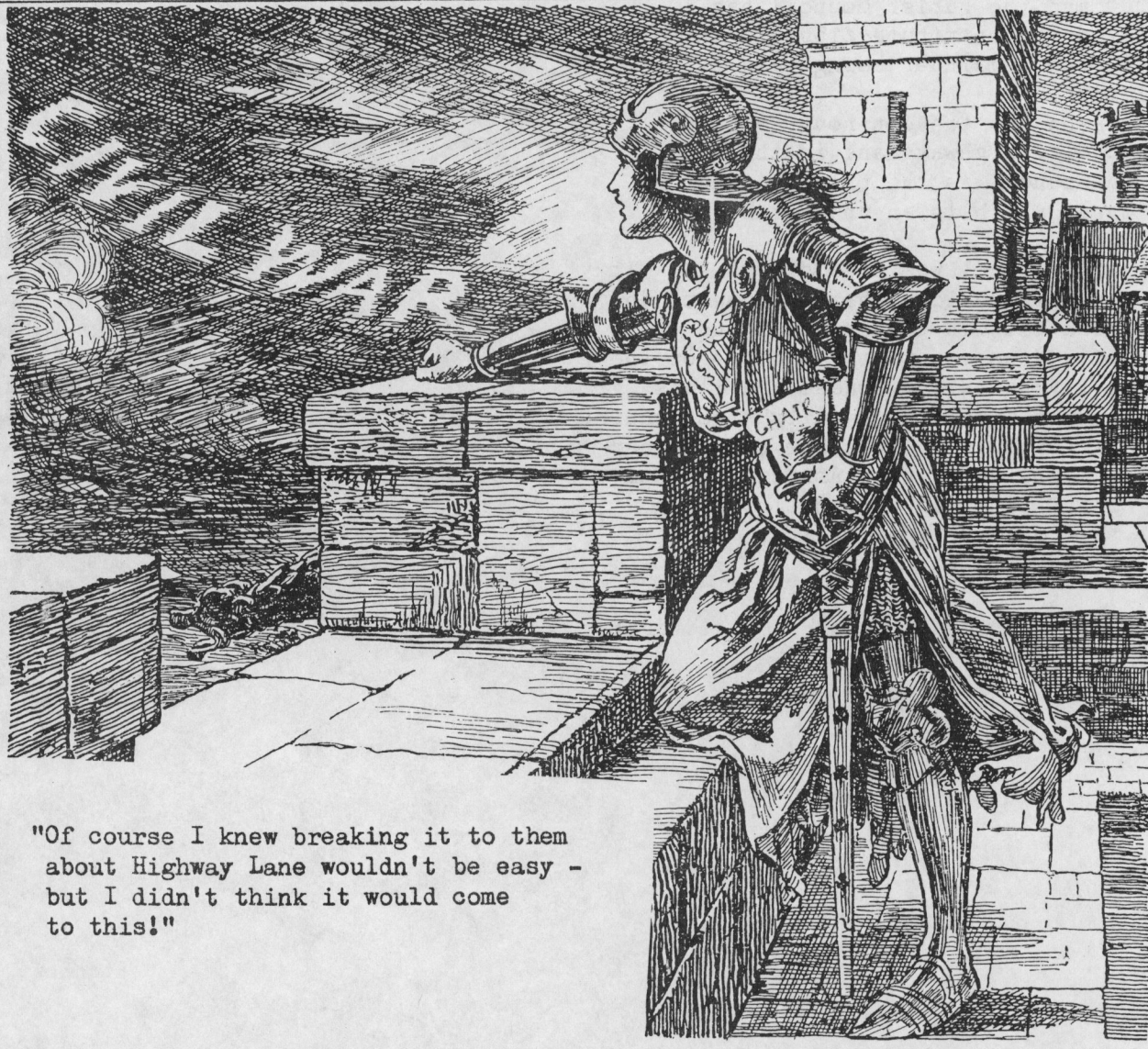


KEELE PARISH NEWS

May/June 1988

Vol 2 no 6



"Of course I knew breaking it to them about Highway Lane wouldn't be easy - but I didn't think it would come to this!"

Parish Meeting

The annual Parish Meeting was held on Tuesday, 19th April 1988. Twenty-two people attended the meeting. The Chairman reported on the past year's programme and discussed issues of importance that were due to be raised in the coming year, namely the resurfacing of Highway Lane and Keele as a conservation area.

It had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the surface of Highway Lane was deteriorating. It is ten years since it was last resurfaced. Whilst some residents and Parish Councillors living in Highway Lane thought it unfair for the Parish Council not to pay for the resurfacing thereby the cost would fall partly on individual householders, the Chairman thought it unfair to charge the whole parish, by means of a levy of the 2p rate, as had happened last time. Although the meeting was sedate, it was decided that there were three possible solutions to the problem: 1) The Highway Lane and Pump Bank residents should make a contribution to the resurfacing - the Parish Council had pledged to cover part of the cost already. 2) The Parish Council would in future charge residents an annual sum which would pay for the periodic resurfacing or 3) The surface should be allowed to deteriorate. A sub-committee was set up at a subsequent Parish Council meeting to decide upon the method of charging residents, and residents were

asked to submit any suggestions they may have to this end. The cost of the resurfacing had been estimated at around £4,000 and the Parish Council had resolved to contribute £1500 to these costs, the remainder being paid by the residents.

The reason for the controversy surrounding Highway Lane is that the Parish Council is the private owner of the lane, which is an unadopted road.

Delivery of mail was also discussed. It has now been decided that because of the confusion between departmental and private addresses, that residents of the campus living in the houses and flats should omit "Keele University" from their address forthwith. This has been agreed by the Keele Residents' Association and the Post Office has been notified and will take effect immediately.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Praise

The Parish Council was delighted to see that after years of asking, the pavement from Church Bank to the A525 has been repaired. Likewise, the hedges along the pavement in Station Road have also been cut back allowing people to pass unscathed. At least two cheers for the Borough Council are in order here.

Churchyard Wall

The churchyard wall is all but complete and the Parish Council has entered it for the Civic Award Scheme 1988. Well done lads! The next area of improvement is to be the area around the war memorial which has been looking neglected for many years. There

will also be some landscaping work undertaken on 'the Green' in due course to compliment the new seat.

Library Van

After a special request from the Parish Council, the Mobile Library van has agreed to extend its time in Keele. Its hours are as follows:-

University/Horwood Drive 11.15-11.45

University/Carpark by Larchwood
THURSDAYS 11.50-12.15

School 12.20-12.55

Peppers Corner 2.00-2.15
(after lunch)

Newcastle Play Council

The Parish Council has awarded £100 to the Play Council to assist with its playschemes which take place during the August vacation.

On the Fringes

The Parish Council awarded £30 to the Keele Drama Society to take them to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as no University funds appear to be available for this, this year.

Tourist Leaflet

This is coming on apace and will be ready by the end of June. The artists are grateful to all the parishioners who made them welcome.

Best Kept Village



"And it says here we have to behave whilst the Best Kept Village judges are around!"

The Parish Council has allocated £50 for prizes for the competitions taking place in the school in conjunction with the

Best Kept Village Competition. The Parish Council has also awarded £75 for the purchase of shrubs/trees and containers to enhance the outside of the Village Hall, subject to approval by Keele Village Hall Management Committee.

The usual best planted container competition for adults and children will also be held. If you wish to enter, please complete the pro-forma at the back of the Keele Parish News. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the adult and children's category.

Mrs. Naylor has been extremely vigorous in obtaining support for the Best Kept Village competition, so the Parish Council hopes she will be well supported in her efforts. If you can help in any way, do contact her, she will be more than pleased to hear from you!



"How do you galvanise people into action for the Best Kept Village - I've tried everything short of doing it myself! I'm exhausted!"

Wenslie Naylor, Co-ordinator of the 1988 Best Kept Village Competition, writes:-

WHY DON'T THEY?

Clear up the litter, cut the hedges, clip the grass, pull out the weeds ...

Probably because "they" 1) have Keele low on a long list of equally clamouring areas, 2) haven't the manpower any more, 3) don't think these things are as important as we might, who live here.

I'm not writing here about the rights and wrongs of standards of maintenance afforded to village communities by the Borough Council, but hope instead to put into context the Best Kept Village Competition and suggest that we in Keele might lose the habit, all too easy to acquire, of saying "...why don't they?..."

The Best Kept Village Competition is sponsored by the brewers, Bass Worthington and Mitchells and Butlers (West) and administered by the Community Council of Staffordshire. In their own words "it is not a competition about "pretty villages", its aim is "to encourage community spirit and stimulate pride in your village."

The judges will be in the village on two occasions between May and July and are looking for absence of litter and a generally cared for appearance in "public places" in the village - in our case this must mean around the school, University entrances, pub surrounds, the Post Office and telephones, Village Hall, Churchyard and war memorial.

A variety of initiatives are under way and we look forward to seeing the results of them; in the meantime, let's find some of that community spirit some of the villagers say no longer exists in Keele. It could be that when we see our public areas looking tatty and uncared for, instead of passing by and mourning the decline in standards we do something, that is YOU and ME, all of US in Keele.

Conference Centre

The Parish Council are to write to the University to ascertain the status of the wall in front of the Villa. The Parish Council were assured by the University that the wall would be reconstituted when building had been completed and that the wall would not be lowered.

Litter Bins

The Parish Council has requested two larger (than those provided) litter bins for the village. It is hoped that they will be used.

For Sale Signs

House for sale signs are appearing in the village which are nowhere near the house that is for sale. There is a law, apparently, which states that the sale sign should appear on the property it is advertising. When the estate agent was contacted he said this information was known, but as no-one enforced this law they would continue the present practice. The Parish Council contacted the Borough Council about the matter and were informed that there were too many other matters to deal with. The Parish Council are to pursue the matter.

Watch-the-Box

British Telecom have launched a 'Watch-the-Box' payphone inspection scheme to try and improve the reliability of payphones, by inviting the local community to keep an eye on parish phone boxes. If anyone is interested in doing a daily check of either the phone boxes outside the Post Office or at Quarry Bank, please could they contact the Parish Clerk - Tel:751007.

Drainage



"Given the drainage problems we have here, gentlemen, I think we'll need more than a few kerb stones to get rid of this lot."

The Borough Council are to lay more kerbing at Red Heath Plantation, Pepper Street, as they feel that the problem is caused by silt being washed from the hedge over the kerb by heavy lorries passing and thus blocking the drainage gully. The Parish Council is not convinced that this is the cause and has requested that a grid be placed in the Hollywood area, to prevent water building up and running into the Red Heath Plantation area.

Village Hall

Final plans for the upgrading of amenities at the village hall have now been drawn up. Tenders were invited. However, as only two were received, it was decided to ask those firms to retender and to seek further tenders. In the meantime planning permission will be sought.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 15th June 1988 at 7 pm in the village hall.

VILLAGE NEWS...

W.I.

The W.I. celebrated its 56th birthday with a meal prepared by the committee, a beetle drive, which Mrs. Shufflebotham and Mrs. Jones won and birthday cake and sherry. The cake was cut by the past president Mrs. Jackson. A good time was had by all.

Garden Guild

To assist those wishing to enter the best planted container competition, The Garden Guild organised an evening on "how to make a hanging basket". Mrs. Anne Lindop of Westholme Nurseries, Woore was the demonstrator/adviser and made it look so easy. There should be keen competition this year!

Timetable Changes

A Keele-Leicester link bus service has been established for weekend breaks in Leicester. A Stevensons bus will leave Keele Students' Union at 4.30 pm on a Friday, arriving in Leicester at 7.00 pm. It will leave Leicester at 7.30 pm on Fridays or 6.40 pm on Sundays to return to Keele. The service began on 1st April.

CHURCH NEWS...



"Well this happens to be my last tin of sardines that I'm giving."

On Saturday, 16th July, there will be a Garden Party in Keele School. At 2.30 pm the Right Rev. John Davies, Bishop of

Shrewsbury, and Mrs Davies will open it. Admission is FREE. There will be the usual stalls, for which contributions will be gratefully received:- cakes, toys, books, inflatables, games, field events etc. Refreshments will be 25p. Full details to come.

Church Services

Communion services are held each Sunday at 11.00 am. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, at 8.00 am the 1662 Communion Service will be celebrated. Evensong is each Sunday at 6.30 pm unless otherwise stated.

SCHOOL NEWS...

Summer Fair

The School Summer Fair will take place on 18th June from 2-4pm at the school. All donations for the usual stalls and more are welcomed. Your presence and/or assistance on the day would also be welcome.

Book Fair

Between July 11th and 15th, there will be a book fair. The school will receive 15% of any profits made. It will be open on the above dates between 2.30 and 3.30 pm. Excellent for birthday and Christmas presents!

Leavers' Disco/Barbecue

This will be held on Thursday, 21st July from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Admission is FREE to this year's leavers. Help needed with the barbecue and everyone is welcome.

Last term's fundraising

The cake stall raised £17; the games evening £39 and the jumble sale £57. The P.T.A. is giving £50 to the school for the purchase of gardening equipment to assist the green-fingered with the school garden. The school is to purchase a compost bin and a wheelbarrow! The P.T.A. is also to buy new cups and saucers.

On July 25th, there will be a school picnic for the children, parents and friends, weather permitting.

School Play

The school play will be held on 27th July at 1.45 pm for Senior Citizens and at 7.00 pm on 28th July for Governors, parents and friends.

The school will close for the Summer holidays on 29th July and reopen on 6th September.

UNIVERSITY NEWS...

The University is busily preparing for its Arts week in June, commencing with the opening of The Elizabeth Frink and students of the Royal Doulton School of Sculpture Exhibition. It will be opened by Sir Claus Moser, Chancellor of the University on June 2nd 1988 and will continue until the end of June. Elizabeth Frink sculptures can be seen in the Chancellor's Building Courtyard until the end of July. For further details of the Arts week, packed with plays, concerts and dance, contact The Information/Music Department for programmes.

From the Shoguns Domains

From July 9th, there will be an exhibition of Japanese Decorative Arts in the Chancellor's Building Gallery. This is a major travelling exhibition from the West Midlands Area Museum Service, and should be well worth a visit. The Society of Staffordshire Artists will have their Annual Show at Keele during August.

Face Lift

At last the Chancellor's Building Concourse is having a face lift! After years of dowdiness, ugliness, darkness and grot it is to take on a new face, one that any plastic surgeon might be pleased to put his/her name to. It will be carpeted, there will be new lighting, the wooden panels are to be painted and the long panelled wall is to be covered with hessian boards to improve its exhibition potential. The cafeteria, always an eyesore, is to be given a room of its own, which also promises to be a vast improvement on the present arrangements. For those who have worked amongst paper cups, walked through spilt coffee and soup and cigarette ends, these improvements are warmly welcomed and long overdue!

P.S. Don't forget the open air Shakespeare performances from Monday, 20th to Saturday, 25th June. For further information contact the Information Office, Keele University.



"I'm just getting him ready for the Frink Exhibition. Thought he might like to have a quick canter round and meet old friends."

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DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU WISH TO ENTER THE BEST PLANTED CONTAINER
COMPETITION

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PARISH CLERK AND CAN BE LEFT AT THE POST OFFICE
BY 30th JUNE 1988.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

BEST PLANTED CONTAINER COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

TEL NO:

AGE (if under 21):

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the competition and agree
that the judges' decision will be final.

SIGNED:

DATE:
