

In May, The Revd. Dr. James Woodward was due to speak to us on *Temple Balsall*. However, Dr. Woodward has been appointed to a canonry at Windsor by the Queen and will be leaving the area in April. We do congratulate him on this wonderful opportunity and wish him the very best in the future. In the meantime, we are trying to arrange a talk on the history of Solihull, but have not been able to finalise it before distributing this newsletter. There will be an advertisement in *Knowle Parish Magazine* in May, posters in the usual places and we will make an announcement at the March meeting.

ORAL HISTORY

We hope that more oral history vignettes will become part of this year's exhibitions. In the meantime more interviews are being recorded - some on video - whilst the on-going programme of typing existing ones continues.

PROJECTS GROUP

Last year the Projects Group undertook the *Cottages in Knowle* exhibition for Heritage Open Days, and they will once more be involved in research for this year's exhibitions. They are also involved in oral history, with other projects under consideration. The group is now expanding, with more people enjoying the fascinating pastime of delving into village history in company with like-minded souls. Anyone interested in joining please ring John Johnson on 01564 773457 or e-mail us at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

In April the Society will give an informal talk to Knowle Women's Fellowship. Called *The Old Village*, it will be in the form of a slide show of Kenilworth Road and Kixley Lane, where the village originated before expanding along High Street. Looking further ahead, we have been asked to provide a display for the Oxfam Bookshop's book fair in July. *Right: Milverton Farm, Kenilworth Road, which stood where the Jet Garage is today until the 1960s. From a painting by Eva Wootton.*



FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP

We are now entering our first complete financial year, at the end of which we will be in a better position to assess our finances. We are pleased, however, that we ended the year in the black. Membership is now over 100.

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



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 2 No. 1
February 2009

A Happy New Year to All our Members

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As we look forward to 2009, our priorities are to complete the administration of the Society, consolidate our systems for the image library, etc., and of course run a programme of exhibitions, talks and social events. We shall continue to take a stall at local events when appropriate, most particularly at Knowle Festival in the Park, Barston Fete and Heritage Open Days. Once more we have been asked to give talks for other organisations, and there may be other requests during the year. As we usually receive a donation, these are a useful boost to our meagre funds. We have had one informal meeting with Solihull Local History Circle, with which we now keep in regular contact and we are usually represented at their meetings.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the programme card for 2009. We have organised a programme which we hope you will enjoy - earlier events are in the Diary Box below. We look forward to seeing you during the year.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

Diary

March 7th to April 2nd	Exhibition: <i>Cottages in Knowle</i> Solihull Central Library (First Floor)
Wed Mar 18th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated talk: <i>Baddesley Clinton Revisited</i> Speaker: John Jarman At St. John's Hall
April 20th to May 4th	Exhibition: <i>Scenes from the Jubilee Room</i> Knowle Library (downstairs)
Wed May 20th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated talk: <i>The History of Solihull</i> To be confirmed (see overleaf) At the Guild House

www.knowlehistory.org.uk

e-mail: knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk

REPORT FROM THE AGM & ADMINISTRATION

There was a good attendance at the AGM, with an audience of 65-70. The present committee were re-elected and the rules were changed to accommodate the requirements of the Inland Revenue. We can now apply for Gift Aid, but first we need to write some supporting literature to back up our case. We are therefore in process of preparing a leaflet about the Society which, as I write, is nearly at first draft stage. It will be in the standard 1/3 format, which can also be used as a general promotional leaflet. If anyone who was not at the meeting would like a copy of the accounts please let us know.

Whilst not strictly administration this seems a good place to mention that Solihull Local History Circle is kindly sending us the Council's planning list each week, so that we are aware of any possible developments for historic buildings, such as Longdon Hall, about which both societies are concerned.

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

As members know, numerous photographs have been added to the image library over the last eighteen months, mostly acquired for exhibitions and talks. Not all of these had been numbered, and trying to work with unreferenced items is a nightmare. This has therefore had to have priority - before we start acquiring more photographs for this year's exhibitions. It has taken a considerable time, but all photographs are now numbered, although other items remain to be done. Once Geoffrey Dean has completed enhancing them they can be transferred to our external hard drive and backed up to a second one (another lengthy job)



Right: Mrs. Tansley at Crown Cottage in Lodge Road

WEB SITE

This has been the next priority. After an inspired guess the heading now shows up properly, although it is still not central on the screen. To correct this with our present software is not worth the effort - we have a new computer and new software, which we will get going as soon as we can (another longish job). The site is still not being picked up by Google (although we are top of the pile on www.yahoo.co.uk if one types *knowle history* into the search box). Clutching straws, half a sentence in a reference book opened up a whole new world of advice on the Internet. Having taken appropriate action, and asked the Council and other societies to add a link on their own sites, we now need to be patient for a bit to see if we move up the list.

EXHIBITIONS

This year's exhibition programme can be found on the programme card. *Cottages in Knowle*, prepared by Mary Nejedly and Jill Chape and first shown at Knowle Library for Heritage Open Days last September, will get another airing at Solihull Central Library (1st Floor) in March/April. Later in April *Scenes From the Jubilee Room*, based on a set of twelve photographs donated by Knowle British Legion Club will be on show at Knowle Library.

We have already started to collect material for the main summer exhibition (*Horsepower in Knowle*), so if anyone has any photos or other material which you would let us scan or any personal memories please get in touch. We are looking for working horses, carriage and cart horses, farm horses hunters, children on ponies, etc.



Pitts Horse breakers yard in Widney Road

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS



Christmas Social at Knowle British Legion

The Society's evening talks always have a very convivial atmosphere as much akin to a social event as an informative lecture. Last October members enjoyed a talk by Ernie Norman on *Knowle's Historic Lanes and Paths*. Those of you who were there will have noticed that this was recorded live on video. We have received a suggestion that we should do this on a regular basis - something we shall discuss to see if it is practicable. In December about 40 members came to the Society's social evening at the British Legion. At about a third of our membership this was a very good attendance. We were very pleased to welcome a few members of Solihull Local History Circle.

Our first talk this year will be given in March by John Jarman and entitled *Baddesley Clinton Revisited*. Mr. Jarman is a long-standing resident of Knowle and an excellent speaker. Incidentally, he will also be giving a talk on *The Guild of Knowle* at Knowle Library in the Spring.



Baddesley Clinton