



Falmer

The University of Sussex magazine

Nº 58

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Michael Fuller, molecular geneticist Jonathan O'Halloran.

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Falmer Magazine

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Welcome



As the University’s new Provost, I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the wider Sussex community.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first 100 days and understand why Sussex is such a special place for those who study and work here, and for those who continue to have an association with us.

The University’s core values of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage – which are at the heart of the Sussex 2025 Strategic Framework – are played out across campus and underpin everything we do: from our teaching and research, to how we look after our environment and one another.

Nothing could be a clearer demonstration of how Sussex lives by those values than the way in which our community rallied to help our students from Afghanistan following the humanitarian crisis that engulfed their home country. Hundreds of you immediately answered our call for donations to help these students start to rebuild their lives and I know they will want to join me in thanking you all for your generous support.

As many of you will know, this year marks the University’s 60th anniversary and it is a timely moment to reflect on our legacy. We were the first of seven new universities in the 60s and we had the freedom to offer a new type of learning. Innovative critical thinking has always been at the heart of a Sussex education: encouraging students to question assumptions and explore alternative viewpoints; and engage in collaborative research that addresses major global challenges. There is a continued drive and commitment at the University to capture this pioneering spirit with a renewed focus.

I have been getting to know our stunning campus on tours with staff and students and a few runs around the boundary. It is not only beautiful – especially the wildflower meadow outside my office – but plays an important part in the local ecosystem. I am passionate about the environment and proud to now be the Executive Sponsor for the Sussex Sustainability strategy. We need to act now, both at an institutional level and individually, to address the big changes that are needed to meet the global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome in my first year at Sussex.

I look forward to the opportunity of meeting as many alumni as possible over the next few months at the forthcoming 60th anniversary celebratory events.

Professor Rachel Mills, Provost

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60 years of Sussex



CELEBRATE WITH US

Join us for an exciting programme of events during our diamond anniversary year, including the Alumni Reunion weekend on 3 – 4 September 2022.

Make sure you're on the Sussex News email list and be among the first to know more. To sign up visit www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

News in brief

New Liberal Arts degree launches

The first and only Liberal Arts course in the UK designed in partnership with specialists from activist organisations, think-tanks, NGOs, journalism, broadcasting and PR, launches at Sussex in September 2022. It has been built to empower the next generation of communicators, creators and culture-shapers to find solutions to complex real-world problems.

Business School shortlisted at THE Awards

The University of Sussex Business School was shortlisted for the prestigious 17th annual Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2021 for Business School of the Year. The submission highlighted Sussex’s impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education and the Digital Futures of Work Research Centre, which launched in 2020.

New employability programme for autistic students

Sussex has joined the Employ Autism Higher Education Network, a ground-breaking employability programme that aims to unlock the potential of autistic students and graduates and help them into full-time work. The nationwide scheme, supported by Santander Universities UK and the charity Ambitious About Autism, will enable participants to access paid internships with autism-confident, trained employers.

New charity partnership with Surfers Against Sewage

Sussex has announced a new partnership with environmental charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS). As the University’s first preferred charity partner of the year, SAS is set to benefit from students and staff volunteering at environmental projects, including local beach and river cleans, while our campus will host awareness-raising events on sustainability issues.

Online distance learning degrees reach over 1,100 registrations

University of Sussex online distance learning courses have now reached more than 1,100 student registrations since launching in 2018. Five of our Schools currently deliver the Masters level, courses taught 100% online. Students can study at their own pace and all alumni receive a 20% discount on fees.



CULTURE, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

University of Sussex appoints first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Culture, Equality and Inclusion

In August 2021, Sussex appointed David Ruebain, a higher education, sport, business and third sector leader in equalities, as its first permanent Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Culture, Equality and Inclusion. David currently advises the football Premier League on equalities issues; is a consultant at Equality Works (EW Group); is a member of the Inclusion Strategic Advisory Board at the Wellcome Trust and is a Visiting Professor of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is also a consultant to Black Thrive Global, which seeks to address the impact of systemic racism on black communities. David will oversee the delivery of key objectives directly linked to Sussex 2025 and the University’s Inclusive Sussex strategy. Commenting on his new role, he said: “I know that this is a community that believes passionately in maximising the experiences and opportunities for all our staff and students – and we will work together to make Sussex one of the most inclusive institutions in the UK.”



SUSTAINABILITY

Launching the Sustainable Sussex strategy

In 2021, Sussex was ranked 41st in the world and ninth in the UK in the 2020 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings based on our sustainability research, stewardship, outreach and teaching. The ranking is measured against 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, which were designed to be a blueprint to achieve a more sustainable future. Now we have launched our Sustainable Sussex strategy, which sets out a vision to be one of the most sustainable universities in the world. The strategy seeks to work in partnership with students and staff to reach new commitments, which range from the curriculum and biodiversity, to increasing recycling and becoming net zero by 2035. Kicking off the new era was the first annual Pitch for the Planet student innovation competition, in which eight shortlisted teams pitched ideas to a panel of sustainability and entrepreneurship professionals, led by former Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Tickell. The four winning teams received support for their idea through a share of the £20,000 prize money and incubation support from the University’s Entrepreneurship team. **Read more about Sustainable Sussex on pages 26-29**



ARTS AND CULTURE

First Sussex Festival of Ideas

Billed as “celebrating a host of contemporary ideas around documentary and film, music and creative practice, poetry and language, as well as the vital role of our local cultural institutions,” the inaugural Sussex Festival of Ideas took place from 9 to 12 June 2021. The festival was conceived and organised by a team of staff and students within the School of Media, Arts and Humanities, led by Professor Mary Krell as Artistic Director. Its vision was to celebrate the research and ideas of the School’s staff and students in local, regional, national and global contexts. The festival programme included 38 events, all of which were streamed live online. Several performance and panel events also took place with small, socially distanced in-person audiences thanks to our collaboration with Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA), the festival’s main partner. The 2022 edition aims to build on these foundations through an ambitious two-day programme co-created by staff and students at the ACCA, alongside a smaller number of events programmed in partnership with the Brighton Festival.

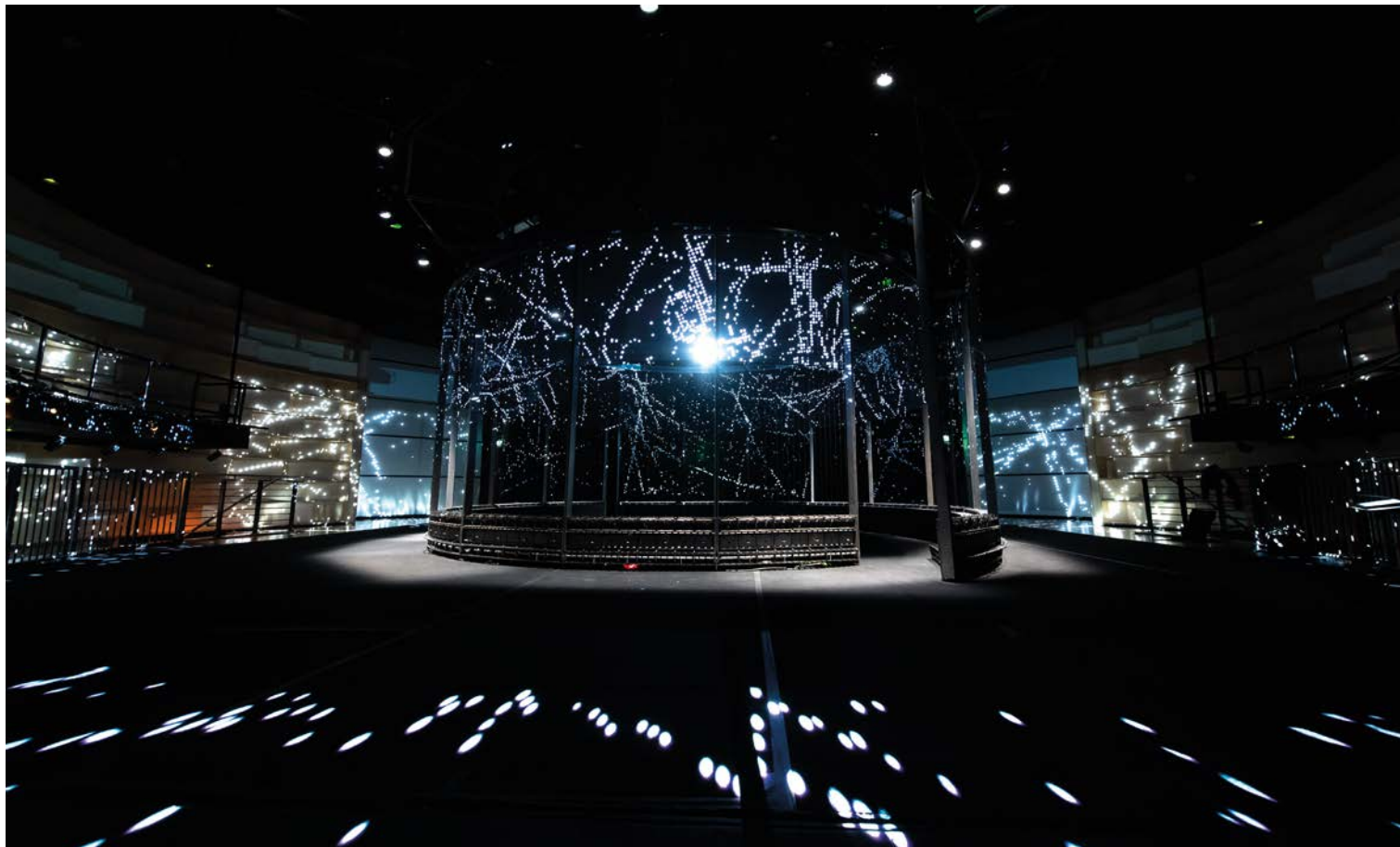
ARTS SCIENCE COLLISION

Large Hadron Collider physicists welcome HALO installation to Attenborough Centre

In May 2021 during the Brighton Festival, Professor Antonella De Santo and Dr Mark Sutton from the Sussex team involved in the ATLAS experiment taking data at CERN's Large Hadron Collider, welcomed HALO – a large-scale immersive art installation by Brighton-based duo Semiconductor – to Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA).

CERN is the largest particle physics laboratory in the world. It hosts the Large Hadron Collider, the biggest and most powerful particle smasher ever constructed, which recreates conditions that existed in our universe shortly after the Big Bang. It's also where the Higgs boson particle was famously discovered by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations in 2012.

HALO is inspired by the science of the Large Hadron Collider. With help from Sussex scientists, it makes use of ATLAS data to create a fully immersive multisensory experience that "transports" the viewer to the centre of the ATLAS detector.



STUDENT SUPPORT

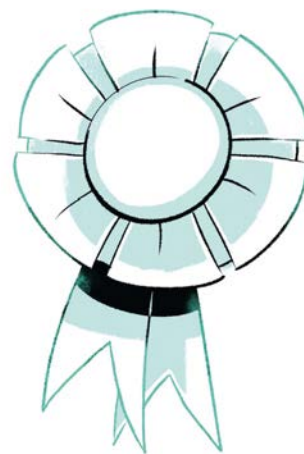
Sussex named University of the Year for Student Retention

Sussex has been named University of the Year for Student Retention in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022. The award singles out Sussex as the best in the country for supporting students to stay the course and complete their degrees.

The editor of the Guide, Alastair McCall, said: "A supportive student environment keeps the dropout rate at Sussex at around half of its expected level, saving hundreds

of student careers and millions of pounds."

Sussex has more than 14,000 full-time undergraduates and in the latest figures the dropout rate is 5% against a benchmark of 10.1%. Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Tickell said: "This award is vindication for everybody at the University who works so tirelessly to help students achieve their goals, whatever their background or circumstances."



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

University of Sussex announces first Entrepreneurs in Residence

Jamal Edwards MBE (pictured), founder of online music platform SBTv, and Sara Osterholzer (International Business 2011), co-founder of The Good Business Club, have been appointed as the first Entrepreneurs in Residence at Sussex to further inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs emerging from the University. The pair took up their positions in September 2021.

As prominent champions of entrepreneurship, Jamal and Sara will help Sussex play a vital role in promoting the aspirations of would-be business founders

through guest talks, campus visits, one-to-ones, competition judging and network introductions.

The new programme is part of a wide-ranging approach set out in the Sussex 2025 Strategy to develop the knowledge and creative skills of students.

"Business is all based around having great ideas, unlocking creativity and then having the tools to take them to the next level," said Jamal. "I'm looking forward to hearing new ideas from the students, getting to know them better and helping them as much as I can."



PHILANTHROPY

Sussex community responds with generosity and kindness

During the Covid pandemic, Sussex alumni and friends came forward with characteristic kindness and compassion to support students most in need of assistance. The donations made to the Sussex Fund Emergency Hardship Appeal provided a lifeline to students facing financial crisis or struggling with their mental health.

When the humanitarian crisis erupted in Afghanistan, hundreds of staff and alumni responded to our call to help Afghan students coming to the UK under the most challenging circumstances.

In keeping with our status as a University of Sanctuary, we have been doing everything in our power to help students, such as Chevening Scholar Naimat Zafary (Governance, Development and Public Policy 2021), to feel welcome and safe, and to support them in rebuilding their lives. Naimat (pictured) kindly shared the story of his journey with the Sussex community and has been particularly touched by the reception he's received, saying, "When people say, 'welcome to your new home', it touches your heart."





Sussex at 60

On 16 August 1961, the University of Sussex received its Royal Charter. It was an historic moment, not just for Sussex but for higher education in the UK. In 2021, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our becoming the first of the ‘Golden Age’ universities in the UK. A new university with a new approach.

WORDS BY MATTHEW FRENCH

One autumn evening in 2021, a Zoom reunion was held as part of our diamond anniversary celebrations. Organised by Naomi Stadlen née Jacoby (EURO 1961) it featured some of our first cohort of 52 students, and the memories shared were a fascinating insight into Sussex’s early days.



Students and faculty were considered partners in their learning, which was different to the ‘them and us’ attitude at other universities of the time.



Among the faces on screen was Sussex’s first Students’ Union President Adrian Mugridge (ENGAM 1961). “Students and faculty were considered partners in their learning, which was different to the ‘them and us’ attitude at other universities of the time,” reflects Adrian. His words echo across the decades to our current students, who participate as partners in the development of their learning and in decisions that shape the University.

Some things have changed since these inaugural students came through Falmer – we no longer have cigarette-smoke filled lecture theatres or academics who pause seminars to share a sherry with students. But there is a lot that has stayed the same.

Overleaf, we take a closer look at some of the foundations of the Sussex experience and look ahead to a year of celebrations.”



ABOVE: Naomi Stadlen and friends at the 1961 Alumni Reunion on Zoom



THEY LOVE THIS UNIVERSITY

Sussex was the UK's first new university established after World War II. With the freedom to offer a new type of learning, it was an education based on intellectual freedom in a progressive learning environment and pioneered the notion of interdisciplinarity. We are proud to stay true to these founding principles.

As part of our 60th year, we commissioned a celebratory film featuring staff, students and alumni discussing their experiences at Sussex. Some of those who share their thoughts include Mo Kanjilal (ENGLISH 1993) who says, "Students are really encouraged to think differently, to question things – to try new approaches." Harsha Harjani (International Relations 2000) adds, "I never felt I had to think or act in a certain way, to conform."

For Provost Rachel Mills, it's the emotive connection that people have that resonates. "Everyone I've met is absolutely passionate about Sussex. They love this University. And that passion, I think, comes from the founding values."

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, we'd love to hear your Sussex stories and we invite you to submit your memories via our 60 Years of Sussex webpage at www.sussex.ac.uk/60th



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Today, connections that have been forged at Sussex span the globe. We are in contact with over 112,000 alumni across 177 countries. We strive to give our international students the best possible experience and have recently been ranked eighth in the world for student mobility and openness (World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) 2021).

Our commitment to internationalisation is also reflected in our engagement with partners around the world. Over the past decades, we have worked with partners to establish an extensive global network that currently includes 329 academic partners in 59 countries.

To celebrate our international community and outlook, every March the University and Students' Union run One World Week on campus. Events highlight the rich diversity of cultures that come together to make Sussex such a welcoming, inclusive place.

In March 2022, we're asking our alumni consuls to join the celebrations by hosting their own 60th anniversary events with our alumni all over the world.

If you would like to get involved, please email alumni@sussex.ac.uk outlining your interest and ideas.

A PHILANTHROPIC LEGACY

Philanthropy played a central role in the establishment of our university. In 1957, Helena Normanton QC left the capital of her estate to help found a university in Sussex. That gift helped lay the foundations of the University we cherish today.

Since it opened in 1961, Sussex has blended disparate disciplines to unlock research breakthroughs, and encouraged students from all backgrounds to graduate with both a world-class degree and a social conscience. Throughout our history, philanthropy has provided vital support to facilitate leading research that addresses some of the world's major challenges and provide opportunities for students to fulfil their true potential.

Thanks to philanthropic support, we were the first UK university to offer Mandela Scholarships in 1973 to counter the injustice of apartheid and also the first university in England to host an annual Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001, to remember the victims of the Holocaust and other forms of genocide. More recently, our 2021 appeal to support newly arrived Afghan students saw an instant surge in donations from our compassionate alumni and friends, a testament to our commitment to social justice and a long-standing Sussex tradition of providing opportunities for all, regardless of background.

In this special anniversary year, we invite all members of our community to celebrate this legacy and pay it forward by making a gift at a level that you feel comfortable with.

Thanks to a generous bequest from a visionary alumna, we are able to provide 100% matched funding for new gifts of £1,000 or more across a range of projects.

If you'd like to make a gift to Sussex or have an informal conversation about the ways you can support the University, our research and our students, please contact Rob Yates, Head of Development, at Robert.Yates@sussex.ac.uk

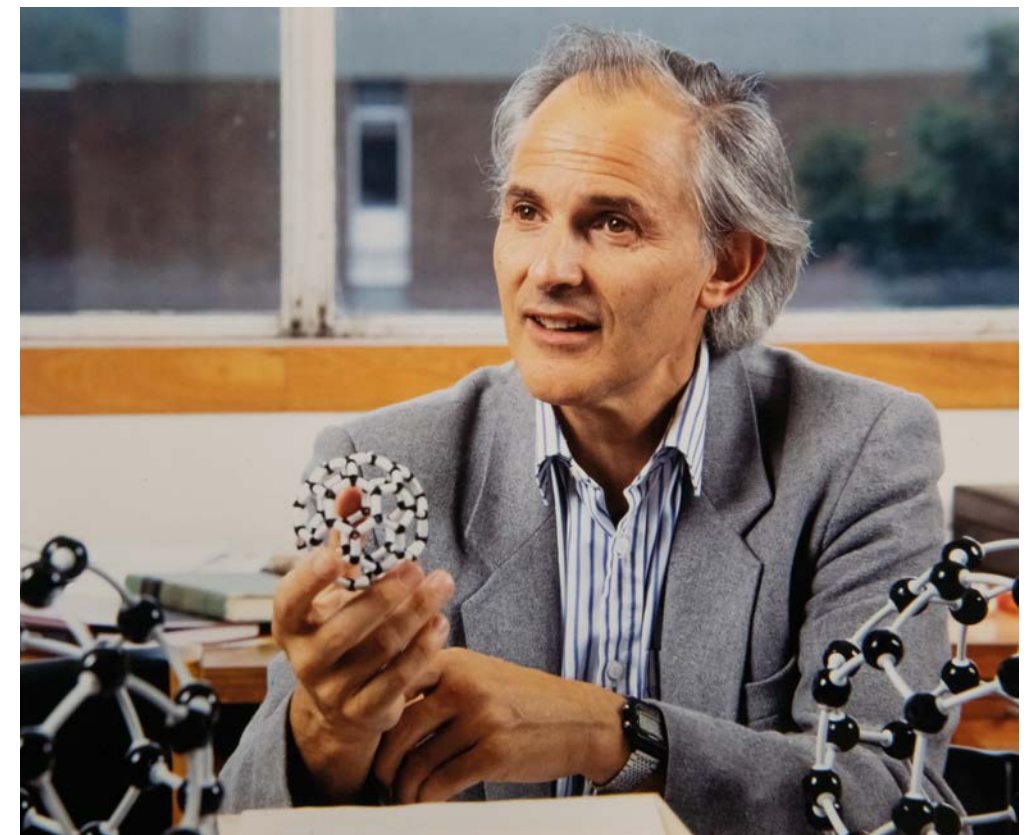


CELEBRATING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT

We have chosen to celebrate our community's achievements and shine a spotlight on those who helped to make them possible with a range of live and streamed events and talks throughout our anniversary year. Our Better World: A Celebration of Sussex event officially launched the calendar of activities, focusing on the impact Sussex researchers and alumni are having in the challenge to create a more sustainable society. Our diamond anniversary celebrations will also include the unveiling of a blue plaque on our Chichester Lecture Theatre in June 2022 to commemorate one of our three Nobel Laureates, Professor Sir Harry Kroto.

Ground-breaking research has always been a pillar of Sussex life and currently our academics are investigating myriad topics, from artificial intelligence to hate crime, and from genome stability and cancer to how to tackle famine. Look out for our regular Ask the Experts events and podcasts, which feature our academic experts discussing topical subjects.

We hope you will join us in person or online at some of the many events planned across the year, culminating with a weekend reunion on campus for alumni of all subjects and decades in September 2022. ■





Challenging the status quo

In 1983, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office created the Chevening Scholarship programme to attract future world leaders and decision-makers to study Masters degrees in the UK. Strengthened by our continual support for scholars, Sussex is now home to a flourishing alumni network of professionals who are creating positive change around the world.

WORDS BY LUIS ANANGUREN

Since its creation, the Chevening scholarship programme has brought over 50,000 professionals from around the world to UK higher education institutions. It was set up to provide exceptional individuals with access to an international network, and to give them the opportunity to experience a new social and cultural life, as well as build a lasting connection to the UK.

Nearly 60,000 students from around the world applied to Chevening in 2021. Thanks to the outstanding work of the Chevening Secretariat and the engagement and goodwill of the 45 university partners and 71 corporate partners, the Chevening programme welcomed 1,700 social leaders, scientists and entrepreneurs to the UK at the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

The programme has become one of the best-known and most prestigious scholarship initiatives around the world and is synonymous with excellence, leadership and change. Furthermore, the Chevening Alumni network includes CEOs, heads of state, philanthropists, activists and social leaders, who play pivotal roles in challenging mainstream views on gender, human rights, poverty and climate change.

A perfect example is Sussex alumnus and Costa Rican President, Carlos Alvarado Quesada (IDS 2008), whose presidential campaign in 2018 called for environmental sustainability and the recognition of same-sex marriage.

In 2016, Sussex deepened its commitment to the programme by becoming one of the 45 partner universities that offer greater levels of financial support to scholars. Since then, our Chevening cohort has grown from 25 students in 2014 to more than 130 students for the University's anniversary year.

"Every year, the University of Sussex puts in such an enormous effort to ensure Chevening scholars feel welcome and have ample opportunities to meet with their peers," says Chevening Programme Officer – UK, Sally Hau. "I am sure that this is the reason why the Chevening community at Sussex is one of the largest in the UK!"

"Being awarded a Chevening Scholarship and studying at Sussex happened at an impeccable time in my career," says Thokozani Kachingwe (IDS 2019). "I was actively looking for opportunities for my professional development that would help me achieve my career aspirations. I am now working with the United Nations Development Programme, which is a career-dream come true!"

The Sussex International Office team works alongside Chevening to deliver the best experience to Chevening students, organising several events throughout the year. These comprise a welcome event, numerous meetups and exclusive opportunities, including a debate on globalisation, technology and inequality hosted by the University of Sussex Business School and an exploratory interview with Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Director Professor Melissa Leach.

The partnership between Chevening and Sussex helps students change the world. As succinctly summarised by Chevening Scholar and former international relations and regional advisor to the vice-presidency of Colombia, Paula Andrea Peña (Conflict, Security and Development 2021) when outlining her current goals: "Studying at the University of Sussex will allow me to create the necessary skills to develop inclusive programmes and policies for Afro-descendant women in Colombian politics, and to propose non-violent solutions to social conflicts that have confronted Colombia for decades." ■



LEFT: Paula Andrea Peña
RIGHT: Chevening Scholars
at their welcome event

“

The Chevening Scholarship was a life changer. Twenty-five years ago, my aspirations for a Masters degree were met with stark realities as neither my meagre salary nor my single mother's pension could afford me that privilege. With Chevening, I pursued a Masters at Sussex, including a stint as an independent study fellow in IDS, leading to a career in international development and global health.

Robert Kwame deGraft Agyarko
(CDE 1996), Lead Advisor of Outbreaks
and Epidemics at African Risk Capacity

”





Let's talk about death

After the sudden loss of her father and her resulting confusion and frustration about society's cultural disassociation with death, [Louise Harman](#) (Literature and Philosophy 2020) set up Louise on Death, a movement and enterprise that aims to encourage curiosity over recovery and open conversation about death.

WORDS BY EMMA WIGMORE

In a serendipitous turn of events, the genesis of Louise on Death began six years ago when Louise Harman noticed a posy of flowers left in a field while walking on the South Downs. Every two weeks a new bouquet appeared. It sparked her curiosity sufficiently for her to leave a note enquiring about the purpose of the tribute. The person leaving the flowers – a widower called Bob – replied and attached a photo of his wife Jeanne and the card from her funeral service.

“

I wanted to explore every part of my mind: the good, the bad and the seriously ugly. And I wanted to feel less alone.

”

A regular written exchange between Louise and Bob ensued, both sharing stories and their life experiences. In 2017, when Louise's dad David died suddenly, Bob was there for her.

Following her father's death, Louise endured a challenging period of declining mental health. She experienced a feeling of suffocation brought on by society's lack of ability to discuss death, and the shame she felt was inflicted upon her for wanting to continue to talk about her experience in the aftermath of the event.

“People expect you to move on quickly through grief, but Bob reminded me that I didn't have to follow a timescale and that it's not wrong to hold on to people you love after they have died or to think about death,” says Louise. “He had been grieving for his wife for nine years,

and his wisdom opened my mind to just thinking differently about it.” Louise subsequently enrolled on a Literature and Philosophy MA at Sussex and found herself looking for material that would help her engage with what had become her new “reality.”

“I accumulated so many helpful resources from various disciplines – resources never once recommended to me from conventional sources – which I am now passionate about making accessible to others,” she explains. “I was profoundly disinterested in anything that involved box ticking or form filling about how I felt. Even the slightest hint of anything related to ‘recovery’ or a ‘cure’ for grief rendered me highly sceptical. I simply wanted words that allowed me to sit in line with my reality. I wanted to explore every part of my mind: the good, the bad and the seriously ugly. And I wanted to feel less alone.”

During the Covid lockdown of 2020, Louise enrolled on a StartUp Sussex programme to learn about social enterprise and acquire business skills. At the same time and for the first time, she shared her story about Bob on a social media platform. The overwhelmingly positive response that it generated was a real motivator and, at that moment, the idea of founding an enterprise that focused on the concept of encouraging open and honest conversation about death, with a heavy dose of curiosity, dawned on Louise.

“We live in a society obsessed with distraction disguised as positivity,” she says. “There is nothing wrong with taking time out and blocking anything that is too much to cope with but, at some point, you come to realise that all the ‘positive things’ you ‘should’ be doing are doing more damage.”»



“There is no right or wrong, or good or bad, way to deal with death,” she adds, “but I definitely knew I didn’t have a disease. So, I put my name next to death, to claim my right to be open about a subject that’s become increasingly depersonalised and over-medicalised. This is not healthy. We have the right to speak, to share, to understand.”

Consequently, Louise’s innovative concept bagged her Sussex’s Social Impact Prize, which recognises the enterprise with the most potential to bring about social change. It’s a win she refers to as “a monumental breakthrough.” She was also awarded the title of Sussex University Entrepreneur of the Year 2021.

Grateful to Sussex for giving her the foundation to kick off her venture, Louise’s vision is to build a brand and community, including a digital platform, that unashamedly and creatively explores death. It’s an idea that formed whilst she was writing her Masters thesis, which focused on narrative theory, photography and death. “I see myself as an artist and researcher and that is how I plan to move forward with my explorations,” she says.

Louise also now has the support of internationally renowned theatre director Michael Attenborough CBE, son of Lord Richard Attenborough, Chancellor of Sussex for 10 years, and nephew to environmentalist Sir David. Michael is a Sussex English graduate (ENGAM 1969) and the recipient of a Sussex honorary doctorate.



I am thrilled to have Michael Attenborough on board. We have lots of ideas to contemplate – podcasts, exhibitions, a book, educational talks...



Michael is also no stranger to death, having lost his sister (also a Sussex graduate) and his niece in the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. “Michael has a huge heart and out of curiosity wanted to meet up after reading an article about me and how the arts had helped me during difficult times,” says Louise. “We are now working together and I am thrilled to have him on board. Amongst our plans and aspirations, we are building towards Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, my absolute favourite place on campus, being at the centre of our work. We have lots of ideas to contemplate – podcasts, an exhibition/death festival, a book, educational talks, and, if I can swing it, maybe even a film. StartUp Sussex taught me to aim high!” ■

Find out more at www.louiseondeath.com



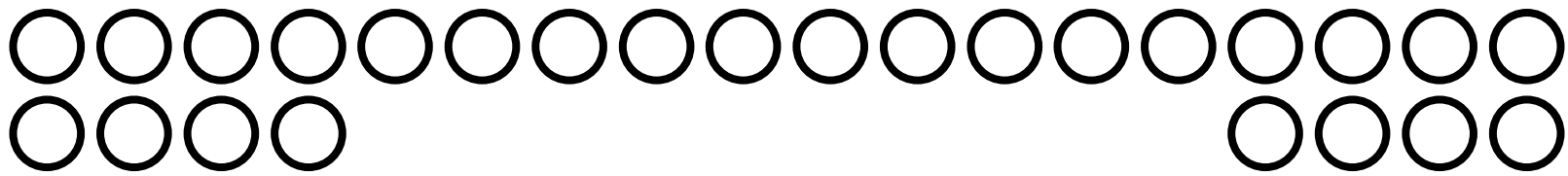
Young, gifted and black

Michael Fuller (AFRAS 1978) joined Kent Police as the UK’s first black Chief Constable in 2005 after nearly 30 years tackling violent crime and racism in London. Now a criminal justice consultant advising the Home Office on race issues, he reflects on growing up in care, the education Sussex gave him and the racism he experienced throughout his 34-year police career.

WORDS BY JACQUI BEALING



“
I thought my
colour would
be irrelevant.
I was totally
wrong.”



I called my memoir *Kill The Black One First* because it was once said to me. I was the only black police officer on the frontline of the Brixton riots in 1981 and it was shouted at me by a black rioter. The title, though shocking, symbolises my feelings of being targeted, combined with the sense of isolation and marginalisation I often felt in my career.

Despite my experience, I want my story to give hope and inspiration to others. I wrote it after talking to a group of West London College students. They thought I'd come from a privileged background, but when they heard I'd been brought up in care, that grabbed their attention and several of them said they thought I should write a book.

I'd always wanted to be a police officer. I used to watch all the 1960s TV police dramas in my childhood with 'Auntie Margaret', a remarkable woman who was the carer at our children's home in Surrey. I suppose they were quite moralistic – the cops were always the good guys – and Auntie Margaret was always keen to talk about knowing the difference between right and wrong, and then doing the right thing.

Auntie Margaret was the only one who encouraged me to join the police. When I visited my dad and his Caribbean friends in London and told them about my ambition, they said, didn't I understand that the police were our enemy? They hated the police because of the hostility they experienced. But my experience had mostly been with the local beat officers, who were nice to me. I'd also helped to solve a crime after our children's home was burgled. I found the burglar asleep on a bench – and everybody got their property back. That gave me immense satisfaction. I've always felt that justice for the victims of crime is important.

I thought people would see me as a police officer and my colour would be irrelevant. I was totally wrong. On the beat in uniform, I was called a traitor. And my fellow officers would often start with "No offence Michael, but..." and then tell a racist joke. Auntie Margaret taught me to recognise when something was offensive without being hurt by it. She would say: "Stop. Think. Decide how you want to react." Using logic in the way I respond has served me well and it's something I wanted my own children to know and understand.

I received a police scholarship to study Social Psychology at Sussex, and it opened my eyes to politics, social issues, economic issues and global issues – especially because of the number of international students I met. Reading African and Asian literature also educated me to the fact that colonisation wasn't a good thing in the way I had been taught at school. I felt I'd been cheated in not being given a broader perspective in my history lessons of the negative impact that colonisation can have on a country. A lot of the students were from former colonialised countries, so I was able to hear first-hand their perspective on imperialism.

Being a student at Sussex taught me how to learn. I'd always had an appetite for learning, but once I'd acquired the skills in terms of notetaking and essays there was no stopping me. Having come from care there was no expectation that I would go to university. But every opportunity I had to study I grabbed with both hands. Even though I wasn't active in student politics, I wanted to have a good understanding of the beliefs and underlying philosophies of the various parties and did an evening class in political philosophy when I was a cop – although I don't know how I found the time.

“
A lot of the people
who were unashamedly
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with was like-minded.”



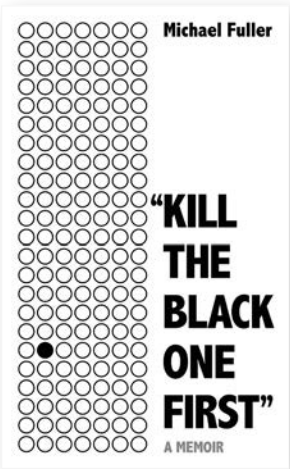
I wasn't shy about tackling and confronting racism. I was the founding Chair of the Black Police Association at a time when more black and Asian officers were leaving the Metropolitan Police (Met) than joining it. I thought I would be thrown out for setting that up. Some senior officers misconstrued it as a black power organisation, which it wasn't, it was a support organisation, but the police commissioner at the time supported me. After 25 years it's still going.

A lot of the people who were unashamedly racist assumed that everybody they worked with was like-minded. I saw a gradual change in attitudes and views, but a lot of the wrongdoing is because people won't call others out. Having studied social psychology, I think it's about protecting your own. It's a misplaced loyalty to the immediate group rather than the organisation. You see it in policing but also in other organisations too.

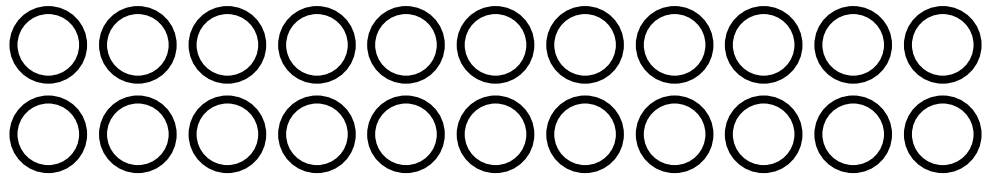
I set up the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force after being involved with the Macpherson Report, which looked at the failings of the Met following the unsolved murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993. This involved developing a family liaison system, with officers trained to work with families who were victims of crime.

There are still racial biases within the criminal justice system, which need to be tackled. The Lammy Review [2017] showed that if you're black you're more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, charged and be convicted. And if you're convicted you're more likely to receive a heavier sentence of imprisonment.

I feel I've achieved what I could and I'm proud I stayed the course. I was never going to resolve those issues by myself, so I'm now encouraging other decision-makers to correct those biases. There are more statutory regulations than in the 1970s and there is redress in a way that I felt there wasn't when I was a child. But the existing systems don't work efficiently and that's why regulators are necessary. ■



Michael's memoir *Kill the Black One First* is published by Bonnier Books Ltd in both hardback and paperback editions.



Genetic disposition

From years spent developing a test for tuberculosis in Africa to inventing a rapid PCR testing machine for SARS CoV-2, Jonathan O'Halloran (BIOLS 1994) is passionate about creating diagnostics that work anywhere in the world and supporting the next generation of biotech entrepreneurs.

WORDS BY SALLY ATKINSON AND PHILIPPA COX

I was one of the few people who knew exactly what they wanted to do from quite an early age. At Lewes Old Grammar School our biology teacher set us some genetics experiments with *Drosophila* fruit flies. The smart kids couldn't get their heads around it, but for me it was the only thing apart from football that I found easy during my academic career.

In my first year at Sussex, I discovered that I had a genetic illness. I continued studying *Drosophila* at university and one of my projects involved observing the eye colour of fruit flies through the generations. I initially thought I was acing the project because the eyes were all brown and the results were conclusive, until it turned out that I was colour blind. There was a certain irony to being let down by my own genetics!

Two amazing women have been hugely influential in my career to date. Dr Janet Collett was my third-year supervisor and she taught me everything I needed to know. Not just about science, but how to work within a big organisation and how to be passionate about doing so in a way that got results. I'm dyslexic and Janet spent so much time with me, working through how I could develop a process for writing a paper with all the scientific prose that you need to include. We're still in contact today. I met my co-founder of QuantuMDx, Elaine Warburton OBE, after she had read one of my papers and we decided we were going to start a business together. It took time to get funding and we started up in Cape Town, South Africa. Janet had provided me with the scientific rigour and strong moral scientific code. Elaine provided me with the equivalent in the world of business and accountancy.



“Everything that we've learnt through 10 years of developing the TB test in South Africa, we're applying to the virus that causes Covid-19.”

Everything that we've learnt through 10 years of developing the tuberculosis (TB) test in South Africa, we're applying to SARS CoV-2: the virus that causes Covid-19. SARS-CoV-2 is an airborne, respiratory pathogen and so is TB. Our portable PCR testing machine for SARS-CoV-2 has been designed specifically to be used out in the field in African countries so that they don't have to spend all that time, money and effort to upscale the workforce and build laboratories everywhere.

The PCR testing machine we've invented has been hailed by governments as "the silver bullet of diagnostics." We've got this crazy situation where we know the best diagnostic tests are done in central laboratories – but it just takes too long. Therefore, we are having to use these cheap lateral flow antigen tests to catch some of the asymptomatic positives that are out there. Our Q-POC testing machine is simple to use, battery-powered and can run 60 tests on a single sample in 30 minutes. I hope that its uses will go beyond the current pandemic and have global impact. If we scale this up so every school, university and office building has a Q-POC, then we can deal with future pandemics as well as Korea has dealt with this one.”



“
Mentoring is something that I love to do, and I’ve been incredibly lucky with my mentors over the years.
”

Hard work, passion and timing have all played a part in building a successful business. It takes time, effort, pig-headedness and a real passion for wanting to do this work – not necessarily for the financial windfall at the end of it but for the greater good. Trying to balance that with investors’ and shareholders’ requirements has been tricky. However, we’ve benefited from timing in terms of modern manufacturing techniques and modern understanding of certain technologies such as microfluidics and freeze drying – ‘lyophilisation’ as we call it. All these have come together at a time when we’ve been able to jump on that and apply them to our own inventions to develop our platform.

When Bill Gates caught my TED Talk, it was a big moment in my life. I’ve met Bill Gates a number of times – he calls me Jono, which I love. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation does amazing things for the world. They have so much presence in the field of low- to middle-income healthcare and they can lean on groups, countries and politicians to really take another look at the way in which they do things, which is fantastic. I’m also proud to be British because our development aid budget is enormous and a lot of that goes into co-funding initiatives with the Gates Foundation, as well as providing funding to other NGOs.

Scientific knowledge alone wasn’t enough to keep my first business going and it closed after two years. I realised I hadn’t immersed myself in learning business – I’d concentrated on learning the science – and so I went back to research as much as I could.

Mentoring is something that I love to do, and I’ve been incredibly lucky with my mentors over the years. From Janet and Elaine to my colleagues Professor Sir John Burn and Neil Butler, people have taken a lot of time out of their lives to advise and shape me into who I am right now. And I like to think that I’ve given back too. We’ve got a lot of young staff here at the company and we encourage them to think entrepreneurially. Some of our team members have created spin-out companies, which is amazing. From starting in Newcastle as the only diagnostic company here, to now see all these small companies budding out of QuantuMDx and creating a whole industry here is extremely rewarding. ■

OPINION



An act of human kindness carries a certain weight that few other deeds can. Professor Robin Banerjee asks what it means to be kind and why it matters?

Kindness features as one of the key values of our strategic plan Sussex 2025: A Better University for a Better World. The fact that our university community identified kindness as one of its uniting principles resonates with me, and illustrates the pioneering spirit that continues to endure at Sussex.

I arrived at Sussex as an undergraduate 30 years ago, fresh from an international school experience in Japan. Looking back, I’m struck by how experiences of kindness have marked my life at Sussex. I remember how quickly I was made to feel at home among a wonderfully diverse community of students and the enthusiastic response from staff who so generously shared their time and expertise.

Three decades on, it’s come full circle as I now lead the School of Psychology at Sussex, one of the largest communities for academic psychology in the UK. I’m proud to say that kindness sits at the heart of what we do, not just in the spirit of care and support for each other, but in cutting-edge research that transforms practice and policy across many sectors: from education, social care and health to transport and justice. My own specialist research interests have revolved around support for the social and emotional development of children and young people. I have also had the pleasure of leading the Sussex Kindness Research network,

which brings scholars together from many disciplines to help us learn more about the nature of kindness and its impacts on people and communities.

Kindness may seem simple and intuitive, yet there are many complexities and nuances. What’s kind for one person might be deeply unfair to others. And what’s kind in the short term could be damaging in the longer term. On an international level, how people interpret and respond to a given ‘kind’ behaviour can vary dramatically across cultural groups.

Not surprisingly then, academic interest in the psychology of kindness has grown markedly over recent years. Given the particular challenges faced by young people during the pandemic, not least the multiple prolonged periods of lockdown and separation from peers, efforts to foster kindness may be especially important now for supporting their positive relationships and wellbeing.

It’s an exciting time for us at Sussex as we are at the forefront of this development having established a partnership focused on kindness with the Pears Foundation, a charitable trust that aims to demonstrate the good that philanthropy can achieve. Their generous support has enabled us to recruit a new academic lead to promote our work on the psychology of kindness.

Meanwhile, I’ve been leading the world’s largest ever public science project on kindness in collaboration with the BBC via the author and broadcaster, Claudia Hammond (Psychology 1990), our first Visiting Professor for the Public Understanding of Psychology. More than 60,000 people from all over the world have told us what kindness means to them, how it relates to their mental health and sense of wellbeing and how it fosters positive relationships at home, work and in their local communities.

So yes, kindness *does* matter. It’s right at the centre of what Sussex means to me and I’m excited and honoured to be able to lead research that recognises the power of kindness in our lives.

PROFESSOR ROBIN BANERJEE



Professor Robin Banerjee is Head of the School of Psychology and Director of the CRESS (Children’s Relationships, Emotions, and Social Skills) research lab and the interdisciplinary Sussex Kindness Research network.

Sussex alumni all over the world have been active in starting new projects, making an impact at local and national levels, achieving career milestones and gaining recognition. Here is a snapshot of some of their news.

Community heroes

DR KATERINA GALAI (LAW 2013) supports the legal framework of the Cambridge University-led Covid-19 Genomics UK consortium (COG-UK), which helps to inform public health responses and vaccine development in the Covid-19 pandemic.

HARRY PATRINOS (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES 1989) has contributed to a research study which looks at the cost of Covid-19 school closures, following social distancing requirements that led to school closures around the world.



ABHIRUP BHUNIA (GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY 2012) is working to assess development outcomes for women's empowerment in India with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This follows an extensive history of working on humanitarian projects.

AHMAD ISMAIEL (LAW 2018), a refugee from Syria, offered his services as an interpreter and translator to refugees and asylum seekers requiring help with immigration, housing and social welfare issues.

Milestones

SAAD REHMAN (ENGINEERING 2005) has been appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Basic Sciences at HITEC University in Pakistan.



LUKASZ ALWAST (TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT 2011) opened the Polish Pavilion at the World's Dubai Expo 2020. Lukasz is the Pavilion's Creative Director and owner of the company Science Now, responsible for creating its permanent exhibition. The three-storey pavilion houses interactive, immersive spaces that highlight a belief in 'creativity inspired by nature'.

HANNAH JONES (PHILOSOPHY 1986) has been appointed CEO of the Earthshot Prize, a prestigious global environment prize designed to incentivise change and help repair our planet over the next 10 years. The Prize is run by the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

ZOË RYAN (HISTORY OF ART 1995) began her role as Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Philadelphia.

PROFESSOR SOLA FAJANA (LABOUR STUDIES 1987) has been announced as the new Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho.



SANJNA SUDAN, after completing her MA in Media Practice for Development and Social Change (2018), joined the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and was nominated to be part of the Gender Results Network (GRN). The GRN works to champion gender equality within the WFP and United Nations and the original research to start the GRN was conducted by the Institute of Development Studies in 2015.

PATRICIA LONDONO-HAYES (BIOCHEMISTRY 1990) has been appointed as Chief Development Officer at iosBio, a UK-based oral vaccines and biotherapeutics company.



FRANCISCO ACEDO FERNÁNDEZ (VISITING AND EXCHANGE 1991) has been appointed as a member of the International Academy of Genealogy in recognition of a long career dedicated to genealogical studies.

New ventures



SARA OSTERHOLZER (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS 2011), co-founder of The Good Business Club and one of two new Entrepreneurs in Residence at Sussex, is hosting a new series of *Building Better Business* podcasts featuring Sussex alumni.

ETHAN MARTIN (BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT 2016) has seen over a million downloads of ROUND, his table ordering app for bars and restaurants, which was originally trialled at Northfield Bar on campus.

PAUL COUCHMAN (ART HISTORY 2007) has gained popularity and the moniker 'The Regency Cook' for recreating 18th century dishes, such as oyster mouth soup and pigeon pie, as authentically as possible.



OMID MOALLEMI (PRODUCT DESIGN 2006) has co-founded Prsnt, a gifting app that allows users to send someone a present from more than 100 household brands.

AVRI KLEMER (PHILOSOPHY 1992) has launched a tabletop game for one to six players, 'Descending the Stairs', which can be played in person, over video conference software or by forum. The game is inspired by the 90s nightlife he experienced while at Sussex.

Awards

ANNABEL DEAS (ENGLISH 2002) has been awarded The Orwell Prize 2021 for Exposing Britain's Social Evils for her podcast Hope High. The seven episodes document Annabel's year spent with a community in Huddersfield where a number of children were being exploited by county lines drug dealers. The project is now being taught at A-Level and on degree courses and is used as a resource by police and social services across the UK.



GIDEON OLANREWAJU (INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2017) was announced as the winner of the Contributions to Children, World Peace and/or Human Rights category of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Nigeria Award 2021.

DAMINI OGULU (IFY ENGLISH AND COMPUTING 2008), known as Burna Boy, has won the Best International Act award for the third time running at the 2021 BET Awards. He was also awarded the prize for Best World Music Album for his album Twice as Tall at the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards.



MO KANJILAL (ENGLISH 1993)'s Brighton-based diversity and inclusion consultancy Watch this Sp_ace has won £25,000 in the Simply Business 2021 Business Boost competition.

UK honours

JAMES CARLIN (GEOGRAPHY WITH DEVELOPMENT STUDIES 2001) has been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Social Enterprise, Interfaith Relations and the Voluntary Sector during Covid-19.



DR PHILIPPA GREGORY (HISTORY 1975) has been awarded a CBE for her services to literature and charity. The historical novelist is best known for writing *The Other Boleyn Girl*.

DAVID BOWDEN (HONORARY MASTER OF THE UNIVERSITY 1992) has been awarded an MBE for services to cricket and community in Sussex. David was President of Sussex Cricket and was awarded a national Lifetime Achiever award by the England & Wales Cricket Board in 2016.

See more Alumni News at www.sussex.ac.uk/falmer and send your latest news to alumni@sussex.ac.uk



A formula for life

As Sussex strives to become one of the most sustainable universities in the world, our international research is providing innovative communication solutions for farmers in conflict zones and mathematical modelling to boost sustainable crop yields in Ukraine.

The findings from the latest UN reports on climate change have been alarming, but sadly not surprising. The science has been clear for many years, but our collective response has not been strong enough. Now, Sussex aims to make both a step change in our own operations and a global impact by connecting the interlinked issues at the heart of climate change.

“For at least three decades the main science has been clear on climate change, but for three decades our response has been too weak,” says Professor Joseph Alcamo, Director of the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP). “A stronger response will have to come from all parts of society, and sooner or later the fight against climate change will have to be linked up with our other big fights against poverty, hunger and inequality.”



Sooner or later the fight against climate change will have to be linked up with our other big fights against poverty, hunger and inequality.



A STRONGER RESPONSE

UN scientists have described the findings of recent climate change reports as a ‘code red for humanity.’ Sussex is responding and recently published a new and ambitious Sustainability Strategy, which focuses on a wide range of environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability across the University.

The new strategy is a major statement about Sussex’s future and draws a line in the sand regarding our plans to achieve a net zero carbon footprint of our operations by 2035 (see page 29). Sussex has good foundations to build on. In 2020, it was ranked 41st in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This put us in the top 5% of universities in the world and the top 10 UK universities for sustainability.

This ranking reflects our excellence in the field of sustainability research and our long-standing commitment to community outreach, environmental stewardship and innovation. Led by SSRP, our sustainability research addresses interactions among the SDGs and how trade-offs can be minimised or synergies maximised. Food is a good example of a topic that links so many other issues, from protecting biodiversity to ensuring sustainable livelihoods in conflict zones. Sussex is finding innovative ways to bring about positive change throughout the world.»



ABOVE: Wildflower meadows and reduced mowing are just two of the many initiatives for encouraging greater biodiversity on campus.

Reinventing communications to promote sustainable agri-food practices in Syria.
Northwest Syria is an area that has been severely affected by conflict. One of the most critical impacts on agriculture was the collapse of support services for farmers, which, before 2011, were provided by the government. The transition to a free-market economy has added further challenges for local communities.

The Syrian Farmers Podcast is an SSRP-funded project created to provide new media and knowledge transfer from Syrian agricultural experts living in Turkey and Syria, to sustain farmers in northwest Syria.

“The main goal of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture in Syria through podcasting, knowledge exchange and mobilising researchers, practitioners and decision-makers in Syria and abroad,” explains Dr Mirela Barbu, a Senior Lecturer in Supply Chain Management in the University of Sussex Business School and principal investigator on the project.

“We are working in partnership with the Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara) and the Academic Centre for Development and Peace Studies, which is linked to a Syrian Academic Expertise network.”

“The project is quite a bold, ground-breaking experiment in conflict zone communications,” adds Martin Spinelli, Professor in Media and Cultural Studies in the School of Media, Arts and Humanities, and podcast lead.

“
Podcasting is a real opportunity to reinvent communications in these kinds of situations.
”

“So often we find in conflict zones the traditional media – radio and TV stations – are the first things to be targeted by military attacks. However, the ubiquity of the smartphone, even in the developing world, and good mobile phone coverage means that podcasting is a real opportunity to reinvent communications in these kinds of situations.”

Impact was generated through an ‘Agricultural Voices Syria’ survey which prompted the podcast. The survey also investigated how the podcast was received by asking the farmers what kinds of information would be most useful for their activity – and what the most effective methods are for delivering them. The team aims to create a template for future work that can be used not just by people interested in food security but also for humanitarian efforts in conflict and post-conflict zones around the world.



ABOVE: Farming in northwest Syria.



Can mathematical modelling help boost crop yields? Mathematics also has a vital role to play in supporting food sustainability. Two Sussex mathematicians hope to tackle one of the most urgent challenges facing the world today – how to feed our growing global population.

Dr Konstantin Blyuss and Dr Yuliya Kyrychko from the School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences have been working alongside biologists at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to design a chemical-free way to curtail the crop-killing activity of parasitic worms. The worms, called nematodes, are responsible for the loss of an estimated £95 billion of crops every year. Their work has helped develop natural biostimulants (a chemical-free and organic-friendly alternative to pesticides) and increase crop yields by up to 60%. The mathematical modelling explains how RNA interference works in plants and shows the most effective way to apply biostimulants to keep crops safe from nematodes.

“
The models we developed have translated into something that will positively contribute towards addressing a major global challenge.
”

The insights from the models have been used by Ukrainian biotech companies to develop natural and organic biostimulants – some of which have been certified for organic farming – and are now used by some of the largest organic farming companies in Ukraine.

“As mathematicians, there can be a disconnect between what we calculate and what happens in practice,” says Dr Kyrychko. “The fact that our modelling has survived the test of reality is hugely gratifying. We can see that the models we developed were not just equations, they’ve been translated into something that will positively contribute towards addressing a major global challenge.”

Everything we do. Closer to home, the new Sustainability Strategy will address issues on campus around biodiversity and sustainable food, waste and water consumption and recycling.

This is just the start as Sussex aims to be one of the most sustainable universities in the world. “Universities exist to answer the big questions – and there is no bigger question than how we build a sustainable planet,” says former Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Tickell. “This is the greatest single challenge facing humankind and this strategy puts sustainability right at the heart of everything we do.” ■

SUSSEX
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY

The new Sustainability Strategy will address issues on campus around biodiversity and sustainable food, waste, water consumption and recycling.

We aim to:

2025

Recycle 50% of waste and reduce the waste produced per student by 10% by 2025

2035

Reach net zero by 2035 – including both direct and indirect carbon emissions

50%

Create the UK’s most biodiverse campus setting aside up to 50% for nature

+

Embed sustainability into all aspects of student learning and experience

To find out more, including information on the four themes and 16 key aims at the heart of the new Sustainability Strategy, please visit www.sussex.ac.uk/about/sustainable-university

Research news

Research with impact is at the heart of Sussex’s strategic framework. Our interdisciplinary and collaborative approach brings creative and innovative solutions to local, national and global issues. Here, we profile some of the latest developments and findings to come out of Sussex.

Research news in brief

Stingray Bio to find new medicines for cancer

Leading cancer researchers at the University of Sussex have launched Stingray Bio, an independent spin-out company that builds on university science to develop **NEW THERAPIES FOR BREAST CANCERS**. Breast cancer remains the most common cancer affecting women globally, while recurrent resistance to existing therapies remains a major challenge.

Scientists unveil new noise-reduction blind

A pioneering plastic material developed by scientists at Metasonixx, a spin-out from the Universities of Sussex and Bristol, has the same noise-reduction effect as two inches of plywood but weighs six times less and allows air flow. **NEW NOISE-CANCELLING PANELS** are to be trialled in hospitals and beside motorways.

New composition by Sussex composer captures beauty of South Downs

A CAPTIVATING CLASSICAL MUSICAL SCORE recorded with the New Music Players has been created to mark the 10th anniversary of the South Downs National Park. The original composition, produced by Professor Ed Hughes, uses melodies and rhythms to directly reflect his experience of walking the South Downs Way.

Business School research income one of the best in the UK

University of Sussex Business School has **RISEN TO SECOND IN THE UK FOR RESEARCH INCOME**, according to a new report published in September 2021 by the Chartered Association of Business Schools. The report shows the Business School received more than £11 million over the last three years, second only to the University of Warwick.

BIODIVERSITY

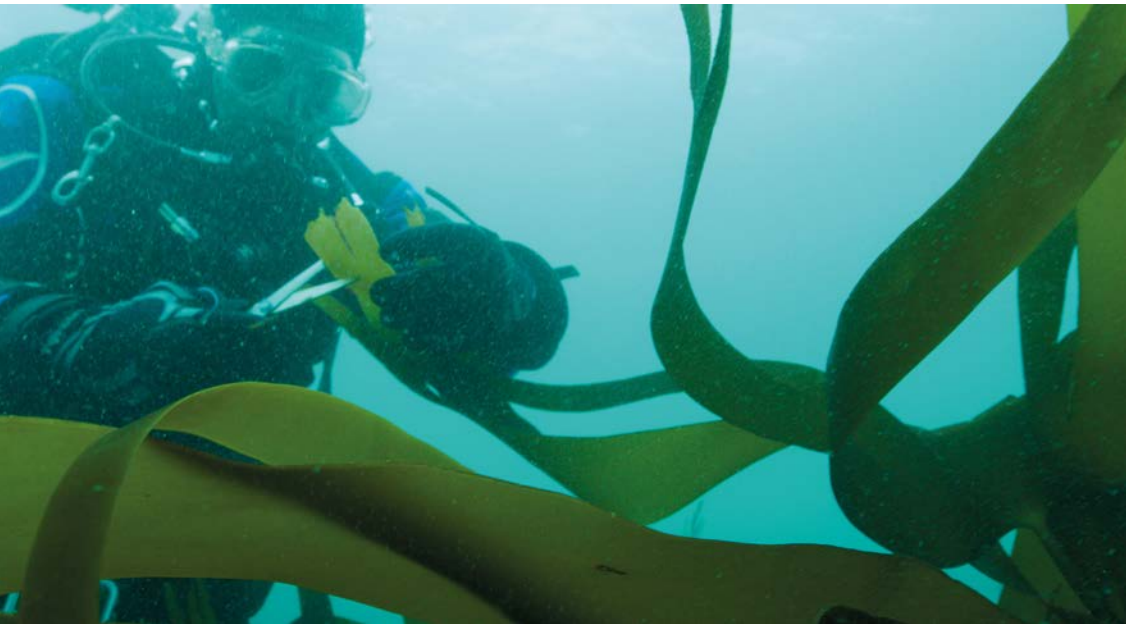
Researchers launch annual survey to monitor the health of Sussex seabed following trawler ban

University staff and students have begun an in-depth study of underwater habitats off the Sussex coast as part of a Sir David Attenborough-backed project to restore some of the most biodiverse habitats in the world and recover a vital carbon sink.

Led by Dr Mika Peck and Dr Valentina Scarponi, the team have begun conducting the first baseline survey of Sussex coastline to explore the recovery of kelp forests following the recently implemented trawling ban.

Funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) as part of the University’s Covid Recovery Programme in partnership with the Greater Brighton Economic Board, the team are gathering data at 34 sites between Shoreham and Selsey.

The three collection techniques involve: baited underwater videos (BRUVs) dropped to the bottom of the sea to capture an hour of



continuous footage, using BRUV frames built by Tim Cane, a Sussex Lecturer in Physical Geography; eDNA which uses a water sample to determine the species that are present; and bioacoustics using sound recordings to establish species activity and overall ecosystem health.

The underwater cameras have already captured footage of butterfish, small spotted catsharks, conger eels, undulate rays and a shoal of Atlantic mackerel on camera. However, the team – which includes University of

Brighton marine scientist Dr Ray Ward – believes underwater activity is far less than it should be.

“The Sussex coast has an opportunity here to recover from years of damage and welcome back high levels of biodiversity,” said Dr Peck. “Some of our monitoring sites are inside the byelaw area that are previously known to have dense presence of kelp beds. This is a unique opportunity to understand how marine systems might recover following removal of trawling pressure.”



The Sussex coast has an opportunity here to recover from years of damage.



KINDNESS

Sussex partners with BBC Radio 4 to explore global attitudes to kindness

University of Sussex academics have partnered with BBC Radio 4 on The Kindness Test, a huge public science project aimed at increasing our understanding of the role that kindness plays in our lives.

The study is spearheaded by Professor Robin Banerjee, Head of the School of Psychology at the University and Principal Investigator on the research, along with BBC Radio 4 broadcaster and Visiting Professor of the Public Understanding of Psychology, Claudia Hammond, who has been



working closely with Sussex researchers to develop the questionnaire. Kindness is an area of research that is rapidly expanding, with neuroscientists examining its impact on the brain, psychologists researching what prompts us to behave kindly – and what can prevent us from being kind – and political scientists studying its application to politics.

The in-depth online questionnaire invited members of the public to respond to a range of questions on their attitudes towards

kindness to explore how people view the place of kindness in their lives. Over 60,000 people from around the world took part. The results will be analysed and then announced on BBC Radio 4 in February 2022, with the findings informing subsequent research papers which will be submitted for publication in scientific journals by the Sussex academics.

COVID-19 MODELLING

Mathematics and public health combine to create modelling toolkit to predict local Covid-19 impact

A multidisciplinary team – including University of Sussex mathematicians, public health specialists, NHS commissioners and Brighton and Sussex Medical School Professor Anjum Memon – has created a new modelling toolkit which predicts the impact of Covid-19 at a local level with unprecedented accuracy.

The study was led by Anotida Madzvamuse, Professor of Mathematical and Computational Biology at the University of Sussex, and used the local Sussex hospital and healthcare daily Covid-19 situation reports, including admissions, discharges, bed occupancy and deaths. Through the pandemic, the newly published modelling has been used by local NHS and public health services to predict infection levels so that public services can plan when and how to allocate health resources – and it has been conclusively shown to be accurate. The team are now making their modelling available to other local authorities to use via the Halogen toolkit.

Anotida Madzvamuse said: “We undertook this study as a rapid response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our objective was to provide support and enhance the capability of local NHS and Public Health teams to accurately predict and forecast the impact of local outbreaks to guide healthcare demand and capacity, policy making and public health decisions.

“Working with outstanding mathematicians, Dr James Van Yperen and Dr Eduard Campillo-Funollet, we formulated an epidemiological model and inferred model parameters by fitting the model to local datasets to allow for short and medium-term predictions and forecasts of the impact of Covid-19 outbreaks.

“I’m really pleased that our modelling has been of such value to local health services and people. The modelling approach can be used by local authorities to predict the dynamics of other conditions such as winter flu and mental health problems.”

CREATIVITY

Sussex scientists chosen for UNBOXED 2022

Dr David Schwartzman and Professor Anil Seth (Informatics 1995) are part of a creative interdisciplinary team who have been commissioned to take their ground-breaking project Dreamachine into full production for UNBOXED 2022: Creativity in the UK, a UK-wide festival.

The nationwide celebration of creativity is backed by £120 million of new investment from the UK Government, including funding to the Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales devolved administrations. Events and activities take place from 1 March to 2 October 2022, from the Outer Hebrides to Dover and from Omagh to Swansea across traditional and online media.

The festival features 10 major multi-site and digital creative projects commissioned to share ideas and bring new opportunities

for creative people in sectors that have been significantly impacted by Covid-19. Dreamachine will be an artwork seen with your eyes closed that explores the limitless potential of the human mind in a powerful new kind of collective experience.

Inspired by radical artist Brion Gysin’s pioneering 1959 invention – a homemade flickering light device that created vivid illusions, kaleidoscopic patterns and explosions of colour in the mind of the viewer – Dreamachine has reimagined Gysin’s artwork into a major participatory programme featuring an immersive live experience that will tour the four capitals of the UK.

Earlier in the year, Anil Seth’s research received a substantial boost when the CONSCIOUS project was awarded a €2.43 million Advanced Investigator grant from the European Research Council. Anil and his multidisciplinary team will be attempting to answer one of the oldest questions in the human experience: how do conscious experiences depend on the brain?



QUANTUM

UK builds first modular quantum brain sensor and records signal

A team of scientists at the University of Sussex have become the first in the world to build a modular quantum brain scanner and have used it to record a brain signal.

It’s a major milestone for all researchers working on quantum brain imaging technology because the team have also connected two sensors ‘like LEGO bricks’, proving that whole-brain scanning using this method is within reach. This opens the potential for whole-brain scanning using quantum technology and potential advances for neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s, which have not been possible with the current commercially available

quantum brain sensors from the United States. The device, which was built at the Quantum Systems and Devices laboratory at the University, uses ultra-sensitive quantum sensors to pick up the tiniest of magnetic fields to see inside the brain to map neural activity.

The team applied the sensors to the outside of a participant’s scalp, close to the visual cortex of the brain. They asked the participant to open and close their eyes at 10-20 second intervals and were able to detect a signal.

“Our quantum sensor has to be exceptionally sensitive to pick up the magnetic fields in the brain which are very weak indeed,” said Thomas Coussens, PhD student at Sussex, who built the sensor. “To put it into context, the magnetic field of a brain is a trillion times lower than that of a fridge magnet. Professor Peter Krüger, Experimental Physicist and Director of the Sussex Programme for Quantum Research explained: “This new sensor built at the

University of Sussex opens the door for UK-produced quantum sensors, which is hugely important in the wider UK quantum technology landscape.

To have this sensor is a major step to further interdisciplinary studies involving researchers ranging from consciousness scientists and engineers to neuroscientists.”

DATA SCIENCE

Forecasting for drought in Kenya

A collaboration between University of Sussex researchers, Kenyan national agencies and non-governmental organisations aims to improve drought predictions using machine learning techniques to analyse satellite-based Earth observations.

Rain typically falls between February and June in the semi-arid regions of East Africa, which make up 80% of the country, but when the rains fail, come late or end early, the lack of vegetation leaves livestock with little to eat and around three million of the country’s 13.6 million inhabitants in crisis.

Early warning systems, used by Kenyan and UK agencies, including the UK Met Office, currently focus on forecasting rainfall to anticipate impending droughts. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for International Development (RCMRD), a research inter-governmental organisation based in Nairobi, has been collecting

its own Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer NASA satellite data since 2014. But the RCMRD knew that it wasn’t using all the data to its full potential.

With the help of Seb Oliver, Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Sussex, who has previously led teams with responsibility for data processing and scientific analysis of space missions, the RCMRD has begun using a new system called the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI). Put crudely, this index indicates an anomaly in the greenness of vegetation by measuring how green the vegetation is at a specific point in the season compared to how green it was at that point in the past.

The RCMRD aims to provide vegetation forecasts six weeks in advance, in addition to the rainfall forecasts that it is currently providing around 15 days in advance. It also aims to provide this data to a technical group that coordinates drought responses in Kenya, made up of non-governmental organisations such as the Kenyan Red Cross and Kenyan ministries such as the National Drought Management Authority.

ENVIRONMENT

Expert warns against a future without bees

Curry, baked beans and jam are just three of the comfort foods we will lose if bees become extinct, warns bee expert Professor Dave Goulson.

The tiny creatures are crucial to the ecosystem due to their role in pollination, but populations are rapidly declining because of habitat loss, pollution and the use of pesticides, among other factors.

Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology in the School of Life Sciences, said: “Many pesticides are directly toxic to bees – not just insecticides, but also fungicides and herbicides. Worryingly, honey stores in bee nests often contain cocktails of 10 or more pesticides. There is abundant evidence these pesticides kill bees or have ‘sublethal’ effects such as impaired learning, low resistance to disease, and reduced fertility. Furthermore, herbicides also get rid of weeds – otherwise known as wildflowers – so less food for bees.”

This follows research commissioned by Clipper Teas, who Dave teamed up with in Organic September in 2021 to raise awareness about the decline

of bee populations. The study, which surveyed 2,000 adults, found that a quarter don’t realise organic farming helps bee populations thrive. It also found 44% aren’t aware fewer pesticides are used, while more than half don’t realise organic foods are better for insects and other animals.

However, there is good news – the study carried out through OnePoll found 64% have taken steps to make their garden or outside space bee friendly. Popular methods include planting bee friendly plants and flowers (72%), letting their lawn grow for longer than normal (45%), and not using pesticides (42%).

Worryingly, honey stores in bee nests often contain cocktails of 10 or more pesticides.



I’m really pleased that our modelling has been of such value to local health services and people. The modelling approach can be used by local authorities to predict the dynamics of other conditions such as winter flu and mental health problems.

Digital futures

As technological advances rapidly affect the way we live and work today, the Digital Futures at Work Research Centre looks at what the future holds for employees around the world and across the life cycle of youths, parents and older workers.

WORDS BY JACQUELINE O'REILLY



The world of work is constantly evolving, and research on understanding and adapting to these changes is vital in today’s global market.

Who would have thought that digital would have been so important if it hadn’t been for the pandemic? Fortunately, a group of researchers led by Professor Jacqueline O’Reilly at the University of Sussex Business School and Professor Mark Stuart at Leeds Business School had already begun looking at how digital technologies were changing the way we work. The research featured in a book of international comparisons on *Work in the Digital Age*, published in 2018, and led to them winning an £8 million grant to set up the Digital Futures at Work Research Centre (Digit) in January 2020, on the cusp of lockdown.

Digit is a flagship investment funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) that aims to advance our understanding of how digital technologies are reshaping work and impacting employers, employees, unions, job seekers and governments. It includes academic partners from the Universities of Aberdeen, Cambridge and Manchester in the UK, and Monash University in Australia. Over 20 partners from business, unions, NGOs and governments in Europe, North America and Asia are also involved, including EY, Walmart, M&S and Eversheds Sutherland.

“We know that some firms are at the forefront of digital transformations, whilst others are lagging behind,” says Jacqueline O’Reilly. “We know that we have some of the best-qualified STEM graduates in the UK, while others lack basic digital skills. And we know that countries vary in their ability to effectively take up some of these challenges. But we don’t always know why these gaps are appearing and what can be done to ensure that digital transformation is inclusive.”

Digit has these questions at the heart of its investigations: to understand what is happening in the UK; to uncover how this compares internationally; and discover what needs to be done for a more inclusive transformation.

For Mark Stuart, the impact of new technologies on the future of work is one of the most pressing policy concerns of our time. “Digit is embarking on an agenda-setting programme of research that will provide compelling evidence on the contemporary transformation of work,” he says. “The centre is becoming a focal point for all those interested in the future of work, providing a much-needed space to bring together academic researchers, policymakers and practitioners to interrogate contemporary developments within a historical, international and comparative perspective.”

THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Among the objectives and outcomes Digit is working towards in its five-year lifespan are:

- To generate new knowledge to inform the development of an analytical framework around the concept of the 'connected worker' and the 'connected economy' by maximising knowledge exchange and co-produced research with relevant communities. Already in its fourth season, the Digit Debates series has included thought leaders from the World Economic Forum, the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- The newly established Data Observatory, a one-platform library of national and international resources for decision-makers connecting with the UK’s Industrial Strategy and welfare policy.
- The Innovation Fund and a Marie Jahoda Visiting Fellowship programme, providing £700,000 of financial support for new research initiatives and methodological approaches to enable international exchanges of researchers and professionals.
- To have new generations of researchers supported in their career development through mentoring and staff development, internships and summer schools.
- To secure longer-term sustainability of Digit with the development of an MSc in People Analytics to bring social science and computational skills together in a new learning programme for the future of work.

The need for this knowledge was confirmed at Digit’s London launch at Eversheds where participants from businesses, NGOs, government and academia variously described their organisations as ranging from “digital natives” to those who had “only just started talking about these things.”

Marc Meryon, Partner and Head of Industrial Relations at Eversheds Sutherland explains why they are working with Digit: “As a global law firm, we’re thrilled to support and partner on this innovative project, which reflects our purpose of helping our people, our clients and our communities to thrive,” he says. “The world of work is constantly evolving and research on understanding and adapting to these changes is vital for businesses, governments and professionals in today’s global market.”

THE FUTURE OF RECRUITMENT

Since Digit launched, Eversheds has co-produced research on how firms are negotiating better terms and conditions for independent contractors as an alternative pathway to contentious and expensive processes of litigation. Meanwhile, at the University of Warwick, Dr Wil Hunt has been researching the benefits of an automated recruitment process.

“In collaboration with Walmart who recruited over 460,000 employees in their supermarkets during the pandemic, we were able to see how automated recruitment worked in practice,” says Dr Hunt. “Some of the biggest challenges were in establishing employees’ trust in these recommendation systems. While algorithms could suggest candidates, human interaction prevailed. Introducing these HR systems was an iterative process rather than a tsunami of robotic decision making.”

Another particularly innovative project looked at how young people in the UK and Nigeria were able to trade on digital platforms, reselling second-hand clothes from their bedrooms. Supported by the Innovation Fund, Monica Richards and Dr Ayomikun Idowu found that these platforms enabled young people to not only earn an income but develop transferable digital and entrepreneurship skills for their futures.

Digital technologies are transforming the way we live and work today. If you are interested in learning more, visit the Digit website at www.digit-research.org or join the mailing list at digit@sussex.ac.uk ■

History lessons



Professor Margaretta Jolly's research is going beyond changing perceptions of the UK Women's Liberation Movement. It shows how oral history can connect and humanise, offering lessons in respectful listening and the power of coalitions for today's activists.

WORDS BY RACHAEL MILLER

In 2010, Professor Margaretta Jolly embarked on pioneering research with colleagues at Sussex and the British Library to capture oral history interviews with activists in the UK Women's Liberation Movement (WLM). Little did she know that, over a decade later, the work would continue to reach audiences around the world, changing perceptions of feminism and the WLM, and offering valuable perspectives in a time of heightened global tensions around race and gender.

'Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project' (S&A) came about because there was no national oral history of the post-1968 UK WLM and no published general history. With former Sussex Research Fellow Dr Rachel Cohen and Dr Polly Russell, the project's curator at the British Library, the team carried out 60 interviews with activists, recorded over many hours, then transcribed and archived on the British Library website.

The interviews shed new light on many aspects of feminism from work and class, relationships and health, to business, spirituality and feminist death. They helped to unpick feminist stereotypes and underlined the continued relevance of WLM ideas and approaches for activists both inside and beyond the movement.

Using the long-life form of interviewing, the women were encouraged to talk about their entire lives and wider families to help explain their influences and how they developed as individuals. The often profoundly moving conversations surfaced both the public and the very personal. The result is an archive that is rich in detail about the period, offering a priceless resource not simply for the perspectives it offers on UK feminist history.

There's something very inspiring about an older generation of activists sharing what they did and how they kept going. Oral history has that magic of a conversation across generations.

FREE OUR SISTERS
FREE OURSELVES

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS AND EDUCATING NEW GENERATIONS

One of the main aims for S&A was to create a permanent, accessible and professional oral history collection of the WLM at the British Library that would match the oral history collections of suffrage activists, now recognised to have world heritage value.

But it wasn't enough for the team to launch the S&A archive online. The project also gave rise to ten short films directed by Sussex's Professor of Film, Lizzie Thynne. These feature, for example, Rebecca Johnson, a policy advisor on nuclear disarmament, returning to the site of Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, and Jan McKenley, leader in black educational inclusion, speaking movingly of the personal experiences behind her work with the National Abortion Campaign.

With the British Library, the project also produced a diverse range of educational materials and workshops, exhibitions, conferences and podcasts, as well as a book *Sisterhood and After: An Oral History of the Women's Liberation Movement, 1968 – present*. These were all designed to engage with audiences, from academics to pupils just starting secondary school, and feminists and activists young and old.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

The reach of the project has extended far beyond the UK, with S&A being used as a model of best practice for other oral history projects. In Switzerland, it has helped guide interview methods, selection criteria and the construction of a website for a national oral history of the Swiss women's movement.

Interest in the project from China Women's University led to them engaging Margaretta Jolly as a visiting professor to Beijing to help develop their own China Women's Oral History Project. It was a partnership, explains lead archivist Li Huibo, that enabled Chinese historians to "further understand each other's idea of gender and of oral history's political purpose."

I'm one of those
COMMON WOMEN
from Greenham!

LESSONS FOR US ALL

“Hearing from long-time activists through all of these oral histories can teach us something about endurance, stamina and resilience – the power of sticking with it,” says Margaretta. “In the wonderful words of feminist scholar Donna Haraway, it’s about ‘staying with the trouble.’ There’s something very inspiring about an older generation of activists sharing what they did and how they kept going. Oral history has that magic of a conversation across generations.”

Among the many remarkable women interviewed, Karen McMinn (Director of Northern Ireland Women’s Aid 1981-1996) strongly underlined for Margaretta how oral history research can offer hope in a world that seems increasingly divided. As McMinn reflected, it’s partly about learning about your forebears but also about engaging with people you may not understand or with whom you completely disagree. Personal oral history can be a hugely powerful tool to connect and to humanise.

And at a time when the MeToo movement, Black Lives Matter, the gender pay gap, and non-binary and trans rights issues are revitalising protest movements while experiencing heated clashes and backlashes, Margaretta feels that projects like S&A have something to teach us all about respectful dialogue.

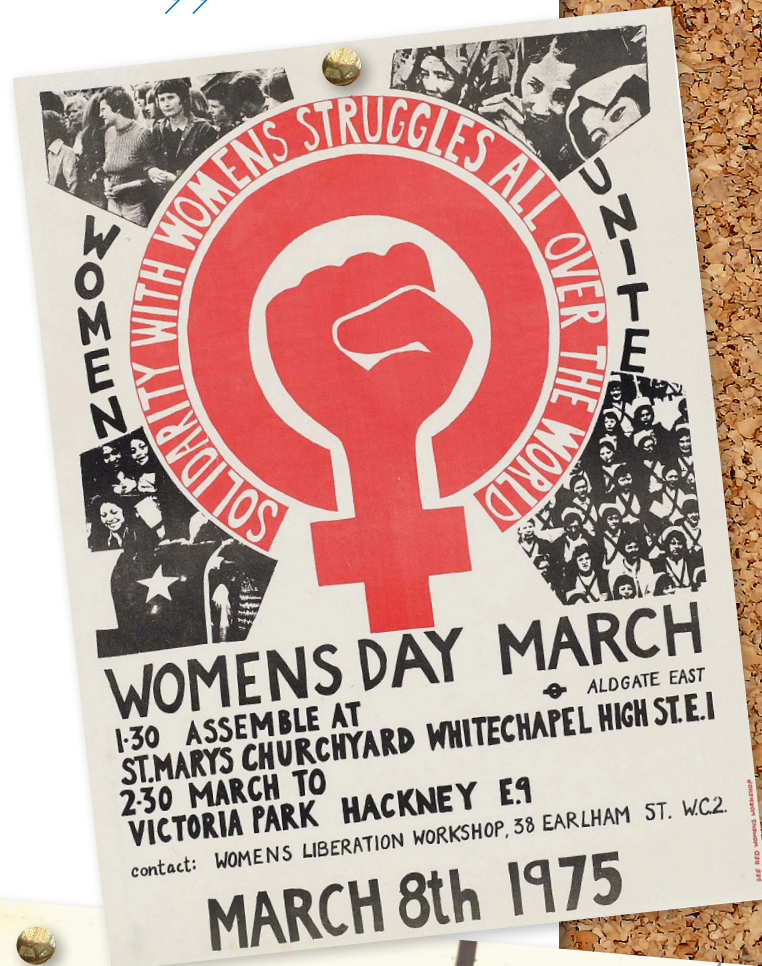
“There is no quick fix for what we’re facing today,” she says. “Our era is one of political polarisations, and populist politicians have exploited this. At the same time, the internet and social media are fanning the flames of division. What an oral history project of the scale, depth and humanity of S&A can teach us is the power of coalitions – across class, race, sex uality, gender – of overcoming pride and polarisation.”

We can all learn from what Margaretta calls ‘slow listening’. “We must move forward,” she concludes. “And to do so, we need to take time to listen. Listen to the silences as much as the words – to the pauses, the tears, the sighs and the smiles that punctuate these testimonies.” ■

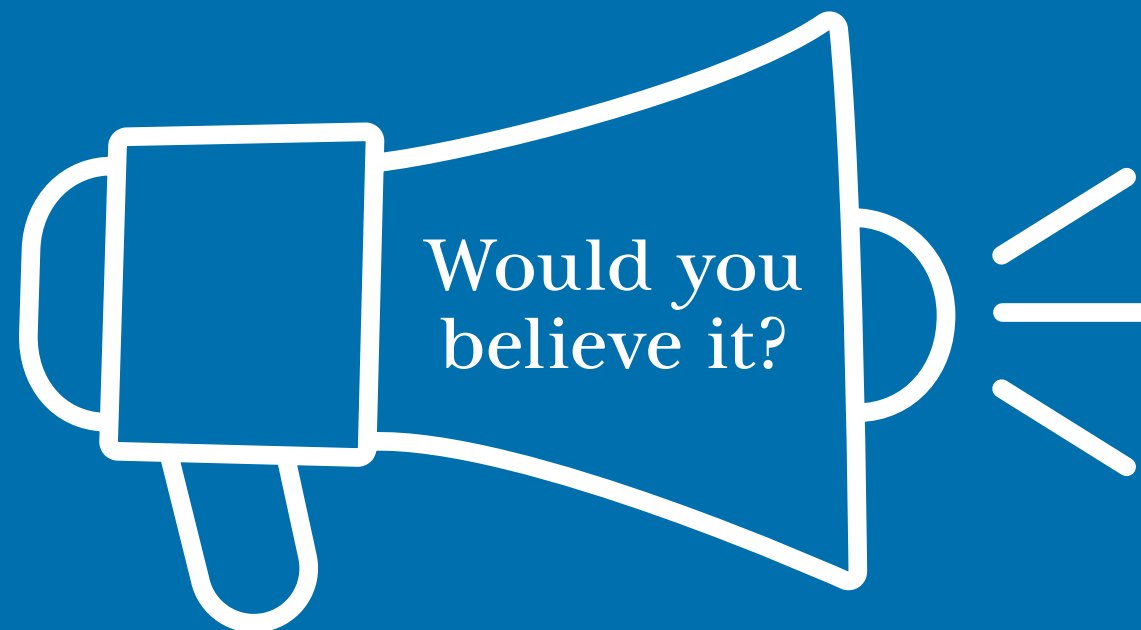
FOOTNOTE

‘Sisterhood and After: The Women’s Liberation Oral History Project’ was funded by The Leverhulme Trust. The Trust also funds ‘The Business of Women’s Words: Purpose and Profit in Feminist Publishing’, partnered with The British Library and the University of Cambridge.

What an oral history project of the scale, depth and humanity of S&A can teach us is the power of coalitions – across class, race, sexuality, gender – of overcoming pride and polarisation.



OPINION



Freedom of the press is a civil liberty threatened by the rise of fake news. Professor Ivor Gaber looks at where it all went wrong, and considers the future of political journalism.

Fings Ain’t Wot They Used T’be was the title of a London musical that ran in the 1950s; it was all cheeky Cockney dialogue – a real period piece. The same might well be said for how political communication was practised back then compared with our present times. There were no spin doctors, television was ‘a new-fangled device’ and a political party leader – in this case Labour’s Clement Attlee – could reply to an interviewer asking him if he had anything to say about the coming general election with, “No, I don’t think so.”

Those were the days – or were they? Although we are now swimming in a sea of spin, fake news and downright lies, at least we have no shortage of information about what our politicians would like us to believe. But here I am rather jumping the gun on 70 years of political spinning.

I worked as a journalist around Westminster between 1980 and 2010. In that time, the biggest single change was the gargantuan increase in the appetite of the media and the need for politicians to keep feeding the beast. When I began reporting from Westminster there were only newspapers, radio and TV news bulletins. Then came the launch of 24-hour radio and hourly television news cycles, which politicians were forced to respond to.

Today, reporters still fill newspaper columns and broadcasting schedules, but they must also feed websites and post on social media. It’s in journalists’ DNA to want to be first to break a story, but it’s not always a risk-free venture. If there is jeopardy inherent in gathering news for 24-hour channels, it’s more so on social media for it allows anyone to join in on the national political conversation. In theory that sounds great – more voices means more democracy – but more voices also means more noise, and more noise means less civility.

Perhaps most serious of all is how the digital space has permitted the growth of fake news. Social media has encouraged and enabled this trend and we now appear to give politicians permission to lie. In the not-so-distant past a politician caught lying was forced to resign (one thinks of John Profumo or Lord Carrington). Now, it appears that there is no cost.

“We send £350 million to Brussels every week. Let’s fund the NHS instead” – was once written on the side of a bus. It wasn’t true; but it didn’t matter. It dominated the news agenda during the Brexit campaign and people voted accordingly.

Now, as that particular endeavour appears to be unravelling, too few journalists can be heard asking any genuinely probing questions. Why? Not because journalists are egregious but because the claim is cursed with that badge of journalistic dishonour – ‘old news’.

So, where do we go from here? Perhaps not back to the days of Mr Attlee, but hopefully to a time when politicians said something, or were quoted as having said something, that we could at least take at their word – without feeling the need to immediately fact-check.

IVOR GABER



Ivor Gaber is Professor of Political Journalism at Sussex and a former political journalist with BBC TV and Radio, ITV, Channel Four and Sky News. He currently represents the UK at UNESCO’s Media and Communications Sector.

Together we're stronger

Having a network of good relationships and collaborating on new initiatives that will have influence can be a real confidence builder. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the positive impact from staying connected became even more apparent and the timely launch of the Sussex Connector Programme has seen students, staff and alumni working together to enhance life experiences on campus and beyond.

WORDS BY POLLY WALLACE-KRUGER

“
My experience as an Alumni Relations Connector was overwhelmingly positive... a great opportunity to develop professional and interpersonal skills, and to be heard within the University.
”

The Connector Programme has been running at Sussex since January 2020, and in that time we have seen it make a significant impact on the Sussex community. In this programme, areas of work are identified across the University that could improve the student experience, and we hire Student Connectors to co-create and work in equal partnership with Staff Connectors to design and deliver these projects. Since it began, the programme has grown from 12 Student Connectors to nearly 400 who collaborate with staff on more than 40 different projects.

These projects are as diverse as embedding technology in learning, to co-designing new modules, to increasing student engagement with Schools and services. Student Connectors gain valuable experience in a supportive working environment, which builds personal and professional skills and confidence in a paid role. Staff Connectors gain a fresh, diverse and informed student perspective, as well as intrapreneurial, passionate and energetic new team members. The Connector teams' dynamic of equal partnership and shared responsibility means that student/staff relationships become stronger, building a more connected community at Sussex.

A team of seven Student Connectors have also been working to design, shape and deliver the Spirit of Sussex Award, which celebrates extra-curricular and voluntary achievements. Having a co-created Award with student input makes it relevant, exciting and accessible for all students. They bring a fresh and unique perspective and have been responsible for the development of some crucial elements, from how many points activities are worth to the visual identity and branding.

Another notable Connector project was run in collaboration with the Sussex Alumni Relations department in 2021. This project aimed to support current students to better connect with and benefit from the wealth of expertise among Sussex alumni, through events, mentoring and more. Below, we hear from two of our Alumni Relations Connectors about their experiences.



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE: Student Connectors share their experiences at the Connector Programme Celebration event, co-created by students.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

One of my most notable achievements while working as an Alumni Relations Connector was the graduate event we ran in July 2021. As Student Connectors we were solely responsible for organising this event, from finding speakers to managing polls and timings. The theme was burnout and imposter syndrome in the workplace, as we believed it was important for recent Sussex graduates to know these feelings are common.

I feel I achieved a lot with my colleagues and as an individual. I ran my own page on Sussex Connect, developing all the content and ensuring it was engaging. Using social media in a professional setting was one of my goals at the start of the project so I'm glad I was given the opportunity to do this.

An extra opportunity arose to help respond to emails in the alumni inbox, which I took up. I was able to build my own relationships with alumni via this channel. One in particular was schoolteacher Tom Mumford (Pedagogy and Practice 2016), who is going to be rowing across the Atlantic in 2024 to show the children he works with that anything is possible with hard work and dedication.

The Connector Programme helped me to feel more connected to the University at a time where I felt quite disconnected due to the adoption of online teaching. All of the staff I worked with valued my opinions just as much as anyone else. I would highly recommend getting involved in the Connector Programme.

EMMA CRAWFORD (DATA SCIENCE MSC 2020)

IMPROVING KEY SKILLS

As an Alumni Relations Connector I worked on many different sub-projects. One of these was helping to organise and run the 'Make It Happen' events which feature inspirational alumni speaking to current students about their journeys. For me, the most interesting event was the Careers in Government and Public Services Zoom conference featuring Fiona Stone (Social Psychology 2000).

Fiona is Head of Youth Strategy and National Citizen Service at the Office for Civil Society and a Sussex Psychology graduate. I wrote an 'alumni story' about Fiona and her journey for the University's website. The article described Fiona's background and career, as well as quotes from her Make It Happen event speech. Through the writing process, I gained valuable skills including how to network on platforms, such as LinkedIn, as well as improving my literary skills.

I also grew in confidence by attending the Make It Happen events because as an Alumni Relations Connector, I facilitated breakout rooms that were used for networking between alumni and students.

My experience as an Alumni Relations Connector was overwhelmingly positive and the Connector Programme was a great opportunity to develop professional and interpersonal skills, and to be heard within the University.

EDWARD HARVEY (PSYCHOLOGY 2018)

We are immensely proud of the fantastic work of all our Student and Staff Connectors and look forward to partnering with many more during the next year. ■

All in the Library upstairs

Between you, me and these four walls...
alumni and staff reflect on the best kept
secrets of the University of Sussex Library.

WORDS BY RUBY MOORE

GRAND DESIGNS

Designed by Sir Basil Spence to resemble the open pages of a book, the University of Sussex Library was opened in 1964 by Her Majesty The Queen. Its dominant presence in the centre of campus has overseen numerous protests in the square below, housed students all night (even before 24 hour opening), and undergone four phases of expansion.

The man-made hill upon which the building sits introduced the need for the iconic Library steps, but it has also caused its share of problems: getting power in, accessibility and space to name a few. The Library has now been through four phases of expansion. Today, when passing through, you can see signs of adjustments: a concrete line up the wall; a change in columns from brick to concrete; and even an original window – now indoors!

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Of all the secrets that the Library's four walls hold, some are more eyebrow raising than others. We caught up with Library colleagues, including Sean Goddard (now the Library's longest serving member of staff) and Maria Smith, to hear about the most unforgettable moments in the building's history.

One of Sean's earliest memories was from 2001. Many North American students were already on campus when news of the September 11 terrorist attacks broke. To keep those on campus updated on the evolving situation, Sean and his colleagues set up a screen on the top floor of the Library to stream news all day, guiding students upstairs to keep abreast of the situation.

Other stand out memories include supervising the entire rugby team while they moved boxes in the basement after being caught streaking through the upper floors. Though we are sure the team enjoyed their naked post-match celebration, they were reportedly very apologetic and keen to make amends by helping with the work.

Before 24-hour opening, the Library was often the location of sit-ins and work-ins during protests and student disputes, with students arriving just before closing and refusing to leave overnight. The main thing staff remember is how polite and cordial the student protesters were – often agreeing to remain on one floor to help staff to look after the students' safety and wellbeing.

The Library has been there to support students through thick and thin, but for Sean the Library plays another significant role: it's the place he met his wife.

ALUMNI MEMORIES

The building's combination of a highly efficient central heating system with bright autumn or winter sunshine streaming through the windows often had a deleterious effect on concentration. The poem below relates to this; written in the autumn term of 1969, its subject is now a famous actor!

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Amidst the silent buzz
of studious industry
I saw one
surrounded by books
in the afternoon sun
notes round arrayed
on tables and chairs
gently neglecting his
workaday cares
with a scarce moving chest
and a smile on his face,
snoozing his way through
Dickens and Mayhew.

IAN GILES (ENGLISH 1968)

I remember summer Students' Union meetings on the slope outside. We passed some great resolutions, including support for Nelson Mandela and the Nicaraguan Sandinistas, and protests against Thatcher!

GARETH NEVITT (ENGLISH LITERATURE 1979)

I was taken on as one of a team of four to apply a barcode to every single book in the Library. This was a ground-breaking computerisation project initiated by the Deputy Librarian Peter Stone, and one of the team was Kitty Inglis who eventually became University Librarian! Just completing her year's SCONUL traineeship at the same time was my fiancée Jill Gray who became my wife the following July in the Meeting House chapel.

ROGER WALKINTON (FRENCH STUDIES 1977)

Nadia Ponts (Life Sciences 1999) and I organised a treasure hunt across campus for Anna Perrenoud and Arnaud S. Weatherbeaten's birthday in 2000, which included some clues hidden in very old books in the Library. They might still be there!

ANNE-SOPHIE MARSH (MEDIA STUDIES 1999)

I well-remember architect Sir Basil Spence addressing the opening of the new Library, recollecting how he mused on a great tongue slurping-up students as they strolled past. I also recall The Queen during the same ceremony stopped and asked me as she passed, 'Are you working – or just pretending to?...'

BILL COWIE (AMERICAN STUDIES 1964)

When I returned as a lecturer in 1985, most of the Library was unrecognisable inside, but the toilets looked just the same, complete with graffiti. My original flatmates Teresa Madden (Sociology 1966) and Stephanie Lang (Anthropology 1966) and I returned for a visit in 2016, 50 years after we had started, and asked a current student to take a photo of us by the Library steps.

VIVIENNE GRIFFITHS (ENGLISH 1966) ■



ABOVE: Vivienne, Teresa and Stephanie revisit the Library in 2016.



Beneath the canopy

From the mighty oaks and rare English elms that pre-date the University to those planted in memory of loved ones, we celebrate some of the beautiful trees populating the Sussex campus.

WORDS BY JACQUI BEALING

Trees. They are the lungs of the Earth and of the University of Sussex campus. More than 1,200 grow on the University's 200-acre estate, creating a living, breathing, beautiful canopy. Dozens of varieties thrive in the Sussex soil, from stately elms and ancient yews to the more exotic Indian bean trees and fruit-bearing mulberry trees.

They may not be the thing you notice when you first encounter Sir Basil Spence's startling architecture. But remove them and you would soon see how vital they are to the character of campus.

In fact, Spence ensured that the "dominant spine" of trees that runs through the valley was preserved before the first brick was laid in 1959, and he designed the original buildings to complement the landscape. He stipulated that no building should be taller than the tree line.

Anyone who has spent time on campus will have developed a relationship with the trees. They'll have taken shade beneath them during hot months to relax – or revise. They'll have 'forest bathed' in the woodland that skirts campus. They may even have climbed them or strung tightropes between the trunks for some challenging recreation.

Over the years, many more trees have been planted, and all are treated with great care. Sussex Estates and Facilities conduct a five-yearly survey of trees on the estate, which involves recording details of individual tree height, spread, age, diameter and any signs of disease.

“Spence ensured that the ‘dominant spine of trees’ that runs through the valley was preserved before the first brick was laid in 1959.”

“We recognise that the trees here are important for all sorts of reasons,” says Grounds Manager Ashley Wilcox. “They are lovely to look at, they’re helping to protect our planet, they encourage wildlife and they create a sense of peace and protection.”

This is one of the reasons why more than 70 trees planted in the past few decades have been dedicated to those who have studied and/or worked at the University, or to mark special occasions. They include one for Richard Flint, a charismatic Students' Union president at Sussex in the 1970s who went on to become communications director at the International Transport Workers' Federation. Richard died in 2007 from the degenerative condition cerebellar ataxia. His friends organised a commemorative paving stone in the Arts pathway and planted a mountain ash in front of Falmer House – the location for many scenes of protest – with the inscription, 'The light that burns twice as bright burns half as long.'

Those planted to remember staff include a copper beech, now growing near Bramber House, dedicated to Dr Lucy Solomon. Lucy, who arrived at Sussex as a sociology undergraduate in 1997, continued working at Sussex as an academic administrator. She died in 2015 at the age of 48 and is remembered by staff for her "gregarious and larger-than-life personality."

A plaque beneath a silver birch outside the Sussex Centre for Language Studies remembers senior technician Robin Lee, who was "loved by all for his kindness and generosity." Robin joined the University in 1974 and was instrumental in introducing new and innovative technologies to campus (such as satellite TV back in the day). He died in 2010.

Some of the trees commemorate occasions rather than people. The University's first Chancellor, Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, planted a tulip tree in 1963 in between Falmer House and Fulton Court (also known as Library Square) to celebrate the development of campus.

Outside Jubilee Building is an oak sapling cultivated from an acorn collected from The Crown Estate and planted in 2012 to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

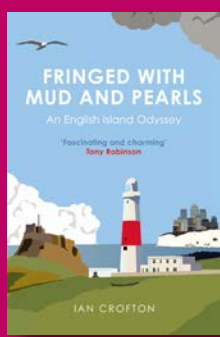
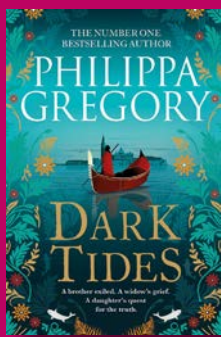
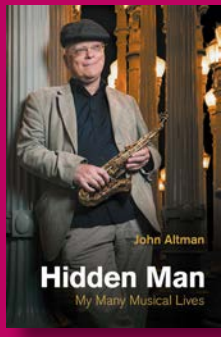
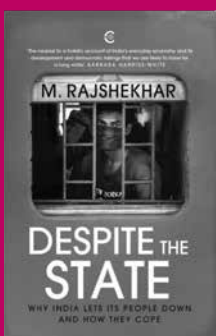
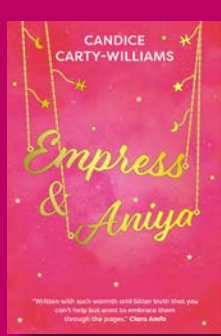
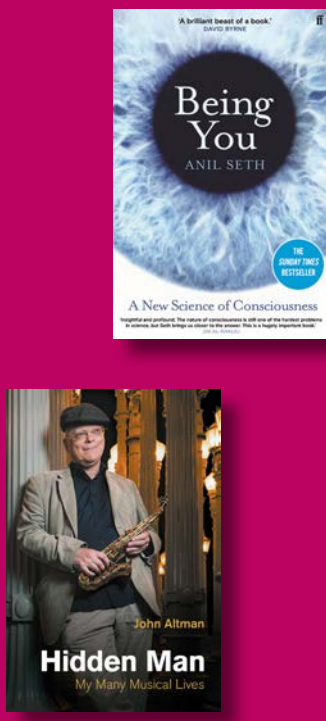
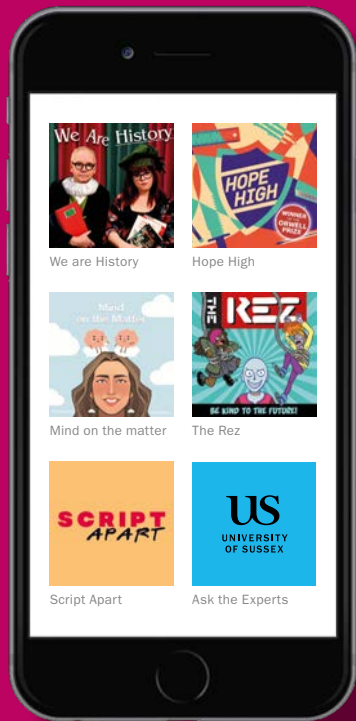
Sadly, some trees are just shadows of their former selves. A hollow stump is all that's left of an elm that succumbed to Dutch Elm disease. It had to be pruned in February 2019 to prevent the spread of the disease. Campus has a rare population of 31 English elms, 22 of which have been classified as mature.

The great storm of 1987 also saw many tree casualties. More than 300 were uprooted across campus, including oaks, sycamores, giant beeches and elms. Some were more than 200-years-old – so much for Spence's efforts to preserve them.

But the good news is that, as part of the University's Sustainability Strategy, trees are constantly being replaced. "We know that trees are vital for the planet and our strategy focuses on preserving the environment," says Sustainability Manager Sam Waugh.

One exciting new project is a forest food garden at the far northern end of campus. Set up by Dr John Parry, a lecturer in the School of Education and Social Work, with the help of volunteers, staff and students, the idea is to create a woodland with species at different levels providing food: from fruit and nuts at the top of the canopy to fungi at soil level.

There's been a surge of interest from students wanting to take John's Forest Food Garden undergraduate module, ensuring that trees in all their shapes and forms stay firmly rooted in campus life. ■



Alumni library

PODCASTS

ANGELA BARNES (LINGUISTICS 1996), *We Are History*. The podcast for those who want to hear about history but laugh at the same time. Angela and co-presenter John O'Farrell discuss interesting and quirky chapters of history.

ANNABEL DEAS (ENGLISH 2002), *Hope High*. Annabel's award-winning podcast on the real-life story of a year spent with a community in Huddersfield fighting county lines drug gangs' exploitation of children and violence.

TOOBA KHAN (NEUROSCIENCE 2014), *Mind on the Matter*. Medical student Tooba interviews healthcare professionals and people who have had experiences of mental illness to discuss the mental health issues that we all encounter in life.

AL HORNER (FILM STUDIES 2007), *Script Apart*. Al speaks to the screenwriters behind iconic films to hear about their initial screenplays and explore the adjustments made en route to the silver screen.

Ask the Experts. This University podcast series offers a chance to hear leading Sussex experts discuss topics ranging from Covid-19 to Quantum Physics, in a series of live events.

The Rez. An exciting sci-fi podcast adventure co-created by Professor Martin Spinelli and designed to help young people's emotional health.

BOOKS

JOHN ALTMAN (ENGLISH 1968), *Hidden Man*, Equinox Publishing. In this compelling memoir John reflects on his half a century in the world of popular music. Named the 'Hidden Man' by *Monty Python's* Terry Gilliam, most people will be familiar with music that John has composed, with scores in films such as *Monty Python's Life of Brian*, *Goldeneye* and *Titanic*, though it's likely many people will not know the composer.

ANIL SETH (INFORMATICS 1995), *Being You*, Faber & Faber. After over 20 years of researching the brain, neuroscientist Anil Seth discusses a revolutionary new theory of consciousness and what it means to 'be you'. *Being You* will challenge your understanding of perception and reality!

CANDICE CARTY-WILLIAMS (MEDIA STUDIES 2007), *Empress & Aniya*, Knights of Media. *Empress & Aniya* is the first Young Adult novel from the bestselling author of *Queenie*. It's the story of two teenage girls who accidentally cast a spell on their sixteenth birthday and end up switching bodies. In this novel, Candice investigates the importance of real friendship and the ups and downs of being a teenager.

IAN CROFTON (ENGLISH 1975), *Fringed With Mud & Pearls*, Birlinn. Embarking on a personal odyssey to the islands encircling England, Ian explores how some are places of refuge or holiness, while others have been turned into personal fiefdoms by their owners or locations for prisons, rubbish dumps and military installations. He also looks at the varied ways in which England's islands have been formed and how they are constantly changing.

RAJSHEKHAR MADDIPATLA (ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY 2006), *Despite the State*, Context. Reporting from six states over 33 months, award-winning investigative journalist Rajshekhar looks at democratic policy in India and how it is affecting its states. In doing so he highlights what he argues is a crisis that has largely gone unexamined, which impacts India's schools, companies, citizens' rights and access to water.

PHILIPPA GREGORY CBE (HISTORY 1975), *Dark Tides*, Simon & Schuster. In this gripping sequel to *Tidelands*, *Dark Tides* tracks the story of a fictional family in London, Venice and New England over 21 years. Opening in the poverty and glamour of 1670 Restoration London, where after years of civil war the monarchy has been restored and Charles II is on the throne, the novel explores the themes of greed and desire: for love, for wealth, for a child and for home.

See more podcasts and publications authored by alumni in the past year at www.sussex.ac.uk/falmer

OPINION

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The fight against cronyism

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Public procurement is a hotspot of corruption all over the world. Professor Liz David-Barrett discusses how her research helps policy-makers to pinpoint the risks and clean up public spending.

In 20 years of researching corruption – starting off in Eastern Europe, later working in Africa and the Caribbean, and in my home country, the UK – it has become clear to me that cleaning up public procurement should be our global priority.

All over the world, procurement is a prime target for those hoping to siphon money out of the state because it's a major way in which governments spend money. OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's member) countries spend about one-third of total government spending through public procurement, and that can be as much as one half in lower-income countries. When that money is spent corruptly, it undermines economic development, and the public get shoddy basic services and unsafe infrastructure.

The difficulty for corruption researchers has always been pinpointing when procurement is the result of a corrupt deal. It is quite easy for government officials and companies to rig the process while maintaining the illusion of open and fair competition, or for them to come up with excuses for why they are avoiding competition to source from a sole supplier.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a classic example of how there can be good reasons to avoid competition, such as needing to buy personal protective equipment rapidly in an emergency. But such reasons can also be exploited by people who want to give out contracts to cronies while bypassing the normal levels of scrutiny.

My research aims to make it easier to spot corruption risks in public procurement. It takes advantage of the fact that governments are now more transparent about how they spend money, while improvements in technology have made it easier to collect and analyse large datasets – or 'big data.'

Working with Dr Mihály Fazekas at the Central European University, and funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, we collate data that governments publish about their spending patterns and analyse it for a set of 'red flags' that often indicate a corrupt manipulation. Looking across vast datasets, we can spot which parts of government spending are highest risk and identify suppliers that regularly win under suspicious conditions.

Our method doesn't tell us definitively whether corruption has occurred, but it provides a risk analysis that can be used to prioritise audit resources or to help NGOs ask questions of governments. In fact, in Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda, we have organised 'hackathons' that bring together Maths undergraduates and local civil society activists to analyse local spending data for corruption patterns.

We have also worked with the World Bank to help them control spending that they finance, and with the governments of Jamaica and Uganda, where innovative local regulators are interested in using our tools to better control government spending. We can use the method to test the impact of reforms, observing how the risk pattern changed following the introduction of new rules. Spoiler: reforms often simply displace corruption, rather than reduce it.

For me, this kind of research is a reason to be optimistic about the future. Tackling corruption is always going to be highly political and it takes broad local coalitions to fight the vested interests that benefit. But there is an important role for researchers too. We can develop tools that empower brave local reformers with evidence about what is going wrong and how to change it.

LIZ DAVID-BARRETT



Professor Liz David-Barrett is Director of the Centre for the Study of Corruption. She leads the Centre's activities in research, teaching and policy impact and engages with anti-corruption practitioners in governments, the private sector and NGOs.



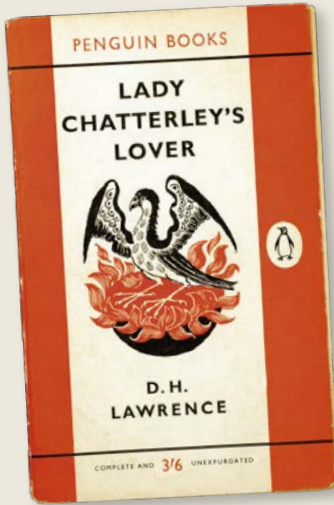
From an original 15th century Caxton-printed version of a Benedictine monk’s chronicle to the electronic submission of hundreds of people’s diaries documenting what they did on 12 May 2021, the University of Sussex’s Special Collections, archived at The Keep, is a varied and wondrous collection.

Housed at The Keep in Falmer, alongside the archives of East Sussex Record Office and Brighton and Hove City Council, exists a collection of documents, pictures, photographs and books pored over by academics, students, writers, researchers and those just curious to explore the past.

“Archives are often the building blocks of original research,” says Richard Wragg, the University’s Special Collections Manager. “As centres of learning, it’s essential that universities develop collections, not only to further our understanding of the past, but to help train the researchers of the future. This fantastic resource means that our students have access to unique and precious collections and can explore them through seminars and independent study.”

There are more than 70 collections in the care of the University. They include the papers of Leonard and Virginia Woolf, personal correspondence of Rudyard Kipling, an archive of German-Jewish life from several different sources, and the much-loved Mass Observation Project: an ongoing collection of personal diaries that has captured the lives of people in Britain since the 1930s.

Among the most recent acquisitions by the University is the archive of the late Jeremy Hutchinson QC, Baron Hutchinson of Lullington, who died in 2017 at the age of 102. He was one of the most high-profile criminal defence barristers of the 20th century and said to be the character inspiration for John Mortimer’s 1970s television series *Rumpole of the Bailey*.



In a long and celebrated career, Hutchinson’s clients included Christine Keeler, who was tried for perjury during the Profumo affair. He also represented the infamous cannabis smuggler Howard Marks, the art forger Thomas Keating, and the MI6 spy George Blake, who was convicted in 1961 for being a double agent working for the Soviet Union.

Most notably, Hutchinson was part of the team that successfully defended Penguin Books for publishing D. H. Lawrence’s *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* in 1960. The novel had been printed in France and Italy since 1928 but, because of its preponderance of sexual references and lewd four-letter words, had been banned in England. Hutchinson looked to the support of the literary establishment, including writers such as

E. M. Forster and Cecil Day-Lewis, to be witnesses for the defence on the grounds of the novel’s cultural and literary importance. The archive contains a letter to Hutchinson from the poet John Betjeman, who wrote that Lawrence “is earthy but not in the least salacious.”

The acquittal of Penguin Books (by a jury which unusually included three women) not only led to a change in the UK Obscenity Laws but was seen as a watershed moment for literary and sexual liberalism.

The novel went on to sell three million copies in its first year of publication and Hutchinson was hailed a hero. The archive contains an original 1928 copy signed by Lawrence and given to Hutchinson by his mother, Mary, with the inscription: “To Jeremy, in remembrance and honour of the great victory and your part in it. Old Baily October-November 1960.”

“One of the interesting aspects of the Hutchinson archive is that it’s a family collection, with documents and correspondence from all manner of significant figures of the 20th century,” says Richard.

Hutchinson’s father, St John, was also a QC and was, coincidentally, giving D. H. Lawrence advice in 1917 when a selection of Lawrence’s poems was confiscated by the authorities.

Mary Hutchinson was a writer on the fringes of the so-called Bloomsbury Group and known to have had a lengthy affair with Virginia Woolf’s brother-in-law, Clive Bell. The archive contains correspondence with Vanessa and Clive Bell at Charleston, along with T. S. Eliot and Aldous Huxley.

In 1940 Hutchinson, then a Royal Navy officer, married the actress Peggy Ashcroft after introducing himself to her when she was appearing at Theatre Royal Brighton. Peggy had been married twice before and was seven years Jeremy’s senior. The archive includes largely unseen correspondence between Hutchinson and Ashcroft from the war years, during which she wrote about the birth of their daughter, Eliza, detailed her theatre work with the likes of John Gielgud, and hoped for her husband’s safe return from war.

In fact, in 1941, while serving under Lord Mountbatten, Hutchinson was a signals operator on board the destroyer HMS Kelly when it was sunk by a German bomber. He was lucky to survive as half the crew perished. The tragedy is said to have inspired *In Which We Serve*, the 1942 film drama directed by playwright Noël Coward, who was also a family friend.

The archive has significant overlaps with the University’s existing archives, particularly those related to the Bloomsbury Group, which is invaluable for scholars and researchers looking to piece together the past.

“New acquisitions such as this can further the work of academics near and far,” says Richard. “They also complement our existing collections and, of course, the record of the University of Sussex’s own story. Through them, impactful research takes place.” ■



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What an oral history
project of the scale,
depth and humanity
of Sisterhood & After
can teach us is the
power of coalitions –
across class, race, sexuality,
gender – of overcoming
pride and polarisation.



MARGARETTA JOLLY
FROM 'HISTORY LESSONS'
PAGES 36-38



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