

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS

More items have been acquired, including two sets of photographs and documents, one from the Fletcher family (Dell Farm) and another from Rob White about one of the Victorian houses in Widney Road. A start has been made on the daunting task of organizing hard copy and listing it. One working party has been held; several more will be necessary. After listing, the plan is to lodge hard copy at Solihull Library for safe keeping, thus making them more accessible whilst retaining the ownership.

Right: Sunday morning tennis at 48 Widney Road, one of the large Victorian houses between Station Road and Mill Lane.



OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual the Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September 2016. The Society's exhibition attracted interest and we hope enhanced the Church's own event. The Junior School project took the same form as last year, with a group of members and others were interviewed by Year 6 pupils on the Second World War. Lack of manpower prevented the Society's taking a stall at Dorridge Day in September. It is unfortunate that it falls the day after Heritage Open Days and at a time of year when several of the committee are on holiday. In October the Society took a stall at *Warwick Words* Local History Fair for the first time; we met with members of other Warwickshire local history societies. These are valuable contacts. Our talks are still much in demand from other organizations: fifteen plus one visit from another society were given in the year 2016/2017, with seven already fixed for 2017/18. Doubtless there will be more.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The first event of 2017/18 was Heritage Open Days on September 9th, which has been and gone. Once more we were unable to take a stall at Dorridge Day due to lack of manpower. A major innovation in November will be an exhibition entitled *Knowle At Christmas* to be shown at Oxfam Books & Music at the end of November to coincide with switching on the Christmas lights. Many thanks to those people outside the Society who have been dragooned into helping. The meetings programme will follow the same pattern as in 2017; the Guild House is already booked; in-house talks are have been decided; outside speakers will be contacted soon. Remaining dates for 2017 and early 2018 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for 2018 will be published.

THE SOCIETY WILL BE TEN YEARS OLD AT THE AGM

Time for another cake. Free for everyone

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

The next newsletter will be circulated in January 2018.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 3

September 2017

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2016 to August 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As usual the Society has continued to meet its objectives through exhibitions, talks, publications and social events, plus a service to individuals and organizations. There have been the usual outside events, including Heritage Open Days, the Junior School project, events at Warwick and talks for other societies. A considerable number of enquiries have been answered during the year. Innovations in 2016/17 include a stall at Warwick Words Local History Fair, more contact with nearby local organizations and six new exhibition boards. Once more we thank the library staff at both Knowle and Solihull, Oxfam Books & Music and the many long-standing local residents, who have provided material and/or information, together with all those who have worked hard to make the Society a success: the committee, the working groups, the speakers, and many more; and our members for their support. More details overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner

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Diary

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| Sep 26th on Solihull Central Library | Exhibition: <i>Kenilworth Road</i> Local Studies Dept., 1st Floor |
| Sat Oct 7th | Warwick Words Local History Day Market Hall Museum, Warwick. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. |
| Wed Oct 18th Guild House 7.30 p.m. | Illustrated Talk: <i>The White Swan & The Red Lion</i> Speaker: In house. Preceded by a short AGM. |
| Nov 7th - Nov 21st Knowle Library | Exhibition: <i>The White Swan & The Red Lion</i> Ground Floor |
| Tues Nov 21st Guild House 2.30 p.m. | Illustrated Talk: <i>John of Gaunt</i> Speaker: Jan Cooper |
| Wed Feb 21st Guild House 2.30 p.m. | Illustrated Talk: <i>More Knowle Farms</i> Speaker: In house |

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 18th 2017 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 4th. 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. The present officers and committee must all retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election. All the existing committee members are willing to continue in office.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

As ever, the Secretary and the Treasurer have continued to work well together. Finances remain healthy, boosted this year by £250 received for Gift Aid, which represents four years' claim - it is too much work to claim every year. The main expenditure on equipment this year is the acquisition of six new display boards for £146, triggered by the availability of a third show case at Solihull and thus the need for more boards. The new ones comprise two sets of three, which fold concertina style; they are much easier to put up and dismantle than the old ones. They were first used at Oxfam in July and will be on view at the AGM. The reading rest purchased last year has proved its worth; but no more blue boxes have been bought - we have been experimenting with ones borrowed from the chairman, which are versatile and work like a dream. Some organisations provide a stand for the projector (which the Society owns) and the laptop (which it does not), usually with a small footprint, top heavy and often positioned near the audience. One accidental nudge and these expensive toys would go flying. The blue boxes are much safer.

Membership has remained static at 138. Publicity has taken its usual form, although shortage of time has meant that we have not used the television at the library or written articles for the *Our Warwickshire* web site. We have, however, ascertained that we can use a link to articles on our own site on *Our Warwickshire*, which will make layout much easier. The same has been done for our entry in Solihull Council's local information database, which was badly out of date.

We must emphasise again that as the Society expands more people are needed. The minutes of the last AGM are enclosed; both these and this report will be taken as read; the accounts will be available at the AGM.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The 2016/17 programme followed the usual format, with two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers and two with outside speakers. The talk after the AGM, given by Andrew Bryson, was *The Railway Station*, which had not been given as a talk before, although an exhibition was shown at Knowle Library several years ago. The February subject was *The Farms of Knowle*, which proved to be too much for one talk; it will be extended in 2018. Outside speakers were Graham Ibbitson on *The Knights Templar* and the excellent Dr. Sylvia Pinches on *Compton Verney*. The Spring Lunch was again an enjoyable occasion for the relatively few who wish to come; this year we were joined by members of other nearby local history organizations, who found the contacts useful. The Summer Buffet, which proved popular last year, was again held at the Guild House and followed by a slide show.

Right: *The Olde House, Station Road (from The Farms of Knowle).*



EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Once again the Society had its own exhibition at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days last September, this time *A Walk Along High Street*, a virtual tour from The Square to Lodge Road, which had been converted from a talk and already shown at Solihull. The two main projects were *The Railway Station* in Autumn 2016 and *The Farms of Knowle* in Spring 2017. Both included a talk as well as an exhibition. The display at Oxfam Books & Music in August was *Knowle in the 1890s* in exhibition form, rather than a cut down version of the main Spring exhibition. This proved much easier and was the first on the new boards. Although not so flexible as the old boards, this does not worry us. *The Place Names of Knowle*, initially planned for last year, was finally shown at Solihull. The talk at the summer buffet this year was *Woodward's Knowle*, featuring a set of photographs taken by Frank Woodward in the early 20th century. Many thanks to his grandson, Piers Milne, for his help. This will eventually be converted to an exhibition - a system which is working well. The talks at the summer buffet are relatively short, as the occasion demands. They are therefore good additions to the Society's list of short talks for organizations which do not want a full length one. We are, however, overloaded. No more booklets have been published and time for printing existing ones is hard to find.



Left: *Crown Cottage, from The Place Names of Knowle. It was paid for by saving up crown (25p) pieces. Mrs. Tansley is standing at the door, at which time the house was called Ivanhoe.*