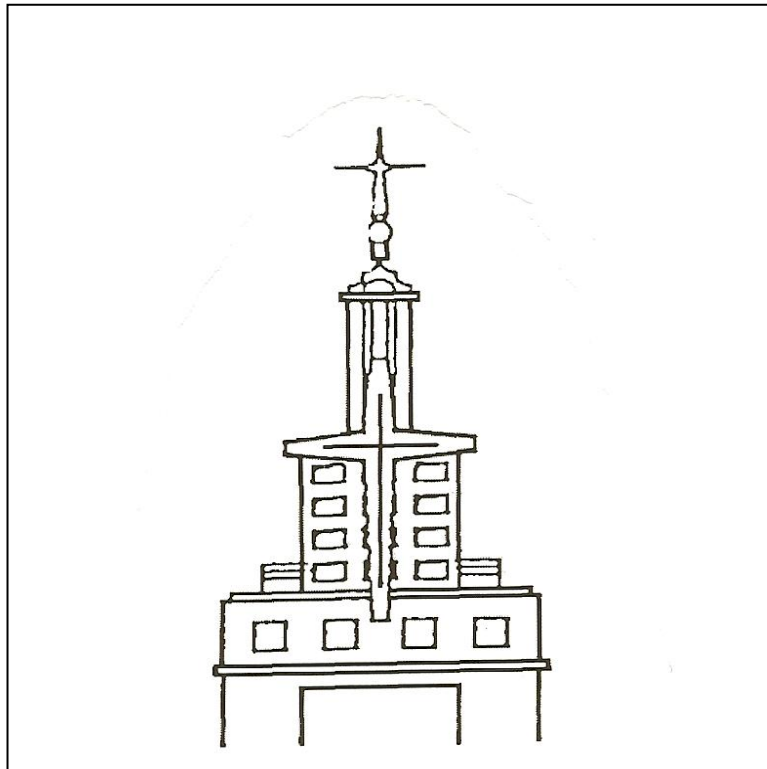


# CLARION RECALL Number 27

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## EDITORIAL

**Was it a portent that the first Secretary of JK's Parochial Church Council was called Rust?** It certainly looks that way, if you read Keith Alexander's piece on page 3 of this issue. The great leap in building technology in the 1930s was supposedly the use of ferro-concrete (concrete beams strengthened by iron or steel rods) but the idea that these rods were sealed air-tight and would never need attention has been discredited in recent years. Many public buildings from the great era of 'modernist' architecture, 1918-1945, are now in need of considerable repair because of the rust decay in the ferro-concrete beams in their structures, and JK is no exception.

We RECALL readers have good cause to be grateful to JK for giving us secure and fruitful teenage years, and setting us up for life, so the chance to give a little back should not be ignored. Please give as much as you are able to the Restoration Appeal, and help the church renew itself and stand tall for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Though the character of the parish is much-changed from our days, it still has a Youth Club and a choir and a congregation --and a lot of work to do.

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**The name of Fisher has long loomed large in the annals of the Youth Club.** Who can forget Derek's intrepid journey from Stirling Corner towing a Christmas tree behind his motor-cycle, when there was a vital need for one for a Club show? Or Brian's suave silk dressing-gowned Hardlicanute amongst the bathing belles in *1066 & All That?* More recently Brian, as self-appointed Club Poet Laureate has provided reams of 'verse' (?) for RECALL in the thin guise of 'J B Sherif'. Another pair of Fishers were added to the roll when Wendy (nee Symondson) married Peter of that ilk and they have both been faithful supporters of JK Reunion events in recent years.

Now Wendy and Peter have taken the ultimate (brave? foolhardy?) step and offered their home (in Loughton, Essex) to be the venue for the JK Event of 2008. You can read more about it on pages 4 and 5 of this issue and there is a 'I'm Coming' form to fill up on the Back Page, so that we can have some idea of numbers. If you're at least half-fit and not out of the country, do make an effort to come! These events roll back the years, and strengthening and renewing old friendships is more precious than you may know. Even if you've not been before to a JK Reunion, if you're a reader of this magazine, you will have some feeling for your links with the past. Make an effort to be at the Fishers' in Loughton on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. You won't regret it.....

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**CLARION RECALL could not exist without the amazing efforts of our devoted Publisher,** Shirley, who has just put together and distributed our 27<sup>th</sup> issue. But that is only part of the story; there would be no magazine if there was no content --and the content of the magazine mostly depends on you. So, please take a few moments to make YOUR contribution to a future issue. You can write to us with your recollections of 'Magic JK Moments' from the Past; or tell us about some aspect of what you have been doing in work or leisure in the intervening years; or enlighten us and seek our support for some present project in which you are involved. Or even just send us a copy of a picture which could evoke some memories, or tell us news of some Jk-ite you may have seen recently. These individual contributions are greatly appreciated --and there must be something you want to get off your chest, isn't there?

Keith Alexander (formerly of Stanway Gardens) was formerly in JKCYC and is still a member of the JK congregation. He has been Treasurer of JK for a number of years. He tells RECALL readers of a current church appeal and asks for .....

## **H-E-L-P!**

As many of us are beginning to realise, seventy years of active use can cause things to wear out. Unfortunately, our own much-loved JK Church is also suffering symptoms of age, and massive renovation costs are in the offing.

Following the architect's report in 2006, we started to put some items in order. We re-proofed much of the flat roof and re-coated it with reflective paint -- peanuts at £5,500. We also had some electrical work done for another £3,500. However, the other two high-priority items come at a higher price.

The belfry and spire are suffering from 'concrete sickness' in which concrete cladding and steel reinforcing decide, after a few decades, that they are incompatible and part company. While the specialists are at work on this, they are going to check on the security of the cross and orb (last done about 50 years ago) and re-gild. All this will come to about £80,000.

Meanwhile the Crittall-style metal window frames are now well past their best. They let a lot of heat out, and potentially, vandals in. We are hoping to replace them with look-alike double-glazing. With some negotiation still to take place, this looks like another £20,000. These are only starting points in a long list, culminating eventually in the decoration of a structurally sound building.

So, if you continue to have fond memories of being youthful in a youthful church, please send a donation to John Keble Church P.C.C.  
c/o 40 Oxhey Road, Watford, Herts, WD 14 4QQ marking the back of your cheque 'Restoration Fund'. A Gift Aid declaration will add 25% to the donation and provide a bit of personal buncce to higher rate taxpayers.

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**There is a form you can use for this on the back page of this issue.**

## **We'll meet again .....**

### **J K Reunion Event – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

Yes, folks, there IS going to be another JK Reunion Event in 2008 -- the date for your diaries is WEDNESDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> and this year we are going to meet at Wendy (nee Symondson) & Peter Fisher's place -- at 19 Stony Path, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SJ (Telephone: 020 8508 2096)

Wendy says “ We hope that we have picked a nice day so that we can spread out into the garden -- if not it will be quite cosy, squeezed into the house!” -- but don't worry, our meteorological experts predict that it's bound to be a lovely summer day!

**Wendy suggests that those who are coming arrive from 11.30 onwards – with lunch served at about 12.15. Lunch will be provided in return for a donation towards expenses -- which will probably work out at about £7- £8 per person. Pay on the day.**

The planned menu is: ham or salmon with salad & potatoes --- followed by strawberries & cream or cheese. For drinks --- Pimm's or soft drinks/tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring your own 'poison' to drink, apart from what is on the menu!

Wendy suggests three alternative activities for after lunch:

#### **1) Afternoon visit to Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Essex CM16 5HS 2.00 – 4.00 pm**

Anyone travelling anti-clockwise from the Dartford Tunnel on the M25 may have noticed a large Georgian mansion on the right in lovely grounds, soon after coming through the Epping tunnel (the tunnel being built to prevent the motorway from cutting through the forest and a rather ancient cricket field). Though with royal associations, this fine building had been left a burnt out shell (following a fire in 1917) until recently and had been unloved and forgotten for decades.

The story will be told (on the guided tour which has been arranged) of how a group of local people saved the property from becoming another golf club by purchasing the freehold of the mansion and gardens in 1995 with the aim of restoring Copped Hall to its former glory. You will be able to see how restoration has progressed since then.

If you are not interested in carpentry, stonemasonry and the like there is a marvellous 18c four-acre walled organic garden (now almost completely restored) to be seen and the walk to it via the site of an archaeological dig will show the most beautiful views over the surrounding Hertfordshire countryside. Prince Charles visited the mansion and grounds two years ago, which he seemed to enjoy, as we are sure you will.

The tour takes approximately 2 hours at a cost of £7 per head to be collected on the day. It is a 3 mile drive through Epping Forest to get there from our road (Stony Path)

**Or**

2) **Alternatively, you may wish to ramble (gently) through part of Epping Forest** accessible in 2 minutes from the top of our road (Stony Path)

**Or**

3) **Just sit and talk** (or doze) in the house and garden, if you are feeling really lazy!

Afternoon tea, served from approximately 4.15 pm onwards, will round off the day.

**Wendy says “Please book early, as the size of our house and garden does not allow for unlimited numbers!” Fill in the Reply Slip on the back page of this issue of RECALL and return it to Wendy Fisher, 19 Stony Path, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SJ by Wednesday, June 18th. We hope to fit in late-bookers, but it helps greatly if you can signify your intention to come by that date, so that we can plan catering.**

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**DIRECTIONS to 19 Stony Path Loughton Essex IG10 1SJ**

**From the M25**

Come off at exit 26, follow signs to LOUGHTON, climbing up into the forest. At the WAKE ARMS roundabout (Old Orleans Restaurant), take the THIRD exit (Loughton) Take the first exit road on the RIGHT, immediately after the forest ends - **Baldwins Hill** - & follow this road until The FORESTERS ARMS on the left. Immediately turn LEFT into Stony Path or park alongside the forest & walk down (2 mins).

**From the M11 from London only (this is an exit/access only to & from London)**

Come off at junction 5 turning LEFT into Rectory Lane, go under the bridge for the Underground and keep straight on (2 mini roundabouts) on the main road until the T junction/mini roundabout. Turn Right, up Goldings Hill & just before you drive into the forest TURN LEFT into **Baldwins Hill** then follow as per M25 directions above.

**From the M11 from Cambridge, Stansted**

Come off at the HARLOW exit, junction 7 roundabout. Turn first LEFT towards Epping & continue south to the Wake Arms (Old Orleans Restaurant) roundabout, taking the SECOND exit (Loughton) & continue as per M25 directions above.

If you rely on ‘SAT/NAV’-- just type in --- IG10 1SJ -- and hope for the best!

**PARKING**

There may be a few spaces in Stony Path and you can turn round in the banjo at the bottom, if not please park at the top of Stony Path in Baldwins Hill opposite the Foresters Arms Pub – alongside the grassy edge to the forest.

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**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The nearest Underground Station is LOUGHTON on the Central line (just over 1 mile away) but it is up-hill most of the way; a taxi may be hired from the station. There are buses but they only take you part of the way.

## **KEN PRATT (1927 - 2007) -- an obituary**

Ken Pratt was a figure well-known to many club members because he was an active member of the JK family in the 1940s and 1950s and an invariable fixture 'on the drums' at many club dances, shows, and socials. His cheerful, sunny, disposition enlivened many JK social occasions and he was the producer for one of the JKCYC revues (KEBLE KAPERS in 1954 -- see a remembrance of this on a later page).

After a period of illness, Ken died peacefully in hospital in November 2007; several friends from JK days attended his funeral in Cambridgeshire a few days afterwards. It was a stirring and crowded occasion. Having been Head Chorister of the JK choir in the 1940s, it wasn't surprising that we should sing one of John Keble's hymns and that a recording of the Winchester Cathedral Choir should precede the service (JK's first Vicar, Oswin Gibbs-Smith, whom Ken knew, went on to be Dean of Winchester and Ken had visited the cathedral for Evensong the week before he died); as a great admirer of the 'big bands' however, it was equally fitting that for Ken, Glenn Miller's 'St Louis Blues March' should be the piece which ended the service and sent the mourners out with a smile and a spring in their step, just as he would have wished.

Ken grew up in JK parish as the neighbourhood itself was growing, living in Stanway Gardens, next door to the Wright family. He went to Deansbrook Primary School and Christ's College, Finchley, joined many JK activities, and trained as a cartographic draughtsman. He went to work in the civil service and later worked for the RAF at their Brampton Park HQ in Huntingdonshire. From an early age, he was active in sport (a member of the Ivanhoe Tennis Club) and in amateur dramatics.

He met and married his wife Marion (nee Stanbridge) through their membership of both JKCYC and the Deansbrook Social Club Concert Party-- of which he was a key member, both on stage and off-stage (playing the drums in the pit orchestra) as the occasion demanded. After he and Marion moved to Cambridgeshire in 1963 (to a lovely village called Needingworth, near St Ives), Ken was active in many community activities, not least as a Parish and District Councillor and School Governor for many years. Marion and his three children, Martin, Lesley and Jonathan, survive him.

The service-sheet at his funeral headlined him as 'a true Gentleman' which he certainly was; on the back, in tiny print, were Spike Milligan's immortal words 'Ying tong, ying tong, ying tong, ying tong, ying tong idle I po' just to remind you that here was a lovely chap, who, throughout his life had enlivened and enriched the lives of many, not only by compassion but by a great sense of humour. On behalf of RECALL readers, we send love and condolences to Marion and the family.

### **A MEMORY OF KEN PRATT (by The Editor)**

In my teens I was a member of the Deansbrook Social Club's concert party. The Club was active from 1945 - 1960 and its members came from roads around the wartime B13 Wardens Post which was based in Deans Lane. The Concert Party used to meet variously at Watling Centre, Deansbrook School and at JK Church Halls. I enjoyed performing with them, especially the mixture of song, dance, and sketches that we usually purveyed, but some frustration about the limitations (and the age) of the material that we were using made me, in the end, want to have a go at writing myself.

In the 1950s I started to produce some sketch material for the shows and joined forces with another concert party member, Ken Pratt, to put together a first 'book show' for the concert party. Ken often played drums for DSC socials and shows, but was also a personable stage performer. He and I used to meet weekly at one or the other of our houses (he lived in Stanway Gardens and I in Church Close) and we would spend the evening dreaming up wild scenarios and jokes, of which only about one-tenth ever appeared in the final scripts we laid before our casts.

We spent ages writing up one (hilarious, as we thought) sketch set in a sleazy French café, in which deaths occurred with frightening rapidity through a carefree, trigger-happy gunman, who commented at each fatality "*Il est mort? Accident!*". In the climax to the sketch, the gunman accidentally shot himself and all the corpses suddenly came to life again and said in chorus "*Il est mort? Accident!*". When we read this to the company, splitting our sides as we did so, we were greeted with one of the most deafening silences, I can remember.

The hair-raisingly vigorous Apache Dance at the beginning of the scene survived, (in which, as the female soloist, alarmingly thrown around, Mavis Carter (then Murch) was gallantly involved) but more or less nothing else, despite the protestations of Ken and myself that this was 'modern humour'. This sub-Python-esque style of our wilder moments was usually sublimated because we also had to observe the discipline of writing for the talents of those who were going to perform our material. When we produced a simple, choreographed, re-creation of the musical story of Pedro the Fisherman it was much more appreciated.

Occasionally Ken and I would write some cross-talk for ourselves and then top it off with a good song that we both liked --I particularly remember an atmospheric Mayfair scene we crafted, in which the two of us did a 'toffs' comic dialogue in evening dress and were then joined by six of the young DSC female dancers (Jean C and Mavis C among them) in lovely ball gowns. For our musical song and dance finale, we were sure we had found a potential super-hit, which had zippy words that fitted a modern, stylish tune in 4/4 fast tempo. It was a song called 'Moonlight Propaganda'-- and I've never heard it again played by anybody, from that day to this.

The 'book show' that Ken and I eventually completed had only a skeletal plot, since it involved four men (our front-line gang of comics) going on holiday, and visiting various countries (in each of which we duly staged a lavish 'scena') and then getting shipwrecked on a desert island (from which their front-curtain fantasy episodes provided material for more elaborate scenes). We called the show *Atoll Story*. Some RECALL readers may remember being in it or seeing it when it was staged in JK Hall, though we also took it to many other North-West London venues.

We were excited when the *Edgware Post* reporter sent to review the show turned out to be Bill Hopkins, one of a cadre of young writers attracting attention nationally at the time (he was part of a group of novelists centred around Colin Wilson, who wrote a famous book of the Fifties called *The Outsider*). He stayed a little while afterwards, took Ken and I aside backstage and gave us some valuable bits of advice on both production and writing. Ken said that he found the advice invaluable when a few years later he went on to produce one of the JKCYC shows -- *Keble Kapers*.

## THE UPPER HALE SHOP SURVEY --THEN AND NOW

On the following pages, you will find the basic facts of how the area that most of us knew as 'The Green Man shops' has changed between 1951 and 2008. (Of course, it's not 'The Green Man' any more is it? -- what do they call it now, I wonder? -- perhaps it should resort to the proper geographical appellation of 'Upper Hale'? -- which is what it was called when the shops were first being built in the early 1930s).

Some readers may remember that soon after RECALL began we ran a competition to see who could remember the 1950's character of the neighbourhood (Derek Holden was the winner, though it turns out that his memory was not absolutely perfect!). Some subsequent library research has been added to the memories of entrants for that competition and has now completed the picture for that year. We did a 1989 survey for comparison when we published the results of the competition. Now nearly twenty years on we have completed another survey to see what further changes have occurred.

If you are struggling to visualise this area, remember that as you went up Deans Lane to the shops from JK, the first shop on the left hand (western) side (No 1 in the lists) was the fish and chip shop. Interestingly enough this is one of the very few shops that has not changed its use over 60-odd years. If you follow that pavement along and around the bend to the 240 bus stop (Edgware direction) it takes you to shop No 22 (still a hairdresser, though now unisex).

Deansbrook Garage and The Green Man public-house were on the other side of the road (Nos 23 and 24) and then Selvage Lane, Sunbury Gardens and Hale Lane intervened before you came to The Railway Tavern (No 25) on the south side of Hale Lane (the pub is still going strong, though where is (or ever was) the railway?). The sequence of shops from 26 to 39 were on the eastern side of Deans Lane --the last two (38 and 39) being separated by a driveway through which the Express Dairy horses and carts used to come.

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There are some striking differences between 1951 and 2008. Most of the shops which sold basic fresh food (the baker, the two fishmongers, the two butchers, the two dairies, the three greengrocers) and which would have been visited by our parents on a daily basis, have gone. The refrigerator and the supermarket have made their influence felt and, on the way, probably reduced the amount of cooking done at home --though these days, in some areas, the wheel is turning full circle and people are going searching for fresh local fruit, fresh bread, fresh meat again and have a renewed zest to find independent suppliers. Will some of those food shops return by 2028?

At present, in the place of the basic fresh-food stores are a plethora of restaurants -- a category which was entirely absent from the 1951 survey unless you could stretch the imagination and call Betty's Café (gloomy, smoke-filled haunt for drivers and conductors of the 52 buses and others) a restaurant.....

In 2008 you can go to the Deans Lane-Hale Lane parades of shops and eat Chinese, Indian or at 'Booba's Fish Restaurant' (not sure what nationality that is) -- or get a Chinese take-away, a fried-chicken take-away, a kebab take-away or, still, just good old fish-and-chips.



The major national commercial chains which occupied retail space in the 1950s -- Barclays Bank, W H Smith's, Boots the chemists -- have gone, as have indicators of their time like 'The Wool Shop'. A private lending library was one of the first shops in Deans Parade in the 30s, (it cost a penny to borrow a book) but it had closed down by 1954; a video library appears in the 1989 list, but that has gone in 2008. The Launderette wasn't there in 1951 but now that icon of the 60s has also disappeared.

Fifty years on, no large supermarket chain has yet moved in, (there is probably not enough space anywhere nor enough volume of trade or car-parking space for Tesco, Asda or Sainsbury's to be interested) though the independent 'Edgware Supermarket' has gradually spread its wings and now occupies the space of three shops which were there in the 1950s. Of the two dairies there in the 1950s, the United Dairies (red carts) was only ever a shop but The Express Dairy (blue carts) was once not only a shop but a depot, stables for horses and yard at the back. These have all gone, and the buildings are now extensively refurbished and turned over to commercial and industrial use.

The most recent list of shops reflects the times in interesting ways -- now there is a 'Skin and anti-ageing clinic' (No 21), a 'letting agency' (No 19) and one shop which contains the dizzying cocktail of financial advisers, corporate-event organisers, credit reference investigators and data-communications experts (No 29).

A 'Medical Centre' (No 39) now occupies the end shop site adjoining Deans Drive, presumably serving a similar clientele to that of the surgery of Dr Edith Stephens and Dr Elsie Taylor which used to be sited in a private house on the corner of Sefton Avenue. It's a sign of the times that alternative medicine is now more visible and that No 34 is now occupied by a shop that advertises its services as an acupuncture clinic, a purveyor of herbal medicines and a chiropractor.

Back in the 1950s, one can remember individual personalities who lived above their premises and ran their shops as their single occupation -- Norman Davis, whose array of radios, gramophones and vacuum cleaners were supplemented by a sideline in toys, Don Simons who presided at The Yorkshire Bakeries, Harry and Dorothy Mantripp (staunch members of Goodwin Avenue Methodist Church, Mill Hill) whose friendly dark-panelled chemists shop was next to the café, Mr Bonell who ran both a tobacconists shop and the lending library. Judging from a recent visit, the current crop of shops seem to be more anonymous, with less small-business owners and more 'managers' in charge of shops which are owned by people who live elsewhere.

One of the names to disappear from the 2008 list is that of 'George's Kitchen' -- the fiefdom of the late lamented George Ramsey who was a pillar of JK's life for half-a-century until his recent death. His establishment goes on under another name though one hopes that the 'Blue Zone Cafe' doesn't have too many dubious implications.....

A Post Office hangs on -- not in its own premises any more, but as an adjunct to the Sunrise Delicatessen. Will it survive the current round of Royal Mail closures?

And 'The Green Man' (both pub and overall name for the district) now lingers only in the memories of those were born before 1960....Do they now say "See you for a smoothie at The Jolly Badger"? Doesn't have the same ring, does it?

### Changes of retail usage on the western side of Deans Lane (Deans Parade) stretching round to Cloister Gardens

	1951	1989	2008
1	Neptune's (Fish and Chips)	Crispin's (fish and chips)	King Neptune (fish and chips)
2	Gallione (hairdresser)	Everett and Hawkins (builders)	Vanity (hair and beauty salon)
3	Deans Stores (off-licence)	Augustus Barnett (wines)	Threshers (off-licence)
4	Strang (wet fish shop)	Catering hire centre	A & S (express dry cleaners)
5	O'Carrolls (greengrocer)	Allan's fruit basket (greengrocer)	Wings (Chinese food take-away)
6	The Wool Shop	R E supplies (plumbing and heating)	R E supplies (plumbing & heating)
7	Post Office	Mi-Hir (general supplies & post office)	The Bathroom Shop
8	Charig's (mens hairdresser)	George's Kitchen & Video Library (half-each)	Blue Zone Café & Just Gents (barbers)
9	Shoe repairs	Mautner (jewish delicatessen)	Sunrise Food & Wine (delicatessen)
10	W H Smith's (stationers/newsagents)	Arthur Stanley (betting shop)	Ladbroke's (betting shop)
11	J Salmon (hardware)	Discount Cables Ltd	Electrical Wholesalers
12	Finlay (tobacconist) and lending library	Opticians & Lewis's (kosher poultry)	Opticians & Lewis's (kosher poultry)
13	Boots (chemist)	B R Luckhaus (chemist)	Pharmacy
14	Notley's (newsagent/confectioners)	Martin's (newsagents/confectioners)	Vapgate (newsagent/confectioners)
15	The Yorkshire Bakeries	Evergreen Valley (Peking & Szechwan cuisine)	Zilu restaurant (Chinese)
16	Payantake Stores	BAC Windows & Doors	Power tools, workwear, office furniture
17	J Ritchie (butcher)	Pike's (butchers)	Booba's Fish restaurant
18	Macfisheries (wet fish)	Bendix Launderette	Ahmed Tandoori (Indian restaurant)
19	J Ritchie (greengrocer)	Angel Fruiterers	Space Residential (letting agency)
20	Dry cleaners	Mister Valet (dry cleaners)	Mister Valet (dry cleaners)
21	Betty Ann's (haberdashers & dress shop)	Betty Ann's --'the temple of fashion'	Skin & Anti-ageing clinic
22	Hairdressers (ladies)	Hair Repair (unisex hairdressers)	Hair Repair (unisex hairdressers)

### Changes of retail usage on the northern side of Hale Lane between Elmgate Gardens and Selvage Lane

	1951	1989	2008
23	Deansbrook Garage	Deansbrook Garage	Deansbrook Garage
24	The Green Man (public house)	Everglades (restaurant )	Jolly Badger (Harvester restaurant)

### Changes of retail usage on the eastern side of Deans Lane between the Railway Tavern and Deans Drive

	1951	1989	2008
25	Railway Tavern (public house)	Railway Tavern (public house)	Railway Tavern (public house)
26	Thorpe's (estate agents)	Champions Pet Stores	Mill Hill Pizza Fried Chicken (take-away)
27	Goodash (hardware)	Carole's (florists)	Mill Hill Kebab House (take-away)
28	H Norman Davis (electrical goods)	Viking Lofts and Roofing	Tony and Vince (mens hairdressers)
29	Barclays Bank	Vegoda (surveyors & valuers)	Financial advisers/ corporate-event organisers credit reference agency/,data-communications
30	United Dairies	Damar Hair Fashions	Alan Leonard (ladies hairdressers)
31	Halton's (butchers)	The Security Centre	Joseph Scott (estate agent)
32	Betty's Café	Manor Estates (estate agents)	Concept (windows/conservatories)
33	Vanity Fair (ladies hairdressers)	Talbot's (estate agents)	Francesco (unisex hairdressers)
34	H C Mantripp's (chemist)	Hair by Alan Scott	Acupuncture clinic, herbal medicines and chiropractor
35	J Ritchie (greengrocer)	Telephone systems & security devices	Edgware Supermarket )
36	Bonell's (tobacconists)	Fairway News )	Edgware Supermarket )
37	Glass shop	Fairway News )	Edgware Supermarket )
38	Express Dairy	London (supermarket)	Deans Supermarket
39	Howard Roberts (grocers)	L'Occasion (flowers & chocolates)	Medical Centre

## **LETTERS FROM SOME OF OUR READERS**

Glad that so many RECALL readers were able to be at the JK 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations; thanks to prior donations, and a humungous collection at the service, we actually had surplus of £677 on the event.

**Keith Alexander (JK Treasurer)**

Many thanks for your very hard work on RECALL, I so enjoy reading all the news. I would love to get back for an event, but it is just not possible yet. My husband Mac has variable health, but is doing pretty well. I've been an Isle of Wight County Councillor for two and a half years, --one and a half to go! I enjoy it all, but I seem to be on the go most of the 24 hours of the day -- what is retirement?

**Winnie McRobert (formerly Shuter/Streatfield) --Bembridge, IOW**

It was great to join the party in France and see you all again. We look forward to the next issue of RECALL. Our best wishes to all those who remember us!

**Dawn (nee Butler) and Robin Gray -- Murcia, Spain**

Many thanks for CLARION RECALL again --most welcome. Sorry, we didn't make anything this year --France was too far, from up here! We have noted July 9<sup>th</sup> and will hope to see people then. Please give our best wishes to all JK people you meet. We are all getting along fine.

**Diane and Alan Sims -- Warrington, Cheshire**

Thanks for sending RECALL; the news is always interesting. Greetings to all.

**Brian and Joy Laws -- Bletchley, Bucks**

We're all keeping well and will be spending our Christmas with David and Jan who live almost on the beach. Great for the dogs! Love to everyone.

**Jean (nee Langston) and George Allen -- New Zealand**

Many thanks for the copy of CLARION RECALL. I had an interesting link with John Keble recently. I was asked to give the Memorial Address for a long-standing friend who had served at Keble College, Oxford, for many years. The service was held in their magnificent chapel and I started by saying that I counted the occasion a double honour --to speak about my friend and to give the address in a college named after John Keble, a name which had meant so much to me when I was in my teens -- including being Head Chorister at John Keble Church. I felt I belonged.

**Tony Woodford -- Lechlade, Gloucestershire**

It is always a pleasure to receive CLARION RECALL and to hear news about 'the old JK Youth'! Many thanks for all your hard work in producing such a readable magazine.

**Michael Holden -- Rickmansworth, Herts**

Thanks very much for the CLARION -- all in glorious technicolour! I was very interested in David Jeremy's letter in the last issue as I had not known the name of the people who first lived in 'our' house in Sefton Avenue. I remember my mother saying that the house was 18 months old when they bought it, on their marriage in 1928!

**Barbara (nee Warland) Meikle -- Ledbury, Herefordshire**

Three games of golf a week and a few tablets keep me looking like an economy sized Mr Great Britain (on a very bad day!!). We both continue to take on far too many tasks (especially my wife Veronica) but who is going to do the ex-curricular stuff, if us oldies don't? Without any concern for my age, Age Concern have asked me to give a thirty-minute after-dinner speech..... Our best wishes for 2008 to all our valued friends.

**Henry Tuppen -- Stoke Mandeville, Bucks**

**Thanks also to many of the above and to other readers who have sent donations to the RECALL fund after our appeal in the last issue ; we think we have enough funds to keep going for several more issues -- but if you enjoy reading RECALL, our Publisher, Shirley Collman, is always glad to receive a contribution to help defray expenses. Please make cheques payable to Shirley Collman as the Barclays Clarion account is be closed due to low usage and operating problems.**

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We had two copies of the last issue returned marked "gone away". Can anyone help us in providing news of the present whereabouts of Valerie (nee Griffiths) Hill (for whom our last address is in St Albans) and/or Denise (nee Conway) Noble (for whom our last address is in Bromsgrove, Worcs)?

And does anyone know where any of the following might be -- all of whom were prominent members of JKCYC in the past ? **Nick Owen, Beverley Owen, Vivienne & Audrey Benington, Carroll Simpson, Gerry Papachristou, Liz Barnes, Janet Drye, Frank Potter, Julia Tarlton. Yvonne Land, Margaret Tipper, Alan Barton.**

We've been very pleased to re-connect with former club member Evelyn (nee Stovold) Parker recently; she is now living in Ottery St Mary, Devon.

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**2009 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first 'JK Reunion'. The Reunions preceded the institution of CLARION RECALL, the first issue of which didn't hit the streets until August 1987.**

**Does anyone have suggestions about when and where we might hold a 2009 gathering? Offers of hospitality welcomed! We raise the issue now, because it would be good to have a date and venue in place so that we can announce it by the time we gather for the 2008 event at Loughton, Essex in July.**

## Peering at the Past No. 48 -- KEBLE KAPERS (1954)

The news of Ken Pratt's passing prompted our fearless investigators to root out the programme of the stage show which he produced and directed for JKCYC back in 1954. How many of our present readers can remember that show? Did you see it? Were you in it? Here are some shreds of evidence which may prompt your memory. If you do have recollections of this show, please write in and fill in some of the gaps.

The show was called *Keble Kapers*, sub-titled 'a revue of little consequence' (a concocted euphemism to cover an unconnected set of turns) and was presented for two performances on the stage in JK Hall, curiously nine days apart -- Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> 1954. --because the first was in 'Youth Week' -- a jamboree in which the Club organised different events on 8 successive evenings.

Ken Pratt was the producer and Ricky Claydon and Brian Wright were the stage managers. Freddie Cole and Fay Walford accompanied the show (probably on accordion and piano, though the programme doesn't specify—(did Ken also join them on the drums ?) and the dance routines were arranged by Mrs N Taber (who lived in Deans Way and who was the ex-professional dancer who choreographed shows for the Deansbrook Social Club concert party of the time).

As the title suggests, there was a profusion of K's replacing C's in the titles and so the opening chorus was called Kutting Kapers and the closing one Kapers Klosed. Inevitably, the dance team (alas, individually uncredited) were called The Keble Kuties. They doubled as The Keble Scarecrows in one number (with Brian Laws) and as The Keble Senioritas in another (with Henry Tuppen). Was this the scene in which Hank memorably essayed his Noel Coward proclivities by performing the tongue-twisting 'Nina from Argentina'? At any rate, HT had another solo spot called 'Blue for Waterloo' which did, if memory serves us right, begin with him announcing "I'm the man who lost his ticket on the Tube" and bemoaning his fate being trapped down there -- can he, fifty years on, provide us with any of the other stanzas, we wonder?

The 15-item programme was a mixture of sketches, concerted revue numbers and solos: numbered amongst the soloists were singers Pat Churchill and Carole Ell and impressionist Kathie Hurling (a real star performer, as we remember). Alan Barton, Patsy Pinner and Wendy Symondson were featured in a piece called 'Television Topics', Roy Streatfield, Marion Stanbridge, David Jeremy and Winnie Shuter were the cast for a sketch called 'The Play's the Thing' (a skit on Shakespeare?) and Derek Holden and Gordon Mailing acted out one of Ken's own sketches ('The Calendar'). Others involved in various items appear to have included Arthur Banham, David Bengé, Shirley Johnson, and Jean Langston.

Do any scripts or photos remain, that we might place in The British Library? All that the fading minds of our investigators can recall, at this distance, is a snatch of the opening chorus, which was sung to the tune of 'Look for the Silver Lining':

**We're full of Keble Kapers  
We've got a bagful lined up for you  
We've got our names in the local papers  
Because the show is brand new.....**



**Above: Copped Hall, near Epping; a place for a visit on July 9<sup>th</sup>? Though we hope the weather won't be as cold as this.....**

**Below: The Octonaires vocal group entertaining in close-harmony at a carnival open-air social in Deansbrook School playground, circa 1951-2. Note the brick air-raid shelter wall in the background -- a remnant from World War 2**

**L-R front row Doreen Staniford, Jean Bertram, Mavis Murch, Coral May**

**L-R back row: Brian Wright, Donald Wright, Rex Walford, Ken Pratt**



Photocopy this page, if you don't want to destroy your complete copy of  
CLARION RECALL 27.

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## RETURN FORM FOR JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> EVENT

To: Wendy Fisher, 19 Stony Path, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1SJ

I/We would like to come to the 2008 JK event at Loughton on July 9<sup>th</sup>

My/Our preferred activity for the afternoon would be ... 1      2      3  
(see article) (please circle one of the three options)

Signed.....

Address for further communications

.....

.....

Phone .....

E-Mail .....

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## RETURN FORM FOR DONATION TO THE 2008 JK RESTORATION APPEAL

To: Secretary, John Keble Church PCC, 40 Oxhey Road, Watford, Herts,  
WD19 4QQ

I enclose a cheque for ..... towards the 2008 JK Restoration  
Fund, made payable to John Keble Church PCC.

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK tax-payer and my tax bill this year is more than the tax to be  
claimed on this donation.

Full name .....

Address .....

.....

Signature .....

Date .....