

The Knowle Society



Volume 45 Number 4

October 2007

www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

AGM issue

How pleasing it was to see that the weather relented on Saturday 23 June this year. After all the hard work in preparing for the event it would have been heartbreaking for The Friends of Knowle Park to have to cancel due to the atrocious weather that we all suffered during that month. The Friends are to be congratulated for the success of the occasion, and more importantly for the sense of community that developed as a result. Many thanks also to our own members for manning the Society's stand.

For a year now there has been a doubt about when our Library is due to close in order to be refitted, to include improved lighting and public toilet facilities. The major reason for the delay has been the need to

meet the requirements of English Heritage on this very important listed building. I am pleased to report that final approval has now been granted and closure will take place on 24th December. This will mean that the Knowle Society Archive will not be available during the time of the closure as the whole building is to be emptied in order to carry out the work. In the meantime the History Sub-Committee will continue to function and meet to discuss the relevant work that they have on hand.

Traditionally this edition of the Newsletter takes the form of annual reports from the various sub-committees of the Society, and in the past the Chairman's report has

been given in full at the Annual General Meeting, (Monday 26 November). My article this year is an ongoing report of what has occurred recently and items of interest for the future.

I am pleased to report that the annual switch-on of the Christmas lights along the High Street and other places will still take place this year following liaison between the Knowle Society and the traders' representatives. The Society has agreed to take on responsibility for arranging the switch-on event. This has meant the formation of a separate small committee of volunteers to do the organising. The traders will still be responsible for the erection of the lights and the

(Continued on page 2)

Events Diary

Monday 15th October
8.00pm in the Village Hall

An evening of music and comedy with 'Dandy'
Members and Guests only—a small charge applies

Monday 26th November
4.15pm outside the Guild House

Turning on the Village Christmas Lights
A popular family event with Father Christmas

Monday 26th November
8.00pm in the Village Hall

Annual General Meeting
See inside for official notice and nomination form

Wednesday 26th December
11.00am outside the Guild House

Boxing Day Walk
A popular walk with mulled wine and mince pies served en route

Monday 21st January 2008
8.00pm in the Village Hall

John Lewis
A history and the first five years in Solihull

(Continued from page 1)

Council for the running costs. Any help or contributions that you feel like making to support them will I am sure be greatly appreciated. It is to be hoped that all will run smoothly on Monday 26 November around 4.15pm. The Society will, as usual, continue to erect its Christmas tree on the green, on the corner of Kenilworth Road, for the festive season, and it is hoped that the community will, as usual, support the start of the festive season.

I have received several concerns from traders and members regarding vehicles parked on the pavement, or on verges outside property. These however are two separate issues. The Society's understanding has always been that the matter of the public highway being blocked is a Police matter; but they will only take action currently if more than two wheels are on the pavement or that insufficient room is left available for a buggy or wheelchair to pass through. The concern about vehicles on the verge however is a Council matter and should be reported to them, or to your local councillor. In both matters the case is stronger if a collection of residents gather together in any reporting situation. Because the matter is purely residential the Society would not become involved. The concern about illegally parked vehicles around the village centre is the concern of the Society however. The Police have confirmed that this item is on their list of priorities alongside speeding vehicles. If you as a member of the Society are aware that you are breaking the law on motoring offences then beware and mend your ways before it is too late. If all procedures are completed in time the matter of illegal parking on the highway will be decriminalised from the 1st October, and from that date the Council becomes responsible for issuing tickets for breaches of the law in certain areas. The Community Services Sub-Committee is always prepared to listen to your opinions as to how to resolve the continual parking problem in and around the village centre. So please put your 'thinking caps' on and put your feelings and

thoughts to them. As an example do you think it would be a good idea to introduce parking charges, thereby ensuring the faster release of parking spaces in certain car parks?

On a lighter note I am pleased to report that several of the Society sub-committees are now looking to expand their membership and wish to involve some of our more recent new members. It is hoped that any of you that volunteer to join these sub-committees enjoy your experiences and are able to involve yourselves in the running of the Society's affairs. On this front a new Newsletter distributor has recently been appointed to take on the role vacated by Walter Birch, who has given sterling service in the position for a large number of years. The person appointed is Anne Smith, who has been co-opted as a Trustee Director, in order that she can keep the Trustee Directors fully informed.

If you have not already done so I would like to encourage you to visit the upper floor of the library and see the exhibition mounted by the History Sub-Committee, which was available for the Heritage Day on 8 September. On that date many walks along the High Street took place to show members and visitors to Knowle the delights of our historic architecture. Many thanks to Colin Smith and Peter Ewin and the other members who assisted in those arrangements. Thanks also to the members who manned the Society's gazebo on the green near to the Guildhouse.

It was an honour to present to Mrs Moira Kyles a plaque in recognition of the benefit her late husband, Les Kyles, gave to all the members of the Society during his years as Mayor and Councillor and for all his good counsel.

[See pictures on page 9-Ed]

I now look forward to seeing you all at the A G M in the Village Hall on 26 November at 8.00 pm.

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

PLUS ÇA CHANGE?

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

July 1997—The Society agreed to contribute £2000 towards the capital costs of Christmas Lights to be erected by the Knowle Traders Association

July 1997—Stella Jarman is liaising with Severn Trent over an idea to install a water butt with each new house built.

July 1997—Concern was expressed about the audibility of Speakers in the Village Hall. It was agreed to ask the Village Hall authorities to investigate a sound system.

September 1997—The Society took delivery of new filing cabinets for its fast growing archives.

October 1997—It was reported that from November 1997 a lower decibel level will be imposed on aircraft.

October 1997—A hedge survey is in hand and the results will be stored on computer *[cutting hedge!]*

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 26th November 2007 commencing at 8pm.**

The meeting will receive Reports on the activities of the Society during the previous 12 months and also the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007. It will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing 12 months and up to 6 other Trustee Directors.

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 14th November 2007.** They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society. The Nomination form overleaf may be used if desired or may be downloaded from the website.

Peter Johnson
Hon. Secretary
September 2007

01564 770268

Company Number 05514023

Charity Number 1111085

As The Knowle Society grows and expectations grow with it, a reminder of the Society's objects from the Memorandum of Association may be helpful at this time of our AGM.

3 The Objects are:

- 3.1 to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic or public interest in the area of benefit or adjacent areas;
- 3.2 to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit;
- 3.3 to promote a high standard of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit and to oppose any inappropriate developments;

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
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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 2007 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 above capacity.

Signed.....Date.....2007

* *Complete as appropriate with:*

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

WINNING SOME – LOSING SOME

When the Society was formed in 1962, it was as a reaction to planning proposals that would have seen the ruination of the High Street that we all know and now appreciate. Ever since then, the planning sub-committee has had the task of attempting to ensure that latter day despoilers of our heritage do not get their way.

To that end, my sub-committee carefully audits all planning applications in Knowle and particularly those which might have an adverse affect on the street scene or on the Conservation Area affecting central Knowle. We thought it might be interesting to do a roll call of the numbers of applications checked by us this year. From the date of the last A.G.M. up to the writing of this report in the first week of September we had looked at 69 applications. Where we felt that any of these were adverse to the interests of the village as defined by the Society's constitution, objection was raised with the planning department of the Council. Occasionally, where we feel particularly strongly or the matter is one of the greatest importance to the village*, we attend meetings of the Council's planning committee and exercise our citizen's right to object orally. The rules say that this must not exceed three minutes – which concentrates minds more than somewhat.

This is not the end of the matter. We continue to monitor the situation and log the outcome of the application. It is a fact that most applications are successful, partly because the law implies a presumption in favour of the applicant, everything else being equal. If the application is unsuccessful, the applicant has a right of appeal to the Secretary of State. We sometimes appear at appeal hearings and again the matter is followed through to the bitter end.

This is an extended preamble to the crux of my report this year. We have had our usual 'failures' where in spite of our strongly held belief that an application is mis-conceived, it has been approved. The proliferation of successful 'windfall' applications is testimony to that. The belief of some developers that they can sell flats in Knowle at a price sufficient to pay a Premier League star for at least three weeks indicates the cloud cuckoo land basis of the housing market (and football !) at present. I was amused to see a notice outside a development of eight flats in Knowle recently that 'over a third' had been sold – presumably three !

We do have some successes however. The listed building, Grove Farm, in Jacobean Lane is now being very regularly monitored by the Council during refurbishment after strong representations from the planning sub-committee. The, in our opinion, totally

objectionable proposal to tear down 77 and 79 Hampton Road and to erect a total of fourteen new dwellings including eight flats on the resulting area was rejected by the Council after representations from many including ourselves. The applicant is now appealing and we shall be taking our objections further.

One recent success came as a bit of a surprise. Many in the village including my sub-committee strongly objected to the light blue colouring at the base of the window of One Stop. On the 25th August 2006 I wrote to the Chief Executive of Tesco's, the new owners of One Stop expressing our feeling that the light blue graphics were not in keeping with the area, being a Conservation Area, and had a detrimental effect on the local community. I was able to quote from a national newspaper in which Tesco had been quoted as saying that they wished to speak to local communities and to listen to their concerns. You will have seen that the offending colour has been removed and replaced with a neutral 'frosted' effect graphic. I received a letter from One Stop dated 30th August 2007 confirming all this. Naturally we are delighted and I shall not comment further on the one year and 4 days it took to answer my letter.

We also take a proactive stance on matters such as new planning orders and agreements affecting Knowle and particularly at present, the new Conservation Area appraisal which was prepared only after consultation with ourselves. We have written to the Conservation Architect suggesting various amendments and he has accepted the principle of several of our suggestions. When this exercise is concluded, we hope to have a reinforced Conservation Area fit for the 21st century enabling us more easily to fight objectionable and unreasonable applications affecting the most historic area of the village.

Finally, may I give my heartfelt thanks to the sterling members of the sub-committee, Peter Ellis, Peter Morton, Norman Stanley (after 17 years of service !), Phil Vince and Geoff Vaughan. A great team !

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

** We include brief details, pictures and location map links on The Knowle Society website for all significant applications that are reviewed by the committee—Ed*

www.knowledesociety.org.uk

The year has been one of marking time on some of the major concerns of the Society which are still 'In progress'. The Airport Master Plan is due to be published later this year and until it is, we cannot assess its impact. Our original concerns remain the same, namely pollution including noise and the impact on the road networks.

At present BIA is preparing a planning application for an extension to the main runway for submission to the SMBC. This will include extending the existing runway to 3,000 metres and re-alignment of the A45 Coventry Road. A Health Impact Assessment on the extension has been arranged and a Knowle Society representative has been invited to attend. Watch this space in future newsletters.

The Public Inquiry for the proposed Motorway Service Area to be sited at either Junction 4, or between Junctions 5 and 6, is now planned for February 2008. As reported previously, the Knowle Society has put in a written objection to both proposals. Our concerns are that with so many junctions within a short distance of each other, congestion will occur, leading to diverted traffic being routed through Knowle.

In other matters we have progressed satisfactorily. During the year the SMBC has agreed to improve facilities for a public toilet situated in the refurbished Library and the SMBC is also reviewing traffic concerns in Lodge Road after representation from a number of sources including ourselves.

Agreement has been reached with SMBC for a plaque to be situated in the High Street recognising the support from Knowle Society with respect to the flower tubs. This has now been installed at the end of the High Street opposite the Wilsons Arms. (*see photos*)

Over the last year we have had a

number of complaints regarding helicopter noise, this was raised at the Airport 'Environmental Monitoring Working Group' and new procedures have been put in place to avoid over-flying noise sensitive areas, especially at night.

Major reorganisation has taken place in the areas covered by the police this year; we have two neighbourhood team officers who are specifically allocated to Knowle, they 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.

During January the Society arranged a well attended meeting at the Village Hall with local police Inspector P. Wilson, Sgt. Ann Strachan and WPC Sharon Williams invited. In March, at Arden School, the police led a week of multi agency activities, around the issues and consequences of drugs, crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Police team has a standing invitation to attend the Community Services Subcommittee meetings and at our last meeting in July it was agreed with them, that our three top priorities at present were:-

- 1 Traffic parking and speeding
- 2 Focus on youth (problems and opportunities)
- 3 Crime in the High street. The police were of the opinion that this was not sourced locally which the committee agreed with, but suggested that measures such as CCTV may be a partial solution.

Finally, it has been agreed, that in future, the Police Surgery will be held at the Village Hall which it is hoped will be a more suitable location.

I would like to thank the members of my committee for their



'Solihull in Bloom' plaque at High Street / Lodge Road junction



Hanging baskets at High Street / Hampton Road junction



High Street flower tubs

excellent work during the last year and in their perseverance in following through our objectives. So thank you to Paul Blackman, Steven Bunch, Allan Coleman, Andrew Marston and Lilla Baker.

Stephen Bunch has recently resigned from the committee and I would like to record my thanks to him for his involvement over the years, and wish him well. The committee is expecting two new members to be joining us in September, which should bring us up to strength.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

CAR PARKS & TESCO TROLLEYS

Whilst we have not achieved all that we set out to do during the last twelve months we believe we have raised the profile to such a degree that the whole aspect of parking, entrance/exit abuse and even re-routing the entrances and exits of the Knowle car parks is foremost in the future plans of Solihull MBC. Although as a group we did not follow up the suggestion of renaming the car parks we now understand that despite our objection against spending finance in a wasteful manner, renaming is in fact already budgeted for and therefore we will try to move on that very soon, any suggestions would be very helpful.

So far as the wayward trolleys are concerned this is now under the scrutiny of Solihull MBC's environment office so we are hopeful of some improvement in that direction.

KNOWLE PARK / LNR

The Green Flag status award will be recognised in the next few weeks by the erection of flagpoles and flags. During this late summer and early autumn we have seen the very best of the park following the very wet early summer where it was impossible to imagine that the recovery would look so good. The cutting this year has been of a very high standard and with an extra ranger patrolling, the damage has also been reduced. We are looking for some stability with the new ranger and we expect that residents will notice the changes with more enforcement both by the ranger and our local police.

The Local Nature Reserve is also very interesting as the brook is seeing 'smooth newts' and grey wagtails breeding (not considered native here).

DOG LITTER BINS

Success again for the Society's efforts with additional bins being placed, more regular emptying, more on order and the Council examining and repairing the existing ones as necessary.

PILLAR BOXES / GREY CABINETS

There hasn't been a wonderful job of pillar box painting but they look much better. The grey cabinets have lost some attraction for vandals and many thanks must go to Alan Gilbert who has worked tirelessly to improve their appearance.

DR BOWER'S MEMORIAL

We have looked at various projects and we believe a proposal will emerge over the next few months.

ST JOHNS CLOSE GREEN / PRECINCT

The rose bed on the green has at last had some t.l.c. and we are promised that, together with the precinct shrub beds, it will be receiving regular attention. The additional colour in the precinct was proposed by Councillor Diana Holl-Allen and looks the better for it. The precinct is much improved following the renewal of the upper floor windows and fascias.

SCOUT HUT

This without doubt is a huge improvement not only to the building but the surrounding area also. None of this would have been possible without the perseverance of SMBC neighbourhood co-ordinator Kerry Mountjoy who has shown much commitment to this project where the building had been in need of some serious action for some time.

CAR PARK / STREET WARDENS

October 1st is the day that 21 wardens are let loose around the borough and we have little doubt we will see them in Knowle frequently not only to patrol our car parks but the roads around, checking on bad parking, overstays in the car parks and in general trying to improve the traffic flow for the benefit of all residents.

RECYCLING

This committee has been informed that during the coming October the larger type blue wheelie bins for paper will be placed at the various blocks of flats in Knowle. Up to this point the residents of the flats have not had the opportunity to recycle close to home. During the spring of 2008 all Knowle and Dorridge homes will have green garden refuse wheelie bins.

At the request of a member, we were asked to pursue the possibility of a plastic recycling facility but as yet space has not been available as these bins are around three times the size of the usual recycling banks but we will continue to keep a watchful eye open.

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

For ... current planning issues,

... index of the Knowle Society Archive

... updated bus timetables for Knowle

... breaking news and events details from the Society see ...

www.knowlesociety.org.uk

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY AT WORK...



Ready for work! Leighton Jones, Charles Robinson, Allan Coleman & Phil Vince



Shady work by Leighton Jones

At the Knowle Festival in Jobs Close Park on 23rd June



Hey-ho, up goes the gazebo!



John Rowley, Derek Mellor, Martin Warr and 2500th member Gloria Stubbs



History Section members Kathy Jephcott (L) and Janet Eizen (R) with Susan Trucchi cataloguing the Archives at The Local History Centre



The Society's gazebo in operation on the green on Heritage Open Day

At the Heritage Open Day on 8th September



A group enjoying one of the Society's led walks along the High Street on Heritage Open Day—Peter Ewin (L) is the guide

FILING

We realized that there was a huge amount of work to be done so as to catch up with the backlog of outstanding work with the cataloguing of the archives. So we enlisted the help of David Bower in improving the database to make its use a lot easier. We now have seven people involved with the project and although there is still some way to go, the new systems are having a beneficial effect and our filing team is making an impact on the mountain of work to be done.

DONATIONS

During the year we have received a number of donations of materials and copies of materials, for our archives and scrapbooks. If you are able to donate anything yourself 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 - EXHIBITIONS

In the Local History Centre display cabinets, we started the year with an exhibition showing *Curtis's Bakery*. This was followed with a display entitled *Knowle Street* which consisted of old photographs put together to represent a walk through the village. It had been intended to keep this subject on display until the library closed for refurbishment. But now that it seems likely that this will not happen until Christmas, we will change the display to the next exhibition depicting *Scouting in Knowle in the last 100 years*. The Local History Centre can be found upstairs in the library. It is manned by our stewards on Saturday mornings from 10.30 until 12.00, but not on bank holidays.

KNOWLE FESTIVAL & HERITAGE DAY

At the time of writing the report for the last newsletter, we had not decided as to what the photographic subject was going to be for our display at the Knowle Festival. The subject we decided to depict was an exhibition of photographs showing "Carnivals in the 1950s". These photographs created much interest and so it was decided to show these same photographs in our gazebo on Heritage Day. Once again the photographs created a lot of interest. Also on that day we had our popular scrapbooks open in the library.

OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE YEAR

In February and March, our volunteers gave their usual annual session of helping the pupils of Knowle Junior School by displaying information about Knowle and answering questions about local history within the national curriculum. Earlier in the year we purchased two 320GB hard drives which now contain identical digital copies of our photographs. This ensures that if one hard drive should fail we do not lose anything.

COMMITTEE

We welcome Janet Eržen as a new committee member bringing the strength of our team up to six. Janet is also one of our Saturday stewards and a newsletter deliverer.

Derek Mellor - Knowle 205129

PRESENTATION TO MRS KYLES

At The Knowle Society's meeting on 17th September the Chairman presented a plaque to Mrs Moira Kyles in memory of her husband Les and in appreciation of his wise counsel and all that he had done for the Society over many years as a local Councillor and in regularly attending the Society's executive meetings in a non-voting capacity. The plaque will be placed on display in Knowle Library after the refurbishment next year.



Moira Kyles with her two daughters receives the plaque at a Knowle Society meeting in the Village Hall



Well, I hope this account reaches you in the middle of an Indian Summer. It is certainly not that as I write it. The rain is pouring down and the forecast for the English Channel is for storms. That's just what I want when the family is about to venture to foreign lands, well as far as Normandy anyway! As a result I am also writing this much earlier than would be ideal, and in a rush as I am supposed to be completing the packing. Never mind, just don't tell my wife please.

I hope you will agree that we have provided a good selection of speakers for you this year. The increasing numbers who turn up to listen certainly suggests that you find the programme of interest. If anyone has any suggestions for speakers or topics we are always very keen to hear them and will consider any ideas.

Since I last wrote one of these notes we've had a couple of really good meetings and somewhat of a flop with the walks. The good bits first. May was enlivened by a 'talk' on the monologues of Stanley Holloway. I say 'talk' as you couldn't use a simple word for such entertainment as we had from Harry Gresty, a real enthusiast about his subject. As well as delivering a selection of the monologues he gave us a potted history of Stanley's life, and a fascinating one it was.

In July we had a talk that brought back memories to many in the audience, although not all as it was excellent to see a wide range of ages represented. The topic was Back-to-Back housing, particularly those in Birmingham that have been rescued from the bulldozer and are now run by the National Trust. They are just next to the Hippodrome and as such are one of the few urban properties of the NT. They are also probably the only ones where you are positively encouraged to touch at least some of the exhibits. They really are worth a visit, which is shame on me as I work just round the corner and have never ventured inside.

Our other planned activities, the walks, did not fare as well however. The Canal walk on Midsummer's evening had to be cancelled as I had to be elsewhere and my normally reliable substitutes also had pressing family commitments that they had to attend to. I said it was cancelled, but it takes more than a missing leader to deter our keen walkers and they set off and completed the walk on their own. (Maybe this is a new style of walk 'WIY' – Walk It Yourself!)

The Butterfly Walk was somewhat more successful, as it did take place. However as it followed some of the dreary weather that has passed for summer this year there was a distinct lack of butterflies. We should have called it a Butterfly Hunt not walk! We did spot a few butterflies, but most were determined

to keep their distance and didn't want to be identified. Never mind we had a good bit of fresh air. Better luck next time.

I hope we'll see you at our autumn meetings. It's real good to see so many turning up and it encourages my hard working committee to keep putting together a good programme for you. For the next walk (Sept 23rd at Temple Balsall) I've done it



Caroline Spelman speaking at the full September meeting

again and set it for a date I cannot make. Well I could, but as it's my Mother-in-Law's 90th birthday I would never be allowed to get away with joining you on the walk instead. Don't worry there are some good leaders already organised.

Looking forward to next year my committee has worked hard as usual and produced another varied programme of talks which we hope will appeal. We start in January with a talk on the John Lewis Partnership, followed by a talk on the art and history of button-making. Later in the year we have a speaker describing the involvement of 'Women in World War 2'. We have balanced this one, which might appeal more to our female members with one on the history of our local railways that might (or might not) appeal more to our male members. Either way, we are sure that they'll be of interest to all our members.



Prof. Carl Chinn MBE

As well as the normal Monday meetings we have succeeded in persuading the 'Brummie Historian' Carl Chinn to speak to us in the autumn. This will not be on our usual Monday night, but on a Thursday and, as we think there'll be a bigger than usual turn-out, it will be at Arden School, where the hall is bigger than the Village Hall. More details closer to the date, and of course in the programme card*.

OK, time to finish the packing, best regards.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

** The programme card for 2008 will be delivered with your January newsletter but details of future events will be made available on our website www.knowlesociety.org.uk as soon as the programme is finalised. — Ed.*

END OF YEAR REPORT.....FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

I believe that the financial position of the Society has not been so healthy for some time.

Many of our members will recall that at the Annual General Meeting of November 2003 I asked for agreement of the membership that the subscriptions be increased from the following October. The reason for this was that the Society had suffered deficits for the previous two years and a further deficit was likely for the year ended September 2004. I felt that the situation had to be rectified as ideally we wanted to maintain a reasonable reserve of funds for any unexpected expenses and also because we would not be in a position to fund any projects that might occur. At that time the membership stood at 1796.

I give below some statistics which members may find interesting.

Year End	Membership	Subscriptions	Surplus/(Deficit)
2002	1751	2806.00	(2433.00)
2003	1796	2537.00	(750.00)
2004	1745	2941.00	(959.00)
2005	1703	4423.00	1413.00
2006*	2360	6111.00	2469.00

There was a dip in apparent membership in 2004-2005 as we rigorously reviewed our whole membership list and cleaned up 'gone aways', deaths and lapses in renewals.

*Then along came Martin Warr. I acknowledge that many existing members have recruited new members, and a big thank you goes to them. Our membership recruitment drives in the Society's gazebo from time to time have also been very successful, but Martin's contribution has been quite incredible. He has such determination and resolve and in large measure his efforts have been the main reason for the increase in membership.

Membership now stands in excess of 3000 and still more residents are joining. This is very good for the Society as the additional income means we have few financial concerns and secondly we are becoming more widely known within our community. Members may be surprised to learn that there are still residents of Knowle who do not know anything about The Knowle Society.

In October we shall be asking distributors to start collecting the subscriptions for the year commencing 1st October 2007. Their contribution in delivering newsletters and collecting subscriptions is crucial. Looking at the statistics above brings to the forefront how much we rely upon our group of distributors. They play a very important roll in the success of the Society. Thank you.

At the Annual General Meeting in November I expect the accounts for year ended 30th September 2007 to show a surplus. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that evening.

Sandra Lea - Knowle 776850

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

In 2006 the Knowle Society and Knowle Parish Church both agreed that other commitments meant that they were unable to support the Civic Trust's national programme of Heritage Open Days that year and that they would make a special effort in 2007. This cooperation showed fruit on 8th September 2007 when ten very different activities and exhibitions were attended by around three hundred people. There was considerable evidence that people valued the sense of community that events like this engender and how it made Knowle such a pleasant place in which to live. Your Society provided material and exhibition stands for several exhibitions in the Library and Guild House, as well as running a programme of guided foot tours of the village and manning the gazebo for enquiries. A small note of regret is that we were unable to persuade owners of some other interesting buildings in Knowle to join in this national Open Day programme, possibly because they do not always have local autonomy for such decisions.

Mr & Mrs D Bridgwater
 Mr & Mrs K Adams
 Mr & Mrs M Ames
 Neil & Bev Armstrong
 Mr & Mrs P Attree
 Mr & Mrs G R Barker
 Mr & Mrs R S Barker
 Mr & Mrs K Barrett
 Mr & Mrs G Bartley
 Mr & Mrs W Bedborough
 Alan & Shelia Beddoe
 Mr & Mrs J J Bennett
 Mr & Mrs D Biggs
 Mr & Mrs J Blackhall
 Mr & Mrs C J Bootes
 Mr & Mrs S Bousfield
 Mr & Mrs N J F Brown
 Mr & Mrs P Brumwell
 Mr & Mrs L Bryan
 Mr & Mrs E Burnett
 Mr & Mrs S Burrows
 Mr & Mrs G Cantone
 Mr & Mrs S Cartmell
 Mr & Mrs J Clarke
 Mr & Mrs J T Cleland
 Mr & Mrs B Cole
 Mr & Mrs J Cole
 Mr & Mrs C Cook
 John & Muriel Davenport
 Mr & Mrs P De Cesare
 Mr & Mrs R Dehele
 Mr & Mrs M Doble
 Mr & Mrs J Dransfield
 Mr & Mrs V Dunn
 Mr L Ellis & Ms Lavery
 John & Jean Evans
 Mr & Mrs D Evans
 Mr & Mrs C J Fent
 Mr & Mrs R Forshaw
 Mr & Mrs J Francis
 Mr & Mrs R Gandy
 Michael & Jean Gardner
 Mr & Mrs R Gold
 Mr & Mrs R Good
 Mr & Mrs D G Greenan
 Mr & Mrs A Harper
 Mjr C G & Mrs C H Harris
 Mr & Mrs G Hart
 Peter & Linda Hartley
 Mr & Mrs D Hemlock
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 Mr & Mrs I Housey
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 Mr S Toone
 Mr A M Walker
 Mrs Jenny Wallace
 Ruth Watts
 Mr Rod Wheatley
 Miss Lesley Wood

A warm welcome to 314 new members this quarter including those listed opposite.

The Knowle Society has over 3000 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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IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chairman & Diary | 5. Planning | 9. LHC & Les Kyles |
| 2. Plus ça Change? | 6. Community Services | 10. Meetings & Walks |
| 3. AGM Notice | 7. Environment | 11. Finance & Heritage |
| 4. Nomination form | 8. Photographs | 12. Membership |