University archive inspires BBC’s ‘Lost Decade’ season

The secret lives, loves and vices of post-war Britain came under the spotlight on television this week, inspired by real-life stories that form the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex.

The Archive was also the source for an even more revealing examination of the nation’s sexual habits and attitudes. Britain’s first sex survey, conducted by Mass-Observation for a Sunday newspaper, revealed a secret world of premarital sex, homosexual experience and infidelity shockingly at odds with the supposedly strict moral code of the day and deemed too explosive to publish.

‘Little Kinsey’ tells the story of the eponymous survey, so named because it followed in the wake of America’s own sex survey, the Kinsey Report. The candid responses of hundreds of men and women provide an eye-opening alternative vision of British sexual behaviour before the ‘permissive’ society.

‘Little Kinsey’ director Steve Humphries, who came across the survey while studying for a doctorate at Sussex, said: "The Mass-Observation Archive is a national treasure, providing a unique insight into the lives of ordinary British people."

Dorothy Sheridan, Head of Special Collections at Sussex, said: "Once again it’s a delight to see the Mass-Observation material reaching a wider audience."

Your chance to win a night in a luxury hotel

A new luxury hotel has been added to the University’s list of approved hotels and guest houses for visitors and, to celebrate, you have the chance to win a night’s stay in one of its sea-facing double rooms.

Drakes Hotel is the latest addition to the list of approved accommodation, which offers reduced rates for visitors to the University of Sussex, to friends visiting Brighton or even as a special treat for yourself.

Sussex staff inspect these hotels and guest houses regularly to ensure they are of a satisfactory standard to be included on the list. Every year the use of rooms is monitored, and rates are reduced the more staff make a booking at the ‘University of Sussex rate’.

And now you have the opportunity to test one of the hotels for yourself – without even paying for it! To be in with a chance, all you have to do is answer the following question: What is the special rate offered to University of Sussex staff and visitors to stay at Drakes Hotel?

To find the answer, have a look at the online list of approved hotels and guest houses: www.sussex.ac.uk/about/hotels. (Here’s a clue: click on the list of top range hotels.)

Send your answer, together with your name and contact details, to Caroline Lehany in Sussex House, Email c.lehany@sussex.ac.uk. The closing date is Friday 18 November.

The prize must be used before March 2006, and is available from Sunday to Thursday only. It is for two people staying on a bed-and-breakfast basis, and is subject to availability. The lucky winner will be announced in a future issue of the Bulletin.

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News in brief ↓

Give blood, give up
A mobile blood-donation unit will be in the Boiler House car park on Monday (10 October) from 10am—12.30pm and 2—6pm. Call ext. 8345 to make an appointment to give blood. Alternatively, give up: free drop-in sessions for smokers who want to stop take place at the Sport Centre on Wednesdays from 12 October—30 December, from 3—4pm. For more information, email c.l.smee@sussex.ac.uk.

Opening of session service
A service to mark the start of the academic year will take place on Wednesday (12 October) at 12.30pm in the Meeting House Chapel, followed by a buffet lunch in the Quiet Room.

VC's open meetings with staff
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, will be holding two open meetings with staff this term. They are on Tuesday 25 October at 11am, in the Chichester Lecture Theatre; and on Wednesday 26 October at 9.30am, in the BSMS Lecture Theatre.

VC ends term as chair of 1994 Group
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has come to the end of his term as chair of the 1994 group of universities. He is replaced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia (UEA), Professor David Eastwood. The 1994 Group, so called because it was founded in 1994, consists of 16 universities in Britain that share common aims, standards and values.

New head of department
Dr John Armstrong has taken over from Dr Michael Titheridge as head of the Biochemistry department.

IDS bar and restaurant now open
The newly refurbished bar and restaurant in IDS is now open. freshly prepared hot and cold foods are available from 8am to 2pm; teas and cakes are on sale from 3—5pm. The new bar is open from 12noon to 2.30pm and 5—10.30pm.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/PressOffice/Bulletin

Former VC launches the Sussex Lectures season
Science and technology can help to reduce hunger and disease in the developing world. But there are inevitably limits to what they can change alone. The critical challenge, according to the chief scientific advisor to the government's Department for International Development (DFID), lies in the interface between the social and natural sciences.

Professor Sir Gordon Conway, a former Vice-Chancellor of Sussex, was speaking this week at the annual Marie Jahoda Memorial Lecture. After leaving Sussex in 1998, he spent seven years as president of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York before taking up the DFID post in January of this year.

Sir Gordon's talk launched this term's season of Sussex Lectures. As part of the same season, another former member of faculty will be returning to campus. Professor Mark Mazower, former Reader in History, will be giving this year's Martin Wight Memorial Lecture on 24 November.

The next date for your diary is Tuesday 18 October, when Professor Richard Black will speak on 'Migration, refugees and public policy'. Richard is one of three professors lecturing this term; the others are fellow geographer Professor Brian Short (on 8 November) and Professor Lindsay Smith from the English department (on 29 November).

Health is the focus of two lectures. On 2 November Sir Crispin Tickell will be talking about the impacts on human health of global change, and on 16 November Professor Helen Smith will reflect on her work developing a research culture in general practice.

Last but not least, Professor Pippa Skotnes will be coming all the way from South Africa to deliver the British Academy lecture on 27 October.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Sussex Lectures and they are all free of charge. For details, email events@sussex.ac.uk, call ext. 8258 or see www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

Why government must give power to the people
The UK government's plans to encourage millions of households to generate their own electricity now need to be backed up with effective policies, say energy experts.

New research by academics from three universities — including Sussex — shows that consumers wishing to do so face a bewildering array of hurdles. In their advice to government, the team argues that household power generation — known as micro-generation — will be attractive only if the cost to consumers is reduced significantly.

The team's advice is a response to the government's consultation on its Microgeneration Strategy, which was launched in June 2005.

Micro-generation involves the use of technologies such as solar panels, rooftop wind turbines and micro-CHP (central-heating boilers that also generate electricity). Its expansion has been part of government policy to tackle climate change for more than two years, but specific measures to make this happen have been slow to materialise.

The research team from the Sussex Energy Group, the University of Southampton and Imperial College are halfway through a two-year project funded by the Sustainable Technologies Programme of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project, 'Unlocking the Power House', is examining the economics of micro-generation and barriers to implementation.

Dr Jim Watson of the Sussex Energy Group, and leader of the research team, says: "These technologies hold great promise, but they are fighting on an uneven playing field. Our research shows that some basic changes in regulations could make a significant difference. People should be given the sort of help that energy companies receive through tax breaks when they invest in new power stations."

He adds: "Micro-generation offers not just a new way of meeting our energy needs, but an opportunity for people to learn more about their energy choices. If government is as committed to micro-generation as it says it is, it needs to put its full weight behind making it happen."
BB’s Eugene hits the decks on campus return

Eugene Sully, the surprise star of this summer’s ‘Big Brother’ show on Channel 4, came back to his alma mater last Wednesday (28 September) for the Fresher’s Festival. A former programme controller of University Radio Falmer (URF), he came along to lend a hand on the URF stall.

In the packed Falmer House quad, Eugene was the centre of attention. “Lots of students have been coming up to me wanting photos,” he said, obviously enjoying his moment in the spotlight. “I feel a bit guilty though,” he confided. “What I should be doing is making people join URF. I’ll try and work out a mechanism when I get back to the stall to get people to join.”

Was it ‘Big Brother’ or URF that had the more important effect on his life? “I’d say URF was more of an influence than ‘Big Brother’. I wouldn’t have got into radio without it and I don’t think my life would be where it is – I’d probably be working somewhere really dull.” Eugene’s last role was in the BBC’s radio research department after several years in front of and behind the mic at various stations all over the UK.

Looking around at all the fresher’s activities taking place, Eugene confided that it seemed “a lot more organised these days” and he gave his thumbs-up to the refurbishment of Falmer House, saying the whole place seemed “a little more on the pulse”.

Although he graduated in Electronic Engineering several years ago, Eugene has been back on campus several times for high-profile engineering lectures. And he can still wax lyrical about his old tutors: “Phil Neller was the personality of engineering,” says Eugene. “And Trevor Beeforth, he was really cool. And I still use his phrase Analogue electronics is hard, digital electronics is easy.”

And how has he found his new-found celebrity status? “I want to milk it for all it’s worth,” he said. “I’d like to try TV, doing science experiments or trying out gadgets. But I’m not sure I’m talented enough!” he laughed. But if that fails through, he revealed he may even return to education to do a Masters in engineering.

And with that, Eugene sped off to the URF stall for his DJing stint. (“None of that mixing rubbish though. I’m the old school – good old Terry Wogan stuff.”) And he’d now found a mechanism to combine his celebrity and the promotion of URF. He’d only sign autographs on the back of URF flyers.

Student societies swing into action at fresher’s fest

Cheerleading and an innovative artistic group were just two of the more unusual societies that students could join at this year’s Fresher’s Festival.

If anyone had forgotten that term was about to begin, the Freshers’ Festival last Wednesday (29 September) was a loud and busy reminder. Hundreds of stalls, stereos and the odd yacht spilled out over the pathways and lawns around Falmer House. Other notable groups included a creative writing society, a pro-life group and an art exhibition society.

Edward Griffith-Jones, an MPhil student in the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), has set up Brighton Remix – a group dedicated to the sharing and re-use of artistic material without fear of burdensome copyright restrictions. Students are being encouraged to upload their music, writings or artwork to the site in the hope that the more the work is shared, the more popular it will become.

Elsewhere at the festival a table covered in poms poms revealed that students can now join a cheerleading society. Lucy Bartlett, studying English Literature, and Hayley Churchyard, on the Media Practice and Theory course, are part of the team that cheerlead regularly at matches of the Brighton Tsunami, Brighton and Sussex universities’ joint American football team.

But doesn’t it get cold out there cheerleading all through the winter months? “It does get very cold,” admits Lucy. “We wear two pairs of tights and body warmers to keep warm. It has been known for our hands to turn purple.”

Hayley says that, although cheerleading is seen as quite tacky by some, it’s actually a great activity to do: “I’ve made loads of friends and there is a real camaraderie and team spirit. And the footballers see us as not just as cheerleaders but members of the team and friends.”

And do cheerleaders and footballers ever become more than just friends? Hayley looks sheepish: “It does happen from time-to-time. A number of pairings have happened.” Lucy chips in to reveal the truth: “Hayley should know. Her boyfriend’s one of the players!”

Knowing the signs can save a life

Most new students will, by now, have been vaccinated against the C strain of meningitis – if not, contact the Health Centre.

The vaccine does not protect against the B strain for meningococcal meningitis, so it is important to be vigilant about the symptoms.

The biggest problem is that most of the early symptoms are mild and similar to those you get with flu or even a hangover – for example:

- vomiting
- pain in the back or joints
- a headache, and
- a stiff neck.

And make sure you get urgent medical help if any of the following symptoms develop: severe dislike of bright light, disorientation, or a bruise-like rash that doesn’t fade under pressure.

See www.meningitis-trust.org.uk for more information, or telephone the Meningitis Trust 24-hour helpline on 0845 6000 800.
On the starting grid for a career in motorsport journalism

A new Sussex graduate and former badger writer has gained a boost to his hopes for a career as a motorsport journalist after winning a European competition.

Mike Channell was a final-year undergraduate in English Language when he entered the e-reporter competition, organised by tyre manufacturer Bridgestone. He and six other young students – from Belgium, Finland, France, Poland and the UK – were shortlisted and each was dispatched to report from a different Grand Prix meeting.

Mike went to Monza in September for the Italian Grand Prix. He hung out in the paddock, chatted to racing drivers, saw the international media at work – and then reported on the experience for Bridgestone’s website.

“Monza was the most fantastic introduction to the world of F1 and truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he says. “To stand there chatting to my heroes, people who I’ve grown up watching, and then to see them driving at mind-bending speeds, all in the beautiful Italian sun, was something very special. This really has been an unbelievable insight for someone who has only ever seen these cars race on television.”

Each of the finalists’ race reports and other stories were judged not just on writing ability, but also background research, appreciation for the target audience, eye for a good story, enthusiasm for the sport, and creativity. Mike clearly put to good use the skills he had honed writing for the badger (the Sussex student newspaper).

As overall winner, Mike gets a state-of-the-art laptop and a trip to Japan this month for the Tokyo Motor Show.

And perhaps more importantly for a recent graduate, he’s gained a useful foothold in the world of F1, possibly leading to a career as a motorsport journalist. “Having had a taste at Monza of what it’s like, I think it would be a really cool job. It’s something I’m certainly aiming for.”

CDEC’s career events programme
Enhancing employability at Sussex

Are you a member of the teaching staff or do you have direct contact with students in another role?

If so, the Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC) needs your help to tell students about more than 50 careers workshops, employer talks and fairs that are taking place this term. Attendance can enhance Sussex students’ employability and may ultimately result in improving the University’s position in all those league tables!

According to the Association of Graduate Recruiters, fewer than 40% of finalists apply for jobs in their final year and 1.7% of employers had vacancies that were not filled in 2005. Leaving choices and options until after graduation results in missed opportunities for many undergraduate and postgraduate students. CDEC invites all final-year undergraduates to ‘Finalists’ Focus’, a 30-minute up-beat seminar on 18 October for the Hums, SocSci and SI, and on 20 October for SciTec and LifeSci. Career-planning workshops for taught postgraduates are on offer, too.

There are three recruitment fairs this autumn:

- At Jobsday on 19 October, a range of employers will be offering part-time, vacation and work experience.
- More than 35 organisations who are interested in employing Sussex finalists and postgraduates are booked for Gradfair on 2 November. This year the focus is on diversity and graduate employment. The BBC, Civil Service and other organisations offering opportunities for students/graduates with disabilities will provide a series of talks.
- Lawfair on 2 November offers a chance for students to meet a wide range of legal employers and course providers. Non-lawyers considering converting to law are especially welcome.

Talks by individual employers range from international advertising agency Ogilvy to business careers with PwC to WaterhouseCoopers and a presentation by American Express about getting a place on the funded Technologies Masters Programme at Sussex.

Students can also hear about Overseas Development Institute Fellowships, careers in government social research, the not-for-profit sector, journalism and teaching. A special focus in Enterprise Week is a workshop for budding entrepreneurs on ‘Working for Yourself’. For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/cdec/events.
Pioneering Arts/Science scheme bows out

After more than four decades of giving science students an understanding of the arts, the University's innovative Arts/Science scheme has come to an end. With the scheme goes Janet France, who co-ordinated much of the Arts/Science programme and taught on some of the courses. She has decided to take early retirement.

The Arts/Science scheme is as old as the University itself and was one of the key planks of Sussex's interdisciplinary programme. In the 1986 book The Sussex Opportunity, Michael Kenward, a physics student in the sixties, describes the scheme. "Every undergraduate had to cross the dividing line to see something of how the other side lived. There were lectures: Asa Briggs on history for Science undergraduates, John Maynard Smith on Biology for Arts students, not to mention physicists."

Science students enjoyed a wealth of arts options they could take, usually during their second year, from learning a language to courses such as 'Do scientists have responsibilities?', 'Music and culture' and 'Man, myth and magic'.

But, even in the sixties, cracks were beginning to show in the scheme: "Some members of faculty clearly had little time for the Scheme [sic]," writes Michael. "The Arts faculty, usually reckoned to be more interested in events beyond the end of their noses, showed less interest than the scientists in the scheme."

And sure enough, it was the arts schools that first dropped the scheme. But the sciences stayed true until recent factors led to the scheme becoming gradually obsolete.

"The Arts/Science scheme only worked because it was a required part of the syllabus for every student," explains Dr Liz Somerville, formerly co-ordinator of Arts/Science. "In 2003 this stopped and people began to say, 'Look, these courses are awkward to award credits to, students don't want to do it and we want to teach our students more science.' After that the scheme began to erode."

The financial climate and the Science Curriculum Review (SCR) all had their effects, especially as it had become increasingly difficult to fund a scheme that didn't sit well in any one department or school.

Dr Peter Fearon, a Research Fellow in Chemistry and former Sussex student, is sad to see the scheme go. "I did a journalism course on arts science which was interesting and proved useful with outside work. The demise of the scheme reflects current short sightedness and is a backward step."

Dr Helen Prance, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Science and Technology and part of the SCR, understands Peter's feelings but hopes that the new curriculum will allow room for some of the courses to be picked up.

"The principle of a broader curriculum remains, but the mechanism of how we deliver it is still being worked out," says Helen. "It is already very encouraging to see some of the courses which originated within the Arts/Science programme enjoying a new life, such as some of the options run by the Biology and Environmental Science department."

Helen draws attention to the new Engineering and Society degree, up to a quarter of which may be provided by non-science departments and academic areas such as Development Studies.

And, in a blast from the past, Physics has introduced two science courses especially for arts students. Called 'Our place in the Cosmos' and 'From Quarks to the Cosmos' the courses require no prior knowledge of physics. "They hope these will really take off," says Helen.

The University's first foundation degree gets underway this term, with an initial intake of almost 40 students studying at three centres across the county.

Foundation degrees are vocational qualifications designed and supported by employers to make sure that their needs are met. Core features include flexible entry requirements; a strong emphasis on practical, work-based learning and skills; and guaranteed progression to a full honours degree and/or further professional qualifications.

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) has led the way at Sussex with its foundation degree in Community Development.

The three-year programme includes courses on social exclusion, the characteristics of organisations, the voluntary sector, working with people, and international perspectives.

Linda Morrice, who convenes the new degree, explains how it will benefit local communities: "The active engagement of local people is seen as a key success factor in bringing about change and civic renewal. In this context it is really important to have people working on the ground who have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to involve and empower local people."

The foundation degree has been developed in collaboration with the University of Brighton and a range of practitioners and employers in the community and voluntary sector. It is funded by the European Social Fund, the Learning and Skills Council (Sussex) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).
Art history professor recognised for contribution to photography

After three decades of curating the works of some of the world's most famous photographers, a Sussex art historian has been recognised for his own contribution to the art form.

Professor David Alan Mellor received the Royal Photographic Society's J. Dudley Johnston Award at a special ceremony yesterday (6 October) at the Royal Institution, where he was joined by other photography luminaries such as David Bailey and Martin Parr.

David shares the prize with Ian Jeffrey, a former Sussex academic and currently history of art lecturer at Goldsmith's College, who worked with him in curating many of the exhibitions.

David says: "I believe this is a sort of 'lifetime achievement award' for helping to legitimise photography as an art form. When Ian and I first curated an exhibition of photographs at the Hayward Gallery in 1975, we had a huge space to fill and we were able to offer a new way of thinking about where photography fitted in the history of art."

In later exhibitions, such as Cityscape at the Royal Academy in 1977, they broke from tradition by displaying photography alongside sculpture and painting. David remembers: "Until then, people had always segregated media so that sculpture never said anything about painting, and photography never said anything about sculpture. We helped to change that agenda."

David's research focuses on aspects of 20th-century art, photography and film. He is interested in ways in which visual culture is related to broader cultural histories and questions of modernisation, particularly in Britain.

PVC Rose Luckin to leave Sussex

From January 2006 Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Rose Luckin will be taking up a new post as Professor of Digital Technologies and Learning in the London Knowledge Lab at the Institute of Education in London. She will be maintaining her links with the University through the Human-Centred Technology research group at Sussex.

During this term, her main roles as Pro-Vice-Chancellor will be chairing the Administrative Processes Working Group; acting as the academic lead for Human Resources, including the framework agreement; and continuing to drive the teaching and learning agenda, in particular, the science curriculum review and the e-learning strategy.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "I am grateful to Rose for the work she has done as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, leading important developments such as the new science curriculum and e-learning strategy and contributing to work on the savings review, as well as the strong contribution she has made to the University within SciTech and Informatics."

“We wish her well for this exciting new appointment, and look forward to continued collaboration with her work in the new London Knowledge Lab.”

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

Pay offer agreed by unions

Following consultation with their members, all seven of the trade unions in higher education have accepted the employers' offer of a 3% increase in pay rates for 2005-06 (with a little extra for the lowest paid).

Sussex staff will receive the pay increase (back-dated to 1 August) in their pay packet for October. The revised pay scales are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/salary.

This settlement relates to existing pay arrangements and is not part of the development of the new framework agreement, which is due to be implemented next year.

Any increments due to staff will also take effect as normal in October and will be reflected in October salaries.

FIRST CLASS

On 1 October Sussex graduate Professor Julian Crampton took up his post as the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton. Professor Crampton, who replaces Professor Sir David Watson, completed a BSc in Biology at Sussex in 1975.

Dr Richard Folley is in Pensacola, Florida today (7 October) to receive the fourth annual Best Book Award from the Gulf South Historical Association for The Sugar Masters: Planters and slaves in Louisiana's cane war, 1920-1860.
And it's goodbye from them

Before a new academic year can begin, the old one has to come to an end. And the turning point is marked by the departure of a not-insignificant number of long-serving staff.

Some of these staff members have clocked up 20, 30 or even 40 years at Sussex, which means they take with them a clutch of campus memories.

Julian Pompfrey from Residential Services will always remember his first day in June 1981, “because the students occupied Sussex House and we spent all day in the Hikers Rest pub in Coedean”.

His colleague Mary Ticehurst, meanwhile, recalls coming in on a St Valentine’s morning to find a kitchen in the York House residence painted from ceiling to floor in red. The students “thought it would be romantic”, she says.

Linda Newman also got a shock when she worked in the Library (before moving over to Estates as Transport Manager). In 2000 she experienced a sight of “total devastation” at the Lewes book store in the aftermath of the town’s flood. “Two days before it had been a librarian’s dream – 3,000 books shelved in perfect order – and now I was looking at sodden, mud- and sewage-covered chaos. I will never forget the sight and smell of wet, muddy and mouldy books for as long as I live.”

Other memories, though, are more positive. "Graduation ceremonies have always been special to me,” says Valerie Short, who has helped at practically every ceremony since 1973. “They are happy, proud and moving occasions and signify what Sussex is all about.”

Graduation ceremonies are, of course, a chance to say goodbye and good luck to students as they finish their studies at Sussex. In recent weeks there have been a number of ceremonies across campus to say farewell and thank you to the staff who are moving on.

Even though space permits us only to publish a roll-call of those with service of 20 years or more (and even then with apologies for any unintentional omissions), the Bulletin sends good wishes to all staff who are leaving.

Catering
Phil Booker, Catering Manager, 22 years

Childcare
Janet Healey, Creche Supervisor, 25 years

Estates
John Goldsmith, Intermediate Fitter, 26 years
Linda Newman, Transport Manager, 28 years
William Shoesmith, Supervisor Cleaner (JMS Building), 22 years

Health & Safety
John Wellings, Safety and Radiation Protection Technician, 38 years

Residential Services
Julian Pompfrey, Deputy Residential Services Manager, 24 years
Mary Ticehurst, Buildings Manager (Park House), 25 years

Library
William Alexander, Support Services Manager, 30 years
Dhenead Mitchell, Subject Support Librarian, 31 years
Pat Ringshaw, Secretary to Librarian, 36 years
Clare Whiston, Subject Support Librarian, 27 years

Humanities
Dr Charles Conti, Lecturer in Philosophy, 31 years
Andrew Crozier, Professor of English, 32 years
Valerie Short, Student Services Co-Ordinator, 32 years
Ken Whittington, Media Production Tutor, 37 years

Life Sciences
Dr Chris Ford, Senior Lecturer in Developmental Biology, 31 years
Mike Land, Professor of Neurobiology, 34 years
Andrew Smith, Technician, 34 years

Science and Technology
Terry Clark, Professor of Physical Electronics, 29 years
Colin Mills, Building Superintendent, 41 years
Chris Rourke, Laboratory Manager (Informatics), 31 years

SPRU
Ronald Bell, Senior Fellow, 23 years

• Janet Healey and Rosie Jones have left Sussex after many years as supervisors of the Creche and Nursery respectively. Janet’s deputy in the Creche, Linda Parkin, has also left. This has created the opportunity to restructure the management of childcare services on campus. Penny Peters started work last month as Childcare Manager, with responsibility for both the Creche and Nursery.

A walk on the wild side

Welcome to the new academic year, and to our occasional musings about the natural history of campus. Please send us any sightings or questions; our email is david@sussex.ac.uk.

Autumn is here, and the trees on campus are becoming a blaze of colour. As the food shortages of winter loom, Badgers forage throughout the lengthening nights to build up their fat reserves. They will not hibernate; the only native British mammals to do so are Hedgehogs, all bats and Common Dormice.

On warmer days, look out for the last butterflies to be active this year. The most likely species in October are Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Red Admiral and Painted Lady. The first four are the only British butterflies to hibernate routinely as adults; most species winter as eggs, larvae or pupae. Red Admirals and Painted Ladies are the oddities, rarely surviving a British winter. Their numbers here each year depend almost entirely on immigration in spring.

Autumn is also berry time and the shurbbery and woodland edges are heavy with the colourful harvest. One group of botanical specialists surprisingly needs the berries to name their favourite flowers. These are the ‘rhodologists’: experts on roses.

We have about a dozen species of wild rose in Britain but they all have more or less similarly coloured pink flowers. The crucial distinction lies in the hips, variously known in different parts of the country as choops, dog-berries, hedges-berries or paw pears. Our campus rose is the common Dog Rose, the hips of which lose their sepals as they ripen and are quite smooth and hairless.

Another berry attracting attention at the moment and prominent in the shurbbery opposite Bramber House is that of the Snowberry, so called because unusually the berries are pure white. Although often found in hedgerows and woodland around villages, it is not a native but was introduced into cultivation from North America in 1817 and widely planted as game cover.

Easily one of the most striking flowers still adorning our hedges is the Hedge Bindweed, rarely accorded a second glance on account of its evil reputation among gardeners. Hedge Bindweed, or Hedge Bells, is a true native but a closer inspection of the campus bindweeds reveals that ours is the Large Bindweed, hailing from the Mediterranean and southwest Asia and rashly brought into cultivation in the middle of the 19th century.

Our last column (see Bulletin 9 September) reported the discovery by one David of a Scarlet Pimpernel with lilac flowers rather than red. The other David wrote that this was the "lilac-flowered subspecies, Blue Pimpernel". Nonsense: unsurprisingly, the Blue Pimpernel has vivid blue flowers! It is extremely rare in Britain and differs from Scarlet Pimpernel in several morphological details as well as flower colour. Hybrids between Blue and Scarlet Pimpemels are usually sterile, suggesting that the two forms are virtually different species.
Academic events

**MON 10 OCT**
1pm Geography seminar: Neil Ross (Cardiff), The internal structure and origins of pinops in Wales and Swabland. Implications for Late Pleistocene permafrost, Arts C175.

**2pm International Relations seminar:** Daniel Steuer (Sussex), Wittgenstein and politics. Arts C233.

**TUE 11 OCT**
11am COGS lecture: Margaret Boden (Sussex) Man as machine: Origins of the idea. JMS lecture theatre.

**4pm German-Jewish Studies seminar:** Saimira Teuteberg & Andrea Hammet (Sussex) ISOKON design and the BARGE Project: An example of archival research. Arts B127.

**4pm COGS seminar:** Maggie Boden (Sussex), War, AI and cognitive science. Pev IA.

**WED 12 OCT**
1pm Seminar: Stephen Taylor (Manchester), The spindle checkpoint: A quality control mechanism which maintains chromosome stability. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

**2pm Experimental Particle Physics seminar:** Cristina Lazzeroni (Cambridge), Latest results from NA48. Pev IA.

**5pm Migration seminar:** Robin Cohen (Warwick), Border control after 9/11 and 7/7: Ethical and practical debates. Arts C233.

**THU 13 OCT**
6pm Royal Statistical Society seminar: Paul Aylin (Imperial), Monitoring healthcare performance. 504 Watts Building, University of Brighton, Lewes Rd, Moulsecoom.

**FRI 14 OCT**

**2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM Freeman Centre seminar:** Andrew Barry (Goldsmiths), Society must be represented! Corporate social responsibility and its critics. Freeman Centre G24/25.

**4.30pm Philosophy Society:** Michael Morris (Sussex), Descartes in the world. Arts C233.

**MON 17 OCT**
1pm Geography seminar: Alan Lester (Sussex) & David Lambert (Royal Holloway), William Shae-w-bury and the captive audience in the Caribbean and the Cape Colony. Arts C175.

**2pm International Relations seminar:** David Taylor (Sussex), The political technology of information technology. Arts C233.

**WED 19 OCT**
1pm Seminar: Furiko Esashi (Cancer Research UK), BRCA2: A molecular switch for recombinational repair. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

**FRI 21 OCT**

Small ads

**To let:** Unfurnished 1-bed flat, central location. New kitchen. Available mid Oct. Suit staff/PG. £600pcm. T. Alex on 07790 8929352.

**To let:** Unfurnished room in Patcham house. Share with 3 professionals (mid 20s) & 2 dogs. Suit PG/staff. £300 pcm include. T. 5039068.

**To let:** Single room in Hanover house. Available for female. £300 pcm incl. E.potraje@suus.ac.uk or T.818686.

**To let:** En-suite double room in St Anne's Crescent, Lewes. Share kitchen, W/M. Animal lover pref. £65 p/w + share Council Tax. T. 479654.

**For sale:** Renault Clio 3-dr hatchback. N reg. (06), 9 mtrs MoT, FSH. £995 ono. E.am.biar@suus.ac.uk.

**For sale:** Vauxhall Corsa 3-dr 1.2 i SX, 53-reg, 2003. 12,500 miles. Tax 02/06. 54s, ABS, electric windows, CD. £5,750 ono. T.07899 927776, E.bazar60@btinternet.com.

**Wanted:** Volunteers to make up questionnaire packs for huge Cancer Research UK study of psychosocial ovarian cancer screening. We offer refreshments & pleasant surroundings. T. Claire on ext 3017.

**Arts events**

**PERFORMANCE**

**Tue 11 & Wed 12 Oct 8pm Zero Visibility Corp. - It's Only a Rehearsal**
A sexy, athletic pas de deux for our time, from one of Norway's leading dance companies. Some nudity. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

**Tue 18 & Wed 19 Oct 8pm Derevo - Islands in the Stream**
Stunning visuals, fragmented dreams and shimmering waves collide as the sea tells its stories, accompanied by a hypnotic sound track. Presented by a physical theatre company from St Petersburg, GAC.

**FILM**

**Sun 9 Oct**
2pm Kicking and Screaming (PG). GAC.

**5pm The League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse (GAC).**

**8pm Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith (12A).**

**Thu 13 Oct**
8pm Summer Storm (15). GAC.

**Sat 15 Oct**
7pm Batman Begins (12A). GAC.

**Sun 16 Oct**
2pm The Spongebob Squarepants Movie (U). GAC.

**5pm Guerrilla: The Taking of Pettit Hearst (12A). GAC.**

**8pm Mooladé (15).** GAC.

**EXHIBITIONS**

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

Three key archives of 1970s photography: Euan Duff's pioneering work in five parts. How We Are (drawn from the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex); Peter Mitchell's early colour documentary in Yorkshire, The New

**Reputation of the Viking IV Space Mission; and The Other Britain, comprising photographs taken for New Society magazine, including work by Martin Parr, Ian Berry and Homer Sykes, GAC.**

**Buff Duff:** An example of Euan Duff's work.