

WEB SITE & CLOUD

The People & Places section of the web site has finally emerged near the top of the in tray. As said already, initially there will be two or three entries for each geographical section, with five to complete before we can upload. The information is to hand and the technical problems have been solved (we think). There will be some work on file organization; but it would be disappointing if it were not on line before the Society meeting on February 21st.



Grimshaw Hall interior

Until now, it has been policy for entries to be very short; but if made longer they could double as articles for *Our Warwickshire*, with one photograph and a link from OW to our own site, which would overcome the page layout problem on OW. This led the committee to consider the accessibility of data either on the web site or the Cloud. Some of the most common documents used when answering queries, such as the trade directories, the 1904 Ordnance Survey map, etc. are already on Google Drive for our own use. There seems to be no objection to publishing links to those items we are happy to share (without access to the whole drive). Life would be easier for enquirers and ourselves alike. Some of the main estate brochures might also be useful. We cannot give access to the parish registers and census returns, which have been downloaded from a family history site and which are copyright. There is the same problem with some of the photographs.

ENQUIRIES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual the Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September 2017, once again including an exhibition: this time *Kenilworth Road*. In 2018 HODS will run over two weekends. The Society will be available to answer questions in the church, preferably on September 8th; the exhibition will be *Along Station Road and Lodge Road*, which will then move to Knowle Library. In November the Society laid a wreath on Civic Sunday for the first time. The Junior School Second World War project will take place on March 12th, this year in a different form: about five Society members or others will each give a ten minute presentation on various aspects of the war, which the children will use as the basis for a 'newspaper article'. Other events will no doubt crop up during the year, which the Society will make an effort to attend.

The usual crop of queries has been answered since the last newsletter. One has come from Solihull Action through Advocacy, a registered charity, partly funded by Solihull Council, which supports people from institutions like Middlefield in the community. They are now researching the history of Middlefield and would welcome help from individuals. The Society has sent a letter of support for their Heritage Lottery bid. Please contact us if you are interested.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in May 2018.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 4
January 2018

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The fixture card for 2018 is enclosed; we hope you will enjoy the year's programme, which will follow the usual pattern. For the future it is not set in stone; in the past we have found that members welcome ringing the changes every now and again. Suggestions are welcome. This year's projects are *Farming Life in Knowle* in April and *The Wilson Arms* in October. Two innovations since the last newsletter are worth mentioning: in November the Society laid a wreath on Civic Sunday; at Christmas we mounted an exhibition at Oxfam Books & Music. The Society will continue to take part in the usual outside events, including: Heritage Open Days and the Junior School project. We hope to attend Dorridge Day (if possible) and Warwick Words Local History Day, which is a good way of meeting other local history groups in the immediate area - something we are keen to promote. Outside requests have continued to come in and are always welcome. More overleaf.

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Diary

Wednesday February 21st Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Canals of Lapworth & Rowington</i> Speaker: Nick Holmes
Saturday March 10th	Spring Lunch at the Wilson Arms
April 9th to June 4th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Horse Age in Knowle</i> Local Studies Dept., 1st Floor
Wednesday April 18th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Farming Life in Knowle</i> Speaker: In house.
April 24th to May 8th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Farming Life in Knowle</i> Ground Floor
June 4th to July 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Knowle on Wheels</i> Local Studies Dept., 1st Floor

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

At the AGM in October the officers and committee were re-elected with no changes. The Society had an excess of income over expenditure of £634.09, with a closing balance of £1532.28. An estimated £55 for unclaimed Gift Aid plus stock in hand brings total assets at Year End 31st August 2017 to £1647.08.

Many thanks to those who have renewed your membership. Those who haven't will have received a telephone call from the secretary. We hope you wish to continue as members, but if you haven't done so, *please* pay your subscription. Membership stands at 146, with a few subscriptions still outstanding.

PEOPLE

We are sad that a number of our members have died since last September: Adrian Emsden, a true gentleman who has always been very supportive and a source of reliable advice; Neville Roe, like Adrian a founder member, who enlivened the Junior School local history projects with tales from the Second World War which left the children amazed; lastly Jennie Evans, a complimentary member who has given us reams of valuable information over decades. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

After the AGM Andrew Bryson gave a talk on *The White Swan & The Red Lion*, followed in November by Jan Cooper on *John of Gaunt*. Several people in the audience had made an effort to attend through a particular interest in this famous medieval individual, who owned Kenilworth Castle (and used wood from Knowle to build part of it). In February we welcome Nick Holmes of Lapworth Local History Group and Rowington Records, who will speak on *The Canals of Lapworth & Rowington*. The Society's Spring talk this year will be *Farming Life in Knowle* with an in-house speaker in April, following on from last year's talk on the central village farms. More on this below. The April date (as opposed to previous years when it has been in February) gives the Exhibitions Committee a bit more leeway after Christmas - much needed as there is a newsletter to get out and two key members of the Exhibitions Committee are always away in the sun in February.



The two social events will take the same form as in 2017: the spring lunch will be in March as usual (call notice enclosed); the summer meeting will once more take the form of a light buffet supper at the Guild House, with a slide show. Full details of the 2018 programme are on the fixture card.

Left: Drawbridge on the Stratford-upon-Avon canal at Lapworth.

EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Two successful exhibitions were held in the autumn: *Kenilworth Road* at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September, followed by a stay of several weeks at Solihull Library. The Autumn exhibition was *The White Swan & The Red Lion* at Knowle Library in November, which followed an associated talk at the AGM in October. *Knowle at Christmas* plus *Knowle in the Snow* at Oxfam Books & Music, shown for the lighting of the Christmas tree at the end of November, was a success and enabled the Society to make a contribution to the Christmas celebrations in Knowle. Many thanks to those who made contributions, including several people from Knowle Parish Church.

The Spring project is *Farming Life in Knowle* with a talk in April, and an associated exhibition later in the month. This follows last year's *The Farms of Knowle*, which concentrated on the central village farms. *Farming Life* will take a brief look at the outlying farms, milk, sheep, cattle etc., ending with the supporting businesses, such as saddlers and wheelwrights.

Right: Geoffrey Burman with cow and calf at Waterfield Farm



At Solihull Library *Knowle in the Horse Age* in April will be followed immediately by *Knowle on Wheels* in June, which will remain until the end of July. These were both seen a few years ago (under different titles), but for a very short time; they deserve a longer viewing. *Knowle in the Horse Age* starts with travelling to and from Knowle in the medieval period, continues to canal horses, farm horses, inns and coaching, tradesmen's horses, taxis and couriers, the hunt etc. It ends with Riding for the Disabled. *Knowle on Wheels* takes us into the era of bikes and motor transport - and roller skates.

The talk at the summer buffet will be *The Lippiatt Collection*, based on a collection of postcards and photographs collected into an album by the late Eunice Lippiatt (née White).

Our talks are still much in demand from other organizations: several are already fixed for 2018 with others under discussion. They are listed on the fixture card, on the web site and in *Knowle Parish Magazine*, as well as on posters round the village.



Visitors are welcome at many of them. The Exhibitions Committee has made an effort to make the 2018 programme more manageable. We are still falling behind with printing booklets; a problem with the printer (colour does not match the printed output) needs to be resolved before we can print new ones.

Left: Jack Johnson, pre 1933