Sussex going for Olympic gold

Sussex students could be getting gold medals in Athens next year, if a new crop of sportsmen and women at the University fulfil their potential.

Nine students are set to benefit from this year’s round of sports bursaries. The package, put together by the Sport Service with the backing of alumni, aims to support sporting students both on the field and in their academic work.

Luke Terill, Sports Development Officer, says the University is committed to developing sports at Sussex, including helping our top athletes to excel. “The bursary students receive free access to sports facilities, physios and sports massage, free parking if they need it, mentoring from myself and money to support their sporting needs,” he explains. “We also help them balance their sporting and academic needs.”

If David Stone (pictured right), a first year studying Social Work, does get to Athens he won’t be fazed by it, as he competed in the 2000 Sydney Paralympics. “It was an amazing experience,” he recalls. “There is a complete focus on sport and lots of pressure pushing you on.”

David’s speciality is sprint cycling, in which times are measured over a distance of 200m to 1km. In Sydney he was the second-placed Briton in the cerebral palsy category and seventh overall, a place he says he could have improved on if it weren’t for a fall he had a few days before.

Laurence Halsted (pictured right), a 19-year-old first year in Social Psychology, is currently British number three at the foil version of fencing. He was encouraged to apply to the scheme by the British Olympic Association.

Already a European junior champion, Laurence has his sights set not only on Athens 2004, but also on the Beijing Olympics in 2008. However, unlike David, who can train at Sussex, Laurence has to travel far and wide: “I have to go to London at least once a week, and I really should be going three or four times,” he says. “It’s fairly tough. Most of my tournaments are abroad. Last weekend I went to Copenhagen.”

For David, balancing his cycling and studying isn’t a problem: “I train in the afternoon and then study in the morning, as I’m up by seven!” David often goes for a gentle cycle ride from campus to keep him fit - “across the Downs, north through Lewes, around to Horsham and then back to campus via Ditchling Beacon”.

Other winners this year are Carol Beever, who has represented England and Great Britain at softball; Rosalie Birch, who hopes to get picked for the women’s cricket world cup; and Emmeline Butt, a national dressage competitor.

Marnix Achterberg, Ryan Ibbotson, Laura Stritch and Claire Vivian will receive bursaries in association with Lewes Hockey Club.
Search for sound

A background in artificial intelligence (AI) coupled with a passion for music has helped Sussex lecturer Drew Garland-Jones to develop Indagonus, a breakthrough in AI-driven musical composition.

This ground-breaking new technology is soon to be commercialised by Sussex IP, which manages and commercialises the University's intellectual property portfolio.

The technology allows a user to compose music by putting 'blocks' of sound together to build a physical structure. Each block contains a musical fragment, unique to that block. When the blocks are connected, they pass their music to the next block and use their musical intelligence to recombine.

Although the current focus is on writing music, this technology lends itself to the development of software tools that would allow users to become more creative in other areas. One potential application for Indagonus (which literally means 'search for sound') is as a musical children's toy.

Cubes with different coloured faces could be placed together to create different compositions. For example: placing two green faces together would have one musical effect, while placing a green and blue face together would produce a different response.

Drew is now a lecturer in computer music at Sussex and has led the creation of a new degree in Music Informatics (the process of teaching computers how to write music). This programme was designed for musicians following a career path in what he calls "the next generation of music technology".

"What really excites me is trying to understand creative processes and I'm building this into the new course and my research," says Drew. "If we can sell a user licence to a blue-chip company and develop a product that gets to market, then that's great too!"

Making managed migration work

Britain needs to set up new legal ways to allow into the country low-skilled workers within a 'managed migration' policy, claims a new report by geographer Professor Russell King.

The report, based on detailed interviews with Albanians living clandestinely in Britain, strongly backs the home secretary's long-term plan to "regularise" the position of such migrants. It concludes that the pressures driving migration are so powerful that ever more draconian entry limits will have no further effect.

The real choice, says the report, is between regularising or criminalising migrants living in Britain.

"Exploding the Migration Myths" is the result of a year-long research study carried out for the Fabian Society in partnership with Oxfam. Russell wrote it in collaboration with two of his research students, Nicola Mai and Mirela Dalpaj.

Don't panic!

New Sussex research project to examine mass emergency evacuation behaviour

Sussex psychologist Dr John Drury has been awarded over £180,000 to examine how crowds of people behave in emergency evacuations.

"Collective panic", as seen in crushes and the jamming of doors as people compete to escape, has been blamed for deaths at a number of public venues. The research, which is being funded by a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), intends to determine the conditions under which mass evacuation takes the form of collective co-ordination rather than panic.

"Previous dominant theoretical approaches to emergency mass evacuations have tended to point to irrational 'panic' as a generic response," says John. "However, the research evidence suggests that such individualized, personally selfish and collectively ineffective behaviours are in fact uncommon. Indeed, in many evacuating crowds there is clear evidence of altruism, mutual helping behaviour and effective co-ordination, even in personally life-threatening situations."

The suggestion is that the choices and behaviours exhibited by people in emergency mass evacuations depends on the extent to which they see themselves as belonging to a group with others present.

"Participants in a crowd attempting to escape danger will be more likely to see and treat each other as competitors," John explains, "and hence engage in selfish behaviours that hinder the exit of the crowd as a whole (through door blocking, etc.), when they have little sense of group membership with the rest of the crowd.

"But where a sense of shared group membership is high - where 'an injury to you is an injury to me' - people will be more likely to show consideration and helping behaviour, which in turn will allow the crowd to exit in a more co-ordinated and effective manner."

John will examine mass evacuation behaviour through a variety of methods, including interviews and laboratory experiments. He will also carry out an innovative virtual-reality simulation in collaboration with engineering colleagues at the University of Nottingham who have been developing new techniques for simulating crowd flow on computers.

The findings from the research project will be of interest not just to psychologists but also to engineers, architects, public-safety consultants, stewards and police officers. The research is due to begin in April 2004.

Research funding opportunities

More details of these and other funding opportunities are available from your Research Support Officer in the Research Services Division. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, search the Community of Science (COS) database at www.cos.com.

Japan fellowship
The JSPS, with the British Academy, invites applications for postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences. The award includes air travel, monthly allowance and costs for research travel. Awards are for 12-24 months. Applicants must already have a Japanese host institution.

Deadline: 31 December

British Academy visiting professorships/fellowships
This scheme allows scholars from overseas institutions to be invited to the UK to carry out research for a period of 2-4 weeks. The award includes a contribution to travel and maintenance costs. Visits should take place from April 2004 onwards.

Deadline: 31 December

Wellcome Trust biomedical ethics
This scheme is for project grants that fund the cost of research projects concerning the ethics of biomedical research in developing countries. The majority of the work should take place in the developing country. Collaborations with existing programmes are encouraged.

Deadline: 1 January

Royal Society research fellowships
These fellowships support all subjects in the natural sciences. The fellowship is tenable for five years in the first instance. Award includes salary on the Lecturer A or B scale plus annual research expenses. Applicants must have postdoctoral experience by 1 October 2004.

Deadline: 9 January

ESRC postdoctoral fellowships
This scheme provides support for new researchers for one year (or two years part-time) after the completion of their doctorate. Half of the awards available will go to defined priority areas. About 70 new fellows will be supported and the maximum award is set at £26,500.

Deadline: 9 January
Hourly paid tutors

It is widely felt that the lead article in the Bulletin (14 November) failed to adequately represent the problems faced by hourly-paid tutors.

The most pressing of these is the continual failure of the University to pay its hourly-paid tutors correctly and on time. An estimated 50% of tutors were not paid at the end of October and have been working without a contract or statement of hours and responsibilities; further, a substantial number of tutors in sciences will not be paid until December due to delays in administration of paperwork.

The failure to make payment causes severe financial hardship to tutors and their families, leaving tutors unable to meet essential payments such as rent or mortgages, or to claim state benefits that require confirmation of employment and wages.

The unilateral decision by Human Resources to abolish the postdoctoral rate of pay further erodes the conditions of this already economically disadvantaged sector of employees, and indicates a worrying separation of teaching from research. It is inappropriate for 'equalisation' to reduce pay rates to the lowest level in what constitutes an effective pay cut.

Tutors’ concerns around larger seminar groups are not restricted to issues of training, but also to the increase in workload without remuneration. Larger group sizes mean an increase in essay marking loads, in administration, and in providing course support.

With tutors being asked, in some cases, to support more than 50 students in a single weekly office hour, tutors frequently find themselves striving to find the least uncomfortable balance between negotiating legitimate requests for help and doing extra unpaid work.

To be effective teachers, tutors need access to basic resources such as printing, photocopying, telephones, email and content management systems. We are undermined in the eyes of undergraduates by the provision of rooms for office hours that are in a state of disarray or contain inadequate facilities.

The context of all of this is the wider casualisation of teaching across the university sector. It is recognised that Sussex is making efforts towards improving conditions for hourly-paid tutors. However, there is a need for further measures to be implemented at various levels of the University, to minimise the adverse effects of this casualisation and to relieve the growing alienation and demoralisation of employees crucial to its functioning. The reputation of Sussex for high-quality teaching and research depends on it.

Gurinder Bhamra (SPT), Dave Booth (Biography), Lee Evans (IR), Dr Vicky Margree (English), Dr Lindsey Moore (English), Dr Lucy Robinson (History), Robbie Shilliam (IR), Urmila Sinha (CEE) and Duncan Wigan (IR) on behalf of the Sussex Tutors' Group (sussextutors20@hotmail.com)

Jackie Rymell, Assistant Director of Human Resources, replies:

We have issued more than 400 contracts since the start of the academic year and we are processing statements of hours as they come into Payroll. For subsequent years, the burden on the Schools should be less as most of the contracts are on-ended and payments can be made as soon as a statement of hours is received by Payroll.

We have been (and will continue to be) sympathetic to any requests for advances due to delays in the paperwork coming through, but have only had a few such requests. Any emergency advances would be issued immediately and would not wait until the payrun run.

Any hourly paid tutors who have outstanding queries about their contracts should use the helpline: hpt@sussex.ac.uk.

We have standardised the rates for seminars and tutorials as we were previously failing to comply with equal pay legislation, which requires us to show that any differentials in pay rates are attributable to a genuine and material factor. We will review the pay rates as part of a planned review of terms and conditions in the spring.

Dhaba to boast fair trade roast

Regular users of the Dhaba café in Arts C will notice a significant change when they return to the University after Christmas.

During the Christmas closure the Dhaba will be introducing new beverage equipment to the café, allowing it to serve a greatly improved range of hot beverages including fresh filter coffee and ‘bean to cup’ cappuccino, espresso and latte.

More significantly, the coffee on offer will all be from a certified ‘fair trade’ source, in this case Tchibo Coffee International.

Philip Booker, the University Catering Services Manager, said:

“We first trialled fair trade coffee unsuccessfully four years ago. We have been keen to re-introduce it and we believe the time is right. The product is much improved and much more affordable, although it still carries a small premium.”

If the launch is successful, Phil will be looking at extending the use of fair trade coffee to certain other areas on campus.

Fair trade chocolate and other products are already available in the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School café, Doctor’s Orders, opened by the University Catering Service in September.

Bookshop website revamp

The bookshop website, www.sussexunibooks.co.uk, has been updated and improved.

As well as standard functions such as secure online purchasing, the website now offers staff and students the option to order online using fasttrack ordering and collect the book from the bookshop, having been notified of its availability by email.

Staff can, if paying by credit card or buying against a university code, have the books sent to their office on campus.

It has also been made easier for teaching staff to fill in their reading list online; the form has been redesigned and it is now possible to find details of books using the quick search. Clicking on the relevant title will then add it to the reading list being compiled.
Local pupils urged to aim higher

A new scheme to encourage wider participation in higher education was launched this week (27 November).

Teachers from local schools and colleges were at the launch of Aim Higher (Sussex Highway), a national scheme that follows a three-year local pilot project called Sussex Coastal Highway.

The University of Sussex, the University of Brighton and University College Chichester are working in partnership with schools in the area to encourage young people who might otherwise be overlooked to take up their rightful places in higher education. The scheme’s co-ordinator for Brighton and Hove, Sara McKernan, is based on the Sussex campus.

“The overall aim is to keep the students interested by offering them something each year, right up to entry to university,” says Sara. “If they decide to come here, we aim to ensure their success with improved levels of student support.”

A number of schools and colleges in East and West Sussex are part of the scheme and each of them puts forward a group of 20–30 young people in year 10 to benefit from the activities on offer.

These include trips to the three universities in the project and a chance to meet current students.

Visits to the Sussex campus this week came from Falmer school (25 November) and East Brighton College of Media Arts (28 November). Sussex mathematics undergraduates also go into Falmer and the College of Media Arts to help their borderline and higher ability pupils.

Subject-specific tasters at Sussex include law, IT, science, humanities, languages, media studies and medicine. “Our academics give up their time and energy for free,” says Sara.

Sussex is also offering a greater range of sixth form conferences— including law, sociology, American Studies and IT— which will be offered to Sussex Highway participants.

Another way to get young people on campus is through work-experience placements in years 10 or 11. There are increasing opportunities, including biology or chemistry lab work and the Sportcentre.

As if all this weren’t enough, the pupils on the Aim Higher scheme will also have the opportunity for mentoring sessions or special lessons from current Sussex students, as well as extra careers advice and help with UCAS applications.

Some of the students from the pilot scheme are already seeing the benefits of the similar opportunities that they enjoyed. “The first students from the Sussex Coastal Highway project are now in year 13 and a high percentage are applying to start at university in 2004,” says Sara.
Letters

Roundabout rage

Roger Tant’s letter and Linda Newman’s response (Bulletin 14 November) both highlight the apparent loss of a sense of community, and also show how people change for the worse when they get behind the wheel of a car.

I would like to repeat, for the benefit of newcomers, a suggestion I made just over a year ago in the Bulletin. Those who cannot bear to queue for the roundabout can take the left-hand lane and turn left onto the eastbound carriageway of the A27, follow the road a little over two miles to the roundabout for Kingston and Lewes, then double back up the westbound A27.

It’ll take you no more than five minutes or so (depending on traffic conditions), which may easily be shorter than the time you’d spend queuing. It is of course a ridiculous solution that should not be necessary, but it’s safe and can save a great deal of frustration (unless you run into a jam). I commend this mother of all rat-runs to the house!

Andy Clews, IT Services

Students ‘transfixed’ by Holocaust survivor’s story

A group of undergraduates were “transfixed” by a moving talk from a Holocaust survivor, according to their tutors.

John Jacobs and Chana Mosheńska, who teach a course on ‘The Jewish Holocaust’, took 40 students to the Imperial War Museum in London this month to see the Holocaust Memorial Exhibition.

During the students’ visit, Janina Fischer-Martinho (below) talked to them about her personal experiences as a young girl living in the Cracow ghetto during the Second World War.

Janina was nine when the Nazis invaded. She and her family were herded into the newly formed ghetto, where she lived for the next four years and from which she saw her mother, father and younger brother, as well as most of the rest of her family, deported to their deaths.

She and her elder brother escaped the final round-up by getting out through the sewers.

“Janina’s talk really was the highlight of the day,” said Katie Scott, from the School of Humanities. “It brought to life a lot of what we have discussed in seminars and also what we saw at the exhibition. Her talk was very powerful and I almost felt like I was there with her in the ghetto.”

“Not only was it very informative, but to have someone who had actually lived through and survived what she had talk to us about her personal experiences reminded me why I had chosen to study this course in the first place,” said Alex Leigh.

Janina’s talk made me remember that there was and is so much more to the Holocaust than the facts and figures in the textbooks and that for every one of those statistics there is an individual story and experience.”

Other Sussex students and staff will get a chance to hear Janina Fischer-Martinho when she comes to campus in the new year for a day of events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. As well as her talk, events on Wednesday 28 January will include educational films and a discussion of current British policy towards asylum seekers. The theme of the day is Genocide and Refugees: Lessons still to be learnt.

University Christmas card

This year’s University Christmas card is now available from Chrissie Anthony on ext. 8888, email c.m.anthony@sussex.ac.uk, or pop by Sussex House reception. The card is a photo of a glass rooflight in the Meeting House, designed by Basil Spence, and follows on from last year’s design of the same building’s coloured glass bricks. Photographer Stuart Robinson of the Media Services Unit took the photo, working from an original idea by member of staff Shell Morgan.
Obituary

Thomas Barlow

Captain Sir Thomas Barlow, a former trustee of the Barlow Collection of Chinese Ceramics, Bronzes and Jades, died on 12 October at the age of 89.

The 400-piece collection was formed by his father Sir Alan Barlow and bequeathed to the University in 1968 so that it could be used for teaching and display purposes. Many of the pieces have been on display since 1974, when the Barlow Gallery opened and the first Barlow Lecture was given.

"It is especially sad that Thomas did not live long enough to attend the 100th anniversary event next February," says his daughter, Dr Monica Barlow. "He was much looking forward to it. Although he had handed over the reins of trusteeship to me some years ago, he still took great interest in the collection." Sir Thomas and his brother Erasmus Barlow had been trustees for over 20 years and in 1997 the University awarded them the honorary degrees of Doctor of Letters at a special ceremony.

"He was very excited to be awarded an honorary doctorate from the University," recalls Monica. "For a man who went to sea as soon as he could reasonably leave school, this was an accolade he had never expected."

Among the finest collections of Chinese ceramics in Britain, the Barlow Collection is actively used for research and for teaching, giving students of art history the opportunity to learn about museum practice and Chinese material culture.

"I hope we can continue to ensure that the collection is well used by students and others. It was pleasurable enjoyment of the pieces that my father most wanted to provide," says Monica.

First class

A documentary produced by former exchange student Matthew German has triumphed in higher education's version of the Oscars. '24/7/180°' was named Best Feature Broadcast in the US National Student Production Awards. Matthew edited the badger student newspaper during his year (2000-01) in the School of European Studies.

Research student Jim Grozier has won the postgraduate section of the annual Nexus Lecture Competition, organised by the Institute of Physics. Jim gave his prize-winning lecture, 'Pear-shaped neutrons and the meaning of life', at the annual Young Physicists' Conference, held this year in Bristol from 21-23 November. "I entered mainly to get more experience of giving scientific presentations," says Jim - and he will, because the prize is an expenses-paid trip to the International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS) 2004 next August in Serbia, where he will give the talk again.

Small ads

FOR SALE: TV with teletext. £50. Mahogany-effect corner video unit. £12. 2 old PCs. £30. Digital compact disc player. £12. Kitchen clock. £5. Phillips 4-slice toaster. £5. 2 children's bikes: £15 each. Lady's bike: £25. Mountain bike: £30. Email stjph4@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Pine Nordic sauna. 1.8m x 1.6m. With 6kw stove. £400. Ono. Email J.R.Riddington@sussex.ac.uk. ext. 8906. Tel. 779822.

FOR SALE: Daves Galaxy bicycle, 24in frame. 1.8in x 1.6in. With 6kw stove. £40. Ono. Email r.remanuel@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Secretarial assistance. Flexible, regular hrs. Email ebj6@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 19" Dell colour monitor (black), under 1 year old. Offers to kaf1@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Citroen Xantia 2.0 SX 5-dr hatchback. L reg. (93), MoT to Nov 04. immobilizer, e/w, PAS, o/c, e/sunroof, tow hitch, r/cas. £900 ono. Call 578352 or 07906 237886, email collingtons@tammnuts.com.

FOR SALE: Red 5-dr Micra 1.0, 96 (N reg.), MoT Mar 04. £1,100 ono. Tel. 473525 (pm).

TO LET: Double room in 2-bed Hove flat. Share kitchen, bathroom, lounge with female PG. £370pcm incl. heating. Call Susie on 774381.

SWAP: XBox, 2 controllers, Live! account & headset, Halo, Unreal, ghost recon (live!) & more for GameCube + controllers + games. Email harrybr@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 7221.

FOR SALE: Fiat 500. 1996, 56k miles. £800 ono. Email jcyaj7@hotmail.com or call Jo on ext. 8357.

TO LET: V. small room, 5 mins to bus/train. £175 pcm. Tel. 416543 or email A.Cohen@sussex.ac.uk.

HOLIDAY LET: Detached 3-bed villa between Malaga and Nerja, Costa del Sol. Sea 300m, airport 30 mins. From £165 p/w. Contact Tricia on 472831.

FOR SALE: 1.9 Ghz computer with Pentium 4 processor, 24GB RAM, 40GB hard drive, graphics card, DVD/CDRW. Plus 17" monitor, Visioneer scanner, HP Deskjet 3822, optical mouse. £50. Tel. 07779 787357, email jonnycook82@hotmail.com.


TO LET: 3-bed, 2-bath house in Hanover from Jan/mid Feb to end June. £950 pcm. Contact Sue on 605589 (eves), ext. 2734 or email s.e.saunders@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 3 rooms in friendly house. £65 p/p p/w excl. Street parking. Available now. Call Shirley on 727231.

INDIST: Indest freezer (£45). Lec top freezer (£60), Indest washing machine (£60), lawnmower (£25). Buyer collects. Ext. 3654 or email T.O.-Donnell@sussex.ac.uk.

FREE: Cambridge BA gown and hood. Email j.platt@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Green Habitat 'Pacino' double sofa-bed (metal frame) & matching armchair. £100. Contact Martin on 818330 (Upper Leaves Rd).

WANTED: Small, reliable family car. £1,000-£2,500. Email jafa7@sussex.ac.uk.
Sussex success story of endangered elms

In the early 1970s, the founders of National Tree Week (26 November–7 December) campaigned to raise awareness of the plight of the English elm, threatened by a new strain of Dutch Elm Disease. Thirty years on, a rare collection of English elms survives on the Sussex campus.

The local authority was already taking action to save elms in the Brighton area when the issue gained national prominence. A determined campaign to treat Brighton's affected trees prevented many others from falling sick, including some of the elms at Sussex.

"We lost 195 elms through Dutch Elm Disease and the great storm of October 1987," said David Streeter, reader in ecology. "The true English elm, Ulmus procera, is now very rare because the species is particularly susceptible to the damaging Dutch Elm Disease fungus. Today, we have 22 mature English elms among 31 elm trees on campus."

Trees have an important place in the University's history. A tree survey carried out in the late 1950s revealed 300 mature trees on the site and University architect Sir Basil Spence worked around the trees when he designed the landscape for the campus buildings.

"No healthy established trees were removed to make way for the University development," said David. "The University estates department carries out regular checks and monitors the condition of all our campus trees to preserve them for future generations to enjoy."

Kevin Hand, Tree Council campaigns director and coordinator of National Tree Week, said: "It is wonderful that anyone visiting the University of Sussex can enjoy such a large elm population in beautiful surroundings."

Chinese look to Sussex for example of a good UK university

University vice-presidents and higher education officials from China were in Brighton and Lewes last week (17-21 November) to learn about how the University of Sussex has become such a success.

The 22 visitors, who also toured the Universities of Warwick and Cardiff, heard how Sussex has developed its research policies and teaching practice to make it one of the most innovative higher education institutions in the country.

The visit, which included a reception at the Royal Pavilion hosted by Brighton and Hove City Council followed by a banquet hosted by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), was organised by the China Association for International Exchange of Personnel. It followed on from an agreement between the UK and Chinese governments to forge better links between the two countries' higher education establishments.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter LifeSci

We are sure that it won't have escaped readers' notice that the berry crop this year has been spectacular. On the other hand the gastronomic mycologists among us have been less happy. The dry weather has severely restricted the autumn fungal harvest.

One particular berry is especially noticeable at the moment: Snowberry. The odd thing about the berry of Snowberry is that, as it name suggests, it is a pure glistening white. It is this feature that particularly attracted Georgian gardeners who first introduced that plant in 1817 from its home in North America, where it is found all along the west coast from Alaska to California and Colorado. It has also been widely planted as game cover.

A member of the family of plants to which the honeysuckle belongs, it was first recorded in the wild in 1863 and is now thoroughly naturalised in hedges, scrub and woodland throughout the country, especially on damp soils.

The berries, which are borne in tight clusters and persist well into December, are extremely poisonous, containing an unpleasant cocktail of saponins, alkaloids, terpenes and tannins. Saponins, which are natural detergents, occur in a wide range of succulent-looking berries such as the shiny red berries of Black Bryony, a familiar hedgerow climber, with this part of the country.

Anyone ill-advised enough to try eating Snowberries is likely to suffer severe vomiting. The juice is also a skin irritant that can cause dermatitis. It is thus surprising that a mixture of crushed leaves and berries once formed the basis of folk recipes for shampoo and even eye-wash!

The berries are typically over 8 mm in diameter and so can be swallowed whole only by larger birds, such as Blackbirds. These birds benefit the plant by dispersing the two flattened seeds contained in each berry. Other bird species such as Greenfinches harm the plant, however, by patiently pulling the pulp off in thin strips in order to eat the seeds.

They inadvertently provide food for other small birds in two ways. First, the strips of pulp rapidly turn brown and then seem much more palatable to species such as Blue Tits. Second, the Greenfinches often drop seeds, which are then eagerly sought by yet other species such as Chaffinches (easily recognized by the white flashes in their wings and tail).

A good spot to watch some of these birds and to see Snowberries is the copse just to the east of Engineering II, on the opposite side of Boiler House Hill to the Mantell Building. Most of the Snowberries here are in a large clump up against a fenced compound.

Many of the remaining fruit are unusually small; watch out for a wintering male Blackcap feeding on these, in between visits to the Spindle bush just outside the Hastings Building on the other side of the compound.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia
Mon 1 Dec
3.00pm International Relations Research-in-Progress Seminar: Speaker, title TBA. Arts C233.
4.00pm Economics Research Seminar: Julie Latchfield (Sussex), Internal migration in Ghana. Arts D610.
4.00pm Research on Language and Linguistics Seminar (ROLLS): Colleen Cotter (Queen Mary), Standardization in media language. Arts D310.
4.00pm Social Psychology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Greg Maio (Cardiff), The psychological structure of social values. Pev I IB3.
5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Mick Fogley (Sussex), Tales from two lake basins: Climate, culture and collapse in the Peruvian highlands. Arts C175.
5.00pm Education Open Seminar: Nigel Tubbs, (King Alfred's, Winchester), Philosophical teachers. Arts C233.

Wed 3 Dec
3.00pm Kindergartentransport experiences and the process of autobiographical writing: Susi Behboodi. Identity: The process of change and adjustment. Russell 10.

Thu 4 Dec
9.00am Coestar Research Group Seminar: Speaker, title TBA. Pevensey I A1.
4.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Meaghan Clarke (Sussex), The writing of art history. Arts A155.
4.00pm Psychology Colloquium: Jay Belsky (Birkbeck), title TBA. Pev I IA7.
4.30pm Social and Political Thought Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Russell Keat, Value-free critique? Habermas on colonisation by the market. Arts D630.
5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Richard Black (Sussex), Migration: Good or bad for the poor? Arts A1.
5.00pm Q-sec: Physics & Astronomy Society: Jim Al-Khalili (Surrey), Transmutation: Clean nuclear power or an alchemist's dream? Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Fri 5 Dec
2.15pm Freeman Centre Seminar: Shimon Awerbuch (Ydall Centre), What finance and accounting theory tell us about valuing new technologies and processes. Freeman Centre.

Mon 8 Dec
3.00pm International Relations Research-in-Progress Seminar: Speaker, title TBA. Arts C233.
4.00pm Economics Research Seminar: Robert Owen (Nantes). Sun costs, market access, economic integration and welfare. Arts D610.
4.00pm Sussex Meaning and Grammar Group: Geoff Sampson (Sussex), title TBA. Arts D310.
4.00pm Psychology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Susan Michie (UCL), Informed choice in health care: The role of attitudes. Pev I IB2.
4.00pm History Research in Progress Seminar: Richard Whitman (Westminster), The Europeanisation of EU member state foreign policies. Debating Chamber, Falmer House.
5.00pm Education Open Seminar: Liesbeth de Block (Institute of Education, London), Children in communication about migration: A European project researching new media with refugee children. Arts C233.

Tue 9 Dec
4.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Kathy Triantafillou (Sussex), Bacterial recognition: CD14, TLRs and activation clusters. JMS Lecture Theatre.
4.00pm COGS Research Seminar: Pasha Parpa (Sussex), title TBA. Arundel 404A.
7.00pm Institute of Physics Lecture: Adam Scafe (Met Office), The science of climate change. Pev I IA7.

Wed 10 Dec
2.00pm South Asia Seminar: Ananta K Giri (Madras Institute of Development Studies), Spiritual cultivation for a secular society: Contemporary India and beyond. Arts C162.
3.00pm New Teaching and Learning Forum. Russell 15.
3.00pm Global Justice/Political Violence: Martin Coward (Sussex), The empire strikes back: Permanent war and the spatialities of global conflict after 9/11. EDB 125.

Thu 11 Dec
4.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Naomi Tadmor (Sussex), Friends and neighbours in early modern England: Biblical translations and social norms. Arts A155.
4.00pm Psychology Colloquium: Axel Cleeremans (Brussels), title TBA. Pev I IA7.