



Modern Records Centre

Annual Report 2016-2017

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Introduction

We received the sad news of Rodney Bickerstaffe's death in October 2017 which is outside the period of this report, but in view of his close association with the Centre we wanted to pay tribute to him as soon as possible.

Rodney was a great friend to the MRC and to former Archive Manager Christine Woodland. He was a member of the Advisory Board from 2000 to 2001 and chaired the Board between 2004 and 2009 but he stayed in touch with the Centre long after his official connection was over. He remained interested in the work of the MRC and regularly advocated on our behalf - his famous and extensive contact list was always to hand. He was a regular depositor of his own papers (170 boxes) and keen to encourage others in the labour movement to deposit too. He will be greatly missed.

The year 2016-2017 has seen more activity in the digital archives field and more large scale digitisation. Liz Wood has again produced a number of excellent online resources and exhibitions which are covered in this report. Like all archive services, the expectation and demand for online access to resources places constant pressure on the Centre and the challenges of digital preservation continue to grow with increasing numbers of digital deposits.

The launch of the Wedderburn catalogue was an important milestone this year and we are pleased that links have been made with the Law School through this collection.

Overall this has been another successful year in which we have managed to make a range of important collections available. We have also continued to promote the Centre and establish new links with Warwick academics. A number of ongoing projects and new collaborative projects should ensure that 2017-2018 is just as eventful.



Front cover: "Firefighter' June 1950
(346/4/92/5)

The cataloguing of the papers of Lord Wedderburn was completed by Helen Hargest, our project archivist in March 2017. She produced online lists of his UK political and advisory work, his work in the House of Lords, the Bullock Committee, Donovan Commission and his papers relating to work in Europe. The UK Legal papers remain unlisted. A small launch event was held in June when we were able to formally thank the National Cataloguing Grant Programme (NCGP) and many generous individual supporters.

Particular thanks should go to Paul Smith who provided substantial help in raising funds and ensuring the safe collection and delivery of the material.

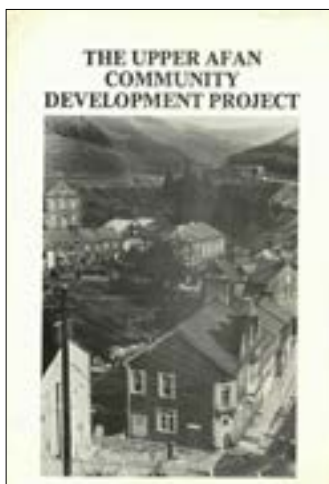


Collections: Additions and Catalogues

66 collections have been added to the holdings this year. These include the Maltsters' Association of Great Britain; additional records of ASLEF (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen); the papers of John Lyons, General Secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association; archives of the Community Development Programme; records from Report /IFL Photographic Bureau; 'Case Con', radical social workers' magazine; and additional Fire Brigades Union material.

The archives of the Community Development Programme (CDP) arrived at MRC in September 2016. The CDP was introduced by the Labour government in 1968 and administered by the Community Programmes Department (I Division) of the Home Office. Its aim was to examine inner city deprivation and poverty, and work with local communities to find solutions. The Project ran from 1968 to 1980 and covered twelve areas of the UK including Coventry, Birmingham, Liverpool, Oldham and Newcastle.

This collection contains many of the background surveys and research conducted for the local projects along with interim and final reports covering housing, unemployment, immigration and child welfare. A number of these reports have been deposited with their local archives but there are relevant papers from all twelve areas represented here. The National Archives holds the central records from the Home Office (HO389/).



In addition, publications from the Child Poverty Action Group and The Joseph Rowntree Foundation were donated to the MRC in January 2017.

A large collection of newspapers, journals and publications from the photographic bureau Report /IFL (International Freelance Library) came to the centre in May 2017. The bureau was created by Simon Guttman who fled to the UK as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany. Simon established Report in London in 1946 and continued his photographic work. He trained a team of photo-journalists and built up a large photographic resource with the aim of recording social life in Britain. From 1970 onwards Report and its newly established sister organisation, IFL Ltd, began to supply the growing market of left and trade union publications, all of whom needed good quality photographs to illustrate news stories during a period of huge social change in the UK. The archive consists mainly of 'proof' copies of trade union journals, socialist newspapers and journals, as well as feminist, Republican and third world pamphlets, posters and publications. These include Socialist Challenge, Socialist Organiser, Red Weekly, The Worker's Voice, Republican News, Hibernia, Women's Voice, Free Palestine and many others. Alongside the UK political material, there are numerous publications and posters on Vietnam, the Middle East, South America and Africa.

Martin Sanders got to grips with the papers of Peter Wilkinson, environmental campaigner and consultant, deposited in 2014. The archive reflects Wilkinson's career with Greenpeace, including leading two Antarctic expeditions, and his involvement in other environmental organisations, projects and consultations, particularly relating to nuclear energy. This large archive of 114 boxes substantially enhances our holdings of environmental campaigning and green politics. It covers issues such as the decommissioning of off-shore oil and gas installations, radioactive waste, wind farms and the Future Forests carbon offset project.



The Centre already holds some material for the Ecology Party.

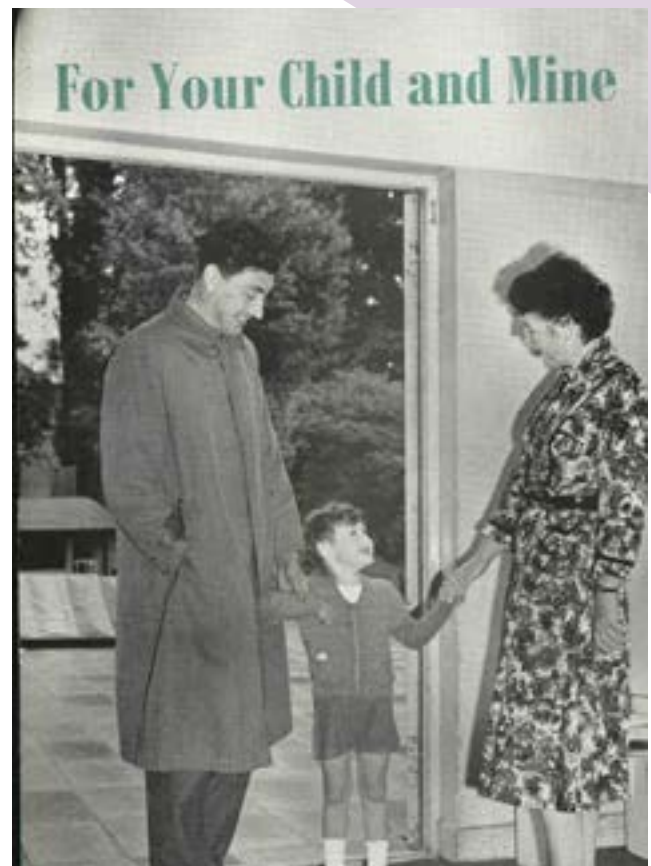
Founded in Coventry as 'People' in 1973, it became the Green Party in 1985. This collection includes some early newsletters, annual reports and manifestos.

There are also a number of early Ecology party publications in the archives of Scott Bader.





James King continued to add yet more material to the extensive National Union of Teachers archive. This collection of nearly 1,500 boxes ranging from 1870-2010 is one of the largest trade union collections. Additional archives from 1952-2005 were catalogued this year, including (but not restricted to) extensive papers concerning LEA reviews of behaviour policy and special educational needs, approved schools and remand homes, professional unity, salaries and conditions of service, teacher appraisal and performance management, the Plowden Committee (1963-1964), anti-racism, racial equality and multi-ethnic education, class size, education cuts, school meals, unqualified staff, and the London allowance.



A large collection of NUT pamphlets and leaflets, legal papers and minutes of numerous committees are also now available including the Joint Negotiating Committee for Approved Schools and Remand Homes, 1953-1992, NUT/Association of Educational Psychologists Liaison Committee, 1985-1997, Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth Leaders/Youth and Community Workers, 1961-1991.

Other collections catalogued during the year include:

- Additional papers of Rodney Bickerstaffe, 1969-2009, including material relating to his work in NUPE, UNISON, the Labour Party and the National Pensioners' Convention. This was the last accession of Rodney's papers to be catalogued during his lifetime.
- Papers of George Mitchell, Director of Operational Research at the National Coal Board (later the British Coal Corporation), 1947-2006.
- Personal papers of Jack Jones (1913-2009), General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, including appointment diaries, speeches, articles, papers on trade union and pensioners' issues and his service in the Spanish Civil War, interviews with retired union officials, photographs and a large collection of publications presented to and collected by Jones. This image shows Jack Jones, Vic Feather (TUC) and George Smith (UCATT) enjoying the local hospitality on a TUC delegation visit to Rumania.
- Archives of the National Campaign for Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA), 1973-2012, mainly consisting of the wide-ranging correspondence on pornography and censorship of the founder and director the actor David Webb (1931-2012). Webb stood against Margaret Thatcher in her Finchley constituency in the 1983 General Election.
- Records of 'Case Con', the radical 1970s social workers' magazine noted for its striking cartoons, and related research papers of Ted Brown, 1970-1995.

Naomi Shewan has continued to work her way through the descriptions of the TUC deposit which arrived in June 2016 as well as a number of small unlisted accessions including the papers of the Central American Women's Network.



Digital Archives

The collections arriving now increasingly include digital material (often on a USB stick or CDs inside the boxes). An interesting challenge this year has been our first proper 'hybrid' collection containing a mixture of paper and digital files. The records of London Health Emergency, an NHS campaigning group, deposited half of its records as paper and half as digital files in June 2016. This presented some new cataloguing challenges in arrangement and description but has already been used by the People's History of the NHS project based at the Centre for the History of Medicine at Warwick.

Childline, the children's helpline charity, also deposited a small number of digital files relating to their Witness Seminar held in 2016.



Digitisation



In the centenary year of the Russian Revolution we launched a digital collection on Britain and Russia, 1917-1928. Our Digitisation Assistant, Gareth Carter, worked to make available 657 documents on the relationship between the two countries in the decade after the revolution.

Key themes included the London and Leeds labour movement rallies hailing the revolution in 1917, British intervention in the Russian Civil War, the 1924 'Zinoviev Letter', eyewitness accounts (including from the TUC delegations and Tom Mann), and economic and diplomatic relations.

The material has proved popular and receives a large number of 'page views' from within Warwick and further afield. An academic in Manchester commented: "What perfect timing! I shall next week be talking to my class on British socialists and the USSR and will provide the students with this link. It looks as if it could be an invaluable resource to use in their essays, my thanks to those concerned for the care that has obviously gone into doing this."



Gareth has been joined by two additional part-time digitisation assistants - Rebecca Jones and Seb Randell - who have been digitising the Fire Brigades' Union journal 'Firefighter,' in preparation for the FBU's 100th anniversary in 2018. The Firefighter, 1932-2000, is now available through Warwick Digital Collections. Additional publications from the University of Warwick's archives have also been scanned.



Three new online exhibitions have been added to our website on the diverse themes of beer, trade unionism and cycling. 'Freedom on two wheels: the New Woman and the bicycle' (to mark the Women's Tour of Britain passing through campus in June 2017); 'United we stand: photographs of the Workers' Union, 1911-1921'; and 'Rob you of your beer: the British fight against prohibition'.

'Freedom on two wheels' has proved popular and The Distinguished Lady Cyclists feature attracted a considerable following on Twitter. Several of the earliest cycling journals were digitised: 25 issues of The Cycling World Illustrated (1896), 12 issues of The Lady Cyclist (1896-1897) and one issue of The Wheel Woman (1897) were published on the website along with numerous postcards and cartoons from the collection.



Audio-visual

Nine of the video interviews conducted in 2007 by Chris Thomas for his history of the Grunwick strike of 1976-1978 (all of which were digitised in 2015) were published on our website with summaries of their contents. The interviewees included the redoubtable Jayaben Desai, whose determined leadership during the strike won her the lasting admiration of the trade union movement. The web page led to the use of the recordings in the Grunwick 40 exhibition in London.

A video copy in the University Archive of Cryfield House Farm, a film made by J B Rice in 1968, was digitised in connection with the Cryfield Grange research project (see University Archives overleaf for more detail). The image quality on the original was very poor so it was considerably enhanced during digitisation.

Physical exhibitions



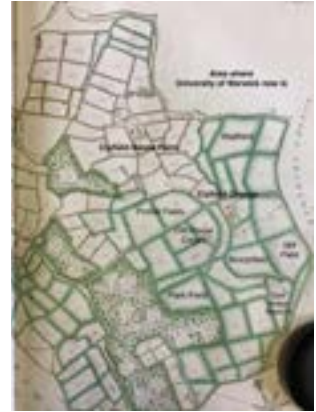
Physical Exhibitions have included two which highlighted the university's own collections - Building Warwick: a snapshot of the university's changing landscape, and Student Prints: 50 years of student journalism.

Exhibitions which marked Black History Month (Unite and Fight! Black Britain and anti-fascism) and Holocaust Memorial Day were also produced this year, the latter with a launch event organised in collaboration with the Student Union.



In autumn 2016 Hannah Copestake, a Hispanic Studies student, undertook a project for the Undergraduate Research Support Scheme (URSS) on the Chilean coup of 1973. Based in the MRC she researched the British opposition to the coup and produced a website with digitised resources from the collections along with a poster about her research. This was part of an AHRC-funded project led by Professor Alison Ribeiro de Menezes which aimed to explore and capture the history of Warwick's role and the importance of the World University Service (WUS) in helping Chilean exiles, following the 1973 coup. The archives of the WUS held in the MRC form a core part of the project and some of the posters have featured in the BBC programme 'The One Show.'

The University Archive 2016-17



At the start of the academic year (August 2016) we were contacted by the Director of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, Ingrid De Smet, about the history of the seventeenth century farmhouse Cryfield Grange, and its possible links to the medieval abbey at Cryfield. The substantial amount of material relating to the buildings and archaeology of Cryfield held in the University Archive had been deposited by the Centre for Lifelong Learning in 2011 and a project team was formed including members of academic staff and Lizzie Morrison from the MRC.

A great deal of research was undertaken between November 2016 and September 2017 resulting in a publication: *Cryfield Grange: The History of a Listed Warwickshire Farmhouse from its Medieval Origins to the Mid-Twentieth Century*. In addition, a launch event and exhibition presented the findings to neighbours of Cryfield Grange.



Work has continued on cataloguing and arranging deposits, including the huge number of press cuttings originally kept by the University's Communications Office. Procedures have been developed to manage the minutes and papers now arriving in digital format from a number of committees. This remains a challenge and will be reviewed with the arrival of a Records Manager for the University in 2018. There have been a number of enquiries from staff and external researchers covering the foundation dates of specific departments, the Warwick Arts Festival and post-war British theatre architecture including the conception and design of the Warwick Arts Centre.

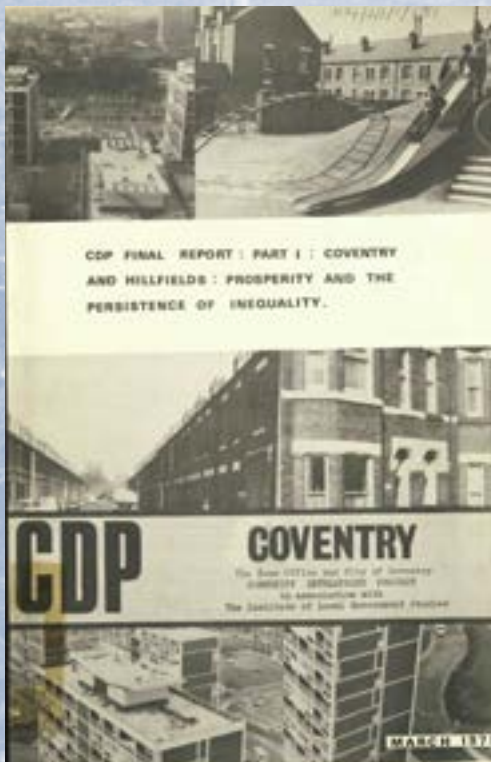
Enquiries, Publications, Education

Liz Wood and Helen Ford have continued to introduce classes of Warwick students to archive resources for a number of established modules.

473 students visited the MRC for classes and introductory sessions and 208 students came back into the Centre as independent researchers.

A new module in Theatre Studies brought 76 students in January 2017 and online resources were added for this module. Making History continues to be the largest programme, requiring nine sessions over a two week period and introducing over 150 students to the resources of the Centre.

Feedback from academics and students is positive and helpful: "Many thanks for this morning's session. As we were leaving our MAs reiterated how useful they found it and I even learned new things!"



Our online resources for University of Warwick modules have also been extended with the creation of new sections to support the History Department module Amity, Antagonism and Appeasement: Anglo-German Relations, 1871-1945.

The BAsc in Global Sustainable Development for the School for Cross-Faculty Studies includes a module on Coventry (Keeping the Phoenix Flying or Clipping its Wings?). The module is designed to provide a counterpoise to the wider focus on global issues by highlighting the local environment. Liz has contributed a web page linking to a wide range of resources within the MRC collections.

Images from the Centre were used in several exhibitions including in Paris: 'English Matters - The English Language Press in France' and in Madrid at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. Online images were used in *The Conversation UK* and *Atlas Obscura*.

Some filming also took place in the Centre. We provided a strong-room backdrop for interviews with academic staff and material to illustrate programmes on the National Health Service and the Chilean coup.

Talks were given to: Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Family History Society and to the Business History section of the British Academy of Management Conference held at Warwick.

Two groups of the Sutton Trust Summer School pupils also visited and enjoyed using archive resources for Law and Economics.

Liz Wood has developed and manages a valuable MRC presence on Twitter **@MRCWarwick**. Unsurprisingly, the most popular Tweets featured beer!

"how pleased and grateful I am for the session that you put on for us It was by far the best university library session that we have had and the students were incredibly enthused by it and found it very helpful"

Head of History
Coundon Court School Coventry



Publications

29 books and 41 articles (19 published online) used and cited the collections at MRC. Five PhDs made use of the sources. A full list of the books published can be seen at:

warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/holdings/main_archives/research/2017

Selected titles include:

Jodi Burkett (ed.), University of Portsmouth: *Students in Twentieth-Century Britain and Ireland* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Paul Caruana Galizia, Humboldt University: *The Economy of Modern Malta: From the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Helena Chance, Buckinghamshire New University: *The Factory in a Garden: A History of Corporate Landscapes from the Industrial to the Digital Age* (Manchester University Press)

Aled Davies, University of Bristol: *The City of London and Social Democracy: The Political Economy of Finance in Britain, 1959 - 1979* (Oxford University Press)

Janet Douglas and **Christian Høgsbjerg** (eds.): *British Labour and the Russian Revolution* (Spokesman)

John Fisher, **Effie G. H. Pedaliu** and **Richard Smith** (eds.): *The Foreign Office, Commerce and British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Aimée Fox, King's College London: *Learning to Fight: Military Innovation and Change in the British Army, 1914-1918* (Cambridge University Press)

George Campbell Gosling, University of Wolverhampton: *Payment and philanthropy in British healthcare, 1918-48* (Manchester University Press)

John A. Hargreaves, **Keith Laybourn** and **Richard Toye** (eds.): *Liberal Reform and Industrial Relations: J.H. Whitley (1866-1935), Halifax Radical and Speaker of the House of Commons* (Routledge)

Marie Hicks, Illinois Institute of Technology: *Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost its Edge in Computing* (MIT Press)

Chris Moores, University of Birmingham: *Civil Liberties and Human Rights in Twentieth-Century Britain* (Cambridge University Press)

Ryan Shaffer, Stony Brook University, New York: *Music, Youth and International Links in Post-War British Fascism: The Transformation of Extremism* (Palgrave Macmillan)

David Swift, Queen Mary University of London: *For Class and Country: The Patriotic Left and the First World War* (Liverpool University Press)

Jim Tomlinson, University of Glasgow: *Managing the Economy, Managing the People: Narratives of Economic Life in Britain from Beveridge to Brexit* (Oxford University Press)

Articles include:

Nicholas Barnett, University of Plymouth, and **Evan Smith**, Flinders University: *'Peace with a Capital P': The Spectre of Communism and Competing Notions of 'Peace' in Britain, 1949-1960*, Labour History Review.

Roberta Bivins, University of Warwick: *Picturing Race in the British National Health Service, 1948-1988*, Twentieth Century British History.

Mick Carpenter, University of Warwick, and **Ben Kyneswood**, Coventry University: *From self-help to class struggle: revisiting Coventry Community Development Project's 1970s journey of discovery*, Community Development Journal.

Jack Copley, University of Warwick: *Financial Deregulation and the Role of Statecraft: Lessons from Britain's 1971 Competition and Credit Control Measures*, New Political Economy.

Stephen Dippnall, University of Central Lancashire: *Hating America? Great Britain and the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg*, Cold War History.

Ryan C. Edwards, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: *Convicts and conservation: Inmate labor, fires and forestry in southernmost Argentina*, Journal of Historical Geography.

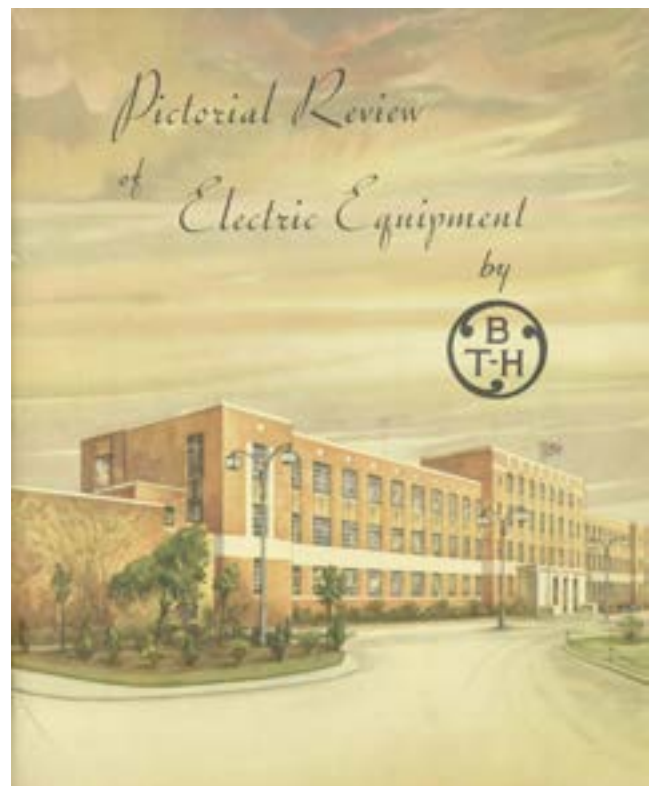
Robert Fitzgerald, Royal Holloway, University of London: *International Business and the Development of British Electrical Manufacturing, 1886-1929*, Business History Review.

Jonathan Hyslop, University of Pretoria: *Southampton to Durban on the Union Castle Line: An Imperial Shipping Company and the limits of globality c. 1900-1939*, The Journal of Transport History.

Jennifer Luff, University of Durham: *Covert and Overt Operations: Interwar Political Policing in the United States and the United Kingdom*, The American Historical Review.

David Malcolm, National Union of Students: *A curious courage: the origins of gay rights campaigning in the National Union of Students*, History of Education.

Paul Smith, Keele University: *The Law behind the Law: Rookes v. Barnard [1964], the Common Law and the Right to Strike*, Historical Studies in Industrial Relations.



Statistics

1,235 enquiries were received from a wide range of countries and covering some unusual topics: Siege of Leningrad and Shostakovich's 7th Symphony; legal and labour history of Iraq; the Tyneside Metro; trade unionism and dance; spy fiction; and men's hair in 1960s and 1970s!

45 visitors came from US, Japan, Germany, Israel, Spain, Hong Kong, Austria, Malaysia, Canada, South Africa and Australia. 56% of users were external and 44% were Warwick students or staff.

Warwick Digital Collections which showcases a number of projects received 25,328 online visitors in 35,856 sessions. There were 113,319 page views. The most popular collections remain the Spanish Civil War and the Warwick Boar student newspapers. The MRC online catalogue Epexio had 15,736 users and 229,675 page views. The MRC has nearly 900 followers on Twitter.

Advisory Board Members:

Baroness Diana Warwick of Undercliffe (Chairman)

Professor Bob Fryer

Mr. R. Green (University Librarian)

Dr Sally Horrocks

Professor Hilary Marland

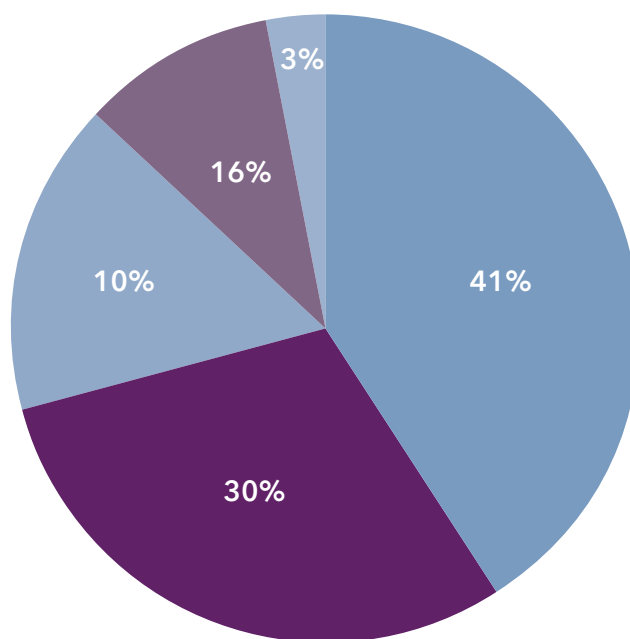
Professor Jane Martin

Professor Guglielmo Meardi

Ms Andrea Peace (TUC)

Professor Mathew Thomson

Breakdown of the MRC Readership:



- MRC archive readers - Internal
- MRC archive readers - Other UK HEI
- MRC archive readers - Overseas
- MRC archive readers - Other
- MRC archive readers - University of Warwick Archive readers

Staff of Modern Records Centre:

Helen Ford (Archive Manager)

James King (Archivist)

Martin Sanders (Archivist)

Elizabeth Wood (Archivist)

Carole Jones (Archives Assistant)

Naomi Shewan (Archives Assistant)

Elisabeth Morrison (Archives Assistant)

Andree Whittaker (Archives Assistant)

Gareth Carter (Digitisation Assistant)

Seb Randell (Digitisation Assistant)

Rebecca Jones (Digitisation Assistant)

Thanks to all the staff of the Modern Records Centre for their work this year and to Sara Trevisan who has been a long term volunteer with us and is currently on the Dundee distance-learning archives course.

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