

1969-81. David Wright's memories of Geography lecturing at Keswick Hall

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A FEW MEMORIES OF KESWICK HALL, 1969-1981

I arrived at Keswick in April, 1969, as a young, 29 year old member of staff. I left my teaching post, and my council bed-sit flat, in Stevenage New Town, and immediately found myself in a stately home, consuming dainty triangular cucumber sandwiches, and buns in frilly wrappers, on the finest Indian Tree crockery. Fantastic—and—FREE!.

The students were very well catered for too—three cooked meals a day, plus “little tea”. No wonder we all put on weight!

There was a free week at a hotel in Whitby too for the Geography field work—I couldn't believe my luck! One student met a Whitby fisherman, and left the course—quite a radical thing to do in the 1970's.

Delightful students too. It was nice to meet 14 of the 23 “1969-72” Geographers at their big “25 Years On” reunion, in October, 1994—and hadn't we all matured well! It made me realize that Keswick Hall was a rather special place.

In the 1970's, North African fieldtrips were an innovation. So many things could have gone wrong—in fact the photograph of students at Bir Bou Rekba station, which was in the College prospectus for several years, shows us all waiting for a train that was 25 HOURS late! In fact, though, so many things went so right—including a PGCE/B.Ed. romance that led Peter and Helen to Burnley via Zambia. We stayed the night in Saharan caves (except for Maree, who lost her way). We crossed a salt-lake. We even met the President

I must stop. The ex-students will have more exciting tales to tell . . . Perhaps some of them will be news to me?

DAVID WRIGHT (Keswick, 1969-81).

