

KEELE PARISH NEWS

August 1987

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"He says they don't want a conference centre in the village, Your Imperial Majesty."

The report issuing from the public enquiry, permitting the university to build a conference centre, phase 1, at the Villa on the A525 has been forwarded to the parish council. The findings of the inspector were that the new building would not increase the traffic or traffic hazards on the A525, obstruct the view of residents or detract from the appearance of the village. In fact, so unimpressed with the Borough Council and Parish Council arguments was the inspector that he has even awarded costs of the enquiry to the University and the Borough will have to pay! Insult to injury, you may say, more so now that the Parish Council has been asked to approve planning permission for lorries to enter the site on the A525, between the third and fourth trees on the left of the Villa. The least the Parish Council can hope for is that the University will derive great wealth from the enterprise and bestow grace and favour upon the village, thereby attempting to heal the rift between 'town' and 'gown' that the exercise has occasioned. Unless, of course, it transpires that money isn't the solution to all problems ...

In the meantime, parishioners will be prostrating themselves before the site lorries and chaining themselves to the JCB's in an attempt to assuage hurt feelings and overcome the frustration of not being listened to.

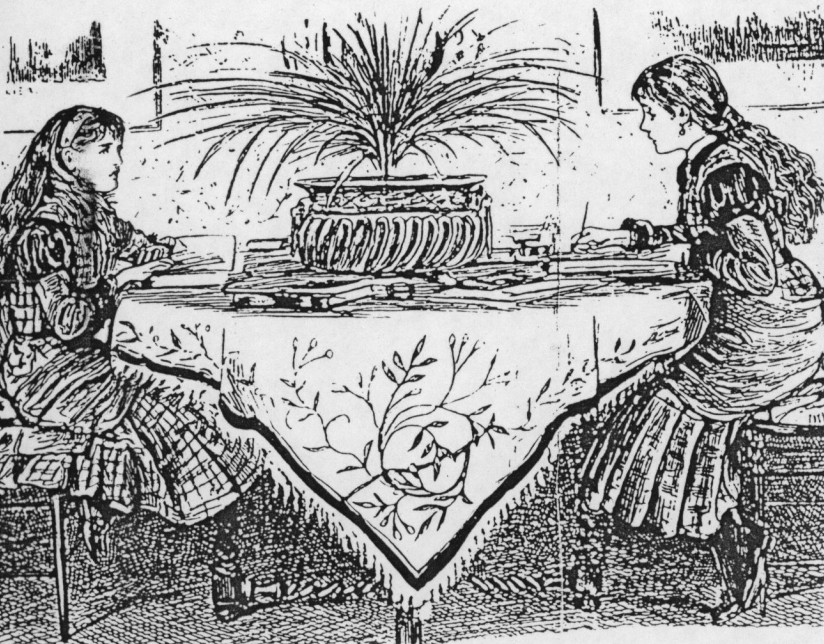
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



I'm glad they've solved the drainage problems at last ...

The parish council were to thank Mr. Conway and Mr. Lancashire of the Borough Council Technical Services Department for touring the parish to look at damp spots. Improved drainage in Church Bank, Church Fields and Pepper Street can be expected in the near future, also Redheath. The other blue spots will be monitored and attempts to keep drainage channels free of rubbish and debris will be made. The springs in Church Fields are to be monitored. Whilst the borough council officers were touring the area, the spring had dried up, only to bounce back the next day, as wet as ever.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE



"We'd better win this year or I'm writing to complain."

The Best Planted Container Competition was judged by Mr. John Downing on 25th July 1987. Winners to be announced later. The results of the Best Kept Village Comp will take place on 1st August at Great Bridgford Village Hall. Will Keele get a mention this year????

CONSERVATION AREA

There will be a meeting to discuss the possibility of making part of Keele a conservation area on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30pm. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. J. Berman of Newcastle Borough Council Planning Department.

CLERK DEPARTS



"Will I do?"

The parish council is reluctantly parting with Mrs. Rowena Gay, the Parish Clerk. The post has been advertised in the Sentinel, Keele Gazette and Keele Parish News. Closing date for applications is 21 August, which should be sent to Dr. R. Studd 21 Larchwood, Keele. Present salary is £1400 per annum. The parish council thanked Mrs. Gay for her good work over the last 3 years and were sorry to have to receive her resignation.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
for the coming year:

September 16th	February 17th
October 21st	March 16th
November 18th	April 20th
January 20th	May 18th

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

As part of the European Year of the Environment, Newcastle Borough Council invites folk to snap their local environment to highlight improvements made and areas which require treatment or action. The competition is open to amateur photographers. Further details can be obtained from the post office. Last date for entries is 2nd September.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Free bus passed for some children has been a bone of contention for some time. Anyone living less than 3 miles from the school is ineligible even though the route is unsafe for walking. A recent court case endorsed the fact that the nature of the route was as important as other factors. The parish council is considering raising such an issue with Staffordshire in an attempt to reverse their current ruling.

FREE TREES

National Tree Week this year is from 28 November to 6 December. The main theme is urban tree planting and there are limited funds available to assist parish councils with any tree planting they may wish to undertake. The parish council is considering this with a view to inter-planting between the decaying limes along the A525.

The parish council awarded £100 for reference books to the village school PTA, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The University library has kindly given a leaflet rack to the parish council for its library facility. Mr. H. Jones is to make some minor repairs to it and then it will be in use in the foyer of the village hall.

PARISH TOURIST LEAFLET



"There, there, it's not too late to advertise on the Parish Council tourist leaflet."

A base map has been prepared and items of tourist interest have been selected. It is hoped that now a proper map will be drawn and an artist commissioned to sketch in the highlights of the parish. It is also hoped that the cost will be covered by sponsorship. Any interested sponsors may contact the parish council chairman. The leaflet will be freely available to visitors. Word is already around John o' Groats and they have ordered a gross.

Keele Parish News is produced bi-monthly by the parish council, edited by Angela Drakakis-Smith and Margaret Capper, with assistance from Rowena Gay. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the parish council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rowena for her help with the Parish News while she has been Parish Clerk. Back to the marble tablets and chisel!

VILLAGE NEWS.....

W.I.



"Since the talk on nuclear power we're not taking any chances!"

The WI have been recipients of two thought-provoking speakers at their last two meetings.

The June meeting was addressed by Mrs. Plews who spoke on 'How to stay a well woman'. This entailed regular self-examination of breasts and regular screening for cervical cancer. In July Dr. R. Marshall spoke about the feasibility of nuclear energy. Dr. Marshall concluded that

- 1) nuclear power has not been economical to date;
- 2) risks are small;
- 3) potential catastrophe is likely;
- 4) suitable alternatives do exist and are to be preferred.

ARE PARISHIONERS AWARE THAT LORRIES OF THE KIND USED FOR CARRYING NUCLEAR WASTE HAVE BEEN SIGHTED COMING THROUGH KEELE IN CONVOY AT 3-4am ON WARM JUNE MORNINGS?

GARDEN GUILD

Pot plants were the subject of Mrs. Anne Lindop's talk to the Garden Guild's July meeting. She brought many potted plants with her and gave advice and many useful hints on rearing and keeping healthy pot plants. Try this one: to test if your plants need watering press a dry tissue to the surface soil. If it is dry when removed, water. Such a talk has come in the nick of time to help Best Planted Container competitors.

THE WALL



"Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble, build a perfect church wall out of old bits of rubble ..."

Those travelling along the A525 by the church will have noticed a wondrous transformation to the churchyard wall. If you haven't it is worth stopping to stare (only if on foot). Mr. Harry Jones says that this excellent work is being carried out by the MSC under the direction of a craftsman who has been building walls for the last 40 years. (Does the MSC provide fence-builders too?) The burning question is, will it impress the Best Kept Village Competition judges? And will the repair work cover the whole of the wall or just the bit in the middle. Time will tell.

VILLAGE HALL UPGRADE

The Village Hall Management Committee has submitted plans to upgrade the lavatory facilities of the village hall. While the Parish Council welcomed the plan, it was decided that more comprehensive alterations would be preferable, especially if the kitchen could be improved. Unfortunately, the parish is now suffering from the fact that such an important amenity as the village hall is too small and sited on a plot which is too restricted for any significant development.

PLAY SCHEME

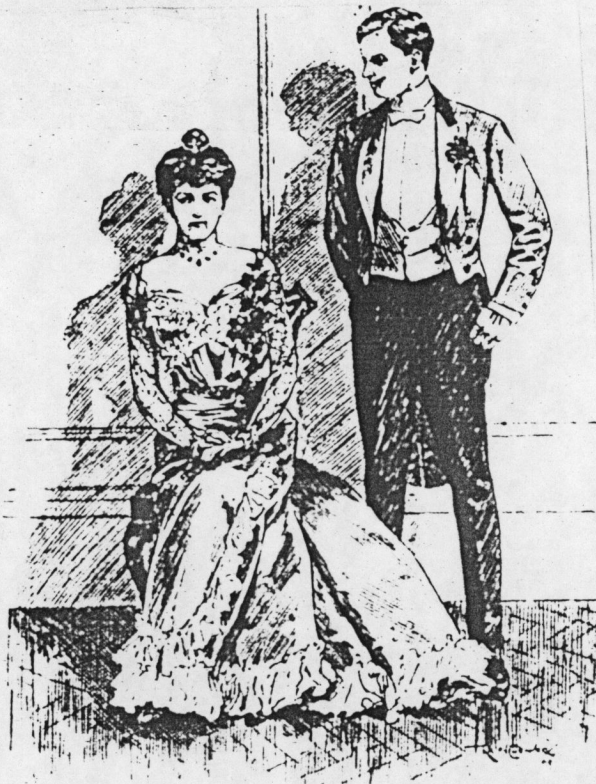
The Keele Playscheme will run again this year during the month of August. Over the past years it has been enormously popular with children and parents. Further information can be obtained from Jane Andrews 627537.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

The Society of Staffordshire Artists are holding their annual summer exhibition in the University Art Gallery. For many years this has been a popular event with Open University students, but local people also appreciate much of the work which depicts local scenes by local artists. This year's exhibition is particularly worth a visit.

HELP!

Anne Dineen is looking for part-time work looking after children and perhaps helping in the home. She will be available until mid- to late September and if you can use her services she can be contacted at the Students' Union.



"Don't be nervous Emily, they'll be bound to make you parish clerk when you tell them you can handle one of those demned new-fangled typewriting machines."

STOP PRESS

Staffordshire County Council has included the Keele By-Pass in its submission to the Ministry of Transport for approval for a start in 1988. We now await the government's decision on funding.