Artists make science simple

Four Sussex professors are working with artists and children to bring scientific theory to life using music and art.

Professors Corné Kros, Bob Allison, Philip Harris and Sue Hartley have collaborated with international artists and musicians to explain elements of neuroscience, geography, particle physics and ecology. Each of the 'Four Professors' will 'perform' at the Ropetackle Art Centre in Shoreham as part of the Adur Festival (Friday 5 to Sunday 21 June).

Professor Corné Kros, who specialises in the causes of deafness and research into the ear, will appear in a show explaining the relationship between music, science and the senses.

The first half of 'Music To Your Ears' (2pm 10 June) will feature an exploration by Corné of sound and how we make sense of it. The second half of the show (8pm 10 June) is a performance from musician Nick Pynn, a member of Stomp! and former member of Cockney Rebel, featuring his own compositions and using live loops, bass pedals and a huge range of other instruments.

Professor Bob Allison, geographer and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) will give a talk entitled 'Living Landscapes' (8pm 12 June). He will unlock the mysteries of the environment that surrounds us, taking as his starting point the paintings and photographs produced by local artists for an accompanying exhibition.

Bob said: "All too often, we compartmentalise science, art and social science. This is an opportunity to marry the two together and really bring science to life."

Particle physics expert Professor Philip Harris will team up with guitarist Richard Durrant to present a multi-media presentation exploring the origin of all matter (8pm 17 June). Philip is currently working at the Institute Laue-Langevin in Grenoble measuring the Electric Dipole Moment (EDM), the recent results of which have been used to generate the musical notes in the performance.

Professor Sue Hartley, a specialist in ecology and one of the country’s leading experts on the development of crop defences, has worked with around 100 children from local schools.

The drama, dance and poetry performance (8pm 19 June) will illustrate how grasses defend themselves against attack by herbivores in the fascinating, and surprisingly violent, perpetual war between plants and animals.

"I have never done anything that involved so many different ways of engaging people in science, it’s fantastic,” said Sue.

Aedan Kerney, a teacher from Boundstone Community College in Lancing, has written the score for Sue’s presentation and has worked with the school children to create musical instruments out of recycled materials.

See http://www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk/pages/The_Art_of_Science/4765

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6 Awards Three staff members to receive Teaching Awards at graduation.
New research by Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Imperial College London has found that people who faint, which is about a third of the population, have a different brain anatomy to non-fainters.

Neuroscientists used MRI brain scanning to examine brain anatomy in people with histories of fainting, and those who had never fainted. They found that the fainters had smaller regions of the brainstem (medulla and mesencephalon), which control blood flow to the brain.

Fainting is caused by a dramatic reduction in blood flow to the brain. But this is sometimes triggered by purely emotional factors, such as the sight of blood. Consistent with this, the researchers also found that those more prone to blacking out have smaller volume of a brain region known as the caudate nuclei, which is thought to be involved with emotional processing and anxiety disorders.

Researcher Dr Felix Beacher, who is based at the Trafford Centre on the Sussex campus, says: “Fainting, which affects up to 35% of people at least once in their lives, involves an interaction between the mind (as in fainting at the sight of blood), the brain, which regulates blood flow, and the heart, which pumps blood to the brain.

"Previous research has shown a connection between blood flow and the brain as a cause of fainting, but this is the first study to demonstrate that this is related to differences in brain anatomy."

Fainting is thought to be a survival mechanism that evolved in mammals to counter the effects of blood loss. Animals are likely to lose less blood if lying down still. However, humans are particularly prone to fainting because, unlike most other mammals, they stand upright and therefore it is harder for the body to pump blood to the brain.

Felix says: "Some people have clinical conditions which are more likely to make them faint. But we were not looking at that group of people— we were looking at healthy people with non-clinical fainting. It is most likely that these differences in brain anatomy simply reflect normal variations, which make some people more vulnerable to fainting."

"In the right circumstances anyone can be made to faint— just stand someone upright for long enough! But some people will faint more quickly than others."

The study, 'Vulnerability to simple faints is predicted by regional differences in brain anatomy', is published in *Neurolmage.*

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**Technology meets tradition to enhance farmers' markets**

A new virtual technology project by University of Sussex researchers aims to enhance conversation between customers and stallholders at traditional farmers' markets.

The Virtual Farmers' Market project [http://wwwinformatics.sussex.ac.uk/research/projects/markets/index.php/farmersmarkets](http://wwwinformatics.sussex.ac.uk/research/projects/markets/index.php/farmersmarkets) enables shoppers to access information about stallholders and their produce via their mobile phones while waiting to be served.

The project, which was piloted at Hove's Farmers Market on 23 May, involves the use of QR-codes, a type of barcode that can be read by mobile phone cameras to download information from the internet.

Each stallholder has a QR-code that takes customers to a web application. Information can range from the provenance of the product, such as the type of ingredients in chutney, to the latest news about the farmers' livestock or crops.

Project leader and Informatics lecturer Dr Ian Waikman, says: "Our aim is to enrich the experience of shopping. We are providing bite-sized chunks of information that can provide common ground for conversation between customers and stallholders."

This type of technology is already in use in other areas of business and commerce, particularly in Japan and the Far East. But Ian, together with colleagues at University College London and Southampton University, is investigating its uses in UK markets and auction houses where the interaction between traders and shoppers is based on trust.

As Ian says: "Our research is aimed at helping people build and maintain trust relationships in a world where computing is pervasive in all aspects of our life."

"The reason why people use farmers' markets is because they are interested in the provenance of products. They like being able to meet the actual producers and farmers and talk about what they are buying. It is very much a relationship about trust, and this technology is designed to enhance that."

The project, which is a joint venture between the University and the Common Cause Co-operative and is supported by a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Council (EPSRC), will create virtual communities in which shoppers can create dialogues with farmers and other shoppers.

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**Sussex to appoint research theme leaders**

The development of interdisciplinary research themes at Sussex took a further step forward this month, with expressions of interest invited for academia to lead each theme. These research theme leaders— one for each of the six research themes— will be central to the way in which the University plans and co-ordinates research.

Announcing the roles and inviting expressions of interest, Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), said: "The theme leaders will be highly influential in developing the University's strategic research agenda with a range of internal and external stakeholders.

"They will provide scholarly leadership, identity, focus and cohesion within each theme, helping the University to develop a widely recognised, world-class portfolio of activity in selected areas."

The six research themes were developed and set out in the University's strategic plan, Making the Future. They cover environment and health; digital and social media; culture and heritage; mind and brain; citizenship and democratisation; and global transformations.

Each theme leader will work in partnership with heads of school and other within the University who take lead roles in research and enterprise.

Commenting on the need to work across the University, Professor Allison said: "All theme leaders will work together as a team, in order to align the intellectual power of Sussex, ensure cohesion across themes and facilitate the delivery of overlapping activity."

The normal expectation will be for each theme leader to undertake duties for three years, with the possibility of an extension for up to a further three years. Professor Allison, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), will meet regularly with each theme leader and be responsible for an annual appraisal to confirm continuation in the role.

Expressions of interest from senior academic members of the University are to be made to Professor Allison by Friday 26 June. He and a sub-group of Research Committee will assess each expression of interest against the published criteria to determine the most appropriately qualified person, with the aim of appointments being made by the end of July.

Full details are available on the Research and Enterprise web pages.
VC visits China

The focus of the Vice-Chancellor’s visit to China in late May was on deepening partnerships with some of the country’s leading universities and on helping recruitment of Chinese students.

Sussex already has contacts, many of them long established, with institutions across China. Sussex’s research and China’s priorities for the future coincide in many areas, such as the effects of climate change, globalisation, migration, and the impact of technology on economic development.

During his week-long trip Professor Michael Farthing visited three of Beijing’s top universities, where the aim was to strengthen Sussex’s relations with them:

- At Peking University he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the President and made a visit to the Health Science Centre. Discussions took place about developing student exchange and expanding research collaboration.
- In a meeting with the Vice President of Tsinghua University, Professor Farthing agreed to work to identify areas for collaborative research and for student exchange. The Tsinghua officials are also keen to develop more interdisciplinary working and a joint workshop may be arranged to include this topic.
- In Renmin University he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vice President. Sussex will partner with Renmin’s School of Education and Training on collaborative schemes that will allow students to enter the second year of Sussex undergraduate degrees and prepare them for Sussex masters programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor also made a trip to Fuzhou University in Fujian Province for a signing ceremony with the President, to mark the establishment of a foundation-year link to prepare students to join undergraduate degrees in the School of Engineering and Design at Sussex.

Positive discussions were held with the Secretary-General of the China Scholarship Council (CSC) about an agreement for Sussex to receive students supported by the CSC.

Professor Farthing also hosted a dinner in Beijing for Sussex alumni, several of whom travelled a considerable distance. "Our alumni are great ambassadors for the University and I hope we can harness their experience and enthusiasm in a more structured way," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor is looking forward to an international dimension to the events to mark Sussex’s 50th anniversary. As part of this, he is hoping that Sussex’s relationship with Tsinghua University can be marked in 2011 as Tsinghua is also celebrating an important birthday in that year: its 100th.

An international approach for Sussex

In our strategic plan, Making the Future, reinforcing internationalism at Sussex is a key aspect of our development.

As I write this column, I am about to meet some of our leading American alumni at a reception in Chicago. I travelled here from a busy round of meetings last week with potential partner institutions and with alumni in China (see separate article on that visit).

I know all too well that making a reality of growing our international connections for the future will take sustained work by colleagues across Sussex.

From its foundation, Sussex has had an international perspective to its academic activities and its outlook. We attract staff and students from over 120 different countries across the world. Our research tackles major world issues, with some world-leading areas of expertise. We already have links at all levels throughout the University with many institutions worldwide.

And we have been innovative in our approaches, pioneering the International Summer School over 10 years. In addition, we will shortly be formally renewing our very successful partnership with Study Group International, with whom we run our International Study Centre on campus – home to 300 international students, who then go on to our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Moreover, the support and experience that we provide to our international students is excellent and highly rated by them, as the International Student Barometer shows each year.

Building on this base will involve reinforcing our strong international presence and connections: creating new programmes that are attractive to international markets; growing international student numbers across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; providing an academic home for talented international academics; and creating partnerships with leading research-intensive universities in various parts of the world.

All of this work is underpinned by the Rogers reports, which were presented to Council in November 2008 and are published on Sussex Direct. Those reports looked across our international activity – including student recruitment, leadership, partnerships and student support.

Internationalism is manifest in the connections we have with leading universities across the world – and our target by 2015 is to have up to 10 key strategic partnerships. We will have to be selective and focussed on identifying and fostering such partnerships, just as we have to be when looking at our future research focus.

"From its foundation, Sussex has had an international perspective.”

I am delighted that we will be appointing a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) to lead us in this ambitious international agenda. We have already attracted strong interest in this post from individuals at higher education institutions at home and overseas. We will be interviewing next month and I hope by the end of July we will be able to announce the name to add to our executive team.

In parallel, we are also now going out to recruitment for an important new position in the Professional Services to lead our work on global student recruitment. Building on the good work already done by our international, undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment teams, this senior post will focus strategic time and attention on this vital area.

Being part of the global higher education sector is now recognised as an indicator of success and is widely used by potential incoming students and staff as a guide as to where they should study or work. The international element must be a major component of Sussex’s future.
EDB to be renamed after media studies pioneer

The Educational Development Building (EDB) is to be renamed as the Silverstone Building, remembering Sussex’s first professor of media studies, Roger Silverstone.

As his sons Daniel and William and his daughter Elizabeth, said that Roger would have been thrilled with the tribute. Jennifer said: “We are all delighted that Sussex have chosen to honour Roger in this way.

“He colleagues at the University and the students he taught meant a great deal to him and remained part of the academic community he valued greatly.”

“There is still a huge affection for him within the department.”

Dr Kate Lacey, acting head of the department of Media and Film, described Roger as a “truly inspirational colleague”. She said: “Roger was the driving force in establishing media studies at Sussex, but his tireless commitment to fostering interdisciplinary means the mark he made at Sussex and beyond cannot be confined to just one degree or discipline.

“His own distinctive, complex, but always accessible work on the poetics, ethics and politics of mediated experience continues to enrich and stimulate new research in the field.”

Professor Sue Thornham, Head-Designate of the School of Media, Film and Music, said: “Apart from the fact that Roger was a very important figure in the developing field of media studies, there is still a huge affection for him within the department.”

Staff in the media and film department are considering ways to mark the renaming, including the possibility of hosting a symposium of Roger’s work.
Bright outlook for poet’s award-winning collection

A Lecturer in Creative Writing from the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) launches her award-winning debut poetry collection on 9 June.

Unexpected Weather by Dr Abi Curtis was one of four winners of Salt Publishing’s inaugural Crashaw Prize in 2008. The award includes the publication of her work in both hardback and paperback.

Abi’s work has featured widely in magazines and anthologies. She received an Eric Gregory Award for poets under 30 from the Society of Authors in 2004 and published a pamphlet, Humbug, with Tail-lighthouse in 2007.

Unexpected Weather is a collection of poems that take science, art and nature as their subjects and are experimental in form. Describing her writing, Abi says: "I try to make the familiar extraordinary and the supernormal everyday."

Abi, who gained a DPhil at Sussex in creative and critical writing, teaches creative writing workshops and has taught courses on the relationship between psychoanalysis and creative writing.

She says: "The study and teaching of psychoanalysis has encouraged me to be interested in the strangeness of language; and investigating the creative process with my students has enhanced my own practice as a writer."

Fellow published poet and Forward Prize nominee Luke Kennard says: "Curtis never tells you things you already know — she tells you things you are, things you’ve always felt and have never managed to put into words. It’s wondrously satisfying — like being broke then finding a 20 pound note in an old pair of jeans."

Unexpected Weather will be launched at RedRoaster Coffeehouse in St James’ Street, Brighton, on 9 June at 8pm. Abi will be joined by fellow Crashaw Prize winner Tom Chivers and the evening will be hosted by poet and University of Sussex creative writing lecturer Catherine Smith. Entry is free.

There is also a free reading on campus (Essex House cafe) on 18 June at 5.30pm, featuring Abi, Catherine and fellow CCE tutor and poet Sarah Jackson.

Obituary

Professor Walter Ledermann, one of the founding members of the mathematics department at Sussex, died on 22 May aged 98.

Walter joined the department when it first opened in October 1962. He was appointed as a Reader and promoted to Professor in 1965.

He retired in 1978, being unusually granted two extra-years; however, he continued to teach undergraduates and, remarkably, gave revision lectures till May 2000, when he was 89.

He was a distinguished algebraist but also published articles on statistics and number theory. His books for undergraduates and postgraduates in Routledge and Kegan Paul series, of which he was the founding editor, are still used. After retirement he edited and partially wrote the Handbook of Applicable Mathematics, a six-volume encyclopaedia.

His charm, care, empathy and total commitment made him extremely popular both with all his colleagues and all the students. No mathematics student ever felt his lectures were other than unsurpassable.

A memorial meeting in the Meeting House will take place on 8 October at 2.30pm. Details will shortly be available at www.maths.sussex.ac.uk/ledermann or by contacting Fiona Childs (fj.childs@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 7638) in the Department of Mathematics.

Professor James Hirschfeld, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics

FIRST CLASS

Dr Máiread Dunne, Senior Lecturer in Education, gave an invited keynote presentation at UNICEF headquarters in New York on 27 May. The audience for Mairéad’s talk on ‘Gender and Multiple Disparities in Education’ was the Global Advisory Committee and UNEG (United Nations Girls Education Initiative), including heads of international agencies, donor governments and NGO donors.

Double Paralympic cycling champion and former Sussex student David Stone has received an MBE in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The 28-year-old, who has cerebral palsy and received a sports bursary while at Sussex, won the time trial and mixed individual road race at last year’s Beijing Games. He graduated in 2007 with a BA in Social Work and Care. After receiving his MBE, David said: “I was quite surprised by how emotional it got, I was suddenly nervous and a bit overwhelmed.”

Obituary

News in brief

Summer open day

Campus will be very busy on Saturday 13 June, when the undergraduate Open Day is expected to attract 3,000 prospective students and their families. Visitors arrive from 9am and the event ends at 3pm. Science, Biology and Montell car parks (P1, P3 and P6) will be open for visitor parking only.

RoundCube replaces SilkyMail

IT Services has introduced a new service to access your Sussex email via a web browser. RoundCube provides a simpler and more attractive web-based email interface than the older webservice (SilkyMail). You can access it directly at www.sussex.ac.uk/roundcube.

RoundCube uses the relatively new open-source software from the RoundCube Webmail Project. Other universities currently using RoundCube include the Universities of Michigan, California Berkeley, Colorado State and Auckland.

Send any comments on the new service to support@its.sussex.ac.uk

Summer accommodation available on campus

A number of rooms are available to any students, staff or visitors wishing to stay on campus during the summer vacation. The campus rooms are available in Stannar Court, Brighthelm, Park Village and East Slope. Bookings are open now for stays between 1 July and 12 September. The minimum booking period is one week. For more information see the Residential Services web pages or email shortstay@sussex.ac.uk

Donate blood for research

Academics at BSMS (Medical School) are looking for staff and student volunteers to donate a small amount of blood for their research into infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. The research requires the use of 20–30 ml of blood at a time (about 2 teaspoons). Personal information will not be published. If you are interested in taking part, contact j.wellington@bsms.ac.uk

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin
Teaching awards 2009

Three members of staff are to receive awards at the graduation ceremonies this July in recognition of their excellent contribution to teaching. The winners were announced at the Teaching and Learning Conference on Tuesday (2 June).

Mike Titheradge

Dr Mike Titheradge is currently Deputy Head of Biochemistry and Biomedical Science at Sussex and has played a key role in developing the proposed new Biomedical Science degree.

He was nominated for his award in the ‘experienced’ category for his planning and expertise, and for his constant re-assessment of teaching methods and content to account for ever-changing student needs.

For example, short video clips are now included in lectures and, this year, mobile and online quizzes were introduced to help students gauge their progress and understanding.

Mike has very clear aims: to be an effective and motivating teacher and to respond to student needs as quickly as possible by operating an ‘open door’ policy.

Dr Simon Morley, nominating, said: “Mike has made an outstanding impact on the student learning experience, providing excellent teaching throughout the Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine degree programmes.”

“He’s advice is actively sought in all matters relating to teaching and course planning.”

Mike is commended for his “huge and sustained commitment” to his students and colleagues, acting as a mentor for new faculty. He also acts as a peer observer at Sussex and BSMS (Brighton and Sussex Medical School) – an experience that provides him with examples of good and bad practice to improve his own teaching and that of his colleagues.

Sarah King

Dr Sarah King, a lecturer in the Psychology department, keeps her teaching interesting by successfully integrating current neuroscience research with text book facts. Receiving a teaching award in the ‘early career’ category, she also supports fellow faculty by participating in annual peer review and is an “excellent” mentor to associate tutors.

Following a successful joint proposal with historian Dr Lucy Robinson, after the Research Christmas Stocking event (2008), Sarah has been researching war-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) across disciplines, and is currently exploring ways to develop interdisciplinary teaching. This commitment to interdisciplinary work was singled out for praise by the awarding panel.

Sarah is commended for using her independent research as a teaching tool and recognising and addressing diversity among her students. Her main objective is to make scientific knowledge and research accessible and interesting to all, trying to lose the ‘teaching to the test’ spoon-feeding mentality. She is particularly passionate about developing innovative teaching methods, and has recently created a new online assessment.

She is committed to postgraduate teaching, supervising two PhD students and a masters student.

Fiona Courage

Special Collections Manager in the Library, Fiona Courage, is commended in the academic support category for her extensive background knowledge, innovative use of resources, thorough reflection on feedback and enthusiasm for her area.

Drawing on her extensive knowledge of the University’s archival collections, Fiona aims to inspire students to look further than the books on their reading lists and seek their own unique conclusions by using primary source material.

She works closely with tutors, encouraging them to use the collections to provide the basis for developing innovative courses that offer students unique opportunities to access materials unavailable anywhere else.

Kitty Inglis, Librarian, said: “Drawing on her own extensive knowledge of what is contained in the collections, Fiona works closely with academics and others providing them with flexible options and innovative and stimulating models of engaging with our Special Collections as part of their teaching.”

By developing a network of colleagues in similar roles in other institutions, Fiona is able to share and review her methods, enhancing the feedback collected after each session from students and tutors. She is now looking to study for a PG Certificate in Education, in order to develop her skills further and gain a greater understanding of the requirements of academic colleagues.
Feedback sought on Sussex Teaching Awards

The Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU) is seeking feedback on the Sussex Teaching Awards scheme, as part of a review of the scheme's effectiveness.

The annual Teaching Awards recognise and celebrate individuals who make an outstanding impact on the student learning experience at Sussex. They also aim to raise the profile and status of curriculum planning, teaching, research supervision and assessment, as important activities requiring high-level expertise.

The awards are currently open to all those involved in teaching, research supervision, and providing academic support for courses approved or validated by the University, at any level (foundation, undergraduate, taught postgraduate).

The TLDU is contacting a sample of staff to collect views and feedback on the award scheme. If you are not contacted, but have comments on the scheme, and especially how the University might raise its profile, email tidu@sussex.ac.uk by 26 June.

Campus clamp-down on illegal parking

The Transport and Security teams are joining forces in June to target the illegal and inconsiderate parking of cars and bikes on campus.

A minority of drivers and cyclists are choosing to ignore the University traffic and parking regulations for motor vehicles (www.sussex.ac.uk/efm/1-2-14-15-4.html) and for bicycles (www.sussex.ac.uk/efm/1-2-14-15-3.html).

Some drivers have been parking on double-yellow lines or in hatched areas, while others have been trying to avoid payment. Some cyclists have been locking their bikes to railings or taking them inside buildings.

In fairness to the majority of staff, students and visitors who park legally, extra enforcement will be applied to key locations across campus for the month of June. Enforcement officers have the power to issue £60 fixed penalty notices to owners of illegally parked vehicles.

Chris Wadey, Transport Manager, says: "If you park legally, you won’t face a fine."

The priority locations include Biology Road car park (P3), Sportcentre car park (P5), Science car park (P1), loading bays and roads.

Share a car to save money and the planet

Staff and students are being urged to save money on petrol costs and do their bit for the environment by taking part in National Liftshare Day on Tuesday (9 June).

The day coincides with the re-launch of the University’s own liftshare scheme; just log on to www.universitycarshare.com to register for regular and/or one-off journeys. The scheme is open to anyone from the University of Sussex, BMSMS or IDS.

Chris Wadey, Transport Manager, says: “You don’t need a car to sign up. Many members are willing to do the driving in return for a contribution to their fuel costs and some friendly company.”

Chris and his colleagues from Estates and Facilities management will be in Fulton Court (Library Square) from 10am-3pm on Tuesday, with information about the liftshare scheme and facilities for staff and students to sign on.

Chris says: “National Liftshare Day is the perfect time to find a car sharer, reduce your carbon footprint and discover just how much money you can save.”

A walk on the wild side

Readers of this column may recall that last month we visited the new pond behind Engineering 2 and commented on the brilliant display of Marsh Marigolds then in full flower. (See Bulletin 8 May.)

Marsh Marigolds are typical members of the buttercup family. Our attention has now been drawn to yet another member of the buttercup family by a lady at the bus stop wishing to know the identity of the ‘Tarzan’ plant that straggles up the bushes on the wilder parts of campus, apparently chocking its supporters.

This is our only native clematis, Clematis vitalba, otherwise known as Traveller’s Joy or Old Man’s Beard. The creamy white flowers come late in the summer and unusually have only four petals, and are very un-buttercup-like.

It’s not until the flowers have faded that the relationship is revealed: the numerous seeds ripen in a tight head typical of many members of the buttercup family. Each seed has at its tip a long persistent feathery style and it’s these large grey bushy bunches festooning the autumn hedgerows that have given the plant its familiar country name.

In recent weeks the grass areas of campus have become covered by a carpet of pale-brown confetti. We received an envelope of the stuff via the internal mail. It’s elm seed! What is interesting is that seed of the English Elm rarely ripens, so some feature of the local climate must have been especially favourable.

As widely reported in the media, millions of Painted Lady butterflies (right) have arrived in Britain. This attractive relative of the Red Admiral rarely survives British winters, and our breeding population originates in North Africa. The numbers migrating this far north varies tremendously between years.


A tattered individual we saw in a wood near Lewes on 22 April this year may have been an early arrival, but we did not see one on campus until 22 May. Numbers then exploded over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, with dozens flying north on 23rd and 24th, hundreds on 26th, and thousands on 29th. Painted Ladies always seem to be ‘under the influence’, with a spiralling flight.

The migrants frequently dived down in open areas to visit Common Daisy flowers. A few did not simply fly north across campus, but remained feeding on a variety of flowers, notably Charlock and Valerian.

Look out for males defending sunny patches a few metres across and trying to intercept females. Once mated, females will seek out thistles (or, less often, Stinging Nettles). The eggs, resembling green lobster pots, are laid on top of the leaves, where they are conspicuous despite being only 0.6 mm tall. The black caterpillars hatch out just four days later.
**Academic events ↓**

**MON 8 JUNE**

4pm Economics seminar: Juanna Joensen (Stockholm), Academic and labour market success. Russell 28.


**TUE 9 JUNE**

4pm Cognitive Science seminar: Andy Clark (Edinburgh), Why consciousness is (probably) still in the head. Pevensey 1A7.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Wei Wang (Sussex), Parametric electrical impedance imaging: A step forward toward virtual biopsy for early breast cancer detection? Asa Briggs lecture theatre (formerly Arts A1). RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

**WED 10 JUNE**

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Wei Wang (Sussex), Parametric electrical impedance imaging: A step forward toward virtual biopsy for early breast cancer detection? Asa Briggs lecture theatre (formerly Arts A1). RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

**THU 11 JUNE**

12.30pm Life History seminar: Jane Speedy (Bristol), The poetic re-representation of life stories. Russell 12.

**TUE 16 JUNE**

12.30pm Life History seminar: Jane Speedy (Bristol), The poetic re-representation of life stories. Russell 12.

**THU 19 JUNE**


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**Weekly public walks begin**

From today (5 June), Sussex's boundary walk will be part of a successful Brighton scheme promoting walking as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Brighton and Hove Council's 'Healthwalks' team has trained a small group of staff, students and volunteers from the local community to lead people on guided tours of the campus boundary every Friday at 2pm.

It will join a programme of organised walks across the city. Anyone interested should meet at the bus stop at the front of campus.

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**Staff beach volleyball**

The Yellowwave Beach Sports Centre on Brighton seafront will again be hosting the University of Sussex annual beach volleyball tournament.

Taking place on Wednesday 17 June, from 6-9pm, the event is free of charge for all staff.

This is an excellent team-building/social opportunity, catering for all standards.

For further information or to enter a team of six, contact Luke Terrill on ext. 7687 or email l.o.terrill@sussex.ac.uk

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The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and James Hasker. The next issue will be out on 19 June, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 12 June.

We welcome any letters from staff and students of the University and can advise you on ways to tell people about your news or story ideas. Please contact us on ext. 88888 or email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk