

To avoid adding to our work load, we normally show exhibitions at Solihull which have already been seen in Knowle one or two years earlier. However, as the boards are not the same size as our main boards, a certain amount of work is involved in laying them out. Exhibitions at Solihull are normally booked for two months and left in place until the next booking at the discretion of the Local Studies Librarian.

PUBLICATIONS



Top Lock

With a super-human effort *The Canal Through Knowle* was on sale at the AGM and caught the Christmas market. We are happy to say that it ran off the shelves and existing booklets also sold well. Next on the list is the *Great War in Knowle*, due in February. Obviously sales are higher in the pre-Christmas period, so producing a new one for the AGM, giving our own members the first opportunity to buy, may be worth considering.

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

Acquisitions continue to trickle in. We are particularly grateful to Knowle Scouts, who have allowed us to scan photographs for the Great War project. In return we shall provide them with enhanced digital images.

The Exhibitions Group is still considering the best way to share data and how to back up our huge database. So far, no conclusions have been reached; but any method we use must be simple, otherwise it will not get done.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

One outside talk has already passed in 2014: *The History of Dorridge* for Solihull South U3A, given by Kate Woodcock speaking for the first time. Having lived in Dorridge all her life, Kate was the ideal speaker. She will give the same talk again at the end of January. This year the Junior School Local History Project will take the form of a talk on the Great War, instead of the usual interview sessions. We shall take a stall at Knowle Festival in the Park (if it takes place) and at Dorridge Day. Many thanks to Knowle & Dorridge Round Table for accommodating us.



Darley Mill pool

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Events later this year are on the programme card, with more details to come in the next newsletter.

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

The next newsletter will be circulated in May 2014.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 5 No. 4
January 2014

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The fixture card for 2014 is enclosed: we hope you will enjoy the year's programme. *The Great War in Knowle* will take a lot of our time this year; producing booklets is also time-consuming. The remainder of the exhibitions programme has been tailored to take account, with two exhibitions this year instead of the usual three. Requests for talks are still coming in, with three already gone since the last newsletter and a further three booked before the autumn.

There are some changes in other outside events: due to curriculum changes the Junior School Local History Project will take a different form this year; and we shall take a stall at Dorridge Day instead of going to Barston Fete. The Society lunch at the Wilson Arms has been moved to March to avoid too many events in November. More details of all events below.

Elaine S. Warner
01564 775887

Diary

Until February 28th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Pride of Lyons</i>
Wed February 19th Guild House 2.30 Tea 2 p.m.	Talk: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i> Speaker: Andrew Bryson
March 1st - April 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Knowle's First Grocer</i>
Sat March 15th Wilson Arms	Spring Lunch 12.30 for 1 p.m. Call notice enclosed
Wed April 16th Guild House 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Talk: <i>Chedhams Yard</i> Speaker: from Chedhams Yard
June 23rd to Sep 13th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i>

www.knowlehistory.org.uk

e-mail: knowlehistory@yahoo.co.uk

PEOPLE

We are deeply sad to tell you that Geoffrey Dean died on October 13th. Geoffrey's contribution to the Society has been enormous: he created the image library, without which the Society could barely function; he also had considerable management ability. We miss Geoffrey; we are deeply grateful for everything he did for the Society and for the village; above all, he was a super chap - everybody liked Geoffrey. Our sympathy goes to Judith and his family. Geoffrey was a 'back room boy', closeted with his computer most evenings. In tribute, the talk after the AGM will be on the image library he created, followed by an associated exhibition.

For the first time we invited members of working groups to the December committee meeting, with drinks (on the chairman) and mince pies (courtesy of John Lyons). This seems to have been a good idea and likely to be repeated. Although a relatively light-hearted meeting, we did get through the necessary business.

ADMINISTRATION

Over sixty members were at the AGM in October, when the officers and committee members were elected. Graeme Spencer became Deputy Chairman in place of John Johnson, who died last January. Andrew Bryson and Keith Barratt, who were appointed during the year, were elected for the first time; the other officers and committee members were re-elected. The Society ended the financial year (August 31st) with a balance of £1202.71 and total assets of £1301.01, having paid for the sound system (£115) out of income. We have since spent a total of £193.69 on a copy of Adobe Photoshop Elements/Premiere Elements, plus a high quality paper trimmer and a long arm stapler. The latter items will allow us to share the work of assembling booklets. Again we thank Oxfam Books & Music, which sells most of our merchandise. We are now putting advertisements for future events on the television at Knowle Library. Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership, which currently stands at 174, with some subscriptions still to come in.

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Following the AGM Diane Jones made her speaker's début with *Barry Holland's Knowle ~ 1954*, at which Barry and his wife, Mary, were present. On impulse, their son and daughter in America hopped on a plane to join them. Barry then spoke about his own memories of Knowle. The whole evening was a huge success with much laughter and the Guild House full to capacity - and all filmed by Barry's son.



Barry and Mary at home in California

In-house talks are *The Great War in Knowle* on February 19th, when the speaker will be Andrew Bryson - also making his speaker's début and *An Image Library for Knowle* in October. Outside speakers have been arranged for April and November. Social events will be a lunch at the Wilson Arms in March and a summer buffet in July. All events are on the programme card.

THE GREAT WAR IN KNOWLE

Members of the Society first researched this subject in 1985, when people who remembered the Great War were still alive and were interviewed. It took several people months to collect material. We start with the disappearance of the young men of the village to the War, followed by support for them at home, led tirelessly by Canon Downing: news of those at the Front; the tragedy of HMS Black Prince; the requisition of horses for the War; the Volunteer Training Corps for men left at home; support for military hospitals; the work of the Red Cross in the village; VAD hospitals at Hampton and Springfield; that well known trophy - the German gun; finally celebrations as the men returned home and memorials to those who did not. We have concentrated on the village during the war rather than individuals, unless they are of particular significance. The talk in February will be followed by an exhibition at Knowle Library in April. An associated booklet is on track to be ready in time for the talk. Between June and September the exhibition will feature in Solihull Library's own First World War exhibition, to be opened by the Mayor. Our contribution to Heritage Open Days in September will be the usual tours of the church with emphasis on the Great War memorials and possibly a guided walk taking in places associated with the War with an accompanying leaflet.



Card sent home from the Front

TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

Barry Holland's Knowle, mentioned above, will be added to the list of talks available for outside organisations. This year's talks will bring the total to fourteen. Some of them are now quite old; with extra photographs and information acquired since they were first written, they may need to be updated. Talks are now being undertaken by all members of the Exhibitions Group as they become more familiar with the Society's material. By the summer, everyone will have spoken at least once.

EXHIBITIONS

Far End, on show last September, created an unexpected degree of interest. This year, following *The Great War in Knowle* next April, *An Image Library for Knowle* will be shown in October.

At Solihull *The Pride of Lyons* will remain until the end of February at the Local Studies Librarian's discretion; *Knowle's First Grocer* follows in March. Due to the Library's own exhibition programme there is then a gap until *Two Knowle Shops ~ Farewell Maddocks, Goodbye Soden's* in October. The Society obviously does not have a monopoly on the show cases at Solihull, but is pleased to provide the library with exhibitions when they would otherwise be empty - and it is good publicity for us.



The original grocer's shop (next to Chester House)