

The Knowle Society



Volume 45 Number 3

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www.knowlesociety.org.uk

RESPONSES AND THE COMMUNITY

Firstly a big “thank you” to all those people who have commented on the previous Newsletter. I have received letters, telephone calls, and verbal comments in the street and on bus trips into Solihull on occasion. All respondents have stated that support of the local traders, wherever possible, is laudable in order that the local street scene is maintained along the High Street and Station Road. A number of our traders work extremely hard for the benefit of the village and its community. It is disappointing that in view of the financial savings that the Council has had to impose for the current year that they have had to withdraw support for the display of any Christmas illuminations across the borough for this Christmas. Our traders are however prepared to

continue to erect the white lighting along the High Street and Station Road this year, and are prepared to find the cost from the donations that they collect from other traders and offices. The cost of the electricity supply is going to be the major expense. Are we, as members of the community prepared to help them achieve this? In order to assist, the Society has agreed to organize the switch-on night at the end of November / early December.

“How can I help?” I can hear the majority of you asking. I assume that collection tins will be positioned in several shops in the village at a later date. Let us continue to maintain a traditional atmosphere in the village for this Christmas, and beyond.

The Society itself is always looking for suitable recruits for its work. All new members are asked to identify what specific areas of interest they have, but this is only limited to Sub-Committee work or Administration. How about if you were not asked previously if you were prepared to help? Other factors of the Society’s work are however vital. I have made reference to the Knowle Festival earlier and on that day the Society will be in attendance with volunteers helping answer enquiries from members and general public alike. Are you interested in public relations? I have already mentioned Newsletter distributors and Bulk distributors. The Society is always interested to hear from people who

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Events Diary

Monday 16th July

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 22nd July

2.30pm outside the Guild House

Monday 17th September

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 23rd September

2.00pm at Fen End Road car park

Monday 15th October

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Back to Back Lives in Birmingham

Ken Hughes talks about these National Trust preserved houses

Butterfly Walk

An easy short walk with stops, led by Stella Jarman

Being a Member of Parliament and a mother

Caroline Spelman MP

Temple Balsall Walk

A walk followed (optionally) by tea at Temple Balsall

An evening of music and comedy with ‘Dandy’

Members and Guests only—a small charge applies

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are prepared to take an interest in those fields. Remember that nothing is done by itself.

WORKERS

Over the past three months I have been endeavouring to learn more about the workings of the Society from those people who should know, namely the Sub-Committee members. It has been a great pleasure to attend meetings of the Local History and Planning sub-committees and I have been educated in the various aspects of the work that these groups carry out. From the complexities of cataloguing items to be added to the History archives to the matters of planning law that could be considered for raising an objection to a planning application. The widespread knowledge both being given and shared among the people involved is extraordinary. When it is considered that the Local History group has only been together since the beginning of the year the strides that they have made are considerable.

An afternoon 'cup of tea and a slice of cake' has also been held to thank the members who are prepared to



deliver the quarterly issues of the Newsletter around the village. This was well received and helped the members of the Executive who attended to listen

to what the people at the coal-face experienced. It was unfortunate that some were unable to attend, or too shy and regrettably some bulk distributors did not receive an invitation, for which I on behalf of the Society am extremely sorry.



It has made me realise how much the Society relies on the people who give of their own time for the benefit of us all. My sincere thanks go to those people who make up the working bones of the Society, and they should know that every person reading this article will endorse my comments for your efforts in ensuring that the 'community spirit' in the form of the Knowle Society is carried on.

In conclusion I would like to say how pleasing it is to see so many new faces attend the talks in the Village Hall this year. This in itself is a tremendous fillip to the hard work of the Meetings and Social group that has already nearly completed a programme for 2008, and in fact is working on suggestions for 2009. I am sure that some of you will be wishing your favourite speaker is included. If so contact Leighton Jones on the detail supplied later in this edition.

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

HERITAGE OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

It is provisionally suggested that Colin Smith and Peter Ewin will lead walks along the High Street part of the Conservation Area on the above day. These would be intended for members and non-members who are not particularly well informed as to the history of Knowle and would take perhaps 40 to 45 minutes starting every half hour from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. inclusive. They will start from the British Legion car park and will be for no more than 6 people at a time.

PLUS ÇA CHANGE?

Another look at the Society's minutes of ten years ago:

- May 1997—Membership stands at c.1520 [c.f. the back page of this issue!]
- May 1997—The Parks Superintendent has been asked for conservation mowing under trees to protect from drought.
- May 1997—The Secretary was asked to write to the Birmingham Cable Company to thank them for their cooperation during the recent cable laying operation.
- June 1997—Crime—A dramatic reduction had occurred since closure of the Venue Night Club.

CAN YOU HELP WITH STORAGE?

The Knowle Society has some large display boards and a small gazebo (in a bag) for which it is seeking moderately secure storage facilities. These items are used at most two to three times a year. Although it would be helpful if they could be stored near the centre of the village this is not essential, as if they have to be loaded into a car, the actual distance travelled is fairly immaterial. A lock-up garage would be one option—are you in a position to assist the Society, perhaps for two or three years? Please contact Peter Ellis on 775261.

DECISIONS AND OBJECTIONS

As the membership of our Society exceeds 2,700 and therefore one third of the voting population of Knowle I am increasingly aware that when any of our sub-committees submit views to the Council or similar body, we must take care faithfully to represent so far as possible the views of you, our members. This was particularly on my mind when my sub-committee recently discussed two applications both of which could be said to be on the periphery of our area of interest.

The first was an application to construct hardstanding at Chadwick Court for use as a helipad. My belief is that from a planning point of view objections may only be submitted to the area of hardstanding as such. I may be wrong but I think questions of noise attributable to the helicopters are not matters that the planners deal with. Whether that is right or not, perhaps the more important aspect is whether we at Knowle Society should concern ourselves with planning matters relating to properties that far from Knowle. Maybe we should but there has to be a limit somewhere and our constitution obliges us to be involved only within our area of influence. My committee decided by a majority that we should get involved and we objected accordingly.

Similar considerations came into play when we discussed an application to permit clay pigeon shooting at Hob Lane/Elvers Green Lane. I consider the application to be misplaced and environmentally obnoxious but was it a matter for the Society? Again my sub-committee thought so and we joined in the chorus of objections. Our chairman, Gary Masters, was at our meeting and found the discussion very interesting – this is the sort of discussion we have fairly regularly as you may imagine.

Another matter of interest and contention is the recent application to develop the substantial rear garden of number 17 Kenilworth Road with two bungalows. My committee are in the process of deciding its views but it has to be said that the access road is narrow and probably too narrow for emergency vehicles. The design of the bungalows is in my view unobjectionable as such but we may well decide that the area is wrong overlooking as it does

GIFT AID, A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME

Like every thing these days nothing seems to stay the same. Gift Aid used to be accounted for on a fiscal basis, i.e. at 5th April: until this year. The format for claims for limited companies now (The Knowle Society falls into this category) is that the claims must be made relative to the company's accounting period. Ours is 30th September, and any one claim cannot bridge different accounting periods. I have just received payment of £239.74 from H M Revenue & Customs for the period 6th April 2006 to

the Children's Field and involving building on a fine piece of garden land.

I feel sure most if not all of you will have read some of the details of the new planning White Paper published by the Government. If the proposals lead to legislation then the two most important aspects appear to be at the two ends of the spectrum. Firstly on the small side the ability to build extensions to 'normal' dwellings will be greatly enhanced. The criterion will solely or at least mainly be the effect on neighbours and their properties. To be fair, that has been the main criterion for some years and the necessity to satisfy the Building Inspector that Building Regulations are met will be unaltered. I understand that the situation will be different in Conservation Areas and for listed buildings and purely from the point of view of Knowle Society that really is the only vital aspect. Those applications will still have to meet the greatly stricter criteria that are relevant.

On the considerably larger side, major developments will become much simpler than they are now. The years that were needed to obtain planning permission for Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport has convinced the Government that the whole process needs to be simplified and shortened. Your views on this White Paper may depend on which is more important to you – the ability to make progress in big new developments or allowing all shades of local opinion to be given voice before any decision is made. I think most of us will believe that to deprive people of the right to object in a reasonable way is not to be considered without much discussion. It will be interesting to see how this develops.

There have been several applications recently for roadside kiosks and other street furniture to be 'sponsored' by commercial advertisers. It would seem that the Council is trying to recover in some small way a portion of the reduced grant from Westminster. My committee is not very happy with this principle and will tend to oppose such applications wherever in Knowle they are proposed. We don't want our street scene to be like Main Street U.S.A.

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

30th September 2006. I have prepared, and shall be sending off by the end of May 2007, a claim for 1st October 2006 to 31st March 2007. This claim is for £704.28; a much higher figure, but this will give members some idea of how quickly within our accounting period the subscriptions are received.

49% of our members have signed Gift Aid Forms. If any member has not signed a Gift Aid Form, and would like to do so forms are obtainable on the web

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TOILET FACILITIES

Following the SMBC decision to close the toilets at the top of Station Road, Knowle, The Knowle Society has made representation to the Council and it has been agreed as previously reported, that the refurbishment of Knowle Library will include the provision of a fully equipped toilet facility. However, the timing of the refurbishment has been delayed and is now expected to start in September 2007.

HIGH ST. FLORAL DISPLAY

Alan Coleman reports:

"Agreement has now been reached with the Council to incorporate two plaques in the High Street in recognition of Knowle Society's contribution to the floral display, which adds so much to the appearance of the village. They should be installed in June."

POLICE MATTERS

Paul Blackman reports:

KNOWLE, DORRIDGE & BLYTHE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

"In March the police organisation for our neighbourhood became co-terminus with Council wards. A newly formed team of over 10 officers now covers Knowle, Dorridge, Hockley Heath and Blythe and is based at Shirley Police Station. The neighbourhood team officers who look after Knowle are PC Andy Timmins and PC Gary Waldron. Police Sergeant Ann Strachan who has been involved in caring for our area for a number of years is one of the Team Leaders."

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

"This is frequently highlighted as a concern to our communities. Previously, large groups of youths

had been congregating in areas particularly around the One-stop shop in Knowle High Street, Knowle Park and Jobs Close. Police initiatives in those areas have including high visibility patrols, plain clothes patrols, the use of a drug dog and working with partner agencies, particularly Solihull Council and Arden School. In March at Arden School the police led a week of multi agency activities around the issues and consequences of drugs, crime and anti-social behaviour. There have since been fewer calls about youths and incidents of criminal damage have reduced. The neighbourhood team will continue to monitor the situation closely and the areas will have a dedicated anti-social behaviour patrol every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening."

TRAFFIC ISSUES

"Inconsiderate and illegal parking and speeding continue to be highlighted by community members as a problem. The possibility of introducing 'speed watch' is being researched, this is a community approach to speeding whereby community volunteers can assist by carrying our speed checks with hand held radar devices in areas that are a concern. Although this type of check would not be evidential in court, a warning letter would be sent by the Police to the speeding driver."

POLICE SURGERIES

"Police surgeries continue to be held, run by the neighbourhood police team and encourage members of the local community to visit and discuss policing issues that concern them. The next surgery is on Monday 2nd July 2007 10.00am - 12 noon at Knowle Library"

BIRMINGHAM**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

A planning application for an extension to the main run-way is being prepared for submission to SMBC. This will include extending the existing run-way to 3,000 metres, the re-alignment of the A45 Coventry Road and construction of a tunnel which, in addition to routing the A45, would make provision for Midland Metro and a rapid public transport route. The application would seek consent for a new air traffic control tower, revisions to the fuel farm and consequential taxi-way variations.

The application will be submitted when ready, supported by the Master Plan and Access Strategy Documents. We are informed that economic impact, environmental impact and transport impact assessments will all be carried out prior to submission. In addition a further consultation exercise with local communities is planned and we in Knowle Society will be studying the proposals and keeping you informed.

The airport company has advised that following dialogue with the Police and National Air Traffic Services (NATS), a new procedure is in place for all helicopters to avoid over-flying noise sensitive areas, particularly during the night period.

PROPOSED M42**MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA (MSA)**

The date for the Public Inquiry has been delayed and a new date has yet to be agreed. The Knowle Society has put in a written objection to the proposals.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

WEBSITE

In the last newsletter I said that changes to the design of the website were imminent. Since then a higher priority has arisen to work on the database for the Local History Centre's archives. That is now complete and the results will be built into the website as that project picks up again. It is also apparent that the website revision will be a bigger project than expected, however none of these delays impact the content which continues to be kept up-to-date, providing a useful occasional resource for members and non-members alike. Have you bookmarked www.knowlesociety.org.uk in your *Favourites* list? - Editor

'SHOPPERS' CAR PARKS

Changes to the entrances and exits of these car parks, including possible *alligator feet* has become a bigger issue than expected especially with respect to pedestrian access and insurance considerations so a further redesign is required. At the time of writing a budget decision is awaited.

DOG LITTER

This sub-committee has advised Solihull Council that it considers that either the bins are not cleared enough or that the number needs increasing or both.

TELEWEST'S GREY CABINETS AND GRAFFITI

Contact has been made with Telewest but as yet not a great deal of help has been forthcoming but we live in hope it can only get better. My apologies that a wrong contact number for David Wain at Telewest

was quoted in the last newsletter—it should have read 0870 888 3116 (not 0780!)

PARK VANDALISM

We are getting negative reports of lack of supervision in this rather tricky area; that just as much alcohol is being consumed as before with what appears to be nothing being done about it.

TESCO TROLLEYS

Environmental health inspectors will be visiting the village shortly with a view to enforcing the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This process has begun and could lead to a fine of £75 for every abandoned trolley, so maybe we will see an improvement in a short while.

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

EXHIBITIONS

Our current exhibition is proving to be very popular and is entitled *Knowle Street*. This consists of old photographs put together to represent a walk through the village. If you would like to see the display, visit the Local History Centre Archive in Knowle Library. To do this, go up the stairs just inside the entrance and if you go on a Saturday morning between 10.30 until 12.00 you should find one of our team of stewards who will endeavour to answer any questions you may wish to put. Please note that the Centre will not be manned on the 25th August which is a holiday weekend. Our next display will be *100 years of Scouting*. The date for this display has not yet been fixed but when it is ready advertising posters will be put up at various locations in Knowle. There will also be a display in the Knowle Society gazebo in the park at Knowle Festival on 23rd June. At the time of writing the theme of the display is under discussion but by the time you read this it will probably have happened.

LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE—ARCHIVE

David Bower has done a fantastic job of developing the database to suit the needs of the present committee and we are now able to set about filing our new acquisitions in earnest. We have acquired two 320GB hard drives. They each contain digital copies of most of our photographs. These are two identical drives with identical information so that if one should fail we do not lose anything which has been documented. Donations of material, or copies of material, are always welcome and if you are able to donate something, could you please either drop it in to the Centre on a Saturday morning or ring Elizabeth Stanley (Our Chief Steward) on 773283.

LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE—SCHOOL VISIT

Since the last newsletter our volunteers have completed this year's annual session of helping the pupils of Knowle Junior School with local history projects within the national curriculum. This is done by displaying information about Knowle for their perusal and answering questions to the best of our ability.

Derek Mellor - Knowle 205129

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site or a supply can be found at the monthly Monday meetings at the Village Hall. If members are unable to obtain these forms by one of these methods please telephone me and I will arrange for one to be sent out. Please note that anyone signing such a form must be paying at least a comparable amount of tax that the Society would recover from their subscription. We can reclaim at present 28 pence for every £1.00 of subscription, this will reduce to 25 pence from 6th April 2008.

Distributors have excelled themselves this year. All subscriptions within the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath areas that are collected by distributors are paid. The only remaining unpaid subscriptions for this year relate to postal collection.

I expect the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007 to show a surplus. However we need to be financially sound to provide for the unexpected. The Library refurbishment and the resultant requirement of temporary storage of our archive material until the reopening will be costly. The Council is withdrawing financial support for the Village lights event, and therefore the Trustee Directors are considering additional help so that the traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree and Retailers' lights, the presence of Father Christmas and the local School Band can go ahead as usual. The Trustee Directors are also exploring the possibility of improving the vision for members when speakers show slides at the Village Hall. The Society is flourishing due to the hard work of many members. Thank you.

Sandra Lea - Knowle 776850

Well, we are not yet half way through 2007 and we already have a full programme for you for 2008. Thinking this far ahead makes me feel that my life is rushing past ever faster, but maybe it's really because I'm getting close to retirement and another phase of my life. I decided to get actively involved in the Society a few years ago, thinking it would give me a little to do in my retirement. Needless to say it has already done that, with a vengeance. Still, it's good fun and I have met so many of the other village residents that I've not met in 30 yrs of living here but working in Birmingham. Anyway, enough of me, let's talk about what's been happening in our sub-committee's contribution to the life of the Society.

The March talk was on 'Warwickshire Windmills'. Well that's what we thought, but in fact we ranged much wider in a talk by an obvious enthusiast, John Beddington. He certainly taught us all a great deal about the designs of windmills and what life must have been like living and working in one.



Four forms of Transport Walk—under the railway

Also in March was the first Sunday walk of the year, hopefully entitled 'Four Forms of Transport'. Despite the confusion caused by Widney Manor station having two car parks, eight of us eventually met up to explore the old & new transport links around the Widney Manor/Hillfield/Monkspath area. Having started with the railway, it was pretty easy to take to the roadways through the south end of the Hillfield housing estate, passing Libbards Way wood - a pretty sad place and hardly justifying the name of wood. We then set off for the Shelley Farm area of Monkspath where we took to the footpaths (the third mode of transport) through Shelly Coppice. We continued through Widney golf course looking out for stray shots, and across the motorway (no. 4 and the most recent) by the footbridge. Passing under the railway we emerged alongside the 'new' cemetery on Widney Manor Rd before returning to Widney Manor via the footpaths in the fields the other side of the road.

In April we welcomed back Alan Winterburn for the third year running. His talk, this time on 'Cotswold



Hidden Secrets—a popular walk

Curiosities' was up to his usual excellent standard, full of interesting stories and odd facts that had the large audience fascinated. It is really good to see the numbers at the Monday Meetings increasing in line with the increase in membership, with many new faces putting in an appearance. We hope you like what we have to offer and continue to support us.

As usual there was no Monday Meeting in May, due to the two Bank Holidays, so we took the chance for two walks instead. The evening walk on 2 May was 'Hidden Secrets', around the hidden footpaths and alleyways of the village. This was attended by an excellent turn-out of 31, many again being new faces. We met in Job's Close Park and set off across the park, emerging at the far end through Starbold Crescent, crossing Purnells Way and up Barcheston Road and Hollywell Road before crossing into Woodrow Crescent. We emerged from there, crossing Purnells Way again and cutting through into Trehern Close and Gainsborough Crescent. We then crossed Tilehouse Green Lane into Moorgrove Avenue, well named as we passed a moorhen's nest in the pond at the other side of Bridge Meadow Drive. We then followed the strip of green land alongside the stream that leads up to the medieval moat just before Brown's Lane, seeing some English & Spanish bluebells on the way.

We eventually came out onto Hawkshead Drive crossing Tilehouse Green Lane again into the top of Longdon Road, where we took to the field where Miranda the donkey used to live. The footpath here runs alongside Copt Heath golf course with a few players trying to finish their game as the sun went down and let us out into Langfield Road, Abbots Close and Copt Heath Drive. Here many of the party, having recognised where they were at last split off and headed home. The remaining stalwarts finished the walk via Landor Road and into the park. I organised this walk with the aim of showing people that there are parts of the village best seen on foot, and hoping to reveal at least one new one to everyone. By the reactions I think I succeeded.



The 'Wildflower Walk' on Sunday 20 May was due to be led by Stella Jarman as usual, but a small matter of moving house got in the way. Never mind, we were provided with a more than able 'sub' in Barbara Davies who took a dozen of us on a nature ramble on a delightful afternoon. When we set off she promised us 45 different flowers or other wild plants and I'm sure she more than matched this, throwing in a few trees for good measure.

Still to come this year we have several talks that I hope will encourage you to venture out on a Monday evening. On 16th July we have a talk on the 'Back to Back' housing in Birmingham. Most of the last of this has only recently been demolished, fortunately for our history a few have been saved and adopted by the National Trust. Later in July



(on the 22nd) we have a 'Butterfly' walk, led (if she has finished moving and feels up to it) by Stella. If not I'm sure we'll find another expert to help us.

We then have our summer break before welcoming our MP, Caroline Spelman, who will talk on her life as an MP and a mother and how she makes both of those roles work. (In line with the strictly non-political nature of the Society, this will be a personal view, not a party political one.) We are sure there will be an excellent turn-out for this, so please try and turn up in good time to get a good seat. We will probably arrange the seating to face the stage, so we can fit a larger number of people in comfortably. Also in September is the last Sunday walk, on the 23rd. In line with tradition this is around Temple Balsall, so we can celebrate our achievements and reward ourselves with tea & cakes. (If anyone needs a lift to the start point please let me know.)

Our social event this year features 'Dandy' a husband & wife duo who are well known in the area. They have a light-hearted act that mixes comedy with a Black Country slant and light music from a range of decades. To make it a complete night out we will be providing refreshment in the form of traditional fish & chips. Please bring your own choice of drinks, though. We expect the tickets to be in demand, so please get your applications in as soon as possible. The cost is a very reasonable £5 per head, just to cover the costs. As usual, we do not set out to make any profit from these evenings, but put them on to provide an opportunity for you to meet other members. There's an application form in this Newsletter. It might seem early to be booking for October, but the next Newsletter will not be out early enough for us to use that one.

October already! Before we know where we are we'll be talking about Christmas – no, forget I mentioned it. Let's enjoy the summer first.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

\$

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
An evening of music & Comedy with 'DANDY'
MONDAY 15th OCTOBER 2007 at 8pm at KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL

Please forward me ticket(s) @ £5.00 each. Total
 (Please make cheques payable to 'Knowle Society') Vegetarian option(s) required

Name Telephone

Address

PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY, AT THE LATEST BY MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2007
TO: MRS S TRUCCHI, 3 HIGH TREES ROAD, KNOWLE, SOLIHULL B93 9PR
PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR TICKET(S)

(If you wish to preserve your newsletter, please write on a separate sheet with the requested details, or copy the form or download the form from the website)

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 Mr & Mrs A Adam
 Bernard & Janet Argyle
 Deborah Barnes
 Jennifer Bassam
 Mr & Mrs D Bell
 Mr & Mrs A Bennett
 Mr & Mrs D Bettesworth
 Bill Bohanna
 Mrs & Mrs D Bridgwater
 Mr L Broome
 Mr & Mrs A Brown
 Ian Browne
 Mr & Mrs D Brynn
 Mr & Mrs M Buck
 Mr & Mrs J Cole
 Mr & Mrs P A Colley
 Mr & Mrs P Collier
 Mr & Mrs H Collins
 Mrs Michelle Crake
 Mr & Mrs D Cullen
 Mr & Mrs M Doyle
 Mrs D Draper
 Mr & Mrs R Dugger
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 Mr & Mrs R Wilkinson
 Mr & Mrs C Williams
 Mr Len Williams
 Mr Richard Winden
 Mr & Mrs P C Winters
 Mr & Mrs N Wishart

A warm welcome to 176 new members this quarter including those listed opposite.

The Knowle Society has over 2700 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.knowledesociety.org.uk

Derek Mellor
 Knowle 205129
 Membership Secretary
 92 Chantry Heath
 Crescent, Knowle,
 B93 9NJ
*membership@
 knowlesociety.org.uk*

Members may have seen the following press release which was taken up by local papers including the Birmingham Evening Mail. Recent additions have since taken our membership to over 2700.

'Knowle Society has been celebrating its growth, as its membership has broken through the 2,500 barrier for the first time. The Society's Officers and Committee Members joined 2500th member, Gloria Stubbs, who lives in the heart of the old village, to mark the occasion. Chairman, Gary Masters, presented her with a bottle of champagne. Derek Mellor, Membership Secretary, said: "Recent growth in numbers has been a tremendous boost for us, and affirms the importance of our work in caring for Knowle and the quality of life for its residents." Gary Masters added: "This achievement makes us one of the largest civic societies in the country, and possibly the biggest outside the towns and cities. As Knowle has an adult population of 8,000, it means more than 30% of that number are members of the Society and that is a fantastic achievement for us."



2500th member Gloria Stubbs with (f to b) Gary Masters (Chairman) (l to r) John Rowley (Community Services) Derek Mellor (Membership/History) David Bower (Newsletter/Website) Martin Warr (Gloria's recruiter) & Leighton Jones (Events & Walks)

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