

# The Knowle Society



Volume 47 Number 3

July 2009

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

## Membership & Democracy

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a eulogy for our late and much missed membership secretary and erstwhile local history chairman, Derek Mellor. He was one of the stalwarts without whom the Society would be unable to function as well as it does. I was personally very pleased that Bryan Smart of that same history committee volunteered to take over the reins as membership secretary. He is very welcome indeed and has also accepted an invitation to join the board of trustee directors. What is patently clear about any organisation similar to ours is this – namely that it is dependent on the efforts of those not in the first flush of youth. I very much want to encourage younger people some of whom may be able to spare even a couple of hours a week to help us older fogies to move the Society forward.

Many of you will be aware of the Council's plans to construct a cycle route through the Park, along St Lawrence Close and then along Station Road via a widened footpath and into Arden School. You will

probably also be aware that the plans are to say the least not free of controversy. You will see in this edition notice of a public meeting that we have been able to persuade the Council is necessary in order to establish exactly what the people of Knowle think about these plans. Please attend. We were not convinced that the Council's consultation by way of a display of plans in the library and completion of questionnaires was sufficient and I am personally grateful to Council officials and members, who, whatever their personal views, agreed that in the name of fuller consultation, a meeting should be held. Whatever the outcome, our aim has always been only to ensure that as many people in the village as possible get a chance to express their views in the light of the full facts.

In his article, Leighton Jones deals with the up-to-date position relative to the two potential supermarkets proposed for the area, Sainsbury's in Dorridge and Waitrose in Knowle. At the time of writing this, neither has 'gone to planning' but both are likely to be submitted in the next

month or so. At this time, all that I want to say on both is to urge as many people as possible to examine the plans when they are submitted and, again in the light of the full facts, express their views. This can of course be done either personally or via our planning committee under Leighton's chairmanship if you prefer.

Lastly, a plea. We have a first class website [www.knowledgesociety.org.uk](http://www.knowledgesociety.org.uk) which most, but perhaps not all, of you will be aware of. This is an admired facility meticulously cared for by David Bower and contains details of all that you need to know for the past, present and future of your Society. Those of you who are linked to the internet but have never 'hit' our website, please try it. It is constantly being updated and there is the opportunity for you to tell us what you think of the trustee directors and what they are doing in the name of the Society.

In all respects I wish you all a happy and fulfilling summer even if the financial and political climate makes that more difficult than usual.

**Peter Ewin—Chairman - Knowle 776381  
[chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk)**

**A TRIBUTE TO DEREK MELLOR...****...FRIEND & COLLEAGUE WHO DIED ON 6 MAY 2009**

I first got to know Derek when I became involved with Knowle Society Local History a few years ago. At that time Derek was Chairman of the Local History committee as well as being Membership Secretary for Knowle Society and a Trustee Director. I soon came to share with the rest of the history committee, a very deep respect and admiration for Derek and for the enthusiastic and unstinting way he applied himself to every project he was involved with, especially anything to do with the history of Knowle. Whether it was an exhibition or one of the many talks and visits he planned and organised for Knowle Society members, he worked tirelessly, paying meticulous attention to detail to ensure everything ran smoothly and efficiently.

Derek was also a very talented photographer winning numerous prizes over the years, and many of the photographs in our exhibitions were his work. He also produced all the many leaflets and posters we used for our various projects. I was with Derek the night before he died. He wasn't feeling too good but was still very interested in the photographs I took in to show him of a forthcoming exhibition, and he still retained his sense of humour. He was telling me about the two nursing homes he had the choice of going into. I said I only had knowledge of one of them which had an excellent reputation and I knew from first hand experience that the food was "out of this world." To which Derek replied, "That's a long way to go for food Janet, out of this world!" Well, he did go a long way didn't he. I hope the food's good Derek!

One member of our committee said to me a few weeks ago, "I have only known Derek for a few months but I wish I had known him forever." I share this wish. Derek will be missed for many reasons by many people. His sense of humour and his kindness and generosity of spirit will be remembered by many especially "his" history team, because although not Chairman of History any longer, we were still 'His Team', and we will do our utmost to maintain and apply his standards to the future work of Knowle Society Local History.

God Bless you Derek.

Janet and The Team.

*All meetings, walks and exhibitions are open to everyone.*

*The Kenilworth Castle visit requires advance booking and numbers are limited.*

*The Social Evening is open to members and their guests only.*

<b>Wednesday 15th July</b>	<b>Kenilworth Castle—Gatehouse &amp; Gardens</b> Local History Centre visit—Fully booked.
<b>Monday 20th July</b> 8.00pm at the Village Hall	<b>Energy Saving and Carbon Footprint</b> Pam Bassi (to be confirmed) (Energy Saving Trust)
<b>Monday 21st September</b> 8.00pm at the Village Hall	<b>Solihull Trading Standards Service</b> Gareth Jones (Solihull MBC)
<b>Sunday 27th September</b> 2.00pm Temple Balsall car park	<b>Temple Balsall Walk with tea and cakes</b> 3-4 miles mainly fields—a different route from past years
<b>Monday 5th October</b> 10.30am at the Village Hall	<b>Birmingham from Roman to Victorian Times</b> Bev Bevan (tea and coffee is available from 10.00am)
<b>Monday 19th October</b> 8.00pm at the Village Hall	<b>Social Evening—£6 (booking form on page 5)</b> Black Country Duo <i>Dandy</i> - includes Fish & Chip supper

### **THE POSSIBLE SAINSBURY SUPERMARKET IN DORRIDGE**

This is still technically a possible supermarket application, however it is quite clear that an application will appear in due course. As I said in the last Newsletter we do not normally comment on planning applications in Dorridge, but this one is different. For a start it is intended to be a large supermarket, covering the whole of Forest Court, the space in front and the car park behind. In addition Sainsbury have bought many of the 'listed' shops in Station Approach. They intend to refurbish these in a way that is sympathetic to their listed status – as the law insists they must.

We have had two meetings with the developers to get more information on their intentions, one to understand their plans in general; the other to discuss their intentions regarding the delivery vehicles. It appears that they will be proposing that these vehicles will travel from the M42 through Knowle. This is a serious concern, as the number of heavy vehicles using the High Street is already too great.

We cannot comment in detail until the planning application has been submitted, but my personal view at the moment is that the proposed store is much too big for its location and will attract shoppers from outside the area, increasing traffic again. We shall see!

### **THE POSSIBLE WAITROSE STORE IN KNOWLE**

It seems that Knowle & Dorridge are seen by the food retailers as lucrative opportunities! Again, I must describe this (at least as I write this note) as a possible application, as we do not know definitely that it will appear. However we have been told that it will. We have also had two meetings with this developer to understand their plans, which were for what they described as a 'food store' and significantly smaller than the Sainsbury one. I must say that what we were shown was much less advanced than the Sainsbury plans and we know no details, so it may be a while before this is submitted.

While we have been told that the area of land that Waitrose is looking at is between the High Street and St John's Close, the last time we spoke to the developers they had not identified exactly where they were intending to place their store.

When each of these applications is received we will be looking very carefully at them to try and understand the potential impact on Knowle. Each of them has the potential to change the 'shopping experience' and we will need to look at this and the wider issues. There is no doubt that this will be a real challenge for your Committee.

### **MARINA AT STRIPES HILL FARM**

A Planning Application **has** been submitted to Solihull MBC to construct a marina for canal boats below Knowle Locks and behind the garden centre. The application is largely an 'outline application', in other words they are looking for agreement to the principle of a marina on this site of about the size they've identified (200 – 225 boats). Having said that, they have provided a large amount of detail of their plans, which makes the application look very much like a full application, seeking approval for the details of the size, exact location and facilities to be constructed.

The only part they have identified as being a full application is for the access from the Warwick Road onto the site. This would use the existing access to Stripes Hill Farm and be between the bottom of Stripes Hill and the access to the garden centre, opposite the entrance to Lansdowne House. The site itself is, naturally, right alongside the Grand Union Canal and is a short distance below the bottom lock. As such it is in the 'green belt'. The site incorporates most of the fields between the garden centre and the canal, but the marina basin itself would only take over those right next to the canal. The other fields would provide earth to construct the basin, in the process producing several ponds which are described as providing wetland areas.

As you would understand, there are many aspects of the proposal that need reviewing and we will do our best to come to a conclusion based on the overall impact and benefits for Knowle. We will be paying particular attention to aspects such as:- The justification for a marina in Knowle and especially on this site; the overall size of the development; the impact on the 'green belt'; the potential effect on any proposal to 'list' Knowle Locks; and the effect on the Warwick Road of the additional traffic and access to the site. If anyone wishes to look at the documents that have been submitted, they are available by clicking through on our website or directly on the SMBC website using the following link:-

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/planning/dc/ViewAppdetail.asp?Y=2009&R=494>

**Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894**

**AIRPORT**

The Secretary of State has concluded that her intervention “would not be justified”, and there is no need to ‘call-in’ the Planning Application for the Runway Extension. Therefore the S106 Planning Agreement is being prepared for completion and signature by the Airport Company and Solihull MBC. The changes to the existing 106 agreement will also include the development of a Carbon Management Plan (to reduce future carbon emissions and consider concerns about Climate Change).

In addition to the Planning Application, the Airport Company has been considering the arrangements to revise the Air Traffic Routes associated with the Runway Extension, and the Knowle Society is represented on the working party discussing the implications. It is believed at the moment, that the estimated completion of the Runway Extension is still 2012.

The Planning Application is for:

*The extension of the Main Runway and Associated Infrastructure, including the Realignment and Tunnelling of a section of the A45 Coventry Road; a new Air Traffic Control Tower; Revisions to the Existing Fuel Farm; a new Exit Taxiway; the Treatment of Obstacles; and the diversion of Services and Water Courses.*

and was made up of:

- Covering Letter.
- Planning Application Forms and Fee,
- Plans/Drawings.
- Planning Statement,
- Design and Access Statement,
- Statement on Air Traffic Forecasts for the proposed Runway Extension,
- Economic Impact Assessment,
- Environmental State (including a Climate Change Assessment),
- Flood Risk Assessment,
- A Transport Assessment and Travel Plan,
- Proposed new Public Safety Zones,
- Proposed new Aerodrome Safeguarding Map,
- A copy of the new Airport Master Plan,
- A copy of the new Airport Surface Access Strategy,
- Draft Heads of Terms – Planning Obligations,
- Pre-Application Consultation Report.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT—BUS DIFFICULTIES SERVING KNOWLE AND AREA**

Gary Masters has attended a meeting with Cllr. Alan Rebeiro and representatives of Centro, National Express and Solihull Council. The timetable is to be subject to revision. This should ensure greater reliability of both the S2 and S3 services and will also provide for service from the centre of Knowle to meet the requirements of pupils at the Sixth Form College. It was agreed that the route S2 is to be looked at because of the need for Downing Close to be better served. The revised timetables are due to be operative by the end of May, and will be more easily understood, with a clearer map included. *[These revised timetables are available on The Knowle Society’s website as a simplified digest of those times most relevant to Knowle residents travelling to and from Solihull. Apart from some bus number changes, the timetables are substantially unchanged.]*

The National Express S2 and S3 services are only running at 70% of the figures required as a commercial proposition, and they are due to be reviewed this October, because the one year contract with Centro is due to expire next January.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (ESTIMATED COST £200,000 +)**

The big debate at the moment is the ‘Safe Routes to School’ proposals published by SMBC. The SMBC consultation has only involved a small proportion of residents and we believe all residents should be consulted. It cannot be stated often enough that we only have one park in Knowle and not a very large one at that. All residents have an equal right to be able to enjoy it, and your Society has grave reservations with the proposals. *[See notice of a public meeting on Page 11—Ed.]*

The suggestion is that Knowle Park paths are widened, together with one side of St Lawrence Close, to allow

*(Continued on page 7)*

A return visit by popular acclaim!

## THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

### An evening of Music & Comedy with 'DANDY' (a special event for members and their guests)



5

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 8PM AT KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL

Please forward me ..... ticket(s) @ £6.00 each. Total £.....

A Fish and Chip supper is provided within the ticket price, please specify how many..... vegetarian alternatives are required instead.

Please make cheques payable to *The Knowle Society*.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

Please return promptly, at the latest by **MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER**

SAE Enclosed

To: Mr Charles Robinson, 20 Culverley Crescent, Knowle, Solihull B93 9RB

PLEASE ENCLOSE A **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** FOR YOUR TICKET(S) TO BE SENT TO YOU.

You may photocopy this page or just write out the information on a separate piece of paper if you do not wish to desecrate your newsletter!



**PLEASE RETAIN THIS HALF OF THE PAGE FOR YOUR OWN REFERENCE**

**DANDY—MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 8PM AT KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL**

Number of tickets I have booked ..... @ £6.00 each. Total £.....

Guests invited.....

A Fish and Chip supper with tea or coffee and biscuits is provided within the ticket price.  
You are also welcome to bring your own drinks and cups or glasses if you wish.

Number of vegetarian alternative meals that I requested instead.....

Booking sent to: Mr Charles Robinson, 20 Culverley Crescent, Knowle, Solihull B93 9RB

[Note: a SAE was requested and booking was to be by Monday 14th September.]

**BOOKING QUERIES TO CHARLES ROBINSON ON KNOWLE 777337**

**6**

**THIS HALF PAGE IS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY.**

**ADMIN USE ONLY:**

Date application received: .....2009

Cheque received:  Cheque amount correct:  SAE enclosed?

Date tickets posted: .....2009

## KNOWLE GREEN COMMUNITY PROJECT (KGCP)—UPDATE

“What has happened to the detail that we all read this time last year?” is the common question currently being asked around Knowle. Well even the best laid plans can hit problems, and heading towards last Christmas these duly arrived with a result that in the New Year more than a few negotiations had to take place in order to ‘keep the show on the road’.

The current situation now looks promising. By the time that you read this article hopefully the following work on Phase 1 should have started as follows:

1. An independent surveyor will be commissioned by Groundwork West Midlands to carry out a Topographical Survey
2. The Architect will be carrying out Service location checks.
3. Collaboration design work will be carried out by the Architect and Landscape Architect working together and resulting in costed sketch design drawings.
4. Project report containing all information required to submit funding bids and planning application.
5. KGCP then works with Groundwork West Midlands to identify the funder, support in writing the bid and subsequent submission of the bid. Groundwork West Midlands will be the accountable body, so the funder identified must allow Groundwork West Midlands to submit the bid on behalf of KGCP.

These initial five steps are the all-important building blocks to be able to progress the Project, eventually resulting in a Planning Application being submitted. It is hoped that when this first stage is completed a public exhibition can be staged to show all the residents of Knowle the progress made, prior to the submission of a planning application. Your Steering Committee certainly will have some considerable work to do soon and it is hoped that we can all remain strong and purposeful in order to achieve the objective.

**Gary Masters - Knowle 779955**  
**Knowle Society Representative on Knowle Green Community Project**

7

(Continued from page 4)

joint use by pedestrians and cyclists. In addition road humps at the existing school crossing and across the end of St Lawrence Close are proposed, together with a 20 mph speed limit at school times.

The aim is increase the number of children, who approach via St Lawrence Close, to cycle to school. It should be pointed out that 70% - 80% already walk to Arden School, which is an extremely high number. The knock-on effect is that all other users of the park are put at risk including elderly residents of Jobs Close Home, primary school children and any other residents who use the park. We are not against cycling in general but in this circumstance we believe all residents should be consulted.

SMBC has agreed for such a meeting to take place, details of which are on Page 11, when residents will have the opportunity to question the need for the scheme, the costs and the rationale behind it.

### **OTHER MATTERS—LYNNE STEYN REPORTS**

**Village Notice Board**—Knowle now has its own village community notice board thanks to funding from SMBC; this follows requests made by both The Knowle Society and Friends of Knowle Park. It will allow information about village activities and events to be displayed.

**Road Humps Lodge Road**—Consultation letters have been sent to residents of Lodge Road from SMBC, with respect to the possible installation of road humps to provide a safe crossing point, this is in response to a petition raised by local residents.



**John Rowley - Knowle 778289**

The season of talks and walks is now well underway with attendance figures for the meetings now going into the 70s for the evening sessions and some very good attendance figures for the walks. It seems that Knowle residents are a fit and healthy bunch (or trying to be!) Especially popular was the walk encompassing the proposed sites of the marina in Knowle, this topic has obviously sparked a large amount of interest as any development will have a significant impact on the village and its infrastructure. After this were, *Hillfield & Widney Manor* led at short notice by Richard & Sandra Lea and *Knowle By-ways Part 3* - covering lesser known parts of Knowle and including parts not walked by the Society in recent times.



*Marina Walk—site of proposed marina*



*Peter Ewin leading the popular Marina Walk at Knowle Locks*

The next walk is the popular Tea & Cakes Walk - a different route this year, 3-4 miles, mainly fields, starting from Fen End Road car park, Temple Balsall on Sunday 27th September 2009 at 2pm. The Walk finishes, optionally, with a welcome rest and refreshment in the Old Hall at Temple Balsall with its reputation for excellent homemade cakes.

We had a very informative talk from Alun Thorn from the Birmingham Post covering some of its



*Alun Thorn of the Birmingham Post with Knowle Society's Chairman Peter Ewin*

history and how it has had to change to take on the challenge of the internet which is becoming more of a threat to local newspapers all the time. The plans of the Birmingham Post for the future should see them surviving but they have had to embrace the internet themselves and have a very good web-page covering the local news from the Birmingham and Midlands area, worth a quick look if you have the time or inclination at:

<http://www.birminghampost.net>

The paper itself is not about to disappear and remains a respected publication in its own right and is one of the few regional papers which has a copy delivered to Downing Street.



The next meeting featured the actress Gillian Andrews who has been on stage and TV for many years. She produced almost a one woman show featuring tales of her life, many excerpts from Shakespeare's plays and her one woman show. Most were amazed at her ability to talk without hesitation, deviation or repetition for much, much longer than a minute! Many people talked with her afterwards and she dropped a note to us saying she appreciated the audience very much and the interest we had showed in her performance. It is good that our guests enjoy and appreciate these meetings as much as the audience.

We are experimenting this year with a couple of afternoon meetings and the first was held on Monday 18th May in the Village Hall. Although numbers were a little lower than is usual for our evening talks, this one was well received and like Gillian Andrew's talk was very different. Jeremy Ballard a violinist recently retired from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, entertained us with stories from his life in the

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

orchestra, personal cartoon sketches made of characters with whom he has worked, particularly conductors and of course some snatches of solo violin playing. Our next afternoon talk will be on November 16th, also at 2pm and is titled *All the World's a Stage*.

Now on to future events:- Are you green? - a topical question, come along and hear at our *Energy Saving and Carbon Footprint* meeting from the Energy Saving Trust and learn how you can help to reduce your 'carbon footprint' and in the process save yourself money. What about alternative energy sources - are they the answer to all our energy problems? What about a windmill on your roof?



*Jeremy Ballard*

Solihull Trading Standards Service is coming along in September to talk about the contribution that it makes to life in Solihull. Not only does it do things like checking weighing scales and shelf life, but far more. What about doorstep crime and counterfeit goods or under-age sales? This talk by a speaker from Solihull MBC is sure to open your eyes and also give you a useful source for advice and information. The meeting is on Monday 21st September 2009, 8pm at the Knowle Village Hall.

Finally for this newsletter we come to the Social Evening on October 19th at 8.00pm at the Village Hall. This year we will be entertained by 'Dandy'. Dandy is a Black Country duo which will provide entertainment to go alongside a fish and chip supper.

Dandy has entertained the Society in the past and was very well received, it is a husband and wife duo which is well known in the Midlands area. It has a light-hearted act that features a mix of comedy with a Black Country slant and light music.

The cost will be £6.00 to include a fish and chip supper (or a vegetarian alternative) with a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits to accompany, please bring along your own choice of drinks if you wish to do so. As I hope you know, we do not aim to profit from these events but merely to cover the cost. We will also have a raffle on the evening with two prizes of M&S vouchers.

The event is open to Members of the Society and their friends but we have to limit the numbers to a maximum of 70 so if you want to come along on Monday 19th October 2009 8pm at the Knowle Village Hall please apply for your tickets in advance. There is an application form on Page 5 of this newsletter. If previous years are anything to go by we expect the tickets to be in demand, so please get your applications in as soon as possible. Unfortunately we will be unable to accommodate any members on the night who have not pre-booked their tickets.

**Charles Robinson - Knowle 777337**



***THANK YOU TO JENNIE EVANS-A FAITHFUL STEWARD***

The Knowle Society was delighted to say a special thank you to Jennie Evans after she completed very many years of work for the Society. Peter Ewin our Chairman installed a bird feeder in Jennie's garden from which it is hoped she will gain a lot of pleasure. Jennie took the register of members and visitors at Society meetings, has been a Local History Centre steward, helped with visits by local schoolchildren and perhaps most significantly has been responsible for meticulously adding to the collection of popular scrapbooks kept by the Centre. These books chronicle the current life of the village as reported by the local press, through newspaper cuttings. She had been doing this work for well over ten years.

**MORNING TALKS**

On Monday 6 April 2009 we had a talk in the Village Hall given by Colin and Mary Smith. Their subject was "*What the Papers Said*" 200 years ago! The talk was informative, entertaining and at times highly amusing causing much laughter from the audience. Our thanks go to Colin and Mary and we hope they will come back again soon.

The next talk took place on the 22 June 2009 and was given by Helen Soane from English Heritage who spoke about the restoration of the gardens at Kenilworth Castle. This talk was in preparation for our visit on 15 July 2009.

Monday 5 October there will be a talk by Bev Bevins on *Birmingham from Roman to Victorian Times*. Monday 7 December there will be a talk by Roger Butler on *Canal History and Heritage*. Please note that this additional talk is not shown on your 2009 Programme Card so please make a special note in your diary!

All our talks are on Monday mornings at 10.30am in the Village Hall. Refreshments are served from 10am – 10.30am.

**VISITS**

The visit to Kenilworth Castle Gardens and Gatehouse is now fully booked and everyone participating in this visit should meet at the Ticket Office at 10.45am at the latest.

No further visits are planned as of yet but if anyone has any suggestions for future visits which are in striking distance by public transport as well as by car then please let us know. You can do this either by email to [history@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:history@knowlesociety.org.uk) or by popping in to see us on Saturday mornings at our History Centre upstairs in the Library. Please can we have sensible ideas. The last time we asked for suggestions most of them were for various pubs and not even historic ones!

**EXHIBITIONS**

Currently *Old Shops of Knowle* is still in place although it has been quite drastically changed. The photos are still on display but are now mounted on display boards sitting on top of a display case which contains various artefacts relating to the shops. We think this method of exhibiting makes the photos easier to view and combined with the artefacts makes a more interesting and educational exhibition. We hope you agree.

The other two display cases contain what will be more or less permanent exhibitions. One contains artefacts relating to the two World Wars and the other one has a miscellany of artefacts, all of which

relate to Knowle and the people of Knowle.

Please come and have a look and tell us what you think. Access to the History Centre is available at any time during library opening hours and there are stewards on duty every Saturday morning between 10am – 12am. There is a Visitor's Book open on the table which we invite you to sign and record your comments.

The next exhibition will be *Henry Tonks – Artist and Surgeon* which we hope to have in place by mid-July. We apologise for the delay with this exhibition which has of course, been due to the very sad demise of Derek Mellor. Derek did most of the preliminary work and research for this exhibition and we decided to pick it up and carry on with it in his memory. We hope to do it justice for him. Again, come and have a look and tell us what you think.

From mid – late September onwards there will be an exhibition on the Bowser Brothers and the Knowle Lodge Estate.

**HERITAGE DAY**

This year falls on the 12th September and the History Centre will have Stewards on duty from 11am - 4pm. Old scrapbooks will be available for visitors to look through and, hopefully by then, our oldest scrap book (approx 100years) will be available to view on DVD.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*A Short Guide to Knowle* is still available at our meetings and usual outlets for £3 and our DVD *Knowle Celebrations 1930s – 1960s* can also be purchased at our meetings, Knowle Library, Oxfam or from our History Centre on Saturday mornings.

**DONATIONS**

We would still welcome the loan or gift of any memorabilia, photos, artefacts, memoirs – anything that you think may be of interest and that you would like to be kept safely in our archives for the interest and education of future generations as well as the present, also, perhaps to be exhibited from time to time. If you have any such material that you would like to donate to the History of Knowle archives please contact Janet Eržen on 01564 779040 or by email to [history@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:history@knowlesociety.org.uk) or see our Stewards on a Saturday morning in our History Centre.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

As stated by the Chairman in his front page article, your Society has been pressing for a public meeting to be held in the Village Hall when the proposals for this controversial development can be explained by Solihull Council and views can be expressed by anyone who so wishes.

**An open, public meeting is to be held at Knowle Village Hall  
at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16th July 2009.**

**The Village Hall will be open from 6.30 pm for viewing of the exhibition that  
will be provided by Solihull Council.**

Discussion will be invited from the floor and it is hoped that it can take the form of factual points being woven into specific questions to the Council. Questions provided in advance will be grouped to avoid repetition and to explore specific aspects of the proposal. These will be presented before questions raised from the floor. Questioners will be invited to put their question personally or to request the Chairman to raise it for them. The Chairman has been agreed by Solihull Council and The Knowle Society and will be Dave Pinwell, CEO of Solihull SUSTAiN and a Trustee Director of The Knowle Society.

**Please email your questions to [srts@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:srts@knowlesociety.org.uk)  
or write to Mr D Pinwell, 73 Tilehouse Green Lane, Knowle, Solihull B93 9EU**

### AN ODE TO THE PATHS IN THE PARK

The Editor had filled this space with excellent photographs of the split cycle paths in Brueton Park, Solihull but a note from the Society's Community Services committee pointed out that the arrangement being proposed for Knowle was to be of shared paths whereby pedestrians and cyclist are not separated into their own lanes. The existing path by the allotments would be widened by about 50%.

Having been faced with this now blank space just before the newsletter was due to go to the printer, the Editor confirmed the above facts about the paths with Richard Chape of Friends of Knowle Park and jokingly asked if he would like to fill the space with a poem—well, Richard sportingly took up the challenge and 30 minutes later offered the following doggerel verse! He gave full permission to use the editorial red pen but it is reproduced verbatim, however please note that the second and last lines do not represent The Knowle Society's understanding of the current position with respect to the project.

*O to be in Knowle Park  
Now that cycling's here  
Mix bikes kids and dogs  
And what may you have to fear?*

*Heads down backsides up  
Those racers look the part  
what are you doing walking  
On a shared and safe path?*

*Council deems it safe and sound  
Is it so for everyone?  
Is this the best use for our pound?  
O to be in Knowle Park now that cycling's won!*

Richard Chape

**Individual Members:**

Yvonne Bentley  
 Mr & Mrs D Couchman  
 Mr & Mrs Curtis  
 Mrs Margaret Greenwood  
 Mr & Mrs G Tait

**Corporate Members:**

KRBLW Limited  
 Thomas Bragg and Sons Limited

**PLANNED MEETING ON THE NHS AND KNOWLE—PETER EWIN**

You may be aware that the Trustee Directors have been attempting to arrange for a meeting with the Chief Executive of the local NHS Care Trust. The intention was for her to speak to us and to answer questions on *The NHS and Knowle*. Unfortunately it has been found to be very difficult to fix a date that is mutually convenient and it is apparent that the response to such a meeting from outside bodies that we had provisionally invited was poor to non-existent. Accordingly, we are not at present proceeding with such a meeting.

**WHAT IS THE SOCIETY DOING? —EDITOR**

At their May meeting the Trustee Directors agreed that the topics discussed at each meeting should be made available on the Society's website in a simple summary so as to keep members constantly abreast of the issues that are being considered and to provide updates on progress; the information will be very brief. All historic postings of these home page news items can be viewed by clicking on the appropriate year on the right-hand side of the home page. Anyone can use the *Forum* on the website to discuss any topic if you have views that you would like share and of course the Society's monthly meetings in the Village Hall usually enable questions and points to be raised from the floor at the start of each meeting. Your Programme Card for 2009 also provides contact information for all the Officers and Directors of the Society.

**DISTRIBUTION NEWS—ANNE SMITH**

Distributors of the newsletter will recall me mentioning how grateful I am to them for their hard work in getting the newsletters delivered to members for me. I am always in need of reserve volunteers though. One of the bugbears of the system, however, is that as we all know, every October distributors are required to collect members' subscriptions. This is quite an arduous task and one which most distributors dislike, so it has been decided that we will give the opportunity to, and indeed encourage members to pay their annual subscription, be it £5 or £3, by standing order through their bank. This will be introduced with the October newsletter when a form will be included asking members to fill it in and return it to our Membership Secretary, Bryan Smart. If anyone objects in particular, however, they will still be able to pay by cash collected on the doorstep. I do hope that a lot of people will take this chance to save our distributors from having to call on us every October, when we are often not at home on the first visit, and making a lot of extra unnecessary work revisiting and fiddling around with small sums of money. The new system, which was actually previously operated a number of years ago, as a few of our longer standing members will recall and continue to utilise, is very simple and efficient. It also helps with the Society's cash flow as the money comes in early on in the year and your Committee can make decisions about beneficial expenditure more easily. Please consider filling in the form when it appears with the next newsletter, but in the meantime if you would like to make a comment on the matter, please do not hesitate to ring Bryan or myself; our numbers are on the right of this page.

**IN THIS ISSUE...**

- |                       |                     |                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Chairman           | 5. Social Evening   | 9. Jennie Evans    |
| 2. Mellor & Diary     | 6. Blank            | 10. Local History  |
| 3. Planning           | 7. KGCP             | 11. Public Meeting |
| 4. Community Services | 8. Meetings & Walks | 12. Membership     |

**A warm welcome to 10 new members this quarter including those listed here.**

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

**Membership:**

Bryan Smart  
 133 Longdon Road  
 Knowle  
 SOLIHULL  
 B93 9HY  
 01564 779902  
[membership@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@knowlesociety.org.uk)

**Editor:**

David Bower  
 60 Barcheston Road  
 Knowle  
 SOLIHULL  
 B93 9JT  
 01564 775790  
[newsletter@knowlesociety.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@knowlesociety.org.uk)

**Distribution:**

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

**Photographer:**

Roger Grainger

**Proof-readers:**

Maria Brown  
 John Chaloner  
 Sandra Lea

**Online copy password**

until Oct 2009 is 4kYhm7

**Next issue**

Copy deadline:  
**1st September 2009**  
 Distribution commences:  
**1st October 2009**

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