VC promises rent rebate to students in Stanmer Court

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, has promised that rent rebates will be paid to students in Stanmer Court for the opening weeks of term, during which there have been significant problems with heating and power supplies.

There have also been a significant number of ‘snagging’ problems in the new student residence, of the kind usually associated with new builds.

In an email to tenants on 26 October, the Vice-Chancellor committed to a rent rebate “to compensate for the disruption to services and the fact that the overall service to students has been below the standards we would expect”.

Student residents have of course acknowledged that there may be teething problems with any new building. As and when problems have arisen, the University has immediately asked the developer to put things right.

However, the Vice-Chancellor has made clear to students in Stanmer Court that the problems as a whole are unacceptable. Emailing them on 19 October, he offered his unreserved apologies and emphasised: “This is certainly not the experience which we would want to provide in this new accommodation for our students.”

A full heating and hot water supply has been provided from the new campus heating system since 22 October, with partial heating and hot water since 10 October. Prior to that hot water was supplied by temporary electric immersion heaters in Stanmer Court.

Sporadic power cuts were caused by settings on the temporary electric immersion heaters, which have since been adjusted. The power cuts occurred over the first 10 days of October and there has not been a problem with power supply since 11 October.

The developer advised on 23 October that all items on the initial ‘snagging’ list had been dealt with. The developer’s site manager is still in post and will remain so for at least the next week to ensure everything is completed to the University’s satisfaction. There will be a team either on site or on call to deal with any outstanding and new items that are reported.

Some residents have also expressed concerns about internet access. All bedrooms except one now have internet access – and most have had since the first week of term.

The Vice-Chancellor has visited the accommodation several times to speak to students, get updates on the progress that has been made, and see what still remained to be done. He has also given all residents a firm commitment that efforts will continue to be made to remedy any outstanding problems.

The University is now putting in place a review of procedures and processes, as it would do with any major project, to see what lessons should be learned for the future.

Sussex in Brussels

Brussels, the heart of European politics, provided the perfect venue last month for a lecture organised by the University and sponsored by a major law firm.

The idea for the event was led by the Sussex European Institute (SEI) and the Development and Alumni Relations Office, which negotiated sponsorship from SJ Berwin via one of its partners (Stephen Kon, who is a Sussex law alumnus and a former member of faculty).

The event uniquely brought together two Directors General of the European Commission: Philip Lowe (Director General for Competition) and Sussex alumnus Jonathan Faull (Director General for Freedom, Security and Justice).

The audience, made up of members of the European Commission, academia, industry and the legal profession, heard about the role that European watchdogs play in safeguarding fair competition.

Earlier this year, Philip Lowe reported, his directorate fined four of the world’s biggest lift makers (ThyssenKrupp, Otis, Schindler and Kone) a record total of £686 million for curving up the market. The lift companies were found to have rigged contracts for hospitals, railway stations, shopping centres and commercial buildings in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, gave the welcoming speech. Reflecting on the lecture, he commented: “An event of this stature reflects extremely well on both the University of Sussex and SJ Berwin.

“Both the level of insight into an important area of EU policy and the calibre of guests who attended did much to help raise the profile of the University and Sussex European Institute among an important group of policy makers and opinion formers.”

Inside

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6 Open forum Round-up from new VC’s first open staff forums.
7 Cross spiders Not angry arachnids, but ones that have been busy on campus.
Why ‘Made in China’ should increase our carbon footprint

Nearly a quarter of China’s carbon emissions are created by goods manufactured and exported to Western consumers, according to research by Sussex climate change analysts Dr Tao Wang and Dr Jim Watson.

The study, carried out for the Tyndall Centre, suggests that counting carbon emissions within national borders, as is currently the case under the Kyoto Protocol, may be inadequate in deciding who is responsible for emissions reduction.

Fair, globalised trade might imply that a nation’s entire carbon footprint should also include imported goods and services manufactured elsewhere.

Jim says: “In November 2006 the world’s largest container ship, the Emma Maersk, sailed into Felixstowe Docks, laden with 11,000 containers full of Christmas goods. Is the CO₂ emitted from the manufacture and shipping of all those items down to China, or the UK?”

The researchers calculated the carbon emissions of China’s net exports in 2004, the most recent year of full data. Their results may be conservative because between 2004 and 2006, China’s trade surplus (the value of exports minus imports) increased substantially.

China is now believed to be the world’s largest emitter of carbon dioxide, having overtaken the United States.

Tao says: “Although exports of carbon-intensive products such as rolled steel and aluminium are increasing at more than 50% annually, the majority of China’s trade surplus comes from less carbon-intensive goods such as textiles and consumer electronics. But the government’s efforts to reduce the expansion of exports are so far ineffective due to high international demand.”

Their analysis provides evidence that not only are industrialised countries historically responsible for the majority of carbon emissions to date, but they may also have significant responsibility for driving the rapid growth in emissions from countries in the process of industrialisation, such as China.

The United States in particular argues against industrialised countries reducing their emissions unless new economies, such as China and India, follow suit. The US is the top destination for exports of Chinese-made goods.

Jim says: “Our results strengthen the argument that industrialised countries should move first to make real progress in cutting their carbon emissions – and also help nations like China and India to shift to a more low carbon path of development.”

Robots help high-flying kites to reap wind energy

Sussex research student Allister Furey is keen to get his new project off the ground, as it could lead to a more effective way of harnessing wind energy – using kite-flying robots.

Allister is starting the second year of his doctorate in the Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Robotics (CCNR), working under the evolutionary robotics pioneer Dr Innan Harvey.

His research involves a collaboration with an Italian company, Kite Gen Research, and UK-based kite manufacturer Flexifoil to develop new generations of software to control kite wind turbines.

Kite Gen has developed the hardware for the kite wind generator – a small tower with limits to which controllable arc-shaped giant kites are attached by cables. The kite movements are controlled by sensors and software – the robot. The aim is to fly the kites in a sideways figure-of-eight movement, for optimum power generation. The movement of the kites drives the turbine, creating electricity.

“All anyone who has flown a big kite and felt it pull will know the potential power there,” says Allister, who is also a keen kite-surfer. “And the amount of energy you get from flying the figure-of-eight pattern is massive.”

However, to be most effective, the technology must cope with extreme conditions, such as sudden gusts or lulls in wind.

Flying several kites in formation could also pose problems, without a highly sophisticated control system. Allister says: “If you have 12 kites flying together they could cross over and get tangled. What happens to each kite depends on both the wind and the steering movements.”

This is where Allister’s work with evolutionary robotics comes in. He will be developing a sensitive control system that can work with and adapt to wind conditions independently, applying biological principles of evolution and natural selection to create ‘artificial nervous systems’ for robots.

Allister says: “The conventional control method [for example an autopilot system in a plane] would involve fighting the turbulence, but in biology, things often work with turbulence. Tuna fish, for example, boost their speed by creating swirling movements of water with their body in a way almost impossible to design with conventional techniques.

At present, Allister is testing an evolved robot control system by subjecting it to a range of wind conditions in simulation. He is also working with CCNR tutor Bill Bigge to build a robot and test it by getting it to fly a stunt kite in real-world conditions.

Kite-driven generators could potentially produce energy for approximately half the cost of a coal-fired power station, while taking up 50–100 times less land than a typical wind farm.

Allister says: “To produce 5–10 megawatts of energy [enough to power over 5,000 homes] you would need a 500m², kite, which is not far off the blade area of a typical offshore wind turbine. However, the kite system would be far cheaper to build, and less land is needed as the kites can be attached to cables, not towers, and can therefore be grouped together more closely.”

Kite wind turbines also have less visual impact than traditional wind farms and can utilise the more powerful and consistent winds at higher altitudes (88–1,000m) that traditional wind turbines cannot reach.
Setting the scope of our ambition

Launched on the web and in print on 19 October, discussed in committees, at team gatherings and at full open meetings with staff, the document 'Setting the scope of our ambition' has been widely aired on campus.

In addition to 60 individual responses from staff and students submitted on the web within the first week, it has even garnered a full page of coverage in this week’s badger (29 October) – unusual for a document that is part of the development of a formal strategic plan for the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, is delighted to have prompted and stimulated this level of interest and engagement: “I want to ensure collectively that we set our sights firmly on future opportunities and that we are ambitious for where we want Sussex to be in 2020. Debate and discussion of these issues now within the University is genuinely important.”

Views and comments continue to be encouraged from all staff and students, with the initial end date for responses being 12 November.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed at the staff open forum meetings that this date is a staging post rather than an end point; in taking initial ideas to Council (the University’s governing body) for discussion on 22 November, he wants to be able to report feedback from as many staff and students as possible.

The next stages after Council discussion will be presentations to Senate, plus further open presentations on development of ideas for the new strategic plan.

The website will remain in place – with the Vice-Chancellor and colleagues actively using it for the next stages in the development of the plan. Professor Farthing promises: “We will present emerging ideas and suggestions and seek comment and feedback on those.” See www.sussex.ac.uk/ve/ambition.

Sussex research – ambitions for the future

We are building the processes that support our research strategy. The opportunity now is to shape an ambitious research future at Sussex.

The first meeting of the new University Research Committee took place last month. This may not sound momentous news, but as a piece of machinery for University policy it was something that had been strikingly absent from our decision-making structures. It now takes a proper central role in developing and driving forward research policy.

The Committee brings together some of our most eminent researchers with deans and lead professional services staff, chaired by me as PVC for Research. It is a forum in which we can draw together the visionary and practical threads that sustain and support our research activity.

One of the first pieces of business was proposing the minimum standards we expect and the standards we aspire to for each and every academic member of staff involved in research. Remarkable as it may seem, we have previously had no clear agreement and understanding as to what those standards should be.

We have now set out these standards across publications, research income, DPhil supervision, conference participation, links with external partners and knowledge exchange and transfer, with appropriate variations to reflect the nature of research activity in different fields. I hope they will be a clear signal of the aspirations we have as a research-intensive university.

These are just part of the process of taking forward the Research Strategy approved by Senate and Council last year. That establishes a framework of aims and objectives which confirms our commitment to furthering the position of Sussex as a leading university. (For details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/eag)

I attended the open staff forum last week and I was pleased that the discussion about the ambitions of the University gave due weight to new thinking about our research. The idea of developing research themes was discussed enthusiastically and positively at that meeting. It is one of the core ideas set out in the Research Strategy.

I liked the Vice-Chancellor’s characterisation of the themes as seeking to address big and important world issues, to which people outside the University can relate. The Research Committee will this year play a vital role in enabling us to look across the University and shape up what those themes might be, with inputs from across Sussex – including school and departmental research committees.

A challenging question at the forum was how we could start to shape up themes and wider ambitions beyond the outcomes of the Research Assessment Exercise 2008 are known. I am delighted that, through collective hard work, we have got to a position where we can already start talking about what we do post-RAE, even before the final deadline for submission this month.

As a result of that work, including the insight and support of external ‘critical friends’, I know that departments and schools have a sound understanding of our research strengths across the University. We can be confident that we can collectively make wise and informed decisions, in the light of the University’s goals and aspirations for future research excellence.

The RAE 2008 should not put planning on hold; on taking forward ambitious plans: our competitor universities are certainly not allowing that to happen. And some Sussex departments are now planning away days to think about their own research strategy through to 2015.

I am also pleased that already, only a few weeks in to the start of term, academic colleagues are asking about the opportunity to profile their research activity within this year’s Annual Research Review document.

Such profile-raising work, highlighted in our online banners every time people visit the Sussex website, is part of a sustained external engagement between research activity at Sussex and our wider society. The fact that we have set out our research portfolio in an exciting and comprehensive way continues to pay dividends for us.

Later this month, for example, the city of Brighton is hosting the national conference for UK business incubation hubs. The University and our own Innovation Centre are sponsoring the opening event and we will be using the Research Review materials to present the University’s research to all those attending.

I am really looking forward to seeing how this year’s review shapes up. I know from my own visits and discussions with colleagues about their research – always the most fascinating and enjoyable part of my week – how exciting the activity taking place here. My door and email inbox (cj.allison@sussex.ac.uk) are always open to ideas.
Students’ tales of the city to be shown at film festival

Films by Sussex students will feature alongside work by established filmmakers at this year’s SEE Festival for documentaries.

All four films tell tales inspired by the city of Brighton: 1960s’ battles between Mods and Rockers; the history of the ‘dirty weekend’; the story of a sex worker’s life in prostitution, and a dramatic investigation of one of the notorious Brighton Trunk Murders.

Lizzie Thynne, Senior Lecturer in Media and Film Studies, says: “The See Festival is not only a great local opportunity for students to showcase their excellent work but also to meet established producers and get a feel for the contemporary documentary scene.”

The films will be screened on Sunday 18 November, the second day of the weekend festival, at the Marlborough Theatre in Brighton. Each screening will be followed by a discussion session with producers.

Two of the films will be shown at 10.15am: The Wild Ones?

More than 40 years on, eyewitnesses and historians reflect on the ‘Whitsun weekend’ fights between the Mods and Rockers in Brighton and the legacy created by the riots (Jessica Ainsley, Claire Chester, Jo Haslam, Matthew Horner: Video Documentary in Contemporary History, MA option)

Kiss Me Quick

Through postcards, film clips and glimpses of gay life from the Sussex Mass Observation Archive (held in the Sussex Library), this film asks, is the dirty weekend now just a marketing ploy in an age when anything goes?

(Indira Maya Ganesh, Adriano James Majocchi, Mahmoud Muna, Stella Sims: Video Documentary in Contemporary History, MA option)

And the other two will be screened at 6pm: Priceless

Charlie tells the moving journey from walking the streets to running high-class brothels and looks ahead to a life after prostitution (Laura Bailey, Daisy Harvey, Laura Newbury, Lauren Simpson: BA Media Practice and Theory, year 2)

Brighton Summer of 1934

Suggestively evoking the seediness of 1930s Brighton, this is the tale of one of the crimes popularly known as ‘Brighton Trunk Murders’ (Emma Davies, Tom Little, Matt Simpson, Peter Swinford, Lauren Toc: BA Media Practice and Theory, year 2)

See www.see festival.org or T 227700.

Student doctors see the world

Year 4 students in the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) have just returned to Brighton after spending six to eight weeks on an ‘elective’, giving them the opportunity to experience medical practice in an unfamiliar cultural and clinical setting.

Dr Melanie Newport, head of the electives programme at BSMS, says: “Electives provide opportunities that don’t come up during the curriculum. Students can practise medicine in its broadest sense, in a new environment, and develop their interpersonal skills for when they become doctors.”

Rohit Ghurye went to Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney. “Every morning I commuted by train, which went over the Harbour Bridge. The inspiration of seeing the Opera House and other landmarks like Luna Park every morning quite made up for early morning ward rounds!”

The hospital specialised in chronic pain management, which I was interested in. I spent three weeks in cardiology, learning about clinical skills, seeing interesting patients and practising examinations and ECG interpretation. My next three weeks were in anaesthesia, where I helped with procedures such as intubation, cannulation and inserting laryngeal mask airways.

Down under:

Medical student Rohit Ghurye worked at a hospital in Sydney and then enjoyed the Great Barrier Reef.
**Howzat!**

**First innings for all-weather wicket**

England cricketer Rosalie Birch bowled the first ball to mark the installation of a new all-weather wicket on campus.

The pitch will be shared by the University, which provided the site, and St Matthias Cricket Club, which raised £6,000 to help pay for it.

Rosalie, a Sussex linguistics graduate and former holder of a University sports bursary, was on her way to a training session with the England women's squad but made time for an over or two to celebrate the launch of the new facility at her old university.

Rosalie, who now works for Sussex County Cricket Club, brought along the County Championship trophy, won by Sussex this year, to inspire the young players from St Matthias CC in their training.

St Matthias is one of two local clubs that play home games on the University campus.

Simon Tunley, Deputy Head of Sussexsport, said: "We have had a long tradition of supporting community cricket clubs over the last 25 years through both facilities and players.

"We are very keen to develop cricketing opportunities for both the campus and the community. The new strip will be specifically used to develop junior and ladies' cricket and internal university games.

"St Matthias have a very strong junior set-up and it is hoped the new strip will be a huge boost in helping to produce the cricket stars of the future."

The University hopes to help develop the game in Sussex further with the aid of the new facilities, which can be used all year round.

At the weekends I saw more of Sydney, and was able to do some wider travelling after the elective finished ... snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef was the most amazing experience!“

Marko Iskander split his elective between plastic and general surgery in New York city and general practice, occupational medicine and sports medicine in Germany with the British Army.

"The workload was pretty heavy in comparison to the UK, with no real filtering by general practice and a working day that regularly topped 12 hours. The time allotted per patient in clinic averages 45 minutes, but the treatment options are usually constrained by the insurance cover of each patient.

In my second placement I covered general practice for troops' families, spent time at a rehabilitation unit and practised roles such as extraction of battlefield casualties (the challenge of triage in the dark with a helicopter generating a lot of downwash is one that's very different to the NHS)."

**News in brief**

**USSU AGM 15 November**

The USSU Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Mandela Hall at 1pm on 15 November. Students can submit a motion on any issue before 5pm on Monday (5 November) by emailing democracy@ussu.sussex.ac.uk. For help on how to write a motion, check www.uussu.info AGM. All motions will be published online in week 6, as well as in the bagger of week 7. At least 500 students (5% of the student body) will need to attend the AGM in order to pass policy.

**Stanmer church to close?**

Representations for or against plans to close Stanmer church are due by 19 November. For details, contact Canon Andrew Robinson, Anglican Chaplain at Sussex and priest in charge of Stanmer.

**Job opportunities at Grad Fair**

Students had the opportunity this week to look for vacation placements, work experience and jobs after graduation at the Grad Fair. The Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC) brought around 50 employers and other organisations onto campus, covering the voluntary sector; the public sector (including the Environment Agency, NHS and local councils); digital media; engineering and IT sectors; and retail, financial and consultancy firms.

**New campus venue opens**

The Hot House has become The Cube. Following extensive refurbishment, the renamed student venue in Falmer House opened its doors on 27 October. Using a £20,000 grant and a £20,000 loan from the University, the Students' Union has come up with a new layout that includes a brand-new bar (including LED lighting) and a chill-out area.
Report on open staff forum

The main focus of the open staff forum last month was the document that the Vice-Chancellor had launched to seek views from staff and students on the future ambitions of the University, to help shape the next strategic plan (which will be finalised in the spring term). See www.sussex.ac.uk/vc/ambition.

The Vice-Chancellor said that, in creating the plan for the years up to 2015, he wants the University to create a distinctive and ambitious plan, which looks forward to what Sussex could be like in 2020.

Along the way to that, 2011 represents an important milestone: the 50th anniversary of the University’s creation. He sees this as a real opportunity to drive forward key developments and to signal change for the University and its wider community of alumni, partners and friends.

He also set out a fast-changing picture of the external world in which Sussex will be operating – with increasing competition for students globally, with different expectations and needs, challenges and opportunities presented by new technology, and increased collaboration between institutions to solve issues.

The 12 questions posed in the consultation document are prompts for thinking, and he encouraged all staff and students to respond with their ideas and suggestions.

He said he personally saw an opportunity for the University’s research activity to be strengthened by addressing major world issues that can be tackled from across disciplines, resting on a foundation of a strong disciplinary base.

In teaching and learning, he thought that demands and expectations of learners will change – preparation for multiple careers, need for re-skilling in work, more flexible delivery and access to learning – and the University needs to position itself to be able to respond to such demands.

He also highlighted the importance not just of the student experience, but also the staff experience, with the need for high-quality facilities for staff to support their work.

In discussion at the meetings, ideas being shared included:
- The importance and the opportunities provided by e-learning, with Study Direct already in place and in some places being used very effectively, but needing to be taken forward systematically across the institution if it is to transform the student experience.
- How the idea of cross-disciplinary research themes would best be supported organisationally, without creating wholesale re-organisation, and how the themes could be kept alive and develop over time.
- What flexible delivery of provision could look like – perhaps learning lessons from CCE – and how the campus atmosphere and environment at evenings and weekends might develop alongside this.

For a fuller report on the open staff forum, see www.sussex.ac.uk/vc

Obituary

Bruce Graham, Research Professor of Politics, died suddenly on 3 October from a heart attack.

Bruce had been at Sussex almost from the outset, coming to Sussex in 1964, and during that time he played a key role in building up Politics at Sussex.

As a scholar he was unusual in making substantial contributions to the study of French and Indian politics (as well as his early work on Australian politics) and, as a consequence, Bruce moved from his original appointment in the School of African and Asian Studies to the School of European Studies, from where he retired in 1997. In between, Bruce served as Director of the Graduate School and then as Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the University.

As a person Bruce was incredibly gentle and patient. He dealt with everyone the same way, with real thoughtfulness and with politeness, and he generated real affection from faculty, staff and students alike. He would produce pages of typed comments on the shortest of essays for students and was unfailingly generous with his time and energies in teaching students and with his colleagues.

In retirement Bruce was in his element. Working one part of each day on India and one part on France and with the company of his wife Naomi, he finally had the chance to work uninterrupted on what he enjoyed the most.

Bruce leaves a legacy of scholarship on comparative politics at Sussex. He also leaves an abiding sense of affection from those across the University who knew him.

Professor Paul Taggart

FIRST CLASS

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded Research Fellowships to Dr Tim Bale, Senior Lecturer in Politics (The Conservative Party from Thatcher to Cameron); Dr Matthew Dimmock, Lecturer in English (Fabricating Muhammad); Dr Mary Dove, Reader in English (The Bible in English: its earliest advocates); and Dr Margaret Healy, Senior Lecturer in English (Shakespeare, alchemy and the creative imagination).

More than 40 scholars have contributed essays to a 1,030-page festshrift in honour of Professor Larry Trask, who died in March 2004. The volume, entitled Studies in Basque and Historical Linguistics in Memory of RL Trask, is published by the International Journal of Basque Linguistics and Philology.
Why the University should oppose football stadium

Just a few comments on the University’s attitude to the football stadium to be built at Falmer. [See Bulletin 19 October].

One answer to a question stands out: how building a new road and opening up the University’s car parks to others is compatible with its avowed aim to discourage car use. The response states that the University isn’t ultimately concerned with car use as a whole, only that of Sussex staff and students. This completely annuls any point in the traffic reduction policy: if the cars are still on the road, there is no benefit to congestion or pollution.

No matter how well-steward on campus, the very presence of certain Brighton season ticket holders is going to be extremely intimidating and upsetting for very young and extremely vulnerable students.

And 20,000 football fans sharing the same station and bus stop as university students is really unbearable to think about. That the University could remain ‘neutral’ about that is truly depressing.

Strong University opposition could well have swayed the case against planning permission. Instead we have the prospect of a “vandal-proof” bridge at Falmer station and CCTV cameras on campus: if there were no increased danger to campus and students, why would either stewards or cameras be necessary?

And this is not to mention the noise from a stadium that, as the club chairman has put it in the student newspaper (bAdger 8 October), “is built to create a noise … I make no apologies for that”.

This is a true disgrace for which I hope no one in the University hierarchy is anything but ashamed.

Dr Michael Lewis, Philosophy

Time to upgrade “antique facilities”

I was pleased, for the sake of those who teach and learn there, to read of the improvements to the lecture theatres in Arts A (Bulletin 19 October). I wonder when similar refurbishments will take place in the lecture theatres in Pevensey 1?

Ever since arriving at Sussex, I have been amazed at the cluttered nature of these teaching spaces.

Having taught in a variety of local colleges and schools, to my knowledge Sussex is the only institution still using chalk-boards – they are regarded as mediaeval in most places.

They are dirty – my clothes, and especially my shoes, are covered in dust at the end of a lecture, and I dread to think what is happening in my lungs. I was assured by someone in Health and Safety that calcium sulphate particles have not been shown to cause lung damage – to me this beggars belief, as any foreign particles lodged in the lung must have some effects.

Surely it is time that Sussex moved into at least the late 20th century, and upgraded these antique facilities.

Dr Roger Luther (Mathematics)

Andy Jupp from Estates replies:

The University’s policy is to replace blackboards with whiteboards as teaching rooms around campus are upgraded. (The chalk dust doesn’t just affect human beings; it also damages computers, projectors and other audio-visual technology.)

However, some academic colleagues – notably in the Mathematics department – have expressed a preference for blackboards. As mathematicians teach most of their lectures and seminars in Pevensey 1, this will be the final building where whiteboards replace blackboards.

We are aware that part of what Maths and Physics faculty value is large continuity of space for mathematical expositions, which has traditionally been provided by rolling chalk-boards. We will work with relevant departments to ensure that replacement equipment offers an acceptable alternative to chalk in this regard.

A walk on the wild side

Students from our MSc in Biodiversity Survey have started monitoring the wildlife on campus, including spiders.

This autumn Cross Spiders (below) have been very conspicuous all over campus on their dramatic orb webs. Although their overall colour varies from pale straw to almost black, they can be identified by the distinctive white cross on their abdomen.

Last month we mentioned how the Peiham family of nearby Stammer House landscaped the area that is now campus. At the time (roughly 1800) the tree plantings were thoroughly modem because Beeches were grown in serried ranks for timber. Previously, this tree had been tolerated only as a minor component of woodland to provide fuel, which did not require that it grew large. The increasing availability of coal had undercut that market, but Beech became fashionable, especially on shallow chalky soils.

When planted en masse, Beech tends to perpetuate itself: adult trees not only cast so much shade that the seedlings of few other plants can survive, but in addition the fungi that form mutually beneficial symbioses with Beech roots poison the fungi associated with the roots of other trees.

Beech seeds are an important winter food for many birds and mammals. Unfortunately for the animals, Beech trees never seed heavily in successive autumns, and the crops on individual trees on campus fluctuate in synchrony. This autumn’s Beech crop was desperately poor, and most of it has already been eaten.

With the autumn leaf fall getting well under way we become more aware of our few wild broad-leaved evergreens. In fact Holly is our only native evergreen tree, although some might argue that Box was more tree than shrub.

Common in the understorey beneath the beeches of the Tenant Laine woodland is our only evergreen shrub, Common Privet, Ligustrum vulgare. In truth, it is only semi-evergreen as it loses a good proportion of its leaves by the end of the winter. A member of the Oleaceae, a remarkably versatile family that includes such apparently diverse plants as the Olive, Lilac and Ash, it is a common and characteristic plant of woodlands, scrub and hedgerows on well-drained calcareous and base-rich soils north to the Scottish border and is widely planted beyond its natural range in Scotland and Ireland.

Growing but a few metres away in the shrubberies around the Science car park is the closely related and similar-looking Garden Privet, Ligustrum ovalifolium. The two are easily confused, the differences being chiefly in the detail of the white, heavily scented flowers. However, the leaves of Garden Privet are broader and more evergreen and the ends of the twigs are not finely hairy as they are in the Wild Privet. It is a native of Japan and South Korea, where it grows in scrub close to the sea, and was first introduced to British gardens in 1842.
**Academic events**

**MON 5 NOV**
3pm International Relations seminar: Or Rawi (Sussex), Speculating on the modern European periphery and the western European growth regime. Arts C233.

**4pm Economics seminar:** John Pencott (Sussex), The adoption and productivity of modern agricultural technologies in the European Highlands. Russell 28.

**TUE 6 NOV**
12.30pm Life History seminar: Jackie Blackwell (community development worker), Our Newhaven: The setting up of a multimedia life history project in the town. Bramber House 256.

1pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Steve Wood (Southampton), Revisiting the catalytic triad in c,jl hydroxylases. Medical School Lecture Theatre.

1pm COGS lecture: Zoltan Dienes (Sussex), The rise of information processing. Biology Lecture Theatre, JMS.

2.15pm Migration seminar: Emma Hedderwick (European Commission), The external dimension of EU migration policy. Arts C233.

6.30pm Professional lecture: Jane Cowan (Sussex), From ritual to rights; or, dancing in the archives. Medical School Lecture Theatre.

**WED 7 NOV**

3pm Justice and Violence seminar: Michael Block (Harvard), Housing rights are human rights - but who decides who has them? Reflections on Thai concepts of community and ownership. Arts A17.

4pm Social & Political Thought seminar: Samantha Ashenden (Birkbeck), Proceduralism and political foundations: Problems in Habermas’ account of legitimacy. Bramber House 243.

6pm Joan Cooper memorial lecture: Sonia Jackson (London), Social care and social exclusion: Can education change the trajectory of looked after children? Medical School Lecture Theatre.

**THU 8 NOV**
1pm Chemistry & Biochemistry postgraduate seminar: Sandra Schlick (Sussex) and Gemma Haffenden (Sussex), titles TBA. Medical School MS3.07A.

4pm History seminar: Peter Harrison (Oxford), What was philosophical about Natural Philosophy? Arts A155.

4pm Psychology seminar: Michael Herzig (Lausanne), How features go around the corner. Pevensy 1, 1.183.

5pm Sussex Development lecture: Lawrence Haddad (Sussex), Child malnutrition: Why the long-term effects of a poor diet can no longer be stomached. Chechester Lecture Theatre.

6pm George Bell Association lecture: Dean of Chichester, Pardon, peace and a changing world. Meeting House.

**FRI 9 NOV**
2pm World Environmental History seminar: Roger Moody (Pretzians), The globalization of mining, Russell 23.

2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Gerard Hodgkinson (Leeds), Toward a pragmatic science of strategic intervention: The case of scenario planning. Freeman Centre, 024-25.

4pm South Asia seminar: Humera Iftikhar, Competition amongst allies: Jamaal-e-Islami and Jamaat-ul-Dawa in urban Lahore. Arts A71.

**MON 12 NOV**
1pm Cancer Research UK seminar: Pauline Hyman-Taylor (Cancer Research UK), A prospective, longitudinal study to investigate the impact of changes in service provision for the follow-up of women (over 50 years) with primary breast cancer. POG Library.

3pm International Relations seminar: Paul Cambaek (Manchester Metropolitan), Forgetting the transnational state. Arts C233.

4pm Languages and Linguistics seminar: Caroline Fierry (Essex), Diffusion of phonological change to Dutch English. Arts A71.

**5pm Economics seminar:** Jean-Louis Arcand (Aveugren), Heterogeneity in the impact of community driven development. Russell 28.

5pm Education seminar: John Perry (Sussex), Pupils as scientists: Results of a pilot research project on the use of Knowledge Forum developed by the Institute of Knowledge Innovation and Technology, University of Toronto, in four local primary schools. Arts E149.

**TUE 13 NOV**
1pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Andrew Gremmen (Sheffield), Avian transport defects in motor neuron disorders. Medical School Lecture Theatre.

1pm COGS lecture: Blair Whitem (Biology, Sussex), When QFRI was NEWFAL (Biology Lecture Theatre, JMS).

2pm SEI seminar: Jacob Kucharzyc (Institute of Public Affairs), Populism in Poland. Arts C233.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: David Sutton (Southern Illinois), Cooking choreography: Exploring skilled bodies in the kitchen environment. Arts C233.

**WED 14 NOV**
2pm Politics seminar: Simona Guerra (Sussex), Domestic proxies and the European factor before and after accession: Polish attitudes toward European integration in comparative perspective. Arts C233.

2pm Music seminar: Nick Till (Sussex), Analysing performance, performance analysis. Fellow House 120.

4.30pm Art History seminar: Helen Rufus-Ward (Sussex), A portrait of an ivory: Arts A103.

5pm Migration seminar: Rainer Baudock (European University Institute), Long-distance citizenship. A political theory perspective on migrants’ membership and rights in countries of origin. Arts C233.

7pm Archaeological Society talk: Andy Manning (Wessex Archaeology), In the wake of the Amesbury archer: A wild tale of long journeys, rich burials, a temple and a pub. Arts A1.

**THU 15 NOV**
4pm Psychology seminar: Lynne Murray (Reading), titles TBA. Pevensy 1, 1.183.


**Small ads**

**To let:** Double room in 2-bed flat, Hove. Suit PG or faculty. £400 ppcm. Available mid Dec. E s.e.walker@sussex.ac.uk.

**For sale:** 1-bed flat by Preston Park, 6 mths old, purpose built. Social housing – available part buy/part rent. See www.yourhomefinder.co.uk, or contact Fran on f.m.hunt@sussex.ac.uk.

**To let:** Unfurnished 2-bed flat by Queens Park, on top floor of converted Victorian house. Available now. £820 pcm. T Neville on 07779 554435 or E c.ragm@sussex.ac.uk.

**To let:** 3 rooms in part-furnished flat nr Palmira Sq. £385 ppcm excl per room, or entire flat £1,050 pcm. Available now. T Stephen on 07931 675974, E sgmwilf@blueyonder.co.uk.

**To let:** Room in Victorian family house, Lewes. Own bathroom. Garden, broadband, baby grand piano. £380 ppcm incl. T Sarain or Ted on 01432 741323.

**Wanted:** Early-morning ride to campus (between 7am and 7.45am) from Hove (Portfield Rd). For MA student. E Tamirama@lids.ac.uk.

**For sale:** 1 pr men’s ski boots, Nordica rear entry 888, size 8-9; 1 pr women’s ski boots, Salomon X31, size 6-7; both with boot bags. Offers to E rcss@sussex.ac.uk or T 07745002.

**For sale:** IKEA dining table + 4 fold-away chairs (stored below table top). £40, T 0602088.

**Arts event**

**MUSIC**

**Thu 8 Nov 1.20-2pm**

**Lunchtime concert**

Recital by Professor Martin Butler (piano) and final-year Philosophy and Music student, Jennie Tannah (voice). Meeting House.