

# The Knowle Society



Volume 42 Number 4

October 2004

[www.knowledgesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowledgesociety.org.uk)

## From our Chairman

**I**n preparing my piece for the Autumn edition of the Newsletter, I have re-read the previous three issues of 2004. Firstly, readers cannot fail to notice the modern re-design by David Bower. I am also immensely impressed by the range of activities recorded in those Newsletters. They cover an active approach to building planning developments; pro-active proposals for the St John's Close area, based on community consultation; close monitoring and positive comments on developments at the Park, the Airport, Roads, Transport and Policing; very active maintenance of the historical heritage of Knowle; all enhanced by a full and varied social programme. Further, each quarterly issue carries a detailed account of aspects of the natural environment of the area. Detailed reports of

all these activities will appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. It is therefore appropriate that, at this point, I should thank publicly, the many members of the Society who give generously of their time and talents, to carry out this multi-faceted work. My thanks also go to our Ward Councillors who co-operate fully with the Society and carry our concerns into the Council chambers.

Yet, despite all this evidence in print, I am still asked, "What does the Knowle Society do?" Unfortunately, our Newsletters do not get far beyond our paid up membership, which is about 1750 out of a population of over five times that number. It is a challenge to all of us to spread the word about the Society which operates on such a wide front.

Clearly, we lack the services of a Publicity Officer. I appeal to anyone who could help or if you know someone, who might not yet be a member, who could help, to contact either the Secretary on 770267 or me on 772981 and we will discuss the job with you. While on personnel matters, we also need a Chairman of the Meetings and Social Committee. A volunteer for that job would be most welcome.

In addition to the regular activities, Knowle Society assisted in the B93 Community Awards Scheme and happily won awards in several categories. Dr Bower received the Special Community Contribution Award, for services to the community over many years, Sandra Lea, our

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Events Diary

**Monday 18th October**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Monday 22nd November**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**November / December**  
Details to be notified later

**Sunday 26th December**  
11.00am at the car park behind the church (return by 1.00pm)

**Monday 17th January 2005**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Monday 21st February 2005**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

#### **Social Evening (concert and refreshments)**

Ticket-only concert with the Blossomfield Singers [more details on page 7]

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Members only [details page 2]

#### **Lighting of the Christmas Tree**

Refer to the web site and notices at meetings nearer to the time

#### **Short Walk**

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served en route

#### **An Introduction to Organic Gardens**

Julian Stanley, retired head gardener—Henry Doubleday Research Association

#### **Wildlife on Canals**

Mrs Leela O'Dea from British Waterways

(Continued from page 1)

Treasurer, gained the Good Citizen Award, the Local History Committee shared the Arts Event of the Year Award for their Exhibition on the Church's 600 Years and the Amenities Committee was commended jointly with the SMBC for their work in improving the High St with new street furniture. All these people and groups were nominated by residents of Knowle and Dorridge and were chosen from many nominations by judging panels made up of residents of the two villages.



**B93**  
Community Awards



By the time you read this Newsletter, summer holidays will be behind us and we shall be well into the autumn activities. The AGM will be on 22nd November. I look forward to seeing many of you there, when there will be the opportunity for members to express their views on the work of the Society. A new Executive Committee will be elected that evening, which I can guarantee, will spare no effort in continuing to serve the interests of Knowle and reflect the views of our members.

Best wishes, Colin Smith - Knowle 772981

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2004

IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

The AGM is for Members only

At the Meeting the election of Officers and Executive Committee Members for the coming year will take place. Nominations, proposed and seconded, should be received by the secretary, Ms Chris Keeley, 24 Kenilworth Road, Knowle, B93 0JA, by 8th November.

*This issue of the Newsletter contains the sub-committee chairmen's reports which should be read before the AGM, as they will not be read aloud. The Knowle Society's constitution (as amended in 2002) may be read or downloaded from the website [www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk) just follow the links About Us and Constitution.*

## WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER NEWS

Your newsletter is published quarterly and is the formal mouthpiece of the Society, however news doesn't wait to appear conveniently just before the copy deadline, except in films and novels. If you have access to the Internet then why not add the Society's web address [www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk) to the *favourites* list of your browser? The website is edited several times a month and will often carry an item before the newsletter—indeed some news can come and go without even hitting the newsletter. The site also carries much other useful information and photos that cannot appear in the newsletter because of space or perhaps the item is of more specialist interest. Did you know that all the bus times in Knowle are listed, recent newsletters, the constitution, the local history collection index, links to maps and photos of sites of significant planning applications? Worth dipping into!

Sometimes no feedback is good news and this is the case with the deafening silence about the text size of this newsletter. It was either too small to read the request for comments or members are happy with it—we assume the latter.

Would you be interested to take the newsletter by email? See the panel on the back page for a new option.

David Bower - Knowle 775790

Welcome to our new members...

Doreen Bache  
Mr & Mrs K E Diggins  
Mr D Hird  
Mr & Mrs P M Morris  
Mrs A Ritter  
Pamela Shepherd

*Can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Knowle Society? This may be done either by contacting the membership Secretary or through an application form on the website:  
[www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk)*

Derek Mellor  
Knowle 205129

Membership Secretary  
92 Chantry Heath  
Crescent, Knowle,  
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In the next issue...

Our 2005 programme.  
Report on the Heritage  
Open Day.

**Copy deadline:**  
**1st December**

**Distribution commences:**  
**1st January**

**PLANNING – WHY DO WE NEED IT?**

It is sometimes worthwhile to remind ourselves why planning legislation was brought in when it was. The first comprehensive planning Act was passed in 1947 and followed much piecemeal legislation mostly passed between the Wars, intended to control many perceived abuses including what was referred to as *Ribbon Development*. This was the tendency to build along the frontages of many major roads. This, if permitted in our area, could have led to the whole of the Warwick Road from Solihull through Knowle and on to Heronfield being developed. Comprehensive planning legislation since 1947 has led to the present situation where all development other than that permitted by the Acts needs the approval of the Local Planning Authority.

I have addressed the history briefly but would like to suggest that the end result can work very well. A recent example looked at by the planning sub-committee was that of Grove Farm, Jacobean Lane.



This is a lovely historic building which had been causing considerable concern both among Knowle residents and the planners at the Council because of its decrepit state. Developers have now come up with an imaginative and pleasing plan for its refurbishment and redevelopment. Neither your sub-committee nor the Council's Conservation Officer could seriously object to any major aspect of the plan; on the contrary, it now appears that fairly shortly we shall

have six or so dwellings in place which preserve all of the best of the original building but are relevant to living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This must be a triumph for the fusing of the entrepreneurial ethos with the spirit of planning control. It may well be that without proper planning powers the Council would not have been able to prevent the demolition of this historic building and one assumes that the developers will be more than happy with the end result both architecturally and financially.



Which brings us back to the ever more thorny problem of the proliferation of applications for the demolition of perfectly good houses and the erection of more and more flats. The *Solihull News* for August 27<sup>th</sup> gave us to understand that the Council has already hit its target for such development seven years early. If this is so, then it gives the Society much more ammunition in its struggle to conserve what is best of Knowle. By the time this newsletter is published, members of your sub-committee will have had a meeting with the Head of Planning at the Council to discuss this and other matters of concern and I will report back at the first available meeting and if significant, also in the next newsletter.



Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

*Pictures all of Grove Farm, Knowle*

## THE YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

After mounting three large exhibitions in the Guild House in the last four years (the millennium, the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the 600th Anniversary of the Church last year) it has been something of a relief to return to near normal.

Last October we made major improvements to our standard Local History Centre display, which now has a dedicated set of photographs and a more modern feel. At the same time we produced three small user guides, now available from the Local History Centre. Another achievement this year has been the recording of the photographic collection on disk. This is a long job, by no means yet complete, but proving extremely useful. Thanks to Peter Court, by February the collection of papers relating to the Wilson family of Knowle Hall had been sorted and transferred to the Record Office.

As usual the local history year started with the Junior School local studies project, when the children from Year 6 look at photographs from the collection and then ask long-standing residents about their memories of village life. In June we were pleased to mount a small exhibition about D-Day in Knowle as our contribution to the commemorations at the British Legion (see *Displays in the Show Cases* below). The following month Gillian Knight was in demand again for her talk on *The History of Dorridge*, this time to Dorridge Methodist Church Ladies' Circle.

On the downside, for the second year in succession we have made little inroad into the cataloguing backlog: but as our priorities have been elsewhere this was not unexpected. A new computer, with the major jump it has entailed, has not helped in the short term.

### *DISPLAYS IN THE SHOW CASES*

This year has seen *Goodbye Sodens, Farewell Maddocks* and *Gumley Wilson, Squire of Knowle*. The present display, *American Interlude*, was first shown at the D-Day commemorations. We have since been given new material by Piers Milne, whose family was host to six Americans in 1944. There are pictures of them, with Piers' fascinating memories and some wartime notices. This display will now be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Provisional plans for the coming months include *Images of Lodge Road, Johnsons' Garage, V.E. Day/V.J. Day in Knowle* and *Knowle Around Trafalgar Time*.

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### *ORAL HISTORY*

John Johnson has continued to interview long-standing Knowle residents. We aim to complete about six interviews each year: it is a time consuming, although interesting, task. Each interview usually yields some new snippet of previously unknown Knowle history.

### *THE COLLECTION AND READER SERVICES*

During the year there has been a further trickle of items added to the collection and more are always welcome. Some people have very helpfully allowed us to copy photographs from their family albums, which are a valuable addition. Reorganisation of the Local History Centre has progressed steadily. The map case is now complete, made at minimal cost by Geoffrey Dean, who has raided his vast store of *Things That Might Come in Useful Sometime*. The demand for our services is increasing. The Local History Centre is attracting more enquiries, both in person on Saturday mornings, by post, telephone and by e-mail. It is manned each Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12 (except Bank Holidays). If anyone needs more time, please ring Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283 beforehand.

### *COMING UP*

We are presently making improvements to the library visit for the Junior School Local History Project, with a better selection of photographs in a dedicated set - those digital images again, of which the school has asked for copies. For the rest, the maintenance of the collection and the planned displays in the show cases will more than keep us busy.

### *THANK YOU*

It remains for me to thank the large team of people who have helped with the Local History operation during the year: the local history committee, our team of stewards, those who help with the Junior School project, Jennie Evans who faithfully keeps the scrap book up to date, a number of people who work individually and everyone who has provided items for the collection, without whom it would not exist. We are grateful to them all.

Elaine Warner - Knowle 775887



*Stella Jarman - 2004*



*Common Spotted Orchid*



*Cutting the long grass '78*



*Reserve fencing 1982*



*Elvers Green Lane ford '89*



*A younger Stella and the Goulds' donkey 1978*

Stella Jarman  
Knowle 774528

To all my many friends in this huge Society, grown from just a hundred or so in the 1960's, I now announce my retirement from the Chair of the Nature Conservation sub-committee. 30 years in the post and with achievement at last of Local Nature Reserve status for the Nature Reserve makes this a very appropriate moment at which to retire!

John and I became members when Dr. Bower founded The Knowle Society in 1962, and I took over the Nature Reserve after Bill Partridge's untimely death in 1974. The tiny Reserve - the only bog site in Knowle to boast such an abundance of Common Spotted Orchids and Marsh Marigolds, a rare Ancient Woodland ground flora and an incredible 16 species of tree and shrub along its medieval Purnells Brook boundary - had been saved by Dr. Bower in 1971 from imminent development.

Bill and my husband John scythed the two meadows until 1974 when my sub-committee was formed to manage the Reserve for Solihull Council who owned the site, with expert advice from Dr Andy Tasker of WARNACT (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust). There were enthusiastic work parties, a year-long photographic survey by Max and Beryl Ellerslie, Mr Gould's donkey in the meadows, Guides, Cubs and Brownies to lend a helping hand, visits every term by three classes of Dorridge School - as well as the hectic annual Open Days! One year our drought-stricken frog backwater was refilled by the Fire Brigade then our haystack was burned down by children, to the horror of Hillmorton Road residents who capped it with soil. Vandalism has always been a problem, especially with the post and wire fencing which WARNACT's MSC team had constructed. Later repairs were undertaken by our Hon. Warden Adrian Smith who annually cut the two meadows with our donated strimmer following ten years of traditional scything by Solihull Council's Paul Harris.

In 1978 we extended our activities, for instance: a major Cowslip rescue off Jacobean Lane - a sponsored Oak planting in Elmdon Park, Daffodil planting along Warwick Road bank also campaigns such as the Bentley Heath school nature area rescue - the Tilehouse Green walkway - the rehabilitation of Elvers Green Lane ford after the council's disastrous flood prevention scheme there - the welcome installation of V-shaped stiles off Kixley lane! Our KS secretary Janet Block joined me in exhibiting a Society stand at the

early Solihull Conservation Fairs (1978 - 1991) where everyone helped, especially the local history stalwarts! There were many tree surveys, the biggest being the Middlefield Hospital site with special protection for the magnificent Weeping Elm. We surveyed ponds, hedgerows, garden birds (Ray Gosling), butterflies, bats, barns, towpath flora. We wrote an award winning *Around Knowle Nature Trail* and were represented on *Local Agenda 21* and the Parks Group. Trees are always under threat, with Elm Disease again attacking the latest regeneration of 20-year-old suckers from the original felled trees of the 1970s.

#### **LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR)**

In 2001 we applied for LNR status for Knowle Reserve within the new LNR granted by English Nature to Solihull Council. This encompasses Jobs Close pond, Purnells Brook, as well as Knowle Nature Reserve itself fronting Hillmorton Road to the bridge. The launch of this new major LNR with a day's activities in Jobs Close Park is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September when I hope to hand back responsibility for the Reserve to Solihull Council and present a seedling Field Maple to the Mayor! I do hope many of you will have seen the posters and enjoyed the day and the (muddy?) conservation task for the intrepid!

It only remains for me to say thank you to you all so much for your wonderful support and encouragement - especially of course to dear Dr. Bower who has been my mentor and friend, over all these years - and still is! Thank you too Elaine, for your ever unstinting help and good advice. In the early days of the Reserve, volunteers poured forth both from John's Rambling section and practically the whole of Hillmorton Road! My first sub-committee members were Janet Block, Peggy Pontifex, Irene Hunter, Barbara Davies & Pauline Hornby. They were followed by Reg & Sheila Elliot, Jennifer Wright, Adrian Smith, Mike & Celia Bignell, Tony Rowe, Sue Owen, Roger King and Ann Peasegood. I thank you all and hope that some of you will continue with me on Council-run work parties! Thank you to the Council's David Biss, Alex Naylor and Ecologist David Lowe who kindly allowed me to comment on his LNR submission; also to the Wildlife Trust's Ron Hill ever at hand!

P.S. After the wettest August ever recorded, with disastrous harvests for so many, this early September sunshine is so welcome!

## AMENITIES ANNUAL REPORT

The start of the year was inauspicious when I learnt that unfortunately Mike Sharpe would not be able to continue with his solid work on the committee. I must record a word of thanks to Mike for his sterling work carried out. The long lasting memory of him taking on the construction of the Society float for the last Knowle Festival will always be with me.

### **JOBS CLOSE AREA - PATHFINDER COUNTRY**

The new Society year started with concerns for the central grassed area around St Johns Close. It had started to resemble a ploughed field at times, and it was necessary to have some measure of protection from the wheels of lorries, vans, and four wheel drive vehicles:

- Achievement: The Council laid ~~grasscrete~~ along the side of the green.

It had also been reported, and observed, that motorists were taking a short cut along the footpath from the new car park extension on the northern side of the village hall:

- Achievement: Two posts situated at the edge of the footpath to stop vehicles.

### **ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS – NO HUMPS!**

Late in 2003 speed notification monitors were seen along Browns Lane, Widney Road, Longdon Road, Tilehouse Green Lane, and Lady Byron Lane. In addition a report was submitted to the Transport and Highways section of the Council in connection with the work carried out along Station Road from the Warwick Road to its junction with Lodge Road, which was completed in June last year. The matter had to wait until twelve months after the work had been completed.

- Recently an independent assessment report has been completed on behalf of the Council which contained many agreements with the views of your committee. A joint meeting is now to take place.

A long term view on the immediate junctions to the centre of the village is being developed, namely

1. Warwick Road / Hampton Road / Lodge Road
2. High Street / Kenilworth Road
3. Kenilworth Road / Wilsons Road.

To date the accident incidents and the traffic counts are awaited before any further action can be identified. Ideas for improved road layout systems are already well advanced. In addition the Society has been consulted by the Council on improvements to be carried out along Hampton Road / Knowle Road / Eastcote Lane.

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### **AIRPORT MATTERS – AND IT DOES**

We were all greeted with the news in the New Year from the Transport Secretary that Birmingham International Airport was to be allowed to develop plans for the provision of an additional runway and for the extension of the existing runway. The Society's concerns relating to the over flying of residential areas, the accompanying increase in noise and the simple matter of environmental pollution:

- Achievement: It has been acknowledged that these concerns will be taken into account in the plans being developed by the airport company.

The matters relating to the future are being closely watched by John Rowley, our representative on the Airport Consultative Committee.

### **JOBS CLOSE PARK – THE 'GREEN LUNG'**

If I were to detail all the events concerning the park in the past nine months, then I would need a separate issue of this Newsletter and I do not think the editor would allow for that! *[Ed: You can develop your story in more detail on the website if you wish!]* I will however give you a current update:

- Achievement: Together with our friends representing *The Friends of Knowle Park* the Council has been persuaded that provision must be made for some youth activity within the park which does not have a detrimental effect upon any nearby residential properties, or upon the aesthetic nature of the surroundings.

By the time that you will be reading this a further meeting will have been held with a view of putting forward an *Action Plan* for the park over the next five years. Watch future issues of the Newsletter.

### **TIME CONSUMING ITEMS**

1. The speed of vehicles along Hampton Road, Kenilworth Road and from the top of Stripes Hill, into and out from the village, has received attention.
2. Paul Blackman attending meetings of the Police at their Rural Assembly.
3. A *Bridge Building* meeting at Arden School between residents and young people, in an attempt to have behaviour improved in the community.

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## A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Another year has passed and I hope you have enjoyed the programme, which the sub committee planned for you. Last October we had a quiz evening instead of the usual speaker meeting. It was well attended and I believe those who participated enjoyed a different experience.

December arrived and with it the Knowle Society Christmas tree. This year it was adorned with new lights. Admittedly fairly expensive lights, but I hope you all felt that the effect was worth the investment. Thanks must go to Gary Masters and Leighton Jones who organised everything ably assisted by Phil Vince.

The start of a New Year and we welcomed Michelle Booth from Trading Standards. She was able to give us an insight into her work and also some very good tips to avoid being tricked by less than honest people and businesses.

In February we had a most interesting and amusing talk by Mr David Howe. The title of the Talk 'The Spouse Girls and anyone for Dennis' was very well received. Many members commented on how much they had enjoyed the evening. His mastery of his subject was greatly appreciated by members who attended.

Dr James Woodward, Master of Temple Balsall, spoke to us in March on the subject of the Lady Katherine Leveson Foundation. He demonstrated how the foundation is managing to deal with the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century even though it was formed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This was followed by two group visits to Temple Balsall in May in which Dr Woodward gave each group a most interesting tour of the Church and the grounds. Members were then invited into the Masters House for wine and nibbles. Two great visits.

We received a most interesting update by Leighton Jones of the Pathfinder group in June. We heard of the results of the consultation in respect of the St Johns Close Project, the present discussions with the council and hopes

for the future of this area.

Members were given a detailed insight into the work of the charity, Talking Newspapers, in July. The commitment by the volunteers of this most worthwhile charity was most inspiring.

By the time you receive this newsletter I hope that many of you will have attended the meeting in September, as we shall be welcoming Mr Michael Evans, who has recently completed his term of office as High Sheriff of the West Midlands. His duties were to represent the Queen in this area during that time and we shall be hearing from him all that that entailed.

## LOOKING FORWARD

We have a Musical Evening to look forward to on 18<sup>th</sup> October and I hope many of you will support this event. Details and form were in the Summer Newsletter or on the web.

Don't forget to look out for details of the lighting of our Christmas Tree in November/December, which will be advertised on posters in the village and no doubt in the press. I am unable to give any further information, as finalising of this event is a little way off.

Looking forward to 2005 here are details of the first two meetings.

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

#### *An Introduction to Organic Gardens*

Julian Stanley was head gardener with the Henry Doubleday Research Association until his retirement. This association aims to improve commercial organic growing in Britain. The organisation has expertise in many fields, too numerous to mention here. Come along to the meeting where I am sure a great deal will be learnt from Mr Stanley. Did you know for example that the Association has a Heritage Seed Library that saves hundreds of old and unusual vegetable varieties for posterity. Have I whetted your appetites? If there is sufficient interest we may organise a visit to one of their display gardens at Ryton near Coventry.

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

*Wildlife on Canals*, a talk by Mrs Leela O'Dea from British Waterways. I am sure you will be amazed at the variety of wildlife that is found within our great canal network. Butterflies, moths, kingfishers, moorhens and geese to name just a few. Have you seen some unusual wildlife whilst travelling within the canal network or taking a walk along the towpaths? Please come along, learn and maybe share your experiences.

## A FINAL PLEA

Finally, although I give this report in my capacity as a member of the sub committee and not as Chairman, I am sure you would like me to mention the other members of the committee who have worked so hard in order to prepare the 2005 programme. Thanks also to Jenny Evans for never failing to turn up on Monday evenings so that the names of members and visitors can be recorded, and to Phil Vince for laying out the chairs and generally stewarding the occasion. The speaker meeting information that he ensures is placed in the Knowle Parish Church magazine is also much appreciated by this committee.

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HELP ON THIS COMMITTEE. WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON SMALL TASKS IF ASKED ESSENTIAL. NOTHING TOO ONEROUS I CAN ASSURE YOU.**

## FINANCE

At the last Executive Committee meeting in August, I reported that the Society was showing a deficit for the year of £252.93. This is in line with expectations, and is the reason behind the increase in subscriptions from October 2004. Members who have paid by standing order in the past have responded promptly in signing new mandates for the increased amount. Thank you to everyone concerned. As I write this report, I can tell you that most of the subscriptions have been collected for this year. Thanks must go Derek Mellor, Walter Birch and all the distributors for their efforts.

Sandra Lea—Knowle 776850

## WEATHER PLAYS HAVOC WITH WALKING GROUPS

The final walk of 2003 was the traditional Boxing Day walk, which was one of the best attended ever, despite the grey weather. Around 90 people turned up, which I (mistakenly) took as a good sign for the walks to come. Each of the first three walks of 2004 were a real disappointment, fewer than 10 people turning out for each one. OK, the weather had it in for us this year - I must remember to book better for next year, but even so, it was sad that so few turned out. Never mind, there's always the next one, which we'll have held by the time you read this, so you'll have to turn up to the AGM to hear what a triumph it was (I can hope can't I?). Don't forget this year's Boxing Day walk which will be on 26th December. Good walking and fingers crossed for some sun.

Leighton Jones - Knowle 773894

## BUTTERFLY WALK - 5TH SEPTEMBER

There were over thirteen of us on this lovely sunny walk, including four children—unexpectedly enlivened by a hilarious tea at the Garden Centre! We drove to Corbetts Lane bridleway and spent a rewarding half hour looking round the five year old MIND horticulture site. This wonderful flowery project grows all its plants on site (occasional plant sales are advertised on Station Road). They are creating wildlife features too: a pond, woodland and meadow, also a football pitch, mini-golf and even a bowls green, for the workers! The beautiful Tortoiseshell butterfly was photographed by Mark Metcalfe at MIND. I hope to continue these nature walks within Leighton's programme.



*Tortoiseshell Butterfly*

Stella Jarman - Knowle 774528

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4. Airport Consultative Committee meetings attended by John Rowley
5. The state of the works carried out on the central car parks, which has been monitored by Allan Coleman.
6. Meetings of the Solihull Local Strategic Partnership Forum and other varied things that arose.

I must state that it was a most satisfying year in view of several achievements.

Just remember that this work would not be possible if no volunteers come forward, so a hearty thank you to Paul Blackman, Allan Coleman, James Randle and John Rowley for their sterling efforts.

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955

## LAST WORD - NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

The executive committee has asked that members be invited to consider whether they would like to receive the newsletter by email (pdf format) instead of paper. The advantages include, delivery two to four weeks earlier, colour format for pictures and of course it is paperless. Since past issues are available on the website there is no need to lose access to these. If paper copies are required, then these can be printed from your computer or you can opt again for paper delivery.

The email option might be of particular interest to members who live outside the main housing areas and whose delivery might be postal or who would like fast delivery. The chief advantage for the Society is the potential reduction of postal costs.

The option would only be available to members who have also taken out standing orders for subscription payment. The annual programme card would be made available in a modified form on the Internet (email addresses in the form of secretary@knowlesociety.org.uk would appear instead of postal addresses and there would be no telephone numbers), though members would be able to pick up a normal printed copy at any of the Society's meetings.

Full details and a form are available from <http://forms.knowlesociety.org.uk> and members who would like to receive by email but do not currently have a standing order can also find a form for that at the same address.