Top Marx: why the public voted Karl greatest philosopher

A BBC Radio 4 poll that named Karl Marx as the greatest philosopher of all time was described by the Guardian newspaper as a shock result, but to Sussex philosophy lecturer Dr Andrew Chitty, the result comes as no surprise.

Marx, the 19th-century political thinker and author of the Communist Manifesto, accounted for 27.9 per cent of 34,000 votes cast by the public in a poll for ‘In Our Time’, the Melvyn Bragg-hosted show that examines the history of ideas. Marx beat Socrates, Plato, Kant, Hume and Aristotle for the title.

Andrew has collated an impressive online bibliography on Marx, teaches a course on Marx for the MA in Social and Political Thought, and is a member of the organising group of the Marx and Philosophy Society. He believes that Marx has a greater relevance than ever in today’s world of global politics, poverty, environmental degradation and war.

“We live in a society increasingly permeated by capitalism and its logic. Marx made it his life’s work to try to understand this logic, and as a result, more than any other single thinker, he gives us a way of understanding our present world. A lot of people sense that.”

Andrew adds: “The collapse of the Soviet Union and the de facto conversion of China to capitalism have also strengthened his appeal. Those regimes sustained a very rigid and simplistic interpretation of Marx’s thought. Now that is being forgotten, and there is room for a fresh return to his own texts.”

But has the modern world forgotten about philosophy too? Andrew argues: “Philosophy is important because we can’t decide how to live on the basis of facts and experiences alone. We need a framework to make sense of them. Philosophy gives you that – or it should. Of course religion does too. The difference is that in philosophy everything has to be argued for; nothing can be taken as an authority except our own reason.

“Of course there is an issue about whether Marx is ‘really a philosopher’. Marx himself had no time for philosophy as he knew it. He thought of himself as a social, economic and political theorist. But I think in the broad sense he is.”

Sussex graduate was victim of London bombings

A 29-year-old Sussex graduate has been named as one of the victims of the London bombings on 7 July.

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Solictor Fiona Stevenson, who studied law at Sussex from 1994–97, left her Barbican home at 8.20am to go to work but never arrived.

Her parents, Ivan and Emer Stevenson, said: “Fiona always had a strong sense of right and wrong and was passionate about human rights. Since the age of 14 she had wanted to be a lawyer and had a long-term ambition to work for the UN so it was no surprise when she qualified in 2000 as a solicitor.”

Fiona joined specialist criminal firm Reynolds Dawson in 2003. Colleagues from the company paid tribute to her “dedication to the cause of representing those ensnared in the criminal justice system, but unable to defend themselves”. They added: “Fiona was a hardworking, conscientious and supremely able criminal lawyer.”

She had recently returned from a three-month unpaid sabbatical to Belize, funded through a charitable foundation, advising the government on proposals to implement new child-protection legislation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has written to Fiona’s family expressing the University’s heartfelt sympathies and wishes. “All those who knew her, taught her and studied with her will be shocked and saddened by the news,” he said.

Members of the Law School said they were “deeply saddened” to learn of the death of Fiona Stevenson. They said: “Fiona was an able and charming student with a passionate interest in human rights, who knew that she wanted to become a solicitor. It is a great sadness that, having achieved her long-standing ambition and begun to establish herself, her promising career has been cut so short. She will be fondly remembered by all at Sussex who knew her.”

Inside

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Research to explore crowd responses to bombings

The experiences of people caught up in the London bombings are to be used by university researchers to help emergency services tackle similar disasters in future.

Scientists from Sussex, along with academics from Nottingham and St Andrew's universities, have been looking at how people behave in disaster situations such as bombings and fires to help develop a simulation programme for use in emergency services training.

At the time of the London bombings, the team, comprising psychologists and computer scientists, were at the Royal Society Summer Science Fair in the capital, exhibiting their interactive virtual reality simulation of an evacuation from a London Underground station.

Their research showed that, while individuals may become distressed and fearful, crowd 'panic' is rare. Crowd members often develop a shared sense of identity through their common fate and this can spur them on to perform selfless or even heroic acts to help others.

The subsequent events in London supported their findings. Contrary to the popular myth of mass panic in crowds during emergencies, there were no such reports. The evacuations from the Underground system were typically calm and orderly, with numerous examples of people helping each other, even when faced with mortal danger.

In response to this, the researchers are hoping to hear from people affected by the London attacks, to develop their findings further, and have set up a website where people can record their experiences at www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~dbs/londonbomb/index.htm.

It is hoped that the research can look at ways of improving safety during emergencies. While there has been much coverage of the collective spirit of Londoners, the researchers feel that this is a universal response to disaster common in all humanity, as was seen in New York after 9/11 and the Asian tsunami.

Sussex psychologist Dr Chris Cocking says: "A disaster such as a terrorist attack may encourage a sense of common humanity among people who might otherwise have no connection, and so total strangers will help each other out to escape a shared danger, even at great risk to themselves as individuals."
VC's VOICE

Once again, the summer graduation ceremonies provided a fitting, indeed moving, end to the academic year. Our graduates and their families particularly appreciate the warmth and style that our Chancellor, Lord Attenborough, brings to the occasion, as well as his commitment to the fundamental values of the University; and his continued dedication to Sussex is greatly valued by us all.

It was good to see two particular areas of student work displayed. A video made by media studies students was shown before the start of each ceremony; and the strikingly impressive Formula Student car developed by engineering students was on display in the Com Exchange.

Amid the many challenges that this year's graduates face in the future is the challenge of living up to the strong record of previous generations of alumni. The graduation brochure highlighted the strong achievements of alumni in the sciences, the arts, the media and public affairs. In this last category alone, we currently number among our alumni the presidents of South Africa and of Botswana, two UK Cabinet ministers and two other government ministers, a chief constable and a permanent secretary. This is a proud record and underlines the fact that it is through our graduates that the University makes its principal contribution to society.

A graduation ceremony is an occasion for celebration but also for reflection on what the University stands for. I'm sure we have all reflected on the events of 7 July in London in the light of our values and our commitments. Here's what I said in my speech:

"We must speak out. One of the 55 people killed by the bombs was Fiona Stevenson, a 29-year-old lawyer, a graduate of the University of Sussex, at the start of a very promising career.

"Chancellor, you and Sheila who lost a beloved daughter and granddaughter in the Boxing Day tsunami just seven months ago must feel particular empathy with the parents of the young people killed in London, and everyone here will feel for all the families torn apart whether by the tsunami or the London bombs. Two members of staff of University College London were killed as two of the bombs went off in the very heart of the academic quarter of London.

"I found myself particularly touched by the youth and the diversity of the victims - who were white and black, British, Polish, American, Chinese, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish. This was not an attack on the British establishment; it was an attack on our diverse, multi-cultural, open, internationalist society. It was abhorrent and we must deplore it without reservation.

"As academics, as students, as graduates, we must also seek to understand. It is our duty to society to ask the hard questions, even unpopular questions. We should ask whether bombs in London are related in any way to bombs in Fallujah, in Kabul, or in Gaza.

"Some commentators in recent days have suggested that if we seek to understand the underlying political causes of abhorrent events, that somehow diminishes the moral force of our abhorrence. I disagree profoundly - on the contrary, it is often moral commitment that drives the desire to explore, to understand, to discover, to invent, so that we can make our contribution to improving the lot of our fellow human beings."

Work continues on "complex" pay and grading agreement

As normal campus activity slows just a little for the summer, work on implementing the new pay and grading framework continues apace. The University and the campus trades unions have been working together on the implementation of the national framework agreement over the past academic year, and a lot more work lies ahead.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "This is a complex and time-consuming process, which all universities are finding is taking time to get right. It is important because this is about delivering fairness and ensuring equal pay for work of equal value. With the right structures in place we will be better able to recruit, motivate and reward high-quality staff at all levels."

With the departure this week of HR Director, Barbara Bush, to a new post in HM Treasury, the lead is being taken by three senior managers, showing the importance that Sussex attaches to this issue: Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Rose Luckin; Director of Finance Alan Spencer; and Acting Registrar & Secretary, Dr Philip Harvey. They are supported by Helen Bonnicky, Deputy Director of Human Resources.

They will be involved in the formal negotiations with trades unions, which complement discussions by working groups and detailed work on key elements such as job evaluation, harmonisation and the development of a grading structure.

Job evaluation, which is critical to establishing the new grading structure for Sussex, continues to take place in schools and units across campus over the summer and autumn. As part of this an appeals process has been agreed. The job-evaluation process can now extend to staff on academic-related salary scales, as agreement has been reached with the Association of University Teachers (AUT) on how such posts will be evaluated.

The framework agreement offers the possibility of sorting out historical and unnecessary differences in conditions for different groups of staff such as working hours, which at present range from 36.5 to 38 hours a week, and leave entitlement, which ranges from 1.4 to 24 days a year. The University hopes to reach positive agreement with trades unions on this.

The framework agreement needs to be in place in universities by August 2006. On current progress, the earliest that final agreement on the complete package could practically be achieved at Sussex is spring 2006.

Implementation, itself a complex task, would follow after that. Once final agreement has been reached, staff will know which grade and salary point they will move to as part of the implementation process.

The University will review progress in the late autumn and ensure staff have up-to-date information about likely timescales and process. In particular, it is hoped that good progress can be made in the autumn on the pay protection policy, to provide reassurance to staff in relation to moving on to the new pay and grading structure.

Acting Registrar & Secretary Dr Philip Harvey said: "There remains a lot for Sussex to sort out: the new grading structure for Sussex; the timing for full implementation; pay protection policy for staff as they move to the new structure; harmonisation of working hours and leave entitlement. I am confident that with commitment from senior management, staff and trades unions we will be able to achieve a positive outcome for Sussex."

As well as local implementation of the new framework, national negotiations that determine annual increases on current pay scales are continuing. When agreed later this year, all staff will as normal receive these cost-of-living pay rises backdated to August, and any increments that are due to them in October.

Further updates will be published in the autumn and online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/framework/.
Record numbers graduate at the Dome

A record number of students received degrees, diplomas and certificates at the graduation ceremonies last week from more than 2,500 graduands gathered at the Dome in Brighton for the two ceremonies on Thursday (21 July) and two on Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "Graduation day is an opportunity for our students to celebrate their It also allows them to express their thanks to those family and friends who supported them throughout their studies."

Ever wondered which part of the cow was turned into the mince for your ready-made spag bol? Or what the term ‘organic’ really means when printed on egg boxes? Thanks to a Sussex student’s prize-winning project, we may all soon be able to find out much more about the food we buy.

Tom Betts, who graduated last week with a BSc in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, devised a database for information to help consumers understand more about food labelling. He received the Searchspace Award for the best undergraduate project in his year.

He hopes that shoppers will soon be logging on to his website, Description of a Food Item (http://doafi.4angle.com), through handheld computers or mobile phones, to help them make choices while browsing supermarket shelves.

"After the Sudan-1 food additive scare, and series such as ‘Jamie’s School Dinners’, people are much more concerned about the source of their food," says Tom, "at present EU law dictates that it is not obligatory for manufacturers to list the ingredients on labels if they form less than 25 per cent of the total product weight.

"They are also usually non-specific – listing "beef mince" without giving information about where it was produced, and by whom. But it is likely that someone, somewhere has the knowledge to describe the ingredients or production processes."

Tom admits he has a very personal interest in the project, too. "I am quite a foodie, and I found it frustrating that I was unable to find out information from food labels."

It was back to the classroom in more ways than one for a divorced mum-of-three when she decided to improve her teaching skills. Katie Darlow, who has worked for 12 years at Hillcrest Language College in Hastings as a teaching assistant and then as an unqualified teacher in the Special Needs and English departments, is among the first students to be conferred with a BA in English Education Studies (BAEES).

Kathay says: "The BAEES degree came along at exactly the right time for me, allowing me to continue my professional development by combining a full-time degree with my full-time hours in school, as well as full-time family demands!"

She adds: "This has been an invaluable experience, and I would like to think that it is helping me to become a better teacher, as I know only too well how the demands of study, pressure to do well and meet deadlines, experience of different teaching and learning styles, and how finding some concepts difficult to understand can affect learning and motivation in the classroom. All of these things certainly affected my own learning at times throughout the degree."

She is now planning to become a fully qualified teacher by taking up a place on the Graduate Teacher Programme at Sussex in September and undergoing training at William Parker Sports College in Hastings.

The BAEES, and its companion degree in maths, are specifically designed for teaching assistants (TAs) in secondary schools. TAs are granted one-day release, increasing to two days in year 2, so that they can combine work in school with the relevant university study. Those TAs who take the Diploma in Professional Education Studies can proceed directly to year 2 of the degree. For more information, see www.sussex.ac.uk/education/1-2-6.html@english.

When the Boxing Day tsunami struck, Sussex psychology final year student Huyster's first thought was for her fiancé Raja Natarajan, caught up in the disaster thousands of miles away in the southern province of Tamil Nadu in southern India.

It took three days for Joanna to track him down. Raja was safe at home in Mambalapuram, 60km south of Chennai (Madras). A cousin's young son, however, had been killed in the disaster, while villages just kilometres away had been wiped out, leaving many dead and homes and livelihoods destroyed.

"I decided I had to do something," says Joanna, so she spent the next five months juggling revision for her final exams with raising money and delivering vital supplies to fishing communities in Tamil Nadu, where 7,000 lost their lives in the tsunami devastation.

"We held a big raffle, I baked cakes, and sold most of my clothes and personal possessions to raise cash. Friends did the same and we managed to raise £1,000. I funded myself for trips over to India, so every penny raised went on providing vital supplies."

Meanwhile Raja, who works as a stone carver and waiter, approached village heads to find out what was required. With support from her father Bob and mother Pip, Joanna was able to provide 400 saris, 400 lungis (skirt-like garments worn by men), 50 small fishing boats and 50 fishing nets. Meanwhile, she also earned a 2:1 Psychology degree.

Joanna intends to continue raising funds for more fishing boats while working during the summer in London, before returning to Sussex to study for an MSc in Psychology, looking at substance abuse.

"I'd then love to go to medical school as a graduate, or take up clinical psychology. I'm also considering teaching."

He now intends to develop his project at the University of Edinburgh, where he will be studying for a Master’s degree in information. "The plan is to have both consumers and producers providing information to share on the website," he says.
the University's Chancellor, Lord Attenborough. Friday (22 July). The University's Vice-
achievements and reflect on their time at Sussex.

Throughout his school years, Matthew Phillips was keen to prove that his severe sight impairment would not be a barrier to educational achievement. He has now surpassed even his own expectations.

Last week the 22-year-old, who suffers from nystagmus, received a first-class MPhys degree in Theoretical Physics.

"It was challenging," says Matthew, whose eye condition prevents him from being able to focus on blackboards and normal-sized print, as well as causing many other practical difficulties. "But I worked hard because I discovered that I really loved physics. I was staying in to finish homework rather than join my friends in the pub."

Matthew, who took A levels in maths, chemistry and physics at school, originally hoped to study experimental physics at university, but realised that laboratory work would prove too much of a hurdle.

Fortunately he discovered an interest in particle physics, which is a major part of the Theoretical Physics degree. As a concession to his disability, he was given extra time for assignments, used enlarged texts, and was able to work from his tutors' lecture notes.

Dr Philip Harris, Matthew's personal tutor, says: "Matthew was an outstanding and very enthusiastic student, who overcame great personal difficulties to achieve a very good degree."

Matthew, who has stayed at Sussex to teach science to summer school students and is now considering taking a degree in engineering, says: "It was a learning curve for everyone for me to be here. It's a great place and I have had a really positive experience being a student at Sussex."

At the moment all eyes might be fixed on London and the 2012 Olympic Games, but two of Sussex's budding sports stars are looking further east towards 2008 and Beijing.

David Stone, an undergraduate studying Social Work and Social Care, has already won gold in the cycling team sprint at the Cerebral Palsy World Championships in New York, and is seen as a contender for the next Paralympics.

David, who has the brain condition that affects movement and coordination, began cycling as part of physio treatment to help improve his posture. It became a passion and he has gone on to specialise in road races of up to 40-60km.

So promising is David's abilities that not only has he gained a Sussex Sports Bursary but he also has a place on the government-backed Talented Athlete Support Scheme, a programme of funding and enhanced support to nurture future medal winners.

You're only as good as your last championship, however, and next month David competes in the trike event in Holland. This will see David swap two wheels for three and judge if it’s this event he will aim for at the 2008 Paralympics.

Meanwhile Laurence Halsted, a 20-year-old Social Psychology undergraduate, is already Great Britain's number two fencer and is seen as a potential medal prospect for both the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympics.

Like David, Laurence was awarded a Sussex Sports Bursary, which gives him a training fund, access to sports facilities free of charge and dedicated support from sports staff.

The investment is paying off, with Laurence coming in third in the national championships. And he's just been picked to represent Great Britain at the World University Summer Games in Turkey this summer — one of a whirlwind of international dates that will take Laurence from Denmark to Cuba and even China itself — perhaps for a sneak peek at the venues.

Laurence, whose parents are both Fencing Olympians in their own right, says London winning the games means a great deal to him: "If I stay in the British team I'm hopeful I can qualify for it, but before that, of course I'll try my hardest to qualify for Beijing. Two Olympics are twice as good as one."

Luke Ternill administers the bursary scheme and is Laurence and David's sporting mentor. He says the bursaries offered to sporting students are paying dividends: "We have a good package here at Sussex, competing with some of the top sporting universities, and this means we are attracting better athletes, like Laurence and David."

And does he share the two students' hopes that they will be standing on the winners' podium? "Both of them could be right up there in the medals at both Beijing 2008 and London 2012," says Luke. "They are great role models for sport and Sussex and they really show that sport is for everyone."
Obituaries

David Daiches

David Daiches, who died on 15 July aged 92, was the first Professor of English at Sussex. He was one of the nine original academic appointments to the new University of Sussex in 1961 and one of the first three Deans.

In an obituary in the Guardian on 18 July, John Calder describes how David came to be one of the University’s founding figures:

That move to Brighton had begun in Hyderabad, when, on a British Council tour, Daiches had met Asa Briggs, the man who was to become pro-vice chancellor at Sussex in 1961. As the two downed dry Martinis, Briggs became more and more eloquent about the new institution’s prospects. “It was going to be the greatest thing since the foundation of the University of Bologna,” Daiches recalled. “So I said, who is going to set up your English department, and he said something like, ‘You are, dear boy.’”

David wholeheartedly embraced the interdisciplinary philosophy that underpinned the new University of Sussex – so much so that he edited a book about it, The Idea of a New University: An experiment in Sussex. Published in 1964, the book contained chapters on each of the schools as well as on new universities in general.

In his chapter on the School of English and American Studies, of which he was Dean until 1968, David described the chronology of his own intellectual development as a way of explaining why he had “responded to the exciting challenge of helping to build up a new university”. He had studied at Edinburgh and Oxford and had lectured at Cornell and Cambridge.

David remained at Sussex until 1977, after which he moved back to his home town of Edinburgh. The University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1978.

Both before, during and after his time at Sussex, David published widely on English and Scottish literature, poetry and culture.

While his academic writings form his intellectual legacy, the Daiches Papers record the early history of the University and his connections with it. A part of the University of Sussex Collection, they contain manuscript, typescript and printed papers, correspondence and memoranda.

François Duchène

Professor François Duchène, director of the Centre for European Research at Sussex from 1974–84 and still an emeritus professor, died on 12 July at the age of 78. His funeral took place at the Meeting House.

Dr Peter Holmes, Reader in Economics, paid tribute to François in an obituary in the Independent on 25 July: “François Duchène made a great contribution to Sussex … His greatest success was in leading networks of researchers to projects on agriculture, industrial policy and EU enlargement.

“François was a great colleague and friend, a brilliant, funny, generous and warm-hearted man.”

Bullying plea in farewell talk

Outstanding achievement: Shell Morgan with the award presented to her by Students’ Union President Roger Hyton and last year’s Students’ Union Activities Officer Adele Burrow. Shell described the pair in her speech as “two incredible young people”.

Student Experience Co-ordinator Shell Morgan spoke openly about her experience of workplace bullying as she bade farewell to colleagues and the University at an emotional lunchtime gathering last week (19 July).

The Quiet Room in the Meeting House was packed as colleagues from all over campus listened to Shell’s entertaining potted history of her time at Sussex.

Shell’s experience of higher education started when she began a Social Policy degree at Brighton University in 1989. After completing an MPhil at Brighton, she became a School Administrative Officer on the Sussex campus.

In this role, she was bullied by a colleague. “It resulted in me not being able to get out of bed one morning. It was a very hard thing for me to deal with. I don’t get ill, I don’t have break downs – but here I was having exactly that,” recalled Shell.

Shell took out a grievance against the University and won. Following the complaint Shell, along with fellow staff members Linda Newman (from trade union the AUT) and Richard Price (Staff Welfare Officer), ensured a proper bullying procedure was put in place so that others don’t have to go through the same ordeal.

Shell began working on projects with Owen Richards, the Academic Registrar, and soon became involved in student retention and induction work. During this time she had several successes. She implemented her own ‘eight-strand’ approach to student induction, an approach now used by many other universities.

Shell was also known to many as the staff member in charge of fun events. It was Shell, for instance, who brought campus the fireworks displays at the end of Freshers Week, the fun run and the ‘induction dash’.

Success of a more personal nature occurred when Shell met her husband-to-be on campus. She married Professor Paul Lister, former head of Informatics, last December in the Meeting House.

Shell concluded her farewell talk by urging her colleagues to make the bullying policy a “living document”. Her plea, she said, was that “those who are having problems have the courage to use the policy, and managers have the courage to implement it”.

To find the policy online, type ‘bullying’ into the search engine or look under ‘bullying’ in the A-Z index.
Blood-sucking louse brings award to Sussex

Above: Dave Randall (left) and Garry Hunter look up at their award-winning image of a head louse, now on display at the Wellcome Library in London. Below: The microscopic image, which won a Biomedical Image Award from the Wellcome Trust.

As a rule, blood-sucking head lice give us nothing but nits and an itchy scalp. But they've come up trumps for technician Dave Randall: a microscopic image of a head louse acrobatically scaling three strands of hair has won him a Biomedical Image Award from the Wellcome Trust.

The story behind the award began two years ago, when commercial photographer Garry Hunter asked Dave to help with a shoot he was doing for pharmaceutical company Pfizer. The photographer needed access to a scanning electron microscope, which gives better resolution than a standard microscope.

The scanning electron microscope is normally used for research and teaching by faculty and students from biology, chemistry, geography, engineering and archaeology. But it's also available for commercial work.

So Dave received through the post a pot of dead head lice, preserved in alcohol. Garry asked Dave to prepare the specimens to make them look lifelike. He then mounted them on strands of his own hair and put the still-life arrangement under the microscope. Garry was the art director, telling Dave precisely how he wanted the elements of the image arranged.

Pfizer used the picture to promote one of its products, a treatment for head lice. It then gave them to the Wellcome Trust, a private charity that funds biomedical research and also maintains a medical photographic library.

Dave thought nothing more of the image until he received a phone call from Garry to say that they had won an award. The awards ceremony was at the Wellcome Library in Euston Road, London, on 13 July.

The head louse is now on display in the building's foyer, along with other images acquired by the Wellcome Library. The 2005 Biomedical Image Awards exhibition is open to the public: Monday–Friday 8am–6pm, and Saturdays 9.30am–1pm. But beware – visiting the show may make your head feel itchy.

Masterpieces in oil


Oil paintings owned by the University are featured in a new catalogue, launched on 14 July. For the first time, this catalogue brings together in one fully illustrated volume all the oil paintings in public ownership in the county of East Sussex.

The University of Sussex houses a number of paintings. A notable work of the 1960s is Day's Rest, Day's Work, painted in oil and wax on four panels (totalling more than seven metres in length) by Ivon Hitchens. This has been on display in Mandela Hall for the last 40 years.

A highly significant moment of student and youth culture is caught in Christ's Entry into Brighton by John Upton, artist in residence at Sussex in 1967. This shows Christ flanked by 60s figures Jimi Hendrix, Cassius Clay, Christine Keeler and Harold Macmillian alongside Sussex staff and students. It hangs in Arts A155, a seminar room on campus.

The aim of the charitable Public Catalogue Foundation, which produced the new catalogue, is to improve public access to these and other paintings in public ownership. The Foundation hopes that the catalogue series will have “significant educational benefits” and “provide the building blocks for considerable art historical study”.

The East Sussex Catalogue of Oil Paintings in Public Ownership costs £20. A catalogue for West Sussex was previously published in April. To purchase catalogues, see www.thepcf.org.uk. The images and brief descriptions will eventually be available online, free of charge.
Letters

Rude, inconsiderate people

After a long and tiring day the most frustrating thing is to be queuing to leave campus at the Falmer junction and have cars use the Lewes traffic lane as an extra Brighton lane. What can be done to stop these rude, inconsiderate people?

Some time ago traffic lights appeared; I never saw them go 'live' before they were removed!

I do not want to start an 'anti-cars-on-campus' backlash, but as I do a lot of part-time work at a variety of locations I cannot do it without the use of my car.

Geoffrey Mead, CCE/SI

Linda Newman, Transport Manager, replies:

I and most others agree completely with Geoffrey about the problem he describes. However, the answer is not to introduce traffic lights at the roundabout. The traffic-light survey was brief because it revealed that the traffic flows at the two roundabouts work against each other and vary frequently. The survey showed that no pattern of automatic lights could deal with the complexity and would create more unsafe queuing situations than at present, including more frequent backlogs of traffic on the fast-moving A27. As far as the authority's traffic planners are concerned, our queue backlog may be very frustrating but it is essentially safe. The authority to go straight on from the left-hand lane has to remain, as we require the buses to have this priority. They also have to use the left-hand lane to stop at the bus stop.

Some of the unsafe lane practice is by drivers unfamiliar with the road layout, but the majority is deliberate. I am prepared to appeal individually to any driver who is identified to me as being guilty of this unsocial practice.

Small ads

To let/share: Furnished 1st-floor flat in Second Ave, Hove. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, balcony. Available 6-12 mths from Aug. Suit visiting academic or PG. No pets. £750 pcm + bills. E Aid at a@h@u@l@e@w@s@u@s@s@e@s@e@s@.u@c@.u@k.

Wanted: Accommodation as lodger or flat/house-mate from early/mid Sep, for new sociology lecturer. E allison@clong@e@nd@er@.u@c@.u@k or T Alison Phipps on 07915 773859.

For sale: Chick flick, horror and comedy videos. E j.galbraith@u@c@.u@k for list, prices & bulk-buy offers.

For sale: Sony VAIO laptop: 256 Mb RAM, 30 Gb HD, 15" monitor, floppy drive, DVD-ROM, CD-RW, warranty, Windows XP software, 2 USB ports, firewire. £369 ono. NEC laptop: 768 Mb RAM, 40 Gb HD, 13" monitor, 6 in 1 card reader, DVD + RW, CD-RW, warranty, Windows XP software, 3 USB ports, firewire. £630 ono. E a.a.avis@i@n@e@l@i@s@e@s@u@s@s@e@s@.u@k.

Wanted: Flat in B'ton area. For visiting academic on sabbatical, autumn term. T549417.

To let: 1-bed flat nr Hove station. Suit PG/academic, available now. £625 pcm. E m.m.fieldhouse@u@c@.u@k.

Wanted: Accommodation from Sep to Dec for IDS post-doc. E c.maconachie@i@d@s@.u@k.

Wanted: 2-bed house/flat or 2 rooms in house-share for 2 professional females. T Christine on 07717 523956. E c.e.maher@u@c@.u@k.

The story of the West Pier

CCE local historian Geoffrey Mead has contributed to a BBC Radio 4 programme about Brighton's West Pier. 'Oh What a Lovely Pier!' is scheduled for broadcast on Saturday 13 August at 8pm. The programme, which is part of the 'Archive Hour' series, will chart the rich cultural history of the pier from its heyday in 1940 years ago to its survival of two world wars and endless battles with the elements. The pier eventually fell victim to storms and vandals and in June 2004 its famous converted hall collapsed into the sea.

Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from JangUl Baek, Maggie Clune and Rob Reed. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from the staff and students of the University.

We're going to take a break over August, so the next issue will be out on 9 September, with a copy deadline of 2pm on 2 September. Contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.