

Retired Staff Association Newsletter

March 2017
Issue 39

Warwick's role in cancer research

On 17 October 2016, following an enjoyable lunch at Scarman House, WRSA members heard a fascinating talk by Professor Peter Sadler, Professor of Chemistry, who specialises in medicinal inorganic chemistry - in particular, the design of novel, new anti-cancer drugs.

As a young postdoctoral researcher, Peter's research group was involved in the chemistry and biochemistry surrounding early platinum drugs such as Cisplatin and Carboplatin. These have become the main treatment for cancer in clinics and are very successful. However, they don't cure all cancers; there can be problems with side effects, and, after a time, some patients cease to respond.

So there is a real need to follow up the success of platinum drugs with new drugs. Peter told us about the development of new compounds of other precious metals, like osmium and iridium, which are very hopeful. These compounds have been tested in over 800 cell lines by the Cancer Genome Project at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, with very promising results.

But Peter and his colleagues aren't only discovering new drugs. They are learning about cancer



cells - how these new compounds behave inside cells, and about the fundamental properties of cancer cells themselves, raising the possibility of personalised treatments for cancer patients.

However, as Peter said, it's a long, slow process: it took ten years to get Cisplatin to the clinics and it has taken several years to develop osmium compounds that are active against colorectal cancer *in vivo*. And it's expensive: the Wellcome Trust is supporting some pre-clinical development of this compound, but it could take £20m plus to get it into the clinics.

Cancer touches so many people. But researchers like Peter and his colleagues give us hope. Warwick is building up strength in cancer

research. Peter is an associate of Warwick Medical School's Cancer Research Centre - a unique interdisciplinary research centre that fuses cancer clinical trials with clinical services. In a typically 'Warwick' way, experts from different disciplines - chemists, clinicians, molecular biologists, systems biologists, nursing specialists - collaborate and interact with people from different departments and institutions. But it all costs money, so fund-raising is important. A recent initiative involves Coventry Recycling Club: members can donate the points they have earned to the Cancer Research Centre - a great way to involve Coventry residents in this vital work.

The Oculus Building

The University's flagship teaching and learning building – the Oculus – opened in October 2016. In a key position on central campus, the Oculus has state-of-the-art lecture theatres, flexible teaching spaces, study areas and a café, and is also used for student-run events.



Warwick named as one of world's most international universities

The *Times Higher Education* has ranked Warwick as 17th among the world's most international universities.

Currently 41% of our research and academic staff are non-UK nationals; we have over 9000 international students, 554 outgoing and 643 incoming Study Abroad students and alumni living in 192 countries. Initiatives such as Warwick in California, the Monash Warwick Alliance, Warwick in Venice and investment in new strategic international partnerships in research and education all enhance the University's global presence.

Warwick appoints its first woman Chancellor

The Rt Hon Baroness Ashton of Upholland GCMG PC has been appointed Chancellor of the University, succeeding Sir Richard Lambert. Baroness Ashton is the University's sixth Chancellor and the first woman to hold this position at Warwick. She has held ministerial posts in the Department of Education, the Department of Constitutional Affairs/ Justice, and was Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Queen's Privy Council, 2007-8. In 2008 she was appointed Trade Commissioner for the European Union, becoming High Representative for Foreign Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, a position that she held until 2015.



Warwick in London

Warwick's new offices in London are situated in the city's dynamic 'Knowledge Quarter' between St Pancras and King's Cross stations.

A deeper presence in London (WBS already has premises in The Shard) will help to develop and cement the University's position as an international leader in higher education.

Warwick in California Plans move ahead

The University has secured its first building in California, enabling it to establish the Warwick in California Graduate School. The building is in the city of Roseville and will be ready to host 400-450 graduate students by 2018. Professor Sean Hand has been appointed Dean of the Warwick in California Graduate School.

Half of us believe fake facts

A study by Dr Kimberley Wade, Department of Psychology, involving over 400 people, concludes that around 50% of us are susceptible to believing we've experienced fictitious events. Her findings raise questions around the authenticity of memories used in forensic investigations, court rooms and therapy treatments.



Award for campus sculpture

A sculpture installed in Diamond Wood on the University campus, to mark Warwick's 50th anniversary last year, has won the prestigious Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture, 2016. *Habitat* by David Nash OBE RA is a 7 metre high cedar wood sculpture; it is designed to become part of the woodland's ecosystem as it weathers.

'Sapphire and ruby' winds strike the sky of giant planet

Dr David Armstrong in the Astrophysics Group has discovered the first ever gas giant outside our solar system to reveal weather patterns.

HAT-P-7b, a planet sixteen times larger than Earth, over 1000 light years away, is affected by large-scale changes in the strong winds moving across it, pushing vast amounts of clouds across its surface. It seems that these clouds could be composed of corundum, the mineral that forms rubies and sapphires, producing a stunning visual effect.

Vice-Chancellor's reflections

Professor Stuart Croft, reflecting on his first year as Vice-Chancellor and President, reports on Warwick's progress in addressing some of the issues put to him by staff and students.



'For the first time, Warwick has committed to pay at the levels set by the Living Wage Foundation. This is a rate higher than the national minimum wage. It does make things more expensive to run - for example, our cafés and restaurants. But it is an important commitment as a good employer and I'm proud we're doing this.

'Each of the last few years has seen us struggle to provide accommodation for all our new students - usually those who have applied very late, for one reason or another. This is not the start of the Warwick experience we want these students to have, so I am pleased that we are increasing our accommodation offer by close to 1000 rooms on campus and in Coventry from 2017/18.

'The Students' Union raised the ambition of opening the Library 24 hours a day in term-time. This is now agreed and the Library is now 24/7, enhancing the learning experience we offer to our students.

'As a tenet of the Government's Higher Education reforms, the cap on home/EU tuition fees will now increase in line with inflation. We've seen many universities elect to impose that increase on their existing students as well as new. Warwick has not; our current students will not see any increase in the regulated fee.

'Our Wellbeing Support Services team has expanded, with a number of new staff. We are also increasing our spend on mental health support by over £500,000 over the next three years, recognising the imperative of supporting this critical aspect of the student experience. In particular, we have recognised the role of mental health support with the creation of a number of dedicated mental health specialists.'

These are just some of the points covered by Stuart in his anniversary message.

You can read the full text at blogs.warwick.ac.uk/execteam/entry/my_first_year_1/. Stuart will be our speaker after the WRSA Spring Lunch on Monday, 10 April.

WRSA Student Bursaries, 2016-17

This year, WRSA awarded bursaries totalling £1450 to three students: Kieran Hall (Third Year Computer Science), Dominic Nah (MA World Literature) and Anjali Sambhwani (Second Year BSc Management Studies).

Kieren Hall's bursary relates to Warwick Technology Volunteers - a dedicated group of over 60 students and staff who aim to encourage children to become creators, rather than consumers, of technology. They create and deliver interactive, technology-based workshops in schools throughout Coventry and Warwickshire.

One of the most popular workshops involves teaching the Scratch programming language, encouraging children to engage with programming in an innovative and exciting way. Warwick Technology Volunteers is recognised throughout the global Scratch community, particularly for the group's development of resources such as the new sensor board, ExperiSense. The bursary supports the attendance of four members at a festival in Bordeaux in July celebrating the tenth anniversary of Scratch, where they will run a workshop and poster session and give a presentation.

Dominic Nah's bursary supports a nation-wide breakdance competition, 'Step and Style (Vol 1)' due to be held at Warwick in February 2017, organised by the University's Breakdance Society in a knockout tournament style.

Dominic aims to involve all the Warwick society's members in organising this event, to promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of the UK breakdance scene for all the society's members and to create more connections and opportunities for the society beyond its regular classes and training sessions. In particular, Dominic is keen to encourage his fellow members to step outside their comfort zone and to understand more about the wider breakdancing scene in the UK.

Anjali Sambhwani leads a community project, 'Gateway', which offers an employability programme to refugees and asylum seekers in Coventry.

This is a three month programme, developing beneficiaries' skills through tailored IT and soft skills workshops; it provides beneficiaries with a mentorship scheme that offers guidance on how to fulfil job aspirations; it also holds networking events for its beneficiaries to secure work/volunteering placements with its community partners such as the Positive Youth Foundation. The Gateway project is in its initial stages, and the WRSA bursary will help it to become effective and scalable; Anjali hopes that a minimum of ten beneficiaries will be enabled to join the programme this year.



In Memoriam: Pat Rushton

The *Newsletter* is sad to report the death of Pat Rushton on 20 January 2017. For many years Pat worked in Warwick's Alumni and Development Office, where she helped to create an invaluable alumni database. After her retirement, she continued to support the University and became a member of the WRSA Bursary Sub-Committee - the photos on this page were taken at the presentation of certificates to the successful students last November. Pat will be greatly missed by her colleagues and many friends in WRSA.

Visit to Bath

29 November 2016



29 November was a very cold, bright day and thankfully, it remained that way, all day.

We left Coventry a little late as an accident near Memorial Park caused traffic chaos on Kenilworth Road and the A45.

We arrived in Bath eventually at about 11.15am. Many of the 48 members headed for one of the numerous cafés for refreshment. Jill and I found the Georgian Tearooms in Abbey Street to partake of tea and scrambled egg on toast! Then it was off to explore the 'Most Magical Christmas Market' and Jill's local town when she was a teenager and to see if any of her favourite haunts and shops had survived. Milsom Street was much the same. Jollies store, now a House of Fraser establishment, retained much of its character. Her favourite café had gone, however. The Corridor and Market were buzzing as usual, still retaining most of their Georgian ornamentation. There were many rather tempting offers and a very good, proper, but small ironmonger in the old market.

Next - off to the Abbey, which unlike most churches, appears to date entirely from the same period. Although it was founded in 1499 to replace the original Norman cathedral, it was not completed until the 1600s, hence the largely uniform style. The Monastery was dissolved in 1539, then largely destroyed. The church has been restored a number of times, particularly in the 1860s, with major repairs following Second World War bomb damage.

Pulteney Bridge and the Weir were not to be missed: they looked particularly good in the bright November afternoon light.

The market stalls were spread around the Abbey and surrounding streets. Unusually, every stall was the same size and design. They were all appropriately decorated and the variety of goods on sale was staggering. It was, undoubtedly, the best Christmas market I have seen.

Singers were performing at various sites and a "living statue" was riding a bicycle. He must have been absolutely frozen and how he stayed still for so long, I do not know.

Roman Baths

Members also visited the Roman Baths. The baths we see today lie below the present street level on what was probably the site of hot springs in Celtic times. The original Roman temple was built from 60 to 70 AD, but the bathing complex was gradually developed over the next 300 years. It is thought that once the Romans left, the baths fell into disrepair and the spring silted up - they may well have been largely destroyed in the 6th century. The baths were rediscovered and developed in the 12th and 16th centuries. What we see today, however, above the Roman bath level, dates from the 19th century when the waters were believed to have healing properties. The original thermal spring is now housed some distance from the baths, in a modern building designed by Grimshaw Architects (who also worked at the University of Warwick), completed in 2006.

The journey home was somewhat laboured, taking 50 minutes just to get to the top of Swainswick Hill. However, we were treated to a fabulous sunset whilst climbing the hill with trees silhouetted in the red light on Lansdowne on our left and views over Bristol in the fading light near the top. Bath is a beautiful city with its Georgian buildings, alleys, bridges and open spaces. Well worth another visit, perhaps?



Walking Group News

Stepping Out and Stepping In

With New Year resolutions reaching that testing time of year it may be just the time to step out with the WRSA walking group. This offers a fun way to take some exercise with a friendly group whilst exchanging news and views.

The exercise done, the group retires to a public house to engage in further conversation, a tasty meal and beverage of one's choice. The group generally meets in the pub car park using the facilities before the start of the walk and sometimes choosing from the menu before stepping out.

Most of the walks are cross country which may entail a few stiles and patches of mud but occasionally there are town walks which may appeal to a different group. There is also the opportunity to organise a walk yourself which means you can choose the day/date/type of walk.



WRSA members are warmly invited to join us for a walk and refreshments or just for lunch if you'd like to meet us.

For further details or to be included on the mailing list, please contact Kay Rainsley on kay.rainsley@live.co.uk or tel. **02476 404044**.

Lastly I would like to thank my husband, Les, for stepping in and leading the January walk whilst I was busy helping the Awards and Ceremonies team with graduation.

Walks Reports

Newbold Comyn

4 August 2016



Martyn Bradley planned the walk and was leading us. I was 2nd i/c to take over if anybody wanted to do an extra mile. Today there were 14 of us in the group. We started at the car park. Newbold Comyn is mentioned in Domesday Book as the place where one of the two Leamington mills was situated. Mick Cullen, writing for the Leamington History Group, gives much information.

Today it is The Leam Valley Local Nature Reserve. We set off on the path heading SE coming close to the right bank of the River Leam. The name derives from the Celtic word for 'elm' - apparently 1,000

years ago there were elm trees along the banks. We passed by the Skate Park and picnic site. High ground to the left offers good views and was an optional extra for our return route - not taken up! We could see the buildings at Offchurch Bury where King Offa had his palace. We kept right of the playing fields, then turned NE on a good path through long grass with woods to the right. After 250 yards, we turned sharp right heading just west of south with the woods still on our right. Here we were in Hay Meadow, a rectangular area, and walked round three sides. Then we headed just south of east, still with woods on the right, to the easternmost point of the nature reserve. Here we turned WSW and stopped for coffee/tea, provided by Martyn. From a hide to the left we got a good view of a large pond with the Leam and Grand Union Canal beyond. Further to the right, Radford Semele Church was visible. Built in 1889 (though with a Norman window), it has recently been restored after a serious fire a few years ago. Over the pond we saw a heron. Frogs, newts, dragon-flies, damselflies, kingfishers, goldfinches, swallows,

ducks, waders and swans are all regular visitors around here. Martyn took a break accompanied by two members of the group.

The rest of us continued to the path going downstream by the river. This got us back to the car park, then ten of us did an extra mile. We passed right of the swimming pool, then turned left back to the river bank. Welches Meadow Nature Reserve occupies the south side of the river here. For much of the winter and spring seasons the whole area is under water. There were many ups and downs on our path. Just before Willes Road, we turned right to a grassy strip beside Newbold Terrace East and followed it back to the car park.

We went to Newbold Comyn Arms for lunch where there was a good selection of beers from the Warwickshire Beer Co. in Cubbington, including Duck Soup - said to have been originally 'hatched' (i.e. brewed) exclusively for the Students' Union at Warwick. The weather was good with more sun than cloud and the temperature was just right for walking 4.2 miles.

Stewart Stonehewer

Coventry Literary Trail

6 September 2016

On Tuesday 6 September fifteen walkers spent two hours, in warm but cloudy weather, visiting city-centre locations with literary connections, including probable connections with William Shakespeare, and definite ones with George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) and Philip Larkin. We started and ended at Lady Godiva's statue in Broadgate and thought here of the literature generated by the Godiva story. In Broadgate the Coventry Mystery plays would have been performed and, in a hotel here in 1858, Charles Dickens was presented with a Coventry-made gold watch, which he kept with him till he died. Going down Hertford Street we remembered his reading from *A Christmas Carol* here in 1857 and we then visualised the schoolboy Philip Larkin frequenting Hanson's record shop (now Etna's restaurant) to listen to jazz. Moving on to Warwick Row, we stopped at the statue of a major benefactor to the city, Sir Thomas White, who also founded St John's College, Oxford. Outside Loveitts we remembered Mary Ann's schooldays there in the 1830s and her friendship, in the 1840s, with Cara Bray. Cara herself is commemorated by a drinking trough nearby on Greyfriars' Green.

From the Green we looked towards Manor Road (the Larkin family lived at number 1) and the railway station, the only one - no-one has yet challenged me on this - to have been mentioned in poems



by two celebrated poets (Tennyson and Larkin). We also thought about writers who had attended King Henry VIII School. Other stops were at 1 The Quadrant (formerly home of Angela Brazil), Ford's Hospital (seen by the 7 million viewers of the *Shakespeare Code* episode of *Dr Who*, 2007) and then at the Council House (where Philip Larkin's father worked as City Treasurer). Proceeding to The Herbert we remembered its poet-director, John Hewitt, and then stood round George Eliot/ Mary Ann's piano. The many writers associated with the cathedrals (which we viewed from just outside The Herbert) include Susan Hill and Alan Garner. Next, upstairs in the Guildhall, we heard George Eliot's description of it as the courtroom in *Adam Bede*. Our last port of call would have been Holy Trinity, but it was closed while scaffolding was being removed. The sun shone on us in Broadgate and Etna's served us a very welcome Italian lunch.

Eleanor Nesbitt

A Clear View

5 October 2016

Never take anything for granted. I'd planned the stop for the photo-shoot when Les and I had explored the route a couple of weeks before the walk. It was, I thought, original and self-explanatory. What could possibly go wrong?

Twenty eager walkers convened upon the car park normally frequented by visitors to Charlecote Park. It was dry and the sky promised patches of sunshine which were duly delivered throughout the walk. As a volunteer I was able to gain access to the facilities before we wandered past the stone boars which gazed down from the gate posts. According to legend the boars go down to drink by the Nobby Bridge (the one with the balls on) at midnight. I heard this from an ex-employee at the house

(now in their 80s) but have so far been unable to substantiate the story.

We turned left over the concrete bridge and crossed some fields, following the River Dene before traversing it again near the weir. Sun dappled through the branches of the trees and there was a hum of conversation as the troupe made their way through the Warwickshire countryside towards Wellesbourne Church. A short walk through the churchyard and we continued up the rather inappropriately named Little Hill which afforded stunning views over the Cotswolds. The air was clear and bright and we paused to take note of the autumnal colours.

Next stop was HRI Wellesbourne where my plan fell apart. The huge sign which has always been there declaring

'HRI Wellesbourne, University of Warwick' was lying on the ground. Two workmen had dismantled it, simultaneously dismantling my planned photo-shoot. Not to be beaten we found another, rather inferior, version which was used instead. After following the road through the campus it was a short hop across some fields back to the car park.

Lunch was taken in the Orangery at Charlecote Park. It was only later when I was saying what a pity it had been that the big sign had been removed that June told me, 'Oh well, never mind, we had our photograph taken there last time.'

Kay Rainsley





Circular Walk from the Orange Tree, Chadwick End, via the Grand Union Canal 22 November 2016

The day before the November WRSA walk, Storm Angus hit the UK and caused chaos in certain parts of the country. Undeterred by weather conditions, fifteen members of the WRSA walking group met in the Orange Tree car park. Putting on their weatherproof clothing, wellingtons or walking boots, they crossed Chadwick End village green towards Chadwick Lane, a winding country road. Passing Chadwick Manor House on the left, and after a short distance down the road, they turned left into a green, slightly muddy lane leading to a farm cart track and eventually to the main Warwick Road. On the corner was the Dial House, a timber-framed listed building. The walkers took a right turn into the lane leading to the Black Boy Inn and then to the towpath of the Grand Union canal. Fortunately, the route down the canal wasn't too muddy.

Walk from Balsall Common

18 January 2017

A group of nineteen met at Ye Olde Saracen's Head on an overcast (but not rainy) day. There has been an inn on this site since the 13th century but some of the existing pub dates back to the 16th century. The pub is so named because the Knights Templar, who fought the Saracens, were based at nearby Temple Balsall until being disbanded in 1314. They were replaced by the Knights Hospitallers who were disbanded by Henry VIII.

Leaving this historic location, we set off across Magpie Lane with me managing to walk straight past the first footpath while gossiping. We followed paths across undulating farmland and followed the River Blythe for a few hundred yards until crossing it. Unfortunately, we didn't see the two herons that were around on my 'check-out' walk. We headed to St. Swithin's Church at Barston, a 1721 edifice on the

The group photo was taken at bridge number 66. The walkers left the towpath via a gated field with what, in drier conditions, is a trickling stream. Now, the water had risen considerably, but it was still possible to cross the stream over the planked, gated wooden bridge. At the end of the bridge everyone stopped. The stream had overflowed its banks and formed a flood, blocking the way forward. There was no going back - the only option was to paddle through the water. One very agile walker managed to jump from the bridge on to an upper wooden fence and swing into the field nearby, only getting one of her shoes wet. Amazing! Still undeterred, the walkers - most of whom now had wet feet and socks - continued down a tree-lined pathway towards Netherwood Lane with a view of the old Poor Clares' Convent (partly destroyed by fire in 1993, after the Christmas Eve mass).

There were still four more fields and stiles to cross. Two coated horses were at a perimeter fence looking bored, sad and sorry for themselves. Hoping for some treats, they watched the walkers cross the first very slippery and wobbly wooden stile. At the second stile, the Orange Tree was in sight.

The walkers were met at the pub by another three members who joined the lunch. The atmosphere in the restaurant was warm and inviting. A long table had been set for our party and after a drink and hot food we soon forgot about our wet socks and feet.

Marie Lucas



site of an earlier church. Going down Barston Lane we passed the grade II listed hall and continued for nearly a mile on narrow roads before heading back towards Balsall Common negotiating just three stiles and a fair amount of sloppy mud.

Sixteen of the party stayed to eat and were pleased with good food and smiley service.

Les Rainsley

Forthcoming Walks 2017

Thursday 30 March - Hampton Lucy, led by Fred Troup

Thursday 20 April - Ansty, led by Kay Rainsley

Thursday 18 May - Cadair Berwyn (mid-Wales), led by Russell Moseley

Wednesday 28 June - Guy's Cliffe walled garden and river walk, led by Barry Meatyard

Thursday 13 July - route tbc, led by Hazel and Alan Colliver

Calling WRSA engineers - engineers of the future need you and your skills!

One of the major challenges for today's manufacturers is ensuring future generations of engineers are fully equipped with the right skills needed to meet the demands of the UK's manufacturing and engineering industries. The UK's economic future depends on enabling children to be creative, inventive and technically able to support wealth-creating activities.

The independent education charity, the Imagineering Foundation, has been spending the best part of 15 years working with education and manufacturers of all kinds to do just that. Established and run by engineers, it recognises that it is necessary to inspire young people at a much earlier age than that addressed by other initiatives, in order to nurture that interest.

It is currently recruiting enthusiastic volunteers with a little time to spare to be inspiring role models and help it to run Imagineering Clubs around the Midlands and further afield.

One of its key initiatives, the Imagineering Clubs, goes direct into schools. These hour-long after-school clubs, usually for 12 children, run weekly throughout the academic year and are designed for boys and girls of all abilities. They are led by volunteer engineer tutors and/or teachers and teaching assistants. The ethos is to create a fun, friendly learning environment where pupils develop skills and learn about the technology of everyday life by making working models from kits, with real life applications, which



they can then take home. Subjects covered include Flight; Measurement; Electricity; Electro-Magnetism; Computer-Programming and Levers & Gears.

All that volunteer tutors need to have is some basic engineering or science skills and an enthusiasm for helping children with practical tasks and the proper use of tools. Imagineering also provides support, guidance and educational material. There are valuable professional and personal benefits and this is a most enjoyable and rewarding experience and an ideal activity for retired, working or graduate engineers and scientists.

If you would like to help to make a difference by helping to inspire the engineers and wealth-creators of the future go to:

www.imagineering.org.uk/clubs/information to find out more about Imagineering Clubs, how to get involved and online application forms.

Joy Smith, PR & Marketing Officer, Imagineering Foundation; email: joy.jcm@btinternet.com

The University of the Third Age - an invitation

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a nation-wide organisation with several branches in the Warwick/Coventry area, which retired and semi-retired people are invited to join. Warwick District U3A has nearly 1,000 members and 87 groups with interests ranging from hiking and gardening to philosophy, world cinema and languages. All activities are member-led; the ethos is communitarian and collaborative. A wide range of whole U3A activities, from local and foreign trips to open meetings and day-long conferences, enriches our programme. Along with other U3As in the Coventry network, we are establishing close ties with the University of Warwick, through which members can attend University events and participate in mutually advantageous research. I would encourage retired staff from the University community to visit the Warwick District U3A website at www.u3asites.org.uk/warwickdistrict/home. I very much hope that you will join us.

Chris Forse, Chair, Warwick District U3A



Volunteering in Leamington - could you help?

Leamington Winter Support is a charity founded by Warwick students, offering food, shelter and company for homeless people in Leamington Spa and the surrounding area.

Warwick students have helped to man the centre, which opens on Friday and Saturday nights (7.30pm -10am). However, more volunteers are needed, particularly during the University vacations.

For more information, please visit the website at www.leamingtonws.org

Coming up at Warwick Arts Centre

A selection of upcoming performances and shows that we hope will be of interest to WRSA members.

Film

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars

Tuesday 7 March 2017, 8.40pm

Directed by pioneering rock film-maker D.A. Pennebaker, this documentary and concert film captures David Bowie and his band, The Spiders from Mars, performing at London's Hammersmith Odeon on 3 July 1973. It was at this now infamous concert that Bowie made a sudden announcement, shocking fans and media alike by stating, "It's the last show we'll ever do."

Theatre

Cheek By Jowl

The Winter's Tale

Tuesday 7 March - Saturday 11 March 2017

One of Shakespeare's greatest plays, *The Winter's Tale*, though written at the same period as *The Tempest*, smashes all the rules that *The Tempest* follows. Unity of time, place and action are hurled aside as we range across Europe, from court to country, from high tragedy to low comedy, across a time span of sixteen years.

Classical Music

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Friday 17 March 2017, 7.30pm

Wagner - Prelude to *Die Meistersinger*

Strauss - *Don Juan*

Rachmaninov - *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

Shostakovich - *Symphony No.5*

Visual arts

MEAD GALLERY

Subodh Gupta: *From Far Away Uncle Moon Calls*

Saturday 14 January - Saturday 11 March 2017. Open Monday - Saturday, 12pm - 9pm

A major exhibition by one of India's foremost contemporary artists



Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars

Dance

Mark Murphy's V-TOL

Out Of This World

Tuesday 25 April - Wednesday 26 April, 7.30pm

Genre-defying, action-packed theatre from acclaimed writer and director Mark Murphy. Set within a world of projected film and animation, it combines his signature mix of ground-breaking aerial choreography, original text and explosive special effects in a show that is both intense psychological thriller and heart-rending medical drama.

Comedy

Stewart Lee

Content Provider

Thursday 4 and Thursday 11 May 2017, 8pm

After four years writing and performing his TV show, this is Stewart's first brand new full-length show since the award-winning *Carpet Remnant World*.

Family

The First Hippo on the Moon

by David Walliams

Thursday 1 June - Sunday 4 June 2017

From Number One bestselling children's author David Walliams comes an explosively funny space adventure for children of 3 and up.



City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Masterclass

Interior Design

Saturday 18 March 2017, 9am - 4.30pm

In this exciting and interactive masterclass, interior designer and winner of the BBC's *Great Interior Design Challenge*, Martin Holland, will guide you through the creative process from start to finish to help you achieve design success in your own home.

For the full programme visit:

warwickartscentre.co.uk or sign up to the mailing list to receive regular news and updates: <http://bit.ly/WACupdates>

WRSA members may also be interested in Warwick Arts Centre's Ambassadors Programme – see www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/about/ambassadors



Cheek By Jowl, 'The Winter's Tale'

Music Centre: Free Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

1.10pm-2pm Ensemble Room, Warwick Arts Centre

DATE	PERFORMERS
27 April	Jeremy Sampson, violin, and Colin Druce, piano
4 May	Louise Sprekelsen, oboe, and Marcel Zidani, piano
11 May	David Gordon, piano
18 May	Rowena Calvert, cello and piano tbc
25 May	Incus Ensemble: viola, clarinet and piano
1 June	My 1st Concert (NB in Helen Martin studio)
8 June	Njord Trio: flute, clarinet and bassoon
15 June	Lynn Arnold, piano
22 June	University of Warwick scholars
29 June	Elizabeth French, violin, and Nicola Rose, piano

The WRSA Committee, 2016-2017

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University support	Tim Wilkinson	rsa@warwick.ac.uk or Tim.Wilkinson@warwick.ac.uk

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership of the Association is currently at 250 which is about the same figure as when I took over as Membership Secretary just over a year ago. We would like to see more retirees signing up to the Association. If you are in touch with former colleagues who have not joined our group, perhaps you could encourage them to do so. It's excellent value at £15.00 a year!

Reminders have been sent out by post and email, so if you have not yet replied, please do so as soon as possible.

Elaine Lenton

WRSA Annual General Meeting, 10 October 2016

At the AGM, a motion from the floor to raise the annual WRSA membership fee to £15 was carried unanimously. As the University funds two lunches per year for the Association as well as administrative costs, this increase will enable our music scholarship and other student bursaries to continue.

Dates for Your Diary

Walks - see page 8 for details

Monday 10 April 2017 - Spring Lunch, Scarman House

Tuesday 16 May 2017 - Visit to the Churchill War Rooms, London

Christmas lunch report

The Christmas lunch was held on Monday, 19 December at Scarman House. One hundred and eight people, comprising 66 members and their guests, enjoyed either a traditional turkey meal or the ham, fish or vegetarian option. While we were having our starter, the Vice-Chancellor came in to see us, to say hello, wish us a happy Christmas and pledge his support for the Association. He also confirmed that he would be the speaker at the spring lunch, when he would outline future plans for the University.

As always at Scarman, the food was delicious and plentiful with a wonderful variety of desserts to choose from - in fact, several guests told me it was 'the best ever'. Conversation and laughter filled the room as members met up with their ex-colleagues or the new friends they had made through the WRSA. To add to the festivity we were able to congratulate one member on her 94th birthday and two members celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. After lunch most of us retired to the lounge to have a coffee and continue our conversations - with some people even managing to eat a mince pie! I think it is fair to say that it was a very successful occasion.

Jean Norman, Secretary

Information of particular interest to WRSA members may be found on the website:
www.warwick.ac.uk/assoc/rsa

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