

Operatic Start to 25th Anniversary

The first event in the 25th Anniversary Programme takes place on 11 and 12 January in the Butterworth Hall with the staging of an ambitious and unusual production of Gluck's opera *Orpheus and Eurydice* by the Joint School of Theatre Studies and the Music Centre. The production is inspired by a highly significant event in theatre history when Emile Jacques-Dalcroze and Adolphe Appia, two Swiss nationals, staged the opera in accordance with their new theories of dramatic presentation, lighting and movement in the Garden City of Hellerau near Dresden in 1913. Their production is widely credited with marking the birth of the modern stage and will form the subject of the latest of the Theatre History videos produced by Dr Richard Beacham of Theatre studies. The forthcoming production in the Butterworth Hall will be a unique opportunity to experience the origins of modern theatrical and operative style. Three Warwick graduates have prominent roles in *Orpheus*. Soloists Gaynor Keeble (*Orpheus*) and Kathryn Jenkin (*Eurydice*) are both Arts Education graduates, and the Designer, Peter McKintosh is a recent graduate of the Joint School of Theatre Studies. Gaynor Keeble currently sings with the Welsh National Opera and Kathryn Jenkin is a postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music. The production will be directed by Professor David Thomas from Theatre Studies and the Director of Music, Colin Touchin, will conduct the University Chamber Orchestra and Choir. The event received substantial sponsorship from SwissFest 700 (the body co-ordinating the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation) and the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation. There will also be a free public lecture on the background to this project in the Arts Centre Conference Room at 5 p.m. on January 12th and there will also be a special exhibition on the work of Adolphe Appia in the Arts Centre Foyer. Tickets for both nights are still available. Further details are available from the Arts Centre Box Office extension 3527.

Warwick in a Winter Wonderland

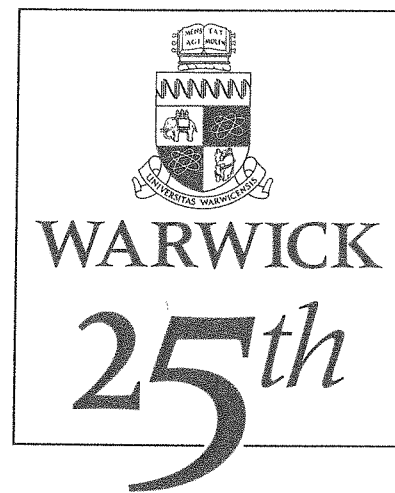
The sudden arrival of arctic conditions on the weekend of 8th and 9th December seems to have brought out a Dunkirk spirit (or should that be a Murmansk spirit!) amongst the staff, students, parents and conference delegates that found themselves stranded on campus by three foot snow drifts. Hundreds of students, many of whom had hoped to leave the previous day, sought help at Rootes reception ably manned in the crisis by the Head Housekeeper, Paula Burgess, and the Senior Assistant Housekeeper, Claire Foster and Christine Jakeman. Rootes Warden John Cunnington, and Sub-Warden, David Botterill, managed to find room at the inn for all who needed it. The major problem of providing food for all these unexpected guests was resolved when the Vice-Chancellor organized a "raid" on the campus store. Finance Officer and Cryfield Warden, Colin Brummitt, broke into the Campus Supermarket with the aid of a set of bolt cutters! The liberated food was then passed into the care of Manager of Conferences and Residences, David Wilson, who after walking in from Kenilworth found himself and two kitchen staff who had braved it through the snow cooking for about 1,000 people via a soup kitchen operated by John and Margaret Cunnington, Colin and Mary Brummitt and Suzanne Alexander, Warden of Jack Martin. The Estates cleaning staff virtually all made it to work despite the fact that some had a three hour walk into work and home again not easy when you consider that many of these ladies are over 60 years old!

The Army Arrives

Those who did make it in on Monday morning were surprised to find most of the internal pathways and roads were clear of ice or at least passable. This was due to the sterling efforts of the Estates Office team under John Jennings who with the help of two contracted JCBs worked long hours on the Saturday and Sunday clearing paths and obstructions. Special mention should go to estates worker Phil Harris who slept overnight in the Sports Pavilion on the Saturday night before starting work again at 6 a.m. the following morning! The security staff worked equally hard. Almost the full complement of security staff reported for work and along with their usual duties took on the running of the central telephone switchboard as none of the operators could get in. The Vice-Chancellor and Mrs Brundin were also to be seen out directing operations and helping in the clearing of Gibbet Hill Road. Army medics had to be brought in at one point when security man Norman Rennison suffered what at first was thought to be a heart attack. He was admitted to the Walsgrave Hospital and subsequently made a good recovery from his collapse.

Arctic in Arden

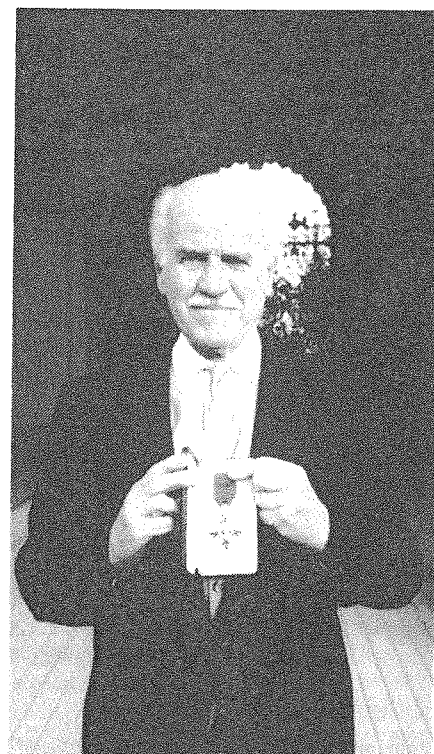
Arden House Manager, Stephen Crawford, along with five other staff Irene, Pat, Jan, Stacey and Bill, the night porter, coped with feeding and helping trapped conference guests including 14 who unexpectedly arrived on the Sunday morning. The Arden House roll of detainees also included four Boiler House staff who were stranded on campus all Saturday night and needed somewhere to stay. The newsagent Rootes however did a roaring trade that weekend. Carole walked in on both Saturday and Sunday and opened up to face long queues of customers who literally stripped her shelves of sweets and newspapers. The effect of the bad weather on the University would have been much worse without the commendable efforts of all those, too many to fully list in this short article, who came into work over the weekend of the storms and worked long hours looking after stranded guests, students and their parents. It is a tribute to their efforts that many of the University's activities could take place normally during the early part of the following week and the severe disruption experienced throughout the Midlands was minimised on campus.



Hennessy Hits Twenty-Five

Continuing the series of short features on current staff who were in at the beginning of the University's life the Newsletter takes a look at Professor Alistair Hennessy.

Professor Hennessy took his MA and DPhil at Hertford and St Anthony's Colleges, Oxford. He was a master at Eton College from 1951-2 and from 1954 until 1964 was a Lecturer in History at the University of Exeter. He describes his move from Exeter to the new University of Warwick as "something of a culture shock". He also became one of the first Wardens of Rootes Halls of Residences. His clearest memories of Warwick's earliest days were "the sea of mud but also the challenge of new approaches, pioneering staff and students". Professor Hennessy (who was appointed to a Professorship in 1971), founded and became Chair of the Joint School of Comparative American Studies in 1974 (which still offers the only degree programme of its kind) and in 1984 he became Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies. Last year his work in Caribbean Studies was recognised by the award of an OBE presented to him by the Queen in November.



Professor Hennessy on receiving his OBE from the Queen in November.