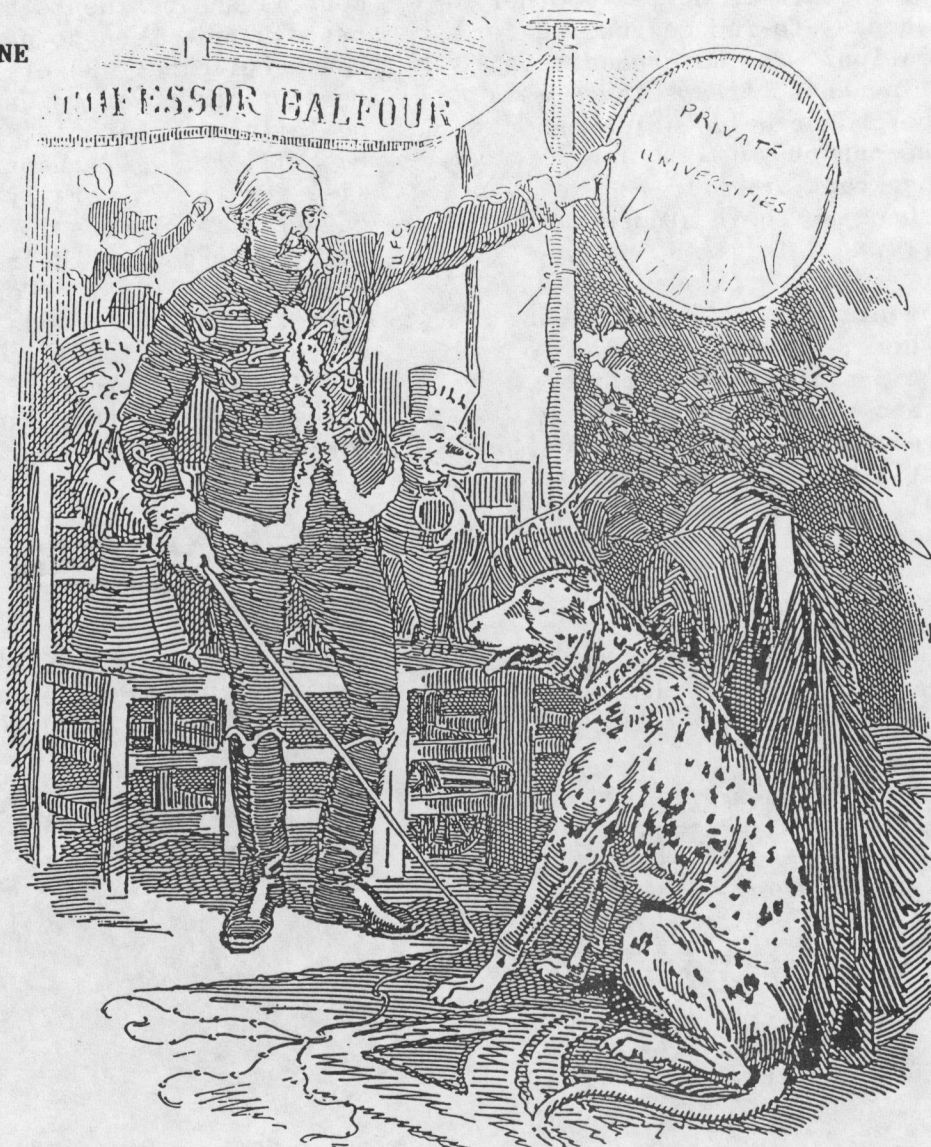


KEELE PARISH NEWS

December 1990

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A CANNY CANINE



"I don't ask anything original. But, hang it, you might go through the simple old trick!"

KEELE UNIVERSITY'S TEN YEAR PLAN

The University recently produced a development plan. This included the development of teaching buildings and accommodation to meet the needs of the University over the next decade.

Although there are open areas of land where development can take place, building from scratch is very expensive. Thus the planners have, in some instances, suggested developing existing buildings, e.g., building extra storeys on those existing buildings with flat roofs, and creating taller buildings for student accommodation - the University wishes to double its intake by the end of the decade.

All universities, recently, have heard that the University Funding Council had refused their bids which had been submitted as being the costs of educating students in particular subjects. The UFC had hoped that the Universities would undercut each other thereby reducing the cost of educating students.

This did not happen, so after a great deal of time, working hours and money had been spent on this national exercise, Universities are back to square one and the Government is back to the drawing board to devise another "spiffing wheeze" to reduce funding for higher education. The Government has yet to realise that perhaps there is a threshold beyond or below which the Universities cannot go without

- a) going bankrupt or
- b) short-changing their students educationally.

Not all students can go to Oxford or Cambridge where, naturally, owing to large injections of capital from government and private sources they wouldn't dream of doing either (well, anyway, that's the Oxbridge spiel). Unfortunately, all this has put all university development plans in jeopardy.

A DEVONSHIRE SCREAM



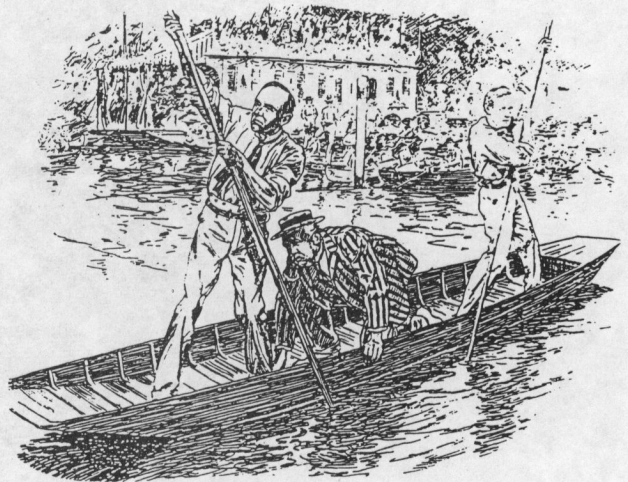
"Be thankful for small mercies because you're getting even less next year."

Meanwhile, back to reality and Keele University and its ten year plan. The development allows in the main for on-campus development. And yet, just

outside it's walls, a bypass is to be built which will release much land for 'development'. The important question being considered at the moment is 'what kind of development?'. The Parish Council and residents are not particularly keen to see a rash of house building. However, it might not be too indisposed to University buildings which could, in the future, be built here. Perhaps it would be wise for the University to join the queue of developers for this land and to bid along with the rest. It would not be amiss for the County and Borough Councils to make amends for the destruction of Madeley College, by assisting the University, should it wish to acquire this land for any future educational use.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS...

Them Drains



"Damned Drains!"

The drains are too much with us late and soon
Blocking and Silting they bring forth our wrath.
Little we see of the Borough Council -
We have paid our poll tax. A solid boon
This sea, that bares her bosom to the moon,
The winds that will be howling at all hours
And are up gathered now in tidal waves about the Parish.
Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn.

So might I, standing on this pleasant
lea
Have glimpses of the Parish that would
make me less forlorn,
Have sight of desilters rising from the
sea
Or hear the hoovers on a frosty morn.

From this poem - a first draft -
discovered some time back amongst
neglected papers, it is likely that
Wordsworth had the same problem!
Clearly his Borough Council were also
remiss regarding desilting of drains.
The Parish Council has asked that the
Borough Council carry out regular
desilting of drains at Keele in order
to reduce the tidal waves when it rains
- Strange how the past returns to haunt
us, isn't it?

That War Memorial



*"Right, lad, these are the new plans
for Keele War Memorial. Jump to it.
I want it safe by sundown."*

The War Memorial is now surrounded by
scaffolding, pending repair. It was
found to be swaying in the breeze and
to be a positive danger to life and
limb. The Parish Council are awaiting
estimates before carrying out the work
of stabilising the monument. It is
likely that the height will have to be
reduced by a foot. This will not be a
cheap repair and it is also likely that
the cost will have to be met by poll

tax payers. The Parish Council will
seek alternative funding to reduce the
cost to parishioners as far as
possible.

The Church car park is also about to be
face-lifted. The entrance is to be
reorganised and part of the hedge
replanted. Trees may be planted in the
hedges to enhance the area and the
surface of the car park is to be
improved. The Parochial Church Council
and the Berachah House Trust are to
look into this in the near future. And
this is but a section of the
improvements to the Parish. Councillor
Cairns reliably informed the Parish
Council that the Borough Council is to
survey all the footpaths in Keele (not
before time) and that tree surveys are
also to be carried out. The Parish
Council has already been informed that
some of the Limes in the village and on
the University campus have lived their
lives and are about to expire. It is,
therefore, important that replacement
tree planting takes place so that
unsightly gaps are not left. The
survey will include trees in private
properties. Should felling be
necessary, then Councillor Cairns
seemed to think that if the trees were
a danger to public safety then the
Borough Council "would have a duty to
remove those trees". The Parish
Council is to consider a replacement
policy for such trees. Free whips are
still available for anyone wishing to
plant trees. Be quick as this offer
closes soon, as they say.

Those Buildings

The Parish Council are to send a list
of buildings that they consider should
be included as Listed Buildings, to the
Department of the Environment and to
the Borough Council.

Which Marl Hole?

The Parish Council was informed that a
company was seeking to offer
compensation for land which contained
marl, in order to extract the marl.
This offer was subject to planning
permission being given for extraction
and that access to the bypass was

possible. Only recently, the Parish Council received a letter to the effect that they were not planning to extract any marl. The plot thickens! The Parish Council is to monitor the situation.

Whose Planning?

Planning permission has been granted for a perimeter fence around Rosemary Cottage, subject to several conditions, and for the 2nd phase of the Science Park.

Planning permission is being sought for another entrance onto the new bypass (when we get it) for the Golf Club and for the siting of a Rovacabin for showers and changing rooms. Permission is also being sought by the University for a change of use of Holly Lodge from a building for a playgroup to accommodation for students. (But aren't the students already there?)

Glendale Contractors have also applied for retrospective permission to site a portacabin at Home Farm out-buildings. It was pointed out at the meeting that Home Farm itself is used as student accommodation. Also that refuse, garden and otherwise, is being stored against walls of out-buildings. These out-buildings are at present reasonably sound and of architectural/historical interest and it is necessary to preserve them. The Borough Council are to investigate.

The Post Office has been granted a licence to sell alcoholic beverages (hic!).

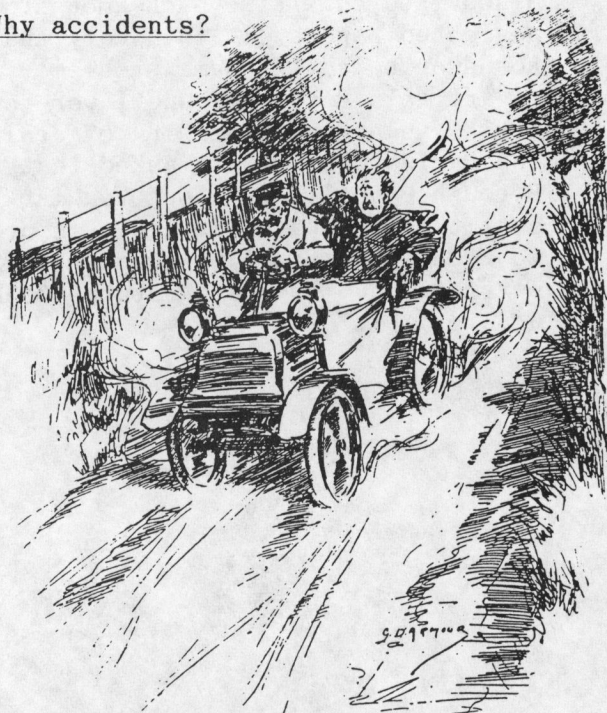
When?

The Parish Council has been informed that the County Council is proceeding to acquire land by purchase for the provision of the bypass. Although no further written information has been received it is envisaged that, subject to funds being re-allocated by the County Council, the sod will be cut in the Spring.

Wow!!

The Borough Council has awarded to the Parish Council £1,000 in grant aid towards the cost of rebuilding part of the Parish Hall roof. This, the Parish Council has gratefully accepted and they would like to thank the Borough Council for their generosity.

Why accidents?



"It's alright, Sir, I'm driving quickly to avoid accidents"

Several accidents have been reported at the University main entrance in the centre of the village and at the entrance to the Hawthorns. Drivers are asked to take extra care now that more cars than ever are clogging up the roads in Keele and surrounds. Sight lines are poor so caution is needed.

Parking - Where?

Many complaints have been received of parking in Quarry Bank Road especially outside the school. The school is near its maximum intake so many parents of children are having to park further up Quarry Bank Road and into Knights Croft. Additionally, overflowing conference goers are thought to be parking in the entrance to the school. The Parish Council are to ask that Keele Hospitality remind their

conference delegates that there is an overflow car park on the other side which should be used, rather than have cars parking in the road. The Parish Council is to ask the Borough Council to yellow hatch the school entrance. It might also be useful if the school Governors were to investigate parking facilities (especially a proper car park for the school) with the County Council. This might solve, what is becoming, a rather dangerous problem.

* * * * *

Keele Parish Council wishes all Parishioners a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

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PARISH NEWS...

The Gardener's Guild

The annual coffee evening and bring and buy sale was held on 8 October which raised funds for the Guild. An enjoyable evening was had by all despite a disappointing attendance. Miss Carole Holder, Dean of Students, Keele University, opened the event. On 12 November, the County Chairman, Mrs S Varley, attended the Guild meeting which was addressed by Mr R Hill who spoke and showed slides on "Wild Life in the Arctic". The hall was packed and everyone was spellbound.

W.I.

The W.I. neither slumbers nor sleeps - no doubt because they usually have an interesting array of speakers and mouth watering refreshments afterwards. On members night (3 October) the meeting was addressed by Mrs William Jones, a marine biologist who had just returned from an around-the-world working trip. With slides, members 'travelled' from Egypt to Australia. On 29 October the Keele W.I. travelled to Bignall End and on 7 November a cookery demonstration was held by Mrs E Morris, from the Potato Marketing Board, who showed everyone what to do with potatoes - just when you thought you had the old potato licked! There wasn't a dry

mouth in the house! The food was raffled at the end of the evening. The W.I. wishes to actively encourage new membership so if you wish to spend a pleasant evening away from the TV and kitchen sink, contact Mrs J Jervis (President) on 626479. It may not be naughty but it will be very nice!



"Yes, we've put her name down for the Keele W.I."

Best Kept Village

Some rather terse comments were received from the Judges of the BKV recently: "Conditions of Notice Boards poor. No children's posters could be seen. Some effort to keep litter down but some old litter in bus stop (surely not students waiting for the bus?). Very well maintained Village Hall, particularly entrance to main road. Church and Village Hall spotless. Bus shelter needs attention (so soon?). External telephone box in good condition. Large area of village green well maintained. Private gardens generally well maintained. Generally, school surrounds a high standard. With a little extra effort there would be a vast improvement particularly with notice boards." (Now that the new notice boards are in place could this mean that we might rate an honourable mention next year? DYB! DYB! DYB!)

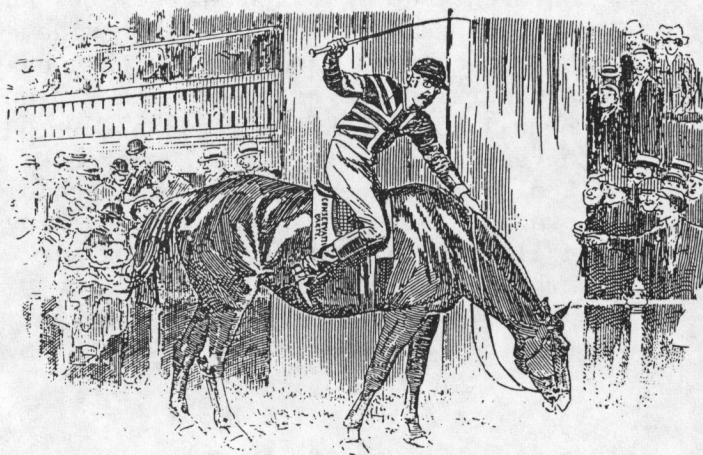
Clearly the BKV judges were unaware of the effort that did go into improving the Parish environment. Mrs W Naylor, BKV coordinator, reports that, children at Keele School conducted a litter survey - managing to collect quite a bit along the A525 - which resulted in a school display of results and interest shown by the press and media. The results showed that cigarettes and their wrappings together with food and drink containers comprised the bulk of litter along the A525 - no doubt deposited by lorry drivers - which would account for the litter on top of the church yard wall! (or very tall joggers!) Unless the litter is cleared regularly, it does threaten to swamp us. The demise of the Girl Guides, Keele Group, has meant that their activities in maintaining the flower tubs and other area of the village have ceased. Nevertheless the P.O. provided some super hanging baskets and private gardens continued to attract the admiration of visitors. The appointment of a second wamble for Quarry Bank will, it is hoped, Keep Keele Klean.

The area around the war memorial and church car park is due for a face lift - it is hoped that in due course this could become a small beauty spot for Keele Parish. Mrs W Naylor has written to the BKV competition organisers suggesting that a report detailing the active attempts by folk to improve the visual amenities over the past year be included as part of the entry, as a quick walk around by the Judges can hardly assess this. Power to your elbow, Mrs N!

Keele Church Spire Fund

Racenight

When Ascot, Aintree and Cheltenham come to Keele Parish Hall you have every right to feel pummelled by a Palomino. This indeed happened on Friday, 30 November at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Because it was RACENITE. A hot supper was included in the price of a ticket (Curries, I'm told!) and a great night was had by all.



"Well, you did say come prepared to enter into the spirit of things, didn't you?"

Parish Party

The Hawthorns Hall Students, as has become the custom each year, hosted a party for people in the Parish at the beginning of November. This is usually an excellent opportunity for all corners of the Parish to come together socially for a very pleasant evening. This year the evening comprised a sherry reception, splendid food and a cabaret, put on by parishioners and students, followed by dancing and such other riotous activities. The raffle raised over £50 for the Church Spire Appeal. Those who attended proclaimed it a success and I am sure they would like to thank all the staff and students of Hawthorns Hall for their hard work and kindness.

UNIVERSITY NEWS...

Exhibitions

On 2 December, Mr Mark Fisher MP, Shadow Minister for the Arts, will open the first exhibition for the newly formed group SWAN (Staffordshire Women Artists' Network). The artists have been asked to paint around the theme "Women's Work". The artists are of all ages, from all parts of Staffordshire and the work will be mixed media. It is hoped that the exhibition will travel to other venues after Keele.

The exhibition will be on display in the Concourse and Art Gallery of the Chancellor's Building and it will continue until 4 January, 1991.



"NO! NO!, it's not the Mikado - it's West Side Story this year."

The Drama Society of the University will perform 'West Side Story' as their Christmas musical this year from December 10 - December 15. Tickets are available from the Information Office - not to be missed!

A Sneyd Returns to Keele

Mr Michael Sneyd, a member of the Junior (Ashcombe) branch of the Sneyd family has generously loaned a portrait of his grandfather, to hang in Keele Hall. Also, negotiations are underway with the City Museum and Art Gallery for the loan of two portraits of other members of the Sneyd family.

Fronting Up

Recently, the Vice Chancellor and Senior administrative staff met with the Student Body of the University to discuss matters close to their hearts - food, accommodation and debt - not necessarily in that order. The Guardian newspaper reported on the meeting, illustrating the report with a full-length photograph of the Vice Chancellor.



"I do assure you we have every confidence in you."

Staff Demonstrate

The AUT are to organize a visit of their members to the Houses of Parliament in early December whereby academic staff can lobby their local MPs.

SCHOOL NEWS...

Christmas fare

Xmas Bazaar

The school will hold its annual Xmas bazaar on Friday 7 December at 6.0 pm. The raffle will be drawn (1st prize is a colour, remote controlled TV). There will be a host of stalls, games and books and lots of refreshments. **Don't miss it!**

Xmas Concert

There will be a Xmas concert for the senior citizens of the Parish, in school on 17 December and another for parents on 18 December. For further details, please contact the school.

Xmas Collection

Don't forget to save your tin cans and tin foil this Xmas for the school can bank. This collection earned £80 for the school fund this term - proceeds towards a puppet show for the children! So don't bin those cans, bank them.

CHURCH NEWS...

Christmas at Keele

This will be celebrated with music and Carols by the Nantwich Tudor Consort on Saturday, 15 December, at 8.0 pm in the University Chapel. Proceeds will go towards the Church Spire Fund. Tickets will cost £2 (£1 for children) and there will be refreshments and a raffle.

Christmas Services

Carol Service - in Church at 3.0 pm on Sunday, 23 December.

Midnight Communion Service - at 11.30 pm on Monday, 24 December.

Christmas Day - 8.00am Holy Communion.

11.30 am Morning Service and Holy communion.

The Parochial Church Council extend a big 'thank you' to the Hawthorns Hall Committee for the donation of £57 to the Spire Fund.

The P.C.C. also extend a big 'thank you' to M Wedgewood and customers of the Sneyd Arms for organising a collecting bottle in the Sneyd Arms, also for the Spire Fund.



Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye!

Keele Parish News is published every two months. Editorial by Angela Drakakis-Smith and Margaret Capper with assistance from Sue Barnard. Printed by Keele Student's Union. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.