Fair Sussex

University is awarded Fairtrade status

Sussex has been awarded Fairtrade status thanks to the joint efforts of staff and students.

David Chick, General Manager in Catering, has been part of the steering group. He said: “I’m delighted we have been granted the title as it’s the first joint initiative I’m aware of between the Students’ Union and the University that promote the ethical values of all environmentally minded students and staff in such a high-profile way.”

In order to become a Fairtrade university, Sussex had to demonstrate to the Fairtrade Foundation that it had met the required five goals:

- The Students’ Union and the University authorities both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these five goals.
- Fairtrade foods are available for sale in all campus shops and are used in all catering outlets on campus (or there is a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade foods as soon as it becomes possible).
- Fairtrade products (for example, coffee and tea) are served at all meetings hosted by the University and the union and in all University and union management offices.
- There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.
- A Fairtrade steering group is set up.

More than 100 Fairtrade products are now available on campus. Paul Knight, Trading Development Manager, said: “We have been working very hard collectively with the Students’ Union to widen our range of Fairtrade products on sale across campus and we are very proud that our efforts and commitment to this worthy cause have been recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation.”

John Houlihan, Commercial Services Manager at USSU, was the Students’ Union representative on the steering group.

He added: “We’ve known from customer surveys this is something customers have wanted, and with everybody’s ongoing support for Fairtrade this enables us to deliver an increasing range of social impacts, and for Sussex to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to supporting positive change for disadvantaged communities.”

A small celebration at a Fairtrade Christmas fair on Thursday (29 November) marked the University gaining Fairtrade status.

RAE submission represents Sussex research

As the Bulletin goes to press, all 1,200 pages of Sussex’s submission for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) are being loaded on to systems for final transmission to the funding council in time for the Friday 30 November deadline.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), has led the exercise, working with research directors and heads of department.

He is full of praise for the work of all the academic and support staff who have made this possible: “I believe that we have been able to present the University’s research activity in the best possible way. I have been hugely impressed with the commitment and effort which has gone in to this exercise.”

The University is making submissions in 26 Units of Assessment (the subject areas covered by the RAE). In the region of 550 academic staff at Sussex are being submitted – representing more than 85% of the potential staff cohort.

The submissions remain confidential to the University and the HEFCE panels, but Bob is keen for all staff in departments to read the summary overview of their own departmental research activity – the RAS forms, which all heads of department have signed off.

Taken as a whole, the submission represents the most up-to-date and comprehensive picture of the research base at Sussex, the academic strengths of the institution and future developments and goals.

Bob says: “This will provide a tremendous resource to inform development of research at Sussex, for example in the creation of the research themes, and in promoting the research we do.”

His message to staff is now simply to forget about the RAE until results are published in December 2008: “We do the research we do because of its worth and academic importance, not because of the RAE. It’s right that we have prepared as well as we can for it. But our focus now is on the important and exciting academic opportunities ahead of us.”

Many academic staff will have the opportunity to celebrate this milestone with fellow researchers at the ‘Research Christmas Stocking’; the event on Tuesday 11 December has attracted the interest of more than 250 Sussex academics.

It will enable staff to share ideas for research collaboration across the University – and, says Bob, to “raise a glass in recognition of an RAE job well done”.

Inside

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Five students are the recipients of Sussex sports bursaries.

7 Spots
Leopards have been spotted on campus – Leopard Slugs, that is.
SEI sponsors major London conference on Poland and the EU

The Sussex European Institute (SEI) sponsored a major international conference in London this month to evaluate Poland's first three years as a member of the European Union (EU).

The conference, at the Polish Embassy on 16–17 November, came only four weeks after an important parliamentary election in Poland. During the election the previous government's approach to European policy was a source of much controversy, both within the country and among its EU partners.

Among the conference organisers was SEI co-director Professor Aleks Szczepański, whose parents are Polish.

He commented: "SEI has particularly strong academic – and, in my case at least, emotional – links with Poland.

"We have always had a strong interest in the eastward enlargement of the European Union, which reflects our long-standing commitment to a broad and holistic approach to studying and researching contemporary Europe.

"This important conference has given us an opportunity to showcase our research in this area."

The conference, which was opened by the Polish Ambassador, brought together 120 delegates: a broad range of academics working on both Poland and contemporary Europe, together with policy makers, journalists, business analysts and representatives from the Polish community.

It included sessions on the impact of the EU on Polish politics and the economy, together with Poland’s impact on EU institutions and its future policy agenda.

Speakers included leading academic specialists from both Poland and UK, and representatives of key Polish ministries involved in the European integration process including agriculture and regional affairs, together with the Polish parliament, the government Office of the Committee for European Integration (UKIE) and the National Bank of Poland.

Aleks said: "All the participants that I spoke to said that they came away with a much clearer understanding of what kind of EU member Poland is and what role it is likely to play in the future."

Sussex education experts in London

Four academics from the Centre for International Education (CIE) have contributed to a national consultation on the governance, management and financing of global education.

At a seminar in London on 13 November, Dr Keith Holmes, Professor Keith Lewin, Dr Pauline Rose and Dr Prachi Srivastava were among 40 experts who shared ideas for content of the 2009 Global Monitoring Report, which will assess the world's progress in achieving Education for All (EFA).

The event was organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat together with the UK National Commission for UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), which has lead responsibility for the Education for All goals.

Later the same day, Dr Kwame Akyeampong, also of CIE, gave a keynote address at the Parliament Offices in London on 'Fifty years of educational progress and challenge in Ghana'.

"Ghana's education system has made significant strides," said Kwame, "but now needs investments that can improve quality."

He said investment should also be used to ensure access to education for the disadvantaged; especially poor households and girls; to improve teachers' work and living conditions, particularly in rural areas; and to increase investment in science- and technology-related programmes in higher education.

Kwame was speaking at an event organised by the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (www.cecomm.org.uk), a parliament-based NGO, to mark 50 years of Ghana's independence. The evening concluded with a speech by the Ghana High Commissioner.

Children want more control over their education, report shows

A new report shows that school children find themselves under considerable pressure to perform well in national curriculum tests.

The study, led by Sussex lecturer Dr Carol Robinson (pictured right), also shows that children believe their teachers place more emphasis on the completion of work, rather than the understanding of it, in order to ensure the workload is covered.

And they are also concerned about the loss of curriculum breadth as teachers concentrate on the tested core subjects.

'Children and their primary schools: Pupils' voices' is part of a major review of primary schooling.

While the study found that children are normally very happy at primary school, their enthusiasm wanes as they grow older.

Carol, who carried out the study with Professor Michael Fielding, of the University of London's Institute of Education, said the research showed that children would like more control over their learning, though the pressure of SATS for older children often prevented this.

"The Government's focus on equipping learners for life seems to be at odds with the current emphasis at the primary stage on target setting and academic achievement in a narrow range of subjects," said Carol.

"Further consideration needs to be given to what the prime purposes of primary schooling are and how these purposes are conveyed to pupils, families and the communities they serve."

The report is one of 32 Primary Review interim reports and is available at www.primaryreview.org.uk

The reports are being published both to increase public understanding of primary education and to stimulate debate during the period leading up to the publication of the Review's final report in 2008.
Developing the University’s strategic plan

The Vice-Chancellor launched a discussion document, ‘Setting the scope of our ambition’, in October as part of the process towards creating a new strategic plan to take Sussex through to 2015.

There have now been about 150 individual and collective responses to the document, as well as two open forum meetings for all staff and four smaller group discussions (each with 20–25 academic staff), as well as a range of discussions in departmental and team meetings and in formal University committees.

The University Council discussed the document on 22 November and gave its views on the future development and direction for the University. The Vice-Chancellor’s opinion piece in this Bulletin (see right) presents a broad summary and flavour of the responses and the discussions to date. There will be further discussion at the Senate meeting on 5 December.

A more detailed summary of the range of views and responses that the discussion has generated is now available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/vc/ambition

In January a ‘green paper’ will present concrete proposals for how Sussex can move ahead in the short term and towards its long-term ambitions. As with the initial discussion document, the University will seek views from staff and students on the ‘green paper’, in the spring term.

There will be a further Council meeting in January and a Senate meeting in the spring term, and the aim is to finalise the new strategic plan in April.

Action is also now in hand to take forward the development of some specific ideas within a strategic plan:

- Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), will lead discussion groups to help identify possibilities for Sussex’s overarching research themes;

- Professor Joanne Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), will be leading groups across particular broad areas of the University where curriculum and market development might provide opportunity for significant new growth;

- The Vice-Chancellor will be leading groups of staff to discuss where roles and responsibilities best sit within the University.

The papers presented this week to Council are available in the ‘Committees’ section of Sussex Direct; log in from www.sussex.ac.uk/staff

Shaping our ambitions for the future

The discussions we are engaged in about the development of Sussex give me great hope and optimism about our ambitions for the future.

I want to thank all of those colleagues – staff, students and alumni – who have given time and effort in discussion groups and committees, in submitting responses individually or collectively, for their part in this important conversation about the future direction of the University.

As part of this work, my senior colleagues and I last week invited Council, the University’s governing body, to provide their steer and guidance on the direction that the University should set for the future. I was delighted to be able to refer to the extensive discussions and consultation that had already been undertaken (see article left).

If I could characterise a flavour of the emerging views, from this wider consultation in the University and from Council discussion, it would be that Sussex does have an ambitious view of the future and a positive desire for action.

We have a positive attitude to internationalism — and a global perspective for the research we undertake and the teaching and learning we provide. Excellence is embraced — “who would not want to be excellent?” — but, as one contributor also put it, we need to define what excellence means for Sussex.

And while there was a strong consensus in many areas, it does not appear to be unhealthily so, as debate is at the heat of a thriving academic life. An ‘entrepreneurial’ attitude among students should be seen as action in social and political spheres, as well as in economic life. Teaching only where research is strong risks missing out on some real opportunities for a strong teaching base.

I was also struck by the realism of responses — a desire to face up to the need to make serious decisions for the future of Sussex, to plan investment and development, provided decisions are made openly and strategically with an informed understanding of the costs and the benefits.

My own personal opinion is that, all other things aside, the need for ‘growth’ is the major requirement of the University. If we are going to develop, we can do so best from within a growing institution: the issue then facing us will be what scale and how. And, as I have said before, my own view is that we must make a ‘step change’, not just change by increments: the question then is what action will achieve this.

There was strong support for the creation of over-arching research themes. Council papers sketched out what might characterise such themes — and Council was clear that it was not its role not to set out what the themes should be, but to ensure they were genuinely strategic and ambitious.

I was also impressed by the push to shape the Sussex of 2015 from the bottom up. The work that Bob Allison and Joanne Wright are now leading on research themes and on teaching and learning development are an important part of that process.

I myself will be taking forward with groups of staff some conversations about functions inside the University — to discuss with staff where roles and responsibilities best sit if we are to make a reality of the opportunities for change that now face us.

I look forward to further discussion in Senate next week, and then to presenting to the University our ‘green paper’ for discussion in the spring term.
Students welcome online social networking

Students have responded enthusiastically to a mock-up of a University website for social networking.

The project team for SPLASH (Student Personal Learning And Social Homepage) presented their design for the site to pilot groups on 19 November.

The showcase took place in the InQbate creativity centre, which has lots of projectors and flexible space. "It was much more fun than sending out a questionnaire and a link to a site," said Beth Granter, who is working on the project.

The idea of SPLASH is for students to have their own homepage where they can incorporate University information with other web resources, such as Flickr, Facebook and YouTube, centred around a personal blog. Users will be able to personalise their online environment.

The project is also exploring ways in which staff and students can use this technology to support learning.

Beth Granter, who is working on the project, said: "The session was a great success and we received useful feedback. Overall the response was positive and students seemed interested and excited about the project."

See http://splashproject.blogspot.com

LETTERS

The racket is deafening

I was relieved to see a letter (Bulletin 16 November) from an overseas student bemoaning the noise on campus and its disruption of what s/he calls "classes".

Granted, the campus should be kept tidy, but what's wrong with using a sturdy rake or broom for clearing leaves? Is that sort of bending activity against health and safety regulations nowadays?

Here in Sussex House, the racket is enough to drive a person loopy. If it's not the deafening leaf blowers and suckers, it's roads and pathways being dug up. I can't remember in recent months being in a meeting in the Committee Room that has passed without interruption from the external din.

See, it's turned me into a grumpy old man!

Adam Roberts, Partnership Office

Chalk wars

If Dr Fenn finds that his hands are covered with coloured inks [see Bulletin letter 16 November], I fear that he may be holding the board markers by the wrong end.

David Grantham, International Study Centre
Sports bursaries 2007–08

Five undergraduates have been presented with University sports bursaries for the 2007–08 academic year.

The bursaries are offered annually to Sussex sports men and women who are of an international, national or high county standard.

The support package includes free use of University sports facilities; fitness testing and programming; physiotherapy/sports massage; a parking permit; a financial package; and regular mentoring sessions.

On 19 November the students received their bursary awards from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, as part of an awards evening in Sussex House.

Emily Llewellyn (SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research)

Emily represents Great Britain in eventing at pony and junior level. She is the Pony National Champion 2004, Junior National Champion 2007 and Young Rider National Champion 2007. She won the individual bronze and team gold at the 2007 European Junior Championships. Emily's aim over the next year is to carry on taking part in one-day events and a few three-day events. She hopes to be selected for the Young Rider Team as well, with the aim of winning individual and team medals at the European championships.

Emily's aim for the long term is to win the individual and team medals at Olympics from 2012 onwards.

Miles Gandolfi (Medical School)

Miles is ranked fifth in the Great Britain under 20s and was third in the British under 18s. Highlights of his career so far include being a member of the Great Britain junior fencing squad and competing in countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, Italy. He also competed in the University of Sussex Open last year and won it.

His next year is going to be busy as he'll be taking part in many events around the country, including the Welsh Open. Miles will be participating in the BUSA team and individuals for the University as well.

Todd Leckie (Medical School)

Triathlon

Todd currently competes in the under 23 age group (with another three years to go) and last year was ranked in the top five in Great Britain. His best result was 14th in the London Triathlon Elite Race. He has represented Great Britain as a junior at both the European Triathlon and Duathlon Championships, finishing 25th and 21st respectively.

Todd's aim next year is to qualify for the U23 World Championships in Vancouver in June. To do this he will need to get a medal at the U23 National Championships. His other goal is to win the BUSA triathlon championships.

His long-term goal is to qualify for the Olympics in 2012 and 2016.

Richard Harris (Product Design)

Ultimate Frisbee

Richard is a member of the Great Britain mixed squad. Sporting highlights so far include winning the 2007 club nationals and club Europeans with his London team Clapham Ultimate. Another was winning gold at the 2007 European Championships with Great Britain.

Next year Richard will be participating in the Club Nationals as well as going to Vancouver for the World Championships with Great Britain in August.

Holly Wick (Philosophy)

Eventing

Holly is a national-level three-day eventer. The highlights of her career so far were mostly in 2004 when she was the under 18 British champion and won the team bronze medal at the Junior European Championships.

In October 2007 she competed in the Military Boekelo in Holland, where she qualified to ride next year at Badminton, which is the biggest competition in the world for three-day eventing and a lifetime dream for Holly.

She would like to get selected for senior team training and be a part of future British teams at senior European Championships. The Olympics is also a lifetime dream.
Diwali: the Sussex way

The Meeting House was the centre this month of the biggest Diwali celebration ever held at the University.

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, represents the victory of good over evil. To celebrate, more than 100 students from different countries and cultures - many of them dressed in traditional Indian attire - came together to enjoy this important event in the Hindu calendar.

Guests included Professor John Dearlove (Academic Director, External Liaison), Sara Dyer (Head of International Student Support) and John Sander (Senior International Liaison Officer).

Representatives from the International Office at the University of Brighton also attended, together with students on joint degree programmes involving Brighton and Sussex.

The evening began with a traditional prayer to Lord Ganesha, who represents peace, prosperity and knowledge.

This was followed by a cultural programme of live acts by Sussex students, including a mixture of traditional and Bollywood-style dances and songs, as well as poetry. There was also a quiz, based on Indian trivia, and a competition for best dressed male and female.

The entertainment was followed by a traditional Indian vegetarian dinner and finished with guests dancing to hit Bollywood songs.

Reflecting on a memorable evening, Manish Gaur, key organiser of the function, said: 'It was a golden opportunity for home and international students to learn more about Indian culture, meet people and make new friends.'

"For everyone from South Asia, it helped not only to get over their homesickness, but to realise that even though they are away from home, home is not away from them."

Sussex students win inaugural moot

A lecture room was transformed into the House of Lords for the first annual inter-university moot competition between Sussex and Brighton.

The contest was won by Charli Henderson and Tessa Shroff, both third year undergraduates at Sussex Law School.

The moot offers final-year law students the opportunity to practise their oral and written skills by arguing both sides of a fictitious criminal law suit in a simulated court room setting - but in front of a real judge.

His Honour Judge Anthony Niblett, who chaired the moot, said: "The presentations were excellent and of the highest calibre. All the students displayed very real talent - they aretrailblazers and look set to develop highly successful careers."

Charli Henderson led the winning Sussex team, acting as counsel for the appellant. She said: "The moot provides a fantastic opportunity to practise the conduct of the court room and put everything we've learnt from our degree into practice."

The winning Sussex students received an engraved silver salver and book tokens, presented by Judge Niblett and donated by sponsors Howlett Clarke, Brighton and Hove's longest running law practice. Several solicitors at the firm, including managing partner Simon Rowe, are graduates of Sussex or Brighton.

Mark Seltzer, Business Development Manager from Howlett Clarke, said: “Competition for placements is fierce within the legal industry, and winning an award for your courtroom skills can give students a real edge when they graduate.”

The event was followed by a reception and networking opportunity for the 100 invited guests who had turned out to watch the competition.

Lawyers: Judge Anthony Niblett with moot contest winners, Charli Henderson and Tessa Shroff.

Celebration for international students

The International Study Centre (ISC) on campus held a certificate ceremony this week to celebrate the achievements of the first cohort of students to complete its foundation year course.

The ISC offers a direct path to undergraduate study at Sussex for international students who do not yet meet all the entrance requirements for a degree.

All students who completed the course with the ISC in 2006-07 were invited to the awards event on Tuesday (27 November). Many of these students have now taken their places on degree programmes at Sussex.

The certificate presentation was followed by a reception in the Mantell Building, where the ISC is based, and a party in the Falmer Sports Complex bar.
Would-be lawyers flock to the fair

The hugely popular Sussex Law Fair on 22 November attracted no fewer than 700 students.

As a result of strong student and employer demand, the Law Fair was held separately from Grad Fair on 31 October (which more than 50 employers and 1,300 students attended).

Organiser Jocelyn Owen, from the Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC), said: “We’ve had so much interest from law firms and students that we decided to organise a separate event.”

The 26 exhibitors — ranging from solicitors and government legal services to a barristers’ chambers and providers of work experience and legal training — seemed very pleased with the calibre of students.

Rix and Kay, a Sussex-based law firm, said that the event was best one they had attended recently. London law firm Edwin Coke described it as “a wonderful event” and added: “We found it extremely useful and were delighted with the level of support provided by CDEC staff.”

Jo Bridgeman, head of the Sussex Law School, and Teresa Sutton, Careers Liaison Tutor, worked closely with CDEC. They were equally positive: “It was fantastic: a really good mix of firms and a good atmosphere. The feedback from the students was great.”

Jo and Teresa felt that the very strong interest from employers should encourage Sussex students not to be deterred by competition from Oxbridge graduates in the legal profession but to focus energy on making good-quality applications to all employers with the support available from CDEC’s careers advisers.

Student evaluation provided useful comments about the range of employers present, with suggestions for the future. The general message was that CDEC should “keep going with these events”. Students said: “They are excellent and it’s very helpful to meet employers and talk face-to-face”.

Dinner to help flood victims in Mexico

Mexican students at Sussex are organizing a charity dinner to raise money for flood victims back home.

More than 1 million people in the southern state of Tabasco were affected by floods in early November and a great number are still living in shelters.

The Mexican Student Association at Sussex (MEXSAS) is organizing the dinner, at Stanmer House (below) on Tuesday (4 December) from 5-9pm.

Raffle prizes have been donated by sponsors including Mexican beer and spirits firms and Mexican restaurants in both Brighton and London. The Embassy of Mexico is also supporting the event.

All proceeds will be sent to the international aid fund.

For more information, see www.sussu.net/mexsas; for tickets (£2.4 each), email mexsoc_sussex@yahoo.co.uk

A walk on the wild side

The mild, damp weather in November seems to have kept the local mollusca active: several readers reported large slugs with spotted coats, lurking in dark places, such as recycling bins.

These were Leopard Slugs (left), common beasts of woodland and gardens, which reach up to 15 cm in length and so are easy to spot. They can live for several years and the recent flurry of records may result from them looking for somewhere to shelter for the winter when they are inactive. Their diet is extremely diverse, and even includes smaller slugs and snails.

In recent columns we have emphasised how much the landscape of campus owes to the Pelham family of nearby Stanmer House. Their influence was weakened by double death duties in 1926 when the sixth and seventh Earls of Chichester died in the same week. It ended when the eighth Earl was killed on active service in 1944, and the estate sold to Brighton Corporation.

The council had hankered after a local university for decades, and so set about establishing one. Initial progress was slow: building work was only starting when the first 52 students were admitted in 1961.

When Dame Sylvia Crowe designed new plantings of trees and shrubs to complement the buildings, she used plants typical of downland and of value to wildlife. Several berry-bearing plants thus became much commoner on campus than in the surrounding area.

One of these is Whitebeam, a short deciduous tree with a wide, dense canopy bearing large orange-red berries in autumn.

We were surprised one night to spot a group of Pied Wagtails asleep in the specimen outside Sussex House: they were as obvious as decorations on a Christmas tree.

On 5 November, Paul Cecil briefly escaped from the Academic Office to photograph wildlife on campus. He spotted a strange bird flying near East Slope and managed to take three quick shots that, although distant, were more than enough for bird expert Richard Fairbank (a.k.a. Senior Assistant Planning Officer) to confirm that it was a Little Auk.

This black-and-white seabird, which is about the size of a Starling, breeds in the High Arctic and winters as far south as the North Sea. Although it is the one of the most common seabirds in the world, it is scarce in Sussex: we have never seen one away from the coast and are very envious.

Paul's bird, which was followed by others along the south coast, was probably driven south by the severe storms earlier in the month.

The opening of Stanmer Court has given us our first opportunity to venture south of the A27 for this column (since our kindly editor keeps us on a tight leash). We will report our findings in the new year. In the meantime we wish all our readers a peaceful vacation.
Academic events

MON 3 DEC
3pm International Relations seminar: Andreas Antoniadou (Sussex), From ‘theories of hegemony’ to ‘hegemony analysis’ in international relations. Arts C233.

1pm COGS lecture: Ron Chrisley (Sussex), The birth of constructionism. Biology Lecture Theatre, JMS.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Valentina Napolitano (Toronto), The Virgin of Guadalupe as a nexus of affects. Arts C233.

WED 5 DEC
12 noon Chemistry seminar: Stuart Mackenzie (Cambridge), Shedding light on the role of geometrical structure in determining the reactivity of metal clusters. Arundel 401.

1.15pm Law seminar: Craig Barker (Sussex), State immunity and human rights: Competing norms and conflicting values. Russell 12.

2pm Politics seminar: Sarah Hsieh (Birkbeck), Community governance. Arts C233.

4.30pm Art History seminar: Greg Irvine (V&A), Japan, Britain and the V&A, 1868-1912: Civilization and enlightenment. Arts A103.

5pm Migration seminar: Lucie Corna (Oxford), Comparing high-skilled immigration policies: The measurement and ranking of advanced industrial countries. Arts C233.

FRIDAY 7 DEC
2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Tom Crosett (Thames Flood Forum), Involving people in flood risk management. Freeman Centre, G24/25.

4pm South Asia seminar: Amit Dasii (LSI), Religious transformation and marginality: An exploration from Hindu central India. Arts A17.

THU 6 DEC
1pm Postgraduate chemist and biochemist seminar: Medical School 3.07.

WED 12 DEC
12 noon Xmas Lecture: Phil Parsons (Sussex), Oxidation, fire and flame. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

7pm Archaeological Society talk: Michael Hughes (Sussex), Snatch’d from Africa’s shore: Slavery, the slave trade and abolition. Arts A1.

Small ads

To let: Double room in 2-bed flat with sea view, Hove. £385pwm. Suit F professional. E sallyannfromuk@hotmail.com.

Holiday Let: Afforable rustic accommodation outside historic hilltop town, Umbria. Stips 2 + 2. See www.remona.uk.com/umbria/fonteeco02.htm

To let: Large furnished room in house off Portland Rd. Available Jan for 6 mths, with option to extend. Share with filmmaker & writer. £450 ppcm incl. (Small furnished room, £380 pcm, may also be available mid Dec.) E Tamara Plush at tamara@ids.ac.uk.

To let: House in Kemp Town. Available Jan. £600 pcm. E cwtass@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Apple PowerBook G4, 1.25GHz, 1GB RAM, 80GB. Box & cabling. £425 oono. T Ahmet on 882643, E a.aydin@sussex.ac.uk.


Wanted: 1- or 2-bed furnished flat in Lewes, 1 Jan–30 Apr. For visiting prof. E Gabriela at kutting@rutgers.edu.

Catering and retail presentation
All staff are invited to a meeting on the results of a review of catering and retail. Catering consultancy The Russell Partnership, which carried out the study, will present their findings on Monday (3 December) at 1.30 pm in the Terrace Room on level 3 of Bromber House. Email p.g.babington@sussex.ac.uk if you are attending. Students will be invited to a separate presentation.

Slavery exhibition and talk
A small exhibition to commemorate the 200th anniversary this year of the abolition of the slave trade can be seen in the foyer of Essex House until 19 December. The exhibition, commissioned by East Sussex Record Office, uses evidence from a number of sources including the archives of Sussex families who were plantation owners in the West Indies. Michael Hughes from the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) will give a talk to accompany the exhibition on Wednesday 12 December at 7pm in Arts A1.

‘Library Review’
The Library has launched a new ‘Library Review’, an online replacement of the previous Annual Report. As well as the traditional statistical information, this magazine-style electronic publication (www.sussex.ac.uk/library/review/) will provide regular updates on progress and developments in the Library. New articles will be added each month, so keep an eye out for items of interest. Take a look and give any comments via www.sussex.ac.uk/library/contact/

David Pocock dies
Emeritus Professor David Pocock died on Sunday (25 November) at the age of 79. David, a social anthropologist who specialised in India, came to Sussex from Oxford in 1966. He served as Dean of the former School of African and Asian Studies, Chair of Counselling Services, and Honorary Director of the Mass Observation Archive. David retired in 1987.

Arts event

PERFORMANCE
Mon 3 Dec
7.30pm University of Sussex Choir and Opera Society concert
Works will include Britten’s A Ceremony of Carol. Tickets available on the door.
St Bartholomew’s Church, Brighton.

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Lisa Brace, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Maggie Clurce and Rob Read. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from the staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 14 December, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 7 December. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.