New schools come into being

The current academic structure of the University is about to change: officially, from 1 August, 12 new schools will come into being.

The new structures are designed to ensure that the University can deliver the growth and development set out in the strategic plan, ‘Making the Future, 2009–2015’.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, paid tribute to the hard work that many staff in academic and Professional Services have undertaken this year to make the new schools a reality: “I want to thank everyone involved for the commitment they have shown to getting the work done to bring the new schools into being, while continuing to deliver on current activities. These are the structures that are going to ensure our success in the future.”

Heads for all new schools have been appointed, with the final appointment for Law, Politics and Sociology about to be announced. The senior leadership teams for each school are being confirmed and the full list of directors and heads of department is about to be announced.

New support teams have been appointed for each new school. In addition, professional service teams, led by three new Strategy and Operations Managers (SOMs), will provide strategic and planning support for the new schools.

Sara Hinchcliffe, SOM for the science schools, said: “We are looking forward to providing a new bridge between school and central professional services at Sussex. This is a great opportunity to develop a team approach to support by professional services.”

The work this year has had dedicated project-management support, and much detailed operational work continues to take place involving colleagues from Estates and Facilities Management (EFM), Finance, IT Services, Human Resources and Communications, supporting colleagues moving into the new schools.

An internal e-newsletter and online information pages (at www.sussex.ac.uk/ vc/newschools) have charted the progress of the creation of the new schools, and these will continue to operate for the coming weeks as the new schools bed down.

Work to support the transition from the current schools will continue through the summer, as physical moves begin next week.

Leaflets on the new schools are being posted to all continuing undergraduate students who are away from campus, with direct communication from teams in the new schools to research students and postgraduates on taught courses.

Making the future:
The 12 new academic schools at Sussex are grouped into three broad areas: Science, Social Sciences and Arts.

Sussex to lead UK addiction research

Sussex psychologists are to head up two national research clusters in the area of addiction.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have created 11 clusters to conduct research in the area of addiction and substance misuse that will lead to a real benefit for public health.

Clusters will have the opportunity to bid for ring-fenced funding amounting to £4.5m.

The Sussex-led clusters will focus on different aspects of addiction research:

- Experimental psychologist Professor Dai Stephens will lead a team of researchers from Sussex, the University of Dundee, Imperial College London and the Institute of Psychiatry (King’s College London) studying particular brain mechanisms believed to be important in addiction.

- Professor Charles Abraham, a social and health psychologist, will lead a team of researchers from Sussex, University of Sheffield, University of Leeds, Queen’s University Belfast and Birkbeck College, London. This group will study individual and social processes that influence alcohol consumption among young people, with a view to developing effective interventions.

Dai said: “The award of even one cluster headed by Sussex would have been a prestigious recognition of the importance of the Sussex group in UK addiction research. That we obtained two such clusters is very good news indeed.”

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), agreed. He said: “This is excellent news. To get two of the clusters says much about the quality of the research that is done in this area at Sussex.”
Bee lab makes a new home on the web

Visitors can now view a hive of activity at the University of Sussex bee lab – on the web.

The Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI), led by Professor of Apiculture Francis Ratnieks, was officially opened in April this year.

Since October 2008 LASI researchers have been working on the Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health and Well Being – a £2m, four-part project to explore the plight of the honey bee over the next five years.

Honey bees have been hit hard by disease and pests. Around 30 per cent of UK hives died off last winter, leaving fewer bees to pollinate a large number of commercial food crops, flowers and other plants.

Francis and his team are working to discover why bees are dying off – and how to stop the decline.

Now supporters can follow the progress of the key projects and find out how to help by visiting www.sussex.ac.uk/researchgroups/lasi Further web development over the next few months will give visitors access to downloadable resources and pictures.

The public reaction to the bees' plight – and to the work of LASI – has been tremendous. Donations from companies, benefactors and school children have helped boost funds to just over half a million pounds.

School children at St Joseph's RC Primary School in Brighton designed their own T-shirts, launched a campaign for bee-friendly window boxes and served honey-drizzled ice cream to parents. Proceeds went to the Sussex Plan and LASI scientist Dr Karin Alton was on call to hand out prizes.

Ten-year-old Cub Scout Elliot Edmunds from London completed a 26-mile walk around the Isle of Wight in June to raise £200 for LASI, after learning about the plight of the bees on a TV programme. It is hoped that Elliot will visit the lab soon with his parents.

Conservation staff at Kew Gardens' annexe, Wakehurst Place, have offered to help turn the LASI apiary into a showcase collection of plants and trees so visitors to the lab can appreciate the importance of honey bees to pollination. Wakehurst Place envisage donating not only downland meadow plants, hedging, trellis and fruit trees, but also their time and expertise in planting and maintaining this area.

Donors to date include Michael Chowen (founder of Sussex Stationers), honey company Rowse Honey and conservation and ecology charity the Ninevah Trust.

Francis says: "There’s still a long way to go before we secure the future of these vital projects in the long term. The public response so far has been fantastic, and we’re hoping that the government, through its Pollinator Initiative, will prove itself just as committed to the cause through the £10m of funds it has promised."

Inca research offers a grain of hope for climate change

The findings of an international team of scientists offer a climate-based explanation for the unprecedented growth of the New World’s greatest empire: the Inca.

According to Sussex geographer Dr Mick Frogley and a colleague from the French Institute of Andean Studies in Lima, Peru, the meteoric rise of the mighty but short-lived Inca empire in 15th- and 16th-century South America coincided with a sustained rise in temperature attributable to natural climate change.

Their research also highlights the challenges faced by present-day Peru, one of the three countries recently identified by the World Bank as most vulnerable to the negative effects of current, man-made climate change.

Lessons can be learnt from the Inca, say the researchers, in dealing with water demand as Peru’s chief water source, the Andean mountain glaciers, continue to shrink during the present period of global warming.

The team analysed seeds and pollen from layers of sediment in a dried-up lake called Marcacocha, located close to the tourist route to Machu Picchu in highland Peru. The abundances and types of microscopic remains revealed a period of marked warming that culminated with the rise of the Inca from 1400 to 1532.

The Inca re-landscaped the Andes with their agricultural terraces. This coincided with a period of climatic warming (that originally began around AD 1100) that allowed people to move further up the cooler slopes of the Andes and productively exploit completely new areas. Sustainable agricultural techniques such as irrigation by glacial waters and tree planting to avoid land erosion allowed the Inca to maximise food production for a rapidly expanding population.

"The Inca were lucky. They were able to exploit rising temperatures during a period of drought," says Mick. "In earlier, cooler times we believe that other cultures may have been wiped out by sustained drought."

The findings suggest that only massive native reforestation and innovative reservoir construction, as practised by the Inca, could offer the climatic and water security necessary to support a rapidly developing modern-day Peru.

"Hence, it all comes down to the water issue," says Dr Frogley. "Peru's glaciers are retreating at quite a pace. What is facing the descendants of the Inca today is another period of aridity. But instead of having to sustain maybe nine million people, the present population is closer to 30 million."

‘Putting the rise of the Inca empire within a climatic and land management context’ was published on 22 July in the open-access journal Climate of the Past.
Sanjeev right for Sussex, says honoured mentor and friend

The University awarded seven honorary degrees at last week's graduation ceremonies.

New Chancellor Sanjeev Bhaskar's first duty, on Wednesday 22 July, was to confer an honorary degree on his mentor and friend Anil Gupta, producer of the BBC TV series 'The Kumars at No 42' and 'The Office'.

Mr Gupta congratulated Sussex on making the "right choice" for its new Chancellor. He said: "I've known Sanj nearly 15 years now as a colleague and a friend. The first time I met him he was part of a comedy double act with Nitin Sawhney called The Secret Asians."

He first saw Sanjeev perform in a London show called 'Poppadom Presch'. He said: "I thought, what an extraordinarily gifted and funny performer. I turned to my friend to say, 'Mark my words, one day that guy is going to be Chancellor of the University of Sussex', and how right I was!"

Also on 22 July, Festus Gontebanye Mogae, former President of Botswana, was made Doctor of Letters. He said: "I gratefully accept the honour with humility.

"Like Gratiano in Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice', I will be reputed wise by virtue of the company I have kept. Even if only by proxy."

Also receiving honorary degrees this year were:

- Professor Adetokumbo O. Lucas, international health specialist, who was made Doctor of Medicine (23 July). Professor Lucas, whose son has an engineering degree from Sussex, paid tribute to the contribution the University, and the city of Brighton, has made to his personal and professional life. He said: "Now that my family has learned that Sussex spells 'success', the next generation - our grandchildren - are all lining up to take their turn to be inducted into the academic fellowship of your prestigious institution."

- Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex (2000–08) who was made Doctor of the University (23 July).

- The Honorable Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland (1990–97), who was made Doctor of Laws (24 July).

- Baroness Brenda Hale of Richmond, the UK's first woman Lord of Appeal, who was made Doctor of Laws (24 July).

- Sir Michael Holroyd, biographer and author, who was made Doctor of Letters (24 July).

Hard work still needed

As we rightly reflect at the end of the academic year on our achievements, there is a significant challenge to face ahead of us.

It is important at this time of the year to reflect on the University's successes: the publication of our new strategic plan, Making the Future; significantly improved National Student Survey (NSS) results; installation of a new Chancellor; some strong Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results; and rises up the higher education league tables.

It is also important to thank and acknowledge the hard work of all our staff. And I want again to do that publicly here, as I did at the summer graduation ceremonies last week.

But the University is not in a position where we can leave it at that for the summer, enjoy the time off that many of us will have, and simply look forward to the new academic year.

I know that for a number of colleagues the summer period is always a busy time, not least for those running our summer schools and conferences, for our admissions teams and those heavily engaged in pursuing our research and wider discussions.

They are joined this summer with those hundreds of colleagues preparing for, and making a reality of, the new schools.

But in addition to this, the financial position facing us, like other universities and like much of the public sector, is a very serious one - and that requires a serious and immediate response.

As all in the Sussex community should know, we need to find a minimum of £3 million in sustained savings over the next two years if we are to start to get our finances back into balance, and then to grow to a modest surplus in order to allow us to continue to invest.

Council, the University's governing body, has endorsed an approach that encompasses investment for growth, significant savings in targeted areas across the University, and continued investment in the capital infrastructure of the campus. The strategic plan continues to set the framework for this development.

And because that agenda is urgent, a great deal of hard work needs to be undertaken in the coming months to take it forward. A Council steering group has been created that will oversee the work. A Senate working group has already tackled the detail on academic drivers for change.

Operationally, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Lazell, will be leading a team of academic and Professional Services colleagues to push this forward. That will be supported as a project by one of our new central Special Projects team.

We will be looking to our new heads of school, notably in areas of highest deficit position, to develop plans for achieving financial surplus. The heads of IT Services, Library, Estates and Facilities Management (EFM) and Trading Services will also be looking hard at where savings can be achieved, while delivering priority services. Colleagues in other Professional Services will be preparing in readiness for when we have a new Registrar & Secretary in post to take decisions on savings there.

All of this will be working towards setting out initial proposals in the autumn, on which we can undertake necessary consultation and discussion and making decisions by the winter. I very much hope that we will approach this in a calm and collective manner in which we work together in the common interest across the staff and student community.

Of course there are exciting things to look forward to in the autumn:

- new ideas for development from the new schools
- exciting new research projects
- opportunities for responding to the local and regional community
- physical developments that will continue to transform the campus
- new services for students, such as Sussex Plus.

All of these are activities we should be celebrating at this time next year.

But, to ensure that we have a sustainable platform to deliver all of this, hard work is needed from this summer onwards to ensure we respond effectively to the sustained financial challenges facing us.
Obituary

Vaughan James, who joined the University in 1964 as Lecturer in Russian and founded the predecessor to the Sussex Language Institute, has died aged 84.

His time at Sussex may not seem long — just under 10 years — but was disproportionately significant.

He was a remarkably gifted language teacher, and was first Director of the Language Laboratory, from which the present Sussex Language Institute is in direct line of descent.

Russian studies at the time were in a vigorous state, and Vaughan was the organizing spirit in setting up an exchange scheme that enabled Sussex undergraduates to spend a year in Moscow — unheard of at the time in the British university system, where it was met with disbelief.

Students of those days vividly remember his teaching skills, ebullience and general helpfulness, specially as regards the year abroad.

At Sussex he also wrote a still-standard textbook on Soviet Socialist Realism, and he subsequently went into publishing, including a series of modern Russian texts.

During his time working for Pergamon Press, he was famous as being one of the few people self-confident enough to be unfazed by the alarming Captain Maxwell’s authoritarian manner.

Robin Milner-Gulland, Research Professor in English

FIRST CLASS

Dr Marcia Lagarde is one of just 16 "outstanding newly qualified researchers" to receive a Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust. Marcia will study how cells within the inner ear contribute to hearing capabilities. The fellowships provide £250,000 over four years so that a new generation of research leaders can pursue important biomedical research questions, working in the best laboratories in the UK and overseas.

Dr Kattie Lussier, a researcher in the Sussex School of Education, took first place for women at the 2009 UK national freeriding championship in Chepstow, South Wales, on 18 and 19 July. Kattie started freeriding — underwater diving while holding one’s breath — only in 2008. She trains at the Falmer Sports Complex each morning and is taught yoga on campus by Val Orringe, who also works as the reception supervisor in the Sussex Institute. Kattie said: "Without the support of Sussex sports staff I would never have reached that level so fast."

NSS results due

The results of the 2009 National Student Survey (NSS) will be released next Thursday (6 August), HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England) has revealed.

The results of the UK-wide poll of final year student opinion are being released to institutions and the media on 6 August, before all data is made available to the public on 29 September at www.unistats.com

The 2009 survey ran at Sussex between 2 February and 30 April. Over 1,500 of eligible students — 68% — responded, which was 8% higher than the national average of 60%.

In the 2008 NSS, Sussex recorded one of the biggest improvements of all universities, and the best of all institutions in the elite 1994 and Russell Groups.
The son of folk legend Bob Copper returned to campus this month to talk to local children about his famous musical family, using notes, diaries and observations from the University’s archives.

The group of ‘looked after’ children and their foster parents took part in an interactive workshop on 18 July in the InQbate Creativity Zone, where materials from the Copper family archive inspired drawing, map-making and singing.

John Copper, Bob’s son, played a recording of himself when he was six years old, singing a traditional folk song. The children singing along was then played back over the sound system while videos were projected onto the walls.

The event was organised by Isilda Almeida from the East Sussex Record Office in partnership with Fiona Courage, Special Collections Manager, and Diane Brewster, Learning Facilitator for InQbate. It was funded by a government initiative to encourage partnerships that enable all children and young people to participate in museum/archive learning.

Fiona hopes that the event could lead to future collaborations. She says: “The event was a great success and hopefully it will be the first of many.”

Around 60 boxes of notebooks, letters and scripts for plays, were donated to the Library’s Special Collections in 2005 – a year after Bob Copper died, aged 89. The collection includes a unique recording of a 1950 BBC radio documentary about Bob’s father Jim; analyses of the songs; Jim’s handwritten accounts of farm life at the end of the 19th century; and material collected during Bob’s own association with the BBC.

Bob – who received an honorary degree from Sussex in 2000 – and his family are famous worldwide for their harmonised, unaccompanied singing of English folk songs handed down through successive generations for the past 200 years. The Copper family has lived in the East Sussex village of Rottingdean since the late 18th century, giving them an unbroken link with a distinct rural cultural heritage.

Bob’s work shares shelf space with a varied catalogue of literary contributions housed in the University’s Special Collections, ranging from the papers of Virginia Woolf and Rudyard Kipling to the radio scripts of Frank Muir and Denis Norden.
Sanjeev Bhaskar leads the cheering at graduation

Medical students make the grade

After years working in investment banking in the City of London, Elaine Murphy went back to the beginning to start her medical career - and this on top of bringing up two children. "They were four and three when I began," she says. "Now they are 10 and nine. It was a challenge sitting in classes being a good student, and then looking at the watch knowing I had to leave to take the kids home.

"It's been hard for them at times, but good for them to see me trying to balance all these responsibilities." This experience has inspired her children. Her daughter is particularly interested in medicine, and regularly tests Elaine on her knowledge of tropical diseases.

For Elaine, there has been "a sense of achievement, a great awareness of illness in the community from the physical to the psychological, and a greater understanding of the breadth of society".

Elaine will be a junior doctor in emergency medicine at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Ian Heath started his career as a pharmacist and ran a local pharmacy for six years before developing an online business.

He then decided to change direction. "It was a postgraduate course in therapeutics that got me in contact with medics, and propelled me into a new career," he says.

Being at BSMS has taught him the underlying principles, skills, attitudes and communication skills to become an effective doctor. "In year one you learn, by year three you start to practise and at the end of year five you're a fully practising medic. It's a graded development."

Ian will now be a junior doctor in cardiology and geriatrics in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich in London.

After completing a degree in History and working for several years in the travel industry, Matthew Williams didn't see his future in it.

"It took a while to get up to speed in studying again," he says. "But as a mature student, he has particularly enjoyed "the intellectual challenge".

Significant clinical experience in the first two years prepared him well for the big step into the wards in the final three years.

Matthew will now be working at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford, working in immunology, rheumatology and then surgery.
Crispin’s food for thought

A familiar face to hungry staff and students across campus, Senior Catering Assistant Crispin Holloway knows as well as anyone the difficulties of working full time and being a mature student, as well as dealing with dyslexia. He has worked in busy campus cafes since 2004 and graduated last Friday (24 July) from Sussex with a 2:1 BA in Landscape Studies.

With a keen interest in field biology and ecology, particularly butterflies, the CCE student’s dissertation about conservation was awarded a first-class mark, despite increasing pressures at home and work which stopped him from doing any dissertation work during the vital Easter period.

He says: “After a day’s work I would go home and try and get on with my dissertation – often working on it until 1am or later, then work the next day!”

“Somehow the adrenalin kept me going,” Crispin describes his dyslexia as like being “left-handed in a world designed for right-handers”. He says: “Dyslexia was a slight problem when writing things up – it just took longer and had some errors. “Personally I don’t see dyslexia as a disability but as a different way of thinking and learning.”

He has spent the last 14 summers walking the same patch of Downland near Lewes each week, counting and recording butterflies using a dictaphone - which he admits can make him “look a bit odd”.

This vital conservation work for the Sussex Wildlife Trust was featured in the Daily Telegraph on 4 July.

Crispin currently works in the Espresso cafe in the Library but has worked in nearly all campus cafes over the last five years. He intends to carry on working at Sussex but is spending 10 weeks this summer carrying out field research for Exeter University.

In the future he hopes to compile a database of native flora and fauna found on the Sussex campus.

Obi sets his sights higher

Obiakwae Iwenoufo graduated with a 2:1 in Economics at the opening ceremony at the Brighton Dome. It is, by his own admission, quite an achievement.

Obi, 32, left school with GCSEs and spent most of his early adult life working in shops before tackling the challenges of academia. After applying to universities, he realised he needed to show evidence of some recent studying to get accepted on to any course.

He took a short maths course, which secured him a place at the University of Kingston. After a year he decided to transfer to Sussex to complete his degree because he felt it was highly regarded university, and living in an exciting city with both the sea and countryside close by appealed to him greatly.

“1 enjoyed being at Sussex so much that, to be honest, I became complacent,” he admits. “I didn’t do so well initially because I was busy socialising, making music and playing computer games. And I hadn’t really built up the skills I needed to write essays or deal with questions in exam conditions.

“But I really got to work in my last year, spurred on by the great deal of encouragement and support I received from family, friends and members of staff in the Economics department.”

Now Obi is hoping to take a postgraduate course in finance. “I feel there is there is so much more I could do,” he says. “Getting the degree has made me feel much more confident. I have more faith in myself and my horizons are so much broader now.”

Nikki’s musical career takes new direction

After a career as a jazz singer and a piano teacher, mum of two Nikki Franklin decided to add an academic qualification to her repertoire. Last week she graduated with a first in Music.

Nikki, 36, who lives in Hassocks, says: “I have been performing professionally since I was 19 and have sung with many bands, including the main Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Fleetwood Bac: “But I really wanted to explore new avenues. I didn’t have any qualifications, so I did an Access course to get into university.”

With two small children – Oscar, aged seven, and six-year-old Ellen – she found the demands of a full-time degree course quite challenging. She is also recently divorced. “I found my life taking a new and exciting direction,” she says.

While she excelled at the performance modules for the degree programme, she also got top marks for composition. “I found I enjoyed writing for a full orchestra with chorus,” she says. “I also wrote a big band piece, which was performed by Brighton’s No Straight Chaser.”

Nikki is hoping to be funded for postgraduate studies in music. “I am interested in lecturing in music at university level,” she says.

Star student

Peter Hurley has achieved a first in his MPhys in Astrophysics, despite missing large chunks of university study for hospital treatment.

Peter, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, a life-threatening disease that requires constant medication and special management, is now planning to continue studying at Sussex for a doctorate and is currently teaching a physics summer school on campus for prospective students.

He says: “When I began my degree my health wasn’t too bad. But then I needed intensive treatment at the Royal Brompton hospital in London. In my third year it got really bad. I lost a lot of weight and I was having difficulty with my chest. But I got through it.”

Peter, whose family lives in Saltdean, first developed an interest in physics while still a student at Longhill School in Rottingdean. When he arrived at Sussex his studies took him into astrophysics and he completed his final-year project on galaxy clusters.

For his doctorate he will be analysing data from the Herschel Space Observatory, which is currently delving deep into space to look at the early formation of galaxies.

His supervisor is Dr Seb Oliver, a Reader in Astronomy who led a team of scientists to develop one of the instruments on Herschel. “It’s very exciting for me to be involved in such a major study,” says Peter.

Attending the graduation ceremony at the Dome on 23 July will be Peter’s parents, his two brothers and his grandfather.
Young people learn how to create computer games

Local youngsters have jumped at the chance to sign up for a school-holiday activity with a difference: a computer games workshop staged by researchers in the new School of Informatics.

The five-day game-making workshop from 3-7 August has proved so popular that it is oversubscribed, with a long waiting list for places.

The 11-16-year-olds on the course will build their own fully playable 3D role-playing game, which they will take away with them at the end of the week, along with a copy of the game-making software.

The workshop will be held in the InQbate Creativity Zone, an innovative and technology-rich teaching space that provides excellent support for the creative process of game design.

Participants can use the write-on walls to plan out their game ideas, realise those ideas in 3D graphical form on hi-spec laptops, and make use of the panoramic projection facilities to watch demonstrations and evaluate their own and each others’ games.

The event is being run in conjunction with a research project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) that involves developing a programming language to make it easier for children to create games, while also teaching them some high-level computing concepts.

The project team – Dr Judith Good, Katy Howland and Keiron Nicholson – are using a learner-centred design approach to creating the new language, and youngsters at the workshop will help to shape aspects of the software design with their ideas and suggestions.

The School of Informatics now offers a degree for those further on in their education who want to pursue a career in game making. The new BSc in Games and Multimedia Environments (GAME), which welcomes its first students in September, will give undergraduates the experience and qualifications necessary to work in many multimedia and gaming industries.

The degree programme will teach skills in areas including software development, 3D graphics, artificial intelligence, fundamentals of multimedia and video systems, creation of multimedia content, web design, computer architecture and networks.

New sports membership scheme

Regular users of campus sports services are encouraged to sign up to a new membership scheme launching on 1 August to get the best value for their money.

Sussexsport will be offering three types of memberships for staff, costing between £25 and £185 a year, which allow different levels of access to facilities and programmes. Members benefit from discounted prices, preferential booking rights and the ability to book more than one day in advance.

The membership options are:

- **Gold** (£185 a year or £90 for three months): Includes unlimited use of fitness rooms (including free induction), two fitness programmes, unlimited group exercise classes, court hire for all racket sports and up to two weeks advance booking facility.
- **Silver** (£160 a year): Includes unlimited use of fitness rooms (including free induction), unlimited group exercise classes and up to one week advance booking facility.
- **Bronze** (£25 a year): Includes discounted access to facilities, fitness room induction and up to one week advance booking facility.

You can still access sports facilities and classes as a non-member by paying full prices when you book.

Staff will be able to pay for gold and silver memberships via salary deduction.

For a list of all full and discounted prices and more information about memberships (including rates for students, alumni and members of the public), go to www.sussex.ac.uk/sport

Theatre summer school on campus

Places are still available on a children’s theatre summer school to be held on campus.

The aim of the course, run by Earwig Productions, is to help youngsters aged 7-17 develop a basic knowledge of theatre by working with professional performers, designers and directors.

The students work in small groups to practise skills in acting, improvisation, make-up, dance and movement, circus and design.

Each week-long course costs £140 and runs from Monday—Friday, 9.30am—4pm.

The course will be offered on the Sussex campus three times this summer: 3-7 August, 10-14 August and 17-21 August.


Meadows exhibition at Wakehurst Place

If you fancy a summer day out, you’ve still got time to see an exhibition celebrating the history, culture, landscape and ecological value of grasslands in the Sussex Weald.

The Sussex Weald Meadows Exhibition, which utilises research from a project at the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), is on view at Wakehurst Place in Ardingly until 4 October.

The exhibition highlights the vanishing landscape of traditional Wealden hay meadows, and shows visitors how experts at Wakehurst are working with partners to restore them.

Wakehurst Place, the University of Sussex, and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty have joined forces to form the Weald Meadows Group, which is working to restore and enhance flower-rich meadows in the Sussex Weald.

Features at the exhibition include audio recordings from oral histories collected by CCE’s River Ouse Project, illustrating aspects of meadow management and haymaking.

Business training for staff and students

Free business training worth over £1,500 is on offer for staff, doctoral researchers and students wanting to develop their ideas into a business or social enterprise.

Sussex is part of the CommercialSE programme, a funding and training scheme across 11 universities in the south-east, and part-funded by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

The next round of CommercialSE training is now open for applications; the deadline is 21 September.

Find out more and download an application form at www.sussex.ac.uk/enterprise/1-4.html

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and James Hainker. This is the last issue of this academic year. Have a good summer!