

WEB SITE

Checking not long ago, we found that we are now being picked up by *Google*, although under the site name, not our proper title. This may be because several organisations, including Solihull Library, have kindly put a link on their own sites. However, having rechecked before writing, we have disappeared again.

ADMINISTRATION

As members know, we propose to apply for Gift Aid as soon as we can. We need to provide the Inland Revenue with our constitution, accounts, etc., *together with supporting literature*. We have written a simple risk assessment and also a leaflet about the Society's administration to go in new member packs in place of the rather lengthy constitution, although members may have a copy of the constitution if they wish. We have put considerable effort into producing four leaflets in the standard 1/3 A4 format, outlining what the Society does and the services it offers. The two main ones are entitled *Knowle Local History Society and Services to the Public*. The others are *The Knowle Records and Where to Find Them* and *Your House and Family in Knowle*. We now need to design gift aid forms, which we hope to circulate to existing members with the September newsletter.

VILLAGE VIGNETTES: A GHOST IN THE TOWER

Many thanks to The Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton, whose article below appeared in *The Ringing World* on 16th January 1959, when he was a bellringer at Knowle.

Strange Goings-On

(This is absolutely the truth)

The ringers at Knowle, Warwickshire, have been honoured recently by the visit of an unusual sort of visitor. He, or maybe she, is - a ghost!

Several times in the last few months the ringers have sworn that they heard footsteps approaching up the spiral staircase, one of the steepest and narrowest in the county.

After a while, when it seems the footsteps are getting no nearer, curiosity always compels the ringers to open the door to investigate, only to be met with a mocking silence.

But the ringers are not the least bit disturbed, for the ghost has often been heard and is freely referred to as 'our ghost'. The tower-keeper, Mr. Little-Bertie Jones (so called to distinguish him from Mr. Big-Bert Nix, the Ringing Master) has appointed the ghost as his honorary deputy tower-keeper!

Unfortunately there is no known way in which to invite the ghost to ring a short 'touch'; but then, whoever heard of a ghost ringing a bell eh? A.A.U.

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



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 2 No. 2
June 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Reading the last newsletter, I see that we have made some progress on most of our objectives for the year. Since February we have nearly completed our administration, mounted one exhibition and prepared another, run a guided walk, arranged two talks for members and given three talks ourselves to other organisations - we are now building up a repertoire. We are pleased that we are now able to put exhibitions in Solihull Central Library. They take a lot of preparation (60 man hours minimum), so it is good to have them on display for a longer time. Sylvia Moody has made some very neat new exhibition boards to fit the Solihull cabinets, which will also be useful on other occasions.

We are now looking forward to our summer outing to Temple Balsall, Knowle Festival in the Park and Barston Fete. Many of you will be familiar with Knowle Festival, but if anyone has never been to Barston we can recommend it. Further ahead, Heritage Open Days will soon be upon us and may be over before the next newsletter. We hope to see you during the summer.

Elaine S. Warner
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Diary

Sat June 20th	Exhibition: <i>Horsepower in Knowle</i> Knowle Festival in the Park
Mon August 31st	Exhibition: <i>Horsepower in Knowle</i> Barston Fete
Sat July 11th	Visit to Temple Balsall, with tea.
Tues July 14th	Exhibition: <i>Images of Knowle</i> at Oxfam Bookshop Book Fair Guild House 10.00 - 4.30
Sept 7th to Sept 21st	Exhibition: <i>Six Knowle Buildings</i> For Heritage Open Days. Knowle Library (downstairs)
Wed Oct 21st	Annual General Meeting
Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Talk: <i>Growing Up in Knowle</i>
Coffee from 7 p.m.	Speaker: Valerie Morton & others

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EXHIBITIONS

As I write (May 23rd) *Cottages in Knowle* is still on show at Solihull Central Library, but will shortly be taken down. We are grateful to Tracey Williams of the Local Studies Department for giving it publicity, including a press release. We are now thinking about putting some of our previous exhibitions at Solihull, starting with *The Railway Station*.

The spring exhibition this year was *Scenes From the Jubilee Room* which was at Knowle Library for a fortnight and may get another airing at Solihull later. In the meantime the summer exhibition, *Horsepower in Knowle*, is now ready and can be seen for the first time at Knowle Festival in the Park on June 20th, followed by Barston Fete in August and a fortnight at Knowle Library in November.

The September exhibition for Heritage Open Days will be *Six Knowle Buildings*. Plans for this are at a very early stage,



but we propose to include *Stowe House*, the bakery, *Kingscote*, the old surgery, Bonhams and *Hillcrest* (formerly in Widney Road) for which Piers Milne has given us some plans. You may know that Heritage Open Days has always been under the auspices of the Civic Trust, which has sadly gone into administration. After a worrying time Heritage Open Days was formally taken over by English Heritage on May 18th

Left: Shire horse with Tom at Tilehouse Farm, which can be seen in 'Horsepower in Knowle' at Knowle Festival in the Park

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The first talk of 2009 was given by John Jarman on *Baddesley Clinton Revisited* and took place in St. John's Hall rather than the Guild House. Many thanks to Judith Adam for monitoring the sound system. This was much appreciated and we are beginning to think it would be a good idea to purchase one for use in the Guild House. John Rear is going to look into it.

In May Joy Woodall kindly stepped into the breach when The Revd. Dr. James Woodward was unable to speak on *Temple Balsall*, as he moved to St. George's Windsor in April. Joy spoke on *The Origins of Solihull*, on which she is an expert, and even those of us who have lived in the borough all our lives learnt something.



Poplar Farm, Baker's Lane

The summer outing this year will be a visit to Temple Balsall with tea on July 11th, starting with a few words on its history by Beryl Ellerslie, who is an expert on the subject. The cost will be £6. You will find the call notice enclosed - we hope people will enjoy it.



Old Hall, Temple Balsall

ORAL HISTORY

Sylvia Moody continues to talk to people who have lived here for a long time. If anyone would like to take part please get in touch with her on 01564 779921

PROJECTS GROUP

John Johnson, with Neville Roe, has been looking into Grimshaw Castle (in Hampton Road), and has also located the site of Copt Heath Windmill. John has just completed a booklet on *The History of the Avenue Bowling Club*, which will be on



Longdon Hall, 1899

sale at the Society's stall in the park on June 20th. Other members of the group are working on the Knowle farms and the local inns. John has also been working with Solihull Local History Circle on Longdon Hall, about which both ourselves and Solihull are anxious. Anyone interested in joining the group please ring John Johnson on 01564 773457 or send us an e-mail at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Since the last newsletter we have given three talks to other organisations. The first was to Knowle Church Women's Fellowship, which was on our programme. The second was to Sunrise Senior Living and the third to Barston U3A. Both of these were unexpected invitations which we were happy to accept. Our talks are all set up on the computer, complete with photographs and a written text, so we can give them at very short notice providing someone is available to speak and operate the computer and projector. We already have two definite bookings for next year and other expressions of interest.

On May 14th Valerie Morton and John Johnson took a party round the village as part of Adult Learners' Week, under the auspices of Knowle Library. Tuesday July 14th will find us in the Guild House, as we have been asked to put up a display for the Oxfam Bookshop Book Fair. It will be open from 10.00 until 4.30. Do come along - there will be posters around the village.