

OUTSIDE EVENTS

We have given several talks since the last newsletter: *Springfield House* for Barston W.I., *The Old Village (Parts 1 & 2)* for Swallows Meadow Nursing Home and *A Thousand Years of Knowle* for Solihull Local History Circle. Next is *The Old Village (Part 2)* for Knowle Library as part of Adult Learners' Week. On May 16th we shall be giving a guided tour of Knowle for members of Dorridge U3A. Once more we took part in Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project, with an Internet session in January and the usual Interview Session in March - always an enjoyable occasion for both children and adults, from which the children learn much.

WORKING GROUPS

The Exhibitions Group has now become a very strong working unit. Comprising Valerie Morton, John Johnson, Roger Grainger, John Lyons, Jerry Tucker and Elaine Warner, it has good academic standards, advanced computer and photography skills plus unsurpassed local knowledge. To date the group has worked on *The Place Names of Knowle* and is currently researching *Knowle's First Grocer's Shop*. Members of the Research Group continue to work on their own projects. Details from John Johnson on 01564 773457 (Research) or Elaine Warner on 01564 775887 (Exhibitions). Or contact us by e-mail at knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk.



The old grocer's shop beyond Chester House

FUTURE PROGRAMME

We shall shortly be arranging next year's programme, which will take approximately the same form as in 2011, with four talks, two in the afternoon and two in the evening. We shall, however, have to consider the costs of outings very carefully. It is also important to get the right balance between exhibitions, in-house talks and publications. The main factor here is preparation time. We would welcome any thoughts members may have about the Society programme. What sort of talks would you like? What sort of social events and how much do you want to pay? For our own projects do you prefer exhibitions, talks or publications, bearing in mind that the latter make our research available to a wider audience and also boost funds. Please let us know your views.

For the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 we have booked the Guild House for Monday June 4th, when we propose to mount an exhibition as on past occasions, including *Knowle & The Crown* and *Celebrations in Knowle* mentioned in the last newsletter. There will probably also be maps, excerpts from the Knowle records, possibly a general display of old photographs of Knowle and maybe a rolling slide show.

We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.

The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2011.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 3 No. 4
May 2011

BEST WISHES FOR THE SUMMER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As you see below the Diary Box needs more space than ever, so does not include events outside Knowle or those not open to the public, which are on the programme card and/or mentioned overleaf. It is gratifying to be in such demand.

There is no doubt that the Society has taken a quantum leap forward since the beginning of the year, thanks largely to a new treasurer and the establishment of the Exhibitions Group. Encouraged by the success of the *Springfield Hall* booklet, we are taking further steps into publishing, of which more overleaf. More disappointing is that it has been necessary to cancel the visit to Berkswell on July 16th, but we hope people will enjoy the strawberry tea which will replace it.

In March we were pleased to help with Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project as usual. ... continued overleaf

Diary

Wed May 18th 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> Speaker: Elaine Warner. At the Guild House.
Thurs May 19th 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk For Knowle Library: <i>The Old Village (Part 2)</i> . Speaker: Elaine Warner. At Knowle Library (Gallery)
Sat June 11th	Exhibition for Knowle British Legion 90th Anniversary <i>Scenes from the Jubilee Room & Images of Knowle</i>
Sun June 19th	Stall at Knowle Festival in the Park Exhibition: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> . With associated booklet
Tues July 12th	Exhibitions for the Oxfam Bookshop Book Fair Guild House: <i>Images of Knowle</i> . Shop window: <i>Books in Knowle</i>
Sat July 16th	Strawberry Tea at 23 Blackdown Road
Mon Aug 29th	Stall at Barston Fete. Exhibition: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> .
Sept 5th - Sept 19th	Exhibition: <i>Knowle's First Grocer's Shop</i> . Knowle Library
Sat Sept 10th	Tours of Knowle Parish Church for Knowle Parish Church (Heritage Open Days)

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On May 7th John Johnson and myself attended an excellent meeting of local history societies in Warwickshire, organised by Warwickshire Local History Society, one of whose objectives is an 'umbrella' function. We look forward to mutual support between WLHS and the local societies on such things as links to web sites, possibly an annual meeting, speakers lists, etc. as WLHS can find the time. One benefit of these occasions is the opportunity to compare notes with members of other societies. We attended a meeting of local organisations about Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012, for which we already have provisional plans. More details of events coming up below.

Elaine S. Warner
Tel: 01564 775887

ADMINISTRATION

We have now applied for Gift Aid registration and await a reply from HMRC. If successful, the next step is to complete the claim forms. Net membership is on an upward trend and currently stands at 154, with no subscriptions outstanding.

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

In February Edna Handley's talk on *Bentley Heath & Widney Manor* went down well with a good audience. This will be followed by *The Place Names of Knowle*, on which the Exhibitions Group has been working hard for some time. As we said in the last newsletter it will include the Forest of Arden and the River Blythe, Purnells Brook, field names, the old roads and notable buildings. Arrangements for the trip to Berkswell in July were well in hand when it became clear that the cost per person was likely to be more than we thought people would be willing to pay. With great reluctance we have therefore cancelled it and hope people will not be too disappointed. In its place is a Strawberry Tea on the same date, which Meg Hole has kindly offered to host - in the garden weather permitting, otherwise inside. Numbers are limited to forty. First come first served.



Greville Court

EXHIBITIONS

The first exhibition in Knowle this year was *The Westminster Connection* at Knowle Library in April, which outlined Knowle's connections with the Abbey and its legacy today. We have had a continuous presence in the show cases at Solihull Library

since before Christmas, starting with *Images of Knowle*, followed by *Six Knowle Buildings*, which will be taken down in the next few days. The next one at Solihull will be *The Railway Station*, first seen in Knowle in 2008. It will run from August 1st to September 30th. We are pleased to have a further opportunity to put our exhibitions on show, as they are only up for a limited time at Knowle.

The summer exhibition in Knowle will be *The Place Names of Knowle* to follow the May talk. It will include the modern road names, for which there will be no time in the talk. It will be on show for the first time at Knowle Festival in the Park as usual, followed by Barston Fete and then at Knowle Library in November. In early September *Knowle's First Grocer's Shop*, now occupied by Lloyd's Bank, but which many of remember as Band & Meeks, will be our contribution for this year's Heritage Open Days. This shop has been a grocer's since the early 1800s and been associated with three families: the Kimbells, the Courts and Band & Meeks. The Exhibitions Group is already working on it and we are grateful for the help of the families concerned. In addition we shall be providing exhibitions for Knowle British Legion's 90th anniversary celebrations in June and for the Oxfam Bookshop Book Fair in July. See the Diary Box for details.



Washpits Farm

PUBLICATIONS

Having found a way of producing covers the committee has concluded that in some cases we can print booklets very well on a personal computer, giving us several advantages: no great initial cost or concern about how many we can sell, the facility to produce booklets which do not warrant a commercial print run and the possibility of using more colour. *The Place Names of Knowle* is in the last stages of preparation and we hope it will be available at the talk in May or shortly afterwards. It includes more information than can be accommodated in the talk or the exhibition. Spare copies of the *Growing Up In Knowle* leaflets, which were circulated to members with previous newsletters, are now available presented as a collection under the title of *Memories of Four Seasons*. *The Canal Through Knowle* will follow later, but as there are rights to



Elvers Green Ford

clear we may produce others first. It is worthwhile restating that the intellectual rights to the *text* remain with the *author*, notwithstanding any copyright statement relating to the Society's *publication rights*. All booklets will be on sale at Knowle Library or direct from the Society and will be well publicised.