Who’s Who in the Alumni and Development Team

Dawn-Marie Beeston:
I graduated from Keele in 2011. I enjoyed my time here so much I didn’t want to leave and last year I was fortunate enough to get a position in the Alumni and Development team. When I’m not at Keele I spend my time with my horses, dogs and family.

John Easom:
I studied at Keele back in 1980-1981. After twenty years in the Civil Service I moved on to international trade development and then finally got back to Keele in 2005. This is the best job of my life. If I could do it wearing skates my joy would be complete.

Emma Gregory:
I started with Keele in 2012. I trained as a Vet Nurse but being allergic to fur created a bit of a barrier! After four years in the Civil Service, it was time for a complete career change. Since starting at Keele I have gained a wealth of knowledge and the interaction with an eclectic mix of students past and present makes every day great!

Contents

Union Square Lives On

On the same night as the lighting of the Forest of Light, Neil Smith (1980) flew in from New York to open the remodelled ground floor of the Students’ Union Building. Neil is the only person ever to serve as both SU and AU President.

During the renovations the illuminated Union Square bar sign – so memorable for Keelites from the 1990s and 2000s – had been rescued from a skip. It was auctioned and will be preserved in memory of the ‘old’ Union Square. The winning bid of £200 by Pritpal Singh Nagi went to local charities.
The late Paul Rolo, a founder member of the Keele faculty, was a man of many parts. As Professor of International Relations, he had to be. The IR course he coordinated back in the 70s, actually a triple honours in economics, politics and history, was a little like the reality of diplomacy today: his small IR group was akin to a modern foreign ministry, trying to give coherence to a host of subjects that in substance were driven by others, often better resourced and each with their own agendas.

But using a combination of authority - he was also Deputy Vice-Chancellor and a formidable negotiator, as I discovered when I was Union President - intellect and charm, he somehow managed it. Such were his diplomatic skills. He was also an extremely kind man, as indeed were most of his colleagues at that time, infused with the tenets of Lindsay's homespun philosophy. Paul's seminars in the Chancellor's building, laced with his dulcet tones, smoke from his beloved Chesterfields and sharp-edged discussions of late nineteenth century diplomatic history were, to coin a phrase, most agreeable.

Fast forward 40 years to Cairo, where I am now the European Union's man in Egypt, and reflecting on life's connections: just a few weeks ago I found out that Paul Rolo in fact hailed from Alexandria, which given its extraordinary ethnic and linguistic diversity was the perfect place for nurturing a 20th century IR professor. No wonder he was so good at it.

We arrived here last February, a year after the Egyptian revolution erupted in Tahrir Square. That revolution is far from over, and the country is still immersed in a difficult and messy democratic transition that makes my life extremely interesting but also challenging: in the past year, we have seen numerous elections, changes of governments and endless street demonstrations.

The EU is a major player here: since the Lisbon treaty, we are responsible for political coordination at European level and in a volatile situation like this we must make sure that we get our messaging right, whether on democratisation, human rights, security or foreign policy. And given Egypt's place at the heart of the Arab world, our stance here has repercussions for the region. This is complex when you consider that for the first time we are dealing with a new phenomenon here: a democratically elected, Islamist-led administration.

We're also the country's major civilian assistance provider and its main trade and investment partner. And we deal with the Arab League, which has its HQ in Cairo. In all, the EU Delegation (diplomatic mission) which I head has a staff of about a hundred Europeans and Egyptians to cover all this, and managing them can be quite an interesting proposition.

Egypt will likely be my last post in a career that after a few years of HMIS service and in the private sector has been devoted to ‘taking Europe to the World’. Beginning in Brussels 30 years ago, we went first to Ethiopia in the late 80s, spent most of the 90s and early noughties as EU Ambassador in Jamaica and Jordan, then back to Brussels for a decade, where I was the Asia Director and out again to Libya in 2011 as the revolution unfolded there. Notice I say ‘we’. That is code for my wife Randa and a gaggle of kids, all of whom are now (semi) independent and as far as I can tell relatively undamaged by the Bedouin lifestyle that we have imposed on them.

Apart from Paul Rolo, there are other abiding connections with those halcyon days spent in the Sneydian Groves. One is my link with the European idea: while at Keele I discovered Europe through working for the yes vote in the 1975 referendum, and I remember knocking on doors in Silverdale, explaining the merits of the then EEC to the good burghers of that fine old town. Memory fades, but I recall reactions ranging from utter bewilderment, through ‘capitalist plots’, to one very dignified old lady who had lost her husband at El Alamein (another Egyptian echo there) and was for anything that would help prevent another European catastrophe. I wish I could remember her name.

As important, I wish I could remember her name. As important, I wish we all could remember the essential reason for the EU in the first place. But as I said memory fades and it is no longer enough to invoke Armageddon to justify Britain’s continuing engagement in Europe. I have spent most of my life since Keele outside of the UK, and while I love to come home I am the first to admit that I am out of touch with public opinion there. But frankly, I am worried by recent trends toward little Englander-ism. There are far too many opportunistic interests, whether in the media or elsewhere, whose negative views on Europe go unchallenged. Time for another real debate, perhaps?

In the meantime, I am eternally grateful for the Keele experience, and I can only wish the University and its students all that is good for the future.

Jim Moran (IR, 1976)
Americans get the Premier League treatment

American exchange students at Keele have lent their support to Premier League footballer and fellow American Geoff Cameron. In January 2013, thirty American exchange students met compatriot Geoff Cameron at the Britannia Stadium. The Stoke City FC player was very eager to meet our American cousins, who had drinks in Delilah’s bar, watched the match and explored the Stadium before posing for photos with the statue of Sir Stanley Matthews. Geoff Cameron observed, “It’s great to hear some American accents in Stoke!”

Keele lecturer Dr Jon Parker (American Studies) set up the link with Stoke City FC and said “This was a fantastic chance to experience British culture and get to know the local community first-hand. It will teach our visiting students more about England and Stoke-on-Trent than I could possibly get across in a classroom. This is one of the things they will remember and talk about for years to come when they return to America.”

The Keele connection with Stoke City FC is not new… Sir Stanley Matthews, Gordon Banks OBE and Peter Coates (the current owner) are all honorary graduates of Keele University.

Keele’s University Challenge in 2013

Keele’s team for University Challenge has made it through to the filming stages for the 2013 BBC series. Filming started midway through February and will continue until the team get knocked out (or, more probably, win the title). The series will be screened on BBC TV later in 2013.

Keele’s first and so far only UC triumph was in 1968 just five years after being surprise runners-up in 1963. You can read about Keele’s University Challenge triumphs and travails on the Keele Oral History Project: www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/thekeeleoralhistoryproject/keeleonuniversitychallenge

The winning 1968 team Paul Brownsey, Pam Maddison (Groves), Aubrey “Larry” Lawrence and Andrew MacMullen
**Month by Month**

**January**
- Keele’s planet-hunting research has a starring role on the BBC’s ‘Stargazing Live’. The programme includes a live link to Keele’s WASP-South observatory in South Africa.
- Dr Nigel Cassidy, Research Institute for Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics (EPSAM), is selected by the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers to represent ‘The Best of Near-Surface Geophysics 2017’ at the 25th Anniversary Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Environmental and Engineering Problems.
- Maureen Morgan, School of PP and PP, is awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours for her work in primary and community nursing.

**February**
- Nadine Foster is awarded a National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigator.
- The University achieved National Collection status by Plant Heritage for the 240 varieties of flowering cherry trees on the campus.

**March**
- A celebration of International Women’s Day takes place at the Sustainability Hub with the theme ‘Inspiring Futures’. Sara Parkin, Founder Director of Forum for the Future, speaks on ‘Every Day is Women’s Day.’
- Professor Elaine Hay, Director of the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre, is appointed a National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigator.
- Keele’s Astrophysics Group wins a Science and Technology Facilities Council grant of £1,048,698 that will fund three Post-Doctoral Research Associates, working on a study of winds from supermassive black holes in distant galaxies; a large survey of star-formation regions and young stellar clusters in our galaxy and the WASP search for extrasolar planets.
- Keele launches a pioneering community-based volunteering strategy, ‘Keele Community Connections’, linking its student population, through the Students’ Union, with North Staffordshire organisations. The University also joins the NSVC and Volunteering England to become a branch of NSVC – the first university in the country.

**April**
- The first Charter Year overseas visit is to Canada and the USA. Meetings and events are held with alumni in British Columbia, Oregon and California. New alumni ambassadors are identified in America and Canada and a new vision is unveiled by the North American Foundation for Keele University.
- Malcolm Peckham is appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council. Malcolm has been on the University Council since 2004 and was appointed as Deputy Pro-Chancellor in 2009.
- The Students’ Union wins a Silver Green Impact Award for the third consecutive year. Green Impact seeks to encourage, nurture, reward and celebrate good environmental practice in Students’ Unions.
- The Institute of Leadership and Management, the UK’s largest awarding body for leadership and management qualifications, officially recognises Keele’s management degree as ‘the first time an entire university curriculum has been accredited.

**May**
- The University achieved National Collection status by Plant Heritage for the 240 varieties of flowering cherry trees on the campus.
- The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, and Joe Turner, President of KeeleSU, welcome students to the University. Their addresses are followed by Keele’s first ever ‘Welcome Festival’, with performances from student societies, games, activities and information stands.
- Business Secretary, Vince Cable, officially opens Keele’s dedicated business growth programme – The Nova Centre – and highlights the important role that universities can play in helping to support business.
- Speaking at the Universities UK conference at Keele, David Williams, Minister of State for Universities and Science, addresses an audience of UK vice-chancellors and praises universities as more central to our society than ever before.

**June**
- Ron Pate, School of Pharmacy, is awarded an HBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to hospital pharmacy.
- Professor Peter Jackson, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at Keele, is elected to the British Academy Fellowship.
- Dr Maria Heck, EPSAM, secures a major European grant worth £5.73 million for a four-year project called TANGO – Thermo-acoustic and Acoustic-Nonlinearities in Green combustors with Cefica structures.
- Baroness Williams of Crosby gives a seminar on the topic of ‘Challenges of a Political Career’ – an overview of British political history since 1945, the period of her own political interest and career.

**July**
- Dr Zoe Robinson, School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, is awarded a National Teaching Fellowship for her contribution to Education for Sustainability and other teaching innovations around Open Educational Resources and employability.
- Dr Jonathan Hill, Physiotherapy, is awarded the 2012 Arthritis Research UK prize in physiotherapy for his trial which explored the effectiveness of back pain treatments.
- A special celebratory reception to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Keele Charter, hosted by Keele Honorary graduate Lord Puttnam, takes place at the House of Lords, with guests representing Keele alumni, MPs, Keele Council and staff.
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**August**
- Professor Alicia El Haj, Director of the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, is shortlisted for the 2012 Women of Outstanding Achievement Award for Leadership and Inspiration.
- TV historian Michael Wood gives the keynote speech at a national history conference, ‘Joined up teaching’, at Keele. This chartered event, co-hosted by the University and Stoke-on-Trent Central MP Tristram Hunt, is opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett.
- Dr Joanne Protheroe, Senior Lecturer in General Practice, is interviewed on BBC Breakfast on new research into health literacy levels across England that has shown that health information is too complex.

**September**
- Keele is ranked 61st in the inaugural Times Higher Education 100 under 50 list of the world’s best young universities. Keele is 11th among the 20 UK universities included.

**October**
- Keele is placed, for the second consecutive year, among the world’s top 400 universities in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The University is positioned in the band 350-400.
- Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Pugh, and Dr Matthew Rose, EPSAM, Co-ordinator of International Programmes for the School of Management, visit Malaysia for the award of Keele degrees at the Conventions of KDU University College (near Kuala Lumpur) and KDU University College (Penang).
- Keele’s former Chancellor, Professor Sir David Weatherall, returns to the University for a special ceremony to name the Medical School building after him.
- Ron Pate, School of Pharmacy, is awarded an HBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to hospital pharmacy.

**November**
- The Forest of Light sculpture is unveiled by Pro-Chancellor, Malcolm Peckham, to mark the completion of a major project to transform the heart of the campus and the grand finale of Keele 50th Anniversary year.
- Dr Raphael Hirsch, Astrophysics, EPSAM, secures a prestigious 1.4 million Euro starting grant from the European Research Council – the first awarded to a Keele academic. The grant will fund a five-year research project entitled SHYNE (Stellar Hydrodynamics, Nucleosynthesis and Evolution).
- Dr Jon Herbert, SPIRE, is a guest on BBC Breakfast discussing the US elections.
- The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, is joined by senior colleagues on a visit to Hong Kong and Brunei to celebrate the Charter Year with Keele alumni.

**December**
- A thousand visitors attend Keele’s first Charter Year overseas visit is to Canada and the USA. Meetings and events are held with alumni in British Columbia, Oregon and California. New alumni ambassadors are identified in America and Canada and a new vision is unveiled by the North American Foundation for Keele University.
On 23rd January 2013, Julia Leyden (Western), Class of 1963 presented an outstanding piece of art for inclusion in the Keele University Art Collection. At first glance the viewer might assume that it depicts a traditional Christian crucifixion. In fact it explores different types of passion and their impact through history. A veil or curtain of words blows across the central figure but they are difficult to read, suggesting that time has made their interpretation sometimes uncertain.

Julia selected the quotations, and the passions they illustrate, from:
The Song of Solomon – sexual passion
Nero, described by Tacitus – megalomania
Viking raids – the impulse for conquest
The Ripapacy of Barons from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle – greed and self-interest
The death of Queen Elizabeth I – the need to secure succession
The execution of Charles I – the desire for regime change
The storming of Drogheda by Cromwell – the use of religion to support slaughter
The death of Suffragist Emily Wilding – the longing for equality
The riot at the premier of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' – resistance to the new

The footballers at the foot of the painting represents the use of religion to support slaughter. The cross represents the great religions. The cross represents the massive impact on historical development made by religious institutions of all kinds. The footballers at the foot of the painting are absorbed in their sporting passion and appear oblivious to the themes described above them.

Julia explained to the Vice-Chancellor that it was indeed her passion for Keele University that drove her to donate her collection of oral histories from people of Spring – resistance to the new

The death of Suffragist Emily Wilding – the longing for equality
The riot at the premier of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' – resistance to the new

Julia Leyden, the University's first female graduate, has been a passionate advocate for Keele University throughout her career. On 23rd January 2013, she donated a collection of oral histories from people of Keele to the Keele Society, which has been warmly received by the University. This collection will be an important resource for future generations to understand the history of Keele University and its impact on local communities.

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The Raven Mason Collection

The Raven Mason Collection is housed in Keele Hall and contains many important pieces outlining the development of Mason ceramics in Staffordshire from the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Raven Mason Trust has now been awarded a small grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the All Our Stories programme to run a project celebrating the history of Mason Ironstone. A key theme is to bring together collectors and people involved in manufacturing Mason Ironstone to express its importance for Stoke-on-Trent and for British ceramic history.

A number of events are planned – including the collection of oral histories from people associated with Mason Ironstone, a community celebration and the development of resources for schools to support learning about the significance of ceramics to Stoke-on-Trent and what the Potteries area was like when manufacturing dominated the local economy.

For more information: ravemason@keele.ac.uk

Golden Graduates

A Golden Graduate has celebrated 50 years at Keele University College of North Staffordshire. The Royal Charter of the University was granted in 1962 and the 50th Golden Anniversary of our Charter was celebrated in 2012. We held the first Golden Graduates Reunion in 2012 and this year’s event coincides with the 50th Golden Anniversary of our Charter.

Who are our Founding Graduates?

One hundred and fifty-seven students attended the University College of North Staffordshire in October 1954. Any one of these students was part of the first class of 1954. Anyone who is part of that first class is a Founding Graduate.
Revolution in the Air

1968: a year of revolution, a year when people – many of them students – took to the streets of London, Paris, Prague, Berlin, Mexico City and a whole host of other cities, to protest against the Vietnam War and vent their feelings at the deaths of Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy. Revolution was also in the air on the music scene, where The Beatles’ unchanged supremacy suddenly found competition in the form of those angry young upstarts, The Rolling Stones.

If the juxtaposition of global riots and the battle for No 1 records seems tripe, we must remember just how politicised music was in the sixties. Through their music and through their interviews, both John Lennon and Mick Jagger exerted considerable influence on the people that followed their every move, even if sometimes their views came from an artistic, rather than deliberate, political standpoint.

And in 1968, the two frontmen – and their music – were never further apart. In the same year that The Rolling Stones recorded ‘Street Fighting Man’ and ‘Sympathy for the Devil’ and Jagger took part in the London riots, The Beatles recorded ‘Revolution’, a song which brought Lennon an unprecedented level of criticism for his apparent indifference to the uprisings happening all around him. Jagger and The Rolling Stones were portrayed as leaders of the revolution while The Beatles, with their OBES and their messages of love and peace, were labelled part of the establishment that the Left wanted to bring down.

Against this backdrop, John Hoyland wrote the first of what have become known as the ‘Black Dwarf’ letters, published in the radical newspaper of the same name. In it, Hoyland berates Lennon for the ambivalent lyrics in ‘Revolution’, and for his massage of personal change and freedom, coupled with an apparent resistance to challenging the system. Hoyland also praises The Rolling Stones, in a move which he must have realised would antagonise Lennon, for their commitment to the revolutionary cause and for the increasing brilliance of their music.

Lennon responded immediately with a vitriolic response in a ‘very open letter’, also published in Black Dwarf. He attacked Hoyland’s belief that ‘smashing it up’ can bring change to the world order and defended his own ideals. Predictably enough, Lennon was particularly defensive of his music and his own reputation as a pioneering artist. For Lennon, whether in the context of his political beliefs or his music, to be considered less revolutionary than The Rolling Stones was the worst kind of insult.

The Black Dwarf letters caused a sensation when they were syndicated across the world in late 1968. Inspired by their publication, Maurice Hindle, then a first year student at Keele, wrote to Lennon requesting an interview in which he would counter the growing feeling against the Beatle.

Shortly afterwards, Maurice Hindle and fellow student, Daniel Wiles, found themselves at Weybridge train station in Surrey, having hitchhiked down from Keele. They were met outside the station by a very familiar man with shoulder-length hair parted in the middle and trademark pebble glasses. They spent six hours in the company of Lennon and Ono, and their interview remains an important contribution to discussion around that turbulent year of 1968.

Chris Harrison
Every generation – indeed every year – has its own memorable soundtrack. And that is so true of our university years when music provides the unforgettable backing track to life, love, learning and lunacy.

In 2007 we began to ask Keelites to name the ‘song that means Keele to you’. This was used for our first Homecoming disco and the list has been growing ever since. Over 270 titles now appear in the Soundtrack of our (Keele) Lives at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/thekeeleoralhistoryproject/thesoundtrackofourkeelelives

‘Never Forget’ by Take That is still top of the pops but if you want to add your song – from any era – let us know through our Forever: Keele Facebook group or direct to Emma Gregory at Keele. Who knows, your choice might make the playlist for Homecoming 2013. If you can’t wait till Homecoming find the ‘Keele Soundtrack’ playlist on Spotify.

Our success with the Keele Soundtrack has inspired us to discover your favourite gigs from any era – and that includes classical concerts or jazz combos! Again, please send us your choice and your memories through our Forever: Keele Facebook group or direct to Emma Gregory at Keele. We hope to create a new Keele Oral History project page with memories of the most Glorious Gigs. Here are a few to get you started:

Mike Beattie (2002): Jools and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra for 2002 graduation. We had our customary fire alarm go off and while we were outside the orchestra kept our spirits up by playing a few tunes on the Union fire escape.

Richard O’Hagan (1989): Primal Scream stalking off stage after about two songs because Bobby Gillespie thought someone had thrown a skiff at him (about 1988).

Mark Holtz (1993): Atomic Kitten around 2000. The pre-gig interview was longer than expected and we ran out of questions. Shania Twain was playing in the background so, rather feebly, I asked: “What’s the best thing about being a woman?” to which Kerry Katona grabbed her breasts and said “THESE!” Now that’s class.

Chris Parkins (1981): Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) jumping off the stage and punching a member of the audience was pretty memorable. Mind you, the guy was asking for it.

Gordon Mousinho (1975): Elkie Brooks wearing a skirt that can generously be described as ‘micro’. And Spirit, with Randy California playing in just a jockstrap and cowboy boots!

David Harris (1970): In 1972, Cream at the Royal Ball with Princess Margaret dancing with a triple vodka in one hand and a Gauloise in the other.

The Hollywood Festival at Madeley (May 23-24 1970) was the first outdoor festival in the UK – and it was largely staffed by Keele students! There was an exceptional line-up including the first UK appearance of the Grateful Dead and a performance by Mungo Jerry which raised them from invisibility to eternal glory with one song. Find out more at: www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/thekeeleoralhistoryproject/thehollywoodfestivalandmusicatkeele
In 2002, Antony Sutcliffe (2008) was a local Stoke student who had just dropped out of his A-Levels. Now he works at the University as an Outreach Officer, overseeing community engagement projects and running summer schools. We asked Ant why he is so passionate about inspiring young people to go into further education.

Tell us a bit about your background?
I'm originally from Burslem in Stoke-on-Trent so I've been familiar with the University ever since I can remember.

You work as part of the Recruitment, Outreach and Access team, how did you find out about the programme?
I attended one of the Keele Link sessions when I was at school in 2001. I really enjoyed it and it changed the way I viewed education.

So did it inspire you to come to study at Keele?
Yes and no. I was a bit of an unruly teenager and dropped out of my A-Levels after a few months. I got a job at a fruit and veg warehouse and never thought I'd end up at University. My girlfriend was doing her A-Levels at the time and she encouraged me to go back and study. After getting my A-Levels we both enrolled at Keele in 2005 and we got married a few years later!

So when did you join the Outreach team?
When I became a student at Keele I was actively involved in community projects, joining the widening participation scheme and helping at a number of summer schools and term-time events. As I was coming to the end of my studies in 2008, I found out about a vacancy in the team and secured an interview on the very same day as my last exam! It was a stressful day to say the least but just as I got home I got the call to say I'd got the job. I never looked back!

What does your day-to-day job involve?
My job is to liaise with community groups and local schools to arrange for them to attend Outreach sessions. One of the biggest projects I worked on was the IAG Roadshow, offering advice and help to more than 3,000 local young people last year. We also run a range of school sessions, which encourage young people to get involved in subjects such as English and Science by engaging in fun activities. Some sessions involve dressing up as Harry Potter and we can transport an inflatable Stardome to local schools. My job is pretty varied and very rewarding.

Why do you think it's important for universities to engage with young people?
Universities shouldn't underestimate the impact that this sort of activity can have. Just last year I received a letter from a student saying how much one of our sessions changed his life. I believe that education is key to liberating young people by giving them the confidence to raise their aspirations and to achieve things they didn't think were possible.

Kate Dawson
Thomas Crapper was a plumber by trade, whose company was known for the quality of its fittings more commonplace. He owned the world’s first manufacturing company that he undertook a number of attempts to overthrow Henry, backed variously by Margaret of Burgundy, James IV of Scotland and even the people of Cornwall! Warbeck’s quest ultimately ended in failure and he was hanged at Tyburn, London in 1499.

Gretel Bergmann was a German high jumper whose dream of competing in the 1936 Berlin Olympics was destroyed by the Nazi regime on the basis that she was Jewish. Bergmann prepared for the Berlin Olympics and one month before the Games were to begin, she tied the German record with a jump of 1.60m. But two weeks before the start of the Games, she was expelled (having already been expelled once previously, in 1933) and her German record was expunged from the record books. The excuse given was that she was being removed due to ‘under-performance’. Bergmann emigrated to the United States in 1937, vowing never to sat foot on German soil again. She won the US Championships in 1938 and 1939, also winning the Shot Put in 1938.

More recently, Germany has acknowledged her achievements, with a variety of honours. Her records have been reinstated, and even attended a ceremony in her home town of Laupheim, where the local stadium was named after her.

I hope you’ll do some more research and writing when you have a chance to come up for air!” Said with a twinkle in her eye, these were the last words I heard from my PhD supervisor, Marjorie Cruickshank.

That was in 1982 when I was just about to take up my first teaching post in a wide-ability secondary school in Kent. What a baptism by fire that was into the teaching profession, as I tried to prepare to teach four subjects: history, local studies, religious studies and Special Needs Maths! (I had been a Statistics subsidy that had got me the position!). I learned (a bit) from my mistakes, changed school twice and was not bad at my job (I even received a teaching award one year). But I found myself completely bogged down and exhausted by the preparation and piles of lower school exercise books to mark. As for research and writing, I did very little for the next ten years.

Thanks to the Schools’ History Project I was at least able to introduce my students to what I most enjoyed from my research days – using historical sources to carry out investigations, evaluate evidence and form interpretations. My favourite booklet was the Mystery of the Princes in the Tower, and this gave me the idea of writing something on Perkin Warbeck who claimed to be the younger of the two princes. How serious a threat was he to King Henry VIII? My research into Perkin’s life I wrote a historical novel called Ruling Ambition, an article for the brand new BBC History Magazine and a children’s book The Boy Who would be King for Short Books.

I have now written about a dozen books and lots of articles for magazines and newspapers. Of special interest to me are individuals who have been left on the sidelines of history and, I feel, deserve to receive more credit. It has led to me writing on an eclectic range of subjects – almost as wide-ranging as the Foundation Year. I am particularly interested in writing fast-moving short narratives for the 12-16 age range, a kind of advanced version of the old Ladybird series I enjoyed as a boy. Heckled by a mob of schoolboys called ‘The Murder Rooms’, I went up to Edinburgh one summer holiday to research the life of Dr Joseph Bell who I was intrigued to find had inspired Arthur Conan Doyle with the character of Sherlock Holmes. Back in my home town of Broadstairs, I paced up and down the seaboard dressed in a deerstalker and sporting a Sherlock Holmes pipe, during the annual Dickens Festival in 2005.

“...a short biography of Olaudah Equiano, a slave who became an abolitionist. Traditionally, William Wilberforce has received nearly all the attention because of his work in Parliament. I was interested to see what black people were doing for themselves to abolish the trade, and found that Equiano had started campaigning and touring Britain making speeches several years before Wilberforce. BBC South East Today came into school and filmed my Year 9 students reading passages from the book: that evening they were TV stars. After writing about two men I thought I ought to research a woman next, and I chose Mary Shelley. In many respects her itinerant and tragic life has been overshadowed by that of her more famous husband, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. One writer has recently suggested that she did not have the ability to write, and that Franklinstein was in fact the work of her husband. The book has been bought by school libraries and some English departments studying Franklinstein for GCSE.

In 2010 a book to commemorate the centenary of the death of the Victorian sanitary engineer Thomas Crapper proved a hit with BBC2’s series called ‘The Murder Rooms’. I went up to Edinburgh one summer holiday to research the life of Sir Joseph Bell, who I was intrigued to find had inspired Arthur Conan Doyle with the character of Sherlock Holmes. Back in my home town of Broadstairs, I paced up and down the seaboard dressed in a deerstalker and sporting a Sherlock Holmes pipe, during the annual Dickens Festival in 2005.

I hope you’ll do some more research and writing when you have a chance to come up for air!” Said with a twinkle in her eye, these were the last words I heard from my PhD supervisor, Marjorie Cruickshank.

That was in 1982 when I was just about to take up my first teaching post in a wide-ability secondary school in Kent. What a baptism by fire that was into the teaching profession, as I tried to prepare to teach four subjects: history, local studies, religious studies and Special Needs Maths! (I had been a Statistics subsidy that had got me the position!). I learned (a bit) from my mistakes, changed school twice and was not bad at my job (I even received a teaching award one year). But I found myself completely bogged down and exhausted by the preparation and piles of lower school exercise books to mark. As for research and writing, I did very little for the next ten years.

Thanks to the Schools’ History Project I was at least able to introduce my students to what I most enjoyed from my research days – using historical sources to carry out investigations, evaluate evidence and form interpretations. My favourite booklet was the Mystery of the Princes in the Tower, and this gave me the idea of writing something on Perkin Warbeck who claimed to be the younger of the two princes. How serious a threat was he to King Henry VIII? My research into Perkin’s life I wrote a historical novel called Ruling Ambition, an article for the brand new BBC History Magazine and a children’s book The Boy Who would be King for Short Books.

I have now written about a dozen books and lots of articles for magazines and newspapers. Of special interest to me are individuals who have been left on the sidelines of history and, I feel, deserve to receive more credit. It has led to me writing on an eclectic range of subjects – almost as wide-ranging as the Foundation Year. I am particularly interested in writing fast-moving short narratives for the 12-16 age range, a kind of advanced version of the old Ladybird series I enjoyed as a boy. Heckled by a mob of schoolboys called ‘The Murder Rooms’, I went up to Edinburgh one summer holiday to research the life of Dr Joseph Bell who I was intrigued to find had inspired Arthur Conan Doyle with the character of Sherlock Holmes. Back in my home town of Broadstairs, I paced up and down the seaboard dressed in a deerstalker and sporting a Sherlock Holmes pipe, during the annual Dickens Festival in 2005.

To coincide with the bicentenary of Britain abolishing the slave trade, in 2007 I wrote a short biography of Olaudah Equiano, a slave who became an abolitionist. Traditionally, William Wilberforce has received nearly all the attention because of his work in Parliament. I was interested to see what black people were doing for themselves to abolish the trade, and found that Equiano had started campaigning and touring Britain making speeches several years before Wilberforce. BBC South East Today came into school and filmed my Year 9 students reading passages from the book: that evening they were TV stars. After writing about two men I thought I ought to research a woman next, and I chose Mary Shelley. In many respects her itinerant and tragic life has been overshadowed by that of her more famous husband, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. One writer has recently suggested that she did not have the ability to write, and that Franklinstein was in fact the work of her husband. The book has been bought by school libraries and some English departments studying Franklinstein for GCSE.

In 2010 a book to commemorate the centenary of the death of the Victorian sanitary engineer Thomas Crapper proved a hit with BBC2’s series called ‘The Murder Rooms’. I went up to Edinburgh one summer holiday to research the life of Sir Joseph Bell, who I was intrigued to find had inspired Arthur Conan Doyle with the character of Sherlock Holmes. Back in my home town of Broadstairs, I paced up and down the seaboard dressed in a deerstalker and sporting a Sherlock Holmes pipe, during the annual Dickens Festival in 2005.

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I started at Keele in September 1997 and in many ways that still feels recent! I made some amazing friends there and I still see them whenever I'm back in Britain. I prolonged my contact with Keele by being a member of the Keele Society Advisory Committee for a few years.

At Keele I studied Geography and American Studies (including an awesome semester at Oklahoma State University) and, although it didn't help with my immediate career following graduation with GlaxoSmithKline, it's certainly helping with my current job.

I was in the ski club at Keele, attending annual BUSC trips and racing throughout the year, as well as the trampolining club. Both of these stood me in good stead for the crazy sport I took up at the age of 26. I had moved into hotel sales and although I loved it, it was never quite challenging enough, so I took up aerial skiing... I pestered the local dry ski slope to put me in contact with the freestyle coach and I hounded him for two months before I finally got to try out for the team. Amazingly, I got selected and began training in Switzerland while working full-time in the UK. I didn't do anything outrageous but training with the British and Swiss teams was an incredible experience. I stopped aerials training in 2008 – being a 26-year-old beginner was tough!

I then started as a National Account Manager at Eurostar with a £25m portfolio, frequently dashing across to Paris and Brussels with clients. I absolutely loved it and would probably still be there now if I hadn't met my boyfriend Gavin in September 2010 – he has a LOT to answer for! This is also where my dual honours degree came into its own!

From Ski to Sea

Gavin was in marketing when I met him but he was also captain of an 80ft luxury sailing yacht. His old boss asked him to run the boat again and Gavin agreed as long as he could bring me along too! I was happy in my job, had never done any sailing, and not lived abroad since that semester at OSU in 1998. Nevertheless, by March 2011 I was simultaneously working my notice at Eurostar, training for the London Marathon and trying to revise for sailing exams. In May 2011 we drove to Italy to crew the SY Holo Kai; Gavin as Captain, me as deck-hand and stewardess. Another girl was the chef.

I took a huge risk to start a job with no experience and living in very close proximity with a guy I had known for barely six months. On 'charter' you work 17 hour days and have to be available around the clock. I pushed on through; the places we were seeing were incredible and generally the guests were lovely! That summer we were along the French Riviera and the Tuscan coastline and we also visited Sardinia and Corsica.

In the winter we took Holo Kai across the Atlantic to Martinique, and sailed up through Antigua to the British Virgin Islands where we raced with other Oyster yachts, and on to Puerto Rico. Then I got promoted to chef so Gavin and I ran the boat, and raising our workload by 50%. I had not cooked very much previously, as my Keele friends will attest, and suddenly I was cooking for six people and crew. I had to serve three meals a day to ‘restaurant standard’.

We're frequently asked by people what we do when the guests aren't on board. We certainly don't work such long days as we do when the guests aren't on board. I took a huge risk to start a job with no experience and living in very close proximity with a guy I had known for barely six months. On 'charter' you work 17 hour days and have to be available around the clock. I pushed on through; the places we were seeing were incredible and generally the guests were lovely! That summer we were along the French Riviera and the Tuscan coastline and we also visited Sardinia and Corsica.

Another girl was the chef.

We have finally been able to use my degree – navigation, planning trips in different countries and conversing happily with Americans about their history, culture and politics. I didn't think when I left Keele that twelve years later I would be making a career out of what I love – travelling and being a host. I owe a lot of that to Keele. I wasn't the most confident student when I started, but I was when I left. A lot of it is to do with the Keele community and being at a campus university. Keele really improved my belief in my own abilities and gave me the courage to embark on something entirely different and involve a look back.

Emma Broome (2000)

"I thought you may like to know that Gavin proposed to me (needless to say I said yes). It was very romantic as we walking out on Jackson Lake (which was frozen) when he dropped to one knee with the Grand Teton mountain range as the backdrop! As he didn't know what type of ring I would like, he had made one for me out of box wood on his dad's lathe when we were in the UK in November (I had no idea!). I wore it for about a week but unfortunately as it was wood it was rather fragile and split. Two rounds of superglue later it was frozen) when he dropped to one knee with the Grand Teton mountain range as the backdrop! As he didn't know what type of ring I would like, he had made one for me out of box wood on his dad's lathe when we were in the UK in November (I had no idea!). I wore it for about a week but unfortunately as it was wood it was rather fragile and split. Two rounds of superglue later it was..."
Andreas Staffansen is the seventh recipient of the Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award. The annual prize of £5,000 is sponsored by Neil and Gina Smith to recognise a final year student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement at Keele.

Outstanding achievement takes many forms – but in this case, the panel looks for academic excellence coupled with a significant contribution to the life of the University and the wider community.

Andreas graduated with First Class Honours in Educational Studies and English. He has secured a training contract with a Midlands-based law firm which will begin after he has completed a graduate qualification in Law. He then hopes to embark on a career in Environmental Law.

Andreas consistently impressed his tutors by outstanding academic performance, averaging 80% across both subjects over three years. His degree dissertation was judged by the Programme Director in Educational Studies to be “master’s level...already publishable”.

The combination of Andreas’ academic achievements, his quiet determination to succeed and his commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others confirm that he deserves to be named Keele Student of the Year.

Andreas’ achievements are even more impressive when viewed in the light of his personal circumstances. Andreas is a Danish student with English as a second language who has settled in North Staffordshire with his wife. He is in the first generation of his family to attend university. During his first year at Keele, shortly before his exam period, Andreas donated a kidney to his wife who suffers from chronic renal disease.

Last month, just after he completed his final year assessments, he became a father when his first child was born.

Andreas has made a strong and lasting contribution to Keele through his work for the Widening Participation team. He has served as a Student Ambassador in roles of mentor, administrator, visitor guide and events leader. He has been praised for portraying Keele to prospective students in a “realistic but very positive” way and for inspiring young people to think positively about the benefits of higher education.

He was rewarded for his commitment, maturity and hard work with the Ambassador’s Ambassador Award and the Student Leader Award for 2011-2012.

Kath returns regularly to campus providing cupcakes for various events and she spoke recently to the Keele Enterprise Society, a student society for budding entrepreneurs.

Kath owes a lot to Keele: “The SPEED programme was a fantastic opportunity for me as it enabled me to turn my love of baking into a full-time career. I got a huge amount of support from the Student Enterprise Team during the programme and made contact with a lot of experienced entrepreneurs who gave me fantastic advice and guidance. I definitely think there’s something to be said for taking to a business entrepreneur your own age as they were in the same position as you just a few years ago. That’s why I jump at the chance to come back and talk to Keele’s current students. It feels very worthwhile to talk to the next generation of entrepreneurs and I really enjoy hearing about their future plans.”

The Keele University SPEED Plus programme is expanding: applicants are invited to a Dragons’ Den type panel to pitch their business idea and the most promising are accepted onto the programme.

For more information on the SPEED Plus programme, please visit www.keele.ac.uk/speedplus or email speedplus@keele.ac.uk

We love to welcome alumni back and to involve them in student activities and one area we particularly look forward to seeing is Kath Warrillow (2010). That’s because, after graduating, Kath combined her culinary talents with a shrewd head for business to set up Cupcake Yourself – her own business offering personalised and branded cupcakes.

As a Keele student, Kath enrolled on the SPEED WM programme, a six month funded programme to help young people kick-start their business ideas. Within a few weeks she had turned a part-time hobby into an operational business. In 2012 her cupcakes were featured in VOGUE magazine and she was receiving calls from the 02 Arena.

The Keele Chapel Organ was installed in 1966 and has enjoyed a distinguished history, including being played at hundreds of graduation ceremonies. Many famous organists have played the organ, among them Dr Francis Jackson of York Minster, Marie-Claire Alain, the most-recorded organist in the world, Peter Hurford OBE, Lionel Rogg, the noted Swiss organist and Dame Gillian Weir.

Sadly, the condition of the organ has somewhat restricted its use. It is now some way off the ‘concert standard’ it once enjoyed for teaching, recitals and choral performances.

The Disbursement Committee continues to meet three times a year, and as ever remain a passionate and enthusiastic group. We were delighted to welcome Prithpal Nagi onto the Committee this year.

I would like to thank all of our alumni who have been very generous in their support for the Keele Key Fund despite the economic climate. Your contributions enable the Fund to make a difference to student life here at Keele.

Rama Thirunamachandran
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost.
Chairman of the Keele Key Fund Disbursement Committee.

The Keele Chapel Organ Fund through the Keele Alumni and Development Office – or download a donation form from the website at keele.ac.uk/donations specifying ‘Chapel Organ Fund’. $5,000 for the addition of an extra rank of pipes for the Swell department.

We have received a generous gift from Edward Lee Spencer (1954) in the USA, to the value of around £11,000.

If you can help bring the organ back to top condition, please send your gift to The Keele Chapel Organ Fund through the Alumni & Development Office or download a donation form from the website at keele.ac.uk/donations specifing ‘Chapel Organ Fund’. £5,000 for the addition of an extra rank of pipes for the Swell department.

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Recent Awards by the Keele Key Fund
A team of thirty student ambassadors called alumni during November to share experiences of Keele and to invite support for the Keele Key Fund. We thank all our alumni for the time they spent on the phone with our team of students – and for their support. We also want to thank our callers for their commitment to Keele.

Telethon Team Roll of Honour 2012
Deputy Manager: Zoe Richards

Over five years the Key Fund has received pledges of over £500,000 to enhance the student experience and environment at Keele. This year we added pledges of a further £102,144 for the Key Fund.

More and more applications for awards are being received as students discover just how influential they can be. The Disbursement Committee looks for new projects that enhance the student experience and the campus, adding these to over 30 projects that have already been supported.

The great majority of awards benefit students directly through volunteering, co-curricular or study-related projects, but the Key Fund Disbursement Committee also wants students to enjoy the campus. We are considering the restoration of the legendary ‘clock with no hands’ in the Clock House and the renovation of the famous (or infamous) Amphitheatre. These are just the latest in a series of heritage and campus improvements that bring new life to the place we called home for a while and which remains our home-from-home forever.

“I joined the telethon team because I wanted to get more involved at Keele. I had never worked in this way before and I thought I would gain some new skills and enjoy being part of a team.

“I learned a lot about Keele’s history. I hadn’t heard about the original Foundation Year before (I soon learned always to call it FY) but it sounds like a fantastic idea! I already loved Keele – the campus and the feel of the ‘bubble’ – but I now understand so much more why Keele is special and different.

“I also learned a lot about myself. I wasn’t sure whether I could make conversation with people I didn’t know and I had no idea what to expect before each call. My most memorable conversation was with a woman who had worked at the Ministry of Defence and with the Army. She inspired me to open my mind up to options I had never even imagined before. All the alumni gave me helpful advice but she suggested some unexpected and exciting ideas.

“My plans for the future are still a bit vague – joining the Police, maybe – but my dream would be to become a Scenes of Crime Investigator. I teach dance too, so who knows whether something might come of that? That’s in the future, but for now I am glad I made some new Keele friends in the telethon team. I am proud that we were able to have some successful and enjoyable conversations with alumni. I hope they enjoyed them too.”
Keele Key Fund

1954
- Robert Lee
- Sheila Lee
1955
- Bob Miles
- Michael Taylor
1956
- Stanley Cooper
- Howard Mounsey
1957
- Janrett Murrell
- Peter Paice
- Margaret Roberts
1958
- Bill Hanna
- John O’Sullivan
1959
- Angela Parsons
- Alan Roberts
1960
- Barbara Ryder

1961
- Alan Ball
- John Carey
1962
- Bob Collicutt
- John Sutton
1963
- Barbara Thomas
- Jack Samuel
1964
- Brian Cramp
- Pauline Hanna
1965
- David Kerr
- Peter Maybank
1966
- Mary Reed
- Maureen Suddow

1967
- Derek Edwards
- Christopher Foota
1968
- Jim Pierce
1969
- David Pownall
1970
- Keith Cunningham
- Roger Fellows
1971
- Gillian Biggens
1972
- Steve Biggens
- Clive Borst
1973
- Barbara Thomas
1974
- Lorraine Fletcher
1975
- Mike Fullker
1976
- Peter Humber
1977
- David Jeremy
1978
- Bill Proctor
1979
- Josie Wheeler
1980
- Joan Bennett
1981
- Richard Brown
1982
- Jonathan Daines
1983
- Richard White
1984
- Paul Byham
1985
- Paul Howard
1986
- Neil Infield
1987
- Roger Jackson
1988
- Alison Pope
1989
- Joanna Bennett
1990
- Carol Botham
1991
- Alan Hogg
1992
- Martin Webster
1993
- Janet Murrell
1994
- Roger Hartley
1995
- Stanley Cooper
1996
- Michael Taylor
1997
- Bob Miles
1998
- Peter Paice
1999
- Margaret Roberts
2000
- Richard Brown
2001
- Andrew Egan
2002
- Michael Russell
2003
- Paul Byham
2004
- Helen Liddiard
2005
- Simon Creedy
2006
- John Carr
2007
- Simon Creedy
2008
- Paul Byham
2009
- John Carr
2010
- Peter Paice
2011
- Margaret Roberts

We also thank the very many alumni who wish their gifts to be anonymous.

Donors to the North American Foundation for Keele University Inc and Keele in Canada during 2012

- Edward Lee Spencer (1954)
- Tim Gibbs (1970)
- Richard Levak (1971)
- Clive Blackwell (1974)
- Mark Hill (1974)
- Jatinder Sehmi (1985)

- Wayne Millard
- Mohammad Rahim
- Rahat Rashid
- Trudi Rogers
- Martin Rowlands
- Kariba Sasegbon
- Tom Todd
- Mark Short
- Catharine Talbot
- Lawrence Woodcock
- Wilson Yeung
- Dilara Yurtmen
- Nela Zebrakova

We apologise to the two following supporters whose names were missed inadvertently from Forever: Keele in 2012
- 1955
- Adam Bennett
- Paul Hinton
- Simon Symonds
- Lisa Burns

We also thank the following supporters for their gifts:
- Mohammad Amin
- JM Dean
- J L Dickinson
- P & N Evans
- John Hartley
- R J Walker
- Samantha Woodall
- Lynn Rivera for her gift in memory of Jack Fry
Ruth Arnold (2006) and Alex Hayward (2006) were married in 2012 and their colourful Keele photos featured in “British Brides”. You can see some beautiful pictures of the couple and of Keele looking marvellous as the backdrop for their colourful Keele nuptials! www.rocknrollbride.com/2012/09/a-rainbow-wedding-inspired-by-their-living-room-ruth-alex
Keele held its first Community Day on Saturday 23rd June 2012 as part of the 50th Charter Anniversary celebrations. We threw open the doors and encouraged visitors to join us for a fun-packed day for all the family.

Keele staff and students joined together to create a programme of over 70 activities for visitors to enjoy. Visitors could explore the beautiful campus through historical and geographical tours, or experience sustainability debates, volcanic eruptions, muggle quidditch or make virtual or visual observations of the earth, sun and stars. They viewed art exhibitions, tried a language or sport or science taster session. Many goals were booted in a penalty shoot-out with Stoke City FC, while others hunted forensic-style for buried bodies. Live music and other entertainments provided a wonderful background to all the activity.

The day had a huge impact on people from the surrounding area who were warm in their appreciation.

“We brought our primary school-aged children and visited the sports centre and medical school. The children had the opportunity to hold a Barn Owl, learn how to play golf, trampoline, go-kart, put the siren on a police car, dress up as fire-fighters, see models of the human body and palpate a model abdomen to feel a baby in the uterus, learn about resuscitation, see slides of bacteria, as well as learn about healthy eating and how to burn calories. There was a broad range of activities and opportunities on offer as demonstrated above which held our interest and increased our knowledge and skills.”

“We enjoyed the variety of things to do. We spent two hours in the medical school alone. We enjoyed the walk around the Uni. Our kids enjoyed the medical school, the animal skulls and the trampolining the best. It was nice that the activities were free.”

“We found the whole day to be enjoyable, because it was educational, informative and fun for adults and children alike.”

“We would definitely like another day. There was so much to do we did not have the time to do everything we would have liked. It’s a great way to visit the University and find out what you do.”

Given the overwhelming support, Community Day will become a regular event in the Keele calendar – in 2013 Community Day will be Sunday 2nd June.

The day had a huge impact on people from the surrounding area who were warm in their appreciation.

“The 24 semi-mature trees newly planted in Union Square may look like they are there ‘just to look nice’, but there is meaning behind their selection for the University arboretum and the heart of campus.

Two red maples and three cut-leaved silver maples turn red and gold respectively in the autumn, matched by the foliage of six hybrid elms in front of the Library. These and the deep green foliage of two Persian ironwoods and a Japanese hornbeam between the Chapel and the Union combine to complete a display of the University’s colours of red, gold and green.

These trees also symbolise the former Soviet Union and North America. Much of the funding for these outstanding trees was given generously by Phil Davies (1971) in memory of his late wife Ros Davies (Patton) (1971). Phil studied American Studies and Ros studied Russian at Keele, so Phil’s trees bring both glorious colour and a meaningful international tribute to Union Square.
Ticker’s World

Ticker passed away on 5th February 2012 and Keele was high on the list of people for Mo to inform: “Sadly, Ticker died yesterday much, much sooner than expected”, just a few months before the first ever Golden Graduates reunion. Mo came to the reunion but Ticker was greatly missed.

Brian ‘Ned’ Lusher (1960) reveals: “Ticker Hayhurst, Chairman of the RAG Committee in 1958 and 1959. The tales of his and his many fellow students’ exploits have inspired me to do RAG a massive part of Keele once again.

We have decided to support three local causes:
• The Peter Pan Nursery for Children with Special Needs in Newcastle.
• The University Hospital of North Staffordshire Charity Appeal for support for a new PET CT Scanner; and
• Combat Stress, a charity supporting ex-service personnel with mental health issues.

Ticker loved pranks, and he recalled: “I have found two photos of Tulla Tallianos with the Lord Mayor of Stoke, Dennis Delay and myself. We played a hoax on one of the national papers pretending Tulla was a famous Greek film star and we got away with it. We had a good year in 1958 with the kidnaping of Miss Great Britain and putting a teddy bear with a space helmet in the newly opened Jodrell Bank radio-telescope dish. We also stole the anvil from the Greta Green wedding smity... aah happy days!”

The key person behind RAG Revival is Keele student Danny Walker, so we asked him what inspired him.

“Ticker always ‘save’ what to do practical solutions. He was a master of sociability and by the end of our first week at Keele he had organised a party in the women’s residences, complete with cider and plenty of fair ladies…”

RAG Revival 2013

We’ve planned lots of events for RAG Week 9-16 March 2013, from street collections, to comedy and quiz nights, a resurrected RAG Parade and even bungee jumping above the Union car park!

Ticker was a gentleman. For some weeks we shared a room but this came to an end because I snored and his pocket watch (his grandfathers, I believe) sounded like a time-bomb. The watch gave Ticker his nickname. He enjoyed Keele immensly and the opportunities it gave him, not just academically, but because it provided for his sense of humour and his ability to plan and organise pranks. He was always collected, cool and clever at finding new imetus to RAG and in 2013 even the procession has been resurrected.

In 2013 RAG is dedicated to the memory of Ticker Hayhurst. If anyone coupled a lifelong love for Keele with a prankster it was Ticker Hayhurst, lynch-pin of some of the most memorable RAGs in Keele’s history. Christopher Hayhurst graduated in 1960 and married Maureen ‘Mo’ Paskell (1962). In Ticker’s own words, “My main interest at Keele was rugby and academics but Mo and I were deeply involved in the Students’ Union and in the RAG. I was Chairman of the 1958 and 1959 RAG Committees and Maureen was chair of Royal Ball Committee and the Union social committee”.

We hope RAG is now firmly back in the Keele calendar and it will be the catalyst for ever greater charity fundraising. Alumni have been really kind to us this year as the Keele Key Fund has sponsored the parade. I would like to say thank you to all Key Fund supporters; it really does make a huge difference to people at Keele. If anyone wants to donate directly to Keele RAG, then you can do so online via www.justgiving.com/teams/keelerag

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A Coming of Age

Heritage, Myths, Legends and... Volunteers

"It has been a privilege for me to discover the heritage of Keele through the eyes of 60 years of Keele alumni. Having led many tours of Keele for staff, visitors, guests, alumni and others, I have found that current students are equally hungry to know about our history, heritage, and our myths and legends. Keele students are now leading the way in rediscovering and sharing the wonders of Keele." John Easom (1981) (Alumni & Development Manager)

"When students were approached by the History department about a volunteering project concerning Keele Hall, I jumped at the chance. The first time I stepped into the Hall I found it completely beautiful. It was only when I began training as a volunteer guide that I realised how closely the beginning of Keele University was with Keele Hall's history. The more I researched the Snead family and the Hall itself, the more I loved this piece of history on our campus. It meant a lot to me to use the passion and skills of my history degree and to meet others who feel the same way. The Keele Heritage Volunteers project is now registered as a volunteering group with KeeleSU Volunteering. It isn’t just been facts and dates that I’ve had to learn, but also the skills inherent in organising training sessions, creating solid contacts with Keele Hall and KeeleSU Volunteering, and organising my time so I can be a part of this project. It’s been a learning experience that I never thought possible when I first came to Keele and, for that, I’m incredibly grateful." Ariana Sevilla (2013)

The Keele Heritage Society started in my second year. I had walked in the grounds of Keele Hall, but previously never seen inside or really considered the links between the Hall and the University. Training as a guide has shown me how little I know of the University’s history and the extent to which I had merely accepted the Hall as a beautiful building on campus. In addition to guiding tours, each volunteer conducts their own research into the history of the estate and the University. Understanding the foundation of the University and Lord Lindsay’s vision has made me proud to be a Keelie. It has also given me a chance to utilise skills I have learnt in my history degree, and it has enabled me to engage with students with similar interests. It has been a wonderful experience, and an unexpected opportunity. I hope that we will continue to recruit new volunteers so that the society can continue to grow." Georige Fitzgilboon (2013)

The “Keele Experiment” began in 1949 to explore a unique new approach to interdisciplinary scholarship and as a campus community. The experiment came of age in the 1960s with the award of the Royal Charter in 1962, at the start of a decade of radical change. By 1970, Keele was being described as: "the most original innovation in British university education in the 20th century". In 1973, the keystone of the Keele experiment - the Foundation Year - ceased to be obligatory for all undergraduates and Keele was forced onto a new path.

Our history of Keele ‘by alumni for alumni’ began in First Decade continues in ‘A Coming of Age: Continuity and Change’, a labour of alumni love completed in 2013.

In his CD ‘In Our Own Words – Keelettes look back at the Turbulent Years’, Brian Walker adds insights through contemporary accounts and interviews with alumni.

The support of the Keele Society Advisory Committee and the Keele Key Fund are greatly appreciated. We thank the scores of alumni involved but especially the production team: Gerry Northam (1970), Nic Hildabrandt (1975), Brian Walker (1970), Matt Bowling (2008), Pam Jones (1970) and John Easom (1981).

Copies of ‘A Coming of Age’ can be obtained from the Alumni & Development Office – there is no charge but we do invite contributions to the Keele Key Fund.

Keele University has partnered with Nissan to provide an electric vehicle for its staff to use for business travel. The Nissan Leaf was unveiled by Keele University Chancellor, Jonathon Porritt, along with a Nissan charging point installed on campus, as part of the University’s Green Week. The vehicle, which has a 109 mile range, will be available for Keele University staff to travel to meetings and schools around the West Midlands as part of a 12-month trial.

The electric vehicle is just one of many green initiatives introduced at the University, which has a strong record of addressing and responding to the environment and sustainability agenda. Keele was among the first universities to be awarded Carbon Trust Standard and topped the government’s Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) league table in 2011. The car will contribute towards the Keelie’s target to achieve a 34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.

Efficiency measures implemented on Keele campus include the development of a multi-million pound Sustainability Hub, the refurbishment of a number of buildings to improve energy performance, the introduction of a new sustainable catering and recycling programme and the increase of Fairtrade goods made available to staff and students. Earlier this year, the University also signed an agreement with npower to install solar panels on a number of university buildings and McCormley UK Ltd has installed a prototype urban wind turbine on the University Science and Business Park.

Before the event is successful we plan to hold more events in Birmingham, Manchester and London, and perhaps beyond. If you could help to host an event near you, please let Emma Gregory know.

Networking with Keele Alumni

“Alumni circles” exist by different names to help alumni who want to keep involved with some of our academic Schools; they are usually informal and have grown from relationships between staff and former students. Keele’s Careers, Internships and Volunteering teams are keen to involve alumni similarly in support of students and one another through advice, information and opportunities.

Networking with Keele Alumni is a new initiative to achieve just that: the first pilot event will take place at: Keele Sustainability Hub (Home Farm)

Wednesday 15th May 2013 5.30pm to 7.30pm

A Joint Event by: Keele Alumni/ Careers Employer Engagement. We hope Networking with Keele Alumni will become a regular opportunity for Keelites to meet students and for less experienced alumni to meet fellow alumni further on in their careers. We think this is a good way for Keelites to help other Keelites where it really matters – through career progression and improving prospects.

The format will involve networking with students and fellow alumni. A buffet will be served and we have arranged entry to the Students’ Union afterwards, for those who wish.

This magazine is a little early for full details of the networking event, but more about Networking with Keele Alumni, contact Emma Gregory in the Alumni and Development Office.

We know that Keele is not always the easiest place to get together so if this event is successful we plan to hold more events in Birmingham, Manchester and London, and perhaps beyond. If you could help to host an event near you, please let Emma Gregory know.

Jonathan Porritt said: “I’m pleased that we are introducing an electric vehicle on campus; it will not only provide a green form of transport for our staff, but will also encourage car sharing for employees travelling within the region. Universities are in a privileged position to be a test bed for new technologies and initiatives, and at Keele we are focused on introducing greener thinking to our staff and students to help educate future generations.”
Keele in Canada Scholar 2012: Cristina Polsinelli (2012-2013 MA Criminology and Criminal Justice)

Cristina Polsinelli is the recipient of 2012-2013 Keele in Canada scholarship, which was created by the generosity of our alumni in North America. She graduated from Windsor University in Ontario in 2012. She spent one semester at Keele as a Study Abroad student in 2008. We met Cristina a few weeks into her MA course to see how things are going.

So, Cristina, what are you doing at Keele now?

“I am doing a postgraduate course – MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice. I have always found the subject fascinating – I remember it was sparked off as a child when I read about Jack the Ripper. On my first trip to England I walked around Whitechapel but this year I plan to track down ‘a Jack the Ripper guided tour in London!’

How did you first hear about Keele?

“In my second year at Windsor (Ontario), I decided to do an overseas exchange. My grandfather told me a lot of stories about England because he had lived in England for a few years after leaving Italy. I narrowed my choice down to Keele as soon as I saw the photos of Keele Hall on the website. I even got a little bit emotional when I saw it – but it’s proved to be even better in reality...”

What was your first impression of Keele when you arrived?

“As a Study Abroad student I was nervous at first of all the new people, and it was my first time in England. But after I tried out and joined the football team that all changed. The football girls were sitting on Keele Hill when I arrived and the afternoon they invited me over. It was just like some of the pictures I had seen of students sitting on the lawns and it felt perfect. I also joined the Drama Society and my friends were so supportive of me during my performances. I have met some wonderful people – Keele has made true friends – everyone has been welcoming and friendly. In fact I am planning a reunion in London in 2013 with all my old Keele friends together.

I feel at home here - I love the campus, the people and the education system. I really enjoy the flexible approach to learning – it’s more exploratory and more like a discussion than a lecture. In fact, it’s more than I expected.

What are your aspirations for five years from now?

“I am going to stay focused on my course and then I hope to work with the police in Canada, using my criminology knowledge. I am also open to opportunities in the UK too. Whatever happens, I plan to travel and to stay part of Keele.”

What do you hope to gain from your scholarship year at Keele?

“Well, the course is already better than I hoped. The lecturers have tailored the programme to reflect my specific interests and those of the 24 or so people on the course. My particular topic is 'Edgework’ - the ways in which extreme or 'on the edge' behaviours occur in modern society and how that applies to criminology. I am so excited to have the opportunity to study at Keele again.

Anything you would like to add?

“My scholarship depends on the kindness and generosity of fellow Keelites in Canada - I want to thank them for being so kind and supportive. They have changed my life and made my dream come true, to study again at Keele! I met some Keele alumni in Toronto a couple of years ago and they were wonderful, and it felt like one family despite our difference in years from a gentleman in his 80s right down through all the generations to the youngest, me, who had not even graduated yet. Thank you all so much!”

Dynamic Duo Combine for US Bestseller

Neil Smith (1980) has sent us a great reason to attend Keele events for alumni. Neil says, “I don’t think that even you realised how your newsletters and the events you put on for Keele alums pay off in all sorts of unpredictable ways. Little did you know that when you introduced Rick Levak (1971) to me at a Keele event a couple of years ago that something creative would come out of it. We put our heads together and I have just published a book – and Rick is a key contributor. The book is now a New York Times Bestseller! So...the moral of this story for all Keele alumni is that you never quite know where a Keele reunion, homecoming or event might lead and the more Keele guys you put into a room, the more the creative juices flow!”

They Wouldn’t Let Homecoming Die

Whether you are in the Class of 2012 and this is your first anniversary since leaving Keele, or you fifth or even your tenth, celebrate at your old home-from-home with your Keele friends.

The Alumni Office and Students’ Union created the first Keele Homecoming in 2008 and the disco was attended by over 350 alumni. Numbers each year usually exceed 400 at the legendary Never Forget Disco in K2 (Students’ Union).

Our dream is for Homecoming to become that regular sunny date around which all Keelites build a get-together with their own circle of friends. We postponed Homecoming in 2012 but the Back to the Bubble Gang and the League of Extraordinary Keele Gentlemen wouldn’t let Homecoming die! In 2013 for the first time, alumni volunteers from the Gang and the League are planning Homecoming. Help them make it live in 2013.

The Union promises food and drink all day and the Lounge Bar will be open with free pool and live sport on screen! Plus, breakfast on Sunday morning. Our volunteers promise activities to revive old memories and create new ones.

Homecoming is FREE to attend during the day. Disco tickets £5 available from the website KeeleSU.com or buy on the day or FREE to holders of a valid silver or gold Gradcard.

Book your Horwood room at conference.management@keele.ac.uk or confirm attendance on the Homecoming 2013 Event (Forever: Keele) or email Emma Gregory in the Alumni & Development Office.

Homecoming is Saturday 29th June 2013 3pm to 2am.
1961 John Idris Jones: I have recently emigrated to teach history and one on Northumberland old churches for 40 years teaching history. I dabbled with local history articles using Keele’s facilities. I have written four books, Northumberland Hills and Lands End and my second A Silence that Happened in 2012.

1968 James Harris: I retired from science teaching and Elizabeth (Addington-Hall) (1970) retired from being a school librarian. We have moved to Poland to encourage and strengthen the Protestant church.

1970 Stephen Booth: I have retired after 42 years teaching history. I dabbled with local politics, becoming a councillor and Stone Hall School’s history speaker as well as treasurer of Stone Historical & Civic Society. I have published several local history articles using K ceiling’s facilities.

1973 Jill Dobson: Now semi-retired but still works for a very important examiner for the English Speaking Board.

1975 Peter Tillsch: For 30 years I have been running a business supporting people who may need help because of their disability or age. I now own two care homes supporting older people. I live in North London, am married to Christine and we have three children in their teens.

1977 John Stote: Now in my fourth career as teacher, naval officer, academic and now a vicar! Met Margaret on my first day at Keele in 1968 – and now married for over 40 years with two children and two grandchildren.

1979 Jennifer Robertson (Castle): I was county commissioner for Western Isles Girl Guiding and a trainer.

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1974 David Cotton: From a small oilseed rape company to a global business. I now enjoy working as an examiner for the English Speaking Board.

1977 Ian Robinson: Recently retired after 17 years as Principal of Sterling Hall School in Toronto. I am currently completing my doctoral studies at Aalto University.

1981 Ian Cameron: I was awarded a scholarship to the University of Massachusetts at the end of my third year at Keele. To earn the money for my return ticket I got a job working with emotionally disturbed adolescents in a residential treatment programme. I loved the work, stayed, fell in love and got married. I worked in mental health for 18 years, got divorced, remarried and had two children, Kate (20) and Nick (16). For the last 15 years I have worked as a textbook editor. I live in an old farmhouse, have a large vegetable garden and a small pond and am looking for ways to live and work in both the USA and the UK.

1976 Jim Moran: I went to Switzerland in 1975 in pursuit of Jane (Campbell). We now live in Spain with my partner.

1987 Judith Hollingsworth (Fletcher): Our current research is studying for a PhD in the activity and social life of 70-year-olds. I was a social researcher and have been a major influencer in an area of 60 and about to become a granddad of 60 and about to become a granddad.

1988 Susan Soyinka: Since retiring as an examiner for the English Language A-level, I have trained as a town planner and worked in Lincolnshire and Leicester before retiring in 2011. Our daughter is studying for a PGCE at Keele. Our grandson is studying for a PGCE at Keele.

1992 Tony Bartley: For 30 years I have been an education consultant to F1 in schools. I am now CEO of Louth Education Community Interest Company, managing and developing Louth Town Hall as a major community and education hub.

1994 Andrew Cassie: Have been running CIB, a marketing agency for 27 years. I have now turned my grandson’s UI’S football team.

1997 Gillian Cook: I was awarded a scholarship to the University of Massachusetts at the end of my third year at Keele. To earn the money for my return ticket I got a job working with emotionally disturbed adolescents in a residential treatment programme. I loved the work, stayed, fell in love and got married. I worked in mental health for 18 years, got divorced, remarried and had two children, Kate (20) and Nick (16). For the last 15 years I have worked as a textbook editor. I live in an old farmhouse, have a large vegetable garden and a small pond and am looking for ways to live and work in both the USA and the UK.

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2011 Elizabeth (Addington-Hall) (1970) retired from being a school librarian. We have moved to Poland to encourage and strengthen the Protestant church.

2012 Janet Toye (Reason): I am a former local and district councillor and now run a business supporting people who may need help because of their disability or age. I now own two care homes supporting older people. I live in North London, am married to Christine and we have three children in their teens.

2015 John Stote: Now in my fourth career as teacher, naval officer, academic and now a vicar! Met Margaret on my first day at Keele in 1968 – and now married for over 40 years with two children and two grandchildren.

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2022 Andrew Cassie: Have been running CIB, a marketing agency for 27 years. I have now turned my grandson’s UI’S football team.
Robert Evans: After working in London, Canada and Baltimore, ended up in New Zealand.

Miranda Mawer (Barry): Working in Wellington, New Zealand: hoping we’ll have a house built by next year.

David Varyo: I am a partner in Gateley, a UK top 50 commercial law firm, advising on construction and engineering and I specialise in EU and domestic procurement.

Julie Draysee: Primary teacher; driving my children to Dublin and to various football matches at weekends.

Antony Edwards: A long and varied career in the oil and gas industry with BP and Big Group has led to me starting my own business consulting company. Married to a former Obama Democrat who is from Chile, with three small children. We travel and ski as much as possible.

Julie Jones: I am a film producer and living in Sydney.

Anthony Anthony (Isis): I am now more interested in politics and becoming an MP, and have been a member of the board of the UK Conservative Party since 2010.

Anna Carty: My children are now both at university and I am starting a new career in the film industry.

Eric Rose: That weekend drink soon.

In October 2011, I met by chance Ian Brunt Sales, working in North and East Europe.

I’ve been in International management in companies from Britain to the Urals for 20 years and I’ve travelled the world!
David Williams: Since 2000 I've been working as a self-employed musician and piano teacher in Lincoln. Robin, my eldest son, is studying Commercial Music at the University of Westminster. Meanwhile my partner Emiliana and I are expecting our second child in April. Our eldest, Jacob, was three in December.

Beverley Woolrich: I have two beautiful children and am disabled by SPMS. I keep smiling and remembering how lucky I am! Keele was an amazing part of my journey. thank you.

Ross Yissamides: In 2011 I completed my PhD at the University of Sydney.

Samantha Bailey (Eve): I was born on 30th August 2012. May Jelliti: My first daughter, Eva, was three in December.

Cheryl Field: After my NQT year teaching in 2007, finally settling in Western Australia in 2009 where I married my beautiful wife Joaeline. We have one daughter, Charlotte and another little girl on the way in March 2013.

Diego Garro: Settled down at Keele where I live with my wife Lily (also a Keeler graduate) and our daughter Valentina.

Ralph Bunche: New York-licensed attorney with expertise in commercial litigation and experience advising governments and international financial organizations. Alumnus of Dorothy Wooler (Scholten): Living and working for an airline in Australia.

Gillian Dobson: Have been teaching science in a high school for 10 years. My first child was born in May 2012. May Jelliti: I am now on kiddie number two.

Sandra Nicholls: I am a member of the coaching team. I recently completed my MSc in Project Management through Warwick Management.

Sarah Taylor: I did a PG Dip in Professional Writing at Falmouth College of Arts. I moved into executive management in the development sector.

Andrew Stoker: I have worked as a self-employed musician and working as a software developer and am now working as a software developer in the systems management development team.

Richard Bagshaw: I made the most of my second degree, working for 10 years in the City of London in finance. I moved to Seattle in May 2011 to gain some experience on the other side of the pond - and the West Coast lifestyle is a huge bonus!

Rahman Brown: I work as a software developer and am now working for an airline in Australia.

David Cartwright: I've had a few jobs, been travelling, got married in 2009 and now I run my own company building soundproof studios. I'm now I run my own company building soundproof studios.

Christopher McSharry: Traveled the world. Lived in China for a year. Studied CIM and passed all exams and currently in the process of completing my career profile to become a fully qualified management accountant.

Roxy Rudyzik-Shaw (Rudzik): I was shortlisted for a Mental Health Hero award under the category of Professional Hero - Therapist's Award for my work with RRS Counselling Services.

Johanna Jarvis: Running own international astronomy communication and consultancy business.

Emily Gaffney (Wildon): I want to King's College London to do an MSc in Forensic Science and went from there into a job in the forensic science world.

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If you have ever said to one another, “We must get together”, and then struggled to fix a time and place, Keele in the City is the solution. No speeches, no presentations – just a chance to mingle and meet Keele pals, rub shoulders and exchange gossip and memories.

Keele in the City 2013 coincides with the Lord Mayor’s Show so we will share our celebration with Fiona Woolf CBE (1970 Law & Psychology), Alderman of the City of London and recent past President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

The Procession: The Lord Mayor’s procession has floated, rolled, trotted, marched and occasionally fought its way through almost 800 years of London history and has become one of the world’s best-loved pageants. Cheer the Keele float and students between Mansion House and the Royal Courts of Justice then via St Paul’s and the Embankment between 11am and 2.30pm.

Keele in the City: Spend an afternoon in London doing a few of your favourite things with your Keele pals.

Rendezvous on the River: Join us aboard ERASMUS 1 for an evening river cruise along the Thames, 8pm to 11pm. Cruise Tickets will be £10 (numbers limited by capacity of the vessel).

If you have ever said to one another, “We must get together”, and then struggled to fix a time and place, Keele in the City is the solution. No speeches, no presentations - just a chance to mingle and meet Keele pals, rub shoulders and exchange gossip and memories.

Keele in the City 2013 coincides with the Lord Mayor's Show so we will share our celebration with Fiona Woolf CBE (1970 Law & Psychology), Alderman of the City of London and recent past President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

The Procession: The Lord Mayor's procession has floated, rolled, trotted, marched and occasionally fought its way through almost 800 years of London history and has become one of the world's best-loved pageants. Cheer the Keele float and students between Mansion House and the Royal Courts of Justice then via St Paul's and the Embankment between 11am and 2.30pm.

Keele in the City: Spend an afternoon in London doing a few of your favourite things with your Keele pals.

Rendezvous on the River: Join us aboard ERASMUS 1 for an evening river cruise along the Thames, 8pm to 11pm. Cruise Tickets will be £10 (numbers limited by capacity of the vessel).
We want to hear from you

The Forest of Light stands at the heart of the campus and symbolises alumni at the heart of Keele.

Your views about Keele are very important to us. We want to involve alumni as we plan for the future experience of students and the next steps in the University’s journey.

We want you to be involved with Keele:
• Support students
• Support employment and other opportunities
• Support our academic schools and research
• Celebrate our heritage
• Influence our ethos and values
• Enhance Keele’s reputation
• Help us improve Keele for the future

Please complete the survey booklet with your up-to-date contact details, tell us your news for “What Happened To” and share what Keele means to you and how you might be involved. All of these questions have value for us and will be followed up.

Thank You!

And to show just how much we appreciate your responses we are offering a prize – all returned surveys will be entered into a prize draw for an Amazon (or equivalent) voucher valued at £250.

Keep Connected
• Update us online at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/contact
• Get the Alumni Mobile App at www.keele.ac.uk/mobile-app
• Find us on Facebook: Forever: Keele
• Link up through LinkedIn: Keele University Alumni
• Interact on Twitter: @KeeleUniAlumni
• International Alumni: join your Keele in the World network
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