

## OUTSIDE EVENTS

The Society has attended a number of outside events during the year, starting with Solihull Museum & Heritage Forum in April. We had a stall at Knowle Festival in both 2007 and 2008 and this year August Bank Holiday Monday saw us at Barston Fete for the first time. The exhibitions attracted a gratifying amount of attention on these occasions, which we shall no doubt continue to attend. The Society has also been asked to give talks for other local history organisations, the first being on *Researching Knowle History* to a new local history group attached to Dorridge U3A. 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



*At Knowle Festival*

## FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP

As a new organisation the Society has not yet had time to build up reserves, but wishes to keep subscriptions as low as possible. It therefore operates on a tight budget. Many thanks to *Solihull Discovery Walks* and others for their donations, which enabled us to operate for the first few months. Encouraged to apply for grants by a spokesman from the Heritage Lottery Fund, an application to cover next year's exhibitions, etc is now under consideration.

Membership has increased from an initial 65 at the end of the Society's inaugural meeting in October to 113, which is very encouraging.

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

The meetings and social programme seems to have been well received by members and will follow the same pattern in 2009. The first talk will follow the AGM on October 15th, when Mr. Ernie Norman will speak on *Walking the Dog: An Illustrated Tour Round Knowle's Historic Lanes & Paths*. Born in Knowle, Mr. Norman has a huge knowledge of the old village. He is an excellent and entertaining speaker and it promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

The committee is presently planning next year's programme, which will include three talks, a summer outing and a Christmas social. Next year's exhibition will be on Knowle in the horse era (title to be decided). Further suggestions are welcome.

*Left: footpath through Slang Field (beyond the park, near the present St. Lawrence Close)*



*The next newsletter will be circulated in February 2009. We hope to see you before then.*



# KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## *Making History Live*

### Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 4  
*September 2008*

## ANNUAL REPORT

### January 2007 to August 2008

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At the end of a successful first year I have pleasure in writing the Society's first annual report. After a few months' operating informally and a consultation evening in April 2007, the Society's inaugural public meeting was held in October, when a membership list was opened. Since 2007 we have prepared four exhibitions and three talks, designed a web site, set up a projects group, organised a programme for members, taken stalls at various events, made good contacts with other local history societies and put the basic administrative elements in place. Next year there should be more time for projects, with every exhibition and talk adding to our store of knowledge. Further details overleaf.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work throughout the year: the committee, members of the projects group, the speakers (none of whom wanted a fee), those who have provided material and information and everyone who has helped the Society in any way - not least our members for their support.

Elaine S. Warner  
01564 775887

## Diary

September 11th - 27th	Exhibition for Heritage Open Days: <i>Cottages in Knowle</i> Knowle Library (downstairs)
Wed Oct 15th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	AGM followed by illustrated talk: <i>Walking the Dog: An Illustrated Tour Round Knowle's Historic Lanes &amp; Paths</i> . Speaker: Ernie Norman. At the Guild House.
November 3rd - 17th	Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i> Knowle Library (gallery, upstairs)
Fri Dec 5th	Christmas Social at Knowle British Legion (Jubilee Room)

[www.knowlehistory.org.uk](http://www.knowlehistory.org.uk)

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 15th 2008 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 1st. The present officers and committee must all retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election and are willing to continue in office.

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.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Society is currently considering applying for Gift Aid. HM Inland Revenue has confirmed that we do not need to be a registered charity to be eligible. However, at present non-members are charged an entrance fee of £1.50 to meetings. With three per year the Revenue regards this as an annual benefit to members of £4.50; but to be eligible for Gift Aid benefits must not exceed 25% of the subscription. *An alteration to the rules is therefore needed* to allow free entrance to everyone. We can then ask non-members for a donation, which the Revenue does not count.

### PROJECTS GROUP

For those who want to take an active part in the Society a small projects group was set up at the beginning of 2008 under the leadership of John Johnson. The group undertakes research, record transcription etc. Two members are currently in the final stages of preparing an exhibition and are also setting up a database of information on Knowle families. Other projects in hand include research into Copt Heath windmill and Grimshaw Castle. . Anyone interested in joining please ring John Johnson on 01564 773457 or e-mail us at [knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk).

### TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The Society's programme of talks is for the enjoyment of members, but also informs the public about the history of the village in an informal way, from which we hope both long-standing residents and newcomers can benefit. There have been three talks this year, all given by members of the Society. The first was on *Kixley Lane* in October, given by Elaine Warner and greatly enhanced by contributions from the audience. This was followed in March by *The History of Wroxall Abbey*, a new talk by Mrs. Beryl Ellerslie, and the Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton speaking on *Knowle History from National and Local Sources* in May. All the talks have been well attended,

attracting up to 70 people. Members appear to prefer the Guild House as a venue to the church, with many taking advantage of the coffee facilities.

Social events have included a Christmas social and a strawberry tea at Wroxall Abbey in beautiful weather in July, when we were able to wander around at will, with Mrs. Beryl Ellerslie and Dr. Colin Harris as guides.



*At Wroxall Abbey*

### EXHIBITIONS

Three exhibitions have been presented since we became an independent organisation in 2007. When still an informal group we made our debut on the public stage with *The History of Knowle Park* at Knowle Festival in the Park in June 2007. *Chester House Reborn* followed in May 2008 to coincide with the official opening of Knowle Library after its recent refurbishment. *The Railway Station* was first shown at Knowle Festival in the Park last July, then at Barston Fete. It can be seen at Knowle Library in November. *Cottages in Knowle* will be on show for Heritage Open Days weekend in September. See the Diary Box for exact dates.



*Cottages in Station Rd 1905*

### IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

Many photographs have been added to the image library, mostly obtained for exhibitions and talks. Images have been scanned, enhanced and stored in suitable formats by Geoffrey Dean. We have also been given a number of other items, including a batch of estate documents, slides & documents relating to the Nature Reserve, a set of framed photographs and more. Many thanks to members who donated material or lent their personal photographs for copying. John Rear has taken most of the modern photographs and Gillian Knight, who is responsible for modern records, has continued to acquire sale particulars, etc. as appropriate.

### ORAL HISTORY

The oral history records contain a wealth of information which can only be obtained from long-standing residents. Excerpts bring exhibitions and talks alive - several are included in *The Railway Station*. This is an on-going programme of new interviews and typing existing ones, co-ordinated by Sylvia Moody.

### WEB SITE

After considerable difficulty the web site is now on line at [www.knowlehistory.org.uk](http://www.knowlehistory.org.uk). However, it is not being picked up by *Google* and the heading does not display properly under *Vista*. The problem may be ancient software - we have a new package, but need time to learn how to use it.