

OUTSIDE EVENTS

We have given several talks to other organisations during the year, one as usual being for Knowle Library in Adult Learners' Week; we are now receiving requests via Solihull Council's list of speakers. A short version of *The Westminster Connection* had a repeat showing in the Oxfam Bookshop window in July; we provided guides for Knowle Parish Church on Heritage Open Day and will do so again this year. Knowle C of E Primary School Year 6 Local History Project is an established part of our programme. A version of *Growing Up In Knowle* for *Solihull Talking Magazine* is at an advanced stage under the expert guidance of Roslyn Croft. Ros will give her talk *Around Knowle in Old Photographs* to Packwood & Bentley Heath W. I. on September 20th. The Diamond Knowle exhibition prevented us taking our traditional stall at Knowle Festival, but we attended the highly enjoyable Barston Fete. We have several bookings for next year and may receive more. *Right: Dr. Crossley, well remembered by Ros Croft.*



FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

The minutes of the last AGM are enclosed and will be taken as read, as will this report; the accounts will be available at the AGM. The Society's finances are healthy, largely due to increased membership, sales and donations from talks to other organisations, plus a retrospective Gift Aid payment from HM Revenue & Customs. We have managed to pay over £500 for the gazebo and tables; thus the Society now owns all its outdoor equipment. The treasurer estimates a closing balance higher than that of last year. From a standing start in 2007 this is encouraging. Net membership has increased from 162 to 180. Major expansion of the web site has unfortunately had to be put on the back burner through the pressure of other projects.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Following a short AGM on October 17th the first talk of the new year will be John Lyons speaking on *A Timeline for Knowle ~ A Journey from Norman to Modern Times*. Remaining dates for 2012 and early 2013 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January - we have some excellent speakers lined up.

Next year we shall concentrate on fewer projects, with a talk and exhibition and if appropriate a booklet on a single subject. This will make our work available to a wider audience and also reduce our work load. Next year's projects are *Eva's Legacy*, *The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle* (the 600th anniversary of which falls in February) and *Bowling in Knowle*. For Heritage Open Days we shall present an exhibition on *Far End* in Kixley Lane - one of the most interesting properties in the village. A book of old photographs is also under consideration.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in January 2013.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 4 No. 4
September 2012

JOIN US FOR OUR FIFTH BIRTHDAY ON OCTOBER 17TH

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2011 to August 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee has naturally been the major event of this year. The Society's exhibition at the Guild House on June 4th attracted a high attendance, with particular interest in Barry Holland's film *Knowle in 1963*.

In the last five years the Society has established a firm base; the necessary administration is in place; a considerable body of work is behind us; we are self-sufficient in equipment; new people have joined us, and in time they will be able to take over from the Old Guard. The pace has been hectic and exhausting, but well worth while.

continued overleaf ...

Diary

Sept 1st - Oct 31st	Exhibition: <i>Knowle & The Crown</i> at Solihull Library
Sept 3rd - Sept 17th	Exhibition: <i>Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years</i> At Knowle Library. For Heritage Open Days
Wed October 17th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting. Talk: <i>A Timeline for Knowle ~ A Journey from Norman to Modern Times</i> . Speaker: John Lyons
Nov 5th - Nov 19th	Exhibition: <i>Knowle Celebrations</i> at Knowle Library
Sat Nov 17th	Autumn Lunch at The Wilson Arms
Wed Nov 21st Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Talk: <i>The Gunpowder Plot in the Midlands</i> . Speaker: Mairi MacDonald.
Dec 1st to Jan 31st	Exhibition: <i>Knowle Celebrations</i> at Solihull Central Library
February/March Church/Guild House	Exhibition: <i>The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle</i>
Wed Feb 20th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Talk: <i>Eva's Legacy</i> . Speaker: Valerie Morton

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 17th 2012 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 3rd. 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 retired earlier in the year; Mrs. Knight will retire at the AGM; the remaining committee members are willing to continue in office.

We shall celebrate our fifth birthday at the AGM with cake for everyone, made by Sylvia Moody (née Curtis), who used to make the cakes for the bakery. No-one will be surprised that she has definitely not lost her touch.

As usual our objectives have been met through exhibitions and talks, by providing a service to individuals and organisations, and through publications. In November two members will attend the umbrella conference on *Publishing Your Work*, organised by Warwickshire Local History Society, with speakers of national eminence.

There have been a number of changes on the committee and the Exhibitions Group during the year: we are sorry to lose both John Rear and Gillian Knight from the committee, both of whom are long serving members. John will continue to do much as he has been, other than attend meetings; Gillian will come when she can. We are very pleased to welcome back John Johnson after illness. Roger Grainger, who was such an asset on the Exhibitions Group, has resigned through pressure of time, although he will still take photographs and give us the benefit of his IT expertise. For a brief period we were lucky to have Glen Delaney, who has now landed a super job in London; we wish him well. The group has been strengthened by Diane Jones and we hope Andrew Bryson will be able to join. I give heartfelt thanks to those who have felt unable to continue in office, and extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us.

We could not fulfil our programme without the support of others: the library staff at both Knowle and Solihull and the enormous contribution made by long-standing residents who have provided material and/or information. I thank them and everyone who has worked hard to make the Society a success: the committee, the working groups, the speakers, and everyone who has helped the Society in any way, and not least our members for their support.

Elaine S. Warner
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TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The programme of talks and social events followed its now established pattern. There is no doubt that the afternoon meetings are more popular than those in the evening, with the Spring meeting being the least well-attended. In 2013 we shall therefore support Warwickshire Local History Society's April talk on *Historic Gardens of Warwickshire*. The Autumn Lunch at the Wilson Arms and the Strawberry Tea in July were popular with some; we shall continue to organise them for those who enjoy these convivial occasions.

EXHIBITIONS

Heritage Open Days in September saw *Knowle's First Grocer's Shop* at Knowle Library; *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* followed in March. *Knowle & The Crown*, *Knowle Celebrations*, *Scenes from Knowle Carnivals*, *Images of Knowle* and *Knowle in 1963* plus maps, books etc. were on show at the Diamond Knowle exhibition and can be seen again at both Knowle and Solihull. We made this the occasion to print out the 1904 6 inch OS map, several Warwickshire maps from 1610 onwards and the 1817 enclosure map, all of which are now available permanently. Readers will see from the Diary Box that *Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years* will have been on show at Knowle Library for Heritage Open Days, but may be over before this newsletter is circulated. This year there has been a full programme of exhibitions at Solihull Central Library; *Knowle & The Crown* is there at present; *Knowle Celebrations* will follow in December; beyond that the programme is still to be decided.



Diamond Knowle Exhibition

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS



As usual further additions to both the image library and the oral history records have been made when preparing projects. Geoffrey Dean has continued to do a sterling job scanning and restoring photographs. and has also converted some of the oral history records to a digital format.

Left: A flower painting by Eva Wootton

PUBLICATIONS

Two new booklets have been produced since last year: *The Pride of Lyons* just before Christmas, followed by *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* in February, making six in all. We have continued to print in-house. A DVD of *Knowle in 1963* was launched at the Jubilee, by kind permission of Barry Holland. We hope to produce *The Canal Through Knowle* before Christmas.