

THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

THE SUSS-EX CLUB

FORMER STAFF NEWSLETTER NO. 2

JULY 2006

Welcome to this second edition of the newsletter of our association for former Sussex staff - now to be known as the Suss-Ex Club. That decision was made by the Steering Group, acting as an interim committee, chaired by former Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Gordon Conway.

This currently comprises:

Gordon Conway (Chairman), Bob Benewick, David Betts, Valerie Cromwell, Mike English, Jackie Fuller, Christine Glasson, Charles Goldie, "Kenny" Kenefick, Willie Lamont, Mike Land, Steve Pavey, Adrian Peasgood, Jennifer Platt and Ken Wheeler

The Steering Group is supported by Richard Price (Staff Welfare Officer) and the Development & Alumni Relations Office (Dominic Tickell – Director, Marina Pedreira-Vilarino – Deputy Director, and Roger Walkinton)

The aim is to wind the Group up and replace it by some more formal and democratically composed committee structure when further progress has been made in contacting potential members and getting initial activities launched.

The Club is open to all former staff of the University, whether they left before retirement or have retired, and whether their posts were academic, manual, technical or clerical. Please check with all former colleagues with whom you are still in touch that they are on the circulation list for this newsletter. If they are not, but would like to be, please ask them to contact the Development & Alumni Relations Office, Bramber House, Falmer BN1 9QU who will be happy to add their names and addresses (postal and email) to the list.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

In order to give the Club some working funds, the Steering Group proposes that an annual subscription be levied, probably initially of £10 per member (and with provision for partners). That would pay for mailings and other running expenses, and also enable the Club to hold the occasional activity such as a Christmas party at no further charge for members.

However, that will not come into action until the lists of potential members are fuller, and activities have developed and it is clearer what members would like to do.

PROPOSED SUSS-EX CLUB ACTIVITIES:

The Steering Group is planning an initial programme of events and activities, but many other possibilities could emerge; it is up to the members to propose activities they would be interested in – and to volunteer to help organise them, pass on names of useful contacts, etc. A so far very tentative programme for the next few months may look like this:

2006

week of 18 Sept	Brighton Theatre Royal – Alan Bennett’s “Habeas Corpus” [see page 5 for urgent form]
October	Gym activity [see page 6]
?Oct/Nov	talk by Gordon Conway on “Life after Sussex – Philanthropy and the Civil Service” – possibly held informally in IDS
?Nov	Dinner in Sussex?
late Nov/Dec	Christmas party

2007

?May	Visit to Chartwell or Wakehurst Place
?Summer	Wildlife or historical guided walk on the Downs
?Nov	Dinner with speaker at the House of Lords

Please indicate your likely interest on the form attached, so that we can assess whether or not to run them, and so that you can be contacted when arrangements become firmer.

OTHER BENEFITS:

In addition to this programme of events and activities, it has been arranged that Suss-Ex Club members will also:

- Receive Falmer (the alumni magazine, twice a year by post).
- Receive Sussex lectures leaflet (three times a year by post).
- Receive a former-staff newsletter by email.
- Have access to a special page on the Sussex website.
- Have access to alumni/staff benefits (www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/benefits)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: ARCHIVE WORK IN LIBRARY

Do you have about a day a week to help us in the University of Sussex archives? We need 1 or 2 people who would be able to commit some time on a regular basis to sort and list papers relating to the early days of the University.

In the first instance, we would like volunteers to assist in the production of a database of all interviews already done with former University staff. This would include details about copyright, access, privacy, description of content, key words and biographical details. The information would provide a good basis for developing an oral history project, identifying key interviewees and planning further interviews.

More long term archival projects might include: indexing of the University's photographic collection, sorting the papers of the first VC, working through the published material (guides, prospectuses, reports, student newspapers) checking for gaps and duplications.

We are experienced “users” of volunteer help in Special Collections and volunteers would join a friendly and supportive team. Familiarity with the University's history is a key asset but it would also be useful to have basic database and word processing skills although advice and supervision would be provided.

If you are interested please contact either

Dorothy Sheridan

d.e.sheridan@sussex.ac.uk

tel. 01273 877831

or

Fiona Courage

f.p.courage@sussex.ac.uk

Tel 01273 877911

ALUMNI HOST SCHEME

Would you host an international student?

The Alumni Host Scheme is a joint venture between the Development and Alumni Relations Office and the International and Study Abroad Office. The scheme, launched in 2004, brings together international students and members of the local alumni community in order to help the former become more immersed in British life, promote cultural exchange and enable friendships to develop.

The scheme has proven so successful among both students and alumni that we are now welcoming current and former members of staff, as well as alumni from the London area, to take part in it.

To find out more information about the Alumni Host Scheme or to sign up to become a host, please visit: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/alumni/pages/host_scheme_info.html

THE SUSS-EX CLUB 2006-7

Please indicate your likely interest in any of the activities suggested below.

NAME.....

ACTIVITIES:

	Theatre trips
	Gym
	Gordon Conway and similar talks
	Christmas Party
	Dinners with speakers
	Stately home/garden visits
	Historical/wildlife/architectural walks
	Pub Quizzes
	Greyhound racing
	Horse racing

Any other suggestions? Offers of organisational help?.....
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If you know of anyone who you believe has not yet been contacted about the Suss-Ex Club and who qualifies, please ask them also to complete this form, also giving their name and address below.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....
.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

Role/dates (approx) at University.....

Please return this form to the Development & Alumni Relations Office, University of Sussex, Bramber House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QU or email r.e.walkinton@sussex.ac.uk

Theatre trip?

Alan Bennett's Habeas Corpus ('action-packed comedy set in Brighton...') is on at the Theatre Royal in the week starting Sept. 18; would you be interested in joining a Suss Ex party to see it? We can get a group reduction on the price of tickets for Monday to Thursday if at least ten people want to go. With the reduction, goodish seats would cost £19 each for evening (£14 for matinee), and those are suggested because the next cheapest are only £2 less and start at the rear of the second circle.

A booking will need to be made very soon to ensure that tickets are available; your money then has to be sent in time for the total bill to be paid by Aug. 18th. If interested, **please let me know at once** (by e mail to j.platt@sussex.ac.uk), using the table below: just delete 'OK' for any days when you would not be free, number those when you are free in order of preference, and put in the number of tickets wanted.

	Mon Sep 18	Tues Sep 19	Weds Sep 20	Thurs 2.30 matinee	Thurs 7.45
	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Preference?					
How many?					

Name.....

Address.....

Email and telephone.....

On the basis of replies received by July 12, I will make a booking for the time most preferred, ask those who are coming to send me a cheque, and give you details of the practical arrangements. I will also notify any whose times could not be covered. Of course if it does not work out so that any booking can be made I will inform everyone.

Please indicate if you would also be interested to have a pre-theatre meal, possibly at the Strand restaurant next door to the theatre YES / NO

Jennifer Platt.

Keep fit, look good? Gym possibilities

Two possible activities have been tentatively arranged with SussexSport for this autumn:

- an induction session for the Fitness Room at the Falmer Sports Complex. This would be held in groups of up to 6, at a time to be arranged, in September.
- an exercise class for the over-50s, to be held at the Sport Centre (by Falmer House) in a morning time slot in the autumn term; this would only run if there were at least 10 takers. To appear in the general course timetable they need to know almost immediately if there is enough demand - hence the request below for a very swift reply. However, it might still be possible to organise something later if enough people show interest.

To attend the induction class, you have to have signed up for a year's membership, which costs us £18.50; that then entitles you to use the Fitness Room at a charge of £2.20 per session. The exercise class would probably cost £3.50 per session.

Those rates are the ones for retired staff; in order to receive them, you need to have a university ID card. If you do not have one, Personnel tell me that you can get one by asking for it at the Reprographic unit in the Hastings Building, which is open 9.30-1 and 2-4.30; if you have an old card, ring Keith Hunt on x 3278 to ask about using that.

If you are interested in either of these activities, please fill in the slip below, ticking the appropriate box(es), and return it as soon as possible to j.platt@sussex.ac.uk. (If you have any comments or constraints, please note those.) I will let those interested in the exercise class know the outcome as soon as I can; the induction can wait until September.

I would like to attend a Fitness Room induction class in September	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to attend an exercise class in the autumn term.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name.....

Address.....

Jennifer Platt