

KEELE PARISH NEWS

March/April 1988

Vol 2 no 5



"If you won't play ball wi us we won't play ball wi you!"

Refuse

At its February meeting, Keele Parish Council agreed to object in the strongest terms to the way that refuse is being collected at present in Keele. Refuse lorries are being parked some distance away from houses resulting in trails of rubbish. Also the plastic bags provided are not large enough to fit the dustbins. Bins at bus stops in the village are also not being emptied and consequently they are overflowing most of the time and rubbish is being redistributed around the village. Public spirited individuals have been emptying the bins themselves to ease the situation.

The Parish Council is also objecting strongly to Newcastle Borough Council's proposal to charge the University for refuse collection. In a letter to the Director of Housing and Health, the Parish Council sought reassurances that this charge would not include ratepayers from the Parish who live on the University campus, since University flat and house tenants who pay domestic rates are usually entitled to a refuse collection service. In response, the Borough Council pointed out that the litter collection in question would be from the halls of residence, which following recent litigation has now been deemed to be trade refuse for which a Council must make a charge. The separately rated domestic premises will continue to receive a free collection.

It was pointed out at the Parish Council meeting that if halls of residence were charged for refuse collection - the sum, quoted by the Borough Council was at first £27,000 and then reduced to £17,000, will be passed on to students in the form of an extra levy. The Chairman also stated that according to legal advice which he had received, the Council may make a charge and not must as stated in the letter from the Borough Council. Should this charge be insisted upon by the Borough Council, Keele University would be the only university in the country apart from Hull (involved in the litigation) to pay this charge and the Borough Council the only other council in the country to insist that it did.

The reason for this sudden insistence upon a charge for refuse collection should also be given. Is the Borough Council so desperate for funds that it needs to scour the statute books to discover where it may raise extra cash? In the 1985-86 Annual Report of the Borough Council, it was noted that Mayoral expenses for that year amounted to £27,000 and members' and other expenses amounted to £86,000. Perhaps these are areas where economies could be made by the Borough Council - rather than making constituents pay for essential services. Perhaps, too, it is time that rate payers began to question more closely where their rates are being spent and to insist upon where this money should be spent.

"Already a review of local authority charges has been initiated. The Green Paper proposed that the scope of services for which Local Authorities charge should be widened and existing controls on charges be relaxed". (C.P.A.G. - A Tax on all the people : The Poll Tax)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS....

That Road

The County Council are being asked ways to improve the visibility for entry and exit to the University, since when the road improvements associated with the by-pass are effected, turning right to Newcastle out of the main entrance could be a problem. The improvement to the A525 between Gateside Corner (a well known accident black spot) and the main

entrance to the University had been suggested by the County Council. This would entail straightening the bend to improve sight lines. Some of the playing fields would have to be utilised. The rebuilding of the university wall and the resiting of the memorial plaque and trees would be carefully monitored. The Parish Council has asked for a copy of the plans for the proposed 'A525 improvement scheme. The County Surveyor had informed the Council that £1.29 million had been made available for the work of the bypass and A525 improvements at Keele. The extra scheme would probably mean that work would begin in January 1989 rather than Autumn 1988 as planned.

The Wall

The churchyard wall is nearing completion and extends right around the churchyard. It has definitely improved the look of the church surrounds and joggers and pedestrians can now use the pavement in safety. Parishioners have been delighted with the end product and Parish Councillors are so pleased that they are hoping to enter it for a civic award. Grateful thanks to all who helped with the rebuilding. It is hoped that the other walls in the parish will receive similar treatment.

The Tourist Leaflet

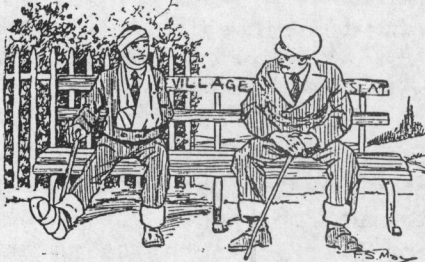


"Buzz off. Don't want my garden drawn.
Bohemians everywhere! "

The project to produce a tourist leaflet for Keele is progressing apace. Artists will be drawing/photographing in the village/parish as soon as the weather improves. Should you therefore see two

people peering closely at your home don't call the police until you have asked to see their letter of authority from the Parish Council. Don't set your dogs on them either! It is hoped that the leaflets will be in circulation by June.

That Seat



"Ee it's nice to have our seat back"

The wooden seat on the village green, damaged after an accident, is to be replaced by a new one by the Parish Council.

Those Drains

The Borough Council had been informed that the new length of kerbing at Red Heath Plantation was ineffective and had increased flooding problems. Some Councillors were of the opinion that the land from which water was draining was the problem and that the landowner should be approached about it. It was generally felt that those affected by the flooding and debris at Red Heath Plantation and at the top of Pepper Street should consider asking for a rate rebate from the Borough Council, until the matter had been sorted out.

The Lane



"We only asked for a small contribution to re-tarmac Highway Lane"

It has been reported to the Parish Council that Highway Lane is in need of

re-tarmacing. An estimate has been received and the Parish Council are in the process of asking residents of Highway Lane, those having access or using the lane to contribute towards the resurfacing. It was decided that the matter would be discussed at the Parish Meeting.

That Way



"It's Chris Harrison's dog - he's found a way marker"

Dr. Chris Harrison had agreed to accompany his dogs around the Parish to ensure that all waymarkers were in place along footpaths and to ascertain that stray bulls or padlocks were not in evidence along the public rights of way. He and his dogs will give a full report to the next Parish Council meeting. An interpreter will be provided.

This Way



"I'm so glad they're asking us to look at pavements in Keele. They've never been looked at, are in an appalling state, have been for years"

The Borough Council is to ask the Staffs County Council to look at the pavement from Highway Lane to Keele Farmhouse, with a

view to improvements. The Parish Council has also asked if the footpath along Whitmore Road can also be surveyed. These pavements have been in a state of disrepair for some years. We may well ask what are we paying rates for!

Which Way

The University residents have been approached about beginning a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on campus. The matter is in hand or do they mean in the bag?

The Man from the Council he say yes

The only cheer for the Borough Council in this issue to date, is for giving £1,000 grant-aid towards refurbishing the village hall lavatories. The matter of raising the remainder of the amount required will be discussed at the Parish Meeting.

The Pony Express

Mr. Wade, the Post Office District Delivery Manager, kindly agreed to address the Parish Council on the problem of mail delivery. Mr. Wade said that he appreciated the problems that were being faced, explained the Post Office's difficulties and suggested the matter could be improved if campus residents were to drop "Keele University" in their address, if they wished mail to be delivered to their homes, rather than to the University. He said the situation would be monitored and he would be pleased to show interested parishioners around the main sorting office in May. Anyone interested should leave their name with the Parish Clerk or at the Post Office. If mail is still being wrongly delivered, then the matter should be reported to Mr. Heywood at Newcastle Sorting Office.

Grousing Time

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th April at 7.30 pm in the village hall and all parishioners are invited to attend. The following items will be included on the agenda:- the Chairman's annual report, conservation, the Community Charge, refuse, delivery of mail, resurfacing of Highway Lane, village hall improvement scheme and parishioners are asked to let the Parish Clerk know of any additional topics they might like to be included.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 20th April 1988 at 7 pm in the village hall.

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Swimming for all

Staffs County Council are to keep Madeley Swimming Pool going until the end of March. Thereafter, children using the pool for lessons will have to be bussed elsewhere. The St John Offley P.T.A. would like all parents whose children use the pool to lobby the Local Education Authority to keep the pool going, so it can be used by schools. Dyb dyb dyb! everyone.

VILLAGE NEWS...

W.I.



"Eat your pudding dear or you'll never be big enough to join the W.I."

The W.I. had recently held its A.G.M., at which Mrs. Jean Jervis was elected as President and Mrs. Andrews as Secretary. Sad farewells were extended to Mrs. Richards who had been Treasurer for 27 years and to Mrs. Jackson who had been President for 14 years.

At the February meeting, members were enlightened on the life of the badger and the fact that if badger baiting, shooting, the setting of traps and road accidents (badgers and motorists are somewhat short-sighted it appears) persist, then the badger could be an extinct species.

The meeting in April will be a talk and slide show on the National Garden Festival.

The W.I. are actively seeking new members so why not check out the W.I. if you have some time to spare on a Wednesday evening. The Group meets at the village hall on the first Wednesday of each month (April 6th next meeting) at 7.15 pm. For further information contact Mrs. Jervis on 626479.

The W.I. thanked the Parish Council for supporting its activities by allowing them free use of the village hall for meetings.

The Guides

And what has this little band of troopers been up to this year? Angela Studd, their leader, reports that they have been very busy this year, camping - at least 3 times, and one of the camps had a mediaeval theme so that Guides were introduced to jousting, fording rivers, dyeing cloth using berries and litchens, and building natural shelters.

They went on outings to Alton Towers, ice-skating and to find Newcastle's castle. A team took part in the county fire safety quiz and after training at Newcastle Fire Station, tied second in their heat (no pun intended!).

One guide spent 3 weeks in the USA as part of International Guiding to which the Parish Council contributed for expenses.

Keele Guides' 18th birthday was celebrated with a grand party. Two blankets made by Guides were presented to the children's ward at the City General Hospital.

On Thinking Day the start to a new Guide Year was marked by a horse-riding session, a hike and cook-out.

Keele Guides would like to thank all those who have helped in whatever way, to enable the Guides to have an active year. In particular they would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous support which enables them to use the village hall free-of-charge for meetings.

Garden Guild

Soil preparation was the subject for our March meeting and Mr Trevor Askew was our speaker.

As mentioned by Mr Norman Richards in his vote of thanks to Trevor, 'we could be forgiven for thinking that this subject would be a difficult one to get across' but this was not so, with many samples of loam, sedge, peat and silver sand, we were introduced to a fascinating picture of the wonder of soil necessary for good cultivation. We heard about acid soil, about P.H. and also about the making of a compost heap. Thanks to Mr Askew were expressed by our Chairman, Mr B Crosbie.

On the 21st July we shall again be visiting Mr Rodgers, Yew Tree Cottage Garden. The bus will leave the village hall at 5 o'clock. For those wishing to join our party will you please let Mr B Cope know.

April meeting - 11th at 7.30 pm. Speaker - Mr Roy Went, a well-known Staffordshire Naturalist.

Obituary

We were saddened when we heard of the death of our very good friend and member Miss Gladys Wood. Gladys was a founder member of our Guild and was our first secretary. She was a tremendous help in establishing our Guild and made a most valuable contribution in many ways during the past 20 years. She was of ready wit and direct in her approach. We shall miss her, but take pride in our remembrance of the happy times spent together.

THE CHURCH NEWS...

A jumble sale will be held in the village hall on Saturday, 23rd April at 2.0 pm. The village hall will be open at 10.30 am on the morning of the sale and there will be someone in attendance to receive jumble. Would helpers please be at the hall at 10.30 am to sort the jumble and at 1.30 pm in readiness for the sale.

Best Kept Village



"I'm so glad you're getting ready for the best planted container competition. And don't forget those messy verges outside your house!"

Mrs Wensley Naylor has agreed to volunteer to be cheer leader for the Best Kept Village Competition this year. Keele has been entered for the competition, maps sent to judges and posters are up, so to complement the splendour of the new churchyard wall, it is hoped everyone will make an effort to ensure that this year Keele gets a favourable mention at least, in the judges' report - hanging baskets and tidy gardens to the fore, please. Don't forget the verges in front of the garden wall - time to get rid of winter debris. The judges will be around from May 1st to 31st July. L.A.H. everyone.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

The Twenties Cancelled

Those wishing to remember times past by attending a 1920s evening organised by the Keele Concert Society were disappointed when the evening had to be cancelled. The venue was to be the Hawthorns, however to overcome fire regulations, the Borough Council ruled that thousands of pounds had to be spent if members of the public were using the hall. This possibly raises the age-old philosophical question - are students members of the public and therefore worthy of the same protection or not? Given the above ruling now we all know

that the answer according to the Borough Council is no! Sorry folks.

Drama

The open air production of Shakespeare this year is 'As You Like It'. It will be performed in the Clock House Courtyard from Monday, 20th June to 25th June.

Art

Jiri Borsky will be holding a one-man exhibition in the Gallery from 23rd April to 28th May.

From 3rd June a joint Exhibition of sculpture and drawings will be on display, by Elizabeth Fink and the Royal Doulton School of Sculpture. This exhibition will be part of an arts week at Keele which will include the 'outdoor Shakespeare', a poetry reading and a concert on the evening of June 21st. Tickets are available for the concert and poetry reading from the music department or information department.

Aesthetics

A letter of thanks has been received by the Parish Council from the University for the generous donation of £500. There is now sufficient capital to proceed with the refurbishment of the fountain outside Keele Hall. If anyone in the Parish knows which battalion of service men damaged it in the first place, the Parish Council would be pleased to hear from them.

STOP PRESS.....

Keele Accident Record update

54 accidents since 1983 when record keeping began, and 3 deaths in the Parish mostly along the A525 and mostly at the heart of the village.

It is sincerely hoped that the by-pass will be constructed before this toll rises.

To report accidents, contact J. Naylor
Tel. 621243

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