

March 2014

Issue 33

*Happy New Year to all WRSA
Members.*

It has been another successful year for the Association. Since the last Newsletter we have had two lunches, a trip to Chester and many walks around the area.

There were record attendances at some events, e.g. the Christmas lunch and the trip to Chester but the trip to Stoke on Trent had to be cancelled. The cancellation of an event is very unusual and is very disappointing to those who worked hard to organise it.

The WRSA has once again helped students through the Bursary Awards scheme and in addition this year has made a donation to Warwick in Africa. Both of these activities are described in more detail within this Newsletter.

As you know the University reaches its first half century in 2015. There will be great celebration on the campuses of Warwick from January to December. Planning is in its early stages but the WRSA Committee thinks Members should be told of the plans as they currently stand. If you have ideas, suggestions to make or questions to ask, the WRSA Committee urges you to contact the planning committee, the e-mail address is: 50th.anniversary@warwick.ac.uk There is also a count up webpage at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/warwick50/countup/>

Information relating to the WRSA can be found on the University website at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa>

There is still a vacancy on the Committee. The WRSA has over 200 Members, surely there is someone out there who is willing to serve on the Committee; it is not a very onerous job. 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

Monday, 7th April 2014; Spring Lunch in Scarman House

Speaker: **Professor Sudhesh Kumar**; Deputy Dean of Warwick Medical School and Director of the Institute of Digital Healthcare, Warwick Manufacturing Group

May 2014; Spring Visit: Bristol Docks and SS Great Britain

Monday, 29th September 2014; AGM and Lunch Scarman House

Walks see Page 18 for details

21st – 23rd May 2015; Music Festival

16th-17th October 2015; Festival of Imagination

Note: Exact date for the Spring Visit in 2014 is not known yet.

Annual General Meeting, Lunch and Talk, Scarman House, **30th September 2013**

On a lovely autumn day seventy five Members attended the AGM meeting at Scarman House. The meeting was preceded by an excellent buffet lunch. The teething problems at the Spring lunch had been resolved by Joan Cole, Jean Norman and the staff at Scarman House. All agreed that Scarman House is a much nicer venue than the Sports Hall.

Reports of activities of the WRSA were made by the Chair, there were also brief reports from the Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Visits Co-ordinator. There was a proposal from a Member that the WRSA investigate how the Association might fund a music scholarship. The Chair agreed to make enquiries. There was also a proposal that £1000 be given to the project Warwick in Africa, those Members who were present agreed unanimously to this proposal.

The meeting was followed by an excellent talk by Mark Kennell, Head of Security Services. Mark was introduced by Alan Foster. Alan recalled his days in Security having joined Security Services in 1983, initially as Head Porter. The Security team at that time had fewer students and fewer buildings to look after. They were mainly gate policemen and door security. Their scant accommodation did not even have a toilet! They had Marina pick-ups

and radio communication. Things have moved on in 30 years, Warwick is now a multimillion pound operation.



Mark Kennell started his presentation by saying how pleased he was to speak to Members of WRSA and how much he had enjoyed his lunch and the lunch with Alan and Joan when he agreed to do the talk.

He started with some background information about himself. Before arriving at Warwick in January 2011, Mark worked for Derby City Council's Community Safety Partnership as their Crime Prevention Manager. He specialised in domestic burglary and violent crime (fighting it, not committing it!). Prior to that, he worked for ADT Fire & Security and spent 12 years in the Royal Air Force Police, finishing his service as an Investigator.

He was a Postgraduate at Loughborough University, gaining a Diploma in Security Management. He is sure his past experiences will help him at the University. He stressed the importance of a well-managed and clean and tidy built environment, and the effect this has on crime levels and perceptions of crime. He made reference to the positive impact this had made in the Bronx in New York. (Broken Windows Theory).

He then gave a Powerpoint presentation that showed the campus layout, which is spread over 290 hectares (716 acres). Security Services monitor 165 buildings, which are a mixture of academic, administration, accommodation, conference, retail and social. This contrasted with a view of the University 25 years ago.

Mark said it was important to have a vision statement and then presented his, "Our vision is to provide the safest, most secure and most welcoming University campus environment, today, tomorrow and into the future."

Unlike the situation in Alan's time, the University now has a smart, welcoming security facility known colloquially as The Gatehouse, which is open 24/7. It had a makeover/refurbishment in 2011 costing £100 k and is now painted 'Warwick blue'! As the University grows, it may have to increase in size. The Gatehouse is often the



first place visitors see as they enter the campus so it is essential that staff are both professional and approachable. The security operation covers both Human Protection and Electronic Protection. Human Protection needs to work in harmony with Electronic Protection; they are mutually beneficial and maximise the use of existing resources. A small investment in security measures greatly enhances the feeling of security on behalf of everyone and helps protect those around you.

To provide student and staff support, there are pro-active, high visibility patrols, CCTV and alarm monitoring.

The Electronic protection needs to be 'fit for purpose' and effective for this location and have the possibility of expansion. Electronic Protection for the University covers CCTV, Access Control, intruder alarms, fire, and the Building Management System, which controls temperature, freezer control, etc. To protect the assets, the security Control Room operates 24 hour coverage, 365 days of the year and needs to be equipped to manage systems and deploy staff, as required. There is now a dedicated, 21st Century video wall to monitor the cameras and intruder systems; there are 33,000 fire detectors and 520 CCTV cameras. The staff need to be highly skilled and trained to interpret the system graphics so they know how to deploy staff if alarms are activated.

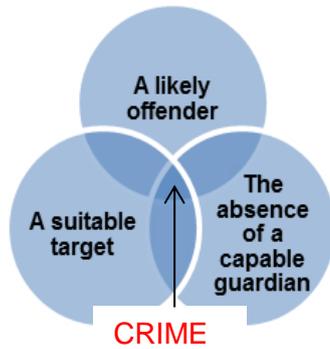
Crime prevention is essential and this needs risk assessments. Emergency planning needs to take place to ensure business continuity. Mark went on to stress the need for car park management, care of cash-in-transit, visitor handling, especially VIPs, and lone worker protection. All emergency calls come into the Control Room and all staff are First Aid trained. They work closely with the Emergency services that provide support and escort. Partnership working is essential, the Duty Residential Life Team (RLT) contact lists are held at the Gatehouse along with a list of Plant operators and electricians.

Security vehicles are being changed soon and the new ones will be in silver, some with 4 - wheel drive to cope with adverse weather conditions.

There are three levels, in 'police speak', of the Major incident Team (MIT). The first responders, out on the ground, to an incident are the Bronze team. The Silver team is the tactical team, which is chaired by the Deputy Registrar. The highest level is the Gold team, the Strategic decision are made by this team, which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

How is crime on the campus? It is a very safe campus. There were 130 crimes in the year 2012/2013. Major thefts are of cycles and laptops, 100 bikes were stolen. There were 180 cycles recovered that were auctioned and the money raised has been put into providing free cycle registration and making D locks available.

There were 18 burglaries of which 16 were insecurities. There is only a very small amount of violent crime or assaults. There is quite a lot of drunken behaviour, particularly at the



beginning of the academic year. At the University, 90% of crime is opportunistic and can be prevented through simple measures.

Mark ended with a brief tale of why crime occurs and this is applicable in all environments including domestic situations. According to Routine Activity Theory, it depends on three things being in place for a crime to occur: a 'motivated offender' (likely offender); a 'suitable target' and the absence of a 'capable guardian'.

The crime will not occur if one of these factors is missing. You cannot rely on removing all likely offenders so it is essential that the other two factors are in place. Make sure targets are protected and increase 'capable guardians'.

He illustrated this with the tale of a stolen laptop, one of the 4 thefts this term in Rootes. A MacBook Pro was stolen from a room where the student went out and left the window open and the lights on. Mark believes that early intervention is the way forward. He wants his team to talk to students in the halls before they go out, rather than after they have had too much to drink and make themselves vulnerable. Mick Parkes, an ex-campus policeman, now works in Security and they have a woman police officer as well as a male Police Community Support Officer.

Whilst thanking the WRSA for inviting him to talk to them, and taking questions, he put up the slide below, which brought a smile to many faces.



Do you remember the Sinclair C5?

Spring Lunch, 7th April, Scarman House

The speaker at the Spring lunch will be Professor Sudhesh Kumar, the Deputy Dean of the Warwick Medical School and Director of the Institute of Digital Healthcare, Warwick Manufacturing Group.

Professor Kumar is internationally recognised for his research into obesity and its complications, particularly Type 2 diabetes, with his research groups gaining acclaim through several national and international awards.

He has published over 220 papers and 5 books on these subjects. Within the Warwickshire Institute for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (WISDEM) Centre at the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust, he runs obesity and diabetes multi-disciplinary clinics and also rare genetic syndromes with diabetes clinics. He is also the Director of the Human Metabolism Research Unit (HMRU) at the UHCW, a state of the art facility for the study of human metabolism.

Professor Kumar has developed a number of patient-based research projects; most are run in conjunction with and are complementary to the laboratory based projects. In addition, he has also co-founded two of the largest such studies investigating novel approaches to delivery of care to patients with obesity, Counterweight (7 centres, involving over 10,000 patients) and also for Indo-Asian diabetic patients UKADS (2 centres, involving over 2000 patients).

Warwick in Africa

Warwick in Africa (WiA) is a well-established innovative, philanthropically funded programme, developed over eight years from a small student volunteering project to a multi-layered programme which supports learners, highly talented learners and their teachers with Maths and English education in South Africa, Tanzania and Ghana.

Over 160,000 learners have benefited so far. Its fundamental aim is to enhance the education of young people in Africa, a direct route to liberation from poverty.

After sending the £1000, the WRSA Treasurer received two thank-you letters, one from the local WiA team and one forwarded from the Principal of a school in Limpopo. The WRSA Committee thought they should share these with the Members.

Copy of letter to WRSA Treasurer from Rachael Swann, Manager and Development Executive: Warwick in Africa and the letter from Kololoshani Secondary school.

Ref RS/BB

5 November 2013

Mr T Kemp

Treasurer of the Retired Staff Association

7 Barford Road

Kenilworth

CV8 2AY

Dear Terry

Support for Warwick in Africa

I would like to say a big thank you for your recent donation made on behalf of the Retired Staff Association to Warwick in Africa.

We've had another fantastic year with WIA and have reached even more learners than ever before. I thought I would include a little update from this year in case you would like to share this with the other members of the association;

- More than 30,000 children have benefitted from our work in transforming Maths and English teaching in Africa this year alone.
- That brings the total, since our start up in 2006, to over 150,000 and puts us well on track to have benefitted over 200,000 by the time we are ten.
- Over 300 teachers attended our formal training programmes, making 1,100 to date.
- We also had the largest and strongest volunteer pool that we have ever had with more than 140 volunteers took part from Warwick, National University of Singapore, Royal Holloway College, University of Venda, University of Stellenbosch, Ernst and Young SA & Standard Chartered SA.
- 44 of them were returners, some for the fifth time. This enabled us to resource the new pilots with highly experienced volunteers.
- The new pilot schools in Ivory Park, Limpopo, and Mtwara all exceeded expectations. This combined with growth elsewhere meant we are now teaching in 33 schools/places.
- We are currently in the process of completing our internal & external evaluation but after an initial review, we know that we have improved performance by over 40% across each location and in most cases doubled the level of performance.
- We also look on track to maintain our “big bangs per buck”. Increased scale, more local corporate volunteers and favourable exchange rates are likely to reduce our cost for direct teaching to below last year's £11 per month per child.
- Thanks to Dave Meyer we have also captured some terrific examples of the work in action for a new film to be launched later this month.

A couple of stories have stood out for me. The first in Limpopo, up near the Zimbabwe border, where one of our volunteers did a brilliant job of holding a class of 125 children spellbound with a probability lesson. The other was in Mtwara, Tanzania where 3 of our volunteers are supporting the only Maths teacher in a school for 700 children and helping some of the children achieve >100% increases in their test results in just a few weeks. The star performer managed to go from 41% to 90%.

Thank you again for your continued support which is vital for helping us to increase the impact of our teaching in the schools.

I wish you and the association all the very best.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Rachael Swann

KOLOKOSHANI SECONDARY SCHOOL



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12 September 2013

TO: THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
FROM: KOLOKOSHANI SECONDARY SCHOOL.

First and foremost, we appreciate the expertise offered by the University of Warwick's outreach program. Admittedly, this is a realization of a long-cherished dream. One does not need to be a genius to note that Warwick in Africa is a unique project which addresses the academic challenges encountered by learners and teachers in developing countries. Warwick in Africa is a nation building project.

We feel greatly honored and privileged to have been given the opportunity to host teachers from the United Kingdom. Hence Warwick in Africa is an important milestone history of Kolokoshani Secondary School. Our teachers have acquired a wealth of knowledge. Frankly speaking, we have been greatly empowered. Most of the values that we had learnt from Warwick in Africa are enshrined in the South African constitution, c.g. Inclusivity.

Your teachers set a good example in whatever they did. They conducted their lessons in a jolly atmosphere and encouraged maximum participation. Perhaps most importantly is the fact that the United Kingdom teachers give all learners the same latitude. Your teachers never arrive late for lessons and their time management is superb. The United Kingdom teachers are principled professionals of the highest integrity. Their presence had been a great inspiration to us. Accolades should go to the following teachers Mark Butcher, Siôn Owen, Sarah Mills and Cliona Lane for their commitment and dedication.

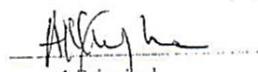
Special recognition goes to Katie Taylor and Nick Barker for conducting in-service training in English and Mathematics respectively. We thank

them for a job well done. Our teachers had learnt contemporary teaching methods. We are going to approach didactics in a new perspective and we are geared up for academic excellence.

In conclusion one can safely say that Warwick in Africa has served our school with distinction. We feel very proud to be associated with the University of Warwick.

May your days be fruitful and prosperous.

Kind regards.


Principal

12/09/2013
Date

Reports of WRSA Student Bursary Winners 2013-14

This year the WRSA Committee approved three awards totalling £1100, which were presented on 21st November 2013. The photograph below shows the winners with two Members of the WRSA Bursary Committee.



From Left to right:

*Laura de Lara Deffense,
Terry Kemp, Oliver Newton,
Cristina Psomadakis and
George Raper*

The projects receiving support are as follows.

1. Cristina Psomadakis (Final Year Medical Student)

Cristina received £400 to support the costs of a 2-month Medical Cambodian Language Course. The applicant is spending one month in a Cambodian hospital working with a team of cardiologists in February; she has already attended three summer Cambodian language courses in the USA which gives her a working knowledge of Cambodian, but now needs to acquire medical terminology in Cambodian both to make best use of her month in the hospital and to assist her in her plan to continue visiting Cambodia to provide medical assistance, particularly in explaining risks and advantages of medical procedures to patients. Cristina has spent time doing voluntary work with a Cambodian refugee centre. Her long-term ambition is having a career assisting international disadvantaged populations.

2. Oliver Newton (Fourth Year Physics student)

Oliver, acting on behalf of UniBrass received £300. UniBrass is a well-established organisation which has very recently moved its base to the University of Warwick, and is managed by student volunteers. UniBrass hosts a brass band entertainment contest, now involving brass bands from 14 universities. The day after the contest, all participating bands have the opportunity to attend professionally-run masterclasses led by well-known artists in the brass band world to enhance both individuals' and bands' developments. UniBrass will make its Warwick debut on 14th February 2014. It will not only attract university brass bands from across the country for a weekend of entertainment but will also provide a Saturday workshop for youth brass bands, mainly from local secondary schools, to encourage them to continue with their playing on leaving school because there is considerable attrition in participation on players leaving the youth environment. The workshops will be an event additional to the main UniBrass programme which will be supported by the Music Centre; others involved are the Warwickshire Music Service, Coventry Performing Arts Service and the Midlands Brass Band Association. The funding requested is to attract the support of high-profile workshop leaders for the workshop day, and to cover expenses involved in running the workshops.

3. Laura de Lara Deffense (Year 3, School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies).

Laura received £400 to support a multimedia exhibition 'Memento Mori' planned to shed light on mankind's understanding of death. The exhibition will be interactive in nature, i.e. a type of audio-visual documentary-cum-gallery presentation with performance elements. It will pinpoint times in history where the understanding and definition of death have changed to benefit personal agendas. Thus Laura will be carrying out interdisciplinary research into the understanding of death in different cultures, religions and generations. She has begun a programme of recordings with academics from Classics & Ancient History and Comparative American Studies Departments at the University of Warwick and has scheduled interviews with the artist Franko-B and practitioner Tim Etchells. She will also be interviewing workers from funeral parlours. The exhibition is planned for late April/May 2014. The aim of the exhibition is to underline the difference between the contemporary Western attitude to death, which has been virtually eliminated from its discourse, and that of past cultures that reminded people of their mortality on a daily basis. The funding would cover charges for royalties/copyright for displaying certain paintings and photographs; acquisition of books, articles and journals not held by Warwick's Library; production and marketing costs of the exhibition.

Walking Group News and Walks Reports

Walking for fun

Are you finding motivation difficult during the winter months? Do you enjoy walking, chatting and pub meals? The WRSA has a walking group which welcomes all-comers to participate in a friendly stroll followed by a warm welcome in a pub with the opportunity to eat with the group. Each month a different walk leader will organise the walk and the venue for meeting up and eating. The walks are between four and five miles in length and can be town or country orientated. Participants are welcome to invite the group on their favourite walk.

If you'd like to join us please contact Kay Rainsley on 02476 404044 or kay.rainsley@live.co.uk

Kay Rainsley, Walks Co-ordinator

Walks Reports

Report on Berkswell Walk, 22nd August 2013

Bears, Mice and Fish

I awoke to the sound of heavy raindrops running down the bedroom windows and saw water cascading down the garage gutter into the drain. Thoughts of my last affray into the Berkswell countryside came pouring back to me (pardon the pun). However, the torrent was to be short lived and happily the sun trumped the black clouds sending them into oblivion.

Meeting at the Bear Inn in Berkswell it was a short trot over the road to Berks Well, so called because, well, it was a well. Across the way lies St. John's Anglican Church which features in the book 'England's Thousand Best Churches' by Simon Jenkins. The room over the porch is now the vestry but was originally the first school room in the village. Much of the woodwork in the church was carved last century by the famous wood carver Robert Thompson. His mark is a mouse and there are nine wooden mice residing in the church.



Maud Watson, the first woman Lawn Tennis Champion at Wimbledon is buried in the church. She was the daughter of a former rector and some of her belongings can be seen in the tiny museum which is open on Sundays. Unfortunately, it not being Sunday, we didn't see the museum but I can recommend a viewing. However, we did pass Berkswell Hall which is fronted by a fine lake complete with fishermen. We crossed the sturdy wooden walkway and wandered through a wooded area before reaching the sand and gravel pits.

The walkway is wide enough to allow several walkers abreast in this area and we meandered down the lane until we came to some fields. Luckily the crops had been harvested affording a view across the open countryside. From here we traversed a short area of road before taking a loop through the aforementioned churchyard and the 16th Century Bear Inn.

The inn had hosted Cromwell's troops during the Civil War and latterly Coventry citizens displaced by the blitz during World War II. Today it serves an excellent range of food although the service was a mite tardy. Several walkers, including myself, opted for the fish and chips which were particularly tasty. We welcomed three new walkers to the group and hope to see them again in the near future.

Kay Rainsley

Report of the Coventry Literary Trail, 10th September 2013

On Tuesday 10 September (and Monday 30 September) members of WRSA joined me on the city centre literary trail that I'd already trialled for Coventry's Positive Images Festival. For nine hundred years writers have passed through the city, lived here and written about it. We started from Coventry railway station: the 1830s controversy over sale of farmland for railway construction (see *Middlemarch*) has an eerie topicality now. The station is immortalised in poems by Alfred Lord Tennyson and Philip Larkin – we inspected the plaque on platform 1 that quotes Larkin's 'I remember' and we stood on the bridge roughly where Tennyson's poem 'Godiva' started.

Near the station we visited Manor Road, where Larkin lived and attended school (and collected cigarette cards from the gutter), and we looked across Warwick Road at King Henry VIII where he studied from the age of eight. The school's alumni include Philemon Holland (1552-1637), who produced early renderings of many Latin works, and William Dugdale (1605-1686), the antiquarian famed for his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*. Eric

Malpass (1910-1996) and Peter Ho Davies (born 1966), both novelists, are more recent alumni and it was a wonderful bonus to be joined by Ho Davies's mother for lunch.

Walking through Greyfriars Green we paused at the stone drinking trough in memory of Mary Ann Evans's close friend Cara (Caroline) Bray, the founder of the Coventry Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her husband, Charles Bray, a ribbon manufacturer, newspaper owner and radical freethinker influenced Mary Ann/George Eliot as a young adult. Beyond the trough, on Warwick Row, is Loveitts, the estate agency. As 'Nant Glyn', the building housed the school where Mary Ann Evans boarded from 1832 (when she was 13) to 1835. She later based the Reverend Rufus Lyon in *Felix Holt, The Radical* on her teachers' father, the Revd. Franklin.

Our next stop was the statue of Sir Thomas White (1492-1567), a Lord Mayor of London and major benefactor to Coventry. In 1555 he founded St John's College, Oxford, whose alumni include the poets A. E. Housman and Philip Larkin. Across the road, at 1, The Quadrant, we thought of Angela Brazil, a pioneer of schoolgirl fiction, who lived there from 1911 and was a well-known Coventry personality during Larkin's childhood. In Earl Street we stopped by the Council House where his pro-Nazi father worked as City Treasurer. Then on to the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, where Larkin's friend, the distinguished Northern Ireland poet, John Hewitt, was Director from 1957-72. His poem, 'An Irishman in Coventry 1958' affirms his progressive new home 'as image of the state hope argued for...')

Inside the Herbert we looked at George Eliot's piano, imagining her fingers on the keys and her feet on the pedals. We emerged from the door facing the 'old' and 'new' cathedrals and thought about their literary connections, among them the novelists Susan Hill and Alan Garner (who recalled when receiving an honorary degree from the University of Warwick, how St Michael's face 'totally bent on destruction' had inspired his malevolent character King Malebron of Elidor).

Our next stop, St Mary's Guildhall, Bayley Lane, has connections with William Shakespeare, George Eliot, A. E. W. Mason (1865-1948) and Philip Larkin. Shakespeare almost certainly performed here and George Eliot's *Adam Bede* includes a vivid description of the upstairs hall. Outside the Golden Cross, Hay Lane/Pepper Lane, built in 1583 (when William Shakespeare was 19) we visualised Philip Larkin, as a sixth-former, coming for a drink and reading books that he borrowed from the Gulson Library which stood nearby.

Then, inside Holy Trinity church, we visited Philemon Holland's epitaph – with its Latin pun on his name – and remembered the actress Sarah Siddons (1755-1831), who married here against her father's wishes. A plaque commemorates the fact that Robert Evans, the father of Mary Ann (George Eliot), was a sidesman and that she worshipped here.

Standing in Broadgate, we imagined the Mystery Play performances, which Shakespeare almost certainly saw, and the statue of Lady Godiva reminded us of poems by Tennyson and others less well-known. Quotations from J.B. Priestley and from Larkin's novel *Jill* helped us visualise Coventry before and after it was bombed. We finished the walk with lunch in Ristorante Etna, Hertford Street, where (in its earlier incarnation as Hanson's Music and Records), the schoolboy Larkin – a future jazz critic – browsed and bought gramophone records.

If anyone missed the walk and would like to hear of further dates, do please contact me. A booklet of the trail is in production.

Eleanor Nesbitt

Report on Market Bosworth Walk, 15th October 2014

Seventeen Members of the WRSA walking group drove to Market Bosworth in Leicestershire on Tuesday 15th October to join a walk taking in the Battle of Bosworth Field Visitor Centre. The Centre provided the unaccustomed luxury of a 'comfort stop' coupled with a photo opportunity in the nearby stocks. As a resident of Market Bosworth I led the walk which started in the car park of The Red Lion, just off the Market Place. We followed a gated road, walked single file across some fields and climbed up Ambion Hill to the entrance of the Visitor Centre and aforementioned stocks.



Monday had been an extremely wet day, so many of us arrived there with very wet trouser bottoms (from the crop growing each side of the narrow footpath) and muddy boots. We continued on a footpath back towards the town for a short distance, arriving at the far end of the gated road. We walked back to Market Bosworth in good time for an excellent lunch at The Red Lion. Several Members of the party were able to take some time during their visit to enjoy strolling around the very attractive and historic Market Place.

Margaret Birch

Report on Norton Lindsay Walk, 14th November, 2014

The walk was late starting because of the enormous pile up blocking main roads to Warwick and Norton Lindsay, but, undaunted, 23 people turned up. We had to shorten the walk because of the late start.



The munchers enjoying the fruits of the apple tree in the background

It was a bright, sunny day with a beautiful light as the group walked past a group of impressive farm buildings which punctuated the fields. An unexpected treat lay in wait as a large apple tree was shedding its load in, what we judged to be, no man's land. From then on the walk

was accompanied by the sound of munching and crunching until our ill-gotten gains were diminished. Fortified by our snack we continued across the countryside admiring the rural vista until we arrived at the New Inn. The pub was rather inefficient but people took it in their stride. Not a gastronomic experience.

Following the meal some walkers chose to remain and take advantage of the walk and talk around the church offered by local historian, Ken Chapman. Our guide to the church of Holy Trinity revealed some moving features, all concerning the Crusaders who left from the village in the 12th Century, and who planted a yew tree still filling the graveyard with its impressive presence.

Denise Fowler

Report on Keilworth Walk, 22nd January 2014

It was a beautiful morning, sunny and not too cold, as fifteen of us set off from Castle Farm Leisure Centre, Kenilworth. Initially it appeared that our party was unexpectedly much larger, but our place and time of departure coincided with another walking group from Birmingham setting off towards Leek Wootton. Our walk took us around the outer fortifications of Kenilworth Castle – the huge ditches and ramparts of the Brays, hardly ever seen by visitors to the Castle – then round the castle walls and ascending over the fields to Chase Lane. We followed the lane to the far corner of Chase Wood. The word reminds us that we were traversing part of the ‘Chase’ of the former Castle Estate, where Queen Elizabeth would have hunted deer in the 16th Century.



We rounded the wood, and then began the trudge back to Kenilworth along the field-path from Honiley. Overnight rain had caused the going to be rather sodden and muddy in places, but good conversation speeded our progress. We emerged on a low rise to take in the impressive earthworks around Henry V's ‘Pleasaunce’, once a moated retreat away

from the formality of the court at the Castle, and approached by boat across the former lake: the dock for the boat was clearly marked by a large rectangular area of reeds. Then up Purlieu Lane to enjoy the classic view of the Castle from the west, about to be enjoyed too by the residents of a rather obtrusive new house which is rising on the site of a former bungalow at High House Farm: we wondered how they got planning permission. A convivial lunch was had at The Clarendon Arms pub, Castle Hill. So a good opener to the 2014 season, blessed with Spring-like weather.

Richard Morris

Report on Balsall Common Walk, 12th February 2014

It's a Long Way to Tipperary

With the latest weather forecast promising a deluge of rain with possible wind, hail and snow thrown in for good measure only the most hardy or foolhardy of walkers would venture forth wouldn't they? Surely it wasn't suitable for a bunch of retirees or was it?

Thirteen plucky individuals turned out complete with an array of hats, scarves, gloves, rain trousers, rain jackets, walking boots and wellies in assorted styles and colours but strictly sensible. Two minutes into the walk we were confronted with a fallen tree which barred our progress along a narrow fenced walkway. One walker, who shall remain nameless, suggested that we turn back but others bravely thrashed and smashed the offending branches and cleared a path.

Fashion had clearly taken a back seat as we squelched across the sodden countryside past numerous ponds and ditches filled with freezing run off. Under a lowering sky we passed some rather impressive dwellings normally hidden from sight behind rows of trees. There was a distinct lack of farm animals but we were rewarded with large flocks of birds which circled and flapped against the wintry backdrop. Discussion as to whether they were ravens or crows followed but there were positive sightings of pigeons and a pair of buzzards circled overhead. Later in the walk an owl was spotted as it set off in search of lunch.

Rain threatened as we followed the tarmac section giving us a welcome break from the incessant mud. We were treated to a clear view of Kenilworth Castle before we turned onto a



short bridge fashioned from planks before reaching more desolate looking fields. Confidence increased with each mile as we remained dry and it was only in the last section that we experienced the promised rainfall although it was relatively light. But by this time the end of the walk was in sight and the group was in high spirits.

Our lunch was served up in The Tipperary where not one but two home fires were burning to welcome us. We were joined for lunch by two would-be walkers who had elected to

skip the walk, pardon the pun, due to illness. A rather overweight, elderly, dog was successfully blocking the open fire. On closer inspection we saw that he'd got a poorly leg held in a rather scary looking bandage with wires emanating from it. This, however, didn't stop him from struggling over to greet us. We, meanwhile, sat by the second fire and enjoyed our well-earned meals and drinks.

The title of this piece may have given you a clue of why it's fitting that we visited the Tipperary this year as the nation gears up to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War. The building, formerly known as The Plough Inn, stands on the corner of Table Oak Lane near Balsall Common.

Harry Williams and his co-composer Jack Judge penned the song in 1909 with the original title 'It's a Long Way to Connemara.' With a new title the song was published in 1912 and

famously used as a marching song selling three million copies in the UK and six million worldwide. Harry had lived in The Plough with his parents since 1900.

One of the first people to hear the song was Daily Mail journalist George Curnock who was holidaying in Boulogne when the second Battalion of the Connaught Rangers, an Irish regiment based in Tipperary arrived in the seaport. He reported hearing it on 18th August, 1914. In November of the same year it was recorded by John McCormack which helped its popularity. Harry and Jack earned £164,000 between them in 1915 in royalties which was a small fortune. Harry, disabled and unable to fight, gave £1000 to the Tank war bond fund-raising for wounded soldiers in 1917. Later he purchased The Plough for his parents who changed the name to The Tipperary Inn.

Kay Rainsley

Visit Report

Report of Visit to Chester 6th November 2013

With an increase in members wanting to go on this trip a larger coach had to be organised at the last minute. After encountering an unexpected surge in local traffic we were soon speeding north in dismal weather.

On arrival at Chester our Members soon dispersed, mainly under umbrellas, to enjoy the pleasures of this fine city. Unfortunately access to the cathedral was limited, because today of all days was Chester University's degree day. It brought back many memories seeing students with caps and gowns, mingling around.



Unique to Chester are The Rows, which are 13th Century half-timbered shops, taverns and galleries with open sides and covered walkways once occupied by traditional merchants.

A number of our Members opted to get some exercise and walked around the city walls. This two mile walkway with views to the streets below and the distant Welsh mountains, was an experience not to be missed. After viewing the River Dee from the old Dee Bridge we re-entered the city for a welcome lunch break.

With the weather conditions worsening the only alternative now was to take shelter in the blend of the old and new shopping malls. Finally we left Chester in what I can only describe as horrendous driving conditions for a wet journey home.

In conclusion I can only agree with our Members' comments that it was a day not to be missed.

Alan Foster, Visits Co-ordinator

Turning 50 in 2015

As well as celebrating the past, Warwick's 50th Anniversary will be a launchpad for the future. With the central theme of Imagining, Exploring, and Researching the Future, the 50th anniversary gives us the opportunity to:

- **Showcase** our campus and facilities;
- Celebrate our **international** presence, teaching and learning;

- Acknowledge our **success**, spirit and achievements;
- Provide opportunities for connecting **alumni** with each other and the University;
- Leave a **legacy** for the next 50 years.

We want all our staff, former staff, students and alumni to be involved in Warwick's 50th Anniversary celebrations. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary throughout the calendar year of 2015 (from January 2015-December 2015).

Main Events : *(These events are in the very early planning stage so may be subject to change).*

Festival of Imagination: A 2-day event held from 16th-17th October 2015 will be the centre-piece event, comprising events, talks, lectures, shows, demonstrations and discussions. We want departments to help develop the events which will take place on central campus. They will be designed to showcase Warwick's reputation of creative thinking and doing things differently, and will be grouped by themes (to be decided once ideas for activities are in place).

Music Festival: A 3-day music festival from 21st-23rd May 2015 will feature world, classical and popular music.

Staff Summer Fayre: Alongside this annual event we will invite former and retired staff and incorporate a thank-you event.

Imagining the Future Lecture Series: Warwick's leading academics will look at the impact of research on the world.

24-hour summit: Similar to the Global University Summit of 2013, this will take place in March, in multiple locations around the world and generate a policy declaration around one of Warwick's research strengths or Global Research Priorities themes.

International Project: Headed by the International Office, this will consist of a series of alumni events in key cities around the world.

50th Anniversary Awards: These will include current awards such as the WATE awards, as well as the introduction of some new awards for staff, alumni and professionals in business and industry.

History of the University Book: Michael Shattock, Warwick's long-serving Registrar, will evaluate the impact of the University and to what extent it has delivered against its founding vision in this short history of the University.

Graduation and honorary degrees: The 50th Anniversary year gives the opportunity to select exceptional individuals for honorary degrees.

Voices of the University: This oral history project is being curated by the Institute of Advanced Study and will capture the voices of those who have studied, worked and lived near the University since 1965.

The Art Collection book: Celebrating 50 years of the University's art collection, this will incorporate 5 essays focusing on aspects of our collection. This will contain 100-word comments from people about art at Warwick.

Anniversary Banquet: A celebration to be held in London, demonstrating Warwick's leverage and standing. This will also serve as the closing event for the [50 Forward campaign](#).

1965 Reunion: The 1965 intake will have a reunion event on campus in 2015, as well as involvement in other key events such as the Festival of Imagination and the Festival of Celebration.

Alumni Events: Warwick alumni groups in the UK and across the world are planning to hold a number of events, meetings and informal gatherings in 2015. All of these activities will be posted online with links to social media feeds where alumni can share memories, find old friends and send messages to the University.

Warwick Commission: The two-year Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value will culminate in 2015, with the ambition to identify and articulate the cultural ecosystem that connects the arts to our broader culture and its proud traditions and ambitions for the future.

New Artwork: As well as hosting 5 sculptures celebrating the last half-century on loan throughout the year, we will unveil a new sculpture for the University's art collection in 2015.

New Chamber Music Piece: Joe Cutler, the composer of Ping!, will write a new chamber music piece, based on Imagining the Future and inspired by a short residency working with Warwick researchers and students. The piece will be premiered by the Coull Quartet.

Community Garden: To be opened on campus in 2015, this garden will incorporate plants that would have been present in the area in the past, as well as a section yielding edible produce and associated by-products. The garden will be both beautiful and educational.

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch was held on 16th December in Scarman House, this is always a popular event and 2013 was no exception. One hundred and nine gathered in the bar and surrounding areas, catching up with old friends and meeting new Members. For some it was the start of Christmas celebrations but others had already been to Departmental parties. The Members were very pleased that Ken Sloan the Registrar was able to join them for lunch and that he was restored to good health.

Once the call was given we all moved into the dining room. The starter was already on the tables along with wine, water and fruit juices and of course crackers. Soon the snap of crackers being pulled was heard around the tables and Members put on their paper hats.

The Members then moved off in orderly fashion first for the main course and then for the dessert or for some desserts and cheese. There was plenty of choice of dishes to suit all tastes. Once again Scarman House staff produced a very enjoyable meal in a relaxing atmosphere.

Joan Cole visited all the tables encouraging Members to share their memories with Dr April Gallaway and her team, a project in which many of you have volunteered to participate and others have participated. Dr Gallaway is putting together an oral history of Warwick University 1965-2015 (see Newsletter August 2013).

Before going home we moved to the lounge to enjoy some coffee/tea and mince pies and another chat with friends we missed earlier.

Once again this was a very good way to end the year for the WRSA and I am sure you will



all join with me in expressing our thanks to Jean Norman who makes sure this event is a success. She can be seen in the picture enjoying a chat with two other Committee members, Georgie Hale who serves on the Bursary Committee and Bill Prichard the Membership Secretary.

WRSA Membership

Judging from the notes added to the Renewal forms I have received the WRSA has had another successful year with Members enjoying the events that have been organised. I would like to thank all the Members who have sent in their cheques and urge those who have not responded to do so as soon as possible. There are still over 70 who have not replied. I would also like to thank those who have updated their postal address, telephone number and email address.

At the end of 2013 there were 272 Members; 4 new Members have joined this year.

Membership of the Association keeps you in touch with the University and gives you many concessions; these were covered in the last Newsletter. There is a copy of the last Newsletter and Newsflash on the website.

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 Suzanne Keene (Human Resources, telephone 024 7652 4843).

Bill Prichard WRSA Membership Secretary

Walks – March to July 2014

<u>Day/Date/Area of walk</u>	<u>Walk Leader(s)</u>
Thursday, 20th March Lapworth,	Bob Cooke
Thursday, 10th April Claverdon	Hazel and Alan Colliver
Tuesday, 6th May Coventry Industrial History	Eleanor Nesbitt
Tuesday, 10th June <i>Details not yet available</i>	Malcolm Cooper & Dennis Jones
Tuesday, 22nd July Wormleighton and Oxford Canal	Richard & Margaret Parker

Future notes for your diary: there will be a walk in August led by Godfrey and Caroline Carr and on Monday 15th September, Martyn Bradley will lead a Geological walk around the University campus. If you wish further information please contact Kay Rainsley.

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