

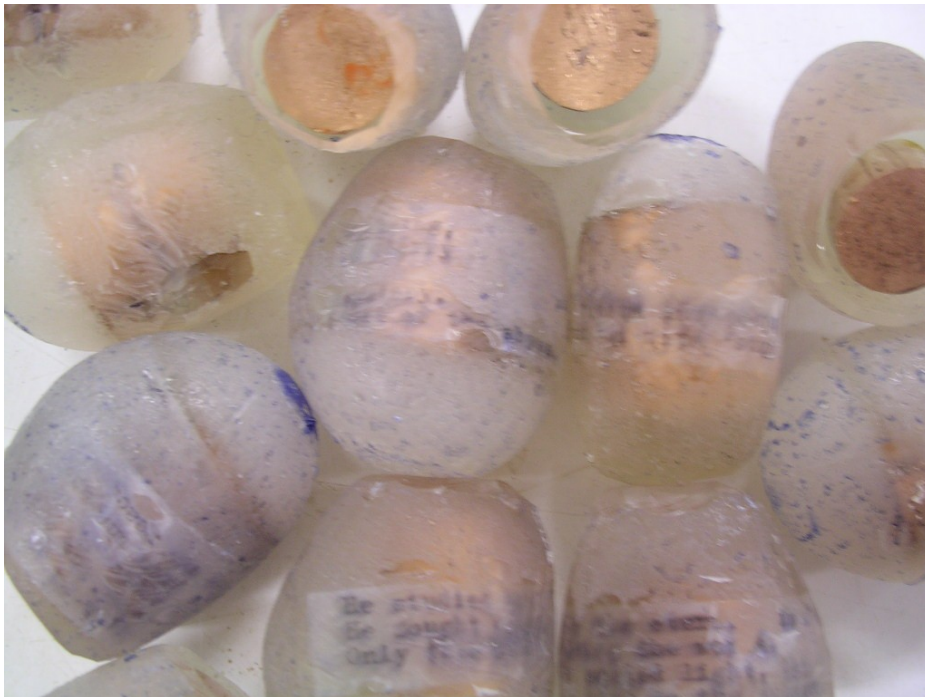
Geography

Newsletter 7 Spring 2005

Department of Geography
University of Sussex



Art meets Science in Geography



Johanna Berger, a practising artist in Brighton, has spent some of the last term in the Geography Department looking at what we do, attending lectures, talking to staff and students, and seeking inspiration for new works.

She has produced two very different pieces of work; one is a drawing of Everest, in keeping with her interest in and previous paintings of mountains. A second work involves the resin pebbles used by Uwe Dornbusch in his work into coastal erosion processes as part of the BAR project. The resin pebbles with copper plugs are released onto various stretches of the coast here and in France.

Johanna has inserted fragments of love poems into some of these pebbles (pictured here), and they may now be lying on a beach near you, waiting to be found!

Contents

- 2 Study leave
Dirty weekends
GIS
- 3 The quality of Geography courses at Sussex
And where are you from?
- 5 Greetings from the Deep South
Geography Ball
- 6 Downland homes by the Sea
Seychelles publication for students
- 7 People
- 8 Publications

If a current application to the Arts Council is successful, Johanna will be in the Department again next term, producing more work, and among other things, attending part of the Morocco field trip to the Atlas Mountains. We look forward to seeing more of her work inspired by Geography at Sussex.

So what DO people do on research leave?

This is what Mick Frogley admits to...

"You'll be delighted to hear that I've been relishing the unfamiliar 'freedom' of a research term and, despite rumours from some quarters of enjoying far too much Trisha and similar day-time TV treats, have in fact been pretty busy writing up papers and getting a grant application submitted to expand my research work in the Peruvian Andes. I've also been able to spend a week in a basement of the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge photographing a load of dead Greek snails for yet another paper (my, don't I lead an enviably exotic lifestyle?), which will - finally! - be the last significant bit of my PhD to be published.

Other stuff includes being invited to attend a four-day workshop at the University of Hull on Balkan environmental change (at which I gave a talk on Quaternary palaeoenvironmental variability) and attending a conference at the British Geological Survey in Nottingham on the use of isotopes in the geological record, at which I presented two posters. Trisha's crap, anyway - a daily dose of Bargain Hunt is much more diverting."



Mick's theories on Quaternary palaeoenvironmental variability never cease to impress

Dirty Weekenders!



It's not what it sounds like! The Dirty Weekenders are a conservation group on campus who organise fortnightly task days to local nature reserves. We've had a busy autumn term around Sussex clearing scrub, fighting alien rhododendrons, and eating a LOT of baked potatoes! Wardens have entertained us with their big beards, Morris dancing displays and walking on fire (practically); while pyromaniac Mike (our treasurer) has sung, danced and herded sheep in the sun, rain and snow...all in the name of conservation.

In the spring term there'll be more conservation task days in Uckfield, Castle Hill, Devils Dyke and the downs as well as a fantastic cider drinking, dungaree wearing, hay-chewing barn dance/ceildh! This fundraising event will be on Friday 4th Feb (to be

confirmed) so keep your eye out for posters and ticket sales (£3).

We're always looking for new members so please get in touch if you are interested in joining us. We're a very friendly bunch and have a real diversity of members; so young or old, student or tutor, come and join us - even if you just want to sit by the fire and look at the views. We usually go out on a Saturday (9-5) and it's £5 to join for the year which includes transport to tasks.

For more information or to get involved please contact **Amy Francis**: acf21@sussex.ac.uk

French GIS students visit Sussex

Richard Charman recently organised a visit by a group of Masters students from the University of Rouen, who were keen to find out about GIS at the University. Mick Dunford welcomed the group to the Geography Resource Centre, and lunch was followed by talks and demonstrations by DPhil students from the Geography department. Those involved were Charlie Williams, Sarah McKenzie, Tamsin Watts and Richard himself.

The quality of Geography courses at Sussex

Last year, the Department of Geography began rolling out our new curriculum with a new First Year programme. A large part of this year's audit report, which you can find pinned to Cathérine Senger's door (C167) and on the Geography website at <http://www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/undergraduate/audit/>, therefore considers the success of our new First Year. The good news is that, not only have we maintained our already high scores for year one, but we also seem to have improved upon them. It is also pleasing to see that, despite all the hard work on our new curriculum, we have maintained the high standards on Second and Third Year courses.

It is very difficult to write an interesting Audit report and, once again, I have failed in this regard. So, below is a list of highlights. These detail the best performing courses in each year on our programme based upon combined scores of teaching quality and overall impressions:

Top First Year Courses:

1. The Dynamic Earth
2. Environmental Management and Sustainable Development

Top Second Year Courses:

1. Environmental Management and Sustainable Development
2. Social and Cultural Geography

Top Field Trip:

Kenya

Top Five Final Year Courses:

1. Historical Geographies of South Africa
2. Migration in Japan and East Asia
3. Geographies of Resistance
4. Rural Change in Britain

5. Agricultural Development in the Third World.

The report that you can see now concerns the academic year 2003-2004. Don't forget though that Final Year options and field trips vary year on year, and the course that you may be interested in might not have run in this academic year. Cathérine has all of the previous Audit Reports if you want to find out about a particular course that does not appear in the current report.

To demonstrate that we also take your qualitative comments into account, here are some of the most noteworthy:

"9.00-10.00 am is NOT a good time to learn about the thoughts of some dead bloke who coloured-in some maps"

"4.00-6.00 pm is NOT a good time to learn about a long-dead microscopic mollusc"

"I wasn't actually on this course. I just fell asleep in the lecture before. But he wouldn't let me leave when I woke up. He just kept banging on about colonial discourse or something, so I don't think it's very good at all"

"I have many problems with this course: I can't park my car at this time of day, the spatial configuration of the lecture theatre promotes bad energy, the person sitting next to me snored, and the lecturer had haircut issues"

"I just don't think it's dignified or appropriate that a 40-year old should wear a T-shirt like that".

Simon Rycroft

And where are you from?

How many times did you have to answer this question in your first few weeks at University? Part of the richness of the university experience is mixing with people from other places.

But do geography students travel further afield to go to University than other students? It might be expected that students studying geography would have a wider worldview, and might therefore look to studying further away from home.

In an attempt to find this out undergraduate geographers were invited to name their hometown or country. 150 students responded – a more than 50% response rate. The results were compared with 2003 figures for the university as a whole - (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/sso/studata/digest/dig2004/>) - and show some interesting variations. 40% of those UK Geographers replying are from the South East compared with 50.4% across the University; 15.3% from London (27.1) and 20.4% from Sussex, including Brighton and Hove (25.7).

(cont.....)

So it may indeed be the case that more students have travelled further to study Geography at Sussex than other subjects. However, only two who replied are from Wales, and the furthest north anyone hails from is Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with no Geographers from Ireland or Scotland.

13 of the respondents (8.7%) are from outside the UK- Belgium (3), Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland (2), Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Thailand, USA and Zimbabwe.

Some people had things to say about their origins. Did you know that Devon rocks? That Cornwall is the lower left earlobe of the country? (??). That one lucky student rather apologetically gave their place of origin as Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, and that a native of Worthing says it's full of old people by day and drunk children by night (there's a Frogley joke there somewhere....).

Here is the list of UK hometowns – as you can see, Sussex Geographers are all over the place!

County	Town		
Bedfordshire	Biggleswade		Tunbridge Wells
	Dunstable		Whitstable
	Flitwick	Lincolnshire	Louth
Berkshire	Newbury	London	
	Wokingham	Manchester	
Bristol	Bristol	Middlesex	Enfield
Cambridgeshire	Guyhirn	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	
	Peterborough	Norfolk	Cromer
	Toft		Norwich
Ceredigion	New Quay		Tuttington
Channel Islands	Guernsey	Oxford	
Cornwall	Truro	Rutland	Oakham
Devon	Barnstaple	Somerset	Weston-super-Mare
	Dunsford	Staffordshire	Perton
	Holsworthy	Suffolk	Felixstowe
	Plymouth		Ipswich
	Sidmouth	Surrey	Newmarket
	Westward Ho!		Byfleet
			Caterham
Essex	Chelmsford		Guildford
	Colchester		Kew
	Epping		Reigate
	Kirby-le-Soken		Sutton
	Leigh	Sussex	Balcombe
	Southend-on-Sea		Barcombe
			Brighton
Gloucestershire	Stroud		Burgess Hill
Hampshire	Tewkesbury		Crawley
	Alton		Crowborough
	Basingstoke		Denton
	Fareham		Eastbourne
	Gosport		Hartfield
	Hythe		Haywards Heath
	Portsmouth		Horsham
	Timsbury		Hove
	Warsash		South Heighton
Winchester		St Leonards-on-Sea	
Hertfordshire	Brookman's Park		Uckfield
	Hoddesdon		Wivelsfield Green
	Watford		Worthing
Kent	Falconwood		
	Farnborough	Swansea	
	Gillingham	Wiltshire	Great Cheverell
	Hawkinge		Melksham
	Maidstone		Salisbury
	Orpington	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove

Greetings from the 'deep south'

Tony Binns left Sussex this autumn to take up the post of Head of Department in the University of Otago.

I have been in New Zealand for just over 2 months. Settling into life and work here has taken much of that time and I have certainly found it to be a steep learning curve. But with a warm welcome and generous support and hospitality, I feel that things are coming together.

It is late spring here and the weather changes dramatically even in the space of a single day. As an undergraduate at Sheffield, I recollect tackling (not very well!) an exam question on the influence of Antarctica on the southern continents. Living in NZ, it is all too apparent that a vast ocean surrounds the country and the southerly winds are certainly the ones to avoid. Last week we experienced an earthquake, with a strength of 7.2, and an epicentre just off the southwest coast of South Island. At first there was a rumble- I thought my colleague next door was moving her books! But then the whole building shook, and I encountered the entire Law Department exiting quickly by the main staircase. Talk about dynamic earth!



The University of Otago is New Zealand's oldest university, founded in 1869. It has over 19,000 students and, in addition to the main campus in Dunedin, there are also satellite campuses in

Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. The University is particularly renowned for its medical and dental school.

Dunedin is often called 'the Edinburgh of the south', established by Scottish settlers from the 1840s. There is Princes' Street and Moray Place, and suburbs such as Portobello and Waverley. (In fact, I am living in Waverley, with a view of the Pacific through the kitchen window). The 'Water of Leith' runs through the Botanical Gardens and then the University Campus and down to the harbour. The founding fathers from 'Auld Reekie' erected a large statue of Robert Burns overlooking the city's central square, known as The Octagon. Dunedin has a population of about 150,000, but with so many students (there is also a Polytechnic and College of Education), it is quite a lively place with a vibrant atmosphere similar to Brighton.

Geography is a popular subject in the University, with over 300 undergraduates, about 40 Master's students on three programmes, and about the same number of DPhil students. With several new appointments in recent years, there are now 13 academic staff and 7 support staff. The academic year here ends in mid-December, and many students have already drifted away. But there has been much discussion and planning for the new academic year, which starts at the end of February. I shall be teaching on a number of undergraduate courses, supervising postgraduates and taking part in the field class in April, which is based at Greymouth on the west coast of the South Island, known for its high rainfall and coal mining. I will be attending the International Development Studies Conference in Auckland in early December, which should enable me to make some useful new contacts.

I am looking forward to exploring this beautiful country. But I am also keen to maintain my strong links with colleagues and students at Sussex.

Tony Binns
November 2004

The Geography Ball 2005

We only have 6 months till our geography ball next year so if anyone is interested in helping us to organise this important and exciting event please get in touch! So far only two of us are involved in planning the event and we would love some extra help and ideas! We're considering fancy dress (maybe as characters/people from around the world) and wonder about holding the event on the Pier. If you have any suggestions or would like to take part in the planning please contact me.. Remember, it is your geography ball and we want to make it a good one!

Helen Sloper
hds21@sussex.ac.uk

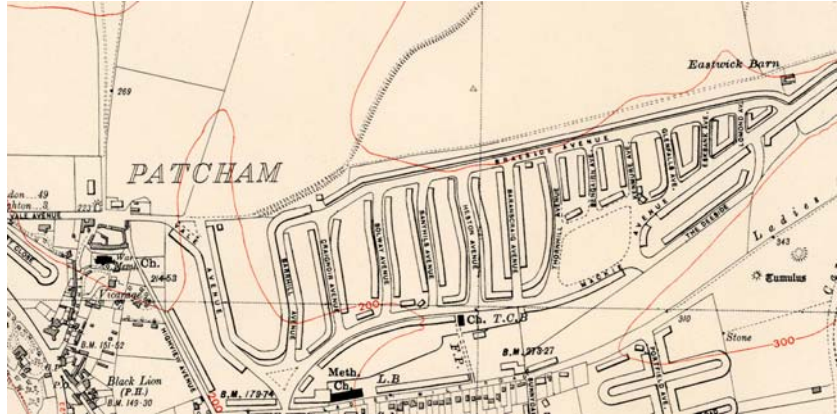


Geography Ball 2004

‘Downland Homes by the Sea’ [1932 estate sales brochure]

With D.Phil colleagues studying exotic spots such as the Congo Basin and the ancient woodlands of Ebernoe Common, I sometimes feel like the poor relation in that I am looking at that most exciting of UK landscape forms...the interwar suburb! And not even one that requires copious travel bursaries, as it is just over the hill from Stanmer Park in Brighton’s northern outpost of Patcham. In fact the bulk of my research area can be viewed (but not in great comfort) from my bathroom window, high up in Hollingbury Heights (not a recognised description of this post-war council estate).

I am looking at the rate of building between the wars and comparing streets in my core area of central Patcham with the rates in Patcham parish as a whole. This was a boom area, especially after 1932, and I am hoping to find some correlation with government housing policies and the numbers built in any one year. All areas are unique (even Thirties suburbs) so I will be looking at local events and landscape features, field shapes, patterns of landownership etc., which further influenced the district’s development.



Patcham 1938 (Sussex Sheet 53SW, 1920, rev 1938)

This is all standard geographers’ fare, but I have been fortunate in stumbling on an (as yet) unexploited archive located deep in the bowels of Hove Town Hall in the offices of Building Control; there resides a card index system that lists permissions granted to build and extend, add and embellish every single property in the city of Brighton and Hove. These hand written cards carry information from 1865 until the system was computerised this century (coinciding with staff cuts ...hence no one has input the cards into the city database...)! I have been given access to these (subject to monitoring) by the head of Building Control and I am steadily working my way street by street through the parish noting the fine detail of suburban development. This all sounds good so far except the office has filing cabinets galore, but no desk, so my laptop is just that - on my lap! And with no windows and a noisy corridor it is hardly like working in the hushed halls of the Bodleian, however the nice ladies in the next office supply me with copious mugs of tea and I take in the Maryland cookies! Every Wednesday morning since March I have spent 4 hours here, sifting through the fine detail of urban development in what has been a strangely addictive quest...I really must get out more...now where is Ebernoe Common...?

Geoffrey Mead
Sussex Institute, and Geography DPhil student

Seychelles research results in publication for Sussex geography students



Nick Lee and Helen Burgess (both BSc 2004) achieved more than they expected on their field trip to the Seychelles in 2003. The research they did on the Silhouette sheath-tailed bat has been published in the latest issue of *Phelsuma*, together with Helen’s excellent photo of the rare species, shown again here.

Burgess, H. & Lee, N. 2004. A behavioural study of the Silhouette sheath-tailed bat (*Coleura seychellensis*), *Phelsuma*, 12, 69-77.

People

Richard Black.....

ran the Dublin Marathon this term in 4 hours, 13 minutes, coming in 4,113th raising a total of £1711 for the UK Brain Tumour Society. Please contact Richard on R.Black@sussex.ac.uk if you wish to sponsor him retrospectively.



Uwe Dornbusch and Cherith Moses...

Recently attended the latest SCOPAC (www.scopac.org.uk) conference where they presented a poster outlining the BAR project research.

SCOPAC's (Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coast) aim is to promote sustainable shoreline management, and to facilitate the duties and responsibilities of local authorities and other organisations managing the coastal zone in Dorset, Hampshire, and West Sussex.

Richard Charman...

explained his research on the STONE project to a large audience at the recent Ouse Valley symposium. This was organised by Sussex University Centre for Continuing Education with the aim of bringing together current research in the Valley.

Fae Dussart...

joins the department in January as a Postdoctoral research assistant on Alan Lester's Leverhulme funded project, 'Colonial Circuits and Connections: Settler and Humanitarian Politics in the Cape Colony, New South Wales and New Zealand, c.1820-c.1860'. She has just completed her PhD at UCL on notions of domestic service in Britain and India during the nineteenth century.

Tony Grindrod.....

will be interviewing in March for two Ph.D. studentships to continue the work on a GIS for the US/Mexico border. Applicants for the grants, which commence in January 2006, should have a good

Earth Sciences degree, some experience of GIS and preferably some proficiency in Spanish.

The good news is that the grants are for 42 months – the bad news is that you have to spend the first year in universities in the San Francisco area, the second year in London and the third year in Los Angeles!! Contact Tony on A.Grindrod@sussex.ac.uk for further details.

Russell King.....

had the hardest term of his life during the autumn term, balancing the demands of taking over as the new head of department with ongoing teaching and research commitments and editing the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. Nevertheless, he managed to break the chains tying him to his desk in C328 on three occasions, travelling to

- Bedford, to give a lecture to the local Geographical Association on the new map of European migration (commemorating 30 years since he did his first-ever migration research, on the Italian community in that town);
- Rome, for the European Association for Population Studies conference, where he gave a paper on Albanian migration; and
- Coimbra (Portugal) to chair a series of migration workshops on 'gender, family, age and generations' within the first annual conference of the EU Network of Excellence on Immigration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE)

He looks forward to a somewhat easier time now that Simon Rycroft has been appointed deputy head of department, with responsibility for the departmental teaching committee and associated undergraduate curriculum matters.

Dominic Kniveton.....

Although it's old news, Dominic's big adventure in the Democratic Republic of Congo is worth minuting on these pages. If you want to relive the excitement, full details of his law-breaking, cross-dressing trip can be seen at

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin/22oct04/article13.shtml. Maybe next time he can arrange to get left behind in a dangerous country just before a newsletter is due. It is very irritating when the Brighton Evening Argus gets a Geography story first.

Roy Maconachie...

Congratulations to Roy who recently completed his DPhil thesis entitled 'Sustainability Under Threat?: urban pressure and land degradation in the Kano close-settled zone, Nigeria'. Roy is staying on at Sussex with a 2 year Leverhulme fellowship based at IDS, and will be working with Melissa Leach on 'Decentralization, institutions and wetlands: Sierra Leone.'

Publications

Mick Frogley

Frogley, M.R. and Preece, R.C. (2004). A faunistic review of the modern and fossil molluscan fauna from Lake Pamvotis, Ioannina, an ancient lake in NW Greece: implications for endemism in the Balkans. In: Griffiths, H.I. et al. (eds.), *Balkan Biodiversity*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, pp. 243-260.

Griffiths, H.I. and Frogley, M.R. (2004). Fossil ostracods, faunistics and the evolution of regional biodiversity. In: Griffiths, H.I. et al. (eds.), *Balkan Biodiversity*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, pp. 261-272.

Russell King

King, R. and Mai, N. (2004) Albanian immigrants in Lecce and Modena: narratives of rejection, survival and integration, *Population, Space and Place*, 10(6):455-477

Fonseca, M.L. and King, R. eds (2004) Migration in the Mediterranean Basin: Bridges and Margins, special issue of *Finisterra: Revista Portuguesa de Geografia*, 39(77):1-173

King, R. (2004) What mass emigration means for older people left behind: notes from the field in Albania, in Warnes, T. (ed.) *Older migrants in Europe*, Sheffield: Institute for Studies in Ageing, 66-70.

Alan Lester

Geographies of Colonial Philanthropy, with David Lambert, *Progress in Human Geography*, 28, 3, 2004, 320-41.

'Geographies of Colonialism', contribution to Roundtable discussion of Catherine Hall's Civilising Subjects, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 9, 2, 2004, 240-44.

'Trans-imperial Networks: Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand During the First Half of the Nineteenth Century', in A. Baker (ed) *Home and Colonial: A Celebration of Robin A. Butlin's Contribution to Historical Geography*, RGS-IBG Historical Geography Research Series, 2004, 125-38.

Job vacancy – help needed in the Geography Resource Centre

- Help needed one hour each term-time weekday to cover lunchtimes – can be job-shared. More hours are occasionally available for special projects
- Starting April 2005
- Tasks include map preservation and storage, database maintenance, general office duties....and more!
- The job would suit (a) first year Geography student(s) with an attention to detail, IT skills, the ability to work unsupervised and an interest in maps and people
- For more details contact Evelyn Dodds in the Resource Centre:
e.dodds@sussex.ac.uk

Geography Research Seminars

Seminars are held on Mondays in the Geography Resource Centre at 5.00-6.30. **All** welcome.

January

17th **Dominic Kniveton** (University of Sussex): Water & ecosystem resources in regional development: balancing societal needs and wants and natural resources systems' sustainability in international river basin systems.

24th **Mark Lloyd-Davies** (Queen Mary College, University of London): Cold-based glacial activity in the Allan Hills, Antarctica: evidence and preservation potential.

31st **Richard Black** (Sussex): Migration, poverty and inequality: a geographical perspective?

February

7th **Godfrey Yeung** (Sussex): 'Market Division' versus parallel trade in the beverage industry: has Coca-Cola lost the plot in China?

14th **Tony Fielding** (Sussex): What explains Japan's turnaround in 1990 from being a country of net emigration to being one of net immigration?

21st **Stephanie Barrientos** (IDS) and **Ben Rogaly** (Sussex): Employment practices in British agriculture: the case of the fresh produce chain

28th **Russell King** (Sussex): Tracking mobile students: drivers and barriers of UK students moving abroad

March

7th **Uwe Dornbusch** (Sussex): Beaches at Risk

April

25th **Charles Williams** and **Dimitra Charalampopoulou** (Sussex): DPhil research

May

9th **Tamsin Watt** and **Elinor Low** (Sussex) DPhil research

16th **Guldem Ozatagan** and **Mirela Barbu** (Sussex): DPhil research

23rd **Seung Woo Lee** and **Heung Jin Lee** (Sussex): DPhil research

Maps for your essay, project or thesis

Hazel Lintott, University Cartographer, will be demonstrating how to draw your own maps tailored specifically for your subject matter, on Wednesday January 19th, 10-11am, and Friday, January 21st, 3.30-4.30 in the Geography Resource Centre. All Geography undergrads and postgrads welcome. Please e-mail Hazel on h.c.lintott@sussex.ac.uk stating which demonstration you wish attend.

Nb: 1) *this is not GIS or a collection of pre-drawn maps.*
2) *both demonstrations cover the same material.*