

that Knowle is listed under Hampton-in-Arden in the CRO index. Knowle Local History Society has copies of the index for Knowle, detailed listings for the Parish and Manorial Records and the list of wills.

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Henley St., Stratford upon Avon. CV37 6QW
Tel: 01789 204016
www.shakespeare.org.uk

Holds a limited amount of material. The Society has compiled a list of the Knowle index entries.

Birmingham Central Library

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham. B3 3HQ
Tel (Local Studies): 0121 303 4549
Tel (Archives): 0121 303 4217
www.birmingham.gov.uk

Holds the photographic survey of Warwickshire, various deeds, etc. and transcripts of some later Knowle wills.

The Internet

A huge amount of material is available on-line. It is beyond the scope of this leaflet to list the numerous sources on the Internet; but it is worthwhile noting three of the most useful sites:

www.ancestry.com

One of the main family history sites. Available to use free of charge in all Solihull libraries.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a

A2A stands for Access to Archives and contains detailed listings of many of the county record offices. Access is free. The usefulness of this fantastic site cannot be over-emphasised.

www.midlandshistoricaldata.org

Specialises in transferring local records into digital format. Copies can be purchased at a reasonable price. Alternatively, indexes are searchable free of charge, with individual images charged on a pay-per-view basis.

Where to Find Knowle

Knowle lies on the A4141 (formerly the A41), about a mile south of Junction 5 on the M42. We are three miles south of Solihull, 13 miles south of Birmingham, 10 miles north of Warwick and about 10 miles from Coventry.

There are free car parks (some with a two or three hour limit) behind each side of High Street.

The nearest stations are Dorridge (1½ miles) and Solihull (3 miles), both on the Chiltern line between Birmingham and London. Most of the London trains stop at both places. Knowle is about 5 miles from Birmingham International Station. There are bus services (half hourly approx.) from both Dorridge and Solihull.

Knowle Library, parts of which date from about 1400, is a timber-framed former farmhouse with two gables, beautifully restored and converted into the public library in 1975. It occupies a prominent position in Knowle High Street and is shown in the photograph on the front of this leaflet. At the rear is an authentically designed Elizabethan knot garden.

Access is through an attractive rear courtyard. The library has full disabled access and facilities on the ground floor and cloakroom facilities for all visitors. The Local History Centre is on the first floor.

In the village square are Knowle's early 15th century church and Guild House. Along High Street are good shops, a number of inns, cafés, other eating places and shops selling sandwiches and take-away food. Behind the north end of High Street there is a small precinct with a good supermarket and other shops.



Knowle Local History Society

The Knowle Records

And Where to Find Them



Knowle Library

Knowle Local History Society is 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.

Making History Live

Introduction

The founding members of Knowle Local History Society have been researching the history of the village for over 30 years. This small leaflet offers a distilled version of their collective knowledge which may be of help to those researching in Knowle who may be less familiar with the Knowle records.

Primary & Secondary Sources

Source material can be divided into:

- *primary sources*, such as photographs, original documents, and personal memories (oral history)
- *secondary sources*, such as books

There are only a very few secondary sources specific to Knowle, but numerous books on Warwickshire which include it in very general terms. We do, however, have very good primary sources - with a few significant gaps.

References to Knowle can be found in repositories all over the country, including the National Archive (formerly the Public Record Office), the British Library and Westminster Abbey. Huge amounts of material are now available on the Internet. However, for many people, the local archives are likely to yield information not found elsewhere. This leaflet cannot provide a comprehensive guide to sources, but merely gives a few pointers to some of the Knowle records which may be of help.

Most of the old Knowle records are held at Warwickshire County Record Office. Modern records are held at Solihull Central Library, with a good local collection at Knowle Library. Knowle Local History Society holds an image library and a large amount of other material. The main repositories and a brief description of what they hold are listed below.

Further information may be found on our web site at www.knowlehistory.org.uk

February 2009

The Knowle Boundaries

It is worthwhile noting one or two facts about the history of the Manor of Knowle and its boundaries, as they are relevant to where the Knowle records can be found and how they are indexed.

Present day Knowle comprises two ancient manors: Knowle and part of the older Longdon, which were eventually combined. The boundary between them was Purnell's Brook, which runs along the back of Wychwood Avenue, crosses the Warwick Road in a culvert at Wychwood Island and continues through Job's Close Park. The manorial boundaries extended beyond the M42 as far as Malvern Hall. Southwards the manor included Dorridge and beyond. However, until 1940 the Longdon portion of the manor remained in the ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull. The modern ward boundary was also on the Solihull side of the M42 until recent changes.

Knowle was originally part of the Manor of Hampton-in-Arden, becoming a separate manor in 1276. Between 1290 and 1540 it was owned by Westminster Abbey. Thus some old Knowle records can be found in the Westminster Abbey muniments. Knowle records can therefore be found under Knowle, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull and also in other neighbouring parishes such as Barston.

Where to Look

Knowle Library

Chester House Library
High Street, Knowle, Solihull
Tel: 01564 775840

www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries/knowle.htm
e-mail: libraryarts@solihull.gov.uk

The main archive collection in Knowle is held at Knowle Library and administered by The Knowle Society. The Enquiries Desk is open every Saturday morning from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon or by appointment.

Knowle Local History Society Records

17 Blackdown Rd, Knowle, Solihull. B93 9HP
Tel: 01564 775887
www.knowlehistory.org.uk
e-mail: knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk

The Society holds an image library of over 2,000 photographs, the texts of exhibitions and talks prepared by members (with the associated research notes) and other documents from various sources. We are continually adding to these as we source material for exhibitions and receive offers from the public. We also hold copies of several of the most useful documents for reference.

Solihull Central Library

Homer Road, Solihull. B91 3RG
Tel: 0121 704 6977 or 0121 704 6934
e-mail: infols@solihull.gov.uk

Holds the modern records such as electoral lists. Also census returns, some deeds and other records.

Knowle Parish Church Office

St. Lawrence House, 1717 High Street, Knowle,
Solihull. B93 0LN
Tel: 01564 779123
www.knowleparishchurch.org.uk
e-mail: office@knowleparishchurch.org.uk
Open Monday - Friday 9.15 - 12.30

Knowle Parish Church holds a complete set of Knowle Parish Magazine from 1890. It also has a copy of the Knowle Monumental Survey compiled by Birmingham & District Genealogical Society. The modern registers are retained by the Church, including burial registers for the last 100 years.

Warwickshire County Record Office

Priory Park, Cape Road, Warwick. CV34 4JS
Tel: 01926 738959

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/countyrecordoffice
e-mail: recordoffice@warwickshire.gov.uk

Holds most of the old Knowle records, including the Parish Records, the school records and the Manorial Records. There are huge amounts of material. Note