

The Knowle Society



Volume 43 Number 3

July 2005

www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

From our Chairman

My contribution to the April Newsletter was taken up entirely with an explanation why the Executive Committee felt we should move the Society on, to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. In this Newsletter I can report that we have progressed to action. At the Extraordinary General Meeting on 6th June the members present voted unanimously to proceed down the route of incorporation.

At that meeting, I was able to explain fully why we had reached the stage where we needed to review our constitution (our terms of reference) and to provide the Society with a stronger legal framework. Regrettably, we live in litigious times. If some mishap occurs, the injured party is often encouraged to blame someone and claim compensation for the supposed injury. As we have often said

in the discussions leading to our latest decision, we take the greatest care to avoid risk and negligence, but with a large number of people acting on behalf of the Society something could go wrong, unwittingly. Limited Company status should provide the legal protection we need.

We have taken legal advice on the best way forward and that advice was to do as many other voluntary societies are doing, go for Limited Company status. Your Committee has carefully considered three drafts of the Memorandum and Articles (our new constitution) before being satisfied.

From the members' point of view, the Society will proceed as it does now. You will elect the officers and committee annually and you will set the subscriptions. The present sub-committee system will continue, so

will the programme of activities.

We have one more formal step to take. We must meet again in an EGM to confirm the decision taken by the EGM in June. As this is anticipated to be a short meeting, your Committee agreed not to call members out specially, but to hold the second EGM at 8pm on 19th September, at the beginning of our regular September general meeting, when we would expect a good turnout anyway.

The Executive Committee looks forward to your support at that meeting to bring the enterprise of incorporation into The Knowle Society, a Company Limited by Guarantee, to a successful conclusion.

Colin Smith - Knowle 772981

Events Diary

Sunday 10th July 2005
2.30pm outside the Guild House

Butterfly Walk
Led by Stella Jarman

Monday 18th July 2005
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Speed Awareness
An illustrated talk by Becky King

Monday 19th September 2005
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Little Known Warwickshire
An illustrated talk by Mr Alan Winterburn

Sunday 25th September 2005
2.30pm at Temple Balsall

Tea and Cakes Walk
Finish the walk with tea at Temple Balsall and Jenny's famous cake

Monday 17th October 2005
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Victorian Musical Evening (£3—members and guests only)
A taste of the Music Hall with Andrew Casserley—dress the part, enjoy the food

DR. RONALD BOWER

1918 - 2005

We were all saddened by the death of Dr. Bower on 4th April. He worked tirelessly for the village for more than forty years and was the inspiration behind many of the Society's successful schemes. One of his great strengths was his breadth of knowledge and interest, which encompassed all the Society's activities, including local history and nature conservation (he could reel off all the Latin names). Another was his ability to motivate other people. Much of what follows is in his own words.

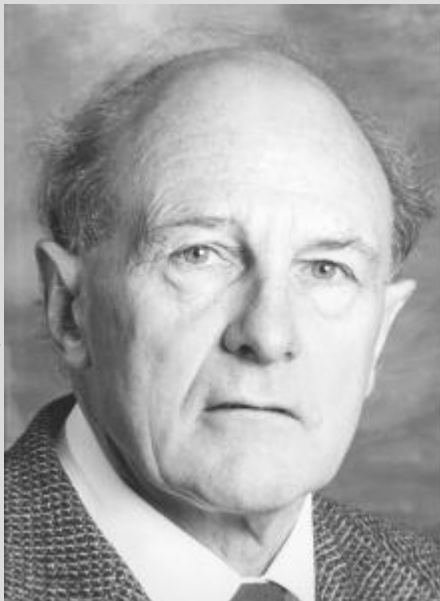
After the war Knowle began to develop rapidly. Under the 1947 Town Planning Act the High Street was zoned for retail use and the surrounding fields scheduled for housing development. The Slum Clearance Acts enabled our timber-framed cottages to be condemned. The villagers were re-housed and families were scattered far and wide all over Solihull. Without the protection of subsequent Conservation Acts there was indiscriminate demolition and pressure for wholesale redevelopment by entrepreneurs. The village was in mortal danger. In this climate, in 1962, the Knowle Society was formed, under the presidency of the squire, Mr. Horace Everitt, and the chairmanship of Dr. Bower.

In an attempt to protect what remained of our rapidly diminishing heritage the Society immediately became involved in the fabric of the village, with a programme of public lectures, planning investigations, planting schemes, historical exhibitions, etc. Ever since there has been a constant battle to keep it intact. As the 1960s progressed the wind of change continued to gather force: Dell Farm, Maggins and Milverton Farm all crumbled beneath the bulldozers, new estates were built; more timber-framed cottages were pulled down to make way for the precinct, despite strong opposition and an alternative plan put forward by the Society. Some of our remaining timber-framed cottages are only skin deep, as we failed to dissuade their owners from completely gutting the interiors. The Society, unfashionable and inexperienced, had little impact.

It is to Dr. Bower's great credit that he never gave up, but soldiered doggedly on, unfailingly courteous, to bequeath to future generations a village worth living in. To a great extent he succeeded - some would say single-handedly.

And things were not all bad, even in the 1960s: Job's Close Park, the St. John's Close development and the new Village Hall proved successful. The great bonus of the decade was the designation of the High Street as a Conservation Area in 1968.

Throughout the 1970s the village continued to expand, with large new estates built to the west of the village. But a different mood was emerging. More people were heeding the voice of conservation: the restoration of Chester House by Solihull Council was one of several excellent schemes. In 1971, with the co-operation of the developer, the Society saved one small patch of boggy ground from one of the new estates, which we managed as a nature reserve until it was formally accepted as a Local Nature Reserve in 2004. In 1975 we provided the Christmas tree for the first time and have continued to do so ever since. Concerned that Knowle's heritage in the form of old postcards, photographs, etc. was being lost to posterity, the Society started its own local history collection in



1977. It now comprises over 5,000 items, and was moved to Chester House in 1988 at the invitation of Solihull Council. Chester House, the nature reserve, the Christmas tree, the local history centre - all were Dr. Bower's brainchild.

By the 1980s consultation between the Council and the Society was well established. New house building continued, but in a more sensitive way, with natural features retained. Dr. Bower submitted lists of local names, which were accepted as names for new roads and developments. In 1987 the Society celebrated its silver jubilee by giving a series of awards to good schemes completed since its formation. Members presented Dr. Bower with a silver salver, which always had an airing, laden with sherry, at the Christmas committee meeting.

In 1991, after 29 years in the chair, Dr. Bower decided to hand over the reins. He was a hard act to follow, but was always on hand with sound advice. He became the second President of the Society, a position we had been quietly saving for him since the death of Mr. Everitt in 1982. On

(Continued on page 3)

FLATS – ANOTHER DOWNSIDE

I am genuinely unsure whether I should raise this subject yet again but it does seem to me that the point of this article is not only of immediate concern relative to the proliferation of planning applications for flat developments in Knowle but also in general on all planning applications.

The aspect that I am referring to is the laxity of planning law in terms of the take-up of a successful application. As you may be aware, until very recently once one had the benefit of a planning consent, one had 5 years to implement it. Implementation only meant that an unequivocal step had to be taken on the land in question to start the development. For instance, in the case of a new development, the first trench of the foundations had to be dug. Once that had been undertaken, the builder could in theory walk away and leave the development for as long as he wished before completion. I have known instances where this has been done with obvious great inconvenience and annoyance to neighbours. The law has been tightened recently under the 2004 Planning Act, but in essence the main difference is to shorten the initial period to 3 years for applications submitted after the coming into force of the Act without affecting the basic position.

We can see the adverse effect of this in Knowle with the developments recently granted permission in Station Road and more particularly in Warwick Road. The Parkridge development has in my opinion certainly been implemented by the demolition of the original buildings. Even if that is wrong a digger on site for a couple of days would make the matter beyond dispute. The actual building of the flats can now be delayed for as long as is desired without anybody so far as I am aware doing anything about it. This is in my view plainly wrong and the law should be amended. Pigs flying may be more likely.

The application for more flats at 190 – 194 Longdon Road will have gone before the planning sub-committee on 1st June with a recommendation from the Council's officers for approval. This despite 19 local objections, a petition signed by 8 more people and detailed objections from my sub-committee. By the time you receive this the decision will be old hat, but if it is passed, I am very worried that even more will follow.

The point of this article is that without changes in the law we are going to see ever more changes in the street scene of our village.

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

(Continued from page 2)

this occasion members presented him with a camera and a cheque. It is a sign of the esteem in which they held him that two substantial sums of money were collected only four years apart.

Dr. Bower remained active on the planning front, taking over the chairmanship of the Planning Sub-committee for several years. In the early 1990s he handled some major concerns: the loss of Green Belt land to new housing, conversion of shops to offices and the eviction of the bowling club from the Red Lion to name a few. He remained a member of the Planning Sub-committee after giving up the chairmanship and continued to attend Executive Committee meetings. He was made an honorary member of the Society in 2004.

Under Dr. Bower's leadership the Society matured and grew. In 1963 there were 145 members. We now have nearly 1700 and an acknowledged voice. Dr. Bower's

legacy is a strong well-respected Society - the foundation from which it can move on, as it must. His death marks the end of an era. He is much missed. EW



Ronald and Joan Bower 1996

CURRENT EXHIBITION: PEACE & REMEMBRANCE

This is now on show at Chester House. As I mentioned in the last newsletter it includes a section on the men and women of Knowle who served during the war, the village celebrations on V. E. Day and V. J. Day in 1945, and a tribute to those who died. We are grateful to everyone who allowed us to copy photographs of themselves or their relatives in uniform - this proved a popular feature of *American Interlude* last year, so we thought we would repeat it with different photographs. One of the more unusual items is a nightdress made from parachute silk, kindly loaned by Pam Watson. *Peace and Remembrance* will be on show at Chester House until 31st August to span the 60th anniversaries of both V. E. Day and V. J. Day. It will remain at Chester House for the festival on July 9th, when we shall present a different exhibition in the Guild House. There are plenty of posters with the details round the village.



*Horace Everitt (RAF)
Last Squire of Knowle*



*Mary Moorcroft (left)
and Mary Shipley*

FESTIVAL EXHIBITION: JULY 9TH AT THE GUILD HOUSE 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

We are very well ahead with preparation for this - all the photographs are already mounted on the display boards, thanks to the Archives Working Group (see below). The centrepiece of the exhibition will be *Images of Knowle*, a carefully selected group of some of the best photographs in the collection, giving an overall picture of the village, It was originally compiled for the Junior School Local History Project, but deserves a wider audience. This time we have dispensed with the central 'horsehoe' of large display boards, which has



Milverton Farm - Village Taxi 1960

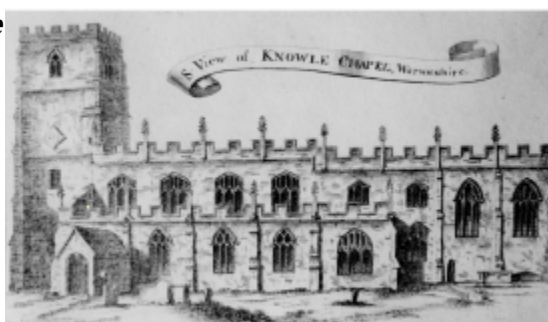
left more room for the scrap books, which are always one of the most popular items. The Archives Working Group has been beavering away getting the Parish Magazine collection into apple-pie order. There will not be room for the whole collection, but we plan to display the early magazines and those from 1939 to 1945. As you would expect there will be the usual display about the work of the Local History Centre. We expect to put an advertisement in the July Parish Magazine and posters will go up at the beginning of July. We hope to see you on July 9th. *[I'm sorry this newsletter will arrive after the event - Ed.]*



Eastcote Ford in 1915

NEXT EXHIBITION: KNOWLE IN TRAFALGAR YEAR

Our small celebration of the Battle of Trafalgar will follow *Peace and Remembrance* at Chester House. It will run from September 1st to November 30th, so will be up before you receive your next newsletter. It is too far ahead for any more than vague ideas to have been formulated, but is likely to take the form of a snapshot of Knowle in 1805. We shall probably use the workable format we designed in 1986, covering the manor, the church, the buildings, transport, health and welfare, schools, sport and leisure, etc. In the coming weeks we shall be busy trawling through the Parish Records for snippets of information. We hope there will be our usual box advertisement in the September Parish Magazine - and watch for posters round the village nearer the time.



The Church about 1806

ORAL HISTORY

We are glad to see John Johnson out and about again after major surgery. He is now picking up the threads of oral history again.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Once more I can report an increase in the number of images scanned by Geoffrey Dean - about 1100 at the last count, *(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

They have now filled up one of our 50 GB drives and spread to the next one. As well as the main 50 MB TIF images and the 4 MB BMPs we are now thinking of creating JPGs for e-mail purposes and while we are at it thumbnails as well. The latter will be primarily for the Internet, which is a long way off, but we may as well do them while we are creating the main images. *[TIF, BMP & JPG are different formats for storing images used in computers—Ed.]*

CARE & CONSERVATION

We are getting on with our programme, although it still looks a bit optimistic. John Rear has made a lot of progress with the maps, which may prove less daunting than we thought. At Chester House we have an improved display giving our aims and objectives and our programme, etc. We have also replaced the notices for the items on permanent display, which had got very dirty after fifteen years. We have taken the opportunity to add a little more detail - for instance the two boards with names on are now identified as relating to the Oddfellows' Association and visitors can read that the framed section of glass is a relic from the 1880s restoration of Milverton House.

ARCHIVES WORKING GROUP

This accommodating group has been very good about doing any jobs which have been thrown at it, some of which have not been exactly what it was set up for, but never mind. Members spent the first working party transferring items to new folders (not yet complete, but coming on), and the second putting the large maps and plans into good order before transferring them to the map case. The map case now needs only an acid-free hinge at the bottom of the internal boards, for which John Rear has acquired some tape from one of our usual suppliers - in this case *Conservation Resources* at Cowley. The third session was spent mounting *Images of Knowle* on the display boards, ready for July 9th.

READER SERVICES

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for information. E-mail enquiries in particular are noticeably increasing, many from far-flung places: the last crop included two from America and one from Australia. We are always pleased to help when we can, even if only to point people in a more appropriate direction.

ITV FILM

As I mentioned in the last newsletter ITV promised us a few copies of *The Way We Were ~ Love & Marriage*, which arrived only a few days later and are now available for loan. Contact Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283 if you are interested in borrowing one.

Elaine Warner - Knowle 775887

PEACE & REMEMBRANCE



V. E. Day Party in Hampton Road, 1945

Last Days of War
Nine More Years of Rationing
Some who Served
V. E. Day
Personal Memories
V. J. Day
Those Who Died
War Graves at Knowle
Remembrance

Chester House Library (1st Floor): May 1st - August 31st in the show cases
Open During Normal Library Hours

EDITORIAL AND WEBSITE NEWS

EVENT NOTIFICATION BY EMAIL

The extent of the take-up of 'wired services' will be one measure of the Society's success in reaching new members who are well-used to the benefits of these facilities in their work and other areas of their lives. An organisation of our size that is serious about being open and accessible to its community of interest cannot afford to ignore email and the Internet, however it appears that the majority of The Knowle Society's existing membership is satisfied with more traditional forms of communication. To date, insufficient people have expressed interest in being notified in advance of meetings by a simple email to justify taking it forward, but just in case it was a simple matter of natural lethargy, the offer remains open for the period of this issue as well. Here we repeat the free offer made in the last issue. Perhaps everyone is already good at putting Society meetings into their diaries.

To bypass the lag in newsletter publication and distribution and also to help people remember meetings and events in the intervals between the quarterly newsletters, we are now offering a new email **Event Notification** service to members. This is free and open to any member whether they take the paper or email version of the newsletter. The service will provide a very brief email (2-3 lines) reminding you of a forthcoming general meeting or event and be sent out a few days prior to each event. If you would like to be included in this service, please email the address in the left margin of this page with two or three words such as *Email Notification* and include your name and address so we can check against our membership list. Naturally this service is only available to Internet users.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE

Many members will have missed the EGM concerning the conversion of The Knowle Society to a Company Limited by Guarantee but may still wish to read more about the change, if so, the website carries a full copy of the new Memorandum and Articles of Association and a copy of the Resolution passed at the first EGM. There are direct links to these documents from the home page of the website, including a link to the existing Constitution of the Society—far more exciting than counting sheep.

BACK NUMBERS AND OTHER GOODIES

Remember that you can keep your home free of clutter and STILL see your old newsletters—all editions back to the Winter of 2001 are available online. We cannot offer an online search facility, however an email to the editor would probably provide what you need. I find it quite impressive to browse the list of all the exhibitions that the Local History Centre has mounted over the years—a significant contribution to our common life. If your interest is more specialised you might find it fruitful to browse the lists of all the papers and artefacts held by the Local History Centre—it is all there on our website for your convenience.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Do you think we could introduce a members' letters page to the newsletter?

Sandra Lea

Well—here we go—how can I resist a request from someone who knows how to use their apostrophes correctly? Seriously though, the space can be quite limited in this newsletter so it will always be at the Editor's discretion and if it looks as though one person's soapbox is going to be another person's carboic then that discretion might be exercised again. Letters that relate to the objects of The Knowle Society and are of interest to a wide cross-section would be most welcome. Remember that publication is infrequent, so topics must be relevant three months later. This is the first issue to have 12 pages and that is with no news from our Environment section on this occasion—so space is not guaranteed but don't let that deter you from writing.

David Bower - Editor - Knowle 775790

**THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
VICTORIAN MUSICAL EVENING**

MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2005 AT 8.00PM

Mrs S Trucchi
3 High Trees Road
Knowle, Solihull
B93 9PR

Please make cheques payable to:
The Knowle Society

Please forward to metickets @ £3.00 each. Total £.....

Member's Name Telephone

Address

.....

..... Postcode.....

PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY, AND AT THE LATEST BY WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2005

PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR TICKETS.

Note for your own records—I have ordered Tickets for the Musical Evening

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Please return the Musical Evening form to Susan Trucchi, 3 High Trees Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9PR

Please return the Gift Aid form to Derek Mellor, 92 Chantry Heath Crescent, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9NJ

If you wish to return both forms together, you may do so via Derek Mellor and he will forward as appropriate

July 2005

The Knowle Society - Gift Aid Declaration

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

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

I wish The Knowle Society (Registered Charity No 238524) to treat as Gift Aid, all donations and subscriptions that I have made since 1st October 2004 and all donations and subscriptions that 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 each relevant tax year.

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

**Please return this form when completed to the Membership Secretary, Mr Derek Mellor,
92 Chantry Heath Crescent, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9NJ, or to your Newsletter Distributor.**

MUSICAL EVENING

A Sachs-simulating summit of sophisticated, scintillating, spirited and symphonic specialities to succour and stimulate your soul, sponsored by your very own Society.

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If you do not wish to deface your Newsletter you can download both forms from the website on:

www.knowsociety.org.uk

and select Forms from the home page.

GIFT AID FORM

EVENING MEETINGS

Our programme of meetings is going well, with interesting talks that have been well attended and walks that have been overwhelmingly supported. We are working on next year's programme already – the best speakers need to be booked well in advance. If you have any ideas that would make a popular talk, please let me know. We'd be especially interested in ones that you'd heard yourself.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter the speaker at our March meeting was Betty Barnett, who proved to be a very entertaining speaker. She had a fund of stories about her time having been evacuated from Coventry to deepest Warwickshire. She freely admitted that she was very lucky, as she spent most of the time in the village where her mother's relatives lived, and being in the country was much better fed than those who didn't have immediate access to fresh (off-ration!) food. The April talk was not as well attended – perhaps the title 'The Work of a Prison Visitor' was rather off-putting. Those who didn't come missed an extremely interesting talk by a masterful speaker, who opened our eyes to some of the realities of life behind bars.

The Society was very pleased to see an audience of 100 or so attending on the 23rd May, to be treated to an informative and educational talk given by Ms Katherine Kerswell, the Chief Executive Officer of Solihull Council. The subjects ranged from "What is the Council?" right through "Who is Who?" to the "Vision for the Future". It was a captivating hour, and was climaxed with a further half-hour question and answer session. For any questions that could not be dealt with within the time a question paper was made available to be sent in to Ms Kerswell.

We have high hopes of a good turn-out for the meeting on 20th June on the RNLI. Although Knowle is almost as far from the sea as it's possible to be, we have a great record of support for this valuable institution. On 18th July we have a subject that I'm sure will raise the temperature in the hall – Speed Awareness (i.e. speed cameras and humps etc.) with the local road safety partnership.

Looking somewhat further into the future, the **Social Evening Meeting** on 17th October will be a 'Victorian Musical Evening' with Andy Casserley who will sing and play authentic instruments of the time. It should be a good opportunity to join in and make it a real music-hall atmosphere. (Dress to suit if you want to, but by no means compulsory). The cost of the evening will be just £3, to include refreshments. Please complete the form that you'll find on Page 7 of this Newsletter and return it, with your payment as soon as possible and anyway by the 31st August, as spaces will be limited.

WALKS

Our walks so far have been extremely successful. In fact the Daffodil walk in March was too well attended for my peace of mind. Seventy six people turned up! I was rather concerned that this would be more than we could safely control, but they were all very well behaved, so we succeeded.



Photo: Leighton Jones

The evening Bluebell Walk in April was also well attended, but by a much more manageable number. We were very lucky with a clear evening which stayed light long enough for us to get back in the light! The bluebells were as good as I've ever seen them; they seem to get better every year.

The Wild-flower walk in May was on a lovely Sunday, which was ideal for those running the Knowle Fun Run, which was on the same day—oops, I should have checked more carefully before setting the date! Nevertheless eight stalwarts managed to meet Stella, who took them down to the canal and as far as the locks. They found an excellent show of flowers, despite British Waterways having strimmed some of the banks, including the part they'd promised to treat more

gently. Stella has arranged to meet 'the man from BW' – I hope he's in a cooperative mood!

By the time you read this we'll also have done the 15th June Canal walk – an excuse to have a stroll on a glorious summer evening (I hope) with liquid refreshment on the way.

AN APPEAL

If you find our activities interesting, why not make a contribution and join the committee. I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who'd be prepared to organise or lead one or two of next year's walks. I am finding that running the committee and leading the walks takes rather more time than I can easily find. (I'm really grateful to Stella Jarman for continuing to run the 'nature walks', not least because I'm no wild-life expert!)

I hope to see you at one or two of our events.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

IN AND OUT THE HIGH STREET

Although the initial steps have been taken with both NatWest Bank and the One Stop shop, I regret that at this time I am still awaiting the next response from these two organizations before I am able to contact any other interested parties. The Council is prepared to talk with their representatives to find out what improvement works can be carried out to enhance the approach to the High Street, and also the vista on leaving the High Street.

You may well have some opinions of what you would like to see in the area, so here is your opportunity. Please write out the ideas, with a sketch if appropriate, and telephone me to make arrangements for its delivery.

TRAFFIC MEASURES

Two major traffic routes into and from the village are currently being investigated by the Transport and Highways section of Solihull Council. They are **Kenilworth Road** and **Hampton Road**.

The position regarding **Kenilworth Road** is that the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways made the following decisions on 25 May. For the urban section of the road, inside the 30 mph area, there will be a "Gateway" feature near to the canal bridge, and it is proposed to install the mini SpeedVisor unit to raise driver awareness that they are travelling at an inappropriate speed where the 30 mph speed limit is exceeded.

Hampton Road has three specific problem areas, these are:

- The short term parking taking place along the road near to the Warwick Road junction
- The all day parking within Crabmill Close
- The all day parking on the pavement within Beausale Drive

In the first instance this is acknowledged as a major traffic hazard, and an early solution to the problem is likely. Crabmill Close is a strictly residential street and the residents will have to be consulted on any proposals put forward by the Council. The Police have been informed about the blockage to pedestrian access in Beausale Drive, and again the residents will be consulted by the Council. In addition the Council has confirmed that the entry to the village along Hampton Road will be revisited with a view to reducing the speed of traffic to the 30 mph expected. In the rural area the road will be resurfaced to Temple Balsall, with the section near to Elvers Green Lane receiving priority. Signage along the route will be reviewed and replaced where necessary, including additional chevron signing particularly on the bends near Elvers Green Lane.

"THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING" - FURTHER THAN THIS

Initial discussion has taken place concerning the footpath finishing along Hampton Road, opposite the entrance to Grimshaw Hall. It has been suggested to the Council that the green verge is gradually being eroded due to walkers now not using what has become a gully. The suggestion put forward is for the gully area being filled with hardcore to stabilise the pathway, so as to leave the green verge as intact as possible. The pathway would end at the canal bridge.

IN CONCLUSION

Remember to look in at the Society gazebo on Saturday 9 July. If you are feeling generous you may even feel prepared to volunteer your assistance to my sub-committee, either a minute taker or as a committee member. Have a pleasant summer.

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955

AIRPORT REPORT***COVENTRY AIRPORT***

A set of procedures and arrangements for handling complaints from Coventry will be developed in consultation with Coventry Airport. Currently, some 12% of environmental complaints being received by the Airport Company are due to activities at Coventry Airport

TRANSPORT

The overall 'headline' Public Transport Modal Share figure for 2004 was 15%, compared with 14.2% in 2003 and 13.5 % in 2002.

(Continued on page 11)

MASTER PLAN REVIEW (VERBAL REPORT)

The Airport Company has submitted its high level statement of intent to the Government. Work is continuing on air space matters. Airfield and Terminal Development Studies are coming to a conclusion.

Surface Access Study - this was the subject of a presentation at the Air Transport Forum on 16th March 2005. Major surface access issues were recognised, including link and junction capacity for the M42, the future alignment for the A45/Clock junction, maintaining the North/South Solihull links by road, access by bus, coach, heavy rail and Midland Metro, car parking and resources for green travel.

Environment Impact Study - this has commenced with consideration being given to noise and air quality areas.

Economic Impact Study - this has also commenced.

As part of the overall process to prepare the Draft Master Plan, a Wider Reference Conference was held on 25th May 2005 with key stakeholders, including representatives of local community groups and other interested parties. A report and presentation has been given to the Executive Committee of The Knowle Society.

NOISE LEVELS

The new portable Airport noise monitor has been located in Knowle for one month. Report and results will be available in July.

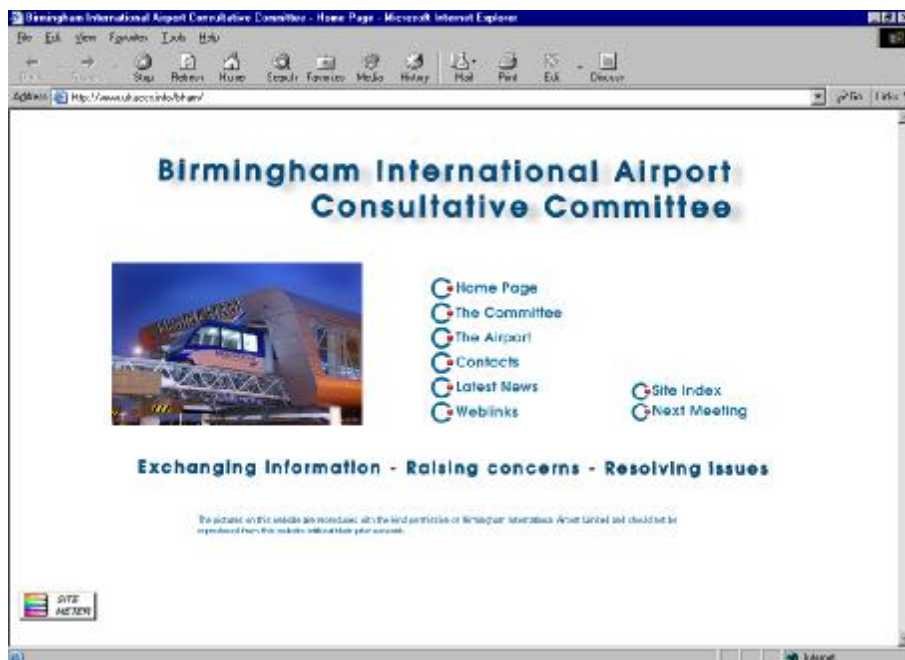
COMPLAINTS

The Airport Company was nearing the completion of a new policy on training flights to ensure there is no repeat of the Slovak Airways training flights of last year.

John Rowley - Knowle Society Airport Consultative Committee Representative

The Airport has developed a Consultative Committee Web Site which can be visited on www.ukaccs.info/bham there is a link from The Knowle Society's own website to this site.

[Expect to see and hear more from The Knowle Society in the autumn on the future plans for the airport - Ed.]



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

will be held

on Monday 19th September 2005 in the Village Hall,
commencing at 8pm.

RESOLUTION

To confirm the decision taken at the EGM of 6th June 2005 to proceed with the dissolution of the Knowle Society and to transfer its assets to The Knowle Society, a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Peter Johnson
Honorary Secretary
June 2005



*Members busy doing
the extraordinary
things that members
do at EGMs.*

Photo: Leighton Jones

INLAND REVENUE TO PAY FOR CHRISTMAS TREE AND HANGING BASKETS

Well not quite, but we now collect enough Gift Aid tax from the Revenue to meet two of our major annual expenditures, the Christmas tree and watering the summer hanging baskets—a real benefit from all your gift aid forms [*Copy available on page 7 or by downloading from the website—Ed.*] and a real benefit to the community—thank you.

If any members have not signed the form yet and pay income tax may I ask you to consider this. To those members who have already signed, may I remind you that there is no necessity to sign a further form.

At the Executive Committee meeting in April I was able to report that subscriptions received to date totalled £3860. A few subscriptions remain unpaid but I expect the final total will be in line with the budgeted figure. Yes even Knowle Society has to have a budget!

I should like to thank Derek Mellor, Walter Birch and all the distributors for their hard work in collecting the subscriptions and of course to you the members for your continued support. Life would be far more difficult for me if there was not such a dedicated team.

Sandra Lea - Treasurer - Knowle 776580

Welcome to our new members...

Margaret Abbott
Rosemary Beach
Mr & Mrs M Brawn
Mr J Burton
Ms E Claydon
Mr & Mrs S Gaffney
Mr & Mrs M A Harrison
Mrs P A Mallett
Mr & Mrs J Moise
Mr & Mrs D H Whitehurst

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.knowledesociety.org.uk

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