

# KEELE PARISH NEWS

November/December 1987

Vol 2 no 3



## OUR "STORAGE OF FORCE!"

The By-pass is a comin'.....

Planning approval for the by-pass had been granted in May and the scheme had been included in the 1987 submission of the County Council's Transport, Policies and Programme for 1988-1993 to the Department of Transport with a suggested start date of 1988-89. A decision would be known at the end of the year. At the parish council meeting held in October, Councillors Cairns and Finnemore said that they believed work would commence early in 1988. The parish council agreed to write a letter to Llin Golding MP to thank her for her efforts on their behalf.

And a new Clerk has arrived

Mrs. Christine Wilcox of Madeley was appointed as the new Parish Clerk in September and she was welcomed to the fold by the Chairman at the September meeting. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mrs. Gay thanking her for her wonderful work and service given over the past three years. We wish Mrs. Wilcox every success in her new post.

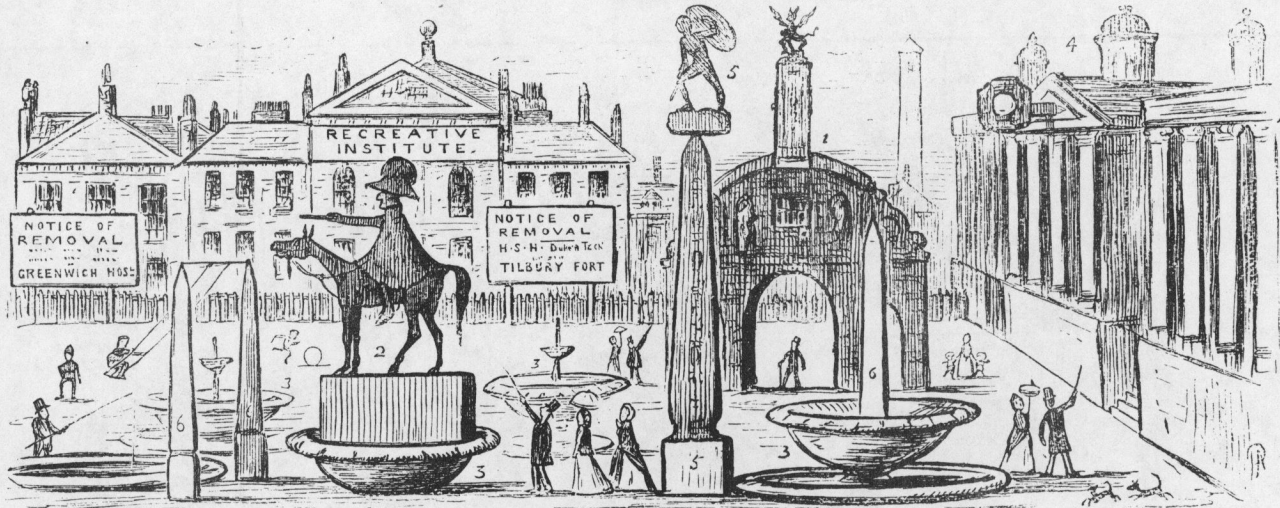
"And if we promise to be very good you will come to be our Parish Clerk won't you?"



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS .....

### Keele Conserved

#### HOW TO IMPROVE "THE ENVIRONMENT" - KEELE



A public meeting to discuss the possibility of Keele being designated as a conservation area was convened in September when Mr. J. Berman from Newcastle Borough Planning & Development Department addressed those present.

A conservation area is one of architectural or historic interest and it is desirable to preserve or enhance it. In order to do this, there are certain implications such as controls e.g. control of demolition, control of development, control over advertisements and the protection of trees.

Enhancement of the designated area aimed to improve the quality of the environment and to improve the character and appearance of buildings and their setting in the area.

If a conservation area was designated, a resolution would be prepared by the Borough Council with a map showing the boundary of the conservation area. The Secretary of State and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission would be informed.

Mr. Berman believed that the by-pass would enhance Keele village and tree planting programmes could be pursued. Appeals for Phases 2 & 3 of the Conference Centre would need to be made, if Keele were to be a designated conservation area. There were then questions from the floor. About seven members of the parish were present. If anyone would like further information, minutes of the meeting can be consulted and obtained from the Parish Clerk.

The parish council agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Berman for his useful talk. A vote was taken at the recent parish council meeting and it was agreed by a majority that the parish council proceed to make Keele a designated conservation area.

#### Reading

The rack for pamphlets and leaflets has now been erected in the foyer of the village hall. Parishioners are welcome to browse through the literature if they wish.

#### Trimming ....

The holly hedge outside the Sneyd Arms car park has been trimmed, thus increasing visibility on the bend.

#### Painting ....

The Keele Milestone is to be painted white again.

#### Arithmetic ....

The Parish Council has donated £10 to the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association.

#### Dumping ....

It would appear that 2 mile lane alias Lyme Road has become a dumping ground for black refuse bags. The parish council wishes to point out that dumping is illegal and anyone seen doing so, should be reported.

#### Building ....

The churchyard wall is half-way rebuilt and is looking very picturesque indeed. All those involved have done an excellent job and the appearance of the area around the churchyard has been greatly improved. It has been decided that the whole wall is to be re-built.



### Way-Marking



"This is the footpath - onward ..."

The footpath between Keele and Madeley is to be way-marked. The Countryside Project is prepared to do this if the Council wishes.

### Parking

It appears that some PMT bus drivers are still parking way down Whitmore Road to avoid allowing passengers to board at the Whitmore Road bus stop. Even if buses are parked at the bus stop some drivers are still refusing to allow passengers to board. The parish council would like to point out that both practices are against the wishes of the bus company and the Council, and drivers doing this should be reported. Some drivers have expressed a fear that they would be mugged by students if they were to be allowed on the bus whilst the driver was counting his money. It is more than likely, however, that students would prefer to ask their parents or bank manager for more cash, than a bus driver.

### Leaning on ....



Councillor Naylon pointed out that whilst walking at an angle of 35° he noted that the Whitmore Road sign was straight. Is this a conundrum? Answers on a rectangular postcard to the Parish Clerk who is perpendicular, or to the Chairman who is more circular.

### a lamp-post.....

The victorian lamp and stand will be erected shortly.

### Playing on the Street



"Ere Guv, this is a toddlers' play area, you know!"

Councillors Cairns and Finnemore said that the Borough Council was prepared to purchase a small field in the Quarry Bank area for a toddlers' play area. The parish council agreed to wholeheartedly support this venture. It would be the Borough Council's responsibility to maintain it, but the parish council would be expected to contribute towards fencing and maintenance. It was generally felt that there was a need for such a facility here, as children were playing in the road at present. The Borough Council would now canvass all residents in the area.

Councillors Cairns and Finnemore reported that vandalism was increasing within the borough. Whilst flogging and drawing and quartering on the village green were ruled out as remedies, parishioners are invited to attend a meeting with the police to discuss the matter (increased vandalism) on 17th November at 7.30 pm at the Parksite Social Club.

### Humps in the Road

The parish council has agreed to press for ramps on Quarry Bank Road to slow down traffic. Although there are certain difficulties to overcome, it was felt worthwhile if accidents were to be avoided

Speeding along Pepper Street is being monitored by the Police at present using radar, after a petition from residents was received.

The loose setts in Whitmore Road have been removed and the Borough Council are proposing a kerbing scheme.

#### Lumps in the Road

It would appear that mud and water are issuing forth from the Conference Centre building site, making the road dangerous and the pavement impassable. Some pedestrians are using the road, given the slipperiness of the footpath.

#### Grant to Guiders

Miss Sarah Studd and Miss Katherine Ashton had requested grant-aid for their recent visit to New Jersey, U.S.A. as part of a Girl Guide educational visit. They were awarded £25 each.

#### VILLAGE NEWS .....

#### Best Planted Containers



THE RIVALS.

Best Planted Container

The winners of the best planted containers are as follows:-

First Prize - Mrs. A. Abercrombie - £10

Second Prize - Mrs. W. Naylor - £5

Third Prize - Mrs C Downes - £2.50

As only two children entered the competition this year, it was agreed that they be awarded £5 each for effort.

#### W.I.

There was an excellent turn-out for the October meeting of the WI for Mrs. Killham's talk on China. She and her husband had spent a year teaching there and had many slides to show of the Temples, the Great Wall and the recently found Terracotta Army, and local people and their way of life. There were many questions to be asked. After a vote of thanks by Mrs. Locker everyone settled down to tea and refreshments. The next meeting will be held on 4th November. The speaker will be Mrs. T. Millwood, her subject 'At home for Christmas - a flower demonstration'.

#### Garden Guild

Our Annual Members' Show, as one visitor remarked 'was a nice friendly show'. All of us felt that the entries to the show would be less this year because of the unusual weather conditions; we were however surprised to see a very good number of exhibits. David and Ivy Butcher were the judges, and in their usual efficient and kindly way moved about the displays, remarking on colour, structure, and arrangement of the exhibits. The 'Downs Cup' and the National Garden Festival Plate were awarded to Mrs. Margaret Capper for the most successful exhibits.

In opening the show, our Chairman, Mr. Norman Richards, spoke highly and appreciatively of the display arranged by our good friend and member Mr. W. Rowley for his display of begonias. This display was most magnificent and colourful.

The Coffee Evening and Bring & Buy Sale, which was held on 12th September, once again proved a most enjoyable and well supported evening. The event was opened by Mrs. Jean Jervis, a local resident and member of the parish council. Mrs. Jervis spoke of her pleasure in being asked to open the fair and her appreciation of 'village life'.



### Garden Guild (contd)

The stalls were well supplied, as were the gifts that members and friends brought along and helped with the 'Wheel of fortune'. The thanks of the Chairman were expressed to all- opener, stall holders, members and friends.

On Monday, November 9th our speaker is Mr. Arthur Panton who will talk about 'Perennial Plants'.

### Classes in the Village Hall

Evening and day recreational classes have already begun in the village hall. For more information, leaflets can be obtained from the post office.

### SCHOOL NEWS .....

#### Xmas Bazaar

St. John's School will be holding its Xmas bazaar on Friday, 4th December. This will be a marvellous opportunity for last minute Christmas shopping!

#### Xmas Service

The School Christmas Service will be held on Thursday, 17th December in the village church. Parishioners and parents are welcome to attend.

The school holiday will begin for Christmas from 19th December and the school will re-open on Tuesday, 5th January 1988.

### Remembrance of Times Past

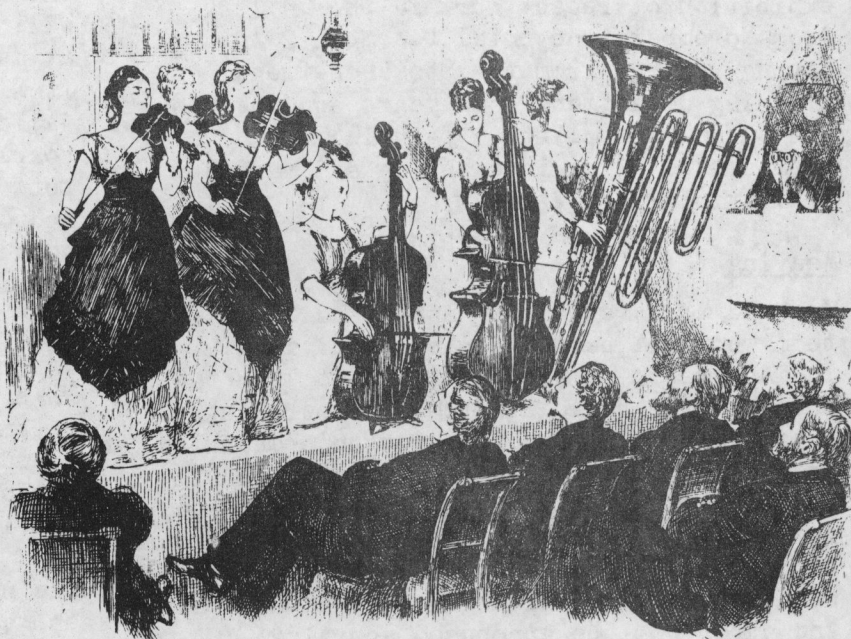
The parish council wishes to thank Mrs. Pat Jones for donating a supply of Keele Parish Reviews. Those who remember pleasant hours reading the Rev. Brookes, will be pleased to know that they are being lodged at Keele University Library where they can be consulted at leisure.

### UNIVERSITY NEWS .....

#### Drama

Cabaret is this year's Christmas musical chosen by the Drama Society. The performances will span a week from December 7th - 12th at 7.30 pm in Walter Moberley Hall. Tickets are £3, £2.50 and £2.00 (concession) and should be money well spent. Available from the Information Office, - but hurry.

### Concerts



THE FAIR SEX-TELL.

The Monday and Thursday concerts have begun again. Tickets are available from the music department. The programme is varied and interesting and the concerts are usually of a very high standard.

### Exhibitions



The Art of Glassmaking. This exhibition is currently on display until November 20th. It traces the development of techniques in glass making and there are some very special pieces on display. The exhibition emanates from the West Midlands Area Museum Service repertoire of travelling exhibitions.



### Painting

Mr. John Mitchell will be holding an exhibition of recent work in the Gallery from November 22nd until December 20th. Having retired from the Stoke-on-Trent planning department some years ago, he has now turned to full-time painting. It promises to be an interesting and varied exhibition.

### Weaving

Mr. and Mrs. Devgon are a husband and wife team who will be displaying traditional Indian crafts of weaving - woodwork in the Chancellor's Building from December 21st until January 20th. Mrs. Devgon's dhurries are created on a traditional loom made by her husband and all the designs are created in "her head" and are produced in traditional colours. Weaving and wood-working demonstrations will be arranged for January and the dates will be announced shortly.

Mrs. E. Howells will be showing her recent paintings and enamelware in the Chancellor's Building concourse from December 21st to January 30th.

### Xmas Craft Fair

The North West Midlands Guild of Craftsmen will be held on Sunday, 29th November 1987 at Keele University's Gallery concourse. It will be opened at 3.00 pm by Mr. Richard Wallace, the Chairman of the Arts Development Board. Crafts available for sale will be pottery, jewellery, needlework and patchwork, and Christmas cards. It is usually well worth visiting and stocking up with special Xmas gifts.

### Christingle Service

This will be held on Christmas Eve. It is a family service and amidst the getting and spending at this time, it is a welcome reminder of the meaning of the Christmas festival.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th November 1987 at 7.00 pm in the village hall.

Parish Councillors would like to wish all parishioners a "Happy Christmas" - albeit a little early this year!



'A happy Christmas from the Parish Council'

The Parish News is produced every two months. Editorial by Angela Drakakis-Smith and Margaret Capper with assistance from Christine Wilcox. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the parish council.