

## New hope for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers

Researchers at Sussex University led by Julian Burke and at Brighton Polytechnic led by Chris Marriot and Stuart James have identified the nature of the DNA in the sputum of Cystic Fibrosis patients.

Cystic Fibrosis is the most common fatal genetic disease in the UK and US and affects approximately 30,000 children and young adults. Those affected usually die before the age of 30 from respiratory failure caused by severe bacterial infections that permanently damage their lungs. For reasons that are not fully understood the mucus in the lungs is abnormally thick and therefore prone to infection.

The major factor known to be responsible for the thickening of the mucus is the genetic material DNA. Recent research at Sussex, funded by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, has shown that contrary to popular belief the DNA does not come from the infecting bacteria but more than 99 per cent is due to the accumulation of the patient's inflammatory cells which then die and release their DNA.

The major existing treatments for the infections include physical therapy which involves pounding on the chest in various positions several times a day in order to loosen the congestion, as well as inhaled or injected antibiotics.

The Sussex data will be made available to the US biotechnology company Gentech which has made a recent advance using a recombinant enzyme to attack and degrade the DNA in the mucus of Cystic Fibrosis patients, offering hope for a new form of therapy. The enzyme treatment, now in clinical trials, reduces the thickness of mucus ten fold within minutes and should offer greater accessibility for antibiotic therapy and relief for the patients.

No prizes for guessing who this is! The University played host to BBC Television last week when the programme *Mastermind* with Magnus Magnusson was recorded in the Meeting House Chapel.

Two rounds of the show were recorded for transmission next year — probably on 3 and 10 March. The outside of the Meeting House was specially floodlit for the occasion to illuminate the Chapel windows.

All went smoothly, though at one point trouble with one of the cameras briefly halted the proceedings, giving Magnus Magnusson the chance to carry out his threat to tell a joke. You won't see that when the programme is televised — but see if you can spot which contestant is wearing Charles Dudley's jacket (no, the University's Commercial Manager wasn't a participant himself).



### New Dean of Euro

Professor Alasdair Smith is to be the next Dean of the School of European Studies in succession to Dr. Anne Stevens who leaves Sussex at the end of this month. She has been appointed to the Chair of European Studies at Kent University from the beginning of January.

### Well done!

Garry Majors, the Estates Porter/Driver (alias the Golden Girl of Estates), collected £510 for Children in Need on Friday, 23 November.

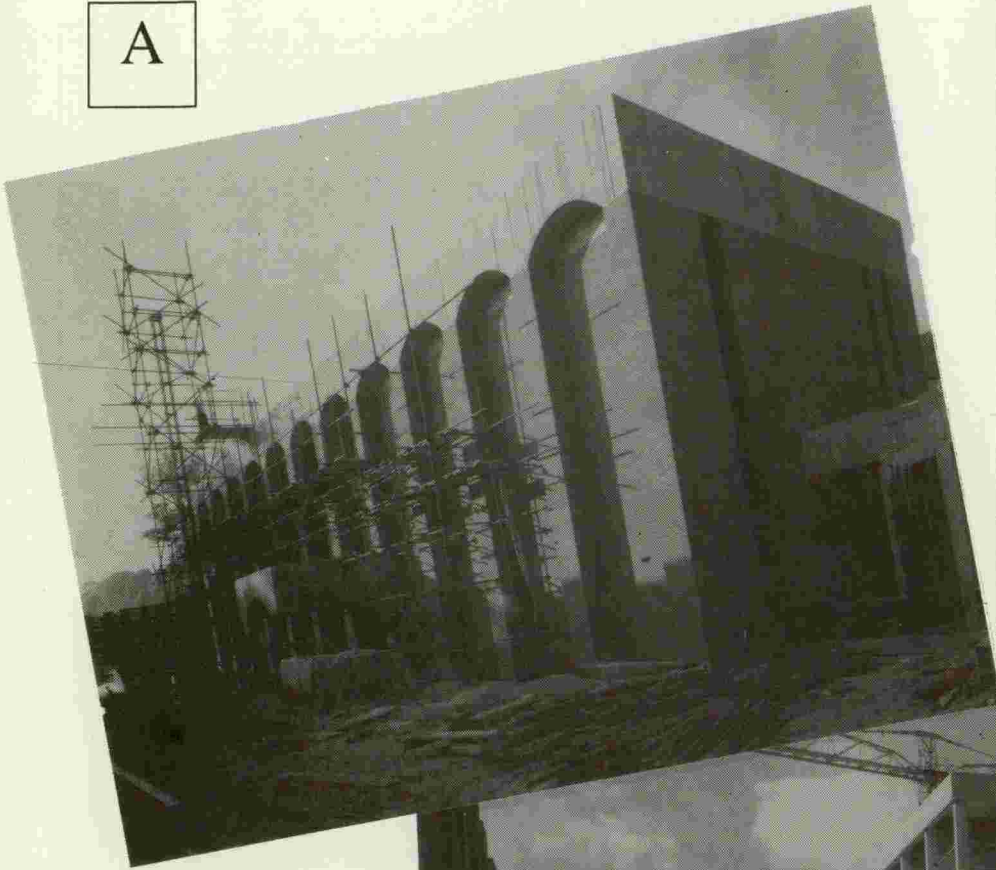
Earlier in the month, a total of £462.53 was collected at the University for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Many thanks from the organisers to all those who contributed.

### Sussex does well again with British Academy awards

For the second year running, Sussex was the highest ranking of all universities in the country (outside London and Oxbridge) for the number of British Academy Postgraduate Humanities awards, with 38 Major and State Awards.

Don't forget —  
parking permits are  
compulsory from  
1 January 1991!

A



## ***Christmas competition 1990***

You may think that we have enough scaffolding around campus these days but today's building works are as nothing compared to the earlier years of the University. Keith Hunt of the Photographic & Design Unit has been delving through the archives to provide this year's Christmas competition. All you have to do is to identify these campus buildings. Concise answers are required. The sender of the first correct entry opened will receive a bottle of champagne. Entries should be accompanied by the competitor's name and office or School p/h address. Answers, please, by 4 pm on Tuesday, 18 December, to: Bulletin Competition, Room 230, Sussex House.

B



C



D



E



### **Waterloo-Sussex Chemistry exchange success**

Sussex Chemistry students have joined the jet-set with a new exchange programme with the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. The first group of Sussex students — Sue Ellis, Mick Readey, Christine Bell and Pat Hawthorne — spent the Summer Term 1990 in Waterloo, taking courses and doing research projects. They all voted the experience a great success, socially and academically — indeed, one student has organised a trip back 'for the weekend'. There is already great competition for places on the scheme in 1991, when it will also be open to majors in Environmental Science.

The first visitors from Waterloo arrived this term. Diane Innocentin and Stephen Hoyle are from the Co-op Chemistry program, and Michelle Giroux and Cary Cuncic are Biochemistry majors. Before term started they all spent some time touring England and the Continent. They are taking a wide range of courses from our second and third years, with Diane and Stephen also doing research projects. Next term, Caitlin McGregor, another Biochemistry major, will be joining the programme.



*From left (standing): Dr. Penny Chaloner (Chair, Science & N. American Studies Committee), Alan Soutter (International Officer), Mick Readey, and seated, Michelle Giroux, Cary Cuncic, Diane Innocentin and Christine Bell.*

□ News from the Gardner Centre

## Wonderland at the Gardner

Tomorrow night (12th) sees the opening of this year's spectacular Christmas show at the Gardner Centre. Lewis Carroll's classic children's story *Alice in Wonderland* has been adapted into a magical musical by local hit-writer Mike Carter, specially for the Gardner.

Mike, who trained as a teacher at Sussex University, wrote the lyrics and music for the show which promises to be the best ever, with tickets selling fast and some shows already sold out. It features colourful and crazy sets which shrink and grow, and includes an inventive proscenium arch of huge playing cards, not to mention outrageous costumes and catchy and memorable tunes.

This is not the first show that Mike has brought to the Gardner. His previous productions of *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Oh Rats* (based on the Pied Piper of Hamelin), all won high acclaim when they were produced at the Gardner Centre. Mike has a well-deserved reputation for making his musical adaptations fresh and spontaneous while still keeping faithfully to the text of the book.

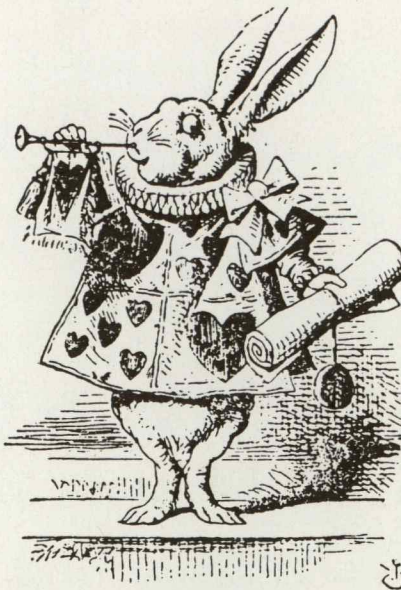
This production of *Alice in Wonderland* was premiered last year at the Grand Opera House in York, where it won rave reviews. . . . 'the answer to every parent's dream — a contented youngster. Larger than life characters, vivid colour and a wealth of audience involvement feature in this Christmas play.'

Sarah Pickering again plays the title role, supported by Eileen Dunwoodie, David Howe and Andrew Alty amongst others. Sarah is probably best known for her role as Little Dorrit in the feature film in which she co-starred with Sir Alec Guinness and Derek Jacobi. The film will be screened again this Christmas. The White Rabbit is played by Peter Quilter who lists his hobbies as lettuce, carrots and running free on the lawn!

Mike Carter still teaches part-time at St Christopher's School in Hove but writing now takes up most of his working life and its lucky for us that it does. As Mike himself says: 'I hope that my adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* will address children, and the adults they will bring with them. My intention is to entertain, to captivate and stimulate the imagination.' The show runs until 5 January and tickets are still available from the box office (tel. 685861).

The Christmas show finishes off the autumn programme at the Gardner, but keep your eyes peeled for the new spring diary of events which will come out in mid-December. An amazing line-up of stars, talent and all round entertainment has been planned for the spring, so make sure you get your free copy.

Anne Burrill



## Dr Patricia Thomson

Colleagues and former pupils will be sad to learn of the death on 25 November 1990 of one of the early members of the Sussex English Subject Group, and one of the first woman members of faculty. Patricia Thomson was a graduate of the University of Aberdeen, where she later taught after research at Newnham College, Cambridge, which laid the basis for her first book, *The Victorian Heroine: A Changing Ideal* (1956). A Victorianist with wider interests, she was one of the first teachers to offer a course on feminism at a British university, in which she deployed her formidable style of elegant wit.

Two later works were *George Sand and the Victorians* (1977) and (with Sacha Rabinovitch) a translation of Sand's *Lettres d'un Voyageur* for Penguin Classics (1987). David Daiches writes: 'Patty was the sort of person whose personality shone forth from the very first time one met her. Full of life and charm and kindness, with an interest in literature that was vivid and personal, she was a fine teacher, a lucid and illuminating critic and scholar, and a splendid colleague.'

She married Maurice Evans, the distinguished scholar of the English Renaissance, who died last year.

M.J. and A.R.

## □ Prizes and other awards The Partnership Awards

The Partnership Awards, launched in 1989 by The Council for Industry and Higher Education, are a system of annual prizes for successful innovation in teaching and learning in higher education. Each prize is the result of discussion with members of a major company, partnership or industrial body, which has then agreed to sponsor the prize. Last year, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences won the CEGB prize for Electrical Power Engineering.

In 1991, 27 prizes each of £4,500 will be offered, including new ones for design education, mathematics and physics. Other topics include: access arrangements, business aspects, engineering, humanities, information technology, languages and sciences.

The closing date for completed nominations is 22 February 1991. Comprehensive documentation on the scheme is available for consultation in the Information Office, Sussex House. There are two modes of nomination: Mode A — nomination of a person or small team of not more than three — for innovative work; Mode B — nomination of an innovation or special

development which meets the specification.

### Sir John Bowring Essay Prize

A £500 essay prize for first degree students is offered by the Guild of World Traders and ICC United Kingdom for a 5,000 word essay on 'How can necessary growth in world trade and economic development be reconciled with the need to protect the environment?' Closing date: 15 February 1991. Further details are held in the Information Office, Sussex House.

### St John's College, Cambridge

Benefactors' Studentships for Research 1991 — some full-cost awards will be made to well-qualified students of special merit. Apply by 31 January 1991. Further details are held in the Information Office.

## Dr. Brian Enright

We regret to announce the death at the age of 61 of Brian Enright, University Librarian at Sussex from 1969 to 1971. On his departure from Sussex he moved to Newcastle where he was University Librarian for almost 20 years.

## Time Management

Time is one of our most valuable resources but also one that is easily wasted. Several strategies or systems have been proposed to manage time more effectively, but to be useful for individuals working in the context of a given organisation, the relevant time management problems have to be identified and properly defined before particular systems are adopted or solutions sought.

A short session on Time Management has been arranged for the afternoon of Thursday, 13 December, starting at 3.30 pm and finishing at about 5.30 pm. It will be held in Room 1A7 in Stage 1 of the Physics Building (i.e. the large Physics lecture theatre). Two short films will be shown followed by a discussion focusing on the validity of applying 'time-management' principles to University life and activities.

Everyone is welcome to attend. (Those planning to join us, please contact Miss Sally Church, Room 4A4 Physics, tel. 3045, as soon as possible so that we may have some idea of the likely turnout.)

Brian Smith  
Teaching and Learning  
Co-ordinator

# Names on the edge of the world

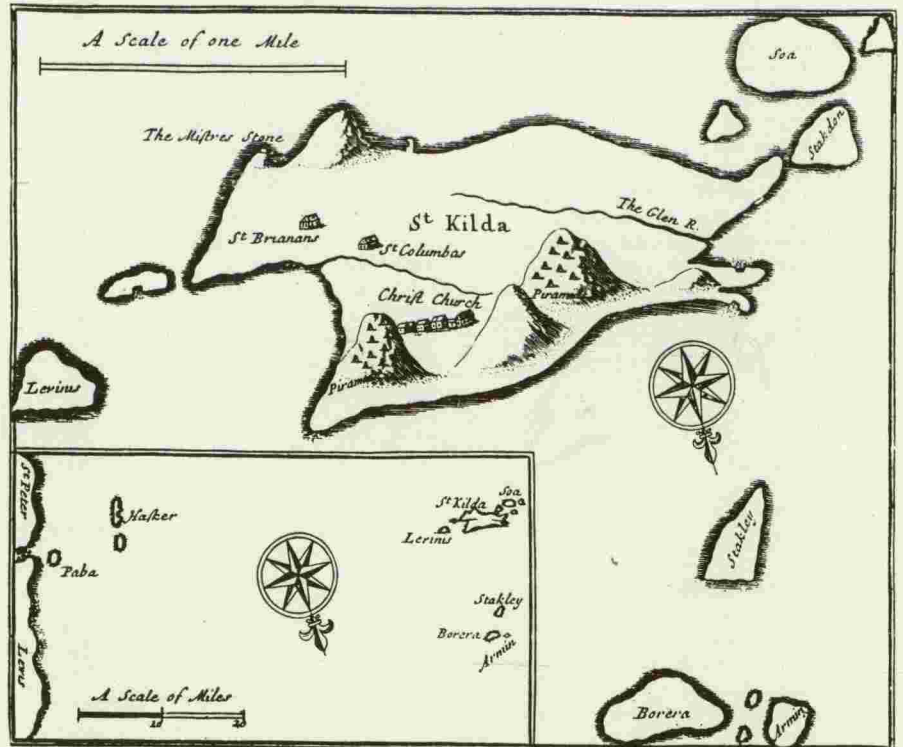
Richard Coates recently completed a book on *The Place-names of St Kilda* (Lampeter: Edwin Mellen Press). St Kilda is a cliff-bound island group 45 miles west of the Outer Hebrides. Its last native inhabitants, who lived largely from seabird products and a little agriculture, deserted it in 1930.

The remote and inhospitable island group of St Kilda is interesting to a place-name specialist for more than one reason. Firstly, it is a source of amazement that, from a culture largely illiterate in its native Gaelic, the names of well over 300 localities survive in and around the four main islands, the largest of which is 3 miles by 2 miles. Secondly, and more interestingly, here as elsewhere the names are inseparable from the culture and history of the place.

The earliest people to have left any place-name trace were Scandinavian, and they are responsible for the "Gaelic" name of St Kilda, *Hirt*, which comes from the Scandinavian for 'stags'. Many of the names for the most prominent features — islands, stacks, hills — are Scandinavian. For instance, the famous Soay sheep get their "English" name from the island which the Norsemen called 'sheep island'. The outlying island of Boreray, which provided summer pasture, was 'fortress island', the fortress being an unusual underground corbelled roundhouse serving as a shelter, grandly named.

Some of these early names have undergone quaint transformations. On the main island, the only inhabited one, was the main village spring (actually one of many), for which the Scandinavian word is *kelda*. When Gaelic-speakers took over the island culture, they (not knowing what *kelda* meant), called it *Tobar Childa*, i.e. the 'spring called Kilda'. Sometime in the sixteenth century, there may have occurred a frustrating conversation between the natives and Dutch surveyors, who concluded that *Kilda* was actually the name of the island. In any case, they confused it with a group of skerries near the Outer Hebrides originally known as *Skildir* (Scand. for 'the shields'), which they wrote on their map, with poor spacing, as *S kildar* (the *r* being ruled through by a compass line). The *S* was rapidly promoted to glory, and there is a stained-glass window depicting this thin-air saint in a church at Lochbuie on the island of Mull.

Names from the Scandinavian-speaking period give evidence of topographical changes due to erosion



A late seventeenth-century map of St Kilda. The natural arch of *Mina Stac* can be seen above and to the right of the compass rose.

by the sea. A stack called *Mina Stac* appears to be from the Scandinavian for 'mouth stack', and a precious drawing from around 1700 shows a natural arch here accounting for the name; the arch is now reduced to an offshore stack. A small strait now separates the island of Dùn from Hirt, but once it must have been just a bay in the coast of a united island, for the skerry at one of its entrances is called *Giasgeir*, 'steep bay skerry'.

The names given by the Gaelic speakers are, as usual in western Europe, largely descriptive: 'seals' chasm', 'big summit', 'breezy hill', 'lobster precipice', and so on. Others give us an insight into events of island history as if through the wrong end of a telescope: 'pale cow cave' (hundreds of feet below any possible pasture), 'hillside of weepings', and one perhaps meaning 'chasm of the spectre or dwarf'. 'Dugan's house' on Soay is a shelter cut in the rock by a sheep-stealer whom the St Kildans deliberately marooned there after he had committed murder and mayhem on the main island.

In the Gaelic too we can find fantasy taking over from the routine: a chasm first called 'chum chasm', from *eirionnach* 'churn', because of the milky appearance of the foam on turbulent sea, is turned in island folklore into 'chasm of the *Eirionnach*'

or Irishman, and a tall story about an Irish castaway (with a keg of whiskey, of course!) is invented to back up the name. (It is virtually impossible to get washed ashore at St Kilda, even dead.) More conventional folklore is represented in the *Well of Youth*, in a very inaccessible place which only sure-footed islanders dared approach; its waters were said by one visitor to be "detersive to old age", and not surprisingly other mugs found this rare commodity better-tasting than water anywhere else. The shortage of elderly islanders is better ascribed to privation, disease and accident, which from time to time decimated the population.

The English contribution to names has been due to the servicemen and scientists living and working there since 1957 (e.g. the hut called the *Puffin Inn* or *Puff Inn*). The record contains earlier instances of breathtaking arrogance, however. A casual visitor (if visitors here could reasonably be called casual) went headfirst into the main bay in 1838, and later commentators say that the islanders renamed it *Dickson's Bay* after him. The Gaelic record suggests that the islanders actually continued to give it no name at all, which seems a fairer appreciation of Dr Dickson's contribution to island life.

Richard Coates

# Noticeboard

## Vacancies

The Personnel Office has issued the following summary of posts to be filled. Advertisements for these vacancies have been placed in local, and where appropriate, national papers, as well as being circulated to the relevant Section Heads and Union representatives for circulation to staff and noticeboards. Copies of these advertisements and further particulars, if available, as well as application forms, are available from the Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House. This list was compiled on 3 December and is subject to revision.

### Teaching Faculty

Chair in Psychology  
Lectureship in Environmental Economics, AFRAS  
Lectureship in International Relations

### Other Faculty

Research Fellow, COGS  
Staff Development Officer  
Purchasing Officer

### Secretarial, Clerical and Related

Information Officer, CAS (Job Share), part-time, grade 6  
Assistant Services Engineer, full-time, grade 5/6  
Audit Assistant, Finance Office, p/t, grade 3/4  
Wages Assistant, Financial Accounts, f/t, grade 2/3

### General

Nursery Nurse, Creche/Nursery (temp), f/t, grade 1

### Manual and Ancillary Staff

Security, Estates, f/t, grade 3  
Porter, Residential Services, f/t, grade 2

### Catering Services

Apply to Philip Gassmann, Refectory, ext. 8221:

Trainee Chef, f/t  
Chef de Partie, f/t  
Kitchen Porter, f/t  
Weekend Evening Porter, p/t

Refectory: porters required to cover on *ad hoc* basis, weekends and evenings. Enquiries to Graham Curry, ext. 3929.

## Small ads

FLAT FOR SALE: single bedroom flat in Hartington Road area. Large patio. £34,950. Contact Linda on 0444 252280 (days), 0444 870173 (eves.).

WALKING BOOTS size 7 and size 9, hardly used, £15 per pair. Julia Goode, ext. 3784 or 565819.

## Term dates

This term ends on Friday, 14 December. The Spring Term 1991 runs from Monday, 7 January to Friday, 15 March. The Summer Term is from Monday, 22 April to Friday, 28 June.

## University closure dates

The University will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday from Monday, 24 December to Friday, 28 December, inclusive, and on Monday, 31 December and Tuesday, 1 January.

## Celebrate the Feast of St. Lucia



Join students from Gothenburg University in celebrating the feast of St. Lucia this Thursday, 13 December, at 6 pm in the Grapevine Bar, Refectory building. There will be a candlelight procession followed by traditional Swedish carols. Mulled wine will be on sale. Children most welcome.

## Recent Books

Recent publications by Sussex authors include:

*Dependence and Autonomy: Women's Employment and the Family in Calcutta* by Hilary Standing. Routledge. Paperback, £10.99.

*Solution Cognition and Coherence in Personality. An individual-centred approach* by Barbara Krahé. Cambridge U.P. £30.00.  
*A Various Art*, edited by Andrew Crozier and Tim Longville. Paladin. Now in paperback. £6.99.

*Between the Acts: Lives of homosexual men 1885-1967*, edited by Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks. Kevin Porter studied at the University. Routledge. Paperback, £8.99.

*Colinvaux's Law of Insurance*, 6th edition, by Robert Merkin. Sweet & Maxwell. £75.00.

*Primary School Management: Learning from Experience* by Neville West and Eric Briault. NFER/Nelson. Paperback, £12.95.

Obtainable from Sussex University Bookshop

## Christmas in the Bookshop

Shop at the Bookshop for Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, giftwrap and stationery of all kinds — together with a splendid selection of books suitable as gifts: the latest fiction, children's books, books on food and wine, travel-writing and guides, art, cinema and music books, poetry, biography ..... Book now for a Merry Christmas!

## New Language Courses

### Japanese for Beginners and Italian for Beginners

Two new 10-week courses will be held on Thursdays from 6.30 to 8.30 pm, starting on Thursday 10 January 1991. Fee £30 (reduced fee of £20 for full-time students).

To enroll, contact Rachel Fuller (if possible before 12.30 pm), Centre for Continuing Education, Room 238, EDB, tel: 8040.

## Leslie Ricketts

A tree will be planted in memory of Leslie Ricketts at 12 o'clock on Wednesday, 19 December, on the green between Sussex House and Physics Building. All Leslie's friends and colleagues are invited to be present at the short ceremony.

## News from the Library

### Periodicals Review 1991

Early next year, the Library will be carrying out the latest in a series of reviews of its periodical subscriptions. As in 1985 and 1988, academic and research faculty will receive lists of periodicals likely to be of interest to them, and will be asked to rank them in order of importance by allocating points to those they consider essential for themselves or their students. The review will also provide an opportunity for faculty to suggest titles to which they consider the Library should subscribe, and for the Library in its turn to consider both these suggestions and any which have been made since the last review. Responses will be invited by the end of the Spring Term, and after the Easter vacation the titles of proposed cancellations and new subscriptions will be circulated to all participants in the review. This will allow some time for consultation and for the consideration of last-minute appeals before subscriptions are confirmed or discontinued in September.

As has been widely notified, the 1991 review will perforce include an element of cost-cutting, consequent on the withdrawal in 1989-90 of the UGC's earmarked grant for acquisitions. The actual level of reduction is as yet unknown: it will need to take account, not only of the loss of the earmarked grant but also of the unexpectedly high rate of cost increases being experienced in the current year.

## To all animal lovers

Please spare a thought for less fortunate pets this Christmas. Peter and Terry in the Refectory Porters Office are once again collecting non-perishable pet foods (no money, please) which will be donated to a pet charity.

## Bulletin

This is the last Bulletin of the Autumn Term — many thanks to all those who have contributed items. The first issue of the Bulletin for next term will be published on Tuesday, 8 January, 1991. Copy for this issue must be received by Jenny Payne, Internal Communications Officer, Room 230, Sussex House, by no later than 4 pm on Monday, 17 December. If you have any news items or ideas for feature articles, she would be pleased to hear from you (ext. 8208).

The rest of the publication dates for the Spring Term are: 29 January (copy date 21 January); 19 February (copy date 11 February); 12 March (copy date 4 March).

The Bulletin is for the information of staff and students of the University of Sussex. Published by the Information Office. Photographs by the Photographic and Design Unit. Printed by the University of Sussex Printing Unit.

### BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

The University of Sussex, Sussex House, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH.