

# Retired Staff Association Newsletter

September 2018  
Issue 42

## Turbulent Times in Higher Education



The speaker at our Spring Meeting was the University Registrar, Rachel Sandby-Thomas, who shared with us her reflections on the future of Warwick and of higher education, from the point of view of 'a recent outsider' (Rachel came to Warwick in 2016 from the Government's Institute of Apprenticeships, where she was shadow CEO).



Rachel  
Sandby-  
Thomas CB

Rachel commented that the background to her time at Warwick so far had been an atmosphere of turbulence in HE - a time of unprecedented change externally, with further change on the horizon. Institutions now had to operate in an atmosphere that stemmed from perception rather than hard evidence - the perceptions of politicians, the press and the court of public opinion.

### Finance

Nowhere is perception more important than in the debate over finance, one of the sector's main concerns. Government, the press and the public perceive universities as living extravagantly, unaffected by austerity (and, incidentally, as having been on the 'wrong' side of the Brexit vote). This has

fuelled the current debate about Vice-Chancellors' salaries, which displays enormous ignorance about the size and complexity of the businesses in Vice-Chancellors' charge. It is connected with the cost of degrees and the introduction of student loans. The Department of Education is currently reviewing university finance; there will be no increase in fees or student loans, and universities will be subject to more scrutiny over senior pay. Some institutions (not Warwick!) may not be financially sustainable in the long term. There is little public sympathy for the pensions' issue.

### Increased regulation

Rachel also referred to the increase in regulation of the sector, not just from the new Office for Students, but, for example, GDPR. The Office for Students has promised to adopt a risk-based, proportionate attitude to regulation, not prescriptive but outcome-based and data-heavy. The pendulum has shifted towards students, now considered as consumers, and teaching. This has taken the focus off research and the idea of research-led teaching, a key underpinning of universities' work - a concept which the government does not seem to understand. Rachel said that her greatest worry was that there was no-one, except the Minister, who had a complete overview of what universities do. UK Research and Innovation, of vital importance to the sector, sits in the Business Department, cut off from the Office for Students.

### Increasing expectations

There are increasing expectations of what universities are supposed to do, but often without the necessary back-up. Examples include being expected to deal

with students who arrive with existing mental health problems that subsequently worsen, but without adequate back-up from the NHS; the pronouncement on 16 November that universities should run schools (Rachel believes this is beyond their competence); issues of social mobility and pathways to HE which Warwick strongly supports, but which also suggest that HE is being used to 'fix' the schools system; training for the workplace which, with less employer investment, now falls on schools and HE. We no longer seem to know what universities are for, and in this atmosphere staff feel overworked and undervalued - and not just because of pensions. We need to get back to the idea that universities exist for the public good, but where, asked Rachel, was the united, authoritative voice to make this statement?

### The way forward for Warwick

Rachel said that Warwick must continue to be financially diverse and find other sources of income. The University needs to continue to be a great employer, taking note of staff surveys, nurturing talent and ensuring that administrative staff have the widest possible experience by moving jobs every two or three years; people should be able to advance, even if working on a part-time basis; there should be more team working, with teams also moving about. There needs to be more work on teaching and the University needs to become more agile and flexible about how it uses its resources. We need to be a better neighbour, taking a more active regional role. Above all, we must continue to 'shout' about our research and never lose our nerve, confidence or pride in Warwick's core values - a sentiment echoed by every member of Rachel's audience.

## New Director for Warwick Arts Centre

**Doreen Foster has been announced as the new head of Warwick Arts Centre, following Alan Rivett's retirement. Doreen is currently Deputy Director at the Black Cultural Archives, an organisation that collects and exhibits material, raises awareness and builds interest in the presence and experience of black people in Britain before 1948.**

Originally from the West Midlands, Doreen's previous roles include Director of Kokuma Dance Company in Birmingham; Dance Officer for the Arts Council for the West Midlands; Executive Director of Birmingham Partnership for Change; Director of West Midlands Social



Doreen Foster

Economic Partnership, and Director of the Chief Executive's Unit at the Arts Council, overseeing the merger of three separate arts bodies into the new Arts Council England. From there she became Chief Executive of the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham, where her role included overseeing a capital development. Doreen moved to her present role at the Black Cultural Archives in 2013.

## In Memoriam: Colin Brummitt, OBE

**The Newsletter is sad to report the death, on 18 June, of Colin Brummitt, University Finance Officer, 1977-1993 and WRSA Treasurer, 2007-2012. He will be greatly missed by our members.**

Colin Brummitt came to Warwick in 1977. He had been Deputy Finance Officer at Sussex University, where he had also kept wicket for the staff cricket team, played squash and taken part in highly competitive table tennis matches with the young Howard Dalton, later Professor Howard Dalton, FRS, of Biological Sciences at Warwick.

Colin replaced Peter Gayward, a former colonial civil servant, who left to be Finance Officer, then Registrar, at Liverpool. Colin always said he didn't know why the Vice-Chancellor, Jack Butterworth, appointed him but I'm sure Jack was looking for someone with financial management and personal skills, not just a recorder of financial information. Colin was a man 'comfortable in his own skin', equally at home talking to Simon Rattle (whom he permitted to use the Butterworth Hall, without charge, for recordings before Birmingham Symphony Hall was finished), as he was with students, academics and manual staff - quite like Jack himself.

Colin came to Warwick at a critical time. The 1973 oil crisis produced turbulence for university finance: the Government suspended, and never restored the five-year planning cycle that had operated since 1919; inflation rose to 20%; university salary increases came irregularly. Jack Butterworth had very much been his own finance officer but conditions now required a much more hands-on approach: Colin's intuitive understanding of the complexities of the University's budget, and his calmness under pressure were instrumental in keeping Warwick on an even financial keel. The effectiveness of their partnership was demonstrated in 1981 when the first round of the Thatcher cuts was levied on the university system. We received notification of a 10% cut on 1 July; by 14 July a revised financial plan had been approved by Steering Committee, Senate, Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council, and suggestions for reviewing some newly started academic departments rebuffed. The fact that Warwick coped so effectively with the cuts paved the way for its success in the mid-1980s and thereafter.

Colin inherited a Finance Office which was essentially an accounting office: the times demanded a different approach. Together, we worked very hard to introduce a management accounting vision, and Colin built perhaps the

strongest finance office in the university system. Colin was an enthusiast for the earned income policy we adopted in the face of the cuts; he led the Finance Office team in our rescue of Cardiff University from bankruptcy; we never had a deficit and our income grew while many other universities' fell. Not the least of his achievements was his flexibility in helping to embed WMG's very different financial operations. These were the years when Warwick's reputation was established. On retirement, he was awarded an OBE (*pictured above*) - a fitting public tribute to his professional achievements.



But this is only half the picture. University Finance Officers were traditionally rather off-putting, backroom figures. Colin was quite the opposite. On arrival, he, with Mary, took up the Wardenship of the Cryfield Residences and became an important element in the social life of the campus. Living on campus made him a natural back channel for informal negotiations over student rent strikes and other on-campus issues. His greatest contribution, however, was his abiding interest and support for the Arts Centre and its musical activities. Colin nurtured and guided successive Arts Centre Directors in the unfamiliar practice, for them, of living within a budget, but always did so with a good humoured and supportive word. He was fertile in his imaginative grasp of how to keep the Arts Centre afloat when the campus was overrun with ambitious heads of departments who thought that priority should be given to their subject over everything else.

With Colin at its head the Finance Office became outgoing, widely consulted by the academic community and trusted by everyone, as it instilled financial disciplines in what became an increasingly mixed economy. Colin, himself, was a model of liberal common sense, always positive and forthright, giving confidence to senior officers, and the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to take forward-looking decisions. He was a key person in the University's development and a superb colleague.

**Michael Shattock**

Registrar, 1983-99

# Visit to Kew Gardens

*The Temperate House*

15 May 2018



**The forecast was encouraging and we arrived at Kew at around 11.00 am. It is so many years since my last visit to Kew that I had forgotten what to expect. I remembered the tea room, vaguely, and that is where most people headed initially, to study the map and plan the visit.**

Kew's origins go back to the 1300s as a Royal Garden. It developed haphazardly until the 1840s when it was adopted as a National Botanical Garden. It now extends to 326 acres and has four Grade 1 and 36 Grade 2 listed buildings. The most impressive is probably the recently refurbished Temperate House, built originally in 1859, taking 40 years to complete. The cost soared dramatically during this period, and, no doubt, it was the HS2 of its time. It was closed in 1980-2 for restoration and was reopened only in May this year. Indeed, staff were still working on the completion of the surrounding planting and turfing during our visit.

The Pagoda of 1762 is currently being restored. Clearly, it is nearing completion and with its golden dragon decorations is going to be magnificent. The original dragons were removed in 1784, apparently to settle George IV's gambling debts!

Unfortunately the Treetop Walkway was closed due, apparently, to a chemical spray programme to eradicate pests attacking the trees around it. The Walkway is some 18 metres above the woodland floor

and gives unique access to views across the Gardens.

Kew Palace was fascinating. Whilst there was little furniture, it had the feeling of a house still. Both internally and externally, it has been beautifully restored together with the gardens. The laburnum walk was in its prime.

The Prince Charles Conservatory with all its orchids would have been nice to see but there was simply so much on offer that a five hour visit did not do Kew Gardens justice. Does anyone want to go again?

**Denis Welchman**



*The elephant foot tree trunk*

# Visit to the Supreme Court

15 August 2018

Following our visit to the Churchill War Rooms in May of 2017, we were invited to have a private tour of the Supreme Court. Rather than have a November / Christmas trip, we decided to do this visit in August, when the Courts are in recess. We were fortunate that despite the attack at the Palace of Westminster the day before, the visit was unaffected.

Our group of 28 arrived in Whitehall around 11.30am. After a pleasant lunch at the Westminster Arms, the first group went into the Supreme Court on the north-west corner of Parliament Square at 2.00pm. Our guide was Charlotte Daniels who graduated in Modern Languages from Warwick in 2018 and just had her Degree Congregation!

She explained the history of the Court, which was established under the Constitutional Reform Act, 2005, with the aim of separating the judicial from



Guide and Warwick graduate Charlotte Daniels with WRSA members



The exterior of the Supreme Court building



The Library light well

the legislative aspects of the House of Lords. A suitable site was sought and the former Middlesex Guildhall (1913) was selected, restored, renovated and converted for the Supreme Court. The building has three courts. Court No 1 (second floor) looks very traditional, albeit all the courts are on flat floors with no precedence given to the judges. There is no jury as the Court's function is to look at cases that raise points of law of general public importance. There are twelve judges in total. Up to nine sit depending on the nature of the case - more usually, five or seven. Anyone can visit and listen to proceedings when the courts are sitting; all cases are live-streamed on the internet.

Court No 2 (first floor) looks very modern - light and airy with views out to Westminster Abbey - apparently the court that the judges prefer. The specially designed carpet depicts the national plants of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales; the same design with slight variations is used through the building.

Court No 3 (ground floor) is probably the most impressive with wooden panelling and some very important paintings, including Joshua Reynolds' portrait of Hugh Percy, Duke of Northumberland (1714-86). The frame is genuine Chippendale, covered in gold leaf, apparently more valuable than the painting!

Next we visited the Library - a three storey room not normally accessible to the public, where records go back to the 1600s. Off the Library is a gallery with seating which is actually in a large, covered light well in the centre of the building. At the very top is a judges' lounge, where our tour ended. The second group began their tour at 3.00pm.

In the basement is an exhibition area with objects from the Middlesex Art Collection, and a café.

I found the experience absolutely fascinating. The building has been sympathetically restored; the external facades are wonderful. A very worthwhile day.

**Denis Welchman**

# WALKING GROUP NEWS



## Preamble to Ambling

*We love to go out walking*

*We start out from a pub (or other eating place)*

*We get together talking*

*And discuss the walking club (or other things)*

*We dress to suit the weather*

*Putting on an extra sweater (or taking one off)*

*Wearing walking boots of leather*

*Or sometimes welly boots are better  
(or trainers)*

*We meet on any weekday*

*At around about ten (or eleven)*

*We amble happily for three miles*

*And amble back again (or thereabouts)*

*And when we've finished ambling*

*We all take off our boots (or wellies or trainers)*

*We've all perused the menu*

*So we tuck in to what suits  
(or go home if we don't have time to eat)*

So - you can see we are quite flexible.  
Why not join us and discover the group for  
yourself? Newcomers welcome.

Kay Rainsley

[Kay.rainsley@live.co.uk](mailto:Kay.rainsley@live.co.uk)

## WALKS REPORTS

### Frankton to Marton and return with two interesting churches

21 February 2018

Ten of us started from the intriguingly named Friendly Inn in Frankton in cool but good weather. Opposite the village church we admired a whole drive full of yellow aconites - a welcome harbinger of spring.

We then walked along the track behind the church, heading west over a sizeable hill. Although it was rather misty we had an idea of the lovely views across Warwickshire which it affords. When we reached the A423 we found it was closed to traffic for extensive roadworks and so we opted to walk along it into Marton rather than plough on over muddy fields. We admired the medieval bridge and explored the village church with its unique dedication to St Esprit - a legacy of a French order of nuns originally from Fontevraud who had settled in Nuneaton and been given control over Marton in the Middle Ages. They profited from tolls over the old bridge. On the way back, after walking through grassy meadows, we passed some attractive fishing ponds, a herd of llamas and a farm with its own helicopter.

We were back at our pub for lunch by 12:45 after about four miles of walking, and were delighted with the quality and excellent value of the food. And the staff were indeed very 'friendly'!

**Godfrey and Caroline Carr**



## FORTHCOMING WALKS 2018

**Tuesday 16 September** - Bubbenhall to Wappenbury Wood circular, led by Bob Cooke

**Wednesday 17 October** - Berkswell, led by Carol Colclough and Mary Stott

**Tuesday 20 November** - Turners Green, led by Marie and Barry Lucas

## Coventry City Wall Walk

20 March 2018

On a bitterly cold day, 24 of us devoted two hours to walking the wall. We imagined it in its heyday, standing 12 feet high and 8 feet thick with its 20 gates and probably twice as many towers. We imagined King Edward III in 1329 giving permission for the wall to be built; Richard II allowing stone to be used free of charge from his Cheylesmore quarries; Queen Elizabeth I in 1565 coming down Bishop Street and standing at Whitefriars' oriel window to rebuke the people of Coventry. We pictured 500 men demolishing the wall in 1662 on the orders of Charles II - a punishment for Coventrians having sided with Oliver Cromwell in the Civil War.

Our walk took us from the Swanswell Gate, along the best-maintained stretch of wall, bordering Lady Herbert's Garden, to the Cook Street Gate. We visited the plaque marking Bishop Street Gate and next saw the watchtower, embedded in the rear of Pargetters' Funeral Directors, before skirting round the bastion beside the Salvation Army's citadel. We crossed Well Street (where another gate would have stood) and followed the line of the wall to the site of the Hill Street Gate, passing the Town Wall

Tavern on the way.

Bits of wall are visible in the wall of Bond's Hospital and of Butterfly Bras on Spon Street, near the site of the Spon Gate and there is a section of wall standing beside Corporation Street. We looked at how the wall had been marked out in Shelton Square and near where Greyfriars Gate would have stood. Our route took us to Cheylesmore Manor and then on to

Much Park Street to see the unidentified medieval ruin and the gate to Whitefriars (Carmelite) monastery. We walked past Coventry University's award-winning library to the plaque near where Gosford Gate once stood. Skirting another stretch of derelict wall, we emerged in Fairfax Street and had lunch together in the Britannia Hotel.

**Eleanor Nesbitt**



## Church Lawford

12 April 2018

On a distinctly un-spring-like morning in April, an intrepid group of walkers met in the car park of the Old Smithy pub in Church Lawford. It was cold and grey and misty - but happily not raining.

The walk was mostly over fields, and the recent rain and floods had left their mark. Gateways in particular were very muddy, but no-one actually slipped and fell - although at one moment it seemed likely that one of the group would lose his wellington to the quicksand-like mud! The meadows were not too hard going, but the ploughed fields clung to boots, and it felt at times as if we were taking half of Warwickshire away on them. Luckily, many of the original stiles

had been replaced with kissing gates, but those that remained were quite challenging for those of us with not-so-long legs. The bridge at Kings Newnham was still closed, despite the notices stating that the rebuild was due to be completed by the end of March - again, a casualty of the floods - but the detour to the lane gave us a final stretch on the lane rather than back up the field.

The views were sadly not as spectacular as we had hoped, although the visibility did improve as the morning advanced. However, there were some wonderful moments. Coming into a field with a dewpond ahead of us, we spied a pair of swans nesting under a willow on the island. A heron flew in and landed on its nest atop the willow, to be joined a few minutes later by its mate. They gave us a wonderful show as they flew around again and back to their nest. In the next field, we suddenly heard a skylark at full volume - and there it was high in the sky, where it hovered and sang for several minutes before diving down and out of sight.

There were some interesting buildings to see - an attractive church, a disused mill converted into homes, the Hall at Little Lawford, and a close of new houses pretending to be barn conversions. Finally we came full circle, back to the Old Smithy, where we enjoyed delicious lunches at an incredibly reasonable cost. The company was excellent, the chat wide-ranging, and the sense of achievement superb.

**Sue Beech**

## Wroxall Abbey

29 May 2018



Franc Buxton

Twenty-two WRSA members gathered in the overflow car park of the Mansion on Wroxall Abbey estate, on a dry morning which followed a few wet and thundery days. The ground had dried out a lot, and the field paths were nothing like as wet and muddy as of late. It became summer towards the end of the morning, making a pleasant day for walking.

We set off across field paths heading towards Quarry Lane, at the back of Baddesley Clinton house. In a couple of fields there were encounters with livestock (which hadn't been there on the pre-walk!) including several running bullocks and a large stationary bull, who only moved from the path when we practically walked into him! After about a couple of miles we reached Quarry Lane, which we followed for a short distance, before turning into Hay Wood on a forestry track.

This first track in Hay Wood was quite well surfaced, but after about half a mile we had to turn onto a less well-preserved track which was still quite muddy. This took us to the edge of the wood, where we emerged into a field containing yet another bull, this time with several cattle. He was not so difficult to pass!

This path, through the field and round a farm, took us to the Knowle main road, on which we turned right to reach the 'back track' into the Wroxall Abbey estate. This bordered a field containing more running bullocks, which we had to skirt around to return to the overflow car park.

We then made our way to the Mansion, the hotel on the Abbey estate. Here we were amply provided with a sandwich lunch, followed by a tour of the cathedral and the rest of the site (owned by Sir Christopher Wren in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a girls' boarding school, 1936-1955). William Shakespeare's aunt Isabella was a prioress here; the church is now run by the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches, an international organisation which uses it as the headquarters of its UK archdiocese. It is a working church, with services held there every Sunday at 4.00pm.

**Bob Cooke**

## New Inn, Norton Lindsey

19 June 2018

Norton Lindsey is a beautiful village dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. We started at the church, where we saw some dark nineteenth-century stained glass, and lovely views over rolling countryside, and carried on through a very well kept churchyard. The walk went clockwise in a rough circle south of the village, downhill on roads and bridleways, then uphill along field edges. We took a short detour across a meadow and a stream, with iridescent damselflies, then uphill through a wood (avoiding an archery practice site). We emerged above a ploughed field with extensive views towards the village. From there it was mostly road walking, up and down hill, back to the pub, past a large cricket field and a dilapidated windmill back into the village. Lunch was excellent and substantial, the pub very pleasant and welcoming - and good value.

**Richard Parker**



Franc Buxton

## Leek Wootton

10 July 2018

The weather had been very warm for walking in previous days but fortunately the temperature had fallen on the day of the walk. Eighteen set off on a walk that was mainly flat on good paths with no stiles! We parked and set off from The Anchor Inn, initially passing Woodcote Manor with sequoia and cedar trees in the grounds. The walk took us around the Warwickshire Golf and Country Club, then through All Saints' churchyard, to return to the pub some two hours and ten minutes later. We then enjoyed a nice lunch with some of us sampling the good selection of beers.

Fred Troup



Franc Buxton has taken an excellent series of photos of the May to August walks, available at <https://www.dorc.org.uk/unlinked/WRSA-Walks>



## Out and Back

9 August 2018

A score of walkers set out from Hawkesbury Junction sporting an assortment of tee-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, waterproofs, trainers, sandals and walking boots. Some, myself included, had applied suntan lotion, others had plumped for an umbrella in their rucksack.

The canal was busy with narrowboats carrying holidaymakers along the Oxford Canal in both directions and there was a feeling of optimism in the air – it wasn't going to rain. Large, plump, sweet, blackberries festooned the bushes alongside the canal path and the walkers were kept busy 'eating on the go.' There were cries of 'I never check for maggots' and other such banter as we progressed towards the former Navigation Inn in Bedworth. The public house has been transformed into a decidedly up-market house with quite a long canal frontage and it's for sale.

From there we wandered through a small Bedworth housing estate before turning back onto the canal path and following it in the opposite direction back to The Greyhound. We had envisaged a stretch through farmland but this entailed seven very high stiles hence the change of plan prior to the walk.

However, following the canal means that there is an ever changing vista with the boats and we saw one with six miniature collies on board, each guarding its own area of the roof. We chatted to some of the boat owners exchanging pleasantries while coats and sweatshirts were removed as the day warmed up.

As we crossed the large bridge back over to the pub we were ready to eat.

The pub meal was excellent, the company warm and the weather kind – what more could we wish for?

Kay Rainsley

# What's on at Warwick Arts Centre

Warwick Arts Centre continues to offer a broad and diverse programme of theatre, dance, music, comedy, film and visual arts throughout the year – and here is just a selection of upcoming performances and shows that we hope will be of interest to you.

## THEATRE

Tall Stories present

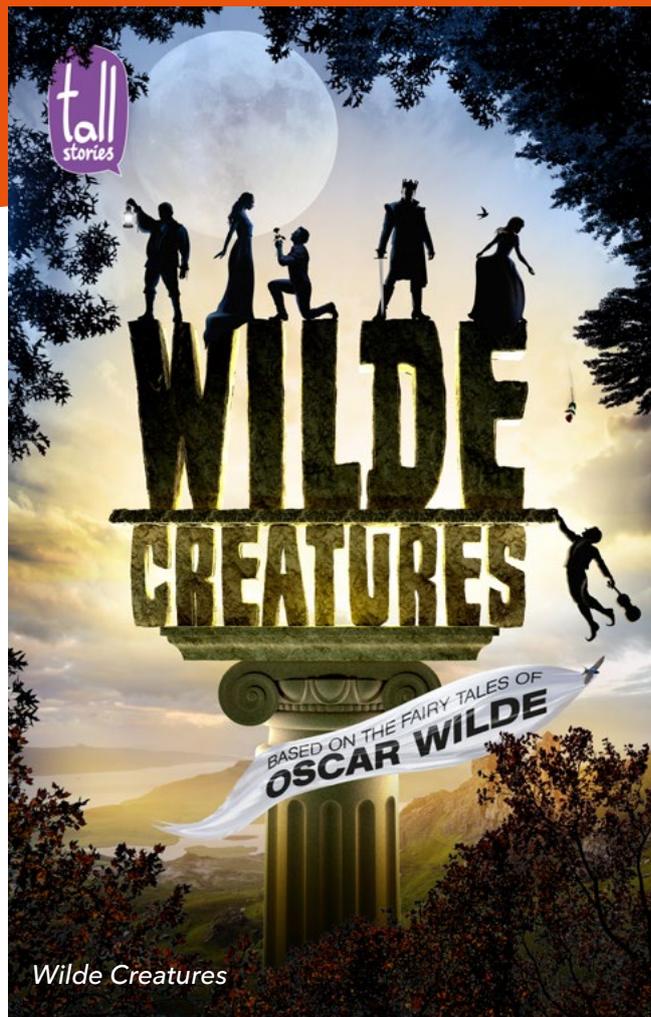
*Wilde Creatures*

Based on the fairy tales of Oscar Wilde

Wednesday 28 November - Sunday  
30 December 2018

A motley crew of storytelling musicians bring Oscar Wilde's classic fairy tales to life in Tall Stories' magical new show, direct from London's West End. Characters from *The Happy Prince* and other stories spring to life as the pompous mayor, the petulant princess and the love-sick student compete to become the new town statue. Hauntingly beautiful tales for everyone aged 5 – 105, told with original live music and a generous dash of comedy.

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/wilde-creatures/>



Russian State Symphony Orchestra

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Russian State Symphony Orchestra

Khachaturian, *Masquerade Suite*

Rachmaninov, *Piano Concerto No 1*;  
soloist: Barry Douglas (pictured left)

Shostakovich, *Symphony No.5*

Friday 5 October 2018, 7.30pm

Shostakovich called his Fifth Symphony 'a Soviet artist's response to just criticism' – but then, in Stalin's Russia, he didn't have much of a choice. And every note screams out a different, much more powerful story. From its tempestuous opening to its final, blazing chords, this is music that demands to be heard: angry, heartfelt, and utterly compelling. There's simply nothing in all of 20th century music more gripping than to hear it played by a top Russian orchestra.

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/russian-state-symphony-orchestra-1819-concert-series/>

## DANCE

balletLORENT

*Rumpelstiltskin*

Friday 26 & Saturday 27 October 2018

balletLORENT's award-winning team, who brought you *Rapunzel* and *Snow White*, are back with the beloved tale *Rumpelstiltskin*, directed by Liv Lorent and retold by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Full of action and humour, this emotionally rich fairy tale is set in the rural world of sheep, straw, wool and spinning where the alchemist, Rumpelstiltskin, is an outcast until he is revealed to be 'the true prince that he was'.

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/rumpelstiltskin/>



*Rumpelstiltskin: Bill Cooper*

## FAMILY

*Dinosaur World Live*

Tuesday 30 October - Thursday 1 November 2018

Dare to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World in this interactive new show for all the family. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a prehistoric world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures, including every child's favourite flesh-eating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Microraptor and Segnosaurus!

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/dinosaur-world-live/>

## VISUAL ARTS

*Barry Flanagan: Acrobats*

September 2018 - August 2019

For one year only, Barry Flanagan's 2004 sculpture, *Acrobats*, is on loan to Warwick as part of our *Outside the Box* programme, and the Mead is organising a series of events and activities relating to this new campus resident. A new sculpture trail has been developed leading from Warwick Arts Centre to *Acrobats*, along which can be found small-scale sculptures and temporary interventions including a giant hare's nest, spells, bug hotels and feeders.

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/barry-flanagan-acrobats/>

## MUSIC CENTRE

### Free Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

1.10pm - 2pm

Ensemble Room, Music Centre  
(apart from *My First Concert* which is in the Helen Martin Studio).

#### 4 October

Lynn Arnold (piano)  
Marie Lloyd (clarinet)  
Jonathan Barritt (viola)

#### 11 October

George Barton  
(percussion)  
Siwan Rhys (piano)

#### 18 October

Manus Noble (guitar)

#### 25 October

*My First Concert*  
Jack McNeill (clarinet)  
and friends. A concert  
designed specifically  
for babies and  
young children.

#### 1 November

Ivana Peranic (cello)

#### 8 November

Claire Sledd (violin)

#### 15 November

Mark Walkem  
(baroque cello)  
Ada Witczyk  
(baroque violin)

#### 22 November

Jonathan Ayling (cello)  
Alissa Firsova (piano)

#### 29 November

Jose Menor (piano)

#### 6 December

Gaudeamus  
Christmas Concert

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/musiccentre>

# The WRSA COMMITTEE, 2017-2018

<b>Chair</b>	Robert Dyson	r.g.dyson@warwick.ac.uk
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Elaine Lenton	elaine.lenton@ntlworld.com
<b>Walks Co-ordinator</b>	Kay Rainsley	kay.rainsley@live.co.uk
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<b>University Support</b>	Tim Wilkinson	rsa@warwick.ac.uk or Tim.Wilkinson@warwick.ac.uk

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership is currently at 237, very slightly down on last year. Unfortunately, we have lost a few members through death and an increase in resignations and non-renewals. We would like to see more retirees joining. If you do know any new retirees, please tell them about the Association and encourage them to join. We are a very friendly group and I am sure they would enjoy sharing in our activities, and keeping in touch with former work colleagues. This is my last report as I will be handing over to the new Membership Secretary after the AGM.

Elaine Lenton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Walks** - see page 6 for details

### Monday 8 October 2018

**AGM and Autumn Lunch**,  
Followed by talk by Professor Jonathan Neelands, 'The City of Culture'  
Scarman House

### Monday 17 December 2018

**Christmas Lunch**, Scarman House

### Monday 8 April 2019

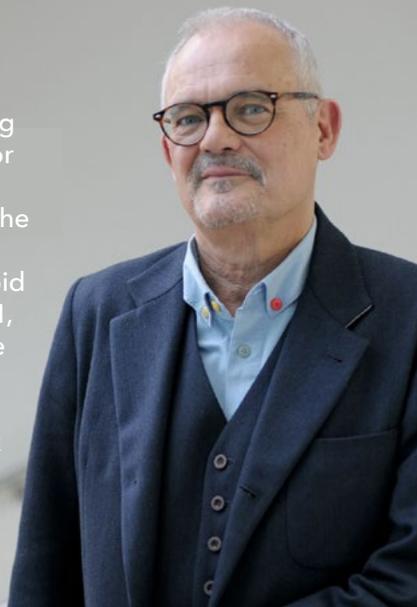
**Spring Meeting**  
Scarman House

### Monday 7 October 2019

**AGM and Autumn Lunch**  
Scarman House

## Professor Jonathan Neelands to speak at WRSA Autumn Meeting

The speaker at our Autumn Meeting on 8 October 2018 will be Professor Jonathan Neelands, WBS, whose topic will be 'The City of Culture'. The University was heavily involved in supporting Coventry's successful bid to become UK City of Culture, 2021, and Jonathan was a member of the Executive Bid Committee. He has developed a Coventry Cultural Strategy, 2017-27. We look forward to learning about the bidding process itself and the developing plans.



[warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa](http://warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa)