



Controlling change—we try our best

As you will see from the articles elsewhere in this Newsletter, your Society continues to be extremely active in all sorts of areas. However, there is one planned event that sadly will not be going ahead. As you will remember we were planning a Dinner Dance to round off the events celebrating our golden jubilee year. Unfortunately we clearly miscalculated the amount of interest there would be in attending such an event, as the number of ticket applications was too low to justify going ahead with it. We needed to sell about 80 tickets to cover our costs, but with only a month to go the applications stopped coming in and we'd sold far too few to be confident we wouldn't make a loss. That, of course, was something we couldn't do. Spending the Society's money on covering the loss on an event of this sort is not something we would want to do. Your subscriptions are provided so we can carry out the 'Objects' (as they are called) of the Society and this is what we try to do at all times. We are still considering whether there is another suitable event to round off what has been a very busy and successful year for the Society.

One area where we have spent significant sums of money over the past 4 years has been on the applications for a Waitrose store and other changes in St John's Close. By the time you receive this Newsletter we may know the result of the Council's deliberations on the final version of this application. Whatever the decision, it's something we will have to live with for the foreseeable future. If the application has failed, it's back to square one and we have no idea what will happen to the area, except that it is very unlikely that we'll have any improvements to the car parking situation. If it has been passed we will be continuing to work with the Council and the developers to minimise the inevitable disruption of the construction period as well as to try and improve what we can of the scheme. The efforts of Andrew Marston and the rest of your planning committee have anyway improved the details of the scheme in many ways. Our purpose in doing this was to try and ensure the best outcome should the Council approve it.

(Continued on page 2)

Events Diary

Sunday 30th September

Meet 2pm at Fen End car park

Monday 15th October

8pm in Knowle Village Hall

Monday 12th November

10.30am in Knowle Village Hall

Monday 19th November

8pm in Knowle Village Hall

Wednesday 26th December

11am meet at the Guild House

Monday 21st January 2013

8pm in Knowle Village Hall

Temple Balsall Walk

Tea and cakes can be bought at the finish

Quiz Night with fish & chip supper

Members and guests only (booking necessary)

Daisy Countess of Warwick—an enigma

Barbara Waller—Tea and coffee served from 10.00am

Acorns Charity—providing care for the child and family

Boxing Day Walk—Mulled wine and mince pies en route

2-3 miles—all welcome

Warwickshire Wildlife

Graham Harrison

We were very pleased that so many (over 500) members and others attended our public exhibition of the final version of the plans on the August Bank Holiday Saturday. It was not the date we would have chosen, but the timescale of the Council's processes and other commitments meant that this was the only day we could hold it. Your views were taken fully into account in the long and difficult deliberations of the Trustee Directors that led to our ultimate report to the Council.

You will know that there are other proposals for change in the village and nearby and these are also mentioned in the reports in this Newsletter. The Society, in the form of those who are active in whatever way, and with the support of you, our members, continues to do its best to resist those that we feel would spoil the village, improve those that would be acceptable if modified and welcome those that suit the village. It is very reassuring that developers have enough regard for your Society to consult us at an early stage in their planning. Of course they do not always take note of our comments and sometimes it feels as if they are just 'going through the motions' but it does give us a chance to be forewarned and therefore forearmed!

Well, what of other matters? We continue to be concerned over the closure of shops and other businesses on the High Street, but it is reassuring that some, at least, are quite rapidly being replaced by other tenants. We cannot be complacent, but it is quite clear that Knowle continues to be a place where people want to live and carry on their business. Long may that last, despite the pressures that are inevitably placed on other services like car parking, schools and health services, although I must say that the latter two seem to be coping very well.

Leighton Jones —Chairman - Knowle 773894

WALKS

Wearing a different hat, that of our walks coordinator, I'd like to remind you of our traditional Boxing Day walk, (sorry to be talking about Christmas when, I hope, the weather is still warm). This is a great opportunity to get some fresh air after spending Christmas Day in front of the television, or whatever. As usual it starts at 11am from the Guild House, is an easy 2 to 3 miles (depending on the detailed route, which I haven't decided yet!) and will of course include refreshments of mince pies and mulled wine. If anyone would like to help out with our walks next year, please let me know. Some fresh ideas are always welcome.

2

RECENT SUBMISSIONS BY THE KNOWLE SOCIETY TO SMBC ON MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAY BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE USING THE LINKS BELOW:

Five submissions concerning the Kimberley/Waitrose application:

www.knowlesociety.org.uk/node/395

One submission concerning the McCarthy & Stone application:

www.knowlesociety.org.uk/node/396

WANTED – VOLUNTEERS

YOUR SOCIETY IS RUN BY MEMBERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS
(AND THE WIDER VILLAGE)

WE ARE ALWAYS KEEN TO INVOLVE MORE MEMBERS IN HELPING TO KEEP
OUR SOCIETY THRIVING

AT PRESENT WE ARE LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PRODUCING (EDITING)
THE NEWSLETTER AND IN LEADING THE WALKS

WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH ANY
OF THE COMMITTEES

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT COULD BE INVOLVED,
WITH NO OBLIGATION, PLEASE RING

LEIGHTON JONES 01564 773894

Andrew Marston was away when the newsletter was going to press, so a VERY condensed summary has been drawn up from the July and August reports made by the Society's Planning committee chairman (Andrew) to the Society's Trustee Directors.

- SMBC has approved the proposal for housing at Hall Farm on the Kenilworth Road—the Society did not object to this application.
- Although the football club is located in the Green Belt, the committee agreed not to make any objection to the application to install new floodlights as it is in fact, a relatively minor change to the existing facility and could well secure the longevity of the club, a valuable social amenity.
- The proposed Aspen Retirement close-care residential scheme on The Paddocks immediately to the south of the Crest Scheme on Four Ashes Road was not recommended for refusal as the land is allocated for development anyway and the residents would not impact Arden Academy student accommodation.
- The McCarthy & Stone proposals for Chesshire House and the Greswolde Garage have received detailed and adverse comment from the Society. We do not believe that this proposal would be suitable on this site in the Conservation Area. The text of the Society's submission to SMBC is to be found on the Society's website.
- The Society is seeking to get the site of Royal British Legion and the former Alpha Romeo garage included within the Knowle Conservation Area.
- Your Planning Committee held an exhibition of the 'Before and After' story of the Kimberley/Waitrose application during the past approximately two years on Saturday 25th August in the Village Hall. With 529 Members and non-members attending it could be considered to have been successful in achieving its objective, that of showing the results of the committee's consultation with the Applicant and making it aware of those items which are still a concern. All who attended were requested to complete the questionnaire. Of those responding 40% were in favour of the scheme going ahead and 60% not. The prime concern was car parking and whether or not there will be sufficient extra spaces as has been calculated by the Applicant. It is now up to the Council to decide and may have done so by the time you read this; after 4yrs it is time it was settled.

Andrew Marston - Knowle 774082

TRUSTEE PROFILE—JOHN ROWLEY

I am a Chartered Engineer and my career was in the Automobile Industry, working for a number of well-known companies in various roles related to manufacturing. I have always taken every opportunity to be involved with community work and after taking early retirement I became secretary of the Coventry and Warwickshire Branch of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, and also acted as a Careers Advisor at Arden School.



I became a member of the Community Services Committee of The Knowle Society in 1999, with responsibility for keeping track of policies and activities at Birmingham Airport. In 2006 I was asked to become Chairman of the Community Services Committee and hence a Trustee Director, with responsibilities for contact and liaison with the Police, Transport, Birmingham Airport and SMBC neighbourhood issues.

TRUSTEE PROFILE—PETER EWIN

I am the immediate past chairman of the Society and on finishing my stint of three years in that post I re-joined the planning committee where I had been chairman from 2004 to 2008. Both posts have been extremely rewarding but inevitably time-consuming.



I had been a member on a very inactive basis before retiring in 2003 from my former occupation as a solicitor specialising in commercial property. In that year I answered a plea in the newsletter asking for new members for the planning committee and within a couple of months of joining the committee I had been asked to chair it. It was a very steep learning curve! I am now 70 and still feel very involved in all that the Society does and hope to remain as a Trustee Director for the foreseeable future. On a personal level I have been married for over 47 years to Betty and we have two sons one of whom is also a solicitor.

AIRPORT

An Airspace Change Process meeting has taken place at the Airport with respect to the runway extension. New guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority has changed the means of aircraft control during take-off and landing and the purpose of the Focus Group is to raise concerns that local communities may have during the development of the Standard Instrument Departure and the Noise Preferential Routes. The Knowle Society had a representative at the meeting and at this moment in time, no concerns have been raised.

SECTION 106 PLANNING AGREEMENT

This agreement is between Solihull MBC and Birmingham Airport. If anyone is interested in how the Airport minimises the impact of Airport operations on local residents and their environment, the report is now available on the Solihull MBC website at: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/attachments/2011>

NOISE MONITORING REPORT

The Airport has recently installed the portable Noise Monitor in Knowle and their full report should be available early in September. It is intended that the report will be available for reading in the Knowle Society section of Knowle Library.

TRANSPORT

The Solihull Transport User Forum has been disbanded and will be replaced by a Passenger User Group covering the whole of Birmingham and Solihull. The Knowle Society will have a place on this group but we are also looking for one or more Passenger Champions who regularly use public transport and can provide information about services. If you are interested please contact Bridget Sproston on: 07775 824502.

Why not try the Network West Midlands App for iPhone and Android? This gives you real-time information about buses and trains, so you know if your bus or train is running late or cancelled.

BUSES

Re-vamping of the S2 and S3 routes has stalled and will not now be done before the services are put out to tender again in 2013. Meanwhile Centro is negotiating on reliability and we should notice improvements from September. Please feed back any problems.

TRAINS

Dorridge Station is still experiencing periods when the ticket office is unmanned and therefore lifts cannot be used and some tickets cannot be purchased. Complaints should be fed through to Centro Customer Relations Team on: 0121 214 7214.

SMBC

As reported in the last Newsletter, the road, which is in a poor state, that starts in St Johns Close and turns past the Scout Hut has still not been repaired, even though we understood that quotes were being obtained. We shall continue to pursue this matter.

We are pleased to see that a much larger rubbish container has been installed in the walkway between St Johns Close and Lodge Road.

The Knowle Society has again contributed towards the cost of the High Street flower tubs, which is such an enhancement to Knowle.



The visibility of Bollards in Lodge Road is being investigated and drivers are urged to take care when using this narrow road.

POLICE

Knowle Surgery is on 5th October 9.30am – 11.30am in the Library.



BYPASS LAND

Some progress has been made concerning the ownership of the land retained for the Bypass. It is apparent that the majority of the land is not owned by Solihull Council. Area A (See map in environment article in July newsletter—Ed) from the Warwick Road roundabout is primarily owned privately and even part of the Local Nature Reserve is privately owned. This makes it even more important to discuss the future of the land with the Council. By the time this newsletter is printed and distributed hopefully a meeting will have been held.

In the middle of July we distributed letters to about 250 houses which are close to the bypass route asking for their views on the future of this important open space. Over 50 residents responded and the majority have suggested a nature corridor with pathways and possible cycling facilities. There was concern from some residents of Newton Road and Longdon Road about attempting to provide access from Longdon Road. Residents of Starbold Crescent and St Lawrence Close would like Knowle Park to be extended south. There was strong support for a nature reserve with more trees and access to Station Road.

STREAMSIDE TRUST

The Streamside Trust has a large sum of money to look after a strip of land behind Wychwood Avenue leading up to the canal. The Trust was set up in 1947 by a resident who left the money for maintaining the area for the enjoyment by the public. The woodland has a plentiful range of wild flowers and a walk along the paths is well worthwhile. Access is from a narrow footpath from Wychwood Avenue or from Hampton Road where the Thacker Nursery used to be. A new management committee has recently been formed which includes a representative from the Society. The Council has prepared a plan for improvement of this delightful open space.

WARWICK ROAD ROUNDABOUT

We have been in touch with the Council for nearly two years to discuss ways to improve the appearance of two sections on the south sides of the Warwick Road roundabout. One area by the bus stop and the second on the other side of the road. Nettles, brambles, ivy and other dead brushwood needs to be cut back. This would only be for the areas close to the footpaths and not further back where the bushes and other flora can flourish for birds, butterflies etc. It is also to make the area around the bus stop safer for children who use this bus stop.

The Council hopes to include some improvements in the Autumn. In the meantime we were authorised to cut back nettles which were making it difficult for pedestrians to use the pavements.

OAK TREE

Whilst looking to improve the areas around the roundabout the Council recently decided to fell a mature oak tree making the area on the north west side look bare. The two photographs below show the area before and after the tree was felled. There is also a chance that the Council will fell the remaining oak tree. This is all being done as the insurers of the house adjoining the area are threatening to take legal action against the Council as they claim that the roots are damaging the property. The Council has said that a replacement tree will not be planted and it is unlikely that they will plant bushes, leaving the area barren. Nothing can be done now that the tree has been removed but we are looking into the legal position for future reference so that we may be able to help save the remaining tree and other mature trees within Knowle.



Photo approx. two years ago before diseased tree on far left was removed. Recent removal was the centre tree. Right hand tree is now at risk.



Current photo, right-hand tree (in full leaf) now at risk.

Ian Simmonds - Knowle 778692

EXHIBITIONS

Presently in place “50 Years of The Knowle Society” together with a selection of photographs of old Knowle “A Glimpse into the Past”.

Exhibitions for next year not yet finally decided on but will be in the 2013 programme delivered with the January newsletter.

TALKS

The last talk for this year is on 12th November and is entitled “Daisy Countess of Warwick – an enigma.” The speaker will be Barbara Waller and as usual the talk will be held in the Village Hall 10am for 10.30am.

Talks for next year are not yet finalised but as for exhibitions will be in the 2013 programme.

VISITS

Also not yet finalised.

AROUND THE SHOPS

Whispers on the High Street has moved to Warwick and permission is now being sought to turn the premises into an upmarket Wine Shop, something the writer at least, thinks is sorely needed. At one time there were three dedicated wine shops in the village – Co-op Wine Store on High Street, Victoria Wine on Station Road and Threshers also on Station Road, all in addition to Tesco. At that time, if my memory serves me correctly, One Stop or Dillons as it was then, did not sell alcohol.

Diva Hair formerly GoGoBoots (same owners) have now moved into the Retreat (next door to Knowle Library). Let’s hope third time lucky for them.

Blockbusters on the High Street has also now closed down. They have served the village well for a good many years and I’m sure lots of people will miss them.

TOO MANY EMPTY SHOPS ON OUR HIGH STREET
so please
USE OUR LOCAL SHOPS OR LOSE OUR LOCAL SHOPS

LIFE IN THE 1600S

Moving on from the 1500s we take a look at food a century later. This was an era of fire, plague, war, execution and political turbulence and yet throughout the century there was a fascination with foreign and exotic foods (amongst the rich, of course). Samuel Pepys was extremely impressed by his friend the Earl of Sandwich who employed a French chef and while the Great Fire of London raged Pepys wrote in his diary of his own attempts to save his wines and parmesan cheese, all of which he buried safely in his garden.

The nursery rhyme “Four & Twenty Blackbirds Baked in a Pie” is not as far fetched as it seems and was also done with live frogs, all to enliven and create amusement at large parties and banquets. Neither was it quite as cruel as it seems because what they did was; bake the pie filled with bran, when it was cool a hole was made in the bottom of the pie, the bran taken out and replaced, in some instances with live frogs and in others with small live birds. The practice at that time was always to lift the lids of pies to see what sort they were before eating them. The first pies served contained the live frogs which all skipped out causing the ladies to jump about as much as the frogs, whilst lifting their skirts and shrieking in feigned fright. Then the other lids were lifted and the birds flew out, naturally flying to the light which put the candles out so with flying birds above and skipping frogs below there was great amusement and the party got off to a good start.

At the other extreme of course, were the poor who were hanged for stealing a loaf of bread or poaching a rabbit!

Janet Eržen - Knowle 779040



We have had just two talks since the last newsletter as August is a month we miss out from our schedule, being the traditional holiday period for many people. In June we had a talk from Chris Pitt on Horse Racing in the Midlands. Chris is an accomplished speaker and broadcaster who has a detailed, intimate knowledge of the racing world and its history. The Midlands area had more than its fair share of racing venues in and around this area and most seemed to be connected to public houses who organised many of the events and the consumption of alcohol was almost as important a factor to the landlords as the horse racing. The number of

horse racing tracks diminished greatly over the second half of the last century so only the major race tracks survive but it was fascinating to learn how horse racing was very local to Knowle not that long ago with the major venue operating until the 1950s at what is now Shirley Golf course. Indeed the 6.00 p.m. express train from Snow Hill station, Birmingham, to Paddington, made a special stop at Knowle and Dorridge station on race days, to pick up race-goers returning to London from the Shirley venue.

The talk in July was given by David Howe on Prime Ministers from the Midlands. David lectures and writes on local history and has just published a small book entitled "Prime Ministers and the Midlands" to accompany his talks. David is an obvious master of his subject and his talk was full of interesting facts interspersed with amusing anecdotes from some of the characters he spoke about, these included Prime Ministers and quite a few Midland MPs who nearly made it to the top job in British politics.



The 2013 schedule of talks is now complete and is available to view on our website www.knowlesociety.org.uk/events – the schedule includes a social evening with the ever popular Dandy – the black country comedy and song husband and wife team, a talk on the National Memorial Arboretum and an amusing "Return to the Swinging Sixties". We hope to see you at our talks during the latter part of this year and in 2013.

Charles Robinson - Knowle 775770

OUR JUBILEE YEAR—HOW HAS IT GONE?

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, a jubilee year was amongst other things a time for the release of captives and resting of the land; if that is the origin of the word we probably don't match up to the model very closely. We have in fact 'captured' more members than ever before with a record 3264 (and growing). As for resting, those involved most closely with the major planning applications that have been the concern of Knowle and Dorridge in recent times, have been flat out for months trying to get the best result for Knowle—and many members have played their part too by visiting exhibitions and giving feedback. Celebration is the normal response to jubilees and the pictures below remind us that we have had had a good measure of celebration as well, though it was a disappointment that the Sixties Dinner Dance had to be cancelled because of low numbers.

*The birthday cake
with our new Jubilee logo.*



Chairman Leighton Jones awards a prize at the Society's stand in the High Street during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (the other jubilee!)

*Any Questions? in Arden Academy -
Jonathan Dimpleby and the panel.*



*Directors in pinnies at the tea party in
Knowle Village Hall.*



Mrs P Abbotts	Ms G Ditchburn	Mr & Mrs J Mather
Mrs E M Adams	Mr & Mrs J Dowding	Mr & Mrs A E Matthews
Mr D H Addison &	Mr M Duthie &	Mr & Mrs S McFarlane
Ms R Nock	Ms A Walsh	Mr & Mrs J McGoldrick
Mr & Mrs P F Allen	Mrs J Earl	Mrs B McGurk
Mr & Mrs S A Armstrong	Ms D Eastcott	Mr & Mrs I Millard
Mrs F Bate	Mrs J Edwards	Miss K M Millatt
Mr M Bateman-Smith	Mr & Mrs P W Evans	Mr & Mrs A S Mitchell
Mr & Mrs R Baynham	Mr & Mrs R Evans	Mr & Mrs R F Moore
Ms S Beaumont &	Mrs R A Ewins	Mr & Mrs W R Murdoch
Mr J Banks	Mr G J Fear	Mr & Mrs J E Norris
Mr & Mrs P J Beddoes	Mr & Mrs J Findlay	Mrs L E Owen
Mr P J Betton	Mr D K Fleet	Mr & Mrs S G R Pajon
Mrs B Billingham	Mr & Mrs M Fortune	Mr & Mrs J Parkins
Mr P Bird	Mr & Mrs C J Foulkes	Mr & Mrs A Pelekanau
Mr & Mrs J M Blenkinsop	Mr & Mrs M Freeman	Mr G G W Percival
Mr & Mrs D Blood	Mrs P Gee	Mr P N Roberts
Mr G C Bramall &	Mrs B Glover	Mrs L Sahota
Ms J Shannon	Mrs L R Guy	Mr & Mrs W Sanders
Mr & Mrs E Brown	Mrs I Hammond	Mr & Mrs I T W Shearman
Mr & Mrs R W Buckley	Mr & Mrs K J Harding	Mr & Mrs M Singer
Mr M J Burrows	Mr & Mrs Harrison	Mr & Mrs K W Spensley
Mr & Mrs D R Butcher	Mr S F Healy	Mr & Mrs M L Stockton
Mrs E Butler	Mrs R Holmes	Miss A Stubbs
Mr & Mrs Chambers	Mrs Hopkins	Mr M Syedian &
Mr & Mrs D Chan	Mr & Mrs J A J Hurst	Mrs I Sethu
Mr & Mrs A J Chandler	Mr & Mrs A P Innes	Mrs B Sykes &
Mr & Mrs J K Clarke	Mrs D Ireland	Prof. A Dawson
Mrs H A Clarke	Mr & Mrs P Jenkins	Mr & Mrs R Thorpe
Mr & Mrs P D Coggan	Mr S Johnson	Mr J R Tolley
Mr & Mrs M Colvin	Mrs P Keskinilinc	Mr & Mrs J Vasey
Mrs A J Cook	Mr K Knight	Mr & Mrs R Walklate
Mrs J S Cooke	Mr & Mrs R A Lazenby	Mr & Mrs S Webber
Mr & Mrs M Cooper	Mr & Mrs R Leech	Mr & Mrs P Wheeler
Mrs M J Coton	Ms A J Lloyd	Mrs H Winmill
Ms M J Cox	Mr & Mrs A Love	Mr & Mrs J R T Withers
Mrs A Darlington	Mr & Mrs P W Manning	Mr & Mrs J Wyartt
Ms C Dimmock	Mr N J March	

I shall shortly have completed twelve months in the post of Membership Secretary and, I must say, it has been a very good year to be in that role. Not only can I report that, as at the end of August, we have a record membership for the Society of 3,264 we are also able to support that by a collection rate for subscriptions of 99.1% for the year. The latter has been achieved by the 'army' of 86 Distributors who not only distribute the Newsletter four times a year but also collect the subscriptions in October. So be warned - they may be knocking on your door shortly! There is no change this year in the amount of the subscription - £3 for single membership and £5 for joint.

Our record membership has largely been achieved by the efforts of Martin Warr, to whom we continue to be grateful for his recruiting work. You will see above a list of the large number of members who have joined since the last Newsletter. Many of those will have been 'encouraged' to join by Martin and we welcome them to the Society.

Peter Johnson - Knowle 770268

IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chairman & Diary | 5. Natural Environment |
| 2. Chairman continued | 6. Local History |
| 3. Planning & profiles | 7. Meetings & Social |
| 4. Community Services | 8. Membership |

A warm welcome to the 169 new members 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.knowledesociety.org.uk

Membership:

*Peter Johnson
1 Barnbrook Road
Knowle
SOLIHULL
B93 9PW
01564 770268
[membership@
knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@knowlesociety.org.uk)*

Editor:

*David Bower
01564 775790
[newsletter@
knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@knowlesociety.org.uk)*

Distribution:

*Anne Smith
01564 779120
[distribution@
knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:distribution@knowlesociety.org.uk)*

Proof-readers:

*Maria Brown
John Chaloner
Sandra Lea
Pam Watson*

Online copy password

until January 2013 is LWb5a9

Next issue

*Copy deadline:
1st December 2012
Distribution commences:
1st January 2013*



Issue 50.4

*The Knowle Society is a
company limited by guarantee
Registered Number 05514023*