

Work is well under way on the *Far End*, situated at the end of Kixley Lane and one of the most interesting buildings in the village. The personal knowledge of Angela Harris (née Willcox), Cherry Austin (née Goad) and Lily Poole (née Hayes) will augment the documentary evidence of this former coal merchant's house, which for a short time was a somewhat notorious pub. *Eva Wootton ~ Her Life and Legacy* will be shown at Knowle Library in November as advertised.



*Far End from the garden*

### **PUBLICATIONS, TALKS & GUIDED WALKS**

More work has been done on *The Canal Through Knowle*, which is now in the last stages of preparation. Time needed on the image library means that new projects will have to be put on hold for the time being.

### **OUTSIDE EVENTS**

A version of *Growing Up In Knowle* for *Solihull Talking Magazine* was completed in February, co-ordinated by Roslyn Croft and featuring herself, Valerie Morton, Sylvia Moody and John Lyons. This became a much bigger project than anticipated, not least because of recording requirements. The Junior School Local History Project took place before Easter as usual, with a village walk, an Internet session and an interview session, for which several new people volunteered, ensuring some continuity. Many thanks to those who helped. There will be no Festival in the Park this year, but we shall be at Barston Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday - given enough volunteers. This is a hugely enjoyable, traditional village occasion for all the family, with arena events and all the usual stalls.



*Barston Fete, 2012*

### **FUTURE PROGRAMME**

The committees will shortly be discussing next year's programme; any suggestions would be welcome. *The Great War in Knowle* is already scheduled for the exhibition in September 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. *Bowling in Knowle* may well feature, either as an exhibition, a talk, or most likely, both.

### **FWCRO EVENTS**

Sat 3rd August Friends' Forum. £3 payable at the door. Refreshments. Speakers:  
 (i) Peter Coulls on the Willans & Robinson Works Archive  
 (ii) Steven Wallsgrove on Claverdon, a lost medieval landscape.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.  
 The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2013.*



# **KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

## *Making History Live*

## **Newsletter**

Volume 5 No. 2  
 May 2013

### **WE HOPE OUR MEMBERS WILL ENJOY THE SUMMER**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Much has happened since the last newsletter. For a combination of reasons there are some changes to the Society's programme for the rest of the year, primarily due to the addition of *Johnson's Garage* to the exhibitions programme and the cancellation of the Festival in the Park. Requests for talks from outside organisations continue to come in (as I write, two in the last week); as usual there is no room for them in the Diary Box. Enquiries continue to be answered as best we can: fortunately the Society is blessed with members who know people who know people.

Warwickshire County Record Office has been successful in obtaining a grant for the first stage of its *Our Warwickshire* project, which the Society was pleased to support. When complete it will provide a useful service to all local history societies in the area, with an interactive area in the Market Hall Museum and an online gateway for local history groups to share and promote events. ... *continued overleaf*

### **Diary**

May 1st - June 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Westminster Connection</i>
July 13th - July 27th Oxfam Books & Music	Exhibition: <i>The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle</i> (short version)
Tues July 16th	Summer Buffet 7.45 p.m. (call notice enclosed)
Aug 1st - Sep 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle</i> (full version)
Mon Aug 26th Barston Fete	Exhibition: <i>Johnson's Garage</i>
Sep 2nd - Sep 16th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Far End</i> For Heritage Open Days
Sat Sep 14th	Tours of Knowle Parish Church For Knowle Parish Church (Heritage Open Days)
Wed Oct 16th	Illustrated Talk: <i>Barry Holland's Knowle ~ 1954</i> Speaker: Diane Jones. Preceded by a short AGM.

More members of the committee and working groups are attending county events and getting to know the Record Office staff, members of Warwickshire Local History Society and other organisations. The FWCRO programme for those events Society members may attend is at the end of this newsletter.

A major item on our agenda at present is the organisation of the image library and digital records, to which the Exhibitions Group is now giving a great deal of thought. More details of this important matter below.

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### **PEOPLE**

We wish Geoffrey Dean a good recovery and successful treatment without too many awful side effects. We hope to see him back at committee meetings when he is well enough. Meanwhile, we miss our favourite Scan Man.

We welcome Kate Woodcock (Kathy Smith in a previous life) to the Exhibitions Group. Kate has lived in Dorridge all her life; she will be helping Diane Jones with numbering new accessions and will also be able to provide some liaison between the Society and organisations in Dorridge. She is the seventh member of the Exhibitions Group, five of whom were born here. Like all organisations we need a range of skills to operate successfully, which we are lucky to have. We would now like to spread the workload, pass on expertise and provide some back up for those already helping. Anyone who can handle a scanner would be a valuable addition to our team (local knowledge not essential). If you are willing to help please get in touch. Working with the Society is interesting, worthwhile - and fun.

### **SOCIETY PROGRAMME**

We started 2013 in February with large audience for a talk by Valerie Morton entitled *Eva Wootton ~ Her Life & Legacy*, which outlined Eva's life and the huge contribution she made to the village. In April several members went to Warwickshire Local History Society's talk on *The Beauchamp Chapel*, given by Henry Pythian Adams which replaced the advertised *Historic Gardens of Warwickshire* due to illness. The call notice for our own summer buffet in July is enclosed; we hope to see you there. There will be a change to the programme in October, when Diane Jones (née Lyons) will speak on *Barry Holland's Knowle ~ 1954*. Diane used to live above her father's shop in Victoria Buildings, opposite Hollands Corner - a most appropriate speaker. *Bowling in Knowle* will be deferred until later.



*Eva Wootton's painting of Washpits Farm*

### **IMAGE LIBRARY**

The latest acquisitions include a wonderful set of sixty one high quality photographs (courtesy of Barry Holland) of Knowle in 1954, including the two mentioned in the last newsletter. The committee felt we should show them to members as soon as possible, hence the change in the programme in October. Many of our members will remember the village in the 1950's; contributions from the floor welcome.



*Holland's Corner and Victoria Buildings*

### **DIGITAL RECORDS**

The Society holds a huge amount of data in digital form, including the image library, the texts of all exhibitions, talks and publications since 1978 (seventy three in all), various maps, directories, extracts from books and much more, plus all the files needed to administer the Society (publicity, finance, minutes, etc.). Data is presently backed up to two 500GB external hard drives held by members of the Exhibitions Group. Information Technology is moving faster than one can blink. We have already acquired some Cloud storage to share data - clearly the way forward but still expensive for large amounts of space. Administration of the image library now needs attention. Diane Jones and Kate Woodcock will shortly start to bring the numbering up to date; but we also need new systems. We must consider our requirements, both long term, and in the interim until our preferred choice can be achieved. The options range from Heath Robinson to industry standard software costing thousands. Unseen and unsung, this is a complex matter on which we must concentrate for the time being, and which needs very careful thought. It is not a quick job.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

*Johnson's Garage*, shown in March as a tribute to the late John Johnson, and not seen since 2006, stimulated considerable interest, especially among those with personal associations. In February the 600th anniversary of Knowle's medieval guild was marked by *The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle*, in the church, the Guild House and later at Knowle Library. Albeit dissolved in 1547 and distant from a modern readership, it proved more popular than anticipated. Many thanks to Knowle Parish Church for allowing it to be shown on Church premises. The exhibition can be seen again at Oxfam Books & Music (shop window) in July and then at Solihull Library in August, where it will replace *The Westminster Connection*, from which it follows on naturally.



*Westminster Abbey*