

# The Knowle Society



Volume 42 Number 3

July 2004

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

## From our Chairman

**I**n the last Newsletter there was a brief notice to inform members that the Society had made a donation, from the Eva Wootton Fund to the 1st Knowle Scout Group. Many members knew Eva Wootton, others knew of her but, as the years pass, there are an increasing number who did not. Eva Wootton was a lifelong resident of Knowle, deeply involved in the affairs of the village. Before she died, over twenty years ago, she wrote a History of Knowle and ultimately the proceeds came into the care of the Knowle Society to be used for the benefit of the village. It was appropriate that the Knowle Scout Group should be a beneficiary because Eva Wootton was a scout leader there at one time and memorabilia of her are kept at the

scout HQ.

The 1st Knowle Scouts was formed in 1909 and is the oldest, continuous group in the country. All but Knowle, of the pre-1914 foundations, ceased to meet during the 1st World War, through lack of leaders. The Vicar of Knowle acted as scoutmaster during those years, to keep the group going. Sadly, the young man who originally led the group, died in the war.

The Group thrives today. Over one hundred boys gather regularly in two Beaver groups, two Cub groups and one Scout group. The normal range of scouting activities is pursued and a number of older boys participate in the

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Graham Bryan, the Group Scoutmaster, is supported by assistant leaders and parents. He is always happy to recruit more leaders to provide opportunities for scouting to boys in the village. The Knowle Society was delighted to help the Group buy some much needed equipment to enhance their activities and we wish the Group well as it marches on to its centenary.

Colin Smith - Knowle 772981

*Photograph—next page*

### Events Diary

**Monday 19th July**

8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Sunday 5th September**

2.30pm at the Guild House

**Monday 20th September**

8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Sunday 26th September**

2.00pm at Temple Balsall

**Monday 18th October**

8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Talking Newspapers**

Talk by Don Clark

**Butterfly Walk**

**My year as High Sheriff of the West Midlands**

Talk by Mr Michael Evans

**Walk from Temple Balsall**

Teas may be purchased at Temple Balsall

**Social Evening (concert and refreshments)**

Ticket-only concert with the Blossomfield Singers

From the front page...



*The Chairman, Colin Smith, presenting a cheque for £500 to First Knowle Scouts on 10th March.*

## As You Like It or Much Ado About Nothing?

Literary style in this newsletter may fall marginally short of Shakespearean heights, however comments reaching the Editor on the new format have been few but complimentary. Therefore for the present, we will continue with the style as it is and hope that you find the efforts of our contributors and production team to be worthy of your Society and the place that it holds in our community.

Specific enquiries by the Editor to some retired members about the readability of the typeface, suggested that it is acceptable, though one person and rumour of another person, expressed a wish for something larger and darker. This is obviously an important consideration; so please do not hesitate to let us know if you are struggling.

There is a continuous need for forms to be printed in the newsletter for membership, outings and events but our distributors do not like handling inserts (these additions are often resented too in our free newspapers), so there will usually be pages to be cut out and we will always try to place these back to back with material that you would not be concerned about retaining. From this issue, we will also provide the address on the website to enable you to download the form directly if you do not wish to cut your newsletter. This may seem irrelevant to many of our members but the trend to Internet usage continues inexorably and the Society would be naïve to play at being King Canute; indeed if it does not communicate with younger members and potential members in the media which they use naturally, then they will pass the Society by, to everyone's loss.

Remember that past editions of the newsletter since 2001 are now available on the website [www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk) and photographs often appear in the original full colour that was supplied by the contributors. If you have ideas of material that relates to the aims and activities of the Society that you would like to see in the newsletter, alongside the regular reports from the subcommittees, please let the editor know.

David Bower - Knowle 775790



## B93 Community Awards

Gala Evening and Awards Presentation



Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2004, at Arden School.  
MC—Gary Newbon, I TV's 'Voice of Sport'

Tickets £19.50 each, including dinner and drinks reception  
John Kirtland, 37 Ullenhall Road, Knowle, B93 9JD

Welcome to our new members...

Mr & Mrs Bridge  
Mr & Mrs J Davenport  
Mr & Mrs D Giles  
Mr G Henderson  
Mavis Johnson  
Mr & Mrs P J Lovegrove  
Mr & Mrs I Maclean  
Mr & Mrs C Morrey  
Mr & Mrs D J Parkes  
Mrs D R Powell  
Mr & Mrs C C Robinson  
Mr & Mrs P Royle  
Mr & Mrs B Taylor  
Mr & Mrs M Wright

*Can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Knowle Society? This may be done either by contacting the membership Secretary or through an application form on the website:  
[www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk)*

Derek Mellor  
Knowle 205129

Membership Secretary  
92 Chantry Heath  
Crescent, Knowle,  
B93 9NJ

*membership@  
knowlesociety.org.uk*

In the next issue...

Reports for the  
November 2004 AGM

*Copy deadline:  
1st September*

*Distribution commences:  
1st October*

## PRESERVING THE BEST & BUILDING THE FUTURE



*The Dial House—Heronfield*



*Grimshaw Hall—Knowle*

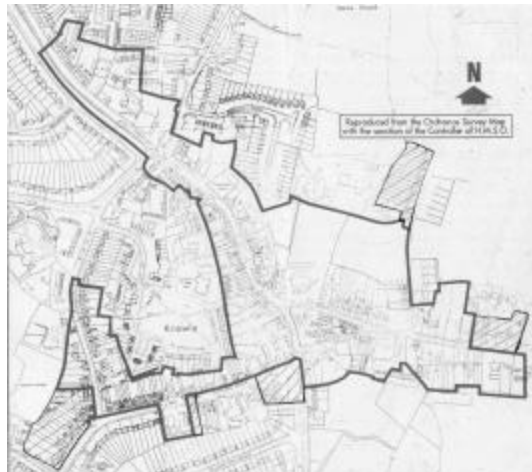
Being chairman of the Society's planning subcommittee is both a great privilege and a responsibility. Knowle is gifted with many beautiful buildings from various eras and the preservation of these, as well as being the immediate reason for the Society's foundation over 40 years ago, is also one of the prime motivations of the planning subcommittee. Clearly, therefore, any planning application involving any of these will receive our keenest scrutiny.

Recently we have looked at applications involving Dial House near Heronfield and Grimshaw Hall just off the Hampton Road. Each in its way is a gem of its era and is very much part of the great architectural heritage not only of Knowle but, I would suggest, of the whole of North Warwickshire where we are privileged to live. Each of these applications involved comparatively minor alterations which were not likely in any way adversely to affect these listed buildings. Each application had to be accompanied by a further Listed Building application so that that particular aspect could be separately assessed. The subcommittee was quite happy with the Dial House applications but raised one or two minor points over the Grimshaw Hall ones. Both however had to go before the Solihull M.B.C. Conservation Committee before any other step could be taken. Knowle Society is very ably and actively represented on that committee by Phil Vince. Suffice to say that both were recommended for approval by the Conservation Officer and the Dial House applications has already been approved.

I have gone into some detail on this matter to illustrate the way in which all Listed buildings and those in the Conservation Area generally are protected.

Most buildings in Knowle however lie outside the Conservation Area and many of the readers of this piece, like its author, live in houses built during the 60s and 70s when Knowle grew by leaps and bounds. Generally speaking the subcommittee does not involve itself in planning applications involving such properties, the implication being that such are not the business of the Society under its present constitution.

Difficulties arise, however, when an application relates to a proposed new development either of smaller houses, or, increasingly, flats. Readers will be aware that government policy is strongly in favour of smaller *housing units* being built on previously developed land and balancing this demand against the quite proper desire to preserve the best of the Knowle *street scene* is a matter that is going to involve more and more of our time in the next few months and years. Unfortunately, too, these new smaller units, when they are approved, are still usually well beyond the budget of the young families that I believe Knowle must attract if it is to continue to thrive.



### The expanded Conservation Area

*The additional areas agreed by Solihull MBC in 2001 are shown by cross-hatching - St John's Close and the north-east corner of Job's Close were not accepted for inclusion*

**SCANNING OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

Geoffrey Dean is continuing with this at a cracking pace. One side effect is that we have become aware of just how many photographs we have - 1567 on file plus about 200 from the local history collection and all the modern collection not yet added to the database. So far we have been unable to find a supplier for archival quality CDs, but we *have* acquired the use of a 250 Gigabyte external hard drive. We are not sure how we are going to use this new toy yet, but it is obviously a *Good Thing*. It has not escaped us that it may be both better and cheaper to buy another one for the archival copies, but we need to take more advice first.

**60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY:**

**KNOWLE BRITISH LEGION OPEN DAY JUNE 5TH**

Those of you who went to the British Legion's Open Day on June 5th will have seen the Local History Centre display called *American Interlude*, which covers the six months in 1944 when an American Army Medical Unit was stationed in Knowle preparing for D-Day. Also included are photographs of some of the local people who served their country in the armed forces and others of relevant places in the village. The display is now in the show cases at Chester House, where it will remain until replaced by the Autumn display in September. We were also showing our Local History Centre stall, first designed for Local History Week at Chester House last October. Nearly new for the occasion was a leaflet entitled *A Walk Round Wartime Knowle*, which is a self-guided tour round places associated with the Second World War. It is still available at the Local History Centre for the bargain price of 50p. We did produce this some years ago, but home computers have come a long way since, so it is now in the popular one third A4 format with a photograph on the front. Absolutely new was a slide show of old postcards produced by Geoffrey Dean. Those there on 5th June will have realised that we have acquired the use of a laptop computer (Yours Truly has finally replaced an ancient Apricot). We hope to produce more of these rolling slide shows, but it is early days - new operating system, new software and a still-to-be acquired new scanner.



*An American's Prayer for England 1940 (see below)*



*Corporal T/5 Jim Canico*



*High Street in 1940*

**DISPLAYS IN THE SHOW CASES**

As mentioned above the present display is *American Interlude*, which will remain until August 31st. The autumn display will be from September to November, followed by the winter one from December to February. The subjects have not been decided yet, but as the September display will be up before members receive the next newsletter, look out for the posters and an advertisement in *Knowle Parish Magazine*.

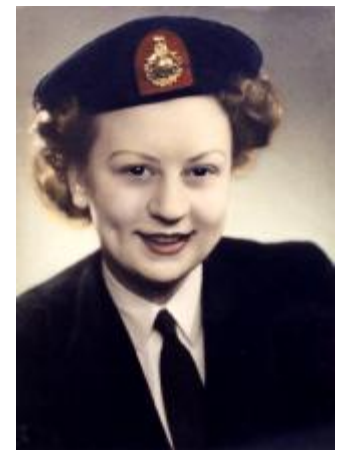
**MAP STORAGE**

After mulling over this question for a long time we have finally found a solution. Geoffrey Dean is kindly making a map case, which will just fit behind the filing cabinets. This will make retrieval much easier - a good thing as the maps are some of the most requested items. This will be made of ordinary materials, but inside the maps will be protected by stiff acid free board, which is very expensive but necessary. We can then unroll them, which in turn will make more space in the cupboards.



*A Walk Round Wartime Knowle*

*To-night and every night  
GOD save England!  
To-night and every night,  
While fires are still alight,  
Where roaring skies rain death—  
So long as men have breath  
For all free men to fight  
GOD save England  
GOD save the Right!*



*Wren Myffy Hotchkiss (later Parsons)*

**Elaine S. Warner  
Knowle 775887**



*Wildflower Walk -  
nine beauties and photographer  
meet ...*



*... seven ugly ducklings*



*Guelder Rose*



*Bulbous buttercups*



*Dave Lowe (SMBC Ecologist),  
Susan Fanthorpe (Park Ranger)  
and Jon West (asst. Park Ranger)*

### **NO BUTTS!**

Do you remember our £10 Water Butt Scheme of 1996/7 that had the potential to save gallons of expensively treated tap water if widely adopted? We even persuaded the four developers of Dickens Heath that a butt in every garden would add to their 'green' credentials - sadly, a wet winter killed off the scheme, and today's concern is the folly of building houses in flood plains!

Apartment building too is controversial. One good outcome may be the saving of two greenfield sites in Knowle, below Middlefield and off Hampton Road. But the loss of large old gardens is very significant for wildlife, especially as the latest Garden Bird Survey shows many more birds visiting our gardens from the wild. Should we turn away from decking and exotic plants to a more wildlife-friendly cottage garden environment? And remember that the beneficial hedgehog cannot visit if our gardens are totally enclosed. We are told the powerful Calor gas garden heater is an unnecessary contributor to global warming whereas a clay chimney, burning wood or charcoal, is far less damaging. But aircraft noise and pollution, ever nearer to Knowle, is in a different league altogether.

### **WILDFLOWER WALK TO THE NEW LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR)**

Our traditional Kixley Lane/canal walk has less to offer since cattle no longer graze the wet meadow, so 10 of us took the opposite direction. St. John's Close had almost a woodland feel to its range of tree species planted from the 1970s on the old allotments there, when topsoil (under the new flats) was removed to the waste pit next to Burton's Dairy Farm (St. Lawrence Close) to create the present allotments. We saw Bluebells in the Scout Hut alleyway, a large walnut in Job's Close Home garden corner and beautiful flowering cherries between the Home and bungalows. There we entered the deep shade of the hugely tall trees of the old Arboretum described in the last newsletter, with flights of steps down to the disused marl pits and the pond - where a lovely huddle of seven mallard chicks were sunning on the bank! We found huge white 'wood' fungi in the conifers beyond the car park, but the two dead elms had been felled and chipped - surely better left lying for their invertebrate populations? We couldn't cross Purnells Brook at any point before the Landor flats so we explored a ridge of special bulbous buttercups and the newly left unmown wet area around the four alders across the park where lady's-smock was in flower. The existing unmown areas alongside the brook are to be extended in the LNR management plan and two bridges are proposed that could take an asked-for round-the-park footpath over the brook to join the already well-used dog walkers' path in the LNR grassland, where brooklime, red campion, pig-nut, stitchwort and the Guelder Rose in our mini-woodland were flowering. This former farm meadow, with two old apple and damson trees, huge hawthorns and regenerating scrub, still retains much of the biodiversity lost in the Park when the original meadows were re-seeded for public use following purchase by Solihull Council in 1961. The new LNR of grassland is indeed a splendid addition to Knowle's environment and heritage.

### **KNOWLE NATURE RESERVE**

After three years we are at last about to achieve LNR status. We hope there will be an official ceremony - and the addition of the words 'Local Nature Reserve' onto the 'Job's Close' sign the Council has already placed within the Reserve!

I feel real sadness after 30 years of recording and photography, school parties, events and open days and of course work parties, supported by a succession of splendid sub-committee members and helpers. But huge relief too in handing over, at last, responsibility to Solihull MBC.

Our last work party there removed all the alien Spanish bluebells from the brook bank and the Rangers have cut the orchid meadow and some of the encroaching bramble.

Will you join us in a celebration, at the reserve, sometime in August? Watch out for posters in the village also advertising our Butterfly Walk on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Stella Jarman—Knowle 774528

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Following the comments of the Chairman in the previous issue of the Newsletter, I feel that it is time to supply some more meat to the proposed expansion incorporating an additional runway, which is to be short wide-spaced and to the south of the existing runway, to which it will be parallel. Within the outline given in the Government white paper is also the provision for an extension to the existing runway over the present A45 Coventry Road. However the proposals are to be subject to stringent measures to limit noise impact and for improved access. The likely timing of the new runway is 2016 if passenger level predictions are correct. It is the responsibility of the Airport to bring forward such proposals, which will need to be considered through the planning system in the normal way. It should be pointed out at this stage that the proposed new runway will be nearer to Knowle than the existing one. The Airport is tasked with producing a Master Plan, which it has informed the Department for Transport is planned for June 2005.

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The Knowle Society's Airport Consultation Committee representative, John Rowley, attended a demonstration of the proposed new Noise and Track-keeping system given on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2004. The new system updates and improves on the existing one. At the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004 the timing for the draft Master Plan was confirmed as June 2005, to be followed by a 4-month consultation period. The Airport will update the ACC on progress regularly, and has offered to give talks to the local community.

The Knowle Society has written formally to the Airport and raised a number of concerns. The Birmingham International Airport replies to date are:-

*"Traffic Congestion Included in the Master Plan will be a new draft Surface Access Strategy that will set out the measures to increase [transport] modal share. This will be a collaborative effort involving the Highways Agency, Strategic Rail Authority, Local Authorities and Transport Operators."*

*"Knowle Over-flying A key part of the work on the Master Plan will be the development of Standard Instrument Departure Routes for the new runway. This will include assessments on over-flying. At this stage it is too early to give any commitments regarding how these routes will operate. This will, of course, be a matter that will form part of the public consultation exercise on the Master Plan."*

**6**

*"Noise levels As requested we would be happy to site a portable noise monitor in Knowle (site to be agreed). We suggest September 2004, as it is the busiest month. By then we will have the benefit of the new noise monitor that will interface with the new Noise and Track-keeping system. At this stage we cannot comment on expected noise levels in 2016 and 2030."*

Rest assured that The Knowle Society, through John Rowley, who prepared the above report, is actively seeking information in order to raise concerns, and influence events. In the meantime please assist the Society by telephoning 0121 767 7433 to report all your experiences of aeroplanes over-flying the village or where you live.

**KEEP FIT!**

By the time that this article is read, the results of the questionnaire distributed by the Council in May should be to hand, identifying what facilities residents would like to see in Job's Close Park. A public consultation is to be held about what, if any, work is to be carried out within the park in the future. I will only say at this juncture that public facilities for play and leisure are severely limited in our area, but I do not see the park solely being used as an outdoor *Leisure Centre* to meet the identified needs of any minority group within the area. If such a need is identified, then arrangements should be made by the Council for the provision of a building or space to meet such a purpose. I reiterate what I said in an article some considerable time ago, namely "The Park should be for the benefit of ALL the people in Knowle". In the current climate of reducing obesity, with *more exercise* for everyone, both young and old, the opportunity to walk should be encouraged. I cannot think of a more pleasant place to walk locally than in Job's Close Park.

An *Event* will be held in the park on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July from 7.30 pm. *The Ultimate 80's Experience* will give you the opportunity to dance along with some favourite 80's look-a-like performers in this LIVE outdoor music event. To please the younger members the first part will feature Kylie, Madonna, Cher and the like. Why not take along a picnic and chairs for this fun family evening. Contact the Arts Complex booking office on 0121 704 6962 for ticket reservations. On the 29<sup>th</sup> August from 2.00 – 4.00 pm listen to a concert band playing in the fresh air of the Park. Maybe we should ask for a bandstand next?

### ***JUNCTION IS A HEADACHE***

I have been reminded by several readers that the Warwick Road/Lodge Road/Hampton Road junction is in dire need of receiving early attention. It would appear that principally the people most affected either live in, or use, Lodge Road or Hampton Road. Your committee is now actively looking at what alternatives are to be pursued. Are traffic lights the answer or would two mini-roundabouts be a more considered approach? Should traffic be banned from turning right into, and out of, Lodge Road and Hampton Road? These, amongst other suggestions, will all be explored.

It has also been brought to my attention that the junctions of High Street/Kenilworth Road and Kenilworth Road/Wilsons Road need to be looked at with a view to reducing the speed of vehicles at these points.

If major consideration is to be given to all these suggestions then significant additional assistance is to be sought from our membership to supplement this committee. Have we any interested retired road engineers on our books looking for the opportunity to spend a little time carrying out some work to assist the committee? If so please telephone the writer on the number below.

### ***THE THIN BLUE LINE***

In March the Police under local Sergeant Ann Strachan held a Drug Addiction and Awareness Week at Arden School. It was a multi-agency drive. Unfortunately due to a heavy demand the mobile police office, previously reported upon, has been delayed, and it is hoped that it will be made available in the not-too-distant future. It is encouraging to report that the volume of crime in the immediate area in the first quarter of this year decreased – the most significant decreases being in *Vehicle Crime* and *Burglary*. Last year's figures were 29 and 13, compared with only 15 and 6 this year. A splendid achievement.

### ***IN CONCLUSION***

Do enjoy your summer and if you are going on holiday I trust that you will have the weather you wish for. Come back refreshed and give some thought to how you will spend your autumn days and nights. Perhaps you may feel that The Knowle Society deserves to be given a little more of your time and energy. If so, I shall be delighted and pleased to talk with you to explore your specific interests. The Society can only continue to serve its members if sufficient volunteers come forward and there *is* an ongoing need for such people. I am sorry to labour the point BUT ... my committee is always pleased to listen to anyone with a view, whether it is related to roads, parkland, police matters, litter, street furniture or anything else that might be pertinent. So, be like an elephant ... do not forget!

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955

## **HERITAGE OPEN DAY IN KNOWLE**

At the time of publication of this newsletter, the Society is investigating the possibility of working with the church in repeating, in part, last year's very successful Knowle contribution to the national Heritage Open Days on Saturday 11th September 2004.

Last year's event combined guided tours of the church building and the church tower (the Heritage Open Day element). Refreshments will be served in the Guild House and we plan to erect the Society's bright green striped gazebo on the village green. We hope to assemble several other things of interest in and around the green, including some activities that will interest young families. This proved to be a highly successful combination last year and many new members were recruited to the Society.



*The gazebo at the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the Society's 40th celebrations in 2002*

The gazebo provides an excellent venue to meet with the community and raise the many issues of public interest: airport expansion, local planning and amenities, nature conservation, Pathfinder and of course the Society's activities in Talks, Local History and Walks.

Why not put the date in your diary now and encourage neighbours and friends to pop into the gazebo and sign up to belong to their local society? Why not volunteer to do a stint on the stand to speak about the society's activities?



*The exhibition at the Royal British Legion D Day event*

**'AMERICAN INTERLUDE'**  
*Preparing for D Day in Knowle*

*An American Army Medical Unit in Knowle (1944)*  
*Knowle Men and Women in the Armed Services · Fire Fighting ·*  
*Air Raids · The Home Guard · Evacuees · Dig for Victory · First Aid*  
*Rationing · Fund Raising · Bakelite Ltd. Research Laboratory*

In the Local History Centre showcases  
 Chester House Library (1st Floor)  
 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004 - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004  
*Open During Normal Library Hours*



*Val Morton's wartime rock cakes*

**The following information is not for members who currently pay by Standing Order.**

**Those members will have received individual notification recently.**

At the Annual General Meeting held at Knowle Village Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2003, it was agreed that subscriptions should increase from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004. With effect from that date, the new rates will be as follows: Single person £3.00, family membership £5.00 and Vice President £9.00.

It is helpful to our distributors if members pay their subscription by Standing Order rather than paying at the door.

If you feel you could help in this way please complete the Standing Order form below, in order that the new subscription can come into force on the due date. Will you please return the completed form to: Derek Mellor, Membership Secretary, 92 Chantry Heath Crescent, Knowle, B93 9NJ  
This form is also available for downloading from <http://forms.knowlesociety.org.uk>

**Payment by Standing Order is by no means obligatory.**

**IF YOU ARE ALSO APPLYING FOR THE MUSICAL EVENING, PLEASE SEND THE FORM TO SANDRA LEA (see overleaf) WHO WILL THEN FORWARD THE FORM TO DEREK MELLOR**

To:.....Bank

Address.....

.....

.....

Dear Sirs,

Please pay to Lloyds TSB, Sort Code 30.97.78, for the credit of Knowle Society Account No. 2199065

the sum of £.....(.....) (amount in words)  
on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, and annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October thereafter until further notice.

**THIS STANDING ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY OTHER INSTRUCTIONS THAT YOU MAY HOLD FROM ME TO PAY SUMS TO THE KNOWLE SOCIETY.**

Signed..... Account Number.....

Name..... (Please quote as reference)

Address.....



**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004:**

Dr Woodward, Master of the Lady Katherine Leveson Foundation, left us with such a fascination for the Foundation and what it has achieved during our March meeting, that we arranged *two* visits to Temple Balsall. These will have taken place by the time you read this. The community of the Foundation is made up of a school ('for poor boys' in Lady Katherine's will), a Court ('for elderly ladies of good repute'), the Church of St Mary and the Old Hall, a remnant of the time the area was occupied by the Knights Templar. For those members who were not able to attend the evening visits or would like to go again, all parts of Temple Balsall have open house on Saturday and Sunday of the Heritage weekend (*see back page*). An added attraction on the Saturday is the Autumn Fair with brass band music.

**MONDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2004: TALKING NEWSPAPERS** A talk by Mr Don Clark. The Talking Newspapers Association of the UK (TNAUK) is the UK's leading charity providing national and local newspapers and magazines on audio tape, computer disc, e mail, internet download and CD-Rom for visually impaired and disabled people who find reading a strain.

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2004: MY YEAR AS HIGH SHERIFF OF THE WEST MIDLANDS** Mr Michael Evans was accorded the honour of being Her Majesty the Queen's representative in this area and we shall be able to hear about his duties during that year. The office of High Sheriff is one of the most ancient in this country and dates back at least 1000 years.

**MONDAY OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2004: SOCIAL EVENING**

For the last two years we have arranged a social event in October. 2004 is no different.

This year we are arranging a concert at the Village Hall. The Blossomfield Singers who entertained us so well at our 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations have been invited to do so again. Tickets are required and an application form is printed below or print from <http://forms.knowlesociety.org.uk> (see Hot Topics). The concert will start at 8pm, with a short interval for refreshments and a chance to chat with fellow members. The evening should end at approximately 10pm. We have priced the tickets very competitively and I hope many of you will come along to support this event..

We are still looking for new members for this subcommittee. If you have time to spare please telephone me and offer your help. Without help we cannot continue indefinitely to hold the monthly meetings or arrange visits as we do at present.

Sandra Lea - Knowle 776850

**THE KNOWLE SOCIETY****MUSICAL EVENING****MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004**

Mrs S V Lea  
9 Jacobean Lane  
Knowle  
Solihull  
B93 9LP

Please forward to me.....tickets @ £3.00 each, total £.....

Please make cheques payable to 'Knowle Society'

Name..... Telephone .....

Address.....

**PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY, AND AT THE LATEST BY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2004**

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IF BOOKING FOR THE MUSICAL EVENING**

## KNOWLE SOCIETY LOSES ITS RAMBLERS

No, the walking group hasn't closed down, and we haven't lost anyone during one of our walks, but they must have got lost somewhere, because very few of them have been seen on the two walks we've held up to the time I'm writing this note.

It's been really disappointing because we've had such good turn-outs in the last couple of years that I've got used to shepherding small crowds around. OK, I admit the weather hasn't been very promising, but surely this didn't put people off – we are walkers and used to our British weather after all!

I'm sure the reason for seeing only seven people on the Packwood/Daffodil Walk was the unfortunate coincidence of it being on the afternoon of Mother's Day. This must mean that Knowle Society members are very good to their mothers, or are treated well by their offspring. I promise to check the date more carefully next year! Although the morning had been grey and overcast and the clouds were threatening, we were really lucky and avoided any rain whilst we were out. The daffodils were in full flower, although the ones in the lawn opposite Packwood House are not as good as they used to be. There was, however, a great show of recently planted daffodils in the roadside verge just outside the grounds and quite a few naturalised ones at various places along the route.

I must admit that the weather on the evening of the Bluebell Walk was not at all promising, but again we were very lucky, the rain holding off, except for a few light spots. A slightly larger party of *eight* set out from the Church and down Kixley Lane to cross the canal and the fields to Elvers Green Lane. There were many more bluebells in the roadside verge than I remember seeing before, and when we turned up towards Nappins Covert we were treated to an excellent show of plants in full flower. Although the light in the woods was not good (heavy clouds and the late hour didn't help) the bluebells seemed to glow in the gloom. We were back in Knowle before the light went completely, feeling very proud of ourselves for being so enthusiastic and rewarded by a very pleasant walk.

The flower walk later in May organised by Stella Jarman of the Nature Conservation Committee was again slightly better attended, so perhaps things are looking up. A report of this walk is included in the Nature Conservation report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

There is another walk in June before this Newsletter appears, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed for an excellent turn-out on a really warm and dry summer's evening. Well, I am allowed to dream aren't I?

Even if you don't walk with Knowle Society, I wish you *good walking*.

**Leighton Jones - Knowle 773894**

## LAST WORD—HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

**The Civic Trust (to which the Society is affiliated) co-ordinates this annual event which is funded by English Heritage and seeks to open interesting but less accessible places to the public.**

Did you enjoy the talk 'A House of Noble Poverty' at the March meeting? If so, then Temple Balsall is open for two Heritage Open Days on the afternoons of 11th and 12th September. There will be guided tours of the site with historical accounts by the Master, the Rev'd Dr James Woodward. Friends of Temple Balsall will display items from the archives and archaeological finds from the site. Refreshments will be available - teas and home-made cakes.

**Saturday 11th afternoon** Autumn Fair with stalls, raffle & brass band music on the lawn outside Temple House  
**Sunday 12th afternoon** Evensong at 6pm with the Choir of Birmingham Cathedral

<http://rps.gn.apc.org/leveson/heritageweekend.htm> (for more information on Temple Balsall's open days)  
<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> (for more information generally on Heritage Open Days)