

years has been on buildings and the people associated with them. We shall also be on hand at Knowle Parish Church to answer questions on the church and its history - subject to any Church activities. See the Diary Box for exhibition dates.

PUBLICATIONS

With *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* added to our list of publications in February we now have six publications in print, all of which are selling well. Preparation of *The Canal Through Knowle* is well advanced; there is a good chance that it will be available for the Diamond Knowle exhibition. For the rest, we need to get printing.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Members of the Society helped with Knowle C of E Primary School local history project as usual. This time we accompanied the children on their walk around the village, led by the teachers, with members on hand to point out things which might have been missed. From the Society's point of view it was extremely valuable, as it provided an insight into the questions which the children might ask at the interview session later (and enabled us to do some homework).



Golden End Cottage, 1853

In July *The Westminster Connection* will be on show in the window of Oxfam Books and Music.

We receive a constant stream of requests for talks from other organisations, many of which are received after the fixture card is printed. Those in Knowle and open to the public are in the Diary Box. Others, both past and to come, are:

- April 19th *A Thousand Years of Knowle* for Sheldon Local History Group;
- May 2nd *The Old Village Part I (short version)* for Knowle & Dorridge Inner Wheel;
- May 28th *The Old Village Part 1* for Claverdon Monday Club;
- Sept 20th *Around Knowle in Old Photographs* for Packwood & Bentley Heath W.I.
- TBA *The Old Village Part I (short version)* for Solihull MS Society

We are already booking for 2013: Sheldon Local History Group has asked us for another talk and a guided tour round the village next year; in February we shall give *A Thousand Years of Knowle* to Wellesbourne and Walford Local History Group.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Later events this year are on the programme card, with more details to come in the next newsletter. Our secretary has written to the Parish Office requesting bookings for next year's meetings. After the Jubilee we shall be thinking about projects for 2013.

We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.

The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2012.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 4 No. 3
May 2012

JOIN US AT OUR DIAMOND KNOWLE EXHIBITION ON JUNE 4TH

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In October we have a birthday. It will be five years since the Society opened its membership list, with an initial membership of 65, which has now grown to 171. We are pleased to tell you that our treasurer, Graeme Spencer, has submitted a claim for Gift Aid; we have received a cheque from the Government for £290.

To celebrate our first five years, our exhibition for Heritage Open Days in September will outline the Society's achievements to date. There will be cake for everyone at the AGM. As you would expect, at present life is dominated by preparations for the Diamond Knowle Exhibition on June 4th, of which more details below. The Exhibitions Group is working very hard to get everything ready (preferably without a last minute panic). The Jubilee apart, the Society has a lot going on, with exhibitions in several places at the same time and constant requests for talks. As you will see, the Diary Box below is larger than ever: constraints on space mean that *it does*

Diary

Until June 6th	Exhibition: <i>Books in Knowle</i> at Solihull Library
May 28th - June 2nd	Exhibition: <i>Scenes From Knowle Carnivals</i> At Knowle Library during normal opening hours
Monday June 4th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Diamond Knowle Exhibition At the Guild House
June 7th - June 18th	Exhibition: <i>Knowle & The Crown</i> at Knowle Library
July 1st - August 31st	Exhibition: <i>Chester House Reborn</i> at Solihull Library
July	Exhibition: <i>The Westminster Connection</i> at Oxfam Books & Music
Saturday July 14th	Strawberry Tea (members and guests only)
Mon August 27th	Stall at Barston Fete. Exhibition: <i>Knowle Celebrations</i>
Sept 1st - Oct 31st	Exhibition: <i>Knowle & The Crown</i> at Solihull Library
Sept 3rd - Sept 17th	Exhibition: <i>Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years</i> At Knowle Library. For Heritage Open Days
Saturday Sept 8th	Tours of Knowle Parish Church. For Heritage Open Days.

not include events not open to the public or outside Knowle, which are mentioned below.

It was obvious that we need extra display boards for the Jubilee, which we have been unable to borrow; we found making them ourselves unsatisfactory. After much heart-searching we have acquired the use of twenty new professionally-made boards, which match our existing ones and which we have had made in a slightly smaller size. We anticipate they will be well used.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

SOCIETY TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

In February a talk by Elaine Warner on *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* was attended by about 70 people - one of the largest audiences the Society has ever had. Next came *The Restoration of Kings Norton Grammar School* by Canon Rob Morris, the Rector of Kings Norton, who gave a very interesting talk as the title suggests. Anyone looking for a day out it would find it well worth a visit. The next event in the Society calendar is the Strawberry Tea on July 14th (call notice enclosed). The next meeting will be the AGM in October, when John Lyons and Jerry Tucker will give a talk on how a selection of national events has affected Knowle.

ILLUSTRATED TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

The Society now has nine talks available, which can be given to either a Knowle audience or an outside organisation. We are also often asked for guided walks round the village. Apart from requests through our web site, we now receive several via Solihull Library's list of speakers. As previously mentioned, we have produced three new (free) leaflets, one giving the list of talks with brief details of each, a second to accompany guided walks and a third listing the Society's publications. These are already proving useful to hand out to anyone looking for speakers and/or guides. They are available from the Society and at the Oxfam Bookshop.

DIAMOND KNOWLE EXHIBITION

Preparations for the Diamond Knowle exhibition in the Guild House on June 4th are nearly complete. Members will already know that the main displays will be *Knowle & The Crown*, *Knowle Celebrations* and *Knowle in 1963*. Side displays include *Images of Knowle*, maps, books, royal memorabilia, etc. The Society's publications will be on sale, with those by the Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton. The previous week *Scenes from Knowle Carnivals* can be seen at Knowle Library (dates in Diary Box).



Reg Cooper's Blacksmith's

We do hope you will come and join us - the usual posters will be around the village. The Exhibitions Group has organised matters so that all exhibits are suitable for showing again for those who missed them. A lot of work has been done on old maps from 1610 onwards, which have been permanently mounted. They include attractive coloured maps of Warwickshire, Canon Downing's copy of the 1905 6 inch OS map (on which he has drawn the parish boundary) and the ever popular enclosure map.



Map of 1646 (detail)

KNOWLE IN 1963 BY BARRY HOLLAND

Many of you will have seen this on YouTube. A link on Facebook has ensured that news has got round; it has received thousands of hits. Barry Holland has very kindly let us have a high quality copy with longer footage and has given us permission to sell copies on DVD. They will be available at the Diamond Knowle Exhibition on June 4th and afterwards at our normal outlets, price £5. It must be said that this lovely little film has been very well edited, complete with music. Anyone who has ever tried doing this will understand the skill involved.

EXHIBITIONS

Since the last newsletter *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* has been and gone. We hope you enjoyed it. After a reasonable interval most of the Society's exhibitions are shown again at Solihull.

Details of *Knowle Celebrations* and *Knowle & The Crown* were described in the last newsletter. *Images of Knowle* is a set of particularly good photographs of Knowle from



Knowle Carnival, 1953

the Society's image library. *Scenes From Knowle Carnivals* is a selection from the post-war carnivals which raised money to build the village hall. Many people will remember the carnival processions, with ambitious floats, led by Joe Higgs as Dick Turpin on Black Bess. Penny farthings and people on stilts made an annual appearances, whilst the Carnival King and Queen rode in handsome landaus - in those wigs.

The exhibition for Heritage Open Days (HODS) in September will be *Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years*. With exhibitions, publications, talks and guided walks, there will be plenty of material. As HODS is about buildings the emphasis will be on the Society's research into Knowle's historic buildings. Although we usually present an exhibition on one or more Knowle buildings for HODS, it so happens that much of our research over the last thirty five