

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP, ETC

You will find the minutes of the last AGM enclosed. Both these and this report will be taken as read, and the accounts will be available at the meeting. We operate on a very tight budget, comprising subscription income, together with donations at meetings and from outside talks. We are pleased to have ended the year with a small surplus, especially as we are still at the stage of acquiring essential equipment. This year we have partly paid for the sound system (already mentioned) and some small exhibition boards for use at Solihull Library, made very economically by Sylvia Moody.

We have now designed a gift aid form for existing members, which you will find enclosed. If you pay tax it would be helpful if you would allow us to claim this benefit. There is also a new membership form incorporating a Gift Aid Declaration. This completes the literature we need to apply to HMRC for registration.

Membership has increased from 113 last year to 138. This figure includes two honorary members: one in Australia, from whom it is difficult to collect a subscription, and Mrs. Eunice Lippiatt (née White), in acknowledgement of her generous gift of her postcard album. We also have one corporate member. It was encouraging that only a very few people did not renew their membership at the beginning of the year.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The talks and social programme will follow the usual pattern in 2010, with the first event following the AGM on October 21st, when there will be a panel of speakers recalling their childhood in Knowle, illustrated by slides from the image library. Audience participation will be welcome. **As this is likely to be very popular do we want to issue (free) tickets?** We hope to see many of you at the Christmas Social at the British Legion in December - the call notice is enclosed.



The March talk will be on the history of Hampton-in-Arden, given by Mike Bryant. In May we have the Master of the Lord Leicester Hospital at Warwick followed by a visit in July. Some of you may know the hospital has connections with Knowle. The October talk will be kept in-house as usual, and is still to be decided. One of next year's exhibition will be the history of Lyons' butcher's shop, prepared by John Lyons. The summer exhibition will be on ??? (title to be decided) and there will be another for Heritage Open Days in September 2010. **Girl Guides** Further suggestions are always welcome.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in February 2010.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 2 No. 3
September 2009

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2008 to August 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Having completed our first full year between successive Annual General Meetings we feel pleased with the Society's progress: in the last six months, especially, we have taken great strides. First of several highlights during the year has been the growing number of requests from other organisations. These are welcome and allow our relations with others to blossom. Another innovation has been an invitation to put exhibitions in Solihull Library. Of considerable significance has been the enhancement of the image library: we are particularly grateful to several people who have lent (and in one case given) their postcard albums for scanning. Others have lent or given material, provided information or helped with exhibitions in other ways. The contribution that long-standing residents make to the exhibitions cannot be over-emphasised. Without this input they would be greatly the poorer.

We look back on a year which has been demanding, but well worth it. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work: the committee, members of the projects group, the speakers, and everyone who has helped the Society in any way - not least our members for their support.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

Diary

Wed Oct 15th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	AGM followed by <i>Growing Up in Knowle</i> . An evening of reminiscences with Roslyn Croft, John Lyons, Sylvia Moody & Valerie Morton. Chaired by John Johnson. At the Guild House.
November 2nd - 16th	Exhibition: <i>Horsepower in Knowle</i> Knowle Library (gallery, upstairs)
Fri Dec 4th	Christmas Social at Knowle British Legion (Jubilee Room)

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 21st 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Guild House to receive the Society's accounts and elect officers and trustees.

Nominations should be signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be members of the Society. Nominations should reach the Secretary at 23 Blackdown Road, Knowle B93 9HP by October 7th. The present officers and committee must all retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election and are willing to continue in office.

It would be helpful if any member wishing to propose amendments to the rules or any other motion would let the secretary know by the same date.

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The year started in October with Ernie Norman speaking on *Knowle's Historic Lanes and Paths*, followed in March by *Baddesley Clinton Revisited* by John Jarman and *The Origins of Solihull* by Joy Woodall. All the talks were well attended. Those who may have had difficulty hearing will be pleased to know that we have acquired a sound system, with two microphones (one lapel, one roving). It will also record to tape. Many thanks to John Rear for researching this. The first social event was the usual Christmas Social in December. The summer visit in July was to Temple Balsall, with an excellent talk by Beryl Ellerslie, a good tea provided by Jennie Jones and a bonus - people were able to look round some one or two unoccupied cottages.



At Temple Balsall

EXHIBITIONS

As the year began on September 1st *Cottages in Knowle* was on display at Knowle Library for Heritage Open Days. Later, it was moved to Solihull, where our promotional leaflets were available for visitors for the first time. These disappeared rapidly, which we hope indicates some interest in the Society. *Scenes from the Jubilee Room* followed in April as an acknowledgement of a set of framed photographs kindly donated by Knowle British Legion. As usual the year's main exhibition, *Horsepower in Knowle*, was first shown at Knowle Festival in the Park in June, then at Barston Fete. It can be seen at Knowle Library in November (see Diary Box for exact dates). By the time you receive this newsletter *Six Knowle Buildings* will have been on show for



The Olde House

Heritage Open Days in September. Many thanks to the present and former owners of buildings who have all been very helpful. For the first time this year we have registered our event with *English Heritage* - you may have seen the special posters.

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

As mentioned in the Chairman's Remarks the image library has been considerably enhanced this year by some special collections. Geoffrey Dean has continued to scan, enhance and store images in suitable formats. Many thanks to members who donated material or lent their personal photographs for copying. As usual John Rear has taken most of the modern photographs. We have continued to collect appropriate modern sale particulars, which can provide details of historic buildings.

PROJECTS GROUP

Group members have continued work on various projects. John Johnson has published a booklet entitled *The History of the Avenue Bowling Club*, on which he was working for some time. He has also researched Copt Heath windmill and Grimshaw Castle. Anyone interested in joining please ring John Johnson on 01564 773457 or e-mail us at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.

ORAL HISTORY

The on-going programme of new interviews and typing existing ones has continued, co-ordinated by Sylvia Moody. But this is a slow job and much remains to do. Catherine Elliot-Kemp has started to record interviews on video.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

The number of outside events this year has grown considerably. As usual we had a stall at Knowle Festival in June, whilst August Bank Holiday Monday saw us at Barston Fete for the second time. Last year we were very pleased at the interest in the exhibition on these occasions, and this year it was even greater. The Society has given talks to other organisations on five occasions: *1000 Years of Knowle* to Berkswell & District Local History Society and to Barston W.I. *The Old Village (Part 1)* to Knowle Women's Fellowship, *The Old Village (Parts 1 & 2)* to Sunrise Senior Living. We already have three firm bookings for existing talks for next year and may receive more requests. We are now considering topics for new talks. For the Oxfam Book Fair in July we mounted *The Oxfam Bookshop* for a fortnight in the shop window and *Images of Knowle* in the Guild House for the book fair. We were also very pleased to have conducted two guided walks round the village for Knowle Library - one for Adult Learner's Week and another for Heritage Open Days.



High Street, Knowle, near Birmingham
High Street, early 1900s.