

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



Thursday 14 September 2023

**Welcome from Cathy McDonnell,
guest editor**

In this edition of Sussex in focus, I'm delighted to highlight some of the great initiatives the Organisational Development (OD) Team has recently launched for staff, supporting colleagues as they begin their role at the University and for all of you as you develop in your roles.



Our brand new [Welcome to Sussex digital onboarding pack](#), created in collaboration with several staff across the University, will help set our new employees off on the right foot during their first few weeks and months at Sussex. You may even discover some things you weren't aware of too! There are two sets of guidance on the OD webpages to accompany the pack, for [managers onboarding new staff](#) and those who are [new line managers](#) joining Sussex. We've also recently launched [MentorNet, our online mentoring](#)

[platform](#), making it simpler for staff to learn from each other to help build their skills and knowledge. Read more below about Ed Jenkins' experience of being a mentor.

These exciting tools are part of our [People Strategy](#), creating an inclusive environment that develops staff at the University, and enables them to flourish. And don't forget you can explore development options on the [OD webpages](#).

Cathy McDonnell, Assistant Director of Culture, OD and Wellbeing



'Welcome to Sussex' digital onboarding pack launches

[Offering key information for new employees](#), the pack is available on MyView and supported by guidance for managers.



Blog: "Mentoring made me more self-reflective in my own work"

[With MentorNet now live for staff, read about Ed Jenkins' experience](#) of being a mentor at Sussex.



Have you completed your Achievement and Development Review?

Forms and guidance are available on the
OD webpage. Deadline for PS staff is
30 September, and academic staff
31 October.



Diversity in the Workplace training reminder

If you are a line manager, please remind
your team about this essential
training for all staff.

Inclusive Sussex



The Power of Poetry and Living Libraries for Decolonial Dialogue

Discussing themes around race, gender and the enduring legacies of colonialism, award-winning poet Jenny Mitchell and multi-modal artist Erin James will feature at this event hosted at the Library on Thursday 28 September from 5pm – 7pm.

[Register now.](#)

Inclusive Sussex: In Conversation

Inclusive leadership is the focus for our next event on Wednesday 18 October featuring Lela Kogbara and Jane Farrell. Lela was a senior leader in the public sector for 25 years and the former director of [Black Thrive Global](#). Jane is the co-founder of [EW Group](#) and a specialist in inclusive leadership, unconscious bias, organisational change and cultural adaptability. The discussion will be chaired by Professor David Ruebain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Culture, Equality and Inclusion) and panellists will include Business School senior lecturers, Dr Ben Everly and Dr Zahira Jaser. [Book your place.](#)

National Inclusion Week: 25 September to 1 October

[This year's theme is 'Take Action Make Impact'](#) highlighting the importance of an

action-focused approach to inclusion. We explore some of the actions underway at Sussex to help develop an inclusive workplace.

September is World Funfair Month

As part of our commitment to supporting Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen, and Boater communities in higher education, we celebrate [World Funfair Month](#), which aims to raise awareness of showmen and their vocational culture.

Community



Meet Liz de Cort, Catering Services Manager

[Liz works collaboratively with our catering providers](#) to make sure the catering offering meets the needs of our community. Read more about Liz and find out how you can share your thoughts and feedback about food on campus.



Ethical procurement

At Sussex, our sector-leading approach to procurement means ethics are at the heart of the process. We explore what is meant by 'ethical procurement' and how it powers the decisions we make.



"It felt great to give something back"

Read about the Educational Enhancement team's recent beach clean volunteer day helping Surfers Against Sewage in their work against marine pollution.

Research



Meet ECR Dragon's Den People's Choice winner Amanda Ferrell

Amanda, who is a Research Assistant in the School of Psychology, took the £1,500 People's Choice Award together with Su Morris for their pitch for a

large-scale survey identifying opportunities to improve life skills education for young people.

Research culture consultation events

Join the workshops taking place online on [Wednesday 20 September](#) and [Thursday 21 September](#), aiming to share great research practices from across campus and identify the actions we should prioritise to strengthen our research culture. Open to anyone working on research at any career stage, in an academic, technical or Professional Services role.



[Sussexsport held its annual staff volleyball tournament](#) at Yellowwave on Brighton beach earlier this summer, with Sussex Policy Research Unit, part of the Business School, taking the win.

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 by 12 noon the preceding Tuesday.

Our next edition will be on Thursday 28 September.

[Visit the Staff Hub for more news, events and useful information](#)



Sent by

Internal Communications, University of Sussex.