

The Knowle Society



Volume 44 Number 4

October 2006

www.knowledesociety.org.uk

AGM Reports

Following my piece in the last Newsletter where I wrote about the factors in Knowle which I believe help to establish the sense of community, I have been considering a related question. "What, in the historic environment, reinforces our sense of place, belonging and well-being?" One element of the historic environment which contributes is the buildings.

I have been aware, for some time, that central Knowle contains an interesting, historic, built environment. Following demolition and rebuild in the 1950s and 1960s, Knowle was left with a substantial amount of new, commercial property, but amidst these newer buildings there are many examples of previous centuries. It was brought home to me a few weeks ago when Peter Ewin and I led a

party of visitors from Coventry along the High Street from the Artillery Cottages, just below the British Legion, to Milverton House and back. They were extremely interested and knowledgeable visitors. It took two hours to complete the trip, pointing out buildings of interest and answering many well-directed questions.

Buildings are an important feature in setting the sense of place in the environment. Knowle High Street is rich in variety including structures from the late 14th century Church to the mid-20th century shops. Some, like the restored Chester House and the Guild House give us some idea of what medieval buildings might have looked like when they were originally built. Others have been altered over the years to meet changing uses, but

retain some original features. For example, the late 18th century Greswolde Hotel retains many of its original characteristics and the canopy over the doorway to the Men's Institute is a good example of 19th century decoration for a significant front door. Often, the only original features are a beam here or a fireplace there. Unfortunately they can only be seen if you can go into the building and know what you are looking for. Collectively, these features make Knowle High Street distinctive and unique.

A large proportion of adults in Knowle have come to live here from elsewhere. Knowle was not part of our heritage but, over the years, familiarity with the sight of the buildings and familiarity with

(Continued on page 2)

Events Diary

Monday 16th October
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 27th November
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Tuesday 26th December
11.00am at the Guild House

Monday 15th January 2007
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 19th February 2007
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Quiz Night

Members and guests only—£1 per person, teams of six

Annual General Meeting

Boxing Day Walk

3-4 miles—Refreshments en route

Policing and the Community

Inspector Wilson & Sergeant Ann Strachan of Solihull Police

100 years of Scouting

(Continued from page 1)

their use build up a sense of place and belonging.

I have often heard criticism of the mid-20th century shops, but it is important to remember that they are the buildings which give our young people growing up here, their sense of place and belonging. Architectural styles go in fashions. In my youth late Victorian architecture was rather derided, but that style is now acceptable again. In another generation our mid-20th century architecture might also achieve a renaissance. With all buildings there is the criteria of appearance and also the criteria of fitness for purpose. No one can deny that our 1960s shops are fit for purpose.

Not only familiarity but also knowledge and understanding of the buildings and their historical significance enhance the appreciation of the built environment. I hope residents will find time to look at the variety of styles in our High Street and take pleasure from the interesting buildings we have.

Colin Smith - Chairman
Knowle 772981

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
(a company limited by guarantee)

I give notice that the **Annual General Meeting** of The Knowle Society will be held in **Knowle Village Hall** on **Monday 27th November 2006** commencing at **8pm**.

The meeting will receive Reports on the activities of the Society during the previous 12 months and also the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2006. It will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing 12 months and up to 5 other Trustee Directors.

Nominations for these vacancies should be in writing and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at 1 Barnbrook Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9PW to arrive **no later than the 8th November 2006**. They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society. The Nomination form on page 11 may be used if desired.

Peter Johnson
Honorary Secretary
01564 770268

September 2006

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BUS TIMETABLES

We apologise that the bus timetables in the last newsletter contained a few errors including the transposition of some column headings. We have reprinted the corrected tables in this issue and have tried to make up for it by including additional tables with all the weekend services as well. We have identified some probable 3 minute early errors in the timing of three 40A weekday buses (11.15, 11.45 & 12.15) and these have been acknowledged verbally but as yet no changes have appeared on the Centro website.

DATA PROTECTION

The Knowle Society's Trustee Directors would like to remind members that The Knowle Society upholds good practice in Data Protection. Records incorporating members' personal data are only held for the purposes of efficient management of our membership list and newsletter distribution. Personal information will never be shared with any third party.

DON'T MESS WITH THE PLANNING LAWS

This must be the lesson for all who think they can ignore the law and get away with it. Regular readers of this newsletter will be aware of the development at 240-242 Station Road – yet another block of flats. The developers in constructing the rear wall not only went higher than was allowed under the approved plan but as a result blurred the dividing line between the two main parts of the building. A sharp-eyed member of the Society spotted the position being in possession of a set of plans and the Local Authority was alerted. The developers were called to a meeting at the Civic Suite as a result of which they had to carry out work to put the situation right. Quite how the situation arose in the first place I have no idea but at the very least it does show that it pays to follow the approved plans strictly. Councils have very strong powers which they will use in this regard.



*242 and 240 Station Road
with BT Telephone Exchange on far right
(Photo montage: David Bower)*

Readers with good memories may recall a much more serious example involving the demolition of Monkspath Hall when a digger driver apparently ran his machine into that listed building. The Council used its extensive powers to force the total reconstruction of the building at very considerable expense. Even longer ago I recall a very similar situation involving a listed building in Harborne with the same result. Sometimes planning laws can produce very satisfying outcomes.

Please be aware that in the very near future Knowle Conservation Area will be undergoing a thoroughgoing re-appraisal and strengthening to make it even more immune to development pressure. My sub-committee are to be among the first to be approached by the appointed advisor to give our views. Should any member have views on this please do not hesitate to let me know. Contact me on my phone number or email address at the bottom of this article.

We continue to be concerned about the lack of work at various sites where permission exists for development but the developers for various reasons are doing nothing. Phil Vince of my sub-committee has written to Caroline Spelman to see if she might contemplate introducing a bill before parliament making it compulsory to complete development by a certain time. She has responded positively but obviously any movement on this even if it were to occur would be years away.

Many people have expressed dismay at the refurbishment of the One Stop shop. Nothing can be done about this under planning law but we are trying to achieve something by other means. I will let you know if and when we are successful. As a general rule what is done behind the fascia on the interior even in the Conservation Area is considered as interior decoration and not something that concerns anybody but the proprietor.

New applications continue to be non-contentious being nearly all for extensions outside the Conservation Area. In the view of my committee, this is generally speaking to be welcomed. We continue to monitor them very carefully however.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

This year has been a fairly quiet one so far as new applications is concerned – it seems the would-be developers may be put off by the apparent difficulty in shifting new property at the prices they believe it's worth. Perhaps the two most notable matters have been the bizarre decision of the Planning Inspector to allow the appeal on Milverton House and the situation relative to Grove Farm. The former permits use as a



Grove Farm (Photo: Roger Grainger)

children's nursery despite the obvious traffic hazards and the latter has seen the withdrawal of an appeal and the apparent sale of the house. Let's hope the new owner is able and willing to maintain the house in a state worthy of its listed status.

Lastly may I thank my excellent committee members for their willing work through the year. Peter Ellis, Peter Morton, Phil Vince, Norman Stanley and Geoff Vaughan – a great team!

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

THE YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

As I look back over the year, it seems one with far too many balls in the air, with only small amounts of progress on a number of fronts. However, there has been good progress with the Care and Conservation and Digital Imaging programmes. We have also got into the swing of doing four small exhibitions a year, with a better system of backing up. Gillian Knight continues to be in demand for talks from time to time. By contrast, some of the backroom jobs have gone by the board. It is to be hoped that some of these can be completed by the end of the year, although we always knew that the programme we set ourselves was optimistic. In the meantime, we have done other things which have cropped up during the year.

CARE & CONSERVATION

Thirty seven accessions have been added to the collection this year, some in single items, others comprising batches of several. They include, as one would expect, photographs acquired for the exhibitions, all of which, except the most recent, have been put in their permanent folders with new-style labels. During the year the map case was finally finished, which has been a good leg up. We are now concentrating on the books, some of which need protection with acid-free covering. John Rear obtained some samples, but we felt the material was too thick for us to make a neat job without the very expensive tools used by professionals. So we have provisionally opted for pre-formed boxes, but need to see them in the flesh. Having decided which books warrant the expense, measured them all (quite a long job) and made a shopping list, a trip to our supplier, *Conservation Resources*, has been organised for September 13th. During the year the Archives Working Group, now well established, has continued to do various jobs as necessary, although it has been cancelled due to time pressures on one or two occasions.



W. Pitt, Horsebreaker

DIGITAL RECORDS

Geoffrey Dean has now completed the 800 series of photographs. Without the extra demands we keep putting on him it would probably have been more. But nevertheless the end is in sight (the series goes up to about 1200)

4**READER SERVICES**

The number of e-mail enquiries we handle has continued to increase, although those coming in person on Saturday mornings seems to have declined - most of our Saturday visitors come by appointment, having e-mailed us first. Enquiries are still largely concerned with family history and the vast majority come from outside Knowle. Although we are happy to do a certain amount of work for remote enquirers it takes us several hours per enquiry. We have reached the stage where the very least we need is a standard procedure, which we are now putting in place. The Local History Centre 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, as it is very difficult to help more than one person at once.

ORAL HISTORY

The oral history programme has continued with several more interviews.

CATALOGUING, INDEXING & DOCUMENTATION

There is still a backlog of cataloguing and indexing and likely to be for some time to come. But at least we are now cataloguing the new photographs as they come in and there is only one batch in the middle to be done. This is important: the photographs are used more than anything else. It helps, however, that we now have images of the uncatalogued batch - so at least we can find what we need. The most important part of the new accessions system works well, although it still needs a few tweaks. The computer system, however, needs attention before it can be used by anyone but myself. One thing we have done during the year is to write, at least in draft form, an Acquisitions Policy and a Disposals Policy - two absolutely fundamental documents for any archive holding body.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

The exhibitions this year have been *Johnson's Garage*, *A Tribute to Dr. Bower*, *Chester House* and the present one, *A Century of Curtis's Bakery*, which traces the history of the Curtis family's association with baking from Bristol in the late 19th century, through two bakeries in Lodge Road and over 90 years in the High Street shop with which we are all so familiar. The exhibition has been prepared by Sylvia Moody (née Curtis) and her cousin Christopher Curtis, with help from the rest of the family, so the text comes straight from the horse's mouth. Most of the photographs are from the Curtis family collection. We do hope you enjoy it. The next

exhibition will be *The Railway Station*, advertised as from December 1st. However, the library is to close for refurbishment for several weeks in the near future - at the time of writing the date is not known, but it is likely to be at the end of the year. We will almost certainly have to move a lot of things out of the Local History Centre (goodness knows where they are going) and we do not want to leave anything in the show cases. Our present inclination is to leave *A Century of Curtis's Bakery* on show until the library closes and start *The Railway Station* when it re-opens. We may know more by the December newsletter.



The Bakery, early 20th century



Curtis Electrical - Arthur & Vic



1950s Carnival. L-R: Eric Lyons, George, Rosemary & John

JUNIOR SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

This year this annual event took place in the Spring term, instead of in the Autumn and with new members of the school staff. At our end it was organised as usual by Valerie Morton, who attended the school's presentation evening in July. We were pleased that the head teacher thanked us publicly for our efforts.



The old school, 1970s



A 1970s school group

KNOWLE C OF E SCHOOLS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FAIR & KNOWLE FESTIVAL

We took a stall at both these occasions, with a display of our own work and photographs of the school. Many thanks to Sylvia and Peter Moody, who kindly lent their gazebo and nobly put it up and took it down again on both occasions. The photographs on the boards - visible from a distance - attracted a goodly amount of attention. The slide show we had on the laptop, however, was less popular and may not be worth doing again.

PEOPLE

During the year we were sorry that after ten years John Rear decided to give up being a formal member of the committee. However, he still does much as he did before on an informal basis and is still very much a member of our team. Another much regretted departure was Julia Brain, who has left Knowle for Gloucestershire. On the positive side, we have been pleased to welcome John Harwood, whom many of you will know. He is a longstanding Knowle resident and a great asset. In closing it gives me great pleasure to thank the large team of people who have helped the Local History Centre 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 S. Warner - Knowle 775887

EXHIBITION—A CENTURY OF CURTIS'S BAKERY

THE HISTORY OF A FAMILY BAKERY THROUGH FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE CURTIS FAMILY

In the showcases upstairs at Chester House Library, Knowle
1st September to 30th November (may be extended) - normal library opening hours

A CHALLENGING YEAR (SO FAR ANYWAY!)

The end of 2005 together with the beginning of 2006 was taken up with a vast amount of time and energy being put into understanding the Birmingham International Airport Draft Master Plan, not only by the Community Services Committee but by other people in the Society as well. The response was ultimately prepared and dispatched through the Chairman. To date we are still awaiting the Master Plan to see if the Society's thoughts have been included, although this report is not now expected to be delivered until May 2007 at the earliest, which is disappointing because it was originally intended to be available in October 2006.

If you have been a regular reader of this column you may well recall that it took some considerable time before any response was received from West Midlands Transport regarding the bus stop at the mouth of Kenilworth Road. I now understand that the Council is investigating the matter, and I have a meeting arranged on 1st September on site, in order to discuss the situation. At a site meeting with a Council officer at the beginning of September it was accepted that the High Street/Kenilworth Road junction is to receive some corrective attention, as yet undefined. It is appreciated that funding for Transport and Highways is limited so we may have to be patient awaiting a result. Initially provision will be made for a disabled parking place, and hopefully mark off parking bays alongside the church wall on Kenilworth Road.

During the year we have also seen the commencement of the Local Community Policing initiative. Sgt. Ann Strachan and her team of Officers have had the effect of bringing the village almost back to the 'good old days' of a village 'bobby'. The one item that would stir memories of 'days of yore' would be the reintroduction of 'bobbies on the beat on bikes'; perhaps if funds were to allow it, we may see this again soon.

In February this year information was received that Car Park charges were being considered by the Council in view of budget cuts. Thankfully this did not happen from April. In view of this consideration however your committee has prepared a future submission to the Council, should the action be reconsidered. Car parking in Knowle continues to be a growing problem, and your committee is very aware of the situation. However without the supply of additional land for such a purpose, (or a fairy godmother waving a magic wand!), there does not appear to be an answer to the existing situation. Any solution would mean a major overhaul of the existing sites or some commercial concern making a large scale development, which of course would result in a charging structure that would discourage the use to such an extent that the traders in the village would

certainly suffer due to a reduction in trade. Car park charging is a no-win situation which ever way you look at it.

On the residential side of things parking restrictions were introduced along Hampton Road from its junction with High Street to Crabmill Close on one side of the road, and to Beausale Drive on the other side on 14 March this year. Unfortunately the residents in Crabmill Close could not agree on parking restrictions in their road. In addition double yellow lines have now been painted at the junction of Purnells Way with Station Road, which has long been suggested by this committee as well as residents and users of the junction.

Finally this year representation was made to the three local councillors regarding the closure of the public toilet at the top of Station Road. However we should all now be aware that a public toilet is available in the local branch library, but remember that the library is closed on a Wednesday!

I earnestly thank the active members of my sub-committee for their sterling voluntary work during the year, because although we do not appear to have achieved much, it is certainly better than nothing. So thank you to Paul Blackman, Steven Bunch, Allan Coleman, Susan James, Andrew Marston, John Rowley, and our latest recruit Lilla Baker.

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955

REPORT ON BIA AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE—26 JULY 2006.

Master Plan update—the Airport expressed major concerns regarding the outstanding enquiry into the proposed Motorway Service Area at Catherine-de-Barnes, and how it could adversely affect the proposals in the Master Plan. A decision regarding the Coventry Airport expansion enquiry is also required, before the Master Plan can be considered and published; the proximity of Coventry Airport and Birmingham International Airport has major implications.

Reference was made to the recent decision for the expansion of the Metro system to the West of Birmingham, this implies that the Eastern route may not be looked at until 2010 at the earliest. Environmental reports raised the issues of Night flying, and the number of occasions that quotas were being ignored. BIA agreed to come back to the committee with a more detailed report, and the action taken with the various airlines.

Two new members, including the Knowle Society representative, were elected to the Environmental Monitoring Working Group.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

BUS departures Monday to Friday – as at 20 July 2006

40A/C Travel West Midlands 151 & 197 Claribel Coaches Ltd. 151E Silverline Travel Services

KNOWLE TO SOLIHULL (departure times from Knowle Green)

40A goes direct to Solihull via Warwick Road

40C goes via Dorridge Station, Bentley Heath and Widney Manor to Solihull

40C 0746 – * School days only

197	151	40A	40C	197	151	40A	40C	197
		0718	0721& 0746 *			0748	0751	
0808		0818	0821			0848	0851	
		0918	0921		0941	0948	0951	
1003		1018	1021		1041	1048	1051	
1118		1115	1121		1141	1145	1151	
		1215	1221	1238	1241	1248	1251	
		1318	1321			1348	1351	
1403	1411	1418	1421			1448	1451	
	1511	1518	1521			1548	1551	
1601	1611	1618	1621			1648	1651	
		1718	1721			1748	1751	1751
		1818	1821		151E	1848		
		1918				1938		
						2038		
						2138		
						2238		

SOLIHULL TO KNOWLE (departure times from Solihull Station)

40A goes via Widney Manor, Bentley Heath and Dorridge Station to Knowle

40C goes direct to Knowle via Warwick Road

40C 0730 - * School days only

151	197	40C	197	40A	151	40C	197	40A
								0650
		0705		0720		0730 * &0735		0750
		0805		0820		0835		0850
	0900	0905		0920		0935		0950
1000		1005	1015	1020		1035		1050
1100		1105		1120		1135	1135	1150
1200		1205		1220		1235		1250
	1300	1305		1320	1330	1335		1350
		1405		1420	1430	1435	1450	1450
		1505		1520	1530	1535		1550
		1605		1620		1635	1645	1650
		1705		1720		1735		1750
151E		1805	1810	1820				1850
1900								
2000								
2100								
2200								

The Knowle Society provides this compilation of services from several local operators for the benefit of the community but accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions. Bus operators are always liable to change their schedules. Up-to-date information can be obtained from the CENTRO hotline 0121 200 2700 or www.travelinmidlands.co.uk

BUS departures Weekend – as at 20 July 2006

40A/C Travel West Midlands 151 & 197 Claribel Coaches Ltd.

151E Silverline Travel Services

151E (Bold Italics) Sundays only – these are the ONLY Sunday buses

All other departures in this timetable are Saturdays only

KNOWLE TO SOLIHULL (departure times from Knowle Green)

40A goes direct to Solihull via Warwick Road

40C goes via Dorridge Station, Bentley Heath and Widney Manor to Solihull

197	40A	40C	151E	151	40A	40C	
						0751	
		0821			0848	0851	
0903	0918	0921		0941	0948	0951	
	1018	1021	1038		1048	1051	
1118	1118	1121	1138		1148	1151	
	1218	1221	1238	1241	1248	1251	
	1318	1321	1338		1348	1351	
1403	1418	1421	1438		1448	1451	
	1518	1521	1538		1548	1551	
	1618	1621	1638		1648	1651	
	1718	1721	1738		1748	1751	
	1818		1838		1848		
			1938				
			2038				
			2138				
			2238				

8**SOLIHULL TO KNOWLE (departure times from Solihull Station)**

40A goes via Widney Manor, Bentley Heath and Dorridge Station to Knowle

40C goes direct to Knowle via Warwick Road

* Also 151 on Saturday

151E	197	40C	197	40A	151	40C	197	40A
						0735		
		0805		0820		0835		0850
		0905		0920		0935		0950
		1005	1015	1020		1035		1050
1100		1105		1120		1135		1150
1200*		1205		1220		1235		1250
1300	1300	1305		1320		1335		1350
1400		1405		1420		1435	1450	1450
1500		1505		1520		1535		1550
1600		1605		1620	1620	1635		1650
1700		1705		1720		1735		1750
1800				1820				
1900								
2000								
2100								
2200								

The Knowle Society provides this compilation of services from several local operators for the benefit of the community but accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions. Bus operators are always liable to change their schedules. Up-to-date information can be obtained from the CENTRO hotline 0121 200 2700 or www.travelinmidlands.co.uk

Well, another year has passed us by, and I hope those of you who have managed to come along to at least one of our events will agree that it's not been a bad one.

Writing this in September I find, as I'm sure do all the contributors to this particular edition of the newsletter, that I'm not sure whether to look back over the year we've just had, or forwards to the next one. Looking back is rather strange, as we haven't yet finished the events for this year, as I am writing this (at the very last minute to meet the editor's deadline) on the 1st September and we have three events to come before the AGM!

The first is on 18 September, when Roy Ledbury, a well known local naturalist will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Wildlife in a Solihull Garden'. I am assured that it will be about plants and animals, not any other sorts of activities that may take place in the gardens of our near and larger neighbour.

We finish the year with two social events. The first is listed as a walk on 23 September, but is really an excuse to visit Temple Balsall and sample the excellent tea and cakes they serve on summer Sunday afternoons. (I have to say that about the cakes, as my wife bakes many of them! We do get many compliments, so others must think they are good.) The timescales for the production and distribution of the Newsletter is such that the two September events will have gone by the time you read this, but no doubt we'll run similar events next year, so make a note in next year's diary as soon as you get one.

The one social event you should be able to get to is

the quiz evening on 16 October. This is for everyone, not just the quiz fanatics. I have been promised that there will be questions to suit everyone, and there's to be a special round devoted to questions about Knowle – OK that one might be testing! Although the closing date for entries to the quiz was 18 September, I am sure we can cope with a few more teams or individuals. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible on the number below and we'll see what we can do.

While actually after the end of the Society's year, do not forget the Boxing Day walk, starting from the Guild House at 11am on 26 December. This is just 3 miles long, with 'refreshments' part way round. This has become so successful that we need some additional help to run it safely. In particular I am appealing for a few people who would help to marshal the walkers. If you could assist in this way, please get in touch on the number below.

Well, I'd better do the 'looking back' bit now! I'll keep this short, as most will have been reported in previous Newsletters. We have had talks with a historical tone – 'Tracing your Ancestors' and 'Working Canal Boats'; ones with a local aspect – 'Cheese Making' by a local dairy and 'Little Known Warwickshire'; and one to make us think about others and how they live – 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. We have also had a range of walks, all quite short and suitable for everyone to have a go at, you don't need to have hairy knees! We have a similarly varied programme planned for next year and I hope to meet many of you at one of the events.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

RECORD YEAR

As you read this newsletter I shall be busy finalising the Society's accounts for the year ended 30th September 2006. This will be the first set of accounts in the format required for a limited company, which the Society now is. In essence accounts are accounts, but at the AGM, when I shall ask the membership for their approval of the accounts, I hope you will feel free to ask anything about them of which you are unsure.



*Martin Warr—recruiter extraordinary
(Photo: David Bower)*

Whilst I know many of you endeavour to recruit new members I think I must mention Martin Warr, a member of the Meetings and Social sub Committee, a distributor, and the most successful recruiter I have known. His effort, during the last few months, has welcomed in a great many new members and of course additional income for the Society. Thank you Martin.

It has been a most successful year for collection of subscriptions. I have mentioned before the effort that has been made by distributors, led by Walter Birch, to collect the subscriptions. I thank them for their efforts and also Derek Mellor who gets the money to me so quickly! I expect to show a subscription income for the year to September 2006 to be in excess of £ 5500. A RECORD I BELIEVE.

By the time you read this newsletter you may already have paid your subscription for the year to September 2007, and for that I thank you. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM. on November 27th.

Sandra Lea - Treasurer - Knowle 776850

Firstly a general view of this sub-committee and our aims for the present and some future projects which we feel will be of interest to all members. Improvements have been achieved in the regular grass cutting both in Knowle Park and St. John's Close including the rose and flower beds receiving a low level makeover and other smaller areas of grass over the last few cuts. In the main this was due to pressure by this group and a new neighbourhood coordinator recently appointed by SMBC, who has proved to be a reliable associate, who although having to work within the council's financial constraints has delivered all promises so far—may they continue to do so.

CAR PARKING

The shoppers' precinct continues to be somewhat untidy with overgrown bushes; these should be trimmed during Sept/Oct and receive some more frequent T.L.C. once we can establish a schedule on the work rota. The first draft plans have now been received from SMBC for the safety and re-routing of the main shoppers' car park and the placing of alligator feet to put an end to the poor use of the exits and entrances which are incorrectly used and without some form of regulation will surely lead to an altercation between motorists and pedestrians; the writer has already witnessed some very near misses in the past so these alterations will alleviate the present difficulties. The shoppers' car park itself will also be looked at a little more closely—with limited spaces around the village it has become clear that more regular warden patrols are required. To that end the SMBC parking office has promised a little more effort and I understand that fairly shortly the formerly police controlled street parking wardens will be transferred to the normal parking area wardens' office within SMBC and operate under their control; it is very possible that we will see a higher profile of these staff. Traders and residents alike have expressed the view that motorists abuse the regulations knowing it is unlikely that any action will be taken against them overstaying, but that could alter very soon.

TESCO AND ONE-STOP

The One-Stop passageway will also be receiving our group's attention—we will press not only for a clean-up and removal of the graffiti on the lamp standard but also to investigate the unsightly hanging cables and what appears to be a less than stable T.V. aerial. Tesco took over One-Stop in 2003 but does not appear to be interested in cleaning up its act—we will continue to hassle through the right channels for the desired improvements. Tesco features on a regular agenda for reasons which are many and varied, none more so than the wayward-trolley syndrome which at times blights the whole appearance of our village. Not only does Tesco take considerable monies from this area but typical of many large companies has so far been neither interested nor prepared to put something back into it nor even to make some constructive contributions during meetings that have been held with the company. This sub-committee has decided to press SMBC for more effort in combating the rather sloppy way the trolleys are dealt with and to that end we are very hopeful of a good result sooner rather than later; it is fair to report that without John-Paul collecting them it would be a whole lot worse.

TELEPHONE BOX & FINGER POSTS

The telephone call box adjacent to the BT building at the junction of Purnells Way and Station Road which has been out of use for some time is to be repaired during Sept/Oct. We are in contact with SMBC to investigate the possibility of additional finger posts around the village where with their help and guidance we may well see useful directions for visitors to the area.

DR BOWER MEMORIAL PLANS

For those who are unaware what this is about, this subcommittee at the request of the Trustee Directors was charged with the task of suggesting a lasting memorial for the late Dr Bower who sadly passed away some months ago; he had been a local GP and a founder and President of The Knowle Society, whose aims and aspirations have remained the same since that day in 1962. Founded primarily as a conservation group we continue to follow the examples set by Dr Bower. The Environment sub-committee is a very small committee, of which I am the new chairman; we continue to look at every possibility but we do not believe that the only drawn-up plan available so far is acceptable. This is due to fairly high maintenance cost or the area suggested is likely to be a target for those of that ilk to cause damage, which in due respect to Dr Bower and indeed his family for my part I am not prepared to accept. Therefore the delays will continue until we find a solution which we can hand to the Bower family with appropriate confidence.

If some parts of this report sound similar to Gary Masters' it may be due to the fact that I also sit on the Community Services sub-committee and we do have an overlap in some areas, which may even prove to be beneficial for both groups. Finally a plea to anyone who could act as our minute secretary, you would be most welcome—any offers?

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
(a company limited by guarantee)

Form of Nomination of Trustee Directors including Officers

We, the undersigned, being members of The Knowle Society, hereby nominate

Full name.....of

Address.....

.....
as a candidate to serve as *
of the Society from the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

Proposer (*full name*).....

(*Signature*).....

Secunder (*full name*).....

(*Signature*).....

Form of Consent

I, the above named, being a member of
The Knowle Society, confirm my agreement to serve in the capacity mentioned above.

Signed.....Date.....

* Complete as appropriate with:

Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer or Trustee Director.

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 Mr & Mrs S Annandale
 Mr & Mrs J Appleyard
 Mr & Mrs R Austin
 Mr & Mrs P Baggeley
 Mr & Mrs A Batchelor
 Mr & Mrs J Bayliss
 Mr & Mrs S Bibb
 Mr & Mrs G Bishop
 Mrs S Bond
 Mr & Mrs Brighton
 Mr & Mrs J Broadbridge
 Mr & Mrs R Broughton
 Mr & Mrs K Bruce
 Mr & Mrs R Budd
 Mr & Mrs N Bull
 Mr & Mrs A Cameron
 Mr & Mrs R Cant
 Mrs I Carins
 Mr & Mrs G Carr
 Mr & Mrs M Cartwright
 Mr & Mrs G Catchpole
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 Mrs M Watterson
 Mr & Mrs S Webb
 Mr & Mrs S P Webb
 Mr & Mrs J Wheeler
 Mr & Mrs A Whitty
 Mr P Woodhill
 Mr C Wright

A warm welcome to 177 new members this quarter including those listed opposite.

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 www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

Derek Mellor
 Knowle 205129
 Membership Secretary
 92 Chantry Heath
 Crescent, Knowle,
 B93 9NJ
*membership@
 knowlesociety.org.uk*

Editor:
David Bower
Photographer:
Roger Grainger
Proofreaders:
Maria Brown
John Chaloner
Sandra Lea

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