Welcome to the Connector Zine 2022! This is a collaborative project showcasing creative pieces made by Student and Staff Connectors reflecting their community, local area, or experience working with the Connector Programme.

This piece was created by the Co-Creation team who spent an afternoon crafting together. They expressed their individual styles through different mediums and combined this to create something that they felt represented their work and community.

The piece also features a special guest! Josslyn (Deborah’s daughter) who joined the team for the afternoon and carefully coloured in the first C.
'Being a student and a Connector at Sussex has taught me to push my boundaries and be inspired by the community at Sussex, but it takes empathy and commitment, which can be demanding at times.

I have discovered that self-care might be waiting for you through creativity, on your windowsill, on your desk, or just outside the door.'

_Cristina Văduva_
Field notes

Down South Downs,
The feathers are gulls which
Swoop and snatch and
OFF the crown flies-
Crashing down into the rolling pillows.

The Beasts’ hum awakens the sun
But the AMEX glow surrenders to none.
Reinforcements flood the Castle slopes and the
Sirens screech with skeletal ire.

Yet as the Moon nurses in the North field,
Luck springs from every brier.
A kind wave and a chance encounter
brings gentle Heather to an expensive Checkout Counter.

‘This poem reflects my time at Sussex. From experiencing seagulls trying to steal my food and waking up to early cow moos, to living on campus or in dorms. I think the bunnies hopping around campus is definitely one of my highlights, as is visiting the nearby castles such as Lewes, Arundel, and Bodiam, and the pier!’

Yonnie Pang
‘Sussex’s campus is often a main reason for students and staff being drawn to study or work at the university and it was certainly one of the reasons I loved Sussex as a student, and decided to stay as a staff member. I wanted to encapsulate the beauty and intricacies of the architecture with a medium that really highlights the tiniest of details, like the brickwork, as well as the abstract shapes of the buildings. I have created a series of lino prints of some of my favourite buildings on campus.’

Maddie Appleby

More prints available on Instagram: @madapplegraphics
'While thinking of ideas for this project, I was flipping through my old journals, which I made throughout my time at University. I decided to try to fit as many of my memories as I could on one page.

I wanted it to recreate that feeling of being transported from one memory to another, both the highs and lows, like when I was flipping through my journal.'

Rose Geistel
I’ve seen the sights of Japan…
Marvelled at every beautiful sunset,
Revelling in the hues of pink, orange, yellow and blue that filled the evening skies,
And watched contently as each colour exploded in a dance across the Japanese sea.

I’ve seen the sights of Japan…
Dreamt underneath the starry skyline,
Finding solace in the night sky,
And all the twinkling rocks that outnumber every thought, idea and desire we’ll ever have over this lifetime.

On the flight back home, I pondered in perplexity of all this:
Finding familiarity in the unfamiliar;
The feeling of the distant and untold becoming nearer and known.

How particularly strange it is that somewhere foreign and far can feel so much like home.
And how Brighton, though once some other, is now my own.
‘Springtime on campus is a joyous time, when the dim grey afternoons are replaced by warm sunshine and colourful flowers. A look at Sussex from close up in the spring gives a different perspective on our beautiful campus.’

Thomas Day
The One that works inside - How Nature impacts me within?

I see nature as a companion, a superhero even. And with this superhero comes superpowers that nurture hope, inspiration, and peace into my daily life! Now, you may be curious as to how a few trees and birds could conjure up such emotions. Well, to find out, why not have a read as I express how nature impacts me within!

Hope has never been an easy emotion for me to attain, especially in the midst of a national lockdown. 2020 saw me lose a relationship, friendships and even myself, plaguing my mind with anxiety and sorrow – I felt hopeless. I could no longer live like this and so I decided that perhaps a habitual stroll to Brighton beach would do me some good. So, my journey began and as I rested on the pebbles near the shoreline something extraordinary happened. The wonderous blue sea and soaring seagulls made me more Intune with my emotions, allowing me to see the bigger picture. I realised that the same way seagulls ready their wings to take flight in search for new feeding spots, I too can ready my emotional wings and soar into the distance in search of life-changing solutions. The beach gives me hope and I will never forget that!

Inspiration for my future career came from nature as well. This inspiration started at a young age where I would watch countless nature documentaries on the connection between us and nature. From this constant visual experience with nature, helping the people and the planet became a passion and hence, a future career of mine! However, with all passions, at times it seems to disappear as it is constantly buried under the weight of living. Nonetheless, as I look at my evergreen house plants, my passion is reignited once again and so nature continues to inspire me!

Peace cultivated from nature not only transpires through the visual experience, but from the sounds of nature as well. I learnt this a few months back when I started listening to soothing music while I read and journaled. I quickly realised that the music which gave me such peace were always bursting with the melodies of birds busily singing, trees swaying in a summer breeze and instruments like flutes and oboes being orchestrated by the wind. Such natural symphonies have made my days more comforting and given me more mental clarity when issues arise – Nature brings me peace!

To end, it is clear that nature holds a special place in my heart as without it, life would not be the same. I would not be as hopeful, inspired, and peaceful if it were not for mother nature. Now, if nature enriches my life, then I am sure it could do the same for yours. So, why don’t we get out more and dive into nature as maybe…. Just maybe, we all could be impacted by nature from within!

Rhyen Codrington
About the Cover Page

Now that you have completely flipped through the Zine, you may have noticed the continuous theme of community at Sussex. We aimed to portray that throughout all the pieces in this Zine, and especially with the cover page. The cover page was designed by Georgia McLarnon, who describes the meaning behind it through saying:

‘The different colours represent the different communities who work for the Connector Programme, with the face being left blank, so that any face belonging to the Connector Programme can be projected onto the face.’

Thank you to all of our Connector Contributors

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How Students and Staff make positive change together

The Connector Programme sees students and staff working as **equal partners**, collaborating to improve the student experience at Sussex.

Meet our Connectors and find out more about the Connector Programme

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