



Pre - A.G.M.Issue Autumn 2003



www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2003
IN THE KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00pm**

Chairman's Annual Report

This year has been particularly important as the 600th Anniversary of Knowle Parish Church. There have been many splendid celebrations held by the Church, and Knowle Society has been proud to participate and contribute. Those who attended the brilliant lecture, '600 Years of Knowle Parish Church', given by the Reverend Anthony Upton to the Society and guests at an absolutely packed Village Hall, will probably never forget it. In addition, the Church said it was particularly delighted with the relevance, content and presentation of the Society's Exhibition 'Knowle Parish Church – Heart of the Village 1403-2003' given at the Guild House.

You will observe from the interesting and comprehensive reports that follow how hardworking everyone has been this year, again, and how your Society continues to be active and involved with the affairs of Knowle. Personally and on your behalf I thank them all. Their contributions have been substantial.

With the AGM bearing down on us, now is the time to bring the following changes in personnel for 2004 to your attention.

After 7 years as our Membership Secretary and 12 as our Newsletter Editor John Chaloner has decided to call it a day. The Society owes him an enormous debt

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Dates For Your Calendar



Monday 20th October	Quiz Night: - 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
Monday 24th November	Annual General Meeting (See Top of Page) 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
Week Commencing 24th November	Switching on Knowle Society Christmas Tree Lights - See posters for details in due course.
Friday 26th December	Boxing Day short local walk: Start at 11.00am from the Guild House, back before 1.00pm (Wine & Mince pies will be served en route)
Monday 19th January, 2004	General Meeting: Talk 'Trading Standards and Consumer Rights' by Michelle Booth of Solihull MBC. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
Monday 16th February 2004	General Meeting: Talk 'The Spouse Girls' (not a misspelling) by Mr D M Howe. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

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of gratitude for this exceptional record of service and dedicated work. On behalf of his colleagues and friends in the Society, I give thanks to him from us all. John has been part of the Society affairs for so long that he will be particularly missed.

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Committee's nomination to succeed John as Membership Secretary is Derek Mellor. We wish him every success.

We are delighted that David Bower is taking on the editorship of the Newsletter in addition to managing our website. We are confident that he will bring flair and enthusiasm to the job.

Sandra Lea, the Society's Treasurer, has decided that work pressures mean she can no longer chair our Social and Meetings Committee as well as her other responsibilities. Under Sandra's guidance and help from her colleagues over the last 6 years the Society's programme of social events and talks has achieved a standard of high quality much appreciated and enjoyed by members. I want to express my personal thanks and admiration for what she has achieved. I am sure you will all join with me.

At the moment we do not have a successor for Sandra as Chairman of the Social and Meetings Sub-Committee, and I appeal, again, for someone to step forward so that we can sustain these valued social activities.

To add to this need on the Social Sub-Committee, Gary Masters finds that he can no longer manage his place on it as well as to his role as Chairman of our Amenities Sub-Committee. In addition Gary plays a leading and organising part in many of the Society's events. Over the last year or so he has built up the strength of the Amenities Sub-Committee so that it is again fully functioning in all its responsibilities, and now absorbs more of his time and energy. **Again I appeal to members to volunteer to fill this vacant position on the Social and Meetings Sub-Committee.**

Change is linked to innovation. I would like to mention an activity which is worth your continuing attention. The Society broke new ground this year with the inauguration of its 'Pathfinder Project' derived from an initiative by the Civic Trust to instil new vigour among its membership. Ken Richards originally brought it to our attention and promoted its attractions. We have done our best to keep members informed through General Meetings, Open Days and Newsletters. New Committee members Malcolm Brain, David Bower, and Leighton Jones took up the challenge of attending training, planning, and managing the project which was chosen to draw attention to St Johns Close. Local residents and business are being consulted, and the Council is playing a part in the formulation of a forward look. As we have repeatedly stressed, the objective is not to draw up a Society blueprint for St Johns Close, rather to reflect the wishes and fears of members and

the public. I recommend this project as an example of an activity that shows the Society is capable and willing to step outside its usual concerns to initiate a look into the future of Knowle. This sort of addition to our normal activities should attract younger people to get interested in work that is compatible with our objective of preserving the best of Knowle in the development of its future.

I have mentioned Ken Richards. Ken has been Chairman of our Planning Sub-Committee these last 3 years, and has decided that he has to stand down fairly soon. Ken has been an outstanding Chairman and leader of this important committee, plus responsibility for developing the Society's contribution about Knowle's future to the Council's current Unitary Development Plan. He has also represented the Society at West Midlands Amenity Societies Association where he has been their Treasurer, and as mentioned earlier Ken was instrumental in launching the Society's Pathfinder Project. His contribution has been immense and we hope we will not lose him for a few months yet.

Finally, as some of you may know, I am retiring from the Society's chairmanship at the forthcoming AGM, after three years service, so I am writing this last report to you with mixed feelings. I have memories of successes and disappointments, friendships made and strengthened, loyalties and help given by many and hereby gratefully acknowledged. I look back and recall the enthusiastic celebrations of The Queen's Jubilee in Knowle High Street, with the Society's Gazebo on the Green, and the praised Exhibition in the Guild House; also the Society's excellent and memorable 40th Anniversary party at the Royal British Legion Knowle; the Church's 600 years anniversary events already mentioned, and as I walk past the Millennium Post commissioned and erected by the Society on the small green near the Church, I muse that it has become an established mark of the occasion it represents. These are highlights that I will treasure. I have been blessed by superb work from the sub-committees and others. I thank them all, and you the members for your support.

The Executive Committee's unanimous choice as my successor is Colin Smith, the Society's Secretary for the past 7 years. Colin will take the Society forward, and in this he will be guided by our heritage and the future needs of the Society. He has our full backing and very best wishes.

So indeed it is a time of change. 2004 will see new faces in some of the Society's key positions. Over the next few years the Society will be led by a new generation. This is as it should be, as we continue to move into the new century. With your support and involvement I have no doubt at all that the Society will rise to the challenges and changes ahead.

Peter Ellis

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Local History Sub-committee Annual Report

During this year we have been delighted to contribute to the celebrations marking the 600th anniversary of Knowle Parish Church. Throughout a weekend of festivities in March our exhibition, *Knowle Parish Church ~ Heart of the Village 1403 - 2003*, was open in the Guild House. It was heartening to see it so well supported, especially on the Saturday, when the highlight was the presence of the second Guild Register. Afterwards the main exhibition was on show at Chester House until the end of April. We had been working on it since the previous October, with very little time for anything else.

In the summer we were pleased to provide help for the flower festival and photographs for *600 Brought Alive*, which take place in the church from October 21st to October 25th. It promises to be very good - tickets are available from various places in the village. By a happy coincidence, in July the Revd. Anthony Upton published his new book,

Remember Walter Cook, about the founder of the church. You can order a copy at the Local History Centre on Saturday mornings or ring Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283.

The Church celebrations have been only a part of our activities. The local history year started as usual, with the now well established Junior School local studies project, when the children from Year 6

look at photographs from the collection and then ask long standing residents about their memories of village life. In August Gillian Knight gave an extended version of her talk on the history of Dorridge to Dorridge Probus.

Since the exhibition we have concentrated on reorganising the Local History Centre, which is beginning to show the results of several working parties - there are even labels on the cabinets. But there is some way to go: the bookcase needs attention and the drawer labelled 'Filing and Miscellaneous Jobs' is full.

During the year there has been a steady trickle of items added to the collection and more are always welcome. Photographs from family albums (which we can copy) would also be a valuable addition. But space considerations have forced us to dispose of our stock of duplicate parish magazines. Fortunately they have gone to a good home - the Parish Magazine team. However, there are still gaps in our collection, particularly up to about 1930.

This has not been the year for great strides in the cataloguing stakes, with only 3557 records on file (up from 3335 last year) and 5723 index records (up from 5371). The additions include a batch of oral history records, which are now nearly all catalogued and indexed. John Rear has made a huge effort to pass the records to John Johnson in apple pie order. In the meantime, several people have been

interviewed in the last few months.

For most of this year the showcases have been devoted to church items, which have now made way for 'Goodbye Sodens, The Story of a Butcher's Shop.' This was first seen briefly at the Jubilee Exhibition in 2002, but did not get much of an airing. It will be there until the end of November, and for the first time there will be posters round the village for one of these small displays. The next one will be a similar display about Maddocks - also given a short outing in 2002.

The Local History Centre continues to attract enquiries: in person on Saturday mornings, by post or telephone, from Solihull Library and these days by e-mail. It is manned each Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12 (except Bank Holidays) If anyone needs more time, please ring Elizabeth Stanley on 01564 773283 beforehand.

Many of you will have read in the Parish Magazine that

Knowle Library Local History Month

The Work of

KNOWLE SOCIETY LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

20th - 25th October 2003

October 25th (10.30 - 12.30) is **SCRAP BOOK SATURDAY**, when the scrap books, the Parish Magazines, Knowle Memoirs and other popular items will be on open display for you to dip into.

Knowle Library is holding a local history month in October, with talks and small displays on the ground floor between the doors. The Local History Centre is putting up a display about our work from Monday October 20th to Saturday October 25th. Details in the panel.

As you can see the last day is *Scrap Book Saturday*, when the scrap books, parish

magazines, oral history records and other popular items will be out on open display. We have also written some User Guides, outlining how to use the collection and the services we offer. These are presently at draft stage, but should be ready.

Top of the list next year is to complete the reorganisation of the Local History Centre, after which the long list of outstanding jobs will be tackled as time becomes available. Not least amongst them is a blitz on cataloguing. All this should take us most of 2004.

It remains for me to thank the large team of people who have helped with the Local History operation during the year: the local history committee, our team of stewards, those who help with the Junior School project, Jennie Evans who faithfully keeps the scrap book up to date, Peter Court, who has edited his father's memoirs and is now sorting the Wilson Collection, a number of people who work individually and everyone who has provided items for the collection, without whom it would not exist. We are grateful to them all.

Elaine S. Warner
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Planning Sub-committee Annual Report

Over the year our main concern has been with the continued development of large apartment blocks. This is a familiar pattern in other parts of Solihull, including neighbouring Dorridge. The saga of the Parkridge development at 1266-1288 Warwick Road continues. Whilst they already have planning permission for 42 apartments, they have submitted a further application for a total of 78 dwellings, and we are awaiting the outcome. The new twist in the tail is the offer to include 14 "affordable" apartments in the development – that means small apartments that will be handed over to the housing corporation.

We are also awaiting the result of Redrow's appeal against non-determination (i.e. no decision made by Solihull Council until after the permitted time) of their application to build 24 apartments on the neighbouring plot at 1290 –1300 Warwick Road. This appeal is due to be heard in October.

We are still waiting to see what will happen at Grimshaw Hall, where there is an outstanding application to convert outbuildings to make residential dwellings, which we regard as being unsuitable.

There is great concern amongst local residents about the activities, which have been taking place at the old Thacker's nursery. The Council has now stopped these, but Demrastore



Grimshaw Hall

have made an application for mixed use as a horticultural nursery, as landscape contractors and for recovery of soils from landscape contractors.

There is a new application for development at Lidgate's Hall farm on Kenilworth Road, to convert existing buildings to make a total of 12 dwellings. A previous application, which had been approved by the Council, was eventually called in and refused by the Secretary of State as being unsuitable in the greenbelt.

We have continuing concern about the abuse of planning regulations, especially by small shops and restaurants in the centre of the village. Many alterations are made to shop fronts and signs without the necessary planning approvals. Then when these are eventually referred to the planning authorities, it seems to take months and

years to enforce the regulations.

We welcome the addition of two retail units in Kimbell's Walk, and hope that they will add to the pleasure of shopping in Knowle.

Ken Richards
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Amenities Sub-committee Annual Report

From a start in November 2002 it looked as if this sub-committee would not be able to carry out all of the duties expected of it in the following year, due to the lack of "working" members. However two willing volunteers came forward to cover very important aspects of the work, and in the end the result has turned out to be outstanding, with a united working committee, sharing, and caring for, the duties required.

The year started at the 2002 Annual General Meeting with a letter being read, and then passed to yours truly, relating to the position of the public conveniences in the village. To date the only definite decision that has been made by the Council is that the park facilities are to be removed at some date in the future. A survey is to take place, hopefully soon, regarding the usage of the toilets at the top of Station Road.

I have no doubt that many of you will be awaiting the results of the Government consultation process that took place concerning the future development of our airports, and principally Birmingham International. The initial deadline of 30th November 2002 for completion of the document was subsequently amended in the High Court to this summer, but we are now waiting on the decisions to come from the Department of Transport, nearly twelve months from the origi-

nal date.

The Area Enhancement Plan for Knowle initially took the largest slice of time, in identifying the priorities available within the budget restriction. The most satisfying aspect has been the generous comments for the updates that have been made. The Society has advised these facts to the Council, and thanked the officers concerned for their considerable efforts made.

Early in March a public meeting was held by the Council officers to ascertain initial thoughts on a concept plan for the use of Jobs Close Park. Subsequently local residents, and the



public, have had input on a questionnaire on the amended plans; and a further meeting showing the resultant proposals that will be put to the Council for approval. The results of the consultation are firmly made, and can be inspected at the library on a Thursday morning with the local Patch Manager.

Some funds have been allocated for the work to commence this financial year, but the total will take seven years to complete unless a partnership funding source

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is found.

The next item to receive attention was the provision of improvements at various road junctions around the village, with some major work being carried out at the junction of Station Road with Warwick Road. Your committee has decided to wait until later in the year before making any reactive comments, apart from those matters on safety issues which have already been submitted to the Council. It is still felt however that the making of a full roundabout at the top of Station Road would have not only been a safer solution, but also more aesthetically pleasing.

Currently the improvement works to the M42, called Active Traffic Management, is not adversely affecting traffic flow through the village, apart from when any accidents occur. The indiscriminate parking of commercial vehicles, and private vehicles, along the High Street is now also receiving the important attention of West Midlands Police, when their patrols encounter such occurrences. Recent changes at an area and local level in personnel of the police force have taken place. I am pleased to report however that the Society still receives strong support from our constabulary.

On the local transport front Lewis Edwards states that no major changes have occurred in the past period, other than a splendid new sign at Knowle Green bus stop showing all the services that stop there, for which we are most appreciative.



So, what's for the future? Apart from the ongoing items identified previously, your committee are exploring with the Council initially for some form of traffic calming measures to be taken at three places in and around the centre of Knowle:-

1. Stripes Hill, on the Warwick Road, to the junction with Station Road.

2. Kenilworth Road, with Wilsons Road, from the junction with the High Street to the canal bridge.

3. Hampton Road from the junction with the High Street to the commencement of the 30 mph area.

I should like to thank the members of the sub-committee in person for their support to the Society during the past year. In order alphabetical due to their differing responsibilities are, Paul Blackman for his strong representation of the Society's views on the Solihull Police Authority Consultative Committee, and Solihull Rural Patch Assembly. Allan Coleman for his initiatives shown in endeavouring to have the car parks recovered, remarked, and visited regularly by the Council to check on vehicles exceeding the parking limits. Allan was also instrumental in arranging for the laying of the "grass-crete" along the edges of the green in St Johns Close. James Randle has applied himself willingly to efforts concerning speeding traffic along Hampton Road, and Kenilworth Road with Wilsons Road. He has also taken on the role of minute preparation of our meetings. John Rowley has found a niche in being the Society's representative on the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee, and his reports of their meetings always result in further information being sought. The overall knowledge and support of Mike Sharpe as our "senior" is conducive to all our considerations.

Finally thank you for your support over the past twelve months, and for the many of you who supply information, and opinions, on various matters concerning our splendid village.

Gary Masters
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Walks

The Walks programme continues to go from strength to strength, with good numbers of walkers turning out to enjoy a varied selection of walks in and around Knowle. The magic touch with the weather continued.

Even though rain threatened several walks, we managed to escape every time.

The final walk of the summer season was on the last Saturday in September, specifically chosen to allow us to enjoy tea and cakes at Temple Balsall. However we first had to earn them. We did this admirably, with 21 walkers following a varied walk of field paths and lanes and arriving in ample time to sample the fare.

The Boxing Day walk followed most of the traditional route, but the torrential rain of the week before had flooded the low fields and made Barston ford too risky. Nevertheless more than 60 turned out to follow the shortened route. The most important item of the day, the mulled wine & mince pies were not missed, however, thanks to the able assistance of the usual volunteers.

We were much luckier with the weather for the first of the 2003 walks in March. The temperature of 16C/61F was obviously a sign of the summer to come. The route was a new one for The Knowle Society, starting at Widney Manor station and the outskirts of Monkspath before turning off past Shelley Green School to cross the golf course and the motor-

way. The roar from the latter is very evident as you cross over the footbridge. We then crossed the River Blythe and under the railway, to complete the set. Emerging next to Widney Cemetery we went a short way down Browns Lane before taking to the fields again, heading towards Solihull to cross the motorway and the Blythe again, to get back to our starting point.

The April walk was again threatened by a downpour, which stopped minutes before the off. The leader was about to give up, expecting no-one else to be so keen (stupid?) as to turn up, but a hardy few did, and we were treated to an excellent display of bluebells along the route, especially at Napins Covert above Elvers Green Lane. After such an adventurous escapade we felt entitled to refreshments at the Red Lion, before heading home.

The June walk, on the other hand was on such a glorious evening, that a stroll via Kixley Lane and the canal towpath as far as the Black Boy was exercise enough. The excellent turn-out of 21 walkers had obviously worked up quite a thirst by the time we reached there, that it was quite difficult to persuade them to complete the walk via the canal and the Kenilworth Rd.

Leighton Jones
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Meetings and Social Sub-committee Annual Report

We continue to have good audiences for our meetings, which is very rewarding. Thank you to all the members who have supported us throughout the last twelve months.

Last October we had Mrs Joy Woodall, a well known local historian, tell us about the history of Lapworth to the 19th century. She was a speaker who knew her subject well.

As usual the Knowle Society Christmas tree was at the centre of a lively village occasion when the village lights were turned on. This event does not occur without a great deal of time and effort, and our thanks must go to Gary Masters, Phil Vince and Leighton Jones who made it all happen.

The meeting in January saw the Reverend Anthony Upton speak to us about the 600 years history of the Church. What scenes! We were almost overwhelmed by members and guests wishing to hear him. Doors to the kitchen had to be opened to accommodate everyone. It was a memorable evening.

The Editor of the Solihull News and Solihull Times gave us an insight into the work involved in bringing these two publications to our homes. Members participated with great enthusiasm and Ross Crawford answered questions with expertise and good grace.

The problem of drugs was brought home to us in the March talk. Members were interested to learn about a subject that involves all areas including Knowle.

The talk on the Benedictine Priory and St Mary's Hall in Coventry in April will be followed by a visit there in September. As I write this newsletter, 24 members are looking forward to the excursion.

Birmingham Airport is always of great interest to members. A very good audience listened intently to the two speakers, and then a number of searching questions were asked by members to round off an enjoyable evening.

'Comic Capers' in July gave members the opportunity to listen to Mr Patrick Baird. It was a very amusing talk and the added advantage was listening to recordings of both late

and current comedians, and hearing of their close association with the Midlands

Members can now look forward to the next year of talks. As I sit here September will bring another speaker and then we shall have a quiz night in October. This is a new item and it is hoped members will support this social evening. The committee attempts to bring new concepts to the annual programme, and ideas from members are always appreciated.

Finally may I thank my committee members for all the time and effort they put into the search for good and interesting speakers. I should also like to thank Jenny Evans who is always there to ensure that members and guests sign the attendance book, and Phil Vince who not only puts out the chairs for the meetings, but also organises an insertion in the Church magazine advertising our speakers.

The meetings and events for the next few months are:

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER: QUIZ EVENING

MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DECEMBER 26th: BOXING DAY WALK. Meet at the Guild House at 11.00 am, return by 1.00 p m.

Refreshments en route.

MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2004: TRADING STANDARDS AND CONSUMER RIGHTS: A talk by Michelle Booth of Solihull M B C.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16th 2004: THE SPOUSE GIRLS. This is not a misspelling! Mr D M Howe will be telling us about the wives of some of our Prime Ministers.

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Pathfinder: A Partnership for change

Society's St John's Close project moves on apace

June 28th saw a very successful Open Day, when people were asked for their views on whether and how the area around St John's Close could be improved. The displays of maps and photographs of the area stimulated a lot of interest and many useful suggestions. More than 80 people attended the day and over 130 completed questionnaires were returned on the day or later.

The information has been analysed and the emerging issues found to centre around four areas. These are:-

Transport – especially relating to parking; the flow of traffic around the area; and access and egress into and out of St John's Close where it meets the surrounding roads.

Pedestrians – particularly the safety of walking through the area; and the lack of suitable footpath routes where people actually want to walk.

Buildings – the poor appearance of some of the buildings on the periphery of the area, such as the visible rears of the

High St buildings; the possible use of the postal sorting office, which it is thought may not continue to be used as such at some time in the future.

The Green Area – there was a clear feeling that its essential character needed to be maintained, but that it could be improved by minor landscaping and provision of more useful and attractive seating areas.

Further details are available on the Society's website.

By the time you read this we will have held another Open Day on October 4th, at which detailed results, together with some proposed actions, will have been presented. We will then move on, with the continuing enthusiastic support of Solihull Council, to ensure that the momentum is maintained and real results are seen.

Leighton Jones
Malcolm Brain
David Bower



Nature Conservation Sub-committee Annual Report

2003 is the 30th anniversary of our Sub-committee. If you would like to join our celebratory meal at the Red Lion on Friday 4th October at 7.30pm ('dutch') please telephone 774528.

Otherwise this has been a quiet year, overshadowed by the war in Iraq, but the Queen's Jubilee of 2002 has given us a lovely future mini-woodland, with a good survival rate unlike the Millennium tree planting in the Park which will be replaced in the new arboretum proposed in the Council Concept Plan for that area.

Job Close Park Concept Plan. When will the action begin? We have had two more consultations this year and I have just seen a Planning Application for the long-awaited youth & skateboard facility - so it may be quite soon! We are very pleased that a wider strip along the brook will be taken into the Local Nature Reserve to help wildflower regeneration. But please no shrubbery where generations of tobogganners have fun down the slope to the car park in the snow, and no trees please behind the flower beds to obscure the splendid view across the whole park from Jobs Close House. We must safeguard too the old Walnut in the South West corner of their grounds.

Park Rangers - what an asset they are! Bright, energetic and friendly, they are giving the Park a new, well-cared-for image, and were still on duty when the popular jazz evening closed at 10.00pm.

Trees - More Black Poplar cuttings need to be added to those in the old Council Tree Nursery which may not all have survived the intense heat wave and ongoing drought which has shrivelled many Prunus, Rowan and Hawthorn including the Horse Chestnut replacement on Downing Close corner.

Sadly I have had to record lethal Ganoderma Fungus around the Oak base on Barcheston corner, and there is an application to fell the Ash at the United Reformed Church due to root penetration into the drains.

In the 1970's Dr. Bower suggested many tree plantings. One survivor is the Copper Beech halfway down the long Red Lion car park hedge - another is the Horse Chestnut on the corner of the Warwick Road bank. Two Oaks next to it were planted as seedlings by Dr. Bower himself, but the outstanding survivor is the rare semi-evergreen Oak *Quercus Turnerii* by the Pizzeria which must be protected from any new landscaping. Dr. Bower recommended Pines to edge the service road but Silver Birch appeared instead! We did not achieve trees within the Tesco's Car Park nor Ivy to hide the bleak Sorting Office walls Perhaps there will

be some good ideas in the next St John's Close appraisal - October 4th in the Village Hall.

Another 1970's letter from Dr Bower complains of barking ('yet again') by the grass cutters of the young trees along Hampton Road. The reply, in 'council speak' said 'the operatives of mowing machine equipment have already been instructed to avoid damage to trees'. Thirty years later our commemorative trees in the Park were similarly damaged. Nothing changes!

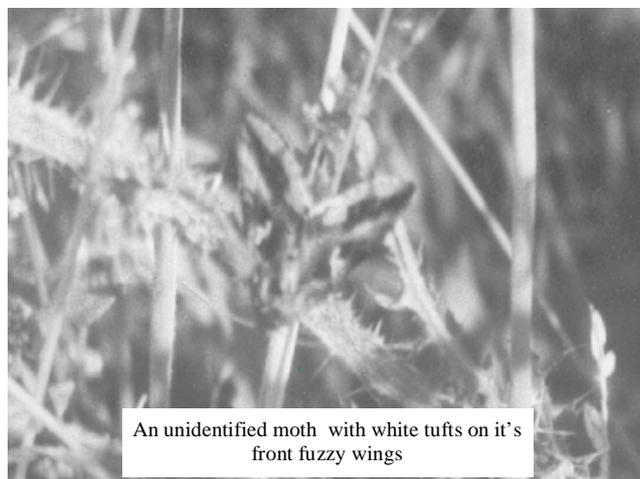
Flower Mound - The flower mound near Wyndley's was eventually planted up for the summer but twice vandalised and replanted. Wyndley's may think twice about continuing their sponsorship.

Butterfly Walk (*see photographs on Page 8*) - Perhaps a change of date next year, there were so few butterflies about in July but at the end of September they besieged the Buddleia, and clouds of Red Admirals from the prolific crop of pear windfalls - Painted Ladies too, and Whites, but only one Comma.

We have a regular number of loyal followers for our wildflower and butterfly walks that make them so well worthwhile - thank you everyone for your enthusiastic support. I am sending the moth photo (*see below*) to Steve Falk as he thinks it may be interesting.

Our Sub-committee members are: Reg & Sheila Elliott, Mike & Celia Bignell, Tony Rowe, Roger King and Sue Owen. You all rally round when action is required - I am so grateful.

Stella Jarman
Knowle 774528



An unidentified moth with white tufts on it's front fuzzy wings



*Butterfly Walk - 27th July 2003
Kixley Lane—Wet Meadow*



*Gatekeeper Butterfly
Butterfly Walk - 27th July 2003*

Membership Secretary's Annual Report

I have exercised my prerogative as Editor to occupy the last spot in this newsletter—'having the last word' one might say.

As you will have seen from the Chairman's report I have decided the time has come for me to retire gracefully from the two jobs that I have enjoyed enormously for many years. I have operated during the terms of office of three Chairmen and legions of committee members and many Newsletter Distributors, all of whom have extended their friendship and help at every opportunity.

My sincere thanks to you all.

I shall continue to function within the Society but rather more in a background role.

Derek Mellor, my successor elect as Membership Secretary will I feel sure be greeted with the same co-operation that I have always enjoyed.

Watch these spaces with anticipation as David Bower

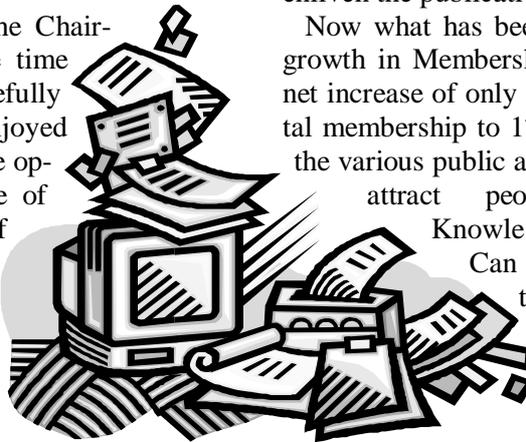
extends his skills from the Society's Website to the Newsletter, I feel sure he will have many new ideas to enliven the publication.

Now what has been going on during the year? The growth in Membership has been rather slower with a net increase of only 19 during the year bringing the total membership to 1764 at the present time. Hopefully the various public activities in the coming months will attract people who have the interests of Knowle at heart.

Can I close with a very special vote of thanks to Walter Birch and his team of Distributors. They carry out, four times a year, a largely unsung and difficult job. Thank you all for your unfailing loyalty

and hard work.

And now, for the last time, may I extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the publication of the last newsletter, we hope that we shall have the pleasure of their company at some of our forthcoming functions.



Nancy Caldwell

Mr & Mrs D D Watson

Mr & Mrs R Frost

Mr & Mrs P Dowding

Dr & Mrs Jameel

Mr & Mrs J Hedley

Margaret Jones

John F Chaloner
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