studing, socialising and sixties’ style

WE CATCH UP WITH THREE OF KEELE’S ‘BRAIN BUNNIES’

INSIDE: Celebrating 40 years of the Chapel: An ‘all-Keele’ wedding: Keele people going ‘out of their way’ to help others: What happened to...?
If you want to keep up to date on the goings-on at Keele but don’t want to wait for the next magazine, sign up for our electronic alumni mailing list.

More than 4,300 former Keelites are already subscribed to Alumni 1, which is used by the Alumni Office team for announcements, news and other interesting information. It can also be used by alumni to share their news or look for friends from their Keele days, for example.

It is a moderated list – all messages are read by a member of the Alumni Office team before being posted to the list. This means you won’t be flooded by spam, and we also try to find lost friends from our database before posting to the list. For this reason there may be some delay in messages appearing.

The second is an unmoderated mailing list called Alumni chat. This is designed for free discussion of days at Keele, personalities, bars, demos, whatever you like!

If you would like to join either or both lists, send a message to Hannah Crush (h.e.crush@keele.ac.uk) giving your name, name when at Keele if different, years at Keele, subject(s), postal address and telephone number. This information will be used to identify subscribers, prevent the mailing lists being abused by non-alumni and to update the alumni office database.

If you have subscribed but you are in doubt whether your mail is getting through to you, then contact Hannah Crush and we are in doubt whether your mail is getting through to you, then contact Hannah Crush and we will check when you should have had a message.

In keeping with our commitment to the environment, this magazine will be delivered using only recycled paper. This saves trees and energy, and reduces pollution and global warming.

KEEP IN TOUCH

OFFERS FOR ALUMNI

Keele Management Centre © Keele University

Roosting in the rural setting of Keele village is Keele Management Centre, a self-contained facility incorporating 41 bedrooms, 12 meeting rooms, and the Hawthorns restaurant. This year-round venue can host anything from small board meetings to lectures for up to 150 delegates in its various well-equipped training rooms.

• 41 bedrooms of which 39 are en-suite • All en-suite bedrooms have television and tea/coffee making facilities, towels and toiletries. Iron and ironing boards are available on request. • All standard rooms are equipped with washbasin and share bathroom facilities. • Luggage storage areas • Free car parking

Bed & Breakfast £37.50 pp pn (inc VAT)

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Alumni of Keele University can take advantage of the lowest prices available on subscriptions to magazines such as the Economist, Time, Newsweek, Vogue, National Geographic, and many more.

Visit http://www.alumni-subscriptions.co.uk/ for more information.

Save money on hotel breaks!

Keele alumni can save money with Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Express by Holiday Inn hotels. Offers change regularly – see www.ichotelsgroup.com/exclusive for more information.

Welcome

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the first edition of our new magazine forever:keele, which is being sent to 40,000 former students and members of staff around the world.

The vision is that Keele should be “the ultimate campus university for the middle of the 21st Century”, just as it was the template for other campus universities in the middle of the 20th Century.

As well as developing on the new part of the site, we are also planning to restore the University’s 677-acre campus and historic estate. However, the Heritage, Lakes and Valley project is not simply a restoration project, but aims to assist with the maintenance, improvement and development of Keele’s woodland, parkland, gardens and heritage features to make them suitable for contemporary use.

We are not just developing our campus – we are extending our range of courses too. With Professor Richard Hays now at its head, Keele’s medical school is going from strength to strength, and recruitment is now underway for the new Osteopathy course. Approval has also been granted for the new Keele University School of Pharmacy to accept students and the University has been inundated with applications. We have been delighted by the enthusiastic support of local employers, which has enabled us to offer one of the strongest programmes of clinical placements in the country.

We are glad to welcome our alumni back to the campus, whether it is for a special event – such as a reunion, public lecture or poetry reading – or just a visit, and hope that this magazine will remind you of happy years spent here at Keele.

Janet Finch
Vice Chancellor

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The Alumni Office Team has been in position for a year now and we have been enjoying getting to know as many of you as possible. In fact, we had such a response from our last mailing that we received far too much news to print in this magazine – please see the website at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/uso/alumni to find out what all your old friends are doing now, and return the update form to keep us posted on all your news.

We hope you enjoy this magazine – remember to stay in touch and come back to visit when you can. We look forward to hearing from you!

Hannah Crush
Editor, forever.keelee/Alumni Officer

The provision of student bursaries and the restoration of Keele’s historic campus are two of the fundraising projects in which alumni can get involved.

While targets of £1.3 million and £2.1 million respectively have been set, the University is not only interested in garnering financial support. Whether you can contribute time or money, fundraising officer Leia Bassett would be glad to hear from you.

“Charitable donations have always played a large part in contributing to the success of Keele University,” she says, “and our alumni are key to the success of fundraising here – not just in terms of financial contribution, but in terms of volunteering, letters of support, and advice and guidance from within their own fields of expertise.

“Weather you feel able to give a donation, would like to leave a legacy to the University, or act as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you.”

The first major fundraising project, the innovative Vice Chancellor’s bursaries will be available to all students wishing to study at Keele. The 10 bursaries, of £4,000 per year for three years of study, will be awarded on the basis of academic excellence, regardless of background.

Other bursaries include support for medical students, local students from rural communities, ethnic minority students, foundation year students and those wishing to study abroad.

The second project – Heritage, Lakes and Valleys – seeks to maintain, improve and develop the campus historic features and public park, making them suitable for contemporary use by the public and the University.

With 67 acres of woodland, lakes, open space and built environment, Keele has one of the largest green campuses in Europe – a fact, we had such a response from our last mailing that we received far too much news to print in this magazine – please see the website at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/uso/alumni to find out what all your old friends are doing now, and return the update form to keep us posted on all your news. This application proposes the retention of the surrounding mature woodlands and the historic Home Farm buildings, as well as new footpath and cycleway links to the existing campus and emerging Heritage, Lakes and Valleys project. New off-site highway improvements and traffic calming measures are also planned – for example, improvements to the Keele Road roundabout – and sustainability is a common thread running through all aspects of the proposals for the Phase 3 site.

External development officer Eric Kelsall said: “This is a major planning application for the growth of both the University and the Science Park, building

on the academic and economic successes of recent developments like the Medical Sciences Complex and the Innovation Centres. It is part of an integrated project which sets out Keele’s ambitions for its role as the Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century.

“We are firm in our belief that the development of the ‘Phase 3’ site will help in the continuing development of North Staffordshire...”

A leaflet ‘Plans for a 21st Century Campus’ can be downloaded from www.keele.ac.uk/development

Please contact Leia Bassett, Fundraising Officer, on 0781 531003 or l.bassett@keele.ac.uk for more information on the above projects and fundraising activities at Keele University.
Honouring A LEGEND

KEELE University awarded honorary degrees to legendary goalkeeper Gordon Banks OBE and former Pro-Chancellor Anthony Wood at its winter graduation ceremonies.

World Cup hero Gordon Banks – made Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sport and charity work – played 73 times for England, was a league Cup winner with Stoke City and Leicester City, appeared in two FA Cup Finals, was awarded the OBE in 1970 and was named Footballer of the Year in 1972. However, his career was cut short when, in October of that year, he was involved in a road accident and lost the sight in his right eye. He had played 510 league games.

Away from football, he has raised thousands of pounds for charity, particularly for the children’s cancer ward at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

At the ceremony University Secretary and Registrar Simon Morris said: “Gordon Banks is the epitome of the successful sports star who has contributed to this achievement. Keele plays an important role in the regeneration of North Staffordshire and our top quality Conference Park brings business to the area from all over the country.”

In 1996 he was appointed Deputy Pro-Chancellor, served as Pro-Chancellor from 2004 to 2005, and has served on and chaired a number of committees, as well as being a member of Court and Council.

New Head for Medical School

PROFESSOR Richard Hays has joined Keele University as Professor of Medical Education and Head of the Medical School. He was previously Chair of Medical Education and Foundation Dean at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia.

Internationally regarded as a leader in medical education, he played a pivotal role in introducing the new medical school at James Cook and leading in the development of the innovative medicine programme at the University.

Following graduation from the University of Queensland, Richard became a full-time GP providing a local medical practice. His move into academic life came when he was asked to be a GP trainer. After a month he decided he wanted to learn more about medical education and visited a local university to seek a course. Instead he found himself undertaking a PhD in Education Psychology – becoming the first GP in Australia to be awarded such a degree.

He developed a strong interest in how medical education could be made more enjoyable and effective and, while continuing an active involvement in general practice, he went on to take senior medical education roles in Sydney and the University of Queensland before becoming Foundation Dean at James Cook. He saw the first medical students from James Cook graduate last year before he moved to Keele.

He has completed a Higher Doctorate in Medicine, has published more than a hundred research papers, written several books and won about three million Australian dollars in research funding.

Professor Hays said: “At James Cook my role was to establish a medical school and my work at Keele will be to build on the foundations already in place and develop the medical school here. There are a lot of things about coming here which are similar and recognizable.”

Lord Warner Opens Medical School Building

LOD Warmer, Minister of State for NHS Delivery within the Department of Health, officially opened the University’s School of Medicine building in October.

The Medical School building on the Keele Campus is a state-of-the-art development. The modern, purpose built facility offers students a superb learning environment and includes a lecture theatre, seminar rooms, IT laboratory, anatomy suite, multi-user laboratories, a resource room, student common room and social gathering and refreshment areas.

Lord Warner said: “The establishment of a medical school in Keele is a wonderful boost to not only the academic reputation of this area but also a matter of pride for the local community.”

All of the 35 fifth year medical students passed their final exams last year, with four students achieving honours. This was the first cohort of locally trained medical students and the announcement was a milestone for both Keele and its NHS partners.

The students completed their first two academic years at Manchester University, then moved to Keele and North Staffordshire for their three years of practical study.

Such has been the welcome they received that half of the final year students have chosen to stay in the area, and have taken their first junior doctor posts in the University Hospital.

21ST CENTURY STARGAZING

The southern hemisphere’s largest telescope – backed by Keele University – was officially unveiled in November by the South African President Thabo Mbeki.

The Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) – also known as Africa’s Giant Eye – is a new ground-breaking project, which will enable astronomers from six countries, including the UK, to study more closely the lives of stars and the origins of the universe. The gigantic telescope with its three-metre-wide mirror will also be a true 21st Century facility, with researchers able to submit observing requests and receive data back via the Internet, meaning they will not have to travel to South Africa to use the telescope.

President Mbeki said: “SALT means that our country will remain at the forefront of cutting-edge astronomical research. The telescope will enable us to observe the earliest stars and learn about the formation of our galaxy which will help us reveal clues about the future. We are also proud that SALT will not only enable Southern African scientists to undertake important research, but also provide significant opportunities for international collaboration and scientific partnerships with the rest of the world.”

The £11 million project, 400km north of Cape Town, is an international partnership backed by six different countries including a UK consortium consisting of the University of Central Lancashire, Keele, Hertfordshire and Southampton universities, the Open University and Armagh Observatory. Keele was represented at the ceremony by Deputy Vice Chancellor Professors Barney Don and Professor Johanna Laybourn-Parry and Dr Pierre Maritz from the Antarctic Physics Group.
"IT was very symbolic of how things have changed," said AdEriAn StreN (1976 French & Economics). "I recall well that at the time many women undergraduates carried their own supply with them at all times. We men, of course, could not risk a challenge to our macho-ness by doing so. My strategic visits to the Chapel allowed image to unfurling yards of paper so that the word 'Café' was visible. It was a dark and cold place whereas inside it was welcoming and warm." Connie Robertson (1970 English/French)

"MY fondest memory of the Chapel was the memorial service for a student who had died in a cycling accident. As there were so many people, we moved from the small chapel to the main chapel and then to hold up the image of the deceased. In the outdoor yard, where a witness to how she was regarded. I also think this reflects one of the things I loved about Keele – being a tight-knit, welcoming and warm." Connie Robertson (1970 English/French)

"O NE of my friends decided to help lighten the situation during the days of student politics and revolution. He chose to do this by climbing onto the Chapel roof one night and unfurling yards of paper so that the word 'CAFÉ' was spelled out. The 'ig' was duly photographed and appeared in the University paper. Magically, it became apparent to all that it was a joke, and good order and tolerance started to return to campus life... and sometimes we were left wondering if it was only a coincidence that it was the roof of the Chapel that was instrumental in bringing peace to a potentially nasty breakdown in communications." Maggie Clune (1985 English/History)

"K EELE Chapel is where our friends got married in 1996 (both Keele graduates – Stuart and Helen Ross) and where I first met my now husband – you could say it was love at first sight across the aisle. I have fond memories and much to thank Keele Chapel for!" Claire Ross (Covenhaw) (1996 Law/Criminology)

"D URING my time as an undergraduate I made very regular visits to the Chapel. Being an on-campus student, we were subjected to hard toilet paper in the Halls and in the Library. The Chapel, however, provided soft toilet paper. I recall well that at the time many undergraduate students carried their own supply with them at all times. We men, of course, could not risk a challenge to our macho-ness by doing so. My strategic visits to the Chapel allowed image to unfurling yards of paper so that the word ‘CAFE’ was visible. It was a dark and cold place whereas inside it was welcoming and warm." Connie Robertson (1970 English/French)

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In 1966

FORTY years ago this year Honey magazine visited Keele’s campus and spoke to some of the University’s brightest and most beautiful female students about studying, socialising and sixties style. forever keele catches up with three of the ‘Brain Bunnies’ to find out more.

By Georgina Haynes (Lee)
(6 American Studies/English)

The team from Honey magazine came to Keele in early summer 1966. The shoot lasted two days and we were paid £2 for each photo that was published in the article – so it got us!

There was a huge amount of hanging around waiting to be made up. They brought all the clothes with them and certainly would not have chosen to wear what we were asked to model.

Audy: My sister and I were particularly subjected to derision from fellow students who were watching the ‘party’ scene with the Keele band. We were wearing false hairpieces, false eyelashes and what seemed to us to be cocktail dresses. No way would we have been seen in party dresses like that. Fortunately all this happened just before the end of term so the spotlight didn’t last too long.

However, when the magazine came out in October we were pretty horrified to see the title and we got some stick from people about that! How I saw it as a fun thing to have done and the article her given lots of people much amusement at my expense – especially my children!

Barbara Richardson (Castell)
(66 American Studies/Politics)

‘Keele was a great opportunity to spend four years with some wonderful people including my husband John whom I met there nearly 40 years ago. I’m now a lay magistrate in the London family and youth Courts and do other voluntary work in and around Dulwich where we have lived for the last 30 years.’

Phyllis McCall (Madeley)
(66 American Studies/English)

‘But I am pleased it’s happened – I can’t complain. It’s just not quite how I expected it would be.’

Barbara and Audrey being photographed in their incredible harlequins and jewelled false eyelashes for the party scene. It took ages to get the required result. ‘I am still in touch with Barbara whom I met on my first day at Keele as we shared a hut by the library and still have one battered copy of Honey – it causes much mirth in my family especially with my teenage daughters. After Keele I worked at the BBC, on newspapers and in public relations. However, when the magazine came out in October we were pretty horrified to see the title and we got some stick from people about that! How I saw it as a fun thing to have done and the article her given lots of people much amusement at my expense – especially my children!’

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Phyllis McCall (Madeley)
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‘It’s very difficult once you actually become an author – you have much less time for writing!’

But having wanted to be a published author for so long, is it how she imagined it? ‘It’s very difficult once you actually become an author – you have much less time for writing! It’s all about trekking round to literary festivals and drinks events – it’s very tiring and fills your brain up with useless stuff.

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‘One of the reasons I came to Keele was because there were sheep grazing around the Students’ Union building,’ says the 59-year-old, who teaches PR and journalism at Sheffield Hallam University. ‘It was so beautiful and idyllic and rural.

We were here for the student uprising in 1968 – the main protest was to get a condom machine installed. We occupied the registry and got out our files.

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The school beforehand – located in a garage

“Where will it all end? Who knows! Our instinct is to retain the present scale and sustain it at a high standard. Whatever happens it will be enjoyable and challenging. Visiting the school, and seeing the pupils enthusiastically learning to read and count will always be a moving experience. Our own outlook on life has changed radically as a result of meeting people who are so cheerful with very few possessions and very limited means and prospects.”

He’s no stranger to long-distance motorbike rides but this November, Dave Owen (1995 American Studies/English) is taking on one of his biggest challenges yet – a 3,000-mile ride through the mountains, jungle and desert in South Africa to raise funds for the charity, Riders For Health.

In February 2004 I rode 1,200 miles in 10 days, with 100 strangers, around southern India on an old 1950s-style 330cc Royal Enfield. We did this to raise a minimum of £3,000 each for charity. The bikes did not go faster than 50mph flat out and we ride through tea plantations, wildlife parks, virtual deserts and busy cities. It was exhausting, dangerous and fun – all at the same time! At the end of the ride the bikes were given to the WWF whose rangers use them to chase poachers in the wild areas. I also rode 3,000 miles in eight days from Stoke to just outside Zagreb, Croatia, for a motorcycle rally in August last year.

In November I am going to ride a 200cc Honda off-road bike through mountains, jungle and desert in South Africa to raise funds for the charity Riders For Health. I have to raise a minimum of £4,000 by July. The money helps buy the bike I will be riding, which at the end of the two weeks will be given to the charity, together with a sum of money. The cash goes to train a local medical person to ride and maintain the bike. They will then use the bike to transport medicines to areas that cannot be reached any other way. One village in which this has been tried has reduced malaria by over 20 per cent already! As I work for a company which makes anti-malaria drugs this is particularly close to my heart. We aim to buy at least 100 bikes and sell them! “However, the main fundraising will come from the generosity of friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances. I am quite happy to advertise on my bike, helmet or jacket (provided the ad is for ethical business) and all contributions are gratefully accepted.”

For more information contact Dave on 07822 516220 or email dave.m.owen@astrazeneca.com or www.dave-owen.co.uk

Dave – a former music editor of KUSU’s Concourse publication and a founder member of the Rough Diamonds Music Society – says:

“Off the beaten track – a 3,000-mile ride through the mountains, jungle and desert in South Africa to raise funds for the charity, Riders For Health.

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In early September I went to the Lake district for a few days. It was a beautiful day, crisp but sunny and I was on a little ferry boat in the middle of Lake Windermere when someone tapped me on the shoulder.

It turned out that the man was a Keele graduate from the 1950s. He said the University was very new when he commenced his degree and his main reason for his choice was the opportunity to do a foundation year, which he had apparently found very helpful. We had a good chat about how much we liked and missed Keele until we reached our destination.

It was only a little later that it sadly occurred to me that I hadn’t even asked his name!

I decided to share this story with you as I thought it was lovely how Keele generates a bond between people who would otherwise remain strangers, and also how the Keele experience lives on in graduates’ memories, old and new alike. You never know – he may turn up to the 1950s Keele reunion in May!

“I thought it was lovely how Keele generates a bond between people who would otherwise remain strangers.”

JOANNA GOLDSTHORPE

(1997 Psychology/HRM) had a shock when she found she was pregnant just before starting her final year. Baby Ella accompanied her to lectures and was babysat by students in the halls at Keele while her mum sat her finals. Now nine years old, Ella would eventually like to follow in Jo’s footsteps and study at Keele. Jo says:

“It was the summer vacation before my final year when I found out I was pregnant. A massive surprise, to say the least! When the news had sunk in, I decided to make the most of it, to finish my degree and wait for the birth. Ignorance made me very optimistic! Ella’s dad, Tim, and I moved out of the rented student house in Stoke, got a flat and I carried on with my studies at Keele. I remember people taking photos of me in the Golfer when I was heavily pregnant!

Ella was born on 25 March 1997 (at the start of the Easter holidays, conveniently!). Great friends made studying easier, as I wasn’t drinking and partying there weren’t any hangovers, or much else to do! I don’t know whether I’d have got my 2:1 if it weren’t for Ella!

‘Friends were very excited and supportive of having a baby around – it was a massive novelty. Ella was looked after by friends both on and off campus while I did my finals. I took her into lectures sometimes, strapped in a baby carrier and helped with fieldwork for my dissertation. Being pregnant actually made studying easier, as I wasn’t drinking and partying there weren’t any hangovers, or much else to do!’

After I left Keele it was very hard, as I missed my friends and the student life and didn’t find it easy being at home all day with a baby. We moved rarer to family so I had help, and could work, and eventually started an NVQ in research methods. Ella’s brother Joseph was born in July 1999, and Ella said she would like to come to Keele when she leaves school, and accompanied her to lectures and was babysat by students in the halls at Keele while her mum sat her finals. Now nine years old, Ella would eventually like to follow in Jo’s footsteps and study at Keele. Jo says:

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How did you get involved in bell ringing?

‘My parents both ring the bells and I was taught how to “handle” a bell when I was 11 years old in Leicestershire. I was an active member of both the Keele University Society of Change Ringers and the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers. I was privileged to ring for the 50th anniversary of Keele University in the 50th anniversary of the University, which consisted of a graduate from each decade of the University’s existence.’

‘It’s just Richard who is interested in bell ringing – although I do seem to understand a lot about it now which is quite worrying!’

What are your fondest memories of Keele?

‘I have so many fond memories of Keele, given that it is the place where I met my wife and made so many friends during my time there. Overall though I’d say my fondest memory of Keele was the atmosphere of the picturesque setting, the fantastic Wednesday and Friday nights out at the Union and the feeling of all being part of the same community.’

‘I will always think of my time at Keele with great affection as it was such a brilliant place to be in. I met so many fantastic people there. I really enjoyed Wednesday and Friday nights at the union and I can honestly say that I always had a good time there although many of my memories are fairly hazy thanks to doubles for a pound and drinking games before we went out!’

How can you get involved in bell ringing?

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What was your wedding day like?

‘Our wedding day was the best day of my life. I must admit to waking up with a slight hangover and a touch of the nerves, but a good old-fashioned fry-up and a peel on handbells soon got me focused! After that, it was a cup of coffee and a quick chat at how England were going on in the Ashes before getting myself ready for the ceremony. I was quite nervous before Claire arrived, but when she arrived at the altar and her bouquet was shaking, I realised I wasn’t the only one!’

‘Our wedding day was fantastic and we both really enjoyed it. The weather was nice but it was so windy that my veil blew off! The only thing that didn’t quite go to plan was the champagne in the wedding car. When Richard undid the wire, the cork burst out, hitting him in the mouth so that by the time we arrived at the reception the remains of his lip was quite tender! Luckily he got some ice to put on it and it went down eventually!’

‘It’s just Richard who is interested in bell ringing – although I do seem to understand a lot about it now which is quite worrying!’

What are your fondest memories of Keele?

‘I have so many fond memories of Keele, given that it is the place where I met my wife and made so many friends during my time there. Overall though I’d say my fondest memory of Keele was the atmosphere of the picturesque setting, the fantastic Wednesday and Friday nights out at the Union and the feeling of all being part of the same community.’

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How did you get involved in bell ringing?

‘My parents both ring the bells and I was taught how to “handle” a bell when I was 11 years old in Leicestershire. I was an active member of both the Keele University Society of Change Ringers and the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers. I was privileged to ring for the 50th anniversary of Keele in the 50th anniversary of the University, which consisted of a graduate from each decade of the University’s existence.’

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WAT DO you remember about Keele and your time at Keele? Of course, we all remember that we studied here and that has affected our path through life. We all remember people who were here and who will always be precious and important to us. At Keele we found out so much about ourselves, about each other and about our place in the world... we did things we had never done before and have never done since. But, whatever our varied experiences of Keele, the one thing every one of us has in common is -- this place. Keele is a community, an ethos and an education all bound up in our experience of a unique place.

When we imagine Keele, we all get a different picture in our heads -- so, what's in your picture? Is what you visualise still there? Has it changed? Is what you think you remember what you actually saw? Is it bigger and better -- is the traditional heart of the campus still beating? The only way to find out is to Come Home and see for yourself.

North American Homecoming is planned for the summer of 2007 so Keele alumni in the USA and Canada can build time at Keele into a business trip or a family visit -- or even into a holiday. We will organise special events for you -- some with an American or a Canadian flavour but most with a very British flavour. We will have fun things, serious things, nostalgic things, special things -- most on campus and some off campus.

Idea or suggestions for North American Homecoming are welcomed. Tell me what you must want to do and why -- and maybe even how, where and when! I look forward to seeing you all in the summer of 2007. If not before.

John Easom, (MA Keele 1981 American Literature) International Alumni Officer

“Keele offered uniquely weird combinations of subjects laid out like a buffet. We were able to vary our educational diet as we went along.”

DECK BLACKETT (1969 History/Economics/Politics) visited Keele University in March 2005 to lead a seminar for the David Bruce Centre (American Studies) and by October he was back again visiting friends and colleagues in American Studies. But why would the Andrew Jackson Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, cherish these regular visits to Keele?

Dick originally chose Keele for one reason other than its academic rigor: ‘The prospectus stated that all rooms were centrally heated, and having been brought up in Barbados I decided that a warm room was the most essential prerequisite at an English university.’ Dick was one of Keele’s first Caribbean-born students when he arrived in 1965 and he valued the multidisciplinary ethos. Keele offered ‘uniquely weird combinations of subjects laid out like a buffet. We were able to vary our educational diet as we went along’.

Dick was determined not to follow his grandmother’s advice and become a lawyer. She complimented him, “You would make a good lawyer because you tell such convincing lies”, but he insists that this talent has since withered from neglect!

After completing his doctoral research at the University of Pittsburgh, Dick became the John & Rebecca Moores Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Houston in 1996. His research into Abolitionism and the anti-slavery movement prior to the American Civil War prompted an invitation to Vanderbilt in 2004.

Dick was a great sportsman at Keele and he stood out in the cricket, basketball and football teams. The cricket team endured annual pre-season drubbings by county sides only to enjoy success in the inter-varsity season.

The basketball team was also exceptional and exploited the skills of two Americans -- Ralph Bundch and Frank Vitello. However, the University national championship tournament exposed the fragility of their six-man squad and they fell in the finals. It didn’t help that training took place in a Nissen hut – where every lob was intercepted defiantly by the roof beams!

Dick’s sporting prowess was recognised by his election as President of the Athletics Union in 1967-68. It has led to Keele inevitably include a foraging expedition to the dusty AJ archives in the Sports Centre, searching for photos and cricket scorebooks from the “glory years” – “a project worthy of the attention of a budding archivist!” he laughs.

Keele in the City – an informal drinks event in central London this summer

An informal event giving all former Keele students the chance to socialise and network with each other as well as with people from the University at a central London location. It will be a good opportunity for catching up with people, reminiscing about Keele days, letting us know what you’d like to see happening – and having fun!

Date and venue are still to be confirmed -- invitations will be by email only so make sure we have your up-to-date contact details. Contact Hannah Crush on h.crush@ Keele.ac.uk

Friends of Keele Summer Cocktail Party – Keele Hall Lawns – Saturday, 8 July 2006

What better way to mark graduation week at Keele and the start of the summer than with a cocktail party held in the beautiful setting of Keele Hall lawns? The Friends of Keele group will welcome alumni to join them for an evening of live jazz music, summer cocktails, chocolate fountain and a buffet supper.

The evening will include a fundraising raffle. Tickets, costing £25, are available from Julie Kershaw on 0782 1814919 or email j.kershaw@ Keele.ac.uk

Reunion (graduates of 1950s) 6 May 2006 – Pioneers’ Reunion (graduates of 1950s)

6 May 2006 – 1AK (One Year After Keele)

7 May 2006 – Summer Cocktail Party

Summer 2006, date TBC – Keele in the City, informal drinks event in Central London


28 and 29 April 2007 – Pioneers’ Reunion (graduates of 1960-1964)

6 June 2007 – Golf Day

Summer 2007, date TBC – North American Homecoming

26 and 27 April 2008 – Pioneers’ Reunion (graduates of 1965-1969)

For information on the exciting and diverse range of public lectures, cultural events, art gallery exhibitions, workshops and Keele concerts on the Public Relations website at www.KELEE.ac.uk/ depts/us/uu/
what happened to...?

1956
Stanley Cooper
(French/German)

Thoroughly enjoying retirement, never enough time in any day — getting quite expert after twenty years of it. I enjoy the company of friends and family and make myself generally useful in the community. Keep in touch with old Keele friends from my year – halcyon days. Whenever time and tide permit I sailing a boat, a great love I went to Keele in 1951 after the RAF – very basically qualified and always thought it a great privilege to be there and what a great joy.

1958
John Dixon
(Politics/Economics) and
Audrey ‘Pat’ Pattison
(1962 English/Politics)

We both became academics after leaving Keele – John for six years at Adelaide University, Oz; Pat teaching English in Europe, ultimately in Graz (Austria) and Utrecht (Holland) Universities. John was economist/administrator at the Treasury from 1979 to 1989. We met in 1969 and after 15 years of “living apart together” in England, Holland and France, we settled down, married and reduced our addresses to England and France in 2004. Since then we’ve spent two winters travelling round the world, to visit John’s eldest son in Australia.

1961
John Wicksteed
(Politics/Philosophy)

I am retired and enjoying grandchildren (in small doses). I still look after my village cricket pitch and am chairman and groundsman – I also chair the village school governors. I drink rather more than the recommended amount of beer and have taken up water colouring, which gives me pleasure although probably no one else. What the hell – I’m happy!

1965
Neil Kenyon
(Geology/Geography; 1965 DSc)

Kenyon MarineGeo is a consultancy in Teddington. I spent five years in Switzerland organising projects on the continental shelf and slope. I continue in an honorary position at the National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton, and as co-ordinator of the UNESCO Training through Research Council, which has been taking young researchers on scientific cruises to the deep sea for fifteen years, using large Russian research vessels.

1968
Sue Parkin
(Elbridge)
(French/Sociology and Social Anthropology)

I’ve been a teacher all my life and am currently writing my PhD in the linguistics department at Lancaster University, where I also teach part-time in the management school. I recently lost my heart in Kenya – to a tiny church in Ruai between Nairobi and the fame trees of Thika. My next step is to find paid work in the area – perhaps at a university or college or a post with VIOS. It would be helpful if anyone from the pool of talented and well-travelled alumni with experience of either of these plans would care to get in touch.

1970
Connie Robertson
(English/French)

I’ve recently been involved with the setting up of a poetry website, one of the directors of which is the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. My work continues as we contract more poets all the time. (www.poetryarchive.org)

1971
David Petch
(History/Philosophy)

After a career in the Civil Service (MOD, Northern Ireland Office, Cabinet Office) I am now a Commissioner with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

1973
Jonathan Smith
(Geography/Biology)

I am a nature reserve warden for the Essex Wildlife Trust, managing a 400-acre coastal grazing marsh on the Blackwater Estuary. Prior to this I spent two years in Singapore; seconded from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, setting up their first designated wetland nature reserve for the Singapore government.

1977
Ian Moncrieff
(Geography/Geology)

I was promoted to Commodore in November 2003 and after a tour as the head of all the Royal Navy’s communications and information systems, I graduated from the Higher Command and Staff course to take over the Joint Operational Command of Commander British Forces in the South Atlantic based in the Falkland Islands. I am here for 18 months accompanied by my wife. Our sons have remained at boarding school in the UK doing A Levels and GCSEs respectively.

1980
William MeVey
(Wrexham)
(Maths/Music)

In 1999 Gillian rejoined the Regular Army and is now a Major. She has recently served in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2000, “at the ancient age of 41”, she became a mum and now has a very energetic 5 year old. She is currently at the Services’ Staff College in Shrewsbury.

1981
Lynda Waltoth
(abbrev)
(Economics/Geography)

In 1999, after the General Election I became a well-qualified and professional solicitor to serve as Member of Parliament for Southwark. Quite a year!

1984
Liz Meeke
(Greek/Roman Studies)

I’ve recently been given up my full-time job at the Sunday Times to work with my partner Glen in his business Classic Hot Air Ballooning (www.ballooning.fsnet.co.uk). We operate advertising hot air balloons and provide balloons for TV work and events like Elton John’s White Tie And Tiara Ball. I still do shift at The Sunday Times in winter and edit the country’s only ballooning magazine.

1986
Allister Dobbs
(American Studies/Politics)

I have been a freelance journalist and writer for 11 years now. I mostly write about graphic arts, sport and travel. I train people in editorial production techniques and edit a fortnightly newsletter for sub-editors and designers. In real life I’m a crazily shy family man with a French wife (an interpreter) and two bilingual offspring. Other than that, I am a karateka, go snowboarding whenever I can, and am currently in the middle of an Open University course to attain an MA in Art History. I miss my block-mates from Keele but am bad at keeping in touch.

1988
Huwen-Jin Teh
(Physiology/Sociology)

After leaving Keele, I went to University of New South Wales, and University of Western Australia to complete a Masters and PhD in Clinical Psychology. Currently based at Sydney University College.

1997
Khan Cooper (Taylor)
(History/Politics)

I have been living and working in Dallas, Texas, for more than three years after working at Middlesex University where I got my Masters. I met a crazy Yank at Keele University called William Cooper and after doing long-distance across the pond for four years I moved here just after we got married. I now have a Green Card and I am selling construction materials to Texas contractors in a male-dominated industry. So far it seems to be working and I love the job and the people. Will is working hard on his PhD at the University of Texas at Dallas and is fast becoming a walking brain.

2001
Ed Cooper (Computer Science/Electronic Music)

After leaving Keele I attended the Guitar Institute in London for a year with my partner David and we play in the definitive classic rock band Jack VIP (www.jackvip.com). Although we both have day jobs to pay the rent, the band is a gathering momentum. We have toured in Germany supporting the LA Guns and have been offered slots supporting The Bridges of Destruction. Our music has been used as backing material on the recently released DVD Art Rose. The Prettiest Star.

2003
Liam Holly
(History/Politics)

I work for FiF in Xin’an, China, and I’m now a resident of the People’s Republic. I teach English and history to a variety of students, from school children to business directors. I am also a partner in a teacher recruitment firm Howard Consulting Group.

Life after Keele. Find old friends, and re-connect with peers from the past in the ever-growing community of Keele alumni. Join us as we discover...
Due to an overwhelming response to our last mailing, we are only able to print the names of those who sent in their news... Visit the website www.kee.ac.uk/depts/uso/alumni to discover what everyone has been doing...
**OBITUARIES**

**Staff**
- Eva Kolinsky: Professor of modern German studies 1991 to 1999
- John Levitt: former Head of Adult Education
- Professor Ian Millar: Head of the Department of Chemistry from 1970 to 1983 and Deputy Vice Chancellor 1973 to 1978.
- Mary Pratt: wife of Professor George Pratt, Director of Music/Warden, at Keele from 1964 to 1980
- David Stevens: former Anglican Chaplain

**Alumni**

Listed by year of graduation:
- Rosemary Dawe (née Thomas) (1956 History/Geography)
- The Reverend Dr Gordon Catherall (1971 Doctorate – British Baptist Involvement in Jamaica 1783-1865)
- Martin Jenkins (1975 Law/Sociology)
- Helen Ross (née Jones) (1975 English/Law)
- Stephen Drewett (1978 Economics/Geography)
- Susan Weir (née Cooper) (1981 Biology/Psychology)
- Jillian Knight (1981 English/Greek Studies)
- Sheila Greatbatch (1994 History/Sociology & Social Anthropology)
- Donna Webbe (1997 PGCert)

Congratulations FROM KEELE

Sir Richard Mottram (1968 Economics/History/Politics), Downing Street’s intelligence and security chief, was made GCB of the Order of Bath in the New Year’s Honours List. He took up his position as Security and Intelligence Co-ordinator in November 2005 and was previously Permanent Secretary of the Department for Work and Pensions from May 2002, having entered the Civil Service in 1968. He also chairs the Joint Intelligence Committee.

Professor Patrick Thornberry, Professor of International Law at Keele, has been made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG), having been nominated by the Foreign Secretary on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The citation is specifically for his services to international human rights. Professor Thornberry is a former Chairman of Minority Rights Group, the human rights NGO, and is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Owen Powell, who founded and has run for many years the World Affairs Group at Keele, has been made an AMBE for his services to adult education, specifically for his work in relation to WAG. The World Affairs Group attracts speakers of the highest distinction and is regularly attended by 200-300 local people.


The Pogues – including Jem Finer (1997 Computer Science/Sociology & Social Anthropology) – were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2006 Meteor Ireland Music Awards at The Point Theatre in Dublin on Thursday 2 February. The Pogues were formed by Shane McGowan, Spider Stacey, Jem Finer and James Fearnley in London in 1982, and re-released their festive classic Fairytale of New York last Christmas to raise money for charity.

The winners of the alumni update form prize draw were Emily Brough (2002 Environmental Management/Human Geography), Seyi Taiwo (1980 Economics/Politics), Matthew Salvara (2003 Computer Science) and Elisabeth Middlemas (1981 Education/Biology). Thank you to all who returned their forms.

Susan Daniels (1980 History/Politics), Chief Executive of The National Deaf Children’s Society and Disability Rights Commissioner was named in the New Year 2006 Honours List for services to children with special needs.

Keelie:People

obituaries

in memory

Inter-regional knowledge transfer success

The Office of Research & Enterprise at Keele has been successful in a bid for EU Inter-Reg funds in partnership with Staffordshire University, The Business Innovation Centre in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. This North Staffordshire consortium will liaise with partners in Brittany, Stuttgart and Cork and will form a Knowledge Transfer best practice network.

All the regions involved have identified the importance of knowledge and innovation in their future growth paths. They all share a key goal of transferring knowledge and innovation to generate greater levels of output, employment and economic development. Ross Monkman, regional enterprise manager in oRE, said: “All of the participating regions have a relatively high percentage of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These businesses need continuous drivers, regular injections of rigorous research and foresight to support the development of new and improved products and services. Our participation in this project is very complementary with Keele’s strategy and will increase the level of interaction with local businesses.”

EnterpriseFest 2006 success

EnterpriseFest 2006, a one-day event aimed at encouraging new, growing and established businesses to embrace the idea of building a sustainable and ethical business in the 21st Century, was held in the Chancellor’s Building in February.

The one-day event was organised by the Office of Research and Enterprise and sponsored by Mercia Institute of Enterprise, Winning Moves, Staffordshire Business Environment Network, BMMV and the Science Learning Centre.

The theme for the day was, “People, Planet, Profit – Building a Sustainable and Ethical Business in the 21st Century.” The event was attended by about 300 people, made up of large and small businesses, students and local schools.

The delegates saw how successful businesses have made environmental, social and ethical concerns part of their everyday working practices and received general business advice concerning all aspects of business start up and growth. The event also featured an Organic Market Hall where delegates, staff, students and other visitors to the campus, could buy alternative environmentally friendly products.

**GOOD LUCK!**

To mark Mencap’s 60th anniversary, the charity’s chief executive Jo Williams [1971 Applied Social Studies/Sociology & Social Anthropology] is leading a team taking part in “the toughest footrace on earth” – the Marathon des Sables (6-17 April).

Jo and her husband Rob are leading a team of 14 people in the gruelling event, which involves running/walking across 150 miles of the Sahara Desert carrying all the necessary equipment to survive the experience. Temperatures will rise to 49° during the midday heat, dropping to freezing at night.

If you or someone you know has something to celebrate, contact Hannah Crush at h.c.crush@keele.ac.uk.
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