

KNOWLE SOCIETY

Newsletter, January, 1970

When you are walking round Knowle this coming spring, we trust that you will take particular note of the crocuses which this year should be blooming on the green by the Guildhouse as well as the daffodils which should for the first time make a golden display as you travel up the Warwick Road from Solihull.

Also, we hope you will notice the copper beech now planted in position outside the Red Lion as well as the other newly planted trees and bulbs in various parts of the Village for these will be the first results of the planting programme instigated by your Society and generously carried out by the Solihull Borough Council. We were happy to have been able to make a donation of £50 towards its cost.

With regard to other matters of concern to us in the village, the Society has been in touch with the developers, Messrs. David Charles and Bryants, of the White Areas round Knowle, expressing the hope that the standard of planning will be of a suitably high calibre.

The By-Pass Committee are anxious to raise a sum of at least £500 for the defraying of expenses incurred in the employment of expert advice with regard to the proposed Knowle By-Pass Scheme. The Society has already made a donation but if any member feels he is in a position to give his own donation we hope he will do so. Please send to the Chairman, Mr. D. Green, 47, Newton Road, Knowle.

Now to our own immediate programme of meetings, etc:

- 3rd February, in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock.  
An illustrated talk on "Kenya Safari" by Dr. Portsmouth. Mrs. Venus hopes to have some of her paintings on show, the proceeds of the sale of these to go towards the cost of a new public seat outside the Guildhouse in Knowle.
- 9th March in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock.  
An illustrated talk on "Restoring Ancient Buildings" by a representative of the Avencroft Museum of Buildings, an organisation which specialises in the restoration and preservation of half timbered buildings.  
We hope to welcome members of the Kenilworth Historical Society on this occasion with whom we are hoping to arrange a conducted tour of Kenilworth Castle this spring or summer. Further details later.
- Saturday, 20th June. An evening visit to Coughton Court near Alcester with possibly a light evening meal.
- Next Autumn. proposed ramble to Barston (about 2 miles) with alternative return by bus or, for those who can survive the extra distance, country footpaths.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members are once more reminded that subscriptions for this session were due last October. It is hoped that anyone who has not paid will send his or her contribution to our Hon. Treasurer who is:-

Mr. R. Gaukroger,  
94, Kenilworth Road, Knowle.

Ordinary Members 5/-.  
Vice Presidents £1/1/-.

H. B. JOSEPH,  
Hon. Secretary Knowle Society.

10, LONGDON ROAD,  
KNOWLE.

KNOWLE SOCIETY

Newsletter, February, 1970

Notice of Public Meeting

9th March

in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock.  
An illustrated talk on "Restoring Ancient Buildings" by  
Mr. H.G.D. Thomas from the Avencroft Museum of Buildings,  
an organisation which specialises in the restoration and  
preservation of half timbered buildings.

We hope to welcome members of the Kenilworth Historical  
Society on this occasion with whom we are hoping to arrange  
a conducted tour of Kenilworth Castle this spring or summer.

NOTE BY THE CHAIRMAN

The title of this illustrated lecture highlights a problem  
that is becoming ever more important in this country.

The timber-framed buildings we all admire as part of the  
scene are getting worn out. Rot and worm are taking their  
toll. They are becoming increasingly costly to restore  
properly. A new oak beam alone can cost \$100. Proper  
craftsmen are needed to work these old materials.

In the Borough of Solihull the solution to this problem  
has been causing concern. In some cases the exterior has  
been restored, but the inside has been completely rebuilt.  
The Hail Shovel at Solihull is an extreme example.  
Should this process continue, there is a danger that  
restoration on these lines will only leave a street full  
of facades like a Hollywood studio set. Surely this is  
not what is meant by a conservation area in the true sense.  
When entering a timber-framed tea shop in the country one  
can reasonably expect the interior to match the exterior,  
otherwise it is a sham and we feel cheated.

We must recognise, however, that the cost of repairs can  
be high.

Come and learn about these problems at the Knowle Village  
Hall on 9th March and join in the discussion.

9th - 16th May.

This is Ramblers Week organised in connection with the  
European Conservation Year. It is hoped to arrange a  
Ramble of local footpaths in connection with this Week.

Saturday 20th June.

An evening visit to Coughton Court near Alcester including  
a light evening meal.

Next Autumn.

Proposed ramble to Barston (about 2 miles) with alternative  
return by bus or, for those who can survive the extra  
distance, country footpaths.

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Members are once more reminded that subscriptions, due last October, can  
be paid to the Hon. Treasurer who is:-

Mr. R. Gaukröger,  
94, Kenilworth Road, Knowle.

Ordinary Members 5/-  
Vice Presidents 21/1/-

H. B. JOSEPH.

Hon. Secretary, Knowle Society.

10, Longdon Road,  
Knowle.

KNOWLE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 1970

Visit to Coughton Court, Alcester

A visit has been arranged to Coughton Court, Alcester, on Saturday evening, June 20th.

This lovely old house, which has been the home of the Throckmorton family since the early 15th century, is well worth a visit. Not only does it possess a priceless collection of art treasures but the rooms are beautifully laid out and furnished.

In one of these rooms, the dining room, we shall be partaking a buffet supper and no lovelier surroundings in which to have a meal can be imagined. Of historical interest, in one of the rooms of the Gatehouse, built in 1509, the wives of the instigators of the Gunpowder Plot awaited the result and the house contains many Jacobite relics.

Coughton Court lies on the Alcester Road about 2 miles north of the town and is on the left hand side as Alcester is approached. After the party arrives, about 7.15 p.m., a short talk on the history of the house will be given by the custodian, Miss Thompson. Everyone will then be free to wander round the house as they wish and supper will be partaken at about 8.30 p.m. The supper will include wine, provided by the Society, and the total cost including admission will be £1. 1s. for adults and 19s. 6d for children.

Please do come along and help to make this a most enjoyable evening. We are limiting the numbers to 100, so first come, first served. A raffle will be held on the evening in aid of European Conservation Year and here is a short note by the Chairman, Dr. R. Bower.

European Conservation Year

As the Society's special contribution to European Conservation Year we have arranged to hold a special raffle during the Buffet at Coughton Court. Professor Shotton of the Warwickshire County Naturalist Trust will tell us a little about the new Nature Reserve at Temple Balsall. The proceeds will go to this project. Any member not at the buffet supper who wishes to contribute, please send his donation to Mr. R. Gaukroger, the Treasurer, at 94, Kenilworth Road, Knowle. Amenity projects of this sort all need money, so please contribute to help a local project. If we believe in Conservation we must be prepared to finance it privately as well as publically.

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The Spinney, Warwick Road (Monday evening, June 22nd at 8. 0. p.m.)

We are arranging a working party to clear up the rubbish that gets dumped in the Spinney by some of the local residents. This should not take longer than an hour; please come along if you can.

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Newsletter-June 1970 continued

Meanwhile, congratulations to Mr. Gould who under the auspices of the Solihull Council, was responsible for planting the splendid array of daffodils that we have witnessed this spring. We were glad to have contributed £50 of the £250 of the cost of the tree and bulb planting scheme.

June Newsletter

Apologies are due for the delay in producing this issue. This was due to circumstances beyond our control.

Coughton Court

Please complete the attached form and return it together with remittance (cheques, etc. made out to 'Knowle Society' please) to the Secretary:

Mr. H. B. Joseph,  
10, Longdon Road,  
Knowle.

by 13th June at the latest.

KNOWLE SOCIETY

October 1970

President: Mr. H. Everitt  
Chairman: Dr. R. J. Bower  
Treasurer: Mr. R. Gaukroger  
Secretary: Mr. H. B. Joseph

Vice Presidents

Miss M. Baxter  
Dr. R. J. Bower  
Mr. H. B. Cookson  
Mrs. E. T. Court  
Mrs. A. L. Eley  
Mr. R. Gaukroger  
Mrs. E. N. Gell  
Mr. H. Hawnt  
Mr. A. W. Joseph  
Mrs. E. M. H. Milne  
Mr. J. M. Phillips  
Mr. R. C. Pontifex  
Mr. W. J. B. Walker  
Miss E. F. Wootton

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 1970 AND NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After a successful 1969/70 season the time has come to review our position and to look ahead to this coming autumn and winter.

As members can see from the Chairman's Report, included in this Newsletter, the Knowle Society has been instrumental in helping to draw the attention of the appropriate authorities to the many problems that arise regarding the preservation of the amenities of the Village and its environs; such for example as the future of the Manor House in Kenilworth Road, the preservation of our Ancient Buildings and the proposed development of the White Areas to quote just a few instances.

An amenity society such as ours can be likened to a watch dog, keeping an ever watchful eye on all that we enjoy and love about our Village and ever ready to give warning at any likely encroachment on these amenities. But a watch dog has to be strong in order to be heeded and what other way for a society such as the Knowle Society than by the size of its membership to be able to claim that it does indeed truly represent the voice of the people of Knowle.

Our membership is approximately 250. Now if every member could recruit even only one person into the Society, our membership would double. We should be 500. Is that too much to ask? Instead of one recruit, perhaps two, a husband and wife say? That would be 750. How much stronger then the watchdog would be. Can we appeal to all our members in such a way in these coming months?

To assist in obtaining new members, we have had a number of publicity cards printed giving details of the Knowle Society and these are available to anyone on application.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The time has come when regrettably there appears no alternative to raising our subscription, which has been 5/- for ordinary members since 1963. As everyone knows, postage even second class is now 4d and there seems a real possibility that after the New Year this will be increased to 6d. 250 letters at 6d is £6. 5. 0d. Repeat this about four times a year and that is £25 for postage alone.

So after careful deliberation, the committee has proposed the following

Ordinary Membership to be 10/- (50p)  
Family Membership (two persons) to be 15/- (75p)  
Vice Presidents to be £1.

But 10/- is not too much is it, to pay for trying to ensure the preservation of our environments?

Subscriptions are due in October and can we appeal to everyone to be prompt in payment?

Finally many thanks to our members who by serving on committees or in other ways have ensured the successful operation of the Knowle Society.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Among the numerous activities of the Knowle Society over the past year the following can be cited.

##### Lodge Road Cottages Nos 31, 33

The Society has asked that the Cottages should be retained rather than demolished in the future.

##### Warwick Road Cottages

The Society congratulates Mr. D. C. Lewis on the restoration of the old Artillery Cottages in the Warwick Road. So often properties have been pulled down or gutted inside to leave a sham. We are all in the owners debt for this excellent work.

##### Golden End

The recent slip up of planning procedures at No. 90 Kenilworth Road has unfortunately left us with a small blot in front of an otherwise very attractive cottage. The matter has been referred to the appropriate authorities. The Society was pleased to see that the proposal to turn Golden End House into a Hotel was rejected.

##### Manor House, Kenilworth Road

An application for the proposed use as a licensed restaurant has been the subject of much discussion. The Society realises that the house is not a perfect residence by present day standards, but wishes to see the building used rather than allowed to deteriorate. The Society feels that much thought needs to be given to alternative uses. Rejection of a hotel or restaurant should not be absolutely ruled out. We should like to hear members views.

##### Ancient Buildings

The Society has started a survey of the remaining old buildings in Knowle as a guide to future planning applications. We are very concerned about the current practice of preserving the facade while gutting the inside of the building, thus leaving a sham. Our grandchildren will not thank us for this needless destruction. Adaption or extensions in the rear is the answer.

##### Transport

There have been a number of transport reports in Solihull this year. We have made appropriate comments to the authorities.

##### By-Pass

The problem is under the care of the special committee.

##### Trees and Bulbs

Members will have noted the wonderful display of bulbs on the Warwick Road and Guildhouse Green which were given by the Society. Many thanks

to Mr. Gould and the Solihull Council for arranging their planting on our behalf. Three trees and two climbers were also planted by the Society but the latter two were stolen from the present car park on separate occasions. 'Quis Custodiat quis custodes'.

#### Grass Cutting

Frequent representations to the Council were made by the Society to the repeated damage to the bark of trees by mowing machines.

#### Conservation Year

The Society has done its small part in this effort.

A working party has cleared the spitney in Warwick Road of rubbish. Over £13 was collected for the new Temple Balsall Nature Reserve and a small donation sent to the Ramblers Association at whose instigation the well attended ramble was organised in the spring. Over 150 people walked by footpaths to the Black Boy and returned by the Canal.

#### Road Safety

The corner by Maddocks is causing concern due to the rear wheels of the new long lorries mounting the footpath as they go round the corner. The possibility of bollards and even a reduced speed limit have been raised with the Council.

#### Public Seat

Through the generosity of a member of the Society we have been able to donate another seat outside the chemists. It seems to be very popular.

#### White Areas

Large developments are being proposed for the area adjacent to Job's Close and 800 houses will be built. Two preliminary schemes have been put forward by Bryants with a draft road plan of the whole area. The first proposals are agreeable to the Society but so far as the main scheme is concerned we have urged that a better scheme for a pedestrian way brought into line with the brook should be considered so that people may come down to the park and Village without too much road walking. The Society has suggested a local nature reserve to run by the stream, the bank of which is botanically rich in plants. This reserve could be run by Arden High School. We are also concerned with route of the proposed By-Pass close to the park. We are in favour of a small Village type store in the centre of the estate with pedestrian access. This would save a lot of children crossing main roads to Knowle for ice creams etc.

#### Wilson's Arms.

The Society congratulates the brewers on the careful alterations that have been made. Some of the external framework has been very faithfully repaired with new oak beams in an expert manner.

#### Social Events

Several items were arranged including a fascinating description of the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings and the account of the saving of the Danzey Green Windmill. Over £6 was collected at this lecture for this purpose.

An excellent outing to Kenilworth Castle took place where we had an instructive tour conducted by the Custodian. We also visited Coughton Court where an excellent buffet supper was arranged.

As a change we visited the Black and White Minstrel Show last November in Birmingham.

The Committee has met many times during the year and appeals for your continued support in their work. Please recruit new members and if you care strongly for the Village please become a Vice President. (Only £1 a year subscription.) A large membership adds great weight to any comments we may make to the authorities.

Finally we have to thank our Councillors for their continued interest and support. They never let us down in making enquiries.

Also we have to thank the Borough Surveyor and his staff for their consideration of any ideas we may put forward. A visit to other parts of the country makes us realise that we have much to be thankful for in this Borough.

PROGRAMME 1970/71

- 11th October Ramble to Barston. Meet at Village Hall for prompt start at 2.0 o'clock. The distance is about 2 miles and a bus is available from Barston at 4.0 o'clock for those who want it. Plans have been made to visit the Church and adjacent cottages.
- 19th October ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8.0 o'clock in the Village Hall. Election of new Committee and Officers. Immediately after the meeting two films will be shown "The Wind on the Heath", the story of the National Parks in England and Wales and "The Vanishing Coast" concerning the conservation and use of the British Coastline.
- 18th November Visit to the Belgrave Theatre in Coventry for Arthur Pinero's Roisterous Edwardian Comedy "The Magistrate". A 42 seater coach is being booked so accommodation is limited. Names and money (approximate cost about 15/- inclusive) to Mrs. Martin or Mrs. Wilson at the A.C.M.)
- 30th November A talk on the "Country Houses of Warwickshire" by Mr. Chaplin of the C.P.R.E. Village Hall 8.0 o'clock.
- 10th May An illustrated talk on "The Deserted Villages of Warwickshire" by Mr. C. J. Bond. Village Hall 8.0 o'clock.
- 19th June Visit to Mary Arden's House at Wilmcote. It is hoped to arrange a buffet supper.
- Further details of this and the above lectures in due course.

H. B. JOSEPH  
HON. SECRETARY KNOWLE SOCIETY.

10 Longdon Road,  
Knowle.



KNOWLE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER, 1970

PUBLIC MEETING - NOVEMBER 30TH.

This meeting will begin at 8 o'clock in the Village Hall. A lecture will be given by Mr. R. Chaplin of the CPRE entitled "The Country Houses of Warwickshire". This will be illustrated with slides. Please come along and give this your support. It should be a very interesting evening.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

A wine and cheese party may be arranged early in the New Year. More details later.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE - 10TH MAY, 1971.

Mr. C.J. Bond of County Museum, Kidderminster, will give an illustrated lecture on "The deserted villages of Warwickshire".

VISIT TO MARY ARDEN'S HOUSE WILMCOTE

This has been provisionally booked for Saturday, 19th June 1971. It is hoped to have a buffet supper provided. More details nearer the time.

SUMMER RAMBLE

It is hoped to arrange a ramble to somewhere interesting next summer.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

These are now on sale and can be obtained price 6d. from Mr. H.L. Tulloch, 11 Newton Road, Knowle. The cards show a view of Knowle High Street which was drawn by one of our members. The profits go to the Society.

PUBLICITY CARDS

These are available from myself or other members of the Committee and set down the aims and objects of the Society. By their distribution we hope to increase our membership.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now due and the revised subscription is as follows:

Vice-Presidents .. ..	£1.
Ordinary Members .. ..	10s.
Family membership .. ..	15s. for 2 persons.

Please remit your subscription if you have not already done so to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Gaukroger, 94, Kenilworth Road, Knowle.

H. B. JOSEPH,  
HON. SECRETARY, KNOWLE SOCIETY.  
10, Longdon Road, Knowle.