

The Knowle Society



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www.knowledgesociety.org.uk

The Civic Trust and The Knowle Society

Some of you may have read of the difficulties faced by the Civic Trust over the past year or so. We have always been members of the organisation either directly or indirectly through the regional association – West Midlands Amenity Societies Association ('West MASA'). You may also have read of Griff Rhys Jones becoming CT's president, reflecting his own passionate interest in what we are now taught to call 'the Built Environment'. That was only a shortish time ago and unfortunately for him and for all who are concerned for our heritage the Civic Trust had to go into administration earlier this year, being unable to meet its financial commitments.

There were several reasons for the decline and fall of the Civic Trust. It is my belief that the main one has been the obsession, common with similar organisations, with their London presence. The Civic Trust had very expensive leasehold Central London premises which proved to be a huge mistake. After payment of very large sums for repairs they moved to a cheaper property but the damage had been done and retrenchment was impossible. It seems to me that

RoSPA with its Edgbaston headquarters should be showing the way for many others. The perceived need for lobbying the powers that be in the Capital can easily be met by catching an early train!

Griff and several others are actively involved in trying to set up a new pared-down organisation to take over several of the functions of the old CT and in this they have our support and that of West MASA. Sadly, however, I think that the London orientation of the people involved will mean that it will be based there if it is set up successfully. I think we can guarantee that the premises will not be over-glamorous, however. West MASA also has to be restructured and Leighton Jones is being kept in the picture by those involved in that. As and when anything positive happens, we shall of course let you know. Apart from other considerations, the old Civic Trust acted as the countrywide mouthpiece for those concerned for the appearance of our towns and villages and was the urban equivalent of the much more successful Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

On a more parochial note, it was good to see a virtually full Village Hall for our public meeting on the Cycle Routes to School. I think it showed that a reasonably worded and carefully argued approach is more likely to achieve a desired result than the banging of metaphorical drums. Certainly Council officials and Cabinet members alike listened to what was said, by no means all of it negative, and we await the outcome of the Council debate which will be known before you receive this, with considerable interest. It is beyond doubt that the Society has a reputation for a measured approach which gains it friends and is persuasive with those who make decisions.

It seems hard to believe that when I write this, August is nearly over and our 'typically English' summer is drawing to a close. May I urge you all to continue your support of your Society as our busiest part of the year approaches. The A.G.M. is on November 23rd and after, probably merited, criticism of the format last year, will revert to the traditional style, with committee chairman making a short report followed by

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DEREK MELLOR

Members will be aware that Derek passed away in May. His relatives kindly offered the collection taken at his funeral service to the Society, for the support of the work of our Local History Centre. The amount raised, including an element of Gift Aid tax to be reclaimed, amounted to just over £700. This substantial sum is no doubt an indication of the affection and respect with which Derek was held, both within the Society and beyond.

The trustee directors are very grateful for this generous response, and to Derek's family, and will ensure that the money is used for projects within the L.H.C. of which we believe Derek would have approved and which will form a fitting memorial to him.

Peter Johnson
Hon. Treasurer



Derek Mellor at the Pen Museum in the Jewellery Quarter in February—a Knowle Society visit that he arranged.

(Continued from page 1)

an opportunity for questions and comments from the floor. Please attend, especially if you never have before. The Officers and committee members need the stimulus of the views of the members to continue their good work. As I approach the end of my first year in office, I would like to thank them all for their unstinting efforts.

Peter Ewin—Chairman - Knowle 776381
chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk

*All meetings, walks and exhibitions are open to everyone.
The Social Evening is open to members and their guests only.
The AGM is open to anyone to attend but only members may vote.*

Sunday 27th September 2.00pm Temple Balsall car park	Temple Balsall Walk with tea and cakes 3-4 miles mainly fields
Monday 5th October 10.30am at the Village Hall	Bournville Carillon - its association with People & Places * Mr Arthur Casey (Tea and coffee served beforehand)
Monday 19th October 8.00pm at the Village Hall	Social Evening—£6 (Full—Booking Closed) Black Country Duo <i>Dandy</i> - includes Fish & Chip supper
Monday 16th November 8.00pm at the Village Hall	All the World's a Stage Mr E Hibbs
Monday 23rd November 8.00pm at the Village Hall	Annual General Meeting Tea & coffee will be served after the business part then open session
Monday 30th November 4.00pm outside the Church	Lighting the Christmas Tree Father Christmas visits Knowle when all the lights are turned on
Monday 7th December 10.30am at the Village Hall	Canal Heritage & History Mr Roger Butler (Tea and coffee served beforehand)
Monday 18th January 8.00pm at the Village Hall	Local Fire and Police Service Safety in the home

* This talk replaces the planned talk by Bev Bevins (indisposed) on:
Birmingham from Roman to Victorian Times

AGM NOTICE

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(a company limited by guarantee)

I give notice that the **Annual General Meeting** of The Knowle Society will be held in **Knowle Village Hall on Monday 23rd November 2009 commencing at 8pm.**

The meeting will receive Reports on the activities of the Society during the previous 12 months and also the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009. It will elect the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) for the ensuing 12 months and up to 6 other Trustee Directors.

Nominations for these vacancies should be in writing and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at 26 Wychwood Avenue, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9DG **to arrive no later than the 9th November 2009.** They should be signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, all three of whom must be members of the Society.

Andrew Marston
Hon. Secretary
September 2009

01564 774082

Company Number 05514023

Charity Number 1111085

If a member wishes to nominate one or more Officers or Trustee Directors of The Knowle Society for election at the forthcoming AGM, then a nomination form may be downloaded from:

www.knowledesociety.org.uk then follow the link *About Us*

If you do not have convenient access to the Internet please call the Secretary on the above number and he will be pleased to make a paper copy available to you. In recent years members have not availed themselves of the facility to use the form in the newsletter, so we are not printing one this year; in practice many people will now consider it more convenient to download a copy, rather than deface their copy of the newsletter.

Please see the note on the front page of this newsletter from our Chairman about the return of the AGM this year to its traditional format.

I thought I would start this report with a general look at the way your Planning Committee (PC) works and the sorts of things we get involved in, and those we don't. The Planning Committee acts under the authority of the Trustee Directors, who appoint the Chairman of the Committee and approve its membership. The remit of the committee is set out in a document that has been approved by the Trustees and can be summarised as:-

1. The prime function of the PC is to review all planning matters in and around Knowle which might affect the Society, paying particular attention to matters affecting the Knowle Conservation Area.
2. The PC will primarily be involved with existing and new buildings and the use of land generally, including such matters as telecommunications masts.
3. The PC will consider all planning applications for the Knowle area as submitted to SMBC. It will not normally review domestic plans (e.g. conservatories and minor extensions). It will consider any such applications that relate to the Conservation Area.

As you will see, the committee acts in the interest of the Society (i.e. its membership as a whole) and has to ensure that it is not unduly influenced by individuals or small groups. Having said that, we always welcome comments from members and take note of them in our deliberations. We are sometimes faced with matters that significantly affect individuals, perhaps neighbours of a development, but unless these affect the Society at large we do not see it as our role to become formally involved. The boundary between what is an individual issue and one that has a wider impact is sometimes difficult to define, but we do our best to take a pragmatic approach.

As well as considering planning applications that have actually been submitted to the Council, we are fortunate to be able to discuss planning matters in general with council officials and particularly the Head of Design and Development. This gives us the opportunity to learn about planning policy and regulations and understand and perhaps influence the policies of the Council.

When potential major developments are in prospect we are able to have informal and confidential discussions with the developers as part of their public consultation exercise and we use these to try and improve the plans before they are submitted.

Well, enough of how we work, what have we actually been doing? Although the economic downturn initially had some effect on the number of applications submitted, this has not lasted and, as you all know, we have been faced with a number of major applications. In the Conservation Area we have made representations about a number of applications for signs on shops and other commercial

premises. We recognise that these businesses need to make themselves visible but are keen to minimise the impact on the



Conservation Area. *The Bread Collection*

The main *Photo: Leighton Jones*

application in the

Area has been one for an extension to 'The Bread Collection'. We have objected to the plans as submitted on the basis of the change to the appearance of the Conservation Area and particularly on the view of the Church through the gap at the side of the existing building. The decision on this application is awaited.

The two applications which have been the most prominent have of course been those for the marinas. Consideration of these has taken your Committee some time as we have tried to balance all the factors involved. Both are in the Green Belt, where there is a presumption against significant development, but there are exceptions, including for outdoor recreation, which these could well be described as providing. Having considered all the factors your committee has objected to both developments. We are particularly concerned that if the Council are minded to grant approval to one site, that should be the limit. Of the two, we were more concerned by the application for 'Jacobean Moorings' as we felt that the impact on the Green Belt and its impact on the visual amenity of its surroundings was the more significant. We realise that this might not be the view of all our members, especially those whose properties are close to the Stripes Hill development, but this is an example where we have been faced with balancing the interests of the membership at large against those of some of our members. The text of the letters to the Council about these applications is available on the Council's web-site.

Another example will no doubt be that of any future application for a Waitrose store in the village. Again we will need to balance any advantages in the scheme as a whole against the change it will undoubtedly bring to the village, but we have no news of such an application at the moment.

Your Committee has been faced with difficult decisions that have given rise to robust discussions, but in the end we have come to an agreement. My thanks go to the existing committee members for this. If any member with an interest in the future of the village has a little time to invest in this I would be very willing to talk with them about joining the committee.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

FIRST REPORT FROM OUR REVIVED ENVIRONMENT SECTION

The April Newsletter included an appeal for someone to take responsibility for the Environment portfolio and I was prompted to offer my services. Since that time with the help of Peter Ewin, John Rowley and other Society members I have learned a lot about the activities of the Society. From an observer member of many years standing, I have become an enthusiastic supporter. I have spent the last few months taking a fresh look at the brief for the Committee and have commenced a survey of the 'green' areas of Knowle and the urban areas which could do with green enhancement. Protection and enhancement of what we already have is important but there is considerable scope for working with the council to make improvements.



*Ian Simmonds -
The new chairman of
The Knowle Society's
Environment Committee*

The word 'Environment' covers numerous fields but the brief of the new Committee will be focused on 'green' issues. This definition will include open spaces, trees, grass verges and matters appertaining to the natural elements.

The Trustee Directors at their meeting on 5 August confirmed my appointment as Chairman of the Environment Committee and I am delighted that Sue Owen has also been approved as a member of the Committee. She will bring considerable experience and knowledge on aspects concerning Nature.

If you are interested in preserving and enhancing the green environment of Knowle then please give some thought to sparing a little time to helping with this objective. New members of the Committee are needed to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm. I am sure that you will find that any contribution you make will be very rewarding.



There are considerable challenges ahead. Please take time to look at what is happening to the Horse Chestnut trees on Stripes Hill.

Stripes Hill Horse Chestnuts with diseased leaves—see the website for a colour view of these pictures which will bring out the leaf colours.

Ian Simmonds - Knowle 778692

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION AREA?

We frequently refer to the Knowle Conservation Area in connection with planning applications but what exactly is a Conservation Area and how does it affect Knowle? The definition of a Conservation Area under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is "an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". This designation naturally results in tougher planning controls on developments (constructive and destructive) within the area and puts specific obligations on the Local Authority in considering planning applications to ensure that this special character is indeed preserved and enhanced.

The Knowle Society was actively involved in designation of much of the centre of Knowle as a Conservation Area in 1968 with a further small expansion of the designated area being made at the start of this century. In 2007 the Council commissioned a character appraisal of Knowle's Conservation Area, the result of which is a well illustrated and readable document that is informative even for long-standing residents. The appraisal was undertaken by Eddie Booth of the Conservation Studio of Cirencester, who later spoke to a meeting of The Knowle Society on his findings. Some aspects of the Conservation Area are easily taken for granted and in that respect the enhancing value of particular views and viewpoints or particular types of material used in building construction may make a pleasant surprise when brought to our attention through this comprehensive report.

At a time when various significant developments are on the planning horizon it is probably good for us to be reminded of what we have and what could be better. Anything that comes within the Conservation Area will be subject to more rigorous requirements than might otherwise have been the case. Anyone may download the appraisal on www.solihull.gov.uk/Attachments/Knowle_Appraisal.pdf—it is timely reading for anyone concerned for Knowle and has some excellent historical maps of Knowle and of the Conservation Area.

The October Newsletter gives us the opportunity to summarise the issues and successes of the previous year and bring everyone up to date on those items which, by their very nature, have a long time span,

AIRPORT

During the year the formal planning application for the runway extension was approved by SMBC, subject to some amendments including the Section 106 planning agreement between SMBC and the Airport Company. This agreement consists of a number of schedules including, noise control, night flying policy, air quality and air traffic departure routes. At the present moment consultation is taking place with local stakeholders including The Knowle Society on all of these items.

MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA (MSA)

The long running inquiry into the proposal for an additional motorway service area on the M42 has rejected the proposal. The Knowle Society formally opposed the application from the outset.

SUSTAIN

SUSTAiN the 'umbrella' organisation responsible for providing key support services to all voluntary and community groups across the Borough has held a number of events during the year, and representatives from Knowle Society have attended.

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Over the last year a number of meetings have been held with SMBC and Knowle Councillors with regard to the proposed combined pedestrian/cycle paths in Knowle Park and St Lawrence Close. Also included were traffic calming measures in Station Road. This culminated in a public meeting in the village hall on 16th July where Knowle residents aired their views without fear or favour. An SMBC meeting was scheduled for 9th September where the proposals were discussed. At the time of going to press we do not know the outcome.

LOCAL ISSUES—LYNNE STEYN REPORTS

In October 2008 we reported that SMBC was looking at ways to improve road safety on Lodge Road, this year following another 'near miss', it has become a priority to solve the issue. Lodge Road residents have been asked for their views on the recommendations made by SMBC. We await the final decision soon.

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SMBC in conjunction with The Knowle Society and Friends of Knowle Park are proud of our efforts to have a Village Board sited in the precinct outside Tesco. This traditional style board has created a lot of attention and positive feed back from the villagers. Janet Royle is the board manager, so thanks to her for all her hard work. Special thanks to Community Officer Kerry Mountjoy who not only assisted us in securing funds for the Village Board, but also a cigarette receptacle from Tesco. It is to be placed in the precinct following our concerns regarding used cigarette ends around and outside the precinct.

Our annual donation to SMBC towards the flower beds along the High Street has been gratefully received and put to good use this year.

POLICE MATTERS—LORNA GALE REPORTS

The society's link is maintained through regular contact with the local policing team as well as attendance at the four Rural Assembly meetings, held quarterly in Solihull. These are attended by representatives from Solihull council, the local police team, members from local societies such as ours and other interested parties. The way in which the police carry out their role in our area continues to develop in line with the trend towards more community-focussed policing. The team that covers our area is at full strength and plays an active role in the area. One significant change this year has been the replacement of the priority-setting meetings, previously held at the village hall, with mobile 'surgeries'. These are usually held on the cobbles near the church and have been a success, with considerable local interest being shown. One future focus will be to seek feedback to their operations in relation to local policing – do let your voice be heard. Details of future 'surgeries' will be found on the new noticeboard outside Tesco in the shopping precinct. Do look out for them.

Another change is the appointment of Deb McGrath, part of the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit. Deb is based in Solihull with the aim of helping to tackle terrorism through building strong links within local communities. Deb says that she is "aware that if we are to defeat terrorism, the whole community needs to play a part. We need everyone from every background, with different experience and expertise, working together." She sees the local community as key to knowing what's happening in local areas and asks that people contact her with any concerns or information that they feel may be of help. She says that we should not worry that something might be a waste of time: "I would rather you contact me and it turns out to be

nothing, rather than risk something important going unrecorded.” Terrorism, says Deb, is no different from any other type of violent crime, though she is well aware that it is a sensitive area; any calls will be handled discreetly and with care. As with all crime, prevention is by far the preferable option. If you feel that you have something that can help Deb to keep us all safe, please give her a call on 0121 704 8575 or 07825 112 407 or email her at d.mcgrath@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Readers of local papers will know that a cannabis factory was found in a rented house in Knowle. While this is a rare occurrence, the police do ask for our vigilance. Things to look out for are not much coming and going, or furtive approaches and departures; windows bagged over. Excess heating is another clue – the Knowle house was discovered in part because there was no snow on the roof when other houses were covered. The police urge very strongly that no-one should go and have a look – it’s not unknown for doors to be booby-trapped. There has been other drug-related police activity in Knowle over the year. Once again, residents were key to bringing this to the attention of the police.

So policing Knowle continues to be a partnership between local people and the police. All this contributes to keeping Knowle the low crime area that it remains.

SOLIHULL LINK—LILLA BAKER REPORTS

Solihull LINK is independent of Solihull Council and the Health Service. The aim is to provide a stronger voice for local people in the planning, design, commissioning and provision of Health and Social Care services. I have contributed as a core group member for the Getting Started phase which ended in July with elections to a formally constituted Core Group. Gerry Robinson is Chairman. It was an interesting and enlightening exercise. I chose not to put myself forward for election. I shall though be happy to continue as an active participant if required. The LINK is now up and running and needs local support overall from the public for their comments and involvement in influencing where and how public money should be spent within Health and Social Care. It is your opportunity to have your voice heard or be involved. All details for anyone wishing for more information or involvement should go to www.communityvoicesonline.org or solihullink@hapuk.co.uk or 08450 949497 or Gerry Robinson 0121 684 5634.

TRANSPORT— GARY MASTERS REPORTS

The most influential decision during the past twelve months was that made by Centro to award the contract for supplying bus services in and around Knowle to National Express with effect from the start of February this year. In order to keep you fully in the picture I would remind you that the previous contract had expired and the supplier was only too eager to discontinue the running of a loss making service to and from Knowle, Dorridge and Hockley Heath. It was also apparent that Centro decided that the additional need to supplement services with the 197 was uneconomic, and would be catered for by the new contract holder.

My word, what a christening present for Knowle residents! The new National Express drivers did not know the route or where the bus stops were. Timekeeping of the reduced half-hourly service was never maintained and we soon realised that the pupils at the 6th Form College could only arrive at their destination in time for the start of their working day by travelling into Solihull first and then catching another bus to the college. It was hoped that these teething troubles would disappear in a few weeks. However it has taken very strong representation to the Council, Centro and National Express over a period of time for the timetable and the routing to be reviewed from the beginning of May, some three months after the contract was implemented.

The contract which I have referred to is only for one year, and is due for review sometime in October by National Express and Centro. National Express has clearly stated that it views the S2 and S3 services on a strictly commercial basis; in other words they must be profitable. Centro has an obligation to ensure that residents in Knowle have an adequate service to meet the needs of public transport. “What does this mean?” I hear you ask. Well if the services do not have the required usage to make them profitable then National Express will not renew the contract and Centro will then have to find another supplier, which will be difficult because they will know that the service is unprofitable

In a nutshell the requirement is – Use It or Lose It. Please encourage as many people as you can to use the current services, which have greatly improved now, and think of the benefit to the environment and the saving on fuel costs, car parking, fitness and depreciation on your motor vehicle, if you have one. I will be interested to learn of any experiences that you have with the bus services, and ways that you consider that they can be improved. Please telephone 01564 779955.

[See www.knowledesociety.org.uk/Community_Services/buses.htm for a convenient summary of buses between Knowle & Solihull—Ed]

John Rowley - Knowle 778289

As I write this, Autumn is almost upon us just as we realised that waiting for that promised hot summer was a forlorn wish. We are now coming up to the last meeting in the year, the now sold out Social evening with Black Country entertainers 'Dandy' in October, so it is perhaps appropriate to reflect back over the Social meetings we have had during 2009 and look forward to the new schedule for 2010.

The committee has tried to provide talks across as wide a range of subjects and topics as possible. We have largely worked on the premise that most of the talks should have a relevance to the village of Knowle and/or the wider Midlands area. Topics this year ranged from beekeeping in Berkswell, to Shakespeare's Women through the eyes of a professional actress and the more serious topics of climate change and energy saving.

Any ideas you may have for topics you would like to be considered for future meetings are always welcomed so please let us know.

Recent meetings have covered the history of cinema, presented by Dudley Warner, who gave a very interesting talk on the early venues for showing films across Birmingham and the Midlands. Knowle originally had its own cinema which is now part of the Alfa Romeo car showroom and workshops in Station Road. There were originally many, many cinemas across Birmingham, from the silent films era through to the multiplexes of today. Dudley has a vast knowledge of these picture houses and was happy to answer many questions at the end of his entertaining and informative talk from an appreciative audience.



Dudley Warner—Cinemas

We also looked into the world of climate change and energy savings with Lynda Pritchett from the Energy Savings Trust. The trust was established by the government to help everyone to try and save energy (and money for themselves as well) and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.



The Threat!



Lynda Pritchett—Energy Saving Trust

The areas that people can look at range from insulation on roofs to low energy light bulbs. Lynda explained how the trust was always available to give help and advice to individuals as well as companies and organisations. The trust can also help, in certain cases, with getting grants to implement these schemes. There was a lively interest from the audience which shows that the residents of Knowle are very much aware of this topic.

This meeting was preceded by a short presentation from Solihull Council on the changes to the waste collection system due in October, a follow up meeting has been arranged in June next year to allow residents to give feedback on the new arrangements to the council. This will be at the beginning of the meeting to be held on 21st June at 8.00pm in the village hall.

In 2010 we hope that we have something of interest for all, ranging from the serious topic of safety in the home from the local police and fire service to a bit of fun with some confessions of a Pantomime Dame . We hope you enjoy.....

Charles Robinson - Knowle 777337

[The full programme for next year will be available on our Programme Card which will be distributed with our January newsletter. In the meantime it can be viewed now on our website www.knowledesociety.org.uk—just follow the link to Events for full details of these and our forthcoming programme of walks and Local History Events as they become available. Ed.]

RECYCLING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOLIHULL THIS AUTUMN

This is how we will be recycling this autumn...

Green box—Paper & grey cardboard (e.g. cereal boxes) bi-weekly

Black box—Glass & tins bi-weekly

Hessian sack—Plastics weekly

Green wheelie bin—Garden waste bi-weekly [No change]

Black wheelie bin (smaller bin replacing black sacks)—weekly

Special arrangements exist for flats and large families. The current 'Assist' service continues where special help is needed.

'Side waste' e.g. bulky packaging such as boxes and protective material from new domestic appliances, which previously would be collected alongside the old black sacks, will no longer be collected from the street as the new black wheelie bins to be provided to each home should be sufficient to handle normal requirements. Brown corrugated cardboard is not to be placed in the green boxes but should be recycled in the big blue paper and card containers at mini-recycling centres, e.g. in the village. Anything not being recycled should go into the black wheelie bins.

All those rolls of black sacks that you still have will supply a lifetime of camping needs and house moves! These universally useful sacks will no doubt continue to find numerous new roles for a resourceful community of Solihull citizens.

The Knowle Society, whilst welcoming the Council's much-needed developments in recycling, notes that this puts a significant burden on households in storing and cleaning containers and the real risk of blighted neighbourhoods as the army of plastic containers disfigures the street scene, not only at collection times but throughout the week as households store boxes in the front of their homes for which provision was never made when they were designed. In areas where such intensive recycling has been in place for some time, it is particularly noticeable in smaller properties, where fewer options exist, that the fronts of homes have often become quite unsightly. Let us hope that designers of new homes take account of these needs and that the community of Knowle will continue to do its best to keep the village and its surrounding estates a delightful place in which to live.

Do you have a view on this and other local matters? Have your say in our Forum—just go to the home page of our website www.knowlesociety.org.uk and click on *Forum* on the right hand side. If you have recycling questions you can contact Solihull Council as below. Each household will also be receiving special information on the new arrangements.

wasteandrecycling@solihull.gov.uk

0121 704 8000

www.solihull.gov.uk



*Your bins, your bags and your boxes (+elasticated lid)
SMBC's domestic recycling armoury*



*Jim Harte & Danute Morley (both SMBC),
recycling for Solihull at the recent Knowle Society talk*

MORNING TALKS

Unfortunately, the talk scheduled for 5 October by Bev Bevins on 'Birmingham from Roman to Victorian Times' has had to be cancelled due to Mr Bevins being seriously ill. We have however, managed to find a substitute in the person of Mr Arthur Casey who will entertain us with a talk on the Bournville Carillon and its 'Association with People & Places'. Please come along and enjoy this extremely entertaining and versatile gentleman's talk. I'm sure you all join with us in wishing Mr Bevins a speedy recovery.

Monday 7 December there will be a talk by Mr Roger Butler on 'Canal Heritage & History'.

As usual, all of the daytime Local History Centre talks are on Monday mornings at 10.30am in the Village Hall with refreshments served from 10am – 10.30am. Our programme for next year will be announced as soon as possible. For those of you online – check our website

VISITS

The visit to Kenilworth Castle in July was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and we are hoping to repeat it, possibly in September 2010. Our thanks and appreciation go to Helen Soanes and her staff from English Heritage for their very informed and entertaining guided tours of the garden and the gatehouse.

Visits for next year have not yet been finalised but they will be announced through the usual channels as soon as possible. Keep checking our website!

EXHIBITIONS

At last! The Henry Tonks exhibition is now in place and we have received numerous complimentary remarks on it. Henry was in effect a 'local boy' having been born in Solihull and then moving to Packwood Grange (which his father Edmund had built for his growing family) where he spent his childhood years before moving away to go to college. Even after becoming a surgeon and a famous artist Henry still returned to the family home in Packwood for prolonged stays, often bringing with him numerous of his famous artist friends. The exhibition will run until 17th October so please come along and see our 'famous local boy'. The exhibition, as always, is in our Local History Centre upstairs in the library and you can visit at any time during library hours.

The Tonks exhibition will be followed by 'The Bowser Brothers and the Knowle Lodge estate' until 14th December. After this there will be an exhibition by 'The Revels' until 11th January and in time for the 'panto' season after Christmas we are hoping to bring you an exhibition on Dorothy Ward who was a famous 'panto' star and who once lived in Knowle.

At the Festival in the Park in June our exhibition was stills from our DVD, Knowle Celebrations 1930s – 1960s. This exhibition aroused a lot of interest, particularly in the photos of the lido which many people had no idea had ever existed. We have therefore decided to mount a small exhibition downstairs in the library for one week from 24 October on the Greswolde Lido.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK – PHOTO COMPETITION

There were only three totally correct winners of the competition so it was decided that instead of two prizes there would be three. The competition involved identifying ten photographs of historic details on Knowle High Street with the intention of encouraging our children, and indeed, their parents, to be more aware of the history and heritage of our village. The winners of the competition who all received £25 Amazon gift vouchers were; William Pearse age 7, Harry Boddington age 8 and Ben Merrell age 10. Well done all three; they are pictured with Peter Ewin, Chairman of The Knowle Society and myself.



The programme of local walks was again well supported this year. The pattern of walks was much the same as in previous years, with the Boxing Day walk followed by two Wednesday evening walks and two on a Sunday afternoon, although the last of these has not taken place as I write this note.

The Boxing Day one was again extremely well attended, with some 100 walkers who clearly enjoyed the walk (and the mulled wine and mince pies). The weather was dry on the day, but the previous wet weather had left some very muddy patches. My particular thanks to all those who helped by providing the refreshments or by acting as marshals to ensure the safety of the walkers.

The next walk, on a lovely Sunday afternoon in March was billed as an opportunity to see the places along the canal where marinas had been suggested. As it happened, everything had gone quiet on this front and I was beginning to think that we'd never see a planning application for a marina – how wrong can you be?

A late invitation to join friends in the Lake District meant that I could not lead the walk in May, but Sandra & Richard Lea kindly volunteered to substitute, which they did very well. Sixteen members set off from Bentley Heath on a route that took them across the M42 (by a bridge!) to Hillfield and Widney Manor. The weather was again excellent, which is more than I could say for that in the Lake District!

On yet another delightful summer's evening we set off on a stroll around the by-ways of Knowle, leaving from the Village Hall. We crossed Job's Close Park through the housing estates on the east side of Tilehouse Green Lane, eventually emerging from Purnell's Way onto Station Road. From there we took the footpath that leads past the back entrance to Arden School and Lansdowne Farm to meet the Warwick Road at the bottom of Stripes Hill opposite the proposed entrance to the planned Marina.

The final walk of our year will have been the now traditional Temple Balsall 'Tea & Cakes'. I will be away again (this time working) so I trust the weather will again be excellent for this walk which will have been led by Sandra & Richard. My thanks to them and others who have helped, but particularly to all the walkers, without whom I'd have been very lonely.

Leighton Jones – Knowle 773894

NEWS

WEBSITE

An exciting new development has been added to our website. After two and half years of hard work, and several false endings, our Local History Archive is now fully up-to-date and catalogued. We have launched this complete record of the collection with a new search tool that displays not only the descriptive header but also the full details that are held for each item. Although having a similar look to the previous version, hyperlinks on every item now enable a much fuller search of related subjects. The whole experience of exploring the Archive has become a more rewarding activity—why not have a look for yourself? To make it even easier for you, there is now a direct link to the Archives from the home page of the website (right hand side).

HELP WITH FAMILY RESEARCH

Aided by tools such as described above and a good dose of local knowledge we are able to provide help to people who are trying to find about more about their local family history. One such success story with a very human edge to it is Jane's story. Look out for this story in a forthcoming article in the Knowle Parish Magazine. If you would like help on your local family history and your family has been in Knowle for a while, there is a good chance that we have something about them or their home; you can check it initially for yourself with the online search facility but sometimes it is best to follow this up with a visit to the Local History Centre, upstairs at Knowle Library every Saturday morning from 10.30 to 12.00 noon.

AGM

Don't forget our AGM on 23rd November— we would be delighted to see you. There will be plenty of time to meet the Trustee Directors, put your questions and contribute to the life of your Society. Tea and coffee will be served free of charge immediately after the formal business and will be followed by a time of open questions. Knowle is seeing several major planning applications at this time and an active membership making clear its views will be taken seriously by planners and developers.

Mrs Julie Barton
 Mr & Mrs J Goudie
 Mrs Karen Hanley
 Dr Julian & Mrs Georgina Lamb
 Mr Quentin Hughes & Ms Maria Majdanska
 Mr John Randle
 Mrs Mary Rands
 Mrs Marion Squire
 Mr Stephen & Ms Pauline Tremble
 Rob White
 Mr Andrew & Dr Alison Wright



Members gather before their visit to the new Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth Castle—the last visit organised by Derek Mellor though sadly he died beforehand.

The original garden was a costly, transitory but futile attempt by Robert Dudley to win the hand of Good Queen Bess or Gloriana as she was known.



A WORD ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are due from 1st October—these are £3 for an individual or £5 where two or more members reside in the same house or flat. Other rates also apply, e.g. to corporate members or if you are first-year members. If you pay by Standing Order, thank you—we hope to increase significantly the number of members who pay in this way as it eases the most difficult aspect of our distributors' tasks. Attached to this newsletter is a new Standing Order form which we would strongly encourage you to complete and forward to the Membership Secretary. There is no compulsion to complete the form but it would greatly assist our distributors in future years. Your membership means that The Knowle Society has an important voice when reflecting the community's concerns in matters that affect planning, community services and the environment.

You may also download a Gift Aid form or Standing Order form from our website:

www.knowledesociety.org.uk/About_Us/Membership/gift_aid.htm

ONLINE VIEWING OF THIS ISSUE

As always, a colour view of this newsletter may be seen on the website; follow the Membership and then Newsletters links. The password on the right will gain access for members, however no password is needed after three months.

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| 4. Planning | 9. Recycling changes | 14. Standing Order form |
| 5. Environment | 10. Local History | |

A warm welcome to 16 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

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The Knowle Society

Established to maintain the character of the Village

PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BY STANDING ORDER

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Please pay to Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Poplar Road, Solihull (sort code 30-97-78) for the account of
The Knowle Society (account number 04942016) the sum of £3 / £5 (*delete one*) on the 1st October 201.....,
and annually thereafter until further notice.

Your name:	<input type="text"/>	<i>Please include your initials</i>
Your address:	<input type="text"/>	
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Date:	<input type="text"/>	201

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The Knowle Society's Membership Secretary will complete this number for you and it will identify payments from you.

Please send your completed form to:

Bryan Smart, Membership Secretary, 133 Longdon Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9HY and NOT to your bank

If you wish to set up a standing order directly with your bank, e.g. via the Internet, please speak first to Bryan on 01564 779902 or email membership@knowlesociety.org.uk to obtain your reference number.

Please quote this number when setting up your payment, as it is essential for identifying your subscription.

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