**Christmas Party**

Our Christmas party is now definitely booked for lunchtime on Wednesday Dec. 17; please note that in your diary now. Full details and a booking form will appear in the November newsletter, and offers to help with the organisation will then be very welcome.

**Dinner with the Vice-Chancellor, Oct. 2**

There just may still be two or three places available for this dinner; to enquire, please contact Jackie Fuller at once: jkfuller21@hotmail.com, or 01273 688538.

**Theatre Trip**

Here is the latest suggestion for a Suss-Ex theatre trip. We can, as usual, get a group reduction on the price of tickets for the performances listed if at least ten people want to go, and it is those prices which are quoted below. A booking needs to be made promptly to ensure that tickets are available, and your money then has to be sent in time for the total bill to be paid about a month in advance. If people are interested, dinner together beforehand, or after a matinee, can be booked. Carluccio's has generally been quite successful in the past, but other suggestions would be welcome.

The play is an adaptation of Hardy's novel *Far From the Madding Crowd*, put on by the English Touring Theatre ('one of our treasures' – The Guardian), and is described as 'A fusion of vivid story-telling and fine ensemble staging, shot through with humour and folksong'. It is on from Nov. 25-7; stalls seats will be £21, or £16 for the matinee.

If you are interested, please let Jennifer Platt know by Oct. 3 (preferably by e mail to j.platt@sussex.ac.uk - or phone 01273 555025, or post to Arts D or 98 Beaconsfield Villas, Brighton BN1 6HE). Please use the slip over the page: just mark all days/times which would be OK, number those when you are free in order of preference, and indicate the number of tickets wanted and whether you would like to join dinner before (evening) or after (matinee). You will be notified of the outcome very soon after Oct. 3.
Future activities

Two rather different potential activities for next term are trips to the dogs, and to Swan Lake at the Theatre Royal; we also hope to hold another ‘After Sussex’ talk. If you have any other suggestions for activities you would like to see, please let any member of the Steering Group, or Susan Ashton [S.E.Ashton@sussex.ac.uk or x 6574] know.

♫ Brighton Early Music Festival ♫

Brighton Early Music Festival, in which colleagues play a very active part, starts again on Oct. 5. We are not organising any group trips to concerts, but members might well be interested. This year BREMF crosses the boundaries between “classical” and “folk”. Events include a dance workshop, a ceilidh and a presentation by the Sussex folk song expert Shirley Collins, and several concerts explore the links between medieval, renaissance or baroque music and the traditional music of the British Isles and Ireland. There will be British and Irish traditional and medieval songs, as well as Celtic fiddle and harp music and virtuosoic baroque violin playing, and performances by three top early music ensembles - The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a programme of restoration English music, the popular vocal group I Fagiolini, and the singers of The Sixteen with their Choral Pilgrimage programme. Britain’s favourite counter-tenor, James Bowman, features in a live radio broadcast. In addition, the brilliant instrumental group Red Priest once again contributes some lively interpretations of music by Vivaldi and his contemporaries in a concert timed to suit families.

The main concerts will be in a variety of easily reached venues in Brighton. Further information online at www.bremf.org.uk, or ring 01273 833746 for a brochure.

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Theatre Trip booking form

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<th>Far From the Madding Crowd</th>
<th>Tues. Nov. 25, 7.45</th>
<th>Weds. Nov 26, 7.45</th>
<th>Thurs. Nov. 27, 2.30</th>
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