

The Knowle Society



Volume 46 Number 1

January 2008

www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

Wind of change?

My recent annual report to the AGM followed the line of a weather forecast in order to explain to those present the affairs of the Society over the preceding twelve months. I do not intend to repeat this detail in full, but will use some of the information given to update the many members that were not present on the evening of 26 November.

Many changes took place after the previous AGM, but the Society's Trustee Directors weathered any potential storms that could have occurred, and a good number of successes were achieved.

Changes continue apace with the formal appointment to the Trustee Directors of Anne Smith as the Newsletter main distributor, and the appointment of Sharon Wheeler. Peter Johnson retired from his position as Hon. Secretary and his place has been taken by Andrew Marston. Peter will be continuing as a Trustee Director, I am pleased to say, in order to pass on his experience and knowledge. The longest-standing director, Peter Morton, has decided to call an end to his position. Peter was the first Chairman of the then called Amenities Sub-Committee, which committee was subsequently

replaced by Community Services. His knowledge and experience will be missed.

With our current membership in excess of 3000 it is apparent that the Society must show what it is capable of to a larger group than has previously been the case. In order to achieve this objective more volunteers are required in very many areas. Yes I am again saying additional help is required on the existing sub-committees, especially Community Services, Environment and Meetings and Social. If you can help please contact the appropriate

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Events Diary

Wednesday 26th December

11.00am at the Guild House

Monday 21st January

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 18th February

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 16th March

2.00pm at the Guild House

Monday 17th March

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Monday 21st April

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Boxing Day Walk

Mulled wine and mince pies en route. Note: start time is NOT 1pm.

The John Lewis Partnership

Customer Service Manager, Mark Hope-Urwin, John Lewis, Solihull, looks at the history of the company and the first five years in Solihull.

Pearl Buttons

George Hook of George Hook & Sons, button manufacturers, on button making in Birmingham—the history and current day.

Walk—Knowle by-ways Part 2

A walk around the lesser known parts of Knowle streets and footpaths.

Packwood House and the contribution of Baron Ash

Mike Miles talks about Packwood House and its rescue from dereliction through the devotion of Baron Ash who presented it to the National Trust.

Women in WWII—the 'FANYS'

Hugh Davies tells the story of the contribution to the war effort made in many different ways by the women of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in this, their centenary year.

(Continued from page 1)

Chairmen of these groups.

Other assistance is also required by the Newsletter Distribution chief because sometimes people are unable to deliver the Newsletters for a particular issue, or a Bulk Distributor is unavailable. To this end Anne Smith is drawing up a reserve list of volunteers. Can you think of a better way to keep fit than a gentle stroll incorporating turns and twists up garden footpaths?

Volunteers do not stop there. Some people do not want to commit themselves to committee work. This can be understood in certain circumstances; so why not contact the Chair of the group that you would be prepared to help out from time to time for any special job that might occur. For example you may well have an interest in local flora and fauna and be prepared to pass on your knowledge to others by assisting in walks on those subjects, or maybe give guidance to the Environment committee. I could list several other situations where help is required. Please ask by writing, telephoning or emailing the appropriate person from the list issued with this Newsletter.

One area that needs to be formed is one that takes some burden from the Trustee Directors in organising the display of the Society at public events, like the Festival in the Park or Heritage Day. Surely among our members there are people who have some experience of this type of work, either current or past, that could give some occasional time in helping the correct promotion of the Society where it is required.

Perhaps this would be the ideal excuse for the intended New Year resolution.

The Society has some very exciting plans in the pipeline for 2008, which include improvements to the top of Station Road, where the old toilet block stands. It is hoped that progress can be made to prove to you that we utilise your subscriptions in a way that gives you satisfaction. I hope we all agree that Knowle is a superb place to live, and the Society intends to ensure that it stays that way.

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

NEW FACES IN THE SOCIETY

At November's AGM you elected three new Trustee Directors. **Andrew Marston** has taken over from Peter Johnson as the Honorary Secretary of The Knowle Society. Andrew had previously been a member of the Community Services and Environment sub-committees and was the Society's representative on the external West Midlands Congestion Management committee. **Anne Smith** has taken over from Walter Birch as the Newsletter Distributor; Anne heads up a team of seven 'Bulk Distributors'* who themselves feed copies down to an army of 77 'Final Distributors' and our postal subscribers, this is the second newsletter that Anne has distributed, in which task she works closely with Membership Secretary Derek Mellor. Finally **Sharon Wheeler**, who until recently was an Associate Director in a financial services company working on employee benefits has joined the Trustee Directors with the expectation that in due course she will relieve Sandra Lea of the Company Secretary responsibilities for The Knowle Society's Trustee Company.

* **BULK DISTRIBUTORS:**

Walter Birch, Jean Laughton, Gwen Masters (postal), Derek Mellor, John Rear, Brian Smart & Phil Vince.



Andrew Marston—Hon. Secretary



Anne Smith—Distribution



Sharon Wheeler

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY 2007-8

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Chairman

Mr Gary Masters

Secretary

Mr Andrew Marston

Deputy Chairman

Mr Colin Smith

Treasurer

Mrs Sandra Lea

Local History Centre

Mr Derek Mellor *

Mr Alan Jayne

Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Mrs Janet ErZen

Mrs Kathy Jephcott +

Mrs Susan Trucchi

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS

Mr David Bower	60 Barcheston Road	775790
Mr Allan Coleman	1 Starbold Court	772237
Mr Peter Ellis	8 Lightwood Close	775261
Mr Peter Ewin	46 Chantry Heath Crescent	776381
Mr Peter Johnson	1 Barnbrook Road	770268
Mr Leighton Jones	23 Newton Road	773894
Mrs Sandra Lea	9 Jacobean Lane	776850
Mr Andrew Marston	26 Wychwood Avenue	774082
Mr Gary Masters	38 Stourton Close	779955
Mr Derek Mellor	92 Chantry Heath Crescent	205129
Mr David Pinwell	73 Tilehouse Green Lane	772348
Mr John Rowley	15 Shortland Close	778289
Miss Anne Smith	108 Starbold Crescent	779120
Mr Colin Smith	102 Tilehouse Green Lane	772981
Mrs Sharon Wheeler	9 Hawkshead Drive	775402

Planning Sub-committee

<u>Mr Peter Ewin</u> *	Mr Peter Ellis *
Mr Peter Morton	Mr Norman Stanley
Mr Geoffrey Vaughan	Mr Phil Vince

Community Services Sub-committee

<u>Mr John Rowley</u> *	Mrs Lilla Baker +
Mr Paul Blackman	Mr Roger Perks

Environment Sub-committee

<u>Mr Allan Coleman</u> *	Mrs Margaret Birch +
Mr Graham Bishop	Mr Martin Warr

Meetings, Social & Walks Sub-committee

Mr Leighton Jones *

Mrs Gwen Masters

Mrs Susan Trucchi

Mrs Gill Bibb

Mr Charles Robinson

Mr Martin Warr

Membership

Mr Derek Mellor *

Newsletter & Website

Mr David Bower *

Newsletter Distribution

Miss Anne Smith *

Publicity

Mr David Pinwell *

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Airport Consultative Committee &

BIA Environment Monitoring Working Group

Mr John Rowley *

Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Mr Phil Vince

Knowle Village Hall Association Council

Mrs Susan Trucchi

Solihull MBC Partnership

Mr Allan Coleman *

West Midlands Amenity Societies Association

Mr Peter Ewin *

West Midlands Congestion Management

TBA

West Midlands Police Rural Assembly

Mr Paul Blackman

* *Trustee Director*

Sub-committee chairman

+ *Sub-committee secretary*

A STATEMENT FROM THE TRUSTEE DIRECTORS

It has been brought to the attention of the Trustee Directors that the recent inaugural meeting of the newly formed *Knowle Local History Group* has led some of our members and the public to believe that this Group is part of the Knowle Society. **Therefore we feel obliged to state that this is not so, and to make it clear that The Knowle Society has no connection with this newly formed Knowle Local History Group.** We wish them well in their endeavours.

The confusion may in part be due to the fact that the leader of the new Group resigned from the chairmanship of Knowle Society's Local History Centre in order to form the new Group. This was announced at Knowle Society's 2006 AGM.

We wish to assure members and the public that **The Knowle Society Local History Centre based at Knowle Library, Chester House continues to operate**, and offers its members and the public the usual range of information, displays, and services based on its archives.

A SHORT GUIDE TO CENTRAL KNOWLE

With historical details of the main features



The Millennium Sign

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

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An attractive and authoritative guide to Knowle now in its third edition (40% larger with 40 pages).

Beautiful new photographs specially taken for this edition.

A must-have for everyone who loves Knowle and wishes they knew just a little more about the Village.

PRICE £3.00 FROM THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS:

CARLY'S, OXFAM BOOKS & MUSIC AND KNOWLE LIBRARY (WHEN REOPENED)

BUILDINGS – OLD AND NEW

In Knowle we have buildings from a great variety of eras and of many different types. There are apparently parts of the Red Lion which may date from the thirteenth or fourteenth century, there are several buildings, like the church and the Guild House, which are early fifteenth century and most other centuries are represented. There are of course a large number of twentieth century buildings, many of which are seen to have little or no architectural merit, but which may be viewed differently in the centuries to come, assuming they are still standing.

Because we quite properly view planning applications differently depending on the age and status of the property involved, my committee takes a very large proportion of its time looking in fine detail at what would otherwise be minor applications affecting listed buildings or ones in the Conservation Area. We are naturally very protective of our older and finer buildings. Nearly always, a planning application involving such a building will require also Listed Building Consent which among other things goes before Solihull's Conservation Advisory Committee where we are represented, usually by Phil Vince.

An increasing problem for owners of buildings that are listed or in the Conservation Area and are commercial in use is that the very nature of the architecture makes the building difficult to use efficiently. This means that the much larger costs of maintaining such buildings are often not met by rents or other income. Such difficulty arose recently in the case of Milverton House at the end of the High Street. This is a listed building in the Conservation Area and it was found impossible to re-let as offices after the departure of the Surveyors who had been in occupation for some years. An application was submitted for use as a children's nursery which my committee objected to on the grounds of possible highway problems. To be fair, after some months' occupation on permission being given, the perceived highway problems have not materialised and the property is being effectually and presumably profitably used.

By contrast, very many 'ordinary' houses in Knowle have applied for and received planning permission for extensions and major works without my committee being involved. Occasionally, members living next door or very near such a property will seek help from my committee in opposing such applications but unless it can be shown that the interests of the village will be injured we will not get involved.

We have been told by Government that we must face the prospect of three million new homes being built and it seems that some 365,000 odd of those may be in the West Midlands area. This obviously means that a fair amount of change is inevitable although Knowle may be buttressed against some of that change for several reasons, not least because the cost of housing here means that the required 'affordable' properties can hardly exist here however the land is carved up and developed. We will, I think, see more of the kind of application submitted in respect of 165/7 Station Road, where the proposal is to demolish 2 houses and to build 22 retirement flats. My committee, after much consideration, decided to oppose this on the grounds of the greatly increased 'footprint' of the development and it will be interesting to see the outcome of the application.

Work has at last started on the Sunrise Homes development on Warwick Road and I suspect the neighbours are in for 18 months of dust and noise. I hope the end result will be acceptable from the street scene point of view.

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

CHRISTMAS 2007—ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT



*One works, four watch,
It was ever the way!*



The Ardenaires



Eager faces



*Whiter than white—
The '56 Clean Air Act*

2008 looks like being a year of change for the Community Services Sub-Committee. We have a new member in Roger Perks to replace Stephen Bunch and Andrew Marston is moving to take up the role of Secretary to The Society. I would like to thank Andrew for his sterling work on our committee and wish him well in his new responsibilities. All being well, I am hoping to have Andrews's replacement appointed shortly.

AIRPORT

After much delay, the Airport plans seem to be moving again, and the planning application should have been submitted to SMBC just before this newsletter goes to the publishers.

The following is a summary to date:

- The second runway is no longer in the plans submitted
- Main runway to be extended to approximately 3000 meters by 2012
- Re-alignment of the A45 Coventry Road
- Standard Instrument Departure Route (planned to be further away from Knowle)
- Surface Access long term improvements will be made to the M42 Junction 6
- Revised Public Transport Modal Share targets, (including a target of 35% of people reaching the airport via public transport in 2030)
- A third passenger terminal on the existing airport site with phase 1 proposed for 2018
- A dedicated engine ground running facility



New rails at entrance to passageway to St John's Close on Lodge Road

We are pleased that items raised by The Knowle Society and other stakeholders, have been taken into account in the proposed planning application, namely our opposition to the second runway and the need to increase the numbers of people using public transport to reach the airport. In addition we shall be looking very carefully at the Surface Access plan when it is published, in order to assess the congestion risks to the local road infrastructure.

SMBC MATTERS

Public Library

It is planned that the public library will re-open on 27th March 2008 after refurbishment, including the improved toilet facilities.

Lodge Road

After representation, it has been agreed that a guard rail will be installed in Lodge road opposite the

passageway leading to St John's Close. A report back on other matters raised by local councillors is scheduled for March.

New Partnership Strategy

SMBC has a number of new initiatives related to the involvement of local communities in the development of future plans. The Knowle Society has been invited to attend a meeting, where the overall structure of the new initiatives is to be discussed and our views taken.

SPEED WATCH

Andrew Marston reports

A recent introductory meeting arranged by a local residents association with the founder of the Community Speed Watch initiative, was well attended and supported by Council Officers and the Police. The workings of the scheme were explained with a presentation of the findings obtained from a large exercise carried out in South Somerset. Tidbury Green Residents Association is looking to trial the scheme in Solihull and although of interest to this sub-committee, it is felt that the Society should not be fronting the approach to see it extended to Knowle at this time. However, progress will be monitored and you will be updated.

POLICE

Paul Blackman reports

The priorities agreed for the coming quarter were as follows:

- *Speeding*—It is planned to deploy speed enforcement kit in Longdon Road, Kenilworth Road, Station Road and Hampton Road.
- *Crime levels*—Are down

except Dorridge; overall reduction mainly due to fewer car thefts, with a number of known offenders having been caught. Criminal damage is down, with graffiti artists apprehended.

The major changes to the Police structure that have taken place during 2007 are now in place and I would like to remind you that it has been agreed, that in future the Police Surgery will be held at the Village Hall, which it is hoped will be a more suitable location.

Finally looking ahead to the New Year, I hope we can continue to influence events which are of concern to The Knowle Society members and build on the successes of last year.

A Happy New Year to you all.

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

SHOPPERS' CAR PARK AND RECYCLING

Whilst we continue to press for changes to the main car park the council has recently decided to survey the area with a view to short term repairs to the surface until the next financial year when total resurfacing is likely with other changes which include new signage and a further examination of abuses of the exits and entrances.

Over-stay is also a problem for the average shopper unable to visit the precinct due to spaces being locked up for longer periods and therefore it is probable that the situation will attract the attention of the wardens on a more regular schedule.

Recycling is likely to be increased with an additional container for plastic, which we have never had before, placed within the Greswolde/Library car park unfortunately taking possibly seven spaces as the new containers are likely to be larger than the present ones—the loss of the spaces is regrettable.

We are also pressing for improved lighting in the shoppers car park.

PARK AND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The pond continues to take our interest with the second half of the scheduled dredging to be done shortly; two chestnut trees have already been removed and at the time of this report the 120ft specimen beech is about to be removed which is rather unstable and has a root problem as did the two chestnuts which were also beginning to lean toward Longdon Road.

It has come to our notice that many residents hold the opinion that other than replacing damaged or poor stock no further expense should be attached to the park which they feel is rather losing its village park identity and the council should be allowing what is already in the park to mature.

OTHER TREES

Along the Warwick Road, where the plane trees were removed some time ago, this committee understands that when conditions and good root stock is available Canadian red oak will be the

replacement planting, although our local tree warden is not impressed.

SHOPPING PRECINCT

Although we had urged the managing agents to try and improve the frontages and upper floor windows and fascias we were pleased at the extent that they have gone to improve the area. Not only have they re-signed all the traders but have a directory as well.

SCOUT HUT

The council did a sterling job outside of the building with the hard-standing, new turf, trip fence and drop-down bollard, regrettably the promises made to smarten up the exterior of the building and to clean off the graffiti has fallen on deaf ears but more especially the very dangerous look of the *Acrow* prop holding up the canopy needs urgent safety attention.

TESCO TROLLEYS AND BOLLARD

This has become somewhat of a soap opera but at long last (ten months) the bollard has been replaced at Tesco's cost but we are not being very lucky with the 'wayward trolley syndrome' which from time to time continues to blight the village unless John-Paul is on duty. The car park management has advised this group to approach other Council departments for help on this long running problem. It had been suggested that trolley parks or even a coin return system might help but space is just not available.

DOG BINS

The council feels that enough of these have now been installed but we need to press for some maintenance and more regular emptying.

FINALLY

We had decided in general not to look back at what we had achieved but rather look forward with greater determination to pursue as many of our aims as possible for our members and with any feedback we will endeavour to do the very best that is possible.

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

PLUS ÇA CHANGE?

Recently we looked at old minutes, this time we look at the Society's newsletter of ten years ago:

- The then Chairman Elaine Warner, welcomed our current Chairman to the Executive Committee.
- In her report she also spoke of Jasper Carrott switching on the Christmas lights for which project The Knowle Society had donated £2000.
- Councillor Alan Morrison had died earlier in the year a sad parallel with Les Kyles ten years later—two men who both gave a great deal to The Knowle Society.
- Total income for the year of £3316 closely matched our 2007 surplus and the Society had a deficit of £1351 not a situation that Sandra would welcome today.
- Membership at 1510 was exactly half of today's 3020 or so, matching the total funds which were also exactly half of today's figure.

Well, here we go again with another New Year. It doesn't seem like a whole year since the last one, but that's what the calendar says! What it means for us is that it's time to get our thinking caps on and start planning the programme we will need to put together for you in 2009 – Oh horrors, not another year gone! Never mind, there's a good year coming up thanks to the hard work of the 'Meetings, Social and Walks' sub-committee. I really must find a snappier title!

Our good little group of Gwen Masters, Susan Trucchi, Charles Robinson and Martin Warr have recently been joined by Gill Bibb – welcome. Of course others play their part in putting on the meetings. Phil Vince ensures that we get a mention in the church magazine and puts out all the chairs (on his own, usually). One person that has gone about her duties quietly for more years than I know and she would like to remember is Jenny Evans, who is always ready to remind us to 'sign in please'. Jenny has reluctantly decided that she can no longer manage to get to the meetings in the winter and has handed in the attendance books. I'm sure Jenny will come along when she can and we wish her good health for a long time to come.

Before we get into the actual events, there's news about the screen. If you remember, we have been talking about improving the reproduction of the slides that our speakers show. We have usually projected them onto the wall at the side of the hall. However, we have such a good turn-out at the meetings these days that the people sitting at the ends of the rows have not been able to see at all well. We therefore decided (having given it a try-out at one meeting) that we'd have a revolution and all face the stage and use a proper screen. Only one problem – we didn't have one. However, one bonus of having some cash in the bank is that we have been able to buy an excellent large screen which will stand on the stage. The inaugural use will be at the January meeting, so come along and test it out. All my committee has to do is to work out how to erect it!

This meeting will have a presentation by the Customer Service Manager of John Lewis in Solihull, talking about the history of the company and particularly its first five years in Touchwood. It doesn't seem that long since we had a talk on the construction of Touchwood and here we are talking about five years of trading.

In February we go back in history, with George Hook, whose family has been making hand crafted buttons, knife handles and jewellery since 1824. He

is a leading proponent of the art of manufacturing pearl buttons, made from natural materials. Don't forget to bring your wallets, as I suspect there'll be some choice pieces to tempt you.

In March we have another illustrated talk, this time about the restoration of Packwood House which was established in Tudor times. The restoration was undertaken by Baron Ash in the 1920s and 1930s, using the fortune his father had created as a Birmingham industrialist. Having finished the job, he gave the house and grounds to the National Trust and it is open to the public throughout the summer.

That's enough about the talks for now; I'll not have anything to write about next time. We do have some walks planned for the beginning of the year. If you get this Newsletter really early before Christmas please tell everyone that the Boxing Day walk is, as usual, at 11am, NOT 1pm as in the parish magazine. It's more likely that the first walk of interest is on Sunday 16th March. This is the second part of one I led last year through the footpaths and by-ways of Knowle itself. It went down so well in 2006, with most people discovering new places, that I foolishly promised to do another. I'll have to hunt out some

more areas that are well hidden and see if I can open your eyes to new parts of our village.

PS. The one talk later in the year that I must mention is in October. After several years of trying we have finally managed to book Professor Carl Chinn, the 'Brummie Historian' to come and talk to us. (Don't worry this is definitely in his diary!) He can only come on a Thursday, so we have arranged this for Thursday, October 9th and it will be held in Arden School, as the Village Hall is not available.

Well the deadline for getting this to the editor is in three minutes, so I'll finish now and hope to see you all (well maybe not 3000 people!) at some of our meetings.

PPS – I almost forgot. We are considering putting on a few meetings during the day in 2009. I'd be very interested to learn whether you think it's a good idea and that people would turn up. Please let me know, either personally, by phone or email to meetings@knowlesociety.org.uk

Goodbye for now,

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894



KNOWLE HALL

Starting from the church, the hall is located a few hundred yards past the canal on the right-hand side of the Kenilworth Road but it is hidden by trees.

For several years starting in 1994 The Solihull Archaeological Group carried out an investigation in the grounds of Knowle Hall where the present hall is at least the fourth hall on the site. One of the planks found belonging to an early moated hall was carbon dated as c. 1194. (The 1998 photograph shows the excavation of the old moated hall with the c. 1194 planks. The present hall is in the background.)

In 1208 William de Arden of Hampton (no relation to the de Arden family of Stratford) remarried and gave the estate as a gift of dower* to his wife Amice de Traci. The first document mentioning a manor house is dated 1275. The Lords of the Manor were not resident from 1285 to 1623, but at times the estate was leased. The estate was held by the de Arden family for three generations and then repossessed by Edward I. In 1254 Edward married Eleanor of Castile and gave the estate to his queen. On her death in 1290 it passed to the monks of Westminster Abbey as one of the Eleanor Manors to pay for her obit (a mass to be held for ever on the anniversary of her death).

Knowle Hall was rebuilt as the new seat of the Lords of the Manor in the early 17th century by Robert 4th Baron Brooke. In 1743 the Hall was bought by William Smith and subsequently passed to his son Francis Smith, both were important Warwick Freemasons. In the late 18th century there was a small private school in the lodge of Knowle Hall, run by a Thomas Treherne and his son. One notable pupil was the poet, Walter Savage Landor.



At the beginning of the 19th century, Knowle Hall Estate was owned jointly by Jane Ann Eleanor Wilson and Henry Greswold Lewis. On Jane's death in 1829 it passed to her son the Reverend William Wilson. He died in a shooting accident in 1831 and his son William H.B.J. Wilson, known as *Gumley* after his Northamptonshire estate, inherited. He was extravagant and faced with the impossible expense of the estate he disposed of most of the family possessions. He had most of the Hall demolished keeping one wing as a shooting box. He sold Knowle Hall Estate in 1849 although he retained Lordship of the Manor until his death in poverty in 1887 when it was sold to Mrs J B Clarke.

Robert Emilius Wilson, no relation, bought the shooting box in 1849 and built the present Hall. The Everitt family bought the estate in about 1870 and the Lordship of the Manor around 1928. The property and the Lordship of the Manor were acquired by the Phillips family after the death of Mr. Horace Everitt in 1982.

The lodge was extended and named Manor House after the house was parted from the Knowle Hall estate in the 1849 sale. Edward Tangye inserted windows embellished with the seals of the de Arden family and Westminster Abbey. In the rear garden there is a pair of gateposts which flanked a drive leading to the 18th century hall. Everitt Drive, Landor Road, Treherne Close, Queen Eleanors Drive and Wilsons Road are all roads in Knowle named after people who had a connection with the hall.

* *A gift of dower was a provision for the support of the bride in the event that she should survive her husband. It was a gift into trust on the bride by agreement at the time of the wedding. Not to be confused with dowry which is property brought to the marriage by the bride.*

The committee wishes to thank Jean Powrie for the help given in compiling the above feature. This is intended to be the first of a series of articles bringing to you aspects from the history of Knowle. The above article is based on an entry in our third edition of *A Short Guide to Central Knowle* on sale now. The Guide may be purchased at Knowle Society meetings and in various shops in Knowle and Solihull, see page three and look for the posters in shop windows advertising the publication. The price is £3.00. This edition has been expanded from our last edition and is illustrated with 28 photographs only two of which were used in the previous guide. Further publications are in development including our first DVD. All these products will carry the words *THE KNOWLE SOCIETY* on the cover.

The library has now closed and all our archives have been packed away, but our work continues. There is much that we can still do to bring our filing system and computer records up to date. There are also scrapbooks to be repaired. If you visited the Local History Centre on Heritage Day you may have noticed that some of the early scrapbooks were in a sorry state. This is because the sticky tape used by

Eva Wootton had perished. It is intended to cut off this tape and replace it with modern materials to keep the items in place. Then of course (as mentioned above) we can continue our work on the DVD and further publications, more about this next time.

When the library reopens we will be mounting our new exhibition *Scouting in Knowle in the Last 100 years*. Further exhibitions will follow throughout the course of the year. A new venture of the committee will be to make scrapbooks of our exhibitions so that when one is taken off display it can still be viewed on Saturday mornings and at various events.

All your committee will be continuing for a further term of office but we will be expanding our work parties to help with the various jobs that need to be done. We were sorry to hear that Gretta Scriven passed away recently. We wish to express our condolences to Gretta's family for their sad loss. Gretta has put in valuable work for us as a steward over the last twelve months.

Derek Mellor - Knowle 205129

Notes to Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 September 2007

	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Costs of Generating Funds	Funds £	Funds £	£	Funds £	Funds £	£
Hire of Village Hall	267		267	248		248
Speakers	213		213	285		285
Meetings Expenses	184		184	40		40
Social Events	648		648	119		119
Newsletter	869		869	1,410		1,410
Advertising	521		521	357		357
	<u>2,702</u>	-	<u>2,702</u>	<u>2,459</u>	-	<u>2,459</u>
Costs of Charitable Activities						
Local History Centre	785		785	449		449
Community Services	23		23	-		-
Planning	33		33	130		130
Christmas Expenses	221		221	283		283
Annual Subscriptions	185		185	194		194
Watering Hanging Baskets	300		300	340		340
Poppy Wreath Appeal	20		20	20		20
Web Site	29		29	-		-
Scanner/Upgrade of Computer				313		313
Plaque in remembrance of Cllr Kyles				17	36	53
	<u>1,596</u>	-	<u>1,596</u>	<u>1,746</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>1,782</u>
Costs of Governance						
Insurance	230		230	230		230
Professional & Legal Costs	941		941	15		15
Guild House - Trustees' Meetings	180		180	200		200
Postage Stationery & Sundries	308		308	406		406
	<u>1,659</u>	-	<u>1,659</u>	<u>851</u>	-	<u>851</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2007

	2006	2006	2007	2007
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets :				
Debtors		517		344
Lloyds TSB		3,322		1,518
National Savings Bank		8,759		14,550
		<u>12,598</u>	<u>12,598</u>	<u>16,412</u>
Less: Current Liabilities				
Creditors:				
Amount falling due within one year		611		1,211
Net Current Assets		<u>11,987</u>		<u>15,201</u>
Accumulated funds				
Unrestricted Funds		11,152		14,340
Restricted Funds		835		861
		<u>11,987</u>		<u>15,201</u>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 September 2007

	2006		2007		2007	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	£	Funds	Funds	£
Incoming Resources						
<u>Voluntary Income:</u>						
Subscriptions	6,111		6,111	6,364		6,364
Taxation Refund	555		555	1,267		1,267
Donation from members re Cllr L Kyles					36	36
	6,666	-	6,666	7,631	36	7,667
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>						
Walks	100		100	111		111
Collections	256		256	16		16
Social Events	742		742	151		151
Local History Centre	409		409	65		65
	1,507	-	1,507	343		343
<u>Investment Income</u>						
Bank Interest	253	74	327	270	26	296
Total Income Generated	8,426	74	8,500	8,244	62	8,306
Less: Resources Expended						
<u>Costs of Generating Funds</u>	2,702	-	2,702	2,459		2,459
<u>Costs of Charitable Activities</u>	1,596		1,596	1,746	36	1,782
<u>Costs of Governance</u>	1,659		1,659	851		851
Total Resources Expended	5,957	-	5,957	5,056	36	5,092
Surplus of Income over Resources Expended	2,469	74	2,543	3,188	26	3,214
Brought forward from Previous Year	8,683	761	9,444	11,152	835	11,987
Funds Carried Forward	11,152	835	11,987	14,340	861	15,201

To find out more... The tables on these two pages do not include the full notes on the Society's expenditures or the formal report by the Trustees and the Independent Examiner. The full Annual Report and Accounts may be found on www.knowsociety.org.uk—go the *Site Map* for this and any other information that you might wish to view. The full document is available in PDF format. Alternatively please email or call the Hon. Treasurer for a copy.

A NEW YEAR.....NEW DEMANDS

With the year end accounts completed and signed off, the AGM over for another year, one might think it is time to take a breather, but that is not so. Though the year 2006/2007 was a very good year financially, and the Society is in good heart, we cannot rest on our laurels, as a new year always brings change and challenges and we have to ensure that the finances of the Society remain in good shape in order that new projects or improvement of facilities are possible.

Already in this new accounting year we have purchased a new screen for our Monday meetings. The Meetings and Social sub Committee feel that when we have illustrated talks the audience does not have a sufficiently good view and it therefore spoils the enjoyment of their evening. The screen cost over £700.00 but of course this will last for many years to come. Additional Christmas expenses have been incurred this year as Knowle Society took a more active role in the organising of the Christmas Tree Event which required us to fund the rental of a P A System costing £170.00; this was in addition to the cost of the Christmas tree, and the usual replacement of lost or broken lights. Although nothing has been decided yet the Society may incur further expenses for Christmas 2008 so that the tradition can continue. It is felt that this is money well spent however as this event has become part of village life.

We shall probably have to buy computer software later in the year, and newsletter printing costs may rise. I would like to assure all members that any unusual purchase is agreed at the regular Trustee Directors' meetings, ensuring that your subscriptions are spent wisely.

A very happy New Year to you all, and a special thanks to the Distributors who at the time of my writing this report have already collected 80% of the 2007/2008 subscriptions.

Sandra Lea - Knowle 776850

Mr & Mrs B R Basterfield	Miss C B Harris	Mr & Mrs Miller
Mrs Margaret Birch	Mrs W Hickman	Mr & Mrs J Mollison
Mr R Chape	Mrs J Hill	Mr & Mrs J Morris
Mr & Mrs R Cooper	Mr & Mrs P J Hook	Max Pearce
Ms M E Cund	Mr & Mrs J Kaukis	Mr & Mrs L Rafnson
Val Davies	Mrs M Lilley	Mrs D Scarff
Mr & Mrs L Davies	Annika Malmheden	Mr & Mrs C Smith
Mr & Mrs R Hall	Mrs Lucilla McGregor	

CALLING ALL SQUIRRELS...

The Knowle Society has been reviewing the archiving of its own records, in particular minutes, accounts and newsletters. Whereas perhaps most organisations would not be too concerned to keep these old papers, those of The Knowle Society are particularly bound up with the history of the village and arguably deserve preservation. The original paper records are now stored in controlled conditions through the kindness of our new Hon. Secretary. Meanwhile Peter Ellis has been bravely scanning hundreds of paper documents using a small auto-feeding scanner that The Knowle Society has purchased. The results are being stored as JPEG files on the Society's external hard drives (two for backup). We hope this will be a fairly durable format. David Bower has then been reconstructing the individual page scans back into whole documents (a set of minutes or accounts or a newsletter) as PDF files for more convenient use. All available past newsletters have now been added to the website for anyone to browse—we hope that you enjoy the insight that these bring into the life of Knowle in the past 44 years.

This is where the squirrels come in...we appear to be missing newsletters from 1967, 1997, 1998, 1999 & 2000. It is of course possible that no newsletters were issued in 1967 but the issues of 1968 don't give any clue to that. Have any members squirreled away past copies and can help us to fill the gap? Have any other local organisations considered an electronic archive of their own records or do they have such files that might be of interest to the Local History Centre's archive? This is a whole subject in its own right and inflames passionate debate on both sides of the digital divide but maybe it is better keeping something digitally than keeping nothing at all!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Members should also have received their copy of the 2008 Programme Card with this newsletter, if you did not receive yours please contact the Newsletter Distributor (*see panel on back page for details*). Email subscribers will receive theirs as a pdf attachment but may collect a 'hard copy' at any of the Society's meetings.

PDF copies of all the back issues of the newsletter right from the start in 1963 may be downloaded from the website www.knowlesociety.org.uk except for the current issue which is password protected as a benefit of membership. Members wishing to view the current issue and its pictures in colour or to take a closer look at the pictures may do so by entering the following password—7gf84bya —this password will be removed after three months and the next issue will use a different password. The Trustee Directors are investigating the possibility of printing some pages of the newsletter in colour, meanwhile this facility gives members with access to the Internet an extra option.

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| 4. Guide to Knowle | 8. Meetings & Walks | 12. Membership |

A warm welcome to 34 new members this quarter including those listed opposite.

The Knowle Society has over 3000 members, can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join too? This may be done either by contacting the Membership Secretary or through an application form on: www.knowlesociety.org.uk

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Next issue

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