

## ADMINISTRATION

We are now in process of adopting a constitution. Until then the present committee is happy to carry on until we can have a formal AGM and proper elections. The members are: Geoffrey Dean, Valerie Hamley, John Johnson, Gillian Knight (Secretary), Sylvia Moody, Valerie Morton, John Rear (Treasurer), Elaine Warner (Chairman).

## FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP

Many people joined on October 17th: membership now stands at 65 and we know of more who are interested. We plan to hold the membership list on a personally owned computer; but if anyone is not happy with this, please let us know. We are not required to register under the Data Protection Act, but will make every effort to adhere to best practice. *We will not release our membership list to anyone.*

People were happy with the subscription levels we suggested, which had already been discussed at the Spring Social last April, viz: £5 for a couple at the same address, £3 for a single person, £5 for an organisation. **If you have not already done so and wish to continue to receive newsletters and notice of events, please complete and return the enclosed membership form.**

## KNOWLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH by The Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton

In the course of doing some clearing up Dr. Upton has unearthed a further 23 copies of this definitive history of Knowle Parish Church. These are positively the last copies (price £15). Please ring Valerie Hamley on 01564 773449 if you would like one. *Cheques payable to The Revd. Dr. A. A. Upton.*

## PROJECTS

Many people simply want to enjoy talks on local topics and social events; but if anyone wants to be more active there are plenty of interesting projects on hand - some of which are badly needed for research purposes. They include transcription of records, a parish magazine summary, preparation of exhibitions, talks and booklets, administration, etc. If you are interested please get in touch. There is scope for everyone.

**BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR  
TO EVERYONE  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON**



## KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

*knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk*

## Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 1

November 2007

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in *Knowle Local History Group*. Several other local history groups have expressed their support, especially Berkswell, Lapworth, Solihull and Solihull Discovery Walks, for which we are very grateful.

Having existed as an informal group since last November, we were very encouraged by the support we received at our Spring Social and the Festival in the Park in June. We have now taken the first steps to set up the organisation on a formal basis. Our inaugural meeting, held on October 17th, produced a response with which we were absolutely delighted.

We are members of a number of organisations: *The Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office, Birmingham & District Local History Association*, (BDLHA), and will join *The British Association for Local History* (BALH) in January. All of these excellent organisations issue regular publications of a high standard, which we will bring to meetings. The *Friends* and BALH also run very interesting outings to places not normally accessible to the public. They all have web sites (high on our list too) - the *Friends* can be reached via the Warwickshire County Record Office site. We are also the member for Knowle of the *Warwickshire On Line Parish Clerks* scheme.

Now we must get down to the details of putting a new organisation on a sound footing as well as projects to which we are already committed. An outline programme appears in the diary box below, which we hope you will enjoy. We will be very busy until well into next year. Details overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner  
01564 775887

## Diary

December 14th	Christmas Social at Knowle British Legion
March	Illustrated talk
May	Illustrated talk
July	Summer Social
October	AGM & short illustrated talk

### **INAUGURAL MEETING: 17TH OCTOBER 2007**

About 70 people packed into the Guild House for our first public meeting - far more than we had dared hope for. Chairs were in short supply - it was standing room only - and we do thank those people who cannot have been very comfortable (or had a good view of the screen) for their good-natured forbearance.

Coffee was served from 7 p.m. to give people an opportunity to chat and meet people they did not already know. The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. with a welcome by the chairman followed by a short presentation by John Johnson, who outlined our proposals for next year's programme, the format of meetings, subscriptions, etc. (further details below). The presentation was followed by a talk entitled *Kixley Lane*, given by Elaine Warner. It was our first opportunity to play with some new toys, particularly a digital projector and a laser pointer. It was a happy occasion and everyone appeared to enjoy the evening.



*Before the meeting:  
Left: John Rear at the  
reception desk  
Right: Valerie Hamley  
serving coffee*



### **TALK: KIXLEY LANE**

The talk on Kixley Lane was a joint effort, illustrated by photographs both old and new and including a number of snippets of information given by long-standing Knowle residents specially for the occasion. It was enhanced by other little pearls provided by members of the audience, which we shall add to the text - the ghost at *Far End* was new to many of us. Kixley Lane is an ancient lane in the heart of the old village which is mentioned in very early documents. The talk covered the main features of the lane, including Dr. Anthony Upton's theory that before the church was built villagers probably walked to church at Hampton this way.



*Where the lane narrows*



*Far End, 1979*



*Kixley Bridge, 1999*

### **PROGRAMME 2007/2008**

An outline programme is shown in the diary box on the front page. As outlined at the meeting subjects will be on Knowle or the surrounding area, with both in-house and outside speakers. We plan at least some on Knowle, but we shall not confine ourselves solely to the village - partly because we would soon run out of topics and also because we are very much part of the Warwickshire history scene. Several people have already offered to give us very interesting talks - enough to last for a few years at least. We are now in process of finalising the programme and hope to issue a fixture card shortly after Christmas.

### **MEETINGS**

As the last meeting seemed to work well, for the time being we propose to keep to the same format, with coffee served from 7 p.m. before the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. allowing a few minutes for notices at the beginning, followed by a talk of no more than an hour with time for questions afterwards. We aim to end by 9.30, but in any case we have to vacate the Guild House by 10 p.m. at the latest. We suggest that meetings should be free to members (non-members £1.50), with donations for coffee.

### **CHESTER HOUSE**

As many of you will know, the library is due to close for refurbishment on December 24th. We are at present in discussion with the library about mounting an exhibition when it re-opens. Further details as soon as we know anything more.

### **OTHER EVENTS IN 2008**

We have a number of other things planned for next year, as shown below. Some we have already agreed to, but others depend on people being available. We will keep you informed and put up posters in the village when appropriate.

ASAP	Establishment of Web Site
June 21st	Stall at Festival in the Park
June 28th	Stall at Knowle Primary School Fete
August 25th	Stall at Barston Fete
September 11th/14th	Event for Heritage Open Days
October 9th	Illustrated talk for Berkswell Local History Group: <i>800 Years of Knowle</i>
November 12th	Illustrated talk for Barston W. I.: <i>800 Years of Knowle</i>