



Spring 2002



Chairman's Report

As the Winter recedes it looks as if the omens are good for Knowle celebrations of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, and Saturday June 1st should be in your diaries for the festivities, details of which will be published about the village in due course.

Also we are looking forward to celebrating the Society's 40th Anniversary on October 11th and again details will be forthcoming as arrangements firm up.

Ken Richards, Chairman Planning Sub-Committee continues to work hard over the UDP and we have all been pleased to hear from him that the impact on Knowle is not anything for us to be concerned about. This Sub-Committee has had a busy time since Christmas responding to Government Green Papers on Planning issues, as well as the normal run of planning applications, attention

to which is such a key activity.

We are pleased that the Society's Millennium sign on the green by the Church appears to have settled in as part of the scene, and, so far, it has been spared any damage and has been treated with respect.

Everyone is looking forward to the Knowle 'flower mound' that Stella Jarman's Nature Conservation Sub-Committee has successfully had approved to be sited on the verge near the Wyndley Garden Centre.

The new car park extension adjacent to the Village Hall has been completed. It seems to be helping to cope with the surges in shopper's car parking at popular times.

Another development to be anticipated is the creation of the Society's Web Site on the internet. We are lucky that David Bower volunteered to do

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Dates for your Calendar



Monday 15th April	General Meeting: Talk 'British Castles' an illustrated talk by Mr Peter Gale. 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall .
Wednesday April 24th	Local Walk: Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the Guild House.
Sunday 19th May	Wild Flower Walk : Meet at 2.30 p.m. at the Guild House.
Monday 17th June	General Meeting: Talk 'Severn Trent—it's not just water' a illustrated talk by a representative from Severn Trent Water. 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.
Wednesday 26th June	Local Walk: Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the Guild House.
Sunday 14th July	Butterfly Walk: Meet at 2.30 p.m. at the Guild House.
Monday 15th July	General Meeting: Talk 'Going, Going, Gone' a talk by Mr. Mark Hannam, a valuer from Bonhams. (Formerly Phillips.) 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.
Monday September 16th	General Meeting: Talk 'The Bull Ring Development.' an illustrated talk by Mr. Simon Wallis. 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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the design work, and the Sub-Committees are submitting content. All being well we plan to describe this web site in the Summer Newsletter, and we are hopeful that when it is up and running it will help to publicise the objectives and activities of the Society to a wide audience, as more and more people use the internet.

I am very pleased to note the continuing high level of support members are giving to our General

Meeting 'talks'. I am sure that it is a welcome reward for the hard work put in on your behalf by Sandra Lea and her Meetings & Social Sub-Committee. I hope that all of you who like walking will enjoy the walks programme when it starts in May under the direction of Leighton Jones.

Peter Ellis.
Knowle 775261.

Amenities Sub-committee Report

Rest assured that the two road safety schemes that I have referred to previously in:

(i) Lady Byron Lane / Longdon Road / Lodge Road, and (ii) Kenilworth Road / Wilsons Road / Station Road at the junction of Warwick Road, will proceed to consultation in 2002 /2003. The delay with the first scheme has been that the street lighting is of insufficient standard in Lady Byron Lane. Expect the scheme to make provision for a cycleway, as well



as traffic calming, within the consultation documents. The plans are eagerly anticipated by the residents of Lodge Road, who have been pressing the Council to calm the traffic flow along their road. In connection with the second scheme any plans may well remove the existing bus stop at the top of Station Road to a safer place. With the integration of transport systems being more important, it may well mean that the bus terminus will be moved to Dorridge, and only request stops will be available in each direction at the top of Station Road, but further away from this very busy junction.

By the time that you read this report it is hoped that consultation with the local residents, as well as regular park users, has been carried out in connection with the initial plans for Jobs Close Park, also known as Knowle Park. Your Society is busy at the moment ensuring that the Park is a benefit for ALL its users, and not just a voluble minority on the Park Action Group, who are not all residents of Knowle.

The finger post at the junction of Lodge Road with the Warwick Road is being re-conditioned, and the missing arm showing Hampton being replaced. In the past the missing parts have been recovered from someone's garden, but not unfortunately on the last occasion at the end of 2001.



Aircraft

Terry Downey, one of our representatives on the Airport Consultative Committee reports as follows on discussions at a recent meeting:-

Good progress is being made on the new access roads from the A45 with the new slip road for eastbound traffic out of Birmingham on the A45 heading to the Clock Junction and the Airport now substantially complete and programmed to be brought into use in early February. The project is due to be completed ahead of programme in April 2002.

Annual Complaints 2000 – 2001. A similar number of people contacted the Airport, however it is advised that 2 people contributed 20% of the complaints received in 2001.

A complaint had been received regarding aircraft flying off-track. The Airport assured the meeting that there had been no changes to routes., and confirmed a tolerance of 1.5 Km either side of the centre line making a 3 Km wide corridor, within which aircraft are on track up to an altitude of 3,000 feet.

The Airport was aware of a report stating other airports and the regions had benefited greatly from low cost operators. With the exception of Ryanair, Birmingham Airport had no low cost carriers. The Chairman advised that the Airport Board was reviewing the situation with regard to this issue and would come to an early decision.

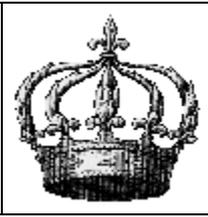


Jubilee Celebrations

In order to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of H.M.The Queen, a celebration will be held in the High Street on Saturday 1st June. The stallholders will be the various organisations around the village, and street entertainment will be about the shopping areas, including Morris Dancers etc. It is hoped that everyone will join in, to mark a special occasion not previously seen by any occupants of the village. The thanks of the Co-ordinating Group go to the Council members and officers, and the West Midlands Police, for their assistance in making the event possible.

Gary Masters
Knowle 779955
<gary_masters@lineone.net>

Local History Sub-committee Report



Preparations are now well in hand for the Golden Jubilee Exhibition in June, in which the Society's activities over the last forty years will feature prominently. Looking back to the early 1960s, one recalls a very

different village: the loss of Dell Farm and a number of perfectly sound timber-framed buildings was tragic; conservation was unfashionable and the Society had little success. Today the mood has swung, and with it the Society's fortunes. Looking through our records, the transition from the post war feeling of 'Out With The Old, In With The New' is clearly traceable.

The remainder of the exhibition will be devoted to celebrations of national and local events in the village, but will start with a small display on Knowle's royal connections. A number of trips to the County Record Office have revealed indications of early celebrations in the churchwardens' accounts: the bells were regularly rung on November 5th and the ringers were provided with gunpowder. Payments for new sets of bell ropes feature frequently. The Village celebrated Queen



Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 in time honoured way. Four coronations, two silver jubilees and peace

celebrations after two world wars followed, plus carnivals, etc. at a local level.

The first of two special sections will outline the history of two shops which have closed in the last year: Soden's and Maddocks. We are grateful to Mr. David Lewis for allowing us to look at the deeds of Soden's and to Mr. David Maddocks for an excellent oral history tape.

The second special section is an appeal for help. We have acquired copies of a number of photographs from the estate of the late Miss Rosie Hinks. Most of them are quite delightful portraits, some of which appear to date from the early 20th century. They are presumably of members of the Hinks or Willcox families (from which Rosie and Gertie were descended). The Curtis family have managed to identify a few of them, but we have no

idea who the remainder are. Please help if you can - there will be provision to fill in the names.

Other attractions will include the enclosure map (always of interest), oral history tapes (ditto), the scrap books (especially popular, so we have allocated an extra table) and two competitions with small prizes.

The exhibition will be in the Guild House, by kind permission of Knowle Parish Church. Opening times are as follows (but watch for the posters in case of last minute changes):



Saturday June 1st 10.30am - 5.00pm
 Sunday June 2nd 2.30am - 5.00pm
 Monday June 3rd 10.30am - 5.00pm

After the Jubilee weekend the Knowle Society section of the exhibition and part of the Knowle



Celebrations section will be moved to Chester House, where it will be on show from Thursday June 6th to Monday July 15th during normal

library hours.

In the meantime cataloguing and indexing has continued (but will now stop for a while whilst we prepare the exhibition). In particular, a collection of items formerly belonging to Eva Wootton has been listed and indexed. It includes Eva's diaries, lecture notes and most particularly several scrap books. These will be on display at the exhibition.

Do come and see us in June.

Elaine S. Warner
 Knowle 775887

Planning Sub-committee Report

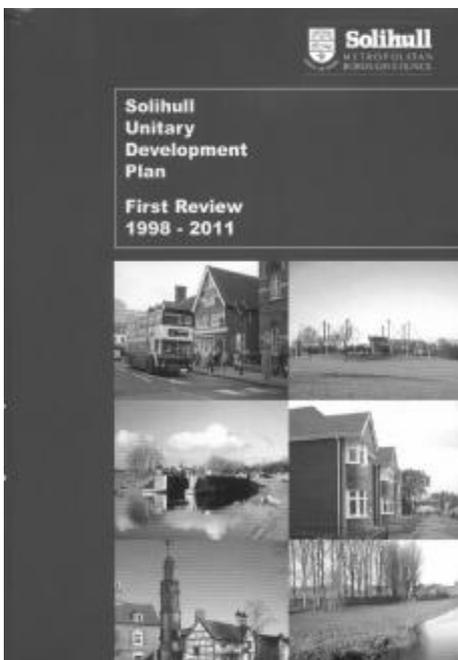
We are reviewing an application for the conversion of an outbuilding to make 10 new dwellings and the erection of 12 garages at the Grimshaw Hall estate.

Vodafone have applied to erect a base station with a 24-metre lattice mast at the cricket club along Hampton Road. This will replace an existing mast, and whilst it will be somewhat higher it will also carry the Orange antennae.

The Secretary of State has called in plans to erect a total of 20 dwellings at Lidgate's Hall Farm on the Kenilworth Road and the public enquiry commenced on 26th February.

There is also an appeal to be heard on 5th March against the refusal of permission to demolish the house at 348 Station Road and erect 5 apartments.

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Solihull Council has now issued its First Review of the UDP, covering the period up to 2011. You can see a copy of the full report in Knowle Library, where you can also obtain a free summary leaflet. Any comments have to be made before

the end of March and we are at present preparing responses on behalf of Knowle Society.



The plan deals primarily with land use and of course one of the major issues concerns housing. Solihull has to provide 6000 new dwellings by 2011, but many of these are already built or in the pipeline. The council has then identified

a number of urban sites for housing and these, together with a few Greenfield sites and expected windfalls, should meet the target. There are no major developments in Knowle, (although we must expect more applications for apartments). Two existing long term sites will be retained at Hampton Road (by the sports ground) and at Grove Road (the Middlefield extension), but no development will take place before 2011.

The plan retains the line of the bypass/relief road around Knowle, but without giving any indication whether it will ever be developed!

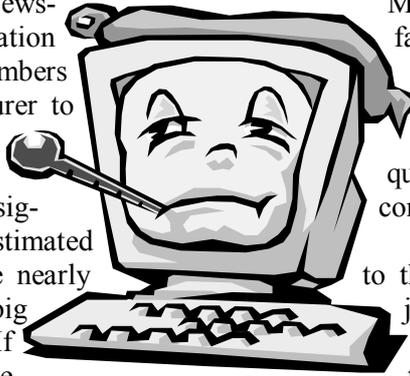
The main shopping areas are identified as Solihull town centre, Shirley and Chelmsley Wood, but the plan also recognises the importance of maintaining local shopping areas. Likewise, the main sports facilities are identified as Tudor Grange and North Solihull, but there is no provision for the smaller villages.

There is much more in the plan—why not go to the Library and see for yourself?

Ken Richards
Knowle 777436

Membership Secretary's Report

I make no apologies for once again publishing the Gift Aid consent form on page 7 of this Newsletter. Over the past year, since publication of the form for the first time, 290 Members have signed thus enabling our Treasurer to claim back money from the Taxman. The number of signatories covers some 495 households (assuming one signature per household) out of an estimated maximum of 1030. We are therefore nearly half way there and I would say a very big thank you to those who have helped. If you can't remember whether you have already signed the form - don't worry! - just fill out the form anyway and I will sort it out from my records. Please do fill in the form and let me have it back - I



would rather have duplications than no form at all!

Membership since this time last year has fallen slightly to a total of 1676, a loss of 13. Not an unusually large number for this time of year, and I feel certain that we shall regain the losses very quickly as the weather and longer days come along.

As always we extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the last newsletter was published, and hope that we shall have the pleasure of their company at some of our forthcoming functions.

Mr & Mrs G Allan

Mr R Almond

Mr & Mrs Chamberlain

Mr & Mrs K Dayman

Ms G Hanton

Mr & Mrs Kelly

Mr & Mrs C T D Mosedale

Mr S W Mottram

Mr & Mrs A Riley

Mrs S Williams

Mr & Mrs P J Wells

John F Chaloner
Knowle 778705

Meetings and Social Sub-committee Report

I am now in a position to give you some information about our forthcoming 40th Anniversary celebrations. The celebrations will take place at Knowle British Legion on Friday October 11th 2002. It will take the form of a cold buffet meal and entertainment.

Any one who feels they are unable to get there without some help should not worry. When I am able to finalise arrangements I will give you details of who to contact if this is the case.

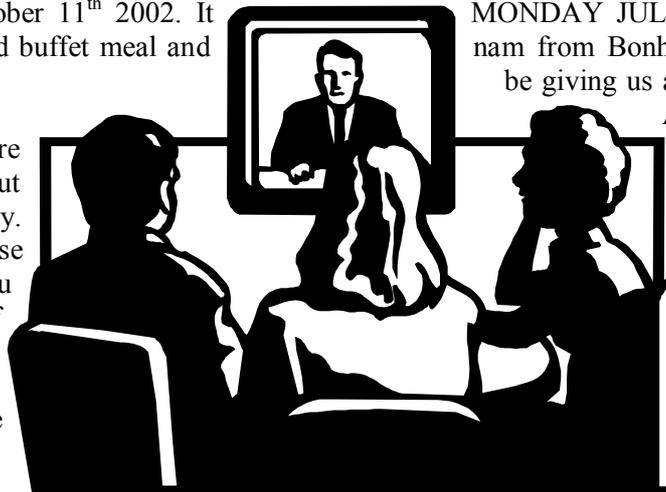
Our forthcoming talks are as follows:-

MONDAY APRIL 15th 2002: A member of Knowle Society, Mr Peter Gale will give us an illustrated talk on British Castles.

MONDAY JUNE 17th 2002: A representative from Severn Trent Water. Although the talk will include information about water conservation, it will also inform us about the listed buildings which Severn Trent look

after, e.g. Pumping Stations. It will also include something about industrial archaeology.

MONDAY JULY 15th 2002: Mr Mark Hannam from Bonhams (formerly Phillips), will be giving us an insight into the work of an Auctioneer and Valuer. If you have some **SMALL** item that you think may be of interest, please give me call, as Mr Hannam is prepared to look at a few pieces during the evening. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANYTHING UNLESS IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED WITH ME.**



Lastly, our meetings have been very well attended of late. It is good to see so many of you. I look forward to it remaining so.

Sandra Lea
Knowle 776850

Nature Conservation Sub-committee Report

Stella Jarman
Knowle 774528

Dear Member

Gift Aid

You have been made very aware over the last year by way of the Newsletter of the changes affecting 'Gift Aid' – the way that charities can benefit from Income Tax that you have already paid. Basically two years ago the system was changed so that the old 'Deed of Covenant' has been replaced by a new version of Gift Aid. This is good news for The Knowle Society as the new system is easier to operate and allows us to claim back money on all subscriptions and donations. This form was circulated to all members on a number of occasions last year and to date the Society has received 290 completed forms. (Getting on for half of the estimated maximum)

We are putting the form into the Newsletter, once again, to give you a further opportunity for your subscription or donations to be made through the Gift Aid process. If you pay income tax simply complete the declaration form below and return it to our Membership Secretary, - John Chaloner, 31 Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull. B93 0JB or to your Newsletter Distributor.

You will have read in the quarterly newsletters some of the positive things which the Society is doing with the aid of your subscriptions. All this activity means that we need your support more than ever, and by returning the Gift Aid form you will help to make an even greater difference – at no cost to yourself.

Please do take a moment to fill in the form, and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely
Peter Ellis (Chairman)



Cut Here.....

The Knowle Society Gift Aid Declaration

Surname..... Forenames.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

I want The Knowle Society (Registered Charity No 238524) to treat as Gift Aid all donations and subscriptions I have made since 1st October 2000 and all donations and subscriptions I make in the future, until I notify you otherwise. I must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

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

Please return this form, when completed to the Membership Secretary, Mr J F Chaloner, 31 Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull. B93 0JB or to your Newsletter Distributor

