

The Knowle Society



Volume 45 Number 1

January 2007

www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

New Chairman's Introduction

Thank you to all those people who attended the A G M last November who gave me such a welcome to the chair. I will try and serve you all with due regard. Many thanks to my predecessor, Colin Smith, for handing over the reins of a Society in such a healthy state.

I was delighted to see such an excellent attendance at the meeting, which obviously shows the support that the Society has in the local community, especially bearing in mind the increase in our membership over the last twelve months.

You are all most welcome and with such an increase in membership many may be reading this Newsletter for the first time and wondering what you are contributing to, and also how you are able to make your feelings and opinions known.

The answer to the first point I hope is in some detail and information throughout this publication, and its attachments. The latter I will attempt to answer in the following paragraph.

WHAT NEXT?

Each Sub-Committee of the Society reports to the Trustee Directors through its own chairman, the progress and the actions that it recommends. In certain instances these recommendations are naturally reactive to situations that have arisen. Occasionally consideration is given to seeking a way forward by looking at an alternate view to solving a problem. Also some thought is given to seeking a fresh approach to an existing difficulty. This is all very rewarding when something that may only start off as a thought

(Continued on page 2)

Events Diary

Monday 15th January

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 19th February

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Friday 23rd February

7.30pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 25th March

2.00pm at Widney Manor Station

Monday 19th March

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 16th April

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Wednesday 2nd May

7.30pm at Knowle Park car park

Policing and the Community

Inspector Peter Wilson & Sergeant Ann Strachan of Solihull Police

100 years of Scouting

Ian Carnell

Knowle Conservation Area (Date & Time provisional)

A public meeting to hear and discuss the appraisal report

Four forms of Transport—Walk

Hillfield, Monkspath and Widney—via roads & footpaths

Warwickshire Windmills

John Bedington

Cotswold Curiosities

Alan Winterburn

Hidden Secrets—Walk

Explore the hidden footpaths and alleyways of residential Knowle



becomes an accepted idea and is progressed to a conclusion.

protection and development of the village. All comments can be made to my email address, by telephone or by letter. They will all be acknowledged and if further clarification is required then you will be contacted requesting more information. I will report back on the outcome of this request.

With this in mind, and taking into account the

LONGER DAYS

You, like me I am sure, will be looking forward to the passing of the winter solstice and the gradually lengthening daylight, and the arrival of early spring flowers, followed by the new season buds appearing on the trees.

vast number of new members that have been attracted, I feel that with a new year starting it would be the right time to give you, the members, the opportunity to air your views and thoughts as to what you would like to see occur for the benefit of the village in the future. I would ask that you remember that the Society is not formed as a residents' association, but as a registered charity for the

I wish you all a happy New Year, and let us hope and pray that it will be peaceful.

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955 - chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY 2006-7

OFFICERS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Chairman
Mr Gary Masters
Secretary
Mr Peter Johnson

Deputy Chairman
Mr Colin Smith
Treasurer
Mrs Sandra Lea

Local History Centre
Mr Derek Mellor (temp)* Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Meetings, Social & Walks Sub-committee
Mr Leighton Jones * Mrs Gwen Masters
Mr Charles Robinson Mrs Susan Trucchi
Mr Martin Warr

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS

Mr David Bower	60 Barcheston Road	775790
Mr Allan Coleman	1 Starbold Court	772237
Mr Peter Ellis	8 Lightwood Close	775261
Mr Peter Ewin	46 Chantry Heath Crescent	776381
Mr Peter Johnson	1 Barnbrook Road	770268
Mr Leighton Jones	23 Newton Road	773894
Mrs Sandra Lea	9 Jacobean Lane	776850
Mr Gary Masters	38 Stourton Close	779955
Mr Derek Mellor	92 Chantry Heath Crescent	205129
Mr Peter Morton	18 Barnbrook Road	778688
Mr David Pinwell	73 Tilehouse Green Lane	772348
Mr John Rowley	15 Shortland Close	778289
Mr Colin Smith	102 Tilehouse Green Lane	772981
Mrs Elaine Warner	17 Blackdown Road	775887

Membership Mr Derek Mellor *
Newsletter & Website Mr David Bower *
Newsletter Distribution Mr Walter Birch
Publicity Mr David Pinwell *

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Airport Consultative Committee & BIA Environment Monitoring Working Group
Mr John Rowley *
Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Mr Phil Vince
Knowle Village Hall Association Council
Mrs Susan Trucchi
Solihull MBC Partnership
Mr Allan Coleman *
West Midlands Amenity Societies Association
Mr Peter Ewin *
West Midlands Congestion Management
Mr Andrew Marston
West Midlands Police Rural Assembly
Mr Paul Blackman

Planning Sub-committee

<u>Mr Peter Ewin</u> *	Mr Peter Ellis *
Mr Peter Morton *	Mr Norman Stanley
Mr Geoffrey Vaughan	Mr Phil Vince

Community Services Sub-committee

<u>Mr John Rowley</u> *	Mrs Lilla Baker +
Mr Paul Blackman	Mr Stephen Bunch
Mr Allan Coleman *	Mr Andrew Marston

Environment Sub-committee

<u>Mr Allan Coleman</u> *	Mr Graham Bishop
Mrs Catherine Knight +	Mr Andrew Marston
Mr Tony Rowe	Mr Martin Warr

* *Trustee Director* Sub-committee chairman
+ *Sub-committee secretary*

My report for this newsletter may appear somewhat rambling but I do want to let you know about a range of things that may be of interest.

Firstly, my committee's latest meeting with Paul Watson, Head of Planning at the Council. As I have commented before, this is a connection that is greatly valued, I believe, by both sides. We obviously get to comment on and question the position relative to both individual planning applications and also likely changes in the law and practice as they may affect Knowle and its people. Paul is a highly respected figure not only in Solihull but in the planning community as a whole. When he tells us something about how he sees the future we do well to listen.

At our latest meeting on November 27th, we first discussed the re-appraisal of the Conservation Area which is now proceeding apace. Members of my committee accompanied Eddie Booth, the very experienced Conservation Consultant who has been given the task of preparing the re-appraisal, on a walk round the Area on the 17th November. We found Eddie very approachable, very knowledgeable, and very much in sympathy with our feelings. We believe there are very many fine buildings in Knowle and they should be given the best and most robust protection. He shares that view. His first draft will be available very shortly and after comments from all interested parties, particularly your Society via my committee, the whole matter will be thrown open to public debate. A date late in February will be booked in the Village Hall when Eddie will make a presentation of the appraisal and Paul Watson will also be in attendance. PLEASE come along that night – the date is provisionally Friday 23rd February and it is very important that the voice of the village is heard. It was, after all, the High Street that triggered the formation of the Society in the first place.

We also discussed the new appeal hearing relating to the proposed M42 motorway service area. This will now commence on the 12th June and the Council are preparing their objections – we have been advised to support them and add any relevant points of our own. On this we are liaising with the Community Services committee.

Further matters of discussion were the refurbishment of the Library which will not now start until the New Year, and the very satisfactory resolution of the position relating to Grove Farm which is now undergoing thorough refurbishment without excessive and unacceptable development. Here the Council has been instrumental in obtaining this conclusion by taking a proper and robust attitude after our initial strong intervention. Rumours abound about a proposed marina near

Knowle Locks. We raised this with Paul. No planning application has yet been received but initial approaches have been made. This limits what he could say but it will suffice to state that consideration has been given to a proposal which would involve some 13 acres of land behind Wyndley Garden Centre. If and when the proposals become more concrete then of course they will be subject to a very close scrutiny.

Lastly, it has been suggested that I should expand on a comment I made in an earlier newsletter article where I said there were some 21 eating places in Knowle and that my committee felt enough was enough, although from a planning law perspective, that was not a reason to object to any new applications. Accordingly, I list below the 20 establishments that I can think of as 'eateries' in the widest sense.

Inns and pubs serving food

Toby Inn (Wilson's Arms)
Greswolde
Red Lion
The Vaults

Indian restaurants and take-aways

Bilash
Ellora
Saffron
Knowle Brasserie
Lloyds

Thai restaurant

Thai Village

Chinese restaurants and take-aways

Phonlik
Jade Palace
Tom Li

Italian restaurants

Pizzeria Napoletana
Vito's

Fish restaurants and take-aways

Loch Fyne Restaurant
Knowle Fish Bar

Cafes

Oliphants
New Deli
The Bread Collection

I think I may have miscounted by one as 21 [*the answer to the Quiz Night question—Ed*] included the application address in the High Street which did not proceed. I believe the point is well made in any event – we really don't need any more !

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

KNOWLE TOILET FACILITIES AND LACK OF A POLICE FOCAL POINT

We have combined these two requirements in an attempt to solve both problems; the committee has contacted Solihull Council with a view to incorporating into the refurbishment of the Library, the provision of modern toilets and a disabled toilet, thereby meeting the demands of the EU. The existing toilet block at the top of Station Road would remain for the provision of a Bus Shelter but the toilets would be removed and the building renovated in order to give the Police an office that they can work from within the village. The Society's Trustee Directors have given their full backing for the scheme and we are awaiting a reply.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The matter of overlap between the Community Services and Environment Sub-Committees was raised at the Trustee Directors' meeting in September. As a result Allan Coleman, John Rowley and Gary Masters have now mutually agreed the appropriate Terms of Reference to be used for the immediate future.

VILLAGE FLORAL DISPLAYS

An alternative to making a donation to the Council to assist in the watering of the hanging baskets is being considered. Information is awaited from the Council at the time of writing and further information will be published as soon as we have a reply.

POLICE ITEMS

A recent report from the police confirms that for the period from April to September this year a total of 198 crimes were recorded for the Knowle area compared to 194 for the corresponding period last year. Most types of crime had decreased, whilst vehicle crime had increased.

[See also our article on page 6 on the work of the magistracy in Birmingham—Ed]

AIRPORT

The Draft Master Plan which has been the focus of much debate during the last year is due to be submitted by the Airport in 2007. Knowle Society is of the opinion that with the growing concerns associated with Global Warming, the passenger numbers estimated in the Government White Paper and on which the Draft Master Plan is based, should be constantly under review.

Two issues are still outstanding:

- The Public Inquiry on Coventry Airport and its effect on Birmingham International Airport Air Space. (Due 2007)
- The Public Inquiry on the Motorway Service Area at Catherine-de-Barnes (due May 2007)

A major concern raised by The Knowle Society and other interested parties, was the potential impact on Knowle of increased road traffic both on the motorways and local roads. In response the Airport has issued a Draft Surface Access Strategy *[see note below]* for consultation, which will be presented to the Airport Transport Forum early in 2007. We still have concerns with respect to the co-ordination of the Airport, various Government Agencies and Local authorities and will be restating our concerns in writing.

I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

Birmingham International Airport's *Draft Airport Surface Access Strategy 2006-2012* may be found on:

www.bhx.co.uk/Transportation/285.pdf

You are advised that it is 71 pages long (1.81MB) but it does contain a broad review of all the possible developments in transportation in this area - rail, bus, taxi, roads and cycle routes.

CAR PARKS

This committee continues to press SMBC for alterations to the car parks adjacent to the shoppers' precinct as promised. This had originally been scheduled for November time during Messrs Tesco's closure for refurbishment and at a time when the car park proposed changes would have the least effect, this to include re-marking, re-routing and possibly installing Alligator feet at the exit and entrances to avoid further misuse of these openings.

It was rather a strange piece of timing by Messrs Tesco as just before Christmas they decided to cancel the proposed closure and reschedule it for the New Year. Our ward councillors are currently being consulted by SMBC car parks division; we approached Les Kyles at the AGM and asked him to raise the priority of questions being asked by the car park management team. The latest date given for most of the work to be undertaken is January 2007, again during Tesco closure time, but I am not taking odds on it.

TESCO TROLLEYS

Investigation is still going on and evidence being gathered to enable SMBC to make a measured and informed approach to Messrs



Tesco with regard to possible trolley parks with coin slot system to encourage the return of trolleys to a specific spot. As we understand it, the process is lengthy and could take a few months to put into place once agreement has been reached. We believe that the council will offer the trolley park areas, without loss of parking spaces, if Messrs Tesco will fund the actual materials involved.

ONE-STOP PASSAGEWAY

This area has had a limited tidy up but we continue to keep a watchful eye on the situation. It may well be that the real solution lies in the installation of a CCTV camera covering this area to identify where the problems of graffiti and litter lie and the general safety of the public. The local SMBC road cleaner has been made aware of the need to pay a little more attention to this unsightly spot.



We now have details of who we understand is responsible for the upkeep of the cable boxes and the removal of any graffiti and we will be establishing a route to them very shortly and including any other boxes in the area that have been the subject of some unwelcome attention.

TREES, SHRUBS & GRASS VERGES

SMBC is currently costing the establishment of a hardcore pathway running along Hampton Road to the car park, a distance of 150 yards or so, with a proposed width of around five feet and which would have a timber edging. It is likely that the finances are not available and we are possibly going to see a rather downgraded version of what we had hoped for but at least it will be better than it is at present.

The shrubs in the shoppers' precinct have been attended to and have received some old fashioned TLC and we are hopeful of their being included on a regular work schedule. The promised new waste bins for the area are on order and should be delivered soon but we will continue to follow it up on the precinct's behalf. You may be aware of the damaged trees in the park, replacements are on order and will be reinstated when replacements become available. This committee believes that the general grass cutting and some of the border and bed work has been much improved this year and we hope it continues, if not we will make a few noises.



DOCTOR BOWER MEMORIAL

Regrettably the proposed memorial to Doctor Bower ran out of steam for a while but with new information and input from a new source this committee is confident of arranging a fitting memorial and bringing 'value to the village'. The 'new source' I refer to is a member of the Colebridge Trust, a full member of the Development Trust Association, which is well versed in the type of memorial that would be in keeping with the village and would also add local value. A further meeting has been held and three sites identified as possible locations, these include the library courtyard, St John's Close green and an area adjacent to the Guild House. It is not likely that any concrete [*not literally—Ed*] proposal can be offered before Jan/Feb but this committee will keep all parties informed of progress.

Finally I am pleased to report that following my appeal for a secretary to complete the group we have been fortunate enough to take on board Catherine Knight who I believe will only enhance our current committee. Catherine with Andrew Marston, Graham Bishop, Tony Rowe, Martin Warr and myself and with some added help for the Dr. Bower memorial from three A N Others we are certain we can arrange something fitting and of some value to the village and even more so, pleasing to the Bower family.

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

The Society's Objects include 'to secure the ... protection ... of features of general public amenity' and the picture of graffiti on the previous page reminds us of the problems that increasingly beset communities like Knowle. With ASBOs and similar mechanisms available to the Police in mind, Richard Lea describes his role at the judicial end of the process. Members may also note that our first meeting of the New Year is a visit from the local community police.

A BRUMMIE BEAK

I know that Knowle Society had a visit from Solihull Magistrates a few years ago, but my intention here is to make a comparison between Knowle and Birmingham as communities but only eleven miles apart. Birmingham's is the largest Magistrates Court in the country, possibly even in Europe. There is not a London Court as such, as it is divided into different districts. You may recall the names from hearing them on the radio, Bow Street, Horseferry Road and others.

As a consequence of Birmingham's size and the size of population which the Court serves, we shall see most of the serious crimes of murder, rape, kidnapping, and serious assaults at some time. These crimes will be dealt with in the Crown Court subsequently. Having served on the Birmingham Bench for over twenty years, there is one overriding impression that I still come away with even now; most of us living in suburban, leafy B93 have almost no perception of how the petty criminal fraternity live their grinding day to day existence. Of course there are problems in Knowle; as a sweeping statement they are very different problems however.

At the sentencing stage in the overall legal exercise, a convicted defendant's previous record if any, will be disclosed. In many circumstances we shall read a specially prepared report from the Probation Service, which outlines the lifestyle and history of the defendant. This is not a fictionalised overstated, gritty legend of social comment, this is a live human being who is standing in front of you, and this is his or her story – how different from Starbold Crescent or Wychwood Avenue.

WARRANTS AND FIREARMS

On my last appearance in Court, I signed four search warrants of private residences for serious drug related matters. There are, as you would expect, procedures and controls in place. Warrants are not signed without care and forethought as to the potential consequences of a raid. The searches are designed, normally, to trace evidence or to find persons whom the police wish to interview. Whilst every case will differ in one regard or another, frequently the raids will take place at a time when there may be children present. In extreme cases, there is intelligence that there may be firearms in the house or flat. In that instance, the police will usually decide that for their own safety, they will also need to be armed. Imagine, for a moment, the effect if the children have not been removed. Imagine the effect on the community if ethnic minorities may be perceived to be being targeted. This is the harsh reality of life in certain inner city areas on occasion. And this is the responsibility that falls on Magistrates in the cities to fulfil with every warrant signed. Obviously there are drugs issues in Solihull, and such considerations apply equally here.

ASBOS

One of the most significant changes of the last few years has been the introduction of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, known universally as ASBOs. The basic concept of an Order is to try and bring some relief to those living within a community where the conduct of certain individuals is making the lives of others totally intolerable. Be in no doubt that these individuals can wreck lives. One case in which our bench imposed an ASBO related to the activities of a prostitute in Edgbaston. I could not bring myself to describe here the foul and vile effect she was having on that locale. The case was brought by the police after being approached by the local Residents' Association. Heaven forbid that Knowle Society should ever find itself in such a position! They were also sponsored by a local newspaper, who then twisted my Chairman's comments for effect. That was unhelpful and cynically self serving. Unfortunately, we as Magistrates rarely learn whether the specific order that we have imposed ever works. With over twenty courts operating daily in Birmingham, the sheer volume of court work precludes this. I certainly hope that it did in the case that I touched upon. It was almost impossible to believe.

When reading about ASBOs in newspapers or hearing about them on television, it is important to remember that these candidates will almost certainly have, in the past, been given every opportunity to amend their lifestyle. An ASBO will be the latest attempt to curb that defendant's behaviour, when other sentences or cautions have already proved unsuccessful. Even then, recent figures have shown that approximately 46% of ASBOs have been breached. In some ways, this is hardly surprising, given the circumstances that gave rise to the ASBO originally. Nonetheless, it can be argued that some communities will have benefited from the remaining 54% that have not failed.

There is a view that ASBOs could be strengthened by more rigorous monitoring and enforcement. Sadly in the complex world in which we presently live, life is not as simple as that. That's a subject for another occasion, however.

WHY DO I SIT ON THE BENCH?

The question most often asked is "Why do you sit as a Magistrate and self impose the scrutiny of sordid, violent and frequently tragic experiences? There are many answers and no answers. It may be perceived as arrogant to volunteer to sit in judgement on one's fellow citizens. A *power thing* even? I hope not. Our individual influence is limited as we sit in benches of two or sometimes three.

We are well trained and guided by our legal advisors. That does not mean that we do not express our own views at times, but all within the parameters of the law. Not in public of course, but the retiring room can sometimes become a little boisterous!

Most of us believe that we are providing a public service that is essential within a structured society. Others within the community provide a wide range of other public service voluntarily, and this is ours. For most of the time we have to apply our minds to situations that may be complex, sad or almost unbelievable. That will demand concentration and even-handed deliberation. Sometimes we throw our hands in the air and say, what on earth can we do here? The conclusion may be totally unsatisfactory, due to circumstances beyond our control, or outside our available options.

I come home at the end of a court day usually fatigued. Rarely do I return bored.

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR...

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the Society's accounts for the period ended 30th September 2006 are in the format recommended by the Charity Commission for Incorporated Companies, which the Society now is. The new format has been a learning curve for me, and I would like to thank the Society's Independent Examiner, Caroline Stewart, who gave freely of her time, for all her help and support.

The Trustees are very mindful of their responsibilities in looking after the Society's assets. At the regular Trustees' Meetings, a full report as to bank balances and details of expenditure are reported. We ensure that at any one time we are aware of the Society's financial position.

I know how 'dry' the subject of accounts can be. However I hope you will be able to see from the information on this page that the Society is in a very sound financial position. During the next twelve months the Trustees will be in the very enviable position of deciding how the funds can be used for the benefit of the members and the Village.

Except for £47, which was collected a few days after 30th September 2006, all the subscriptions due for the year 2005/2006 had been paid. As I write this report, Derek Mellor tells me that over 80% of subscriptions have been collected for the year 2006/2007. This is a magnificent achievement and my thanks go to Derek Mellor, Walter Birch and all the distributors.

In the Trustees' Annual Report there was a very interesting statement. It said 'The Trustees and many other volunteers freely give of their time and respective expertise. It is not considered meaningful to place an accurate value on this gift.' We must always remember that all the volunteers work very hard for Knowle Society, but the ultimate gift is to Knowle, a place we all care about. Sandra Lea – Knowle 776850

A subset of the Annual Report and Accounts as presented at the AGM in November may be found on page 11.

Some things to look out for on the website..

- All past newsletters can be read as pdfs (not the current copy which remains a membership benefit)
- A *Site Map* provides an easy way of finding your way around the Knowle Society website
- We are looking at the possibility of providing a facility for members and others to share comments (moderated) on the website following a request at the AGM
- All meetings and walks are listed on the website should you lose your programme card or newsletters

HISTORY EXHIBITIONS AND THE SATURDAY MORNING ENQUIRY SESSIONS IN CHESTER HOUSE LIBRARY MAY BE INTERRUPTED FOR A PERIOD (POSSIBLY IN THE SPRING OR SUMMER) IF AND WHEN LIBRARY BUILDING WORK COMMENCES.

ALL CHANGE!

At the AGM, Elaine Warner announced that she had advised the Trustee Directors of her resignation from the leadership of the Local History Centre (LHC). Elaine continues as a Trustee Director of The Knowle Society. She and her team have built up a prodigious resource for the Society but in her own words, with a lot more work still to be done! Derek Mellor who also looks after the Membership records of the Society, has taken on a caretaker role for the LHC, working closely with Elizabeth Stanley. All the normal activities of the LHC will continue, though there may be some disruption during the early part of this year. The exhibitions and Saturday open mornings at the Library will also be affected by the proposed building work at Chester House, during which time the Society will have to store its archives offsite temporarily. The exact date of this work is still not known, assuming that it does actually go ahead as planned; at the time of going to press this is expected to be late Spring or early Summer.



Derek Mellor

The next exhibition *The Railway Station*, is planned for early 2007 but the exact dates will be announced on the website and in the newsletter when known. The Saturday morning Library team of the LHC welcomed Gretta Scriven (*picture right*) who joined in December. This team is available to help visitors with enquiries about local history and the local archives collection and fields a variety of enquiries most weeks from members and visitors.



Gretta Scriven being shown the ropes of the LHC by Elizabeth Stanley (right)

PLUS ÇA CHANGE?

In our occasional dip into the Society's minutes, this time we look at the concerns of ten years ago.

Proposed expansion of Birmingham Airport was considered but not opposed. *[The Society always tries to take a careful view of planning matters and by no means automatically says 'no' to all change.]*

The persistent flouting of licensing restrictions by an Indian restaurant making home deliveries from its premises was the subject of discussion throughout the year.

There was a concern that Knowle residents should have the option of using Warwick Hospital and it was duly confirmed that this was the case.

The Nature Conservation sub-committee identified that washing machine effluent was being discharged into surface water drains and polluting Purnells Brook—as a result Solihull Council sent out an appropriate leaflet to all homes in the catchment area.

The laying of video cables in the pavements gave rise to discussions with the cable company about the damage that was being inflicted on tree roots by careless digging. It was reported that some teams had actually been sacked for damaging trees.

The committee decided that its general meetings would always be preceded by 15 minutes where the officers would be available to meet individuals and then start with 15 minutes of news from the sub-committees. *[This practice continues today and gives a regular forum for members to take part in the important business of the Society.]*

Four members of the then executive committee are still trustee directors today. *[A healthy sign that although there is continuity, there are also 'villagers' who value the work of the Society and who are willing to come onto the Society's committees today and serve the community in this way for a few years.]*



Over the hills and far away! It wasn't concrete all the way – the Temple Balsall Walk and Tea last September

Well, doesn't it come round quickly? The brand New Year I mean, with I hope plenty of promise of good things to come.

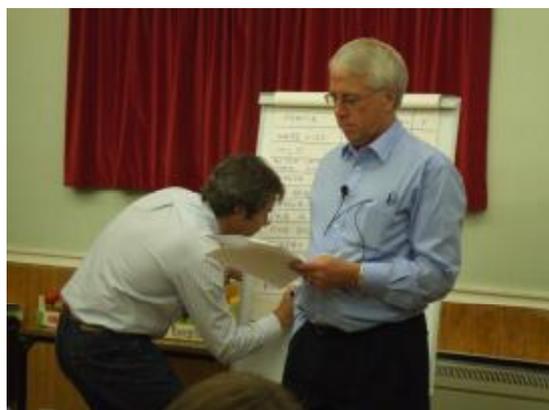
Before I turn to that subject I must mention the Christmas Tree which we as Knowle Society again presented to the village. I hope you appreciated it, and the lights that brightened up the dark evenings. It has been the role of the Meetings & Social committee to organise this for some years, with the admirable assistance of Craig from 'Ground Care'. Actually it's more like the other way round, he does the hard work and we do the titivating of making sure the lights are arranged properly! (*See the photo on page 10.*) I must say it's worth the hard work, especially when everyone gathers to welcome Father Christmas who gives the count-down for the grand switch-on. We must thank Knowle Traders for the other lights in the village and the shopkeepers who supply the mulled wine and nibbles.

The events around Christmas including the Boxing Day walk really wind up the calendar year, although technically they are the first events of the Knowle Society year, as this starts at the AGM. I don't know about you, but this always confuses me! I hope you will agree that we had a good year of Meetings & Walks in 2006. While some of the latter were not terribly well attended, it was no surprise that the best supported was the one that ended with 'Tea & Cakes' at Temple Balsall! On the whole the Meetings were very well attended. As usual we had a variety of subjects, with history, nature and local interest talks. One of the latter was the second part of Alan Winterburn's 'Little Known Warwickshire'. This was so well received that we immediately booked him for 2007, a record third appearance. This time he's moving a little further afield to the Cotswolds. The Social Event of the 2006 year was the Grand Quiz Night, which was very well supported. I was pleased that my team only came second – it would have been too much to win again!

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Quiz Night teams—full house and competitive!



Quiz Scorer and Questionmaster

Looking forward now to the events for this coming year, we again have a full programme of Meetings and Walks for you to enjoy. We start with a rather different Meeting – an open evening with our local Police team. Come along and hear how they are working to improve the safety of us and our property. I'm sure they'll also be very interested to hear what is concerning you.

(Continued on page 10)

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2006



Leighton Jones in 'pole' position erecting the lights with help from Charles Robinson & Craig from 'Ground Care'



The Ardenaires entertaining a large young crowd at the switching on of the Christmas lights

(Continued from page 9)

How many of you were, or who had brothers who were, members of the Scout Association – the Boy Scouts as it used to be? I'm sure you will be able to add your recollections to our February Meeting which celebrates the centenary of the movement. Some of you will realise that 1st Knowle is one of the oldest Groups still in existence and will be celebrating its own centenary very soon.

Arranging these meetings and setting up the Hall requires effort all the year round and for this I must thank the members of my Committee and also those extras, like Phil Vince and Jenny Evans, besides those attending the Meetings who willingly clear away chairs etc. It really does make a difference.

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Later in the year we have another different subject, when our MP, Caroline Spelman will talk about her life as a Member of Parliament and a Mother. I'm not sure if I've got those the right way round. I'm sure she'll put me right!

Best wishes for a pleasant and healthy New Year to you all.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

NEW FACES AND NEW ROLES



*New sub-committee chairmen:
Allan Coleman (Left) (Environment) and
John Rowley (Right) (Community Services)*



(l-r) Derek Mellor and Gary Masters at the LHC



*Members of the Community Services sub-committee (l-r):
Andrew Marston, Lilla Baker, Stephen Bunch
and Paul Blackman (plus Allan Coleman – see left)*

See page 7 for the Finance report.

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2006		
	£	£
Current Assets :		
Debtors	517	
Lloyds TSB	3,322	
National Savings Bank	<u>8,759</u>	
		12,598
Less: Current Liabilities		
Creditors:		
Amount falling due within 1 year		611
Net Current Assets		<u>11,987</u>
Accumulated funds		
Unrestricted Funds		11,152
Restricted Funds		835
		<u>11,987</u>

Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Costs of Generating Funds			
Hire of Village Hall	267		267
Speakers	213		213
Meetings Expenses	184		184
Social Events	648		648
Newsletter	869		869
Advertising	521		521
	<u>2,702</u>	-	<u>2,702</u>
Costs of Charitable Activities			
Local History Centre	785		785
Community Services	23		23
Planning	33		33
Christmas Expenses	221		221
Annual Subscriptions	185		185
Watering Hanging Baskets	300		300
Poppy Wreath Appeal	20		20
Web Site	29		29
	<u>1,596</u>	-	<u>1,596</u>
Governance Costs			
Insurance	230		230
Professional & Legal Costs	941		941
Guild House -Trustees' Meetings	180		180
Postage Stationery & Sundries	308		308
	<u>1,659</u>	-	<u>1,659</u>

Statement of Financial Activities 20 July 2005 to 30 September 2006				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income:				
Subscriptions	6,111		6,111	
Taxation Refund	555		555	
	<u>6,666</u>	-	<u>6,666</u>	
Activities for Generating Funds				
Walks	100		100	
Collections	256		256	
Social Events	742		742	
Local History Centre	409		409	
	<u>1,507</u>	-	<u>1,507</u>	
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	253	74	327	
Total Income Generated	<u>8,426</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>8,500</u>	
Less: Resources Expended				
Costs of Generating Funds	2,702		2,702	
Costs of Charitable Activities	1,596		1,596	
Governance Costs	1,659		1,659	
Total Resources Expended	<u>5,957</u>	-	<u>5,957</u>	
Surplus of Income over Resources Expended	2,469	74	2,543	
Funds Transferred from Unincorporated Society	8,683	761	9,444	
Funds Carried Forward	<u>11,152</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>11,987</u>	

Notes:

'Restricted Funds' are the Wootton Fund.

The funds were transferred on 1st October 2005 from the unincorporated Society to the incorporated Society, but as the company was formed on 20th July 2005 this date has to be quoted to comply with company regulations. Next year's accounts will be for a period of one year only.

Sandra Lea
Knowle 776850

To find out more...The tables above do not include the full notes on the Society's expenditures or the formal report by the Trustees and the Independent Examiner. The full Annual Report and Accounts may be found on www.knowledgesociety.org.uk—just follow the link on the front page of the website or look at the *Site Map* for this and any other information that you might wish to view. Alternatively call Sandra for a copy.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
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Bartlett-McCourt | Mr & Mrs L Hawkins | Mr & Mrs J Roylance |
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Broomhall | Mr & Mrs R Jennings | Mr & Mrs B Thomson |
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All members should receive a copy of the 2007 Programme Card with this issue.

In this Issue...

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| 3. Planning | 7. Finance | 11. 2006-7 Accounts |
| 4. Community Services | 8. Local History | 12. Membership |

A warm welcome to 261 new members this quarter including those listed opposite. [Last newsletter we welcomed 177 new members — this should have read 310]

The Knowle Society has over 2400 members, can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join too? This may be done either by contacting the Membership Secretary or through an application form on www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

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