

This fortnightly email, sent to all University of Sussex staff and postgraduate researchers, shares updates about our Sussex community.



**Thursday 1 February 2024**



## **Celebrating winter graduation**

[Check out the photo highlights from this year's winter graduation](#) held at the Brighton Centre on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 January. We hosted six ceremonies recognising the achievements of 2,154 graduating students, with more than 400 staff members taking part to help make the event a success.

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**"It's a huge honour to be getting this degree"**

[Leading economist and media commentator Paul Johnson CBE](#), Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, was awarded Honorary Doctor of Laws during winter graduation.



**"There is no more powerful degree than a medical degree"**

[Dr Chris van Tulleken, TV medical doctor and health campaigner](#), was made an Honorary Doctor of the University.

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## Remembering Sabina Avdagic

Dr Sabina Avdagic, an exceptional academic and well-loved colleague from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology (LPS), has passed away. LPS is collating a condolence book to which colleagues can contribute.



## HR Division builds trust, connection and belonging

Find out how the HR Division took action after the latest staff survey, building community with 'HR United' and improving the sense of belonging for staff with the Welcome to Sussex induction and onboarding pack.

## Inclusive Sussex



## Inclusive Sussex update

The latest update from David Ruebain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Culture, Equality and Inclusion) includes our Race Equality Charter submission and action plan, Holocaust Memorial Day, and an upcoming In Conversation event with Dame Nicola Dandridge DBE and Dr

Omar Khan on Wednesday 28  
February.

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## **Race Equality Charter application and action plan**

[View the application, and our four-year action plan](#) which supports our work towards race equality. The University received the Race Equality Charter Institutional Bronze award in September 2023.

## **Race Equality Week: 5-11 February**

[Race Equality Week](#) aims to address the barriers to race equality in the workplace, and this year's theme is 'Listen, Act, Change.' Find out about work underway at the University to eliminate racial inequalities and explore resources and support available to staff.

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## **Alumna returns as Poet-in-Residence**

[Jenny Mitchell, Sussex alumna and multi-award winning poet](#), will be returning to Sussex as part of the Black at Sussex project. Jenny will facilitate a series of roundtables with staff, students and the wider community titled *The Wicked Problems Series*, which will open up conversations around race, identities

and experiences within higher education.

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## **Women of Sussex – get ready for International Women’s Day 2024**

To celebrate International Women's Day, we are opening an exhibition of photography portraits of women role models working at Sussex. The exhibition will be on display in the Library during March and we are calling for staff members to take part before Wednesday 26 February. Take a look at some of the inspiring comments and portraits that Sussex women have already shared.



### **Arts Piazza Cafe introduces new socially responsible coffee: Café Queero**

Café Queero is the new coffee blend at Arts Piazza Cafe as part of their Coffee for Causes initiative. As highlighted by David Ruebain (pictured) in his update, Café Queero is affiliated with The Outside Project, a small charity that serves as an LGBTIQ+ community shelter and domestic abuse refuge.

## Your development

### **Staff development workshops to be booked through LearnUpon**

[From the end of February 2024, staff can book development workshops](#) run by the Organisational Development team via our learning management system, LearnUpon, rather than Eventbrite. This change will make it easier to manage your attendance and keep a record of your learning in one place.

### **Explore skills for life during National Apprenticeship Week: 5-9 February**

[Explore apprenticeships available and the positive impact](#) they can have on your professional development during National Apprenticeship Week. There are a series of events, Q&As and drop-in sessions with apprenticeships providers and Chris Hamilton, the University's Apprenticeships Officer.

## Share your thoughts to win

### **Final chance to win in our communications survey**

[Share your views on our internal communication by 12 noon tomorrow,](#) Friday 2 February, for a chance to win a £10 Munch Money card.

## Sustainability



## **Join our new seminar series exploring wicked sustainability problems**

This new transdisciplinary research series, by researchers across campus in collaboration with the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), will examine global and local issues surrounding food systems, water, nature conservation and education. Led by experts in the field, the seminars will explore how abstract ideas might be translated into everyday staff and student practices to help to create a sustainable community around Sussex.

### **Research**



#### ***Blog: Energy Poverty - A Hidden Crisis***

Mari Martiskainen, Professor of Energy and Society at the University of Sussex Business School, argues in her recently published blog that energy poverty has severe quality-of-life impacts that make it a pressing societal concern.

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## **Study shows link between socioeconomic status and cognitive impairment**

A recent study from Brighton and Sussex Medical School reveals a significant association between socioeconomic status throughout life and the onset of mild cognitive impairment in middle-aged adults.

## **New video camera system captures the coloured world that animals see**

Sussex researchers have developed a new camera in collaboration with the George Mason University in the United States, which will allow ecologists and filmmakers to produce videos that accurately replicate the colours that different animals see in natural settings.

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Don't miss out on the Attenborough Centre's new spring programme, which includes screenings of Emma Critchley's *Common Heritage* and Silke Huysmans and Hannes Dereere's *Out of the Blue* (pictured), as part of Climate Justice Week at Sussex. Pitch for the Planet, our annual 'Dragon's Den' style student sustainability innovation competition, is also coming up on 24 April.



## Contact us

*Sussex in focus* is issued every other Thursday. You can [view an infographic about the types of content featured](#), and if you would like to include something in the newsletter please submit this to [internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk) by 12 noon the preceding Tuesday.

Our next edition will be on Thursday 15 February 2024.

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Visit the Staff Hub for more news, events and useful information



**Sent by**

Internal Communications, University of Sussex.