Introduction

It has been another busy and productive year with some memorable events and highlights. One of these was the well-attended official re-opening of the Centre in November 2011. A public discussion between Tony Benn and Sir Richard Lambert filled the cinema in Warwick Arts Centre and was followed by the formal cutting of the ribbon in the Centre by Tony Benn. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Thrift and Lady Diana Warwick, Chairman of the Centre’s Advisory Board helped to mark the occasion with welcoming and supportive speeches. More photographs are included in this report.

The Centre would like to record particular thanks to Anne Bell, former University Librarian and Director of the MRC who left Warwick in February 2011. Anne provided enormous support for the Centre and it was her determination which ensured the refurbishment and improved facilities were finally achieved.

It seems astonishing that we have been in our new surroundings for over a year. The addition of our highly valued teaching space and meeting room has made a huge difference to our work with Warwick academic departments and will hopefully continue to be popular for a range of teaching and conference activities.

There has been a considerable leap in the amount of digitisation the Centre has undertaken. The completion of our first major digital project – the Spanish Civil War archive – was well received, and several new projects have been started since spring 2012. Details are given in this report.

We were also fortunate to be able to recruit a new archives assistant, Naomi Shewan, in December 2011. Naomi has already made herself at home in the public searchroom and has helped considerably with the re-boxing and processing of collections.
Collections

Although a great deal more of our material is being scanned and made available online it is important to remember that all the additions to our holdings are deposited as physical papers and still continue to need sorting, re-boxing and cataloguing to make them available for research. This process is an essential part of the long term preservation and access of archives – the vital first step before any digitisation can take place. This “behind the scenes” work continues all year round and deserves to be highlighted once a year in this report.

A total of 60 new deposits were added between Aug 2011 and July 2012 - a total of 110 linear metres of archives. Among the collections which arrived this year:

Records of Cycle Speedway including newsletters, journals, club magazines, local programmes and photographs, providing a valuable history of the sport from 1947 onwards.

Six boxes of papers of Eric Hammond, General Secretary of the EETPU (Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union) were deposited in January. Hammond’s papers throw an interesting light on a number of critical disputes of the 1980s with files on the Miners’ Strike, Wapping and News International, GCHQ and trade union legislation, all events in which the EETPU played a key role. The Centre already holds the papers of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) and the EETPU itself along with those of Frank Chapple, Hammond’s predecessor.

Records of Pressed Steel and Morris Motors at Cowley, Oxford, between the 1960s and 1980s, reflecting the most turbulent period of industrial relations in the car industry. The archive includes reports, papers, press cuttings, personal notes and official records of Transport and General Workers’ Union Oxford District Committee, along with records of a visit to VW Germany and visits to Russia.

The papers of Professor R H ‘Bob’ Fryer, mainly relating to his work on behalf of NUPE and Unison were added to the collections, as well as a large collection of NUPE and Unison photographs. These collections will provide a great resource for local and national events and campaigns on Low Pay, Privatisation and the NHS.

Additions to the social work and welfare collections include the papers of Alan Cohen, psychiatric social worker and author of “The Revolution in Post-War Family Casework: The Story of Pacifist Service Units and Family Service Units 1940 to 1959”. We also received the papers of the charity International Help for Children, founded in 1947 with the principle intention of giving holidays to needy British and European children affected by the World War, especially refugees and those thrown into poverty by the effects of the war. It continued to operate for 53 years then became the Margaret McEwen Trust.

Work has also continued on collections already held at the Centre. Additions to the online catalogue have been made by all staff and include the following:

The archives of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) have now been catalogued in full by Liz Wood. The collection includes more than one hundred years of archive material relating to the union’s administration and activities. More unusual items include an informal account of the trip of Jack Bromley, then General Secretary, to the Imperial Conference at Ottawa in 1932; a series of abusive letters from members of the public, sent in response to the 1919 tube strike; and evocative correspondence from Jackob M. Aranovitch, a student in Ukraine to the 1919 tube strike; and evocative correspondence from Jackob M. Aranovitch, a student in Ukraine in the mid 1920s (included in the papers of Percy Collick).

James King has valiantly sorted and catalogued the huge collection of the National Union of Teachers (NUT). This has been an on-going project for well over two years and amounts to over 1,100 boxes. The fourth main deposit is now completed. The extensive archives of this major union, which provide an important resource for the history of education in England and Wales, now cover well over a century, from its foundation in 1870 to the late 1980s.

Cataloguing

James also added the papers of Ron Todd (1927-2005) to the online catalogue (MSS.572). Todd was the seventh general secretary of Britain’s largest union, the Transport and General Workers’ Union, serving from 1985 until 1992. Although the papers mainly cover his time as general secretary, there are also papers relating to his earlier service as a TGWU official and his later life in retirement. Note that prior permission from the Todd family is required to access these papers; please contact the Centre for details. The Modern Records Centre now holds the papers of five of the nine general secretaries of the TGWU: Ernest Bevin (1922-1945), Frank Cousins (1956-1969), Jack Jones (1969-1978), Ron Todd (1985-1992) and Bill Morris (1992-2003).
The National Cycle Archive continues to grow annually with a steady stream of small and large deposits from the Cycling Tourism & Countryside Trust, (recently renamed the Cycling History and Educational Trust). Carole Jones keeps her chin above the rising tide of boxes and has listed numerous collections this year as well as adding over 600 cycling books to the catalogue.

The archives of the World University Service were sorted and listed by Victoria Sloyen, one of our volunteers. This collection contains some interesting items on human rights campaigning in the 1970s, particularly relating to South America. It also contains material on literacy campaigns and women’s rights in Africa including reports, case papers and interviews with transcripts of refugees. The WUS was established in England in 1923 as Student Relief. The original mission of the organisation was to assist refugees from central European nationalism in continuing their education and careers. During the 1970s WUS was heavily involved in Academics for Chile (AIC), founded by Alan Angell after the Chilean coup in 1973.

Henry Sara (1886-1953)
Cataloguing has begun on a large series of pamphlets and journals included within the collection of the Trotskyists Henry Sara and Frank Maitland. The majority of publications date from the 1910s-1950s, and cover a huge range of political, economic and social issues. The major socialist organisations, such as the Labour Party, Independent Labour Party and Communist Party, are well represented, but the collection also contains valuable material relating to short-lived groups such as the National Meerut Prisoners’ Defence Committee, the Abyssinia Association and Free Europe. Nearly half the pamphlets (more than 2,200) have so far been catalogued.

Continuing the work Martin undertook last year to digitise some of our oral tapes and interviews, this year he tackled some of our cine film and video material.

The digitisation of most of our holdings of cine film (a total of seventeen 16 millimetre reels), which before were effectively inaccessible, was completed in July. The worlds of work, politics and higher education feature prominently in the films. They include: ‘Our film’ made in 1942 by the workers of Denham Film Studios promoting “Anglo-Soviet Unity and Victory over Fascism” and featuring the formation of a works production committee; ‘This is your union’ showing the work of the National Union of Students around 1963; Stefan Sargent’s 1970 documentary ‘On campus’, which was shot at Warwick; and a record of the 10th World Festival of Youth and Students in East Berlin, 1973.

These and other films and videos are featured on our website on the Moving archives! page and relevant ones also appear on the undergraduate module pages for the Sociology of Education, Governing Britain, Britain in the Twentieth Century and the History of Germany. The films can also be viewed by clicking links on their on-line catalogue descriptions.

A section of the website called Digital Collections has been developed to link into the extensive resources now available electronically. These include the comprehensive Spanish Civil War project which we completed in May 2012 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Basque refugee children at Southampton.

This vast resource was the culmination of over 12 months work and much credit must go to Liz Wood who coordinated the digitisation team and put together a vast amount of information for the supporting pages.

‘Just to record my appreciation of the terrific work you and your colleagues have done in providing this valuable resource for scholars - ‘free at the point of delivery’! It is proving immensely useful to me for work on the SCW - and in particular on the Spanish Revolution of 1934. Enhorabuena y Gracias!’

Dr Rob Stradling,
University of Wales, Cardiff
We received very positive feedback and publicity for the site, including some welcome comments from Paul Preston, author of several books on the war. The pages were also picked up by a number of related internet sites and featured in BBC History magazine.

On the back of this success, additional digitisation projects were started in the spring and summer of 2012:

“...The recent opening of digitised archives of the TUC relating to the Spanish Civil War is a major event. Superbly organised and easy to navigate, it will be of crucial assistance to researchers not only in their work on various aspects of the impact of the conflict within British politics but also with regard to internal elements of the war. This is especially true of the remarkable holdings relating to British volunteers in Spain, especially the medical staff.”

Paul Preston

Richard Crossman

With funds kindly donated by Virginia Crossman, daughter of Richard Crossman, we have digitised most of the written transcripts of the radio broadcasts and created digital copies of the taped Crossman diaries for preservation and access. We invited two undergraduate History students Andrew Burchell and Marie-Astrid Purton to work on the Crossman archives as part of the Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme. They spent five weeks in July-August 2012 working on the range of material including the broadcast transcripts to produce background information and contextual material for a website aimed at highlighting aspects of Crossman’s life and interests.

Seven of the nine open reel master recordings of the first revision of Richard Crossman’s diary, 1964-1970, were digitised. There was a risk that the other two would be damaged by the process so the cassette copies were used instead. The total running time of the recordings is 47 hours. They can all be heard by clicking links on their on-line catalogue descriptions.

Roamin’ in the Gloamin’

We were very pleased to receive a large deposit of glass lantern slides of ‘Kuklos’, the pen name of William Fitzwater-Wray, as part of the National Cycle Archive.

‘Kuklos’ was a very well-known cycling correspondent and author, submitting regular pieces on cycling and touring for the London Daily News and other papers from 1894 onwards. He toured extensively in Britain and Europe between about 1900 and 1935 and produced lantern slide shows and talks which he gave to cycling clubs around the country. The glass slides themselves (about 1,000) will form the basis of a wider project to scan the diaries, scrapbooks, photographs and tour descriptions held elsewhere in the National Cycle Archive. Detailed descriptions of France, Germany and Spain, Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales between 1880 and 1930 alongside drawings, postcards and photographs will provide a fascinating insight to many locations before and after WW1.

Space

Once again the Centre is creaking under the weight of the collections it holds. Despite the re-shelving work undertaken 5 years ago to increase capacity, the flow of material doesn’t seem to ease and we’re now once again facing space shortages.

A programme of consolidation (mainly re-boxing) is underway to try and extend the space we have but this is likely to become a more critical issue in the next 12-18 months.
Yiddish East End

A project to digitise and publish some of the Yiddish journals and newspapers held in the MRC was started in June 2011. The project includes the development of ‘crowdsourcing’ translation pages, so that the Yiddish materials can be accessed and translated by the Jewish community online. Additional material in Yiddish will also be added from the Kheel Archive Center at Cornell with the intention of developing a fuller resource based on the Jewish garment workers of London and New York. A total of 1107 pages have been scanned and made available so far, though more will be added. At Kheel, the ‘Yiddish edition of the official monthly publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ‘Gerechtigkeit’ will be digitised and added to the site.

The papers held at the Centre include a number of socialist and cultural newspapers from the late 19th and early 20th century, from the archives of Aaron Rollin, a Jewish immigrant tailor and trade unionist. The newspapers were aimed at the immigrant Jewish population and include The Polish Yidel and The Hashulamith. None of these projects would be possible without the help of our digitisation team – Dan Cant, Nick Edwards and Kate Weston. Nick and Dan have been with us for over a year now and have worked on all the projects. Kate joined us more recently and has digitised all of the Yiddish texts.

Warwick Modules

Over the past year new online resources have been produced for four undergraduate modules: War and Economy in the 20th Century (Economics), Feminism, Politics, and Social Change in Modern Britain (History), History of France (History), and Governing Britain (Politics). In addition, two new case studies (on the Beveridge Report and the formation of the NHS) have been put together for the Sociology module Social Welfare in Britain.

War and Economy in the Twentieth Century was the first module to include an online forum for the students to comment on the documents.

To support these modules, a selection of documents have been digitised in full and uploaded onto The Archive Vault – part of the Warwick Digital Library software Content DM, which was also used for the Spanish Civil War archives. Around 150 documents are now available and more will be added over the next year. This means that the images of the documents can be read more easily, enlarged quickly and searched for key words and names.

In addition digital images and documents have been added to the Centre’s online exhibitions section ‘Showcase’.

The Centre’s website now features a short video about using the Centre, which we shot in April in collaboration with colleagues from the Library and IT Services. It starred Thomas Bray, a Warwick postgraduate and a regular researcher, and archivist James King, with some other staff members featuring as non-speaking extras. We hope that it gives new users an idea of what to expect before they arrive.

Events and Talks

On November 1st the new look Modern Records Centre was officially opened. A very successful evening was kicked off by an open discussion in the Arts Centre cinema, between Tony Benn and Sir Richard Lambert, former Director-General of the CBI and current Chancellor of the University of Warwick. The debate, chaired by Rodney Bickerstaffe, centred on the 1978-1979 Winter of Discontent and the recent financial crisis. It produced a lively debate and questions from the audience.

Afterwards, guests assembled inside the newly refurbished Centre for a reception and speeches by Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Thrift and Lady Diana Warwick, Chair of the Centre’s Advisory Board. Tony Benn cut the ribbon to formally open the Centre and was shown around a small exhibition on the ‘Winter of Discontent’ which included papers signed by him.
Unison workshop

On a Saturday in September 2011 the Centre hosted an all day workshop for West Midlands UNISON members as part of the union’s education project: Our Union, Our Services, Our History.

20 people attended and spent the day looking at historical resources on campaigning issues from UNISON’s archives including material from COHSE, NUPE and NALGO. The day was arranged around a number of themes such as Low Pay, Pensions, Unemployment and Privatisation.

With the help of the WEA and UNISON staff, delegates were asked to produce a piece of work from the resources available - a web page, poster or leaflet. They were also given a tour of the Centre.

The day was judged highly successful by delegates and staff and we are now planning a second event.

Talks to Warwick students.

During terms 1 and 2, staff at the Centre provided talks for the following: Historical research: theory, skill and method; WBS doctoral programme; Britain in the 20th century; History of Germany; Researching Society & Culture; India after Indira; British Culture and the Great war; History of France, Politics of Protest; and Qualitative Research Methods (Politics).

A total of 478 students attended and over 24 hours of classes were given by three staff, the majority for the History department but some large classes for Sociology and PAIS.

Martin also gave talks to three external groups: Guild of One-Name Studies railway records seminar at Swindon; Shard End Family History Group and Stratford upon Avon Family History Society.

Exhibitions

An exhibition on the Spanish Civil War was put together to support the launch of the digital archive. Other topics included 160 years of engineering trade unionism marking the formation of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in 1851.

The Centre mounted an exhibition of material relating to the Falklands War, ‘B is for Belgrano’, in May and June 2012 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the war. It coincided with a History conference on the Atlantic World and a session was held at the Centre including a talk on the MRC’s resources relating to the Americas. All of these exhibitions can be viewed on the website.

Finally, in July Liz Wood put together an exhibition on the Olympics of 1936 and 1948 ‘Playing Political Games’ to mark the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games being held in the UK.

The University Archive

The University Archive has been involved in a range of projects this academic year. It supplied a key set of resources for Sociology students on political protest and student life. More recently, we have been approached to assist with preparations concerning Warwick’s 50th Anniversary celebrations and events to commemorate the Arts Centre’s 40th Anniversary.

Among the deposits this year were: Warwick University Film Society programme booklets dating from 1975 to 1988; papers and textbooks from a student of the Men’s Emergency Training College, dating from 1946-1950; City of Coventry Training College files for 1960 to 1974; papers from 1968-1970 relating
Staff

Our newest member of staff Naomi Shewan has helped to box and sort several collections since her arrival in December 2011. She has rapidly come to grips with the cataloguing software and has added the library of searchroom books to the system. Naomi is already a key part of the MRC team. Together, she and Carole Jones have provided the backbone services which enable other staff to develop digitisation programmes, catalogue collections, and work more closely with Warwick academics and students.

Lizzie Morrison has been with the Centre for many years and has been working for the archive diploma by distance learning from Aberystwyth. In November 2011 she was awarded her qualification. She continues to look after the University archives along with Andree Whittaker and provide valuable support for the Centre.

Volunteers

Once again we need to thank a range of volunteers for all their help during the year.

Carolyn Ewing continues to provide a huge amount of help for MRC. She has toiled through the archives of the Post Office Executives (formerly Engineering Inspectorate) and helped to move and re-box several other collections. Carolyn successfully completed her archive qualification this year and is now aiming for her Masters.

Victoria Sloyen, another recently qualified archivist came to help for a few weeks and tackled the World University Service and COHSE (Confederation of Health Service Employees) collections.

Charlie Middleton joined us as a volunteer for a few weeks in June. She helped to sort and arrange parts of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives archive.

Aldwyn Roes, a postgraduate history student at Sheffield University, has been transcribing the diaries of Tom Flinn, a young cycling and radio enthusiast living in east London in the 1930s.

Jim Sutherland, a retired trade union official, has begun cataloguing the papers of his former colleague Rodney Bickerstaffe, the former general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees and Unison.


We received 358 [305] researchers to the Centre between Aug 2011 and July 2012, and between them they made 1131 visits. They were researching subjects as diverse as Suburban Mobility, The Cold War, the Movement for Colonial Freedom, Holocaust Denial, Women’s sport in interwar Britain and British Policy in Palestine, 1945-48.

Just over 25% of visitors used the TUC collections as part of their research.

Postal and email enquiries rose slightly again this year to 1,194 [1,185]. With more material available digitally, remote enquiries should continue to rise. Requests for scans and photocopies have dropped as more and more visitors use their own digital cameras.

Archives

Reader visits: 1,131 [1,135]*
Warwick reader visits: 176 [141]. External: 552 [503]*
Reader visits Theses: 403 [491]
Documents produced: 32,211 [25,767]*
Web visits: 176,976 [294,147]
Enquiries: 1,194 [1,185]
Warwick student inductions: 24 sessions. 478 students.

[Last year’s figures in brackets. *The totals for last year had been adjusted to exclude BP figures as we no longer deal with them; the adjusted total thus gives a direct comparison with this year’s statistics.]
## Accessions 2011-2012

There were 64 deposits during the year.

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<th>Acc No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Deposit Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>805</td>
<td>Civil Service Benevolent Fund 25th and 35th annual reports</td>
<td>04/08/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>805a</td>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>04/08/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Papers of Alan Cohen, psychiatric social worker</td>
<td>09/08/2011</td>
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<td>807</td>
<td>AEU/EETPU/AEEU/MSF records</td>
<td>09/08/2011</td>
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<td>808</td>
<td>National Cycle Archive additions</td>
<td>10/08/2011</td>
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<td>809</td>
<td>Records of the South Lancashire Road Club</td>
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<td>810</td>
<td>Records of the Cambridge branch of the FBU</td>
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<td>811</td>
<td>Additional records of the Brewers’ Society</td>
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<td>812</td>
<td>Diary of Isobel Wilson</td>
<td>12/08/2011</td>
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<td>812a</td>
<td>Amalgamated Engineering Union: Handbook for Branch Presidents</td>
<td>24/08/2011</td>
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<td>British Railways Research Dept.</td>
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<td>United Pattern Makers Association</td>
<td>31/08/2011</td>
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<td>Papers of Edward William Lock (died 2010), print worker</td>
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<td>Papers collected at National Union of Journalists Delegate Meeting</td>
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<td>Copy correspondence of Herbert Fisher</td>
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<td>818</td>
<td>Papers of Professor John Gennard on the print unions/PKTF</td>
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<td>International Help for Children and the Margaret McEwen Trust</td>
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<td>Memorandum and articles of association of the Birmingham Small Arms Company Limited</td>
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<td>821</td>
<td>Research papers of Danielle Joly, Sociology; papers re refugees and asylum seekers.</td>
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<td>Centaur Cycling Club</td>
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<td>824</td>
<td>Volume relating to the Oldham Joint Four Committee</td>
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<td>824a</td>
<td>Unite: Health and Safety Publications</td>
<td>12/10/2011</td>
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<td>825</td>
<td>National Union of Teachers: Annual Report</td>
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<td>825a</td>
<td>Amalgamated Engineering Union: Rulebook</td>
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<td>Leonard Firby Edmondson collection</td>
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<td>Records of Professor R H ‘Bob’ Fryer, mainly relating to his work on behalf of NUPE and Unison</td>
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<td>Additional Wapping (News International) material.</td>
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<td>CBI additional material</td>
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<td>830</td>
<td>Connecting Link</td>
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<td>Commercial Vehicle and Road Transport Club - CVRTC News</td>
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<td>Papers of Eric Hammond and EETPU</td>
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<td>Cyclists’ Touring Club Gazette</td>
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<td>PROP: The National Prisoners’ Movement: ‘Wormwood Scrubs Special Report’</td>
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<td>Papers on the student files row at Warwick/LSE.</td>
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<td>838</td>
<td>Memories and Influences. Jim Sutherland</td>
<td>07/02/2012</td>
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<td>839</td>
<td>Additional papers of David Edwards, Chrysler shop steward.</td>
<td>09/02/2012</td>
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<td>840</td>
<td>Solidarity publications</td>
<td>16/02/2012</td>
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<td>841</td>
<td>Fabian and Other Publications</td>
<td>13/02/2012</td>
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<td>842</td>
<td>Harry McShane interviews</td>
<td>[17/02/2012]</td>
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<td>843</td>
<td>Industry Training Board manuals and publications</td>
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<td>Birmingham Trade Union Resource Centre</td>
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<td>845</td>
<td>National Union of Journalists: Miscellaneous Papers</td>
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<td>Referendum Party Papers of Angela Kilmartin</td>
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<td>847</td>
<td>Tax publications</td>
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<td>848</td>
<td>Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers/UCATT Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>849</td>
<td>Records of Pressed Steel and Morris Motors at Cowley, Oxford.</td>
<td>30/04/2012</td>
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### Modern Records Centre Staff

Helen Ford, Archive Manager  
Carole Jones, Archivist Assistant  
James King, Senior Assistant Archivist  
Elizabeth Morrison, Records Assistant (part-time)  
Martin Sanders, Senior Assistant Archivist  
Naomi Shewan, Archivist Assistant  
Andree Whittaker, Records Assistant (part-time)  
Elizabeth Wood, Assistant Archivist

### Advisory Board Members:
Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe (Chairman)  
Mrs C. Davies (CBI)  
Ms R. Donaghy  
Professor R. Fryer  
Mr. R. Green (Acting Librarian and Director of the MRC)  
Professor J. Martin  
Ms J. Henderson (TUC)  
Professor H. Marland*  
Dr. K. Gildart  
Professor M. Terry* (retired)  
Dr. M. Thomson*

*Members of the MRC Academic Committee

### Further Information

#### Acc No. | Title                                                                 | Deposit Date |
--- | --- | --- |
850 | Lantern slides of ‘Kuklos’ (W. Fitzwater Wray) and ‘Petronella’ | 30/04/2012 |
851 | Campaign for the Advancement of State Education Bedford and District chairman’s files | 01/05/2012 |
852 | Papers of Harry Samuels (1893-1975), legal adviser to the Industrial Welfare Society | 21/05/2012 |
853 | Cycle | 28/05/2012 |
854 | Margaret Stanton Papers | 29/05/2012 |
855 | Social Workers Educational Trust | 15/06/2012 |
856 | Cycle Speedway Records | 15/06/2012 |
857 | International Marxist Group (IMG) | 19/06/2012 |
858 | Contribution Cards and Diaries of G.J. and W. Nash | 19/06/2012 |
859 | Additional papers of Rodney Bickerstaffe, including appointment diaries | 25/06/2012 |
860 | Additional papers of Alan Swinden (CBI) | 29/06/2012 |
861 | Additional records of CWU and predecessors | 05/07/2012 |
862 | Natural Justice ephemera | 13/07/2012 |
863 | Minutes of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers’ Association Eastern Counties Federation | 16/07/2012 |
864 | NUPE/UNISON photographs | 11/07/2012 |
865 | Film reel: cycling events | 24/07/2012 |
Contact details

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