Sussex: Crossroads of the new EU?

The most dramatic expansion in the size of the European Union (EU) occurred last Saturday (1 May), when ten mostly ex-Communist nations and 80 million citizens became members. With students and staff from all over Europe, what affect will this expansion have on Sussex?

On a purely practical level, several hundred students will have their official status changed from foreign student to ‘home’ student.

Philip Baker, head of the International and Study Abroad Office (ISAO), explains: “At the moment a student from one of these states would pay anything between £8,000 and £10,000 in fees. From the next academic year they will be paying £1,150, the same amount as current British or EU students.”

Like all universities, then, Sussex will suffer financially from having to reduce fees. However, the number of students changing status, 72, is small compared to the 1,000 plus students at Sussex from current EU states.

Although the economics of integration may initially hit Sussex, it’s actually in economics itself that the University has some of its strongest links. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alistair Smith, has just received an honorary doctorate from Warsaw University, and several Polish economics students are on exchange at Sussex. Danuta Hübner, Poland’s first EU Commissioner, was a visiting fellow at the Sussex European Institute (SEI), while SEI professors Alan Mayhew, Jörg Monar and Jim Rollo have been deeply involved in the process of integration and have received national awards for their work.

Jim explains that, although ten new countries have joined, they represent only a 20% rise in EU population and a mere 5% increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the EU. Meanwhile, the new members vary enormously in size. Poland, with 40 million residents, accounts for half of the new entrants’ population. Malta, meanwhile, has a population barely larger than Brighton and Hove and becomes the EU’s smallest state.

In general terms these countries should get the same rights as all EU citizens, including free movement of labour,” explains Jim. “In practice, many countries, such as Germany, have limitations on free movement for new members for between two and seven years.”

Shouldn’t Britain be doing the same as Germany, rather than being relaxed about migration from eastern Europe? No, says Jim: “When Spain joined, all the fuss was of swarthy men with moustaches taking all our waitering jobs. As it was, a million Spaniards went back because EU entry was a sign that their country was much more stable. In fact, in Britain we are very short of skilled workers in areas such as the building trade, which is one of the reasons we are not imposing controls.”

Many in SEI think this enlargement should be just the beginning. Among them is Professor Alan Mayhew, who says: “The EU should be an open, all-embracing organisation to which all European countries can belong. We have always rejected the ‘Fortress Europe’ concept.”

Last Friday (30 April) SEI held a party to celebrate not only EU enlargement but also their imminent move to the EDB building. In June SEI welcomes the Czech ambassador and representatives from Nurnberg 10, among others, to discuss what happens to the EU’s new neighbours now that the boundary has moved from the Germany’s river Oder eastwards to Poland’s river Bug.

FAST FACTS

- With more than 1,000 students from the old EU already here, the 72 students from the new member states is comparatively small.
- Of the current EU students already here, Greece provides by far the most – over 300, followed by 200 French students and about 150 Germans.
- Despite the Republic of Ireland being one of our closest neighbours, there are only about 20 Irish citizens studying at Sussex.

All the fun of the festival

Above right: Graham Curry at full Montis swing.

With the Brighton Festival in full swing, it’s a busy time for several members of University staff.

Alexandra Loske, resources co-ordinator in the Sussex Language Institute, is displaying her silver jewellery as part of the Beyond the Level group of open houses. Alexandra’s passion for twisting metal into art began in the less-than-stimulating environment of the 07.37 train to Victoria: “I was commuting up to London when I realised I had no time to do anything creative,” she says. “So when I got a job at the University I had the time to create all these small but beautiful things.”

Eschewing traditional courses in jewellery making, Alexandra found a workshop space with a teacher to help her bring her ideas to realisation. It is this teacher who decided to put together the open house (51, Upper Lewes Road) where Alexandra’s work is displayed, every weekend from 1–23 May. Katie Lewis, a departmental assistant in the School of Life Sciences, will be exhibiting examples of her printmaking at 5 Osborne Road, as part of the Fiveways open house trail. Stephen Phillips, theatre/TV producer and tutor on CCE’s MA in Dramatic Writing, will be interviewing Sir Richard Eyre on Thursday 6 May at the Spiegeltent in the grounds of the Royal Pavilion. You may hear personnel officer Graham Curry before you see him: as a member of the Brighton Morris Men, he’ll be performing in Brighton city centre on 16 May as part of the Festival Fringe Day of Dance.

Perhaps the most exotic examples of Sussex staff getting all creative, however, are departmental co-ordinators Elaine Saunders and Catherine Senger.

Both are part of Les-Ooh La Las, the South-East’s premier can-can troupe. To see Sussex staff embrace the fiery passion of the Montmartre, just head down to the Streets of Brighton tomorrow (8 May).

Inside

3 Cheers! Students toast society and sporting successes.

4 100 not out New conference centre celebrates milestone.

5 Future Estates invite comment on the development of campus.

6 JMS Colleagues share their memories of the celebrated professor.

7 Wild side The Spanish bluebell armada and the first signs of spring.
Older patients learn new health tricks

A Sussex psychologist has joined forces with the NHS to improve the health of the nation’s fast-growing pensioner population.

It is estimated that there will be 14 million people aged over 65 in Britain by 2030 – a huge problem for the health service, as this age group uses a large portion of the health budget, often with ailments that could be avoided or minimised by adopting a healthier lifestyle.

According to Sussex psychologist Professor Charles Abraham and Dr Kate Kelley, Research Fellow at Worthing and Southlands Hospitals Trust, people of any age can benefit from being helped to adopt a healthier lifestyle – as initial results from their research, to be published in the journal Social Sciences and Medicine, have shown.

Their study was conducted in Worthing, West Sussex, which has a large over-65 population. Pensioners in the outpatients department at Worthing Hospital took part in the trial of a booklet – the Active Healthy Living Plan – that applies the psychological theories of planned behaviour and goal theory to show people how they can take personal responsibility for their own health.

Patients were invited to fill in a questionnaire on their attitudes and intentions regarding diet and exercise. Half were then given the health booklet, while a control group completed a patient-satisfaction questionnaire.

The booklet offers advice and invites patients to assess their own diet and exercise levels and adopt simple measures, such as eating five pieces of fruit a day or taking more walks. It also helps patients monitor their own progress by completing a checklist diary.

After two weeks, all the patients were asked again about their attitudes and intentions. Those who had used the booklet showed more improvement in their eating and exercise intentions and habits.

"Research shows that changing behaviour even late on in life can have a positive effect on health," says Charles. "The elderly are often more motivated in this because they can see the consequences of deteriorating health."

Sussex research informs UN study on violence against children

Recent research carried out at Sussex by Dr Fiona Leach (Sussex School of Education) with a team of African researchers and funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) has played a major role in raising awareness worldwide of the scale and nature of gender violence in schools.

The study in three African countries provides disturbing evidence that gender violence and abuse are major features of school life for many adolescent pupils, especially girls.

It found that many schoolgirls are propositioned for sex by male teachers and older male pupils, sometimes with violence or intimidation, and that bullying, assault, excessive corporal punishment (especially of boys) and verbal abuse are widespread. There was a marked failure of those in authority to take action against offenders, thus sending the message that violence in schools is "normal".

Fiona’s pioneering research will feed into a global study of violence against children commissioned by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, which is due to report to the UN General Assembly in 2006.

To this end, Fiona was invited to make the keynote presentation at a two-day meeting on gender violence in schools at UNICEF headquarters in New York last month. This meeting, opened by the Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, was the first to bring together UN experts in education, child protection and health to discuss the issue of safety and security of children in school.

It was also attended by experts from the World Bank, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) promoting education and human/children’s rights, and universities.

Among only a handful of studies, Fiona’s work provides the only in-depth multi-country research on this issue. Its findings have been picked up by USAID, which is funding a US$4.5-million project to promote gender safety in schools in Africa. Fiona went on to Washington from New York to give a presentation of her research to USAID staff and to talk to the project team.

This small-scale qualitative study has had a remarkable impact, partly through its website (www.id21.org/education/ gender_violence/index.html) on gender violence in schools, which seeks to raise global awareness of the issue, disseminate research findings and provide examples of innovative practice in addressing gender violence. This website was set up under the id21 initiative, funded by DFID and hosted by IDS at Sussex, which provides summaries of recent UK research on development.

Research funding opportunities →

More details of these and other funding opportunities are available from your Research Support Officer in the Research & Regional Development Division. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, search the Community of Science (COS) database at www.cos.com
Student societies say Cheers!

RAG triumphed last Thursday (29 April) as most improved student society of the year at Cheers!, the annual event to celebrate achievements in non-sporting student activities.

The judges said of the group, which is dedicated to raising funds for charity: “RAG at Sussex has traditionally been much smaller than at other universities, where RAG week can be bigger than freshers. However, this year they have organised themselves and held an excellent RAG week. Uniquely, the society even has a health and safety officer!”

A sister event to the successful Sussex sports awards dinner, Cheers! celebrates all activities, rather than focusing solely on the winners. “The name is used because we’re saying well done to everyone involved,” says Mike Riley, Clubs and Societies Coordinator for the Students’ Union.

Attendees at the event were greeted with a glass of bubbly and a variety of performances including songs from Nana, the winner of last term’s campus-based musical talent contest, Arena. Arena itself won event of the year, while a student-led push to raise awareness of Fairtrade produce and get it introduced on campus was voted campaign of the year.

One of the major additions to Cheers! this year was the new certificate that was handed out to all students who’ve been placed by Project V, the University’s volunteer bureau.

Karen Belton, Project V volunteering manager, says the new certificates are designed to recognise students’ efforts: “They’ve all worked so hard, and often volunteers don’t get recognised in this way. The certificate will also be something official they can keep and use to show the activities they’ve taken part in.”

Meanwhile, the annual Sussex sports awards dinner took place on Saturday (1 May). A true black-tie and ballgown event, this year it was held in the salubrious surroundings of the Hilton Metropole hotel.

Women’s Basketball won team of the year. The only BUSA Division 1 team at Sussex, they reached the final of a national competition, losing gallantly in the final by 11 points to Manchester University. Their coach, CJ Lee, Students’ Union Activities Centre manager, won the SussexSport staff award.

Sailing won club of the year and Women’s Football most improved club. It was a double bill for the rugby clubs, which walked off with sportsman and woman of the year. An injured Adam Hickie managed to raise thousands for Men’s Rugby and grabbed the accolade, while Lizzie Brown, captain of Women’s Rugby and a leading light in the yellow-ribbon meningitis campaign, was also successful.

For full details of all the winners, see www.usssu.info/activities.

Women’s rugby match in memory of meningitis victim

Rival women’s rugby teams took to the field last week in memory of Sussex student Natalie Naylor, who died from meningitis earlier this year.

The University of Brighton women’s team and the Sussex side, which Natalie played in, scrunched down together on 28 April for the annual varsity match. The winners, Brighton, were presented with the Naylor Memorial Trophy.

Before the kick-off, Sussex team captain Lizzie Brown presented a £4,000 cheque for the Natalie Naylor Trust – set up to support research into meningitis – to Natalie’s parents, Graham and Christine Naylor.

Natalie’s friends and fellow students raised the money through a yellow-ribbon campaign in February, for which there was huge support. The University covered all costs, so all the money raised is going directly to the Trust.

The University is also sponsoring a race in Natalie’s memory - the University of Sussex, Natalie Naylor Memorial Maiden Fillies Stakes – at Brighton racetrack on 29 June.

Second-year student Natalie died in hospital on 24 January, after contracting the B strain of meningococcal meningitis. There is currently no vaccine for this strain, although young people are now routinely vaccinated for the C strain.
Conference Centre celebrates century

Richard Stobart, Professor of Automotive Engineering (left), is pictured receiving a bottle of champagne from the Director of Student Services, Charles Dudley, to mark the 100th event since the opening of the University's Conference Centre at the beginning of the year.

"This is an excellent centre and we were very pleased with the facilities, which meet modern conference needs," commented Richard. "The event also marked the continuing collaboration between the University and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. I will highly recommend the centre to colleagues for events of this nature."

Charles added: "I am delighted that it is a member of our academic staff who is organising the 100th event. "We have reached this milestone sooner than expected and I am pleased by the positive internal reaction and the opportunity presented by the centre to showcase our work as well as generate income."

Following the conference Richard agreed to join a user group that will advise on the future development of the centre to ensure it benefits both the academic and financial interests of the University.

If you are still to visit the centre, come along to an informal viewing between 12 noon and 2pm on Thursday (13 May). Tea and coffee will be provided.

Fairtrade products extend across campus

Following the introduction of Fairtrade coffee in the Dhaba café in January, its availability has now been extended to Doctor's Orders in the Medical School (BSMS).

This follows the introduction of Fairtrade fresh orange juice in Doctor's Orders, along with a number of new Fairtrade snacks. The orange juice has proved popular and will, in a reciprocal switch, be available in the Dhaba in the very near future.

"Both of these popular cafés are turning out to be successful shop windows for Fairtrade snacks and drinks," says Phil Booker, Catering Services Manager.

The Catering Service also continues to exert pressure on its contracted suppliers to source the supply of a range of Fairtrade teas and will introduce these at the earliest opportunity.

"We hope to extend the availability of Fairtrade products further across Catering Service units during the summer," says Phil, "although ultimately customer reaction will determine whether each Fairtrade product remains a stock item."
Open meeting on future campus development

Could Refectory Road become a Parisian boulevard? Can you imagine the Boiler House as the heart of campus, with a green courtyard beside it?

The campus environment is one of the great strengths of Sussex and a meeting this month will give you the chance to have your say on its future development.

The consultation meeting for staff and students takes place in the BSMS lecture theatre on Monday 17 May, from 12.30pm.

Find out why Estates and Facilities Management are proposing a planned approach to campus development that will build on existing strengths while updating the estate and planning for future growth needs.

Discover why Estates have written a conservation plan to help the University manage its architectural heritage and to guide the repair and restoration of all campus buildings.

And see the plans for a new teaching building and postgraduate centre, due to be completed by September 2006.

Tea and coffee will be available from 12 noon. From 12.30 Estates staff and consultants will introduce key elements of the masterplan and conservation plan, before presenting plans for the teaching building and postgraduate centre. A panel will also take your questions on the proposals.

Equalities Unit expands

A new member of staff is helping to facilitate the University’s progress towards its equality and diversity goals.

Andrew Wilkey, Equality and Diversity Projects Officer, comes to the University from a background in the voluntary sector, where equality and diversity was part of his remit.

Andrew will support Liz Burchett, Equality and Diversity Officer, in embedding equality and diversity issues into the structure and culture of the University.

If you need advice on any equality issues in relation to staff or students, phone Andrew on ext. 6525 or Liz on 7602, or email equalities-unit@sussex.ac.uk.

The University has a new Equality and Diversity Policy, published online at www.sussex.ac.uk/central/equality.shtml. The site contains information on race, disability, religion and sexual orientation.

News in brief

Brandy tasting

Two members of staff are organising an Armagnac tasting event on 18 May in Bramber House, from 5pm. “We’re intending to use this event as the inaugural meeting of a new University wine-appreciation society,” says Professor James Hirschfeld, one of the organizers, “and we’ll be asking people attending how they’d like such a group to run.” The cost of the evening will be £2.50 per head (to cover the cost of nibbles) and there’s enough alcohol (provided free by the promoters in return for feedback) for up to 22 people to try four Armagnacs each. If you’re interested in attending, email Richard Tammar on r.tammar@sussex.ac.uk.

‘University Challenge’

There was some compensation for the Sussex ‘University Challenge’ team, who went out of the TV quiz show in January. The team that beat them, Magdalen College from Oxford University, went on last month to win the final and take the trophy.

Council elections

There are two nominations for the election of an academic to serve on the University’s governing body from 1 August. They are Dr Penny Chaloner (Chemistry) and Dr Libby John (Biology & Environmental Science). Six nominations have been received for the position to represent non-academic staff: Dr Ali A Abdul-Sada, Kristian Berggreen, Peter Dennis, Jeremy Maris, Shell Morgan and Lee Thompson. The ballots close on Wednesday (12 May) and the results will be announced on Friday (14 May).

Charity Commission

The Charity Commission proposes to amend the trusts of the RM Phillips Settlement 1043098.

A copy of the draft scheme can be seen at the Registrar and Secretary’s office in Sussex House between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, until 17 May. Alternatively, send a stamped, addressed envelope to the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Harmsworth House, 13–15 Bouverie Street, London EC4Y 8DP, quoting ref. 357483, or see www.charity-commission.gov.uk. Comments or representations can be made before 17 May.

The Phillips Trust was established in 1987 in honour of the late Reginald Phillips, who was best known for the research unit he set up to study teaching techniques for educating deaf children and those with other disabilities.
Memories of Professor John Maynard Smith

A memorial event for evolutionary biologist Professor John Maynard Smith, who died last month at the age of 84, will take place in the Meeting House on Saturday 26 June. Colleagues from Sussex attended his funeral in Lewes on Tuesday (4 May).

News of John’s death prompted two of his former students to contact the Bulletin with their memories.

“I arrived at Sussex in October 1965 and was thus one of the new students to be addressed in turn by the new Deans of the newly formed (and almost built) science schools. John Maynard Smith’s talk has stayed with me all these years. He certainly looked like the image of a professor, but he was understandable by a rather disoriented 18-year-old.

At the end of his talk he wanted to get across that he was approachable as Dean. He invited anyone who wanted to see him to pop along to his office and have a word. He then paused for effect, and added the comment that if anyone found his (new) office could they let him know as he was still looking for it himself.”

Stephen Carter, Physics 1965–68

“I was a great man and he lived a wonderful and inspiring life. It’s only in retrospect that I realise how much he influenced me when I was a student, and has continued to do so. He was such a gracious person, and he always had time for everyone, even snotty-nosed little undergraduates who did as little work as possible (until they met him, of course), and were inspired to learn because he made it so exciting.

Will I ever inspire any of my students at the University of Exeter, even to a very small extent? If I do, it will be because of his example.”

Dr Christine Caldwell, Human Sciences 1976–80

FIRST CLASS

Seven members of staff have completed the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), an internationally recognised IT qualification consisting of seven modules: word processing, spreadsheets, database, email, World Wide Web, presentations, using computers and managing files. They are Terry Bryan (Hums), Boo Giddens (Students’ Union), Yvonne Hindley (LifeSci), John Knight (SciTech), Pat Mounce (SocCul), Tim Redmond (SciTech) and Lisa Williams (SI).

The Lewes Labour Party has picked Professor Richard Black as its prospective parliamentary candidate. Richard, a Sussex human geographer, previously stood as the Labour candidate for Arundel and South Downs.

Poland’s Danuta Hübner, a visiting scholar at Sussex in 1974, became a European commissioner on 1 May when ten new countries joined the European Union. Ms Hübner gave a lecture in 2002 at the Sussex European Institute (SEI), whose students at the time included her daughter Ewa.

On 1 May the Lithuanian President awarded Professor Alan Mayhew from the Sussex European Institute (SEI) the State Decoration of Lithuania for assistance to his country on accession to the European Union.

Sussex postgraduate student Sarah Wardle is poet in residence at a Premiership football club until the end of this season. “The idea is for Tottenham Hotspur to be my inspiration and hopefully I can be the inspiration for some of Spurs’ younger fans to pick up their pens and write their own poetry,” said Sarah, who is finishing her DPhil in English having completed both a BA and an MA at Sussex.

AUT resolves dispute with employers

Industrial action by the Association of University Teachers (AUT) came to an end with immediate effect on 30 April when the union announced that 84.5% of members nationally had voted in favour of a new Framework Agreement supporting the modernization of university pay and grading structures.

Because of the dispute, academic and academic-related staff at Sussex had not received a pay award for 2003/04. Those staff affected received the new salary and their arrears with their April pay.

The unions representing clerical, manual and technical staff – Amicus and UNISON – had already signed up to the new Framework Agreement. As a result, pay awards were made to staff at Sussex in these groups in November 2003.

“The University is delighted with the outcome of the national ballot,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, in a message to staff. “We will now work closely with all the campus unions in implementing the Agreement, and will keep staff informed of progress.”

Staff vacancies

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vac or contact staffing services on ext. 8706, fax 817401, recruitment@sussex.ac.uk

Lecturer in X-ray Crystallography, Biochemistry (ref 601)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vac or contact staffing services on ext. 8706, fax 817401, recruitment@sussex.ac.uk

Lecturer in X-ray Crystallography, Biochemistry (ref 601)

Housing Services Manager, Residential Services (ref 613)

Development Officer (Major Gifts & Research), Development & Alumni (ref 610)

Development Officer (Legacies) (ref 611)

Lecturer in Statistics & Economics, SPRU (ref 615)

Chair in Education, Sussex Institute (ref 523)

APPLY BY 3 MAY

Office Assistant, Development & Alumni (ref 608)

APPLY BY 5 MAY

Alumni Officer, Development & Alumni (ref 609)

Development

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vac or contact staffing services on ext. 8706, fax 817401, recruitment@sussex.ac.uk

APPLY BY 30 APR

Lecturer in X-ray Crystallography, Biochemistry (ref 601)

APPLY BY 5 MAY

Alumni Officer, Development & Alumni (ref 609)
A walk on the wild side ↓

If there is one flower that epitomises the British countryside at this time of year it has to be the Bluebell. Yet so far this column has never given them a mention.

The reason, as we have had cause to remark before, is that our editor imposes a strict edict that we have to confine ourselves to campus. So: no Bluebells, no story.

But what about the Bluebells that are such an attractive feature of shaded areas around campus at the moment? The truth is they are hybrids between our native Bluebell and the Spanish Bluebell, a garden introduction from Spain and Portugal. In some urban areas there is a real worry that the hybrid is taking over from our native species.

Careful examination will reveal a number of differences between the two. Our wild Bluebell has drooping, tubular-shaped flowers that all hang to one side of the inflorescence. The petals are rolled back at the tip and the anthers are cream. The Spanish Bluebell has bell-shaped flowers that are held more or less erect; the tips of the petals are not rolled back and the anthers are blue.

Bluebells belong to the genus Hyacinthoides, named after the Greek god Hyacinthus accidentally killed by a discus thrown by Apollo. From his drops of blood spring flowers marked by Apollo’s cries of grief, ‘AI AI’. Our Bluebell has unmarked petals, hence its specific name of ‘non-scriptus’.

Many people record when they spot the first signs of spring. Few are quite as dedicated as the Honeybourne family of Stoke Prior in Worcestershire (admittedly not on campus, dear editor), who since 1916 have annually recorded when they hear the first Cuckoo. Their records – which were initially made on the wall of the outdoor privy – reveal that the first Cuckoo is now heard about a fortnight later than 88 years ago.

Sadly, first arrivals tell us little about when most individuals return. “Migration Watch”, an innovative web-based project run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), is now filling this gap.

We have contributed to “Migration Watch” since it began in 2002, using campus as a recording site. Every night from mid February until late June, a BTO computer processes several hundred records submitted the preceding day from across the country to produce up-to-date maps showing the arrival and spread of summer migrants. For more details, see www.bto.org/migwatch.

Most summer visitors to campus – be they Swallows swooping over the cricket pitch or a Blackcap singing by the Hastings building – have arrived 10-20 days later this year than normal. But our first Cuckoo, on 25 April, was almost exactly on time.

Our most surprising record so far was a male Nightingale singing in the Bramber House car park on Saint George’s Day. He seemed not to realise his error until mid morning as the traffic increased.

Bluebells are an attractive feature of shaded areas around campus at the moment.

Open day offers digitally enhanced world of learning

Exciting new learning tools of the future were being showcased today (7 May) at a Sussex open day focusing on the educational value of digital technology.

The projects have been developed by the Department of Informatics’ Human Centred Technology (HCT) research group, to show how digital technology can be used to improve people’s learning experiences at school, university, work or play.

Hands-on exhibits allowed visitors to explore the relation between the real and ‘virtual’ worlds.

The Ambient Wood project, for instance, offers a digitally enhanced experience for pupils studying ecology. Using handheld devices, they can explore woodland, then reflect on what they have learnt by interacting with a digitally augmented table and real items they have discovered.

With the help of young volunteers enlisted from local infant schools, the Homework team is designing an exemplary interactive TV system, featuring nautical characters from Channel 4’s ‘Number Crew’. The system

Use of a warning system during the implementation period also enabled parking management staff to analyse the methods used by the minority of staff and students who have deliberately chosen to challenge the Parking Strategy.

Enforcement methods are now being targeted towards these persistent offenders. A variety of methods are being used, including fixed-penalty notices, tow-away and banning vehicles from campus. They will be extended shortly to include vehicle clamping.

I ask those who are paying for parking to challenge colleagues and students who admit to flouting the regulations and make it quite clear that this is unacceptable to the University community. I also challenge them to alert enforcement staff to any known breach of parking regulations so that persistent offenders can be quickly and efficiently targeted.

The issues faced by female staff

It might seem churlish, but I have to point out that the issues alluded to by Dr Thomas Austin in his letter to the Bulletin (23 April), which were identified by the Women’s Staff Network, are shared by all female staff on campus, not only academics. I would say that admin staff are even more affected.

Michèle Harrison, Humanities

Are car-parking charges voluntary?

I can only assume that the University’s car-parking charging scheme operates on an entirely voluntary basis.

I am basing this assumption on the fact that I know of at least two people who, despite having a daily parking permit, have paid nothing since the scheme came into operation, and I am certain there are many others of the same persuasion.

They have received yellow notices on their car windscreen, and internal communications telling them how naughty they are being, but as yet – to the best of my knowledge – no sanctions have been applied and no money recovered.

There are people like me who dutifully pay for their parking while others around are with impunity blatantly refusing to pay.

With this in mind, I would like to know what incentive there is for those like me to continue paying rather than to ‘go voluntary’ ourselves.

Andy Clews,
Information Technology Services
Linda Newman, Transport Manager, replies:

It was appropriate to have a light-touch warning system following the introduction of car-park charges. (Significant numbers of permit and pass applications were still being received in the spring term.)
MON 10 MAY
12.30pm CCE Research and Practice Forum: Julian Broughton (Sussex). What does it mean to compose a string quartet? Arts D310.
4.00pm ROLLS Seminar: Charles Prescott (Sussex), Germanic and the Middle Ages. Arts D310.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: David Hill (Sussex). Applications of synthesized social cells. Genome Centre Seminar Room.
TUE 11 MAY
WED 12 MAY
4.30pm Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art Research Seminar: Lucy Worsley (Historic Royal Palaces), Henrietta Cavendish, Holles Harley and female architectural patronage in the 18th century. Arts A103.
7.00pm Institute of Physics Lecture: Nigel Mason (Open), Nanotechnology: The start of something small. Pev II 1A7.
THUR 14 MAY
9.00am-6.00pm Conference in memory of Edward Said. Chischtie Lecture Theatre.
1.30pm HCT Seminar: Ryoko Murakami (Brunel), title TBC. Pev II 2B13.
2.15pm SPRU/CENTRIM Seminar: Speaker and title TBC. Freeman Centre G24/D25.
TUE 17 MAY
12.30pm CCE Research and Practice Forum: Mike Aiken (Sussex). The challenges facing social enterprises seeking to employ people disadvantaged in the labour market. Arts D310.
1.00pm Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar: David Bannerman, Multiple memory mechanisms in the hippocampus: A study in rats and mice. Psychology conference room.
TUE 18 MAY
4.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Gonzalo Blanco (Medical Research Council, Harwell), Molecular insights into the H2 neuron dysfunction in dystonia. JMS Lecture Theatre.
7.00pm Institute of Physics Lecture: Nigel Mason (Open), Nanotechnology: The start of something small. Pev II 1A7.
WED 19 MAY
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Daniel Navarro and Aaron Schneider (IDS), The case of 'Participatory Budgeting' in Porto Alegre (Brazil). IDS 221.
4.00pm CSAS Seminar: Laura Nathan (LSE). Regional security arrangements in Southern Africa. Arts C162.
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Lynn Lee (Sussex). Migration and social capital on the Thai-Cambodia border. Arts C233.
6.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Katie Trumpener (Yale), Romantic publishing and the birth of the children's book. Arts D510.
6.30pm IMechE Southeast Regional joint with AD Southern Centre: Representative of Sussex Police, Forensic science and traffic accident investigation. Eng II A54.
THUR 21 MAY
1.30pm HCT Seminar: Marion Peré (Open), title TBA. Pev II 2B13.
Gardner Arts Centre
Box office 0273 685 861 www.gardnerarts.co.uk
Sun 16 June 8pm Mucilgan plus Keith Tippett solo
This free-jazz double header kicks off with a solo performance by one of Britain’s most innovative and influential pianists, Keith Tippett. His quartet, Mucilgan, showcases the talents and invention of fellow improvisers Paul Dunmall, Paul Rogers and Tony Levin.
Weds 19 – Sat 22 May 8pm Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord
Peter Brook’s La Mort De Krishna
Maurice Béjart narrates the story of La Mort de Krishna, inspired by the last volume of this 5,000-year-old Sanskrit text.
Sun 14 May 8pm Plaid/Bo Jobac
After 15 years in the vanguard of UK electronics, Plaid (Ed Harley and Andy Turner) present new material produced in collaboration with Brighton-based video artist Bob Jobac. Delivered in full Dolby 5.1 surround sound and 16:9 widescreen, their latest departure draws on ideas from quantum physics and cosmology. The production contains strobe lighting.
Mon 17 May 8pm Robert Bextor
Robert Bextor is a former member of The Lightning Seeds who has had a string of successful solo albums, as well as a successful career with The Lightning Seeds. He is known for his distinctive voice and his unique musical style, which blends elements of rock, pop, and electronic music. Bextor has released several albums, including "Rob", "Wildflower", and "What You Won't Do for Love".
For tickets on presentation of a valid ID, Carat.
Performing in an empty space and accompanied only by a solo musician, the storyteller recounts how Krishna descends to earth to broker peace between warring factions, only to fail tragically by the wayside. Performed in French with English surtitles.
EXHIBITIONS
Until Sun 6 June
Tom Wichelow Examination
The culmination of photographer Tom Wichelow's year-long residency at the new Bright and Sussex Medical School.

To let: Married couple double room in house on Springfield Rd. Large garden, private off-street parking. Suit staff or PG. £350 pcm + bills. Email lej20@sussex.ac.uk.
To let: Room, available June-July to Oct. Next to Hove station. Student. £65 p/w. Tel. 07989 950603 or 842289.
To let: Furnished 3-bed house in Lewes. Petio garden, garage. Tel. 474378, email caochdav@uk.net.
Holiday let: 2-bed furnished apartment in Prague, sis 4; £200 p/w for 2, £250 p/w for 4; all year round. Tel. 474378.
For sale: VW Beetle, blue, W reg. FSH. £80,000 ono. Call 677401, email ilf@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: Mohogany corner cabinet. Top door glazed for display. £50 ono. Call Teresa on ext. 2697.
Wanted: Accommodation for visiting student, June and/or July. Call Yvonne on ext. 7102 or email VA.Hindle@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: Con-located pool table, £300 ono. Brattania Gaggia style coffee machine (espresso, cappuccino, etc.), £150 ono. Contact Simon on ext 7125/8228.
Holiday let: Florida villa. Sips 2, 8 bathrooms. Disney attractions 10 mins; nr shops, restaurants, golf. Email j.fraance@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: Honda Accord automatic 5 dr saloon, J reg, Mot June, tax July, Clocking, e/mirrors, e/windows, p/steering, sunroof. £995 ono. Tel. 477729 or 07988 514469.
For sale: Audi A3 rgiil boot liner (cost £70): £40. Set of unused black floor mats: £30. Tel. 734911. 
To let: 3-bed house Preston Park/Seas for 6 wks July-Aug. Suit visiting academic. £250 p/w. Contact Michael on ext. 7101 or email sff31@sussex.ac.uk.
Wanted: Pregnant cats to video for psychology research (investigations purring during suckling). Small fee payable. Email christwi@biols.sussex.ac.uk (DPH student).
To let: 4-bed furnished house, central Lewes. Available 1 yr from Aug, £1,000 pcm + bills. Email s.i.h.thomas@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: New, unopened Sanderson's lined curtains. Willow wave blue (William Morris style). 2 pairs to fit track width up to 182cm, width 190cm x drop 182cm: £80 per pair. 1 pair to fit track width up to 244cm, width 290cm x drop 223cm: £100. Tel. 383690.