



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Oral History Project

The memories of long-standing Knowle residents form a priceless record for posterity, for the benefit of serious researchers and the enjoyment of the general public alike. If you would be willing to write down your own memories of Knowle in the past we should be most grateful. These may be as brief or as long as you like. The questions on this form are based on those recommended from an oral history course run by the University of Birmingham Extra Mural Department. They are purely a memory jogger, which there is no need to follow unless you wish. If you prefer, please use plain paper and/or add extra sheets, or complete only those sections you wish. As well as universally known information everyone has unique snippets of knowledge and experience - the most valuable little pearls of all.

If you have any queries please contact us (contact details above). Please send your completed form to us, either by post or e-mail. On behalf of scholars and future generations - Thank You.

Date

Name

Present Address

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.....

Post Code

Telephone No.

Are you willing for your notes to be written up in narrative form by a member of the oral history team (or by yourself if you prefer) and lodged at Knowle Library for public use? YES / NO

For Knowle Local History Society Use

FAMILY AND HOME LIFE

What do you recall about your parents and your early family life? If you belong to an established Knowle family a family tree would be helpful, however rough - a blank page is attached overleaf for this purpose. Where did you live as a child? Can you describe your house? What about the water supply, bathroom, heating, cooking, laundry facilities, telephone, garden, animals kept for food e.g. pig, chickens, etc

SCHOOL

Where did you go to school? How did you get there? If at a Knowle School, what do you particularly remember? What did you most enjoy/dislike about school? Can you describe a typical school day? What do you remember about the building (classrooms, heat, cloakrooms, etc); school hours; subjects taught; games, music, art; class sizes; school meals; fellow pupils; headmaster; teachers; punishments; leaving age.

FOOD

What sort of food was available? Was there anything you particularly liked/disliked? Can you remember where your food was obtained and how much it cost? Did your family produce any of their own food? What do you most recall about rationing?

CLOTHING

What sort of clothes did you like/dislike wearing? Do you recall any special garment? What did you wear for school/leisure/work/Sunday?

TRANSPORT

Do you have any memories of travelling around locally/further afield? How did you travel (walk/pony & trap, bicycle/car etc.)? Public transport; local carriers; the railway station.

SUNDAYS, CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

How did you spend Sundays as a child? If you went to Church and/or Sunday School, do you have any particular memories? What about type of service; vicars; Sunday School teachers; churchwardens; other prominent church people; choir; bellringing; Church organisations.

SPORT, LEISURE AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

How much free time did you have and how did you spend it? What do you remember about Cubs/Brownies/Scouts/Guides; other organised groups, (eg. youth club; fellow members/leaders; sports clubs: tennis, football, cricket, bowls, cycling, etc.; Men's Institute, British Legion, Women's Institute, etc.; local cinema; music and drama; other forms of entertainment.

HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

What are your memories of special days in Knowle (maypole, Oddfellows Fete, etc); Knowle festivals (inc. coronations, etc.) What do you recall about going for "days out" with family or friends? If you had holidays away from Knowle, where did you go and what type of holiday did you have?

THE LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE

What do you remember about the local footpaths and fields; the river; fords; the canal; trees; flowers; birds; collecting birds' eggs; fishing; catching mice.

WORK

What was your occupation? How did you travel to work? Can you describe a typical working day? Do you have any special memories of your working life: employers; working hours and conditions; rates of pay; sickness/lateness; (for ladies)marriage/pregnancy; changes of job.

HEALTH

Were children and adults generally healthy? Do you recall prevalent illnesses such as scarlet fever/ smallpox/diphtheria/polio/tuberculosis/whooping cough/measles/mastoid/blood poisoning, etc? Do you recall the doctors/district nurses/midwives/local surgery? How often did you call in the doctor? Where did people go to hospital? Where were babies born and who delivered them? What about the Friendly societies (Oddfellows, Foresters, etc.)? What difference did the NHS make? Do you remember anything about Middlefield?

BUILDINGS, INNS AND OFF LICENCES

If there are any buildings, inns, etc. of which you have special knowledge what can you tell us about them?

THE POLICE, FIRE AND POSTAL SERVICES

What do you recall about local local crime: amount and type of crime; who committed it; punishment; the local "bobby"; the police station; relations between police and village? Do you remember Knowle fire engine? Have you any special memories of Knowle Post office?

LOCAL PEOPLE AND LEGENDS

Do you recall any local stories and/or local "characters"?