

I had known Keith Killby since the 1960s. He used to come to Italy twice a year to visit Primo and Lea Barchetta in Contrada Barchetta at Monte San Martino. They had rescued him during the war. At the time, I was working for the local authority and, as we are a small community, I often used to come across Keith.

The *contadini*, although poorly educated and unable to speak foreign languages, received with open arms the Allied prisoners who had escaped from the *Nazifascisti* guarding Servigliano camp after 8th September 1943. They relieved their hunger and hid them in grottos, lofts and cowsheds; their children had the job of taking them provisions. These grandparents of ours, essentially *contadini*, risked their own lives by disobeying the law.

In 1989, Keith, a former Servigliano prisoner hiding at nearby Monte San Martino, asked me for help in setting up a charity in the UK in order to give English-language study bursaries to young Italians aged 18 to 25. So far, we have granted 600 bursaries.

These bursaries enable the young people to immerse themselves in the Anglo-Saxon world and understand other people's way of life – a necessary precondition for laying the foundations of a united Europe. Born out of the horrors of war, this cultural and humanitarian initiative encourages the young to learn their own history, so as not to forget.

Keith made such a big contribution, through transmitting messages of this nature and through his own actions. For example, working with him in 1988, and thanks to money raised locally, we made it possible for a young man from Monte San Martino to undergo a kidney transplant at a London hospital. Keith always showed great consideration for young Italians and many were guests at his house while studying or working in London.

Resolute and far-sighted, Keith's vision was formed as soon as the end of the war foresaw cultural exchanges between nations. This vision led to the foundation of the Trust.

As the Trust's representative, I look after contacts with the schools and handle applications for bursaries. I am deeply grateful to Keith and the former prisoners and their families who support the Trust, for having made me – a war orphan and thus indirectly a civil victim of strife – understand that I should contribute to this excellent cause testifying to the horrors of war.

Keith's 102 years of life were characterised by honesty and generosity, which were duly acknowledged by both the Italian and British states.