

The Knowle Society



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www.knowlesociety.org.uk

Knowle - still a village?

To an extent, the above is not just a rhetorical question. I hear the matter being debated regularly and some are heard to say that with a population of over 11,000 Knowle cannot possibly refer to itself as a village. The great majority of residents, I believe, however, are of the strong opinion that we are village people. If people believe that, then to an extent, it is true by the assertion itself. Knowle feels like a village.

This philosophical meander is for a purpose. Your Trustee Directors are looking at the possibility of Knowle having its own Village Plan. This would be a very considerable undertaking and would have to have the approval in principle of very many, at best a majority, of local residents. Among many aspects to be considered would be the personnel involved for whom it would be a very onerous task and the necessary money for what may well be a 4 or 5 year project. Decisions would have to be made as to the geographical area involved and as to whether the Plan would cover for instance health matters as well as the obvious areas of planning, conservation and community matters of the kind covered by John Rowley and his committee.

We have appointed an ad hoc committee to look at all aspects of the idea and to report to the Trustee Directors early next year. In the meantime, I would ask all members and indeed all non-member residents who read this to think about what this might entail. The point is that if we were to have a Village Plan which had been accepted by the Council it would make the future development of Knowle much more likely to be in harmony with what the majority of its residents wish and would allow them to have a much greater say much earlier on planning and other proposals.

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Events Diary

Monday 18th October
8.00pm at the Village Hall

Quiz with Fish & Chip Supper
Members & guests only (pre-booking required)

Monday 15th November
10.30am at the Village Hall

John Constable, A Warwickshire Artist?
Local History talk—preceded by tea and coffee at 10.00am

Monday 22nd November
8.00pm at the Village Hall

Annual General Meeting
Followed by tea/coffee & biscuits and reports on the Society activities

Monday 29th November
4.15pm in front of the church

Big switch-on of the village & tree Christmas lights
Popular family event with carols, music and visit of Father Christmas

Sunday 26th December
11.00am at the Guild house

Boxing Day Walk—2-3 miles
Meet at the Guild House, mulled wine & mince pies served en route

(Continued from page 1)

The Society will again front the committee responsible for the Christmas Lights and an application will shortly be made for temporary closure of Kenilworth Road on the day, which if we follow last year's pattern would be November 29th, but watch this space. I think the event went off fairly well last year but with the large increase in numbers attending, it is important that people are safety conscious and use the cordoned off road rather than the High Street to view the occasion.

On a personal note, I have been responsible for the setting of the Quiz to be held on October 18th. Wearing two hats, therefore, I would ask as many members and guests as possible to form teams of up to six or just turn up on the night. Fish and Chips are provided as well in the cover price and the night usually goes with a swing, with not a little competitive spirit being shown.

This will be the last newsletter before the AGM on the 22nd November. Please do turn up – it is your Society and this is your chance to hear the Trustee Directors account for their actions and to ask questions. It will be a special year in one respect particularly – one which I believe will give a great deal of pleasure to many people. Come on the night if you want to see for yourself this special occasion. At the end of the second year of my Chairmanship, I would like to take this opportunity very sincerely to thank all my fellow Trustee Directors for all their hard and devoted work on behalf of you and the village generally. Those thanks extend of course to all members of committees and many other members who give their time freely in so many ways to assist the Society.

Peter Ewin—Chairman - Knowle 776381
chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk

FREE NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY ENTRY—A MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

A new organisation arose this year from the ashes of the old Civic Trust (to which The Knowle Society had belonged for most if not all of the Trust's life); this new organisation Civic Voice is a quite different animal and our subscription to the organisation is much higher. For that reason the Trustee Directors looked hard at the benefits and ethos of the new organisation and after some hesitation by us and revision down of the subscription levels for large societies like ours, we joined and have felt that to date the new organisation has acquitted itself very well and has been prodigious in promoting and campaigning for the issues that concern societies like ours. The Society also continues to gain cost effective public liability insurance as it did under the old Civic Trust. One of the other benefits of membership this year is a free day pass for entry to a National Trust property for members of the organisations which join Civic Voice. Regrettably the details came too late to include in our July newsletter but we hope that many members will find the offer of interest.

The offer communicated here through this newsletter is exclusive to named and paid-up members of The Knowle Society and therefore we are not allowed to publicise it on our website. The letter giving details of the offer is reproduced on page 6. We would be interested to hear from members who decide to take up the offer so as to help us assess the value of benefits we get from membership of Civic Voice. We understand that this offer will be applicable until the end of July 2011 in respect of the Knowle Society's membership. Enjoy a day out—its value alone well exceeds double the cost of your membership of The Knowle Society, for example standard adult entry to Packwood House is £7.35 each!

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 22nd November 2010 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 2010. It will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing 12 months and up to 6 other Trustee Directors.

Nominations for these vacancies should be in writing and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at 26 Wychwood Avenue, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9DG to arrive no later than the 8th November 2010. They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society. The Nomination Form may be accessed for completion as described below.

Andrew Marston
Hon. Secretary
September 2010

01564 774082

Company Number 05514023

Charity Number 1111085

If a member wishes to nominate one or more Officers or Trustee Directors of The Knowle Society for election at the forthcoming AGM, then a nomination form may be downloaded from:

www.knowledesociety.org.uk then follow the link *About Us*

If you do not have convenient access to the Internet please call the Secretary on the above number and he will be pleased to make a paper copy available to you. In recent years members have not availed themselves of the facility to use the form in the newsletter, so we are not printing one again this year; in practice many people will now consider it more convenient to download a copy, rather than deface their copy of the newsletter.

By decision of the Trustee Directors at their December 2009 meeting, the minutes of the previous AGM are being printed in their entirety in this newsletter, the last issue prior to the AGM. Also being printed here is the Agenda for the forthcoming AGM. Members are urged to bring their copies of this newsletter to the AGM as we are not planning to print copies for everyone attending. Any additional material such as the annual accounts will be made available on the evening of the meeting, though it is hoped that, if approved, the change of date of the AGM in future will also enable the accounts to be prepared and published for all the membership to read at more leisure before an AGM.

**Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on
Monday 23rd November 2009, in the Village Hall commencing at 8 pm.**

1. Present

Peter Ewin (in the Chair) and 63 other members.

2. Apologies

These were received from a further 7 members.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24th November 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Chairman's proposal for the Election of a President

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting and wished to inform them that there had been no president of the Society since the death of Dr Bower, who had enjoyed considerable standing in the West Midlands. Therefore if there was to be a President of the Society, they would have to reflect such standing. Peter Ellis' past involvement of 20 years in the Society, during which he fulfilled a variety of positions, latterly as archivist, suggested to the Chairman that Peter did reflect such standing as had Dr Bower. The motion the Chairman therefore wished to put to the meeting was to appoint Peter as President for an initial term of 5 years. It was to be an honorary position and those Members who knew him would, he hoped, support the motion. The motion, being formally proposed and seconded, was carried unanimously by the Members present.

Peter Ellis, upon taking his seat, gave his acceptance with a very few words. He was honoured that his proposal of nomination was accepted. Dr Bower was in fact, the Society's first President after 39 years of service. His legacy was to see the continued defence from such developments that would spoil Knowle as well as expanding the activities of the Society and an increasing membership and Peter said he would do his best during his term of office to continue with that legacy.

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5. Chairman's Report

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these Minutes.

6. Treasurer's Report and receiving of Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009

Peter Johnson presented the Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009. He apologised for the expansion of the document which now ran to 15 pages. This was to meet current legislation of the Companies Acts and charity law. He went on to say that the Objectives and Activities on Page 3 make an accurate assessment of the Society's activities. The Statement of Financial Activities on Page 6 (known previously as the Profit and Loss Account) identified what happened to members' subscriptions. The Balance Sheet on page 7 makes reference to 'Restricted Funds' and these are for specified purposes. The 'Cash at Bank' is in a high interest account. However, the Reserves at the end of the financial year were £20,888 overall.

Funds committed against this sum are £5,000 for the Knowle Green Community Project and £7,000 for new storage cabinets for the History Group's Library archives.

The breakdown of income and expenditure on page 12, whilst noting income from interest received, indicated the biggest sources as subscriptions and tax refunds arising from Gift Aid. Expenditure includes principally the Newsletter, Christmas Lights and the Festival in the Park. These activities reflect the involvement of the Society. Charitable activities include a contribution to the new tables and chairs in the Village Hall, Scout Hut and sponsorship of the flower tubs in the High Street. In addition, the History Group purchased new filing cabinets for their use in the Library.

The Members unanimously agreed to receive the Report and Accounts.

Peter asked the meeting to consider a shortened version of the Accounts be presented in the future, such to include the Objectives and Activities on one sheet with a second sheet on which would be indicated the important contents of the overall accounts. These would be available to all, thus making them much easier to understand and use. Copies of the full accounts would however, be available on request. The Members

unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Peter went on to say that with the short period of time available between the preparation of the accounts and the date of the AGM generally being 8/9 weeks later, consideration by the meeting was requested for future AGMs to be held early in the new year, perhaps at the end of February. Again, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Finally, the annual subscription rates of £3 for individuals, £5 for couple and £25 for corporate Members, were proposed to be retained for the coming year. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

7. Election of Officers for the ensuing year

The following names had been duly proposed and seconded by Members:

Chairman	Peter Ewin
Deputy Chairman	Leighton Jones
Hon. Secretary	Andrew Marston
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Johnson

No other nominations were received and these Officers were elected to the positions shown for the next 12 months. They would also serve as ex-officio Trustee Directors.

8. Election of Trustee Directors

One member, having completed his term and being willing to continue as Trustee Director, had been duly proposed and seconded to serve by Members. The member was:

John Rowley.

In addition, three members had been duly proposed and seconded to serve as Trustee Directors. They were:

Bryan Smart, Ian Simmonds and William Bohanna.

No other nominations were received and as this number was less than the number of vacancies, they were declared elected. Each of these four members so elected would serve for three years.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peter Johnson announced that the firm of West & Co, now based in Knowle, has agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiners and their office can remain as the Society's Registered Office. Their services will be as before, and includes their check of the year's accounts and signing them off. The Members unanimously agreed to the Proposal.

10. Any Other Business

No items were raised under this heading and the Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 8.45pm.

Notes on Notices given at the end of the AGM

The History Group went in some detail regarding the need for new storage cabinets for their archives in the Library and that two quotations had been received but their wording was 'loose' and thus extra detail was required. It was proposed to utilise the monies raised for the Derek Mellor Fund (approximately £700) with the Society to make up the approximate £5,000 balance. There were no objection from the Members and the Trustee Directors anticipate a purchase as soon as possible.

The Planning Committee has concerns as to Knowle by the use of Sainsbury's lorries in their servicing the proposed new Dorridge supermarket.

The Members were advised that not only was Ian Simmonds the new chairman, but also the Environment Committee was in future to be known as the Natural Environment Committee.

The Members were up-dated on the Knowle Green Community Project and a meeting had been held that morning at the Council House between Council Officer Kath Hemmings, Groundwork's Simon Jones and Knowle Society's Gary Masters. Following the initial difficulty of the question of land ownership, now satisfactorily resolved, the operations of Groundwork West Midlands had been delayed by their need to carry

out an internal re-organisation. Gary confirmed that work was now underway and the first step would proceed towards lodging a planning application with the Council. Funding applications for the project will probably have to be made by Knowle Society on behalf of the Community although considerable help will be provided by Groundwork.

The current membership requires 78 distribution rounds for the Newsletter to be delivered safely, with at present 20 still to provide their reports as to the current receipt of subscriptions. However, only 82 Standing Orders had been received and the Members are to be encouraged for a greater number to utilise this facility of paying their subscription in the future.

The Website was now publishing a monthly report as an insight of what is happening in the Society by the Trustee Directors. In addition, there had been an up-date of plastic recycling/bus timetable/and accessible archives.

The Chairman's closing remarks included that he hoped the Members present approved the format of the meeting but welcomed any comments from Members.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST

Civic Voice has a strong partnership with the National Trust. We share a passion for conserving and improving places for people.

There are two main strands to our partnership:

Free day access pass

The individual members of all civic societies who join Civic Voice can receive the offer of a free day access pass. This will provide free access to any National Trust property during normal opening hours subject to a small number of restrictions.

The free pass is available to download by your members by using the following link www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer. You will need to promote the opportunity in your members' newsletter and/or electronic bulletin, by providing details of the link, perhaps alongside a short article mentioning local National Trust properties or arranging a group visit. The link should not be put on your public website. The pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if a member is already a member of the National Trust.

Where members do not have internet access a free day pass will also be available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ requesting one and providing contact details and the name of the group which is a member of Civic Voice.

This offer is available in the first year that a civic society joins Civic Voice.

Group visits

Many civic societies organise group visits to places of interest and the National Trust provides a range of services which may be helpful. These include a free Groups Guide and a free Special Interest Tours Guide. There is more information at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-group-organisers.htm and you can obtain free copies of the Guides online here as well. Why not organise something this year and invite members to bring along their "free pass"?

This year has been a very busy and important one for your planning committee. Not only have we had to deal with several major planning applications, but the advent of the coalition government has brought the prospect of radical changes in the way in which the planning system works.

As you will remember, two of the major applications affecting Knowle were those for a marina below Knowle Locks (known as the Stripes Hill Marina) and for one off Jacobean Lane, at the end of Wychwood Avenue (known as Jacobean Moorings). We joined many local residents in objecting to these plans on the basis of their negative impact on Knowle with no significant advantages to the village. You will know that the Council rejected both applications, mainly on the basis of their impact on the Green Belt. For development in the Green Belt to be acceptable it would usually require the applicant to demonstrate 'very special reasons' why it should be allowed. The Council Planning Committee did not accept that such had been demonstrated. However this is not the end of the matter as both applicants have appealed against the Council's decision, as they are entitled to do. The appeals will be determined by a Planning Inspector who will review the evidence provided by all parties and listen to statements at the Public Inquiry. We do not yet know when these will take place.

Another application that has been rejected by the Council was for a major supermarket in Dorridge which had been proposed by Sainsbury. The concern for us has always been that the scale of the development would have brought with it a major increase in traffic through Knowle and along Station Road, both in delivery traffic and shoppers attracted from outside the area. In the event this application was rejected as being too large and not suitable for Dorridge. The applicants have decided not to appeal – very sensibly in my opinion. They are carrying out a limited public consultation and reviewing their options. Forest Court is sorely in need of revitalising to provide retail facilities for Dorridge and I am sure that a quality food store of modest size would provide the stimulus that is needed on that site. If this can be done without the significant negative impacts that the previous plan would have brought, I'm sure it would stand a good chance of gaining acceptance.

The application about which we are most concerned is, of course, that by Kimberley Developments for St John's Close. As we go to press this has still not been determined by the Council. Knowle Society is very concerned that if this were allowed to go ahead it would bring major problems for life in Knowle. We have submitted a detailed letter of objection, based on the best planning grounds we can find. As far as we can tell most of those responding to the Council's consultations also believe that this plan is not right for Knowle, so we hope that by the time you read this Newsletter the application will have been withdrawn

or rejected. We accept that there is an argument in favour of some additional provision of food shopping and that some of the area between St John's Close and the High Street would benefit from improvement, so perhaps a scheme can be proposed which would achieve these without the damage the present one would cause. It is almost certain that Kimberley will want to go ahead with some scheme, if only for the land that they already own (the site of the former Wine Shop; the old bowling green and the rear part of the Red Lion car park). We shall see what they propose.

As well as such major proposals your committee also review every planning application made for properties in Knowle as well as those outside that might affect Knowle, such as for the HS2 rail line, if the route proposed were to be changed to come any closer to Knowle. We do not comment on most applications for changes to domestic properties, unless they are in the Conservation Area, or on applications that would affect only neighbours, not the community in general. We see it as our role to look after the interests of the community at large, not to 'take sides' between applicants and those directly affected. All the applications that we have reviewed in detail are listed on the Society's website [*address at end of article-Ed**], so you can see what we have said about each one.

The way in which we work may well change over the next year or so as the proposals for the 'Big Society' proposed by the Coalition Government are introduced. These focus on more local involvement in many matters, including planning. It is not at all clear what the changes will be, or how they will affect our operation but it does look as if we will be more involved in proposals before they become actual planning applications. If this means that we have the opportunity to influence proposals in favour of a good outcome for Knowle, it can only be good but we will have to wait and see how things work out.

The first real opportunity to bring such influence to bear should come with the Council's production of what is called the LDF, or Local Development Framework. This is the replacement for the Unitary Development Plan, which has guided the Council's approach to changes in Solihull for the last decade or so. The LDF will act as the Council's guidance document from 2011 to 2026, so it is important that we do our best to ensure that it recognises the needs of Knowle. The Council has produced the first draft of the core document, which was NOT accepted but referred back for revision. This draft identified three areas for additional housing around Knowle over the next 15 years. These were; off Hampton Road at the rear of Crabmill Close and the Primary School; at the rear of the houses built on the former Middlefield Hospital site; and on Four Ashes Road behind Bentley Heath Recreation Ground.

(Continued on page 9)

BICKENHILL RECYCLING CENTRE

Paint	Used vegetable oil	Used Engine oil	Clothing, Textiles & Shoes	Clothing, Textiles & Shoes
Car batteries			Clothing, Textiles & Shoes	Book Bank
Household batteries	Fluorescent tubes	T V s & Monitors	Fridges & Freezers	Gas Bottles

Food & drink cans
Newspapers & magazines
Plastic bottles
Mixed glass
Cardboard
Electrical
General waste (to landfill)
Green waste
Hardcore & rubble
General waste (burnable)
Wood & timber
Chipboard
Scrap metal
General waste (to landfill)
Cardboard
Electrical
General waste (to landfill)
Green waste
Hardcore & rubble
General waste (to landfill)
Wood & timber
Scrap metal
General waste (to landfill)
Gypsum

P

A

R

K

I

N

G

From time to time The Knowle Society has sought to inform members about developments in recycling in Knowle & Solihull and encourage the take-up of recycling by filling gaps in general awareness of how it all works. We have done this by inviting speakers from Solihull Council to our Monday evening talks and by articles in this newsletter. We hope that the information on these two pages will continue that tradition.

Those of us who have been around long enough to remember throwing our rubbish into piles for bulldozers to shift at the old Hay Lane site off Widney Lane (now the site of 1990's homes) are probably still unreformed users of the term 'the tip' for its successor site at Bickenhill. It was a bit of a surprise for your editor on his annual pilgrimage to the 'tip' to discover just how much this place has been transformed into its current manifestation as a 'Recycling Centre'. That term is truly the better one as the reorganisation of the facilities is now very comprehensive and staffed in my experience by helpful workers.

The extent of the reorganisation (and I am unaware of any detailed publicity about this) is such that if the trip is to be speedy and efficient, some advance planning is useful. As there is so much to read, we hope that the information on these two pages is helpful in making the best of your visits to 'the tip'.

The left of this page represents the row of 24 large skips against which householders back up to off-load their waste. The page on the right shows the allowed and disallowed materials in each skip shown on this page. The top of this page shows the approximate layout of separate containers located at the far end of the site for additional materials, typically of a more toxic nature.

If you are bringing plastic bags containing shredded paper, please note that the shredded paper should be tipped loose through a chute into the Newspapers & magazines skip—the plastic bag should not be placed in the same skip—perhaps not a good activity for windy days!

**ENTRANCE
TO
RECYCLING
CENTRE**



Recycling category	Yes please	No thank you
Gypsum	Plasterboard (clean off-cuts only)	Tiles, Bricks, Rubble, Wood / timber, Metal, Plastic. Insulation material, Heavily wallpapered plasterboard, Plasterboard that has other materials attached
General waste (to landfill)	Anything we do not currently recycle or that cannot be incinerated (burnt). This waste is sent to landfill sites and damages our environment.	Cardboard, Green waste, Wood, Metal, Fridges / Freezers, Tyres, Plastic bottles, Newspapers, Gas bottles, Textiles, Soil & rubble, Asbestos, Oil
Scrap metal	Washing machines, Tumble dryers, Cookers, Metal items	Fridges, Freezers, TVs, Batteries
Wood & timber	Real wood only	Garden waste, MDF, Chipboard, Plywood
Hardcore & rubble	Bricks, Concrete, Tarmac, Soil	Metal, Wood, Asbestos, Bags, Garden waste
Green waste	Grass cuttings, Tree & shrub prunings, Hedge cuttings, Old flowers & plants, Leaves from garden	Plastic bags, Kitchen waste, Wood / metal, Glass cans, plastics, Paper / cardboard
Electrical	Irons, Hairdryers, DVD / Video players, Printers, Sound systems, Lawn mowers, Strimmers, Vacuum cleaners	TVs, Monitors, Fridges & freezers, Washing machines, Tumble dryers
Cardboard	Cardboard boxes, Cardboard packaging	Plastics, Paper, Polystyrene
Chipboard	Chipboard, Laminate flooring, MDF, Wicker, Cork tiles / boards	Solid wood, Tree branches, Window door frames containing glass
General waste (burnable)	Bagged domestic waste	Mattresses, Sofas, Carpets, Bed bases, Foam filled furnishing, No recyclable materials
Mixed glass	Clear glass bottles and jars, Green glass bottles and jars, Amber glass bottles and jars	Pyrex, Ceramic, Flat glass (window panes)
Plastic bottles	Plastic bottles, Plastic tubs / pots / trays, Tetrapak	Plastic toys, Plastic bags, Cling film, Bubble wrap, Video cassettes, Drain pipes
Newspapers & magazines	Newspapers, Magazines, Holiday brochures, Catalogues, Junk mail, Telephone directories, White copy paper	Brown paper, Card / cardboard, Greetings cards, Treated paper, Wet paper, Soiled paper, Wrapping paper
Food & drink cans	Cans, Tins, Aerosols, Tin Foil, Foil containers, Sweet / biscuit tins	Plasticised foil, Tetrapak

(Continued from page 7)

The other item of interest in the draft LDF was the intention to review the need for and status of the line of the Knowle Relief Road. All these were mentioned in the local press as if they were accepted, but it is important to note that the next version of the draft MAY differ in these areas.

One of the specific changes already enacted by the Government is the reclassification of gardens from 'brownfield land' i.e. already developed land to 'greenfield land' (not Green Belt). This has the effect of making it more difficult to develop gardens; however it does not mean that such development will not be accepted, just that they will need greater justification to make it likely that the Council will grant permission. This change may reduce the number of blocks of apartments or small groups of houses built in Knowle in the future, but this would increase pressure to provide that accommodation in other

ways, perhaps on open fields such as identified in the draft LDF.

In closing this review of 2010 I must thank the members of my committee for their invaluable assistance. Some members have been on this committee for a very considerable time and their knowledge is vital to its effective operation. Other members are, like me, relative newcomers but are learning fast. We all put in considerable time on your behalf and the appreciation we receive from members of the Society is very welcome.

** The web address for local planning applications reviewed by the Society is*

<http://www.knowledesociety.org.uk/annexe/Planning/applications.php>

AIRPORT—JOHN ROWLEY REPORTS

I thought it would be useful for new members to give a brief description as to how The Knowle Society liaises with Birmingham International Airport (BIA). BIA has an Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) which meets regularly and is made up of Airport Representatives, Local Authorities and Local Organisations such as The Knowle Society. Our representative is also a member of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group (EMWG) which acts as an advisory body to the ACC on the following issues:

Noise Control	Air and Water quality
Night Flying	Complaints
Air Traffic	Development Proposals
Ground Operations	

Current ongoing developments are:

- The runway extension has planning permission and work is proceeding including the possibility of a revised phased scheme, which would deliver 95% of original anticipated capacity and reduce costs. The flight paths have still to be agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).
- Also linked to the runway extension, planning permission has been granted for the erection of a 200 bedroom hotel on the Elmdon Terminal Site
- Work is ongoing to merge the Airport's two passenger terminals into a single facility and is scheduled for completion in 2011.

If you have any Environmental complaints you can record them by telephoning the airport on: 0121 767 7433

POLICE MATTERS—LORNA GALE REPORTS

We were sorry to learn that we are losing our Neighbourhood Police Team sergeant, Ann Strachan, who has led our team for the past six years. Sgt Strachan has been a very 'hands on' member of the team, leading the priority-setting meetings that used to take place in the Village Hall and often chairing the Rural Assembly meetings. She has also attended a number of our committee's meetings. She is moving to lead the Blythe team, where she will follow a long-held interest in developing youth engagement in the borough, a sphere for which she has considerable passion. She says, "It has been an absolute privilege to be your neighbourhood Sergeant and I really do thank you for your support and help." I am sure you will all join us in thanking Sgt Strachan for her hard work and commitment in our area, and in wishing her every success in her new role. The role of our Neighbourhood Sergeant will be taken over by Sgt Jerome Moran; we extend a warm welcome to him and look forward to meeting him.



Sgt. Moran

A number of concerns have been raised about the proliferation of scrap metal collectors operating in the area. The council has a team which ensures that these collectors are licensed and operating within the law. To that end, they have asked for information regarding registration numbers and vehicle details, so that the operators can be checked out. These details can be telephoned to Kath Hemmings on 0121 704 6358 and she will pass them on to the team. Kath reports that information of this kind that has already reached her has been very useful, so do please contact her with any further details.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The new bus services S2 and S3, are working very well and are being supported by an increasing number of passengers, Central Connect is pleased with the response. There have been minor amendments to the times of the S2 in order that better efficiency can be met. The Society's website has an updated summary, or you can obtain a copy from the Solihull travel office. At present the services do not terminate at the Solihull Rail Station and Gary Masters has requested the bus company to remedy this, at the next review of the timetable.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

LATE EXTRA—PLANNING NOTE FROM LEIGHTON JONES

Those of you who are keen followers of such matters will not have missed that it is now more than six months since the proposals by Kimberley to redevelop large parts of the village centre. Your Society, and especially the Planning Committee, has been carefully monitoring progress – or lack of it. While there was much discussion in the early months things have been very quiet since. We know that the Council has been attempting to clarify some matters with the developer, as well as trying to get additional information. However even this appears to have stalled. We have therefore written to the Council (copied to Kimberley) stating our view that it is full time that this matter was resolved. We are not too bothered whether the application is withdrawn by the developer or heard by the Committee and rejected. We shall see what happens after that, something is bound to come, we trust it will be much more suitable.

Considerable progress has been made on the project to improve the natural environment on and around the Warwick Road roundabout. It is not simply a matter of forming working groups to set to removing brambles, nettles, dead trees and trimming back overgrown trees and bushes. It is all Solihull Council land and any changes need the approval and support of the Council before anything is started.

I can report that a meeting was held on 1 September with officers of the Council who were very supportive of the approach we are taking. This is encouraging for the future. We are looking forward to working together to make the Knowle green environment more eco-friendly and attractive for the residents.

In advance of the meeting the committee had agreed a set of classifications for the different types of natural environment which would best suit the different areas. These decisions took into account the responses which we received from members, mainly from discussion at the Festival in the Park on 19 June. Regrettably only two members of the society responded to our request for views on what they would like to see undertaken. These emails were gratefully received.

The aim is to make the areas concerned more attractive with more open views and wild flowers, bulbs, flowering shrubs etc. Trees will be saved wherever possible but some old dead trees and overcrowded trees and undergrowth will be removed. The planned works would include improvement to make areas safer for pedestrians, for example the area around the bus stop.

Once the Council approves this way forward, we hope these projects will commence without too much delay. This is the present committee's first project, but we hope that the groundwork will facilitate future projects around other areas of Knowle.

Ian Simmonds - Knowle 778692

TWO WAYS TO HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

SOLIHULL POLICE WOULD LIKE INPUT FROM OUR MEMBERS

Brigg Ford, the Communications Manager at our local force, has asked whether 50-100 of our members would be interested in helping in a trial of a new facility for 'meeting' the police. They have now tried an online facility with some local schools and are looking to widen the trial. The aim is for the forum to be online, whereby two or three officers on a webcam at their end could be seen and heard by all participants who for their part would communicate back to the police by typing in their points (rather like Instant Messaging)—no speech or video would be sent from us to the police. If being part of this trial interests you, please let Lorna Gale know your email address and she will pass it on to Brigg. He will then contact you with the details of how to participate. Please contact Lorna on policeforum@knowlesociety.org.uk This address will only be available until the first forum sometime during October 2010.

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY WISHES TO SUPPORT KNOWLE BY IMPROVING LIBRARY ACCESS

We are currently meeting with Solihull's Library Service to discuss an extension to the current library hours through possible volunteer community assistance. To support this idea, we are seeking volunteer community support for two to three hours per week to assist library staff. Full training and support would be given.

If you are interested and want to find out more please contact Bill Bohanna at library@knowlesociety.org.uk



Pictures of Chester House Library from our archives

—
'In need' before restoration and the reception desk in need of help today



The next and last talk for this year is on Monday 15 November. The talk is entitled 'John Constable, A Warwickshire Artist?' and the speaker will be the popular David Patterson. Henry Greswolde Lewis of Malvern Hall was a patron of Constable and the talk will enlarge on this association. As usual the talk will take place at the Village Hall, 10am for tea and biscuits, the talk starts 10.30am.



The entrance to Arbury Hall

Our last visit of the year took place on Wednesday 25 August, when we enjoyed a tour of Arbury Hall home of the Newdigate family since the 16th century. Our tour began with the chapel which was added on in the latter part of the 17th century. We were then shown various rooms all of which with their soaring fan vaults, plunging pendants and filigree tracery were quite awe inspiring but perhaps the most awe inspiring of all was the Saloon, in fact I now know what the expression 'gob smacked' means because that was literally how it made me feel. It is the finest room in the house and took 20 years to complete culminating in the installation of the enormous bow window with its intricate plaster tracery.



After the tour of the house we broke for lunch which was an excellent selection of mouth-watering sandwiches and homemade cakes and as much tea and coffee as we wanted. Our thanks go to the excellent catering staff for whom nothing was too much trouble. Unfortunately, it drizzled with rain after lunch but we did not allow this to spoil the pleasure of wandering around the beautiful gardens with their wooded walks and lakes, and one of the prettiest rose gardens I've ever seen. I am sure that the other 57 Knowle Society members who came on this visit, would agree with me that not only was it an interesting and enjoyable day but the

title of 'The Gothic Gem of the Midlands' is very well deserved. Our compliments and appreciation go to the Viscount and Viscountess Daventry for their upkeep and preservation of this delightful historic estate.

A final little story about Arbury which you might enjoy. Sir Roger and the second Lady Newdigate (The first died in 1774) were childless but in the 1780s a young girl called Sally Shilton came into their lives. One day Lady Newdigate heard Sally, the daughter of a miner, singing and was so captivated by her voice that she took her to live at Arbury Hall where she soon graduated from the housekeeper's room eventually to share the lives of Sir Roger and Lady Newdigate. Sally later married the local clergyman and years later George Elliot who was born and brought up on the Arbury estate (her father was Robert Evans the estate manager) used Sally's story as the basis of one of her 'Scenes of Clerical Life'.

In the last 12 months the History Centre has flourished and become increasingly busy especially on Saturday mornings when we have stewards on duty 10am – 12pm to help with enquiries re. family history, history of specific buildings, requests for copies of photos, documents etc from our archives and also people bringing in contributions. We are constantly receiving new acquisitions and the new storage units we purchased this year have consequently proved to be invaluable both for practicality and extra storage space (and looking good of course). This past year alone we have had over 200 new acquisitions; photographs, documents, artefacts, all of which have now been catalogued and indexed (*See article on next page*). Thank



Arbury Hall

you to all who contributed these items, please continue to do so, they are so useful to us in our research and also invaluable for the future history of our village. The full catalogue can be searched online at www.knowlesociety.org.uk—thank you to David Bower and Kathy Jephcott for their hard work on this.

We also receive numerous enquiries via email/post from various parts of the UK and an increasing amount from places further afield; Canada, America, Australia, usually in connection with family history where perhaps an ancestor is found to have once lived in Knowle. One interesting enquiry we had in May this year was from a descendant of the Grimshaw family who was also a Miniaturist and wished to make a dolls house size version of Grimshaw Hall. We managed to make contact with the owner of the Hall who agreed I could take the lady and her husband to view and take photographs. I don't know who was more excited, our visitors or myself, it really was a treat to see the hall restored to its former glory. Our thanks to the owners of the hall for allowing our visit and our congratulations on the work that has been and is being done. Our happy visitors went back to America the next day and promised to send us photographs of the finished miniature Grimshaw Hall for our records.

Janet Erzen - Knowle 779040

LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE ACQUISITIONS

The Knowle Society's Local History Centre is always delighted to be advised of potential Archive items relating to Knowle and its history. During the last twelve months we have acquired or created 218 new items which have been duly recorded and stored. On 31st August we updated our online catalogue with the first major update since we completed the initial mammoth task of putting the records online in their current format a year ago.

We are finding that the website has generated a lot of interest in our Archive, especially on family history matters and this quotation from an author researching updates to the famous Warwickshire 'Pevsner' guide (Buildings of England) series was a gratifying acknowledgement of the quality and content of the facilities; "I have found your website and the excellent online catalogue of your archive, and I can see that you have material that may well quickly answer some of my queries."

To whet your appetite this is a summary of the variety and interest of the new material that people have kindly given to us or we have assembled for the benefit of the community, with some examples of what is included. They are listed against the major categories used for archiving:

- 9 Books These include the latest in the series of ever popular Scrapbooks maintained year on year by the Society (see panel below).
- 8 Artefacts Knowle WI bookmarks, Scout shirts belonging to the former Squire of Knowle and first President of The Knowle Society, Horace Everitt, Coronation flags and a pencil advertising Dell Transport.
- 105 Photographs Recent events and festivals, significant shops that have changed, Knowle Lodge Estate, Images relating to Henry Tonks the subject of a recent exhibition, historic images of Knowle, images of canals and bridges around Knowle and aerial views of Knowle.
- 54 Documents Festival programmes, correspondence, magazines and magazine articles, leaflets, tickets, booklets, especially scouting memorabilia. Many of these items start to become interesting in twenty years time, to those who will remember the events later in their lives.
- 13 Property Deeds, conveyance documents and sales brochures of significant local properties.
- 1 OS Maps 1887 map of Knowle and Barston.
- 6 Other maps Various maps of Warwickshire including a geological survey of Knowle.
- 8 Exhibitions Continuing the full record of all exhibitions mounted by The Knowle Society.
- 2 Directories Studies and reports on aspects of Knowle—the High Street and the Conservation Area.
- 12 Discs Electronic records of photographs, 123 old postcards of Knowle, 65 photos of the old Masonic Hall, items on the Royal Flying Corps and more.

The most recent Scrapbook for 2009 continues the process of capturing and indexing clippings from the local press; the alphabetical record below (A-K only) from our searchable online catalogue shows the variety of local news and names that can be found about Knowle in a year's newspapers.

Altay [Page 17]	Coyne [Page 17]	Hanson [Page 18]
Andrews [Page 45]	Di Silva [Page 13]	Hotchkiss [Page 26]
Arden School - 50th Anniversary [Pages 8,17,35]	Didlick [Page 25]	Howe [Pages 17,35]
Arden School - general [Pages 25,33]	Donnelly [Page 40]	Ingram [Page 26]
Band [Page 37]	Erzen [Pages 22,36,43]	Iqbal [Page 44]
Band & Meeks [Page 37]	Evans [Page 17]	Jackson [Page 28]
Bentley Heath - general [Page 5]	Ewin [Pages 22,36]	James [Page 16]
Berrow Homes [Page 7]	Fingerpost [Page 1]	James [Page 26]
Boddington [Pages 22,36]	Foxwell [Page 26]	Keys [Page 10]
Brady [Page 39]	Gray [Page 16]	Knowle - general [Pages 11,12,51,53]
Bread Collection [Pages 31,32]	Griffiths [Page 26]	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club - reports [Pages 2,4,9,20,21,23,26,27] etc.
Covent Garden [Page 34]	Hall [Page 17]	

Firstly a quick review of the meetings over the last period. In June Ian Carnell, a Knowle resident, came along to the village hall to give a very moving talk about the local charity Educaid Africa. The charity is unusual in that every penny raised goes to Kenyan children's education and there are no administration costs here in the UK. Last year the charity raised over £28,000; all this was made possible by the hard work and generosity of local children and adults with support from schools in Solihull. Ian provided a fascinating insight into the work of a truly local charity. The photo shows Ian with children from the Mombasa area helped by the charity.



In July Roger Cragg gave a very interesting, informative talk covering the development of transport systems in the West Midlands area from the 1760's right up to today. He included our canals, their ascent and descent into disuse before finally being rediscovered for their leisure potential, especially interesting considering the marina applications currently being considered for Knowle. Equally fascinating was the history of the railway system, trams, buses and the road system up to the creation of spaghetti junction. Roger's knowledge on his subject was vast and the audience took their chance to ask many questions after the illustrated talk.

Every talk that we host at The Knowle Society always has plenty of time left at the end of the evening for the audience to ask questions of the speaker. We usually get a lot of feedback and often this 'question time' is as entertaining as the talk itself. If you have not come along to a meeting before why not give it a try? We also normally have a quick update from the other committees in the society at the beginning of the evening. This is designed so you can keep up to date with the societies' activities.

We still have a few tickets available for the Quiz evening on the 18th of October, if you wish to come along please give me a call. This will be an interesting quiz as Peter Ewin, the chair of The Knowle Society, is hosting it and the charge of £4 includes a fish and chip supper. There will be prizes for the winning team and a raffle for prizes of M&S vouchers.

We have a very wide range of topics for our talks next year ranging from the serious sounding 'Geology & Scenery of Warwickshire' by Hugh Jones to the frivolous and entertaining 'Ukulele Story' and 'Remembering the Swinging Sixties'. Hopefully, if these do not appeal, there is something in-between these two extremes that will. The full schedule will be printed in the next newsletter or is available to view on the website now. The committee has tried to strike a balance of some 'fun' evenings along with some of local interest.

Finally the committee is looking for new members to join it. The committee meets 3-4 times a year to research, plan and book speakers for the monthly meetings in the village hall. The committee is also responsible for setting up the hall in preparation for these talks. If you are interested and have some time to spare (not too much!) please give me a call.

Charles Robinson - Knowle 775770

The programme of local walks continues to stroll along with a reasonable level of support. They are short walks, designed for those who do not normally abandon their cars. They are certainly not 'route marches', we move at a pace that everyone will be able to manage. We aim to show you some parts of Knowle and its surroundings that you may not have come across, so if you'd like to expand your knowledge of the place where you live, why not join us on one or two.

The first two walks of the year both attracted 12 members, the first being to view the planned locations of the proposed marinas and the second an evening walk to Elvers Green Lane as far as the River Blythe. The midsummer walk was well supported by 15 members on a brilliant summer evening, just made for a stroll in the Warwickshire countryside. Meeting at the Black Boy public house we set off across the fields. Just south of the Black Boy, on the opposite side of the canal we passed through a field where Warwick Council has just granted permission for a marina for 20 boats (very much smaller than the two marinas which were proposed for Knowle). It will be interesting to see what impact this has on the surroundings. We continued south through fields, including one where several horses took a close interest in our presence. Reaching Rising Lane we joined the canal towpath to return to the Black Boy where some made use of the opportunity for refreshment.

Our next walk is the ever popular Boxing Day walk. This starts at the Guild House at 11 am on Dec 26th, which this year is a Sunday, so we will hope not to confuse those who are heading for the church service. This is an opportunity for the whole family to walk off the excess feasting as well as a great opportunity to show your visitors what an active community we have in Knowle.

Leighton Jones - Knowle 773894

KNOWLE GREEN COMMUNITY PROJECT

BE PREPARED - PLANNING APPLICATION IMMINENT

Initial surveys and enquiries have now been completed in connection with the proposed work at the top of Station Road alongside the shops and offices. Revised detail for a shelter to be used by bus users and the layout of the greenery have been amended slightly, details of the sketch plans for these proposals are shown here.

It is intended to be in a position where a detailed planning application can be submitted to the Council by 30th September. Obviously you will have the chance to support or object to what is proposed in the usual manner. It is hoped that you will see the suggestion of an eight sided pavilion meeting not only the requirements for bus and coach travellers, but also as a point of interest for the village as a whole.

Your comments to the Society website [*See 'Forum' link on home page and select 'Knowle Green Community Project'*] or direct to me will be appreciated.

Gary Masters – Knowle 779955



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Indicative drawing of a possible plan for replacing the toilet block

A NOTE ABOUT THE LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE AND A USEFUL NEW SHOPPING BAG

If Saturday mornings are not convenient for you to visit our Centre with enquiries or to donate contributions to our archives, please contact me and a different, more convenient time can be arranged. Also, if anyone would be interested in joining us to help in our work as:

Keepers of Knowle Archives please contact me.

In addition to our 'Guide to Knowle' and DVD of past Knowle Celebrations, we are now selling cotton long handled shoppers with a picture of Chester House on side. £2 each, available in the History Centre Saturday mornings.

Janet Erzen - Knowle 779040

Mr & Mrs M Beach
Mr B Farman

Miss H Singleton
Mr & Mrs M Stevens

The year has been a busy one with a number of changes being made to the structure of the membership database to streamline some of the operations involved in updating the database and thereby reducing the amount of time required to do so. The changes went well with no problems until a major change made in June which resulted in some spurious calculations of amounts outstanding for some members who were not actually due to pay anything. The problem took a lot of work to resolve but all is now sorted out. As far as I am aware there have been only two instances of actual overpayment which have been corrected but if any member feels that they have paid their subscription twice then please let me know and I will correct the situation.

MEMBERSHIP

We have welcomed 50 new members since the start of the Society year in October last year and the year end membership statistics are shown below:

Total Paying Memberships – 1813	Total Individual Members – 3039
Family Memberships – 1226	Single Memberships – 587

GIFT AID

My colleague Peter Johnson who is our Treasurer has asked me to include a request that if possible all the 2010-11 subscriptions are paid and collected before the 5th of April 2011. The reason for this plea is laid out below:

When the basic rate of income tax was 22% we received tax back at the rate of just over 28% of the subscription amount paid. In 2008 the basic rate was reduced to 20% and the recovery rate should have fallen correspondingly to 25%. However to protect the income of charities the then Chancellor agreed that 'Transitional Relief' would be granted for three years so as to keep the reclaim rate at 28%. The three years runs out on 5th April next and there is no indication yet that it will be extended. If it is not extended then our recovery rate will reduce to 25%, a drop of just over 11.3% in our Gift Aid income.

I hope you can see that this would affect our finances considerably so it would be greatly appreciated if you could help in this respect please.

STANDING ORDERS

A big thank you to those members who have applied to pay their subscriptions by Standing Order. At the beginning of the year we had 67 members using the facility which has now increased to a total of 244. I look forward in the hope that in the coming year we can increase the numbers even further. If you use online banking then you just need a reference number from me and can set it up for yourself; to start the process just send me an e-mail. If you do not bank online then you need to fill in a form which can be obtained either from the Membership section of the Society's website or directly from me. If you are worried about your personal data please be assured that I am the only person to see your form which, after checking and the issuing of a reference number, is delivered by hand to your bank which then passes it on to its processing centre. There is an exception to this process however as in the case of the 'internet only' banks the form has to be sent by post.

Bryan Smart - Knowle 779902

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A warm welcome to the 6 new members listed opposite.

The Knowle Society has over 3000 members; can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join too? This may be done either by contacting the Membership Secretary or through an application form on: www.knowlesociety.org.uk

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