

KNOWLE SOCIETY

Established to maintain the
character of the village

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 1966

THE PAST:

Our efforts to preserve the two cottages in the High Street, which formed part of the site of the proposed new shopping precinct, have proved unsuccessful. None the less we have made our existence felt and have had some effect on the overall design of the High Street frontage of the building, and in ensuring that the scale, detailing and materials used in the building are adequate in their position.

The Committee's thanks to all members and friends who have helped us in our efforts in the past year.

THE PRESENT:

We have approached the developers of the Greswolde Caravan Site and made known the Society's views on certain aspects of their proposals. The developers have instructed their architects to examine their proposals to see whether or not our proposals can be incorporated.

The Borough Surveyor's Policy Document for Redevelopment in the High Street has been published and is generally gratifying to the Society. Details in this document which cause concern have been taken up with him, and he will no doubt refer to these when he talks to the Society in January, see below.

THE FUTURE:

~~Jan. 30th.~~ Mr. T.R. Richardson, M.I.C.E., A.M.T.P.I. The Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Town Planning Officer, will speak to the Society about his Policy Document referred to above. The meeting will be in the Guild House on Monday, 6th ~~March~~ ^{Feb}, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Richardson never fails to deal promptly and courteously with the not inconsiderable correspondence and representation he receives from the Society, and since his talk will deal with one of the matters which is most basic in the Society's existence, THE COMMITTEE IS MOST ANXIOUS THAT THIS MEETING BE WELL SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

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Jan. 19th Inaugural meeting of the West Midlands Group of the Victorian Society, at the Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, at 7 o'clock p.m. The Lord Mayor will preside and Dr. Nicholas Pevsner, C.B.E. will be amongst the distinguished speakers.

A feast of erudition and nostalgia !

March 6th Lecture on Town Planning by Mr. Tweddell, the Consultant Architect to the Borough of Solihull, at Hobs Mead Assembly Rooms. Tickets 10/- each, including supper, to be obtained from Mr. John Morris, 36 Brueton Avenue, Solihull, or Mr. R.F. Caulfield, 130 Lichfield Street, Walsall, Staffs.

Mr. Tweddell is the co-author of the Policy document referred to above: knowledge of the problems and aims of our planners is essential to the General public - that's us! - if we are to be effective as an amenity Society.

May 13th Aston Hall by candlelight, with sherry and buffet thrown in - all for 15 bob. If Aston to you means the Villa, or the new University or rows of tunnel-back houses or Ansell's Brewery, the half of it has not been told you. Aston Hall is every bit as worth seeing as Charlecote or Ragley Hall. Further details in the next Newsletter, BUT RESERVE THE DATE NOW.

June 10th. Vist to Oversley Wood, with supper somewhere or other afterwards. More details later.

PLEASE SUPPORT US IN THESE ACTIVITIES
WHICH HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR YOUR
ENJOYMENT.

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NEWSLETTER: Feb. 1966.

Next Meeting:

1. Mr. Ian Abbott of the Civic Trust will give an illustrated talk on "This England" at 7.45 p.m. on Monday, 28th February, in the Knowle Village Hall.
This is a joint meeting with the Solihull Civic Society.

Proposed Changes Due to Redevelopment In Knowle:

2. Since the last Newsletter, Society Representatives have had a long discussion with the Borough Surveyor, Mr. T.R. Richardson M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I. The Precinct Scheme, originally suggested by the Society three years ago, is in the process of negotiation and consists of a traffic free shopping centre leading from Batemans' Yard through to the Car Park by the Post Office. The High Street Frontage should be retained, and we are strongly urging that ALL the cottages opposite the Greswolde Hotel should be retained (and of course, restored or converted). We urge members to be vocal in their support in this particular matter, which is not yet settled. Our object in suggesting the precinct was to give owners and developers scope for successful operations in the rear part of the site, whilst retaining the frontages intact.
3. The Society is now taking an active interest in the area behind the Guild House and old Scout Hut, which stretches down to the new school. We wish this to be developed pleasantly and not merely to consist of back yards and a Car Park.

Knowle Festival: June 4th - 11th:

4. Our part in this will be an historical exhibition and the organisation of an Open Day, when buildings of interest in the Village are open to the public.
Will anyone who can offer pictures, maps and other items of interest please inform the Secretary, Mr. J.M.Phillips, 17, Kenilworth Road, (phone KNO.4758).

Subscriptions:

Some members are still in arrears. 5/- or £1. 1. Od. should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. Gaukroger, 148 Station Road, Knowle.

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NEWSLETTER, APRIL, 1966

Dinner-Dance

This is arranged by the Solihull Civic Society, to be held on Friday 15th April in the Charter Hall, Solihull Civic Hall, at which there will be a speaker from the Birmingham School of Architecture.

This event helps to publicise the work of the Borough's Amenity Societies and is worthy of our support.

We will be arranging a Knowle Society Table. Tickets, costing £2. each can be obtained from Dr.R.J.Bowen (Knowle 2648).

Knowle Festival

The Society is arranging an Exhibition in the Guild House on Saturday 4th June. We would welcome any loans of pictures, maps or byegones of old Knowle. The Exhibition will not be left unattended at any time, and will be insured.

Please let Mr.Jarman, of 229 Station Road (Knowle 4528) know if you can lend anything.

The Exhibition will run concurrently with a Flower and Music Festival in the Church.

Knowle Village

The Society continues to put forward its members' views on the future of the Village in the appropriate quarter. The loss of Silhill Hall should alert us to the danger of future losses.

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NEWSLETTER, JUNE 1966.

VISIT TO RAGLEY HALL:

This has been arranged to take place on Saturday, 9th July next, at 6.30 p.m. We understand that we shall be shown round by the Marquis of Hertford.

After seeing the building we shall have a buffet supper in the Tea Room at Ragley Hall.

Ragley Hall has belonged to the family of the present Marquis of Hertford since it was built in 1680, and is a fine example of 17th. CENTURY ENGLISH CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE, with many rooms which are both splendid in themselves, and which contain MANY FINE PICTURES, LOVELY FURNITURE, china and all the paraphernalia of a great country house.

CEILINGS By GIBBS.

CARVINGS By GIBBONS.

PAINTINGS By LELEY, REYNOLDS, ROMNEY,
MILLAIS (to name only a few).

FURNITURE By CHIPPENDALE.

CHINA From SEVRES and DRESDEN.

All this, in magnificent surroundings designed by ARCHITECT & SCIENTIST, ROBERT HOOKE, and set in PARKLAND largely the work of CAPABILITY BROWN, must surely tempt even the most ardent protagonist of the 20th. Century for one evening.

Those members who joined to visit Charlecote Park last summer, will remember what an enjoyable time we had - this year's visit promises to be equally memorable.

continued

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The evening will cost 15/- per head, including supper. Members will make their own way to Ragley Hall. Anyone needing transport - or anyone willing to offer a lift in their car - please let the Secretary know.

If you would like to visit Ragley Hall with the Society, and we do hope you will, please write by the end of this month so that catering arrangements can be finalised, enclosing 15/- for each person, (payable to the Knowle Society), to the Secretary:-

Mr. J. M. Phillips,
17 Kenilworth Road,
Knowle,
Warwickshire.

NOTE: In deference to human nature, reservations can only be made on RECEIPT of payment.

THIS INVITATION IS OPEN TO MEMBERS
AND THEIR FRIENDS.