

Geography

Newsletter Autumn 2003 No.3

Department of Geography, University of Sussex



Welcome to the Department of Geography in the School of Social and Cultural Studies – a message from the Dean of SOCCUL

Welcome to Sussex from what I hope has been an enjoyable and productive vacation! There have been some major changes since last term. The old Schools have been replaced by the new Schools, with Geography now located in the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies. As well as a Dean, the new School will have a Director of Graduate Studies (Barbara Einhorn), Undergraduate Studies (David Robinson from the Department of Geography), and Student Support (Janice Winship). In addition, there will be a number of professional student advisers to provide guidance and support (Sarah Heymans, Martin Kirby and Hilary Lawson).

There will inevitably be some disruption. Many people have moved offices as part of the first stage in locating the new Schools in their designated space – Humanities in Arts A and B and SocCul a little more dispersed across Arts C, D, E and EDB and the Sussex Institute in Arts E and Essex House). The Physical Geography lab, however, is not scheduled to move. Building work taking place over the next few years will create new entrances, larger common rooms and School offices. There will also be a new lecture and seminar room building on the car park alongside Bramber House, which will replace the temporary classrooms that have appeared behind Arts D.

Although there have been many changes, much will remain the same. Students will be taught by many of the staff who taught them before, though they will be joined by new faces following a very

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successful recruitment of new academic staff during the summer term. Many of the support and administrative staff will also be the same; there will be some familiar faces in familiar roles,

but also some familiar faces in new roles. The spirit of the old Schools will remain in the new Schools, even if there will be some wrinkles that will need to be ironed out at first.

Importantly, there will be the same commitment to interdisciplinarity for which Sussex is well-known. The new curriculum across the School incorporates many of the courses from the old School system. For example, SocCul will be running four interdisciplinary programmes (or IDPEs) in Contemporary European Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, and Development Studies. The latter will have the recently re-configured CDE as its home. These will exist as joint degrees, alongside a wide selection of other joint degrees across subjects and a new range of single honours degrees. Students who are entering to take a single honours degree will take part of their degree as an elective where they will select courses from the other programmes. We remain just as committed to the 'old' curriculum, precisely because so much of it will continue in the new curriculum. The new degree programmes in which this curriculum is now being packaged has proven very popular, with the humanities and social sciences enjoying their most successful recruitment of new undergraduates for a number of years.

We will also be keen to build on and expand our postgraduate activities. Geography (including Migration Studies) and Development Studies (CDE) research students have been successful in the recent ESRC studentship competition. Applicants to Sussex gained 27 awards this year, which places the University among the top institutions nationally.

I am looking forward to a positive year in which Sussex and Geography build on their past strengths and I am pleased to welcome you as important part of this new venture.

Professor John Holmwood, *Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies*.

For more information on SOCCUL see <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/soccul/index.shtml>

See also the message, on page 2 of this newsletter, from Brian Short, Head of Department of Geography.

Geography Student on University Challenge

Andrew Clay tells us what Paxman's really like!

"Can't tell you"; "No"; and "Nice chap, slightly balding, and shorter than I expected". These are the answers to the three most common questions I have been asked since filming my TV debut as a Sussex University member of the University Challenge team a few weeks ago. The questions, of course, being "So, did you win?"; "Do you really sit one team above the other?"; and "What's Paxman really like, then?"

I was somewhat surprised to have made the team - my previous quiz achievements totalling precisely one victory and two second places in the Park Village Lounge pub quiz in my first year, and about £6 from the 'Who wants To Be A Millionaire' quiz machine in East Slope - and even more surprised to learn that I was the only member of the team who was not a mature student. Still, I suppose the random snippets of trivia floating around my brain, filling up the space reserved for 'Writing First Class Essays', had to come in useful somewhere!

Anyway, having endured the delights of Virgin trains up to Manchester and survived a night at the 'Travel Inn Metro', the team arrived bright and early at Granada studios on the morning of June 14th. Following a quick visit to make-up and an even quicker inspection from Wardrobe (a cursory glance, followed by "yeah, that'll do"), we were left to our own devices in the Green Room until the crew was ready. Then, after trooping out onto the set and taking up our seats, the questions began. All I can say is that following my own experience at the hands of the

'Inquisitor General', Jeremy Paxman, I almost started to feel sorry for the Government ministers who normally face his probing questions and cutting remarks!

Despite the pre-filming nerves, the time seemed to go quickly and the contest went right down to the wire - the decisive answer coming in literally the dying seconds! Did we win? Unfortunately we are not allowed to divulge the final score - you'll have to wait till it's shown on TV for that, probably in October.



Andrew Clay (far right) on the set of University Challenge

But rest assured, a number of questions with geographical leanings came up, and I hopefully didn't disgrace myself too much! Although I would advise anyone with whom I have a conversation over the next, say 30 years or so, to avoid the subject of river basins...!

Andrew Clay atc20@central.susx.ac.uk

From Brian Short, Head of Department of Geography:

I would like to add my own welcome to you all as the academic year 2003-4 finds Geography at Sussex in a strong position. On the undergraduate side of things, we have large cohorts going through our 2nd and 3rd years, and a large entry into the new degree structures of our first year. We now offer an ambitious and very relevant set of programmes. I would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming new colleagues to the Department: Dr Ben Rogaly joins us as a Lecturer in Geography, from the University of East Anglia, while Ron Skeldon who has previously held a fixed-term part-time research post has now been confirmed as a permanent Professor of Geography. Others joining us this year include colleagues within the Centre for Migration Research. Congratulations also to Richard Black on his promotion to a Professorial chair in Geography, and to Cherith Moses on her promotion to a senior lectureship.

So, we are now formally a Department of Geography as opposed to a Subject Group under the previous Sussex system. We welcome this change and will work hard to ensure that we build upon the successes that we have recently enjoyed, such as the enhanced grade in the 2001 Research Assessment exercise, and the excellent report on our teaching from the Quality Assurance Agency following their visit in February 2003. We are pleased that, in all the moves taking place in Science, our existing physical geography laboratory space has been formally declared inviolate and that new faculty and postgrad/postdoc offices will shortly be built nearby allowing physical geography colleagues to co-locate in a consolidated area. The Geography Resource Centre and corridors in Arts C are also confirmed in place, to be joined this year by a new general usage computer lab. Many of us are moving rooms, our old School attachments are severed, and we embark on a new-look Geography at Sussex. On behalf of all my colleagues, welcome to the future!

Professor Brian Short. B.M.Short@sussex.ac.uk

For further information on Geography courses being offered this year and next see <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/geography/1-2-1.html>.

Les Oh La Las

You think Geography staff have no social life? Think again. In her spare time Cathérine Senger, your very own Departmental Coordinator, enjoys dressing up Victoriana style and swinging her legs to Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld". This year she and the rest of the "Les Oh La Las" dance troupe were spotted high-kicking at various social events, the "Streets of Brighton" Festival, the Brighton Concorde 2 and even on the Fire & Dance stage at the Glastonbury Festival. Future plans of the troupe include turning into 1920s Charleston flappers and raising temperatures with a feisty Bollywood routine. Oh la la!

Cathérine Senger,
Geography Co-ordinator.
C.Senger@sussex.ac.uk



Final year students this year had plenty to celebrate about this summer, especially the 7 geography students who achieved a First Class degree. They were – Anna-Louise Beech, Mark Gollidge (who also won the Pramit Chaudhuri Memorial prize for the highest marks in the AFRAS school course exams), Aurelie Harou, Ruth Hollis, Dan Kuszel, Hannah Neill & Mia Saugman. Aurelie and Melanie McNeir won the prizes for the best Geography Projects.

Celebrations went on for a long time, and included a bbq organized by Tim Cane; the Geography Ball at the Babylon Lounge – a big success due to the hard work of Charlotte Lowrie, Jo Newth & Sarah Petrie; celebrations on results days in schools and bars around campus; and of course the graduation ceremonies themselves in Brighton Dome.

The 'New Age' in the Stroud Valleys – extracts from Chris Bates' fieldwork diary

For 2 weeks in August Chris stayed in the Stroud Valleys, Gloucestershire, to complement the 2 months ethnographic fieldwork that he carried out the previous summer for his DPhil research into the 'New Age' movement.

"You would be wrong to think that it is only hippies and travellers who are 'New Age', as many people I see and meet in Stroud with 'New Age' beliefs have a conventional appearance. This reflects the low visibility of 'New Age' culture within the area generally despite the fact that there is a concentration of institutions, projects, and enterprises implementing 'New Age' ideas. Most of these practices blend into the local landscape, and outsiders could easily pass them by without realising their mystical underpinnings. I am perplexed by the hidden qualities of the 'New Age' in the Stroud Valleys since I started with the assumption that the 'New Age' is up-front and colourful.

The first person I interview builds water purification systems for gardens and also fits none of these stereotypes. I meet him in his workshop and he is wearing a plain shirt and muddied jeans, so he is obviously a 'hands-on' person. He is also well educated and articulate, as are all the people I've so far interviewed. Only when I raise the subject does it emerge that his work is based on core 'New Age' ideas about hidden natural forces, although I've already learnt that few people in Stroud use the term 'New Age' to describe themselves. So why do 'New Agers' here not draw attention to their ideas, and why do they deny that they are 'New Age' when their beliefs clearly are?

The next day I go to see the former Principal of a Stroud-based Rudolf Steiner adult education centre. Again, after careful coaxing he tells me a lot about his links with the 'New Age', although I can't help feel it to be incongruous to be sitting having tea and biscuits with a well spoken, elderly man dressed in beige talking about hidden realms of reality and mysterious cosmic forces!

After several days in Stroud library I return to exploring the area on bicycle. This is easier said

than done as Stroud is at the meeting-point of five steep-sided, heavily wooded valleys. I feel this imbues the area with a sense of mystery, and I can see why people who are grappling with the secrets of the cosmos find it appealing. I arrange to see the owner of a shop that has opened since last year and sells 'New Age' paraphernalia. This is significant because the shop *does* conform to the usual stereotype of all things 'New Age', and seems to go against the local value of not having an obvious presence. I am hypothesising that the development of 'New Age' culture within the area is following a cycle, and that the opening of shops on the High Street signifies the mainstreaming of the culture, whilst the longer established institutions represent the efforts of pioneering intellectuals less concerned with attracting popular attention.

I pass by the Stroud Subscription Rooms, a public building used for a variety of purposes, one of which today is to host on its forecourt a display by the 'Black Eagles', a troupe of African acrobats dressed in zebra-skin loin cloths. Stroud has a long history of association with the arts and crafts, leading me to speculate that there is a link between the local discourse of artistic creativity and the 'New Age' discourse of 'you create your own reality'.

However, I cannot help but notice that, like the audience for the 'Black Eagles', the local 'New Age' scene is exclusive and reflects the values and preoccupations of the affluent middle-class. This is borne out by my observations that there is socio-spatial segregation in Stroud, with the substantial working-class population rarely using middle-class, 'New Age' venues and vice versa. Maybe those building the 'New Age' should take time to consider the question, "a 'New Age' for whom?" "

Chris Bates C.B.J.Bates@sussex.ac.uk



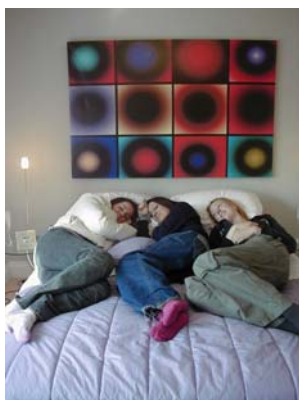
Harmonising with the cosmos: land improvement in a Stroud valley

BOLNORE VILLAGE FIELD-TRIP

A “country idyll” – what kind of vision does that conjure up for you? Roses round the door? Ducks on the pond perhaps? Cricket on the green? Generations of local residents gossiping quietly in the pub of an evening? The property developers, Crest Nicholson, claim that a new “village” under construction in Sussex is not only a “country idyll” but an “ecological haven” as well. Yet it is the very rurality that Crest Nicholson is using to promote the project that is the cause of much controversy. Under the guidance of Brian Short & Bernard Grimshaw, we set about exploring the realities as part of our second-year geography field-trip.

The exclusive development of Bolnore Village is situated on the outskirts of Haywards Heath and is proving unpopular in some quarters for a number of reasons, chiefly because of its location. Part of the site on which the development is being built was once ancient woodland, inevitably stirring up opposition from ecologists and environmentalists. Pre-existing residents – great crested newts, bats and badgers for example - are ostensibly being protected under a planning permission requirement. Forty acres, including footpaths and cycleways, have been set aside as natural habitat. A newt “bridge” has been built over disused marl ponds, a rope bridge for endangered dormice over a service road, tunnels have been constructed to help badgers across roads and shrubs put in as food plants. All this has been dubbed “greenwashing”, however, as the ecological impact of building 800 new houses in nine years on uprooted ancient woodland is naturally devastating.

There are also social objections to the location, which have arisen due to the proximity of the Village to the existing conurbation of Haywards Heath, where it is feared amenities may be put under pressure. Plans to close an existing school in favour of building a larger one in Bolnore Village have also met fierce protests.



Fieldwork is exhausting

We investigated the implications of this new development for our field class in terms of the

village’s social, ecological and economic impacts. In the first few days we researched the historical and geographical relevance of the land on which the housing estate is being constructed. By comparing aerial photographs from different periods, it was possible to establish the extent of landscape change. We also consulted a range of tithe, OS and other historic survey maps of the area in the Records Office in Chichester, which enabled us to identify previous land use and relate this to current issues surrounding the development’s location. We then constructed a questionnaire and distributed it to residents already living in the Village to try and obtain an internal social perspective. We attended meetings with representatives from the planning department of West Sussex District Council and a journalist on a local newspaper to get a better idea of the range of perspectives involved in the controversial planning decision. We were, however, unable to get a representative of Crest Nicholson to talk to us.



Naomi and Jon seeking the rural idyll at Bolnore

The results of our research were mixed. We realise that confrontation over new developments is inevitable and will worsen as land availability in the UK diminishes. It is also clear that in Sussex, this problem is intensified because the demand for housing is greater than in all other regions bar London. The Sussex case is made worse by a lack of brown-field sites to build on (usually the first port of call for areas of new developments). Overall it seems that despite the developers’ efforts, the surrounding environment has been damaged. Furthermore, bearing in mind the fact that the housing quota in Sussex is so high, Bolnore Village appears to be a costly project that will only benefit an elite few. There might be more support for the project if the space cleared contained more and affordable housing. At the time of our field class, the Village was only partially complete. It would be an interesting study for a future field class to re-examine its impacts.

Naomi Alper npa20@central.susx.ac.uk

For more on Bolnore see

<http://www.bolnorevillage.com/home.htm>

This report and those on the following pages are of field trips held last Easter and attended by 2nd year Geography students. Reports on the trips to the Seychelles and Morocco will hopefully be included in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

KENYA FIELD CLASS, 2003

When asked to give my reflections on my field trip to Kenya over the Easter break, my first thought was that of worry! How could I easily summarise and give justice in words to the incredible fourteen days we spent together on the 'African plains'?

Before leaving England for Kenya we had met on many occasions in order to try to prepare us for the action-packed field course we were to embark upon. But Tony and Allan's wise words would never truly give us the entire impression of what an eventful and emotional experience our trip would be. Touching down in Nairobi, it was soon clear from public opinion and bill-boards stating things like "Stamp out Corruption", that the fall of President Moi in December 2002 was seeing the start of a significant revolution in the country that was to be a recurrent theme with many of the people and places we would visit over the next two weeks. I feel privileged to have visited Kenya when we did; it was remarkable to see at first hand the optimism and joy of many of the people in a nation downtrodden by such a man as Moi.

We left Nairobi in our fleet of minibuses and were whisked into scenery as beautiful as an oil painting. The safaris that we went on allowed us to have a real 'out of Africa' experience, visiting lake Nakuru with its famous pink flamingos, seeing buffalo and zebra, and one particular highlight for me was seeing a giraffe feeding in the wild. The wildlife theme of the first part of the trip was a relaxing and interesting introduction to Africa, but as we drove further away from high-rise Nairobi and into the mountainous areas of North-east Kenya the atmosphere of the trip changed noticeably. The district of West Pokot is one of the poorest in northern Kenya, and home to some of the most stunning untouched scenery. Entering local villages where the white skin of a 'mazungu' was a thing of rarity, and mothers did not have the money to clothe or feed their children properly, was a stark contrast to the tourist-oriented city of Nairobi, or 'now rob me', as I heard it once called. Most of our field course was spent in the Marich Pass Field Centre, where we would spend time studying such things as local tribal medicine versus new western ideas and local irrigation schemes compared with huge dam projects aimed at providing water and electricity for the country. We also experienced how the ideas learned by the children at the local school contrasted with the age-old traditions of village elders.



Between us, the 20 or so students on the trip have visited a vast number of different countries, but it was clear that many of the ideas and processes we saw in an area so very poor and remote as West Pokot were new to all of us. Some of the memories that will stick with me forever came from the Marich Pass primary school we visited. I worked closely with the children to attempt to discover their ideas about how they felt as citizens both on a local and global scale. It was really intriguing to talk with children who would rank their education and freedom as their most prized possessions, over and above any material items they might own. Ten-year-old children living a farming life argued, not over Pokomon cards, but over who could spear a lion from the furthest distance. Possibly my most memorable moment of the trip was in a school assembly organised for a formal presentation of much-needed school equipment which we had brought with us from the UK for the school. The speeches that were made and the Swahili hymns that were sung in our honour really moved many of us. Watching the sun rise over the dusty mountain village playground to the sounds of Swahili hymns was a far cry from Library Square at Sussex University. That evening we organised a football match against the school team. We were amazed to see the boys play bare-footed on a stony and thorn-covered pitch, all except the striker who had been allowed to wear one boot on his right foot!!! Despite all our best efforts and Tony Binns' cheer-leading squad, we were beaten 3-0 by a team of ten-year olds! Although the temperature was over forty degrees!

I feel very privileged to be a geography student at Sussex University. The field courses, with which we are spoilt for choice, are an incredible practical alternative to the huge amounts of reading associated with a degree course. After years of studying geography and development, it is incredibly refreshing to be allowed to visit and see first-hand the areas we spend so many hours in the library reading about. Tony Binns, Allan Potts, Roy Maconachie and John Parry all put a lot of hard work into the trip to make it the success it is today. I would recommend the trip to any student, but particularly to those who like to challenge themselves and their ideas about development in poorer nations. I also look forward to seeing the rise of Kenya as a nation, fuelled by the optimism of these post-Moi times.

Michael Trotter
mt21@central.susx.ac.uk

But the field trips weren't all hard work as the annual Binns' awards show:

**KENYA FIELD CLASS
9-23 March 2003**

The Awards

Lawrence Fort: The Mr Bean Trophy For Courage in the Face of Adversity

Amy Prior and Nicola Snell: The Diocese of West Pokot Golden Chalice for Seeking the Meaning of Life

Daniel Seager: The United Nations Shield for International Cooperation and Diplomacy

Dr Allan Potts: The Rohan-Charles Atlas 'Aren't you Lucky?!' Chest of the Year Award

Donna Crabtree: The Pierre Cardin Haute Couture Cup for Taking Fashion to Distant Places

Catherine Cardin and Robert Manchester: The Weight-Watchers Chalice for Constant Nutritional scrutiny

Ross Mundy: The Sir Alex Ferguson Trophy for the 'Boot in the Eye' Penalty of the Year

Lewis Smith: The Jolly Green Giant Chalice for the Benign Rolling of Golden Virginia

Ian Lucas: The Mothercare-Nappisan Shield for Superior Fortitude and Camaraderie

Michael Trotter: The Poseur International Challenge Cup

Sarah Mace: The Alka Seltzer Award for Unfailing and Critical Effervescence

Johanna Paupitz: The Benson and Hedges International Medal for Nicotine-induced Resilience

Gemma Habens: The British Rail 'Wrong Type of Snow' Award for Almost Missing the Plane

Claudia Awdry: The Mother Theresa Birthday Girl Medal for Being So Laid Back That She Almost Fell Over

Roman Gruner: The Konrad Adenauer Cup for European Penetration into Distant Parts

Simon Conie: The Testosterone Challenge Medal for Short but Energetic Bursts of Athletic Ability

Roy Maconachie: The 'I'm a Lumberjack and I'm OK' Chalice for Conquering Great Heights with True Grit and Determination

Sergio Garcia: The Juan Carlos Aranjuez Award for Iberian Investigation of the Dark Continent

Tasmin Bartlett: The 'Farmers Choice' Cup for Reminiscences of Cider with Rosie and Middle Farm Bangers

John Parry: The Coca Cola All-comers Medal for Exploring US Hegemony and Idiosyncrasies and Teaching the World to Sing in Perfect Harmony



THAILAND FIELD TRIP 2003

The department ran its fourth field trip to Thailand in 2003 and, as before, it took place over the last two weeks of March. This period is just before the wet season and can be very hot but, fortunately, this year the rains had come early, not enough to seriously disrupt activities, but just enough to cool us down and to make visibility in the north much better than usual. The field trip followed its tried and true formula of introducing students to as great a variety of environments and landforms in Thailand as possible. After two days "studying" the urban landscapes of Bangkok (read "recovering from jet lag"), the group headed to the national park of Khao Yai. The tiger and the gaur proved as elusive as always but most of us saw hornbills, a flying giant squirrel, sambar deer, the white-handed gibbon and hundreds of thousands of wrinkle-lipped bats. Spending two nights at the park this year allowed a more leisurely trip out from Bangkok, with a half day at the old capital of Ayutthaya. Everyone appreciated the 90-minute lunch cruise (all of 45 pence each, including meal and soft drink!) and even the most jaded student responded to the beauties of the Wat Yai in the late afternoon sunshine.

The return from Khao Yai was anything but leisurely as our departure was delayed by problems with the bus - it had been filled up with water rather than diesel! We reached the airport literally with minutes to spare before the flight was called, but the Thai staff responded with equanimity and efficiently processed the group onto the flight to Chiang Mai. Urban studies and a traverse of Thailand's highest mountain, Doi Inthanon, occupied our time in Chiang Mai before we headed northeast to Chiang Rai province and the two days that everybody had been anticipating: the visit to the hill tribes. Here, the group was divided into twos and threes, each to stay with a different hill-tribe family in two separate villages. New foods were discovered, new liquids were drunk, although a few suffered

from that experience, new friendships were made and all benefited from the visit.

The last five days of the field trip were spent at the Sand-Sea resort on the beach at Ao Nang, Krabi. We arrived in heavy rain, after which the skies cleared to reveal the karst topography of southern Thailand in all its glory. Here, students undertook small-group study projects that ranged from ecotourism through urban structures and the sub-cultures of rock climbers to mangroves and limestone pillars.



Only the staff and one reluctant student went to the Wat Tham Seu (Tiger Cave temple) to climb the 1,226 (or was it 1,227?) highly variable-height steps to the top of a limestone pillar for a spectacular view over the surrounding region. Merit is earned through visiting sacred places and particularly when these are in difficult locations - just think of all the merit the staff must have earned, although that was not quite at the back of Cherith's mind when she finally reached the top! Perhaps the climb should be a compulsory part of any future Thailand trip - the merit accumulated should do wonders for the departmental ranking.

Ron Skeldon, R.Skeldon@sussex.ac.uk

Welcome to Ben Rogaly, a migration specialist, and the department's newest member of faculty. He joined in September after seven years at UEA, where his recent research focused on internal labour migration in India. Four of the articles based on this research have been published this year and can be found in the *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, *Development and Change* and the *Journal for International Development*. Last year, he co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Development Studies* entitled *Labour Mobility and Rural Society*, based on a workshop held at Sussex, and spent three months researching microfinance in Mexico. He also has research interests in the migration of horticultural and food-processing workers to the UK, and in understanding how and why gender and ethnic relations and identities shift (or not) both in rural India and in urban Britain. Ben will be offering a new course in the MA in Migration Studies on Migration, Inequality and Social Change, as well as teaching other courses at PG and UG level and continuing with the supervision of doctoral students.



Cartographic Unit Update

Following the retirement of Sue Rowland, the Cartographic Unit will be continue to be staffed by Hazel Lintott on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

With the loss of one full-time member of staff it has become necessary to prioritise the services that can be offered by the Unit in order to maintain a good level of service to the Geography Department. The good news is that many things will remain largely the same. Hazel will continue to: edit graphics for the journals which are edited by Geography faculty; do the DTP for those journals edited by Geography faculty which require typesetting; produce the Geography Handbooks; deal with student photos; and of course carry out the usual requests from Geography faculty for maps and diagrams.



Hazel Lintott

However as a trial for the first year, the following changes will take place:

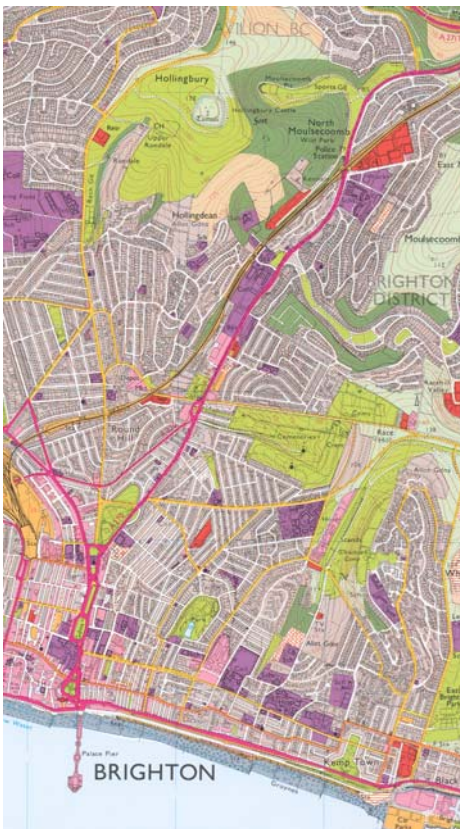
- A scanner and dedicated PC will be located in the Unit to enable faculty to do their own basic scanning (eg for PowerPoint or for overheads). Hazel will continue to do scanning for publications, A3 scanning or anything that requires more than simple resizing. She will be very happy to show any member of faculty how to work the new scanner and get the best results from their scans.
- No work will be undertaken for other university departments or bodies outside the university
- Evelyn has kindly agreed to take on the production of the Geography Newsletter
- The series of computer graphics workshops for undergraduates which Hazel has run for the past couple of years will be combined into one session of a more general nature – details to follow.

Hazel says, "I am looking forward to what I see as an enjoyable challenge to find various ways of increasing the efficiency of the Unit without compromising on quality. I'll keep everyone posted on changes as they occur".

Hazel Lintott

safc5@sussex.ac.uk

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/geography/1-2-4-1.html>



Land use of the Brighton & Hove area
OS, 1999.

Sue Rowland, University Cartographer, retired in August after 39 years service to the University.

A retrospective of Sue's work was held outside the Cartographic Unit during the summer, and many people from within the University and beyond, including past and present colleagues and people who had worked with Sue in other capacities, attended the private view. Sue contributed cartographically to many important projects during her time at Sussex, including the *Historical Atlas of Sussex* (Phillimore, 1999) and the beautiful map – 'Land use of the Brighton and Hove area' (Ordnance Survey, 1999) for which she won an award. One of her most satisfying achievements in recent times, however, was her involvement in the production of the Millennium map of her beloved parish of Hamsey.

Brian Short, head of department says- 'from a purely personal viewpoint, Sue has been wonderful to work with. Her sheer professionalism and deployment of skills have been a pleasure to watch, and the manner in which she has adapted to modern computerised possibilities is a lesson to us all. She has worked on many of my own publications and enhanced them all by the combination of technical knowledge and design flair. I know, of course, that many others share this opinion, both inside the university and beyond, and that Sue's reputation for excellence will ensure that many of her 'customers' will still be tempted to beat a path to her door in Hamsey parish!'



Sue can be reached on suerowland@macdream.net

Following the interest generated by *50 Places to Visit before you Die*, where did Sussex Geographers go this summer on holiday/fieldwork? Match the people with the locations, and note that some people have been to more than 1 place.

Aberdeen
 Amsterdam
 Anglesey
 Barcelona
 Bay of Biscay
 (whale watching)
 Cornwall
 Crete
 Edinburgh
 Eurodisney
 Germany
 Ghana
 Glasgow
 Languedoc
 Loch Maree
 Loire Valley
 Namibia
 Peru
 Picos de Europa
 Sardinia
 Scunthorpe
 South Africa
 South of France
 Stroud
 Venice

Alan Lester
 Brian Short
 Catherine Senger
 Chris Bates
 Dave Robinson
 Dom Kniveton
 Evelyn Dodds
 Hazel Lintott
 Jenny Money
 Mick Frogley
 Mike Collyer
 Richard Black
 Richard Charman
 Russell King
 Sarah Mackenzie
 Simon Rycroft
 Sue Rowland
 Tony Fielding
 Uwe Dornbusch

Welcome to Claire Boulter BSc (Durham) 2002, who is undertaking a D.Phil. in Physical Geography, associated with the *Beaches At Risk* project. Her thesis will focus upon rates and mechanisms of erosion of chalk cliffs and shore platforms on the Channel coast, with particular regard to the volume and timing of delivery of flint into the coastal system, and the processes by which this flint abrades. The work will emphasise the interactions between the principal components of the system (cliff, shore platform and beach), in the light of changes in environmental conditions (primarily sea-level and wave climate) at a range of temporal scales.

Claire's undergraduate work was weighted equally between geomorphology and Quaternary environmental change, and she anticipates that the research at Sussex will build upon her existing geomorphological knowledge, as well as developing a range of new skills. Having spent four years in the north-east, she's particularly enjoying the Brighton sunshine!

Welcome also to **Tamsin Watt** (Sussex, 2002) who joins Claire, and Elinor Low, as a BAR research assistant and DPhil student.

STONE project rolls on

Following a fantastically hot and sunny summer field season, everyone in the STONE (Sediment Transfer across the Ouse/Newhaven Estuary) team got cold and wet in the winter field season. Standing for 13 hours by the bridge where Virginia Woolf decided to end it all in a January hailstorm certainly showed our dedication! In both seasons the sophisticated mud detecting sonar worked perfectly. Since then a cutting edge optical device has been successfully used at the same location and lovingly handmade mud collecting tubes have been located along the banks of the estuary. Some fridges in the physical geography laboratory are beginning to get a little whiffy...



STONE is now joined by a bigger brother (or sister?) - the international RIMEW project (Rives Manche Estuarine Watch) which focuses on the movement of polluted sediments in the Ouse and Medway in the UK and the Authie and Seine in France. A warm welcome to Dr Jon Taylor who has recently joined the Sussex coastal team and whose expertise and equipment is invaluable in both STONE and RIMEW.

Richard Charman R.Charman@sussex.ac.uk
<http://www.geog.susx.ac.uk/STONE/>

Exam howlers from the Department of Geography 2003

- The changes that occur are usually confined to the northern and southern hemispheres
- As the world's population sours past 6 billion...
- ...we can conclude that the composition of the earth is not monogamous.
- The human specimen is growing at a tremendous pace.....
- Hardin set out his two lifeboat ethnic theory
- ...a denunciation of the view that Catholics breed like rabbits.....
- Rock shore platforms erode by a process of conitriton
- The caves of limestone regions are congested with speleophlegms
- Amazonian deforestation is caused by loggers eating their way through vast amounts of trees.

People...People...People....

Tony Binns was guest lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, in April, delivering a series of lectures on Development in Africa. He was keynote speaker at an In-service Training Workshop for teachers on 'Researching Global Futures', in London, in June, and in July/August was Academic Leader of a Geography Study Tour to South Africa, organised by the International Committee of the Geographical Association. He has also been appointed External Examiner for the MA programme in Development Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London. He has also recently presented papers at the RGS/IBG conference in London (with Roy Maconachie), and conferences in South Africa (with Peter Kyle) and Denmark.

Tony Fielding had a busy summer, attending the East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography, Osaka and Tokyo; European Association for Japanese Studies, Warsaw; RGS-IBG, London; and the International Sociological Association (rc21), Milan.

The bulk of **Mick Frogley's** summer research work was taken up with a 3-week fieldtrip to the highlands of Peru. Based around Cuzco, the trip provided an opportunity to sample sediments, flora and fauna from a suite of lake sites located between 2900 and 4200 m above sea level. When analysed, the data from these sites should help to interpret the climatic changes in the region over the past 2000 years. And whilst he was running up and down mountains chasing llamas and eating guinea pig, one of his collaborators was presenting some of their work to the 9th International Palaeolimnology symposium in Helsinki, Finland.

Russell King has been working on two major research projects, one in its closing phases, the other just started. His research into Albanian migration has been funded by grants from the Leverhulme Trust (2001-2003) and Oxfam (2002-2003). The Oxfam-sponsored research has looked at low-skilled Albanian migrants in the UK and the impact of their remittances on poverty alleviation in Albania. A book on this research, co-authored with his research assistants Nicola Mai and Mitela Dalipaj, will be published by the Fabian Society in October. Whilst the impact of the book may not be as great as the Fabians' recent study on the future of the monarchy (a topic which Russell has firm but largely unprintable views), the Albania study should contribute significantly to debates about immigration to the UK and home-country development. The Leverhulme-funded research, joint with Nicola Mai, has been on social integration and exclusion of Albanians in Italy, based on field surveys in Rome, Modena and Lecce; several papers and a book are being written on this. The second research initiative being headed up by Russell involves HEFCE-funded research into

student mobility, and the barriers to it within the UK higher education system. A questionnaire has been extensively piloted (including with First-Year Sussex geography students!), in preparation for the main survey, to be launched in the Autumn Term, 2003, of 1000 students in ten UK universities.

Dom Kniveton and his post doctoral researcher **Russell Layberry** disappeared off to Namibia in the summer to participate in a workshop on development scenarios for the Okavango river basin in Angola, Namibia and Botswana, with various stakeholders from the riparian states. They intend to run these development scenarios together with climate change predictions on the hydrological/ecosystem/social economic model they have been working on as part of a European Union funded project to assist in the decision making process for the future management of the river catchment. They also brought back lots of sand in their pockets from a brief excursion into the Namib Desert.

Ron Skeldon presented a paper on migration and poverty at the conference "African Migration and Urbanization in Comparative Perspective" in Johannesburg in June. His synthesis paper on Migration and Migration Policy in Asia for DFID was presented in London in May and at Dhaka, Bangladesh in June. He also presented a paper linking internal and international migration in Asia to a working group at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok in late August. At the International Metropolis Conference "Gaining from Migration" in Vienna in September 2003 he was a panelist on "Economic and political integration in regional migration systems - between national priorities and supranational harmonization".

Congratulations

Grace Carswell, Geert, & baby Louis who arrived on June 15th.

Richard Hornsey, former DPhil student at Sussex, who is now a lecturer in the Department of Cultural Studies at University of the West of England, Bristol.

Sung-Cheol Lee former DPhil student in Economic Geography at Sussex, has been appointed lecturer in the Department of Geography Education, University of Dongguk, Seoul, Korea.

Alan, Jo and Daisy Lester, on the safe arrival of Evan on September 24th.

Julian & Della Murton who were married in June. **Will Pilfold** (BA, 1999) currently completing his DPhil, who has been appointed as a member of faculty in the Centre for Continuing Education. His role there as a historical geographer will further strengthen links between CCE & Geography.

Publications

Binns, Tony

Potter, Robert B., Binns, Tony, Elliott, Jennifer A. & Smith, David (eds) *Geographies of Development-2nd ed*, Pearson, 2003.

Fielding, Anthony J.

'Geography and Migration: a Review and Evaluation of Contemporary Research', *Jinbunchiri* (Human Geography) 55, 2003.

'Migration and Development of the Japanese Urban System, 1950-2000' in Geyer, H.S. (ed.) *International Handbook of Urban Systems*, Elgar, 2002.

Frogley, Mick

Tzedakis, P.C., Frogley, M.R. and Heaton, T.H.E. (2003). Last interglacial conditions in southern Europe: evidence from Ioannina, northwest Greece. *Global and Planetary Change* 36, 157-170.

Chepstow-Lusty, A., Frogley, M.R., Bauer, B., Bush, M.B. and Herrera, A.T. (2003). A late Holocene record of arid events from the Cuzco region, Peru. *Journal of Quaternary Science* 18 (6), 491-502.

King, Russell

'International student migration in Europe and the institutionalization of identity as 'Young Europeans' in Doomernik, J. & Knippenberg, H.(eds) *Migration and Immigrants: Between Policy and Reality*. Essays in Honour of Hans van Amersfoort: Aksant Academic Publishers, 155-179, 2003.

King, R. & Ruiz-Gelices, E. International student migration and the European 'Year Abroad': effects on European identity and subsequent migration behaviour, *International Journal of Population Geography*, 9(3), 229-252, 2003.

Across the sea and over the mountains: documenting Albanian migration, *Scottish Geographical Journal* 119(3), 282-309, 2003.

Knives, Dominic

Todd, M.C., Washington, R., Cheke, R.A. & Kniveton, D., 'Brown locust outbreaks and climate variability in southern Africa', *J. Applied Ecology*, 39, 2002.

Lester, Alan

'Colonial and Postcolonial Geographies', *Journal of Historical Geography*, 29,2, June 2003.

Guest editor of the special issue, 'Space, Place and Identity: Historical Geographies of Southern Africa', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 29, 3, September 2003.

'Introduction: Historical Geographies of Southern Africa' in *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 29, 3, September 2003.

Which member of the Geography Department recently said:

- 'I've always wanted to do something vaguely illegal, like throwing a chair through a window.'

And there's no use asking – their identity is safe!

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

RESEARCH SEMINARS Autumn Term 2003

**Mondays at 5.00pm in the Geography
Resource Centre (C175)
ALL WELCOME**

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|-------------|---|
| 13 October | Loch Brown (Sussex University) , Tourism as a global service chain: the experience of The Gambia |
| 20 October | Nigel Walford (Kingston University) , Commercial farmers and the productivism/post-productivism debate |
| 27 October | Mick Dunford (Sussex University) , Comparative economic performance, inequality and the market-led remaking of Europe |
| 3 November | Tariq Jazeel (Open University) , 'Nature', nationhood and the poetics of meaning in Ruhuna (Yala) National Park, Sri Lanka |
| 10 November | Brian Short (Sussex University) , British state intervention and farm dispossession in the Second World War |
| 17 November | Tanya Bowyer-Bower (King's, London) , The political economy of risk and entitlement in resource management in African cities |
| 24 November | David Nash (Brighton University) , Missionary archives, El Nino and climate change in 19 th century central southern Africa |
| 1 December | Mick Frogley (University of Sussex) , Tales from two lake basins: climate, culture and collapse in the Peruvian Highlands |

The next edition of this newsletter will be published in January 2004. Items for inclusion should be sent to Evelyn Dodds – E.Dodds@sussex.ac.uk .