

KEELE PARISH NEWS

February 1990

Vol 2 no 16



Life begins at forty

Keele University is 40 years old this year and what celebrations! An exhibition entitled "All Things Keele" opened in the Chancellor's Building Art Gallery on 15th January. The formal opening took place on 14th January by Mr. Mark Fisher M.P. The Vice Chancellor welcomed guests and the Mayor, Councillor Matthews told those assembled how important the University was to the Borough and to the County. Several descendants of the Sneyd family, senior and junior branches, had been located and invited to the opening and to tea and cakes afterwards.

The Exhibition traces the history of Keele from the 14th century to the present day via photographs, documents and water colour and pencil drawings, undertaken by members of the Sneyd family depicting life above and below stairs. Ceremonial items such as the mace and Chancellor's robes are also on display together with the University Charter and items from the University silver collection. An artist's eye view of Keele can also be seen. Villagers have also loaned material, which includes the Visitors' Book for Keele Hall showing the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII to be a regular guest.

On February 14th there will be an evening seminar given by members of the History Department. One of the subjects is to be 'the History of Keele Church'.

There was an official launch of Keele's fundraising campaign in London on Tuesday 23rd January and a civic dinner at Keele towards the end of the week. There will be numerous talks, lectures, exhibitions and concerts etc. throughout the year. A programme can be obtained from the Information Office.

By 1999 Keele hopes to double its student intake. To this end, a fundraising campaign for the building of student halls of residence is to be undertaken.

During 1989 a general refurbishment of the Great Hall has occurred. The Great Hall has now been completed and the heraldic shields have been restored and will hang in the Hall. A large-scale picture of Keele Hall has been commissioned and is now complete and this will hang on one side of the fireplace. A portrait of a former Vice Chancellor, Professor Campbell Stewart has also been completed and this will be unveiled later in the year. A special Church Service was held on 28th January, attended by those with any connection with Keele. It is hoped that as many people as possible will participate in the celebrations and "Thanke God for Alle" - hopefully for what we are about to receive!

Parish Council News

Highway Lane Turning



'Now turn around. I want to see if the turning space works.'

Tenders are to be sought via advertisement for the making of a

turning space in Highway Lane. Tenders will be considered in closed Council at the next Parish Council meeting.

Coal lorries keep a'comin'

Convoys of coal lorries are still thundering through the village. Some lorries are using Whitmore Road and Pepper Street too. Lorries are supposed to run from the Bateswood Site at 2 minute intervals. The Parish Council has been informed that this is part of the contract with the colliery. In order for complaints to be effective, the colliery needs to know the registration numbers of the lorries, & the date, time and place where the lorries were seen. This information can be conveyed to the Parish Council or directly to the colliery.

Shelter from the Elements

For the more observant in the Parish, the new bus shelter sited on Whitmore Road, will have been noted. It was certainly a long time in coming - at least 10 years, so please use it. The resident of the Lodge opposite informed the Parish Council that the row of dry bottoms on the seats in the shelter are infinitely preferable to the row of wet miserable faces seen waiting for the bus in the past. The shelter erected on the Station Road footpath, which impedes pedestrians is to remain, but the hedge and verge are to be cut back, which should make more space. In fact, the verge verging onto the pavement all along Station Road needs to be cut back, Borough Council please note!

Round the bend

The County Council are being asked to extend the double white lines beyond the brow of Rosemary Hill on the A525 in an attempt to prevent cars overtaking dangerously on the brow of the hill on the way down.

Keele Motel

Planning permission has been given for the Tack Room of the Sneyd Arms to be converted into six bedrooms, provided car parking facilities are made adequate.

Keele Parish News

It was reported in the last issue that the Keele Parish News had won a £50 award. At the last meeting the Parish

Council agreed that this should be placed with the Keele Charities to boost its small account.

Notice the board



'Can you cut it a bit more please.
Still can't see the noticeboard.'

The noticeboard on Pepper Street/Quarry Bank should soon be erected. Permission has been kindly given by Mrs. Burgess for it to be placed near her land. Also, planning permission is being sought from the Borough Council. The Parish Council noticeboard which is to be replaced has yet to find a new home. The Village Hall Committee is to be asked whether it would be acceptable to recess the hedge in front of the Village Hall so that the new noticeboard can be placed there where people can look at it in safety.

Sardines?

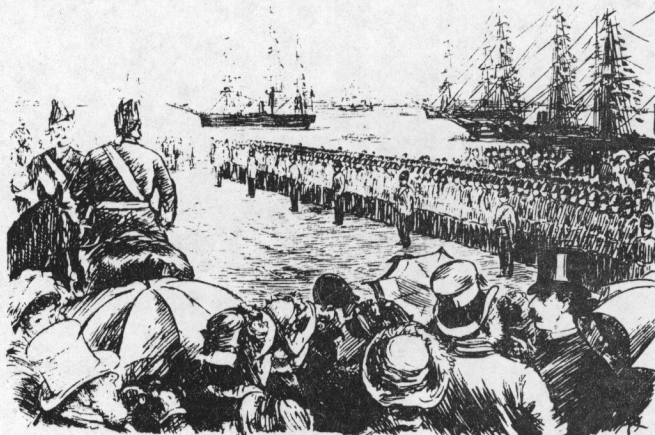
The University of Keele has applied for planning permission to erect student accommodation in the meadows opposite to Church Plantation staff flats.

The Parish Council was not in favour of the project on the following grounds:-

- a) This would increase the ribbon

development towards the village and the traffic at a point where the Parish Council have sought to reduce traffic in the past, hence the bypass.

- b) The proposal seeks to house 350 students. The Parish Council felt that the building density would be too great in terms of increased sewerage, traffic and decreased visible landscape value. There are several mature oaks and other species that may not have room to survive the scheme. To cope with the increased traffic, the road would have to be widened on campus which means the avenue of limes would be destroyed.
- c) The Parish Council believed this meadow with its view to be one of the more attractive spots on the University campus and as such, should be preserved. The Parish Council also believes that this area is designated Green Belt land.



'All the students are present & correct sir and awaiting escort to the campus.'

It was suggested that members of the Parish Council should meet with members of the University to discuss alternative sites for this and future development as a way of minimising legal costs for planning appeals.

It was stated that the University had had a long-term development strategy which had earmarked Home Farm, and the area around Observatory Hill for development, which had been more acceptable to the Parish Council in the past.

Conservation



TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

Clara (from the Country), "What a shame! It used to be such fun, you know!"

Caroline (from Town), "Yes, poor little things! Why shouldn't they build their nests in the gardens!"

A map of tree planting/tree reorganisation was presented to the Parish Council for consideration. The map is to be sent to Newcastle Borough Council for comment and an application for free trees will be made to the County Council. The map is reproduced in Keele Parish News for comment by parishioners. The conservation strategy is to begin with the centre of the village and gradually extend to other areas of the parish. Parishioners are also being asked to come forward with plans of their own if they wish, or if they wish their particular area of the parish to be 'greened'.

Best Kept Village

Information for this year's competition has arrived and Mrs. Wenslie Naylor has agreed to be the coordinator once again. To assist, the Parish Council is to ask that hedges and verges be cut back from footpaths all around and within the Parish boundary. Hedges in private properties are the responsibility of the householders and should be cut back if they are causing a nuisance to pedestrians.

Satellite Dishes

Enquiries are being made as to whether satellite dish aerials required planning permission before being erected.

Paper Bins



'And make sure they put their old newspapers in that.'

The University is to be asked if they would site recycling paper bins somewhere on the campus to take old newspapers etc.

Come into the Parlour

The Mayor of Newcastle has once again invited the Parish Clerk and the Chairman of the Parish Council to visit the Mayor's Parlour for tea - provided they don't eat too much! As this will take place on 21st February, the Parish Council meeting will now be held on 28th February instead.

Developing nicely

Keele Parish Council has agreed to support Madeley Parish Council to overcome the pressures from developers to build unwanted houses in Madeley.

Annual Report

The Borough Council Annual Report is now available together with its promo news-sheet. Three cheers for anyone who can find councillors' expenses etc. for the year. Six cheers for anyone who can fathom out how the Borough Council can balance the books without including and making such information public - only qualified accountants need attempt this one!

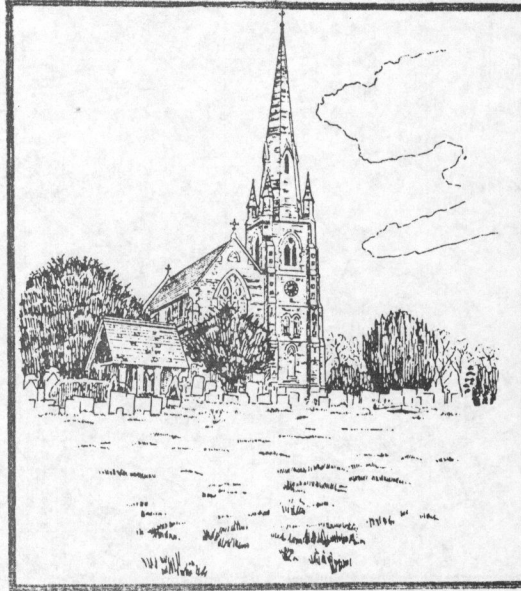
Keith Goodway & Wenslie Naylon

Keith Goodway & Wenslie Naylor



KEELE LANDSCAPES

Looking Back - Looking Forward



There will be an open evening on Friday, February 16th in the Village Hall from 7.30 pm to approximately 10.30 pm at which the village community will be able to indulge in a little nostalgia, and look ahead by reviewing proposals to improve the landscape of the village.

Programme

7.30-8.00 pm Showing of "A visit to Keele" an historical documentary video featuring aspects of Keele Hall, the village, the Sneyd estate and our own vicar the Rev. John Whitehead.

8.00-8.30 pm "Landscapes of Keele" an illustrated talk by DR. KEITH GOODWAY, well-known landscape historian.

8.30-9.00 pm Refreshments and draw for raffle prizes. Also a chance to view displays of photographs, maps and school work.

9.00-9.30 pm "The Living Churchyard" a compilation slide/commentary video made by the Church and Conservation Project, Stoneleigh, Warks., which raises the question of the role of country churchyards in conservation of flora and fauna.

A proposal for tree planting in the central area of the village will be available to view as a map with descriptive comments.

An important function of the evening is to raise funds for two local causes:

- 1) Keele Church Spire Fund
- 2) Keele Day Nursery Fund

The spire is in disrepair. What would the landscape of Keele be without it?

The proposed new day nursery on the campus which will be available to University and non University families alike, is vitally in need of funds for equipment.

All money raised will be divided equally between these two causes.

Tickets will shortly be available from the Post Office and Sneyd Arms. The £1 fee per ticket includes the cost of refreshments. (Numbers limited by capacity of the hall)

Raffle prizes will be of superior quality (details on the tickets) and tickets will be available from a variety of sources and on the night.

Write the date on the calendar now.

Parish News (contd.)

W.I.

Meets each first Wednesday in the month. The first meeting of 1990 took place on January 3rd when Mr. George Riley gave an illustrated talk on "Interesting Walks around Newcastle". The meeting learned that there were 750 footpaths in the Potteries area, the shortest being about 100 yards long. Some dated back to 400 A.D. Members were inspired to find their boots and to start walking. The competition for the oldest map was won by Mrs. Hayley. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to the oldest member who was 90 years old. Why not join in?

Garden Guild

The first meeting of the year was a talk on "Garden Pools" by a representative of Stapeley Water Gardens concerning both construction and planting. In February the Garden Guild will hold its Annual General Meeting. The Garden Guild meets regularly every second Monday evening of the month in the Village Hall.

Flower Arranging

This takes place each Friday afternoon in the Village Hall.

School News

The School Christmas Fair raised £700, together with the raffle and the money financed an additional computer.

Owing to increased numbers a part-time teacher Mrs. Jones has been employed, which means there is now an extra class in the school. Class five is now the top class in the school and is shared between Mrs. Lancaster, the Headmistress, and Mrs. Jones.

The new Local Authority Representatives on the Board of School Governors have now been announced. They are:- Dr. Pearl Brereton, Mr. J.D. Humphries and Cllr. G. Surman-Kozaryn.

Church News

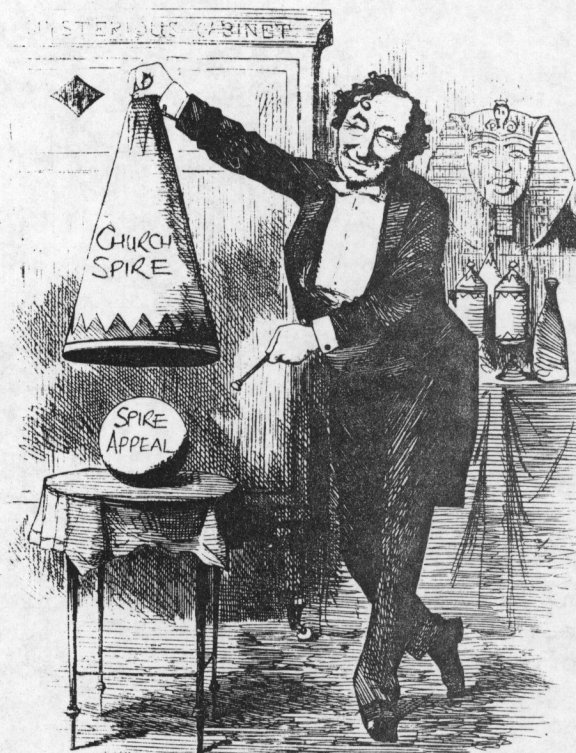
Church Services

Holy Communion - 8 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays in the month.

Family Communion - 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Evensong - 6.30 p.m. each Sunday.

The Spire is falling - help!



'Now you see it. Soon you won't.'

The St. John's Church Spire, Keele is in danger of collapse! Where would Keele be without this landmark? What would we do without the clock? You don't have to be a church goer to be concerned or wanting to preserve something which has come to be a part of Keele Parish.

The church is therefore appealing to all and sundry to make a donation. £6,000 has to be collected this year, if not sooner for the work to be done. Please give generously! Cheques can be made payable to the St. John's Church, Keele (Spire) and left in the Post Office for the Vicar (Rev. Whitehead) or given to any member of the P.C.C. (e.g. Mrs. M. Capper, Mrs. M. Evans).

University News

Over the next few months, much will be happening at Keele and to most things, everyone is welcome. There will be exhibitions, concerts, lectures, displays - so why not join us?

Exhibitions



'Psst! See you at the 'All Things Keele' Exhibition.'

'All Things Keele' will be on display until 15th February in the Art Gallery. In the foyer during the same period there is an exhibition of photographs of Keele children past and present by Dr. Dennis Andrews and an embroidery exhibition by Marie Cotterill with the historical theme of "Knights & Damsels". This includes a copy of a portion of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Making Music

From February 19th there will be a display of unusual and new musical instruments. The exhibition is designed for everyone to "have a go" at making music. This will be ideal for music students and school children - so, don't miss it. It is a travelling exhibition and we are the first venue. The exhibition is toured by the West Midlands Craft Centre. It will end on 17th March.

Lucien Cooper will have an exhibition of recent work in the Chancellor's Building Foyer during the same period.

Evening Seminar - History of Keele

Wednesday 14th February at 6.30 p.m.

The History Department will be putting on an evening seminar to include two lectures:

Robin Studd - 'The Last of the Keele Templars'

Christopher Harrison - 'The History of Keele Church'

in Room 28 Chancellor's Building. Admission free. Don't miss it.

Cap in Hand

Graduation caps will not be worn this year. Instead they will be held out to be filled to their brims by generous donations from business firms and private individuals. The University hopes to raise money to finance its expansion programme whereby student numbers will be doubled to 6,000 by the late 1990s. To accommodate so many new students, new halls of residence and teaching space will have to be created and that costs!

Keele Parish News is published every two months.

Editorial by Angela Drakakis-Smith and Margaret Capper with assistance from Christine Wilcox.

Printed by Keele Students' Union. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or those of the Editor.