Students and staff at Sussex were offered support and advice this week following the death of a 20-year-old second-year student from meningococcal septicaemia.

In the early hours of Friday 23 January the student was admitted to her family's local hospital in Carshalton, Surrey, where she died late in the evening of Saturday 24 January. Professor Alasdair Smith, the Vice-Chancellor, said: "We are greatly saddened by the loss and offer our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Our thoughts are with them."

Close contacts of the student were immediately identified and given antibiotics. In line with national guidance and with the support of the local Health Protection Agency, information and advice about meningococcal disease were quickly circulated to students and staff. They were offered further advice and support this week and a helpline giving information and advice was set up on campus.

Blood tests on another Sussex student who had been admitted to hospital earlier the same week with suspected meningitis proved negative. Dr Angela Iversen, consultant in communicable disease control at the Health Protection Agency, said: "It is highly unlikely that the case is meningococcal meningitis." The student is recovering well and has now left hospital.

As the Bulletin went to press on Wednesday (28 January), news was emerging of a further suspected case of meningitis involving a Sussex student.

Anyone with general concerns or worries about meningitis should call NHS Direct on 0845 4647, the National Meningitis Trust on 0845 6000 800 (24-hour helpline), or the Meningitis Research Foundation on 0808 800 3344. ■

Symptoms of meningitis

- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness or confusion leading to unconsciousness
- Discomfort from bright lights
- Back and joint pains
- Rash: red/purple spots or bruises anywhere on the body that do not turn white when pressed.

Higher Education Bill scraps through

The Higher Education Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening (27 January), but by the very small margin of five votes.

The Bill's central proposal to allow universities to charge variable fees that will be repaid as a graduate contribution is the focus of the political controversy. Many members of the University - staff as well as students - are opposed to this change, while recognising that the Bill has other welcome features, notably the abolition of 'up-front' tuition fees and the re-introduction of student maintenance grants.

"I think that the progress of the Bill is very good news for the University," said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith. "Whether we like every detail or not, this is the only proposal on the table for increasing university funding. If the Bill had fallen, the government would not come back with an alternative funding plan; and the main opposition party has told us that it has no plan and will not develop one until the next general election."

The proposals in the Bill will by 2008-9 deliver additional annual income of about £10m to the University of Sussex.

The promise of this additional income is allowing the University to create a substantial number of new academic posts, support the strategy for science, and invest in the campus infrastructure. Once the Bill passed its first crucial hurdle this week, the Vice-Chancellor confirmed plans to advertise over 50 academic posts next month, most of them in areas of strongly growing student numbers.

The government's proposals still face a rocky ride through Parliament, and universities will be trying to ensure that any concessions made are not damaging to the interests of higher education.

"One great success of the debate on university funding is that everyone now accepts that there is a real funding problem," said the Vice-Chancellor. "Let us hope that at the end of the debate our politicians will have provided a positive answer. The alternative does not bear thinking about." ■
Hidden cues that make smokers light up

Smokers trying to kick the habit for 2004 are probably finding it much harder than they expected. New research by Sussex psychologists reveals that smokers subconsciously react to all sorts of visual cues that encourage them to light up. It’s not just the obvious sight or smell of a cigarette that sparks off the behaviour. The researchers found that neutral images can also set off the craving.

“The implication of these findings is that cues for smoking should be focusing on ways to control a person’s reaction to cues that signal the availability of cigarettes,” says Dr Lee Hogarth, who carried out the research with Dr Theodora Duka and Dr Anthony Dickinson. “In particular, treatments should attempt to block the capacity of the stimulus to grab the smoker’s attention.”

Previous research has shown that smokers engage in smoking behaviour when they see something or someone that indicates cigarettes are available. They are also faster at identifying smoking related words than neutral words and have a better visual memory for smoking-related stimuli.

The Sussex team, whose research was published in the journal *Psychopharmacology*, set up an experiment that involved showing smokers two patterns at random on a computer screen. One pattern (S+) led to the smoker being able to take two puffs of a cigarette. The other pattern (S-) would elicit instructions to blow into a carbon monoxide monitor.

In a later stage of the experiment smokers were presented with the two patterns together. By monitoring the smokers’ visual response, it was found that the smokers paid more attention to the S+ pattern – which had previously given them access to tobacco – than the S- pattern. At the same time, a skin conductance test also revealed that physiological changes took place in smokers when the S+ pattern was shown.

Theodora, whose work has also involved looking at alcohol and drug addiction, says; “One way to help people cure their addiction is to do a reverse of this – to create thought-blocking to prevent the smoker from paying attention to the stimulus. We could probably set up something in a laboratory, but it would be extremely hard to do this beyond a laboratory setting where there are any number of different visual cues.”

Senior international delegations come to learn from Sussex

The Sussex teams working on entrepreneurship, technology transfer and regional development are generating and expanding their profile to such a degree that countries around the world are sending senior delegations to learn from them. In the last few weeks, the University has hosted three separate visiting groups from China as well as from Singapore.

For example, delegates from the Ningbo Science Park near Shanghai attended sessions on incubation from Mike Herd, executive director of the Innovation Centre, and on commercialisation and technology transfer from Mark Clark and Mike Shaw of Sussex IP. This is a University of Sussex-owned business dedicated to the development, commercialisation and licensing of intellectual property.

So what is the trigger for all this interest, particularly from China? There have been sweeping reforms recently in the regulation of the Chinese investment system that have freed companies from seeking government approval for projects.

This, coupled with investment in infrastructure, such as the giant Ningbo Science Park, means government officials are anxious that new companies are given every chance to succeed and that Chinese technology is exploited properly.

There are big cultural differences between China and the West and particularly the Anglo-Saxon approach. As China emerges from decades of political constraint, it is important that new ways are learned quickly.

Sussex is playing its part and Professor Tony Moore, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Mike Herd visited China earlier this month. “We don’t always get it right at Sussex and we are always ready to learn as well as help others,” said Mike.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Sciences Data Sharing</th>
<th>Applied Genomics LINK programme</th>
<th>British Academy Sino-British Fellowship Trust</th>
<th>MRC Career Establishment Grants</th>
<th>Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The MRC, on behalf of the BBSRC, MRC, Wellcome Trust, JISC, DTI and NERC, invites tenders from consortia to describe and analyse the 'landscape' of data sharing in the life sciences. The aim is to highlight strategies, strengths, good practice and gaps.</td>
<td>This scheme is to encourage collaborations with industry that will use the genome sequence and genetic data to identify new functionalities to be exploited by healthcare industries. This is likely to be the last time funding will be available under the scheme.</td>
<td>This scheme supports individual or co-operative research projects in humanities and social sciences. Projects may be conducted either in Britain, China, or both. Grants may be up to £10,000. Grants are intended to cover travel and maintenance expenses.</td>
<td>These grants, which cover almost all of the MRC remit, offer support for up to five years. They will cover the salaries of research, technical or other staff, and for consumables, equipment and travel costs. MRC wishes to encourage applications from clinically qualified candidates.</td>
<td>These postdoctoral awards provide career development opportunities for those who do not hold or have not held a full-time academic post in a UK university. The Trust will cover 50% of the fellow’s salary costs and will contribute up to £5,000 per year for research expenses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
University checks out Horsham

The University has commissioned a report aimed at establishing whether there is demand for a second University of Sussex campus, sited close to Horsham. The study is jointly funded by the University and by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The notion of a development in the Horsham area is supported by demography: the area contains one of the largest populations in England with no significant higher education presence.

It is also supported by local and regional organisations such as Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), as offering an opportunity to enhance the region's skills base and economic potential.

The basic premise is not to develop another all-purpose university, nor to be an extension of the Falmer campus. "There are enough universities and room to expand at Falmer if we wanted to," said Neil Gershon, Registrar & Secretary.

"Rather the aim is to develop a mixed-use campus bringing together research-based business with academic facilities to provide education at the levels identified by business, industry and the local community as being necessary to help meet skills shortages in key areas." The feasibility study is still at an early stage. Identifying the economic impact of the development and understanding the real potential demand are key elements, as is identifying a preferred site from among the possible options.

It will be very important to ensure the right mix of students - combining study at foundation-degree, masters and DPhil levels - and the right balance of home and overseas participants.

The campus would have a major research component geared towards working with industry. The businesses on the campus would be those that wanted to work with university research staff at the cutting edge of research and development.

They would in turn be customers for some of the anticipated MSc and DPhil output. The new campus would become one of the most important research facilities in the region and the most significant in West Sussex.

In summer 2003 the Vice-Chancellor presented the outline concept of this scheme to the University Council. There was support for the idea and the intention is to report back to Council once the current study is completed. Only if the study demonstrates the proposal is viable would there be a recommendation to proceed. Even so, there would be a long way to go in attracting public and private funding for the idea to become reality.

Sussex UN official dies in central Asia plane crash

A Sussex graduate and top British United Nations official was killed in a plane crash this month.

Richard Conroy (right), the UN's resident co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, was on board an airliner that crashed in heavy fog on approach to the airport in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, on 13 January.

In 1969 Mr Conroy studied the History and Social Studies of Science at Sussex before doing a doctorate part-time in SPRU.

"Richard was one of my first PhD students," recalled Geoff Oldham, the former director of SPRU. "I remember how much he wanted to work on a topic related to the developing world.

"He chose to make a comparative study of innovation in the scientific instruments industry in China and India. I have continued to visit both countries and only last year had occasion to refer to Richard's work when I was in India."

Mr Conroy arrived to take up his UN responsibilities in Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic in central Asia, in August 2001 and was immediately faced with the aftermath of 11 September's terrorist attacks, including the implications of the war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

At the time of his death Mr Conroy was in the final months of his term in Uzbekistan and would have been given another posting by the summer.

Security Services emergency contact list

Security Services are asking all individuals whose names are on the University's emergency call-out list to check that their personal details on Sussex Direct are correct. They would also like anybody on the list whose contact arrangements have recently changed to inform the Security Office on ext. 8234 or by emailing security@sussex.ac.uk. These details are vitally important if Security need to contact individuals quickly in an emergency.

Lunchtime concert

Psychology graduate Emma Baldock will be returning to campus on Thursday 19 February to play the cello in a performance of Beethoven's 'Piano Trio Op 1 no 1 in Eb'. The concert, which takes place in the Meeting House from 1.20-2.00 pm, also features Sussex scientists Dr Peter Williams on the piano and Professor Chris Darwin on the violin.

P. Lesley Cook dies

Dr P. Lesley Cook, Reader in Economics and one of the founder members of the School of Social Sciences at Sussex, died after a prolonged illness on Sunday (25 January) at the age of 80.
It’s a perennial student problem. Freshers’ week is such a blur by the end of it, you either find you’ve signed up for 12 societies – none of which you’ve ever been to – or it was all so confusing you signed up for none at all and now you’re feeling a bit left out.

A programme of events aims to solve this problem and is one of two very different campaigns launched this term by the Students’ Union (USSU).

The Taste programme allows students to have a free no-obligation go at 48 different activities including everything from communicating effectively to jazz and six-a-side football. If students enjoy the activity they can join the group on a regular basis.

However, Taste isn’t just about swelling society numbers. The Students’ Union hope it is one of the ways they can help vulnerable students become more relaxed and confident in the campus community.

Adèle Burrow, the elected USSU Sports and Activities Officer, says: “Student advisors and tutors have expressed concern that some of their students are feeling isolated and are unsure of how to get involved in extra-curricular activities. Taste should help because the no-commitment format may seem less daunting than approaching a fully formed club or society.” The website www.ussu.info/taste has more details.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Spiked campaign aims to raise awareness of the increasing problem of drink spiking. Spiked stands for Supplying Positive Information and Knowledge to Eliminate Drug rape and is a joint effort between the Students’ Union, Unisex, the National Union of Students (NUS) and Brighton and Hove City Council.

NUS figures show that alcohol is the most common drug used in sexual assaults and that even soft drinks can be spiked with substances to render people less aware of the situation they’re in.

The campaign kicks off on 2 February and will involve a poster campaign, bar staff wearing promotional t-shirts and outreach work at the weekly Sports Federation night at the Honey Club in town.

Lori Culora, Students’ Union Welfare Officer, says: “We intend to run the Spiked campaign for a long time and work with many organisations, such as local clubs and bars, to raise awareness of the danger of spiked drinks.”

The annual wacky race that is the Students’ Union (USSU) sabbatical elections started in earnest this week. But whom to choose for Education Officer is being overshadowed by a simultaneous referendum on disaffiliation from the National Union of Students (NUS).

The referendum was called at the USSU Annual General Meeting in November 2003 when Finance Officer Joe Williams presented the Union’s budget to students. Included in the budget is a £27,000 subscription fee to NUS. Many students, unhappy at the money going into the central union’s coffers, forced a referendum.

Referendums on NUS affiliation are nothing new at Sussex: the last happened in 2001, with NUS winning a small but significant majority. However, some university unions have gone the whole hog. Southampton, Imperial and Edinburgh have all left NUS, the world’s largest student body.

The Sussex union’s relationship with NUS has been tempestuous for the last few decades, the underlying reason being that NUS has been run by the student arm of the Labour party and their supporters for many years. On the Sussex campus, support for student Labour has been almost non-existent, with most activists here being a somewhat deeper shade of red. Recently Sussex students held a vote of no confidence in current NUS president (and Labour supporter) Mandy Telford.

“The Union, as a body, is keen to ensure everyone is well informed about the pros and cons of NUS,” said Nick Scott, USSU Communications Officer. “On a personal note I think it’s good to have an issue like this to raise awareness of the role of the Union in general.” See more at www.ussu.info/referendum.

While ballotting is in progress, from 2–5 February, it is likely NUS representatives (parachuted into Sussex to get a yes vote) will be campaigning alongside sabbatical candidates, creating even more of a milieu in Library Square than usual.

Nominations for the USSU sabbatical posts should be in by now and the campaigning, by eager students hungry to get a paid job to run the Students’ Union, is well and truly under way. If we are lucky the various campaigns might even be quite inventive. So look out for bands, singing students and a tree-load of flyers coming your way.
Keep Wednesday afternoons free

I hope those who find it necessary to timetable teaching on Wednesday afternoons realise that rather than solving their problem, they are in fact creating a much bigger problem that affects the University as a whole.

I have been involved in a number of clubs and societies, particularly the Sailing Club and the University Royal Naval Unit. I am now co-ordinating two joint Brighton and Sussex eight-person team entries for the Student Yachting Nationals that depend on Wednesday afternoon availability. This is the one time all team members are available and local holiday company Neilson are able to support us by allowing us the use of their boats for training.

Unfortunately I regularly meet people who wish to get involved in activities and are denied the chance by the University because of timetabling issues. Sometimes this is simply because they feel they cannot commit to paying to join the Sports Federation as they believe they are likely to have a timetabled clash in a future term.

Since I started my A levels I have recognised the importance of extra-curricular activities alongside academic work. On the whole the reason applicants to top universities and graduate jobs get turned down despite achieving excellent grades is that they have concentrated almost all their efforts on their academic work and very little time on anything else.

Jonathan Markwell
Year 3 BEng Electronic Engineering and Computer Science

Neil Gershon, Registrar and Secretary, replies

Generally speaking the University has always tried to avoid timetabling sessions on a Wednesday afternoon for more or less exactly the reasons you adduce.

Space and time pressures have led to a few sessions having to be run on a Wednesday afternoon, however, although this is not something that is encouraged.

Overspends on campus

The Registrar tries to reassure us that the cabling overspend was an "isolated incident".

Whereas I can understand the need for reassurance at a time like this, I hope that senior staff and the University's governing body are aware that there are other project overspends on campus.

I also hope that, if I am aware of this fact, they are also and that this will allow them to bring in the necessary changes to the system.

Mick Henry, SciTech

Young entrepreneurs learn vital business skills

Entrepreneurs of the future learnt how to turn business ideas into reality at a special event hosted by the University last week.

More than 250 Year 10 pupils from 18 Sussex schools took part in workshops and talks on 22 and 23 January for the launch of the first Entrepreneurs for Tomorrow Business Plan Competition.

Speakers at the two-day event included Mike Herd, director of the Sussex Innovation Centre, and former British ice-dance champion, Nickly Slater, who is now a marketing and business coach and runs his own innovative company, Adventure.

The event was organised by the University's regional development office, together with the Specialist Schools Trust, Sussex Innovation Centre, Education Business Partnership and Ringer Community College.

All schools involved are affiliated to or are members of the Specialist Schools Trust.

Sharon Phillips, regional development manager at Sussex, said: "Entrepreneurship and innovation are important to business growth and education and it's essential these seeds are sown early in the career of a potential entrepreneur."

The event involved advice and guidance from local business mentors, academics and student mentors about how universities can be involved in innovative projects within the curriculum, as well as a visit to the Innovation Centre to find out how it supports and encourages new companies.

"The aim is to help these young people develop the skills to come up with a business concept," said Sharon, "They don't have to make the product or implement it, but they will need to research the market place and ground their ideas."

The students will be given until April to submit business plans for the competition, with the winners to be announced in May. The winning project will be determined by the business plan that the judges would be most likely to invest in.

Walks go weekly

Walks proved to be one of the most popular features of Health Week, with over 100 people wandering up the Downs and strolling around Stammer Park.

Following their popularity the Sport Service is to hold regular weekly walks. Every Friday at 1.05pm a walk will depart from the Sportcentre, lasting just under an hour. Contact Cath Smeet on ext. 8345 for more details. Meanwhile, Alistair Brand's Monday walks continue departing from 1pm outside Bramber House Post Office.

On your bike!

Would you like to take some cycle lessons or maybe fix up your bike for the coming spring? If so, there is still time to take advantage of the subsidised training available from Cycle Training SE, who are running a Bike to Campus project in conjunction with the University.

Cycling lessons can be arranged at your convenience, while bike maintenance courses will be run in central Brighton and on campus in February.

The cost is only £20 for staff and £10 for students; this price applies to the end of February, when the project funding from the Department for Transport comes to an end.

Contact Cycle Training for more information on 72997, info@cycletrainingse.co.uk, www.cycletrainingse.co.uk.

Students prove to be swots at sexual health

Students flocked to East Slope bar last Thursday (22 January) for the annual Sextips quiz. The Unisex volunteers (left) posed questions including identifying the symptoms of Chlamydia, working out the flavour of a condom just by sucking on it, and knowing how much water a person should drink if on an Ecstasy pill. The student teams did remarkably well, with even the lowest scoring students getting two-thirds of the answers right.
Use your vote

You wouldn't necessarily expect the senior personnel manager in an organisation to be encouraging trade-union members to vote on industrial action. But that's exactly what Barbara Bush, Director of Human Resources, was doing this week when she urged all Sussex members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) to vote in the union's strike ballot over pay and grading talks.

"Apathy is our greatest threat," explained Barbara. "There is no minimum vote required in order to use the outcome of the ballot. Even if only 20 people vote, for example, their vote will carry the day, irrespective of how many members there are.

"The important thing to ensure is that everyone's voice is heard so, whatever your feelings, make sure you send the ballot paper back. If you have already thrown it out, get onto the AUT for a replacement."

If you are unsure of the background to the ballot, read a summary at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing, or call Barbara on ext. 7083 with any concerns you have. For information about the AUT position, see www.aut.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=236.

Barbara was keen to emphasise that the AUT action is not about pay. "The other trades unions are sure that we can get no better deal for the sector in the next two years," she argued, "and the AUT have put forward no alternate strategy to inject more funding."

She also took issue with the AUT claim that individual staff will suffer pay cuts when the proposed new Framework Agreement is introduced. "In addition to the 3.44% this year and 3% next year to the base scale, all staff will benefit by an additional average of 1.2% in assimilating to the new single pay spine, so over two years that makes an additional average of 7.6%.

Small ads

TO LET: 1-bed U/F 1st-floor flat, large sunny lounge, adjacent London Rd station, £138 p/w, suit PG/professional. Call Mel on 500782.

WANTED: Sublet in B'ton from May for summer and academic year (shorter terms possible), for 2 visiting postdocs + small daughter. Email hmchenkel@princeton.edu

TO LET: 1-bed flat nr Hove station. Private terrace, large secluded garden. Separate w/c. £670 pcm. Call 717586.

FOR SALE: Yamaha P120 electronic piano. 88 weighted keys, sequencer, other sounds. 8 mths old. Box, pedal, manual. £560. Email t.j.hulston@sussex.ac.uk, Ext. 7104.

TO LET: Double futor, navy blue, pine base & arms: £75. Large, low wooden table: £75. Tel. 01825 767240 (before 8pm).

FOR SALE: VW Polo CL 1.6-4dr saloon. 100hp, immobiliser, S/R, PS, driver's airbag, el/windos & mirrors, 67k miles. £2,750 ono. Contact Dimitris on ext. 3108, 07986 797606 or d.patounas@sussex.ac.uk.


WANTED: Family accommodation for research fellow when family visit for Feb. House sitting considered. N/S. Pref. B'ton, ideally cycling distance from campus. Email r.kleist@sussex.ac.uk or call 697602.

WANTED: Large 2-seater Sofa Factory sofa & armchair, blue with small diamond pattern: £100 the pair, will consider splitting. 3-wheeler double buggy + spare set of seats, cosseies, rain cover, etc.: £150. Email alang@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 8337.

TO LET: Double room in garden flat. Seven Dials. Live-in female owner (Sussex OPhil student). Female pref. £100 p/w incl. Call Nik on 07956 945824, email nikstrange@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: 1997 (R reg.) blue Volkswagen Golf 2.I GTI. 41k miles. £4,950 ono. Phone 720810 or email qgfal@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Unfurnished 2-bed flat, nr Lewes station. £660pcm. Available now. Phone 473983 (ah). Email d.osorio@sussex.ac.uk.
Going up a gear with school websites

School websites have, in the past, been somewhat unco-ordinated across campus, and consequently rather motley affairs.

Now, however, they are turning the corner, with the eventual aim to make them a real resource for both current and prospective students as well as academics and support staff; in fact, almost like a school or departmental office – but online and accessible 24 hours a day from any computer.

First steps have included creating a common look for all the sites, making them easier to navigate and update. News items and upcoming lectures can easily be posted by staff, while departmental sites include full details of academic staff and their research.

From this term the content has been expanded as well. New sections on school sites include information on the location and geographical development of schools. A new section on support enables students to find out what services are on offer, by whom and how to access them.

Over the next few month staff in the Communications Division and the schools are intending to work together to extend the range of information on the sites and look at how the different nuances of the schools can be relayed, while keeping within a common structure. Department websites will also be looked at and appropriate staff trained up.

"A lot of hard work from IT staff around the University has enabled us to demystify the process of web publication," said Richard Tammar, the Univer-sity's website manager.

He expressed excitement at the opportunity offered by new school websites for improving communications across campus and beyond: "As soon as administrators in schools and departments have a chance to draw breath following the restructuring, the opportunity exists to use our website as a far more effective vehicle for internal communications."

To access the sites, simply type www.sussex.ac.uk/ and then add the shortened school name, for instance, www.sussex.ac.uk/hums. Alongside these sites the original new schools website has been updated to provide background information about the recent changes. See www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/newschools.

Email virus alert on campus

The University was one of many organisations affected when a prolific computer virus spread via email and clogged campus networks this week.

The virus was called either Norvar or W32/MyDoom and often presented itself as a zipfile attachment.

Computing Services advised anyone who received the worm to avoid opening the attachment. "Do not open any attachment if you are not absolutely sure of its origin and that it is safe, even if you think it comes from someone you know," computer users were read when they logged on.

The email carrying the virus contained text such as "This message contains uni-code characters and has been sent as a binary attachment." It often appeared to come from someone known to the recipient when in fact it had not.

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter LifeSci

Just before Christmas, Carol Sterenberg from the Student Systems Office spotted two Goldcrests in a Judas-tree outside Sussex House. These are Europe's tiniest birds, each weighing slightly less than a ten-pence coin.

Although Goldcrests prefer forests of tall conifers such as Norway Spruce, some nest on campus. They usually do so in Yew trees, and so Carol's birds may have come from far farther than Falmer House. Alternatively, they could have been winter visitors from as far away as Russia. The thought of these tiny waifs battling their way across Europe amazes us; no wonder our ancestors made up stories of Goldcrests riding on the backs of larger birds! Whatever their origins, Goldcrests face a tough challenge in winter. They need to collect more than their own weight in food every day in order to survive the long winter nights, and yet they feed on such tiny invertebrates that an aphid is a large meal! Little wonder that they seem hyperactive, pecking at branches many times per minute.

Carol's observations about the Goldcrests have also drawn attention to the two Judas-trees on either side of the main entrance to Sussex House.

When in bloom they are arguably the most beautiful trees on campus. The masses of purple-pink flowers clothe the bare branches in May before the leaves expand and from July onwards they produce bunches of conspicuous pods.

The tree grows wild in southern Europe and has been cultivated in this country since the 16th century. The flowers are said to have a sweet acid taste and have been used in salads.

The legend that Judas hanged himself from a Judas-tree after the Great Betrayal resolutely refuses to die. The true origins of the myth are most likely to be found in the French name of l'arbre de Judas, the tree from Judaea.

Mid-winter is a hetic time for Foxes: many of last spring's youngsters are on the move searching for territories while being chivved along by established territory owners for whom this is the mating season. This is why several readers have recently reported strange nocturnal noises around campus.

Territorial Foxes, especially the males, are patrolling their range giving repeated barks like a small dog with a sore throat: roff ... roff ... roff.

Far more dramatic, however, is the unearthly 'waal' - waaawaa - which sounds like a cross between a ghostly peacock and someone being murdered. Although often called the 'Vixen's scream', and said to signal that a female is willing to mate, it is made by both sexes. Wailing is clearly hard work: the Fox stops in its tracks and shakes violently.

Intriguingly, other Foxes often seem oblivious to nearby screams, but turn or even run towards more distant ones. Whatever the distance, this is one natural sound that always raises the hairs on the backs of our necks.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia
Mon 2 Feb
4.00pm Econometrics Research Seminar: Steven Redding (LSE), Product choice and product switching. Arts D610.
4.00pm ROLLS: Eamé Fajol (Sussex), The nature of Yoruba innovation: a new experimental study. Arts D310.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Richard Byrne (St Andrews), An evolutionary origin for the ability to construct behavioural plans. Genome Centre.
5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Tanya Bowyer-Bower (King's College), The political economy of risk and entitlement in resource management in African cities. Arts C175.
5.00pm Education Open Seminar: Pat Thomson (Nottingham), A skirmish with the take-up of 'collaboration', 'voice' and 'community leadership' in UK schooling policy.
Arts C233.
Tue 3 Feb
2.15pm SEI Research in Progress Seminar: Panos Hatziprokopiou (Sussex), Processes of incorporation of immigrants in Greece. Arts A71.
4.00pm COGS Research Seminar: Christian Huyck, Cell assemblies for artificial intelligence. Arundel 404A.
4.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Caroline Hill (Carroll Research Unit), The ins and outs of TGF-B signalling. JMS Lecture Theatre.
4.00pm American Studies Open Seminar: Andrew Henmingway (UCL), The Machine Age: other side's Arts A155.
4.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Mike Polkarak (Sussex), Nemesia, agency and love. Mis-representing mental illnesses in the Pacific islands of Tonga. Arts C233.
Wed 4 Feb
1.00pm South Asia Seminar: Lyla Mehta (IDS), Gendered spaces wither struggles. Displacement and resistance in the Narmada Valley.
Arts C162.
2.00pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: Robert Addington, Louis Andresser, De Staat and the politics of performance. Falmer House 120.
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Rebecca Elphinston (Brighton), Labour migration, environment and the politics of community in Indonesia. Arts C233.
Fri 6 Feb
1.00pm SPT, Philosophy, Society, and Centre for French Thought: Ian James (Cambridge), Nick Levet (Sussex), Howard Caygill (Goldsmiths), Being/With Jean-Luc Nancy and the question of community. Arts C233.
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRUM Seminar: Luigi Orsengo (Bocconi, Italy) and Graeme McKeelvy (Chalmers, Sweden), title TBA. Freeman Centre.
Sat 7 Feb
10.00am CCE Arts Subject Group Open Lecture: Philippe Lyon and Christopher McHugh (Sussex), Images of landscape II. Venue TBA.
Mon 9 Feb
12.30pm CCE Research Forum: David Rudling (Sussex), Research and training at Barcombe Roman Villa. Arts D310.
3.00pm International Relations Research-In-Progress Seminar: Beate Jahn (Sussex), Kant and Mill: liberal legacies and international affairs. Arts C233.
4.00pm Economics Research Seminar: Peter Homes and David Dyker (Sussex), title TBA. Arts D610.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Volko Straub (Sussex), Smell learning? Has it taught us anything? Genome Centre, Seminar Room.
5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Julian Murton (Sussex), What was under the NW margin of the Laurentide Ice Sheet? Arts C175.
6.00pm Education Open Seminar: Miriam David (Keele), Personal and political issues in the developments of a gendered pedagogy for professional education in the academy. Arts C233.
Tue 10 Feb
12.00pm Physical Chemistry Seminar: J. N. L. Connor (Manchester), New methods for understanding the dynamics of chemical reactions. Chi 3R143.
2.15pm SEI Research-In-Progress Seminar: Peter Norman (Financial Times), The European Convention. Arts A71.
4.00pm COGS Research Seminar: Andreas Stascheit (Dortmund), Phenomenology of skill acquisition. Arundel 404A.
4.00pm American Studies Open Seminar: Doug Haynes (Sussex), title TBA. Arts A155.
4.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Valentina Napolitano (Sussex), Urban styles and urban imagery Arts C233.
Wed 11 Feb
12.30pm Experimental Particle Physics Seminar: P. Soler (Glasgow), LHCb: A dedicated CP violation experiment at LHC. Preecey 1 - 2A1.
Mon 2 Feb
1.00pm South Asia Seminar: Francesca Orsini (Cambridge), Cultural and social mediations in the first Urna novels. Arts C162.
2.00pm Music at Sussex Graduate Research Seminar: Nicholas Till (Wimbledon School of Art), The critical practice of post-operative productions. Falmer House 120.
3.00pm Global Justice/Political Violence Network: James Fairhead (Sussex), Cobalt, Coltan and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Russell 19.
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Zad Padda (Fusion Personnel), Migrant horticultural workers in the UK. Arts C233.
Thu 12 Feb
4.00pm Postcolonial Theory Seminar: Gregor McMennan (Bristol), Song of freedom with the postcolonial critique of Eurocentrism? Arts D650.
4.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Donald Winch (Sussex), An argument for successive heresies: The case of John Atkinson Hobson. Arts A155.
5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: John Gaventa (IDS), Claiming citizenship: Rights, participation and accountability. Arts A1.
Fri 13 Feb
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRUM Seminar: Jacky Skewer (Sussex), Promoting scientific and commercialisation performance: Are national Biotech policies in Europe effective? Freeman Centre.

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

Performance
Tue 3 Feb
8pm Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company – Transtep
A collaboration between Jeyasingh and three guest choreographers.
Sat 7 Feb
8pm Pete Lockett & Joji Hirota – Taiko to Tabla
An awesome array of drums, cymbals, gongs, bells and sound effects. Free pair of tickets for the first Bulletin reader at the box office.
Thu 12 Feb
1.30pm & 6.30pm Pop-Up – Dummy
The twins are sent to stay at their uncle's guest house, a strange place full of mysterious voices and unexplained noises. First Bulletin reader to the box office gets a pair of tickets for either showing.

Cinema
Sat 31 Jan
8pm Seabiscuit [PG]
Sun 1 Feb
5pm In tolerable Cruelty [12A]
8pm The Mother [15]
Thu 5 Feb
8pm Historias Minimas [15]
Fri 6 Feb
5pm Bellevue
Sun 8 Feb
5pm The Shape of Things [15]
9pm Thirteen [18]
Tue 10 Feb
8pm Internecine [18]
Fri 13 Feb
4pm Friday the 13th [X]
Free pair of tickets to a Bulletin reader for each film.

Exhibition
Tues 3 Feb – Sat 27 Mar
George Chakaravarti – Barflies
Chakaravarti's protagonsit in a video triptych are transvestites putting their identity to the test.

Bulletin
The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Reaing, Maggie Clune and Alx Macfarlane. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 13 February, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 6 February. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.