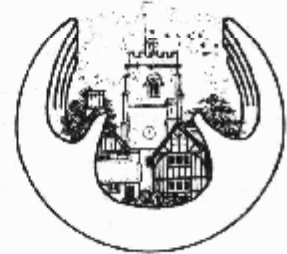


# The Knowle Society

## NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 1991

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### Urgent

The Society has a vacancy for a new Secretary as Mrs. Satchell is retiring at the end of July. Many thanks Margaret! The principal duty is the monthly Committee Minutes. May I appeal to the many retired members who have the necessary skills and would like to help keep Knowle as we all like it. Please ring Dr. Bower at 0564 772648.

#### Society Chairman

At the last Committee Meeting members unanimously agreed to recommend Mrs. Elaine Warner as the next Society Chairman. She is dedicated enthusiastically to the conservation of the village and has accumulated a vast store of knowledge of its past as Local History Chairman. I can recommend her.

#### Offices

The pressure for more offices continues. Recently a large three-storey block was proposed by Metropolitan Building Management Ltd. for the Linwood Lodge site between the Wilson Arms and the black and white cottage below in the Conservation Area. This would have been visually destructive to the entry to the village, being totally out of scale as well as being overbearing on the gardens of the Beausale Drive residents. It was withdrawn just before the Planning Committee meeting. Refusal of the scheme had been recommended by the officers to the Councillors.

The Society would prefer a residential scheme, proximity to the village being ideal for elderly residents.

The Society feels it must take a stronger view in future on office development as the pressure will increase when the recession lifts. Inevitably there would be an increased pressure on the car parks.

#### Springtime in Knowle

It has been a joy to see the trees bursting forth into leaf, particularly the oaks with their tinge of yellow. I recently walked a part of the proposed golf course between Heronfield and Chadwick End along an old green lane. There were enormous oaks which brought to mind Shakespeare's fair Rosalind. These will need special care in the golf course plans.

Nearer home the Society's Jubilee oak tree grove in Job's Close Park promises some mighty oaks in years to come. They are growing extremely well.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

|       |           |   |
|-------|-----------|---|
| Wed   | July 10th | Local Walk (Jack Deakin) 7.30 p.m.<br>For details phone Jack on Knowle 772796   |
| Sat   | Sep 7th   | Local Walk (John Jarman) 2.30 p.m.<br>For details phone John on Knowle 774528   |
| Thurs | Sep 26th  | General Meeting: Talk "Warwickshire Village Names"<br>by Dr. Margaret Gelling   |
| Tues  | Oct 1st   | Theatre Party: "Salad Days"   |
| Mon   | Oct 21st  | General Meeting: Forum on Local Amenities   |
| Mon   | Nov 4th   | Afternoon General Meeting at 2.00 p.m. in the WI Hall<br>Talk "Unusual Bygones" by Alan Morrison (our former<br>Councillor) |

### Litter

The Council have recently been making a splendid effort to clean up everywhere with remarkable results. We have written to congratulate them. It would be a great help if we all pick up litter when we are walking. I certainly do.

But there continues to be a mindless minority who persistently offend, usually leaving 'take-away' cartons and cigarette packs along the principle roads every night. This element are particularly noisy and troublesome in the precinct in the vicinity of the Wine Bar.

To end on a more positive note it is a pleasure to comment on the Embassy retirement homes on Station Road. These have turned out to be reasonably attractive and the treatment of the trees, especially the cedar of Lebanon at the rear, has been very sensitive. It is so seldom that one can speak favourably of modern developments.

DR. R. J. BOWER  
Knowle 772648

### PLANNING

At 1690 High Street, Knowle, previously a Congregational Chapel, now a gown shop, there was a request for a change of use to a restaurant. The local authority considered that the development would be likely to injure the amenities of the occupants of the Berrow Homes opposite with additional noise and general disturbance during unsocial hours. Furthermore, there are no parking facilities available for customers. The application was refused.

An outline application for an indoor riding school at Norton Green Lane was refused. The applicants proposed to use the premises for horse breeding and training of up to fourteen horses, together with shelter and feed storage for cattle. The Equestrian Centre building would cover 18,000 square feet and be very dominant. We opposed this application which would be situated close to existing houses, and the application was refused.

Red Lion sign. We have opposed this application for a square sign which it is proposed should be suspended from the beautiful old wrought iron filligree bracket which was originally on The White Swan. We consider that to complement the oval bracket the sign for the Red Lion should be oval with a painted red lion, not a plastic one, and without the lettering Ansell's attached.

The judging of the Civic Trust Awards for Solihull and Coventry took place on 22nd May. As lay advisor for Solihull and Coventry I accompanied the Inspector, Mr. Rutherford, together with Mr. David Tapsell, one of the Solihull Borough Council's planning officers. Entries from the Solihull Local Authority were:- Olton Library; The Elizabethan Knot Garden Knowle; Timber framing at The George Hotel Solihull; multi-storey car park Solihull; National Home Loans Building Homer Road Solihull.

MYFFY PARSONS  
Knowle 772967

### MEMBERSHIP

This has been a quiet quarter with regard to membership. Our total now stands at about 1355. I would still like to hear from anyone who is prepared to help with a recruitment drive to swell our numbers still further.

At the moment we have no one on the reserve list of Newsletter distributors. It is always reassuring to have one or two reserves just in case someone drops out at short notice. Please let me know if you feel you could help in this way.

Since the publication of the last Newsletter we are pleased to welcome the following 15 new members to the Society and shall look forward to meeting them at some of our meetings:

Mr. and Mrs. C. Bignall  
Mr. W. A. Birch  
Mrs. M. G. Braddell  
Mr. and Mrs. P. Dowding  
Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Millatt  
Mr. G. Nall  
Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Russell  
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. White

MICHAEL EVANS  
Knowle 774203

#### LOCAL HISTORY

Since the last Newsletter the Sub-Committee has continued to work on the new trail, which we hope will be completed soon. The delay has been caused by the fact that this is now a much bigger document than was originally intended. At the same time research has continued for the farms exhibition - due in November. We are still looking for photographs - if anyone can help please contact Dr. Bower or myself.

As some of you will have seen, the display in the library has been changed. The current feature, entitled '400 Years of Bowling' relates the history of bowling in Knowle from the early 17th Century onwards. It was first on show at the Conservation Fair last March and will remain at Chester House until the autumn.

In early May the Society took part in Solihull Festival of the Community. We provided a small exhibition, covering all aspects of the Society's work, which was on display in Solihull Central Library for several days.

ELAINE WARNER  
Knowle 775887

#### NATURE CONSERVATION

Knowle Society has had a successful stand at the popular Solihull Conservation Fair ever since the first Fair in 1978, and this year was no exception. The main theme of our display was 'The Trees of Knowle'. The 25" 1st Edition OS Map of 1884 shows all the substantial trees then growing in the hedgerows and the open fields of Knowle, and we were able to link many of these trees to photographs of trees that still stand in what is now urban Knowle. This proved of great interest to members of the public who could pinpoint their own old trees on the 1884 map. Also on display was the history of the Red Lion Bowling Green at Knowle which is threatened with closure by Ansells Brewery. The 'Trees of Knowle' display is currently on view in Solihull Library at the top of the stairs.

Knowle Nature Reserve's 20th birthday was celebrated with an Open Day on Sunday 12th May. It was advertised as a picnic lunch event in the hope of attracting families with children to the Reserve, but only two families actually picnicked with us! However, visitors arrived throughout a perfect day to see the marsh marigolds and the woodland spring flowers. We sold over 100 wildflower plants and herbs, and have nearly 50 sponsors for our Forest of Arden acorns which are now healthy seedlings in the Jobs Close allotment we share with WARNACT. We hope to liaise with Solihull Council on a suitable site in their proposed fringe woodland where the oaks can be planted, each bearing the name of its donor. We are using the allotment as a nursery for trees other than oaks, and already have goat willow, crab, hazel and guelder rose cuttings from the Reserve, and cuttings also from the giant black Italian poplars in the park. The allotment houses our wildflower and herb collection - for sale at discount prices from Stella, 774528!

Although the proposed Chadwick Manor golf course is outside the Knowle boundary, many Knowle people walk the lovely ancient 'green lane' between the Dial House and Park Corner. This lane will be at the heart of the new course, and we have asked Solihull Council for a complete environmental assessment over the whole course to ensure a layout that will cause the least damage to the natural habitat.

Finally, we are very pleased that the brothers Adrian and Nick Smith of Widney Road, and Tony and Shirley Rowe of Hillmorton Road, will be joining the Sub-Committee. Adrian has offered to warden the Reserve, and his possession of a pickup truck will be enormously useful!

STELLA JARMAN  
Knowle 774528

#### AMENITIES

The parking restrictions in the Tesco car park seem to be having the desired effect and certainly it is now much easier for shoppers to find a space there during the day. As was expected, the result has been to spread the problem to adjacent residential roads and complaints have been made to the Council by residents of Jobs Close and of Milverton Road, whose frontages are increasingly being used for all-day parking. The same thing has been happening around Solihull town centre and the Council has decided to impose waiting (i.e. parking) restrictions on a large number of roads round the town centre. The option they have chosen is to ban parking between 9.00-11.00 a.m. and between 2.00-3.00 p.m. They now propose to apply similar restrictions in Milverton Road and an adjacent stretch of the Warwick Road.

Our principal plea in all this has been that the parking problem in Knowle should be considered as a whole, and that the only real solution is to make more car parks available. They do seem to have got this message, and the extension of the Village Hall car park is included in the capital allocation for the current year (1991-92). The existing park behind the hall will be extended along the side of the hall (i.e. the space between the hall and the service road behind the High Street shops).

Ted Walden has now been officially appointed as Knowle Society delegate on the Airport Consultative Committee. Balsall Common and Hampton-in-Arden Parish Councils already have their representatives. Now Knowle, too, will have a representative and we look forward to being better informed regarding flight paths and noise regulations.

PETER MORTON  
Knowle 778688

#### MEETINGS AND SOCIAL

##### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 26th September 1991 - General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall  
Dr. Margaret Gelling, ex Lecturer at Birmingham University, will talk on "Warwickshire Place Names". Dr. Gelling is an authority on her subject, and we can look forward to an interesting talk which should show many insights into past local history.

Monday 21st October 1991 - General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall  
Forum on Local Amenities. By means of questions from the floor to a small panel, on which our Amenities Chairman will be joined (hopefully) by a local Councillor and a senior Council official, we intend to examine the extent and efficiency of our local amenities, with possible areas of improvement and enlargement. A lively evening is assured.

Tuesday 1st October 1991 - Theatre Party to Solihull Library Theatre  
Knowle Operatic Society's autumn production of "Salad Days" starts at 7.30 p.m. by which time everyone should be seated. Tickets are £5.50 each from Mrs. Griffiths using the attached form. This includes coffee in the Exhibition Hall (thus avoiding queues). Early application please.

ESCA ALLDAY  
Knowle 776062

To: Mrs. I. Griffiths, 59 Crabmill Close, Knowle (Tel: Knowle 773902)

THEATRE PARTY - "SALAD DAYS" - TUESDAY OCTOBER 1st 1991

Please reserve me ..... tickets at £5.50 each

I enclose cash/cheque (payable to Knowle Society) for .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

TEL NO .....

I/We would like a lift from the Village Hall  
the Guild House

I/We can offer a lift from the Village Hall or the Guild House

(We will let you know if we need to take this offer up)

No cancellations after 17th September 1991.