Book reveals fate of Australia's 'Ten Pound Poms'

Muriel Miller found out what Australia thought of her children when her children returned home from their first day at school there in 1963 and said: "Mum, what's a Pommie b****d?" 

"That's what they called my children," remembers Muriel, one of more than one million 'Ten Pound Poms' who set sail for the promise of a new life in Australia in the decades after World War II. Muriel returned with her family to England in 1966. Now settled in Hove, Muriel regards those three years as among the most exciting times of her life.

This opinion, common among returning migrants, is one of the key themes of a new book by oral historians Dr Alistair Thomson (from the Centre for Continuing Education) and Dr Jim Hammerton. Ten Pound Poms: Australia's Invisible Migrants draws on the life histories of more than 200 respondents in the UK who answered an appeal for stories from those who, like Muriel, had taken up the offer of assisted passage to Australia. These so-called 'Ten Pound Poms' helped to plug the skills gap in the Australian labour market between the 1940s and 1970s. It was one of the biggest migrations of the postwar era, yet it has remained little explored until now.

Dr Hammerton, who is based at La Trobe University in Melbourne, follows the Britons who settled permanently in Australia, but it is the experiences of the returning Britons that has fascinated Al (himself an Australian).

The story is told through accounts detailing the excitement of the month-long outward voyage via exotic ports of call, the problems of assimilation and finding homes and work, to the decision by some to return to England.

Al says: "Migrant history usually looks at the success stories of those who stayed. The interesting thing here is that even for the migrants who went back to Britain, this was the most exciting time of their lives. It pulled them out of the rut. They looked back on the experience and converted something that might be seen as failure into a success story of travel and adventure."

He adds: "The real reason why 250,000 Britons returned to the UK wasn't the anti-British feeling or the awful immigrant hostels – it was family responsibility. The guilt, isolation and homesickness people felt when confronted with ageing parents, marriage break-ups and pregnancy was too much to bear. People also felt culturally alienated in a land that was very familiar in some ways but also shockingly strange."

Muriel, who returned home to care for her ailing mother, says: "I was young and craved adventure. We saw the world and tried new things. I never felt accepted there though, and we made mistakes: we had a beautiful bungalow, but it was miles from the city, in an immigrant settlement. I don't think the Australians were prepared for why we were there. But I never regretted my big adventure."

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How the USA almost gave us the four-day weekend.
3 Model talk
A student's speech on poverty ended up with a chat to a supermodel.
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Why have two giant stone amphorae appeared on campus?
A leisurely look at America in the Great Depression

The United States of America gave the world the 24/7 working culture, but it could have been the four-hour day or the three-day week if that nation's social policy had taken a different course in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The 'crisis' of leisure in 1930s America — when leisure was seen as both the curse of society and the answer to all modern society's ills — is the subject of a new book, The March of Spare Time: The Promise and Problem of Leisure in the Great Depression, by Dr Susan Currell, Lecturer in American Studies.

Sue says: "That the Depression should change notions of leisure in society should perhaps come as no surprise. But the ensuing debate revealed wider concerns about America at that time. Leisure became the battleground for widespread ambivalence about technology, social and economic change and changing social habits, which led to the publication of thousands of books and articles in the mass media about the 'problem' of leisure."

The Depression saw up to 25% of America's workforce unemployed; coincidentally, it also saw the rise in mass entertainments such as the cinema, dance halls and bars, the end of Prohibition and the repeal of the gambling laws. These changes exacerbated religious and moral concern over increased involvement in passive, sedentary and morally 'damaging' pastimes. Academics, social scientists and recreation experts, meantime, looked at how to encourage 'proper' activities such as reading, arts and crafts, gardening and folk entertainment that would be healthy and morally acceptable. Books with titles such as How to Relax became popular reading.

Through her examination of leisure, which taps into a rich seam of 1930s government papers, academic studies and popular 'improving' books, Sue reviews a pivotal period in American history at a time of momentous change.

Such activity was also socially controlling; modern women, seen as a growing threat to men in the workplace and as becoming more socially independent, were encouraged to stay at home and take up quilting or canning produce. Similarly, teenagers were encouraged to conform socially. Organisations such as the Works Progress Administration and the National Youth Administration promoted craft workshops, good housekeeping classes and encouraged thrift and family values.

But the three-day week and the new world of leisure never materialised. As employment rose to meet the demands of wartime and the post-war boom, so the preoccupation with leisure and how to use it faded.

Sue says: "America went on to develop a work culture that means Americans work the longest hours and have the shortest holidays in the industrialised world. It also exports commercially driven leisure globally. The promise of leisure of the 1930s was a Utopian dream that detracted from a proper re-organisation of work in the newly automated world."

‘Virtual cosmos’ reveals evolution of the Universe

An international team of scientists including Sussex astronomer Professor Peter Thomas has created a simulation of how the Universe has developed since the Big Bang.

Peter, who is head of the Physics and Astronomy department, was one of the founders of the Virgo Supercomputing Consortium more than 10 years ago. Since then, the group has been using massive computer simulations to follow the growth of structure in the Universe from its earliest times, shortly after the Big Bang, to the present day.

The latest model was created by scientists from the UK, Germany, Canada and the USA using a supercomputer at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany. The simulation used lasted for a month and occupied 512 processors and 1 terabyte (1,024 gigabytes) of memory, eventually producing 25 terabytes of data. The resulting model — the biggest and most realistic to date — shows scientists the evolutionary processes that, over the course of 13 billion years, brought about the 20 million or so galaxies that make up the local Universe.

An article by the project scientists, published this month in science journal Nature, reveals the first findings from the simulation. It traces the Universe from its elementary structure — weak ripples in a sea of matter and radiation that manifest themselves in the cosmic microwave background radiation — to the dense and rich structures of galaxies we see today.

Scientists also hope to unravel such scientific mysteries as black holes, dark energy and quasars. Dark energy accounts for just over 70 per cent of the Universe and is a so far unidentified force that is driving an ever-faster expansion of the Universe, despite the pull of gravity. Quasars are distant, bright objects that emit vast amounts of energy as light. Very distant quasars — revealed in the model at a point where the Universe was less than a tenth of the age it is now — are thought to host giant black holes, about a billion times bigger than our own sun.

Peter says: "The immense scale of the simulation allows us for the first time to model galaxies within a region that is large enough to capture a representative volume of the Universe. For the first time, we are starting to form a detailed picture and understanding of the Universe within which we live."

University Library takes part in time travel

The Library catalogue is available on a new website giving easy access to millions of books, documents, films, objects, photographs and pictures that tell the history of West Sussex.

The West Sussex Past Gateway (www.westsussexpast.org) allows simultaneous searching across databases from archives, museums, public libraries, societies and universities in West Sussex.

As well as the Library catalogue, the databases include information from the Weald and Downland museum; Amberley, Crawley, Horsham and Worthing museums; Fishbourne Roman Palace; South East Film & Video Archive; West Sussex Past Pictures Consortium; Sussex Archaeological Society; Sussex Record Society; West Sussex County Council Record Office and Library Service; and University College Chichester.

The links pages include details of more than 300 websites related to West Sussex and allow searching under headings such as: Family History; Film; Historic Buildings and Gardens; Maps; and Societies & Organisations.
Spruced-up seminar rooms top of list after funding success

Staff and students will enjoy revamped seminar rooms and research space after the University was given a 16 million pound boost from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Four million pounds comes from the Project Capital Allocation (PCA), which is designed to improve teaching facilities. Sussex's 100 odd seminar rooms will be the first to benefit, with refurbishments and improvements including a data projector in every room.

The largest lecture theatre on campus will also undergo a transformation. "Chichester was designed as a scientific lecture theatre," says Director of Planning Anthony Young, "but it's now largely used by English literature and psychology students and it doesn't really serve their needs."

The money will also provide more room for arts postgraduate students. "The arts schools have expanded, but the buildings they are in have not, which means research space is very cramped," explains Anthony. The plans will see the Arts D tower block turned into research space for postgraduates in Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, with the lost seminar space made up by converting level two of Bramber House.

The 12 million pounds of SRIF (Science Research Investment Fund) money, meanwhile, is designed for research-led projects and will help to fund moving the whole of the Psychology department into Pevensey I; the refurbishment of Life Sciences' CRPC building; the creation of a Clinical Imaging Centre for BSMS and Psychology; and moving Informatics from Pevensey to Chichester I.

The money will also benefit the School of Humanities, turning the EDB building into a creative arts centre. "Hums are moving towards a more practical element to their courses," says Anthony, "including a more performance-based approach to the study of drama. EDB will become a centre for bringing together these courses into one place."

But isn't it a bit curious that science money is going towards the arts? "Most of the SRIF money is spent on the sciences," confirms Anthony, "but it can be used in any subject area covered by a research council and the formation of the new Arts Humanities Research Council allows us this flexibility."

The University has to provide 10% of the costs, in this case nearly £2m. Can we afford this, given the University's current financial situation? "It's a good deal," responds Anthony. "You have to refurbish buildings to make them useful and attract students, and you have to buy new equipment to attract research funding. This is capital money spread over many years which will be of huge net benefit to us in the future."

The latest news has to be used by March 2008, so look out for some new seminar rooms soon and, in a few years, the sound of Pinter or Puccini emanating from EDB.

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Shocked staff sold off in auction

The Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital is £783 better off after the Sussex Sport annual charity sports night on Wednesday (8 June). This fine sum was partly due to a last-minute sell off of the University's sports staff to the highest bidder.

Alongside the usual raffle fare of wine and sports gear, it was decided the Sussex Sport staff might be a useful money spinner in themselves and so they were duly auctioned off one at a time. The highest bidder would receive the attention of said staff member for two hours, to spend, perhaps, on improving their racket grip.

The first member of staff to be sold off to the baying crowd was Falmer Sports Complex's Duty Manager, Neil Linstead. Neil didn't even make it into double figures, however; "I was sold for £7 and it was too much," he laughed. "I'm not worth it." Obviously his girlfriend disagreed, as she stumped up the cash. In all, four members of staff were sold, raising over £70.

It was a good night overall for Neil, as his team mates from local football club AFC Ringmer became the winning side on the night. The teams, made up from staff and students from around the University and beyond, had to compete in a series of less than Olympian sporting feats, including tug-of-war, crab football, parachute football and even the wildly wobbly water challenge.

Neil put AFC Ringmer's prowess down to "a bit of luck, a bit of alcohol and lots of smiles". It could also be that they're on a bit of a winning streak, as they've just been promoted to division 4 of the Mid Sussex League.

Pirates, made up of the Lewes Court management team, and Scraping the Bottom of the Barrei, from Life Sciences, took the second and third spots overall.

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LETTERS

Windows XP or Windows 2000?

If you bought a computer pre-loaded with Windows XP and the person who installed it took all the software off and loaded Windows 2000 instead, would you be upset? Well, it's happening in the John Maynard Smith building. What a waste of time and money!

Mick Henry, Life Sciences

Trevor Potten, Director of IT Services, replies:

Life Sciences computing staff have the resources to support only a limited range of machines and operating systems. So they choose to set new computers to a known 'environment' (i.e. to the standard configuration used by IT Services), which means they are cheaper and faster to install, and easier to maintain.

When IT and Life Sciences have the staff and the cash, we will be moving all machines and skills to support Windows XP ... just not today.

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Tug of war: Teams battle it out at the charity sports night at the Falmer Sports Complex.
Media exhibition is a matter of life and death

Birth, death and memory are some of the themes linking work by students at a new degree show.

Thirty finalists on the Media Practice and Theory degree will exhibit photographs, film and interactive installations at two public showings from 4pm on Wednesday (22 June) and from 10am to 8pm on Thursday (23 June) in the Gardner Arts Centre gallery.

Exhibits include:
- The Journey: A photographic diary by Gemma Maguire of her sister's pregnancy, featuring posed and documentary-style images;
- Yoof Club: A video documentary on Brighton Youth Centre and some of its members, by Tom Palmer, who is also a volunteer youth worker;
- The Hidden Homeless: A photo essay by Anna Dichello on the lives of homeless people;
- No Man's Land: A series of photo portraits by Chris Kempshall of vandalised, run-down war memorials in England and France, including examples from Brighton;
- I Go Looking For You In Places I Know: Three short films by Madeleine Mullett exploring memories and mourning through the deaths of her grandparents and mother.

Media Practice and Theory offers academic study and practical teaching in video, digital photography and interactive media. Final-year students are asked to produce a single piece of work in a chosen medium, the results of which form the degree show.

Poverty speech leads to supermodel chin-wag

A Sussex undergraduate enjoyed an unexpected opportunity this month to add her voice to the global campaign against poverty. And she got to meet supermodel and fellow campaigner Claudia Schiffer into the bargain.

Hiroko Kato, a second year studying Anthropology and Development Studies, gave a speech at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London on 9 June. She stood in at the last minute for the spokesperson for Hototokenai, Sekai no Mazushisa (Don't let it be: World poverty), a Japanese coalition of students, women's groups, unions, activists and NGOs.

Max Lawson, a former MA student at Sussex, now working for Oxfam, called at short notice and asked for an articulate student from Japan with an interest in development. Clare Rogers, Development Studies co-ordinator, nominated Hiroko, who fitted the bill.

She addressed the audience alongside campaign representatives from eight countries including the UK, USA, Italy and Ghana. And after her well-received speech, Hiroko got a taste of Claudia Schiffer's life in the media glare when she was interviewed by four Japanese journalists.

TV acting role is just the ticket for Sussex alumnus

Sussex graduate Nkem Ifejika made his television debut this month as an undercover reporter on BBC1's 'Whistleblower' programme. Nkem posed as a parking attendant to expose the inner secrets of those charged with ensuring that Britain's drivers park within the law.

Nkem was a student on the Multimedia and Digital Systems degree, which makes use of the Informatics department's studio facilities and provides specialist courses. These gave Nkem a solid grounding in the technical aspects of producing television programmes; before graduating in 2003, he made 'Nkem's Safari', a humorous undercover documentary about student life on campus.
Engineers enter racing car in international competition

After an intensive year of designing, testing, redesigning and retesting, a team of six Sussex engineering students have unveiled their own racing car. Now they are looking forward to seeing how their single-seater vehicle fares on the track against cars from more than 60 universities worldwide.

The students, who are all studying for Masters degrees in engineering, are taking part in this year's Formula Student competition at Leicestershire's Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome from 7-10 July.

This is the first time Sussex has produced an entry for the prestigious competition, in which the aim is not just to build and race a car, but also to develop a viable business plan. The students are required to seek sponsorship, develop their own marketing and communications strategy and ensure the whole project is professionally managed.

Martyn Dalton-Brown, the team’s co-ordinator, says: “It’s been a lot of hard work but we are now very excited about taking the car out on the track and seeing how it compares with other entries.”

Features of the team’s entry include a 577cc single-cylinder water-cooled engine, acceleration from 0-62.5mph in under four seconds, and a high-performance braking system. Working to competition guidelines, they kept within a total budget of £19,000.

Formula Student, which began in the United States in 1981, judges entries on a variety of specifications, from best design to fuel economy and safety measures. There are also awards for best website and best cost analysis.

Martyn adds: “Other universities are ahead of us in design because the knowledge has been passed down through successive years. We don’t expect to have the best car there, but it is still a great achievement for us and for the University to be taking part. And we now have a vehicle that can be improved upon by future students.”

The team’s supervisor, Dr Dave Hole, says: “This has been a fabulous experience for the students. Not only will they have the excitement of seeing their own car on the track, they have learned invaluable skills that will equip them for the workplace – whether they choose to work in the motorsport industry or any another area of engineering.”

Formula Student is run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (I MechE), in partnership with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE).

Student gets on his bike for degree project success

Chris Wright put his enthusiasm for mountain biking to good use during his Sussex degree to come up with a device that could help cyclists improve their bike’s performance.

Chris, who graduates with a BSc in Multimedia and Digital Systems in July, designed and built a bike data logger for his final-year project. The device, consisting of a circuit board and specially adapted sensors, can be attached to a bike to record information during a ride about its acceleration and suspension performance. The information can then be downloaded on to a computer to create graphs for each ride.

Now Chris, 25, is hoping to improve his prototype with a view to making it available commercially. He says: “There are data loggers available, but they are incredibly expensive – costing up to £100,000 – and are mainly used by professionals. Mine cost only about £80 to build and might be something the amateur enthusiast would want. The idea is that if your bike isn’t performing as it should, you can test it with the data logger!"

The real achievement for Chris, however, was finding a practical application for his studies. “I was working in a bike shop in London for two years before coming to Sussex and I achieved an NVQ in bike maintenance, but I have always been interested in the mechanics of cycles and suspension set-ups. These are the essential components that make a difference to a bike’s performance.”

Professor Paul Gough, Chris’s project supervisor, says: “Not only did Chris find a way of incorporating his favourite hobby into his degree studies, he has also come up with an extremely good device that has commercial potential.”

Concept car wows judges

Could this be the car you will be driving in 2020? Product Design finalist Sam Owen certainly thinks so. Sam came up with an infinitely adaptable concept car for his final-year project.

He put it on display this week at the Product Design degree show and was rewarded with the Sussex Enterprise prize for the best exhibit. Sam and the other 21 finalists also showed their designs to prospective employers from industry.
Edward Timms awarded OBE

Professor Edward Timms, founder of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in 1994, has been made an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's birthday honours list, published on 10 June.

When asked about the award, Edward pointed out that the success of the Centre, far from being an individual achievement, reflects the high standard of teaching and research that has been developed during the past ten years. This has resulted from a creative partnership between academic staff and supporters from outside the University, including a London-based support group.

Current activities at the Centre include a project to create a globally accessible database of British archival resources relating to German-speaking refugees of the period 1933–1950. The aim is to list not only institutional archives, but also collections of family papers.

The primary focus of Edward's own research is on Austrian-Jewish cultural history. His latest book in this field, about satirist Karl Kraus, is due to be published in August.

Other Sussex figures receiving honours include Professor Gordon Conway, former Vice-Chancellor, who becomes a KCMG for services to international development, science and agriculture.

There are knighthoods for Professor Peter Knight, a Sussex graduate at both undergraduate and doctoral level and now head of the Physics department at Imperial College, and for opera singer John Tomlinson, who received an honorary degree from Sussex in 1997.

Adrian Wood, formerly a Professional Fellow in Economics at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), becomes a CBE.

Professor Suran Goonatilake, who did his doctorate in computing and artificial intelligence at Sussex, receives an OBE for services to entrepreneurship. He is chairman and co-founder of Bodymetrics, a spin-off company from University College London that uses 3D scanners to measure the body size of clothes shoppers. John Peel, until recently a member of Council (the University's governing body) has also been awarded an OBE.

Samantha Cameron is just 28 years old and finished her degree in Geography and Environmental Science with Development Studies as recently as 2000. Yet she is awarded an MBE for services to health care and community development in Madagascar.

FIRST CLASS

The newly crowned Designer of the Year, Hilary Cottam, completed an MPhil in Development Studies at IDS in 1993. Her award from the Design Museum brings a £25,000 prize. Ms Cottam's work at the Design Council involves bringing architects and strategists together to transform buildings such as schools and prisons.

The Times Higher Education Supplement covered law in its textbook guide on 27 May. A reviewer from Cardiff University concluded that the fifth edition of The Law of Contract (OUP) by Laurence Koffman (Reader in Law in the Sussex Law School) and Elizabeth Macdonald is "one of the most complete texts available" and "will find itself on reading lists throughout the country".

CCE tutor Silvia MacRae-Brown has been awarded the Freakley Prize by the Society of Portrait Sculptors for the best three-dimensional human portrait. The panel chose Silvia's sculpture of the composer Sir John Tavener for "really capturing the essence of the person". Sylvia runs various courses and workshops in sculpture and clay at the Gardner Arts Centre.

Philip Power, who took his doctorate at Sussex and is now Professor of Chemistry at the University of California in Davis, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He will be inducted into the Society at a ceremony in London on 15 July.

Obituaries

Brian Pedley

Dr Brian Pedley, a member of the former School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences, died on 13 May after a long illness.

After a research fellowship at Leeds, Brian was appointed Lecturer in Physical Chemistry at UMIST in 1962. He and I came together from there to Sussex in 1964. Brian was very popular with undergraduates and he served for a time as chairman of the School Joint Committee.

Brian was an international authority on the acquisition and interpretation of thermochemical data and was the leading author of an important database on that topic.

He left Sussex in 1988, but continued to be scientifically active on his return to Leeds.

Professor Michael Lappert, Chemistry

Dietrich Scheunemann

Professor Dietrich Scheunemann, who was Reader in German in the School of European Studies from 1985 to 1990 before taking up a chair at Edinburgh, died suddenly on 9 June at the age of 65.

Dietrich came to Sussex from Berlin on a five-year appointment financed by the German Academic Exchange Service, with the brief of invigorating the study of German language, literature and culture at the University – a task he tackled with gusto.

Deeply influenced by the European student movement of the late 1960s, he was committed to breaking down the crusty barriers between the disciplines and in that respect made an ideal Sussex teacher. His students, and in particular the postgraduates among them, will remember his interdisciplinary seminars with fondness and gratitude.

Professor John Röhl, History

Love tennis

Q: What do Sussex staff members Simon Tunley and Maggie Daniels have in common with Andy Roddick, Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova?
A: They all won tennis titles on Sunday (12 June).

Roddick, Federer and Sharapova triumphed on grass at Queens, in Halle and in Birmingham respectively. Retired member of staff Pauline O'Reilly (centre) is pictured presenting the O'Reilly Cup to Simon and Maggie, who tasted victory on the hard courts at Falmer.
Turtles take up residence on campus

Turtles spend a lot of their time in and around water. But staff and students were taken by surprise this month when two turtles took up residence near the Arts A pond — not least because the pair are made of stone and weigh two and a half tonnes each.

The explanation for their unexpected appearance lies in the University’s links with its former training and conference centre at the Isle of Thorns, on the edge of the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex.

The Isle of Thorns (which isn’t an island at all) was laid out in the 1930s as a centre offering adventure and country holidays to young people from the London area. The charitable trust that owned it commissioned the stone turtles and located them next to the paddling pool, where they stayed for the next 70 years. Nobody seems to know who the sculptor was nor the material that was used, although it could be granite.

The University’s association with the estate goes back to 1964, when it was used for courses, sporting activities and recreation. From 1970 the University held the property on a 21-year lease; it acquired the freehold in 1992 and sold the Isle of Thorns in 2002.

The turtles were not sold as part of the deal. Instead, they were brought to Fairley to provide a lasting memento of the University’s connections with its former training and conference centre.

“Lots of staff and ex-students have fond memories of the Isle of Thorns,” says Paul Knight, who worked there until the sale and is now based on campus himself.

Since 2002, the turtles have been in hibernation in packing cases, awaiting a decision on what should be their new, permanent habitat. After lengthy consultation and discussion, they have been moved to the Arts A pond. Perhaps they will be there for the next 70 years.

A walk on the wild side ↓

Several readers have reported a new species on campus: two concrete turtles have migrated from the Isle of Thorns near Ashdown Forest to the Arts A pond. Sadly, like many campus ponds this one is virtually useless for real wildlife, thanks to its sheer sides and high fish density.

Thankfully, the new dew pond between the Gardner Arts Centre and Russell’s Clump is working well. It has shallow margins and no goldfish. From a distance, the only signs of life are the white flowers of Pond Water Crowfoot breaking the surface. The name ‘crowfoot’ comes from the rather fanciful resemblance of the lobed floating leaves of this member of the buttercup family to a bird’s foot. Hidden in the turbid water below, the submerged leaves are different, consisting of fans of fine threads.

Viewing the pond more closely — please avoid trampling the surrounding flower-rich grassland — reveals a diversity of pond life. Common Pond Skaters are obvious while darting across the surface propelled by their middle pair of legs and using their hind pair as rudders. When they briefly cease movement, pond skaters often appear to have only these two pairs of legs because the shorter front pair are held forwards under the head, ready to snatch other insects that have fallen into the water. The victims are then sucked dry using piercing mouthparts, which are characteristic of all true bugs.

Many of the skaters’ prey are smaller bugs called froghoppers. These are terrestrial and use their mouthparts to suck plant sap. When disturbed they jump long distances, an escape tactic that sometimes propels them from the vegetation into a watery grave.

The muddy margin of the pond looks stark, but attracts many animals. Some collect mud for their nests; we watched Red Mason Bees, an unidentified species of solitary wasp and a Song Thrush all carry mud into the adjacent copse. On the other hand, the long-legged, bristly, greenhish flies (family Dolichopodidae) scuttling across the mud lay their eggs into the mud itself. Yet other animals — wolf spiders, ground beetles and birds — hunt insects visiting the mud. Most visitors, however, are after water, a scarcity on our porous chalky soil.

We were particularly intrigued to watch a Magpie repeatedly fly to the pond to wash food it had collected from the Library lawn. The food was then given to three raucous youngsters in nearby trees; was this for hygiene or a crafty way of giving them a drink?

Some humans also enjoy a drink or six on campus at this time of year. Empty cans and bottles are great killers of young shrews and rodents, which climb in but never work out how to get back out (perhaps alcohol is a factor). Please remember: litter is much less effort to carry home empty than to take out when full.

Focusing our energy

Alister Scott, SPRU

Suddenly, energy is big news again. Should we start building a new generation of nuclear power stations? How many wind turbines will people tolerate, and should we have them on the South Downs? Can we rely on the Russians to supply us with enough gas?

These questions set the challenge for a group of Sussex researchers who have just won £2.7 million from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). For the next five years, this award will underpin the group’s research into ‘energy transitions’ — moves to change fundamentally our energy use.

The Sussex Energy Group, based mainly at SPRU in the Freeman Centre, will be one of the largest groups of social scientists in the UK looking at energy policy. Around 15 researchers and research students will be investigating everything from how to make our transport system more energy efficient to the controversial costing of different sources of power; there are many different views on how much nuclear power would cost over 20 years compared to solar power, for example.

We are committed to engaging with those in policy and the media, using our research as a basis to provide independent comment and advice. Due to the high profile of nuclear issues at the moment, the group’s director, newly re-appointed Professor Gordon Mackeron, has already made many media appearances since the group started work in April. Gordon is also chair of the government’s advisory Committee on Radioactive Waste Management.

The Sussex Energy Group is also highly inter-disciplinary — many of us have a natural science or engineering background as well as training in the more policy-related aspects.

The group is already collaborating with some Sussex colleagues, but we are keen to develop further relationships with others across campus. Contact Andy Wilson, Group Coordinator, on ext. 81,666, email a.r.wilson@sussex.ac.uk. See www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/energy.

Wildlife haven: The muddy margin of the dew pond between the Gardner Arts Centre and Russell’s Clump attracts many animals.
SUMMER VACATION OPENING TIMES

Vocation: Sat 24 Jun-Sun 1 Oct inclusive.
Closure day: Mon 29 Aug. All locations are shut on this day unless otherwise stated.

CATERING OUTLETS

Downs restaurant, (Bramber House): Weekdays 12noon-2pm, 5pm-10.30pm.
East Slope bar: Open every day normal pub times.
IDS bar: Weekdays 12noon-2pm, 5pm-10.30pm.

IDS restaurant: Weekdays 8am-2pm, 3.30pm-5pm, until 19 Aug 8am-8pm.
Sussexsports cafe bar (Falmer Sports Complex): Weekdays 12noon-3pm, Mon-Thur 6-10pm, Sat 12noon-6pm, Sun closed.

Falmer bar, Park Village lounge, Nethouse: Closed Sat 24 Jun-Fri 23 Sep incl.
Bothole, Grapevine, Pittstop: Closed throughout vacation.

SCHOOL CAFES

Bridge cafe (Pevenssey): Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-4pm, Tues 9am-2pm, Thu 9am-1.30pm.
Chichester I cafe: Weekdays 8.30am-4pm.
Dhaka cafe (Arts C): Weekdays 9am-3.30pm.
EDB cafe: Weekdays: 9am-4pm.
Hums (Arts A): Weekdays 9am-4pm.
John Maynard Smith cafe: Weekdays 9am-4pm.
Sussex Institute cafe (Exeess House): Weekdays 9am-4pm.
Arts B cafe, Pathway cafe (Engl II), Doctor’s Orders (Medical School): Closed throughout vacation.

CAMPUS SHOPS

Newsagents: Weekdays 7.30am-2.30pm.
Students’ Union Shop (Falmer House): Weekdays 9am-3.30pm.
Students’ Union Stores (York House): Weekdays 8am-7pm, weekends 8am-5pm.

SERVICES

CDEG: Weekdays 2pm-5pm; careers adviser available every Mon, Wed and Fri 2pm-4pm. Additionally open weekdays 10am-1pm from 27-29 July and 5-30 Sep; careers advisers available at times as above.
Central IT Services (Chichester I): Normal hours.
IT Services 24-hour computer clusters: Open as usual but some possible closures due to refurbishments. Check ITS website.

Library: Mon-Thu 9am-5.30pm, Tue 9am-8pm, Sun 1pm-6pm, closed Sat except 24 Sep and 1 Oct open 1pm-6pm.
Sport Centre: Normal hours except closures at 8pm every Fri from 1 July-9 Sep incl. and closed weekends from Sat 2 July-Sun 11 Sep incl.
Falmer Sports Complex: Normal hours.

Academic events

MON 20 JUNE
4.30pm
Neuroscience seminar: Julian Thorpe (Sussex), Are neuronal deficits of the cell cycle and tau regulating protein Ptn1: A linking factor for brain aging and neurodegeneration? Genome Centre seminar room.
5pm Education seminar: Diana La复发 (DIES), E-learning, Arts C233.

TUE 21 JUNE
4.30pm American Studies seminar: Martin Crawford (Keele), Why Britain failed to support the stakeholders in 1861. Arts A155.

WED 22 JUNE
1pm IDS seminar: Thi Minh Ngo (LSIE), Establishing quasiprivate property rights: The impact of Vietnam's 1993 Land Law. IDS 120.
1pm IDS seminar: Akaroa Comin (CEBRAF Brazil), The tenuous illusion: Economic restructuring in Sao Paulo in the 1990s. IDS 220.

THU 23 JUNE
1pm IDS seminar: Sheela Patel (Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres, Mumbai), Title. TBA. IDS 220.

FRI 24 JUNE

THU 30 JUNE
1pm ESRC seminar: New approaches to WMD proliferation. Freeman Centre.

Small ads

For sale: 4 Habitat Van Gogh dining chairs. £49 each new, all 4 for £100. Compact corner desk. £50. Buyer collects. T 07941 105587.
Wanted: House or flat in Bton area to rent either for week before or week after 11 July. For 2 visiting US academicians (+ 3 yr-old son) E Prof Hugh Gusterson on gustert@mist.edu.
For sale: Dell Inspiron 5101m silver laptop. Pentium M 705 (Centrino wireless technology), 1.5GHz processor, 60GB HD, 512MB & 333MHz memory, CD-RW & DVD, Windows XP Plus new Dell colour printer. £600 ono (worth £900). E n135@sussex.ac.uk.
To let: 4-bed house + large garden. Suit visiting academic family. T 5626968 or E a.m.greitz@ids.ac.uk.
To let: Used IKEA items: Malung black leather swivel armchair & footstool, Amnon/Curry beech desk, Lack beech side table, dark wooden lamp, Dinge black lamp spotlight. E briyacey@yahoo.co.uk.
For sale: Drawing board, AD size, with parallel motion and cutting mat, fully adjustable. On floor-mounted stand. Suitable for artwork, design, technical drawing. £50. T 734911.
To let: Room in shared house nr Hove station. Short term pref. E jje20@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 6567.

Arts events

For Wed 29 June
The Opera Group – The Birds
World premiere of new musical version of Aristophanes’ classic comedy, with music composed by Sussex lecturer Dr Ed Hughes.
St Andrew, Holborn, London.

EXHIBITIONS

Until Sun 19 June
Nancy Davenport – Campus
Video and photographs presenting the social spaces of a campus. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

Wed 22-Thu 23 June
Wed 4-8.30pm, Thu 10am-6pm
Med and Film department – Degree Show
Interactive media, photography and video by finalists on the BA in Media Practice and Theory. GAC.

ARCHITECTURE WEEK
Sat 18 June
12 noon-2pm
Professor Nigel Llewellyn – ‘60s architecture and the University of Sussex: An opportunity to discuss the inspiration and social impact of ’60s architecture within the context of the university environment. GAC.
Fri 24 June
12 noon
John Partridge – Bringing Spence’s Sussex University into the 21st century
Tour of Basil Spencer’s 1960’s Grade I and II listed campus buildings, followed by visit to new school centre building at Essex House. Sussex Institute.