How Falmer stadium go-ahead could affect Sussex

The right result?

It's a 'yes', then, from John Prescott. So what does planning approval for the construction of a football stadium at Falmer mean for the University of Sussex?

The government's decision to grant planning permission for the stadium, announced on 27 October, is the latest stage in an eight-year saga for Brighton & Hove Albion. The football club has been without a permanent home since it sold its Hove ground in 1997 and has been playing at Withdean stadium in Brighton since 1999.

The University of Sussex has maintained a carefully neutral stance on whether a new stadium should be built at Falmer since the site next to the University of Brighton was first identified as a possible location in 1998.

The University is most directly concerned with arrangements for managing transport, not least because existing campus car parks would be made available for some parking on match days. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has stressed that this would be "under carefully negotiated and managed terms". In reaching its decision last month, the government considered detailed information from Sussex on transport management and car parking.

There is also the prospect of a new access road for campus along the southern edge of Stannier Park, giving University staff and students an additional exit. The club would pay for the new link road as well as for the use of campus car parks during matches.

Both of these matters - alongside many other issues - are formal conditions of the planning permission granted by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott MP.

See www.odpm.gov.uk for the full 33-page ruling.

The University also has a strong interest in detailed planning for and construction on the site itself, which is close to land owned by Southern Water for which planning permission already exists to build a new residence for Sussex students. "We want to ensure the planned new housing for our students next to Falmer station is not sidetracked by this larger project," said the Vice-Chancellor.

He added: "We also want to keep a close eye on developments to ensure the project that goes ahead is the one for which permission has been granted, and that new elements are not proposed that alter the nature and character of the scheme."

So senior managers at Sussex will be working closely with the key players: the football club, Brighton & Hove City Council and the University of Brighton. Sussex already has good relations with the club, not least because the footballers use the Falmer Sports Complex as their training facility.

However, the government’s go-ahead could yet be challenged in the courts. In addition, the club needs to come up with the money to build the stadium.

If Brighton & Hove Albion can make the sums add up, they hope to be playing at Falmer from the start of the 2008-09 season. The club’s stadium saga - and the University's involvement in it - has another few years still to go.

Sussex ranked again among world's finest universities

The University of Sussex has once again been ranked among the top 100 universities in the world.

The Times Higher Education Supplement World University Rankings 2005, described by the publication as being "more robust and more reliable" this year, also lists Sussex among the elite UK institutions.

The results placed Sussex 13th among UK universities, 36th in Europe and 100th in the world.

A further breakdown of the tables into broad disciplines within universities also shows that Sussex is in the top 10 in the UK (ranked 8th) both for arts and humanities, and for social sciences.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, says: "Once again, these rankings show that the quality of our research and teaching is recognised worldwide and that Sussex continues to be among the world’s leading institutions."

The rankings list 200 institutions worldwide and are based on the opinions of academic peers and global business and industry, international outlook and statistics relating to teaching and research excellence. The 200 universities featured in the rankings are drawn from 31 countries. Researchers canvassed 2,375 academics from across the world, asking them which universities they considered to be the best in their fields.

Top of the rankings is Harvard in the USA, while Cambridge (3rd) and Oxford (4th) are the highest in the UK. The UK provides 24 of the 200 ranked institutions.

The THES World University Rankings editorial states: "An international outlook and a global reputation among academics, students and employers are all important aspects of a university that ranks among the world elite."

New Registrar

Who is Philip Harvey?


Quake

How the Sussex student feels helping out in Pakistan.
Research shows elephants “remember” the dead

Elephants visiting “graveyards” of long-dead relatives may be a myth, but new research suggests that they may, like humans, be able to recognise their own kind among the dead.

According to Sussex psychologist Dr Karen McComb, who studies communication and cognition in mammals, elephants can recognise and interact with the remains of other elephants years after death—a trait that has yet to be found in any other mammal except humans, and which had not been experimentally investigated before.

Karen’s findings, published last week in the Royal Society’s Biology Letters journal, are based on a series of experiments carried out in Amboseli National Park in Kenya.

Family groups of free-ranging elephants were presented with three sets of objects and their behaviour observed. The first featured an elephant skull, a piece of ivory and a piece of wood; the second an elephant skull, rhino skull and buffalo skull; and the third the skulls of three matriarchal elephants (the matriarch being the oldest female in a family group), each of which was related to a group of study elephants.

The findings drawn from Karen’s study revealed that:
- Elephants showed a much stronger interest in ivory than in the other objects, including the elephant skulls.
- They also showed a stronger preference for elephant skulls over other ‘non-elephant’ objects, including the skulls of other large mammals such as rhinos and buffaloes.
- Elephants showed interest by sniffing then feeling the elephant skulls—and especially the ivory—with the trunk, then gently rolling or stroking with their feet.
- Elephants did not, however, show greater interest in the skulls of close relatives over those of other elephants.

The results suggest that elephants recognise and react with the remains of their own species, particularly the ivory tusks.

Karen says: “Interest in ivory may be enhanced because of its connection with living elephants, individuals sometimes touching the ivory of others with their trunks during social behaviour... It remains possible that where ivory is present alongside skulls, elephants may, through touch or smell, recognise tusks from individuals that they have been familiar with in life.”

The findings do not, however, uphold the idea that elephants can differentiate or show preference for the remains of close relatives above those of other elephants.

Karen says: “Reports of elephant graveyards have been exposed as myth. Our results suggest that elephants may not specifically select the skulls of their own relatives for investigation, but their strong interest in the ivory and skulls of their own species means that they would be highly likely to visit the bones of relatives who die within their own home range.”

The next stage is to see whether such experience can be demonstrated in other mammals, then to look at what drives such behaviour.

Karen says: “Why are elephants so intensely interested in the remains of members of their own species, even after many years? That is the interesting question. The answer may relate to how intensely social elephants are, so much so that their interest in others of their kind extends to some time after death.”

Biologist in bid to save rainforest’s rare monkey

Sussex scientists are working with local communities in Ecuador to help save one of the world’s rarest species of monkey—and the endangered rainforest where it lives.

The Brown-headed Spider Monkey (Ateles fusciceps) is “critically endangered”, which means that without urgent action to protect the 50 known breeding pairs still in the wild, the species could become extinct. The spider monkey—unusual in that it is exclusively a fruit-eater—is under threat because up to 80 per cent of the dense rainforest that it depends on for food has been destroyed.

Environmental organisation Ecuador Terra Incognita, supported by partners including the University of Sussex, has now launched a project to tackle the crisis. Its aim is to determine how best to protect the monkey populations, now restricted to rainforest reserves in north-west Ecuador, then educate local communities to continue the work and ensure the spider monkey’s long-term survival.

Sussex environmental biologist Dr Mika Peck is co-ordinating the project, and has secured £230,000 funding over three years through the government-sponsored Darwin Initiative to aid conservation in bio-diverse regions around the world.

He will also assist, along with colleagues from the Geography department, in remote sensing research. This involves analysing satellite data to see where rainforest is at risk from development or logging.

Mika became involved because he has worked on environmental projects in South America and has conducted research into deforestation. He also has a passion for the region where the project will be based—the Los Cedros Biological Reserve in the Ecuadorian Andes, on the doorstep of the spider monkey habitat.

He says: “This is one of the most beautiful places in the world. It can only be reached by donkey, trekking for five hours. It is a fairy-tale setting—orchids, hummingbirds, big cats, tapirs, moths the size of dinner plates—and is one of the richest areas for bird species.”

Protecting all of this, says Mika, is key to the spider monkey campaign: “The spider monkey is a ‘flagship’ species—if they are protected then everything else in the surrounding environment is too, and one of the rare biodiversity-rich habitats of the world is preserved.”

The project will involve the development of a scientific research and education centre at Los Cedros, where locals will learn how to collect scientific data and monitor monkey populations. Other strands will focus on supporting Conservation International in developing ‘corridors’ to linking nature reserves in the region and teams of scientists will also study the area’s flora and fauna, much of it still new to science.

In the longer term, the project aims to encourage environmentally friendly ecotourism, offer sustainable forms of work and income for local people and offset the damage done by logging, mining and hunting—the pursuits largely responsible for destroying the rainforest on which the spider monkey and other species depend.
Hot flushes caused by hormone therapy leads to some cancer patients avoiding their medication, say researchers at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS).

A study of more than 200 breast cancer patients receiving hormone treatments such as tamoxifen found that that nearly half said they sometimes forgot their tablets and more than one in ten deliberately didn’t take them at times, citing unwanted side effects as the main reason.

"The principal reason that women are not adhering to their breast cancer treatments is hot flushes and this affects post and pre-menopausal patients," said lead researcher Lesley Fallowfield, who is Professor of Psychosocial Oncology at BSMS.

"Some doctors are unconcerned about this as nobody actually dies of a hot flush; but post menopausal women are embarking on treatment that brings back hot flushes and night sweats when they thought they had finished with them. For pre-menopausal women, possibly taking hormone tablets, who have also been hit by chemotherapy, the sudden onset of menopausal hot flushes and night sweats is a devastating assault on their well-being."

The survey, published in the Annals of Oncology, found that nearly two-thirds of patients would prefer to take a tablet daily and around a quarter would prefer a monthly injection, given that both treatments would be equally effective and have similar side-effects.

However, when presented with a hypothetical situation that injections would result in fewer hot flushes the choices reversed with those opting for tablets slumping to around 27% and those preferring injections soaring to around 60%.

The proportion that would opt for injections also rose – to nearly three-quarters – when they were given a hypothetical situation in which a monthly double injection would control the cancer better. Only a fifth in this case would prefer daily tablets.

"These findings provide two potentially important messages," said Lesley. "The first is that the distress caused by the side-effect of the hot flushes that all endocrine treatments produce is seriously underplayed. The second is that, although the assumption of many health professionals that patients generally dislike injections is correct, most patients are willing to sacrifice preference for efficacy. That information may be important if future research demonstrates a benefit for higher doses, which would necessitate injections."

She added that patients’ concerns or preferences about treatment are rarely explored and the views of healthcare professionals varied widely.

Bringing Saddam Hussein to justice could prove more of a trial for his former subjects because of the decision to hold proceedings in Iraq, says a Sussex law expert.

The Baghdad-based trial was halted on the first day last month because witnesses were too scared to testify. One of the defence lawyers for a co-defendant of Saddam’s was then kidnapped and murdered.

Professor Craig Barker, an expert in public international law and diplomatic immunity and tutor on the Sussex Law School’s LLM programme in International Criminal Law, is not surprised by how events have developed.

He says: "The problem with this trial is the fact that it is being held in Iraq, with Iraqi judges. Saddam is still an incredible figure in Iraq and the trial won’t be easy for the judges or the witnesses. These people have to go home at night and face threats and danger."

Craig has previously observed the processes used to bring other leaders to justice, including Chile’s former dictator, Augusto Pinochet, and the former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, whose long-running trial Craig attended recently at The Hague. Milosevic is being tried for genocide and war crimes under the auspices of the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Iraq’s non-international Special Tribunal might be looking for a speedier outcome than expected for Milosevic’s trial, says Craig, but the USA’s involvement in the Iraq proceedings is fraught with problems, whatever its justification for sidestepping international law to indict Saddam.

Craig says: "Americans are against the international criminal court, so went for a special tribunal in Iraq. Their argument is that it is better for someone to be tried in their home country so that the people can easily see justice at work. The problem is that any outcome will be seen as politically engineered by the US. There are also legal issues over Saddam’s immunity from prosecution in Iraq."

Craig’s latest book, Desk Book of International Criminal Law, is out soon.

**Problems at Saddam Hussein’s trial**

- **The judges:** All are Iraqi — and the presiding judge is a Kurd — which raises obvious questions about impartiality. If the tribunal were international, none of the judges would be Iraqi.

- **The charges:** The tribunal needed to select charges that it was sure would stick. There is some sort of documentary evidence, perhaps a signed death warrant, that they feel links Saddam unequivocally to the charge of ordering the 1982 massacre of nearly 150 Shiites. Charges that aren’t watertight carry risk.

- **The death penalty:** Saddam will be seen as a martyr to American oppression in the region. His accusers call for the death penalty, which would not be an option with an international tribunal. International lawyers have long since rejected the death penalty, but many Iraqis say that that would be the only outcome that would give them closure.

**FIRST CLASS**

The Mass-Observation Archive, held at Sussex, has been officially recognised as being of "outstanding national and international importance". The MLA Council, the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives, picked Mass-Obs alongside 38 other collections around the UK to receive the honour. The Archive specialises in material about everyday life in Britain, and parts of the collection were used as the basis for a recent BBC series on the 'Last Decade' of 1945–55. Dorothy Sheridan, head of the Library's Special Collections, said she was "absolutely thrilled at the recognition the MLA have given to such a unique and inspiring collection".
CELLULOID SUSSEX CELLULOID SUSSEX CELLULOID

Student films get the big-screen treatment

Jacqui Bealing
Senior Press Officer

This week the news that elephants never forget their dead made headlines in the Daily Telegraph (26 October), Daily Mail (27 October), New Scientist (26 October), National Geographic (31 October), Science Now (26 October) and The Week (4 November). Karen was also interviewed by BBC Southern Counties Radio (27 October), and Newstalk Dublin Radio (27 October).

It’s been a good month for breaking news on research stories. Professor Charles Abraham’s findings that doctors’ poor communication skills led to some patients ignoring their medical advice made a page lead in the Daily Mail (31 October), with a follow-up call from BBC News 24, while Professor Lesley Fallowfield’s study that showed hot flushes deterred cancer patients from taking hormone treatment was picked up by BBC Online (20 October), and The Times (20 October), among others.

Meanwhile, Sky News, the Guardian and The Times (all 31 October) ran pieces on a review produced by Professor Judy Sebba and her colleagues in Education that concluded dividing school children into groups by ability does not produce better outcomes.

And Professor Jennifer Temkin’s research finding on the sex prejudice of lawyers and judges appeared in The Times (17 October), the Guardian (17 October), and the Argus (18 October).

Several of our experts were called upon to comment on significant news events, including Professor Richard Black, who appeared on ‘Newsnight’ (11 October) to discuss the supposed “50 million environmental refugees”; James Williams (11 October), who talked on BBC Southern Counties Radio about Channel 4’s ‘The Unetchables’ series; and Professor Gordon McKerron, who described to BBC Online (26 October) the future and fate of nuclear reactors.

For more, see Sussex in the News – www.sussex.ac.uk/pressandcomms /1-4-6-1.html.

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Sussex students are getting the chance to have short films they have created for their degree course shown on the big screen for all to see.

Each Sunday night at the Gardner Arts Centre, one of four student shorts is being screened just before the main feature. So, punters settling down for Hollywood blockbuster Sin City, starring Bruce Willis, also got the chance to see a four-minute masterpiece called Snowblind by Media Practice and Theory student Alex Rea.

The ‘Gardner Drama Shorts’, as the screenings are called, are a result of the close working relationship between the Department of Media and Film and the Gardner Arts Centre. The two already work closely on the degree show for the Media Practice and Theory course, which combines intellectual training and practical teaching in media studies.

Students gain experience in different types of media, such as photography, film and interactive media, and then specialise in one area as their degree progresses.

Students working in the medium of film and animation had their work scrutinised by staff in the department who, explains Mary Keill (a Senior Lecturer in Film and Media), then chose four pieces with a “high degree of technical and intellectual rigour”, to be shown at the Gardner.

One such short to get a public screening is an animation called The Menorah by recent graduate Peter Moores. Set in the Second World War, it tells the tale of a child’s journey from the inner city to a concentration camp. Along the way she is haunted by ghosts of her family.

“It’s disturbing,” says Mary, “in that it uses a medium you might not expect for the subject – Flash animation – to tell quite a difficult story. On its first showing, at various points, it had people in tears.”

What do students feel about their work being laid bare for all to see? “They seem to be really excited,” continues Mary. “For students leaving university and getting a job it seems to be an immediate boost to their confidence.”

- The Gardner Drama Shorts continue every Sunday night at 8pm before the main feature until 13 November. The Menorah will be shown on Sunday 6 November preceding the film In My Father’s Den.
See the films by Sussex students and staff

Work by University of Sussex filmmakers will be showcased this month as part of the first documentary film festival to be held in Brighton. See, described as an event "by film-makers for film-makers", takes place at the Sussex Arts Club on 19 and 20 November.

A key part of the second day will be the screening of seven short documentaries made by Sussex students, followed by a panel discussion about them.

Three of the films will be of particular interest to local residents:

- In Soup for Thought, by three students from the BA in Media and Cultural Studies, we get a glimpse of the work of Soup Run volunteers on a cold winter's night on Brighton seafront.
- In Fox Hunting: A hunter's defence, four students from the BA in Media Practice and Theory take a provocative look at the arguments for fox hunting, featuring members of the Sussex hunting community.
- Besides the Seaside, by Reu Hichlman, asks whether Hastings is cursed and takes a wry look at the darker side of seaside life.

Tickets are free from the Brighton Dome, but you do have to get up for 10am on a Sunday morning.

If you're a bit more of a late riser (12.15pm), you might prefer to see Lizzie Thynne's biographical film about the surrealist photographer Claude Cahun. Lizzie, a Senior Lecturer in Media and Film Studies, tells the story of Claude and her lover, Marcel Moore, who carried out an ingenious campaign against the Nazi occupation of Jersey before they were arrested and condemned to death.

The Second World War also features in a DVD by Stephanie Wong, a postgraduate on the MA in Digital Media. Her interactive project explores the work of former model Lee Miller as a war photographer during the liberation of St Malo in 1945. Echoes of Lee Miller: St. Malo will be showing free of charge from 2.30pm.

For the full programme, see www.seefestival.org. But make sure you see the films by Sussex students and staff.

What a rush:
15 teams,
36 hours,
15 films

It's a challenge that even Annette Rice would be hard pressed to complete: to devise, produce, shoot, edit and screen a short film in less than two days. But Sussex students are being asked to volunteer to do exactly that.

The second 36 Hour Film Rush takes place over the weekend of 26 and 27 November, giving students the opportunity to stretch their creativity and organisational skills to the limit, in order not only to meet the deadline, but also to stand the chance of winning the accolade of best film.

Students taking part in the Film Rush will turn up at the Gardner Arts Centre on the first day at 8am (the first challenge being to get up that early on a Saturday). With them, each team must bring a prop and a location idea. All the teams will then have to choose a prop and location devised by another group before starting their film. Additionally, each short film must be inspired by the theme of the '21st Century City'.

Teams will be given equipment and technical support, courtesy of the ITS Media Services Unit, and will then meet back at the Gardner Arts Centre the following day at 6pm, clutching their finished production for the public to see at a free screening. A jury of experts and also the audience will choose their favourites, with each winning team being awarded a £100 prize.

Last year's inaugural 36 Hour Film Rush managed to produce some original and somewhat off-kilter ideas. American Studies student Amelie Butterly and her team were given a plaster as prop and Preston Park as a location. From uninspiring beginnings, though, came a masterpiece that the audience decided was their favourite. Lee Gooding, a tutor in Media Production, described the film as "a Chris Morris-esque documentary about the subculture of plasterers'.

The jury winners, meanwhile, managed to make a dark thriller set in an underground car park with a vibrator as a prop. Team member Jonny Burnow describes the stress of the challenge: "It was only the fact we paid £15 and didn't want to be left out we carried on." But their win and the experience made it all worth it: "We were totally overwhelmed," recalls Jonny.

The 36 Hour Film Rush is open to all students at Sussex, but teams must register by Friday 18 November. Application forms can be found online at www.gardnerarts.co.uk/downloads.html or from the Gardner Arts Centre box office. A fee of £15 is charged to each team to cover equipment costs.

The challenge has been organised by the Gardner Arts Centre with the School of Humanities and the Cine City Brighton Film Festival.

More space and facilities for Slide Library

The new, redesigned and relocated Art History Slide Library was formally opened by Professor Maurice Howard last month.

The Slide Library houses a diverse collection of more than 100,000 slides. It has extensive sections on Western, Byzantine, Chinese and Indian art, covering painting, sculpture, prints and architecture. It also contains a selection of photographs, as well as periodicals, reference books, CD-ROMs, videos and audiotapes.

The new location on the top floor of EDB offers more space and more facilities than the old one in Arts B, where the Slide Library had been since its foundation.

The slides and photographs are used by students and teaching staff for presentations, lectures and research. Opening hours are Monday–Friday 9am–5pm (closed 1–2pm). Contact the Slide Librarian, Simon Lane, on ext. 2128 for further information.

Arts events

PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 8 Nov</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company – Park</td>
<td>Gardner Arts Centre (GAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9 Nov</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>Mark Thomas and Robert Newman</td>
<td>Gardner Arts Centre (GAC)</td>
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EXHIBITIONS

Until Sun 27 Nov
Ewan Duff, New Society & Peter Mitchell: Archives from the new British photography of the 70s

Sun 6 Nov | 2pm | Mean Girls | (12). GAC |

Sun 13 Nov | 2pm | Herbie: Fully Loaded | (16). GAC |

Sun 20 Nov | 5pm | War of the Worlds | (12A). GAC |

Sun 27 Nov | 8pm | 3-Iron (Bin-Jip) | (15). GAC |
Changes in senior management

Following open competition, Dr. Philip Harvey was appointed last month as the new Registrar & Secretary. Philip had been Acting Registrar since 1 July on secondment from the University of Exeter. He took up the permanent post with immediate effect.

Philip was previously Deputy Registrar and Academic Secretary at Exeter and had been at the university since 1997. Before that he worked at Warwick for nine years, including a two-year spell as Secretary of its Graduate School.

Professor Alsaid Smith, Vice-Chancellor, said: "I am delighted that from a strong field of candidates, we have been able to make this excellent appointment. All colleagues who have worked with Philip over recent months will know the qualities and skills he brings to Sussex."

Adverts for the post appeared in the Guardian and the THES in early September, and campus visits by long-listed candidates took place on 11 October. A final short-list of three were interviewed on Thursday, 20 October. The selection panel included senior management and academic and independent members of Council.

Philip said: "I am proud to have been given the opportunity to join the University as Registrar and I am very much looking forward to supporting the Vice-Chancellor in addressing the challenges which lie ahead."

Dr. Mick Johnson has been appointed as Dean of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies. Currently head of the Department of International Relations & Politics, Mick becomes Dean for a three-year term initially.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "I am confident that Mick will be a successful leader of the school and key member of the Senior Management Group and I am very much looking forward to working with him in the coming years."

An announcement will be made in due course about who will head the Department of International Relations & Politics now that Mick has taken up the post of Dean.

Professor Mary Stuart will be leaving Sussex at the end of January 2006 to take up the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Kingston University.

Mary came to Sussex in 1991 as a Lecturer in Continuing Education on a five-year contract to develop work in the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) on widening participation. She became Assistant Director of CCE in 1995 and was Acting Director of the Institute of Education in 2000-2001.

As a Pro-Vice-Chancellor since 2000, Mary has been responsible for the student experience, institutional audit, partnerships, the campus estate and – more recently – planning and resource allocation.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "I am grateful to Mary for the work she has done as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, leading important developments in academic policy, student welfare and widening participation, as well as the strong contribution she has made to the University within CCE. We wish her well with this next stage in her career."

The Vice-Chancellor will be announcing future senior management appointments later this term, following a review of the current senior management structure.

VC's open meetings with staff

In his two open meetings with staff last month, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alsaid Smith, spoke briefly about a number of key issues.

In the coming term he will be reviewing senior management and decision-making structures.

Senior managers are putting in place a more robust approach to corporate strategy and resource planning. The aim is to submit a new model for setting budgets to Council this term, then to develop school and unit plans in the spring and publish a fully developed corporate strategy and planning document by summer 2006.

On the framework agreement (a major re-shaping of the national pay system), good progress has been made in some areas, but changes in senior personnel have held up faster progress. The realistic target is now to have the new arrangements in place for summer 2006.

New and improved Library structure

The Library has made important changes designed to ensure improved services and communication both between staff and line managers, and the Library and its users.

A key feature of the re-organisation is a flatter staff structure, with four departmental heads reporting to the Librarian, Debby Shortley, (short left).

Dorothy Sheridan (top left) is now Head of Special Collections and Research Services.

Adrian Hale (top centre) is Head of Technical Services and Sally Faith (top right) is now Head of Library Administration.

Cath Morgan (bottom centre) is now Head of Information Services. This section is providing support by working with individual departments and ensuring that reading list processes are as streamlined as they can be.

For the full organisational structure, see www.sussex.ac.uk/library/aboutus/structure.pdf.

On the National Student Survey, Sussex's results overall are disappointing. There were some good results – in teaching scores, for example. However, in other areas other universities scored more strongly than Sussex. This term, focus-group work is proceeding with students to understand better the underlying issues and what Sussex could do to address them.

Planning for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) continues to be a major activity, with a full-scale mock RAE planned for the spring. The Vice-Chancellor recognised that there are anxieties and sensitivities about the exercise. However, getting the right submission strategies for Sussex overall is key – as the RAE is a major driver of future funding and reputation.

The Vice-Chancellor then took questions on these and a number of other issues. For a fuller version of this report, see www.sussex.ac.uk/staff.

Find out more about learning in a research culture

The theme of this year's Teaching and Learning Conference, which takes place on Wednesday 23 November, is 'Learning in a research culture'.

Each year the conference focuses on a different theme that is closely connected with the priorities set out in the institutional Teaching and Learning Strategy. In 2002 the theme was 'Teaching large groups', in 2003 it was 'Assessment', and in 2004 it was 'A blended approach to e-learning'.

There will be two keynote speakers – Professor Mick Healeay from the University of Gloucestershire, and Dr Keith Trigwell from the University of Cambridge. Both are distinguished scholars who have written extensively on the relationship between teaching and research.

As in previous years, staff from across the University will exhibit posters on educational projects that they are either undertaking or have completed. Sussex staff will lead eight workshops on different aspects of the conference theme.

The event takes place in the Conference Centre in Bramber House. For a full programme and details on how to register, see www.sussex.ac.uk/tdu/conference or contact Janne Roed on ext. 7761, email j.roed@sussex.ac.uk.
Map mission accomplished, but quake effort goes on

Eighteen-hour days and demanding deadlines were among the challenges faced by Sussex DPhil student Jonathan Douch in the race to save hundreds of thousands of lives in the aftermath of the Pakistan earthquake.

Jonathan, a volunteer mapper for UK-based charity MapAction, flew out to Pakistan last month to join a team at the UN temporary HQ in Islamabad. While there, he helped to create computerised maps that are being used by the many aid organisations to assess infrastructure damage and pinpoint suitable sites for helicopter pads and aid stations.

The worst-hit areas are scattered over mountain ranges that were subject to landslides, aftershocks and devastating destruction following the earthquake in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on 8 October.

MapAction acts as a rapid-response organisation, arriving soon after a disaster to create vital maps for aid agencies involved in rescue and aid operations, then moving out. The MapAction operation has now completed its work and has handed over to the UN’s Humanitarian Information Centre in Islamabad.

Jonathan returned to the UK on 23 October, exhausted after his week-long stint. He says: “We used Global Positioning System information and satellite images to produce maps for a lot of people – the UN, the Red Cross and Crescent, Oxfam, various medical charities, NATO and the Pakistan army. We analysed mountainous areas to find flat land for building on and landing helicopters – not easy in such mountainous areas. We also supplied visualisation maps so aid workers could orientate themselves, and daily updates to show where roads and bridges were open, and where the helipads were.”

Music Informatics students take the stage

An innovative series of 21st-century ensemble-core lunch-time concerts, organised by Music Informatics student Ian Taylor, opened last month at the Meeting House to an enthusiastic audience.

Ian’s own laptop jamming performance involved a blend of mashcore, breakcore and noisecore techniques, while Music Informatics student, Luke George (pictured) on guitar contributed electronic/industrial beats and sounds to accompany Chris Curzon’s exploration of dub/hip-hop beats and soundscapes.

The next session takes place on Thursday 17 November at 1.20pm in the Meeting House. The series forms part of the Music department’s regular lunch-time concerts, which take place every Thursday during term in the Meeting House, featuring student and professional artists. All are welcome.

A walk on the wild side

Our last column (Bulletin 7 October) suggested looking out for the last butterflies of autumn. The weather has been so mild that on dry days there were plenty.

David Harper
Life Sciences

David Streeter
Life Sciences

One surprise was two Peacock butterflies flying in brilliant sunshine just four days before Halloween’en. Stranger still, at the same instant, large flocks of Redwings, birds that are only winter visitors to Sussex, streamed overhead.

The University weather station recorded a maximum of 18.3 degrees Celsius at 3 o’clock that afternoon. While we find the information from the weather station invaluable, a local bird seems less convinced: it recently vandalised the wind-speed indicator!

Redwings resemble Song Thrushes, which are campus residents, but are darker in colour with ruddy ‘arm-pits’ and flanks rather than buff ones, and have a bold white stripe over each eye. When migrating by day Redwings fly just above the trees, but at night they pass invisibly higher up betrayed only by their drawn out “seet” calls. They are then easily confused with Song Thrushes, which give similar but softer ‘seep’ calls.

Last time we mentioned that one of the few British mammals to hibernate is the Hedgehog. This prompted a reader to ask if any live on campus. They do, but are scarce; sadly this may reflect predation by Badgers, which are adept at unrolling Hedgehogs. The mild weather should help a young Hedgehog found snuffling around the Sports Centre to become fat enough to hibernate successfully.

Another warming piece of news to go with the unseasonable weather is that we have a new academic species on campus in the form of an MSc in Biodiversity Survey. The creature has been evolving in Life Sciences over the last two years and can now be found inhabiting the top floor of the John Maynard Smith Building. The population consists of ten individuals, all of whom are frequently to be observed foraging in the remoter parts of campus for choice items of biodiversity.

One consequence of the new course is the initiation of a long-term practical project for a comprehensive survey of campus, so we are confident looking forward to a future of unlimited news items with which to entertain our readers! Already records of such disparate groups as ground beetles, woodlice and snails are beginning to accumulate. Watch this space!

A reader has commented on the luxuriant growth of ‘weeds’ that has come up on the disturbed ground around the landscaping surrounding the new Mantell car park.

One of the intriguing plants that appeared over the summer was Chick Pea, a sufficiently unusual occurrence as to prompt a pilgrimage to campus of one of the country’s leading authorities on alien plants. No doubt an escape from some East Slope culinary event, for such a determinedly Mediterranean plant to successfully flower in southern England is an interesting commentary on the summer’s weather.

Surprise: A Peacock butterfly flying in brilliant sunshine just four days before Halloween’en.
Academic events

MON 7 NOV
1pm Geography seminar: Michael Bull (Sussex), *ipod culture and the rhythm of the City*. Arts C175.

1pm IDS seminar: Colette Harris (IDS), Unpacking gender identities: A tool for development. IDS 220.

3pm International Relations seminar: Kathrin Maclean (Sussex), The philosophico, legal and political implications of the Buchanan. Arts C233.


5pm Education seminar: Sally Isler (The Learning Society). Widening participation in higher education in the UK. Arts E419.

TUE 8 NOV
1pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Simon Gordon (Oxford), Inflamatory immune responses from the macrophage. BSMS lecture theatre.

1pm IDS seminar: Fred Johnson (Nonago). Factors that contribute to making agricultural research effective in reducing poverty. IDS 221.

1pm Intellectual History seminar: Gabriella Silvestrini (Turin), Rousseaureau, natural rights, natural religions and the Protestant theory of natural law. Russell Building 12.

2pm SEI seminar: Alasdair Young (Glasgow), The EU & the Doha development round. EBIB 121.

WED 9 NOV
1pm Seminar: Alastair Goldman (Sheffield). DNA double strand break repair mechanisms. Genome Centre seminar room.

1pm IDS seminar: Ian Scoones and Stephen Devereux (IDS). New directions for agricultural research. IDS 221.

2pm Music seminar: Jenni Roditi (vocalist and composer). Fairma House 120.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Sebastian Rasilingi (Sussex). Quantitative and qualitative methods in linguistic research. Arts D440.


5pm Migration seminar: Lina Kothari (Manchester). Cosmopolitan narratives of migration. Arts C233.

THU 10 NOV


6.30pm Professorial lecture: Brian Short (Sussex). Landscapes of power on the Home Front, 1939-45 and beyond. BSMS lecture theatre.

FRI 11 NOV
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRE seminar: Ken Fern (Manchester Business School). Transitions to sustainability in food consumption and production systems. Freeman Centre G24/25.

MON 14 NOV
1pm Geography seminar: Jo Sage (Brighton & Hove City Council). A one-stop-shop for migration data, stats and mapping for Brighton and Hove. Arts C175.

3pm International Relations seminar: Duncan Wigan (Sussex). An international political economy of derivatives. Arts C233.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Stephanie Pouscell (Sussex). Naturalistic data collection in linguistic research. Arts D440.

4pm Psychology seminar: Felício Sneath (Aberdeen). What comes after the theory of planned behaviour and the theoretical model? Pevensie 1B3.

5pm Education seminar: James Levett (Sussex) & Sam Francis (Portway Junior School). Introducing a rights-based curriculum to a primary school. Arts E419.

TUE 15 NOV

4pm German-Jewish Studies seminar: Ken Robinson (Newcastle). The emigration of psychoanalysts to Britain, 1933-1939. Arts B127.

WED 16 NOV
1pm Genome Centre seminar: Sally Wheatley (Sussex). Surviving a multi-tasking little protein. Genome Centre seminar room.

2pm Sussex Language Institute workshop: Sandra Paii (Sussex). Is it possible to be a non-reflexive teacher? Language Learning Centre.

5pm Migration seminar: Bimal Ghosh (Colombian School of Public Administration). Managing migration: Whither the missing regime? Arts C233.

6.30pm Inaugural lecture: Helen Smith (BSMS). Trials in general practice: Providing evidence for the majority. BSMS lecture theatre.

THU 17 NOV
9.30am NHS/BSMS research symposium: Infection and inflammation. Audrey Emerton Building, Royal Sussex County Hospital.

1pm IDS Seminar: Tim Gowers (Texas). Public opinion, immigration, and race in Britain, France and Germany. EDB 121.

4pm Psychology seminar: Zoltan Dienes (Sussex). Do amnesties lead quickly and happy people slowly? Pevensie I 1B3.


6.30pm MCECHE lecture: Peter Childs (Sussex). Creative techniques. EngLab A53.

FRI 18 NOV
1pm IDS Seminar: Duncan Green (Oxam). Can the Doha round deliver for development? IDS 221.

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRE seminar: Simona Iannamario (Sussex). Multinational firms and obstacles to innovation in Italy. Freeman Centre G24/25.

SAT 19 NOV
9am Sussex Trust research project symposium. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Small ads

For sale: Samsung 26" flat-screen DVD TV. Just under 3 yrs old, cost £900. Built-in DVD player/video/cd/dvd/televeset + silver stand. £300. E: jafa@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Christmas holiday accommodation for 2 couples & toddler visiting relatives in UK. Rates negotiable. E: Patricia on hornr@telefonica.net.

Wanted: Balls of wool for Children’s Society knitathon. Send ASDA to Sandra Jenks in HR. No ball too small! Knitters also needed. E: S.Jenks@sussex.ac.uk for details.

To let: unfurnished 3/4 bed detached house in Kingston. Available mid Nov. £1,050 pcm. 3 reception, study, south-facing garden. Couples or families only (not groups) T: John Nixon on ext. 8536, E: j.nixon@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Double room in Hanover house & garden. Share with two female smokers. £300 pcm + £300 deposit. Available 10 Nov. Housing only, no students or GSS. T: On 07917 161593 or E: Shelley on 07888 717885.

To let: Newly refurbished, U/F 3 bed house in Upper Lewes Rd. £900 pcm + bills. T: Phil Collins on 07966 444988.

For sale: Laptop Intel Pentium III 1.6GHz, 256MB SDRAM, 8 x DVD, 20GB HDD, Win XP Pro, MS Office Pro, Network card, web cam, software, carry case. £350, T: Julia on ext. 8513 or E: hjarris@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 3 bed U/F house in Kemp Town. Suit n/l professionals. £995 pcm, T: 670879.


To let: Unfurnished 3/4 bed detached house in Kingston. Available mid Nov. £1,050 pcm. Couples or families only (not groups) T: John Nixon on ext. 8536 or E: j.nixon@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Brindle boxer puppies - 3 dogs, 3 bitches. KC reg., parents can be seen. T: 07084 216885 or E: alan.harris@tund.com.

If you need a good reason to join us in