginia Woolf held at the Library.

Paramount Pictures consulted the archives for background information on the Hogarth Press, which was run by Virginia and her husband Leonard. The assistant art director working on the film, which stars Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore, visited the Library in April 2001. He was aided in his research by Special Collections staff including Assistant Archivist Fiona Courage.

"We have an unrivalled collection of papers relating to the lives of Leonard and Virginia," says Dorothy Sheridan, Special Collections Manager (above). "People come from all over the world to use them."

Included in the archive are the Monk's House Papers, a collection of Virginia Woolf's letters, manuscripts and press cuttings. They contain the handwritten notes for the novel *Mrs Dalloway*, which links the characters in 'The Hours'.

The papers also contain the condolence letters sent to Leonard Woolf after Virginia's death in 1941. Sybil Oldfield, Research Reader in English at Sussex, is currently editing a collection of the letters, which she describes as a 'treasure trove'.

The opening scenes of the Oscar-nominated film show Virginia Woolf taking her own life by walking into the Ouse near her home in Rodmell.

There are other connections between the film and the University of Sussex. Quentin Bell, Virginia's nephew who is portrayed in the film as a child, was a Professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex from 1957–75. Papers concerning the biography he wrote of his aunt are also held at Sussex.
Leading biomedical research group receives large grant

Internationally leading biomedical research at Sussex involves the development of anti-cancer drugs and gene therapy applications has been boosted by a £395,519 grant.

The funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) was made to chemistry professors Norman Billingham and Steven Armes, whose work with new man-made long chain molecules has a range of potentially groundbreaking uses.

“This award will enable us to continue our research into this very exciting and important field of study for the next four years,” says Steven. “This special grant, called a Platform Grant, is only made to groups with a proven international reputation. You have to be invited to apply.”

The Sussex team, working together with a group at the University of Brighton, are making long chain molecules, called block copolymers. These block copolymers can organise themselves in water to form tiny particles, known as micelles, that are just a few billionths of a metre in diameter. These micelles have a biocompatible exterior similar to human cell membranes. This means that they are ‘stealthy’ and are not attacked by the body’s immune system. The micelle interiors can be loaded with a range of drugs that are typically only poorly water-soluble, such as anti-cancer drugs. “In five to ten years, this approach could be used commercially,” says Steven.

Working with a group at the University of Nottingham, the Sussex team are also designing new block copolymers that combine with DNA for potential use in gene therapy, and, together with another group at the University Leeds, new biocompatible gels that could be used to repair damaged blood vessels are being examined.

Each of these inter-University partnerships is being funded by Biocompatibles, a Surrey-based UK biotech company that has proprietary technology in the field of biocompatible water-soluble polymers. Three joint Sussex-Biocompatibles patent applications have been filed within the last year.

Steven and Norman have been working on water-soluble polymers since 1990 and are regarded as leading UK researchers in this field. More than 20 national and international collaborations with other academic institutions have been initiated during the last five years. They also have a number of other successful collaborations with UK industrial companies, including Uniliver, Laporte, Aveica and Syngenta.

Computer toys can enhance social skills in children

A way in which computers can encourage social skills among young children has been observed by researchers at Sussex.

The findings come in the wake of a government report this month, which blames computer games for the decline in language skills among primary school pupils.

Dr Rosemary Luckin, Reader in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, led a study in collaboration with researchers at the University of Stirling. They found that children aged between four and six who used a digital toy connected to a desktop PC interacted more with their peers and the researchers than those who used only a PC.

The toys, in the form of a cuddly bear or doll, moved, spoke and responded to a child’s touch. They could be linked to a PC and used to encourage and prompt children when working with compatible software games. When the toy was absent, the children could use an on-screen icon of the same character.

“What came out of our study was quite unexpected,” says Rosemary. “We were looking to see how children sought help through the computer, but we found that, for the children who had the toys, there was a significant increase in socialisation in their help-seeking behaviour. The children who were working in pairs were twice as likely to talk to each other. The children who were working alone were three times more likely to seek the help of researchers.”

She added that the toys, based on the children’s cartoon characters Arthur and DW, were not particularly sophisticated and are now no longer on the market. “They were awful,” she says. “But something better designed, something that did something more than give words of encouragement, could be a very useful tool to go with computers.

“This increase in social interactions around technology is an appealing contradiction of the popular belief that technology leads to reduced socialisation.”

In a study by the government’s Basic Skills Agency, teachers claimed that half of children now start school unable to speak audibly and be understood by others. The report suggests that parents were largely to blame through leaving their children to play with computer games rather than spending time talking to them.

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

AHBB Research Leave Scheme

Wellcome Trust Sciart Supports projects that unite the arts and sciences. (a) Research awards (up to £15,000) aim to support the development of an idea in its formative stages. (b) Production awards (around £100,000) will fund major activities likely to make a significant impact on the public’s engagement with science.

British Academy Conference Grants

Funds of up to £2,000 are available to assist with the expenses of bringing key speakers from within the UK or from overseas to conferences held in the UK. One-day conferences and applications for less than £500 will not be considered. Applications must not be made more than 12 months in advance.

UK / French Exchanges

The British Academy has an arrangement with the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme in Paris, to support research visits and participation in workshops. Grants are offered to support travel and maintenance costs for a variety of short-term visits. The funding is not intended to cover major research expenses.

Basic Technology

The Research Councils have issued two calls for basic technology proposals: (a) outline bids for between £50K and £5M for projects of up to 4 years to develop techniques, tools or processes in any area of science; (b) bids for high risk ‘proof of concept’ projects providing a maximum of £100K for up to 12 months.
Medical School update

Plans for medical research

One of the top priorities for any medical school is the development of its research base, and this is high on the agenda for the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS).

Plans for the School's brand-new research facility (pictured) on the Sussex campus have been finalized. Planning permission has been granted and work is scheduled to start next month, enabling investigators to move in early in 2004.

Planning of a clinical research facility based at the Royal Sussex County Hospital is also well advanced.

As well as developing its own research portfolio, one of the key roles of the School will be to catalyse and stimulate collaborative research endeavours between the local NHS providers and the Universities of Brighton and Sussex.

To kick-start this process, the BSMS has organized a local medical research forum, scheduled for 31 March. The conference takes place on the University of Brighton Falmer campus and will involve key academics and researchers from both universities, as well as research-active consultants from the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust.

Work progresses on Sussex building

Construction of the teaching building on the Sussex campus has fallen two weeks behind schedule due to inclement weather, but the estimated completion date of May 2003 is still well within reach.

Appointments to the Medical School

Two key academic appointments have been made to the BSMS. Di Watt has already begun work as the Professor of Anatomy and Helen Smith will take up her post as Professor of Primary Care next month.

The School continues to recruit administrative staff and the next key appointment will be the Assistant Secretary (Student Support).

First annual Diversity Week

The first-ever campus Diversity Week has been hailed as a success by its organisers and is set to return next year. The week, held from 3-9 March, was designed to showcase the many and diverse peoples who are part of the campus community, and included exhibitions, talks and theatre.

On 5 March, Library Square became very colourful indeed for the Diversity Fair. Groups set up stalls to raise awareness of minority issues and celebrate the myriad of cultures represented at the University.

The Queer About Campus exhibition (pictured above right) showed in words and photos the gay and lesbian history of the University. Its centrepiece was a mock-up of a campus bedroom, complete with bed, phone and clothes strewn all over the floor. These clothes were made and worn by students on Pride marches, and the phone let you listen to the reminiscences of former staff.

One of the highlights of the week was the successful culture festival organised by the African, Caribbean and Asian Society. The event at the Gardner Arts Centre showcased ethnic-minority art, music and poetry.

Co-organiser Liz Burchett said: "There has been extremely positive feedback to this year's event. We hope to make Diversity Week a regular event in the University calendar and get even more groups involved."

New £1 million subway opens

A new £1 million subway under the A27 was officially opened last week by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith. The new underpass gives students and staff a convenient link from campus to local bus services and Falmer railway station.

The old subway was built in 1965. In 1991 it was found to need additional supports to strengthen the roof. This strengthening work significantly reduced the size of the underpass, which restricted its usability.

The new, wider subway is located approximately 30m to the west of the old one. The tunnel is equipped with CCTV cameras, a separate cycle lane and improved lighting.

The project was managed by the Highways Agency, which is responsible for the network of trunk roads and motorways in England.

Highways Agency Route Manager Ing Fischer said: "The new subway is a real benefit to the local community, providing as it does a safe alternative from crossing the A27. By improving access to the bus and rail systems, the subway is also making a real contribution to integration of public transport."
Sussex ‘diplomats’ attend world summit in Germany

The high diplomatic drama over the last few weeks in New York could be repeated this month in Germany, when a group of international relations students from Sussex take part in a mock conference of the United Nations.

More than 800 students from all over the world are expected to attend this year’s Model United Nations Conference, which takes place from 24–26 March in Heidelberg.

Delegates are exposed to the fast-paced world of policy decision-making under pressure, as well as key geo-political and military issues. They have the opportunity to learn about the intricacies and workings of international diplomacy by acting as delegates in one of 16 simulated committees.

In particular, the conference aims to teach about the procedure under which United Nations diplomats find common ground by passing a resolution—ideally.

The 12 Sussex students are all members of the Model United Nations Society. Representing the countries Mali and Poland, they will participate in committees such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Disarmament and International Security Committee.

The students are preparing for the conference by writing position papers and emailing questions to the Mali and Polish embassies to the UN.

To gain confidence in public speaking, the participants held two preparatory conferences. First year Geraldine Delestienne, from Belgium, took part. She says: “It is frustrating sometimes to see how long it takes for the UN to actually decide on an issue. But Model United Nations is great—we were debating and lobbying for nine hours almost without a break!”

The would-be diplomats are planning to offer a small-scale Model United Nations Conference to their fellow students at Sussex in the summer term.

Boundaries short story competition

A student of English Literature likes reading so much that she organised a short story competition.

“I get a great amount of pleasure from reading stories,” says Angela Keogh, who is a finalist in CCS.

She also came up with the idea as a way to gain some organisational skills and work experience in a new area. “I’ve never done anything like this before and it was a wonderful learning experience,” she says.

First of all she had to think of a theme. A fellow student suggested ‘Boundaries’. “I liked the idea of physical, emotional, social and tangible boundaries—which are interpreted differently and subjectively by many,” Angela says.

Then she persuaded Rodney Hillman and Stephen Medcalf (both of whom were English tutors at Sussex for many years) to act as co-judges.

They were looking for a high standard of English, a coherent narrative, attention to the details of the story and to the language used, as well as originality—all within the space of 3,500 words.

Most importantly of course, Angela needed a healthy crop of entries, and there’s nothing like a nice bit of prize money to bring them in. Four Schools—AFRAS, CCS, EAM and EURO—each contributed £50.

‘Riot of Colour’ by Simon Wroe, a second year English Literature undergraduate in EAM, won him the first prize of £100. “The story was an imaginative one,” says Angela, “with a descriptively rich tapestry, about colour escaping its boundaries.”

Runner-up was Esther Saxey (a doctoral student of English in HUMS), for her story about ‘The Breakthrough’. The third prize went to Lauren Day (a second year doing Economics in AFRAS) for ‘Shadows Journey’.

The judges also commended Glencora Baily (an English Literature finalist in CCS); Sarah Roberts (an English finalist in EAM); and Ansel von Spreckelsen (a second year Philosophy student in COGS).

“The space between the top six stories is narrow,” says Angela.

“The standard was impressive. It was so impressive, in fact, that her next project is to publish an anthology of some of the stories.

But what about the competition? The organiser finishes university this summer and is hoping for a job in publishing. “Perhaps another student looking for a similar experience would like to run it,” hopes Angela.
Defining and promoting the University's identity

Rob Read
Director of Communications

Why have Peter Simmons and Benedict Brook from the Press and Communications Office been taking photos in recent weeks of campus signs and notices and gathering all manner of printed and other material from across campus?

The scale of the changes that Sussex is undergoing is evident to all at the University. Whether in the creation of the new Schools, the development of new curriculum offerings, or the range of new buildings, how we are organised and what Sussex offers the world is being refreshed. With this new context comes the opportunity to think afresh about what Sussex stands for and how it presents itself.

The University is therefore starting a project to help define and promote the University's vision, values and identity, under the working title of 'Sussex Vision', led by a small working group from within the Communications Division.

One of the main outputs from the project will be a new 'look and feel' for University communications, which can be rolled-out gradually from the autumn, starting with key elements such as stationery, welcome signs, the website and so on. However, the vision and values underpinning that new identity should help inform and guide the University as it develops other policies and approaches.

The team will be working with two companies who will provide external advice and support, which were chosen by a selection panel drawn from across the University and including representatives from the Students' Union. A wider advisory group based on that panel will provide a sounding board as the project moves forward.

The initial research phase of the project will be led by Circus, who have done successful work with some leading public and private companies – including the award-winning creation of 'Floodline' for the Environment Agency. The design work will be undertaken by Blast, a small London-based design company who created the successful prospectus and logo designs for our new Medical School. More details about them can be found at www.chg-top.com and www.blas.co.uk.

The first part of the project will be a research phase to look at how Sussex currently thinks about and presents itself, and how its identity and presentation compares to some of its key competitors. This will include one-to-one interviews and group discussions with a range of stakeholders across the University, including staff, potential students, current students and former students, as well as key external bodies. Circus will also be involved in the new senior management development sessions at Roffey Park in the coming months, with academic and administrative managers from across campus.

A budget of £85,000 has been set for the initial phases of the work. Alongside this initial phase, Circus will be working with the University to help define the range of items to which any new identity needs to be applied. The scale of design and implementation costs will depend on the range and detail decided as part of this process.

A key issue for the University will be managing the massive range of identities that currently exist and looking at how the 'family' of Sussex identities best work together. To help with this, and to provide the right support to colleagues across campus, the project would aim to generate a useable set of design guidelines in both print and electronic form.

The Communications Division will also want to provide guidance on managing through the interim phase until the new identity guidelines are in place — for example headed paper for new Schools and departments.

If colleagues have any questions at this initial stage, please contact me on ext. 8109, email r.k.read@sussex.ac.uk. If helpful, the team are ready to offer presentations on the project to groups of staff or students.

Funding for research at Sussex up 16%

Research funding to Sussex is set to increase by 16% as part of the annual grant allocation announced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) earlier this month.

At £13.7 million, the grant for research is £1.9 million up on 2002-03 (although some of this is accounted for by inflation).

Sussex has the second-highest percentage increase in research funding of any research-intensive university, behind only Oxford and ahead of Cambridge. This increase reflects the fact that Sussex has the highest proportion of staff in RAE grade 5 groups of any university in Britain.

The increase goes some way to recompensing Sussex for the fact that grade 5 groups were underfunded in last year's allocation. HEFCE has restored in real terms the average unit of resource for 5-rated departments to 2001-02 levels.

More worryingly for Sussex, HEFCE has slashed funding for 4-rated departments to give additional money to some 5* departments. There is now a huge disparity in funding for grade 4 and grade 5 units.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, is spokesman for the 94 group of universities. He told the Guardian: "We are particularly concerned about the shift in funding away from the grade 4 departments towards 5s and 5*s - that is going to cause quite a lot of difficulties across most research-intensive universities."

The Vice-Chancellor responded to this development by proposing to last week's meeting of Senate that internal funding allocations should no longer be made formulaically. Senate agreed that allocation of additional research funding to academic units should be conditional on the development of strategic plans that address broad funding issues including other sources of income generation.

While research funding is up, the money from HEFCE for teaching is - much as the University expected - £1 million less than last year. All universities have had reductions in their teaching allocation and this money has been given back in terms of widening participation, which is £1 million more than in 2002-03.

Of the widening participation money, almost £1 million is actually to support student retention, particularly of mature and part-time students. Student retention is already a high priority at Sussex and senior managers say they are optimistic the University can provide a satisfactory statement of strategy without significant additional cost.
Open days to answer your mortgage questions.

Why not call in for a face-to-face chat with one of our mortgage specialists during our Mortgage Open Days every Friday.

Please ask staff for details or call 01273 362209.

The Sussex Innovation Centre

require a

Receptionist

Background
The Sussex Innovation Centre provides a premier commercial environment for innovative start-up companies. Based on the campus at Sussex University, the Centre offers flexible office, workshop and laboratory space together with business, technological, scientific and logistical support. Opened in May 1996, the Centre is now home to over 30 companies and with the opening of the second phase, this number will rise to 50+

The Centre now wishes to recruit a full-time receptionist to further enhance the efficient and professional Reception Service to tenants, University staff and external visitors.

Reporting to the Centre Manager, your main duties and responsibilities will include reception and switchboard duties, organising outgoing post and providing some clerical support for the Centre staff and tenants.

The professional image of the facilities is important both to the success of the Centre and its tenants, and we are able to offer a salary of between £13000 and £14000 p.a. dependent on qualifications and experience.

Key skills required
Good telephone manner, calm professionalism, able to deal with anyone from a deliveryman to a venture capitalist wishing to invest £m in one of our tenant companies. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is desirable.

Working Hours
9.30 – 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

To apply please write, with full CV and current salary, if applicable, to Chris Hudson, Centre Manager, Sussex Innovation Centre, Science Park Square, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9SB.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2003

Annual Review sent to all staff

The Annual Review 2001–2002 has just been published, setting out some of the significant achievements at Sussex and with an introduction from the Vice-Chancellor that looks to the challenges ahead.

The document is being sent to all staff because, as the Vice-Chancellor says: "I believe it is important that the whole University community can share in what we have achieved together."

The striking image on the cover was taken by a pupil from London on last year’s higher education summer school, one of the University's widening participation activities.

The image is also used for the Facts & Figures leaflet 2002-03, which is now available from the Communications Division.

Staff attendance at meetings

At a time of heightened political concern over the prospect of imminent war in Iraq, people across campus may want to join in meetings taking place to debate the issues. There has until now been no formal policy about staff taking time to participate in events on campus during working hours.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has made clear that he is keen to ensure staff are able to engage with the corporate life of the University, including participating in events such as professorial lectures, guest lectures and open meetings.

Setting out the University’s approach, the Vice-Chancellor said: “Where such events take place during working hours, attendance of course requires the prior permission of the relevant line manager. So long as the operational efficiency of the University is not compromised, participation in a reasonable number of events within working hours should be allowed.”

News from the Library

From 1 April, the following changes to loans from other libraries will apply as a result of new procedures introduced by the British Library. The standard loan period will increase from three to five weeks (all loan periods are subject to recall from the lending library); and the loan renewal charge will increase from £1 to £2.50.

Note that no items can be borrowed from the Library until overdue interlibrary loans are returned. For further information, contact Interlibrary Requests on library.interlib@sussex.ac.uk.
Rise in applications continues

The latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that the increase in applications to Sussex remains high, with 17% more applications received as at 28 February than at the same point last year. This is against a national increase of 4% as at 10 March.

These figures do not include ‘holdover’ applications, i.e. applicants who applied last year for deferred entry in October 2003. This year the University has an unprecedented number of holdover applications, 456.

As in previous months, the main area of growth is in Arts, with an overall increase of 25%. Last month saw some improvements in the Science figures and the improvement has continued this month, with life sciences experiencing growth of 22%.

Although this is mainly due to the increase in applications to Psychology and Biochemistry, some further recovery has been made by other subjects, particularly Environmental Science.

This year there is the very real possibility that many subjects will not need to go into Clearing. In order for this to happen, it is crucial that the University achieves a good conversion rate of applicants into firm acceptances. "Regular contact with applicants and high-quality Admissions Days are vital," says Professor John Dearlove, Pro-Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for admissions.

September 11: A turning point in international law?

No one who saw them will ever forget the images from the 11 September attack on New York. Were we witnessing a defining moment in history? And what response to such terrorism is justified?

A conference organised by the School of Legal Studies (SLS) from 21-22 March entitled "September 11: A turning point in international and domestic law?" will seek to answer such questions.

The conference is organised by Harry Rajak, Dean of SLS, Paul Eden and Emily Haslam, both Lecturers in Law.

"We want to try and put the events of September 11 into some perspective and ask whether terrible events change legal forms," says Paul. "It looks like we’ve picked exactly the right time to be discussing such questions, with the timetable for war in Iraq as it is."

Experts from Europe and the USA will gather to discuss issues such as the legitimacy of the use of force in response to terrorism, the legal status of those detained at Guantanamo Bay, and what the term ‘terrorism’ actually means.

Among those speaking at the conference will be Professor Ruth Wedgewood from Yale, who was recently appointed as an advisor to the US government by Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld.

Professor Wedgewood will be speaking on the subject of military tribunals and the human rights of suspected terrorists. Issues around asylum policy in the UK will be discussed, with Craig Lind, Lecturer in Law in SLS, as commentator on the session.

Professors Martin Shaw and Jörg Monar from Sussex as well as Meryll Dean, Senior Lecturer in Law in SLS, are also involved in the conference, which is funded by the University of Sussex, the Society of Legal Scholars and the British Academy.

Other speakers will include Professor John Dugard (University of Leiden), Professor Dinah Shelton (Notre Dame Law School), Dr Christine Gray (University of Cambridge), Professor Philippe Sands (University College, London), and Professor Colin Harvey (University of Leeds).

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

Brown Hares are rarely seen on campus, although they often shelter in our woodlots by day before emerging to graze on farmland by night.

Their numbers in Britain are falling, and so we are lucky that the fields around campus provide a suitable mixture of cover and low grazing throughout the year.

Unlike Rabbits, Brown Hares are solitary animals; even the newborn young scatter widely and are suckled just once a day.

Readers have recently reported groups of Hares courting in the field north of Park Village, particularly at dawn and dusk. Hares of both sexes chase each other, and if a female is unimpressed by an over-amorous admirer she will box him soundly with her front legs.

Although people often talk about 'Mad March Hares', these behaviours can be seen all year.

Another familiar feature of the springtime countryside that is surprisingly scarce on campus is the Primrose. There are a few in Botes, the area of young woodland at the north end of campus, but in nothing like the numbers that are now colouring the hedge banks elsewhere in Sussex. The truth is that primroses are thin on the ground all along the South Downs as they dislike the free-draining chalk soils and thrive much better on the richer, heavier soils of the Weald.

Primrose is prima rosa, the 'first rose', and of all our wild plants is probably the one most universally regarded as the true harbinger of spring. Charles Darwin was the first to unravel the significance of the two kinds of primrose flowers, the ‘pin’ and the ‘thrum’. All the flowers on a plant are either ‘pin’ or ‘thrum’ and pollen from a ‘thrum’ flower is only viable on the stigma of a ‘pin’ flower. This remarkable mechanism that ensures cross-pollination prompted him to comment that, "Nature tells us in the most emphatic manner that she abhors self-fertilisation."

Pollination of course requires an insect pollinator and one of the puzzling things about primroses has always been the apparent scarcity of insect visitors. Candidates have to be long-tongued and early fliers. Solitary bees and large Hover-flies have both been seen visiting primroses, but the most important pollinators may well be Bee-flies.

Unlike frolicking hares, Bee-flies too are genuine heralds of spring. These large furry flies use their incredibly long mouth parts to collect nectar from flowers such as Lesser Celandine as well as Primrose on sunny days from mid March to early May. Mated females scatter their tiny soil-coated eggs while flying low over the ground. Once hatched, the tiny worm-like larva searches for the burrow of a solitary bee, such as the Tawny Mining Bee. It eats the pollen and nectar left by the mother bee, and then molts into a maggott-like larva that devours its unfortunate companion. The little monster then pupates until the following spring.
Easter vacation opening hours

Minimum service days
Thu 17–Mon 21 April incl.

Library
Mon and Wed–Fri 9.00am–5.30pm, Tue 9.00am–7.30pm. Closed weekends and from 17–22 April incl.

Computing Service
Computing Reception closed 17–21 April incl. 24 hour PC clusters (York House, Pevensey and Biology) remain open.

Falmer Sports Complex and Sportcentre
Open as usual, except closed 17–21 April incl.

Health Centre
Open as usual, except closed 17–21 April incl.

CDEC
Mon–Fri 10.00am–5.00pm (closed 1.00–2.00pm). Closed 17–21 April incl.

Catering
Falmer Bar, Park Village Lounge Bar and Grapevine
Closed 15 March–22 April incl.

East Slope Bar
Mon–Sat 11.00am–11.00pm, Sun 12.00 noon–10.30pm.

Coffee Shop
Mon–Fri 8.30am–4.30pm.

IDS Bar and Restaurant
Bar: Open as usual, except closed 17–21 April incl.
Restaurant: Mon–Fri 8.00 am–2.00pm and 3.00pm–4.45pm. Closed 17–22 April incl.

Downs Restaurant
Mon–Fri 12 noon–2.00pm.

Baguette Express
Mon–Fri 8.00am–4.00pm.

Bolthole
Mon–Fri 9.00am–4.30pm.

Students' Union Shop, Falmer House
17 March–15 April: Mon–Fri 9.00am–3.30pm. Wed 16 April 9.00am–12.00 noon. Closed 17–21 April. Tue 22 April 9.00am–5.00pm.

Students' Union Stores, York House
Mon–Fri 8.00am–7.00pm. Weekends 8.00am–5.00pm. Closed Sun 20 and Mon 21 April.

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Small ads

FOR SALE: 3-door Nissan Micra 1.3LX, 1993 (L). Sunroof, radio/CD, new tyres/exhaust, 6 mths tax/MOT, 67K miles. £1,750. Tel. 480775.

TO LET: Double room with own bathroom in house nr Preston Park and London Rd stations. Share kitchen, breakfast room and TV room. £325 incl. N/S only. Contact Nick at nick.jagger@employmentt-studies.co.uk or tel. 382048.

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Gardener Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861 www.gardenerarts.co.uk

Cinema
Sat 22 Mar
6pm Dirty Pretty Things (15)

Sun 23 Mar
5pm Abouza (PG)
8pm L.I.E. (18)

Sat 29 Mar
6pm Irreversible (18)

Flicks for free: for every film in the spring programme, a free pair of tickets worth £9 to the first five Bulletin readers at the box office.

Exhibitions

Until Sun 30 Mar Brighten and Hove Camera Club Digital, darkroom, traditional, contemporary, beginners and experts.

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Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Peter Simmons and Benedict Brook. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 4 April, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 28 March. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.