

## March 2015

I hope you have enjoyed the summer; life seems so much easier when the sun shines. Since the last Newsletter there has been the AGM and lunch, many walks and a trip to Blenheim Palace. The latter was a very popular venue and those who did not book early were disappointed. Volunteers came forward to lead the 2014 walks but Kay Rainsley (details are at the end of the Newsletter) would be delighted to get some new Members to organise walks in 2015.

The Christmas lunch was as popular as it had been in previous years. Now that the meetings are in Scarman House they are always well supported. The parking is excellent at Scarman even if the road works around the University seem to be going on for ever and make getting to and from events a tedious process.

The Membership Secretary has a section in each Newsletter and keeps reminding Members to keep him informed of changes to personal details. This request seems to fall on deaf ears so I have been asked to draw your attention to this matter, Page 7.

At the AGM a number of changes to the Committee were announced. For health reasons Alan Foster has had to step down from the post of Visits Co-ordinator, he will be a hard act to follow but Denis Welchman has stepped into the breach and already organised a visit in May. Georgie Hale has left the committee and the Bursary Sub-committee and her Bursary role has been taken on by Pat Rushton. Charlotte Billing has been appointed Minutes Secretary and David Botterill will join the Committee. Those stepping down were thanked by everyone present.

As you know the University reaches its first half century in 2015. There will be great celebrations on the campuses of Warwick from January to December, Pages 13 - 15.

There are documents of interest to the WRSA members on the website: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa>

## Issue 35

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### Dates for your diary

**Walks** see Pages 7 & 16 for details

**27<sup>th</sup> April;** Spring Lunch, Scarman House: Speaker: **Prof. Abhinay Muthoo** (Chair, Department of Economics); Warwick-India (Laksh) Project

**28<sup>th</sup> April;** Warwick Art Collection see Page 13

**12<sup>th</sup> May;** Visit to Bletchley Park;

**21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015;** Golden Festival of Music

**16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015;** Festival of Imagination see page 14

## **AGM Meeting, Lunch and Talk, Scarman House,**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

The Annual General Meeting of the WRSA took place in Scarman House on a warm day in late September. Joan Cole the Chair welcomed the 74 Members who had battled through the road works in order to attend the meeting. Items on the agenda were dispatched quite swiftly. Changes to the Committee were announced and the names and contact details of current officers appear on page 16. The Chair thanked those who had given long service to the Committee, namely Alan Foster who had taken so many members and friends on trips around the country and Georgie Hale for her particular work on the Bursary Sub-Committee. The main item was a report that the WRSA were going to fund a Music Scholarship which is a donation of £500 a year for three years to a successful student on the basis of merit. A report on the first recipient is on Page 5.

Some concerns were expressed about the inadequacy of the signposts around the campus now that many familiar paths are closed. There was also displeasure at the large increase in parking fees but these issues are outside the remit of the Committee. Details of the meeting are in the Minutes which have been circulated.

After the AGM the members retired to the Orchard room for a tasty buffet lunch which is generously provided by the University and much appreciated by the Membership. An hour or so later they all returned to the meeting room for the afternoon talk.

Professor Terry Kemp introduced the speaker, a former colleague, Professor Stefan Bon. After qualifying in both chemistry and chemical engineering at the Technical University of Eindhoven (Netherlands), Stefan came to the University of Warwick in 1998 as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He was subsequently appointed Unilever Lecturer in Polymer Chemistry and climbed the academic ladder becoming a Professor in the Chemistry Department in 2014. Stefan would address the gathering on 'Juicy chocolate with the help of microscopic droplets and jellies' on which he had been working over the last few years and



which had received the widest publicity. The title was enough to ensure all chocoholics attended.

Stefan thanked the association for the invitation and was pleased to be invited to address them. His initial slide showed all the people who had been involved in the project from undergraduate students all the way through to Post-doctoral fellows. He explained that the motivation for the work came from the desire of industry to produce a chocolate that, while retaining the essence of the flavour and texture of 'normal' chocolate, offered a lower calorific intake per gram. In the UK there is a great love for chocolate. As people know there is a serious problem of obesity and its associated costs. Unfortunately chocolate has a high fat and sugar content and the chocolate favoured in the UK, *i.e.* milk chocolate, is particularly bad as it has a higher fat (triglycerides) content and lower cocoa content than chocolate produced in other parts of Europe. A solution needs to be found.

The starting point for the project in 2007 was a visit to Cadbury's production unit in Bourneville which he explained had an overwhelming chocolate smell which at first was delightful but after a short time was enough to put you off chocolate for ever - not a solution to the problem.

This project was different from other Chemistry projects in that there were many restrictions in what could be used to produce low fat chocolate bars which had the same size, the snap

characteristics when broken and the same taste sensation in the mouth as normal chocolate. Only food grade materials are permissible and these are not plentiful. However, on close examination the team became aware that some of the 'hidden items' in food production would turn out to be very useful.

One way of achieving the reduction in fat content is to incorporate water into the chocolate without imparting a feeling of 'wateriness' or loss of flavour. The means of effecting this seemingly impossible aim was to distribute the water in the form of microscopic droplets so small (at 30 microns – or 30 thousandths of a millimetre) that the tongue would be deceived into failing to perceive any water at all. To prevent the water droplets from leaking into the 'bulk' chocolate, the droplets had to be protected by an ultra-thin coat of chemically harmless silica and chitosan which would form a barrier between the water and the chocolate itself. This hybrid coating would also prevent the water droplets from fusing together.

The role of dispersed particles in stabilizing food emulsions has been part of the technical literatures for some time, e.g. homogenised milk and margarine. The stabilization is due to an effect described by Spenser Pickering in 1907 in the Journal of the Chemical Society although this had been put forward earlier in 1903 by Walter Ramsden in a publication in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, nevertheless the emulsions are called Pickering Emulsions. Stefan went on to describe how the equilibrium state of these emulsions was related to the surface tension, system geometry and the strength of interactions between droplets. Studying margarine the content of which is 40% water was the starting point in their breakthrough.

It was also possible to extend this approach to make droplets of a jelly-like substance, such as agar, to form 'microjellies'. Agar is a substance which has properties similar to gelatine but has characteristics that make it more suitable for application to chocolate. An additional attraction of this particular approach was that the microjellies could be made not only to contain water but even fruit juices and alcoholic beverages, such as vodka. Thus one could imbibe chocolate and alcohol simultaneously without the chocolate exhibiting any untoward appearance or gastronomic deficiency.

At a conceptual level, double emulsions offer enormous potential in the development of healthy foods; because they impart an 'unperceived' fat reduction in foods along with 'invisibly' carrying and delivering nutrients and bioactives without compromising on taste.

Professor Bon gave a full and well-illustrated account of the science underlying the formulation of his new 'chocolate', combining surface tension, energetics and nanoscience. The audience was drawn in by his sheer enthusiasm and verve in presenting a challenging subject with panache and showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

## **Letter from the Director of Annual Giving**

Tuesday, 18 November 2014

Dear members of the Warwick Retired Staff Association

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support of Music Scholarships here at Warwick. The Music Centre has now finalised the scholarships for the 2014/15 academic year. I am very pleased to update you on the current recipients and I enclose a complete list of this year's Music Scholars.

Thanks to you, and the support of other Warwick Benefactors like you, at least 24 talented student musicians and vocalists will benefit from the award of a Music Scholarship this year. As you will see, the scholars have a wide range of musical interests, reflecting the Music Centre's diversity.

In addition, this year a new award has been introduced called the Music Exhibition. This is a special category reflecting outstanding contribution to music making, either as multi-instrumentalists/vocalists, composers, conductors/musical directors, or a mixture of all these categories. The selection process, value and terms for a Music Exhibition are the same as a Music Scholarship. The two Music Exhibitions have been funded through the generosity of a number of donors who support music scholarships at a variety of levels.

As you know, the Music Centre stages a wide variety of student performances throughout the year, many including the Music Scholars. I have included a list of the upcoming events at the end of this letter for your information. You may already be attending the Brahms & Shostakovich concert on 30<sup>th</sup> November!

There will also be a number of music events in 2015 to celebrate Warwick's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including the Golden Festival of Music, a three-day festival of music and entertainment in and around Warwick Arts Centre. Tickets for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 'Stars and Stripes Classical Extravaganza' on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May are already on sale and can be booked via the Warwick Arts Centre website ([www.warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk)).

As well as three ticketed evening concerts in the Butterworth Hall during the Festival, there will also be free music and events in other venues and outdoor spaces. The Festival will conclude with a firework display over the Piazza on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. I do hope you'll be able to join us for this celebration.

In the meantime, thank you very much again, on behalf of the University, the Music Centre, and particularly the Music Scholars, for your generous support and enthusiastic encouragement of Warwick's outstanding student musicians.

If you do not already know the student your scholarship is funding, and would like to make contact, please email the Music Centre at [musiccentre@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:musiccentre@warwick.ac.uk) with your message and they will forward it on to the relevant student.

With very best wishes,

Faye Smith

Director of Annual Giving

Warwick Benefactor

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

##### ***Gershwin! featuring the Symphony Orchestra & Chorus***

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 7.30pm, Butterworth Hall

##### ***Warsaw Philharmonic featuring Chorus***

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 7.30pm, Butterworth Hall

##### ***Royal Philharmonic Orchestra featuring the Symphony Orchestra***

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 7.30pm, Butterworth Hall

## **Music Scholarship 2015 – Richard Freeman**

The recipient of this year's WRSA scholarship is Richard Freeman who is in his final year of an M Eng degree at the University of Warwick. Richard arrived at the University in October 2010 having selected the University principally for academic reasons and particularly after the 'good feeling' he had after visiting on an Open Day. He will have taken 5 years to complete his degree because he spent the 2014 - 2015 academic year working at Rolls Royce Aerospace in Derby. He will return to Rolls Royce at the end of this academic year.

The musical side has been an enormous bonus to his time at University. Richard's musical



life goes back to his school days where he enjoyed music as a creative activity outside his academic work. He studied singing at Redbridge Music School from where he gained a Distinction at Grade 8 singing, awarded by Trinity College London. Richard is not short of musical and Am Dram performances in his home area, principally with Forest Musical Productions and the Ilford Operatic and Dramatic Society (IODS). This included playing Marius in Les Miserables (school edition) which was awarded the Flame Award for Best Youth Production.

Since arriving at Warwick music has had a significant impact on his life, especially as having singing lessons has been an exceptional creative outlet and his ability has improved more than he could have imagined. He considers himself very lucky to have been awarded a scholarship in his second year when his tutor was Richard Whitehouse and again the WRSA scholarship this year with Llyndall Trotman as his tutor. The scholarships have allowed him to have singing lessons which otherwise he could not afford. He has been in numerous performances with the University of Warwick Chamber Choir, Chorus and in Scholar concerts. During his intercalated year at Rolls Royce he carried on with his singing, performing with the Derby Bach Choir at the Round House in Derby. Richard considers it a privilege to have performed with prestigious ensembles in beautiful venues like the Derby Round House and the Butterworth Hall.

Although Richard spends considerable time on his music he also appears to be a diligent student. He spoke equally enthusiastically about the Masters project where he leads 8 other Masters students tasked with building a human powered submarine. This will compete in the International Submarine Race at the David Taylor Basin missile testing facility, Washington DC in June 2015. This is quite an expensive project, with 4 months to go they have raised £30,000 in sponsorship but still need more. They hope to do better than the team in 2014 which came 4<sup>th</sup> in the world.

With Richard's engaging personality, ability, creativity, hard work and drive I think the scholarship has gone to a worthy recipient. I do hope we will be able to hear him sing. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his career both in engineering and singing.

## **WRSA Student Bursary Winners 2014-15**

This year the WRSA Committee approved three awards totalling £1300, two of these were presented on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in University House. The two award winners who were present are shown below with two of the Bursary Sub-Committee.



*L to R: Professor Terry Kemp, Ernest Appleby, Kyle Jackson and Patricia Rushton.*

The third recipient of an award (Thomas Karikari) was not able to be present as he had accepted an invitation to attend an important event in London on promoting science development in Africa.

A brief description of each award is given below.

**1. Kyle Jackson (3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD; Department of History)  
Endangered Pasts: A Proposed Gallery of Mizo Photographs at the Modern Records Centre (MRC), University of Warwick.**

The bursary will enable Kyle to mount a gallery of photographs in an exhibition in the MRC for one week in Spring 2015. This exhibition will present not only the historic photographs themselves but also, most unusually, their transient character by applying speed-up procedures each night to demonstrate the temporal effects of heat and humidity.

A large number of historic photographs exist depicting the life and culture of the Mizo people from a north-eastern hill state of India. Many of the earliest ones, from the 1890s, were due to Christian missionaries, who recorded the transition from an animist culture to one overwhelmingly Christian. Later contributions came from the Mizo people themselves.

All of this material is undergoing degradation under the demanding environment of heat and humidity, and Kyle has directed a four-member pilot project in Mizoram under the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme which digitised rare books, letters and diaries, but particularly photographs which are especially prone to chemical decomposition.

The costs of the exhibition relate to the associated materials, printing, display, and transportation. An award of £600 has been made.

**2. Ernest Appleby (3<sup>rd</sup> year, MMorse)**

**Acting as Treasurer for Warwick UniBrass, to support UniBrass 2015 (February 14<sup>th</sup>).**

Warwick UniBrass is a brass band competition, hosted at the University of Warwick for the first time in 2014 and now in 2015, involving 17 university brass bands from across the UK. It

also involves two sets of workshops led by professionals from the 'Mighty Cory Band' and from the Coventry-based Jaguar Land Rover Band and Warwickshire Music Service. Individual sessions will be aimed at children, children and parents, and the general public. The event will be covered by local media and social media outlets. The application is to fund the costs of the necessary rehearsal space in the Arts Centre for the proposed workshops; the awarding Sub-Committee noted the grant of £300 made last year to Unibrass had been used to very good effect. An award of £300 has been made.

### **3. Thomas Karikari (2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD; Life Sciences).**

#### **Development of On-line Resources for Teaching Biology in Resource-limited Settings.**

The lack of laboratory resources and modern teaching materials can be a major challenge to biology education, particularly in developing countries. The project aims to address this situation by developing an educational website filled with 'hands-on' biology experiments that require minimal or no expensive scientific equipment to run. The target audience will be high school students and their teachers. Some content for the website has already been developed and implemented in Ghana and Tanzania. The project would establish a virtual resource centre to improve practical biology education; the components of the project would comprise:



- organising and developing resources for the website;
- designing, building and hosting the website for an initial period of two years;
- improving the website to incorporate feedback.

An initial award of £400 has been made. Consideration will be given to a submission in the 2015 competition to continue the project, depending on demonstrable progress.

### **Notice to all Members**

There are times when there is insufficient time to inform members of events by post. It is both cheaper and quicker to use emails as a means of communication. Not everyone has an email address so where possible those members are contacted by phone. The Committee try very hard to make best use of the small subscription that we all pay. The Committee members all give a considerable amount of their time so we should all do what we can to support them.

This year, of the Members who have already paid their subscriptions, over 12% had changed their email address and some others had moved house or changed their phone number. The Membership Secretary was totally unaware of these changes until this year's Renewal Forms were returned to him.

Please can you co-operate with the Committee and keep it informed of changes by sending the Membership Secretary any changes that are relevant to the WRSA.

### **Walking Group News and Walks Reports**

#### *Out and About*

Do you enjoy walking, eating, drinking and socialising whilst keeping fit and healthy? If you can say yes to any or all of the above you are probably already a member of the WRSA walking group. If not come and join us – you've got nothing to lose. We are always ready to welcome new walkers to the group. Walks are generally around 4 to 5 miles in length starting and finishing in a pub. Anyone wishing to join us for lunch is also welcome. With

spring and summer on the way it's a great time to sign up. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

*Kay Rainsley, Walks Co-ordinator*

## Walks Reports

### **Report on walk from Cubbington, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Some twenty walkers assembled at 10 a.m. in front of the Kings Head in Cubbington for a five mile walk taking in the villages of Hunningham and Weston under Wetherley. The weather was excellent and given the absence of stiles, progress was rapid as we headed out



of Cubbington across the fields towards Offchurch. At the bridge over the River Leam we paused for photographs and then turned left to walk past the small but beautifully situated Hunningham Church to the Red Lion. Resisting temptation, we headed across a field of agitated cows - fortunately distracted into a remote corner by a woman walker with a dog. We emerged briefly onto the road in Weston before returning across the fields to Cubbington via the ancient and lovely Weston woods now threatened with destruction by the (in the writers' view!) ridiculous HS2. Halfway between Weston and Cubbington we were delighted to meet (by previous arrangement!) Malcolm Wilding, still, alas, plagued by back

problems, and he was able to walk back with us and join us for a very good lunch in the Kings Head which was served with great efficiency

*Hazel and Alan Colliver*

### **Report on Geological walk around campus, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

*"There are no rocks in Surbiton"*

This student's comment prompted Martyn Bradley to devise a geological walk around the University of Warwick Campus. On 15<sup>th</sup> September eight of us from the WRSA followed this trail discovering that the rocks beneath our feet influence the campus landscape.

We started from the Arts Centre and walked through part of Tile Hill Wood where the red 'Tile Hill mudstone' had been used since Roman times to fashion pottery. Evidence of this had been confirmed by Stephen Hills' archaeological dig. We continued to the Gibbet Hill site noting the Kenilworth sandstone which had been used to build walls and parts of the old farm house. Stone from Lord Leigh's quarry here had been used to build Westwood Church. Millennium Wood





was new to most of us, the new trees are now maturing well. Also new to many are the permissive footpaths around the grounds. We followed the new one beside the Canley Brook to join the path and cycleway which leads across University land from the Kenilworth Greenway. The farmhouse on the hill, currently the Vice-Chancellor's residence, like Gibbet Hill is also built on Kenilworth sandstone. After picking up pebbles brought by ice we were building our geological appreciation and could speculate if we were 'inliers' or 'outliers'.

The walk finished in the Student's Union where the 'Dirty Duck' (another discovery to most), served a satisfying pub lunch.

*Frances Halstead*

## **Report on Corley Moor walk, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

### *Llamas, Sheep, Dogs and a Lion*

It was hugely successful – 20 walkers signed up for the Corley Moor walk scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October. I went swimming, came back and there were messages everywhere, on my landline, texts, missed calls and emails. Sixteen of the group had pulled out due to the, I have to admit, shocking weather conditions. One walker told me that he had never known such an awful day for a walk.



Start again. I watched the weather forecast and tentatively re-arranged the date. To my surprise 14 walkers were able to make it mostly from the original group. We were in luck; the weather was warm and dry and we were able to enjoy the Warwickshire countryside in its autumn glory. From the car park we headed up Windmill Lane where we were able to see the old windmill which has been converted into living accommodation. This was

quickly followed by a sighting of several llamas in a nearby field. They were pressed close to the fence presumably hoping to be fed. A short walk further along the lane took us past a small flock of Jacob's sheep which although originally from the Mediterranean have been in England since the 1750s.

The walk then continued past woodland, across a ploughed field, along a lane and onto the Packington Estate. Everyone enjoyed the section through Meriden Shafts which is a short wooded area filled with a variety of deciduous trees in a variety of colours. This led into a succession of fields including a disused gymkhana area and past a caravan park.

A wide, stile free, section allowed walkers to spread out and walk and chat in groups before narrowing and wending its way uphill to Harvest Hill Lane. The next section brought us to the Police Dog Training Centre and although we couldn't see any dogs we could certainly hear them. We continued up a hilly field with Holly Berry Hall on our left complete with two helicopters and a light aircraft in the grounds. The final stretch led us back past Elkin Wood towards our final animal – The Red Lion - where we enjoyed a wide choice of excellent meals with good service and congenial company.

*Kay Rainsley*

## Report on Lapworth walk, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The November walk began from The Navigation Inn at Lapworth. Twenty four members took part. The group turned left out of the Navigation Inn car park, left again through the Castle Eventing Centre where some of the thorough-bred horses were grazing in their paddocks. We were watched disinterestedly by a jet-black spaniel who let us through his territory without so much as a bark. The footpath led us into the grounds of Baddesley Clinton, once the home of the Brome family. A group of sheep was straddling the footpath but soon scurried out of our way. We stopped for a group photo in the gardens in front of the medieval house.



Setting off again down the road, past the car park and into the private road and public footpath we passed Baddesley Clinton Church. The road took us towards what used to be the wood keeper's cottage and into the ancient Hay Wood. The bracken and trees were awash with autumn colours.

The path through the wood was a little muddy but no-one was deterred. Eventually we reached the main footpath through the wood which led to a quiet country road. We

continued along the road where we could see Wroxhall Abbey in the distance. The Wren family lived in the house for five generations. Sir Christopher Wren was the architect of St. Paul's cathedral and his great-great grandson was High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

As we turned along Rowington Green we passed the converted windmill and Shakespeare Hall where one story has it that Shakespeare wrote, 'As You Like It'. The walk continued passing the Alms houses and eventually we came to Tom of the Woods pub. From here we crossed the canal bridge and walked back along the tow path to the Navigation Inn. We had pre-ordered our food which was waiting for us in the cosy snug bar. Some walkers commented that it had been enjoyable walking through the woodland with the autumnal colours.

*Marie Lucas*

## Report on Furnace End to Shustoke and Victorian Reservoir walk, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Seventeen walkers left the Bull's car park at Furnace End and headed towards Shustoke village. The walk went past the Church of St Cuthbert's which was erected in 1307 on the site of an earlier chapel which was struck by lightning in 1866 and destroyed. The original village was built around St Cuthbert's Church until the plague in 1650 when the inhabitants moved away to the new village. (Shustoke existed before Domesday. In 1086 Shustoke was recorded as 'Scotescote' meaning Scots Cottage).

Passing the hamlet of Church End, the footpath went through a small coppice and into farmland, eventually picking up the Heart of England Way. The walk continued through a conifer wood, past a small pond and into a lane. After passing a row of pretty cottages the footpath led to two gated-cultivated fields leading to Shustoke's Lower Green in Back Lane. The walkers stopped for a few moments to look at the series of carved stepping stones, created by the sculptor Michael Sheuermann. Each granite stone represents an aspect of Shustoke's natural or industrial heritage (the railway, Blythe Hall, the Church, the pheasant hunter and his dog, and images of the reservoir). The walk continued through the middle of

the medieval village of Shustoke. The route crossed the Coleshill Road and into the entrance of the Victorian reservoir.

The group photo was taken at the head of the reservoir. Continuing along the far side of the Victorian reservoir surrounded with trees, the path led to the fly-fishing lake with a wooded area on the right and followed alongside the river Bourne. The footpath went under Whitacre Junction railway bridge. Following this path and continuing on farmland the footpath led uphill and back to the Bull at Furnace End for lunch.



*Marie Lucas*

### **Report on Corley walk, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

*Red Sky in the Morning ...*

I drove up the A45 towards the University for my morning swim, a beautiful pink and red sky hung over the familiar route, a shepherd's warning. It was the day of the WRSA walk starting from the Horse and Jockey and taking in the surrounding Corley countryside.

Despite the incessant light rain and the predictably muddy fields we ventured away from the wood burning fire in the pub, down the adjacent lane where one of the local wood cutters had carved giant moai (like the big heads on Easter Island) and huge armchairs before reaching the fields. One of the moai had a smiley mouth and the other had a sad mouth – we tried to emulate the first. In the distance we could see the Coventry skyline.

From there we traversed several fields and skirted around Keresley spotting some very attractive caged chickens on our way. Many of the fields had horses in them sporting colourful waterproof coats, much like us in our array of waterproofs, wellington boots, hats and scarves. Undaunted we continued our stroll until we reached some old, retired, tractors where we stopped for the group photograph. In the same field were two delightful, grey donkeys.



The route then took us back towards Corley past the home for old, retired, greyhounds run by the Retired Greyhound

Trust. We sensed a bit of a theme going on. However the excitement of so many visitors caused the dogs to rush towards us barking and leaping up at the wire fences which surrounded their pounds. Someone was heard to remark that 'they seemed to have plenty of life left in them'.

Further fields revealed more horses in coats and more views through the drizzle. But undeterred the sixteen valiant walkers pushed on towards the Horse and Jockey where the fire was still burning and excellent fresh meals were served up in their newly refurbished

restaurant. Some of us were damp, some more than damp but we soon came back to life – a bit like the greyhounds really.

*Kay Rainsley*

## Visit Report

### **Report on visit to Blenheim Palace, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

This trip proved popular and places were snapped up quickly. Our coach left on time from the Memorial Park public car park. The weather was good and our journey took us, without delay, via the A46 and M40 to Woodstock, Oxfordshire and Blenheim Palace.

Blenheim Palace, formerly Woodstock Manor, was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir John Vanbrugh. Built early in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, it was given to John Churchill, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough, as a gift from Queen Anne after the Battle of Blenheim (there is a lovely tapestry by Judocus de Vos in the house depicting this Battle) as he had received the surrender of the French in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714). It is probably most famous as the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill (30<sup>th</sup> November 1874). The house, gardens and grounds are quite spectacular. The 11<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough died on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014. He improved the Estate by using his very considerable business acumen.



Most of us made the first port of call the café/restaurants which had excellent ranges of beverages and food. There was no group timed tour so some headed for the house and joined a guided tour. We had the bonus of not only seeing the palace decorated for Christmas but were able to view work by Ai Weiwei. He is an artist and social activist critical of human rights and democracy in China. Born in 1957 in Beijing he is one of the most important and influential figures of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He now lives and works in restricted conditions in China. Pieces of his work were displayed throughout the house but the piece which stood out for me was the magnificent chandelier in the main hall, a perfect place for it. However, the prints on display in the Library were not, I felt, appropriate in such a stunning room! We also saw wonderful porcelain, pictures and tapestries collected by the owners of the house, and of course Christmas trees and decorations with a green and gold theme.



Also, there was the Churchill Exhibition, and 'Blenheim Palace the Untold Story – 300 Years of Enticing Tales'.

In addition, there was the Living Crafts for Christmas Fair. I think quite a few of our group succumbed to temptation, going by the bags of goods being carried onto the coach.

This trip was organised by Jean Norman and I think the smooth running of the day was largely due to her efficient planning and hard work, so thank you Jean.

*Pat Scott*

## Christmas Lunch

The WRSA Christmas lunch is always the highlight of the year and 2014 was no exception. In spite of the difficulties experienced in getting to any part of the University during the major re-planning of the site, 104 Members got to Scarman on 16<sup>th</sup> December in time for a chat and drink before sitting down to a three course meal.



The starter was already set on the tables along with the crackers, wine, fruit juice and water. Once everyone was seated there was the usual snap of the crackers and laughter as many donned their paper hats. It was no time at all before an orderly queue formed attacking the main course from two directions. The choice was sufficient for the most demanding of diners. The same procedure was followed for the desserts or for some desserts and cheese.

Before going home most of the Members enjoyed some coffee/tea and mince pies and a chat with friends who had been sitting on different tables. There was no rush to leave the comfort of Scarman House.

Once again our thanks to the staff of Scarman House who produced a very enjoyable meal and those who met our needs both at the Buffet and at the tables. Last but not least we have to thank Jean Norman who ensures the event goes without a hitch and makes it relaxing for us all.

## Imagining a University

### **The First 50 Years of the University of Warwick Art Collection**

The exhibition opening will take place on the evening of **28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Mead Gallery**, Warwick Arts Centre, then opens Monday – Saturday, 12 pm – 9 pm; Closed 4<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

This exhibition examines how the forces that shaped the University also influenced the development of the collection.

The exhibition will include the work of over sixty artists including Hurvin Anderson, Claire Barclay, Jack Bush, Terry Frost, Tess Jaray, Patrick Heron, Richard Long, Melanie Manchot, Francis Morland, Yoko Ono, Eduardo Paolozzi, Fiona Rae, Ann Redpath, Lucie Rie and Andy Warhol.

In the twenty-first century, the University Art Collection has many roles: delivering teaching, learning and research; introducing thousands of children and their families to the University; providing work experience for students and opportunities for artists; developing a sense of place and identity for the campus; initiating and extending discussions with its many audiences.

**Exhibition Tours (Mead Gallery FREE but must book) every Tuesday, 1pm**

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 12 pm & Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 6 pm**

Join the Mead Gallery curators for a 30 minute introduction to the University of Warwick Art Collection.

### **To Build a Collection: Art and the University of Warwick**

**Illustrated Talk by Kate Eustace** (National Grid Room £4.50 (£3))

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 6.30 pm**

Founding Curator of the Mead Gallery, Kate Eustace (worked at The University of Warwick from 1985 – 1992). In this special illustrated talk, Kate Eustace will be talking about her approach to developing the art collection.

## Finding out more about Prints and Print Making

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May (Time to be confirmed)

This event will include a discussion about the prints in the University Art Collection, exhibited as part of the Mead Gallery's latest exhibition, and the methods of their making. There will then be a practical session where you can try one of these printmaking methods for yourself.

To express an interest in the day and to receive further details, please contact the Deputy Curator (Art Collection) Liz Dooley on [e.a.dooley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:e.a.dooley@warwick.ac.uk) or go to [www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/art/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/art/) for updated information.

*Johnathan Branson, Audience Development & Digital Communities Officer*

## Turning 50 in 2015

### The Warwick Music Festival – 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

The Warwick Music Festival will see some of the world's best musicians playing on your doorstep at Warwick Arts Centre. A three-day festival of music and entertainment in and around Warwick Arts Centre with three ticketed evening concerts in the Butterworth Hall and free music and events in other venues and outdoor spaces.

**The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conducted by David Charles Abell, opens the Festival on 21<sup>st</sup> May for an evening of life, liberty and big American tunes, from Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to Bernstein's *American in Paris*. Join Abell and his orchestra as they lift the roof off the Butterworth Hall with a concert that simply shouts 'celebration'!

**Django Django**, the Mercury-nominated Scottish four-piece behind electro pop hit *Default*, will perform songs from their acclaimed debut album as well as their brand new second album on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

And after four decades performing across the globe, **Joan Armatrading** brings her first solo world tour to Warwick Arts Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Her performances will include songs such as *Love and Affection*, *Willow*, *Drop The Pilot* and *Me, Myself I*.

**Tickets on sale now! Book online at <http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/>**

### The Festival of the Imagination - *the future is literally around the corner...*

The Festival of the Imagination will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and will be the centrepiece of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Our diverse programme of events all focus around the central theme of '*Imagining the Future*,' inspiring everyone to think about what the future holds.

Warwick Arts Centre and the piazza will, for one weekend only, be transformed for a colourful two-day spectacular. Join us for a, family-friendly world of food, drink and entertainment, and a wealth of future-focused talks and debates. Expect to see a string of insightful speakers join the University's own academic leading lights on stage.

- **Interactive Discovery Zone**  
Engage with our research in this interactive zone to discover how the five senses shape our lives. Meet some of our talented students and professors keen to share their knowledge.
- **Talks and Debates**  
Drawing on our successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary partnership with Cheltenham Festivals, we'll be hosting a series of talks, debates and interviews with the theme of '*Imagining the Future*'. A diverse range of topics will be sure to encourage discussion and dispute to tackle some of the world's biggest 'What if?' questions.
- **The Future of Science**  
Our superb team of keen scientists will share their fascination with how the world works during eight exhilarating lectures. You'll leave wanting to know more...

- **Cookery Demonstrations**  
A unique combination of chefs paired with leading academics, providing not just a tasty dish or menu, but an opportunity to learn about the science or history behind the food.
- **Taster Classes**  
Our Centre for Life Long Learning and Language Centre will hold a series of taster classes in a variety of subjects to whet your learning appetite. It will be an opportunity to try speaking some Mandarin or give creative writing a go with the guidance of our expert teachers.
- **The Piazza**  
Our piazza will be filled with the buzz of market stalls and cuisine from a wide range of local and national vendors. This food and drink, live music and entertainment extravaganza will feature a student-led entertainment stage, demonstrating the diverse talents of our student societies.

### **A new partnership with the Cheltenham Festivals**

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we have entered into an exciting partnership with the Cheltenham Festivals. As the first university to lend its support to all four of *The Times and The Sunday Times* Cheltenham Festivals - Jazz, Science, Music and Literature - our partnership will ensure the best in thought-provoking discussion across a range of real-life global concerns.

We'll be hosting a number of must-see, topical debates, here and in Cheltenham, to reach out to new audiences both nationally and internationally. The Festivals are also a platform to showcase our University; not just the institution but its people and research as well.

There's lots more excitement still to be announced, so do keep an eye on our website to find out more [www.warwick.ac.uk/warwick50](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/warwick50)

*Christine Fearn*, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Officer

### **WRSA Membership**

The number of Members of the WRSA remains fairly constant in spite of all the effort we put into getting new people to join. Currently we have 269 Members (25% had not renewed their Membership when this was written); 9 new members have joined since January.

For those who already have membership of the sporting facilities please note that the renewal date for this activity may not be January (it depends on the date your subscription started). For those wishing to join please contact Suzanne Keene (Human Resources, telephone 024 7652 4843).

Correspondence reaching Members depends on the accuracy of the details contained in the WRSA database; please inform me of any changes to your personal details (address, telephone number and/or email).

*Bill Prichard* WRSA Membership Secretary

### **Farewell**

Sadly we have to say a sad farewell to two WRSA Members who died since the AGM. They contributed a great deal to the University of Warwick and our Association; they will be known to many and sadly missed.

Mr George T Timmons and Dr Richard K Morris.

### Latest Walks Information – March to August 2015

<u>Day/Date/Area of walk</u>	<u>Walk Leader(s)</u>
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March Coventry Faith walk	Eleanor Nesbitt
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> April Meriden	Chris Hall
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May Bubbenhall	Dennis Jones and Malcolm Cooper
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> June tba	Stan Ireland
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July Market Bosworth area	Margaret Birch
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> August Hatton	Hazel & Alan Colliver

### COMMITTEE 2014/2015 CONTACT DETAILS

<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>	Terry Kemp	terry-sheila@ntlworld.com
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Bill Prichard	william.prichard@btinternet.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
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