

September 2014

Issue 34

I hope you have enjoyed the summer; life seems so much easier when the sun shines. Since the last Newsletter there has been the Spring lunch, many walks and a trip to SS Great Britain in Bristol. Maybe you can suggest an event in the future and even better if you would be able to organise it. Volunteers came forward to lead the 2014 walks but Kay Rainsley (details are at the end of the Newsletter) would be delighted to get some new members to organise a walk.

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. Currently the Spring and Autumn lunches are free but this may have to change, see the Spring lunch report on page 4.

As you know the University reaches its first half century in 2015. There will be great celebrations on the campuses of Warwick from January to December. Planning is at an early stage but if you have suggestions to make or questions to ask please email, 50th.anniversary@warwick.ac.uk. There is also a count up webpage at: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/warwick50/countup/>

You will have received a List of WRSA Members at the same time as this Newsletter is published. Please check your details; they are the ones the Membership Secretary has on file. Members need to inform him if their details change.

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

Notices of the visit to see Blenheim Palace dressed for Christmas and for the Christmas Lunch will be sent out in October.

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Dates for your diary

29th September; AGM and lunch Scarman House: Speaker: **Professor Stefan Bon**, Chemistry Department: "Juicy chocolate with the help of microscopic droplets and jellies"

4th October - 6th December; The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour, Mead Gallery (See page 7)

21st October at 6 pm and 25th October at 12 pm; Exhibition Tours Mead Gallery

20th November; Blenheim at Christmas visit

15th December; Christmas Lunch, Scarman House

Walks see Pages 10 &15 for details

21st – 23rd May 2015; Golden Festival of Music

16th - 17th October 2015; Festival of Imagination

Spring Lunch and Talk, Scarman House,

7th April 2014

On a rather miserable wet day in April, 101 WRSA Members travelled to Scarman House for the annual Spring Lunch eagerly awaiting the talk by Professor Sudhesh Kumar the Deputy Dean of Warwick Medical School (WMS). After a very enjoyable Buffet lunch in the Courtyard room of Scarman House there was time for a quick cup of coffee before going upstairs to the meeting room to listen to the talk.



Professor Kumar was welcomed by Joan Cole and she gave a brief resume of his background. Professor Kumar is internationally recognised for his research into obesity and its complications, particularly Type 2 diabetes. His research group have gained 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 Centre (WISDEM) at the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust, he runs obesity and diabetes multi-disciplinary clinics. He is also the Director of the Human Metabolism Research Unit (HMRU) at the UHCW, a state of the art facility for study of human metabolism. Professor Kumar

now concentrates on patient-based research projects, mostly in conjunction with and complementary to the laboratory based projects.

Professor Kumar's talk was entitled WMS, Health Research and cross campus collaboration. He said how pleased he was to be invited and admitted that he did not know that Warwick University had a Retired Staff Association. Now that he was getting older he was pleased to know that such an active group existed. After graduating in Manchester he joined the staff at Birmingham University where he progressed from Lecturer to Reader. In 2003 he came to Warwick as the first Professor of Medicine. Although he is an active researcher he still works as a clinician and in teaching from MBChB to PhD.

He showed a couple of slides of two large gentlemen who apparently weighed the same but one had all the diseases which result from being overweight while the other one was fit. The one where obesity was an issue was inactive whereas the fit man was a Sumo wrestler. The way the fat was distributed in the body was very different in these two cases. Professor Kumar's research is carried out on humans; he collects the human fat, grows the cells in the laboratory and studies the factors that fat cells use. This is difficult to do but relating results from animal test to humans is more difficult and less effective. This research is carried out in the Human Metabolism Research Unit where each human volunteer is isolated for up to three days in highly controlled metabolic chambers.

Professor Kumar then went on to outline the history of the Medical School (WMS). It was established in 2000 as part of a partnership with Leicester Medical School. The medical teaching centre was opened a year later. The Medical School remains a graduate entry department. In 2006 the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire was opened housing the WMS Clinical Sciences Building. This was thought to bring efficiency in that the clinicians were close to their patients. The following year the partnership with Leicester was dissolved and WMS was granted independent degree awarding status.

Although it is the largest single department in the University (313 academic, research and teaching staff) it is small by medical school standards. The aim is for an intake of 177 students on the MBChB programme. The number of research degree students has grown from 88 in 2008/2009 to 174.

Professor Peter Winstanley was appointed Dean of WMS in 2010 and since that time there has been a large investment in research. The University has received a great deal of funding (£80m) some from Advantage West Midlands. The investment in light microscopy for biomedical research will bring huge benefits.

The vision for 2020 is to make WMS, UK's leading graduate entry medical school (it has the largest entry in the UK), internationally renowned for the high quality and relevance of its education programmes and for the excellence and significance of their research; working towards a distinctive 'Warwick Doctor'. WMS cannot achieve this aim on its own, it has to work with external partners both within the University and further afield. The School is founded on the principle of collaboration with a variety of partners, being outward looking and will continue to seek partners with whom it can work to the ultimate benefit of patients. It does not wish to be constrained by traditional departmental, specialty or professional boundaries and to this end is working with the whole of the University not just a small part of it.

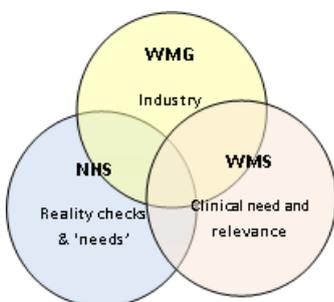
Professor Kumar reminded the audience of the huge changes that have taken place since he was a student. When he studied there was a large amount of information to learn but manageable. Now for example, there are over 6000 drugs in medicine an impossible number for any student to master, so there is a need for a 'Lifelong academy' where, ideally, the students return for their continuing professional development. The WMS needs to engage in inter-disciplinary research in niche areas and thereby make a difference to society.

Currently, the largest challenge for WMS is space. However, the Medical School has magnificent facilities and Warwick Clinical Trials Unit (WCTU) is an academic unit undertaking clinical trials addressing real issues of local, national and international importance and is now on the Gibbet Hill campus. The Human Metabolism Research unit has already been mentioned. Similarly there are excellent laboratories that include facilities for world class light microscopy. Professor Kumar is also very proud of the Surgical Training Centre which is a centre of excellence in National and International surgical training and anatomy teaching.

The organisational structure aims to bring together the various sectors that need to talk to each other for the health of the patient. The two main areas of Medical Education and Health Education are linked to the main areas of Biomedical Cell Biology, Translational & Systems Medicine, Health Sciences, and Mental Health & Wellbeing.

WMS is the only medical school in England to hold an ATHENA Swan Silver award (it gained a Bronze award in April 2012). The Athena SWAN Charter recognises and celebrates good employment practice for women in science, engineering and technology in higher education. It evolved from work between the Athena project (set up in 1999) and the Scientific Women's Network (SWAN) to advance the representation of women in science engineering and technology (SET). This is a very important award in terms of research funding as the National institute of Health Research only expects to shortlist medical schools for biomedical research funding if they hold a Silver award.

Professor Kumar talked briefly about the Institute of Digital Health (IDH) care, the pathfinder for the NHS working with Industry and partners. The IDH is an institute within the University of Warwick, set up in partnership with NHS West Midlands, WMG and WMS, as shown in the diagram. The aims are to improve people's health and wellbeing through the use of digital technologies. This can be achieved by combining the talents and resources of the groups involved. Achievements include being a Host for Academic Health Science network, digital theme projects and the creation of a novel inter-disciplinary grouping of many disciplines including engineers, behavioural psychologists, clinicians and managers; although there does seem to be some reluctance to adopt technology in day to day business.



He went on to show a slide encapsulating the idea of Health Systems Engineering for Quality and Productivity improvement, outlining how lessons can be learned from industrial processes. There is a need to reduce the unnecessary variation due to interactions between clinical and non-clinical factors resulting in poor outcomes and system performance - adopting the 'Right first time approach' is the goal.

Professor Kumar concluded his talk showing how Warwick University has achieved cross-campus research collaborations as part of Healthcare for the digital age. It is one of the University of Warwick's Global Research priorities. There is now a single structure across the University linking health related research carried out in Life Sciences, Mathematics (e.g. Systems Biology Centre), WMG (e.g. Health Informatics, Systems Improvement), Economics, Social Sciences and Chemistry.

The Chairman thanked Professor Kumar for an informative and interesting lecture and this was reiterated in the enthusiastic applause from the audience.

No Shows

We had an exceptionally strong response to our Spring Lunch meeting but as Scarman House has limited capacity in the Courtyard restaurant for a buffet lunch, we had to create a waiting list of disappointed members. Sadly, not all those who had made a booking turned up - they had not informed Suzanne Keene or Jean Norman that they would not be attending. This meant that several people who would have liked to attend were denied a place. In addition, the cost of the buffet was much greater than it needed to be. Although we understand that there are occasionally last-minute circumstances which prevent people from attending, it seems unlikely that this would apply to all 13 of the 'no shows'. The cost of the lunch is covered by the University and the WRSA and is free to each Member and guest; it is important that we do not abuse the generosity of the University.

Reports from WRSA Student Bursary Winners 2013-14

This year the WRSA Committee approved three awards totalling £1100, which were presented on 21st November 2013. Two of the winners were able to complete their project and have produced the following reports. Laura de Lara Deffense made a start on her project but realised there was more to do so has delayed her exhibition and will complete the project in South America. She has returned £300 of her award. The very pleasing news is that both Oliver and Laura gained 1st Class Honours this summer and Cristina qualified as a doctor.

Report of Cristina Psomadakis's Cambodian experience

Currently I am a final year medical student at Warwick. With the funding assistance provided by the WRSA Bursary I was able to participate in a specialist medical Cambodian language class and travel to Cambodia in February to help work and translate for Jeremiah's Hope (CMMCJH). I had previously studied Cambodian.

The Jeremiah's Hope (CMMCJH) is a non-profit clinic dedicated to providing excellent medical care to the poor. It was founded in July 2004 as an approved Cambodian non-profit organisation. In its ten year history the organisation has grown and has had many accomplishments, including:

- taking four severely ill patients to the US for life-saving surgery;
- with the assistance of Project C.U.R.E. providing medical supplies and pharmaceuticals;
- lecturing at the Phnom Penh Medical School;
- organising teaching opportunities and internships for local medical and nursing students, both in Cambodia and abroad;
- in 2009 setting up the first and only electrophysiology lab in Cambodia with donated equipment;
- performing the first electrophysiology study and catheter ablation in 2009. Now up to 50 procedures per year can be performed by the Cambodian staff;
- receiving the 2011 Frist Humanitarian Award by the Hospital Corporation of America for "consistently going beyond the call of duty in serving patients and their local communities;"
- hosting in 2014 the first Cambodian-American Cardiology Conference, which featured presentations and research by leading Khmer and American physicians.

My experience with the clinic in March 2014:

The neurosurgical spine team saw 23 patients and performed 10 neurosurgical operations, including many patients who were very disabled.

The Cardiac team saw 132 patients and performed 23 operations:

- 2 percutaneous Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDAs) and 3 percutaneous mitral valvuloplasties;
- 18 open heart surgeries (mainly valve replacements due to rheumatic heart disease);
- 1 congenital atrial septal defect repair (ASD);
- 1 Bentall procedure, the first ever done in Cambodia!
- 137 Echocardiograms;
- 14 Electrophysiological procedures including pacemakers and radiofrequency ablations.

The picture above shows me (Centre) performing a cardiovascular examination on a Cambodian patient while an American doctor supervises and a local clinic trainee nurse observes.



With your much appreciated help, I took a targeted Cambodian healthcare vocabulary class and was able to then help run the clinic consultation. I was able to speak to the patients in Cambodian, translate for the English speaking doctors who work there, and explain all the risks and benefits of procedures. At a time that can be very frightening and anxiety-ridden, having someone to speak to in their own language was a comfort to the patients. With your funding assistance the clinic ran a lot smoother and offered a better patient experience.

On a personal level, it allowed me to further develop my Cambodian language skills and the opportunity to work in this wonderful clinic. I learned a lot of skills I will take forward in my medical career, as well as an understanding of how healthcare systems in developing countries work. I hope to return again, and continue to give back to this wonderful project.



Thank you so much for your help – the experience was life changing, including when on the Sunday we had off-duty, I visited an elephant sanctuary and got to go on a walk with them!

UniBrass WRSA Bursary Report – by Oliver Newton

UniBrass is a student-run university brass band entertainment contest which was initiated by Lancaster University in 2011. It has been a staple of the university brass banding calendar ever since, growing year-on-year in scale and ambition. In 2013, the University of Warwick Brass Society were successful in their bid to host this prestigious event for three years, commencing earlier this year on 15th February 2014 at the Warwick Arts Centre.

Planning for the 2014 event began almost immediately after the successful bid, late in Term 2, with the nomination of an organising committee composed of Warwick Brass Society members. All members of the committee were acutely aware of the difficulties associated with running a new event for the first time, and set to work searching for funding opportunities, constructing budgets, and forming plans for the day; making important contacts both locally and nationally. This work continued throughout the intervening holiday period and into Term 3, with exams being juggled handily by the committee!

Prior to the end of Term 3 we selected the Butterworth Hall as our venue for the event, after much discussion concerning the costs of various other locations and their publicity reach. This was made possible with the help of the Music Centre, who helped negotiate a more advantageous price for the Hall and other rooms. The summer holidays were then devoted to further publicising UniBrass at various brass band events throughout the country, and looking for ways to accommodate the participating students!

During the course of Term 1 (October 2013), we finalised the venue arrangements and accommodation for bands, and accepted band entries. Adjudicators for the contest were also confirmed, and professional percussion instruments hired. We began to cast around for volunteers to help run the event, as well as booking transport to move the bandsmen from the contest to their accommodation at the end of the day. We also reached an agreement with Warwick TV to broadcast the event to an online livestream to further expand our audience. Everything was moving very quickly and Term 1 melted away in a flash, followed by Christmas, New Year, and Term 2 – leaving only a few weeks until the big day!

The day itself involved 480 participants from 14 university brass bands, who were responsible for constructing and (occasionally) choreographing a stunning 20 minute performance designed to entertain both the audience and adjudicators alike. This year we reintroduced the successful composition competition for participating students, whose work formed part of their band's entry to UniBrass – this was very well-received by bands.

The 2014 event exceeded many expectations, generating a paying audience of nearly 400 in the Butterworth Hall. As the only event of its kind, we also attracted interest from an online audience of 2000 throughout the day, from as far afield as the USA and Africa. We also ran



to time, which is perhaps a world first among brass band contests! The day was rounded off with the closing ceremony and a social event for the bandsmen at the Real Ale Festival, the proceeds of which went to Brass for Africa – an excellent charity working to initiate music education programmes in orphanages in Uganda and Liberia.

So, where did the Saturday workshops fit into this very busy and exciting day? Enshrined within the UniBrass constitution is a broad remit to support and promote the student brass band movement. In the past, in addition to the main contest itself, competing bands were able to participate in a series of Masterclasses, the day after the main contest, with some of the top brass professionals in the country. Having seen the success of these, the committee this year decided to look toward a younger class of students – of secondary school age.

While the youth movement of the brass community is strong, there remains a significant issue of player retention moving from youth banding into adult bands (invariably via university bands). We decided to use UniBrass as a vehicle to attempt to redress this imbalance by introducing Saturday workshops running concurrently with the contest itself. These were aimed at a range of musical abilities and were intended to improve participant's skills, and provide a unique performance opportunity for them with the ultimate aim of encouraging the young musicians to continue to play an instrument as they reach adulthood.

Near the end of November 2013 we were very happy to accept a generous bursary from the WRSA in support of this aim. With this, we were able to directly engage the services of Paul Duffy – a talented soprano cornet player just out of university himself, who has worked with top adult bands, such as Black Dyke Mills, since his teenage years. While young, his musical knowledge is formidable and his technical capability very strong; making him the ideal candidate to inspire a younger generation of brass players.

Our original intention was to host several short (hour-long) workshops for a large number of young musicians during the course of the day, in conjunction with schools and local music education hubs, which we began contacting after receiving confirmation of the bursary award at the start of November. We soon came to realise however, that UniBrass fell during school

holidays and that many schools had already arranged trips on that date, or would only publicise the opportunity to their students. Whilst this was a blow, it only made us more determined to ensure that the workshops still went ahead – even if in a reduced capacity to our initial aspirations.

We received 20 responses for the workshops, which was lower than we had originally hoped. The decision was therefore made to combine the workshops into one several-hour long afternoon session interspersed with several short breaks. This made the best use of Paul leading the workshops, and allowed the participants to obtain the most of Paul's expertise. The workshop group, supported by a small number of participants from university bands, opened the day's Closing Ceremony with the M-Lisada March (Brass for Africa's charity march) along with several other pieces, to warm encouragement from all the bands



and audience present. (MLISADA stands for Music, Life Skills, and Destitution Alleviation, and its mission is to reduce the number of children living on the streets and provide opportunities to less privileged children in Kampala, Uganda).

The workshops were well-received by all the participants, with one parent remarking that their son, "got such a lot out of it. They played really well and Paul was as inspirational as ever". We also received favourable responses through social media from brass players commending the

workshops, with some requesting workshops for adult players as well!

Some may regard the success of this year's workshops as limited, with a constrained impact in terms of numbers of participants. We on the other hand regard this year as a resounding success. We have now established these youth workshops as a key part of the event as a whole, which will grow in popularity alongside the contest. As a direct result of the 2014 workshops, we are now in discussions with one of the top brass bands in the country with a view to establishing a long-term partnership with them to enhance this provision. More importantly, they are willing to provide this at no additional expense on our part.

These workshops would not have been possible without the bursary received from the WRSA – indeed they were on the verge of cancellation, until we received notification that the bursary had been granted! As a result, many young brass players will soon have access to an excellent new educational opportunity to work with some of the best in the country, for years to come. The Warwick Brass Society itself will also gain invaluable links with local music education hubs and schools, which they will be able to further enhance in the future as part of their own commitment to outreach.

The impact that this bursary will have over the coming years is immense and serves as a constant reminder of the importance of such funds to the good work that students do as part of their own personal development. We remain deeply indebted to the WRSA for their assistance in initiating this wonderful project, and I personally hope that the WRSA support for student activities will remain strong for many years to come.

Note added by the Editor: University of Warwick Brass Society came 4th out of 14 Brass bands in the competition and won the best march competition. If you would like to see more photographs they are on the web, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68175906@N02/sets/>

Manet at the Mead Gallery

My mother taught art at a South London Secondary Modern School in the 1950s. When she left to start a family, she was given the most beautiful skeleton clock by her students; a wonder of chased metal housed under a large glass dome. As a child, I would crouch by it, watching as all the cogs and sprockets lined up and the brass hammer hit the bell to chime the hour. I was reminded of it on a Spring evening in 2013 when I was rushing through

emails before going home. I came across one from the Museums Association that invited applicants to apply competitively for the loan of a painting by the French artist Edouard Manet from the National Gallery. I almost felt the cogs and wheels align in my brain and, fully formed, an exhibition appeared in my mind with the clarity of a striking bell. I wrote the application that night and we won the loan.

The painting is *The Execution of Maximilian*. It is the first of five works on this subject by Manet. I know this painting because I studied it as a postgraduate student; I pored over it for a year. I know that Maximilian, the subject of the painting is absent. All that remains of his figure is the poignant motif of his hand, clasping that of General Miramón in both fraternity and support. Maximilian was a member of the Habsburg dynasty, the younger brother of the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph I and the uncle of Archduke Franz Ferdinand whose murder precipitated the First World War. He was installed as a puppet emperor of Mexico in 1864 by Louis Napoleon of France. This imperial enterprise did not go well and two years later, Napoleon withdrew the French troops, leaving Maximilian to the mercy of the legitimate Mexican government. He was executed along with his generals Mejía and Miramón, on 19 June 1867. The aftermath was photographed by the French artist Aubert; his pictures show a shirt spattered with bullet holes, a portrait of the firing squad in their Mexican clothes and Maximilian lying in his coffin. Aubert wasn't allowed to photograph the execution itself but made a drawing of it. Here, the three men stand with wide spaces between them, the firing squad huddled together in front of them. Some accounts suggest that the execution was bungled and it took an episode of clumsy shots to kill Maximilian finally.

Manet placed Maximilian and his generals close together, looking at the viewer. We see the backs of the firing squad dressed in French uniforms and in profile, a non-commissioned officer who looks away, concentrating on loading his rifle. It is said that the NCO was a portrait of Louis Napoleon, the person Manet and others held responsible for the death of Maximilian. The political reverberations of this execution were too great to allow the exhibition of the painting until 1905. It remained in Manet's studio and it is believed that after his death, his stepson cut it into pieces to allow the sections to be sold separately. The painter Edgar Degas found one section, that of the sergeant and then bought the rest of the firing squad from the dealer Vollard. He is supposed to have told Vollard to go back to Mme Manet and ask her for the legs of his sergeant and for the section with Maximilian and Mejía. Neither appeared and although mounted on a single canvas, these sections are still absent.

After Degas' death in 1917, the contents of his studio were auctioned. Roger Fry who had organised the Post Impressionist exhibitions in London in 1911 and 1912 received a sales catalogue - possibly the only person in England to do so. He contacted the government and in March 1918, a young civil servant from the Treasury, John Maynard Keynes, was sent to Paris to attend the sale. It took place on 26 and 27 March. Five days earlier on 21 March 1918, just 100 miles north of Paris, the German Spring Offensive started on the Somme. On that day alone, nearly 20,000 British soldiers were killed and a further 35,000 were wounded.

One wonders how this news affected Maynard Keynes and whether a mutilated painting that speaks of sacrifice, of failed imperial ambition, of fellowship, of the appalling duties of ordinary soldiers and of absent victims, had a resonance that made it imperative to purchase these relics. The lost areas perhaps give this work a greater impact with its sense of the missing, the disappeared, the unknown; the unpictured fate of individuals caught up in war. Over the years, I've noted how the painting is discussed in terms of other conflicts. I still have a cutting from a newspaper article written in 1995 by Neil McGregor, then Director of the National Gallery who talks about it in the context of the Bosnian War and there is another essay by John Elderfield of 2007 that relates it to the Iraq War.

So the clicks in my brain brought to mind a multi-screen film work by Omer Fast that I saw in 2007 at the Barbican Gallery and is currently on loan to the Tate from its North American Fund. It is a series of intense and moving conversations with young soldiers about the killing of an innocent civilian in a desert conflict. Gradually the viewer becomes aware that they are rehearsing a story. The work is ultimately about the way that violent events are mediated into acceptable narratives. Tate has plans to show this work as part of a larger discourse about

war in 2014 so it was not available to us. However, the film is an edition so we were able to negotiate a loan from the Zabłudowicz Collection.

Another click and I thought of Luc Tuymans, widely regarded as one of the greatest figurative painters working today. He makes images that appear to be drawn from news photographs that show the intimate, unposed, unheralded events around stories of colonialism and political murder. Unbelievably, his New York gallery has persuaded one of the collectors of Tuymans work to lend to us.

The final click was the memory of a film that I saw in Germany in 2002 by the British artist Zarina Bhimji. Her parents were part of the Asian community expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin and her film *Out of Blue* presents an extraordinary portrait of a beautiful country with faded, deserted buildings where you glimpse bullet holes or dried blood on the walls. The lush tropical vegetation, the deep valleys and high blue skies, the creep of vegetation across abandoned houses remind us of the difference in nature's timescale to a human one and how the trace of horror becomes muted. It turns out the film is not available for exhibition, but Bhimji has helped to negotiate the loan of a related sequence of photographs from the Kunstmuseum Bern, to which she has given the title *Love*.

From this starting point, my colleague Fiona Venables has curated a much larger exhibition that introduces further work by Hito Steyerl, Santiago Sierra, Rabih Mroué and Edgardo Aragon, a young Mexican artist. He has looked for works that have absence at their heart, that examine the mediation of histories for audiences, which examine personal relationships against a background of violence. Periodically, we worried that an exhibition that looks at the ramifications of war would be disturbing for audiences used to its interpretation by contemporary media. At the moment, the exhibition will end with Zarina Bhimji's work, *Love*. There is a Bible verse that says, 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things'. Across many cultures, love is supposed to be transformative and outweigh harm. Set against personal stories of loss there are fragments of humanity in the exhibition, like the handclasp of Maximilian, which offer glimpses of redemption.

***Sarah Shalgosky*, Curator, University of Warwick**

See Mead Gallery exhibitions and events at www.meadgallery.co.uk

See University of Warwick Art Collection at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/art

Visit Report

Report of Visit to SS Great Britain, May 20th 2014

On a fine day in May, 39 members set off for our Spring outing. This year I arranged a visit to the Bristol Docks to view the restored SS Great Britain originally designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Launched in 1843 she was the world's first iron hulled passenger ship weighing 3618 tons being the forerunner to today's modern ocean going cruise liners.



In distance terms she travelled the equivalent of 32 times around the world, visiting Australia on numerous occasions. The average time for these trips was around 60 days.

The cost of a voyage was:

- Saloon (first class) 65-76 guineas;
- Second class 25-35 guineas;
- Steerage 15-16 guineas.

This was not exactly luxurious as the cabin accommodation was rather cramped.

The ship, now fully restored is housed in its original dry dock.

Before going aboard we visited The Maritime Exhibition where many artefacts are on display. An item of particular interest was a video of the rusting hull lifted onto a platform to be towed back to the UK. She had for many years lay rusting offshore in the Falkland Isles.

From here we climbed aboard and were able to walk around the various decks. The First Class dining saloon was of special interest particularly in relation to the cuisine. Another equally impressive feature was the 3-storey moving engine.



Finally we descended below the "glass" to view the underside of this unique vessel.

To complete our day we emerged from beneath the "sea" to stroll along the dockside to a welcome bistro. From there, after an enjoyable and relaxing meal with excellent company, we returned to the coach for our journey home.

Once again an excellent day enjoyed by all.

Alan Foster, Visits Co-ordinator

Walking Group News and Walks Reports

Exercise for Everyone

With the constant reminders to stay fit and healthy we don't have to look very far to find ways and means of doing so. The WRSA walking group offers members the opportunity to explore areas of town and countryside in a relaxed atmosphere with a range of walk leaders. Added to the interest of the surroundings and the satisfaction of keeping fit is the knowledge that the foray usually terminates in a hostelry. Walks are generally between four and five miles in length and are always enjoyable – but don't take my word for it, come and meet us. New walkers are always welcome. Please contact Kay Rainsley on kay.rainsley@live.co.uk if you would like to participate in the activities.

Kay Rainsley, Walks Co-ordinator

Walks Reports

Report on Lapworth walk, 20th March 2014

Twelve WRSA members gathered in the car park of the Navigation Inn, Lapworth, on a dry morning at the end of a similarly dry week following an otherwise long period of rainy weather. We were grateful that the ground had dried out a lot, and the towpaths were nothing like as muddy as of late. It became sunnier during the morning, making a pleasant day for walking.

All but one of us ordered our lunchtime meals, and we set off in a Northerly direction along the towpath of the Grand Union Canal. After about a mile we left the canal to walk along the road which joins the National Trust properties of Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House, but slightly before it reaches Packwood, we turned South again towards our second canal, the Stratford.

Here we paused for a while to look at the contrasting architectural styles of the backs of the houses on the Hockley Heath Road, with their various extension buildings. A little further down the canal, by the Kingswood basin, we stopped to talk to the leader of some Canal and

River Trust volunteers, who were unearthing and restoring towpath edging by the lock outside the old British Waterways depot.

Continuing down the Stratford Canal to its junction with Dick's Lane, we stopped again to look at the cottage which used to be the British Waterways Cartographic Office, under the supervision of the late Doug Smith, the inventor of the Lockmaster series of canal-based maps. He later bought the cottage, and used the garden to house his collection of railway 'fixtures and fittings'. He died a few years ago, and the cottage has been sold again - little trace remains now of his railway souvenirs.



Ex-BW Cartographic Office

We left the Stratford Canal to walk along Dick's Lane, crossing under the Leamington and Hatton to Solihull and Birmingham (Chiltern) railway line, until we reached the Grand Union Canal once again just before Rowington. We turned North onto the Grand Union towpath, which we followed for about a mile back to the Navigation Inn, where we enjoyed our lunch, at the end of a very pleasant walk.

Bob Cooke

Report on Wootton Wawen walk, 10th April 2014

On a bright, sunny morning 20 walkers met at The Navigation Inn, Wootton Wawen, studied the menu and placed their orders at the bar. Unfortunately one walker turned up at The Navigation Inn, Lapworth the starting point for last month's walk.

We started out along the towpath and crossed the aqueduct which carries the Stratford Canal over the A3400. Parts of the towpath were very soggy and a chorus of 'Mud, mud, glorious mud' could be heard as we waded through the sticky patches. To distract us there were pretty patches of cowslips and a few bluebells on the canal banks. The busy A3400 was crossed with care and after a short distance along the grassy verge we climbed over a stile and headed across a field of crops on a well-trodden path.



On nearing Austy Wood a Muntjac deer crossed the field ahead of us and ran into the wood. The bridle path through the woods had recently been used by horses and was again very muddy. Alan led the group through the trees to seek out a drier route but some walkers, suitably clad in wellies, enjoyed paddling along the path. There was much bird song to be heard and the piercing calls of the pheasants. We were too early for the mass of bluebells, some flowers were just appearing in open patches where the sun had warmed the ground. There were violets, primroses and wood anemones plus another sighting of a deer.

Back on the towpath we passed several residential barges with doors thrown open to enjoy the April warmth. Back at the Navigation Inn car park we removed our muddy footwear before entering the pub where our meals were served promptly and enjoyed by all.

Hazel and Alan Colliver

Report on Industrial History of Coventry walk, 6th May 2014 and repeated on 17th June

What is the connection between the east window of York Minster and the Burges in Coventry? (Ans: the workshop of John Thornton, England's top stained designer in the early 1400s was here.) What is an ornithopter? (Leonardo wasn't the only designer of bird-like flying machines – one was made here in Coventry.) Where is Coventry's listed Vignoles



Bridge? What connects the Quaker Meeting House and Cash's nametapes? Participants in the walk know the answers to these and many more questions.

Starting from Fairfax Street we finished with lunch at The Herbert just over two hours later – and the weather remained fine throughout. Our walk took us first to the statue of Frank Whittle, inventor of the turbojet engine, and we paused outside the Transport Museum near Lady Herbert's Garden to think about the

'machine tool tsar', Sir Alfred Herbert. At the canal basin, our next port of call, we caught up with James Brindley who built 365 miles of canals. On Corporation Street, outside the former Coventry Evening Telegraph offices, we recalled William Isaac Iliffe who founded Coventry's first daily paper. After visiting the gravestone of Joseph Cash we noted the link between St. John the Baptist's Church and Coventry's 'true blue' dyeing industry.

Like Charles Dickens we visited Spon Street, but Rotherham's, the renowned watch-maker's, has disappeared, as have Rudge Cycle Co. a little further down the street (whose clients included the royal families of Europe) and GEC. We walked one of Coventry's longest subways to glimpse the Sherbourne river flowing, briefly unculverted, under the bridge designed by Charles Vignoles, whose other feats include building a bridge in Kiev and constructing the railway in Ireland and Brazil.



In Warwick Row we looked at the statue of James Starley, the inventor of the differential gear, who (along with his nephew James Kemp Starley) was such a major figure in Coventry's cycle industry. Charles Kingston Welsh, who lived nearby, in the Quadrant, is less well-known, important though his invention, the detachable pneumatic tyre, proved to be. By the time we reached the Herbert our thoughts were on lunch rather than on the splendid Jacquard loom – and its punch cards which played an inspirational part in the evolution of the computer.

Eleanor Nesbitt

Report on Shrewley walk, 10th June 2014

This walk began on a sunny day at the Durham Ox in Shrewley and commenced with a rather slimy and slippery walk through a dark tunnel to join the towpath of the Grand Union Canal just at the exit to the famously long Shrewley tunnel.



As with much of this walk we blazed a trail along paths that have been little used and therefore often overgrown. We followed the towpath to Rowington where we left the canal and after going through the churchyard of St. Laurence's Church we picked up the path towards Mousley End. The return journey started on minor roads but again we were soon on virgin territory (i.e. overgrown footpaths) across fields and back to Shrewley past the local fisheries. The walk was approximately 5 miles long and was finished in good time by all 14

participants. Upon our return careful attention was given to sampling the Durham Ox's own brew beer and their lunchtime food offerings.

Malcolm Cooper and Dennis Jones

Report on Wormleighton and Oxford Canal walk, 22nd July 2014

Twenty three walkers took part in a very pleasant walk along the Oxford Canal from Wormleighton on Tuesday 22nd July. It was a beautiful warm sunny day, ideal for walking. We parked up just before Wormleighton Gatehouse, and then one of our number had to deal with a rather irate householder who objected to our parking on the road outside her house - this must happen quite a lot, I assume. Car was moved, she was happy again. We set off past the church and down across a meadow which is the site of the medieval deserted village of Wormleighton, leading down to the canal. Most of the walk thereafter was along the canal towpath. The canal is unusually winding at this point, in order to avoid locks. Part of it was overhung with trees, affording some welcome shade, and there were some beautiful views across fields to the north. The passing narrowboats churned up the water, revealing how muddy it was. Some of the group left the towpath slightly early and walked back up a broad farm track towards the village and church. Those who wanted to go a little further came off at the next bridge, and I was concerned not to see a path straight away - not what I remembered at all... But a short distance further along the canal side round a bend revealed a narrow direct path up the hillside through a broad bean field. We returned to the gatehouse twenty minutes after the advance guard. We then proceeded to the Carpenter's Arms in Lower Boddington, for a very tasty lunch.



Richard Parker

Turning 50 in 2015

21st - 23rd May 2015 - Golden Festival of Music

Warwick Arts Centre will be transformed for a 3-day festival of music, featuring a Stars and Stripes Classical Extravaganza on the Thursday evening, a special evening (headline act TBC) on the Friday, and an evening featuring the best new bands and independent music on the Saturday.

This special weekend is not to be missed, as alongside the fantastic acts will feature food, drink, "street-style" entertainment and a selection of the University's finest musical talent.

16th - 17th October 2015 - Festival of the Imagination

We look forward to welcoming many of the members of the WRSA back to campus over the two days, for an event like nothing Warwick has ever hosted before!

Join us for a festival showcasing the best of the University of Warwick and its surrounding areas: food, student societies, interactive content from our academic departments, sports, and so much more!

Count Up

We are still counting up to 50, we started with 1965 in January and are working up to 2015 – one year each week. The website provides a snap-shot of each year with some photos, history of Warwick and some facts about what happened in the world in that year to put it all into context. Visit: www.warwick.ac.uk/warwick50/countup/

Pictorial history of the last 50 years – can you help?

Do you have any photographs or images of "campus life" that you are willing to share with the wider Warwick community and beyond? We'd like to be able to provide an interesting and useful legacy of the history of life at Warwick through the decades.

If you have images you would like to contribute to this project please use our email resource account: 50th.anniversary@warwick.ac.uk with the title of the email as "50th Photo Submission", or send hard copies to: Emily Little, 50th Anniversary Team, 2nd Floor University

House, University of Warwick, Kirby Corner Road, Coventry, CV4 8UW. (Please note: sending hardcopies of photographs is done at your own risk. The University is not responsible for any loss or damage during transition to and from the University premises.)

Disclaimer: All personal data (including photographs) will be processed by the University of Warwick in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The photographs will be used primarily for activities relating to the University of Warwick's 50th Anniversary celebrations but may also be used for marketing, promotional and fund-raising purposes.

And Finally.....

To keep up to date with 50th Activity please visit:
www.warwick.ac.uk/alumni/news/50thanniversary.

Christine Fearn, 50th Anniversary Project Officer

Memories of the C5 from Geoff Stone, Michael Perry and Josie Brown Classics Department

I recently read about the C5 memories in the March Newsletter. I thought the following may be of interest. I mentioned it to Mick Perry former storekeeper in the Estates and he sent me an email, part of which I have included.

There was a C5 allocated to the Estates, it was used mainly by the guy who used to read the meters in the various buildings but on one occasion I was able to use it.



Josie Brown Classics department

I took it from the East site (Gibbet Hill site) to the library. When I had finished I drove it back to East Site up the inter site footpath, the last part up the slope was very exhausting and my legs ached with the effort of having to pedal it. The battery could not cope without help.

On another occasion years later the Estates had a departmental party; someone had the bright idea it could be fun to use the C5. A battery was found and the electrics were checked by the Foreman electrician and it was made to work.

A circuit was decided on, from the back of the old bank at the rear of the Estates there was a slope in the footpath for cycles. We went down this path, turned left down another slope into the car park; through the car park until it joined the site access road, turned left and took another left up a small slope into the

upper car park, up around the side of the offices back to the start.

I remember some of the admin staff screaming with delight when they went down the slopes. That was a good party especially with something different from the putting course.

***G Stone*, Formerly Electrician/Electrical Superintendent 1966-2003, Estates**

Hi Geoff,

Yes I remember the C5, it was kept in a room which I think was the old telephone switch board. Someone (I won't say who) went down to the main site one day, went up the kerb and damaged the bottom of it. I had a go round the car park in it. I went down the little path that went to Biological Sciences but could not turn round. One of the surveyors (I think it was young Richard) had to bring it back for me!

Michael Perry, Store keeper for the Estates

WRSA Membership

The number of Members of the WRSA remains fairly constant in spite of all the effort we put into getting new people to join. Currently we have 266 Members; this includes 10 who have joined since January.

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).

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

Bill Prichard WRSA Membership Secretary

Walks – September – December 2014

<u>Day/Date/Area of walk</u>	<u>Walk Leader(s)</u>
Monday, 15th September 2014 Geological walk around the University campus	Martyn Bradley
Monday, 6th October 2014 Corley Moor	Kay Rainsley
Monday, 10th November 2014 Bubbenhall	Marie and Barry Lucas
December 2014	No walk

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