

# The Knowle Society



Volume 43 Number 4

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

## AGM Reports

Once again I start my piece with a report on the progress of *incorporation*. As I write I have been informed that the final papers have been received by the Charity Commission. Everything is in order. By the time you read this Newsletter The Knowle Society, [a *company*] limited by guarantee, should be operative. As we expected when we embarked upon this endeavour, it has been a lengthy, detailed business but we are now at the end of a successful process.

In this Newsletter there is the calling notice for the AGM on 28th November. As this will be the first AGM of the new company, the officers and all the committee members, to be known formally as Trustee Directors, will be up for election. Any member is

eligible to be nominated as an officer or committee member.

Although incorporation has loomed large in our thinking this year, there have been a number of other matters of note, many of which will be more fully reported in the Sub-committee reports. In the B93 Awards we were delighted to be voted the Best Organisation of 2004. This accolade reflects a lot of good work by a lot of people.

Our attention does not stray far from the Airport. The Society asked for and obtained a noise report which provides us with useful information about aircraft movements near and over Knowle, at present. We still await the Airport master plan. Predicting the future is difficult but we feel sure we

shall do better if we know exactly where we start.

Recently, we have been able to use monies from the Eva Wootton Fund to support the Berrow Homes in creating a leisure area and garden in the grounds of the Homes. For the many readers who would not know of Eva Wootton, she was a long time, highly respected resident of Knowle who died about 25 years ago. At the time of her death, her book, *The History of Knowle*, was published. The Knowle Society became the custodian of the proceeds, to be used for the benefit of the people of Knowle. In later life, Miss Wootton was a resident of the Berrow Homes.

It is appropriate, at this point in our

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Events Diary

Monday 17th October 2005  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 28th November 2005  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Date to be advised  
In the square

Monday 26th December 2005  
11.00am at the Guild House

Monday 16th January 2006  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 20th February 2006  
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

Annual General Meeting (members only)

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Carols, refreshments and Father Christmas

Boxing Day Walk

Mince pies and mulled wine en route, back at 1.00pm

How local history societies can help with your genealogy research — Maggie Loughran

Birmingham Airport- an update

Andy Holding

(Continued from page 1)

Society year, to express my thanks to all those who make the Society an active and successful organisation. This includes sixteen committee members, twenty-one sub-committee members and about fifty Newsletter distributors. We also value greatly the support of our ward councillors. The Newsletter is our sole means of communication with all members so I need hardly say how important it is for distributors to distribute them immediately they receive them so that members do not miss notices of events early in the month of publication.

This summer, we have said goodbye to Don Blake, a Knowle ward councillor. Don was a regular attender at Knowle Society Executive Meetings and at the AGM. His comments were always informative and helpful; he was a good friend of the Society. We wish him and his family well and thank him for the support he has given us over many years.

As the Society year ends, we look back on a period of useful and effective activity and forward to a future equally productive, appropriate to the largest organisation of its kind in the West Midlands.

Colin Smith - Chairman - Knowle 772981

**THE KNOWLE SOCIETY**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

I give notice that the Annual General Meeting of The Knowle Society will be held in Knowle Village Hall on Monday 28th November 2005 commencing at 8pm.

The meeting will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing 12 months and also up to 12 other Trustee Directors. The Trustee Directors (other than the Officers) will serve for up to 3 years with one third of their number retiring each year.

Nominations for these vacancies should be in writing and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at 1 Barnbrook Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9PW to arrive no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005. They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society. The Nomination form on the page opposite may be used if desired.

Peter Johnson  
Hon. Secretary  
(01564 770268)

September 2005

## **EVA HELPS THE VILLAGE LONG AFTER HER DEATH**

As you will no doubt have read in Colin Smith's report, we continue to make donations from the Eva Wootton fund to worthy village causes. In addition to the donation to Berrow Homes, we recently contributed £275 towards the July 9<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Day. The balance of this fund is now £760.00.

As I write this report we are nearing the end of another financial year for the Society. It has been a good year, with subscriptions at an all time high following the increase agreed at the AGM in 2003. We needed that increase to ensure that the Society remained in a sound financial position. I hope that by the year-end we shall have a small surplus for the year. I am now preparing budgets for the year 2005/2006. After calculating our anticipated regular expenditure, we shall then be able to decide whether any purchases, such as the sound system at the Village Hall, can be made. We continue to endeavour to improve our services to you.

Sandra Lea - Treasurer

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

Form of Nomination of Trustee Directors including Officers

We, the undersigned, being members of The Knowle Society, hereby nominate

Full name.....of

Address.....

.....

as a candidate to serve as \* .....

of the Society from the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

Proposer (*full name*).....

(*Signature*).....

Seconder (*full name*).....

(*Signature*).....

Form of Consent

I, the above named ....., being a member of  
The Knowle Society, confirm my agreement to serve in the capacity mentioned above.

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

\* Complete as appropriate with:

Chairman / Deputy Chairman / Hon. Secretary / Hon. Treasurer or Trustee Director.

**NEWSLETTER**

This issue may arrive a little later than usual but it was held back from the printers to await the outcome of the Special General Meeting on 19th September when the Society's members unanimously ratified the decision of the earlier Extraordinary General Meeting.

It has been gratifying to receive several positive remarks about the newsletter. We don't intend to stand still though and will continue to develop it as opportunity and funds permit. You may have noticed that the previous issue reverted to the stiffer matt paper used for earlier issues, having been a thinner glossy paper for the Spring issue. This was a slip at the printers and prompted a straw poll of the executive committee as to preference for the future. The vote was 50:50 with a casting vote in favour of the matt paper.

It is probable that many members will not receive this newsletter in time to remind them of the Victorian Evening but details and an application form may be found in the Summer newsletter. A copy of the application form may be downloaded from the website. If you have lost your last newsletter, it can be found on the website—again, follow the link on the home page.

The nomination / consent form on page three may be copied by hand, photocopied or downloaded from the website if you wish to preserve your newsletter intact.

At the risk of telling lots of potential grandmothers how to suck eggs, do you keep your newsletter at least until the next one arrives? It is worth it for the extra details it gives about events in the forthcoming period that you won't find on the programme card. If you like to clear out old papers, why not cut out the events panel on the front page and use some of those free fridge magnets! For the really tidy people who throw out old papers you can always look at old newsletters on the website but be warned that we don't publish the current edition, this is to preserve your benefits as a member. You can of course elect to receive the newsletter solely by email which is a step towards the 'paperless society' (assuming that we cut down our print order as well!)

**WEBSITE****4**

Following the Society's transformation into a company limited by guarantee, the website will continue for a period to carry both the superseded Constitution and the new Memorandum and Articles of Association, for the interest and reference of members. Follow the link on the website home page for more information.

Having received no further interest in email notification of Society events, that offer has now lapsed.

There has been a noticeable increase in hits on the website in the last few weeks; perhaps you would enjoy a visit there yourself—see the VE/VJ on page 8 in full colour. Navigation within the website has been simplified but remember that you can always turn to the Site Map to find a specific page or document.

David Bower - Editor - Knowle 775790

## Local History Centre Exhibition

### **KNOWLE IN TRAFALGAR YEAR**



*The Battle of Trafalgar, 21 October 1805 (JMW Turner)  
Reproduced by permission of the National Maritime Museum*

*Including:*

**The Manor, The Church,  
Buildings, Transport,  
Health & Welfare,  
Law & Order, Education and  
Sport & Leisure**

Chester House Library (1st Floor) in the showcases  
September 1st - November 30th  
Open during normal Library hours

## THE PLANNING YEAR

This last year has not produced much in the way of surprises but much that is depressing. Windfall developments continue to be proposed, and usually passed by the planners. I have rehearsed too often in the past the pressures that lie behind these, particularly by way of Government policy but at least both our local women MPs seem committed to doing whatever they can to ameliorate the worst excesses of this policy.

Among applications of this type that have been passed this year despite strong opposition from your Society and many others are one in Station Road next to the electricity sub-station and also one in Longdon Road next to the Byron Court block of flats. The street scene in Knowle is slowly but remorselessly being altered for good but not for the good. The planners very clearly feel they have no alternative but to pass these applications however inappropriate and whether or not there is a perceived need for even more flats at grossly inflated prices in Knowle. How one solves housing problems for smaller family units by building five flats priced at £350,000 in the place of one house worth perhaps £450,000 is beyond me but I do know that builders see good profits in the situation.

### *UNBUILT FLATS*

Another aspect of this state of affairs that I touched on in a previous edition of this newsletter but which is becoming more and more relevant is the fact that permission has been given for the building of over 200 flats in Knowle but few if any have actually been built. Warwick Road is increasingly looking like a latter day Berlin Wall with all the hoardings and I am often asked whether there is anything that can be done to force the builders to get on with the job and build. The answer is that under the planning legislation now in force they have three years to make a start from the date of the permission but that start can be anything unequivocally related to the permission. Thereafter I understand there is nothing that can be done by any authority to enforce further progress. It is profoundly depressing. It may well be that some if not all of these developments will not be completed unless and until there is a perceived upturn in the property market.

### *CHARITY SHOPS*

Concern has been expressed in some quarters about the charity shops of which we now have three. Ordinary traders feel they are disadvantaged particularly as the charity shops have Business Tax concessions. From a planning point of view both sort of shops are treated as the same.

### *BUILDINGS AT RISK?*

My committee is becoming increasingly concerned at the position relative to the many listed buildings in Knowle. Two examples are Grove Farm in Jacobean Lane and Milverton House at the end of the High Street.

Grove Farm has been the subject of more than one application to convert the buildings to modern residential units. The first application was very sympathetic and very quickly received the approval of my committee and after minor amendments that of Solihull planners. The builders then went back and said they could not make a profit unless they were also permitted to erect new buildings among those that are now listed. The subsequent refusal from the Council has been appealed and it will take months for the appeal to be heard. Meanwhile the buildings are apparently being left and one has grave concerns as to whether they are wind and water proof for the coming winter. The Council has powers to enforce that position and we are chivvying them to make sure that that is done.

Milverton House is in a not dissimilar position where several applications have been submitted for its use as a children's nursery. The Society has objected mainly on highway grounds as many traffic movements are seen to be very dangerous so near to perhaps the most hazardous junction in Knowle. One of the unsuccessful applications is we believe being appealed to the Secretary of State but again we fear for the fabric of this very fine Elizabethan building.

### *SUCCESS AND HOPE*

I end on a more optimistic note. The application to recommence tipping and crushing operations at a site in Cuttle Pool Lane which attracted objections not only from my committee but also Malcolm Brain's environmental committee and 67 other individuals and three separate petitions was resoundingly rejected by the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> August. One of the effects of this application could have been 60 heavy lorry movements in the High Street every working day. Those of us who attended the Council planning meeting were gratified to note that of ten authorities and organisations approached, nine objected which is believed to be a record. There was a cross party total consensus in rejecting it. Also at that meeting several other applications were rejected, some against the advice of the officers. One which particularly interested me was for the demolition of 80 Broad Oaks Road and the building of five new houses on the site. One of the grounds for refusal was that the proposal 'is inappropriate and detrimental to the character of the surrounding area'. The members were advised by their officers that PPG3 advises that new housing development of whatever scale should not be viewed in isolation. I find this fascinating and trust that in future that what is sauce for the Broad Oaks goose will be sauce for the Knowle gander.

I look forward to the next year.

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

### ***THE YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE***

Looking back, we have made good progress, although the programme we set ourselves at the beginning of the year always looked a bit optimistic - but there are still three months to go before 2006, and we have done things not on the list. The care and conservation programme, digital imaging and oral history programmes are progressing steadily, but with some way to go; the Archives Working Group is a success and could be followed by others; there has even been a *little* progress on cataloguing and indexing. The presentation of four small exhibitions in the showcases each year, instead of larger ones every two years or so seems successful and possibly less work. (It was interesting to note, on holiday in Dorset, that a local museum much larger than ours does the same thing). In any case we have no choice, as the exhibition gallery at Chester House is no longer available. This year we also presented an exhibition in the Guild House in July. Gillian Knight continues to be in demand for talks from time to time.

As usual the local history year started with the Junior School local studies project, when the children from Year 6 look at photographs from the collection and then ask longstanding residents about their memories of village life. The inclusion of a dedicated set of photographs was a great improvement, which will stand us in good stead in the future. Next year it will be taken over by two new people at the school end and will be in the Spring term. An out-of-the ordinary event was our involvement in ITV's *The Way We Were* series, which made stars of three Knowle ladies. (Just to remind you - copies are available for loan. Contact Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283 if you would like to borrow one).

### ***CARE & CONSERVATION***

During the year a good number of items have been added to the collection, some in relation to the exhibitions - particularly photographs of people in uniform for *Peace & Remembrance*. The parish magazines have been transferred to new folders, with the early ones given the added protection of acid free sleeves (from which we hope they will never need to be removed). Good progress has been made with transferring the rest of the collection, but the sheer handling time makes it a long job - and then there are new labels to print. John Rear has made an excellent job of the maps and the map case is nearly ready to receive large flat items. The problem with this has been finding a suitable method and material to create a bottom hinge - scheduled for completion on September 6th. Then we just need a couple of flattish buckles for the straps. New notices at Chester House have made the local history centre look a lot more cared for. The Archives Working Group, set up during the year, meets once a month and does anything asked of it by way of caring for the archives.

### ***DIGITAL IMAGING***

Geoffrey Dean has now scanned well over 1100 photographs - and is not far off the end. It cannot be stressed too strongly how useful these images have proved when preparing exhibitions and sending images to readers over the Internet.

### ***READER SERVICES***

Over the last year requests for our services have increased dramatically, both in person on Saturday mornings, and particularly via e-mails, which come from all over the world and often result in protracted correspondence. Most are from people researching their family history. We try to share the work out; but the lion's share inevitably falls to Elizabeth Stanley, who spends a lot of time looking things up for people who cannot easily hop on a 'plane to get here. We are not alone in this - many record offices are finding the same thing. The Local History Centre is manned each Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12.00 (except Bank Holidays) If anyone needs more time, please ring Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283 beforehand.

### ***ORAL HISTORY***

The oral history programme has inevitably been put back a little as John Johnson took time off for major surgery. Nevertheless, there has been progress and he is just picking up the threads again. It is good to see him looking better.

### ***CATALOGUING, INDEXING & DOCUMENTATION***

To get the backlog of cataloguing down we are going to need extra help. This entails people new to the archives becoming familiar with the numbering and cataloguing system and the computer system. We need to write extensive training material - a big job in itself. We are presently mulling over the best way to tackle this, possibly by using a Microsoft Word table as a 'halfway house'. This is not suitable on a long term basis, but has the advantage of reducing the learning curve, as many people are familiar with it. The table can then be imported into the database, with indexing (another tricky subject) coming later. In the meantime, we have made some progress with a new accessions system, although it needs a few tweaks. Changes are still needed to the computer system to make it work more efficiently under Windows XP.

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**EXHIBITION PROGRAMME**

The exhibitions this year have been *Images of Lodge Road*, *The Red Lion*, *Peace & Remembrance* and the present one, *Knowle in Trafalgar Year*. *Johnson's Garage*, which was postponed from the beginning of the year, will follow in December. All the exhibitions have created a gratifying amount of interest - some of them considerably more than we expected. It is too early to know what next year's programme will be, but *Chester House* will probably follow *Johnson's Garage*. *Peace & Remembrance* was part of our contribution to the 60th anniversary of V.E. Day and V. J. Day, for which we also presented an exhibition in the Guild House for the village celebrations on July 9th. With a heavy programme otherwise and very limited opening hours we felt we had to reduce the scale from previous years, which was simply too much work. As our publicity proved somewhat inadequate we propose to get a new banner for the front of the Guild House to replace the vintage 1977 one we discarded as too tatty.

**CURRENT EXHIBITION: KNOWLE IN TRAFALGAR YEAR**

Our small celebration of the Battle of Trafalgar runs until November 30th. It gives a snapshot of Knowle in 1805, covering the manor, the church, the buildings, transport, health and welfare, schools, sport and leisure, etc. We have included some of the parish records and an early map; but otherwise the exhibition is illustrated with later material which best shows Knowle as it was 200 years ago. We are grateful to the vicar for allowing us to use the parish records and to Valerie Hamley (a 'proper' historian) for making sure we have not made any dramatic historical errors. There are plenty of posters round the village. We do hope you enjoy the exhibition.



*The Guild House - a private house in 1805*



*Grimshaw Hall - a farmhouse in 1805*



*The Greswolde became a coaching inn.*



*The canal - nearly new (opened 1799)*

**NEXT EXHIBITION: JOHNSON'S GARAGE**

This will follow *Knowle in Trafalgar Year*, running from December 1st to February 28th, and so will be on show before you receive the next newsletter. It is being prepared by John Johnson (who else?), who has some excellent family photographs never seen before. Watch for the posters later in the year.

**PEOPLE**

In closing it gives me great pleasure to thank the large team of people who have helped with the Local History operation during the year: the local history committee, our team of stewards, those who help with the Junior School project, Jennie Evans who faithfully keeps the scrap book up to date, a number of people who work individually and everyone who has provided items for the collection, without whom it would not exist. We are grateful to them all. It goes without saying that we miss the knowledge and advice of Dr. Bower.



*The old cinema just before conversion to the garage.*

Elaine S Warner - Knowle 775887

Are you reading someone else's copy?

Are you sympathetic to the aims of The Knowle Society?

Why not add your weight to the Society's voice? - see the back page to join

**VE / VJ CELEBRATIONS IN KNOWLE—SATURDAY 9TH JULY 2005**

*PICTURES BY DAVID BOWER FROM THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE*



Rita Brook, Malcolm Brain and John Rowley setting up The Knowle Society's gazebo



Have we got planning permission for all this?



It took two engineers to put up the sign



Eureka - done it!



The gazebo welcomed 17 new members that day

**8**



Heavy lorries replaced by heavy music

Enough to strike fear in the heart of any of Her Majesty's enemies



The yanks are back in Knowle



Knowle's answer to the crowds in the Mall



They soon removed the bearskins in the Red Lion afterwards!



**NEW CHAIRMAN AND NEW SOUND SYSTEM**

Well, I've survived my first year as Chairman of the Meetings & Social sub-committee, thanks almost entirely to the support I've received from the members of my team; Sandra Lea, Gwen Masters, Charles Robinson and Sue Trucchi.

I hope you agree that we've put on a good set of meetings with a variety of subjects. We always try to put on at least one thing that will interest every member, but with such a large and varied membership this is pretty difficult. You could help us here by passing on the names and details of any speakers you come across at other Societies and who you think would be suitable for one of our meetings. We are also very keen to get any feedback, whether positive or negative, on what you think of the meetings.

We hope we've improved your appreciation of the speakers by the provision of the sound system – hopefully we've cracked the problem with the *Loop* and those who rely on aids should find a great improvement. All we need to do now is to persuade all the speakers to use the microphone!

**WALKS**

As well as the meetings at the Village Hall our committee (mainly me) is responsible for organising the walks programme. I am very grateful to Stella Jarman for agreeing to continue to lead the 'nature' walks, as my knowledge of this area is pretty thin! I must admit that I am finding running the committee (and all my other interests) as well as the walks quite a commitment, so I'll make another appeal (this report seems to be full of them) for anyone who would like to help me in organising or leading one or two of the walks. I wouldn't expect you to do this all on your own, but some support would be great.

The first event of the Society's year was in fact a walk – the Boxing Day one. Once again we were lucky with the weather and a huge number of people turned out. I must thank the Masters and the Revilles for standing to their posts and manning the refreshment stands yet again. A similar number turned up for the Daffodil Walk – it was a real shock, as I wasn't expecting so many. However all went well, as did the later walks.

**MEETINGS**

Our first talk was on *Organic Gardening* which I certainly found very interesting. The follow-up visit to the Ryton Organic Garden Centre was excellent; it was a pity we didn't get more support as those who didn't come missed a great day out. We followed up in February with a talk on *Wildlife on the Canals* with an enthusiastic speaker.

The March & April meetings had speakers with a real-life tale to tell, which they both did excellently, with accounts of a (fairly comfortable) evacuation from

Coventry and the role and contribution of a Prison Visitor. These were followed in May by an extra meeting, when we had the opportunity to listen to and question Katherine Kerswell, the Chief Executive of Solihull Council. I think everyone would agree that she gave a good account of herself and the work of the Council.

**WIN SOME—LOSE SOME!**

The talk in June was about the RNLI. I was rather disappointed by the low number in the audience as, despite Knowle being about as far from the sea as possible, there is strong local support for this valuable Institution. Never mind, we keep trying. I found the July talk on the use of Speed Cameras rather a let-down as it didn't raise the lively discussion I was expecting. Although we were given some interesting information about the effect of speed I thought we'd get a rather more wide-ranging exploration of road safety and measures to improve it.

There was an excellent turn-out for the September meeting – caused, I'm sure, by the subject of the meeting - 'Little Known Warwickshire' and not by people being very keen to attend yet another Extraordinary General Meeting! It turned out to be one of the best talks of the year – look out for 'Little Known Warwickshire' Part 2 in next year's programme by popular request.

**GOOD THINGS TO COME**

The final meeting of the year is the Victorian Musical Evening on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> with Andy Casserley who will perform and sing a selection of well-known musical numbers on genuine Victorian instruments. I am sure we'll also get an opportunity to join in and have a fun night. There are a few tickets left, so if you get this Newsletter before the closing date of 10 October you have a final chance to join in this very entertaining night. Contact Sue Trucchi on 01564 775662 (NOW) for tickets (£3 each).

We will also be providing the traditional Christmas Tree for the village and running (or rather walking!) the Boxing Day outing with, hopefully, the usual refreshments. Details of these later via the posters around the village. As do all the Sub-Committees, we do our best to support the Society, in our case through providing events that the membership can join in. We are always keen to accept any offers of help, so if you'd like to be involved even in a small way, please get in touch. You'll be very welcome.

**WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?**

Your sub-committee has had a relatively quiet inaugural year. The projects identified in January have, to various levels, been achieved.

**TRAFFIC AND POLICE**

**ACHIEVEMENT:** With the support of a resident's petition to the Council the situation along Kenilworth Road has been investigated thoroughly and at least some improvements can now be anticipated.

The continuing volume of traffic on the roads in and around the village will inevitably cause further demands from the affected residents for action to be taken, especially with regard to the seemingly ever increasing speed that vehicles can attain. However with traffic volumes continually increasing the ultimate benefit may be that some day traffic will not be able to go anywhere fast, similar to the *rush hour* in London or Birmingham! Your opinions as to whether you would like to see a 20 mph speed limit through the village would be appreciated, but please bear in mind that currently the traffic department of West Midlands Police is not seen as a priority area, and so enforcement would not be possible.

With regard to the Police the most encouraging feature has been the introduction of the Community Police Station that has been seen in and around Knowle; and with officers on the beat on foot has had a comforting effect. Knowle is now being policed to the best degree since a separate police station existed many years ago.

**WALKWAYS**

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** The passageway between One Stop and National Westminster Bank has been resurfaced, but your committee has unfortunately been unsuccessful in arranging for those two commercial concerns to improve the sides of their properties. However a hard surface will be laid down along Hampton Road grass verge, opposite the football ground, up to the canal bridge, when funds are available to the Council in this financial year.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**

Recently applications have been made under the above Act to the Council Licensing Department which will become effective from 24 November this year. Although the Society has made an objection to one application for extended hours in the village, it was impossible to substantiate for a hearing due to a lack of hard evidence that the public house was to blame for increased traffic and public noise. No unruly behaviour had occurred and so the licence will be granted on the basis that the hostelry is well managed. However with effect from 24 November if sufficient proof can be presented to the Council that any licensed premises is in breach of the licensing objectives than a hearing can be requested to review the licence granted. This is more likely to affect those residents near to any such licensed premises, so if assistance is required do not hesitate to contact me.

**CAR PARKS**

**ACHIEVEMENT:** After making several requests over the past two years the tarmac covered car parks in the village on the western side of the High Street were re-laid and marked out earlier this year.

Some pressure on long term parking is caused by the workers who leave their vehicles on residential streets and around St John's Close. A survey carried out in the last two years showed that multiple car parking and then travelling on in one car, or the occupants then used the bus into Solihull, did not occur. It is time to put this too often stated myth well and truly in the bin.

The Councillors have been reminded that it is imperative that any future agreement for office development is accompanied by sufficient parking provisions. Otherwise the village will suffocate.

**IN CONCLUSION**

With Christmas not far away I know that the residents of Knowle can again not only look forward to the Society's excellent Christmas tree, but also the white street lights, which are supplied and erected every year by the local traders. Some considerable effort, and time, is required on each occasion and helpers are always required. This work is not always 'up a ladder' and if you feel that you can offer some of your time in assisting in this task I know that it will be greatly appreciated. Please see if you can make your contribution to this festive occasion.

In addition to this item there is a separate report by John Rowley concerning the matters affecting Birmingham International Airport. In view of all the proposals to be submitted in the future it is felt that a separate newsletter item should now be identified, although John is still a working member of this committee.

My thanks are expressed for his contribution not forgetting also those of Paul Blackman, Allan Coleman, and Steven

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

Bunch, who have ensured that the achievements listed above have occurred. If some further active assistance was forthcoming then maybe the committee could have achieved more! Any interested party can contact me on the telephone number, or email address below, and I will set out the needs. One particular vacancy is available to a minute taker, preferably with a computer, who would also be a committee member. Remember that the Society can not progress without volunteers.

My committee waits to hear from you, and hope that you all keep us on our toes for the remainder of this year and into 2006 with any suggestions as to where our efforts should be applied.

**Gary Masters - Knowle 779955**

	Total Number of Departures	Overflights of Knowle	Percentage over Knowle
Runway 15	2474	12	0.49%
Runway 33	2133	2	0.09%
TOTALS	4607	14	0.30%

  

Percentage	Overflights above 3000 feet	Overflights above 3000 feet as % of total flights	Overflights below 3000 feet	Overflights below 3000 feet as % of total
	1070	41.09%	1	0.04%
		4.12%	9	0.45%
		24.96%	10	0.2%
			0	

*Knowle's Noise Study Report*

## AIRPORT REPORT

The noise study report requested by The Knowle Society has been received from the Environmental Department of Birmingham International Airport, and a group from the society will be visiting the Airport to discuss it in October 2005.

The study was conducted from 9<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and a suitable location for the equipment was identified on the eastern side of the village and beneath the western edge of the Noise Preferential Route (NPR). In order to eliminate local community noise, as far as possible, threshold levels were set at 65 dB(A) and the spatial threshold set at a radius of 2.5 km.

The results of the noise analysis identified a predominance of aircraft registering in the lower noise bandings, with 95% of total arrivals and departures classified as less than 65 dB(A). Knowle was most significantly impacted by noise from Departures to the south, where 19 % of these operations registered greater than 65 dB(A)

During the study period, 1174 aircraft operating from Birmingham International Airport over flew Knowle. These primarily included arrivals onto the northern end of the main runway at high altitude. Of these over-flights there were a total of 14 aircraft over-flying Knowle at an altitude below 3000 feet. Of these, 4 aircraft over-flew Knowle on departure to the south. Out of 479 correlated noise events, 13 (less than 3%) were registered during the night period (2300 to 0600 local time).

As a result of regular track-keeping monitoring, some aircraft types have been identified as operating closer to Knowle, on the western edge of the Noise Preferential Routes (NPR). The Environmental Unit is currently liaising with those airlines which use these aircraft types, with a view to addressing this issue.

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Noise Preferential Route (NPR) NPRs cover the first 3000 feet altitude of the Standard Instrument Departures (SID) Routes.

**dB(decibel)** Measure of sound that uses a logarithmic scale from 0 (threshold of hearing) to 140 (threshold of pain)

**dB(A)** (A-weighted decibel) refinement of the decibel rating, that matches more closely the way the human ear responds to different noise levels.

**John Rowley**  
Knowle Society Airport Consultative Committee Representative

## MEMBERS' VISIT TO RYTON ORGANIC GARDENS

In January we were given such an interesting talk on the work of the Henry Doubleday Research Association at Ryton that a trip was arranged to see how they put their learning into practice in organic gardening.

The uptake was very disappointing, but in the end 11 members made the journey on 30 June, a rather overcast day in a spell of unsettled weather. We made it there in good time, despite the chaos of road works and the resultant diversions, to be met by our guide. She was a 'convert' to organic gardening, and a real mine of information, even knowing just where to shelter when the inevitable down-pour started.

The place was very well set up with modern buildings housing the reception area, a shop, information displays, a café and excellent restaurant. The gardens – obviously the main reason for our visit – were excellently laid out. They were organised as separate display gardens, each with its distinct character. For example, there were the allotments, the Coventry terraced house garden, the vegetable plot and the municipal planting. All were spaced out with well-kept grass between, which obviously was also grown without any chemical treatments. There were also displays of a multitude of composting systems, and the inevitable trademark comfrey liquid fertiliser makers.

The guided tour was excellent, but it was soon time for lunch, following which most took the opportunity to spend some more time revisiting the parts that most interested them, or those that we had not had time to do in the morning.

For anyone with an interest in gardening of any sort, a visit here is highly recommended. Even if you start off as a non-believer in strictly organic gardening you will find much of interest and value. I certainly did.

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Leighton Jones (report and photographs)

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Note: The Environment report will be available at the AGM

Welcome to our new members...

Mr & Mrs A J Abrahams  
Mrs A Bennett  
Mr & Mrs A Bolton  
Mr & Mrs Fraser  
Mr & Mrs Hawkins  
Mr & Mrs Jackson  
Ms Lashford  
Mr & Mrs L Moise  
Mr & Mrs Murray  
Mr Alan Parsons  
Mr Mark Richards  
Mr & Mrs W Robertson  
Mr & Mrs A Schofield  
Mr & Mrs A Simmons  
Mr & Mrs B Smart  
Mr & Mrs P Spittle  
Mr & Mrs M Thornton  
Sandra Turner  
Mr T Vass-De-Zomba &  
Miss J Case  
Mr & Mrs C P Vincent

*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 [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*

Editor:

*David Bower*

Photographer:

*Roger Grainger*

Proof readers:

*Maria Brown*

*John Chaloner*

*Sandra Lea*

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