

# Retired Staff Association Newsletter

**September 2017**  
Issue 40

## **Warwick - the next ten years**

The speaker at the WRSA spring meeting was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart Croft. He described the opportunities and challenges facing Warwick in the next decade, promising that, in true Warwick fashion, the University would seek to find opportunities in even the most difficult challenges.



**The first two challenges are faced by all UK higher education institutions: Brexit and the Higher Education and Research Bill [now enacted]. The risks that Brexit poses to Warwick begin with uncertainty around the University's future income: £32 million of Warwick's income is EU dependent - £16 million in research grants and £16 million in student fees from non-British EU students.**

There are concerns among the University's non-British EU staff (760 people, and 23% of the academic staff). With the rest of the Russell Group, Warwick is trying to press government to resolve these uncertainties. Yet for Warwick there might also be opportunities in the trade agreements with the rest of the world expected to follow Brexit. Such agreements might include UK higher education, as a great world brand, leading to a greater number of high quality students from India, for example. However, a great uncertainty remains around the question of migration to the UK, for international students are currently being considered as part of the national migration figure to be curtailed.

The second challenge is the Higher Education and Research Bill and the introduction of the Teaching

Excellence Framework (TEF). The Bill replaces the Higher Education Funding Council with the Office for Students, now regarded as consumers. Stuart explained that the TEF did not talk about the quality of the qualifications for university entrance, nor how well graduates were doing in the employment stakes five years after graduating. The Framework, ranking universities according to gold, silver and bronze, upends previous university rankings, with three of its six measures connected with the National Student Survey. We already knew that Warwick would be ranked as silver, and that one of our problems, articulated in the Survey, was student dissatisfaction with the time taken for feedback. Warwick is already addressing this problem. The University would not rest content with a silver ranking - as usual, Warwick would 'Go for Gold'!

### **Success**

Stuart said that, paradoxically, some challenges arose from Warwick's success. Student numbers now stood at 25,000. The University could stop there - but that was not the Warwick way. The next ten years would probably see student numbers rise to 28,000, raising

issues of teaching space and of the University's impact on local residents, especially as regards traffic. We might need to find innovative ways to deliver teaching, to lessen the numbers of people in one particular place. We might even reconsider the traditional three-term model, which might no longer fit future circumstances.

However, he believed the greatest challenge was how to keep the Warwick brand in its present 'shiny' condition. Warwick is now the destination of choice for graduate employers; it stands at number 82 in *The Times* world rankings and is 50th in the world in the QS rankings, measured by reputation; it has recently been declared the 17th most international university in the world. These rankings are particularly important abroad: Warwick's present reputation might offer a big opportunity to work with China in their plans to develop higher education. We had also achieved particular success in Bio Medicine, pointing to the need for Warwick Medical School's further development.

## Opportunities

Stuart listed some specific opportunities arising from government policy. Current industrial strategy centres on R&D and skills, thus placing research intensive universities at its very heart. WMG gives Warwick a great opportunity to be involved: for example, funding had just been received through WMG for a new Apprenticeship Academy. The government's new schools policy made it clear that universities would be expected to run schools: here Warwick's co-operative relationship with local education partners will be very useful. The University is looking at ways of making space on campus to teach local children whose schools are unable to teach certain subjects, and is also considering the possibility of setting up a

College of Teachers and a College of Governors.

The University is looking for other opportunities to be involved in regional regeneration - for example, through the new West Midlands Combined Authority. We are backing Coventry's bid to be the 2021 City of Culture; if successful, Coventry could well become one of the top ten English cities, with obvious spin-off for us. HS2 could also bring us real benefits - even though the line would cut across part of campus - with road developments allowing the University at last to have a proper entrance, a new station near the University and the further development of Birmingham airport, placing one of the UK's major airports virtually on our doorstep.



## 'The idea of Warwick'

Underpinning everything was what Stuart called 'the idea of Warwick' - quality, growth, flexibility, entrepreneurial zeal - inspiring the University to move into new pastures - the California campus, for example. WBS is now established in the Shard, delivering executive education for workers in the City (including Bank of England trainees). Warwick has recently taken premises in the developing St Pancras area of London, looking at running niche programmes such as creative writing. Warwick might also look at co-operation with one of the Paris universities.

Stuart left us feeling confident that the University would continue to prosper, whatever the challenges of the next decade.

## A new look for Warwick Arts Centre: the 20:20 Project

### The next three years will see a major redevelopment of Warwick Arts Centre.

Responding to technological advances and cultural shifts in what audiences need and want, the 20:20 Project aims to refresh, renew and redevelop the existing 1974 building and create a larger, modern and updated space in which to continue the Arts Centre's distinctive creative, artistic and cultural programme. An essential upgrade to the building - involving the two theatres, upper foyers, backstage accommodation and offices - will be completed by June 2018. In place of the existing Mead Gallery, cinema, bookshop and atrium, an exciting new build will house three HD digital auditoria, a large ground-floor art gallery (the new Mead Gallery) and a spacious, welcoming foyer. The plans include open spaces for eating, drinking and socialising. The new-look Arts Centre will be fully open in October 2020.



Although a temporary and planned closure of some areas of the Arts Centre will be necessary during this work, Warwick Arts Centre will continue to be open, offering a full and wide programme of events and shows. You can keep up-to-date by visiting [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk) and can check the news on the 20:20 Project at [warwickartscentre.co.uk/2020-project](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk/2020-project).

# WRSA Student Bursary Winners, 2016-2017

## Warwick Breakdance Competition

In 2016, not very many people on campus and the UK breaking scene had heard or seen much of us at Warwick Breakdance Society, and few of us were engaged with the wider circuit of breakdance events and competitions in the UK. Westwood Dance Studio was the little pond we trained in and we were getting too comfortable. The idea of organising our very own competition began to take hold.



But how do you organise a breaking competition from scratch with no prior reputation in the wider scene? We needed: a venue with suitable flooring; a date that didn't clash with other similar events; a DJ who could spin specific music for breakdancers; three respectable judges; a reliable emcee; a proper sound system; prizes; a decision on battle categories; a name; good marketing and publicity, photography and video coverage.

Enter the Warwick Retired Staff Association Bursary! This plus sponsorship from the Students' Union Project Fund enabled us to set our event – now named *Step & Style* – in motion.

The journey from guaranteed funding to execution was far from smooth. However, because of our detailed online event description – only possible with the Bursary allowing us to secure the line-up of judges, DJs and emcee – we began to attract a steady stream of sign-ups. We introduced a University Crew category, welcoming participants from Bath, Exeter, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Loughborough, University of London Union, Kings College London and Manchester Metropolitan.

On Saturday 4 March, we brought in 12 hardboard floorings, secured 100 free cans of Redbull sponsorship and counted over 100 participants and spectators (double our initial estimate). We had 46 pairs for the Open 2X2 category, and well-known crews in the country sent representatives, including Soul Mavericks Crew (London-based, perhaps the best in the UK).

Perhaps the best-received segment of the event was something rarely introduced at such events in the UK: a community panel discussion with the judges on the challenges of balancing the demands of academic, career and family commitments with breakdance training. This sparked off discussions and debates online on the event page.

The success of *Step & Style* (Vol 1) has brought the society together; our members are proud of our achievements and newfound reputation in the wider UK scene. Feedback has been extremely positive and we

would like to express our gratitude for the WRSA Panel's confidence in our bid.

### Dominic Nah

(You can read Dominic's report in full on the WRSA website.)

## Enactus Warwick - The Gateway Project

Our objective is to empower refugees and asylum seekers within Coventry by providing our beneficiaries with an employability programme. Coventry is known as the City of Sanctuary and receives the highest number of refugees (approximately 400 individuals per quarter) in England. Our initiative is a means through which as students we can make a difference and contribute to society. The programme is meant to enable refugees to successfully integrate into the community. It consists of workshops (IT and soft skills) and opportunities for work/volunteering experience with our community partners.



The Bursary of £400 enabled us to pay the rent for the venue in central Coventry, where we held ten workshops (four IT workshops and six soft skills workshops), attended by 12 beneficiaries. We also funded a networking event held at the University of Warwick, where our beneficiaries met our community partners and discussed with them work experience opportunities available in their respective organisations – Wilmott Dixon, Citizens' Advice Bureau and Positive Youth Foundation. Four of our beneficiaries have obtained work experience during the summer with our partners as a result of the event.

Additionally, we held an awareness and fundraising event in collaboration with UNICEF and STAR (Student Action for Refugees). Our purpose was to inform students of the difficulties refugees and asylum seekers face and the different means through which students can help and welcome them into Coventry. All proceeds from the bake sale were donated to UNICEF for helping Syrian refugees and to STAR for building storage facilities at the Peace House (night shelter) in Coventry.

### Anjali Sambhwani

# WARWICK IN VENICE, FIFTY YEARS ON



This autumn marks the fiftieth anniversary of Warwick's Venice Term - a unique programme which has enabled hundreds of our students to immerse themselves in the history, art and culture of that amazing city. Dr Humfrey Butters, Emeritus Reader in the Department of History, explains.

In December of this year we shall celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the History department's course in Venice. When the first group of Warwick undergraduates from the History department arrived in the city in 1967, they were accompanied by their tutors, Dr Michael Mallett and Professor John Hale. The idea of establishing a course in Renaissance Italian history that would be taught on the spot was Hale's, inspired, in part, from American universities' 'programmes abroad', of which many were to be found in Florence at the time. It was decided, however, that Venice would be a more suitable site for Warwick's course than Florence. Both cities had distinguished histories, politically, culturally and economically; both cities had been the subject of many historical studies of high quality by English and American scholars, but there were two good reasons for choosing Venice: both cities had had very bad floods in 1966, but Florence's had been in some ways more severe; secondly, if the point of the course was that of studying the history of a city while living in it, Venice was obviously more suitable, since by comparison with Florence its buildings had undergone comparatively few changes since the Renaissance. Florence was not to be neglected,

however, for the course was to be explicitly comparative, addressing the history of both cities in the Renaissance.

## Historians and art historians

In 1976 the first group of Art History undergraduates went out to Venice, to be taught by Professor Julian Gardner, chairman of the department. Their course focused on the art and architecture of Renaissance Venice. The ability of both courses to survive and prosper, even in times of national economic crisis and cuts to university funding, owed much to the administrative gifts of Dr (later Professor) Mallett, who assumed direction of the History course after Professor Hale went to the University of London, and to the contributions made by a succession of very able Venetian administrators.



*Our Venetian administrator, Chiara Croff, finds accommodation in the city for our students and helps with conference organisation.*

The History course has many advantages. All those who teach it are specialists in Florentine or Venetian Renaissance history, often able to enrich their



The Palazzo Pesaro Papafava - Warwick's base in Venice

lectures with material as yet unpublished that they have discovered in those cities' archives and libraries. Serious efforts are made to ensure that the students acquire a reading knowledge of Italian. Their grasp of Venetian history is obviously enhanced by the fact that having learnt, for example, of the activities of the Doge of Venice and the Venetian Senate, they can visit the buildings in which these key elements in Venetian government transacted their affairs; when they visit a private Venetian palace, they can appreciate more vividly not merely the cultural interests of its former patrician owners, but also the economic and political importance that they had in the past. Art History's decision to have its own course in Venice has been of huge benefit to the students of both departments, for it has added a strong interdisciplinary element to their courses: history undergraduates are encouraged to go to Art History lectures and vice versa. We enjoy good relations with Venice's university, Ca' Foscari, and some of their undergraduates have recently been taking the History course. At the end of each term a small academic conference is organised to which established scholars and PhD students are invited to give papers on Renaissance Florentine and Venetian history and art history. Each session is chaired by a Warwick undergraduate. Finally, our undergraduates learn to cope with the problems of living in a foreign environment for ten weeks, in itself an experience of notable educational value.

### Unique course

This unique course has proved immensely popular. Many students have said that their decision to read History at Warwick was powerfully influenced by the attractions of the course in Venice, and our Alumni Office regards those who had studied in Venice as the University's most loyal alumni. The University has acknowledged the success of the History and Art History courses in Venice by agreeing to pay the annual rent of our current teaching centre, the Palazzo Pesaro Papafava, which is made available for conferences and other activities from December to September. Every two years a weekend in Venice is

organised for alumni, and we confidently expect that many of them will attend our celebrations in the city in December.



## Our Venetian base

Warwick's base in Venice is the 15<sup>th</sup> century Palazzo Pesaro Papafava in the Cannaregio district of the city. Used by our students during the Venice term, it has also proved a popular venue for academic conferences, workshops and summer schools. This permanent presence in Venice has enhanced Warwick's reputation for excellence in Renaissance scholarship, and enables us to play a full part in Venetian cultural life. We have links with the city's main cultural institutions; for several years we have partnered an event in Venice's prestigious literary festival, *Incroci di Civiltà*, and we regularly take part in the city's annual Art Night, opening up the Palazzo to visitors and mounting an exhibition of art works. If you are planning a trip to Venice, please do visit the Palazzo - Chiara Croff, our Venetian administrator, will be delighted to show you round: email [warwick@venice.ac.uk](mailto:warwick@venice.ac.uk).

# Visit to the Churchill War Rooms, London

**16 May, 2017**

After an interesting coach journey – including a detour through Berkley Square (we heard no nightingales!) and, at Hyde Park Corner, a good view of the Household Cavalry returning to barracks – our party of 36 reached the War Rooms at midday.

We had a brief private introduction by a member of staff and a short film before setting off with our audio guides to explore on our own.

The secret underground Cabinet War Rooms were created in May 1938 from Government basement archive areas at the end of King Charles Street, one street away from Downing Street and just off Horse Guards. The accommodation was, and still is, pretty basic. The War Cabinet Room, the Chiefs of Staff Conference Room, Churchill's bedroom, the various communication areas and the essential Map Room are very well preserved as the entire area was locked up and forgotten in 1945.

An area of the exhibition is devoted to Churchill's life, divided into various sections, such as his time as war leader, Cold War statesman, maverick politician and the so-called 'Wilderness Years'. Many of his possessions, medals, one of his 'siren suits', the Union Flag which was draped over his coffin and the original Churchill No 10 Downing Street black front door are all to be seen, plus an interactive display of his life. A very interesting and worthwhile day.

After leaving the exhibition, some members headed for St James's Park; others wandered down to the Supreme Courts in Parliament Square. I walked up to Horse Guards, then back to Whitehall and Great George Street to peep in at the Royal Institution



*The map room of the Cabinet War Rooms in use: image courtesy of the IWM (Imperial War Museums), © IWM (HU74904)*

of Chartered Surveyors offices, where as Chair of the West Midlands Branch of Chartered Building Surveyors Division, I attended many meetings.

Clearly, the recent terrorist attack in Westminster has changed the area considerably. Highly armed police are to be seen everywhere, which I found somewhat intimidating. A long way from when I lived and worked in London when one could wander into Downing Street at will and nobody took any notice!

Our journey home was equally interesting. (We were intrigued to discover that our coach had been parked for the day outside the MI5 building – the only space our driver had been able to find!) Near Northolt, a VIP convoy surrounded by police motorcycles and two Range Rovers whistled by towards London. We think it was the Prime Minister returning from the Midlands on the campaign trail after flying into Northolt. It was interesting to see the ever increasing population of red kites on either side of the A40 and M40. I glimpsed one flock to the north and other groups of 5 to 10 birds around the High Wycombe area.

**Denis Welchman**



We have been invited to make a visit to the Supreme Court in their closed session in August / September, although probably not this year. The tour group would be split in two with a maximum of 20 people in each group. We would see the courts, the rest of the building, the galleries etc. The cost is very modest. The two timed entries would probably be late morning and early afternoon, giving those not on the tour time to look around that part of London, go shopping etc. The Committee would appreciate your views as to whether this would be of interest.

# Walking Group News

## Following the Leader

Do you enjoy walking and discovering new footpaths and pubs? Do you like to meet new people and share experiences with them? Do you relish the thought of a day out exploring the local town or countryside? If so, we have just the thing for you.



Each month we have a different walk leader who finds a suitable meeting place, walk and eating place to relax after the excursion. Walks are approximately four to five miles in length and generally easy to complete. You just need to wear suitable walking shoes and clothing and join in. If you know of a good walk that others could enjoy, please let me know – you don't have to follow the leader, you can be the leader.

If you would like to be included in the list of walkers and receive details of future walks, please contact me on [kay.rainsley@live.co.uk](mailto:kay.rainsley@live.co.uk).

Kay Rainsley

## Walks Reports

### Multi-Faith Coventry

21 February 2017

The eight walkers were blessed with a fine day to visit – or in a few cases, revisit – places of worship and other sites of religious significance in Coventry. We began by looking at the Bishops' Bible of 1568 and the 15th century Doom (or Judgement) painting in Holy Trinity church near Broadgate.

Next came the site of the Benedictine priory of St Mary, established by Lady Godiva and her husband Leofric in 1043, and we lamented the – we hope temporary – closure of the Priory Visitor Centre which houses fragments of the priory excavated by the BBC's *Time Team*. The Swanswell Gate and the Swanswell pool itself reminded us of the protein-rich diet of the Benedictine priors and of Prior Deram in 1480 berating the townspeople for stealing their fish.

As the former St Mark's church is closed, we looked at a reproduction of Hans Feibusch's celebrated painting of the Ascension. On Stoney Stanton Road, we noted Cornerstone where the Tamil Christians worship and we then walked through Eagle Street Park to the Jamia Mosque, one of the first mosques



WRSA walkers outside the Shree Krishna Temple with Guru Nanak PraKash Gurdwara in the distance

to be built in the UK. The route to the Shree Krishna Temple (built by the Gujarati Hindu community) took us past the Spiritualist church and the Polish Catholic church. In the temple we watched and listened while the weekly ladies' gathering sang and the priest attended the deities.

From here we visited the Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara where we saw and heard reading from the Guru Granth Sahib (the scripture that is revered as Teacher), and half of us stayed for the *langar* (vegetarian hospitality) before heading back into the city centre.

Eleanor Nesbitt

## Hampton Lucy

30 March 2017

Twenty-two walkers set off from the Boar's Head on the five mile walk. My Kenilworth Walking Group also had a walk from the same pub, but walked in the opposite direction, meeting us about half-way. The weather was good until we were just over half-way round when we had a short shower but it did not dampen our spirits. (The photo was taken after the shower.) The ground was mostly dry but at the end, through a wood as we returned to Hampton Lucy, it became very muddy; skis rather

than boots would have been useful! Geoff Stone was on holiday and was unable to walk with us but he told me he had been evacuated here during the war and was married in the village church. The University at one time leased and maintained flats over the stables at the vicarage. The pub did very well to cater for us; we had a room to ourselves and with two other groups of 15 and eight, there were many mouths to feed.

### Fred Troup



## Anstey

20 April 2017

*Drip, Drip, Drip...little April showers...* Well, it was raining as we drove towards the Rose and Castle pub in Anstey. However, the weather report was encouraging – it would rain until 11.00 am which was the time for the group to meet up. Sure enough the rain stopped at 11.00 am and it stayed dry for the duration of the trek.

Seventeen of us duly ordered our meals and set off across the field opposite the pub. It was full of piebald horses grazing lazily in the sunshine. I noted that they all had very long tails – some were touching the ground. Our next encounter with wildlife was a gaggle of geese but their honking was worse than their peck. Later on we passed through fields of sheep and cattle. The walk then wound its way towards the 16<sup>th</sup> century Barnacle Hall, through a small, modern housing estate and past fields replete with rape which lent a bright sunshine aspect to our team photograph.

Stiles are often an issue on these outings and this one was no exception but the group skilfully mastered each and every one, with a team approach and with one member conquering her vertigo in the process. It was with a sense of satisfaction that we continued

towards the Oxford Canal and were treated to a family of baby coots in the water.

Upon returning to the pub we were served in double-quick time. The food was excellent, piping hot, and went exceedingly well with our accompanying, cold, beverages.

### Kay Rainsley





## Guy's Cliffe Walled Garden

28 June 2017

After the vagaries of the rain last year, the weather turned out bright and sunny for this year's visit to Guy's Cliffe. Around 20 members were given a personalised tour around the garden that dates from the early 1770s. Originally developed by the Greatheed family, the garden has recently undergone major restoration work in the last three years by a dedicated team of volunteers who have contributed over 14,000 hours of work to recreate a working kitchen garden. Since last year the major infrastructure project has been the installation of all-weather paths, making the garden more accessible. Members were able to see the way fruit trees (many of which are the original varieties known to have been grown in the garden) have been trained, the recent installations of a soft fruit bed and a fern bed, and to meet some of the volunteer team.

The restoration project has turned up some interesting finds including bottles embossed with local shop names, porcelain depicting opium smokers and two 1797 George III 'cartwheel' pennies, struck by Matthew Boulton's then new-fangled steam press. These coins are the heaviest ever minted and the metal value was worth more than the face value - both contributory factors to them being discontinued in the same year! Another intriguing artefact on show was part of a flint-lock pistol, the origins of which have encouraged some creative thinking! After the garden tour a small group crossed the River Avon by the Saxon Mill and were able to view what is left of Guy's Cliffe House that the garden had served for around 250 years. This was followed by a walk to Old Milverton church to view the possibly unique gravestone of Thomas James, a local beekeeper whose headstone (pictured above) is in the shape of, and depicts, a traditional bee skep - the forerunner of the modern hive. The day concluded with lunch in the Saxon Mill.

**Barry Meatyard**

## Balsall Common to Barston

13 July 2017

On an overcast July morning 11 members of the walking group met in the layby between Balsall Common and Temple Balsall. This circular walk of four and a half miles was mainly over farmland; we walked around fields of wheat, barley and oats. After a few days of sunshine these crops were much more advanced towards harvest than on our previous route check three weeks earlier. We heard a tractor working in one of the fields nearby and later smelt the trailer of 'muck' as he passed us on the track heading back to the farm.

At Barston we took a detour to visit St. Swithin's Church, mainly of brick construction built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on a much older site. Unfortunately, the door was locked so we could only walk around the outside to admire the church.



Walking over more fields we eventually crossed the River Blythe for a second time and then into one more large field of barley to finally reach our cars.

Lunch was taken at the Beefeater restaurant, The George in the Tree, Balsall Common, where good food and conversation was enjoyed by all.

**Hazel and Alan Colliver**

## Forthcoming Walks 2017

Please see below details of the remainder of this year's walk programme.

**Thursday, 14 September** – Ufton, led by Kay and Les Rainsley

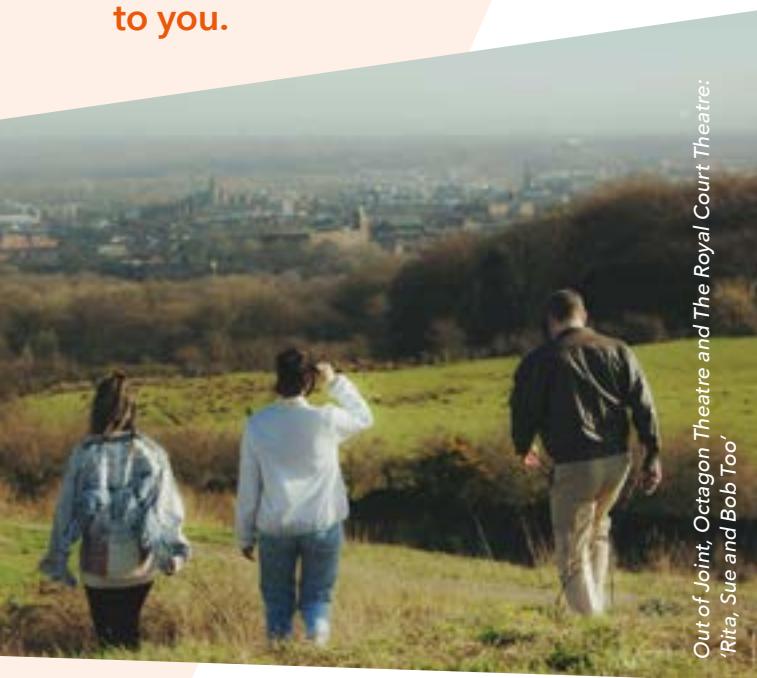
**October** – to be confirmed

**Tuesday, 21 November** – led by Marie Lucas, details to be confirmed.

**There is no walk in December.**

# 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.



*Out of Joint, Octagon Theatre and The Royal Court Theatre  
'Rita, Sue and Bob Too'*

## Theatre

### Out of Joint, Octagon Theatre Bolton and The Royal Court Theatre

#### Rita, Sue and Bob Too

Tuesday 24 October, 7.45pm (captioned performance), Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 October, 7.45pm

'As long as you're alive, that's all that matters.'

Best friends Rita, and Sue get a lift home from married Bob after babysitting his kids. When he takes the scenic route and offers them a bit of fun, the three start a fling they each think they control.

Andrea Dunbar wrote her semi-autobiographical play in 1982 when she was just 19. It's a vivid portrait of girls caught between a brutal childhood and an unpromising future, and hungry for adult adventure. Told with wicked humour, startling insight and a great ear for dialogue, *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* became a much-loved cult film. The classic play's original director Max Stafford-Clark directs this major new production.

## Classical Music

### Armonico Consort

#### Handel, *Messiah*

Thursday 7 December, 7.30pm

Director: Christopher Monks, Soprano: Elin Manahan Thomas, Countertenor: William Towers  
Tenor: Nathan Vale, Bass: Sir Willard White

'I think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself,' declared George Frederic Handel, as he composed his *Messiah*. But you don't need to be a believer to be moved by the power of this most beloved of all sacred masterpieces. More than just an oratorio, it's practically a national institution. With melodies like *Ev'ry Valley*, *For Unto Us a Child is Born*, *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* and, of course, *Hallelujah!*, it has been part of the soundtrack of our lives since the day it was first performed in April 1742. Nearly three centuries later, no British Christmas is complete without it. This performance by the internationally acclaimed period instrument ensemble, Armonico Consort, under its artistic director Christopher Monks, gets back to the style of performance Handel himself would have known.

## Film

### Goodbye Christopher Robin (certification TBC)

October (various times)

Director: Simon Curtis, UK 2017 Cast: Margot Robbie, Domhnall Gleeson, Kelly Macdonald, Will Titson

In the wake of World War I an icon was born.

*Goodbye Christopher Robin* follows household name A.A. Milne (Gleeson), his wife Daphne (Robbie) and his son Christopher Robin (Titson), whose cuddly toys were the inspiration behind the universally adored *Winnie the Pooh* tales. Directed by Simon Curtis, this moving biopic explores how the family struggle to cope with the international fame brought about by the books and the way in which this pop culture icon's creation is rooted in the tragedy of the trenches.

## Comedy

### Joel Dommett

Saturday 4 November, 8pm

One of the UK's most energetic and exciting comedians returns to the road with his solo show. Catch the star of 2016's *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here* and Sky1's *Bring The Noise* as he delivers his high octane comedy to venues up and down the country.

The autumn programme of the Music Centre's Thursday lunchtime concerts was not available at the time of going to press; please check on the Music Centre's website: [warwick.ac.uk/services/musiccentre](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/musiccentre)

## Dance

### Motionhouse

#### *Charge*

Wednesday 4 – Saturday 7 October, 7.30pm

Electrifying new dance-circus from Motionhouse, premiering at Warwick Arts Centre. Motionhouse's incredible new multi-media show is about energy. From the electrical charge that sparks human life, to the beating of our hearts and the memories we make, six performers use dance and acrobatics to delve deep into the human body, tracing the incredible story of energy in our lives. Digital projections create a world on stage where dancers and images interact seamlessly, bringing to life stories of energy in our own bodies, humans as energy manipulators and the earth's weather systems.

*Charge* is a unique collaboration between art and science: Motionhouse is working with partners from Oxford University to support the creative and choreographic process, putting science at the heart of artistic practice. *Charge* is the third element of Kevin Finnans' *Earth Trilogy*, developing on themes explored in *Scattered* (2009) and *Broken* (2013).

Post-Show Talk Thursday 5 October



Motionhouse: 'Charge'

## Visual arts

### Mead Gallery

**Kaleidoscope: Colour and Sequence in 1960s' British Art**, An Arts Council Collection Touring Exhibition

Thursday 5 October – Saturday 9 December

Monday – Saturday 12pm – 9pm

**FREE ENTRY**



## Family

**Jules Verne presents: Around the World in 80 Days**

adapted by Laura Eason

Tuesday 24 October, 7pm, Wednesday 25 October, 2pm & 7pm, Thursday 26 October, 1pm & 6pm

Direct from the West End!

The mysterious and fabulously wealthy Phileas Fogg wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. This thrilling adventure comedy for all the family sees a hugely talented cast of eight play over 125 characters in an imaginative, high-spirited escapade including six trains, five boats, four fights, three dances, two circus acts and an elephant!

## The WRSA Committee, 2016-2017

<b>Chair</b>	Joan Cole	colejoanm@aol.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Jean Norman	norman467@btinternet.com
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Charlotte Billing	charlottebilling@btinternet.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Russell Moseley	qarec@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Elaine Lenton	elaine.lenton@ntlworld.com
<b>Walks Co-ordinator</b>	Kay Rainsley	kay.rainsley@live.co.uk
<b>Visits Co-ordinator</b>	Denis Welchman	j.d.16.snowford@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Roberta Warman	r.m.warman@warwick.ac.uk
<b>Committee members</b>	David Botterill Margaret Clarke Brenda Wilson	cheekydgb08@gmail.com margaret.clarke123@btinternet.com bdw1905@gmail.com
<b>Bursary Sub-committee</b>	Joan Cole Robert Dyson Terry Kemp George Raper	(as above) R.G.Dyson@warwick.ac.uk terry-sheila@ntlworld.com g.raper97@btinternet.com
<b>University support</b>	Tim Wilkinson	rsa@warwick.ac.uk or Tim.Wilkinson@warwick.ac.uk

## RSA Library Cards

Members can collect their library cards from the University's HR Department's reception desk in University House between 9:30am and 4:00pm

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Currently, the membership of the Association is 239 and, sadly, we have lost three members this year: our sympathies go to the families concerned. The rate of members joining is very low and if you are in touch with any former colleagues who have not joined, please encourage them to do so.

Renewal forms will be sent out in the autumn; please return them as soon as possible as this saves the issuing of 'reminders'.

Elaine Lenton

## RSA THEATRE TRIPS

There have been several discussions at the RSA concerning booking theatre trips for our members. However, following much research we have found this activity to be prohibitively expensive. If we as an organisation have to purchase theatre tickets and book transport and subsequently do not get the required number of members booking, then the RSA would stand to lose significant funds. While we as an organisation do not seek to make a profit, we feel that it is incumbent upon us not to be profligate with our finances.

We have a solution of sorts: Johnsons, the coach travel firm, include in their excursions brochure a section on theatre trips. Members can organise their friends into small groups to attend or a single person can book themselves a trip. We believe that the latter suggestion would be welcome to those who want to see a particular performance but can't find anyone who would like to go with them - we realise that going down to London by oneself can be somewhat daunting especially as we become a little more mature.

The telephone number for Johnsons is 01564 797000; if you ring them they will send you a brochure by return of post.

## Dates for Your Diary

**Walks** – see page 9 for details

**Monday 9 October 2017**, 11.45am – AGM and autumn lunch, Scarman House; speaker: Daniel Gibbons, Senior Project Manager, University Estates Office

**Monday 18 December 2017**, 12noon for 12.30 – Christmas lunch, Scarman House

**Monday 9 April 2018** – Spring lunch, Scarman House

Information of particular interest to WRSA members may be found on the website:  
[www.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa)

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