

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



**Thursday 7 December 2023**



### **Jesse Darling wins this year's Turner Prize**

[Jesse was revealed as the Turner Prize winner on Tuesday 5 December,](#)  
with an installation that explores borders, bodies, nationhood and exclusion.

The University is the Education Partner for this year's Turner Prize and everyone can visit the free exhibition at Towner Eastbourne until 14 April 2024.

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**Top 30 in the world for sustainability**

The University has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the UK and joint 26<sup>th</sup> in the world in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024.



**Wishing our community a Happy Hanukkah**

Hanukkah, which starts today (7 December) will be marked with the annual lighting of a menorah at Library Square on Monday 11 December at 4.30pm.



### **Staff survey update and focus groups in January**

The next survey is planned for autumn 2024 – and you can join our focus groups to shape how we listen at Sussex.



### **University confirmed as apprenticeship provider**

Masters and undergraduate degree apprenticeship programmes will begin in September 2024.

**Inclusive Sussex**



### **Freedom of speech in focus**

[See the highlights from the lecture given by Professor David Ruebain](#), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Culture, Equality and Inclusion) which explored freedom of speech and its boundaries. You can also read [David's blog which was published on the Advance HE website](#).

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### **Upcoming event: Dialogue in times of disagreement, distress and conflict**

[Express your interest](#) in joining a community dialogue on Tuesday 16 January 2024, 5.30pm-7.30pm. The event, supported by external facilitators, aims to provide a space to explore the ongoing conflict in Israel, Gaza/Palestine and the Middle East.

### **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

[Sunday 3 December marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#). Disability History Month continues until 16 December and you can find out about training courses, resources and support available for our community.

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**Brighton & Hove Culture Alliance:  
join the Anti-Racism Collective**

The Anti-Racism Collective is a new local group supported by the University which looks to drive forward fair play and opportunities for artists who may experience racism. Applications are open until Friday 15 December. Photo credit: *Street Story* by Judith (Exhale Creative Grant 2023).

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**Take part in Stonewall's annual Workplace Equality Index  
Questionnaire**

The University is submitting an entry into the 2024 Stonewall Index, and as part of the submission, staff can complete the survey before 15 December. The survey, which takes five minutes to complete, is anonymous and results go directly to Stonewall.

## Wellbeing

**Winter wellness and opening times on campus**

Find out key information for the winter break, including a reminder about the two additional minimum service days, support services available for staff and opening times on campus.

## Our community

### **Sussex Founders podcast**

[Catch up on the second episode](#) featuring Peter Lane speaking to Professor Georgios Giamas about finding funding and early commercial development.

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### **Visit from Zhejiang Gongshang University**

[We recently welcomed](#) a delegation from Zhejiang Gongshang University, strengthening our Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute partnership.

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### **Sussex Salon: The Human Rights Act: past, present and future**

[On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Human Rights Act](#), the School of Law, Politics and Sociology invites you to this participatory event at the Café Bar in the Attenborough Centre on Tuesday 12 December at 7.30pm.

### ***Under the Rubble*: Brighton-Damascus collaboration creates new teaching resource**

[This dual-text \(Arabic-English\) illustrated children's story](#) of resilience, hope

and gratitude in the face of loss and tragedy, is now available at the Media, Arts and Humanities Resource Centre for colleagues and students to read.

## Library



**"It's important to maintain your own values when balancing work and life"**

We spent five minutes with Fiona Courage, Deputy University Librarian to find out why she loves working at Sussex and what's the best piece of advice she has ever received.

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### **Festive coffee morning for researchers at the Library**

Meet the dedicated team at the Library who support learning, teaching, research and scholarship in this coffee morning session on Thursday 14 December, 10.30am-12 noon.

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**Enjoy free audiobooks on your phone with the Libby App**

[Download the Libby App](#) and enjoy the free collection of over 180 titles curated by the Library team for our community. It offers popular fiction from prize-winning authors including LGBTQ+ writers, African American fiction, autobiography/biography, sci-fi/fantasy, and literary classics.

**Celebrating success**



**Sussex researchers awarded prestigious seven-year fellowships**

[Dr Charlotte Rae and Dr Donal Brown](#) have been awarded Future Leaders Fellowships in the latest round of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) scheme, which aims to develop world-class research and innovation leaders in academia and business.



**Grant success for new Syrian studies initiative**

[The Syrian Academics and Researchers' Network in the UK \(SARN UK\)](#) has been awarded a grant which will fund the initial phase of their research



activities. Launched in September by Syrian academics including Sussex lecturer Dr Feras Alkabani, the network will run events from spring 2024.

**First Chevening Scholar joins online distance learning course**

[Denis Ouma is the first-ever Chevening Scholar to join one of our online courses.](#) His success highlights the status and potential of the University's online distance learning programmes.

## Sustainability



**Discovering our community's sustainability achievements**

[Read the blog from Michael Harpham,](#) Senior Sustainability Performance Officer, on how our community is working together towards becoming one of the most sustainable universities in the world.





A glimpse of Brighton's [Royal Pavilion Ice Rink](#), one of the city's favourite activities during the winter break.

[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 18 January 2024.

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



**Sent by**

Internal Communications, University of Sussex.