

Keele
UNIVERSITY



75 years
1949-2024

FOREVER *Keele*

Summer 2024



THIS IS KEELE

Contents

75TH ANNIVERSARY

Peace Garden to be created on Keele campus to mark 75th anniversary4

Keele Day6

75 Faces Exhibition8

750 Hours of Volunteering.....10

75 Years and 850 Internships14

The Great Experiment16

ALUMNI REUNIONS

A celebration of Keele’s ‘pioneer’ graduates22

Golden Graduates Reunite28

ALUMNI STORIES

Keele Day performances from across the decades.....30

75 years: The intertwining of Keele and one family’s history32

Alumnus leads on the creation of newly formed LGBTQ+ Judges Assoc.....34

Alumnus inspired by children to write first book.....36

ALUMNI UPDATES

Keele announces honorary graduates.....38

In memoriam42



Alumni HQ contact details:
keele.ac.uk/alumni
alumni.hq@keele.ac.uk





75TH ANNIVERSARY

Peace Garden to be created on Keele campus to mark 75th anniversary

Construction is due to get underway on a unique new Peace Garden on Keele University's campus, after planners gave the project the green light.

The garden is being built as part of Keele's 75th anniversary celebrations and will serve as a lasting legacy of the anniversary year for the entire university community to enjoy.

Funded entirely through alumni donations, the garden will be located between the University Chapel and Cherry Tree Walk, with a professionally designed garden encompassing screening, benches, and natural meadow planting to provide a central place for rest and reflection, and a location for wellbeing initiatives to take place.

The garden will also include a sculptural art installation by artist Philip Hardaker, to be positioned within a central seating area, with a plaque commemorating the anniversary and the alumni donations that have made the garden possible.

The design of the garden will also incorporate tiles with images and messages of peace, alongside some heritage tile designs. Visitors to this year's Keele Day celebration got involved with the design, by creating over 150 tiles at interactive workshops during the day.

Lauren Huss, Head of Alumni and Supporter Engagement at Keele University, said: "We are thrilled to announce the creation of our new Keele Peace Garden, directly next to our iconic Chapel and in celebration of our 75th anniversary. This garden is possible only because of the generous donations from our alumni and supporters, which have fully funded its creation.



"The idea for this garden came about in direct response to feedback from students, who felt the campus needed a space for reflection and contemplation. The central location was chosen to ensure that the garden remains as accessible as possible and that those using the space are not isolated from the activity on campus. We can't wait to see the garden come to life over the coming months."

Keele students were involved in helping shape the plans; one said: "I think the garden will provide a much needed quiet and protective space for students to help with their mental health. It will be a refuge for anyone who is feeling overwhelmed about their studies or the social pressures of university. I can imagine the garden providing a place of calming activity, as well as a place to reflect. The option for the space to be used for workshops, like creative writing and storytelling, would also make me feel part of the Keele community in a supportive and understanding environment. I am really looking forward to it."



75TH ANNIVERSARY

Keele Day

Thousands of people gathered in the sunshine on Keele University's campus on Saturday 29th June 2024 for the return of the annual Keele Day event.

The event is held every summer for alumni to celebrate Keele's past, present and future role in the community, with this year's event made even bigger and proving to be extra special in the University's 75th anniversary year, as families enjoyed a huge programme of celebrations and activities held on campus. Alumni also took part in reunions around the globe, many of these events kindly hosted by fellow alumni.

Guests on campus enjoyed live music from bands made up of Keele alumni, arts, crafts and science sessions for both children and adults, and much more, including a chance to break out of a specially themed escape room at Keele Hall, and "have a go" sessions in sports and science, with staff from the University lending their expertise to help make the day a success.

Professor Trevor McMillan OBE, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, thanked everyone who attended, saying: "It was wonderful for me to see so many people enjoying the day as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations. Our beautiful campus is always open to the community, and it's at its best and most vibrant when so many people come to enjoy everything Keele has to offer.

"We were founded 75 years ago to have a positive impact on society through our teaching and research, and the event was the perfect way to celebrate that ongoing link with our community."



SEE MORE OF KEELE DAY ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE WORLD HERE OR ON OUR WEBPAGES

WATCH OUR ACADEMIC TALKS HERE OR ON OUR WEBPAGES

75TH ANNIVERSARY

75 Faces Exhibition

People make places, and places make people. To celebrate the University's 75th anniversary, an exhibition of 75 photographic portraits of people linked to Keele University's past and present, and who have made an impact on the world around them, has been launched.

It would not be possible to feature everyone who has made Keele what it is today - Keele has an amazing history that belongs to us all - but the photographs aim to reflect a broad cross-section of the Keele community, from people who laid the foundations for the University in 1949, to pioneering academics who put Keele on the map, staff working behind the scenes, and former students.

Among those featured include civil rights barrister Michael Mansfield KC, who studied at Keele in the 1960s; 'much-loved' catering manager Elizabeth 'Betty' Breeze; and TV presenter AJ Odudu, who graduated in 2009.

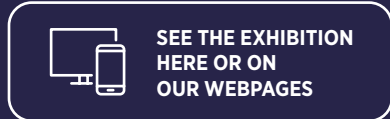
On being featured in the exhibition, Mr Mansfield KC, who has worked on landmark legal cases including Grenfell Tower, Stephen Lawrence, and the Hillsborough disaster, said: "Keele has been the intellectual powerhouse of my life. The broad, inclusive academic approach epitomised by its unique foundation year onwards, bounced my brain into action and stirred a radical human rights perspective which has influenced the whole of my legal career.

"This anniversary marks a remarkable achievement by Keele in sustaining its commitment to liberal values and inclusivity."

All 75 portraits are on display to the public in the Chancellor's building until the end of summer and are accompanied by a brief description of the person and their connection with Keele. The exhibition is also available to view on the University's website.

Professor Trevor McMillan OBE, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, said: "So many students, staff and partners have been part of our remarkable journey and contributed to making Keele the fantastic place it is today, and it's important to remember them at this milestone.

"As we celebrate our past and look to the future, we hope this exhibition will inspire and bring back memories. We're extremely proud of how much Keele has achieved in the space of 75 years, and how our education and research continue to transform lives across the globe."



75TH ANNIVERSARY

750 Hours of Volunteering



This year we're giving all our colleagues the opportunity to take an extra day off to complete volunteering activities in our local community as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations – here's just some of what we have been up to so far!

Tidying up our local area with a litter pick



Colleagues from the Undergraduate Recruitment team chose to clean up the local area by completing litter picking around campus and Keele village, in Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre, and around the Bet365 stadium and canal side. In total the team collected 14 bin bags of litter!

Freshening up local hospice's gardens



A team of nine Business School colleagues took the opportunity to do some gardening at the Douglas Macmillan Hospice. They got their hands dirty completing weeding across the site, and although the team gained aches and pains – and a bit of sunburn – they were very proud of what they achieved.



Helping our local foodbank move to a new warehouse

When Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank got in touch needing help moving their stock to a new warehouse, colleagues were quick to respond, providing a van as well as some extra pairs of hands.

Joe Hambleton-Ratcliffe, one of the colleagues who took part, said: "It was great to roll our sleeves up and support a local charity that is making such a positive change to so many people."

Helping charity which supports vulnerable and disadvantaged families

Colleagues from Strategic Communications & Brand helped the Alice Charity, which supports vulnerable and disadvantaged families in our local area. The team spent the day painting the charity's new base in Fenton to get it ready for move-in day.



Conserving habitats at a local country park

Gillian Maher, who works in our Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, used her volunteering day helping to manage the environment and promote growth of heathland plants, as well as protecting habitats for species living at Park Hall Country Park.



Inspiring the younger generation on trip to RAF base

Dr Laura Tonge accompanied a group of local Scouts to RAF Cosford for her volunteering day. Laura has been volunteering for the past year as a Section Leader for the Beaver Colony her daughter is part of and chose to chaperone the trip in order to inspire the group of 36 youngsters, as well as helping them complete their Air Activities level 1 and 2 badges.



Tidying up Trentham's Italian Gardens

Colleagues Tina Sherwin and Nena Lawrence helped the team at Trentham Gardens to weed the beds and prepare for a food festival.

Tina said: "I live in Trentham, but never really appreciated the amount of work that goes into keeping the gardens so beautiful all year round."



Rejuvenating accommodation for Scouts and Guides groups

Colleagues, including those in our alumni team, have been inspired to spend their volunteering day rejuvenating a Scouts and Guides residential cottage. The group gave rooms at Copeland Cottage, which provides residential opportunities for children aged 5-18, a fresh lick of paint.



75TH ANNIVERSARY

75 Years and 850 Internships



Over the last few years, 850 internships have been arranged for Keele students, with many going on to have successful and interesting careers.

The value of internships is clear – for a company it is a great chance to get a short piece of work done, or trial someone for a longer-term position, without having the usual costs and risks associated with other options.

For the students, regardless of what might happen at the end of the internship role, it is a fantastic chance to gain and develop skills and experience and bring confidence to career choice. Four companies who have seen this first hand are featured below:

stonejunction

Stone Junction is an award-winning technical PR company. Keele graduate Jessica Philips (Media, Communications and Culture & Psychology, Class of 2015) progressed from Santander intern as Account Executive in 2014 to Account Director as a shareholder in 2024.

Jessica says: “When I applied for my first role at Stone Junction through the Keele Santander internships scheme, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in communications but wasn’t sure of the different routes.

“The team at Keele suggested several roles to me and helped guide me through the process of applying. It’s hard to believe that this was almost ten years ago. After my internship, I was offered a full-time, permanent role at Stone Junction. Since then, I’ve seen the team grow from just five to over 30 employees based in three different countries. Today, I’m one fifth of the company’s management team and was recently gifted shares in the business. Without my internship, I wouldn’t have had the confidence to apply for a role in technical PR, and definitely wouldn’t be where I am today. I can’t thank the team at Keele and Santander enough.”



Adam Fenton applied for an internship through the Keele University Santander scheme after completing a PGCE in 2016. He says: “I was keen to use the knowledge and skills I had acquired during my studies in a role that involved education and helping people to develop. I was offered a Learning and Development internship at the (then) Institution of Railway Operators nearly eight years ago and haven’t looked back.

“Since joining the institution, the company has grown extensively from a team of five people to now over 30, whilst also being recognised with a royal charter to become the Chartered Institution of Railway Operators.

“My own role has developed here over the years from intern, to coordinator, and since 2017, Learning and Development Manager. I have also been fortunate enough to work internationally for the company in Australia, Canada and South Africa, whilst focussing my work on the continued success of our own academic programme. I have also learnt great leadership and business skills by example, from the pioneering colleagues around me.”



The Mondrem Group, based at Keele University Science and Innovation Park, includes two not-for-profit Community Interest Companies, Nurture CIC and Mondrem CIC, and uses the money made to support local people through community interest projects and activities including many employment opportunities and wildlife initiatives. The group’s collective mission is to “shape places where people thrive.”

Eight students have interned through the Santander scheme; the first interns were recruited just before lockdown, with several being offered ongoing work. In 2021, Mondrem and Keele University secured the top spot for the National Undergraduate Employability awards for “best collaboration between a university and an employer”.

Managing Director, Mike Astbury, said “Our interns haven’t just helped the business, they have become the business. They’re an ecosystem of co-operating, supporting microbusinesses working together to grow and shape the company and their own careers, built around our shared purpose.”

Kate Douthwaite (Marketing & Media, Class of 2022), Mondrem’s Marketing Lead, comments: “The word ‘innovation’ is bandied around a lot in business, but Mondrem CIC really encapsulates its meaning. To innovate is to make changes to the established. Being appointed with ‘Lead’ responsibilities from day one and encouraged to shape my role in keeping with my strengths and aspirations was a definite break from convention. Mondrem’s unorthodox approach is effective. I’m inspired to bring my best self to work and supported when developing skills to benefit my future and the future of the company. Mondrem encourages simultaneous growth of the individual and organisation, instilling an individual connection to the business and a personal drive to do well. I’m confident that time spent with Mondrem will continue to be a two-way exchange.”



Since completing her Santander internship in 2022 as a Support Analyst, Sara Amzil (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, Class of 2022) has now fast tracked to become a Managed Services Consultant. Founded in 2005, Concentric helps multi-national organisations across all industries to improve their global business performance by transforming their planning, forecasting, financial and operational reporting processes.

Internship roles offered to Keele students require a unique blend of accountancy and software engineering skills. Often, interns are invited to become permanent members of our Support and Managed Services.

Sara says: “Coming from an engineering background, stepping into the world of Finance was both thrilling and intimidating to me. However, Concentric made that transition a lot easier than I thought it would be. Since I started my internship in 2022, I was welcomed by an amazing team of experienced and passionate people who helped me learn and grow every step of the way.”



75TH ANNIVERSARY

75
1949-2024

The Great Experiment

The Keele Experiment – Reflections on the university's past, present and future.

Written by Professor Tim Lustig

Director of Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences
& Professor of Literary Studies

With special thanks to Helen Burton

Special Collections and Archives Manager

The Early Years

There was talk of a university in North Staffordshire before the First World War. In 1908, the economic historian R. H. Tawney established an adult education course in Longton – a key moment in recognizing the potential and the need for post-school education in this area.

The university was initially known as the University College of North Staffordshire. Its first Principal was Alexander Dunlop Lindsay. A Fellow and later Master of Balliol College, Oxford, Lindsay knew Tawney and believed higher education had a key role in a democratic society.

Lord Lindsay photographed outside Keele Hall, c. 1950 (possibly on the day of the Queen's visit, 17 April)



The first meeting of the University Advisory Committee, 23 July 1946

Front row: Lord Lindsay (Chair, third from left), Reverend Horwood (fourth from left), Gladys Malbon (Secretary, right).

Back row: Harry Taylor, Town Clerk (second from left)

In 1946, Stoke-on-Trent City Council set up an advisory committee to establish a university in North Staffordshire. Lindsay accepted an invitation to chair that committee. In an article written a few years later, he said he wanted to do something 'experimental and original'.

Gladys Malbon was a member of the advisory committee. According to Drusilla Scott, Gladys was 'one of the people most responsible' for the creation of a university in this area. Working as a kind of project manager, Gladys coordinated the committee which Lindsay chaired, liaised with other groups including the University Grants Committee, and leveraged the support of influential local individuals such as Dr Barnett Stross, then MP for Hanley, and Alderman Thomas Horwood, the Vicar of Etruria.

Creating a university wasn't easy. For a start, who would lead it? The obvious choice, Lindsay, was hesitant. After a busy career, he was looking forward to retirement.

In May 1947 (according to one story), a deputation from Stoke set out to persuade Lindsay otherwise. They drove to Oxford in the mayoral Rolls Royce and met Lindsay in his college rooms. The delegation consisted of the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Alderman Leason, Horwood, Gladys Malbon, and the Town Clerk, Harry Taylor. Result! Lindsay agreed to take on the Principalship. Harry Taylor later said this was 'the best day's work we ever did for Keele'.

The new university had its leader. But where would it be located? Possible sites at Trentham and Meaford Hall were rejected or fell through. Then it was reported that the estate at Keele might be put up for sale. In September 1947, Leason and Horwood met the owner, Colonel Ralph Sneyd. Harry Taylor was present and would remember that afternoon. Ralph Sneyd wasn't certain he wanted to part with the family estate. The decision to sell was partly an impulse: a keen follower of the turf, he was listening to the racing results on the radio. His horse won! Perhaps it was fate.

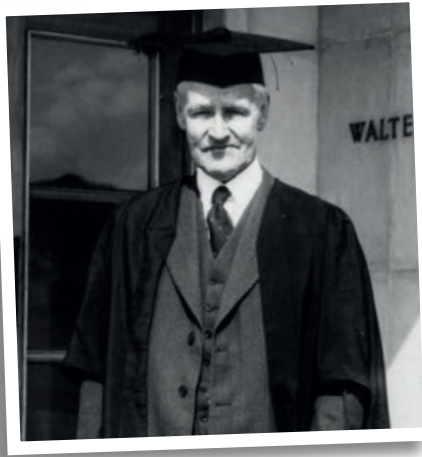


Meeting at 'The Gables', Keele, September 1947

Front Row: Alderman Leason, Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (left), Colonel Sneyd (centre), Reverend Horwood (right)

Back Row: Harry Taylor, Town Clerk (left), J.R. Piggott, City Architect (right)

Even with a Principal and a campus, resources at a national level were necessary if the new university was to get off the ground. In early 1948 the University Grants Committee, chaired by Walter Moberly, concluded that it was 'in the interests of university education for an experiment on these lines to be carried out'.



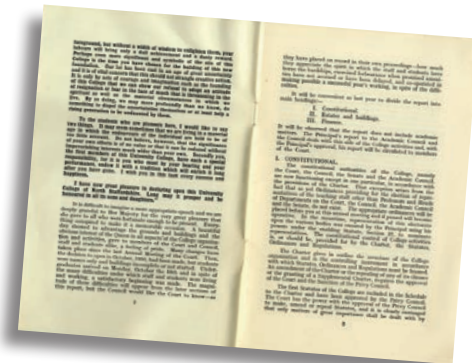
Walter Moberly outside the building at Keele which is named after him

When it admitted its first students on 16 October 1950, the University College of North Staffordshire became the first postwar British university. A few months later, on 17 April 1951, the University was formally opened by Her Majesty the Queen.



The Keele Vision

The image (directly below) shows the later part of the Queen's opening speech at Keele on 17 April 1951, in which she speaks of 'acts of courage and imagination such as the founding of this College', and has two messages for the first intake of students, the 'pioneers'. First, not to believe 'that the significance of your own efforts is of no value'; and second, of their 'special responsibility' to endow the University with 'a tradition which will enrich it long after you have gone'.

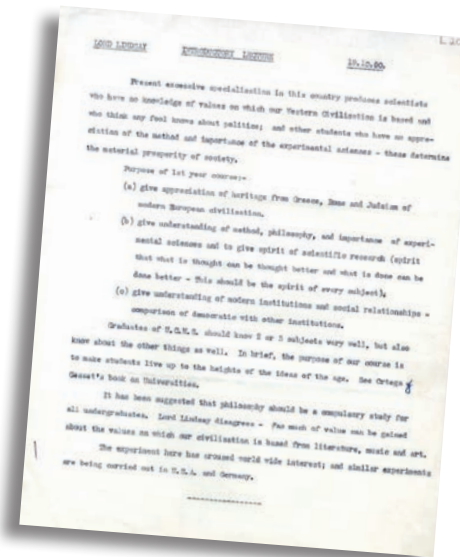


When Lindsay said he wanted the new university to be 'experimental and original', he meant that he wanted it to counteract what he called 'the extreme specialization of modern university teaching'. Lindsay felt that studying a single subject to degree level had value but would not on its own produce the well-rounded undergraduates that society required. There was a need for people who could make connections between different areas and talk to different audiences.



Pioneer students entering Keele Hall courtyard, 1950s

What did that mean for the courses taken by those first 159 students - the 'pioneers' - back in 1950?

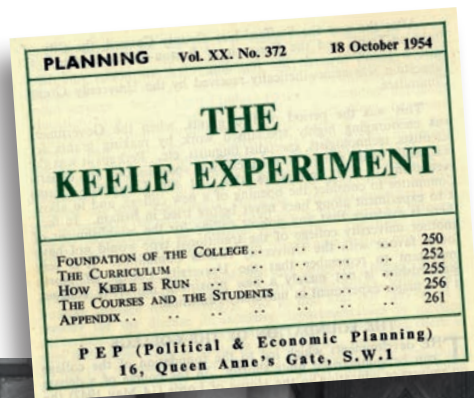


Typescript of Lindsay's welcome lecture for Keele's first students, delivered on 19 October 1950

At first, all degrees at Keele lasted for four years. An initial foundation year consisted of eleven lectures each week plus a tutorial in three areas: sciences, social sciences and humanities. Students wrote an essay every three weeks and had to pass two examinations at the end of the year. They then progressed to a three-year honours programme in which they studied two subjects not just one. And they took three 'subsidiary' subjects in addition!

The original Keele curriculum marked, in the words of the historian Christopher Hill, 'a decisive break with those of traditional universities', a 'turning point in English educational history'.





It was called 'the Keele experiment'

Lindsay didn't devise university courses on his own, of course. He was helped by experts in a variety of academic fields. They were the first generation of teaching staff at Keele: just thirteen professors at first!



Lindsay with his first staff members, outside Keele Hall, 11 February 1950

Back row: Professors W.A.C. Stewart (Education), F.A. Vick (Physics), J.W. Blake (History), A.R. Gemmell (Biology), S.H. Beaver (Geography)

Second row: Professors S.E. Finer (Political Institutions), B.R. Williams (Economics), A.E. Teale (Moral and Political Philosophy), H.D. Springall (Chemistry) and S.O. Stewart (University Librarian)

Third row: Professors J.J. Lawlor (English), W.W. Chambers (Modern Languages), W.B. Gallie (Philosophy)

Front row: I.N. Sneddon (Mathematics, second from left), Lord Lindsay (fourth from left); also pictured are Miss Bailey, the Registrar's Secretary, W.A. Jenkins, the Registrar, H.G. Cannon, member of Academic Council, Mrs Morton, the Principal's Secretary, and Mrs Cannon.

Much has changed since 1950. But Keele continues to offer a Foundation Year option and still provides 'Combined Honours' degrees in which two subjects are studied over three years. Our students are a highly diverse community and many of them are able to take one of six 'Global Challenge Pathways' which bring arts and science students together to discuss key topics of our time - a contemporary manifestation of Lindsay's original vision.



Sources

De Montmorency, H. A., letter of 10 February 1948 (Keele University Library, Lindsay Papers, University Papers)

Hill, Christopher, Typescript obituary for A. D. Lindsay, 1951 (Keele University Library, Lindsay Papers L145)

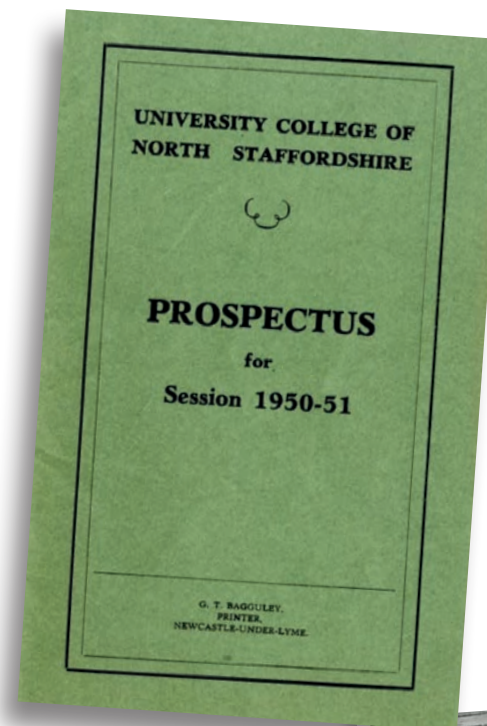
Lindsay, A. D., 'The Place of English Studies in the British Universities', in *English Studies Today: Papers Read at the International Conference of University Professors of English held in Magdalen College, Oxford August 1950*, ed. By C. L. Wrenn and G. Bullough (London: Oxford University Press, 1951), 167-73

'The University College of North Staffordshire', *The Highway: The Journal of the Worker's Educational Association*, 42 (February 1951), 100-2 (Keele University Library, Lindsay Papers L217)

Typescript for article in the *Birmingham Post* (17 April 1951) (Keele University Library, Lindsay Papers L217)

Scott, Drusilla, A. D. Lindsay: A Biography (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1971)

Taylor, Harry, letter of 15 August 1969 to Drusilla Scott (Keele University Library, Lindsay Papers L209)



ALUMNI REUNIONS

A celebration of Keele's 'pioneer' graduates

On 30th April 2024, more than 45 of Keele's first ever graduates returned to campus for a reunion to mark the 75th anniversary of the University.



Some travelled more than 3,000 miles to be at the event, with others making shorter journeys from Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent and Crewe.

The group, affectionately referred to by Keele as its 'pioneers', were the first generation of students to learn at the University, which was established as the University College of North Staffordshire in 1949. The 'pioneers' graduated between 1954 and 1961 and are recognised for playing a pivotal role in establishing the University.

Among those at the event held in Keele Hall were John and Patricia Fletcher (pictured left), who met at Keele in 1957, and have been married for 65 years.

John, a retired plant pathologist who is believed to be the University's first biology PhD student, said: "We got talking to one another in a biology laboratory on campus one Sunday and two years later, we were married. Our son, Robert, also studied at Keele, so the University has been part of our lives for a long time. There was a great spirit when we studied here and it's fantastic to be back and see how much the campus has changed."



 [WATCH A SHORT VIDEO CELEBRATING THE EVENT HERE](#)



Karin Tetlow, aged 88, travelled to the event from Philadelphia. After graduating in 1958, she moved to the United States where she worked as a journalist for Fortune Magazine and has lived in the country ever since.

She said: "I came to Keele from Dorset, so that was quite an eye opener in itself because I had never been that far north before. We were taken on a trip to a coal mine and to the Potteries, and I bought some Wedgwood seconds. One of the biggest things I remember about Keele is the aura of independence. A fellow student asked if they could head into Newcastle-under-Lyme, and they couldn't believe it when they were told it was up to them how they managed their time because they'd never had that before."

The 'pioneers' and their guests enjoyed a three-course lunch and coffee with Keele's Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and were able to look back at archive materials from their time at the University. They also received a 75th anniversary pin badge and Keele Moorland mug.

Around 400 former students were invited to the reunion, with many of those who were unable to attend sending in messages which were displayed at the event for others to read.

Chancellor James Timpson OBE said: "The graduates who chose to study here in the early years were truly pioneering of spirit and helped create a campus we are still very proud of today, as we strive to continue building an institution that epitomises the Keele ethos of 'education for all'."

"The reunion was a fantastic celebration of the remarkable journeys and accomplishments of our alumni and our institution."




Pioneer gift to support students

Alan Halfpenny (Geography & Geology, Class of 1955) attended the Pioneer's Reunion, giving a speech as a representative of his class, and sharing the many memories he has of his time at Keele.

Making the journey from Yorkshire, Alan brought with him the Keele Hall locomotive plate, presented as a gift to the University and to be displayed in Keele Hall. You can find out more about railways at Keele and the locomotive plate on our Keele Oral History Project webpages. Alan also made a generous donation in support of Keele and its students, a symbol of the pioneering generation continuing to support those next students as they embark on their Keele journey.



 **EXPLORE THE KEELE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT HERE OR ON OUR WEBPAGES**

 **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR PIONEER'S EVENT HERE OR ON OUR WEBPAGES**

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Keele reunion celebration



**A poem by Stan Beckensall,
written following the
celebration of Keele's
pioneering graduates**
English & History &
Education, Class of 1954

A lovely 19th Century sandstone mansion,
Once pride of the Sneyd family,
Now the centre of a university
Today has housed its pioneer graduates
In a celebration of its 75 years of foundation.

Elation is tempered by frustration by those
who cannot hear much
Or walk with difficulty over ground
they trod so easily
When they were young and beautiful,
Wise and hard-working with a belief
In their education on this changed campus
Which in their day was like a building site
Through which they reached the centres
of their learning.

Like them, Keele now has changed.

Instead of temporary accommodation
Ultra-modern buildings have been raised
In keeping with a new age, new purposes
That span new subjects undreamt
of when we started there.

Wisdom of planners has decreed that
Outstanding trees and other plants remain
Protected among buildings which
enhance their beauty,

Retaining their places among accommodation,
Places of research and study,
scientific innovation
Now we are brought together again,
we pioneers,
Remembering all the good things
we have shared
And what we owe to Keele:
the broadening of minds

A revelation of the wealth of knowledge
open to us, A chance to meet new people,
make new friends.

We peer at name-tabs to find who we once knew
For we have changed so much in all those years.
For just a short, essential time some
memories return
Of what we were and what we have become.

We learn of other's progress and their
disappointments,
The part that Keele has played in all their lives.

A smart group of graduates we are,
With walking sticks now visible and other
aids to our mobility
Yet we retain a dignity and sense of purpose
in our lives.

Keele was a turning point for most of us,
something to build upon.

So we rejoice in fellowship as photographs
are taken,
Later to be scanned to see who we
can recognise.

For some this may be our last visit, but we know
That others soon will follow, find their voices
In a now-confusing world.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Golden Graduates Reunite



On Friday 28th June 2024, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed the Class of 1974 and preceding years to Keele for this year's Golden Graduates celebration.

Our attendees enjoyed a three-course dinner in one of our newest buildings on campus, the Smart Innovation Hub.

Guests enjoyed speeches from the Vice-Chancellor, Christine Ball, Law & Sociology and Social Anthropology (Class of 1974) and Sam Hackney, Keele SU Education Officer.



READ MORE ABOUT THE REUNION AND SEE THE SPEECHES IN FULL HERE OR ON OUR WEBPAGES

ALUMNI STORIES

Keele Day performances from across the decades

Six alumni bands and one guitar soloist filled the air with music throughout Keele Day when they performed on stage in Union Square. Here's the line-up...

James Baker

James (French & International Politics, Class of 1999) travelled from Bristol to be part of the celebrations and opened the event. He paired vocals with his acoustic guitar in a set list of mellow original songs, mostly written during his time at Keele. James plays several instruments including guitar, bass and keyboards, and his songs address real-life issues including life, love, football, alcohol and car chases. Since his time at Keele, James has gone on to gain postgraduate qualifications in finance and IT.



Hip Replacement

Their name being a joke in their student days in the 1980s, the trio reunited for this year's Keele Day performance and admit their name felt a little closer to home! The band is made up of David Rowley (History & Politics, Class of 1987), Simon Glass (History & Roman Studies, Class of 1987) and Tom Hagler (American Studies & Politics, Class of 1988) who play electric and bass guitars, these days with the help of a drum machine. Hip Replacement wrote their own songs during their time as students and remember their pretensions of 'making it big'.



LISTEN TO A SONG RECORDED BY HIP REPLACEMENT DURING A MIDNIGHT SESSION AT THE KEELE COURTYARD MUSIC STUDIOS IN 1986

Hip Replacement:
L-R: David Rowley, Simon Glass, Tom Hagler.



Greensward, Decomposition and Peacenik The Leaf

Decomposition and Peacenik The Leaf competed in the 1986 Lindsay 'Battle of the Bands'. The former won and, fast forward 28 years, have remained together and last played on campus in 2018.

With cross-over between members, these three bands include a super-group of musical talent from the 1980s: Damien Cavanagh (Computer Science & Electronics, Class of 1987) – drums | Steve Clarke (Classics & History, Class of 1990) – vocals, guitar | Roger Wallace (Philosophy & Psychology, Class of 1990) – bass | Tony Hunt (Politics & Economics, Class of 1987) – keyboard | Mike Keating (Law & Politics, Class of 1987) – fiddle | James Berriman (Chemistry, Class of 1984) – vocals, guitar, bass | Caroline Walton (née Bollen) (Music & Sociology and Social Anthropology, Class of 1987) – keyboard, vocals | Steve Mitchell (Music & Mathematics, Class of 1987) – keyboard.



Liars at the Witch Trial

A two-piece rock band from Birmingham, alumna Kate Walton (née Finch) (English & French, Class of 2003) convinced band mate Adam Wakefield to join her for a trip down memory lane and for their first performance on Keele's campus. Kate was on guitar and vocals, with Adam on drums. The band formed in 2017 and they have released two albums, "Torches" and "Steel Mill Sessions", to digital platforms.



Junction 15

In 1984, two young Northern women with a passion for singing, acting and dancing, met and clicked immediately; they also realised that their voices complemented each other extremely well. Throw into the mix a Bruce Springsteen fan with a natural flair for performing, singing, and the saxophone, and a guitarist from the South Coast with a penchant for writing melodies – and Junction 15 were born. Their name adopted from the junction that leads off the M6 to Keele University, they were keen to put Keele on the map! After many hours writing classic songs like 'Fleeting Years', 'Hanging Round on the Corner' and 'Blues', and rehearsing in student flats and at Lindsay Hall, the fabulous four finally took the stage – by all accounts their first gig was a hit and the fans wanted more.

Appearing on many occasions in the Students' Union and the Ballroom Bar at Keele, they began to build a varied repertoire, a following of loyal fans, and a new member – a Luton girl with a great look and a great voice.

In the Battle of the Bands competition, they took on some stiff competition and possibly won – no one can remember for sure!

Fast forward almost forty years and Junction 15 reunited once more. Members able to perform on the day were: Nick Wright (History & Economics, Class of 1988) – lead guitar and saxophone | Dawn Elliot-Field (née Elliot) (English & History, Class of 1988) – vocals | Jo Burton (née Hebblethwaite) (English & History, Class of 1988) – vocals | Cath Mackie (née Barber) (English & History, Class of 1988) – vocals.

ALUMNI STORIES

75 years: The intertwining of Keele and one family's history

Written by Dr Lizzie Derbyshire

Geology & Physical Geography, Class of 2009 – Geology, Class of 2014

16th October 1950. A seemingly innocuous date. But one which sparked a family's lifelong association with Keele University.

I vividly remember my first visit to Keele as an undergraduate student; an array of imposing buildings and a mass of people milling around campus. My father waved away directions to Hawthorns Hall from a student guide, 'I lived here, I know where to go!'. As he marched towards Keele village, I dashed after him, wondering how he knew where to go. On our walk, he explained that he and his two younger siblings, Edward and Dominic, had grown up living on campus, spending hours outdoors exploring Keele woods and playing with other Keele families in Church Plantation and Springpool. Furthermore, my great-grandfather, Arthur Lloyd, lived in Keele village.

During my time at Keele, I found more and more family links. Not only did my grandparents, Edward Derbyshire (English & Geography,

Class of 1954) and Maryon Lloyd (English & Geography, Class of 1955) meet at and graduate from Keele, but Maryon's cousin, Pamela Lloyd Harris (English & History, Class of 1954) also studied at Keele. She met and married Graham Owen, a fellow student. Pamela founded the Christian Union whilst Graham founded the Fencing Club. I was Women's Fencing Team Captain (2007/08) and was awarded Half Colours in 2009 after three years of competitive fencing.

Occasionally, I would venture into Springpool to visit a family friend for tea and Welsh cakes. Enid (Felix-Williams) shared how she met my grandmother, Maryon, when they shared a Nissen hut. They struck up a life-long friendship which saw Enid and her husband Gerry becoming the godparents of Edward and Maryon's eldest son, Edmund.



Pamela Lloyd Harris graduating in 1954 with First Class honours (far right of photo)



< Maryon with her eldest son Edmund on a ship to Australia



Edward teaching Chinese geologists in the field



Three Dr E Derbyshires: Edward, Edmund and Elizabeth



Current Keele generation – Lizzie (Edward & Maryon's granddaughter) and Giselle (Pamela & Graham's granddaughter)

I met my future husband at Keele, three weeks after starting my undergraduate studies. Wayne was studying Politics whilst I followed in my grandfather's footsteps by studying Physical Geography and Geology. My undergraduate degree ignited a passion for geology and I stayed at Keele to study for a PhD. At the end of my first year of my PhD, Wayne and I married, raising the number of Keele marriages in our family to three. In 2014, I proudly graduated in front of my husband, parents and grandparents, becoming the third Dr E Derbyshire.

Unintentionally, I imitated my grandparents who left Keele after graduation only to return several years later. After graduating, Edward and Maryon travelled to Canada and Australia before heading back to Keele where they lived with their children for nearly twenty years. In 2022, I returned to Keele and now work supporting students with their academic skills in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.


But this is not the end of the family connections with Keele. In 2022, one of Pamela and Graham's granddaughters, Giselle, began her degree at Keele in Computing and Mathematics. Giselle is currently excelling in her second year and juggles her academic work with running the Aerial Dance Society (Winners of Best Society 2023). We meet for lunch regularly and compare the escapades and adventures of the older generations during their time at Keele.

Throughout the University's 75-year history, four generations of our family have fallen in love with Keele. Whether family members have studied here or merely lived on campus, Keele University is the cornerstone of our family history.



Lizzie and her husband Wayne who met at Keele in 2006

ALUMNI STORIES



Alumnus leads on the creation of newly formed LGBTQ+ Judges Association

His Honour Judge Edward Connell, Crown Court Judge, Ministry of Justice UK

For Edward Connell (French & Geography, Class of 1994), the journey to becoming a Crown Court Judge was different compared to many others in the role.

While taking a law degree might seem like an obvious step, Edward studied French & Geography at Keele, and still wasn't entirely sure what he wanted to do when he entered his final year.

He said: "When I was studying for my degree, in my mind I thought I would go on to work in international business, or a similar field, with the view that my French degree would be a useful skill to have.

"It wasn't until I was about to graduate, and I started to think more seriously about careers, that someone suggested to me, given I liked the idea of public speaking, that I should give some consideration to becoming a lawyer or barrister. So, I did some work experience and quickly realised it was what I wanted to do, and I set my sights on becoming a barrister."

Having not studied law at university, Edward took a one-year law conversion course at the College of Law and then trained to become a barrister. He was called to the bar in 1996 and practised exclusively in criminal law, both prosecuting and defending.



Reflecting on his career so far, Edward said "I thought I would finish my career as a barrister but in 2009 I became a Recorder, so I would sit part-time as a Judge for up to six weeks a year while also carrying on with my normal job as a barrister. I did that for ten years, and in that time, I realised where I wanted my career to go, and I was appointed a full-time Circuit Judge in Crown Court in 2019.

"Being a barrister is challenging but it's a fantastic job at the same time. You get to meet so many people, and no two days are ever the same. It's also a physically demanding role which can involve being all over the country and a lot of travel, and that can have a negative impact on your work-life balance, which is why I started to think about a career change."

Edward now sits as a Judge at Isleworth Crown Court, in London, where there are 14 courtrooms. He has also been appointed as Diversity and Community Relations Judge, and has led on the creation of the newly formed LGBTQ+ Judges Association, which officially launched on 17 June 2024.

In his spare time Edward is a football referee, campaigns against discrimination in sport, sits on London FA disciplinary tribunals, and hosts a podcast called "Coming out the Pod" where he interviews people about their coming out stories.

Edward said: "The most refreshing thing I have seen in my career is the improvement of diversity in the profession. It is still a difficult profession to break into and I had the advantage of being a white male with a private school education, so the typical hallmarks. In the past there weren't many female and non-white people coming to the bar, but thankfully that is changing now and we're seeing much more diversity in the judiciary.

"I didn't tell anyone I was gay until I was quite a senior barrister, because it was a taboo subject back then and it would have impacted on my career. But here we are in 2024 and I have helped to set up the LGBTQ+ Judges Association, and the thought of that group just even existing when I came to the bar would have been impossible. We now have more than 100 members and had an official launch event at the Royal Courts of Justice, where the Lady Chief Justice gave the opening address.

"There are still people out there struggling with their sexuality and their career, and I don't think there are enough role models. I do feel that if people have the platform and can have influence, then they should take advantage of it if they can. Even now, after setting the group up, we received an email from someone who said they were gay but have never been open about it at work because they were worried about their career, so hopefully we can encourage and empower people to be who they are."





ALUMNI STORIES

Alumnus inspired by children to write first book

After helping more than 1,000 schoolchildren become published authors through his day job, Richard Seymour (English & Psychology, Class of 2016) (Psychology, Class of 2017) decided to have a go at writing a book himself.

Richard, a project officer for widening participation outreach programme Higher Horizons, has now published *Members Only*, a philosophical comedy set in heaven.

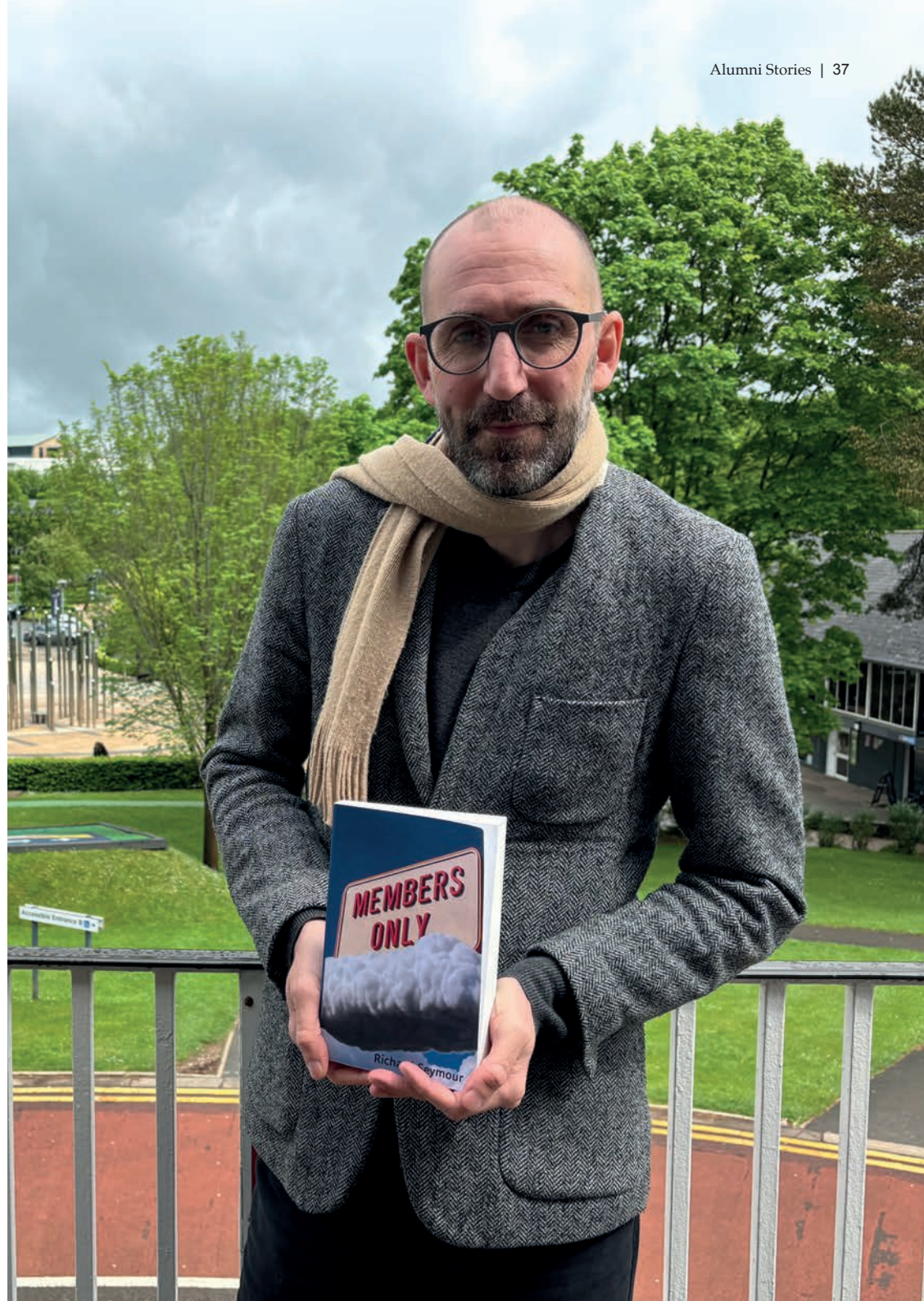
He joined Higher Horizons, based at Keele University, in 2017 and has led the White-Water Writers project, which gives pupils the opportunity to collaboratively write and publish a novel in one week. So far, an impressive 127 books have been published on Amazon under the project's pen name of T.M. Cooks.

Richard said: "I've always been incredibly inspired by the children, and how they work together to write and publish a novel in a single week, which can sometimes be 30,000 words long, often with very little help or guidance from adults. They take total ownership of the project, and they often surprise the teachers and themselves, and it helps raise their expectations because they start to think 'if I can write a book in one week, what else could I do?'"

Richard's idea for his book came to him while on holiday in Italy. He said: "I couldn't sleep one night and just started writing things down. I like to read books by Terry Pratchett and Douglas Adams, and my thinking was just to write something that I would like to read and to go from there.

"Seeing what the children can do in the space of a week got me thinking and I sat down with the intention of writing 100 words a day, but once I started the floodgates opened and one chapter became two, and so on.

"It's great to see the book published on Amazon and I've recently started on a second one, which is currently a work in progress. I can't write quite as quickly as the children do, but they've certainly given me huge inspiration."



ALUMNI UPDATES

Keele announces honorary graduates

A prison reformer, one of the UK's most experienced leaders in football, and a world-renowned human rights lawyer are among those being recognised for their positive contribution to society by Keele University.

The University awarded five honorary doctorates at its summer graduation ceremonies in July, where thousands of students were also celebrated for their academic achievements.

Professor Trevor McMillan OBE, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, said: "Celebrating the successes of our graduates is one of the highlights of the year for us at the University, and this year promises to be extra special with Keele celebrating its 75th anniversary. This year's honorary graduates have all made a real difference to the world in their respective fields and will be excellent, inspirational role models for our students and graduates.

"I'm delighted we are also awarding a posthumous honorary degree to Professor Fumiko Yonezawa, who came to Keele in the 1960s and went on to become the first female President of the Physical Society of Japan. Fumiko is a real inspiration for the whole community of female scientists, and a symbol of the ongoing connection and friendship between Japan, Keele and the UK."



Professor Trevor McMillan OBE
Vice-Chancellor



Pia Sinha
Doctor of the University

Pia joined the Prison Service in 1999 as a Higher Psychologist at HMP & YOI Holloway. After joining HMP Wandsworth as a Senior Psychologist, she took up the post of Head of Safer Prisons, followed by Head of Reducing Re-offending at HMP Wormwood Scrubs. She then took up her first Deputy Governor role at HMP Send, and subsequently HMP Downview and HMP Liverpool.

In 2013 Pia was appointed to her first governing role at HMP & YOI Thorn Cross, going on to govern at both HMP Risley and HMP Liverpool. In 2020 she became Acting Deputy Director of the Probation Reform Programme, then the Workforce Programme, before becoming Director of Women in November 2021. Pia's vision for the Women's Directorate was to enable safe, compassionate and individualised care for women. In April 2023 Pia became the CEO of the Prison Reform Trust.



Rick Parry
Doctor of the University

Rick Parry is the Chair of the English Football League and a Vice-Chair of the Football Association. Graduating in Mathematics at the University of Liverpool, Rick trained as a Chartered Accountant. Having experienced a number of finance roles in the leisure industry, he joined Ernst & Young as a management consultant in Manchester. He was seconded to work on Manchester's bid for the 1996 Olympic Games and in 1990 was approached by The Football Association to advise on the creation of the FA Premier League. He became the league's first Chief Executive and negotiated the groundbreaking TV deal with Sky.

In 1997 Rick joined the football club he had supported all his life, Liverpool, as Chief Executive – a post he retained for twelve years. On leaving Liverpool, Rick advised the government on sports betting integrity and football governance projects and conducted a variety of football consultancy projects in the Middle East and North America. In 2016 Rick was invited to join the Investigatory Chamber of UEFA's Club Financial Control Body which oversees its Financial Fair Play regulations. In 2019 he was approached to chair the English Football League. Much of his time has been spent leading the league's input to the Fan Led Review and the subsequent creation of the Independent Football Regulator – arguably the biggest change in English football since the creation of the Premier League.



Jason McCue Doctor of Laws

Jason McCue is the Senior Partner of McCue Jury & Partners LLP and is internationally acknowledged as a leading expert within several legal sectors (litigation, human rights, counterterrorism, conflict resolution, transitional justice, international criminal law, reputation management, and victim class action litigation). He has been accredited as a leading expert by both of the UK's leading law directories (Chambers and Legal 500) for over two decades and placed in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame.

He was awarded UK lawyer of the year 2009/10 by the Law Society of England and Wales, and shortlisted as Human Rights Solicitor of the Year and The Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 for his work on counterterrorism, terrorism victims' rights, and his human rights and conflict resolution work in Africa. Jason is well known for his pursuit of terrorists and rogue regimes through the civil and criminal courts (his work was originally dubbed "law-fare" by the media) and for the tracing and recovery of their assets. He pioneered the development of domestic and international law through civil class actions/private criminal prosecutions on behalf of victims of terrorism.



Professor Sir Richard Catlow Doctor of Science

Richard began his career at Oxford University, and has been a Professor at University College London, Keele University and the University of Cardiff, and was Director of the Davy-Faraday Laboratory at the Royal Institution in London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the German National Science Academy, the Leopoldina, of the Academia Europaea and of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He served as Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society from 2016-2021 and was Co-President of the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) – a global alliance of more than 140 academies of science, engineering and medicine from 2021-22.

He was knighted in 2020 for Services to Leadership in Science and Research. His research programme is based on the development and application of computational techniques used in direct conjunction with experiment in probing the properties of complex materials. He has played a leading role in developing the field both in the UK and internationally. He has published extensively with over 1,200 research articles, reviews and book chapters. Richard was Professor of Physical Chemistry at Keele from 1985 to 1989, where he worked jointly between the University and the Daresbury laboratory where his role was to assist the development of the diffraction programme on the Synchrotron Radiation Source.



Professor Fumiko Yonezawa (posthumous) – Doctor of Science

Professor Fumiko Yonezawa became the first Japanese student at Keele when she studied at the University from 1963-64 and went on to become the first female President of the Physical Society of Japan. She arrived in Keele as a research student at the end of September 1963 and started her study in theoretical chemistry and physics – regularly studying in the campus library until the early hours of the morning. A distinguished scientist, Fumiko received the L'Oreal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science for her pioneering theory and computer simulations on amorphous semiconductors and liquid metals in 2005. She passed away in 2019, aged 80.



Manali Lukha College of Fellows

Working for ITV, Manali Lukha plays a key role in their News operation, leading their Millbank Studios in Westminster. These studios are central to ITV's broadcasts, handling both political coverage and weather forecasting. As head of the studios, Manali manages a team of skilled personnel – political correspondents, weather presenters, and broadcast engineers – ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Before joining ITV, Manali built her expertise at the Met Office, the UK's national weather service. Her time at the Met Office was a journey of developing expertise, starting as a software programmer and transitioning to business development.

Manali's academic background demonstrates a diverse skill set. She graduated from Keele University in 1996 with a degree in Geography and Geology, followed by a Master's degree in Information Technology in 1997.

Manali remains active beyond her role in news. She chairs ITV's International Ambassador Network, sits on the council of the Royal Meteorological Society, and is involved with the Climate Ambassadors steering group.

In memoriam



Michael Padley

HISTORY & ECONOMICS,
CLASS OF 1961

John Michael Padley, known as Mike, was born into a Nottinghamshire mining family on 17 March 1939. He left grammar school in Nottingham to come to Keele University in 1957, taking a degree in History & Economics (Maths and Psychology subsidiaries) in 1961. He joined International Computers and Tabulators (ICT) and then Ford Motor Company as a financial analyst, before finally joining Paten & Co, the family business of Priscilla Paten, whose grandfather had set up the company in 1898. Michael and Priscilla had married in 1962 after her graduation from Keele.

He successfully ran this hotel and wine business for 40 years, further developing the

wine trade and a chain of off licences, finally converting it from many small hotels and pubs across East Anglia into a modern enterprise of 4 hotels of over 100 bedrooms each – largely appealing to the business trade – as well as 2 separate leisure centres. The hotels were home to collections of art, much of which had been bought by the Paten family, and Michael developed the style of the hotels further to increase their appeal. He sold the company in 2008. Michael was a keen businessman and inspired many local people in the Peterborough area to set up their own businesses. He loved gardening and growing fruit trees and vegetables, visiting Cornwall for family holidays and later France, where he built a family villa in the Dordogne area. He loved fine wine and had a remarkably developed palate, often going to France to buy wine. He enjoyed entertaining in France and London (with theatre visits) and at home in Nassington. Michael died at home on 21 January 2023. He is greatly missed by Priscilla, his wife of 60 years, his three daughters, Niki, Clare and Louise, his seven grandchildren, and his many friends.



Marina Yvonne Oliver

(née Stroud)
ECONOMICS & POLITICS,
CLASS OF 1957

18 December 1934 –
14 November 2023

Marina was born into a family of shopkeepers and skilled crafts, living in Walsall during the Second World War. At Queen Mary's High School in Walsall, Marina grew to love history and contributed regularly to the school magazine and won a town prize essay competition. Her poem "Why" from this time perfectly describes why she never had any difficulty imagining plots for her novels: everywhere she went she would be asking herself "Who, Why, What, When, Where, How?" about people and places around her.



All her books were thoroughly researched, both in print and on the ground. Since 1974 she has written 85 historical, crime and modern novels as well as several non-fiction books on writing and local history, including of her school.

Marina lectured extensively on writing, encouraging and offering critiques to potential authors. Always ready to adopt to new technology, in 1990 she bought an electronic typewriter with a 2-line memory (!). Marina was very active in the Romantic Novelists' Association, where she managed the New Writers' Scheme for many years, developed the magazine, started the website and residential conferences, and was Chairman in 1991-92. In the 60s, Marina edited and published "Debate", a quarterly magazine for thinking women.

She attracted much criticism in the press in the 70s for publishing an exposé of scams in higher education. For much of her life, Marina was an active member of the Conservative Party, serving on the National Education Advisory Committee, attending many party conferences and standing for election to Islington Borough Council.

She was in a nearby Brighton hotel when an IRA bomb almost killed the Prime Minister.

Marina appeared in or produced many amateur dramatic productions, from "A Man for All Seasons" and "Blithe Spirit" to the world premiere of "People of Nowhere". Even writing a play when none was available for a large all-female cast.

Marina met her husband Chris in their first week at Keele University, they married in 1958, have four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They have lived in many parts of England, re-modelling their houses as needed, as well as wintering for 12 years in Madeira.

Marina's books are available at:
www.marina-oliver.net



Elizabeth Chadbourn

(née Udall)
AMERICAN STUDIES &
ENGLISH, CLASS OF 1987

After graduating, Liz went on to be a national media journalist with her byline appearing in many papers and magazines including The Times and Marie Claire. Alongside this, she published a highly successful campaigning book – Rape: Your Survival Guide – which had an introduction by the Home Secretary.

In 2010 Liz set up the company, Emerald Eye, with her husband Mark, providing communications support to charities and FE colleges. She passed away on 10 October 2023 after a long illness and leaves behind her husband and three children, Betsy, Joseph and Eve.



Gillian Biggins

(née Clark)

ECONOMICS AND
GEOGRAPHY,
CLASS OF 1961

Gill finished at Selby High School with the necessary GCE A level passes to be accepted as an undergraduate by the recently founded Keele University and duly started her 'Foundation Year' in 1957. Unfortunately, there was a pandemic of 'Asian Flu' in the autumn of 1957 which affected so many people that the University had to close, and everybody was sent home for two weeks. However, normality was eventually resumed and on their return to Keele, Gill Clark and Steve Biggins became firm friends for the remainder of their time at Keele.

1961 was a busy year for them both; they got engaged, they both graduated with good degrees; and they both went to work for the newly founded computer department of the



English Electric Company in Kidsgrove. Finally, they finished 1961 with a Christmas wedding and moved into a small house in Alsager.

In 1964 Gill had their first daughter and since they needed a family house they moved to Congleton where they stayed for the next sixty years and brought up their three daughters.

Steve and Gill celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary at the end of 2021. Unfortunately, in early 2022, Gill got an infection which turned into sepsis and although she was taken to hospital the sepsis spread rapidly and she passed away the next day surrounded by her family.

Gill thoroughly enjoyed her time at Keele and she made lifelong friends during her university years.



John Edward Meager

HISTORY & POLITICS,
CLASS OF 1968

John died suddenly and unexpectedly in November 2023. In his own words, he was 'a man of the late 60s, a soixante-huitard my own man and follower of none.'

Like many of his contemporaries, John moved away from his extended family in southeast London in the 1950s, when his father was transferred to Shropshire. New school, new friends and new interests followed. The proximity to Wales awakened a strong interest in mountaineering and rock climbing. An opportunity to play cricket for his school and a growing interest in cricketing statistics followed. There were performances in school drama productions too.

All of these were available to John when he arrived at Keele in 1964, and he followed them up with great enthusiasm,

along with his writing. Like many Keele graduates, John's degree in History and Politics was not the subject combination for which he had originally applied. The Foundation Year was a chance to discover what he really wanted to study. A good degree enabled him to register for a place at LSE where his research was supervised by Ralph Miliband.

In a long and varied teaching career, John taught in Brixton, Chester, Macclesfield and Washington. He enjoyed teaching A level best and was involved in several extra-curricular activities and educational developments. Unfortunately, depression impacted later years, but he maintained his interest in mountaineering and cricket, along with drawing and painting.

After early retirement and a move back to the Midlands, John worked as an interviewer for the National Centre for Social Research, and returned to teaching, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

John was a gentle soul and supported his family in whatever they wanted to do. Friends from Keele days remember him with great affection. He described himself as a 'full-blooded anarchist - socialist' and identified the greatest things in life as 'friendship and the natural world.'



Lee Polshaw

(née Beverley Cardash)
HISTORY & CRIMINOLOGY,
CLASS OF 1999

Lee Polshaw née Beverley Cardash began studying Criminology and Psychology at age 31 in 1995 and switched to Criminology and History the following year. 'Little' Lee made many friends during her time at Keele, some of whom lasted her lifetime, and she also met her husband-to-be, Andy. Lee also received a postgraduate diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice 15 years later but could not attain her master's as she quit to support a friend from London whom she supported after a traumatic incident.



Lee was passionate about animal and human rights and could be found in anti-fascist campaigns and fighting for fairness and equity for disabled and other disadvantaged communities. She felt the same while working as a probation service officer, to give those offenders who wanted to change their lives the opportunity to do that. She stood as the Labour candidate at the Penkull and Stoke by-election in 2021 and missed out by 10 votes. She would have stood in 2023 but her passion for fairness meant she could no longer remain in the Labour Party. Lee died suddenly of a cardiac arrest on the morning of 23 August 2023 with Andy by her side.



Dr Steve Mills

AMERICAN STUDIES
& GEOGRAPHY,
CLASS OF 1971

Steve was born in Yorkshire and first came to Keele as an undergraduate student in the 1960s. After graduating he continued his studies in Historical Geography at the University of Maryland and taught in Virginia and in Maryland before returning to Keele in 1976 as a lecturer in American Studies and was later promoted to senior lecturer.

He taught across the spectrum of American Studies, including Cultural Geography and Film and tackled current topics as wide apart as the death penalty and Disney. He was also a resident tutor in Hawthorns Hall. While senior lecturer, he was part of the high performing department awarded the top score for teaching and research quality in a TQA in 1997/98.

Steve remained at Keele until his retirement in 2009; however, he was a research fellow at the David Bruce Centre until 2014. He was also a visiting tutor in history at Ruskin College, in Oxford.

Described by former colleague Mike Tappin as a 'true Americanist' and 'the last of the Keele breed as a true University person', Steve met his wife, Nina, at Keele, and the couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at the beginning of the year.

Nina said: "He was a firm believer in the founding principles of Keele and the multi-disciplinary approach to studies, and he carried that through his whole life and career. He was a very generous person with his knowledge, and he loved teaching and seeing students grow and flower and helping those who perhaps lacked self-esteem and self-worth.

"He remained in contact with some of his students, and we've received messages saying how supportive Steve was when they were undergraduate students at Keele.

"Steve strongly believed in students experiencing other education systems, and he did a lot to promote exchange programmes for Keele students, especially in Canada and the United States. Our holidays would often involve Steve visiting a university that was in the exchange programme, or one that wasn't part of it yet, but he perhaps thought we should be sending people there, and he wanted to check it out. American Studies and American landscape were always his interest and passion."

A published author in his field, Steve was also on the editorial board of the journal *Landscapes* and editor of the *British Association for American Studies Newsletter*. Outside of academia, he enjoyed hill walking, film and theatre and was a supporter of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust.

Steve died aged 74 after battling pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife and their two children and four grandchildren, alongside two honorary children and five honorary grandchildren, and his sister and family.



If you would like us to commemorate a former Keelite in a future Forever Keele issue, please get in touch:
alumni.hq@keele.ac.uk



Keele University
Staffordshire, ST5 5BG

keele.ac.uk