

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Five talks are on the programme for the first half of the year: *Springfield House* for Barston W.I., *The Old Village (Parts 1 & 2)* for Swallows Meadow Nursing Home, *A Thousand Years of Knowle* for Solihull Local History Circle and *The Old Village (Part 2)* for Knowle Library (see photo). We have more bookings for later in the year, plus several enquiries, and may receive more. We welcome opportunities to give talks to other organisations. Those with Internet access will find them listed on our web site, with their duration and brief details of their content. All talks are suitable for a Knowle audience, but an outside audience may find some of more interest than others. Once more we shall take part in Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project in March. This year there will be an extra session, when the children will practice using a web site and send queries using the on-line contact details. They will be using our web site as an example and we will have three or four people off-site to receive them, laptop at the ready.



The Greswolde Arms Bowling Club

WORKING GROUPS

The new Exhibitions Group met for a first informal meeting in November. It will also handle talks and publications, with *The Place Names of Knowle* as the first project. The Research Group (formerly Projects Group) will continue under John Johnson as before. Details from John Johnson on 01564 773457 (Research) or Elaine Warner on 01564 775887 (Exhibitions). Or e-mail us at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.

WEB SITE

Having perused *Google Analytics* over the last few months to see how our web site is doing, we have been struck by the key words people type in to reach us. Some of them are very surprising. As a result we shall extend the site considerably, although this will have to be done gradually. We also need to give the site more publicity, in addition to the links we already have on other sites. Most of our enquiries are now being received via the web site.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

It might seem a long way ahead, but we are already making provisional arrangements for 2012, including first thoughts on Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. We have provisionally agreed to present two exhibitions: *Knowle & The Crown* and *Celebrations in Knowle*.

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



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 3 No. 3
January 2011

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The programme card for 2011 is enclosed, from which you will see that we have a very full year ahead. In addition to our own programme we have, as usual, been asked to take part in several outside events. Last year saw two experiments: an afternoon meeting in January and a luncheon at the Wilson Arms in November, which both proved popular. This year two of the meetings will be in the afternoon. We hope you will enjoy the programme we have organised - earlier events are in the Diary Box below. However, to include everything coming up in the first half of the year would make the box too large, so on this occasion it does not show talks outside Knowle, which are on the programme card and/or mentioned overleaf.

This year we have booked two exhibitions into Solihull Central Library, where each of them will be on show for two months. They have all been seen in Knowle in the past, but for a much shorter time. We have also provided a very general exhibition of photographs which the Local Studies Librarian will have on show from time to time at her discretion.

... continued overleaf

Diary

January 10th - 24th	Exhibition: <i>Books in Knowle</i> at Knowle Library (downstairs)
Date to be confirmed	Junior School Local History Project: Internet session
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
March 2nd - May 2nd	Exhibition: <i>Six Knowle Buildings</i> at Solihull Library (1st Floor)
Fri March 18th	Junior School Local History Project: interviews
April 1st - 15th	Exhibition: <i>The Westminster Connection</i> . Knowle Library
Wed May 18th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> Speaker: in house. At the Guild House.
Thurs May 19th	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Old Village (Part 2)</i> Speaker: Elaine Warner. At Knowle Library (Gallery)

www.knowlehistory.org.uk

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With this newsletter you will find the last instalment of *Growing Up In Knowle*, edited by Roslyn Croft. We hope you have enjoyed these entertaining leaflets, over which Ros has taken great care. Shorter contributions, which can be inserted into the body of the text, are always welcome, space permitting. More details of events coming up below. We look forward to seeing you during the year.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

ADMINISTRATION

There was a good attendance at the AGM in October, at which the present committee was re-elected, with one important addition: Graeme Spencer has kindly agreed to be our new treasurer, in place of John Rear, who will remain on the committee. Graeme was born in Knowle, works in the financial sphere and will be a great asset to the Society. We can now set about applying for Gift Aid registration. Membership currently stands at 144. Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership. Those who have not will either receive a phone call and/or find a reminder form enclosed - we do hope you will continue as a member of the Society.

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

After the AGM Roslyn Croft's talk on *Around Knowle in Old Photographs* went down well, with just over seventy slides instead of the intended fifty - but the timing was just right. This was Ros's own delightful account of her own childhood, with several anecdotes that most of us had not heard before. There followed the Autumn Luncheon at the Wilson Arms, when nearly forty members and guests enjoyed a convivial lunch seated in the bay window of the old barn, with plenty of laughter and good conversation.



Cottages in Wilsons Road, where Roslyn Croft grew up



Autumn Luncheon at the Wilson Arms

The next talk will be on *Bentley Heath & Widney Manor*, when the speaker will be Edna Handley, a knowledgeable and popular local speaker. Mrs. Handley has written a book on the same subject and has a few copies left.

In May there will be an illustrated talk on *The Place Names of Knowle*, with an in-house speaker. This is a major subject, which will include the Forest of Arden and the River Blythe, Purnells Brook, field names, the old roads and notable buildings, ending with the modern roads, some of which have names associated with the village. The summer exhibition will be on the same subject and we shall also publish a booklet, to be available at the talk in May, in which we can include more information than can be accommodated in a one-hour talk.



Widney Road crossroads, c. 1915

EXHIBITIONS

The year has started with *Images of Knowle*, which has been on display at Solihull Central Library since November and will remain at the discretion of the Local Studies Librarian. Next is *Books in Knowle* at Knowle Library in January. Being a second showing, following a short time at the Oxfam Bookshop last year, advertising will be



limited. If you do not receive this newsletter in time we apologise, and we will arrange the dates better next year. *Six Knowle Buildings*, first seen at Knowle Library in 2009, will be on show at Solihull in March. *The Westminster Connection* follows at Knowle in April, and will be much bigger than anticipated. It outlines Knowle's famous connections with the Abbey, including the Knowle records in the archives, the village and the Manor during its tenure, village life under the Abbey and its resonance today. *Left: Westminster Abbey seal*

PUBLICATIONS

Following the final instalment of *Growing Up In Knowle* we plan to produce two further booklets this year. After *The Place Names of Knowle*, due in May, *The Canal Through Knowle* will follow later in the year, or possibly in early 2012. Some work has already been done on this, and we are now in process of clearing rights. We have a number of ideas for other publications as time and money permit. However, after very careful thought, we have decided not to produce postcards: taking into account printing costs, the retail discount and that Knowle is not a major tourist attraction, we have regretfully concluded that they are not financially viable.