

# The Knowle Society



Volume 44 Number 3

July 2006

[www.knowlesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowlesociety.org.uk)

## The village in our hearts

**I**n a recent edition of Civic Forum, the Civic Trust magazine, there is a thoughtful article entitled "The village in our hearts". The author expresses his concern about the disconnection between people and the place where they live. Many factors contribute to this such as movement of people from their home area to find work or affordable accommodation, the decline in local shopping centres forcing people to go farther afield to larger, but anonymous shops, the growth of large estates as dormitory areas from which the occupants travel away to work. People can lose the

feeling of belonging because they and their homes have little sense of relating to the people and places around them. In one way, this could be a description of Knowle with its core centred on the High Street and the roads immediately off it, surrounded by large housing estates which have developed in the last half century. In that time, the population has more than trebled, with many moving into Knowle from all over the country.

The author goes on to discuss the need for community activities to overcome the attenuation of the tight village community. Knowle, I

believe, has done this. Thirty years ago, at the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, when I came to Knowle, I was struck by the huge range and number of activities available in Knowle. A newcomer to the village today would be similarly impressed. There is something for everybody, so that no-one needs to feel isolated, if they wish to belong.

The Knowle Society has a special function to fulfil in this varied landscape. We do not cater for a specific interest. We offer membership to all who wish to

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Events Diary

**Monday 17th July**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Sunday 23rd July**  
2.30pm at the Guild House

**Monday 18th September**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Sunday 24th September**  
2.00pm at Temple Balsall

**Monday 16th October**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Monday 27th November**  
8.00pm in the Village Hall

**Tuesday 26th December**  
11.00am at the Guild House

**Hearing Dogs for the Deaf**  
Barbara Maughan

**Butterfly Walk**  
Short—led by Stella Jarman

**Wild Life in a Solihull Garden**  
Illustrated talk by Roy Ledbury

**Temple Balsall—Tea & Cakes Walk**  
4-5 miles starting at the Fen End Lane car park

**Quiz Night**  
Members and guests only—charge applies

**Annual General Meeting**

**Boxing Day Walk**  
3-4 miles—Refreshments en route

(Continued from page 1)

maintain Knowle as a pleasant place to live. There are social activities which bring people together. There is always a place for men and women with interests and expertise on the various committees. We know our views are listened to in the Council and other decision-making bodies. This is because we bring to the table well thought-out opinions based on the knowledge and judgement of our members. Long may this continue, but it can only continue if there is a steady inflow of new people on to our committees. To those of you who have never played an active role, please look at the committee reports in this Newsletter and if there is an area where you think you could contribute, explore the possibility with the chairman of the appropriate committee.

We have to say goodbye to Malcolm and Julia Brain who are leaving the area. They have contributed to the Society in many ways and their presence will be much missed. We thank them for all they have done for the Society and wish them speedy integration into their new area.

Colin Smith - Chairman  
Knowle 772981

*If you prefer not to cut out the form below, you may download a copy from the Knowle Society website, or photocopy the form or just write directly making sure that you have included all the relevant information.*

**KNOWLE SOCIETY QUIZ NIGHT  
KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL  
MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006 – 8PM**

- Please reserve places for ..... people at the quiz night.
  - Please reserve a place for my team of 6 people. Team Name.....
- (Delete whichever option is not applicable)

Name.....

Address.....

Tel No..... Email.....

Please return with payment (£1 per person, payable to The Knowle Society), to:  
Mrs S Trucchi, 3 High Trees Road, Knowle, SOLIHULL, B93 9PR  
NO LATER THAN 18th September 2006

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**PLUS ÇA CHANGE?**

*We continue our dip into some of the early records of The Knowle Society noting that some topics are perennials*

The Society was conceived in early 1962 and was launched as a membership society in early 1963. From that initial committee only two members still appear to be active in Knowle organisations today, Peter Davy and Sydney Bryson. Horace Everitt as the last Squire of Knowle, was the President of the Society, his wife Pat still visits Knowle regularly today.

The route of the proposed by-pass was being debated and the Society was minded to support Mr Southall of Grimshaw Hall in that the western route [*as finally decided upon*] should be favoured over the eastern route which would cut off Grimshaw Hall from Knowle. The future of this route remains a topic of concern today.

One thing that *has* changed is that the Society was going to show a film at its first AGM; when was the last time we heard the sound of celluloid clicking its way through the sprockets of a film projector in the Village Hall? In those days CD meant Corps Diplomatique and DVD could have been a wartime decoration!

The committee raised a concern following appeals to the Minister of Housing about building on Kenilworth Road, that there was a “tendency shown by those appeals for the Minister to override Local Authorities, particularly in the two instances detailed by Dr. Bower where the action of the Local Authority seemed consistent with good planning.” - a familiar cry today.

## CAN YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD AFFORD TO LIVE IN KNOWLE ?

I would suggest that this is the question which draws together many other threads that I have referred to in this column over the past year or so. *Affordable housing* is the buzz word and it has resonance not only in rural areas where it has received much publicity recently but very much so also in areas such as Knowle where housing is by any standards extremely expensive.

When my wife and I bought our first house, in Quinton, in 1966, I reckon it cost approximately double my income. Allowing for the larger house we now inhabit in a considerably more expensive area, that might have been perhaps four times what I earned. In those forty years not only have house prices soared as against incomes but home ownership has increased by possibly 50%.

Another factor that restricts the affordability of housing is of course the increasing tendency of people to live alone. This means more dwellings are needed but of a smaller size. I think we can now see where the planning laws are attempting to assist. Firstly, in any application for new housing of more than fifteen units, there must in principle be some provision for lower cost housing. For instance, in the Parkridge development on the Warwick Road, if they ever get round to building it, they will be erecting some 17 units that will, when completed, be transferred to a Housing Association. They will then be available to hopefully younger people on smaller incomes for rental or shared ownership. There seems no other way that young people starting out on adult life could afford to live in Knowle.

An important aspect of this that can sometimes be ignored is that even small houses and flats in areas like Knowle are still priced way beyond the means of most people. One of the principle ostensible reasons behind windfall planning applications, to convert large areas of land with one house to an area having many units on it, falls down at that point. The small units are still priced at well over £200,000 and often £300,000.

My committee for the above reasons feels that a well designed development that allows for genuinely affordable housing should be looked at very carefully. Nearly all those that we have seen in the last 3 years have not met that criterion and will merely provide more and more expensive flats that nobody seems to want.

In some rural areas of course there is the additional problem of *second-homers* pricing out local youngsters. To the best of my knowledge that is not a problem in Knowle.

Perhaps we should all be thinking what our attitude will be when and if we get an application in Knowle that includes a considerable number of genuinely affordable houses. I think opinions will be sharply divided if it ever happens – perhaps as divided as by any new application for the Knowle by-pass if that ever happens.

You may well have drawn the conclusion from the above that not too much is happening on the planning front at present. You would be right. There is still no sign of any activity at Parkridge's Warwick Road development and it still seems to be the case that flats are not exactly going like hot cakes in Knowle. We await the appointment of the Consultant who will oversee the re-appraisal of our Conservation Area and we continue to monitor what is happening in that Area. The hanging sign outside the mobile phone shop in Kenilworth Road is not apparently in breach of the law as it is not illuminated.

I will be attending a meeting of the West Midlands Amenity Societies Association (WestMASA) in Bromsgrove shortly where the new planning laws are being discussed by several experts. This should be of considerable use to me and my committee.

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

*If you are interested to find out more about WestMASA, it has at last got a website of its own:*  
[www.westmasa.org.uk](http://www.westmasa.org.uk) (Editor)

**EXHIBITIONS**

We have just taken *A Tribute to Dr. Bower* from the show-cases. It says something of the esteem in which people held him that so many people have made an effort to see it. A poster in the library window has no doubt helped. We are grateful to the Bower family for their co-operation, and hope that in the very limited space available we have done Dr. Bower justice. The current exhibition is *Chester House*, which covers its history from farmhouse to showpiece public library. Very little is known before 1801, when it was purchased by the Kimbell family, who owned it until 1913. Apart from the Kimbells the exhibition covers the well-remembered Pickering family and their antiques shop, of which many photographs survive and memories abound. It ends with the wonderful restoration of the building by Solihull Council in the 1970s, and its conversion to a show-piece public library - the germ of this idea came from Dr. Ronald Bower. The exhibitions run until August 31st, when it will be replaced with *A Century of Curtis's Bakery*.

*Chester House about 1900**Chester House as an antiques shop**Propped up in 1970**Assembling a new gable, 1972***JUNIOR SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT**

The second stage of this annual event took place on March 22nd and went much as usual. Both children and adults enjoy this occasion, from which the children learn much.

**THE LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE AT KNOWLE C OF E SCHOOLS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FAIR**

We have been invited to take a stall on this special occasion on June 10th, at which we shall have a small exhibition about the work of the Local History Centre, together with photographs of the old school in Kenilworth Road. These include some old school groups, so if you were at Knowle School in 1935 or 1953 you may see yourself. Do come and see us - there is an advertisement for the occasion in the June issue of *Knowle Parish Magazine*.

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*An early infants' class**Mrs Thatcher opening the new school***THE LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE AT KNOWLE FESTIVAL**

There is another opportunity to see us at Knowle Festival on July 8th. Our display about the Local History Centre will get another airing, as will the photographs of the old school. And if we have time (quite a big IF), we may try to get a short slide show together and show it a couple of times during the day. The computer will carry on for a couple of hours without re-charging, so in theory it should be possible. Again, there is an article in *Knowle Parish Magazine*.

**CARE & CONSERVATION**

After some delay the map case is finished: Julia Brain and John Rear completed the last two folders at a recent Archives Working Group session, so we now have two folders for immediate access and two for stack items. Meanwhile other members of the group transferred the modern photographs and the estate brochures from old brown envelopes to pristine green folders. Gradually this monthly session (followed by tea, of

course) is making quite a difference. Attention has now turned to covering the books, some of which date from the beginning of the 20th century and need protecting. Ditto the scrap books, some of which are falling apart. This is particularly important as they are very popular and have regular outings. Again this needs careful thought: acid free conservation materials are very expensive and we cannot afford to make a mistake. John Rear has obtained some samples, but we probably need a trip to *Conservation Resources* at Cowley to see the options in the flesh (a good excuse for another pub lunch).

### ***DIGITAL RECORDS***

Geoffrey Dean continues with the long job of creating digital images for all our photographs. He is up to the mid 80s, which is very good going as we keep interrupting him with extra demands. There is no doubt that this has revolutionized the way we work and in the short term thrown us into some disarray, from which we are now emerging. After a false start we have decided to archive all our exhibitions, complete with images, on to CDs.

### ***CATALOGUING & INDEXING***

We must be getting a bit more organised because I have done some cataloguing. All the new photographs are now catalogued, indexed and in labelled folders.

### ***PEOPLE***

After ten years, John Rear has decided to give up being a formal member of the committee, to which he has made an enormous contribution. We deeply regret his decision, but are grateful that he will continue to do much as he has been, but on an informal basis. We shall also be losing Julia Brain, who is leaving Knowle to live in Gloucestershire. Julia has looked after the committee's administration admirably for a number of years. Very many thanks to both of them, and best wishes to Julia and Malcolm in their new home. On a positive note, we are very pleased to welcome to our team John Harwood, who is helping us with digital records.

Elaine S. Warner - Knowle 775887

## **Knowle Local History Centre Exhibition**

### ***CHESTER HOUSE***



*Chester House as an antiques shop in the 1960s*

The Building  
1801  
The Beaufoys  
Four Generations of  
Kimbells  
The Thompsons  
Henry Blundell  
The Pickerings  
The 1970s Restoration  
The Library Today  
The Knot Garden  
Local History Centre  
Origins of the Name

Chester House Library (1st Floor): June 1st - August 31st  
in the show cases

*Open During Normal Library Hours*

**FARES PLEASE**

If any member has any concerns regarding the local transport systems they are free to contact this committee with their ideas at any time. Alternatively Lewis Edwards can be contacted with regard to the bus services that are provided.

I was surprised to receive only one comment with regard to the changes that are being considered for the junction of High Street with the Kenilworth Road, which appeared in the last Newsletter. Are the 'blind leading the blind' on this matter? Do you consider that some attention should be given to the junction concerned, or do you think that it is right to 'let sleeping dogs lie'? Some opinion is sought now please. Written notes can be left at the meetings held in the village hall, or of course you can send me an email, or contact me by telephone.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

This committee would also appreciate any comments that you may have either now or in the future with regard to the performance of the new policing initiative launched in April this year. Reference to the visual effect and the matter of dealing with anti-social behaviour items are particularly important, especially with the summer months. All comments will, of course, be dealt with in absolute confidence. I was interested to see two police officers walking along the High Street, but I am sure that you may have some knowledge of other situations that have occurred. Please advise me of them.

The local officers are aware that they will be busy over the next ten weeks with the school holidays, so please give them as much support as you can. Please have a pleasant summer, and let us hope that the weather will be kind.

Gary Masters - Knowle 779955

**AIRPORT UPDATE**

John Rowley reports "The Airport Consultative Committee has responded to the Draft Master Plan: Surface Access - Commitment needed from the Highways Agency and early provision and funding of the Metro Link to the Airport site, together with a stronger focus on public transport reliability, customer-orientated services and off-site parking facilities.

Environmental - Recognise the general impact on the wider area and not just Bickenhill and widen the detail of the response to include the need to replace any lost Public Open Space. Have a greater regard to the Night Flying Policy and a formal mechanism to secure the continual monitoring of the Health Impact Assessment."

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**WHY NOT TRY THE BUS ?**

Are you one of those who just does not think of using a bus ? There is in fact a very good service to Solihull with between four and six buses every hour between 7am and 7pm, and every hour in the evenings up to 10pm and on Sundays.

There are four different bus companies, and while Travel West Midlands is much the largest, the other operators (People's Express, Silverline and Claribel) have equally clean and comfortable vehicles.

A comprehensive timetable showing all journeys between Knowle and Solihull is available on the internet - the Knowle Society's own website. Any members who do not have access to a computer can apply for a copy to Lewis Edwards, 1725 High Street, Knowle B93 0LU, telephone 01564 778971.

Fares: mostly £1.20 irrespective of distance or time of day - the minimum fare is 80p. NO CHANGE IS GIVEN on West Midlands and Claribel buses. Change is given on People's Express and Silverline - though this is subject to revision. Whilst there are fixed stops on most streets, buses will stop on request anywhere (safe) - in Longdon Road, Tilehouse Green Lane, and Lodge Road.

Routes operated are (*see page 7 for a full copy of the timetables*):

- 40A and 40C - Travel West Midlands during the day.  
40A travels anti-clockwise - Solihull/Widney Road/Dorridge/Knowle/Warwick Road/Solihull. This is the quickest route from Knowle to Solihull  
40C travels clockwise - Solihull/Warwick Road/Knowle/Dorridge/Widney Road/Solihull. This is the quickest route from Solihull to Knowle
- 151 - People's Express to Hockley Heath
- 197 - Claribel to Balsall Common via Fen End and Temple Balsall
- 151E - Silverline - evening and Sunday services to Solihull direct

Travel Enquiry Office: 0121 200 2700

Lewis Edwards - Knowle 778971

## BUS DEPARTURES MONDAY TO FRIDAY- FROM APRIL 2006

40A/C Travel West Midlands    151 Claribel    151E Silverline    197 Claribel

### KNOWLE TO SOLIHULL (DEPARTURE TIMES FROM KNOWLE GREEN)

40A goes direct to Solihull via Warwick Road

40C goes via Dorridge Station, Bentley Heath and Widney Manor to Solihull

40C 0746 - \* School days only

197	151	40A	40C	197	151	40A	40C	197
		0718	0721& 0746 *			0748	0751	
0808		0818	0821			0848	0851	
		0918	0921		0941	0948	0951	
1003		1018	1021		1041	1048	1051	
1118		1115	1121		1141	1145	1151	
		1215	1221	1238	1241	1248	1251	
		1318	1321			1348	1351	
1403	1411	1418	1421			1448	1451	
	1511	1518	1521			1548	1551	
1601	1611	1618	1621			1648	1651	
		1718	1721			1748	1751	1751
		1818	1821		<b>151E</b>	1848		
		1918			1938			
					2038			
					2138			
					2238			

### SOLIHULL TO KNOWLE (DEPARTURE TIMES FROM SOLIHULL)

40A goes via Widney Manor, Bentley Heath and Dorridge Station to Knowle

40C goes direct to Knowle via Warwick Road

151	197	40C	197	40A	151	40C	197	40A
				0720		0735		0750
		0805		0820		0835		0850
	0900	0905		0920		0935		0950
1000		1005	1015	1020		1035		1050
1100		1105		1120		1135	1135	1150
1200		1205		1220		1235		1250
	1300	1305		1320	1330	1335		1350
		1405		1420	1430	1435	1450	1450
		1505		1520	1530	1535		1550
		1605		1620		1635	1645	1650
		1705		1720		1735		1750
<b>151E</b>		1805	1810	1820				1850
1900								
2000								
2100								
2200								

The Knowle Society provides this compilation of services from several local operators for the benefit of the community but accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Bus operators are always liable to change their schedules.

Up-to-date information can be obtained from the CENTRO hotline 0121 200 2700.

FRIENDS OF KNOWLE PARK AND SOLIHULL COUNCIL

are promoting a

**FESTIVAL IN KNOWLE PARK**

**8th July 2006—10am to 4pm**

Come and have an enjoyable day in Knowle Park with all the family  
There will be plenty to see and do  
No need for a picnic because there will be a Pig Roast and a Tea Tent  
Loads of Games and Entertainment for youngsters  
Lots of Stalls by LOCAL Clubs and Societies \*  
To help raise money for school funds, Arden School is doing several things in the Arena,  
a Play, *Oliver*; with Dancing together with Knowle Junior School  
Dog Obstacle Course by Packington Dog Club  
Owl Flying display  
Five-a-side Football from Age 5 – Adult  
Raffle of an Alfa-Romeo car for a weekend (conditions apply) thanks to Guest Motors

**ENTRY FREE**

\* *The Knowle Society will be represented with its gazebo and the Local History Centre will be exhibiting (see page 4).*

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Unless you are in the world of education the Springfield Environmental Study Centre near Knowle, is probably one of the best-kept secrets in the Midlands region.

Yet over the past 25 years tens of thousands of children with physical or sensory deprivation have used its facilities every day of the school year. And now there is an opportunity for the local community to visit.

The Study Centre was built in 1981, at a cost of £100,000, by Variety Club Midlands, the children's charity which helps sick, disabled and disadvantaged children in the region. To mark its Silver Jubilee, the Study Centre is being thrown open to the community with a Secret Garden Party on the afternoon of **Sunday, July 9, from 2 to 5 pm, adults £2, children £1.**

Hidden as it is in an old walled garden at Springfield School, passers by have no idea it is there, with its 10 acres of woodland, lake, meadow, stream, ponds and river. There is wheelchair access to all these areas, even allowing the child in a chair to go into the river to 'paddle' and dip with their more able-bodied friends.

The woodland is wild and natural but with gravel paths running throughout. The blind or partially sighted child can have a safe, tactile walk and enjoy a variety of sounds and smells.

Variety Club Midlands is raising money to fund a conservatory extension to the teaching block to stand as a memorial to the late committee secretary and well-known Midlands photographer, Simon Livingstone, who was one of the cornerstones of the original project.



## DEATH OF THE DRAGONFLY



Like it...

...or loathe it



...now we have lost it.

Vandals have burnt the willow weave and then deliberately twisted the steel frame of this novel piece of public art in Knowle (Job's Close) Park. Located by Purnell's Brook and keeping an eye on the residents of Jobs Close Residential Home and the park's visitors, it survived only a few months to be destroyed at the end of May 2006.

The sculpture was begun with the help of children at the Fun Day in August 2005 and completed later by the artist. Solihull MBC funded the event and the sculpture.

*As noted by our Chairman in the lead article, Malcolm Brain (Chairman of the Environment Sub-committee) is moving away from Knowle, his role as chairman of the Environment Sub-committee will be taken by Allan Coleman (772237).*

*When Stella Jarman retired from the leadership of the Nature Conservation Sub-committee of the Knowle Society in 2004 she promised to continue to provide her popular nature notes on an occasional basis, one of which we are pleased to publish in this issue.*

## NATURE NOTES



May I recount some of the activities of the new Nature Conservation Group? The Group consists of former members of the Knowle Society Nature Conservation Sub-committee that was disbanded on my retirement from the Executive Committee at the 2004 AGM, having by then finally succeeded in gaining Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status for the Society's Nature Reserve by Hillmorton Road – which my committee had managed for Solihull Council since its rescue by Dr. Bower in 1974.

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The new Group aims to support the Park Rangers with nature conservation tasks and in the new Local Nature Reserve, or outside, and we began in January 2006 with a successful restoration of the lower path in the LNR with wood chippings as described in the last newsletter. We also dug steps into three of the brook crossings and planted cowslips and daffodils. More wild flowers have been planted recently – and here we should like to thank the anonymous lady dog-walker who so kindly donated £25 to the Friends of Knowle Park for the purpose. Litter picking is an ongoing task (as the very helpful dog-walkers comment!) and there will be more management tasks through the summer.

If you have any suggestions or comments please do ring me. We also hope to have a presence at the Knowle Festival on July 8.

## WILD FLOWER WALK

I had survived two walks in the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Dawn to Dusk Day in Brueton Park the previous day, both extremely wet and muddy, but further heavy rain overnight and all day Sunday morning made the Society's Wild flower Walk impossible. A great shame because on my recce on the Wednesday I had found all the towpath flowers left intact, including great clumps of Foxgloves, Red campion and Green Alkanet left as islands with the grass strimmed around them – the previous year all had been mown away the day before our walk! Their new sympathetic management obviously resulted from my meeting last year at Kenilworth Locks with Keith Roberts of British Waterways who had then agreed to leave the flowers and sedges to the end of July to allow seeding. So I have written to Mr Roberts to thank him for his brilliant co-operation and to hope that this example of sympathetic management is already being extended to other reaches of the canal network.

I am now hoping for a lovely day for our July 23 Butterfly Walk!

**Stella Jarman – Knowle 774528**

## WET WALKS, WELLIES AND WOODWORK

The early months of each year include in the programme several walks, in an attempt to encourage people to get out and enjoy the countryside that is so close at hand. The hope is, of course, that the weather will play ball and also tempt people out – some hope this year! It has been dismally wet on the whole, and when not wet so cold that spring has really only now got going, when we should really be well into the start of summer.

Our first walk was along part of the 'Blythe Valley Way' which Solihull Council have improved to make more accessible. I must say they've done this quite sensibly, keeping the character of a country walk, while making it more passable. There were only 9 of us this day – not surprising as, although not really raining it was pretty threatening. In the end we didn't get wet, although the boots needed a good clean afterwards!

On the other hand the weather for the 'Bluebell Walk' was quite kind. However it should really have been called the 'Bluebell Hunt', as there were very few in flower. It's amazing how late they were, last year at the same time the woods were a sea of blue.

The third walk of the year was a complete wash-out. This was intended to be a 'Wild-flower Walk', led by Stella Jarman. In the event it was so wet that no-one turned up and she was able to go home and dry out. Let's hope we get a real improvement in the weather, otherwise we might get a drought or was it a flood?

Let's hope that we had better luck on the next walk on the evening of Midsummer Day – June 21<sup>st</sup>. This was to be a short evening stroll from the Guild House along the canal to the Black Boy for whatever liquid refreshment took your fancy before returning on a beautiful summer's evening – well I could dream couldn't I?

Let's hope for some good weather for Stella's second walk on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2:30pm from the Guild House. We'll be on a lookout for butterflies this time.

The March meeting was, as in the programme, a talk on the restoration of several former working canal boats – the heavy lorries and construction machines of the canal age. They are being put to good use, not only as active museum pieces, but also as floating classrooms. If you missed the talk, or are interested in learning more, they are on show at Hatton Locks at various times, usually over Bank Holidays. Contact British Waterways for details.

In April we were treated to an eye-opener (and a mouth-opener!) when David Fowler came to talk to us about his family firm's cheese making. It was amazing how many different varieties of cheese this

small local firm turns out, from the mild Cheddar to all sorts of intriguing tempters. He brought along a generous amount of a wide selection of cheeses for people to try and to help things along the Society provided a little wine for everyone (with non-alcoholic drinks for those who preferred). I was most disappointed to miss this one, the first in about 5 years, however I had a severe cold which I didn't think would be appreciated!

In July we have a presentation about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. We all know about the Guide Dogs for those with sight problems, but this is something different. It should be very interesting.

Also in July a few members will be treated to a visit to 'Highgrove', Prince Charles' house in Tetbury, Glos. We wrote from the Society some years ago and asked if such a trip would be possible and we were offered just 25 places. This left us with a real dilemma over who should be included. In the end the Executive Committee decided that those people who play an active part in the running of the Society should have the first opportunity. As a result we have a group including Newsletter distributors and sub-committee members as well as a few of the Executive Committee.

You may remember that in the last Newsletter I appealed for a handy member to take up a challenge. To help our speakers we had decided that we needed to be able to provide them with a lectern. However, I was being fussy and, in order to make it easy for me to cart back and fro to the meetings I wanted it to fold up. Anyway Phil Vince volunteered to take up the challenge and, as you can see in the photo, has made us just what was needed. My thanks to Phil, and I'm sure our speakers will find it very useful.



*Phil Vince—Master Craftsman!*

The October meeting is advertised as a 'Social Event'. We have decided to repeat the successful quiz evening that we ran several years ago. I know it's a long time off, but due to the dates of the Newsletters we need to ask you now to book this date (16<sup>th</sup> October) in your diaries and get your entries in as soon as possible. Entries are welcome from Teams of 6 or from individual members. The entry fee is £1 per head to cover the refreshments and for teams at least the Team captain must be a Knowle Society member. We will start at 8pm prompt and aim to finish by 10pm. There will be some modest prizes, but the aim is to have a fun evening, and not take it too seriously. Please complete and return the entry slip (*see page 5*) in this Newsletter as soon as possible and at least by 18<sup>th</sup> September to Mrs Susan Trucchi with your entry fee (cheques made payable to The Knowle Society please).

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

Mr & Mrs N Abberley  
 Mr & Mrs S Adams  
 Mr & Mrs P Astbury  
 Mr & Mrs D Astle  
 Mr & Mrs R Aston  
 Mr & Mrs G Barker  
 Mr & Mrs J Barron  
 Mr & Mrs L Berns  
 Mr & Mrs M Biddiscombe  
 Mr & Mrs J Blundell  
 Mr & Mrs N Butler  
 Mr & Mrs R Cadogan  
 Mr & Mrs P Carter  
 Mr & Mrs P Charnley  
 Mr & Mrs B Chase  
 Mr & Mrs A Church  
 Mr & Mrs P Clarke  
 Mr & Mrs P Colburn  
 Mr & Mrs J Collins  
 Mr & Mrs M Cooke  
 Mr & Mrs R Cooper  
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 Mr & Mrs T Dixon  
 Mr & Mrs M Evans  
 Mr & Mrs S Fallis  
 Mrs S Fisher  
 Mr & Mrs T Fitzpatrick  
 Miss C Fowkes  
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 Mr & Mrs P Gilbert  
 Mr & Mrs E Gill  
 Lorraine Gilroy  
 Mr & Mrs S Goodwin  
 Mr & Mrs L Gostling  
 Mr J Grabowski  
 Mr & Mrs A Harrison  
 Mr & Mrs T Harrison  
 Mr & Mrs J Hart  
 Mrs M Heyworth  
 Mrs T Hodgson  
 Mr & Mrs R Hooper  
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Mr & Mrs M Hudson  
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 Mr & Mrs G Justham  
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 Mr & Mrs T Knight  
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 Mr & Mrs H Lewis  
 Mrs M Maggins  
 Mr & Mrs G Marrott  
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**REFUND FROM THE REVENUE**

The finances of The Knowle Society are in excellent shape thanks to the efforts of members. I am pleased to report that the collection of subscriptions to date is £558.00 more than at the same time last year. Subscriptions collected to date are £4658, against a budgeted figure for the year of £4300. My thanks to all concerned. A further boost to our income has come from H M Revenue & Customs. I have received a cheque for £554.51 in respect of the tax repayment from the Revenue under the Gift Aid Scheme. It would be a great help if all our tax-paying members could complete a Gift Aid declaration if you have not already done so. A form may be downloaded from the Society's website—select the *Forms* option from the bottom of the home page.

Sandra Lea - Treasurer

**In this Issue...**

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| 4. Local History          | 8. Local summer events | 12. Members & Finance |

Welcome to 153 new members this quarter, listed opposite...once again Martin Warr has been busy bringing the Society to the attention of potential new members.

*Can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Knowle Society? This may be done either by contacting the Membership Secretary or through an application form on [www.knowledesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowledesociety.org.uk)*

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