

ADMINISTRATION

Those of you who were at the March meeting will know that the Society adopted a constitution and rules as previously circulated. Members also formally elected the present committee, which had been operating on a more informal basis, and appointed independent examiners. The minutes of this meeting will be circulated before the AGM in October. We now need to contact the Charity Commission to ensure that our objectives are charitable and the Inland Revenue with a view to becoming eligible for Gift Aid. Membership has now topped the magic 100 mark and currently stands at 111. We have received the latest newsletters from the *Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office* and the *British Association for Local History*, which we will bring to meetings.

SOLIHULL MUSEUM & HERITAGE NETWORK EVENT

The Society was pleased to receive an invitation to this event, which took place on April 24th. It was organised by the Community Museums Officer for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, which can provide support for local heritage groups. Speakers included Chris Tomlin from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The occasion saw the launch of Solihull Borough Heritage Forum, formed to help local heritage organisations work together, which the Society joined. Five members of the committee had a useful and enjoyable day, when we were able to talk to Council Officers and meet members of other local history organisations. We mounted a small display about our work, which received quite a lot of attention and was well worth the effort.

PEOPLE

Very many congratulations to Dr. Penny Upton on winning this year's *British Association for Local History's* prestigious first prize for her article on Thomas Fisher in last winter's edition of *Warwickshire History* - chosen out of thousands of articles published in the nation's local history journals in 2007. Members may also like to know that an article by Dr. Anthony Upton will appear in the next issue of *Warwickshire History* in the early autumn. Although the Society is not a member of *Warwickshire Local History Society*, some of us are members as individuals.

VILLAGE VIGNETTES: ANOTHER GHOST

We are indebted to the Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton for another ghost anecdote. If there are any more ghosts quietly haunting the dark corners of Knowle we would be pleased to hear about them. This and more 'village vignettes' are welcome, which we will include in future newsletters as space permits. If you would like to make a contribution please e-mail us or ring Sylvia Moody on 01564 779921

The next newsletter will be circulated in September. It will include formal notice of the AGM and our first annual report.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 3

June 2008

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Thinking about what has happened since the last newsletter and looking at the Diary Box for what is coming up, we seem to have a lot going on. There is no doubt that we are becoming better known, both within Knowle and outside. In particular, since we became a dedicated local history society, we are finding that we have much closer relations with other local history groups in the area. We are very pleased to have made some personal contacts with Solihull Local History Circle, with whom we share an interest in Copt Heath. As many of you will know, this area of Knowle, although part of the *manor* of Knowle, was in the *ecclesiastical* parish of Solihull until 1940.

At present we are concentrating on preparations for the *Railway Station* exhibition and our stall at Knowle Festival on June 21st. The *Friends of Knowle Park* have worked very hard to make the day a success. We look forward to an enjoyable day and hope to see some of you there - and for fine weather. More details of everything overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner

01564 775887

Diary

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| Sat June 21st | Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i> at Knowle Festival in the Park |
| Sat June 28th | Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i> at Knowle C of E School Fete |
| Sun July 13th
2.30 p.m. | Visit to Wroxall Abbey. See enclosed call notice for details. |
| Mon Aug 25th | Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i> at Barston Fete |
| September
11th - 27th | Exhibition for Heritage Open Days: <i>Cottages in Knowle</i>
Chester House Library (downstairs) |
| October | Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i> at Chester House
(Dates to be announced) |
| Wed Oct 15th
7.30 p.m. | AGM followed by illustrated talk.
<i>Walking the Dog: An Illustrated Tour Round Knowle's Historic Lanes & Paths.</i> Speaker: Ernie Norman. At the Guild House. |

THANK YOU KNOWLE BRITISH LEGION

Some of you will know that the British Legion is a present refurbishing the Jubilee Room (where we hold our Christmas Social) and may remember that there were framed pictures of old Knowle on the walls. The British Legion has very kindly given us these, for which we are very grateful: we are at present considering the best way to display them.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

Since the last newsletter members have enjoyed two talks, both of which attracted good audiences. On March 19th Beryl Ellerslie spoke on *The History of Wroxall Abbey*. With extra chairs from St. John's Hall everyone was comfortably seated, so we propose to continue to hold meetings in the Guild House. On July 13th there will a visit to Wroxall, complete with strawberry tea. We hope for fine weather. Details in the enclosed call notice.

On May 14th the Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton spoke on *Knowle History from National and Local Sources*. Although some of us have been doing research into Knowle history for a long time, albeit at a much more elementary level, we learnt a lot, particularly about Knowle records in national archives.

The next talk on October 15th will be given by Ernie Norman on *Walking the Dog: An Illustrated Tour Round Knowle's Historic Lanes & Paths*. A native of Knowle, Mr. Norman is well known to many of you and has a huge knowledge of 'old Knowle'. He is an excellent and entertaining speaker and it promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

Right: Footpath through Washpits Farm, Station Road



EXHIBITION: CHESTER HOUSE REBORN



As we hoped this was on display in the library for a fortnight from May 10th to May 24th to coincide with the official re-opening of the library by the well-known actress, Stephanie Cole. The Society was pleased to receive an invitation to attend from the Council and six members were able to go.

Left: Chester House (east wing) today

EXHIBITION: THE RAILWAY STATION

We are now in the final stages of preparation: all the material is to hand and the text has reached first draft stage. We hope people will enjoy it. You will find the dates of its first outings on the fixture card and in the Diary Box on the front page. We hope it will also be show in the library in October and will approach other venues which might be interested. Many thanks to all those who have provided material.

Right: The Signal Box, 1968



PROJECTS GROUP

Under the leadership of John Johnson the group has now had several meetings and is becoming established., with various projects under consideration.

EXHIBITION: COTTAGES IN KNOWLE



Research for an exhibition about cottages in Knowle between 1660 and 1914 is well under way. It is being prepared by two members of the Projects Group and will be Society's contribution to Heritage Open Days in September. The exhibition will be on show in the library (downstairs) from September 11th to September 27th.

Left: Station Road cottages, 1905.

TALKS FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS

We are due to give a talk entitled *800 Years of Knowle* to Berkswell & District Local History Society in October, and again to Barston W.I. in November.

2009 PROGRAMME

The committee is now discussing next year's programme, which will probably take the same form as this year. Any suggestions would be very welcome - anyone with ideas please get in touch with any member of the committee.

WEB SITE

As I write (June 2nd) the web site is ready to upload, and barring unforeseen problems, should be available shortly after you receive this newsletter. We are www.knowlehistory.org.uk. Those of you with internet access may like to keep a look out. Very many thanks to Sue Owen for her professional advice and Paul Muir for his practical help.