

and the north end of the village.) *1000 Years of Knowle*, given to British Gas Retired Employees Association in November, is a chronological history of Knowle from before the Norman Conquest to the present day. On February 1st Valerie Morton reprised the *Springfield House* talk for Sunrise Senior Living (Copt Heath). We already have one firm booking for another talk and a few enquiries. Talks are all set up on the computer and can be given at very short notice, provided someone is available.

In March we shall be taking part in Knowle C of E Primary School Local History Project, when the children pose questions to about twenty long-standing residents about their memories of life in Knowle.

### **ORAL HISTORY**

Oral history vignettes continue to bring exhibitions alive, whilst the on-going task of interviewing and typing continues.

### **PROJECTS GROUP**

Several members of the group are looking at the history of Middlefield, for which a wealth of material is available, including oral history records from past members of staff. The official records are at Warwickshire County Record Office. John Johnson is writing his war time memories. Anyone interested in joining the group please ring John on 01564 773457 or e-mail us at [knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk).



*Middlefield*

### **IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS**

As we mentioned in the last newsletter we have a large number of new images. We are pleased to say that the vast majority of them have now been numbered.

### **WEB SITE**

At long last we have solved our problems - new software, which will generate files for submission to *Google* has done the trick - a second major package to learn. Typing *knowle history* into *Google* will find us near the top of the list. This may be why we are receiving more enquiries over the Internet, which we are well-qualified to answer. Not only were several members of the committee born in Knowle, but we know a large number of people whom we can ask for more information.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.  
The next newsletter will be circulated in June 2010.*



# **KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

## *Making History Live*

### **Newsletter**

Volume 2 No. 4  
February 2010

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Although only February, a lot has happened since the last newsletter, with much more to come. In addition to our own programme we have been asked to take part in several events for outside organisations, including talks, an exhibition for the Oxfam Bookshop and Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project. The Society welcomes these invitations, which provide us with an opportunity to serve the local community. More details of these events overleaf.

An innovation in this newsletter is the separate leaflet which has evolved from last October's meeting entitled *Growing Up in Knowle*, when the panel did not have time to say all they had prepared. There will be a series of leaflets, based on the seasons, edited by Ros Croft.

The programme card for 2010 is enclosed. An experimental afternoon meeting in January proved popular; but we have concluded that an Autumn Lunch might find more favour than a Christmas Social on a cold and dark December night when people are busy. We hope you will enjoy the programme we have organised - earlier events are in the Diary Box below. We look forward to seeing you during the year.

Elaine S. Warner  
01564 775887

### **Diary**

Wed Mar 17th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The History of Hampton-in-Arden</i> Speaker: Mike Bryant At the Guild House.
April 19th to May 3rd	Exhibition: <i>Guiding in Knowle ~ The First Ninety Years</i> Knowle Library (downstairs)
Wed May 19th 11 a.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Old Village (Part 1)</i> Speaker: Elaine Warner At Knowle Library (for Adult Learners' Week)
Wed May 19th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick</i> Speaker: The Master, Lt. Col. G. Lesinski At St. John's Hall

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## ADMINISTRATION

There was a good attendance at the AGM, with an audience of over 60, at which the present committee were re-elected. Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership and to those who have signed Gift Aid forms. Those who have not yet paid their subscriptions will find a reminder form enclosed - we do hope you will continue as a member of the Society. Membership currently stands at 141. **We need help with finance.** If anyone has any experience in this field (not necessarily professionally) and can spare a little time, please contact us. It is not very arduous: we felt that the start of this financial year was the right time to move to computerised ledgers (meaning getting to grips with Microsoft Excel). The accounts are done by some friendly chartered accountants.

## TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

After *Growing Up in Knowle* in October, the Christmas Social took place as usual in the first week in December. For probably a variety of reasons it was not as well-attended as usual and we cancelled our booking at Knowle British Legion in favour of Meg Hole's house. Those who came had an enjoyable evening - and at less cost. Many thanks to Meg for having us and to both Meg and Sylvia Moody for organising the food.

On January 20th Valerie Morton gave a talk on *The History of Springfield House*. It outlined the history of Springfield as a private house from the early 18th century to 1941 and the function of the stables as a hospital in the Great War. It ended with a short description of its present use as a school for children with special needs, the nature reserve and the environmental study centre. This was our first afternoon meeting, and attracted an audience of nearly seventy - far more than we expected, as notice was short and circulated by various means. We shall probably do the same in 2011, but in February rather than January.



*The water gardens*



*The smithy, Hampton-in-Arden*

The next talk will be given by Mike Bryant on *The History of Hampton-in-Arden*, of which, of course Knowle was once part. Mr. Bryant has been involved with the history of Hampton for a number of years.

The subject of the May talk will be *The Lord Leicester Hospital* at Warwick, with which the village has connections. As you may know, the Manor of Knowle was once owned by the Earl of Leicester and the hospital received our Great Tithes. The speaker will be the Master, Lt. Col. G. Lesinski, who is in great demand (we booked two years ago). There will be an afternoon visit to the hospital, with tea, in July.

We should perhaps mention that a number of people have seen some of the images on the screen at various times and have expressed a wish for a slide show. We are pleased to tell you that Ros Croft will be showing some slides, with commentary, at the AGM in October, at which audience participation will be welcome.

## EXHIBITIONS

This year's exhibition programme includes our usual three exhibitions in April, June and September. First comes *Guiding in Knowle ~ The First Ninety Years*, which title is self-explanatory.



*Blackbird Patrol, 1926*

Concluding the transport theme, the summer exhibition will be *The Horseless Carriage*, bringing us to the motor transport era. If anyone has any relevant photos or other material which you would let us scan or any personal memories please get in touch. We are looking for private cars, trade vehicles, tractors and other farm machinery, the local garages - and vintage cars. The exhibition will be on show for the first time at Knowle Festival in the Park as usual, and later at Knowle Library.

In September, *A Butcher's Shop in High Street* is planned to coincide with the Heritage Open Days weekend. We are delighted that this will be prepared by John Lyons.

All the exhibitions will be shown at Knowle Library (downstairs). We also hope to put some of our past exhibitions in Solihull Library - watch out for dates in *Knowle Parish Magazine* and on posters.

## OUTSIDE EVENTS

Since the last newsletter we have already given four talks to outside organisations. *The Old Village (Part 1)* is a tour of the village in old photographs, taking in The Square, Kenilworth Road, Kixley Lane, Golden End, Wilsons Road and the Berrow Homes - the choice for Sunrise Senior Living (Shirley) in September and Dorridge Methodist Church Ladies Circle in January, (Part 2 covers High Street, Station Road



*Milverton Farm, Kenilworth Road*