

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

The latest acquisitions include two photographs (courtesy of Barry Holland) of the audience at Knowle Picture Playhouse enjoying themselves, which none of the committee had ever seen before.

The Exhibitions Group has been considering the best way to share data. The computer literate will know that Cloud storage is on line space provided by Google, Microsoft, etc. to back up data. We have acquired 5GB on Google Drive and have uploaded most of our photographic collection, directories and some maps; other items will follow as time permits. We have also purchased a digital copy of Canon Downing's *The Records of Knowle* in searchable PDF format, which will save a lot of time. Diane Jones is looking at the numbering system; we will then assess the best way to work.



PUBLICATIONS

Due to the aforementioned computer problems we were unable to produce *The Canal Through Knowle* for Christmas. It is the next project scheduled to complete, with a possible launch date just before Easter. In the meantime the existing booklets are selling steadily, particularly for the Christmas market. Future publications are under discussion. Like talks, some of our back catalogue could be converted into booklet form. *A Thousand Years of Knowle* is one possibility which might sell well outside Knowle. Converting the text of exhibitions into booklet form is not a long job; it is editing, pagination and clearing rights that takes the time.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

The number of requests from other organisations is still increasing - too many to be accommodated in the Diary Box, but those already known are on the programme card. Six outside talks have already taken place since the last newsletter. We usually have a Society display on these occasions, when our free leaflets prove popular. The established events in our calendar include the Junior School Local History Project, tours of Knowle Church for Heritage Open Days, Knowle Festival in the Park and Barston Fete; but there will be no talk for Adult Learners this year. A version of *Growing Up In Knowle* for *Solihull Talking Magazine* is due to be completed in February.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Events later this year are on the programme card, with more details to come in the next newsletter. Looking further ahead, next year is the centenary of the start of the First World War, for which national preparations are already in hand. We propose to mount an exhibition on *The Great War in Knowle*, which will concentrate on the village as a whole, rather than individuals.

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

The next newsletter will be circulated in May 2013.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 5 No. 1
January 2013

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

After the Queen's Jubilee in 2012 we hope for a quieter year - but the diary seems to be rapidly filling up. The fixture card for 2013 is enclosed: we hope you will enjoy the programme we have organised. As you will see there are slight changes to the pattern of events this year; suggestions always welcome. As promised, we include those events run by the Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office (FWCRO) and Warwickshire Local History Society (WLHS) which Society members may attend. Both organisations also run enjoyable social events open to their members and guests, with visits to Warwickshire houses not open to the public (and excellent food). Neither is expensive and they are well worth joining. The Society is delighted to support the County Record Office in its lottery bid to provide a gateway web site which will be a first port of call for local history societies, include links to societies' own sites, a means of selling booklets on line and much more. *continued overleaf ...*

Diary

Feb 1st - 28th	Exhibition: <i>The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle</i> at Knowle Parish Church (short version)
March 1st - March 31st	at the Guild House (short version)
April 15th - April 29th	at Knowle Library (long version)
Feb 1st - March 31st	Exhibition: <i>Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years</i> Solihull Central Library
Wed Feb 20th	Talk: <i>Eva Wootton ~ Her Life & Legacy.</i> Guild House 2.30 p.m.
Mar 11th - Mar 25th	Exhibition: <i>Johnsons Garage</i> Knowle Library A tribute to John Johnson
Tues April 16th	Warwickshire Local History Society Meeting 8 p.m. Coffee 7.30 p.m.
Friends Meeting House	Talk: <i>Historic Gardens of Warwickshire.</i> Warwick Speakers: Dianne James and Tim Mowl Call notice enclosed; own cars; lifts available.
May 1st - June 30th	Exhibition: <i>The Westminster Connection</i> Solihull Central Library

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Two Society representatives attended the second umbrella conference run by WLHS in November, at which local societies met to discuss the complex issue of copyright, the main speaker being the country's foremost expert on the subject from the National Archives. A new venture this year is the acquisition of Cloud storage (those not computer literate can skip this). Requests for talks are coming in rapidly: most of the regular outside events, such as the Junior School Project, are as usual. More details of all activities below. Lastly, may I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter: a major computer problem has put me a month behindhand.

Elaine S. Warner
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PEOPLE

We are very sad to tell you - as many know already - that John Johnson, our deputy chairman, died on January 1st. John has been a rock on the committee, never failing to give sound advice. We shall miss him terribly, both his contribution to the Society and as a good friend. We are deeply grateful for everything John did for the Society and our sympathy goes to his family. As a tribute to him we shall be showing the *Johnsons Garage* exhibition again at Knowle Library in March. John wrote this himself in the first person; one can almost hear him talking.

On a happier note Diane Jones (Bob Lyons's daughter) and Andrew Bryson (son of Sydney) are becoming established members of the Exhibitions Group and rapidly finding their own niche; we are delighted that Andrew has agreed to join the committee. Roger Grainger has moved away from Knowle, but not far, and we shall keep in touch, as we do with Glen Delaney.

ADMINISTRATION

About fifty members were at the AGM in October, when the officers and committee members were elected. Those who were present will know that the Society ended the financial year with a bank balance of £933 and total assets of £1097, having paid for the gazebo and tables with Gift Aid received from the Government. The Society now owns all its outdoor equipment. Funds are boosted by donations received for outside talks and the sale of publications, enabling the Society to fund its activities whilst keeping subscriptions low. Booklets are sold mostly through Oxfam Books & Music, which does not take any commission. As a Thank You the Society has made a donation of £50.



Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership, which currently stands at 178, with some subscriptions still to come in. Following the AGM we celebrated the Society's fifth birthday with cake for everyone.

Left: Cutting the cake - Sylvia Moody (who made it) & founder member Ernie Norman.

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Following the AGM John Lyons spoke on *A Time Line for Knowle ~ A Journey from Norman to Modern Times*, prepared by himself and Jerry Tucker in the form of a sophisticated and flexible PowerPoint presentation. It proved a big hit and earned a standing ovation. We start 2013 on February 20th with an in-house talk by Valerie Morton entitled *Eva Wootton ~ Her Life & Legacy*. Many people now only think of Eva as the author of *The History of Knowle*, but she was actively involved in many more aspects of village life, including the Church, the W.I., the Guides and Cubs, nature conservation and local history; she collected together Knowle's first local history collection. An exhibition based on the talk will be shown in the summer. For the Spring meeting we shall support Warwickshire Local History Society's April talk on *Historic Gardens of Warwickshire* (call notice enclosed). Social events, starting with a summer buffet in July, are on the programme card.



TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

The Eva Wootton talk mentioned above will be added to the list of those available for outside organisations. *Bowling in Knowle*, due in October, will bring the total to twelve. There are other subjects from the Society's back catalogue which could be converted from exhibition to talk format without too much extra work, such as *The Canal Through Knowle* and *The Railway Station*, both of which might prove of interest outside Knowle. The most popular talk with other organisations is *A Thousand Years of Knowle*, which we have recently improved. *A Time Line for Knowle* is rapidly catching up.

EXHIBITIONS

We have a particularly full exhibition programme this year. As so often in the past, it is sometimes determined by external considerations. This year sees the 600th anniversary of the founding of Knowle's popular religious guild in 1413, which we could not let pass. The Guild had a profound effect on the village its 135 years' existence and must have left a big gap in local life when it was dissolved in 1547. An exhibition giving a brief history of the Guild can presently be seen in the church; it will move to the Guild House in March. A longer version will be on show at Knowle



Library in April and at Solihull in August. We are grateful to the Revd. Dr. Anthony Upton, without whose help we could not have completed this project. The next exhibition is *Johnsons Garage*, which will be at Knowle in March. The Solihull programme starts with last year's *Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years* on February 1st, followed by *The Westminster Connection* in May.

Left: *Misericords*, Knowle Parish Church, where the priests of the Guild would have perched during services (now the rear choir stalls)