



# Warwick Science Societies NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 | WEEK 7 | ISSUE 2

## FEATURES

### Something for the Postgrads

BY EVÉ JONES

Hi everyone!

I am really happy with the turn out so far this term - we have had loads of new faces at the socials. I hoping to add some lunch time or coffee meet ups for postgraduates too soon to give you the break that you deserve out of a stressful day.

Alongside this I want to work with the SU to help tailor events and get the word out to you all about what's on. As well as working for more representation of postgraduates in sports and societies. As well as encouraging them to have training opportunities for postgraduates outside term time.

As for our socials - look out for the next games night (coming soon) as well as something more festive as we move toward the big C word!!

All the best Evé!!



### We asked **PROFESSOR MIKE WARD** what advice he has for new students who have joined us this year?

You have an opportunity to make a real and valuable contribution to new knowledge so make the most of it. You can treat a PhD as a 9-to-5 working week if you want, but when you start getting somewhere it's exciting and the opportunity to do great things is there for you. Bear in mind that 95% of you will end up in careers that are not laboratory-based with white coats on, so take the opportunity to to develop those extra skills (teaching? outreach? giving oral presentations at conferences? organising society activities?) that will supplement your scientific knowledge and are what employers are looking for.

# CHEMSOC NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MICHELLE DUONG

Time has gone by fast! We're over half way through term 1 now and we're so happy to have welcomed so many new faces. If you came along to our socials, we hope you've enjoyed them and made some good memories. Fear not if you haven't because there are still many to come, so keep your eyes on the calendar. It's great to see all the new outreach volunteers finally out on their visits to schools and spreading the love of science to the younger generation – fantastic work guys!

Don't forget that if you need any academic help or support you can come down to ChemCafe every week and ask one of your many peers sitting around. Nice to see the 3rd years again in week 6 after they endured their intensive first 5 weeks – you're officially allowed to fall asleep on a pizza (but we'd rather you'd go home and catch up on sleep).

With the clocks going back, the days have gotten shorter and the weather has gotten colder so wrap up warm and take care of yourselves!



WEEK 7 - Tues 13th - Games Night  
Thur 15th - Chemistry Cocktail  
Masterclass

WEEK 8 - Tuesday 20th - Bowling at Ten Pin  
Leamington

WEEK 9 - Friday 30th - Winter Bar Crawl

WEEK 10 - Birmingham Christmas Market

## CHEMBALL - A STARRY NIGHT

**TICKETS ON SALE SOON!**

Saturday 19th January - Wroxall Abbey

ChemSoc cordially invites you to join us for a night like no other. Feel free to spread the word to anyone you wish, it's NOT only for chemistry students!

Members - £41

Non-Members - £44



## SPORTS + CHARITIES

BY CALLUM BULLOCK



The ChemSoc Intramural Football team secured their first win recently and the basketball team are narrowing down those point difference!



It's been a successful few weeks for fundraising with our charity pub quiz and movember campaign

## CHARITY PUB QUIZ

Approximately 75 people came to work their brain cells and raise some money for our charities

**£164**



## MOVEMBER

**£638**



Raised so far..

With Dan (£250), Sanjeev (£120) & Louis (£100) being our biggest fundraisers

Keep donating at  
<https://uk.movember.com/team/2316226>



# ACADEMICS CORNER

## PROFESSOR MIKE WARD - HEAD OF CHEMISTRY



It has been over a year since he joined the Chemistry Department for those who don't know about are head of department, we sat down and asked him a few questions.

### Could you summarise your area of research?

I work in an area called 'supramolecular chemistry' which is about the wonderful structures that can occur if you don't just rely on covalent or normal metal-ligand bonds. We all know that covalent bonds hold organic molecules together; and metal-ligand dative bonds hold metal complexes together.

But weaker interactions can be used too: hydrogen-bonding, aromatic stacking, hydrophobic interactions and so on. Using these, chemists have a greater number of tools in their toolbox to make elaborate assemblies.

My particular focus at the moment is the combination of metal ions and ligands which assemble into hollow boxes, and these boxes can bind small molecules inside them as 'guests' (like nested Russian dolls, if anyone remembers those). So we are using our self-assembled boxes to try and make enzyme-like catalysts that bind a molecule in the cavity, do a reaction on it, and then spit out the product so that the cycle can be repeated.

### What attracted you to join Warwick?

I had been in Sheffield for 14 years; and before that I was in my first academic position in Bristol for 13 years. I just fancied a change and a new challenge, and moving department generates new collaborations and leads to new research so is always stimulating. Basically having reached my early fifties I didn't want the next decade to be the same as the last one - and when I looked to see what was available, Warwick Chemistry was advertising for a new HoD, and has the reputation to be immediately attractive.

### What is your favourite memory from your undergraduate days?

In my second year as an undergraduate in Cambridge I had small group tutorials with Professor (later Lord) Jack Lewis, and we were talking about the 18-electron rule. He asked me, on

the basis of this rule, what should be the formula of nickel carbonyl. I miss-counted and said that it should have five CO ligands. He smiled benevolently and said that he rather thought that the correct answer was four.

So with the blind arrogance of youth I smiled back and him and asked 'Are you sure?' - to one of the world's leading organometallic chemists. Rather than expelling me from university on the spot he merely said gravely that he was fairly convinced on this point and perhaps, if I cared to consult Cotton and Wilkinson, I would find that he was correct. So I reluctantly conceded the point.

In the next tutorial we had moved on to ligand field theory. Prof. Lewis greeted with me with a grin and said 'Ah, Ward, the young man who is so sure about everything. Here's a piece of chalk; there is the board; please show us all how an F-term splits in a tetrahedral ligand field.' At which point I glazed over and my knees started knocking... Not exactly my 'favourite' memory I suppose, but it still haunts me occasionally.

### Favourite thing to do outside of chemistry?

I'm a camera geek in my spare time. I like all aspects of photography: the hardware, the careful post-processing, and assembling photo-books of my best pictures or printing occasional nice examples out to be framed and hung up. I also sing bass when I can find a choir (Mozart's Requiem is my all time favourite piece of choral music).

### Do you have any advice for new students who have joined us this year?

I probably can't do better than to emphasise the point I made to new students during intro week, which is to find your personal work/life balance and then make the most of the opportunities that being here presents. Getting that balance right is the single most important thing that you will do during your first term, and it needs to be what works for you: don't compare yourself to others who manage their balance differently.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to our newsletter; I hope everyone has been enjoying what Warwick has to offer in term 1 to its fullest! I am thinking about the freshers here, in particular. Hopefully you have all had a chance to check out new sport clubs and societies and ventured outside University grounds to experience what Leamington, Coventry, Birmingham, and even London has to offer. There is much to be seen which Terrace Bar and Copper Rooms cannot provide, however familiar and homely they may feel.

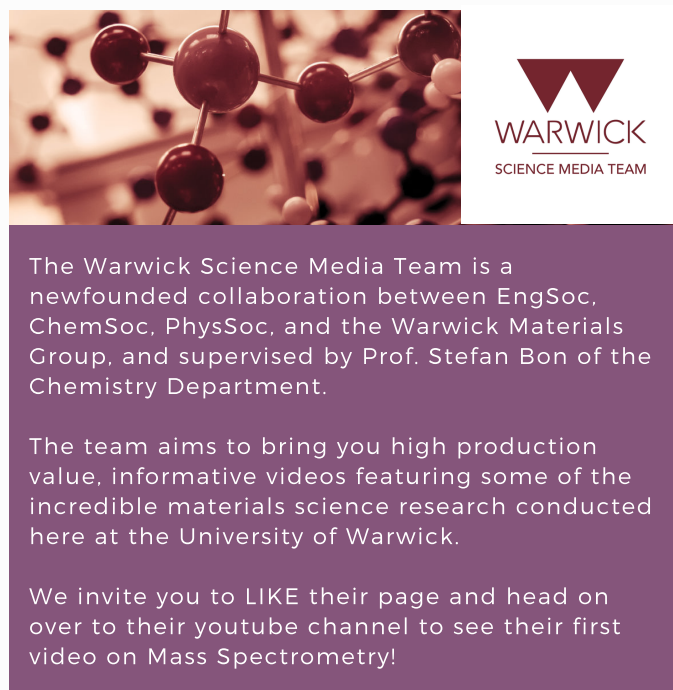
For many of you it is time to think about internships for the summer. I highly recommend doing some form of work, however menial, as three and half months of summer can really drag on. We will be organising a careers focused Physics Café soon enough! As for all the other socials we have in store, do keep an eye out on Facebook!

## A LOOK BACK ON TERM SO FAR

This year so far has been a resounding success from the Physics Society's point of view. The society has grown in members thanks, in no small part, to our second year of providing free membership for everyone. The weekly Physics Café has seen unprecedented turnout numbers; we are pushing 50-60 people on average every week, and pizza quantity has finally managed to catch up with the increasing demand! The Physics Families Scheme saw more signups than ever before thanks to the brilliant organisation of our academic coordinators. We sincerely hope everyone has found this useful, and that you have been able to meet up with your mentors/mentees in person! Furthermore, the society has entered into a video production collaboration with ChemSoc and EngSoc, headed by Prof. Stefan Bon, called the Warwick Science Media Team. We highly recommend you head on over to the Facebook page and YouTube channel to see some of the incredible materials research going on here at Warwick.

Now for the social aspect of the society; thanks to our social secretaries, we have managed to run a hugely successful social almost every week. Whether it has been a trip to the cinema, a bar crawl, a classic circle, or bowling, the enthusiasm and energy of our social secretaries know no bounds, and they have much yet to offer both this term and next so stay tuned. Finally, a massive thanks must go out to our trip coordinators; for the first time in years the society will be going on a trip to one of Europe's most diverse capitals with a rich history and roaring nightlife: destination Budapest. To those of you lucky enough to get a ticket, enjoy!

As you can see, we are proud of what we have done so far, but we won't rest on our laurels! There's still much to come both for the remainder of this term, and all of term 2. Most importantly perhaps, in term 2 we will be hosting our annual ball, so do keep an eye out for that!

The banner features a close-up image of a molecular model with red and white spheres on the left. On the right is the Warwick Science Media Team logo, which consists of a stylized 'W' above the text 'WARWICK SCIENCE MEDIA TEAM'. Below the image is a purple box containing white text.

The Warwick Science Media Team is a newfounded collaboration between EngSoc, ChemSoc, PhysSoc, and the Warwick Materials Group, and supervised by Prof. Stefan Bon of the Chemistry Department.

The team aims to bring you high production value, informative videos featuring some of the incredible materials science research conducted here at the University of Warwick.

We invite you to LIKE their page and head on over to their youtube channel to see their first video on Mass Spectrometry!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Week 7: Physics Challenge with TPP

Week 8: Bar crawl

Week 9: POP! Circle

Week 10: Ice skating

The trip to Budapest will be going ahead from the 9th to 13th of December. If you were lucky enough to get a ticket, enjoy!

Keep your eye out for details about our annual society ball hosted term 2!



## EXEC PROFILE

### SOCIAL SECRETARY: SOPHIE BATTRICK

Hi, I'm Sophie and I'm one of the social secretaries of the Physics Society. I'm a second-year student studying maths and physics, although I must admit I try to do as much maths and as little physics as possible! In my spare time I enjoy playing a variety of musical instruments – which my housemates love I might add – and during the rest of my spare time I can be found on the sesh. Don't judge, it's an integral responsibility of the job as a social sec. You may also find me working at Xananas or, during summer, in a potato shop in Norwich, my home town. Alternatively, when I have the money, I will be abroad as I love travelling. I'm especially excited about the PhysSoc tour to Budapest next month; bring it on!



### SOCIAL SECRETARY: KATHARINE HUGHES

Hi I'm Katharine Hughes and I am one of the Social Secretaries for PhysSoc this year! I'm a second year from Sussex, who's studying MathPhys. Fun fact about me I haven't missed a POP! the whole time I've been at uni!! Most likely to be found either in the learning grid or in curiositea.



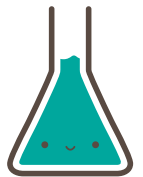
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a great term it has been so far, we at BioSoc hope you're all settling in well to your degree and life here at Warwick. Hopefully now you've had the chance to get involved in some of what we do, if not, there's always time, with more activities and events to come.

In the last few weeks we've loved meeting you all, enjoying all we've done, from our largest circle yet, to the biggest tutee group we've ever seen. Thank you for making this term so far so amazing and we hope to see you soon!



## POSTGRAD OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN LIFE SCIENCES



For finalists not quite ready to leave Warwick yet, or for those looking to get back into education, there are some really interesting Postgrad opportunities in the Life Sciences department including:

\*Sleep disordered breathing and its relationship to other diseases" PhD studentship run by Dr Robert Huckstepp

Application deadline 28th February 2019

Start date: October 2019

\* Warwick's Medical Research Council funded DTP in interdisciplinary Biomedical Research

A scheme offering a funded, four year studentship, including a MSc (with 2 terms of taught modules) and a 3 year PhD project. A really good opportunity!

Application deadline 15th November 2018 (Apply quickly!)

\* Medical Biotechnology and Business Management - MSc (and other MSc's including Food Security)


More opportunities can be found at <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses-2019/> for opportunities throughout the university





## ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

If you're looking for a way to get involved this year and immerse yourself in our society we have some elections coming up! Sadly, last time we didn't reach quorum for voting, so whether you want to run or just want to have a say make sure you vote online!

Treasurer: 

- Ensures the activities of the society are financially viable (especially key in costing out big events like the annual ball and tour, but also in the smaller events throughout the year if needed)
- Responsible for securing sponsorship from both the SU and sponsors

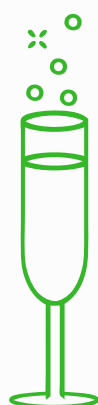
Sports Captain:

- Responsible for organising any sports activities /teams they feel are in demand by members (last year we had both football and netball teams, so these can be both developed and added to if members want any new sports)

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Week 6 saw the culmination of the efforts of weeks of summer research presented at the poster event. We'd love to extend our congratulations to all those involved for their ground breaking research and our pride that so many of the projects were from the Life Sciences department! It was great to see all of the research from all departments and to see the massive developments that this summer brought

We'd also like to congratulate the iGEM team, who won gold in Boston with their outstanding research! This is a huge achievement and we're so proud that so many of you came from our department! Well done to the whole team!



## COMING UP: SOCIAL EVENTS



We still have a Pop! circle left this term, so make sure you join us for the typical mayhem that a circle brings! Week 8: pop! circling in bar fusion. theme - in the jungle

## SOCIAL EVENTS SO FAR:



It was great to see so many new faces at our week 2 circle and at Kasbah this past Friday! We hope you've had a flavor of the fun yet to come and we had a great time hanging out with you all!

Anyone who hasn't yet attended, we're always ready to welcome any new faces to join us for any events!

## COMING UP: SPORTS



Whilst we wait for our new sports officer to be elected, we've been a bit quiet on the sports front, but rest assured we will have teams up and running soon!

## COMING UP: SCIENCE 101



Week 7: Learn how to navigate Excel

Week 8: Understanding scientific papers

Week 9: The tricks of the trade for creating bespoke images and diagrams in Powerpoint.

And don't forget any previous Science 101 sessions can be accessed online for whenever you need a bit of help!

