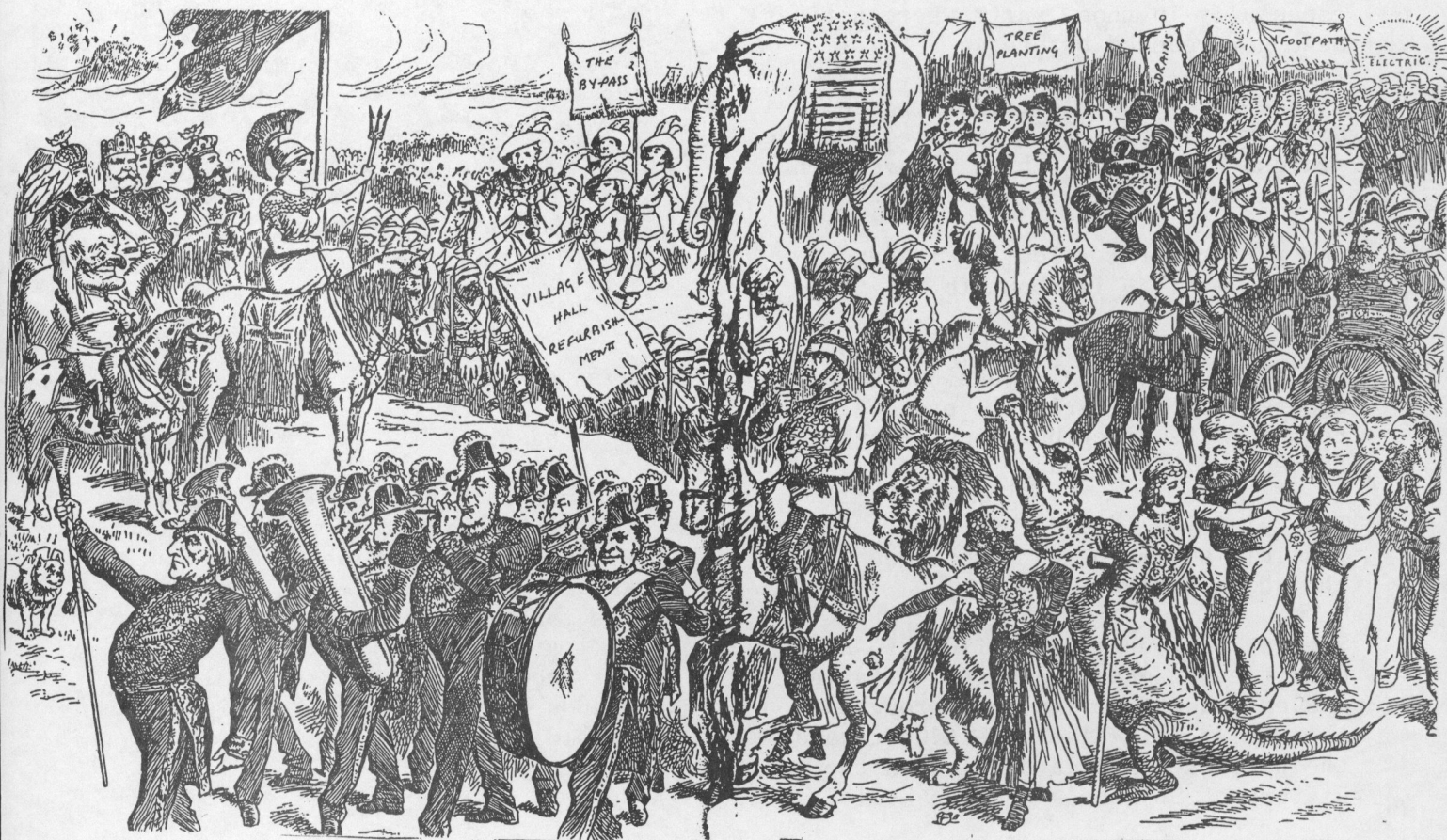


# KEELE PARISH NEWS

April 1991

Vol. 2 No. 22



March past of the Old Parish Council

## *The Parish Meet*

There was no doubt that Spring was in the air on the 9th April. Not only were the tulips and daffs thrusting forth but so were Keele parishioners as they came to while away an hour or so at the Village Hall. Not just to view the flowery ensemble sported by the Keele Parish Council Chairman, nor his peach shirt and handkerchief ensuite, but it was, of course, the Annual Parish Meeting, where the Parish Council - those masochistic stalwarts - account for their past year. Indeed, this year they were accounting for the past four years since for several this will be their last parish meeting - elections for a new Council (in a manner of speaking only) will take place in May. And what had Robin's band of merry men and women been up to over the year? Read on patient reader as they have not sat idly by and watched the grass and hedges grow - well, they have, but they did attempt to do something about it - like lobbying farmers and the Borough Council to cut the green stuff and to cut it properly! Not as easy a task as it may seem. The by-pass around the village is now a certainty and will begin within the next 5 weeks and take about 18 months to complete. Those of us seeking retirement will do so in the knowledge that at least the 8 years of fighting for it has finally borne fruit and at least, a decent road. Please continue to report all accidents to Dr Naylor.

The Village Hall has been extended to include proper lavatory and kitchen facilities and has been partially re-roofed.

New noticeboards have appeared, especially in those parts where notices have not reached before.

An emergency vehicle turning place in Highway Lane has been completed and the drains - too much with us - have been investigated exhaustively.

The War Memorial - feeling its age - aren't we all - is about to be repaired.

A list of listed buildings has been updated for the Parish to protect and register its nicer buildings - and there aren't that many.

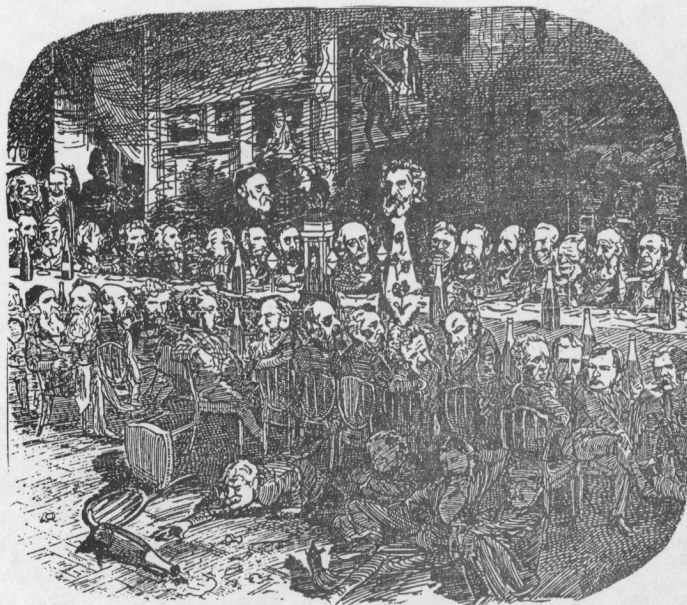
Tree planting is underway with a possible scheme being undertaken for the whole Parish.

The Parish Council gave £1000 to Keele Charities to enable a more equitable and extended distribution throughout the Parish. It also gave £400 towards the publication of a booklet on the History of St John's Church, Keele.

The Parish Council met this year with members of the University re. the University development plan and since the news about the by-pass filtered around the 'developing fraternity', the Parish Council has, it hopes, successfully defended as Green Belt land, those areas where developers and landowners wished to build numerous houses.

The meeting was addressed by officers of the Borough Council who spoke about the 'green plan' for Keele and the replanting scheme and especially about tree preservation orders (TPOs).

And, as by this time we were all totally mesmerised by the Chairman's floral tribute, the meeting closed.



*"And now, before the meeting begins, I feel I must call my tie to order."*

### ***Parish Council News...***

#### **The By-pass**

The contract for this has been awarded to Wrekin Construction and work will begin soon. The Parish Council has asked for early notification of any roads that will/may be closed to facilitate construction. It is understood that roads may be closed at weekends only, although traffic lights and hold ups will be expected.

#### **A New(er) Council Emerges**

The Newcastle Parish Councils Association has re-emerged. It has become necessary for Parish Councils to 'get together' to discuss matters of mutual interest and for lobbying purposes in those areas where they are not being listened to by the upper echelons of local Government. The new Chairman is Mr Ashbolt of Betley Parish Council. One of the first matters that they could discuss is the intended widening of the M6. A secretary will be elected in May after the local elections have taken place. We wish this new Association well and a longer and more fruitful life than the last association of Parish Councils.

#### **As do old footpaths**

Believe it or not there are footpaths in Keele Parish that would need a band of archaeologists to dig and rediscover - so covered are they with undergrowth



and debris of past decades of hedge and grass cuttings, leaf fall and general neglect by the powers that be. So narrow have they become that on a walk around the parish, our beloved Chairman was unable to walk side by side (let alone hand in hand) with his fellow Parish Councillor! On this occasion one would refrain from suggesting a new dietary plan for these two, as clearly this would not solve the problem completely. The footpaths have indeed become narrower over the years as our Chairman has become wider. Clearly, action needs to be taken by the local farmers whose responsibility it is to clean away cuttings and other debris and by the Borough Council who, we believe, has a statutory duty to maintain footpaths - at least to the state where people can walk on them safely. This can't always be done in the Parish of Keele!

#### Draining our energies



*"By Neptune! See what I've found blocking them there drains!"*

Regular readers of the KPN will be forgiven for assuming that the Parish Council has an obsession with drains - it has! Once more the Borough Council has been called out to look at them - and not a pretty sight to see, are they. There are several blockages which result in overflowing drains when it rains. The matter is exacerbated by natural springs which also erupt in wet

weather. It is hoped that, when the by-pass is being built, any broken drains will be discovered which could solve the drainage ills of Keele once and for all - but don't hold your breath!

#### Notice the Board

The post master has suggested that a noticeboard be erected outside the Post Office where it is likely to be noticed. The Parish Council welcomed the suggestion in principle and decided that this would be a matter for the new Parish Council to consider.

#### Posting box



*"I have all this to post and nowhere to put it!"*

Are postboxes getting thinner or letters getting fatter? This question was of burning interest to the Parish Council this month when a complaint was received that letters are flowing out of the post box! Clearly Keele Post Box has regurgitation problems and it was suggested that a larger and more rotund box be installed forthwith, with a back-up from an extra box, possibly to be situated somewhere 'near the Hawthorns'. It was noted that the delivery of mail to some parts of the Parish was getting later and later. Gone are the days when you could set your watch, or your 'teasmade', to the sound of letters splatting onto the hall floor, it seems.

### Listing Buildings

Photographs have been taken around the Parish of the buildings that the Parish Council wishes to list. Copies are obtainable from the Photographic Unit, The Library, Keele University, should anyone be interested. The photographs are of:- Home Farm, Home Farm outbuildings, The University Chapel, The Sneyd Arms, Top Farm, Larchwood gates, the Summer House (Larchwood), and Keele Farmhouse.

PS. The Parish Council is to recommend refusal for the siting of 15 touring caravans at Home Farm.

### Financing Parish Councils

The Chairman, along with other representatives of Parish Councils in the Borough, attended a meeting with the leader of the Newcastle Borough Council to discuss the funding of Parish Councils now that the Poll Tax is operating (at least, it was at the time!). It was pointed out to Councillor Brereton that some Parish Councils are finding it difficult to make ends meet, especially those Parish Councils that have to maintain playing fields and Town Halls. Keele has lost all its revenue from the Service Station and the University although the services provided by the Parish Council are still being used by those attending the University or using the Service Station. Councillor Brereton promised that he would seek a revision of the way that Parish Councils are funded by the Borough.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 15 May at 7.00 pm.

### Village News...

#### Garden Guild

Mr Deaville of Aston Farm addressed the March meeting of the Garden Guild on Organic Farming. Mr Deaville has been 'organic' for quite some time and is well known for producing vegetables, delicious cheeses and ice-creams, and now meat and bread from his farm shop.

In April, the subject was bee keeping, the speaker being Mr R Malkin, who spoke knowledgeably on the habits, life cycle and usefulness of bees.

#### W.I.

In February Dr Roach spoke about Volcanoes - on what must have been the coldest February night for many a year. His slides showed the scale and devastating effects of some volcanoes. The most unusual rock/fossil competition was won by Miss F Jones.

The March meeting was the AGM and Mrs J Jervis and the committee were re-elected for another year. A Bring and Buy Stall was well patronised.

In April Valerie Baynton from Royal Doulton spoke about the company and its products - which included drain pipes and sanitary ware as well as fine china.

#### Homes Wanted

The University Chaplain, Father Richard Sullivan, has asked that the following be brought to the attention of all parishioners. For the past 2 years French Students have been coming to Keele under the ERASMUS scheme. They are not, however, provided with any accommodation. If there is anyone in the Parish prepared to rent a room for the period October - December and for the month of January, please write to the following address as soon as possible for further details:

Mademoiselle S Porhiel  
16 Rue Audusson  
4900 ANGERS  
FRANCE.

The students are mainly female and are described by Father Sullivan as being 'excellent people, well behaved and very considerate'. This could be a marvellous opportunity to improve your French!

#### Road Humps

A joint circular from the Department of Transport and the Welsh Office (54/90)



gives guidance on the new Highways (Road Humps) legislations (S1/1990/713) and related matters. These new regulations allow much greater flexibility and take into account the desire of many highway authorities to see road humps used more widely. (Keele has always wanted some!) The regulations permit humps only on roads with a speed limit of 30 mph or less. Non-technical questions about the interpretation of the regulations can be addressed to R S Division, Room C17/08, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB. Also, the Department of Transport's Advisory Unit has issued a leaflet 'Speed Control Humps', giving brief details of the new regulations, etc. Enquiries to Traffic Policy Division, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB.

### Green Belts

From the Department of the Environment, the following Planning Policy Guidance (PPG2 Jan 1988) on Green Belts:-

*The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts, which have been an essential element of planning policy for more than 3 decades... The first official proposal 'to provide a reserve supply of public open spaces and of recreational areas and to establish a green belt or girdle of open space' was made by the Greater London Regional Planning Committee in 1935... Green belts approved through structure plans now cover approximately 4,500,000 acres...*

*Green Belts have 5 purposes - to check unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas; to safeguard the surrounding countryside from further encroachment; to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; to preserve the special character of historic towns; and to assist in urban regeneration.*

*The essential characteristic of Green Belts is their permanence and their protection must be maintained as far as can be seen ahead... Once the general extent of a Green Belt has been approved it should be altered only in*

*exceptional circumstances...*

The document also outlines Guidelines for the future use of redundant hospital sites in Green Belts... It does not indicate, however, what is to happen to redundant patients in these areas.

### Complaints

Several complaints have been made by parishioners, especially those living in the village, who have been disturbed by the behaviour of some of the conference delegates at Keele University. The complaints range from general rowdiness to lewd behaviour and damage to gardens and property. It was suggested that bills for damage to property be sent to Keele Hospitality, forthwith.



And we say farewell to some of our Parish Councillors.

"Goodbyeee, Goodbyeee,  
wipe a tear from your eye,  
Goodbye!"

Keele Parish Council Elections

The following 16 candidates will be standing for election to the Parish Council on May 2nd. There are 11 places on the Council. Polling booths are located in Keele Village Hall and in the Walter Moberly Hall Annexe of the University. The abbreviated addresses given below are as recorded in the Registers of Electors.

Christine A. Abercrombie, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Proposer: Doris M. Mackey, The Village, Keele.  
Seconder: Kathleen Davies, Knights Croft, Keele.

Ian J. Anderson-Palmer, Post Office, The Village, Keele.  
Proposer: Frank McAdams, Church Fields, Keele.  
Seconder: Alice Rollings, The Village, Keele.

Robert F. Ashton, Whitmore Road, Keele.  
Proposer: Stuart P. Jervis, The Village, Keele.  
Seconder: Jennifer M. Ashton, Whitmore Road, Keele.

Peter Capener, Racecourse Farm, Whitmore Road, Whitmore.  
Proposer: Colin S. Exley, Pepper Street, Keele.  
Seconder: William G. Mercer, Lymes Road, Keele.

Margaret J. Capper, Church Bank, Keele.  
Proposer: Hubert N. Moss, Church Bank, Keele.  
Seconder: Hilda Wood, Quarry Bank, Keele.

Harry Cartwright, Bridle Path, Seabridge, Newcastle-under-Lyme.  
Proposer: Harry Jones, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Seconder: Gladys Evans, Highway Lane, Keele.

Mairwen Evans, The Village, Keele.  
Proposer: Freda M. Jones, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Seconder: Ivy Humphries, The Village, Keele.

Susan M. Hughes, Pepper Street, Keele.  
Proposer: Terence M. Keeler, Pepper Street, Keele.  
Seconder: Jean Vyse, Pepper Street, Keele.

Ian B. Jefferies, Station Road, Keele.  
Proposer: Rossmerrrie E. Bostock, Pepper Street, Keele.  
Seconder: Lesley A. Sherry, Pepper Street, Keele.

Jean C. Jervis, The Village, Keele.  
Proposer: Mabel E. Richards, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Seconder: John R. (Robin) Studd, Larchwood, Keele.

Pamela Audrey Johnson, Quarry Bank, Keele.  
Proposer: Ethel Spragg, Pepper Street, Keele.  
Seconder: Susan M. Hughes, Pepper Street, Keele.

Harry Jones, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Proposer: Horace H. Lafford, Highway Lane, Keele.  
Seconder: Norman R.L. Evans, Highway Lane, Keele.



William G. Mercer, Lymes Road, Keele.

Proposer: Ian B. Jefferies, Station Road, Keele.

Second: Terence M. Keeler, Pepper Street, Keele.

John Naylor, Highway Lane, Keele.

Proposer: Ian J. Anderson-Palmer, Post Office, The Village, Keele.

Second: Brian A. Isaac, Station Road, Keele.

John A. Roberts, Pepper Street, Keele.

Proposer: Peter Johnson, Quarry Bank, Keele.

Second: Colin S. Exley, Pepper Street, Keele.

John R. (Robin) Studd, Larchwood, Keele.

Proposer: David K. Adams, Springpool, Keele.

Second: Jean C. Jervis, The Village, Keele.

### University News...

#### Exhibitions

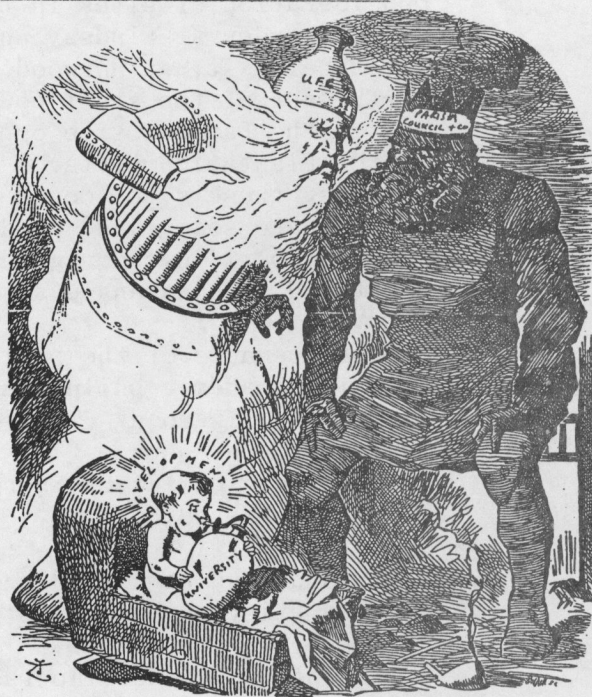
There will be 2 exhibitions in April/May. Trevor Methven, artist and art teacher at Madeley High School has a memorial exhibition at Keele, to be opened by the Headmaster of Madeley High School on Sunday, 26 April at 3.00 pm. Mr Methven died suddenly last year, just as his exhibition was being arranged.

On the same afternoon, the exhibition of Chinese paintings by Ling Chi Ying will also open. Ms Suning Sun-Barley, Lecturer in the Fine Art Department of Staffordshire Polytechnic, will talk at 4.00 pm on Chinese Painting, in the FY Lecture Theatre, Chancellor's Building. All are welcome.

Both exhibitions will end on May 23rd.

On 26 May there will be an exhibition of Art work by art teachers of Staffordshire County Council. This exhibition will be displayed in the Chancellor's Building concourse and Art Gallery and will continue until 23 June. The exhibition is being co-ordinated by Mr John Thelwall, Inspector for Art for Staffordshire County Council. The last day for this exhibition will co-incide with Keele's Annual Open Day on Saturday 22 June. **Come one, come all!**

### The University Plans ahead



"WHAT WILL HE GROW TO?"

The latest Gazette featured the future plans being considered by the university - some of which were discussed with the Parish Council last year.

The University proposes:-

a) to preserve the beauty of the site by avoiding the destruction of woodland and arranging new buildings to form new groups and quadrangles with existing ones;

- b) to preserve the separation of vehicular and pedestrian access;
- c) to emphasise the central 'forum' based upon Chapel, Library and Union as the natural social centre of the University;
- d) to site halls of residence on the periphery of the academic area in such a way as to give them good access to it while allowing staff houses to be grouped at the outer edges.

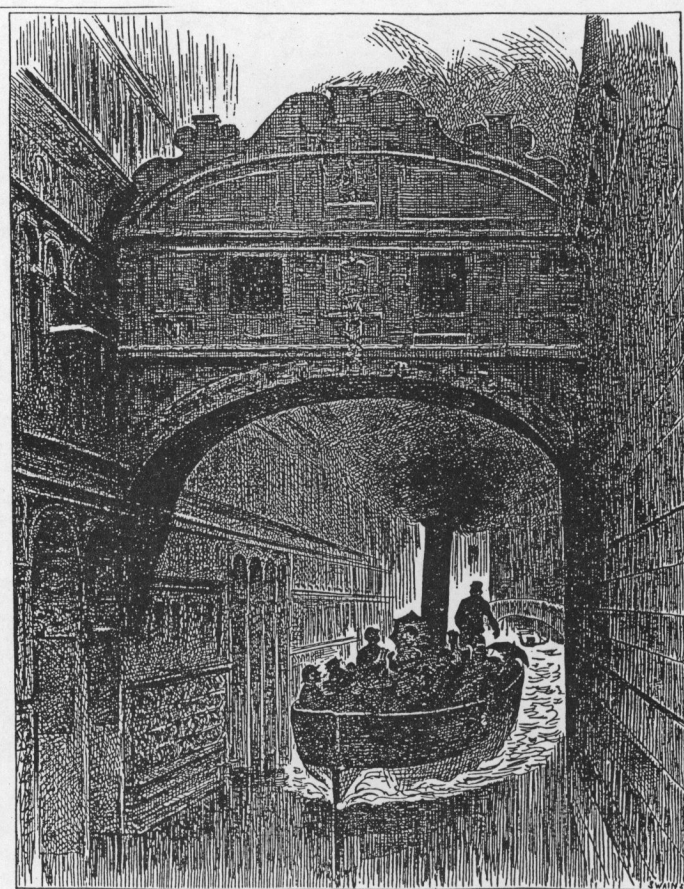
The University is to consider:

1. The expansion of student **residential accommodation** at higher standards than built in the 1970s. It recommends consideration of sites in the walled garden at Lindsay and the field below it; at Horwood to the north-east of the staff houses; and on the Paddock site opposite Church Plantation flats. Together these sites could accommodate some 1,400 student rooms in buildings designed in courtyard or quadrangle style.
2. The maintenance of the policy of locating **academic buildings** within the ringroad. The review suggests future space requirements be met by increased density achieved by:
  - a) constructing new buildings between existing buildings;
  - b) adding additional floors onto existing buildings where possible;
  - c) linking new buildings to existing buildings where possible to continue the formation of courtyards/quadrangles within the campus area; and
  - d) designing layouts so as to enforce major pedestrian routes, making them busier and easier to secure.

3. For the **central forum** the plan recommends for consideration the arrangement of new buildings so as to create two forum spaces linked with a water feature. Shops linked to a Library extension are suggested along with development in front of the Students' Union Building and developments linking Walter Moberly and Tawney, perhaps in the form of an arts centre.
4. With expansion and the creation of the Keele bypass, the review recommends a new **main entrance** to the University. It is suggested that it run from the point at which the bypass leaves the old Keele Road coming from a roundabout to the present ringroad by running parallel to the existing frontage of the Sports Centre.
5. A higher density development within the ringroad leads to recommendations that the majority of **car parking requirements** are achieved by means of periphery car parks - by the enlargement and improvement of certain existing car parks; by parking associated with the new developments, particularly halls of residence; and by increased use of 'roadside' parking accessed off existing roads. A multi-storey car park may be needed at some later stage.

Shepherd, Epstein and Hunter plc prepared the above plan for consideration to complement the submission to the UFC who had requested a Planning Statement from all Universities.





*And here we have the water garden feature linking the Walter Moberly Hall with the Tawney Building. Sea sickness pills will be issued at the entrance.*

#### Church News...

A Spring Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 4 May, starting at 3.00 pm. There will be stalls and refreshments. Admission 25p for Church funds.

Keele Parish News is published every two months. Editorial by Angela Drakakis-Smith and Margaret Capper. Printed by Keele Students' Union. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor.