Sussex staff and students ensemble for the Festival

Spring is here and summer's just around the corner, which means that once again the streets and venues of Brighton will be packed for the annual Festival. It's also a hectic time for a number of Sussex staff and students who are exhibiting or performing in the Festival.

Alexandra Loske from the Sussex Language Institute is a regular in the Open Houses, which feature work by local designers and artists in private homes across town. You can find Alexandra's gold and silver jewellery, along with other artists' pieces, at The Stable House, 73 Hanover Street (weekends throughout the Festival).

In keeping with Sussex's strong identity with 20th-century and contemporary music, Nic McKay (head of the Music department) will give a pre-concert talk at the Dome on Friday (13 May) before a performance by the Orchestra National de Lille. Nic will be talking about the modern French composer Pierre Boulez, and his work 'Rite', which will form part of the programme.

In addition to the talk and performance, the Orchestra National de Lille have agreed to give a presentation and workshop on 'Rituel' here on campus. This will be led by conductor Daniel Kawka and nine members of the Orchestra. It takes place on Thursday (12 May) from 2–4pm in the Meeting House. The workshop is open to all, and those attending will be entitled to a free ticket to the concert the following evening.

One of Humanities' departmental coordinators, Sarah Boak, otherwise known as "one of the most exciting and dynamic young vocalists in the UK today ... sweet, soulful, bliss" will be performing some Brazilian bossa nova with the Luiz Bonfá Society at the Joegelberry Playhouse on Sunday (15 May) at 8.30pm.

The University's ensemble in residence, the Tacet Ensemble, will be performing at The Old Market in Hove on Wednesday 18 May, in partnership with the Copper family. Tacet will perform new compositions by Martin Butler (Professor of Music), Alisson Kay and Matthew Pollard (both doctoral students) that have been inspired by the folk singing of the Coppers.

As part of the Festival fringe, Elizabeth Mason and some of her fellow music students have organised a concert featuring the work of Samuel Barber, Gabriel Faure, Leos Janacek, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and a premiere of new work by third year composer Laura Callaghan. They will be performing in St Michael's church, Victoria Road, on Wednesday 25 May, at 7.30pm.

For further information on these or any other Festival events, see www.brighton-festival.org.uk or www.brightonfestivalfringe.org.uk.

New Sussex building shortlisted for architecture award

A new building on campus has been shortlisted for a prestigious accolade from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The extension to Essex House, which forms a school centre and reception area for the Sussex Institute, is in line to receive a RIBA Award.

RIBA Awards are given for buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. Over 400 buildings in the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union are judged by region, leading to between 60 and 70 winners. The Sussex building, designed by architect John Pardey, is one of 13 from the south-east to be shortlisted.

The jury visited campus and the other shortlisted entries last month. The winners will be announced at the RIBA Awards Dinner in London on 17 June.

A fully illustrated feature on the new Sussex Institute building will also appear in a future issue of the Architects' Journal.
Snails set the pace in human memory loss research

The humble snail is helping Sussex scientists to explore ways of treating memory loss in humans.

Drug manufacturers are looking at ways to create a 'Viagra for the brain', which could alleviate memory loss, one of the distressing symptoms of diseases such as Alzheimer's. Work carried out by Dr George Kemene, Senior Research Fellow in the department of Biology and Environmental Science, will hopefully help to show how such drugs could work.

George says: "The aim is to find brain molecules that are crucial for the building up and maintenance of long-term memory and learning. The biggest hope is that we will then be able to find out how to operate those functions and improve the speed at which animals learn, or help them remember for longer periods of time. This would then link into drug development for humans."

To do this, George and his team, funded by a £750,000 grant from the Medical Research Council (MRC), will attempt to chemically enhance or inhibit those functions in the common pond snail.

Snails are ideal for this kind of study because humans and pond snails actually share some important characteristics, unchanged by evolution. These include the basic molecular mechanisms that control long-term memory and learning. These processes involve the activation or suppression of a protein, CREB, which is key to the formation of long-term memory, and found in species ranging from molluscs and flies to rats and humans.

These responses can be tested by classic Pavlovian experiments that bring about a conditioned response. A snail exposed to the smell of pear drops and then food (sucrese, which they love), for example, will respond weeks later to the smell of pear drops by rhythmically moving its mouth parts in anticipation of food, even when none is provided. This shows that the snail now has a memory associating the smell of pear drops with the arrival of food - a learned and remembered response.

This 'flashbulb' memory - created by just one response to stimulus, is complemented in George's research by another test, where the snail is exposed to a ticking stimulus which before food is introduced. It takes much longer for the snail to associate this ticking with the arrival of food. George will attempt to learn how to inhibit the quickly learned memory and improve the weaker, more slowly-acquired memory at molecular level by using different chemical preparations to activate or suppress the release of the memory-forming CREB protein.

Snails are also vital to this part of George's research because they have large neurons (nerve cells), which are more easily identified, manipulated and observed under a microscope than mammalian brain cells, making them ideal subjects for exploring the learning and memory process at the cellular and molecular level.

Beaches At Risk project to continue

An international research programme looking at coastal management on both sides of the Channel is to receive funding for the second of its three intended phases.

The Beaches At Risk (BAR) project aims to identify beaches suffering greatest erosion on both the Channel coasts; assess their susceptibility to the predicted rise in sea level and increased storminess; identify nature-conservation sites that would be lost or damaged as a result (including vegetated shingle and dunes); and identify the risks for coastal management.

Currently this involves eight people at Sussex and many more in the partner organisations in England (including East Sussex County Council) and France (Universities of Rouen, Caen and Dunkerque).

Reports on the findings of Phase 1, the first two-year period, will be available soon on the BAR website (www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/BAR).

Phase II has a total value of just over £2 million and the Geography department, as the project leader, will receive almost £600,000. It involves a much expanded team, including Kent Wildlife Trust and the Syndicat Mixte Pour L'Aménagement de la Côte Picardie. The project network is also expanded, with the addition of many new organisations including engineering consultants and coastal management groups.
This month I find myself writing before the general election a column that will be read after the election result is known, so I shall avoid unwise predictions. Like many voters, I found myself pulled in opposite directions, but in the end my wish for a stable and progressive higher education funding regime has prevailed over my profound distaste for the Iraq war. 'Vote Black, get Brown' will be my personal mantra on Thursday in Lewes.

The start of the election saw an event that should have disturbed everyone who is committed to open and honest political discussion: the sacking of Howard Flight, not just from his position in his party, but also as the parliamentary candidate for Arundel, on suspicion of being just slightly 'off message'. In his time as a Sussex MP, Howard Flight has been a good friend of the University of Sussex, and I very much hope that before too long the public life of this country will again benefit from his huge talents and energy. We need politicians, across the political spectrum, who are driven by ideas and by vision, not controlled by focus groups and spin doctors.

If, as you read this, the government has been re-elected, then higher education faces a broadly optimistic and settled future that has been mapped out by the student-funding reform of the 2004 Higher Education Act and the ten-year Science and Innovation investment framework.

The outlook will be somewhat less certain if the present government has been defeated. Both the main opposition parties promise to replace tuition fees with alternative sources of finance. Indeed, perhaps the most important outcome of the great debate on higher education funding over the past two years is the cross-party consensus that universities are seriously underfunded and that it is in the national interest that this problem be addressed.

However, universities are currently planning for a new funding regime to start in 2006, in some 16 months' time. Prospective students have been printed, fees publicised; bursary schemes approved by OFFA and, not least, long-term investment planned. An incoming government with a manifesto commitment to introduce a different funding regime will need to think hard and quickly about how to manage the transition so as to avoid a deeply damaging period of uncertainty for prospective students and for universities.

A political challenge of a somewhat different kind emerged from the conference of the Association of University Teachers (AUT), which has backed a boycott of two Israeli universities. This is not a sensible step. The most difficult political conflicts inevitably produce calls for boycotts or for the suppression of illegitimate views. Universities must stand firmly on the side of open expression of competing views and free exchange of ideas. This is not an abstract moral commitment to academic freedom; understanding the views and rights of others is the practical way forward from political conflict.

Good Sussex response to National Student Survey

Almost 73 per cent of Sussex finalists responded to the first National Student Survey (NSS), which asked for their views on their degree programmes. This response rate puts Sussex at the high end of the national spectrum.

All final-year undergraduates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were asked to provide feedback on a range of topics, including: quality of teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; organisation and management; learning resources; and personal development.

In July, Sussex and other institutions will receive anonymised results to help them identify how they can make improvements. The full results will be published on a new Teaching Quality Information (TQI) website – www.tqi.ac.uk – in September. This is intended to help future students in choosing courses and institutions.

The NSS will be repeated annually and its outcomes are likely to feature prominently in future higher education league tables. Owen Richards, Academic Registrar, said: "Both the University and the Students' Union see real potential value in the survey, to supplement the work of the student representatives by highlighting the areas where our students think we are currently doing well, or could do better."

"We are sure to learn things from this first experience of the NSS, and we must consider how best to join up the messages coming via the NSS with those we already get from internal feedback processes."

LETTERS

Modern languages at Sussex

Now that the Guardian (19 April) has found that Sussex's French, German and Spanish provision ranks sixth in the UK, I am sure I will not be the only to suggest that the University should consider creating a Modern Languages department.

Dr Andrew Chitty, Philosophy

Dr Stephen Burman, Dean of Humanities, replies:

When the Modern Languages department was closed, the Vice-Chancellor insisted that this did not mean we should abandon the teaching of modern languages and so Humanities has done all it can to preserve and develop modern languages programmes and to maintain the commitment to a European dimension to its activities.

This result in the Guardian should best be seen as testimony to all the hard work that colleagues in Humanities have put into maintaining these programmes in circumstances that are difficult because of national trends.

We will continue on our present path of creating a set of programmes that reflect the distinctive characteristics and strengths of language teaching at Sussex.
Letters on the death of Virginia Woolf

In 1941 Virginia Woolf loaded her pockets with stones and walked into the River Ouse near her Sussex home. Her suicide, both tragic and shocking even to a nation in the turmoil of the Second World War, moved hundreds of people to send their condolences to her husband, Leonard, and her sister Vanessa Bell.

Now for the first time these personal and often intimate letters, stored in the Special Collections of the Sussex Library for more than 30 years, have been published.

They include messages from eminent intellectuals and writers of the time, such as E.M. Forster, H.G. Wells and T.S. Eliot, as well as students, reformers, refugees, devoted ‘common readers’ and the Woof’s close circle of Sussex friends and relatives.

Afterwords: Letters on the Death of Virginia Woolf (Edinburgh University Press, £17.79) is edited by Sybil Oldfield, a Research Reader in English at Sussex, who has spent five years tracing the writers and their surviving relatives to seek permission to publish as many as possible of the 250 letters in full.

“This is the end of the story of her life, but the letters also give us a fresh perspective on what her contemporaries thought about Virginia Woolf, especially her personal relationships,” says Sybil. “During her life she was accused of being aloof and sarcastic, but it is obvious from many of these letters that people felt supported by her and sensitively understood.”

Her childhood housekeeper Sophie Farrell, who was living at Sharพstone in Sussex, wrote: “She was always so sweet and good to me, I could never forget her.” Her former lover, the writer Vita Sackville-West described “a loss that can never diminish”. Her Brighton doctor, Octavia Wilberforce, was deeply affected by the news: “It was such an unforgettable joy to be with her and feel the brilliance of her mind.”

But the announcement of Woolf’s suicide in The Times also fuelled an attack on her “cowardice”. As Sybil’s introduction explains, Leonard Woolf knew that his wife took her own life because she feared an incurable attack of the depressive illness that had dogged her life. Unfortunately, the reference in her suicide note to “those terrible times”, meaning her bouts of insanity, were misquoted by the press as “these terrible times”, meaning the war, and triggered some unsympathetic reactions from those who thought she was wrong to take her own life while others were fighting for their country. The novelist H.E. Bates wished people had not taken her seriously, writing: “One raspberry of honest derision would have been salutary.”

Sybil, who has written many essays on Woolf and has been invited to give the Virginia Woolf Birthday Lecture in January 2006, hopes that Afterwords will serve as a revealing, many-sided tribute to the life and death of one of the most extraordinary intellectuals of the 20th century.

Sussex is UK debut for international James Joyce exhibition

An exhibition celebrating the life and work of Irish literary giant James Joyce makes its UK debut in Sussex on 16 May.

International Joyce, a series of 22 panels recounting the author’s life and work in words and photographs, was launched in Dublin last year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Bloomsday (16 June), the day that Joyce’s 1904 masterpiece, Ulysses, is set.

Its stay in the University Library, which lasts until Bloomsday itself, will be accompanied by a special series of open lectures by Sussex faculty.

- 18 May Dr Jeremy Lane: ‘James Joyce’s Ulysses: Odyssey and return’ (Arts A5, 9–9.50am).
- 2 June Ulf Dantanus: ‘Have you heard Ulysses? Joyce, music and words’ (Arts A5, 2–2.50pm).
- 9 June Professor Laura Marcus: ‘Joyce and film’ (Library viewing room, 3.30–4pm).

Film adaptations of Joyce’s works will also be shown in the Library’s viewing room every Thursday throughout the exhibition, starting at 4pm:

- 19 May The Dead (John Huston, 1987).
- 26 May A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (Joseph Strick, 1977).
- 2 June Ulysses (Joseph Strick, 1967).
- 9 June Bloom (Sean Walsh, 2004).

All four films will then be shown throughout Bloomsday on 16 June, beginning at 10am.

The exhibition will be officially opened on 16 May at 2pm by Derek Hannon, First Secretary for Press and Cultural Affairs at the Irish Embassy in London.

“I am delighted that we have been able to put together a series of lectures and screenings to go with the exhibition.”

Michele Roberts to give Asham lecture

Celebrated novelist Michele Roberts will be giving the annual Asham Creative Writing Lecture at Sussex this year, on Saturday 14 May.

The author of the acclaimed Daughters of the House and her latest, Reader, I Married Him, will be speaking to an invited audience of aspiring and published writers on the subject of ‘Making it up: Visions of the everyday’.

The event, to be held in the BSMS lecture theatre, will also see the launch of an anthology of writing, Something Fantastic Tomorrow, by students from the Certificate in Creative Writing.

The University bookshop will be selling the anthology and the Asham anthologies as well as books by successful Sussex creative writing students.

The Annual Creative Writing Lecture is a collaboration between the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) and the Asham Trust, with funding from the Arts Council.
Sussex composer premières new score for cinema classic

One of the most influential films in cinema history has been given a spectacular new musical treatment by a University of Sussex composer.

Dr Ed Hughes' live surround-sound score for Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 masterpiece, Battleship Potemkin, will be premièred at the 2005 Brighton Festival on Saturday 14 May at the British Engineering in Hove.

Performed by The New Music Players, comprising eight of the UK's finest chamber musicians, the new score marks the 100th anniversary of the events depicted in the film – the October Revolution of 1905. One of the scenes, the massacre by the military on the steps in Odessa, remains one of the most powerful images of political violence ever portrayed in a film.

In the past 80 years, Battleship Potemkin has had a number of musical scoreings – from the original orchestral score by the German composer Edmund Meisel, through a collage of Shostakovich symphonies, to a more recent electro-pop treatment by the Pet Shop Boys.

Ed's aim was to explore how Eisenstein might have approached Battleship Potemkin had he had access to today's live audio-visual performance technology and been working outside oppressive censorship.

He says: "The film has a very bold storyline matched by a freshness of approach to filmmaking, which lends itself to music. Its sense of modernity and its originality invites the use of contemporary musical resources."

Ed is a prolific composer of orchestral, chamber and vocal music and has a particular interest in creating new scores for classic films. His previous projects include Joris Ivens Rain (1929), I Was Born, But... (1932) by the Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu and Pacific 231 (Miry, 1949).

His first opera, The Birds, based on Aristophanes' satire on the search for Utopia, opens at The City of London Festival on 29 June and will then tour to Oxford Playhouse, Buxton Opera House and Salamancsa, Spain. It will be presented by The Opera Group in association with Internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble I Fagolini.

Last year the première of Ed's composition, Memory of Colour, his response to a textile installation by the Japanese artist Teruyoshi Yoshida, was among the highlights of the Brighton Festival. It was subsequently performed at the Sydney Festival in the Sydney Opera House in January 2005.

Battleship Potemkin is sold out at the Brighton Festival but will also be presented with Ed's score at the Cheltenham Festival on 12 July.

University archive's V-E Day memories revealed

The end of war in Europe on 8 May 1945 (V-E Day) came amid confusion, rumour, rationing and a blaze of early-summer sunshine, according to the diaries, observations and personal opinion in the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex.

The notebooks, reams of writing paper and scribbled-over bits of envelope are now housed in boxes according to date and subject in the Library and offer fascinating insights to the way we were for historians, writers and researchers.

A selection of excerpts from the archive offers an evocative snapshot of how ordinary people viewed the end of the war 60 years ago.

The eve of V-E Day
A female office worker from London kept a week-long diary: "Fireworks began to crackle around the horizon and the red glow of distant bonfires lighted the sky – peaceful, joyous fires, now – in place of the terrifying ones of last year ... It was a warm, starlit night, but just after 12 a streak of summer lightning joined the other illuminations and strangely enough, looked rather like a V sign flashing in the sky."

V-E Day
Selfridges was decorated with Allied flags. The writer bought a two-shilling Victory medal. The street vendor tried to pin it on quickly as it was actually an old Coronation medal decorated with red, white and blue ribbon for the occasion. She smoked a cigarette in Park Lane and observed an air of subdued cheerfulness all around.

On her way to a V-E Day dinner with friends, she noted the impact of Allied flags flying above London landmarks: "It still seems odd to see the Red Flag flying proudly over the Dorchester, as over the Reichstag in Berlin. I wonder if Stalin will stay there, if we ever have a peace conference?"

The party crowd
Another Mass-Observation correspondent recorded the mood of the crowd: "Whitehall is jammed with people. Thousands and thousands line the pavements from Downing Street to the Ministry of Works ... A bus passing down Whitehall has chalked across it: HITLER MISSED THIS BUS."

"Big Ben strikes three and silences the vast crowd. Over the loudspeakers come the voice of the announcer: 'The Prime Minister the Right Honourable Winston Churchill' and the crowd sends up a mighty cheer. Then follows Mr Churchill and for the time being the voice of the Prime Minister is the only voice to be heard in Whitehall. When he tells them that from midnight tonight hostilities will cease, there's loud cheers and again when the people hear that the Channel Islands will be freed. But there are whoops of joy and waving of hats and flags when he comes to that point in his speech when he declares that 'The German war is, therefore, at an end'. And he ends his broadcast with 'Advance Britannia' and the buglers of the Scots Guard sound the ceremonial ceasefire. The band strikes up the National Anthem and old and young sing God Save the King with such fervour and reverence that the anthem sounds like a hymn."

Beer and bonfires
Away from the massed crowds of London, the party spirit prevailed in many towns and villages:

"Paper hats are worn by the ladies, also aprons coloured red, white and blue. A gramophone is brought out and we sing with it ... The women and children start dancing and soon the street is alive with record after record: Waltzes, lancers, barn dances and Scottish. Soon people are coming from other streets and joining in. When the pub closes at 10pm an avalanche descends and happy drunks join the throng. At 10.30pm a bonfire is lit opposite my house. Hitler again is on top and how the crowd roars when he comes down in flames."
Memorials unveiled to Sussex student and academic

Ceremonies took place on campus last week to celebrate the lives of two Sussex people.

Family, friends and academics who knew undergraduate Natalie Naylor gathered outside Essex House on 29 April to unveil a bench and memorial tree in her honour. Natalie, a second-year student, died from meningitis in January last year.

Natalie’s father Graham told the crowd, who included Natalie’s teammates from the women’s rugby club, how happy she had been at Sussex and how pleased he was at this ‘living memorial’ to his daughter.

Ayode Duroshola talked about how Natalie was the very first person he had met when he first arrived on campus and how Natalie’s mum had practically pushed her towards him to encourage her to meet people, little knowing that Ayode and Natalie would end up going out together. “This bench and tree symbolise for me a sunny day, which is appropriate,” remarked Ayode, “because for me Natalie was like the sun.”

Later the same day, colleagues of linguistics professor Larry Trask gathered to see his wife Jan unveil a maple tree in his memory outside Pevensey II. The species was especially chosen because maples are common throughout Larry’s native New York state.

“Larry was not only a brilliant academic and expert in his field but also enormous fun too,” said Jan. “It’s good that people can see this tree and remember him, even if to them Larry was just the chap who wrote all those books about punctuation.”

University-approved suppliers

All staff who are involved in the ordering of goods or services now have online access to a list of University-approved suppliers and contractors.

Mike Harmer, Head of Procurement, is urging staff to use the list as much as possible. A University-wide purchase order system is due to go live in the near future and the use of it and the approved list will then become mandatory.

“The use of approved suppliers is an integral part of financial management and control,” explains Mike. “To put in perspective our ordering activity, the University places approximately 25,000 orders each year for goods, services and works. These are valued at over £30 million (excluding capital and research-funded equipment).

“Using the list of approved suppliers will reduce both process costs and staff time spent sourcing the vast range of requirements,” he adds. “There can be considerable savings in costs and efficiency.”

The list is available through Sussex Direct, in Information for Staff. Log in as usual, click on ‘Admin’ and navigate to ‘Procurement’.

There will be circumstances when a unit wishes to place an order with a supplier that is not currently on the approved list. This may be because the product or service required is very specialist or because a supplier can offer better terms. If you need to use a non-approved supplier, you must contact the Procurement Office so that consideration can be given to placing the supplier on the approved list.

You can pass on any positive suggestions to improve or access the list to Iain Monro, who manages the list of approved suppliers and provides helpline facilities; email procurement@sussex.ac.uk.

Sussex runner completes ‘Marathon des Sables’

“It was interesting to say the least.” That’s how a Sussex member of staff sums up her experience of “the toughest footrace on earth”.

After a year’s training, Dr Val Shilling has just spent six days running 150 miles across the Sahara desert in Morocco.

Val and the other 800 entrants had to carry all their food and cooking equipment for the six days over terrain ranging from sand dunes to uneven rocky ground, and in temperatures up to 120°F.

The ‘Marathon des Sables’ challenge was so tough, only 580 actually finished – and Val, a researcher in the Psychosocial Oncology Group, was one of them, in 51st place.

If you’re suitably impressed, you can sponsor Val and help her to raise money for Back-Up, a spinal injuries charity (www.backuptrust.org.uk). Email v.m.shilling@sussex.ac.uk.
Holocaust students visit Krakow ghetto

Chana Moshenska

Students studying the Humanities course 'Holocaust Representation and Cultural Memory' are so interested in their subject that they spent part of the spring vacation learning more. Twenty-five students, staff and family members went to Krakow for four days to gain new insights into this challenging subject.

The visit coincided with the Pope's funeral on 8 April, so Krakow was busy and crowds filled the main square. That evening we attended Krakow's only functioning synagogue, in Kazmierz (the old Jewish quarter), followed by a delicious meal in a Jewish restaurant. The next day we visited a new museum developed by a Brighton photographer, which shows the lost Jewish heritage of Galicia - the name given to this region of Poland when it was a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

We were privileged to have a Holocaust survivor, Janina Fischler Martinho, with us on the trip. She has spoken at Sussex many times and she gave our group a guided tour around the ghetto, showing us places where she and her family stayed and from where most of her family was deported. We saw the manhole cover through which she and her brother escaped from the ghetto through the sewers during an SS Aktion of people to be transported to the concentration camps. The wartime ghetto is mostly unmarked and, without a ghetto survivor as guide, there is little to see.

We spent the following day at Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II (Birkenau), reflecting on what these sombre places can tell us now. The students were able to combine learning about the camp in the exhibitions at Auschwitz I with time for reflection at Birkenau. These experiences linked their intellectual interest in Holocaust representation with the emotional impact of confronting one aspect of the Holocaust.

Group reactions

"To experience what we have with such a great bunch of intelligent, friendly people all willing to share has been magnificent and made the trip bearable."

"This trip has taught me the limits of comprehension."

"My eyes have been truly opened."

"The trip was amazing, a rollercoaster of emotions but a fantastic experience."

Varsity sports results

The Sussex men's basketball team triumphed in the annual student varsity match against the University of Brighton last week (27 April). The team beat our local rivals by 82 points to 79 in what is traditionally a keenly fought contest.

Volleyball also triumphed, beating Brighton 3–1. Men's football, meanwhile, narrowly missed out on beating Brighton, their win being snatched away by a last-minute equaliser.

Elsewhere the picture was less positive, with Sussex's hockey, netball, rugby and swimming teams losing - although the last of these had less than half the players of their competitors due to study commitments. The Natalie Naylor memorial trophy, played for by the women's rugby teams, went to Brighton 33–0.

General election fever on campus

It's not as if politics is rare on Sussex campus - in fact barely a week passes without some sort of demonstration or political event taking place. However, with the general election on the way the political activity increased in the last few weeks as the various parties tried to grab our vote.

To help students decide where to put their cross on 5 May, the Students' Union organised a Political Fortnight from 18–29 April, including a chance to quiz the candidates for the Brighton Pavilion constituency and a Political Fair, with stalls from political parties and Union political societies.

Meanwhile, BBC Southern Counties Radio gathered local candidates from the five main political parties in the Meeting House for a 'Question Time' style discussion on air. Sussex staff and students asked for the candidates' views and policies on immigration, Iraq, drugs, education, Falmer stadium, the environment.

The Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Charles Hendry, is defending his Wealden seat for the Conservatives. But just days before voting took place he was on campus with his fellow Tory candidates in the Brighton and Hove constituencies to talk to students about their concerns. (Was top-up fees one of them?)

As the Bulletin went to press, the campaign was drawing to a close. See the next issue on 20 May for a full report on the fate of the Sussex candidates (alumni and staff) who were standing for election.

News in brief

Staff sports afternoon

On 20 May the Sport Service are hosting a staff sports afternoon at the Falmer Sports Complex from 1.30–5pm, with presentations and a barbecue (£4 per head) from around 5.30pm. The Vice-Chancellor will present prizes for team events (mixed rounders, mixed netball and mixed volleyball) and individual events (discs and pool). Information packs and entry forms are available from Luke Terrill on l.o.terrill@sussex.ac.uk (entries on a first come, first served basis).

Mass-Observation Archive open afternoon

Tony Kushner (Marcus Sieff Professor of Jewish History, University of Southampton) will be speaking about his new publication, We Europeans?: Mass-Observation, 'race' and British identity in the twentieth century. There will also be displays of material and a chance to meet staff from the Mass-Observation Archive. All welcome on Thursday 26 May from 2–5pm, but please call ext. 8157 or email moa@sussex.ac.uk to book a place.

Speed trap costs drivers £750,000

Temporary speed cameras at Falmer roadworks led to motorists being fined £750,000 in two months. They were placed on the A27 in February and March 2003 while a pedestrian subway was installed. The speed limit was reduced from 70mph to 40mph and about 12,500 drivers who failed to slow down were fined £60 each. The figures appear in the 2003–2004 review of the Sussex Safety Camera Partnership, which runs the cameras. The government-funded organisation made just under £1.5m profit for the year, half of which came from the A27 roadworks.

Pre Award Office

The Pre Award Office (Research Services, Sussex House) will be running a skeleton service from Wednesday 18–Friday 20 May inclusive. All applications or other documents brought over that require checking/signing will not be processed until the following week. If you have a deadline during this period, ensure that your application is brought to the office before 18 May.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin
**Academic events**

**FRI 13 MAY**
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRUM seminar:
Tim Jackson (Surrey), Luxury or ‘lock-in’? Who’s changing the climate and who’s changing society?
Freeman Centre G24/25.

**4.30pm Philosophy Society:** Simon Langford (Sussex), Identity and occasional identity. Arts C233.

**MON 16 MAY**
5pm Geography seminar: Mirela Barbui (Susaex), Resisting the third way: The end of the Italian ‘Old Deal’ and possible lessons for Romania, Guldem Ortakoglu (Susaex), Culture, competitiveness and the trajectory of industrial systems. Arts C175.

**TUE 17 MAY**
1pm IDS seminar: Ian Goldman and Patrick Mbula (African Institute for Community-driven Development, Bloemfontein, South Africa), Challenges of promoting community-driven development in Southern Africa. IDS 221.

**FRI 20 MAY**
2pm SPRU-CENTRUM seminar: Josephine Stein (East London), Global knowledge dynamics and the emergence of an European knowledge system. Freeman Centre G24/25.

**4.30pm Philosophy Society:** Krud Haakonsen (Sussex), The history of early modern philosophy: The construction of a useful past. Arts C233.

**Small ads**

For sale: Stompa cabin bed/desk/5-drawer chest. £150. E: p.g.kebbington@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 3-bed Lewes house & garden. £850 pcm. Available to visiting academic Jan 06 for 5 mths. Call Roger Fenn on ext. 7439.

To let: 2-bed terraced house in central Lewes. Unfurnished, available mid May. £850 pcm. T Werd of Lewes Estates on 48712.

Wanted: 2-bed house or top-floor flat to rent. U p to £900 pcm. Any reasonably central area considered. E r.k.gane@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 7569.

Wanted: Furnished, purpose-built flat nr Have seafont. Suit visiting faculty. £750 pcm. Available July/Aug for 1 yr. E dmt20@sussex.ac.uk.

**For sale:** Suzuki Swift 1GLS 3dr hatchback. 03 reg., tax Sep. 11k miles. c/d skimming, immob., etc. £2,850. T 07919 654711, E gorlukova@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Tesco and Sainsbury’s vouchers for schools. Contact M. Helen in Medical Research Building, BSMS: ext. 8776, E qr66@sussex.ac.uk.

**Arts events**

**PERFORMANCE**

**Sat 7 May**
8pm Stars Of Madagascar
From the ba gasy style of the high plateau to the modal incantations of the Northern jijy; from the driving dance beats of salsey to the lifting Maurotian sega, Madagascar is a melting pot of Polynesian, East African and Indian rhythms. Gardens Art Centre (GAC).

**Fri 13 May**
6.30pm Orchestra National de Lille
Nic Maxwell (heart of Music) gives a pre-concert talk about Pierre Boulez and his work ‘Rituel’, which forms part of the programme. Dome, Brighton.

**Sat 14 May**
8pm Abyánsia
Infinite
Organic instrumentation, traditional arrangements and peerless Pan African backline: Ethiopian soul. GAC.

6pm and 9pm New Music Players – Battleship Potemkin
World premiere of the live surround-sound score by Dr Ed Hughes (Lecturer in Music) for Sergei Eisenstein’s 1925 film, British Engineerium, Hove.

**Sun 15 May**
8pm Sarah Boak (Humanities)
Sarah sings Brazilian bossa nova with the Lus Bonita Society. Joolebey Playhouse, Brighton.

**Wed 18 May**
7.30pm Tact Ensemble with The Copper Family
Tact performs new compositions by Martin Butler (Professor of Music), Alison Kay and Matthew Pollard (doctoral students), inspired by the folk singing of the Coppers. Old Market, Hove.

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Sat 7 May – Sun 19 June**
Nancy Davenport – Film and video and photographs presenting the social spaces of a campus. GAC.

**Weekends throughout Brighton Festival**
Alexandra Loske (Sussex Language Institute) – Open House. Gold and silver jewellery, The Stable House, 73 Hanover Street, Brighton.