We want your vote, say Sussex students

Two Sussex students are among the first young people in the UK aged under 21 to stand for election as local councillors.

Lisa Buckingham, 19, is contesting the Stanford ward in Hove as a Labour candidate while Ariane Poulain, 20, is up in Queen's Park, Brighton on behalf of the Conservatives.

They are able to take part in next month's elections because of changes in the law that have reduced the minimum age to stand as an electoral candidate from 21 to 18.

The two Politics undergraduates are bucking the trend of young people not being interested in mainstream politics. Both are keen on encouraging young people, including students, to use their votes in the elections on 3 May.

Ariane said: "I wanted to stand because so few women are involved with politics, especially young women.

"Many people I speak to complain about the cost of transport in the city and other matters relating to students. When I ask them do they vote, many say 'no' and that's where the problem lies."

Lisa has become involved in the Labour party through her Politics degree. She has become an intern for Hove MP Celia Barlow and works in the constituency office.

While working at the MP's office Lisa has become involved with the election process locally; she was approached one day to stand in Stanford.

She said: "I thought it would be fun and interesting to take part and I would learn a lot about the election process. My parents and friends are backing me, although I think it might have surprised them a little."

"Whenever I tell people what I'm doing, I think they wonder why someone my age would take part in local government, but I find it incredibly interesting."

Both women are proud to be standing in the local elections and, although they are on opposing parties, they hold one thing in common.

Lisa said: "Everyone should make use of their vote. People in other countries aren't as lucky as us - we have a chance to make a difference."

Ariane agreed: "The history of women getting the vote and the fact that everyone in this country from 18 onwards can have a say is incredible. It's a huge waste if you don't vote - you don't have to vote for us, just use it."

Sussex celebrates International Study Centre success

Following the successful launch of the first International Study Centre (ISC) on campus in October 2006, Sussex held a conference this week for the four research-intensive British universities that have now created campus-based ISCs, working with external partner Study Group.

Stuff from the universities of Sussex, Lancaster, Surrey and Stirling and from Study Group itself came together to share experiences and ideas about how the newly created ISCs can develop in the future and what opportunities for collaborative working lie ahead.

As the first lead partner in working with Study Group, Sussex was hosting the conference and celebrating the highly successful joint initiative that went from initial discussions in February 2005 to welcoming its first students to the ISC on campus just 18 months later, with 75 now studying at the Centre. The three other ISCs will admit their first students this autumn.

Opening the conference, the managing director of Study Group, Arvid Petersen, made clear the importance of the partnership developments for the company as it looks to the future. Study Group has 1,500 staff working in the UK and across Europe, Asia, America, Australia and worldwide.

Professor Joanne Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), praised the work of colleagues at Sussex and at Study Group in creating the new ISC and in pioneering this new form of partnership.

As well as presentations by academic and professional services staff, the conference heard from Sourouch Ahmad, an Iranian student at Sussex, who spoke with passion about the positive way in which the Centre has supported its students and is preparing them for their future undergraduate study at the University.

Professor John Dearlove, who has provided the academic leadership from Sussex for the initiative, told the conference: "This exciting joint venture provides important ideas for how the University can grow and develop in the years to come."

Almost 200 students are already under offer for places at the four Centres, ahead of the peak application period, and staff are confident that the target of 100 admissions at Sussex in the autumn will be exceeded.
How male owls pitch their wits to show who’s who

A male owl’s hoot may not be all it seems to rivals when it comes to defending valuable territory, new research has revealed.

A study carried out by animal communication scientists Dr Loïc Hardouin and Dr David Reby from the Psychology department with academic colleagues in France demonstrated that the pitch of the vocalisation in male owls reflects their body weight: the heavier the male, the lower the pitch of his hoots.

They observed that the territorial owls responded more readily to rivals’ calls that were higher in pitch, suggesting that male owls relate body weight to pitch of call in others. It was also discovered that male owls defending territory against rivals perceived as bigger will pitch their hoots slightly lower to mimic the sound of a heavier bird to discourage potentially dangerous challenges.

The findings, published in this month’s issue of American Naturalist, are the result of studies of the vocal communication of male European scops owls, one of the smallest living species of nocturnal birds of prey.

The study was conducted between June 2003 and June 2005 on the isle of Oleron, off the west coast of France, where co-authors Christian Bavoux and Guy Burmeleau have been studying the local scops owl population since 1981.

Several hundred hoots were recorded from 17 territorial males to see whether this information is actually used by male owls during territorial interactions. To do this, the authors conducted a series of playback experiments (commonly used in studies of animal communication to assess the function of vocal signals), monitoring the reaction of subjects to the broadcast of vocalisations.

They modified the pitch of several hoots, mimicking the hoots given by males from a range of body weights. They then played back these recordings to males with established territories, and observed and quantified their response (a combination of approaches and vocal responses).

Loïc, who recently completed a PhD on acoustic communication and territoriality in owls, says: “The fact that owls are essentially active during the night puts a strong emphasis on acoustic communication as a means of assessment, both during male competition and during mate choice. The next step is to see whether females use these quality cues when they choose their mating partner.”

David, who is an expert in the study of mammal vocal communication, says: “The vocal communication of owls has interesting similarities to that of terrestrial mammals, where the information is typically encoded in acoustic components of the calls rather than in the diversity of the vocal repertoire, as it is in songbirds.”

Of mites, muck and the rise and fall of the Inca

A Sussex geographer and his fellow scientists have discovered a way to better explore the rise and fall of ancient empires such as the Inca – thanks to a tiny mite found preserved in the mud at the bottom of a sacred Peruvian lake.

Research by a team including Sussex palaeo-ecologist Dr Michael Froglly and academic colleagues from Montpellier and Chicago has identified a system of counting the number of fossilised mites found associated with animal excrement.

The system could prove a valuable tool for archaeologists, epidemiologists, geologists, historians, geographers – and even global climate analysts looking at climatically sensitive areas of the world.

The mite remains (left) were found in unusually high numbers in mud samples taken from the sacred lake of Maracaucha, near Cuzco in highland Peru. The site was chosen because it sits at the centre of the ancient Inca empire and its transport network, which used lengthy caravans of llamas to ferry about the State’s growing wealth – hence the rich source of hundreds of years’ worth of animal droppings, on which the mites were able to feed.

Fluctuations in the numbers of fossil mites found in the lake muds are thought to correlate with the increases in the numbers of llamas present on the important trans-Andean trading routes that passed through Maracaucha while the Inca thrived – and with the plummeting numbers of native animals and people following the arrival of the Spanish.

Mite numbers were shown to recover again during the late 16th and early 17th centuries with the introduction of familiar Old World domesticated animals, such as sheep, goats, horses and cattle, although this recovery was interrupted in the early 1700s as plague ravaged the region, decimating rural populations.

Spanish historical records corroborated the findings, so now the scientists plan to extend their research back into uncharted periods of pre-Incan history, where no other documentary records exist.

Examining fossilised mite numbers may now also illuminate research into other environmentally sensitive areas of the world, where human activity is tied to environmental and ecological trends.

Mick says: “Until now, it has been very difficult to find a technique that can chart the changing patterns of trade or livestock across a landscape. This new mite methodology could have further, more wide-ranging applications for understanding all sorts of cultural ups and downs.

“Even the smallest and most mundane of animals, such as excrement-eating mites, can provide a window onto the calamitous impact that the Europeans had when they settled in the New World.”

The research was published last month in the Journal of Archaeological Science.
Heart monitor sets the pace for new inventions

A new device that will allow doctors to monitor patients' hearts without even touching them could also soon be used to test carbon composite aircraft parts and microchips for defects more accurately and easily, thanks to new research by the inventors.

A team from the Centre for Physical Electronics and Quantum Technology in the Department of Engineering and Design has already successfully developed laboratory prototypes for these applications using electric potential sensors (EPS).

Similar devices, which measure magnetic fields, already exist. The EPS, however, offers a non-invasive way of measuring lesser-explored electric fields, which are present wherever there is electrical activity.

The monitor gives precise readings of electrical activity of the patient's heart without the need to connect the patient to equipment via pads and wires. A reading can be taken from the tip of a finger or remotely – a heartbeat can even be detected from up to a metre away in the laboratory. The aim is to simplify the procedure for acquiring high-quality signals.

The monitor is not commercially available yet and will be subject to patent licensing and further clinical trials in the near future.

Now the team – Dr Robert Prance, Dr Christopher Harland and Dr Helen Prance – has been awarded £762,000 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to investigate many areas for which EPS technology could be adapted, including other aspects of medical science, aviation, microchip manufacture and the automotive industry.

The four-year project, which follows on from a £1.1m EPSRC-funded (Basic Technology) research programme, will involve setting up pilot schemes with other scientists and businesses to develop a range of specific prototypes and test them.

Robert says: "This funding enables the Centre to consolidate research activity in a wide range of areas and to engage with appropriate academic and commercial partners. It is our belief that this non-contact technology will form the basis for new imaging instruments which will impact on both research and routine monitoring in many areas of science and technology."

The same technology has also been adapted to test for faults in microchip circuitry and even in stainless steel, carbon fibre composites and aircraft parts. EPS technology could also help to enhance MRI scanning techniques in hospitals.

HOMEWORK: Keeping children, parents and teachers together

A new interactive learning system that helps parents keep in touch with what their children are doing at school is proving to be a great success.

Researchers based at Sussex and the London Knowledge Lab developed an interactive learning system that enables children between the ages of 5 and 7 to learn and practise Key Stage 1 maths using a range of multimedia technologies – both in the classroom and at home with their family.

The research was led by Professor Rosemary Luckin, then based at the IDEAS laboratory in the School of Science and Technology and the London Knowledge Lab, working with commercial partners (Open Mind Productions and Channel 4 Learning) and Little Horsted and Westdene Primary Schools.

HOMEWORK integrates educational software with broadcast-quality video from the Channel 4 educational TV series 'The Number Crew'.

Children worked in a teacher-led group using an interactive whiteboard, either on their own or in small groups using tablet PCs.

Using HOMEWORK meant they spent more time on their learning, displayed greater concentration and engagement and enjoyed the choice of activities and computer game style 'rewards'.

The teacher used his or her own tablet PC to plan lessons, manage the class, allocate work and monitor each child's progress.

Parents could see what their children had been doing at school, were able to offer help and understood better what, and how, their children were learning at school.

The researchers found that using HOMEWORK:
- improved communication between parents, teachers and learners provided continuity between home and school learning
- made numeracy more engaging for many learners
- increased participation and enjoyment in homework (by parents as well as pupils) and
- may have increased the effectiveness of time spent learning.

Hear the latest thinking from five new professors

Tuesday evenings, 6.30pm. Free up some space in your diary now: through the summer term, the Sussex Lectures series offers you the opportunity to hear the latest thinking from three new University professors and two new Medical School (BSMS) professors.

Professor Bobbie Farsides leads the way on 24 April with a lecture on ethics for health care professionals. Her BSMS colleague, Professor Florian Kern, will focus on the body's immune system in his inaugural lecture on 15 May.

If your interest lies more in humanities and the social sciences, you might prefer to hear Professor Nicholas Royle on 'reality literature' (8 May), Professor Ronen Palan on the state and globalisation (22 May), or Professor Alan Lester on the protection of indigenous peoples in the British Empire (12 June).

For details of all the lectures, see www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

The Sussex Lectures are co-ordinated by the Development and Alumni Relations Office as part of a programme of activities aimed to promote Sussex's research and teaching, and to provide opportunities for the University's alumni and friends to celebrate and support this work.

The lectures are free and open to all, but it is essential to book: email lecture@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 7707.
A lasting observation

The grandson of a woman who has been a prolific part of the Mass Observation exercise came to the University to see his grandmother’s diary for real.

The diaries of Nelia Last, a housewife who kept journals for Mass Observation, have become quite well known since Victoria Wood used them as inspiration for a television drama – ‘Housewife 49’.

Jerry Last, one of Nelia’s grandsons, visited the University library on Monday 26 March.

The Mass Observation archive results from the work of the social research organisation, Mass-Observation.

This organisation was founded in 1937 by three young men, who aimed to create an ‘anthropology of ourselves’. They recruited a team of observers and a panel of volunteer writers to study the everyday lives of ordinary people in Britain.

The University has looked after the Mass Observation journals since 1970.

Jerry had read a book that was published over 25 years ago containing extracts of Nelia’s diary, but hadn’t previously read any unpublished material.

He said: “Whilst reading these entries I can picture her writing them and I feel really proud of her. I didn’t know her very well as I was growing up but she’s the sort of person who kept to herself and would have kept the fact she was writing these journals pretty quiet.”

By the time Jerry was born in 1954, Nelia had been writing for Mass Observation for nine years, but his father and uncle feature heavily in the diaries.

“My uncle is Cliff, who is mentioned a lot in the diary. Cliff and Nelia got on very well and I think she spent a lot of time confiding in him – he provided a lot of warmth when her husband and her other son didn’t offer much,” explained Jerry.

The first time Jerry became aware that Nelia had been keeping a diary for Mass Observation was when the book featuring extracts from the diary was printed in 1981.

“When I read it and started to learn what the war was like for Nelia and people like her, it really brought it home for me. It makes me feel ever so proud of her and full of admiration,” said Jerry.

“I also can’t get over how forward thinking my grandmother was. There are mentions in the diaries about the way wars would be fought in the future.

“She talks about how wars won’t be fought in the sky, that people will become bombers, and even makes references to what we know as dirty bombs. I read sections like that and think, ‘wow’, I can’t believe she’s thinking about this 60 years ago.”

The Mass Observation diaries are available to be looked at, by appointment with Special Collections in the Library. For more information call ext 8157 or see www.sussex.ac.uk/library/speccoll/access.html.
Enough parking spaces for all?

In March the University hosted a higher education convention for people thinking of applying to university. A few days beforehand, notices went up saying that the Science car park (car park 1) would be closed for these two days to allow coaches to park there.

Well, on the Thursday there was a small bollard in front of car park 1 and someone had kindly removed it ... so I parked where I normally park. There was already a space taped off for coaches and there was plenty of space for us and the visitors to park.

On the Friday three security staff were preventing us from coming into car park 1. They assured me that even more coaches were arriving that day (over 60) and that they would indeed need the whole of the area.

Well, the staff were obviously misinformed. There was more than enough space for us both to be accommodated in car park 1 and there was nothing like 60 coaches in the area ... I counted them.

Can I suggest that a more careful calculation can be done next time, to ensure that if there is space for staff parking and coaches it can be made available.

Mick Henry, Chemistry

Chris Wadey, Transport Manager, replies:

The convention organisers provide a list of coaches expected, with staggered arrival times.

The decision to close the Science car park was based on this list and took into account the parking and manoeuvring of the coaches as well as the safe transit of passengers to the Sportcentre, where the convention was being held.

The event is held out of term, so spaces are available in the remaining parking areas on campus for staff who normally use this location.

We will of course look to see how improvements can be made to parking for events and take all constructive comments into consideration.

Grounds maintenance is too noisy

The campus is a very pleasant environment in which to work, and appreciate the efforts of the ground maintenance staff to keep it in good condition. But can I make a plea for them to use equipment that is quieter than their current kit?

The trimmers and blowers used at the moment generate a lot of noise which echoes around the courts and buildings, forcing room occupants to close windows in order to be heard during meetings and seminars. Replacement kit or hand tools should also be more energy efficient.

Professor George Mather, Psychology

Work continues on new heating system

Work resumes this summer to create a modern and reliable heating system on campus. The sophisticated, energy-saving system will replace the University's 1960s pipework and ageing boilers, plant and equipment.

Timing of work over the next few months will be planned to minimise disruption to key University events such as student exams and the annual open day.

"This continues to be a major engineering project and logistical challenge for the University," explains Paul Feast from Estates & Facilities Management.

The five ageing boilers in the central Boiler House will be replaced with energy-efficient boiler plant and a new Combined Heat & Power Unit that will provide electricity as well as heating and hot water.

In order to complete the work by the start of the 2007–08 academic year it will be necessary to shut down the central Boiler House during the last week in April – whatever the weather. "I suggest staff and students bring a fleece or jumper if the temperatures drop during this period," says Paul.

The work taking place this summer is the second phase of the scheme. Phase one was completed last summer, with the laying of 70km of pipelines under paths, roads and soft ground. The contractor even tunneled under the A27 to ensure that the student residences being built next to Falmer station will be served by the new system.

The new pipework will be connected into a total of 49 plant rooms, which are located in each of the core buildings on campus. In addition, the contractor has to undertake enabling works in each of these plant rooms and some of these operations may be noisy at times.

This summer's work will also necessitate opening up existing heating ducts, but the excavations and pipelaying activities will be more localised and will not be on anywhere near the same scale as last year.

Completion of the entire £6 million project by the end of September will mean that staff and students can enjoy the benefits of a reliable new heating system from the 2007–08 winter onwards.

The new system will generate around 20% of the University's electricity at only marginal cost. It will also be easier, and consequently cheaper, to maintain and operate.

The heating system will serve the new student residence opposite Bramber House and it will be possible for all new buildings built on campus in the future to be connected to it.
Vice-Chancellor appointment nears completion

Six candidates have been short-listed for appointment as the next Vice-Chancellor, as the process for selection reaches its final stages.

Selection Committee chair Simon Fanshawe said he was delighted with the quality of the final six and very pleased with the public engagement in this stage of the appointment process for Sussex. As candidates also met three sub-groups made up of academics, staff in professional services and students.

Although all these discussions necessarily remain confidential, the candidates reported that they were particularly pleased to have had the opportunity of these briefings and were impressed with the enthusiasm and openness with which staff and students had approached the meetings.

A recommendation following final interviews will be made to members of Senate and Council during the first weeks of the summer term.

Update on the University’s financial position

The Director of Finance, Allan Spencer, was able to report positive news to Council before Easter about the University’s overall financial position.

The latest forecast (February 2007) for the current financial year, 2006–07, shows an operating surplus of just over £700,000, with forecast income of £118.4 million and spending of £117.6 million. A further forecast will be produced in June.

This is a significant improvement on both the original forecast (July 2006–07), which allowed for a small operational deficit, and the final out-turn for 2005–06.

The University has a long-term goal to move towards 4% surplus on turnover (or some £4–5 million) by 2010–11, to provide space for continued investment in priority areas of its activity.

Allan said: “This improved position reflects how both academic and professional services units are making good progress in their financial planning and management, with active support from the Finance Division.”

Professional Services Review

Panels and directors of the Professional Services Reviews submitted their reports to the PSR Board just before the Easter break at the start of April.

The challenge for each panel and director has been to set out a ‘direction of travel’ for the positive development and improvement of professional services to support the academic mission of the University.

Those reports draw on a great deal of active engagement with staff and service users by each panel following the setting up of the reviews in February.

The PSR Board is chaired by Professor Paul Layzell, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and includes academic staff as well as external support and advice from Southern Universities Management Services (SUMS).

The Board is now considering the reports, having met with the review teams in the first week of the summer term. It will be looking carefully at the future potential changes outlined by the reviews, and the range of savings and investment opportunities, before giving feedback to the panels.

As the next phase of the PSR goes forward, a process of briefing and engagement with staff and service users will follow later in the summer term, and through into 2007–08, looking at both short-term and medium-term developments.

Background and detail on the PSR can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/vc/psr

University on the fringe

Staff and students from Sussex are involved in all manner of ways with the Brighton Fringe Festival, which takes place from Saturday 5 May until Monday 28 May.

At the beginning of the festival, on 5 May, Dutch contemporary ensemble Orkest De Ereprijs will be playing an international programme in Mandela Hall.

The student drama society (SUDS) will also be featuring in the festival line-up when they perform Sweet Panic from Tuesday 15 until Saturday 19 May at the Brighthelm Centre.

On campus, the Freeman Centre will be the place to be for a three-day event of creation and innovation on personal and working life called The Critical Incident. More information can be found at www.thecriticalincident.com.

Many talks by Sussex academics will be taking place during the festival period, including a talk on global development, a series on ‘Visions of our Future’, and even a ‘Brighton Coding Dojo Night’.

For more information on the Brighton Fringe Festival, pick up a brochure from Sussex House, go online at www.brightonfringe.org.uk or call 01273 709709.
Chancellor's Awards 2007

The time has come for you to nominate a member of staff for a Chancellor's Award.

Four of these awards are made each year to recognise exceptional contribution to the work and life of the University.

Each recipient receives an award of £500 and a presentation from the Chancellor during one of the graduation ceremonies.

The awards are open to all those employed by the University at any level, whether full- or part-time, permanent or fixed term. There is no minimum or maximum age or length of service requirement.

People may be nominated by any member of staff, student or former student, or self-nominated. Nominations require a statement from the person's line manager or head of unit, setting out their opinion on the recommendation.

The closing date for nominations is Tuesday 8 May.

Nominations are assessed by a panel chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, and which includes senior academic and administrative officers, and normally a lay member of Council. The panel may if necessary seek views and advice in confidence from other colleagues who know the work of the person nominated.

The panel will be looking for exceptional contributions that have enhanced University life in any sphere. Awards can be made for work in any area of activity other than direct teaching and research.

Decisions will be made by the panel by mid May and recipients will be informed by mid June. Awards will be made at summer graduation on 19 and 20 July.

For details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/vcaward.

First Class

Three Sussex students have won diplomacy awards at Harvard's annual world Model UN conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland. **Lydia Medland, Laura Tazzoli and Daniel Vockins** won the awards for "exemplifying the true spirit of diplomacy" while representing their allocated countries on various simulated UN Committees (including Human Rights, International Labour Organisation and the African Union).

The awards, which were handed out in the UN's General Assembly building, complete a high-flying year for the University's Model UN Society, which in January held its own international conference on campus for the first time, attracting students from around Europe for a weekend of debate.

A walk on the wild side

**Lords-and-Ladies, Arum maculatum, is a familiar sight around the wooded areas of campus at this time of year.**

However, we recently noticed plants growing close to the tennis courts that had conspicuously yellow-veined leaves, while the lobes of the leaves were more pointed and spreading than the usual plant.

This reminded us that a few years ago plants turned up in a shaded area close to Park Village that were apparently the much rarer Arum italicum sub-species neglectum, our other native species, which lacks the yellow veins. It grows in scattered localities close to the coast, mainly in the south-west, but it does just get into West Sussex. Thus the intriguing question is whether the campus plants are also escapes or whether they are evidence of a recent eastward spread.

When in flower the two species can easily be told apart. The common Lords-and-Ladies has a purple spadix that is about half the length of the spathe, while in A.italicum the spadix is yellow and less than half the length of the spathe. If anyone spots candidate plants, do let us know.

The recent glorious weather fits with the notion that spring gets earlier every year, but the arrival of summer visitors to campus paints a rather confusing picture. Two birds from the warbler family provide an example.

The Common Whitethroat, which winters south of the Sahara, is late. It breeds in areas of rank vegetation, such as the brambles near the Falmer Sports Complex. The males are easy to detect when they arrive because they 'shout' their harsh, jerky song from exposed perches or while flying a short distance into the air.

We are yet to detect this species anywhere around campus; perhaps conditions father south have held them up.

By contrast the closely related Lesser Whitethroat arrived much earlier than usual; it winters in north-east Africa and so has a very different migration route. This species prefers tall, dense vegetation such as the bushes around the compost heaps in Tenter团委 Belt. The male sings from deep inside a bush, initally "muttering under its breath" before bursting into a loud, fast trill.

Look out for insects enjoying the sunshine; the most surprising so far was a Clouded Yellow outside Arts E on 14 April. This butterfly, which is smaller than the familiar Brimstone and has distinctive orange and black upper wings, is a summer visitor that usually arrives from the continent in late May. Was it a new arrival or did it spend the winter here?
News in brief

VC’s open meetings with staff
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, will be holding two open meetings for staff this term. The first is on Wednesday 16 May, from 2pm in the Chichester lecture theatre; if you can’t make this meeting, there’s another one on Thursday 17 May, from 9.15am in ENGG2 AS3.

Minutes now online
Agendas and minutes are now online for Senate (the University’s academic body), Council (the governing body) and Court (which receives the accounts and annual report). They cover the last five years of Senate and Council meetings and the last ten years of Court meetings and include a searchable index of minutes. See www.sussex.ac.uk/ secretariat/1-2-3-6.html.

Photo exhibition open
An international photo exhibition organised by two fourth year students is on show in the foyer of Arts D. Submissions for the exhibition were invited from outgoing year abroad or study abroad students, and international students currently at Sussex. Prizes will be awarded for the best photos after selection by a panel of judges over the coming fortnight.

Michael Dibdin dies
Sussex graduate and crime novelist Michael Dibdin died on 30 March at the age of 60. Dibdin, who read English at Sussex from 1965–68, was best known for a series of novels set in Italy featuring detective Aurelio Zen.

Academic events

MON 23 APR
5pm Education seminar: Fiona Leach (Sussex), Researching absent voices: Girls schooling in early 19th-century West Africa. Arts E4/19.

TUE 24 APR
2.15pm SEI seminar: Simon Usherwood (Surrey), The dilemmas of single issue Eurosceptic party: The case of the UK Independence Party. Arts C233.

THU 26 APR
6.30pm BSMS inaugural lecture: Bobbie Fowkes (BSMS), Ethics, life and work: Getting the balance right. Michael Chownen lecture theatre, BSMS.

Small ads

Holiday let: Asparaqua, hillside villa, sea 400m, sips 5. Sierra walking easily accessible. From £210 p/w, T Tricia on 472831.

For sale: Farmhouse-style kitchen units (7 base cabinets, 1 drawer unit, 5 wall cabinets, 1 wine rack) + laminate worktop, built-in double sink, Indesit hob, built-in oven. Buyer collects. £180. Contact Lyndsay McLean-Hiller on Lc.Mc.Lean- hiller@sussex.ac.uk or 07997 477 118.


TUE 1 MAY

THU 3 MAY
4pm Psychology seminar: Emmanuel Pothos (Swansea), title TBA. Pevessey 1, 1B3.

FRI 4 MAY
2.15pm SEI seminar: Blair Worden (Royal Holloway), John Milton, poet and historian. Arts A155.

FRI 4 MAY

SAT 5 MAY
7.30pm Orkestra De Ereprivi An international programme of specially commissioned works by composers including the University’s own Dr Sam Hayden. Tickets from the Dome box office or Terry Bryan (Music dept). Mandela Hall, Falmer House.

WANTED:
- Ladies bicycle in good condition. Will pay up to £40. E m.r.wroeze @sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8048.
- Flat share: PG/UG to share with Greek & Spanish UG in Brunswicke Sq, Hove. £283 pcm + bills. Available now. T Alex on 07761394657.
- To let: Room in house, Preston Park. Unrestricted on-street parking. Shared with owners. £335 pcm incl. Suit PG or staff. N/S only. Available short or long term from 3 June. T 3832048, Sue@employment- studies.co.uk.
- To let: 3-bed house + patio garden. Short term perm. E czechdyas@sussex.ac.uk.

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

University. The next issue will be out on 4 May, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 27 April. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.