

Administration

The Society is governed by a standard Charity Commission constitution, together with a set of binding rules covering subscription levels, etc. It is administered by a committee of up to ten trustees and financed solely by subscriptions and donations. Insurance (£5m) is through the British Association for Local History and we have carried out a risk assessment. The Society has good relations with Solihull M.B.C. and other local history societies in the area, with which it maintains regular contact.

Membership

Membership is open to everyone over 18, whether resident in Knowle or not. There is provision for organisations to join.

Subscriptions are kept low and we do not release our membership list to anyone.

Members receive a newsletter three times a year. There are two social events each year for members and guests - a visit in the summer and a social evening at the beginning of December.

Accessibility

Within our resources we make every effort to meet the needs of those in any way disadvantaged. Exhibitions and talks are suitable for all age groups, whether long standing residents or newcomers. Both Knowle Library and the Guild House are early 15th century timber-framed buildings with full disabled facilities on the ground floor. The Society can arrange for exhibitions presented on the first floor to be viewed downstairs or in a different form.

Publications & Mini Guides

A leaflet entitled 'Knowle ~ A Brief History' is already available, and we propose to publish exhibitions and talks in booklet or CD form. In addition, three mini-guides are available.

1. *Services to the Public*
Outlines the services which can be provided to individuals, schools, organisations and businesses, including exhibitions, talks, provision of material, etc.
2. *The Knowle Records & Where to Find Them*
Includes a note on the Knowle boundaries.
3. *Your House & Family in Knowle*
Lists the most useful items for genealogical research and includes a note on Knowle property deeds and wills.

About Knowle

Knowle lies on the A4141 (formerly the A41), near Junction 5 of the M42. Historically it was a large agricultural Warwickshire village and the centre for the surrounding hamlets. It is now part of Solihull M.B.C. and technically in the West Midlands. After the Second World War it expanded rapidly and now has a population of about 11,000.

But Knowle has retained a village atmosphere, with its early 15th century church and Guild House and many timber-framed buildings. High Street remains a village street, where there are good shops, a wonderful timber-framed library and other facilities.

Contact Details

The Society can be contacted by post, 'phone or over the Internet as follows:

17 Blackdown Road,
Knowle, Solihull. B93 9HP
Tel: 01564 775887

E-mail: knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk
www.knowlehistory.org.uk



Knowle Local History Society

Making History Live



Knowle High Street, c. 1900

An independent organisation formed to promote the study of the history of the village and to provide a service to the residents of Knowle and the wider public.

Aims and Origins

Knowle Local History Society was formed in 2007 as an independent organization dedicated to the promotion of the study of the history of Knowle. It operates for the benefit of the residents of Knowle and the wider public with the following aims:

to acquire, preserve and make accessible for the public benefit historical documents and other items relating to Knowle

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to promote the study of the history of Knowle

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to educate the public in the history of Knowle

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to record the present for posterity

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For many years the founding members of the Society were part of a local civic society covering a wide range of environmental issues. With the rapid increase in interest in local history and family history over the last few years it became apparent that there was a need for a society to focus exclusively on local history.

The Society now has over 100 members, many of them life-long Knowle residents who grew up in the village and whose knowledge is vital when mounting exhibitions and answering queries. The Society therefore has a huge store of background knowledge of Knowle history and a large number of personal contacts.

The Society aims to make information available to a wider public through publications, exhibitions, CDs, lectures and tours of Knowle. It actively seeks information relating to Knowle, mostly from long-standing Knowle residents and by study of historical documents, both public and private. It provides an enquiry service and is the member of the Warwickshire On-Line Parish Clerk Scheme for Knowle.

Exhibitions

The Society's exhibitions cover aspects of village life, illustrated by items from our image library and enhanced by the personal recollections of local residents. They are shown at Knowle Library and at local fetes. Recent favourites include 'The Railway Station' and 'Cottages in Knowle'

Public Talks

The Society runs a programme of free public talks on Knowle and the surrounding area, normally at Knowle's early 15th century Guild House. Past talks given by our own members include 'Kixley Lane' and 'A Thousand Years of Knowle'.

Oral History

Memories of old Knowle are compiled both on tape and written from interviews. More recently we have started to record interviews with video. A questionnaire, based on questions from an academic source, is available to make a 'Write It Yourself' memoir easy to compile.

The Image Library

The Society holds over 2,000 images, mostly photographs, to which we are constantly adding. Copies available subject to copyright.

Modern Records

Society members photograph changing scenes, concentrating on historic properties, established shops which close, etc. These and other modern records will become a valuable resource in the future.

Projects & Research

The Society runs a research group for those wishing to take an active role in recording and researching the history of the village. Projects to date include the 'Cottages in Knowle' exhibition and the establishment of a database of information. Other projects in mind include transcription of records, preparation of future exhibitions, talks and booklets, a parish magazine summary, etc.

Services to the Public

The Society provides a service to the residents of Knowle and the general public, including local organisations and businesses, students and schools, local and family historians, as well as individuals. We can provide photographs, small exhibitions, village tours, etc. Enquiries from genealogists are welcome, although we cannot undertake lengthy searches. Two mini guides are available describing services in more detail (see overleaf)