

to incorporate our catalogue into the library system, using an industry standard package. We would then be compatible with both Solihull and Warwick at no cost to the Society. If this can be made to work it would be the ideal solution. We are very grateful to the library staff for this suggestion. Transporting a database from one platform to another is always complex. With luck, our present professional (but ancient) developer's package should cope with any necessary reformatting.

DIGITAL RECORDS

The Society's projects - its visible presence - clearly need well-organised data behind them, a matter to which the Exhibitions Group will give some priority.

PUBLICATIONS

Pressure of work has made it impossible to publish *The Canal Through Knowle* until now; it will be completed as soon as possible. Existing publications still sell well.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Several outside talks have been given during the year; however, there was no talk for Adult Learners' Week. We provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days and will do so again this year; *Growing Up In Knowle* for *Solihull Talking Magazine* was completed in January; a small exhibition for Oxfam Books & Music was on show in July. Knowle C of E Primary Academy Year 6 Local History Project took place as usual, but a new curriculum means changes next year. Unfortunately Knowle Festival in the Park was cancelled this year; we wish the Friends of Knowle Park better luck with volunteers in 2014; we were disappointed that there was no room for us at Barston Fete, which we have attended for the last few years, with a lot of interest in our stall. Four bookings for talks for the next year have already been received; more will probably follow.



Golden End Cottage, 1853

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

The Society's administration has been in the capable hands of the Secretary and the Treasurer; finances are in good shape and the Society is in a position to purchase a certain amount of necessary equipment and still maintain a reasonable reserve. Membership stands at 173 - larger than most local history societies, despite a not unexpected slight drop from 182. The minutes of the last AGM are enclosed; both these and this report will be taken as read; the accounts will be available at the AGM.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Remaining dates for 2013 and early 2014 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for next year will be published.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in January 2014.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 5 No. 3
September 2013

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2012 to August 2013

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Society's programme has followed a now well-established pattern of events through which it meets its objectives: exhibitions, talks, publications and two social events for members and guests plus a service to individuals and organisations. The Society has continued to take part in outside events and maintains contact with an increasing number of local organisations, both voluntary and professional. This year has been notable for the expansion of the Exhibitions Group, which has widened its remit to include Archives & Digital Records, although in time this may become a separate group. An increased and devolved workload inevitably needs new working practices, on which careful discussion has already started.

continued overleaf ...

Diary

Aug 1st - Sep 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle</i> (full version)
Sep 2nd - Sep 16th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Far End</i> For Heritage Open Days
Sat Sep 14th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Tours of Knowle Parish Church For Knowle Parish Church (Heritage Open Days)
Wed Oct 16th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Barry Holland's Knowle ~ 1954</i> Speaker: Diane Jones (née Lyons). Preceded by a short AGM.
Nov 4th - Nov 18th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Eva Wootton ~ Her Life & Legacy</i>
Sat Nov 16th	Autumn Luncheon at the Wilson Arms (call notice enclosed)
Wed Nov 20th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Birmingham's Historic Buildings</i> Speaker: Lewis Braithwaite
Wed Feb 19th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>To be announced.</i> Speaker: In House

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 16th 2013 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 2nd. 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. All the existing committee members are willing to continue in office. Andrew Bryson and Keith Barrett will both stand for election for the first time. Graeme Spencer has agreed to become Deputy Chairman (in place of the late of John Johnson).

The Society could not fulfil its programme without the support of the library staff at both Knowle and Solihull and the enormous contribution made by long-standing local residents, who have provided material and/or information. Many thanks to them and all those who have worked hard to make the Society a success: the committee, the working groups, the speakers, and many more; and our members for their support.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

PEOPLE

The Society is growing and changing. Andrew Bryson has joined the committee. He and Kate Woodcock have joined the Exhibitions Group, which one or two others attend on an informal basis for the time being. Very recently we were pleased to welcome Keith Barrett to the committee as Membership Secretary. John Johnson, who died last January, is much missed, particularly for his management expertise. We must mention Geoffrey Dean, who has not been well enough to attend the last few committee meetings. Our thoughts are with Geoffrey and Judith and their family.

TALKS & SOCIAL EVENTS

As usual the programme of talks included two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers: John Lyons on *A Time Line for Knowle* after the AGM and Valerie Morton on *Eva Wootton ~ Her Life and Legacy* in February. Last November, the excellent Mairi Macdonald spoke on the topical subject of *The Gunpowder Plot in the Midlands*. This year the April meeting saw a change, when we supported Warwickshire Local History Society's meeting, advertised as *Historic Gardens of Warwickshire*, but altered due to the speaker's indisposition. As few Society members attended, we shall revert to a

meeting in the Guild House in 2014. Two social events were enjoyed by those who came; we shall continue to organise them for those who enjoy these convivial occasions - but without the cost of hiring a venue. *Right: a sunny evening in Meg's garden*



EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions have been mainly topical, starting with *Knowle Local History Society ~ The First Five Years* in September. The 600th anniversary of the Guild of Knowle in February was an obvious subject for the Spring exhibition. After an extended presence in the church and Guild House, for which the Society thanks Knowle Parish Church, a fortnight in Oxfam Books & Music followed in July. The exhibition is now at Solihull Library. *Johnson's Garage* was shown in March as a tribute to the late John Johnson. The first appearance of *Eva Wootton ~ Her Life & Legacy* was scheduled for Knowle Festival in the Park, which was unfortunately cancelled; it will be at Knowle Library in November as advertised. *Knowle Celebrations* and *Knowle & The Crown* - both first seen at the Jubilee exhibition last year - were recently shown at Solihull Library, a shorter interval between viewings at Knowle and Solihull, as they were still topical. *The Westminster Connection* followed at Solihull, a natural subject before the present Guild exhibition. *Far End* will be on show for Heritage Open



The garden at Far End.

Days, but may be over before this newsletter is distributed. *Far End* is a two-hundred year old house in Kixley Lane, associated, among others, with the Willcox family. Research for this has been lengthy, as the Willcox's are a large and widespread clan, difficult to sort out. However, enough research has been done to cover any future exhibition on Grimshaw Hall, which they owned in the 19th century. We are grateful to those associated with *Far End* for their help. The next exhibition at Solihull will be *The Pride of Lyons* in November. Next year's exhibitions programme is under discussion; *The Great War in Knowle* will feature at some point.

IMAGE LIBRARY

Geoffrey Dean has continued to scan and restore photographs and other records to standards recommended by English Heritage. This needs considerable expertise and experience with Adobe Photoshop; like all photo editing programs, this is not easy to use, except at an elementary level. The number of photographs Geoffrey has dealt with over the years runs to thousands. The pressure of preparing projects has pushed the mundane (but vital) task of numbering on to the back burner.

As members may recall, the Exhibitions Group has been considering a badly needed new cataloguing system. The Local Studies Librarian at Solihull has offered