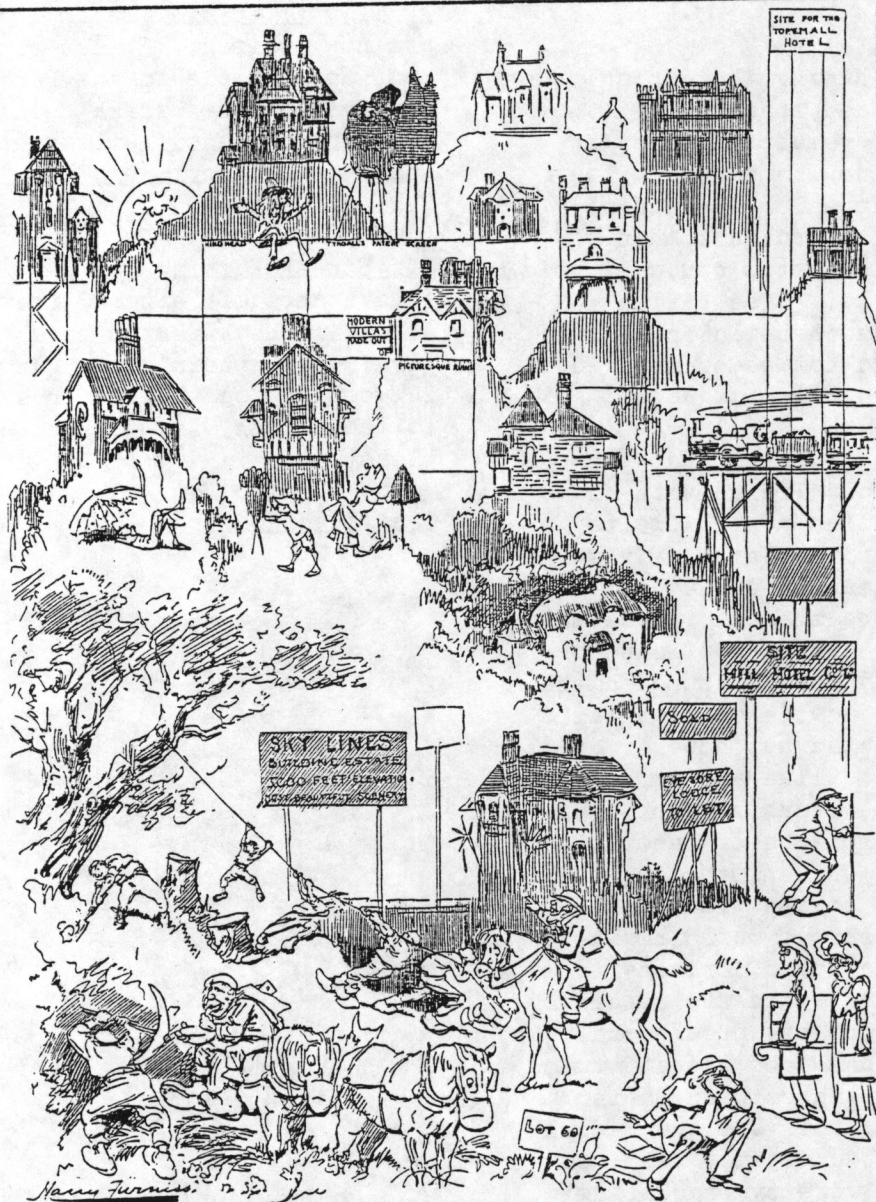


KEELE PARISH NEWS

April 1990

Vol 2 no 17



SKY-SIGNS IN THE COUNTRY. (AS SEEN BY OUR ARTIST IN SEARCH OF THE PICTURESQUE) 1990

"Plus ça change"

University Expansion

At the meeting in February the Parish Council was informed that Newcastle Borough Council had refused permission for the development of student maisonettes, proposed by the University as part of its expansion plan on the Paddock along Keele Drive. After a site visit the Borough Council had voted against the development on the grounds that 'the development, if permitted, would result in an increase in traffic to the estate road and Keele village that would constitute a danger to road users and the proposal would be injurious to the visual amenities of the area by the introduction of an incongruous and visually intrusive feature'. At the site meeting it had been pointed out that there were alternative sites, there was inadequate provision for parking for residents and visitors & there was inadequate screening so that the buildings would intrude upon the skyline. The generation of extra traffic and the close proximity of buildings to the oak trees was also mentioned. An alternative site was suggested - on the car park behind the Students' Union.

It was generally agreed that the buildings were pleasing and of a much improved design compared with other architecture apparent (or not) on the campus.

At its meeting in March, the Parish Council were informed that the University were to resubmit plans for the same paddock and if necessary the University would appeal. The Parish Council also heard of rumours that, if necessary, the maisonettes could be sold on the private market. The Parish Council felt that such building 'enterprise' should not be encouraged in what is, 'the green belt' of Keele.

Once again it was suggested that the Parish Council should liaise with the University authorities regarding its planning policy for the University's expansion. Some members felt that the University should be treated in the same way as any other planning applicant or that the University should approach the Parish Council for advice on planning first. It was pointed out however, that the University is, unlike any other parishioner a multi-planning applicant and it would therefore be of benefit to the Parish and the University if the University were to liaise with the Parish Council on campus building in the future. This would avoid acrimony in the parish, it would avoid the seemingly pointless expenditure on appeals and it would help the rather poor and at times strained communication between parish and university. To this end the Parish Council, after heated debate, resolved to write to the University requesting that the Vice-Chancellor or a representative meet with the Parish Council to discuss the University's planning policy for future expansion.

The Parish Council approved the refurbishment of the Sports Centre reception area; the Lindsay Hall Refectory with the proviso that there would be sufficient entrances and exits.

It did not however approve of the illuminated sign outside the Sports Centre which it considered to be inappropriate for a rural area.

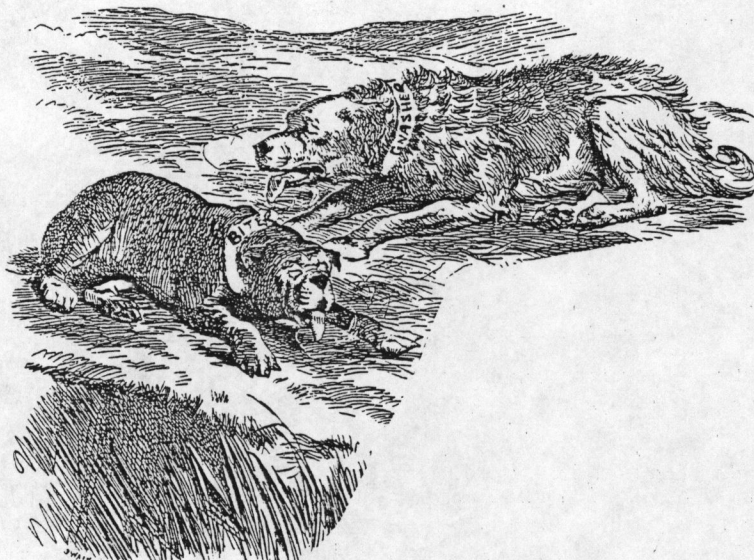
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 24 April at 7.30 pm. Items for the agenda are now invited. Please send them as soon as possible to the Parish Clerk or Chairman of the Parish Council. The Parish Council will meet on Wednesday 25 April at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Off Street Parking

Inhabitants of Pepper Street are to be asked if they wish to have off-street parking for their cars. Any comments or suggestions on the matter should be sent to the Parish Clerk as soon as possible, please.

Control of Dogs



"Cor blimey, after that bit of aggro, couldn't move another muscle."

It was drawn to the attention of the Parish Council that some owners of dogs are not controlling them properly. Some dogs in the parish are being left untethered in gardens to act as guard dogs for the premises. Passers-by are being intimidated by the dogs' behaviour. The Parish Council would like to hear from any parishioner who has been intimidated by parish dogs.

Listed Buildings

A list of 'listed buildings' was sent to the Parish Council by the Borough Council, on request. The Parish Council was singularly unimpressed with the list. It was pointed out that the list was out-of-date and that many buildings of historical or architectural interest were not on the list. The Parish Council is to compile a list of its own in due course via a sub-committee comprising John Naylor, Angela Drakakis-Smith and Chris Harrison. The sub-committee is to report to the Parish Council at its next meeting.

Tree Planting

The Parish Council is to ask Dr. Goodway and Mrs. Naylor to look at the rest of the Parish with a view to tree planting. The Parish Council would welcome ideas and the views of the parish community on this issue. As Keele Parish is a rural community, 'rural' trees are needed to complement the environment, it was suggested.

Civic Trust Awards

The Civic Trust are inviting nominations for buildings, conservation schemes or projects which enhance the environment which have been completed in the last year 1989/90. Although it was thought that the Conference Centre would be a worthy project for nomination, the Parish Council decided not to nominate it - given their opposition to it last year.

Satellite Dishes

Planning permission is not needed for satellite dishes being erected in a conservation area - provided they are not placed above roof height and certain measurement requirements are met.

Turning Space

Tenders had been invited from builders for the turning space in Highway Lane. The Parish Council agreed that the tender from the Borough Council was the cheapest and most professionally presented. The work is to commence as soon as possible and Mr. Harry Jones was elected to be the Parish Council 'inspector' for the project.

Hedges

Following a request to the Borough Council, the majority of hedges overgrowing the footpath along the A525

had been cut. Owners of overgrown hedges on private land are to be asked to do the same.

Poll Tax at Keele



"As we're paying £5 extra we may as well get our monies' worth. Any more rubbish in there we can put on the pavement?"

An extra £5 has been levied on the poll tax rate for Keele. All complaints to the Leader of the Borough Council, please. The Parish Council is to make representation for elderly parishioners (& anyone else for that matter) to pay their poll tax at the local Post Office.

Waymarking

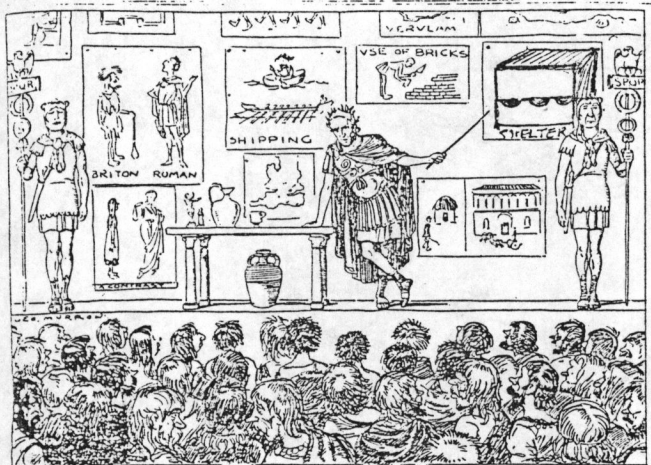
Mr Keith Morris has almost completed the waymarking in Keele Parish and most of the gates have been completed. Mr. Morris and the Parish Council would like to thank the farmers concerned who have been most helpful in assisting him with the project.

Noticeboard

The saga of the noticeboard is fast replacing that of the bus shelter on the Parish Council agenda. A book is being taken to see if it will be as long running! A recess is to be made in the village hall hedge to accommodate the noticeboard, which will be erected in the Village Hall car park.

Mr. Bedson has kindly given permission for his gatepost to be moved 1-1½ ft to give better visibility out of Highway Lane. The work will be undertaken in due course.

Bus Shelter



MARGINAL NOTES ON HISTORY.

"Of course in Rome we have sides on our chariot shelters."

Some users have pointed out that whilst the erection of the bus shelter has totally changed their lives, it would benefit those who have to brave the wind and the rain whilst waiting for a bus, if the bus shelter had sides to it. As it stands, those waiting for a bus may as well be standing in the open. Borough Council please note!

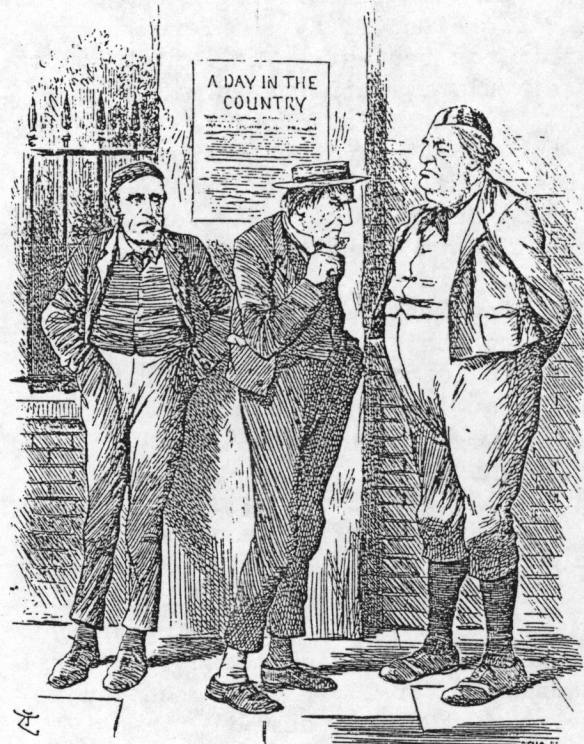
Litter

It was noted that some distributors of leaflets for companies, instead of delivering advertising leaflets via letterboxes, are simply flinging them from their vehicle window as they drive through the parish. This is contributing to the litter problem in Keele. Parishioners are requested to take the number of vehicles doing this and/or hand the leaflets to the Parish Council Chairman or Clerk. The Borough Council is also to be asked to clear litter from Keele Parish especially along the Whitmore Road and at Red Heath. Whatever happened to the friendly road sweeper?

Paperbank

There is already a paperbank behind the Students' Union it seems. There is another at the Goose Street car park.

The Mayor of Newcastle Walks



"Wish we could go to the country."

"And so you shall - come walk with me & raise some cash so local charities we may improve Pull on your boots, pull up your socks and let's get on the move ... Tra la! "

The Mayor of Newcastle has taken as his theme for the year, 'Links with the Parishes'. To this end he has met and entertained Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks twice. At the end of March he embarked on a sponsored 3 day walk through all the parishes which come within the Borough of Newcastle, to raise money for the Mayor's Charities. The three day event took place from 28th to 30th March and the total walk was 51 miles. The Parish Council has sponsored him for £100 to recognise his efforts and it is hoped that parishioners will also support him. He arrived at Keele University at 9.40 am (starting off from the Borough Council Offices at 9.00 am on 28th March) and Chris Harrison provided coffee and a tot to the walkers. Here's to the Mayor's feet!

Whitelining

The Local Authority has informed the Parish Council that they will not extend the double white lines over the brow of Rosemary Hill. To do so would mean involving the Department of Transport in speed and visibility checks. As there have been no reported accidents or injuries at this particular point, no action is being taken.

PARISH NEWS

Garden Guild

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild was held on 12th February. A successful year was reported and members had been entertained throughout the year by some very able speakers. The officers and committee agreed to remain for a further term of office. The meeting was rounded off by Mr. Surplice who showed his slides of Southern Norway.

Best Kept Village



"Ee Sir, you'll have to do better than this if you want to win the Best Kept Village Competition."

The Parish Council has entered, once more, the Best Kept Village Competition. Mrs. Naylor has agreed to be coordinator. Watch this space!

KEELE LANDSCAPES -

Looking back, Looking forward by W. Naylor

A very enjoyable evening held on Friday, February 16th in the Village Hall helped to raise £247 for the village church spire fund and the New Keele Day Nursery.

Dr. Keith Goodway provided a unique perspective on the village landscape, everyone came away ready to see our familiar surroundings with a new clarity of vision. In common with other authorities Dr. Goodway reminded us that the present stately generation of trees is coming to the natural end of its lifespan; there are few 'middle aged' trees in Keele, or indeed in Britain as a whole, since these should have been planted thirty or more years ago (but generally, weren't). In order that the Keele people of 100 years hence shall be able to enjoy a village landscape at least as attractive as we have now, it is vital that new tree planting gets under way.

While individual tastes vary and individual garden design can add to the interest of communities, it was suggested by our speaker, Dr. Goodway, that villages and communities which try to create real style in the landscape by encouraging an integrated approach to new tree and shrub planting will be leaving future generations a visual heritage in the great tradition of the finest English country landscapes. Trees of certain suitable species are available free, together with stakes, through Staffordshire County Council and the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). The contact who can advise what is available is Mrs. Wenslie Naylor, Smithy House, Keele Tel: 627243. Working parties can also be arranged for planting next autumn.

For all help and assistance which contributed to the success of 'Keele Landscapes' evening, thanks to the following:

Dr. Keith Goodway, Rev. J. Whitehead & members of the Parochial Church Council, Keele University Hospitality Services, Educational Technology Unit, Keele University, Table 1 in the Sneyd, New Victoria Theatre, Students' Union Print Service & Mrs. Pat Borsky, kind donors of gifts for the raffle, John Naylor, University Library & last, but not least, willing helpers on the night itself and all who sold tickets!

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Summer Celebrations



"It's alright mama we're just going to cut a dash at Keele University's Open Day. Coming?"

The University is planning an open day for 16 June as part of its celebratory year. The University and grounds will be open for the day. There will be a Victorian Garden Party, Charity Stalls, a Teddy Bears Picnic and bouncing castle, an Art Mart, dancing, music and food. The Parish Council is to have a stall for the day - volunteers to man it please contact the Parish Clerk. The Keele W.I. and Garden Guild have also been asked to participate.

There will be an exhibition to show the life and work of George Ewart-Evans, historian, novelist, poet and broadcaster from 28th April in the Chancellor's Building art gallery. This exhibition is toured by the Council of Museums in Wales. Born in the Welsh valleys, Evans was a teacher before deafness occasioned early retirement. He wrote on rural themes and was a pioneer of oral history.

Members of the University staff have set up an informal open forum which will express its concern for the welfare of employees within the University. After several suicides, some members of staff had felt that the time had come to 'take stock'. The forum will be held at least once per term. The Vice Chancellor was

present 'to listen' and he said that communication was important given the massive changes that were taking place at the University. He went on to say that as Vice Chancellor he had maintained an 'open door' policy and hoped that any member of staff, academic or otherwise would enter when necessary. He said that he hoped that groups would meet within the University regularly to discuss problems so that information and communication would filter up and down the management line.

CHURCH NEWS

Easter Services

Holy Week 8th - 14th April

Palm Sunday - palm crosses will be distributed.

Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion 6.30 pm

Good Friday - One home devotion 2.00 pm

Easter Day, 15 April

Holy Communion - 8.00 am

Family Service - 11.00 am

Evensong - 6.30 pm

Congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Capper who has been made a Church Warden - the first woman to make this position in the history of Keele church.

SCHOOL NEWS

Musical Workshop

One of the artists/musicians who exhibited instruments in the recent fourth world musical instruments, at Keele University is to give a workshop based on the Gamelin Orchestra of Indonesia, to children from St. John's Keele and The Meadows Primary School, on 2nd April at 1.00 pm. The event is being partially sponsored by Art Exhibitions, Keele University.

Easter Service in school and on Friday 6th April a short service in St. John's Church at 1.30 pm for classes 3.4. & 5. Parishioners welcome for communion.

Easter Concert - Thursday, April 5th at 1.30 pm - an Easter celebration at the school.

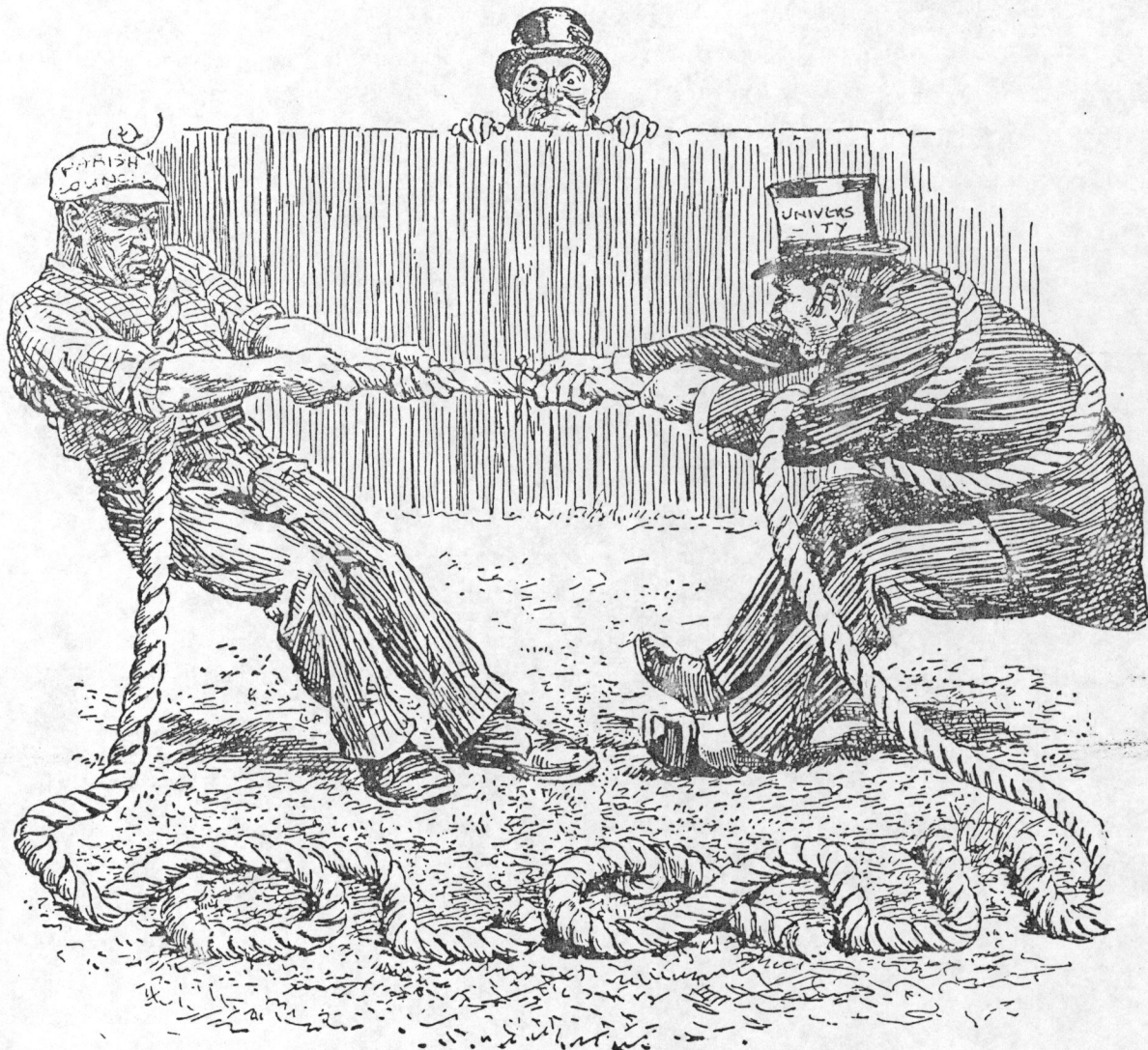
Summer Fair - June 9th

Advanced warning-and it might be Elizabethan to link in with Newcastle Borough celebrations. Book fair, exciting stalls and events. Put it in your diary.

A Sale of Seconds Clothes from leading manufacturers at the school, raised over £50.

*Keele Parish News is published every two months,
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with assistance from Christine Wilcox.*

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not necessarily those of the Parish Council or those of
the Editor.*



"I don't think this is accomplishing anything.
You boys need to sit down + talk things through!"

KEELE LITTER BUSTERS - by Wensley Naylor

A fine sunny morning, March 14th, saw top juniors from St. John's School, Keele, their teachers and a band of trainee graduate teachers from the University spotting and mapping (and in the case of drink cans recovering) LITTER strewn along the highways and byways of the village.

The project was enjoyed by all who took part, and the work produced by the children in follow-up to the survey was of an exceptionally high standard. Local newspapers recorded the event and Best Kept Village Coordinator for 1990 Wenslie Naylor hopes the information recorded will provide a starting point for further events and projects aimed at clearing Keele of the litter menace. Residents may be interested to learn that by far the majority of the rubbish was food wrappers, drinks cans and cigarette packets - just exactly the sort of debris that certain types of passing motorists assail us with, the length and breadth of Britain.

UNKNOWN SPAIN from W Naylor

If you think you know Spain, think again ... On Friday, May 18th, 7.30-9.30 p.m., there will be a vividly-illustrated talk on Spain's wilder reaches in the Village Hall, together with an opportunity to sample a selection of Spanish wines and tapas. Entrance by ticket. Funds raised will go to the Keele Church Spire Fund and the New Keele Day Nursery Fund. There is also the attraction of a magnificent raffle, with prizes of high quality donated by companies located in the Keele Parish area. WATCH FOR PUBLICITY!