

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

Volume 40 Number 3



## Summer 2002-Jubilee Edition



### Chairman's Report

I want to say, without reservation, that I thought Knowle's celebrations in the High Street on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> were a triumph. The public turned out in force in superb weather, families with children particularly able to relax safely in the traffic-free street, enjoying the fun and vitality of the wide variety of stalls and displays.

The Society, prompted by Elaine Warner, was instrumental in launching village discussions about the form of the occasion, and we made a modest financial contribution. A Jubilee Co-ordinating Committee was formed, on which Gary Masters represented us. Their faith and dedicated hard work was amply rewarded. I must mention Tony Moon, Graeme Spencer, Phill Rhodes, Linda and John Berry for their outstanding work.

The Society's activities on the day were prepared, organised and managed by two Sub-Committees. Meetings & Social were responsible for the gazebo on the small green before the Guild House which was a great success (see John Chaloner's Membership Report), and Local History mounted a fine exhibition. The two Chairmen, Sandra Lea

& Elaine Warner, with their members, are to be congratulated.

All in all a most memorable day, that played its role and made its contribution to the national celebrations.

**KNOWLE SOCIETY GETS ON THE WEB !**  
Yes ! Your Society has plunged into cyberspace ! I shouldn't get over hyped, should I, but we are pleased to tell you that the Society launched its own web site on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2002. The design and launch of the site, as described and illustrated elsewhere in this newsletter, is the work of Society member David Bower to whom we owe very many thanks for his expertise and hard work, all given free to the Society, and without which we would have incurred much expense.

For those with access to the internet, the address is : [www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk) Do please log on if you can, look it over, see the Jubilee page, and e-mail any comments or suggestions to our Web Administrator whose e-mail address is given on the site. We are keen to make the site interesting

*Continued on page 2*



### Dates for your Calendar



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 16th September	General Meeting: Talk 'The Bull Ring Development' an illustrated talk by Mr Simon Wallis. 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall
Sunday 29th September	Walk from Temple Balsall. Meet at 2.00pm at Temple Balsall.
Monday 21st October	General Meeting: Talk 'Lapworth to 19th Century' a talk by Mrs Joy Woodall. 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

(Continued from page 1)

and useful to you. We hope also that it may attract new members to the Society who surf the web and may prefer to keep abreast of our activities that way. We are aware that we must update the site fairly frequently to keep it relevant and contemporary, so I repeat, if you have sugges-

tions and ideas please let us have them.

Don't forget the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Royal British Legion on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2002 !

Peter Ellis.

Knowle 775261.

## BOB GAUKROGER

We were all saddened by the sudden death of Bob Gaukroger over the Golden Jubilee weekend. Although he had been unwell for a few days we expected him to bounce back, as on previous occasions. Bob had served the Society almost since its beginning. An accountant by profession, he did a long spell as treasurer between 1963 and 1973. Since 1989 he had been a most conscientious member of the Local History Sub-committee, always taking on his share of the jobs. He also supported the Nature Conservation Sub-committee and regularly went on the local walks. Equally valuable was his sound advice, always willingly given when asked for.

A few months ago, Bob made an oral history tape for the Society about his recollections of Knowle - there is a charming photograph to go with it. They will help us to remember him.

We all miss Bob, both for his contribution to the Society and as a friend. We shall remember him with great affection, as a real gentleman of great wisdom, who was liked and admired by everyone. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

## Membership Secretary's Report

As the Chairman has said in his report the Jubilee celebrations in the High street were a triumph. My thanks go in particular to Sandra Lea and Garry Masters who masterminded the Membership campaign based in the gazebo which proved to be hugely successful. No fewer than 81 new members joining the Society bringing our total membership to 1752, a net gain of 76 since I reported in the Spring Newsletter.

Gift Aid is still a very high priority and 353 members have now signed Gift Aid forms. Sandra Lea, our Treasurer has asked me to let you know that this has resulted in a rebate payment of £291 from the Taxman for the tax year ending in April

this year. A great result proving just how much the Society can gain from your help. Please keep it up, if you haven't signed up yet or can't remember whether you have or not, don't hesitate to ring me for a form, or why not pick up a copy of the form from the new web site. You will have to send it to me by old fashioned post because of the need of your signature.

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



Mr & Mrs J Hatton	Mr & Mrs Crane	Mr & Mrs J Fearnhead	Mr & Mrs R Crosbee	Mrs J Beach	Mr & Mrs P Rhodes
Mr & Mrs Johnson	Mrs J J Green	Ms M Cottrell	Mrs J F Carter	Ms J S Forrest	Ms M LeResche
Mrs J Watson	Ms C Jaques	Mrs D Jones	Ms N Robbins	Mr & Mrs M Willett	Mr & Mrs A Lyons
Mr & Mrs D Morgan	Mr & Mrs P Calcutt	Mr & Mrs P Pashley	Mr & Mrs P Baker	Mr & Mrs I Moseley	Mr & Mrs J Tarling
Mr & Mrs Peachey	Prof & Mrs Winterbottom	Mr & Mrs P Assinder	Mr & Mrs N Owen	Mr & Mrs W T Haynes	Mr & Mrs Williams
Mr & Mrs G Dean	Mr & Mrs B Hess	Mr & Mrs M Metcalf	Mr & Mrs S B Rogers	Mr & Mrs J Cooper	Mr & Mrs F Mander
Mr & Mrs L A Heizler	Mr & Mrs K H Whitlock	Mr & Mrs B Callow	Mr & Mrs M Searle	Mr & Mrs M Needham	Mr & Mrs F C Slater
Mr & Mrs A Clark	Mr & Mrs M Wyatt	Mr & Mrs J Berry	Mr & Mrs I Bentley	Mr & Mrs M Harbour	Mr & Mrs D Barnfield
		Mr & Mrs R Power	Mr & Mrs Bibb	Mr & Mrs D Evans	Mrs J Warr

John F Chaloner  
Knowle 778705  
[membership@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@knowlesociety.org.uk)

Mr & Mrs M Wright

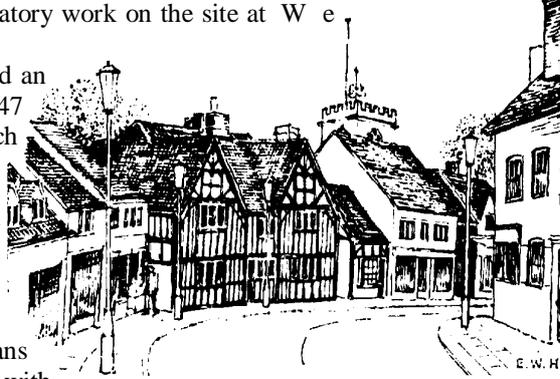
## Planning Sub-committee Report

**A**t the time of writing, we are still awaiting the outcome of the application to convert outbuildings at Grimshaw Hall to provide 10 dwellings along with 12 separate garages. We judged this to be an inappropriate development in the greenbelt and associated with such an important listed building.

Parkridge Homes have begun preparatory work on the site at 1266-1288 Warwick Road.

However, they have now submitted an alternative plan for the erection of 47 apartments, instead of the 38, which are already approved. We have opposed this second plan as being too intensive and we are also not happy with the "modern" look, incorporating shallow pitched stainless steel roofs.

Crosby Homes have submitted plans to redevelop 237-245 Station Road, with the demolition of 237 and 239, but with the retention of 245, the old Coach House. (Nos 241 and 243 do not exist). The plan is to build 8 terraced houses each with 3 bedrooms towards the back of the property, and one coach house with 2



bedrooms. There is some concern about the additional traffic on this very busy road (especially at school time) but at least it represents a change from all the apartments further along the road.

We continue to hear about developers approaching house owners in several areas, especially those with large gardens. We continue to express concern about over intense development, which might change the character of the area, but of course we can only respond to actual planning applications. Knowle is not alone with this problem. Residents in Dorridge are very upset about plans to erect 32 apartments further along Station Road, alongside the Catholic Church.

Ken Richards  
Knowle 777436  
[planning@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@knowlesociety.org.uk)

## Amenities Sub-committee Report

**I**t is pleasing to see that the footpath to the new additional car park by the Village Hall has been completed satisfactorily. Otherwise there has been little activity within, or around, the village over the past three months. Traffic calming detail, the park proposals, and the car park reviews are all still outstanding.

In the meantime it gives me the opportunity to bring to your attention the benefits of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which have been obtained by Paul Blackman. If you are wondering how joining a scheme can help protect you and your property, remember that most crime is committed by opportunists - for example someone noticing a vulnerable house, or unsecured car, and trying their luck. However, when neighbours start looking out for each other they can help prevent crime and even rebuild some of the community spirit which, in many areas, has been lost in recent years. Some guidelines for members of Neighbourhood Watch to follow are shown below. If you are interested in setting up a scheme in your area please call the following number for an introductory pack, or for further information. The Community Safety Bureau on 0121-712-6112.

- Take steps to improve your household security, while at home or absent.
- Receive information, newsletters or other literature from the coordinator or your neighbour and pass these on as required as soon as possible.
- Exchange names and telephone numbers with your neighbours, but remember to respect their confidentiality (ex-directory numbers, etc.).
- Tell your neighbours when you are going away on holiday.
- Look after your neighbours' property when they are

away, even for short periods, to help make homes look "lived in".

- Help the police prevent and detect crime by being observant and reporting anything suspicious.
- Mark all your property, if possible, with your postcode and house number, or house name. Photograph items if necessary.

*It's that simple to be involved, remember it's your community too.*

I am delighted to say how effective the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations were in the High Street, and feel that a very big "Thank You" is to be expressed to the a number of people involved in the event. Residents of Lodge Road, Station Road, and Wilsons Road, along with any other affected road or street, for putting up with the inconvenience of the road diversion. The Coordinating Group gave a terrific amount of time and effort to the smooth running on the day, and had been meeting regularly since last November. The overall control of John Berry, ably supported by his wife Linda as Secretary, and Phil Rhodes, Tony Moon (aka Clown), Graeme Spencer, and Mike Brighton shows that the future of the village is in capable hands especially now that we are able to welcome most of them as members of the Society. The attendance of Mayor Kate Wild, and her Consort Councillor Jim Wild, attended by our own "Town Crier" (Phil Vince), added to the atmosphere, and those of you who were able to attend will surely agree that it was all worth while.

Gary Masters  
Knowle 779955  
[amenities@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:amenities@knowlesociety.org.uk)

## Local History Sub-committee Report

Many thanks to Knowle Parish Church for allowing us to hold our Golden Jubilee Exhibition in the Guild House. After months of preparation, its popularity was heartening. It is now on display at Chester House until July 15th. 'Forty Years of Knowle Society' is in the exhibition gallery. To our amazement we managed to get the whole of 'Knowle Celebrations' in as well -courtesy of two (cold) storage heaters serving as foot rests. If you have not already seen the exhibition, or need more time to take it all in, do visit the library. It was too much to expect to find room for the two small displays on Maddocks and Sodens as well, so these will be put on show later, when some of the present displays have been taken down.

For those who did not see the exhibition in the Guild House, 'Forty Years of Knowle Society' traces the history of the Society from its formation in 1962 until the present day. 'Knowle Celebrations' is devoted to celebrations of national and local events in the village, but starts with small sections on Knowle's royal connections and the bellringers.

As anticipated, very few names were filled in for the unidentified photographs from the late Miss Rosie Hinks (one to be precise), apart from those identified by the Curtis family. We are meeting members of the Willcox family in July to combine information. With a lot of luck, we may be able to identify more of these delightful portraits from named copies held by other members of the family. The enclosure map, the oral history tapes and the scrap books proved popular as usual.

The two competitions both produced very close results. There were only two correct entries for 'How Well Do You

Know Your Village?' .On a toss of a coin the winner was Mrs. Mary Kiernan. Mrs. Ida Bird, a lifelong resident born on 5th December 1914, won the 'How Long Have You Lived Here?' competition. Commiserations to Ron Court, born on 12th December 1914 and pipped to the prize by just one week. Both winners receive an attractive bone china tankard from the range commissioned for the Jubilee by the Royal Collection. The answers to 'How Well Do You Know Your Village?' are shown below.

Any pleasure we feel over the exhibition has been dashed by the sudden death of Bob Gaukroger over the Jubilee weekend, about which you will read elsewhere. Bob had been a stalwart member of the sub-committee since April 1989. At eighty seven he was always willing to do his share of the work: writing exhibition texts, helping with the Junior School Local History Projects, etc. Looking through our large collection of estate brochures, one sees the numbers on the top in his handwriting. Had we allowed him (which we did not), he would willingly have dropped to hands and knees to layout exhibitions or carried heavy display boards about. Only a few days before his death he cast his eye over the Golden Jubilee exhibition, making some significant improvements. On the Saturday afternoon, just before he died, he did his stewarding duty in the Guild House as planned. We shall miss Bob enormously for his contribution, but most of all we shall miss him for himself.

Elaine S. Warner  
Knowle 775887



1 Golden End



2 Kixley Lane Bridge



3 1911 Coronation



4. Wilson



5a. Berrow Homes



5b Men's Institute



5c The Guild House



5d Wilson Arms



6a U/R Church



6b Chester House



6c The Guild House



6d Noor Restaurant



7 Public Toilets



8 Side of Card Shop



9 The White Swan



10. The Hamptons

## Meetings and Social Sub-committee Report

What a superb day we all enjoyed on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Peter Ellis had asked my committee some time ago to organise a membership campaign on that day. It was fun organising this, after Phil Vince, to whom I must give my thanks, had successfully negotiated the purchase of a gazebo. The timing could not have been better for launching the web site. I expect many of you noticed we had the web address everywhere! We worked as a team and together with other members who gave so generously of their

time we enjoyed a splendid and successful day. My thanks to all the people involved.

The fun doesn't stop there however because now we can turn our thoughts to our own 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. As I mentioned in my previous report, this will take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2002, at the Royal British Legion at 7.30pm **prompt**.

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Your application to attend is at the rear of the newsletter. All applications received will be opened at the beginning of September, which I believe is the fairest way as members receive their newsletters at varying times. Places will only be limited by the size of the hall. Entry will be strictly by ticket so please keep them safe. All attendees must be over 18 years of age. The hall will be non-smoking, although a separate area will be made available for anyone wishing to smoke during the course of the evening.

The Royal British Legion will be open as usual for its members, but the front room will be for our exclusive use.

I would like to repeat my comments in the previous newsletter. Anyone who requires help in reaching the venue should telephone me. Please be in touch as early as possible after receiving your tickets so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

It is most important that you do arrive at 7.30 **prompt**. We expect the entertainment to finish at 10.30pm. During this time there will be a cold buffet available, with a separate vegetarian choice on offer. There will be a raffle and a table quiz. Gary Masters and Gwen Masters are heading the organisation of this event. If you have any questions please contact Gary on 779955.

Please support us on what I hope will be a very happy evening.

Our forthcoming talks are as follows:-

**MONDAY JULY 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2002:** The Bull Ring Development, a presentation by Simon Wallace. There has been such upheaval in the area it will be interesting to see the progress being made.

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2002:** Lapworth to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a talk by Joy Woodall. Mrs Woodall is from Yorkshire but came to the Solihull area in 1956. She is the author of many books on local history.

Our meetings continue to be well attended. It is good to see so many of you. Keep it up!!

**Sandra Lea  
Knowle 776850**

## Nature Conservation Sub-committee Report

Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Party Day on Saturday June 1st in Knowle was a stunning success, for which we environmentalists would like to take all the credit for having calmed down our turbulent weather systems to give us just that one day's mini-heat wave!

But seriously, very many congratulations must go to Elaine who had spent so many months researching and collating so much new and fascinating material for the really splendid exhibition her team mounted for us all in the Guild House.

Our own Stand, tucked away in Tesco Precinct, supported three groups: Many thanks to all!

**The Tree Wardens** - who sold lots of nursery seedling native trees from the Council's old tree nursery

**Friends of the Earth 'Real Food locally sourced'** campaign made organic tea & coffee and gave away organic fruit & vegetables generously donated by Hopwood Farm at Catherine de Barnes

**Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** - displayed the latest building works at their new Parkridge Centre in Brueton Park. Activity days there begin on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am until 2.30pm with Weather Games; July 25<sup>th</sup> Pond Dipping; July 26<sup>th</sup> Dinosaurs; July 31<sup>st</sup> Ducks. Did you receive Solihull Council's leaflet about Environment Week? We hope some of you will have been to Environment Day on June 15<sup>th</sup> or to Notcutts Meadow Open weekends, or to Cuttle Brook Wood opposite Springfield School for the Woodland evening walk there on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Recently I found the little Yew and Holly transplanted there from our own garden still alive in their tubes near the main gate - the other 10,666 trees seem to be growing well too! I also noticed **double**-flowered buttercups, perhaps from the meadow mix sown before planting.....

**Wildflower Walk** - May 19<sup>th</sup>. - 15 followed the traditional towpath route despite Sunnymount's summer closure. But 2 of us went on to Heronfield Animal Rescue for tea, and were delighted to meet Iggy the young Iguana from South America whose owner had gone abroad. He wriggled happily on the grass, eating everything in sight. The youngsters thought he was a dinosaur, and either stroked him or retreated! If you call, he is very partial to Chinese leaves.

**Jubilee Mini-Woodland** - Our splendid 15 strong volunteer force turned up to make this March 19<sup>th</sup> event a great success

(even the rain held off). It was masterminded by David Biss, Director Solihull Council Green Scheme, with our own Chairman Peter Ellis planting the first Field Maple. All 50 native shrubs appear to be thriving, unlike our Millennium commemorative trees in the Park itself, of which 12 have suffered vandalism, mowing operations or disease, despite several replacements by the Council. Even my special cloned Elm was mown over after having had its stake pulled out - and the latest casualty is the lovely Walnut from my garden; Ann Peasgood reports its top broken over.

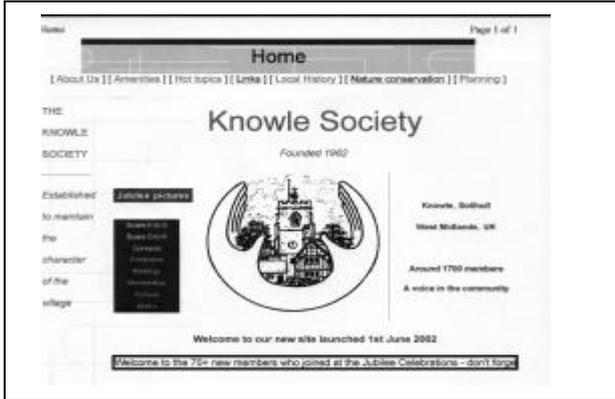
**Jobs Close Pond** - On a happier note, have you noticed the little Moorhen family on the pond? I first saw them when the 4 chicks were almost matchbox size - scudding frantically across to the safety of the overhanging branches and mother hen when I came close to the edge. The 3 Mallard appear to have acquired just 2 wives and were busy upending themselves to feed. Many thanks to Reg Elliott for clearing the litter as far as he could reach with a rake. The car tyre defeated us! But more has blown in with the strong winds. The duckweed is not toxic and helps to keep the water healthy - there is a constant flow in from a pipe at the far end and out again via the culvert. It is opening up to sunlight that causes algae blooms, including the dangerous blue/green algae.

**Tree Wardens** - I am applying for TPOs on a development site and on a very old pear tree where the house is up for sale. Solihull Tree officers have condemned as diseased and unsafe 2 Sycamores in a garden in Kixley Lane. They will be replaced with an Oak.

Sadly now, we recall the sudden death of Bob Gaukroger. He was a very old family friend and a great friend too of everything connected with nature conservation. He was always there to offer his personal help, and he must have spent very many hours over the years on duty at Nature Reserve Open Days, the Conservation Fairs in Solihull, or flag selling for the Wildlife Trust, and he regularly until quite recently joined our wildflower and butterfly walks. He certainly belied his almost 88 years, and we remember him with great affection;

**Stella Jarman ,  
Knowle 774528  
See Page 8 for Pictures**

# OUR NEW WEBSITE



We are pleased to announce the launch of the society's first website, which we hope that you will find helpful and interesting. See it for yourself and please let us have your feedback and suggestions for improvements.

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

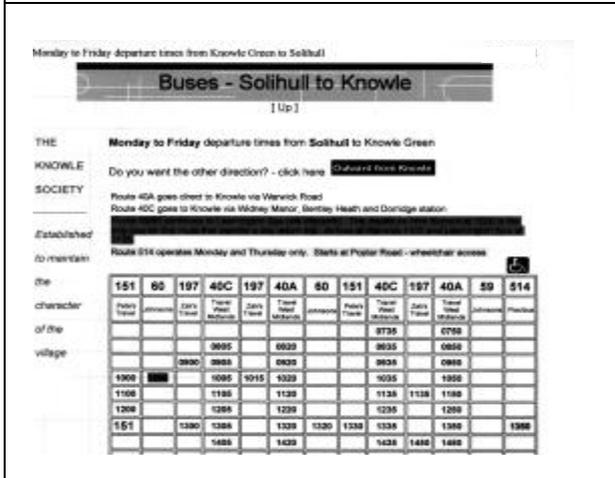
*The 'home' page*



There are pages listing the society's meetings and activities - useful when you've mislaid the programme card!

Each sub-committee has its own pages; you can check the latest planning applications that are of interest to the society, find about forthcoming exhibitions or look up some of the resources that are available from the archives. There are beautiful pictures from the nature reserve and some historic photos of Knowle.

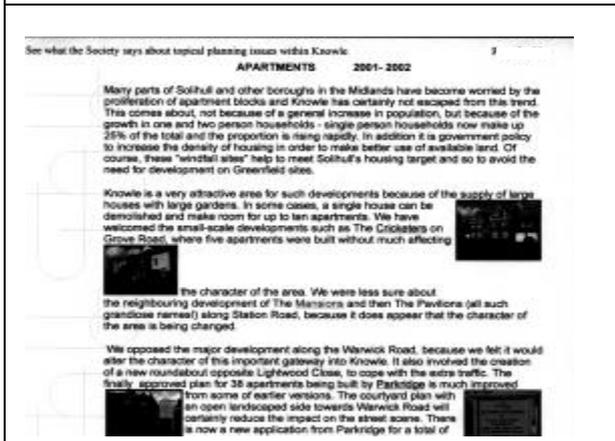
*The Local Walks page*



From time to time the newsletter has published a useful list of all local bus services compiled by Lewis Edwards – now that is available and regularly updated on the website – why not print it out or e-mail the URL to a friend. Perhaps they will be encouraged to join The Knowle Society – there is even an online membership form and a form to enable your subscription to benefit from Gift Aid.

Have you got other ideas that would be useful on the site?

*The Solihull to Knowle full bus timetable page*



Knowle is seeing major residential building developments and these have a crucial impact on the quality of life in the village. The Society has a topical commentary page that explains the approach being taken in discussions with Solihull Council and the developers. See photos of these developments and look out for updates in future months.

The website complements the newsletter and meetings – it is your site about your village and your society.

*The commentary page on new apartments*

**THE KNOWLE SOCIETY  
40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2002**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, WARWICK ROAD,  
KNOWLE**

**AT 7.30 P M PROMPT**

To: Mr. G Masters  
1490 Warwick Road  
Knowle  
Solihull  
B93 9LE  
Tel : 01564 779955

**BOOKING FORM**

**(Please note this function is for over 18's only)**

**(No smoking applies in the room, but is available in the hall)**

**(Maximum of two tickets per application)**

Please indicate number of tickets required in each category

.....@ £8.00 to include a Buffet

.....@ £8.00 to include a Vegetarian Buffet

The price includes a drink on arrival, a buffet meal of your choice and entertainment.

I enclose remittance for £.....

Your Name.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Telephone No.....

**Please return by 31st AUGUST 2002.  
Enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.**



*The Society's Gazebo on Jubilee Day*



*The '3 groups' stand in the precinct (see Nature Conservation Report)*



*The Tree Wardens at the old Council Tree nursery*



*The Wild flower Walkers on Kixley Lane Bridge*



*Iggy at the Heronfield Animal Rescue Centre*