

August 2013

Issue 32

I hope you have enjoyed the summer, so lovely to see the sunshine. The University of Warwick Retired Staff Association (WRSA for short) has been busy trying to provide activities for a wide variety of tastes. Maybe you can suggest an event in the future and what would be even better if you would be able to organise it. As yet no offers have come forward to lead walks in 2014, Kay Rainsley would be delighted if you can organise a walk. To get information about the walks you need to contact Kay, her details are at the end of the Newsletter.

Many of the Members are well aware of the various activities of the WRSA but for those who are less familiar the following provides a brief outline. The Committee and Members of the WRSA arrange a number of events throughout the year allowing Members to meet with friends and keep in touch with the University. The best attended events are the lunches arranged in the Spring and Autumn, and the Christmas lunch. There is usually a guest speaker at both the Spring and Autumn lunches and this allows the Members to hear about the work being carried out at the University. You may also be looking for a new venue for a special lunch or dinner, see the advert for Ninety One on the back page.

The Committee has been busy and both Joan Cole as Chair and Terry Kemp as Treasurer have approached their new roles with great enthusiasm.

There are a number of interesting things described in more detail within this Newsletter. The website is another source of information:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa>,

If you would be interested in joining the Committee please get in touch with the Secretary, Jean Norman.

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Dates for your diary

18th September 2013; Visit to Wedgwood and Trentham gardens

30th September 2013; AGM Scarman House: Speaker: Mark Kennell, University of Warwick Head of Security Services

21st October to 1st November, 2013; Exhibition by Bursary winner in the Postgraduate Hub

16th December 2013; Christmas lunch, Scarman House

Walks see Page 16 for details

Spring Lunch and talk, Scarman House, 29th April 2013

The Spring lunch was held for the first time in Scarman House. The move to the new venue was because of the difficulties with parking at or near the Sports Pavilion. There were 88 at the lunch and in spite of some teething problems it was considered a very advantageous move and the AGM will be at the same venue. Both Joan Cole and Jean Norman have worked hard to ensure the next event will be even more successful. It is evident from the picture that the company were in very relaxed mood. However, this was one occasion when a dull day would have been better, so that the slides could be fully appreciated. The speaker Roger Boxall gave us a pictorial tour around the campus, only a handful of pictures can be shown here but hopefully for those not able to attend the lunch it will provide a flavour of what those present thoroughly enjoyed.



After the buffet lunch, Joan Cole introduced the speaker, Roger Boxall, the Grounds Manager, who has been at the University of Warwick for 8 years. At the start of the talk he explained how the landscape is constantly evolving and the need to be aware of the environmental impact when planning all activities. The plan is for the campus to become more environmentally friendly. One example is hedges becoming part of the landscape, e.g. living willow fences. Because of financial constraints the need for easy maintenance is also essential. Roger was aware that certain changes had not been popular with some members of staff and the public.

He started the talk showing pictures of Warwick University's tenanted farm, a feature unknown to many. He showed pictures of the farm and the new cycle path. Half way along the new Connect2 cycle track to Kenilworth from the University one can find the portrait bench, featured also in the last issue of the newsletter. This bench is a steel construction which will be allowed to weather naturally. This bench is part of a unique National collection of local portraits, with a total of 230 people across the UK chosen to be represented by their local community. The Warwick University bench features Helen Martin, (major University benefactor), Edward Langley Fardon (pioneer of bicycle design) and John Kemp Stanley (producer of the first modern bicycle).



The next picture shows 'Senate House' to the right with the 'Kone' in the background. The new extension to Butterworth Hall in red stone is to the left. This is a refinement of the original landscape scheme which is intended to 'clean' and simplify the landscape. Diagonal pedestrian paths link buildings surrounding the lawn. All shrub beds and seasonal bedding were removed to leave plane, blue cedar and willow trees. The Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, which President Clinton planted also remains.



Making the planting appropriate to the buildings and their function is also important. Outside the Children's Nursery shown below, are white stemmed birch trees, orange stems of Cornus 'Winter Flame', blue flowered periwinkle and purple leaved bergenia. This planting gives a soft domestic feel to an area used by families in contrast to the previous picture.

When new buildings are erected the ground



staff work with the planners, trying to ensure that the ethos of the campus is retained. The new residence, Bluebell Hall, has a rill nearby with marginal plants; marsh marigolds, bluebells and snowdrops.

A work in progress is the planting of the Diamond Wood. 26,000 mixed native trees will be planted in the 2012/13/14 planting seasons on 60 acres (25 ha) of the University farmland to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It is with great sadness that no ash trees can be planted. The Connect2 cycle track bisects this wood which will make the whole area accessible to the local and University community.



Some of the additions to the campus buildings are not the easiest to maintain. The Digilab has a 'green' roof of sedums which will be hard to maintain to ensure it does not become untidy.

Nature is returning to the site, some not quite so welcome like the gentleman in the grey coat, a heron that comes on site after the fish!

WRSA Membership

At the end of July 2013 the membership of the WRSA was 266; this is 9 more than last year. This has been mainly due to more new retirees joining; we have already 27 new members. I think that our Chairman has been working behind the scenes.

The Committee have tried to ensure that in the future staff will not be retiring from the University unaware of the existence of the Warwick University Retired Staff Association.

Please will all Members check that their **details on the Membership list** are correct. When time is short for letting people know about an event the only way is by email so it is very important that we have your latest email address, if you have one.

Membership of the Association keeps you in touch with the University and gives you many concessions; use of the Library, reduced membership fees for sporting activities, discount in the Book shop and invitations to many social events throughout the year. For Library usage only there is no charge but should you require the use of the Swimming Pool and/or play Racket Games currently there is an annual charge for Members of £49 and for each nominated family member the charge is £68. If in addition to these facilities you wish to use the Fitness Centre, the annual charge is £180 per Member and £204 for each family member. These fees are set at the start of each academic year so there will be an increase in October.

For those who already have membership of the sporting facilities please note that the renewal date for this may not be January (it depends on the date your subscription started). For those wishing to join please contact Esther Zaccarelli (Human Resources, telephone 024 7657 4467).

Bill Prichard Membership Secretary

Voices of the University:

Memories of Warwick, 1965 – 2015

In anticipation of Warwick's fifty-year anniversary in 2015, the Institute of Advanced Study has embarked on an ambitious oral history project to capture the voices of those who have studied, worked and lived near the university since its creation in 1965. Dr April Gallwey is the Research Fellow leading the project and a team of researchers to conduct 200 life history interviews. This unique bank of interviews will be archived at Warwick's Modern Records Centre (MRC) and offer a rich source of data for future researchers and students. Helen Ford, archivist at the MRC, has said: "We are very excited about this project. It will be the first oral history collection to enter the University's archives."

If you would like to be interviewed please contact Dr Gallwey: A.Gallwey@Warwick.ac.uk.

For further information see our website:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/current/universityvoices/

Memories of Warwick, 1965 – 2015

4th – 28th June, Modern Records Centre

In conjunction with the 'Voices' oral history project, this exhibition will draw on material from the 'University of Warwick Archive.' It will include photographs of the changing geography and design of the campus, publications such as prospectuses and student newspapers and audio-visual material covering notable events from the 1960s onwards.

For enquiries about the MRC exhibition contact:

Helen Ford

H.Ford@Warwick.ac.uk

Walking group news and walks reports

Stroll On

I'm all ears should you want to join in
with a stroll or a wander or walk
some choose to stride out at the front
others stay at the back and just talk

But the walks don't just happen themselves
We need leaders to show us the way
round the countryside, village or town
volunteer and then you choose the day

Please contact Kay Rainsley on kay.rainsley@live.co.uk if you have any ideas for walks in 2014.

The last year has covered walks around Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Burton Dassett, Warwick, Stratford upon Avon, Coventry, Stockton, Castle Bromwich, Hatton, Hampton Lucy and Berkswell. We are an adventurous group and are open to offers of interesting, informative or scenic walks of all types. Generally the walks are between four and six miles in length. Please don't worry if you would like to organise a walk in an area which has already been covered, it is unlikely to be identical.

Coming soon is a Coventry town walk, led by Eleanor Nesbitt which will look at various literary figures including Caroline Bray, Angela Brazil, Peter Ho Davies, Michael Drayton, William Dugdale, George Eliot, George Fox, Alan Garner, John Hewitt, Susan Hill, Philemon Holland, Walter Savage Landor, Philip Larkin, Eric Malpass, J. B. Priestley, William Shakespeare, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Details for the October and November walks are still to be finalised but as soon as I receive them I will disseminate the information to members of the walking group. There is no walk for December by request as everyone is too busy shopping for the big day.

Most walks start and finish at a public house where walkers can either depart or partake of lunch. The majority of walkers choose to stay and swap news and views over a meal. Non-walkers are also invited to join us for lunch. Group sizes vary from seven or eight to over twenty.

New members are always welcome. Please email me if you would like to be included on the mailing list.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you want any further information or clarification about the walks. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Kay Rainsley, Walks Co-ordinator

Walks reports

Report on Warwick and Leamington Spa Walk, 20th February 2013

The February walk was a figure of eight walk from Warwick to Leamington and back, designed to use the hard surfaced canal tow paths and river bank paths of the Riverside

walk and to avoid the winter mud of Warwickshire fields. In the event there were few muddy patches and the day was sufficiently cold to have consolidated those that could not be avoided. Some of the party of 20 who knew parts of the walk were intrigued to find how it all joined up. The timetable did not allow for a coffee break, as we passed briefly through the streets of South Leamington, a possibility the walks' organiser disapproved of. However, one member of the party did succeed in completing the walk by train which was unprecedented. Lunch was taken at the Wild Boar in Warwick where the microbrewery ales were enjoyed and we had the pleasure of a private room.

Jolyon Hall

Report on Stratford upon Avon Walk, 20th March 2013

Fourteen of us set off from the Fishermans' car-park on the A439 Warwick Road, thus avoiding the parking charges in Stratford. A short walk along the banks of the Avon brought us to the Shakespeare monument by Clopton Bridge, where we met Deena, Reg and Guinness their dog. Following the Avon river-side walk past the RSC theatre, we availed ourselves of the free facilities at a stylish toilet block near the site where the mansion of the Flower brewing family once stood.

Then we proceeded through Holy Trinity churchyard, where Bob Cooke noted the head-



The walkers at the railway bridge over the River Avon, built originally for the former railway line from Stratford to Church Honeybourne, where the line joined the Oxford to Worcester railway; today the bridge is part of the shared-use Greenway.

stone of a possible ancestor (not Shakespeare!), and down to the site of the mill, after which we cut up to the Greenway to walk west across the middle of Stratford race-course. What appeared to be patches of snow ahead fortunately turned out to be sheets of artificial fleece put down to protect the track from walkers, though it was still very wet under foot from previous flooding. On the outskirts of Luddington village, we turned back towards Stratford, first along the north bank of the Avon, then crossing the river at the Greenway bridge (photo) to

follow the south bank ('the Avon Valley Way') back to the town's recreation ground. From there, we reached the Old Tramway Inn (on the A3400 Shipston road), where we enjoyed an excellent value lunch (3 courses for £7.45), before following the old tramway back to Clopton Bridge and on to the Fishermans' car-park. Considering what the weather has been like since, I think we count ourselves lucky that the 20th was dry and (relatively speaking) not too cold.

Richard Morris

Report on Castle Bromwich Garden Visit, 9th April 2013

Eighteen members turned up for a tour of the gardens and buildings, conducted by David Howell and his colleague Marion Morris who told us about its history. Sadly due to the very long winter the hoped for spring plants were not at their peak. On the day the weather was reasonably kind to us.

It is a surprise to discover this garden hidden in suburban Birmingham. For many years it was neglected, overgrown and vandalised until an enthusiastic band of volunteers began the restoration in 1982.

Castle Bromwich is an eighteenth century walled-garden, subdivided by hedges into smaller compartments. Many garden ornaments had been removed by previous owners etc., but some have been returned by those with a guilty conscience. With the exception of the vegetable garden, planting has been restricted to species available in 1760. An area outside the walls is being developed as a wildflower garden for educational purposes, primarily for school children.

It is amazing that so much remains from the original garden in the shapes, lines and triangles popular in Georgian Britain. There is more to be done, particularly to link the gardens to the surrounding countryside and the former parkland.

A big thank you to David and Marion for such an interesting tour and to the ladies who prepared a lovely lunch for us to enjoy.

Frances Halstead



Report of the Knowle Walk, 20th May 2013

This was the second attempt to complete the 6 mile walk after being forced to cancel it last autumn, due to heavy rain two days previous and also on the day of the walk.



Twenty two walkers left the Red Lion on the High Street in Knowle and headed towards Kixley Lane, behind the church, leading to the canal towpath. The yellow cottage is a good indicator as to when to leave the canal on the return journey.

After half a mile on the towpath we left to begin the country walk over rolling farm fields, some of which had been recently ploughed, leading to woods just bursting into leaf and winding paths along the River Blythe.

The river had noticeably been cleared of trees and debris left by the recent high winds, leaving the water extremely clear.

We entered the small Hamlet of Eastcote, there was great interest in the beautiful timbered houses and gardens. We followed the public footpath signs which directed us across the

bottom of the grounds of a lovely house, stopping briefly for a photo stop beside their pond. A coffee would have been welcome but we made a hasty retreat over stiles into farm fields on the hillside leading to the bridge over the Blythe and eventually back to the canal towpath. We were lucky to see a heron on the first towpath at the beginning and another just before leaving the second time. This is a good walk as there are no roads apart from to and from the pub, so it's a very rural walk with great views.

We made our way back to the Red Lion for a very reasonably priced lunch after a completely dry day. It was lovely to see so many walkers out. The members of the group are such good company and all the walks are interesting and good fun.

Best wishes to you all.

June Clarke

Report of the Multi-faith Coventry Walk, 12th June 2013

On Wednesday 12th June twenty of us explored the religious diversity of Coventry, starting at Holy Trinity church (looking at the 15th century Doom Painting – thanks to its restoration in 2002-4) and finishing with langar (the free vegetarian hospitality that Sikhs provide) at the Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara in Harnall Lane West.

In between, we visited the site of the Benedictine Priory of St. Mary, established by Lady Godiva and her husband Leofric in 1043, before walking past the Bluecoat School building (where young women used to be prepared for domestic service), past the Multi-Faith Centre and Visitors' Centre (housing excavated fragments of the priory) to the Swanswell Gate and

on to Swanswell itself. This pool once supplied the Benedictine priors with fish.



From there we walked to the Shree Krishna Temple (built by the Gujarati Hindu community), where the priest spoke to us, and then the Jamia Mosque in Eagle Street. Here our hosts explained the role of the mosque and answered our questions. By the time we walked along the blue walkway over Lady Herbert's Garden into Millennium Place we appreciated the friendly welcome everywhere we went.

We had caught glimpses of Mediaeval England as well as Hindu, Muslim and Sikh tradition.

Eleanor Nesbitt

Report on Hampton Lucy Walk, 10th July 2013

This walk of about five and a half miles led by Godfrey and Caroline Carr started and finished at the Boar's Head pub in Hampton Lucy. Sixteen of us set off at 10:15 am and, after quarter of a mile of road walking, set off across some modest but delightful Warwickshire hills in perfect weather. This area is remarkable for being both empty and unusually hilly. The walk produced a number of topics of conversation. One was the strange sense that we had spent a lot of time climbing but seemed strangely deprived of down stretches. It was suggested that the down bit might have been on a road and we just did not

notice it! Another source of debate was the various churches we could see and the names of the villages they represented: (Alveston, Charlecote, Sherbourne, and Stratford).

It is a walk with fine views and a number of hills were just visible in the hazy distance including Bredon, the Dumbleton Hills, Cleeve Hill and the Cotswold Escarpment. One view was, however, missing. The publicity for the walk had mentioned an excellent view of the Avon. After four miles and no sign of any river, let alone the Avon, there were mutterings about trade description legislation. However, just as this was reaching a crescendo, we were suddenly above the river and a little later we were down walking along it guided confidently across the meadows by Friderun and Dennis Bradley and accompanied by a gliding swan. We approached Hampton Lucy in idyllic circumstances, arriving at the pub rather thirsty and exactly on time at one o'clock.

Godfrey Carr

Visit Report

Report of visit to Liverpool, Wednesday, 8th May 2013

On a damp and dismal morning our Members patiently waited for our coach, unfortunately due to an error by the coach operator, it did not arrive. An alternative vehicle was quickly arranged. However, this delayed our departure by forty five minutes. The driver assured us that we would reach Liverpool by 11:15 am. Right on time we arrived at the Albert Dock in bright sunshine.

Our Members soon dispersed into the local Information centre and over a welcome coffee the day was planned. A small group of us decided on a stroll around the historic Albert Dock and to experience the culture and music of the Beatles.

We then headed to the Pier Head ferry terminal for a 40 minute cruise across the Mersey (cue for a song!). From this vessel we discovered, via a well-informed commentary, the legacy of the Mersey and the ever evolving UNESCO World Heritage Waterfront. This was accompanied by the Fab Four music.

We left the Ferry at the Woodside terminal to visit the, "U-boat 534 Story". This U-boat, ignoring orders from the German High Command to surrender, was sailing north when it was attacked by the RAF. The Liberator aircraft dropped depth charges causing heavy damage; the U-boat sank and lay undiscovered for over 40 years. The wreckage of the U-boat was eventually discovered and with the agreement of the various Governments was raised from the sea bed in 1993. In order to allow visitors to view the interior the U-boat has been cut into 4 sections.

Returning to the Albert Dock we planned our next move over a refreshing drink. It was decided to head for "Liverpool One" and visit the famous Cavern.



Descending into this reconstructed venue we soon experienced live music in this iconic area. Zimmer frames and walking aids were thrown to one side as we jinked and jived to the Liverpool sound. Soon it was time to leave the Cavern and we strolled through "Liverpool One" to find our final bar to fortify ourselves after this vigorous exercise.

Judging from the comments by Members as they returned to the coach everyone had a most enjoyable day with many suggesting

a return visit.

Yes, Liverpool really had something for everyone.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Members for their patience and support due the unfortunate delay. The following day I received a full apology from the coach company along with an explanation. The driver simply walked out without informing anyone at the depot.

I was able to negotiate an amicable deal which we will enjoy on a future excursion.

Alan Foster, Visits Co-ordinator

Reports from WRSA Student Bursary winners 2012-13

This year the WRSA Committee approved four awards totalling £1250, which were presented in November 2012. Some may have already attended the slide show and presentation given by Jamie Goodhart in April about the mountaineering expedition to Antarctica. The following are the reports received from the winners, some more successful than others in their nominated task.

Diary of, Bursary winner, Michael Hale at Debating Congress, Oriel College, Oxford University, December 2012

I was well read and keen to glean as much as I possibly could from what appeared to be a busy schedule in Oxford.

My preparatory work focused on the three key themes:

- All UK medical students should sit a standardised final medical examination;
- The UK should train a surplus of doctors;
- Competition within medicine should be actively encouraged.

These were addressed throughout the weekend from a number of different perspectives. My opinions changed as my views were challenged by the other participants.

Friday 14th December

The introductory session hosted by 'McKinsey & Company', a management consultancy firm, was the discussion of the importance of management in an ever demanding and constantly changing NHS. This is an area of medical practice little seen by students, yet a part of the NHS that is vital for the ongoing development and capability to provide high quality patient care. Statistics have shown that the UK currently has the best management practice yet has the lowest ratio of doctors in this sector. This highlighted to me the importance of doctors in this role whilst considering how influential other clinicians can be as managers and certainly how other clinicians may be better suited to the role.

Currently medical students are expected to learn material from an ever expanding pool of information whilst considering the financial implications of their decisions, work as part of multidisciplinary teams and maintain the high standards of patient care expected by patients and their relatives. In order to compete for jobs students also need to seek research opportunities, attend conferences and produce publications. The session made me wonder how much more we can truly expect and where the role of a doctor will be going in the next few years.

Saturday 15th December

Breakfast, served in a wonderful mahogany clad hall at Oriel College, was like something out of the Harry Potter movies. This was a precursor to a 'Debating Crash Course' which provided an icebreaker where we discussed some controversial topics, granting all present the opportunity to loosen their tongues and develop an awareness of 'debating' as a skill.

Primarily we concentrated on the argument itself, the reason for the argument and evidence as a basis for forming a rebuttal.

The first debate title was, "This house believes UK based medical graduates should complete a compulsory 7 years working in the NHS". As a group of three we had to argue *FOR* the motion. I was asked by the team to be first speaker, after only 15 minutes preparation. I had practiced public speaking at Warwick Medical School and most recently presented at the World Health Summit in Berlin. Finding myself faced with very little time to prepare an unfamiliar topic and with a paucity of supporting evidence, I began to appreciate the importance of good preparation.

I began to present our argument, possibly in a less structured way than I would have liked, although I felt I was ticking some of the boxes for the audience before... "Point of information" was shouted from the opposing team challenging something I had said. This threw me but I responded to their argument, refocused and rounded off my 5 minutes in the spotlight.

My fellow team members were more experienced than I and did well to consolidate our opening points and address questions from the floor. Winning the debate by one vote we progressed through to face the winners of the other debate.

This round, our team argued *AGAINST* the motion, "NHS pay should be performance related". It was extremely interesting finding reasons and evidence to support arguments against a topic I supported. As second speaker I felt more comfortable after establishing three main points to argue.

Starting with a story to set the scene and with facts to support my argument based on what the opposition had said meant that as second speaker I worked within the time limit and presented the material in a much more structured manner. We won this second debate in spite of strong arguments from the opposition and testing questions from the floor. The feedback was positive and I was congratulated on how my debating style had improved during the course of the morning.

The remainder of the day was spent forming arguments *FOR*, "Competition within medicine should be actively encouraged" which we subsequently also won. This was in a larger group of people and so posed a slightly different challenge with just two minutes each to present our arguments.

It is only through public speaking and with the help of others that I was able to consider the gaps in my current thinking. It is increasingly difficult as a medical student to address life outside medical school, something I consider vital in providing a positive well-rounded experience whilst studying. By considering issues not found in textbooks but rather from the media, behind office doors and in the backrooms of medical schools across the country, I was able to learn from others. The day had been challenging, and a great deal of fun.

The evening provided another opportunity to discuss the 'themes' of the congress and a chance to get to know one another more informally. The dinner in the dining hall of Oriol College was absolutely fantastic and I couldn't imagine a better setting. As the first speaker stood to address us before dinner I was thankful for the contribution that was made to enable me to take part in such a wonderfully enlightening weekend.

Sunday 16th December

Sunday morning was another early start, the allocated groups met to discuss the three congress arguments over breakfast. Later, we were given 7 minutes to present arguments *FOR* or *AGAINST* all of the three themes, to a panel that had representatives from the UKFPO, BMA, McKinsey & Company as well as the congress organisers. Following our presentation we faced 8 minutes of questions.

Presenting to an audience of over 40 was less daunting, maybe because I had longer to prepare. As with previous discussions I presented my argument as part of a 'story'. I received several questions about being *AGAINST* a surplus of Doctors trained to work in the NHS. I was against the topic because I feared it would create a negatively competitive

atmosphere in which students continually vied for attention, lost the ability to work as part of a team and were encouraged from day one to get a specified job no matter what the outcome for their fellow students.

As medical students we have embarked on a career that will ultimately be well paid, extremely fulfilling and undoubtedly involve hard work, long hours and a battle to find that ever elusive work-life balance. We are all dedicating our future to public service that will save lives whether that is one at a time as a doctor in A & E or millions at a time as a public health physician.

The world of medicine is ever changing and we face many challenges both individually and collectively. In an age where social networking makes communication increasingly accessible I strongly believe that nothing will ever beat a face-to-face conversation with everything up for debate. After all, to quote Vodafone "It's good to talk".

Thank you to all who contributed to my generous grant enabling me to attend the 'Debating Congress' at Oriel College in Oxford. I hope you can see that it was an experience I thoroughly enjoyed and one from which I hope I can take the skills I have learnt back to the Medical School for the benefit of my peers.

Report from David Levesley



A production photo

The House Beautiful was a long-term project by Cat (Cathryn Turhan) and me. We had intended for an Edinburgh run throughout the entire development process and had worked hard to plan for funding in advance. It was with great humility and gratitude that we received money from the Warwick University Retired Staff Association for the project to go ahead.

At the point of receiving money the show had everything: a production team, a cast, and a script that was developing as we rehearsed. We cast the

show in October and, after a lot of hard work, we performed the show twice in February as 'work in progress' performances. There were a lot of issues (the venue not having stage lighting for example, or just minor problems such as colliding with the set) but there was something developing. We had always told everyone the show would be going to Edinburgh and we kept them alerted as to the prospect and how we were doing financially. The National Student Drama Festival also came to watch the play and, although we were not selected, I was chosen for the Writing Ensemble, which was a great honour.

Additionally having been awarded monies from the Lord Rootes' Fund, we were finally set with the funding we needed to complete the project. The WRSA money paid for festival registration and the Lord Rootes award paid for the venue hire. We set up a kickstarter to make the money for our set, costumes and publicity costs.

Then a few difficulties arose: Cat, co-creator and producer, was chosen to be Welfare & Campaigns Sabbatical Officer for the SU. Her job would start on August 1st with training beforehand in July. This meant she would not be around during the crucial summer months.

Two weeks later I was accepted into Columbia's School of Journalism for a Master's degree. For years this had been an ambition, getting it was a dream come true. However, I suddenly realised that I had to be in America to start the course on 26th July. This was three days before the Fringe even began. I talked to the cast and said Columbia would be coming first.

Over Easter when cast members were still able to carry on several cast members found other commitments more pressing. This was fine but to cast the show again we needed a new director.

In Term 3 we searched for a new director, Jared Watmuff, the student filmmaker at the head of INC, applied for the position and Laura Kurlansky, an active member of Warwick Drama, asked to produce. We had a new team in place.

Auditions were held but Warwick Student Arts Festival was in the full swing of casting people, Edinburgh is a big commitment and everyone had exams. We held several rounds of auditions but we never had sufficient people to actually cast the play, in spite of persistent advertising. Without a cast, and with Laura no longer sure she could produce the play, I stepped in as producer to attempt to get as much done as I could before I left but there just was no chance.

With no cast, and with the kickstarter flailing, we had no real chance with the show. We informed C Venues, who were incredibly supportive during the entire process, and agreed to cancel the slot. This left us without our non-refundable venue costs and registration costs.

With the money put into the show by the WRSA we were able to purchase some of our costumes and props for the play as well as pay for our registration we could not have done it even then without further support. Edinburgh had been our dream but sadly, being finalists and having to plan for our futures meant that other things got in the way. However, the script is still constantly in development with the cast, team and Jared and Laura so that everyone is still kept in the loop and given a chance to help assist in the play's growth.

We thank the WRSA for everything, and many apologies for being unable to fulfill our promise.

Report of Jamie Goodhart's Exploration in Antarctica

In late December 2012 I travelled to Ushuaia, the most southerly town in Argentina. After a few days preparation the team (six mountaineers & two crew) and I set sail down the Beagle channel on the yacht 'Spirit of Sidney'. The next day we entered a calm Drake Passage followed by cape pigeons as we waved the Cape Horn goodbye. Next stop Antarctica, 1000 km south. We started our watches; 3 hours on 6 hours off, 3 hours on 6 hours off, 3 hours on..... I soon lost track of time as after the first night, the sun never set. The crossing lasted four days and we were becalmed for much of it. The fearsome Drake Passage dragon was clearly sleeping.

The approach to Antarctica was spectacular, the wind had picked up and we were under sail. There was something unreal about the whiteness of mountainous coast as it came into view. It was a bold white, not dazzling, but strong and daunting. We anchored for a couple of days by a Ukrainian base (Vernadzky) nominally to rest, but we also visited penguins, tested our snow gear, kayaked with leopard seals (amongst the fascinating shapes of grounded dying icebergs) and reconnoitred our planned landing site. We did the latter with trepidation as it was far from certain we could land.

On the morning of the 8th January the Spirit of Sidney was pushing through brash ice. I never quite became comfortable with the sound of the ice scratching and rasping against the hull. We were headed towards our landing site a 30 m wide snow slope tucked between a vertical rock-face and 2 km of 25 m high ice cliffs. We were dropped with 8 days rations plus a shore cache in case the ice came in and the boat was unable to get back to us. The land expedition had started and we were totally alone. We skied up onto the glacier for 6 hours before making a camp near the base of our first objective, Alenkar peak.

Over the next week we climbed six unclimbed mountains from two Camps navigating by printed images from Google Earth. On our longest day we set off for the mountain at the head of the glacier which we'd called Belgica Dome. It was a long ski up the face, threading the areas threatened by seracs, then a 1 km plateau followed by a second face to the rounded flat summit. There was an inversion that day so only the ground above 1500 m



Approaching an unclimbed peak (Point 1475 m)

could be seen and mountains looked like islands floating in a sea of cloud. The sun was blazing and it was roasting hot, not very Antarctic, it took us 8 hours of slogging to reach the summit and from here you could see mile after mile into the Antarctic Peninsula Plateau. I was drawn to that emptiness, I just wanted to ski into its vastness and go on and on. Instead the party split and four of us continued towards what we thought was the East summit of Valiente (Valiente's West Peak was the trip's main objective). Three hours later, after a number of false summits, we ran out of mountain and the ground in front of us

dropped away. We were higher than anything around and realised we had climbed Valiente West by accident, and that it was also 2 km away from where it was supposed to be according to the British Antarctic Survey! We eventually returned to Camp 2 after 14 hours and a varied and enjoyable ski down.

This is only a part of the adventure. I am a keen photographer and will be hosting an exhibition telling the story of the trip using photos of sailing, climbing and the amazing wildlife. The exhibition opens with a short talk on 21st October at 7 pm in the Postgraduate Hub at Senate House. Everyone is most welcome.

Notice of Exhibition by a Bursary award winner

Jamie Goodhart will be opening his exhibition, "**Exploring what remains; Unclimbed & Unexplored Antarctica,**" with a short talk and a drinks reception on Monday 21st October at 7 pm. The exhibition will run for 2 weeks in the Postgraduate Hub of Senate House and will include pictures, poems and narrative of his successful yacht based expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula.



Crevasses



Ghosts on the ice

W.R.S.A. Visit to Wedgwood Museum & Visitors Centre Trentham Shopping Outlets and Garden Centre

Wednesday 18th September 2013, departing 8:15 am from the Park and Ride

Have you booked a seat on this fabulous day out? It is not too late. There is something for every taste and great value for £25. Arriving at the Wedgwood Visitors Centre for 10:00 am there will be a timed guided tour of the factory where you can go behind the scenes and view the traditional ceramic production. On site you can visit at your leisure: Museum of Wedgwood, Factory Outlet, Retail Store and Café.

We will leave the Wedgwood Visitors Centre at 2:30 pm for Trentham Gardens where you will have free time until 5:30 pm to visit the shopping outlets and garden centre. There are plenty of places here to eat.

These pictures give a flavour of what is on offer, watching the potter at work or marvelling at the objects in the Museum, seeing the bronze of Perseus and beautiful flowers at Trentham. If you need some retail therapy then there is the shop or factory shop at Wedgwood or the outlets at Trentham. When all else fails a cup of tea is welcome.

Please contact Wendy Murray on 0793097 4253 before September 2nd to book your seat.



Walks – August to December 2013

<u>Day/Date/Area of walk</u>	<u>Walk Leader</u>
Thursday, 22nd August Berkswell Hall, 5 miles	Kay Rainsley
Tuesday, 10th September A Coventry town walk to include literary figures	Eleanor Nesbitt
Tuesday, 15th October Market Bosworth	Margaret Birch
Tuesday, 14th November t.b.a.	Denise Fowler
December	NO WALK

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