

WORKING GROUPS

Projects Group members have continued to work on Middlefield and Second World War memories. We propose to establish an Exhibitions Group in October.. Anyone interested please ring John Johnson on 01564 773457 (Projects) or Elaine Warner on 01564 775887.(Exhibitions). Or e-mail us at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

We were particularly pleased to take part in Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project, which we have done many times before. About twenty long standing Knowle residents recalled their memories of the village, from which the children gained valuable knowledge. We had our traditional stall at local summer fetes:

at Knowle Festival, at the delightful Barston Fete, and this year at Springfield House Fayre. There is always plenty of interest in the summer exhibition on these occasions. We have now acquired a new gazebo and four tables. Like most of our equipment these are on loan from David Warner. The Society has given talks to other organisations on six occasions, including one for Knowle Library for Adult Learners' Week. We already have two bookings for talks for next year plus several enquiries, and may receive more.



At Springfield House Fayre

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP, ETC

The minutes of the last AGM are enclosed. Both these and this report will be taken as read, and the accounts will be available at the AGM. The Society continues to operate on a very tight budget, comprising subscription income plus donations at meetings, from outside talks and other sources. Profit from publications has produced a higher surplus than last year, but we still need to build up reserves. We are about to apply to HM Revenue & Customs for Gift Aid registration. Membership has increased from 138 last year to 143. The conversion of our web site to new software has produced an increasing number of enquiries, and it is now registered with *Google Analytics*, which tells us how many visitors we have and how they find us.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Following a short AGM on October 20th Roslyn Croft will be giving an illustrated talk based on old photographs of Knowle. *Audience participation will be welcome at the end of the evening.* We hope to see many of you then and at the Autumn Luncheon at the Wilson Arms - the call notice is enclosed. The programme will follow a similar pattern in 2011, although the luncheon will be in March. Early dates are in the Diary Box and the fixture card will be circulated in January.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in January 2011.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 3 No. 2
September 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2009 to August 2010

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Society is now nearly three years old and increasingly well established. We look back on another demanding year in which we have built on past achievements and moved forward. Our objectives have been met through exhibitions and talks, by providing a service to individuals and organisations, and this year, for the first time, through publications. We trust that these activities are both educational and enjoyable.

Highlights of the year include taking part once more in Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project and a growing number of outside requests and enquiries. These requests are welcome. We were pleased to give a talk for Knowle Library in Adult Learners' Week and thank the library staff for their continuing support, which is much appreciated. The exhibitions have continued to attract interest.

As ever, the Society owes much to long-standing older residents who have lent or given material, provided information or helped with exhibitions and talks in other ways. Their contribution is enormous. I would like to thank them and everyone who has worked hard to make the Society a success: the committee, members of the projects group, the speakers, and everyone who has helped the Society in any way, not least our members for their support.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

Diary

Wed Oct 20th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	AGM followed by <i>Around Knowle in Old Photographs</i> . Speaker: Roslyn Croft. At the Guild House.
November 1st - 15th	Exhibition: <i>The Horseless Carriage</i> at Knowle Library
Sat Nov 20th	Autumn Luncheon at the Wilson Arms
January 10th - 24th	Exhibition: <i>Books in Knowle</i> at Knowle Library
Wed Feb 16th 2.30 p.m. Tea 2 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Bentley Heath & Widney Manor</i> Speaker: Edna Handley. At the Guild House

www.knowlehistory.org.uk

e-mail: knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 20th 2010 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 6th. 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. The present officers and committee must all retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election. Mr. Rear does not wish to stand for re-election as treasurer, but is willing to serve on the committee. The other officers and committee members are willing to continue.

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

There have been four public talks this year, starting in October with *Growing Up in Knowle*, a forum-style evening from which emerged the series of leaflets on seasonal memories which have been distributed with the newsletter - the latest one is enclosed. The Christmas Social in December was held at Meg Hole's house, as the cost of the Jubilee Room at Knowle British Legion is now prohibitive. An additional meeting, held in the afternoon in January on *The History of Springfield House*, proved popular. Others have been on *The History of Hampton-in-Arden*, followed by an entertaining talk on the history of the Lord Leicester Hospital at Warwick by the Master. Twenty members and guests enjoyed a visit to this wonderful medieval building in July, with a guided tour and an excellent tea. We hope members have appreciated the sound system: after a few initial squeaks it has worked well, even in a larger hall for which it was not designed.



At the Lord Leicester Hospital

EXHIBITIONS

September 2009 saw *Six Knowle Buildings* on display for Heritage Open Days - now under the auspices of *English Heritage*. *Guiding in Knowle ~ The First Ninety Years* followed in May. The main summer exhibition was *The Horseless Carriage*, the last in our series on the transport theme. Following a now established tradition it had its first public viewing at Knowle Festival, a second at Springfield House Fayre and another at Barston Fete. It will finish at Knowle Library in November and eventually be shown at Solihull Library. Once more the Society provided a small exhibition for the Oxfam



Bookshop to coincide with the Oxfam Book Fair. This year it was *Books in Knowle*, which can be seen again at Knowle Library in January. See the Diary Box for exact dates. By the time you receive this newsletter *A Butcher's Shop in High Street* will have been on show for Heritage Open Days 2010. Many thanks to John Lyons and Jerry Tucker, who have prepared it.

Left: Chester House and beyond, the Modern Library (now replaced by Greville Court)

PUBLICATIONS

With *Springfield Hall, A Country House in Knowle* the Society made its first foray into publishing. Although we have produced small leaflets (printed on a home computer) this is our first professionally produced booklet. It has been far more successful than we dared hope, and more are planned for 2010/2011. We use a very good printer, which specialises in local history publications. It may be worth mentioning that the copyright of the text of anything the Society publishes *belongs to the authors*. The same applies to photographs.

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

Additions to the image library are normally acquired when preparing exhibitions, for which the Society approaches Knowle residents who may have suitable material. Many thanks to members who have donated material or lent their personal photographs for scanning. We have continued to collect modern sale particulars if they provide details of historic buildings. Images aside, we have a number of 'hard copy' items for which we lack suitable storage. Several of these have now been lodged at Solihull Central Library, where they are stored in controlled conditions. They are on deposit, rather than donated, and can be retrieved at any time.



Cottages at Barston

ORAL HISTORY

Like the image library, the oral history records are usually augmented through research for exhibitions. Over the years a vast amount of fascinating detail about life in 'Old Knowle' has emerged, which would not otherwise have come to light. The Society also has an oral history form, based on questions from a University of Birmingham extra mural course, which people can fill in themselves. It is available from the committee or can be downloaded from our web site.