

The Knowle Society



Volume 46 Number 3

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www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

The Trustee Directors are experiencing a shortage of volunteers from Society members to fill various positions ranging from Trustee Director level to assistants to help at open meetings.

This now gives you an opportunity to offer your services to your Society to assist in some small way, or even enter into a more committed role.

In the past volunteers have been obtained easily but is it a sign of the times that you do not want to be involved? We have an excellent membership base across all age groups, and although it is

appreciated that members with young families will find it difficult to give time, some more mature members, including any approaching retirement from full time working, or recently retired, could be looking for an interest outside the normal gardening activities.

I appreciate that as a result of an earlier appeal, and also detail from application forms, some of you have previously given your names. By the time you read this you will have already received a letter asking for you to firm up that commitment. Situations that the Society needs to fill are outlined below and should you require any further information

then please contact me or any of the Sub-Committee Chairmen.

TRUSTEE DIRECTOR:

Usually the people concerned are invited to serve, subject to confirmation at the A G M. These people are the 'management' of the Society and are responsible for the control of all its affairs and to ensure that the Society is meeting the requirements of the Charities Act and also those of an incorporated body. An ideal candidate would be someone who has previous management experience, though not essential, and has an adaptability to contribute knowledge and

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Events Diary

Monday 21st July

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Saturday 13th September

Knowle & elsewhere

Monday 15th September

8.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 28th September

Meet 2.00pm in the car park
Fen End Road, Temple Balsall

Thursday 9th October

7.45pm at Arden School Hall

Recycling our Waste

Jim Harte, Acting Corporate Director of Community Services, explains SMBC's strategies for waste management and recycling. This newsletter issue provides useful material for your questions.

Heritage Open Day

A national event—watch out for activities in Knowle, some run by The Knowle Society, including guided walks and exhibition. Details on our website.

Acme Whistles—Birmingham blows its own whistle!

Mr Topham, owner & manager—illustrated, audibly. A highly amusing and enthusiastic evening is guaranteed.

Temple Balsall with optional Tea & Cakes

3-4 mile walk finishing at the famous teas at Temple Balsall
Always a popular walk.

An evening with Carl Chinn

Famous historian, writer and broadcaster.
Local champion of Birmingham.

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experience to any situation. Commitment is required to attend the Trustee Directors meetings which are held between every four to five weeks in an evening. In addition you may well be a Sub-Committee Chairman at some time and that means running a committee and reporting to your fellow Trustee Directors at those meetings. In addition ad-hoc committees are sometimes established. A need to represent the Society at external events is also part of the role, as well as attending the Open meetings held in the Village Hall to report to the members in your role as the Chairman. These meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, with the exception of May, August and December.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

These people are the life blood of the Society. They sit under a Chairman, who is a Trustee Director, and concentrate on the various issues that the group is responsible for. Those responsibilities are easily identified from the articles following in this Newsletter. This work should appeal to a person who has a specific interest in a particular subject on a general level, and must not be interested only in a particular localised complaint. The meetings of these sub-committees can be held in the evening or during the day, depending on the make-up of the group. It is usual for any succeeding Chairman of the group to come from within the members of the sub-committee.

HELPERS:

In addition other people are always required. For example an assistant to Leighton Jones in leading walks. These are held usually four times a year during the spring, summer and autumn, with the exception of the ever popular Boxing Day walk. It would be an advantage if this person could also sit on the Meetings, Social and Walks Sub-Committee.

Additional helpers are required for the very important job of representing the Society at various events in and around Knowle like the Festival in the Park, which this year was held on Saturday 21 June, shortly before you received this Newsletter. In addition the Society often arranges events for Heritage Open Day, which this year is on Saturday 13 September. These requirements are manning a stand/gazebo for a period of time and helping answer any queries that may arise and in addition, encouraging further membership of the Society. There will always be a Trustee Director in attendance to help if required.

As you can see many people are needed to continue the work of the Society, and the previous list is not exhaustive; there are other tasks needing help, like delivery of the quarterly Newsletter.

Please offer whatever skills you have, and we all have some, to ensure the ongoing success of such a vibrant body. The Society has been in existence since 1962 and over the past 46 years has continued to grow consistently in its membership and the representation of its members in various areas. It is considered by ward councillors and Council officers to be a most respected contributor to all affairs in the locality. It would be a sad occasion to see its interests being curtailed in some areas of substantial influence.

It is now YOUR decision.



*The Knowle Society needs YOU too
(We wanted to put a moustache on
a picture of Gary but it defeated
the editor's skills!)*

RECYCLING REPLIES.

Responses have been received from Solihull Council after the previous Newsletter article. The first response was from Councillor David Bell, who was the Cabinet Member responsible for Community Services & the Environment (now Mayor). He pointed out that the Council had received numerous requests to extend recycling facilities within the Knowle area due to demand for the service increasing dramatically. He continued by saying that the loss of car parking spaces had been kept to a minimum to accommodate the recycling facilities. A very important point then followed by stating that after completion of the Strategic Environment Contract it is hoped to further extend the number and type of recycling materials collected from the kerbside. This depends on the affordability of any such scheme. Comparison of the service offered by Solihull with other authorities is ongoing and currently Solihull has one of the lowest percentage tonnage figures in the country at 18%. Since the date of the letter received it has been made public that the collection of glass from the kerbside may begin this autumn.

Later a response along very similar lines was received from Jim Harte, who at that time was a Service Director in Transport, Highways & the Environment. Jim has since been elevated to the

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position of Acting Corporate Director, following the departure of Jeanette McGarry to East Staffordshire. Jim stated in conclusion that he looks forward to his meeting at the Village Hall on 21 July when he is due to address the membership on matters relating to Environment and Recycling. I anticipate a full house for this talk so please arrive in good time.

FINALLY

I bring to your attention especially the detail on Page 7 of this newsletter regarding the proposed redevelopment of the area around the closed toilet block at the top of Station Road. It is intended to call the redevelopment the Knowle Green Community Project. The Society, together with the Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club, Knowle Traders and the Council will be partners in the scheme and it is important for your views on consultation to be obtained (*see the new Forum available on the Society's website*).

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

THE CIVIC TRUST AND THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

The Knowle Society is one of some 80 members of West MASA. This stands for West Midlands Amenity Societies Association and is the regional grouping of Civic Societies aligned to the Civic Trust. The latter organisation, based in London, is the urban equivalent of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. It is often said that the CPRE is a much more outgoing and successful organisation than the Civic Trust and so my latest attendance at West MASA's quarterly meeting was perhaps more illuminating than most, as the principal speaker was the new Chairman, Philip Kolvin, accompanied by the Chief Executive, Peter Bembridge.

Philip, who is a London Family Law Barrister by profession, has agreed to donate 40 days a year to the Civic Trust. I say 'donate' as he is not being paid but he is an enthusiast. He told us about the problems of the Civic Trust, mainly money ones and what he is hoping to do about them. If he is successful in raising the sort of money that he is hoping for he has promised that there will be a corresponding increase in services provided by the Trust. This will start with much better and more focused press relations and better campaigning. These, he says, are essential particularly in the light of the Government's proposal to make planning law easier to navigate for developers. Philip believes that this could lead to disaster, particularly in terms of large scale developments and also for extensions and similar works in or near Conservation Areas.

He told us that the CPRE has much bigger funds and is able to make more noise accordingly. He said that it has a huge database of members whereas the Trust has only about 600 individual members. He wants individual members of Civic Societies to authorise the release of their names to the Trust so that they can be approached directly. ¹What is the feeling of The Knowle Society's members about that? The February 2009 meeting of West MASA will be held in Knowle, at the Village Hall.

Nearer home, the saga of the marina continues. The application by Somerville Homes for a 225 berth marina between the back of Wyndley Garden Centre and the locks has been temporarily withdrawn pending the provision of more surveys and appraisals required by the Council. The application will thereafter be re-submitted. The Managing Director of the applicant company has spoken to me, saying how keen he is that people's concerns are aired and their questions submitted to his company. He is, of course, under an obligation to consult as widely as possible and I hope that by the time you have read this you will have seen the plans, hopefully at the public exhibition at the Village Hall held on June 14th and will have raised your queries accordingly. Please let me know of any other points you would like my committee to consider before we enter our official response.

Another matter of interest is the appeal that has been submitted against the Council's decision not to permit a change of use at 6 Wilson's Road from domestic to office. The Society is strongly opposed to this and hopes that the reasoning of the Council and the points we raised will prevail with the Inspector. We are hopeful, as some recent appeals in Knowle have had satisfactory conclusions from our point of view and perhaps Inspectors are becoming more open to local views in some cases.

¹ *The Knowle Society will not release member records to the Civic Trust.*

Peter Ewin - Knowle 776381

AIRPORT

To keep you up to date with the Runway Extension the following information is given. Solihull MBC registered the Planning Application with a Planning Application number 2008/0022. Details are available on the Solihull MBC website (www.solihull.gov.uk) The deadline for a decision on the Planning Application has been extended to June 30th 2008. The latest news is that the Airport Company has also been considering the arrangements to revise the Air Traffic Routes associated with the proposed runway extension, including the *Hampton Turn*. A key part of the process is to establish a Focus Group which will review the details of the consultation and consultation process and I am pleased to say that a representative from The Knowle Society has been invited to be part of the Focus Group.

Airports bring advantages such as employment and convenience in travelling and potential disadvantages in terms of noise and pollution; there is a continuous balance to be struck between the two. The Airport is aware of its responsibilities and has recently invested £20,000 to protect 180 acres of endangered rain forest in Brazil, locking up nearly 50,000 tonnes of CO₂; the equivalent used by the Airport's buildings over two years. The sponsorship also includes purchasing classroom equipment, solar powered Internet and a boat for a school in the heart of the Amazon called 'Escola Estadual' which serves communities in a 10 mile radius in the State of Mato Grosso.

SMBC

Solihull Partnership Forum - We are still exploring how The Knowle Society can best be involved in the Partnership.

Car Park Hampton Road - It has been reported that the free car park next to the canal in Hampton Road is in poor condition; consequently we have contacted SMBC which has agreed to make improvements.

M42 Motorway Service Area - The public inquiry into the proposed new motorway service area on the M42 is scheduled to be complete by June 2008. The proposal is for the service area to be sited at either junction 4, or between junctions 5 and 6. The Knowle Society has registered its objections to both proposals and a representative has attended on relevant days. We are satisfied that our concerns have been fully documented. We await the outcome of the inquiry.

Road and Pavement Maintenance - We have had a number of complaints regarding potholes in roads and uneven pavements. SMBC has been approached and we are glad to say that work has started in making good the repairs. We will monitor progress.

Ward Strategy - SMBC prepares an overview of its strategy and plans for the Ward on a regular basis. The Neighbourhood Management team (responsible for Transport, Highways and the Environment Community Services Directorate) has requested an input from The Knowle Society for 2008/2009. The top three priorities submitted are as follows:

- 1 Youth involvement with positive activities in order to reduce anti-social behaviour
- 2 Car parking issues including green verge damage
- 3 Speeding

John Rowley - Knowle 778289



Lorna Gale

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE MEETING, 15TH MAY

This quarterly meeting sets the priorities for the Neighbourhood Policing team to focus attention on for the next three months or so. Sgt. Ann Strachan gave the crime statistics for our area; these are low, making Knowle one of the safest parts of the Solihull Command Unit area. She urged people to establish more Neighbourhood Watch schemes, as these are one of the biggest factors in the prevention of crime. West Midlands Police have someone dedicated to helping set up these schemes. Sgt. Strachan also urged residents to report anything suspicious to the Neighbourhood team. Information can be emailed to knowledorridge@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or telephoned to 0845 113 5000, ext. 7928 6264 (*8 digits*). Sgt. Strachan's role in our neighbourhood team has now been taken over by Sgt. Joanne Comer.

Four, rather than the usual three, priorities were set, in response to matters raised by Knowle residents at the meeting: 1) Kixley Lane 2) Knowle School 3) parking (St John's Close particularly 4) speeding – various roads. If you have matters which you'd like to raise, do attend these meetings. The next is due to be held in August, date to be advised.

SPEED WATCH

Following its success in other parts of the borough, Community Speed Watch came to Knowle in June. Local residents were involved and particular roads targeted, where speeding is felt to be a problem. If you would like to be involved in future Speed Watch events, please contact the local police team – details above.

Lorna Gale - Knowle 732253



TESCO TROLLEYS & THE SHOPPERS' CAR PARK

Tesco head office has agreed to fund the changes associated with a coin operated return system. Return pens have

been identified but resistance from Tesco's local representative for the scheme is holding up not only these changes but delaying car park improvements (better marking and low level remedial surface work) which we have worked so hard to arrange. Head office (Tesco) has been approached again for some genuine commitment to the agreed scheme.

Overgrowth along the brook has been cleared with the help of Friends Of Knowle Park, Gary Farmer's SMBC team and Warwickshire Wildlife Group who all keep a watchful eye on the area.



RECYCLING

We are now becoming used to more refuse collections in and around Knowle from normal household rubbish to paper to green wheelie bins for our garden rubbish. We understand that next September/October we may well see kerbside glass recycling in line with many other areas but this has not yet been confirmed.



PARKING REGULATION ENFORCEMENT

The parking attendant is now a regular visitor to Knowle and various traders are expressing a very positive reaction with car park spaces being freed up rather than

being blocked for hours on end and they feel this rotation is more helpful than has been experienced in the past.

The remainder of other village recycling facilities are working well although we had hoped to reduce the size of the new rather large plastics container in the library car park and place one in the shoppers' car park or nearby.

We have some reservations with the plastics bank which would appear to be a 'cherry picking operation' as no facility exists for the harder plastic/composites as with DVD, CD, cassettes and cases etc which will end up in a landfill site; this in some ways defeats the object of what recycling is all about.

Our concern at this time is that a survey has been carried out recently in all car parks and we have an uncomfortable feeling that this may be moving towards Pay & Display in the future although we have no confirmation of this. We will however continue to keep a very watchful eye and keep our ears to the ground for any rumblings.

Surely if a container displays a plastic recycling logo then it must accept all forms of this material which would include the mountains of plastic shopping bags currently being used, perhaps we should persuade Tesco to have an in house returns bin for used bags.

THE PARK & LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



More work has been carried out along the brook and a safety fence has been erected at the pond where what can only be described as the

duck slope will be much safer for the children. Mallards have returned to the site and other wildlife is becoming more common as the pond returns to its former glory having been heavily disturbed by the two fairly recent clearings.

TREES/BUSHES

The trees and bushes adjacent to Barclays Bank which were partly decimated before we stepped in and called a halt, together with our



society member Mr Ken Stephens and Chris Barr from the council, have now been replanted and the eyesore mainly reduced and in the fullness of time should once again be very acceptable to all concerned.

Allan Coleman - Knowle 772237

SOLIHULL IN BLOOM / BRITAIN IN BLOOM

As in previous years, The Knowle Society is pleased to be sponsoring the flower tubs in the High Street (prior to last year it was hanging baskets) - we hope that they will bring everyone a lot of pleasure.

SMBC will be taking care of some public facilities like the Knot Garden and relies on sponsorship for other work but everyone is invited to do their bit before judging by the Heart of England Tourist Board on 17th July. National judging then takes place in August by the Royal Horticultural Society.

RECYCLING

We make no apology for filling your newsletter with rubbish again—recycling is important and topical and will also be the subject of our meeting in the Village Hall on 21st July. Following the information we printed in the last issue on different types of plastic, which you told us was helpful, we are pleased to provide a summary of all the facilities in Knowle and the Public Recycling Centre at Bickenhill.

Information is provided piece-meal at the recycling sites and is awkward to absorb when doing your recycling—so we hope that the table below will enable you to review from the comfort of your own home what you can recycle and where to do it. Remember that current doorstep collections of general rubbish (black sacks), paper (green boxes) and garden waste (green wheelie bins—seasonal) are expected to be augmented in the autumn with doorstep glass collections.

Items to be recycled	Tesco	Greswolde	Wyndley	Bickenhill	Notes
Newspapers / Magazines / Books / Cardboard / Junk Mail / Telephone Directories	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Large blue containers with high and low slots for convenience
Glass—Clear / Green / Brown The 'bottle bank'	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Separate containers for each colour
Cans—Aluminium / Steel / Aerosols (do not pierce or squeeze the aerosols)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Foil can also be bagged or may be crumpled up into a ball
Clothing & Shoes, also Curtains, fabrics, towels & blankets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Paired shoes, dry, clean, bagged clothing (condition not specified),
Books & Music (Collected & re-sold by Oxfam for that charity)	Yes	Yes	No	No?	Useable and saleable complete items only Not damaged or incomplete
Plastic bottles *	No	Yes	No	Yes	Type 1—PET and Type 2—HDPE only SMBC does not recycle Types 3-7
Bras	No	Yes	No	No?	Bagged and wearable The 'Bra bank' - shocking pink!
Scrap metal / Soil & rubble / Paint / Cardboard / TVs & monitors / Gas bottles	No	No	No	Yes	Separate containers for each category
General Waste / Garden Waste	No	No	No	Yes	Separate containers for each category (** see note below)
Toasters / Kettles / Irons / Microwaves / Telephones / Radios / Vacuum Cleaners	No	No	No	Yes	
Wood waste	No	No	No	Yes	

* Plastic bottles must **not** include Yoghurt pots, Margarine tubs, Plastic bags, Plastic packaging & Cellophane. It **can** include Drinks, Milk, Shampoo and Detergent bottles, Drinks and Liquid food cartons (these are not defined). Also **excluded** are Plastic bags, Video cassettes, Toys, Cling film and Bubble wrap.

** Garden waste must **not** include Soil & rubble (separate container for this), Plastic bags, Fencing (separate wood waste container for this) or Food/Kitchen waste. It **can** include Grass and hedge cuttings, small Branches, Plants and Flowers.

Whilst the table above may be helpful it doesn't answer all the questions that an enquiring mind might ask; for example there are many electrical devices not listed there, such as food mixers, computers, old record players or MP3 players—are they included? The types of plastic object that are accepted is actually quite limited even though the volume of those that are accepted is considerable. Happy recycling!

Not much doing since the last Newsletter, as we don't meet in May there being two Bank Holiday Mondays. We have only had the one talk in April. This was on the topic of *Women in WWII*. This was a wide ranging talk given by a real enthusiast with a great depth of knowledge. Hugh Davies highlighted the roles women played, not only in the spectacular ways of espionage and sabotage, but in quiet and almost unnoticed ways. He explained how women were used as couriers and radio operators in the occupied countries, but also ran some of the escape routes. Others 'caused a nuisance of themselves' in little ways to harass the enemy authorities and 'gum up the works'. The talk certainly opened my eyes, as I do not remember the events of that period, being a post-war baby! There were many others there that evening who clearly had a personal involvement in some of the activities – quite sobering.

We had a very successful walk at the beginning of May, a short evening walk to look at some of the delightful bluebells in local woods. As many of you will know there is a great deal of concern over the threat to the English bluebell from the importation of its Spanish cousin. These have been very popular as a garden plant, being an attractive early flowering plant. However they multiply quite readily and many have been disposed of by dumping in the countryside. Unfortunately they then cross with the native bluebell, creating a hybrid that drives out the local variety, destroying the sight of drifts of hazy blue that is characteristic of the native flower.

For those of you interested in being able to distinguish between the two varieties, here's a little guide. There are pictures of each variety on the next page and of course they may be seen in colour on the website. While the two varieties are quite distinct, the hybrids can cause confusion, having characteristics of both types:-

English – Flowers that are a narrow bell and a deep blue with a hint of purple and growing on one side of a delicate stem, causing the stem to bend over as the flowers open. They form drifts, particularly in open woodland or under hedges. Latin name *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

Spanish – Flowers that are more open and a paler blue, growing on both sides of a sturdy stem that remains upright even in full flower. They tend to grow in clumps and are quite happy in the open. Latin name *Hyacinthoides hispanica*.

NOW, A NOTICE ABOUT THE QUIZ NIGHT IN OCTOBER

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 (Monday 20th 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 all participants must be Knowle Society members. We will start at 8pm prompt at the Village Hall 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 in this Newsletter as soon as possible and at least by 18th September to me as below with your entry fee (cheques made payable to *The Knowle Society* please). Please note that we will not cash your cheques until just before the event, but don't worry, you will have a place unless we let you know otherwise. We will send the tickets out in good time to confirm your entry. **In order that we can ensure a seat for everyone, entry will be by ticket only.**

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

KNOWLE SOCIETY QUIZ NIGHT (MEMBERS ONLY)

MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 8PM - KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL

Please return a copy of the form overleaf with:

£ PAYMENT (£1 per person) and £ a STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to:

Leighton Jones, 23 Newton Road, Knowle, SOLIHULL B93 9HL — Tel: 01564 773894
NO LATER THAN 18 September 2008 (and preferably sooner please)

If you wish to retain your newsletter intact and write a letter instead, please ensure that you include ALL the information on both sides marked with checkboxes—they are there for you to tick off as reminders **p**

KNOWLE GREEN COMMUNITY PROJECT

The development of the project which is intended to provide a lasting Memorial to Dr Ronald Bower is progressing well, although still in the 'feasibility' stage. By the time you read this a 'public consultation' will have been launched at the Knowle Festival in the Park on June 21.

It is still hoped that the area around and including the bus shelter in the village, known to some as Knowle Green, can be redeveloped and a memorial installed there. The idea is make a rather tired and overgrown central part of the village look really welcoming and attractive and a place to be proud of. We also want it to complement, rather than hide and detract from, the fine buildings behind.

A Steering Group is now leading the project, with the Society being joined by Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club, Knowle Traders and Solihull Council, each of which has committed to work together on what is now being called the *Knowle Green Community Project*. The Group is being helped by an architect from FBDA¹ and a charity specialising in environmental landscaping projects, called Groundwork².

The consultation will ask local people about their preferences for re-vamping the area and, in particular, what to do about the building which houses the bus shelter itself. The consultation is open until 12 July and packs are available from Eric Lyons Ltd and Knowle Library.

Even after the consultation there will be a long way to go. The project will require external finance, which we hope to raise through grant funding. If we are successful, it could still be another year before work starts on site.

¹ Based in Balsall Common

² Local branch of Groundwork UK

David Pinwell - Knowle 772348



English bluebell



Spanish Bluebell

COMPLETE EITHER:

£ Please reserve a place forpeople at the quiz night and here are their names (include your own):

£ Names:

OR:

£ Please reserve a place for my team of 6 people. Team Name.....

THEN:

£ My Name.....

£ My Address.....

£ Tel No..... £ Email.....



Emptying cans from the recycling bin at the Greswolde car park



Moira Kyles holding a photograph of her late husband Councillor Les Kyles, as the plaque in his honour from The Knowle Society is hung at Knowle Library following the re-opening of the library on 15th April by Stephanie Cole (left)



Michael Fisher (Archivist) at Hardman's



The workshop at Hardman's



Mother Teresa destined for the US



Cut glass to place on the 'cartoon'

Pictures of Hardman's stained glass workshop, Birmingham at the successful visit by The Knowle Society

RECYCLING WEBSITES

In response to a request by our Community Services sub-Committee, Solihull Council has pointed members to three websites offering specific help on recycling:

- www.solihull.gov.uk
- www.wrap.org.uk
- www.recyclenow.com

RECYCLING PLASTICS

Remember that the only plastics that can be recycled in Knowle are Type 1 (PET) and Type 2 (HDPE). All other types (3-7) including hard items like video and audio cassettes and CDs and all your plastic bags should not be recycled in the Plastics container in Knowle.

Following the last two issues when we took extracts from the Knowle Society's new 'A Short Guide to Central Knowle', we continue with a look at aspects of our local public houses.

THE HOSTELRIES OF CENTRAL KNOWLE

The Wilson Arms, although re-faced and extended, is a very old inn containing 16th century local virgin oak. It was originally called *The Rising Sun*, but was renamed in 1839 after William Henry Bowen Jordan Wilson (Lord of the Manor 1831-1887), whose arms are over the door. Horses for use by the army were assembled here in the 1914-1918 war. In the 1920s the outbuildings housed the first garage in Knowle and the first cinema which was in the assembly room.

The Greswolde Arms was an important coaching inn and one of the first stages out of Birmingham when the turnpike road to Warwick was opened in the 18th century. Originally called *The Mermaid* it had a mermaid for the sign painted by John Constable. It was renamed in the early 19th century after Henry Greswolde Lewis (of Malvern Hall, Solihull), joint Lord of the Manor. The wings appear to be Georgian but the central part may be contemporary with other 16th/17th century buildings in High Street. There was a prestigious bowling club here, founded in 1792, with a green at the rear. The maypole was erected in the road outside until the 1920s and a swimming lido built c. 1936 remained open until the mid 1960s. The changing rooms were converted to bungalows in 1955 and have now been replaced by modern flats.

The Red Lion probably dates from the early 17th century. A section of the original wattle and daub construction can be seen high up on the south wall. Inside, there is an original 17th century fireplace in the public bar and a cruck beam on the first floor. At the rear there used to be a crown bowling green

which had been laid by Ansell's in 1948 to replace the one lost when the White Swan was demolished. It was used by Ye Olde Knowle Bowling Club (founded c. 1768) until the crown green closed in the 1990s. The still thriving club now plays on a new green near The Railway Inn in Dorridge.

John Wesley once preached in The Red Lion yard and stigmatised Knowle as ungodly and drunken.

The White Swan Inn was on the site of the present NatWest Bank. High on the wall of the bank there is a concrete plaque with the inscription "THE SITE OF THE SWAN INN DEMOLISHED 1939". Lower down on the wall there are two motifs - one of a swan and another of barley, grapes, a tankard and wine glass in the sectors formed by two crossed churchwarden's pipes. The wall alongside the passage to the car park was part of the malt house.



The Red Lion (L) & White Swan (R) c.1900

The White Swan Inn was bought by Ansell's Brewery from Lucas's of Leamington Spa in 1935, along with The Red Lion. Not wanting two pubs so close together, they closed The White Swan Inn & transferred the license to The Red Lion. The demolition of The White Swan Inn is probably Knowle's greatest loss. It was built in the early 15th century and probably used by visiting members of the Guild. When it was demolished in 1939, the timbers were numbered with the intention of erecting it elsewhere, but the war intervened. Some were used at Baddesley Clinton and others in a property in Bakers Lane. The beautiful wrought iron sign, suitably altered, was transferred to the Red Lion.

For more information on historic buildings see *A Short Guide to Central Knowle*. The third edition is on sale now at Knowle Society meetings and at the Library, Carly's, Midland Business Equipment and Oxfam Books & Music in Knowle. It is also on sale at Tourist Information in Solihull Library. The price is £3.00.

In The Local History Centre the current exhibition is *Scouting in Knowle*. We are grateful to 1st Knowle Scout Group & 4th Knowle Sea Scout Group for staging this exhibition.

In a few weeks time we will be mounting the next exhibition in the Local History Centre. This will be entitled *Then & Now* and will consist of photographs of Knowle as it used to be together with photographs taken in similar locations in 2007/2008. Part of this exhibition was on display at the Knowle Festival in Knowle Park on 21st June.

Thirty-two of our members and guests visited John Hardman Company on 7th May. The company has been a goldsmith and a stained glass manufacturer since 1838. We were treated to an introductory talk illustrated with slides and presented by Michael Fisher who is a recognized authority on the work of A.W.N. Pugin. This was followed by tea and biscuits and then a tour of the works conducted by Mary Riordan, an expert in the processes used to create stained glass windows. The visit was greatly enjoyed by everyone in the group and most members put their names down for suggested further visits. The following visit has been planned:

A visit to the National Trust Birmingham Back to Backs. We have booked 32 places for Wednesday September 10th at 2pm. The tour of the houses will take one and a half hours. This includes the courtyard with its brewhouse and privies. There is a 1930's sweet shop too. These houses do have steep staircases and for visitors who feel they are unable to manage them there is a ground floor tour of the houses and courtyard followed by a video of all the upper floors and an exhibition. Our tour will be divided into four groups of eight starting at 15 minute intervals. The visit and tour is free for National Trust members and £5.40 for non-members (pay on the day). To book, write to Derek Mellor, 92 Chantry Heath Crescent, Knowle, Solihull B93 9NJ. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Places will be offered on a first come – first served basis.

Can you help? We are looking for someone with experience in **framing pictures** to assist us in framing several large photographs which we will then display in the Local History Centre. We also have a collection of cassette tapes recording the memories of residents of the early part of the last century. We are looking for someone who can **copy these onto CDs**. If you can help with either of these needs please contact Derek Mellor.

Derek Mellor - Knowle 205129

WEBSITE NEWS

ONLINE 'FORUM' LAUNCHED

Way back at the 2006 AGM of The Knowle Society a member asked whether we could set up a facility to discuss and feed back issues in Knowle that fell within the remit of the society—sometimes referred to by the rather ugly name of a blog (we**blog**). After a short internal trial the experiment was put on hold but the May meeting of the Trustee Directors unanimously agreed to give the project the go-ahead. We are pleased to announce that this has now been launched with three highly topical subjects for discussion; *Recycling in Knowle*, *Knowle Green Community Project* and *Marina proposals on the canal in Knowle*. To contribute, just click on the *Forum* link at the right hand side of the home page. Your Society speaks and acts on behalf of its members—so let us know your views. You can also contribute concerns and issues at the start of each of our monthly meetings in the Village Hall.



NEWS UPDATES

With only four issues a year this newsletter cannot respond to events as quickly as we would like, so you are reminded of the news updates that appear frequently on the homepage of our website—you can also arrange for updates to be fed straight onto your computer as they arise. Items that have appeared since the last newsletter include:

- Marina application temporarily withdrawn
- Reopening of the Local History Centre after the Knowle Library refurbishment
- Marina proposals on the Grand Union Canal in Knowle
- Conservation Area Re-Appraisal report published by Solihull Council
- Doorstep collection of glass expected in the Borough in autumn
- Copy of The Knowle Society's response to the airport expansion proposal
- *Best Practice* award for The Knowle Society from SUSTAiN (sic)
- The Knowle Society submits Knowle Ward Strategy to Solihull Council
- Announcement of the new online 'Forum' (see above)

The website is for **you**—we hope that you find it interesting and useful. If you want to be reminded of the article on different types of plastic for recycling and you no longer have your April newsletter, just go the website, click on Membership and then Newsletters and download Newsletter 46.2.

GIFT AID COMES UP TRUMPS AGAIN

Members will have read previous reports where I have extolled the benefits of Gift Aid. For the period 1st October 2007 to 5th April 2008 I am sure you will be very pleased to know that a payment of just over £900.00 has recently been received from H M Revenue & Customs. Isn't it wonderful to have something back from the Exchequer! You may think this is a strange period, but it is due to the change in basic tax rates from 6th April 2008. Until 5th April 2008 the basic rate was 22% being reduced to 20% from 6th April 2008. Unfortunately this new rate will only give us a return of 25 pence in the £ instead of 28 pence in the £, but the HM Revenue and Customs has announced that charities will be given a transitional relief supplement up to 2% until 5th April 2011, which is good news.

There is an update on Page 8 by Dave Pinwell in respect of the Knowle Green Community Project. As mentioned in that report the Steering Group will at some point need to apply for external financing, but inevitably the Group will be expected to make a financial contribution. The Trustee Directors on behalf of The Knowle Society are willing to do so if the project goes ahead and are satisfied that the Society's position is safeguarded. The contribution, as yet unconfirmed, will be taken out of our very adequate reserves whilst maintaining sufficient funds for any other eventualities that may occur. The policy of retaining funds to cover at least one year's average expenditure will not be affected. You will be kept informed of progress as the project develops.

This quarter is probably the quietest time of the year for me in my capacity as Treasurer. The majority of subscriptions have been paid and various returns the Society has to make have long since been completed. However once the summer is over I shall be entering a very busy period as I turn my thoughts to the preparation of the annual accounts in readiness for the Annual General Meeting in November.

I shall therefore enjoy the lull and hope you all have a restful and pleasant summer.

Sandra Lea - Hon. Treasurer - Knowle 776850

Mr & Mrs B Allaway
Mr & Mrs G Blackburn
Mr & Mrs M Brooman
Mr & Mrs G Bryan
Mr & Mrs T Burbridge
Miss Jackie Cole
Mr & Mrs A Foster
Mr J Geddes
Mr & Mrs J Glanville

Mr & Mrs F T Keyte
Mr & Mrs R Kightly
Mrs S Koumides
Mrs P A Longcroft
Mr Mehdi Modiri
Mr & Mrs M W Penn
Mr & Mrs R Pidlor
Ms Teresa Tisdell
Mr Gilles Zidane

To view this issue with its colour images go to www.knowlesociety.org.uk and select *Membership* then *Newsletters* from the top menus. Click on issue 46.3 and enter the password 8dx63k. No password is needed to access this newsletter from 1st October 2008.

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A warm welcome to 30 new members this quarter including those listed below.

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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