

Annual Report 2013-2014



Introduction

There were two important developments for the Centre this academic year - digital preservation and working with local schools. Through the appointment of two new staff, Ben Veasey and Nuala Clarke, we have been able to begin to tackle the thorny issue of digital archives and extend the Centre's educational reach to local schools and A Level students. More details on both of these projects are given in this report.

We have also been able to make substantial inroads into a large backlog of archives of the International Transport Workers Federation through their generous funding of a six month archive post. Katherine Kinrade arrived in May and has already produced a catalogue for an extensive collection of files which may otherwise have remained inaccessible.

The 50th anniversary of the University has featured prominently during the year and although the main celebrations take place in 2015, the MRC has spent time preparing and digitising material for the major events next year.

Finally, the death of Tony Benn in March 2014 was a poignant reminder of his visits to Warwick and his support for the MRC. He first came to the Centre in June 2006 when he spent an enjoyable afternoon looking at a range of labour and trade union archives, many of them connected to his own career. His subsequent visit in 2011 to formally open the refurbished MRC and participate in a public debate on the 'Winter of Discontent' will be fondly remembered by many staff and students at Warwick.



Front cover:
Tony Benn visits the MRC in 2011



New staff – new services!

“It was cool and fun. It was fabulous!”

Nuala Clarke came to the Centre as a graduate intern for two months in January 2014. She proved so valuable that we kept her on. A Warwick classics graduate in 2013, Nuala had also worked briefly as a volunteer museum learning assistant. She describes her role:

“I am the Education and Outreach Officer at the MRC. In this role, I am working on improving access to our resources and raising awareness of the MRC, both within the university and to external audiences.

I have developed an outreach programme for local schools, widening participation and engaging with the community. These sessions are really important for all ages of history student, as understanding archives and engaging with primary material is fundamental to studying history. This also promotes a personal connection with the past through unique and often sensitive material. I particularly enjoy creating new, exciting ways to engage students with archives. For example, our most recent session ‘Spies of WWII’ includes a code-

breaking activity which has been extremely popular.

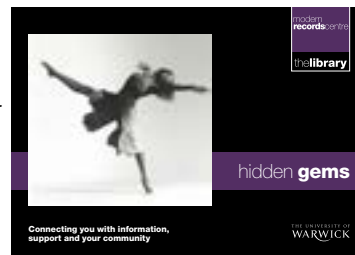
We also host sessions for A-Level students, who come into the Centre to conduct their own research, using our primary source material.

It’s great to see these students thinking critically about sources and using them to form the base of their coursework”. A total of 130 pupils from 6 local



schools visited the Centre and the feedback has been very positive and encouraging.

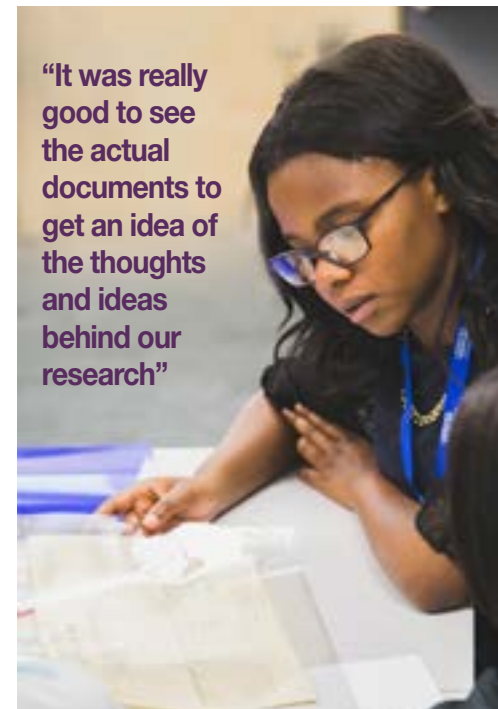
Nuala has also been busy promoting the Centre through poster campaigns and a blog.



“I particularly enjoy the sense of discovery that comes with working with archives. Over the past months I have found a range of intriguing material that has surprised and delighted me. This has inspired the ‘Hidden Gems’ campaign, which aims to showcase the diversity of our material to different subject areas. I designed promotional material showing images from our archives, including a signed photograph of Harry Houdini and a stunning image of a woman dancing. I also put together the exhibition ‘Fashion: A Century of Expression’, which contained some great outfits.

I love how my job revolves around sharing our amazing archives with others and inspiring them to come into the Centre and discover our collections for themselves.”

The MRC blog has reached out to the Warwick student community and beyond. We’ve had blog posts written by students, A level pupils, staff and researchers covering a wide range of subjects such as ‘Voices from the Titanic’, the work of a volunteer, a series of items on the 1970s written by Making History students and even one on the doodles and cartoon drawings found on letters.



“It was really good to see the actual documents to get an idea of the thoughts and ideas behind our research”

“ I found today interesting and fun. It was cool to get a look at the original items and learn more things. I especially enjoyed the code breaking.

”

Katherine Kinrade started with the Centre in May 2014 specifically to work on the archives of the International Transport Workers Federation. A qualified archivist, Katherine had previously worked at Hull History Centre. She has tackled over 100 large boxes of files relating to seafarers, railway workers and airline pilots as well as the ‘country files’ of the General Secretary which cover almost every corner of the world. These are a mixture of correspondence and subject files which can include reports, press cuttings, meeting papers and other information accumulated in relation to a particular country. They generally relate to workers’ claims, legislation and collective agreements, but also touch upon major events and national policies such as the sinking of the Estonian ferry ‘Estonia’ in 1994 and the ITWF position on apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s.

Katherine’s six month project is generously supported by the ITWF. It will help us to integrate the different deposits from this organisation as well as identify significant items for digitisation.





Ben Veasey joined us in October 2013 as our Digital Preservation Officer. He has introduced the MRC to the delights of bit stream preservation, cross-walking and SIPS and DIPS. The challenges of taking in and processing digital files are many and complex and Ben has dealt with all our questions and queries with patience and good humour.

We are still in the early stages of this work but have already identified systems, tools and processes we can develop. The Centre holds a number of collections containing floppy discs and CDs which are already becoming more difficult to access. We are receiving some born digital records and we have an extensive collection of our own digitised files and images. These will all need to be held securely and made available in the future. Ben adds:

“This year we have been working hard to address digital archiving and the unique challenges it poses. A mission statement has

been supported by the University and we have produced a policy document: both of which will underpin our activities in this area. Work towards defining and implementing the underlying technical architecture and workflows has been done in order to ready ourselves for handling digital deposits, preserving them into the future and presenting them to our community. In addition we have begun to produce guidance for any potential depositors around creating, organising, describing and storing digital content as well as information on how to deposit digital archives with us.”

Digitisation

The digitisation team has changed dramatically this year. Nick Edwards and Dan Cant left the Centre to pursue their careers while Rita Oliveira joined us in January 2014. Kate Weston has continued to work with Liz Wood on a number of projects.

Digitisation this year has focussed on the large collection of University archives in preparation for the 50th anniversary celebrations.

We have also joined in the widespread commemoration of the First World War.

Liz and Kate have contributed a wonderful selection of 100 documents for **First World War 100: conflict and commemoration**. This collection brings together many of the archives we hold on WW1, from the soldier on the front line to the imprisoned conscientious objector, and from the working woman to the wounded ex-serviceman. The sources provide an insight

into the far-reaching effects of four years of ‘total war’ on Britain and its society.

An alternative view of the conflict was also provided through the digitisation of cartoons from the National Union of Railwaymen’s newspaper ‘The Railway Review’. The cartoons include stringent attacks on profiteers and comment on unequal sacrifices on the home front, the employment of women and the khaki election of 1918.



After discussions with Professor Frank Land, representing the LEO Computers Society, we digitised a small number of key documents about LEO, the world’s first business computer, developed by J. Lyons & Company Ltd during

the 1940s and 1950s.

The documents, including development reports, photographs and the first instruction manual, are part of the archive collection of John Simmons, the statistician who initiated the LEO project, and provide a unique insight into this pioneering work.

Kate has scanned over 1,500 slides from the archive of ‘lantern lecturer’ Henry Sara, a star speaker in the early Communist Party of Great Britain and British Trotskyist movement. Many of the lectures cover key international issues of the day - Soviet Russia, war in China, extremism in



Germany, troubles in the Middle East - and were illustrated with a fantastic range of photographs.

Particularly striking are two sets of tinted colour photographs of Russia in the 1910s and early 1920s showing scenes of revolution and the lives of ordinary people. Over 100 slides are also included containing photographs of China right at the start of the 1927 civil war, many of which



were taken by Sara himself and have not been seen in public for nearly 90 years.

The digitised slides have been added to our online resources and were featured in the May issue of the BBC History Magazine.

Christopher Read, Professor of Modern European History at the University of Warwick, described the find as “an amazing collection of images, not least because so many of them are in colour from a time when that was very rare, but also because they illustrate everyday life in the Soviet Union at an almost forgotten moment in its history - after the revolution and before Stalin. The collection constitutes a valuable addition to our sources on Soviet Russia.”

Martin Sanders continues to manage the digitisation of our audio archives. This year a further 101 cassette tape recordings were converted from analogue to digital formats. They comprised interviews conducted in the early 1980s (by Professor Fred Lindop and Paul Worm respectively) with trade unionists and others involved in the docks industry and with motor industry trade unionists and managers

employed by Rover.

Amongst the latter was an interview with Mr George Cumella, and we were reminded of the personal as well as academic value of some of our holdings when his son, Dr Stuart Cumella, kindly sent us this message about the digitised recording:

“ This is to express my thanks to staff at the Modern Records Centre for helping me hear my father’s voice again. My father, George Cumella, retired in 1979, and was later interviewed by a researcher about his time as secretary of the various shop stewards committees at Land Rover. This record has now been digitised, and I have been able to listen to the interview online. This is particularly poignant for me, not just because my father died fourteen years ago, but because he had a tracheotomy in 1983 and was afterwards only able to speak with great difficulty. My children never heard his natural voice. Now we can all hear him.”



Another important digitised audio collection was made available online and launched at a meeting of the Social Work History Network in London



In 2015 the University of Warwick celebrates its 50th Anniversary and preparations are already underway across campus to mark the occasion.

The Centre embarked on a large project to scan and make available selected items from the University archives in preparation for requests for supporting material from around the campus. We selected a large set of photographs, the student handbooks and prospectuses as well as a range of the student publications such as *The Boar* and its earlier version – *Giblet*.

This combination of resources will provide an excellent base for future projects and enables us to provide additional information, sometimes with photographs, on student union officers and staff, departmental histories and key events on the campus.



in November 2013. The Alan Cohen social work interviews were conducted in the 1980s with pioneer social workers like Geraldine Aves and Sybil Clement-Brown. They provide a detailed insight into the early days of social work and its development as a profession.



Alan Cohen was himself an academic and social worker and one of the formative workers within the Family Service Units. His papers and the archive of the FSU were deposited at the Modern Records Centre in 2012 to join the papers of Dame Eileen Youngusband, providing a rich resource for the history of social work education and practice.

The 26 interviews held on analogue cassettes were originally deposited with the oral history WISEArchive in Norfolk and then reunited with the Cohen papers in the MRC for digitisation and publication. They were transcribed by volunteers at WiseArchive and edited and expanded by Tim Cook and Harry Marsh. The digital versions along with the transcripts and biographical notes were published on the MRC website and have proved very popular.





The University Archive has provided background material for the Mead Gallery's forthcoming exhibition about the development of the University's Art Collection, sources for an exhibition in the History Department about student life in the 1960s and 1970s and material for Michael Shattock, the University's former Registrar, who is compiling a new book on the University. We have had regular contact with the 50th Anniversary Project Officer who has used the resources in an online 'Count-Up to 50' which began at the start of the year. There has also been interest from 'Our Warwickshire', a website to which Warwickshire archives, museums, local history groups and communities contribute.

Finally, University Archive material is going to be used in a new app being built by the Library which will allow people to focus on 50 of the Archive's photographic collection and discover how much Warwick has changed over five decades.

Collections added and catalogued

Among the deposits received this year were the papers of **Kenneth William Wedderburn** (Bill), Baron Wedderburn of Charlton, (1927-2012) QC, British politician and member of the House of Lords.



Thanks are due to Paul Smith, an industrial relations academic at Keele University who sorted and boxed the Wedderburn papers

at the family home in London prior to transfer. This key collection, consisting of more than 100 boxes, will provide a wealth of research material for Industrial Relations and Law students.

Bill Wedderburn was deeply committed to the trade union movement, for which he acted as advisor and advocate in many legal cases and issues. These papers contain extensive records on all the major issues in labour law since the early 1960s including the Donovan Commission, Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy, Conservative governments' legislation (1979-97), coal dispute (1984-5), GCHQ dispute (1984), Labour governments' legislation (1997-2010), and the European Community.

The Centre has launched an appeal for funding to enable us to catalogue this valuable collection.



The papers of **Peter Wilkinson**, a founder member of Greenpeace, were deposited in July 2014. This collection contains many files on nuclear waste and nuclear power, global warming and green campaigning issues. The Centre already holds a small amount of material on environmental politics but this deposit will substantially boost the resources available to researchers interested in the major environmental issues of the 1980s and 90s.

For collections added to the catalogue, the focus this year has been largely on individuals' papers. The archives of two MPs, William Wilson and Derek Coombs, were listed by Martin as well as those of Professor Margaret 'Meg' Stacey, medical sociologist and Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick until 1989.

As a Coventry Labour MP and solicitor William Wilson's papers include constituency and other correspondence, files and papers on divorce law reform and local, regional, national and

international issues for the 1960s-1983.

The papers of Derek Coombs, Conservative MP for Birmingham Yardley, contain correspondence with constituents and subject files dating mainly from 1970-1974, including papers relating to Coombs's proposals for a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

The papers of Industrial Relations academic Arthur Marsh were also listed along with the archives of REPLAN, and more recently the archives of the Local Government Manual Workers.

Naomi Shewan has produced a number of lists this year including 69 boxes of the archives of British Clothing Industry Association. Catalogued as part of her archive training course, the collection includes the records of the British Corsetry Manufacturers' Association, the British Apparel and Textile Confederation, the Silk Association of Great Britain and the British Fashion Council Exhibitors Committee.

She has also listed the papers of former NALGO President Peter Morgan and NALGO representative John Appleton and re-boxed, sorted and



catalogued the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations (CRER) records of Dr Gurharpal Singh and the Minority Arts records.

James King catalogued the archives of the Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners deposited last year (MSS.919) and a collection deposited jointly by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE).

The AMLBO was the employers' association for the companies which carried cargo on the River Thames, and unusually was once also a registered trade union as well. Few of the association's minutes have survived, but the collection does contain a considerable quantity of correspondence and subject files, as well as a more or less complete series of photographs of the presidents up to 1971.

The NUT section of the collection extends the MRC's holdings of Executive Committee minutes up to 2001 and also adds considerable quantities of minutes and correspondence of other sections of the union, including material relating to the Burnham Committees. The NATFHE section deals primarily with affairs in the 1990s and 2000s up to NATFHE's amalgamation with the Association of University Teachers to form the University and College Union (UCU) in 2006. The collection also includes the archives of the Public Service Pensioners' Council (PSPC), founded in 1954, which represents the interests of pensioners from the civil service, police, fire services, armed forces, local authorities, diplomatic service, colonial service and various other public bodies. Its archives run from 1954 to the late 1990s.



National Cycle Archive

Carole Jones continues to sort and describe the regular deposits for the NCA which have included a large accession from the Cycling History and Educational Trust, The Philip Ashbourn Papers, the York Rally Archives and the latest Cyclists' Touring Club deposit.

Amongst the highlights were 70 lantern slides of a tour of the Dolomites undertaken just before the First World War by Admiral Hefford (former chairman of the CTC Council) and Captain Burridge, along with a series of photographs and travelogue of a 1929 tour of the Alps. Additions to the Derek Roberts archive which included historic photographs, slides, printers blocks of cycle drawings and an attractive collection of cycling postcards.

Carole also listed the Margaret Stanton papers and the records of the charity Natural Justice along with a number of other small deposits.

Talks and Modules

In addition to the school sessions run by Nuala, the Centre provided inductions and talks for over 500 Warwick students.

We ran sessions for the modules 'Images and Representations of the Hispanic World' (Hispanic Studies) 'After Windrush' (History), 'Madness and Society' (Centre for History of Medicine); 'Crime and Punishment' and 'Britain in the 70's (History), 'Life Writing' (English), 'Visual Sociology, Researching Society and Culture' (Sociology) and of course 'Making History' (History). This amounted to more than 40 hours of teaching.

Once again the History Department used the Centre extensively for its Making History module, having made a few changes to its structure and scope. This year we created new online resources. All students taking the module were required to write a 1,500 word commentary on the question 'Was 1979 a turning point in modern British history?' using documents from the Centre's archives. 62 documents were made

available online and were viewed more than 85,000 times by Warwick students in the month and a half leading up to the coursework deadline.

The existing resources for the modules

'Political research in the 21st century', 'History of Germany' and 'Britain in the 20th century' have been significantly enlarged and now link to scanned versions of complete documents rather than extracts.

The Sociology Department repeated its module for first year undergraduates 'Researching Society and Culture' which makes extensive use of the archives of the National Union of Students and the University archives.



Statistics and Use Made of the Centre

During the year a total of **22** books and **38** journal articles were published which cited the Centre's collections.

Among the books published were

- 'British Tank Production and the War Economy, 1934-1945' by Benjamin Coombs, which made use of the TGWU archives;
- 'Hidden Movement: Contemporary Voices of Black British Dance' by Hilary S. Carty and Bob Ramdhanie (using the Minority Arts Archive)
- 'Lost Freedom: The Landscape of the Child and the British Post-War Settlement' by Mathew Thompson (images from the Lady Allen of Hurtwood papers).
- 'Life Below Stairs: The Real Lives of Servants, 1939 to the Present' by Pamela Horn who used the archives of the TUC.

Articles included

- 'History of anaesthesia: anaesthetics and the Spanish Civil War: The start of specialisation' in *European Journal of Anaesthesiology*;
- Repositioning the patient: Patient organizations, consumerism, and autonomy in Britain during the 1960s and 1970s in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*;
- 'Splendid Display; Pompous Spectacle: historical pageants in twentieth-century Britain' in *Social History*;
- 'Changing attitudes towards economic development and democracy in Brazil...' in *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.

In addition images have been supplied for the Science Museum, the Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid and the Design Museum Holon (Israel).

Topics we have answered enquiries about this year include: Hong Kong-British trade relations 1950-1984; Public houses in England c. 1950-1990; History of boot and shoe trade in Derbyshire, 1916-1925, Women's Factory Inspectorate (19th century) and the Cuban Revolution, 1959.

A total of **461** visitors made **1039** visits. The number of Warwick researchers dropped slightly because the structure of the Making History module changed, though the number of external visits increased to **580** [550]*.

Enquiries numbered **1,305** [1,680] and visits to the website totalled **725,102** [359,924]

*Last year's figures in brackets.

Accessions 2013-2014

There were 58 deposits during the year.

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
942	Papers of John Stevenson (Labour Party and trade union papers)	12/08/2013
943	Additional records of Release	12/08/2013
944	NUR Southern railway seniority lists	22/08/2013
945	CTC additional papers: council minutes etc	21/08/2013
946	Papers of Jim Mortimer	04/09/2013
947	CTC additional papers	27/09/2013
948	Additional records of Dr Fred Reid	30/09/2013
949	Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers films: 'We are the engineers' and unidentified	22/10/2013
950	Fire Brigades Union reports	28/10/2013
951	National Educational Guidance Initiative (NEGI)	11/11/2013
952	Dame Eileen Younghusband: additional accession	20/11/2013
953	Transactions of the Institution of Water Engineers	26/11/2013
954	CBI additional material	02/12/2013
955	Philip Ashbourn Papers (National Cycle Archive)	03/12/2013
956	National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA)	12/12/2013
957	Trade union membership data compiled by George Bain, Bob Price and Margaret Morgan	17/12/2013
958	Community Development Journal records	20/12/2013
959	Additional papers of Dr Anthony Ferner (formerly Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick Business School).	15/01/2014
960	Additional NALGO records	23/01/2014
961	Film of Stamford House remand home.	28/01/2014
962	Commercial Vehicle & Road Transport Club (CVRTC) newsletters 2013 with CD	28/01/2014
963	'Black Dwarf', 'Bulletin of the Institute for Workers' Control', 'International Socialist Journal' and other left-wing publications	03/02/2014
964	Transport and General Workers' Union: Additional Material	13/02/2014
965	Social Workers' Benevolent Trust: Additional material	26/02/2014

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
966	York Cycle Show / Rally	06/03/2014
967	Additional papers of Sir Ernest and Lady Gwendolen Benn	03/03/2014
968	Papers of the late David Wood of the CBI International Affairs Directorate	03/04/2014
969	Additional records of Rodney Bickerstaffe	15/04/2014
970	Papers of the Centenary Steering Group for health related social work	29/04/2014
971	Wolverhampton Operative Tin-Workers	02/05/2014
972	Papers of Kenneth William Wedderburn (Bill), Baron Wedderburn of Charlton, (1927-2012) QC, British politician and member of the House of Lords, affiliated with the Labour Party	02/05/2014
973	Ford Motor Co Ltd: Employee handbooks	07/04/2014
974	Voices of the University, Memories of Warwick 1965-2015	27/02/2014
975	Cycling photographs	12/5/2014
976	Voices of the University of Warwick Memories of Warwick 1965-2015	12/05/2014
977	Cycling certificate	16/05/2014
978	Action for Sick Children	19/05/2014
979	Ephemera re First World War and unemployed ex-servicemen	27/05/2014
980	Papers of Harry Young, trade unionist and socialist: anti-Common Market posters published by SOGAT	28/05/2014
981	Papers of David Rowbottom, trade union officer	29/05/2014
982	Morris Motors Limited and associated companies	03/06/2004
983	Professor Paul Marginson: industrial relations project papers	04/06/2014
984	NUPE and Unison additional records	02/06/2014
985	Papers of Barbara Winslow	06/06/2014
986	Additional records of the YWCA	09/06/2014
987	Papers of Ben Hooberman, solicitor specialising in labour law and industrial relations	24/06/2014
988	Additions to the National Cycle Archive	24/06/2014
989	Papers of Peter Wilkinson	30/06/2014

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
990	Photographs	30/06/2014
991	Additional CBI boxes. Final deposit of CBI material.	04/07/2014
992	Research papers of Professor Paul Edwards	09/07/2014
993	University Voices Project	09/07/2014
994	Publications of the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA)	11/07/2014
995	Intercontinental Press	17/07/2014
996	CBI, 'International trade policy for the 1980s'	21/07/2014
997	Additional papers of A.W. Kempson (NCA/54)	28/07/2014
998	Papers of Douglas Jones relating to engineering and compensation	31/07/2014
999	Barclay Inquiry, report and papers on the 'Tasks and Role of Social Workers' 1981-1982	31/07/2014
1000	Additions to the A P Young papers	04/08/2014

Further Information

Advisory Board Members:

Baroness Diana Warwick of Undercliffe (Chairman)

Baroness Rita Donaghy of Peckham

Professor R.Fryer

Professor K. Gildart

Mr R.Green (University Librarian)

Professor S. Horrocks

Professor M. Luddy*

Professor H Marland*

Professor J. Martin

Dr. M.Thomson*

* Members of the Academic Committee

Modern Records Centre Staff

Nuala Clarke, Education Officer (part time)

Helen Ford, Archive Manager

Carole Jones, Archives Assistant

James King, Senior Assistant Archivist

Elizabeth Morrison, Records Assistant (part-time)

Martin Sanders, Senior Assistant Archivist

Naomi Shewan, Archives Assistant

Ben Veasey, Digital Preservation Officer

Andree Whitaker, Records Assistant (part-time)

Elizabeth Wood, Assistant Archivist

Contact details

Modern Records Centre
University of Warwick Library
Coventry CV4 7AL
Tel: 024 7652 4219

Email: archives@warwick.ac.uk
URL: www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/