



The Society depends entirely on the goodwill and efforts of our volunteers. Each and every person who works for the Society is a volunteer and freely makes available their time and skills.

Our Trustee Directors have always been conscious of this. In recognition of their contribution to our activities, a get-together was organised for the volunteers on the afternoon of Saturday 9th November at the Village Hall.

This had the joint aims of thanking them for what they did, giving them the opportunity to meet each other, and bringing them up to date with some of the activities of the Society, which are otherwise described in this edition of the Newsletter.

Those who came were supplied with tea/coffee and a superb range of cakes, all of which were donated by Society members. Judging by the 'buzz' in the room, everyone made the most of the opportunity to meet others and to exchange experiences of the different roles they played.

The opportunity was taken to speak to some of the volunteers who had indicated that they were 'keen' to take on other roles and I am very pleased to say that there were several promises to take up some of our vacancies.

Leighton Jones

## Celebrating Our Volunteers

### Events Diary

**Monday January 20th**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall  
**Monday February 17th**  
10.30am in the Village Hall  
**Monday February 17th**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall  
**Monday March 17th**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall  
**Sunday March 23rd**  
2.00pm Meet at Heron's Nest

**Warwickshire Wildlife**  
Graham Harrison, Vice Chair, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  
**More Register Office Funnies, Part 3**  
John Yates, tea and coffee at 10.00am  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Includes tea, coffee and biscuits after the formal business  
**My Part in Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Pageant**  
Clive Henderson  
**Fields and Canal Towpath Walk**  
Three mile stroll from popular local canalside pub car park

# News on Village Greens and Planning for Future Events

## VILLAGE GREENS UPDATE

Things are moving on with the applications for registration of the three areas as Village Greens.

The applications were submitted in April. After study by the Council, which showed that the applications were valid, the owners were notified and public notices posted on or near the sites and on the Council's website as well as in the Solihull News.

Responses were received by the Council on each of the Areas applied for:-

Area 'A' – Wychwood roundabout to the rear of Longdon Rd

Three objections were received:-

- One from neighbours whose objection is largely based on the risk of increased nuisance;
- One from the department of the Council on the basis that, as it has maintained the land, the owners might hold it liable for allowing free access;
- One from the Land owners, Wallace Properties Limited. This is based on several factors and includes reference to legal cases. This will need considerable study to rebut their arguments and we will probably need to instruct solicitors, which will of course cost!

Areas 'C' and 'D' – both adjoining Knowle Park

Part of each of these areas is owned by the Council, the remainder of each area is now owned by Taylor Wimpey, which has confirmed that it is not formally objecting to the applications.

The Council has repeated the objection it made to Area 'A' for each of these areas as well.

We have now taken legal advice. This suggests that we have a strong case to continue with the process. The next stage is to identify about 20 to 30 users who are willing and able to provide a more detailed account of their use of this area and to give evidence

to the public hearing. If then advised that we have an excellent case we will take it all the way, which will of course mean more legal fees. If you are willing to be one of the select few, please let me know.

**COME ALONG TO THE AGM AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.**

## EVENTS ORGANISING GROUP

The Society has always been involved in community events and organised events for our own members. One example is the recent Volunteers Get-together, another the annual Christmas Lights switch-on, which we organise with vital support from a number of other village organisations.

Up to now these have always been handled on an ad hoc, make it up as you go along basis. They have always worked out well in the end, but it is time we were more organised about it, instead of loading the responsibility on a 'willing' Trustee (usually the Chairman!). Hence the idea of an Events Organising Group. Note, not a Committee, we are looking for members who are willing to meet when necessary to plan, organise and help put on the few regular events that come up each year and perhaps to think of one or two more that would be of benefit to our members and help promote the Society.

I already have several volunteers to help form this group, but the more the merrier. There is always a variety of roles to be played, so I'm sure there will be one to suit most people. If you would be willing to pitch in, or even if you might be interested but want to know more, please get in touch. It's a good way to help your Society and village without the continuous involvement that some find difficult to commit to.

**chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk**  
Knowle 773894

Leighton Jones, Chairman

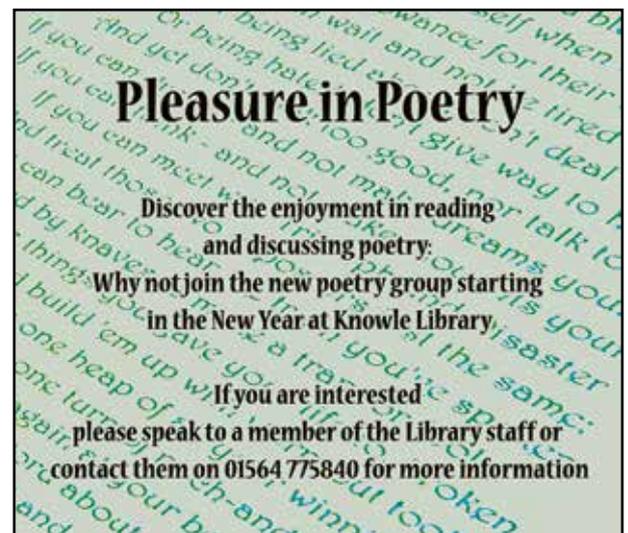
Joe McGrain, Environment

## Environment Committee Forms

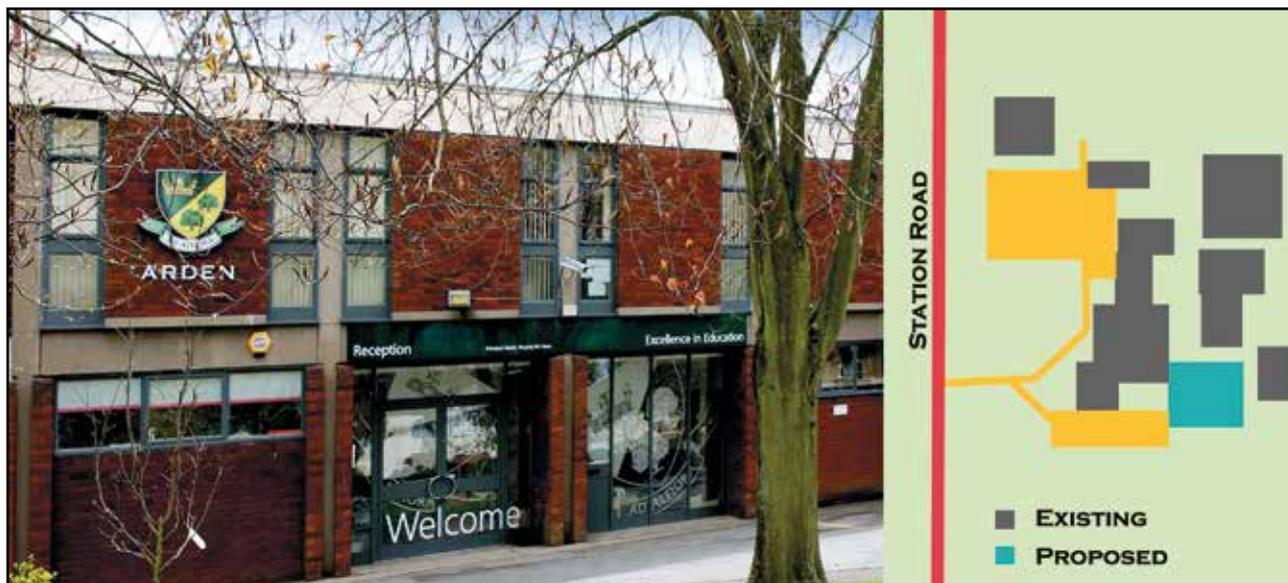
Since the last Newsletter, my focus has been on the recruitment of a working committee. After some travails I now have an enthusiastic and experienced group of volunteers to take on the work of the Natural Environment brief.

The committee is comprised of three former members, June Vaughan, Adrian Jickells and Gordon O'Connor and an experienced newcomer, Mike Fisher. Projects have already been identified and prioritised and there will be more news on these for inclusion in the April Newsletter.

**environment@knowlesociety.org.uk**  
Knowle 785779



## A Busy Time for Your Planning Committee



Proposed new block at Arden Academy

Our Planning Committee has considered several planning applications made to the Council during the last quarter.

Those which necessitated time being spent included one from Arden Academy for their three-storey extension which, after consultation, resulted in the building elevations facing Station Road now being finished with an appropriate brick rather than the white rendered panels first suggested.

The overall height of the building had also raised concern to us but on the basis of a reassurance that it would not be any higher and depending upon the structural solution of the building, perhaps not as high as that shown, the Committee agreed this was an application with which we had no objection to make to the Council.

In addition, we spent time on an outline application for development in the rear garden of a Kenilworth Road property. The site is in the Conservation Area and, with other concerns, it was therefore unanimously agreed that the Committee should ask the Council to refuse this application.

In enforcement terms, however, the Drinks Barn in the High Street, having lost their appeal against the Council's refusal to allow their fascia to be lit from behind (ie, an illuminated fascia), have unfortunately continued to switch on the fascia lights. The Council's Enforcement Officer has been duly notified for appropriate action to be taken.

Following on from my last Report, I am now able to advise that the Solihull Local Plan "Shaping a Sustainable Future" has been adopted by full Council on December 3rd.

I am pleased to say that buried in that document there is a requirement for an Annual Review of the

availability of adequate future residential development land to meet Government requirements. Thus we are reassured there is adequate time to complete the full and necessary consultation process on other proposed sites, if and when they are deemed necessary by the Council.

Progress has been made with the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Knowle. This document is intended to support Council Policies with the input of the residents of Knowle indicating how it may develop over the next fifteen years.

We have now submitted to the Council the proposed boundary within which the Neighbourhood Plan will operate and we have now been invited to submit a formal application to the Council for due process. This is in hand at the time of my writing this report and hopefully, it will have been submitted to the Council by the time you read it.

Finally, the Council's tender to dispose of the disused public conveniences in Knowle Green, on Station Road, resulted in the private investor, with whom I had been involved, being selected from the tenders received. Solicitors are now instructed for the transaction to take place in due course. The proposed refurbishment/conversion of the building (subject to Planning Consent) will, we feel, provide a most suitable location for the intended Memorial to Dr Bower.

My thanks not only to the Members of the Planning Committee but also to the three Knowle Ward members of the Council, with whom we have recently been working closely, especially in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you.

**planning@knowlesociety.org.uk**  
**Knowle 774082**

## Forthcoming Talks and Exhibitions

### Local History Centre News



The next talk “More Register Office Funnies, Part 3” by the ever popular John Yates will be on 17 February 2014, 10am for 10.30am in the Village Hall. Remember, if you have any queries regarding your family history John is always happy to help at the end of the talk if he can.

The present exhibition “Knowle Businesses over 100 Years” is proving to be so popular that we have decided to extend it until at least the end of January, when it will be followed by “Notable Buildings in Knowle”

The main exhibition for 2014 will of course be the 100 year Anniversary of the start of the First World War and how it affected the population of the Parish of Knowle. Initially the exhibition will be in Knowle Village Hall for three days, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, and Monday 4th August. For at least one of those days, probably Monday, the actual anniversary, we are hoping to have a Living Tommy presentation.

The exhibition will be based on the book by Michael Harrison “The Price a Parish Paid”, published in 1998, and on further research carried out by the local history team. We are very pleased that Michael, who recently attained an MA in British First World War Studies from Birmingham University, has agreed to join the local history team to advise and assist. His son, Lee, has also offered to help and hopefully they will both be at the exhibition to answer queries.

Relating to the above exhibition there was an appeal in the last newsletter for information regarding Alfred George Barber of Knowle, who enlisted at the age of 16. The mystery of what happened to young Alfred has now been solved, no thanks to Canon

Downing’s records which were inaccurate and consequently misleading.

Alfred did not die in France, but in England, at a different date than that in the Downing records and of TB, caused probably by conditions of war. This young man of Knowle who fought for his country and died as a consequence, now lies in an unmarked grave in a cemetery in England.

Michael Harrison first drew my attention to Alfred. With his wife, he searched intermittently for him over several years, whilst researching his book and since, but without success.

It is thanks to their groundwork and the advances in modern technology and constant updating of computerised records that we have now managed to establish the facts. We have Alfred’s service records and we know where he is buried. Michael is going to have a small cross made to mark this final resting place. We are also talking to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and think there may be a chance of Alfred having an official headstone.

To be fair to Canon Downing, wrong information was very often passed on to relatives in those difficult war torn days and it could be many, many years before the truth emerged. Sometimes it never did. Saying that, Alfred’s father was actually at his bedside when he died so where did the Reverend (as he was then) get his information from?

If you have anything you could contribute to the Great War exhibition such as photos, service records, letters, postcards, general memorabilia, please let us know by either visiting the Local History Centre (upstairs in Knowle library) between 10.00am and 12.30pm on a Saturday morning or by telephoning me on the number below. Items such as documents, photos etc would be carefully copied and returned to the owner. Other items on loan would be securely stored and looked after before being returned after the exhibition.

Can you identify anyone in the photographs above? If so, please let us know in the Local History Centre or by telephone.

**history@knowlesociety.org.uk**  
**Knowle 779040**

## More About the History of Johnson's Garage

*A Letter from Mavis Johnson in Response to our Previous Issue*

Having read the account of the Greswolde Garage in the Society's recent Newsletter, gleaned from an interview with Mr Gordon Hicklin by a Mr Rear, a member of the original History Group of the Society, I thought you may be interested in further items relating to the Garage.

The Greswolde Hotel, formerly the Mermaid, was a staging post for the London to Birmingham stage coach service and it is quite possible that the Garage was built on the site of the stabling facilities. Following the 1914-18 War, motorised traffic increased which led to Garages springing up everywhere.

In December 1933, Mr Jack Johnson rented the Greswolde Garage from Mr George Hicklin, owner at that time and became an agent for Morris cars, occasionally selling Austin, Standard and Vauxhall models, and also servicing and repairing vehicles.

As well as the existing four hand operated petrol pumps, Jack installed two electrically operated ones. The price of petrol at that time being 1s 4d per gallon, 7p in today's money! There was also a steady trade in charging batteries for the radio sets of the day – many people did not own mains radios at this time.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, a trailer fire pump was allocated to Knowle for use by the Auxiliary Fire Service and manned by several local men. Jack Johnson collected the pump from Solihull Fire Station, towing it with the Garage breakdown truck. The pump, towed by a Morris van, stood ready for action on the Garage premises.

### Around The Shops

Three new businesses have opened up in various corners of the village centre.

On the High Street where Standley's solicitors office used to be there is now the *Heavenly Beauty & Nail Salon*. In Station Road, next to the garage, there is a new kitchen showroom called *Number 30*.

In Greville Court, *Powell's of Knowle* is now providing shoe and watch repair, engraving, and key cutting services.

We wish them all every success in Knowle.



Jack Johnson at the Garage in the 1930s

In 1941, two men from the Ministry of Aircraft Production called on Jack and announced that the Garage was being requisitioned and he had two weeks to clear the premises, which meant selling all stock and equipment. During the Ministry's occupation, the lease expired. So, Jack did not return after the War but sought alternative premises.

Fast forward to 1950 and the Garage business of F.J. Johnson had returned to Knowle, adjacent to Chester House. In 1952, Jack's son John, having served his apprenticeship with the Rover Company and completed his National Service, joined his father in the family business. When, in 1954, the Tudor Cinema site came on the market it was an opportunity not to be missed. By 1955, with building work completed, Johnson's Garage was up and running. It continued to give high quality service until 1997, when John retired and the business was sold.

**Mavis Johnson**



## 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 17th February 2014 commencing at 8pm. A copy of the proposed Agenda can be downloaded from the Society's website.

The meeting will receive Reports on the activities of the Society during the previous twelve months and also the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2013. It will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing twelve months and up to four other Trustee Directors.

Nominations for these vacancies should be in writing and sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Society c/o 23 Newton Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 9HL as soon as possible. They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society.

Nominations including a Proposer and Secunder will be accepted at the meeting. The Nomination Form may be accessed for completion as described below.

Members who wish to propose Resolutions for the Agenda must send their proposed Resolution in writing to the Honorary Secretary at the above address to arrive no later than 5th February 2013.

Leighton Jones, Chairman

Company Number 05514023 Charity Number 1111085

Members wishing to nominate one or more Officers or Trustee Directors of The Knowle Society for election at the forthcoming AGM may download a nomination form from [www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk) (navigate to About Us, Legal and Annual General Meetings).

If you do not have convenient access to the Internet please call the Chairman on 01564 773894, who will be pleased to make a paper copy available to you.

## Accounting Report for 12 months ending 30th September 2013

I am pleased to report that the Society almost balanced its books this accounting year with a loss of £833. This is much lower than the loss last year of £3408, where a large excess of expenditure was the result of producing our 50th year celebratory booklet, other costs associated with the two jubilees and with the Waitrose project. The loss this year is largely due to the depreciation charge of £1245, rather than actual spending. In fact, our cash balance has actually increased from £11,073 to £11,485.

Subscription income during the year increased by £60. A net rise in membership of 342 will help secure further income during 2013-14.

The Society produced a set of Christmas cards for 2012, illustrated by Mike Humphreys, with the profits being donated to worthy causes. £50 was donated to both Birmingham Children's Hospice and the Royal British Legion Benevolent fund, with further profits to be donated expected from sales this Christmas. A large rise in "Other costs of generating income", compared with last year, resulted from the inclusion of £789 printing cost for the Christmas cards which was balanced out by this year's sales.

Some other expenses have increased this year, such as the Newsletter, which is now printed in colour, and has a more stylish appearance. Our storage costs have also increased significantly, although no further

rise is expected this year.

The Society has donated £340 to Solihull MBC for upkeep of the flower tubs in the High Street, and £500 was also donated to Civic Voice, which represents the interests of civic societies across the country, and hopes to continue to offer a free day out to National Trust and English Heritage sites for all members of the Society. (For details please contact the Membership Secretary.)

The Society also invested £500 from the legacy of Mrs. Hazzard, in planting a "Jubilee" tree on the village green, a memorial vase inscription for Eva Wootton, and purchase of television equipment for Knowle Library.

Subscriptions - if the exceptional income and expenditure for last year is removed, our net income and expenses looks similar to last year. However, we are facing steady increases in costs, and the Society may at some point need to consider implementing an increase in subscriptions. The reserves policy of keeping sufficient funds to cover one year's normal expenditure needs to be maintained. During most of the accounting year, the balance remained above this figure.

In summary, the Society has completed another successful year and remains solvent.

**David Watson. Treasurer**

### SUMMARY EXTRACT FROM THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2011, 2012 & 2013

	2011	2012	2013
Total Incoming Resources	£10535	£14876	£12547
Total Resources Expended	£12168	£18284	£13380
Net Income (Net Expenditure)	-£1633	-£3408	-£833
Total Funds on Balance Sheet	£16970	£13563	£12730
Total Members	3016	3263	3605

A full extract from the Accounts is available on the Society Website and on request at the Local History Centre  
Full copies of the Annual Report and Accounts will be available on request at the AGM

# Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the 50th AGM of The Knowle Society

*held on Monday 18th February 2013 (Full copy available on our Website & at AGM)*

The Minutes of the 2012 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **Chairman's Report**

Leighton Jones reported that the past year had again been a very active year for the Society. As well as running the normal ongoing activities, 2012 was also the Jubilee year, both Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the Society's Golden Jubilee.

He went on to say that the Jubilees were celebrated with the BBC 'Any Questions' in February; a Society tea party in May; the Village celebrations on the June Weekend; and the planting of a tree in St John's Close. Trustee Directors (TDs) produced a booklet containing memories of the first 50 years of the Society, which was issued to every member.

Leighton Jones then reminded members that it had been seven years since the Society became a Company Limited by Guarantee with a new set of Governance documents. TDs had been looking at them to see whether the documents needed updating to ensure the Society can continue to operate in the best interests of Knowle. This work is on-going.

## **Trustee Director Roles**

Leighton Jones then reported changes in TD roles:

- Lilla Baker is taking over from John Rowley as Chairman of the Community Services Committee, although John will continue as a TD.
- Dave Pinwell is taking over as Editor of the Newsletter from David Bower, who will continue to look after the website and provide IT support for the membership database.

Leighton Jones thanked them and all the others who had contributed to the work of the Society. He informed the meeting that three Trustee Directors will be standing down at the end of this meeting. He expressed his appreciation of the work that they have done during the time they've been on the Board:

- Anne Smith has been a Trustee Director since 2007 and in recent years had been responsible for the distribution of the Newsletters, including organising the distributors and putting up the bulk batches of Newsletters for others to pass on to the Distributors.
- Ian Simmonds joined the Trustee Directors in 2009 and promptly took over the Natural Environment Committee.
- Liz Linker has been Honorary Secretary for just a year but has made many valuable contributions.

He reminded the members that volunteers are as usual needed on several of the Committees.

The Treasurer reported that both income and expenditure were well in excess of the previous year, partly due to the Society's involvement in the two Jubilee celebrations, and the Waitrose application. David Watson said that if you remove the exceptional cost items of the history booklet, Waitrose costs, and Jubilee expenses and depreciation, this leaves "normal" cash expenditure of £13,331 for the year. Similarly, the "normal" income for the year with exceptional income from the calendars removed would be £13,004, showing a normal profit & loss figure of a £327 loss for the year. He said that at present, the TDs did not feel it was necessary to recommend any increase in subscription level for the next financial year, but in view of generally rising costs, and the Society's policy of keeping sufficient reserves, he said that the Society will be reviewing whether a subscription increase will be needed in the near future.

West & Co were appointed to act as The Knowle Society's Independent Examiners

## **Election of Officers**

Leighton Jones was elected Chairman of the Society. Bill Bohanna was elected Deputy Chairman. Janet Royle was elected Honorary Secretary. [In the event she was unable to take up this post] David Watson was elected as Honorary Treasurer.

## **Election of Trustee Directors**

Leighton Jones informed the meeting that there were four vacancies for TDs. Two vacancies had been created by the resignations of Ian Simmonds and Anne Smith and two by the resignations, in line with the rules, of the two longest serving TDs: David Bower and Janet Erzen.

No nominations were received from the floor.

David Bower and Janet Erzen had been previously nominated and were duly re-elected as Trustee Directors.

## **Members' Resolutions**

There were no members' resolutions proposed.

## **Life Membership**

Leighton Jones then paid tribute to Gary Masters and Dr Peter Morton who had both given exceptional service to the Society over very many years. Peter Morton was elected a Life Member of the Society and presented with a certificate to mark the event. Unfortunately, Gary had recently lost his battle with a combination of medical conditions but Leighton presented Gwen, Gary's wife, with a certificate of appreciation from the Society.

# Free and Display Parking Scheme is now Live

## And other Community Services News



"Not a new Tesco trolley parking lot!"

### **PARKING**

The honeymoon is over. Members are reminded to make sure they display a ticket when parking in Knowle's car parks! That is, except for blue badge holders, who are exempt.

In case you had not noticed, Knowle now has, in common with some other areas of Solihull, ticketed free parking giving three hours of free parking and no return for the subsequent two hours. You may pay for extra hours at 50p per hour up to maximum of £2.00 at the beginning of your stay. Remember, all six car parks are treated as one.

The Society has liaised with Solihull Council to try and ensure a smooth transition. Some of us helped as volunteers, alongside Council staff, to ensure that everyone understood the new system and how to use the machines. It was interesting to observe human reaction to something different!!

We are also encouraging car park users to understand that the railings around machines are not a new 'Tesco trolley parking lot' but a safety feature designed to protect users from being knocked over!

The recycling bins are being reorganised to achieve two and three additional car parking spaces to offset those lost.

All your comments and observations have been passed on and welcomed by the Council, not least:

- ambiguities with the notices and instructions on the machines, some of which have already been actioned;
- a general impression from the public was noticeably in favour of the scheme. "At least there are spaces" was a frequent comment.

A few dissenters said things like "I am only going to be a few minutes, waste of time." Overall, though, we answered many questions and were often thanked.

There are also wider issues which we raised during discussions. The Council are aware of these and monitoring the overall situation with regard to:

- Concerns of residents about parking on some residential roads, particularly Warwick Road, near the surgery and coming into the village from the south, Kixley Lane and St John's Close;
- Residents living in flats in the precinct and High Street concerns that they now have difficulties parking;
- Businesses' concern that customers may be put off coming to Knowle;
- Employees who no longer have free parking.

### **AIRPORT**

There is disappointing news about flight paths. Despite having been led to believe that 'Option 5' was recommended there will now be a trial of both 'Option 5' and 'Option 6', using new satellite technology, between April and November 2014.

We are continuing to follow developments closely. (See the July 2013 Newsletter for details of these options. Also, the Airport's reports and submissions can be found at [www.balancedaviationdebate.co.uk](http://www.balancedaviationdebate.co.uk)).

### **POLICE**

The next surgeries at the Library are:

Monday 2nd December	1.00-3.00pm
Monday 6th January	1.00-3.00pm
Monday 3rd February	1.00-3.00pm
Monday 3rd March	1.00-3.00pm

and at Costa Coffee, Knowle on:

Thursday 13th February	5.30-6.30pm
------------------------	-------------

Beware the Christmas burglary spike. The Police advise that you ensure presents are not on display either in the home, garage or left in vehicles and increase security and awareness after the Christmas period.

They also remind you to avoid drinking and driving, please, and warn of car thefts, for which Audis and Volkswagens, in particular, appear to be being targeted for their sat-navs.

The Police are working with Action Fraud. If you think you have received scam emails, phone calls or letters then please report it to [www.actionfraud.police.uk/](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/) or 0300 1232040.

## Ambulances Update and Public Transport Consultation

### More Community Services News

#### COMMUNITY

I attended a presentation on the new proposals from the West Midlands Ambulance Service. Much has been done to increase the time that paramedics are available for emergency response. This has been achieved by more effective and efficient methods for cleaning and preparation of vehicles by other designated staff rather than, as previously, by the paramedics themselves.

None of this, in my view, has been very well communicated to patients and the general public. Service should be maintained. A community standby site is still being sought for Knowle and Dorridge.

#### TRANSPORT

Centro is running a new consultation across the West Midlands to achieve £14M worth of savings in the 2014-2016 budget period (see [www.centro.org.uk/consultation](http://www.centro.org.uk/consultation)).

Possible money saving approaches could include changes in any of the forms of subsidised travel.

We have raised our concern over possible route changes particularly to Heartlands Hospital from Solihull, either as a patient or as a visitor.

Lilla Baker

[communityservices@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:communityservices@knowlesociety.org.uk)

Knowle 739073

## A Social that was Just Dandy and Talks with World War Links



Charlie Bull



An Enthusiastic Audience, Entertained by Dandy

At the time of writing, as tradition dictates, the Christmas tree, which is donated by the Society each year, has just been put up outside the Guild House in time for Father Christmas to arrive and start the festivities. Time, then, for a quick review of talks and activities since the last newsletter!

In September, Charlie Bull related his extraordinary story of his evacuation at the beginning of World War Two. Purely by accident, this led him into the world of a countryside agricultural community, leaving behind his family and industrial roots. This was a traumatic experience for any child, but Charlie adapted quickly and came to love his new environment.

From this very young age Charlie became embroiled in the world of cattle farming and he eventually became one of the most successful dairy breeders in England.

A talk full of childhood memories from a time now long gone was greatly appreciated by our members.

Our Social Event this year was an evening spent in the company of Dandy, the ever popular Black Country duo, who provided an evening of fun and music accompanied by a fish and chip supper.

To help support local businesses it was decided that the raffle prizes this year would be provided from a retailer in Knowle and the prizes were in the form of vouchers from Eric Lyons.

Our social event is open to members and their guests and next year, this will be a quiz, again with a fish and chip supper. If you have not been to one of our events why not give it a whirl next year? You will be very welcome and should have a bit of fun as well.

Our final talk for 2013 was on the National Memorial Arboretum by one of their volunteer helpers, Peter Hardy.

Peter has worked as a volunteer guide most weekends for a number of years and has seen the site develop since 1997. Being very knowledgeable about the Arboretum, he was able to explain the philosophy behind the site and its development and to really bring this to life for his audience.

Many of those who have not visited the Arboretum before now intend to do so, probably soon, with 2014 being the anniversary of World War One.

[meetings@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:meetings@knowlesociety.org.uk)

Knowle 775770

## Lighting Up the Village for Christmas Once More

*Volunteers Raise Tree on Cold Weekend before Switch On*

A number of Knowle Society volunteers braved the cold on a bright Saturday morning to raise the village Christmas tree, provided by the Society, in front of the Guild House.

After the lights were laid out on the ground and tested, the impressive tree was trimmed before it was hauled upright and into position. With a couple of false starts and a bit more trimming it was third time lucky to get it into place.

The team serving morning teas and coffees in Cobbles provided drinks to warm up the grateful volunteers.

On the Monday, as darkness fell, large crowds gathered around the Green as well as in Kenilworth Road to watch the lights being switched on. Canon Michael Parker and Revd David Edgerton got the crowd into the festive spirit. Then, Father Christmas arrived on his brightly lit sleigh and led the assembled crowds in singing carols ably accompanied by The Ardenaires, Arden Academy's Big Band.

The crowd then counted down from ten before the village lights were switched on, those provided by Knowle Traders illuminating the High Street and those provided by the Knowle Society illuminating the Christmas tree.

As always it was a well run and attended event and we would like to thank everyone involved in making it such a success.



Christmas Lights

**31st KNOWLE FUN RUN - SUNDAY 18 MAY 2014**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Knowle Society is particularly keen to assist Knowle and Dorridge Lions with this popular annual event that raises a lot of money for so many charities and brings the community together.

Volunteers are required to help with marshalling. If you can spare a couple of hours to join in with the community spirit and help make a difference, make a note of the date, and

**Contact Martin Warr on 01564 779708**

## A Winter Day Out and Countryside Stroll

*We venture into Warwickshire for some seasonal fresh air*



With stately homes and outdoor attractions closed, winter days out are a choice between retail therapy or a country stroll. But, to steer clear of waterlogged footpaths and walking on roads, it can be necessary to look further afield to find a walk for a fresh, sunny day early in the year.

This walk takes you to Ryton Pools Country Park, in the heart of Warwickshire. To get there, you could whizz up the A45 through Coventry to Ryton and turn right. Nicer, though, to get out a map and add the pleasure of a country drive through Wroxall, Beausale, Leek Wootton and Hill Wootton to Cubbington and then turn up the A445 to pass through the delightful village of Bubbenhall.

Here, in the heart of the village, just off the A445, sits the Malt Shovel. This Inn and Restaurant, mentioned in the Good Pub Guide, offers refreshment to set you up for the walk ahead.

The 100 acre Country Park, with its two small lakes, is a great place to see birds and wildfowl. It is just north of Bubbenhall and entry is currently £2.50 per car. It is a short walk from the Car Park to the Visitor Centre

The circular walk is all on well maintained hard surfaces and is fully accessible to wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Start by following the signs to Ryton Pool and then take the path that goes all the way around this picturesque lake in a clockwise direction.

At the end of the lakeside path there is a childrens' playground. Just beyond this take a left turn onto a path alongside a tree lined stream. This leads eventually to the Bird Hide at Paget's Pool.

By Paget's Pool, the path starts to ascend a hill and swing to the right. Near the top of the hill, a right turn takes you back to the Visitor Centre.

Day Out and Walk



**KNOWLE SOCIETY IS GOING DIGITAL**

**The Knowle Society now has Facebook and Twitter accounts.**

They can be found at the addresses below. We will be using these as another way to keep you informed of events as they happen alongside our existing website and newsletter.

Please have a look and 'like' or 'follow' us for the latest updates and to have your say.



[www.facebook.com/KnowleSociety](http://www.facebook.com/KnowleSociety)



[www.twitter.com/KnowleSociety](http://www.twitter.com/KnowleSociety)

# A Warm Welcome to our New Members

*who have joined the Society since our last Newsletter*

Mrs H Allen

Mr & Mrs D Banting

Mr & Mrs D Bishop

Mrs B Carney

Ms E J Clarkson

Mrs D M Collins

Mrs E Cutler

Mr & Mrs C Frowd

Mrs B Hall

Mr & Mrs S J Jones

Mr K O'Donnell &

Ms S J Allen

Mrs I Rogers

Mr & Mrs S R Rudd

Mr & Mrs Westwood

Mr & Mrs T Whitchurch

## Membership Subscription Collection Time

This is a good time of the year to be the Society's Membership Secretary, for the annual subscriptions are 'rolling in' and the distributors usually manage to recruit a few more members, particularly where former members have moved.

Inevitably we do 'lose' some members but very few of those are because members have declined to renew their subscription. This is always a source of encouragement to the Trustee Directors.

If you have not yet paid your own subscription, might I suggest that you send

your £5 or £3 direct to me at the address on the panel to the right.

This is a good opportunity for me to thank our 'army' of distributors. There are more than 90 of them and they do a sterling job.

As always, the names of the new members since the last Newsletter are given above and we welcome them to the Society.

**Peter Johnson**

**membership@knowlesociety.org.uk**

**Knowle 770268**

## The Unsung Heroes of the Boxing Day Walk

The well attended Boxing Day Walk usually sees walkers of all abilities and ages gather outside the Guild House at 11.00am before taking a gentle three mile walk in and around Knowle with mince pies and mulled wine supplied en route.

It is always good fun and an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded people and see a bit more of the countryside on our doorsteps.

The unsung heroes of the walk are Ted and Diana Reville who have prepared the mulled wine to their own secret recipe for so many years that no-one can remember when they started.

Their invaluable contribution has made the Boxing Day walk the successful Knowle festive institution that it is and we hope you will join us in raising a glass to them in thanks.



### The Knowle Society Newsletter

**Editor:** Dave Pinwell, 07973 360307  
[newsletter@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@knowlesociety.org.uk)

**Distribution:** Anne Smith, 01564 779120  
[distribution@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:distribution@knowlesociety.org.uk)

**Proof-readers:** Maria Brown,  
John Chaloner, Pam Watson

### Previous Issues

all the way back to January 1963, are available at our website:

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

### Next issue

Copy deadline: 1st March 2014

Distribution commences: 1st April 2014

### The Knowle Society

*We have over 3500 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 our website (address below).*

*Established to maintain the character of the Village.*

### Website and Social Media:

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

[www.facebook.com/  
KnowleSociety](http://www.facebook.com/KnowleSociety)

[www.twitter.com/  
KnowleSociety](http://www.twitter.com/KnowleSociety)

### Membership:

Peter Johnson

1 Barnbrook Road

Knowle

SOLIHULL

B93 9PW

01564 770268

[membership@](mailto:membership@knowlesociety.org.uk)

[knowlesociety.org.uk](http://knowlesociety.org.uk)

### In this issue

1. Celebration for Volunteers
2. From the Chairman
2. Natural Environment
3. Planning
4. Local History
5. Letter from Mavis Johnson
5. Around the Shops
6. Annual General Meeting
8. Community Services
9. Meetings and Social
10. Christmas Lights
11. Walk - Ryton Pools
12. Membership
12. Boxing Day Walk

The Knowle Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered number 05514023.

Registered Charity number 1111085.