

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

The most recent acquisition is a wonderful set of photographs of the Wilson Arms Garage, which operated in the inn's barn in the 1920s. These are private photographs, which none of us had ever seen before.

The Exhibitions Group has been looking at proprietary back up software. But what we need is a *copy*, not a *back up* (not the same apparently). For the time being we shall stick to the trusty Drag-and-Drop.

OUTSIDE EVENTS AND ENQUIRIES

The next outside event is Dorridge Day on August 31st. Following that Heritage Open Days on September 13th will see the usual tours of the church, plus the guided tour of Knowle already mentioned.

Requests for talks have become too many to mention individually. Since the last newsletter four have been and gone, another three are booked before the end of the year. There are eleven enquiries in hand at present, including one from Madrid. With several members on our committees who were born here, it is very rare that the Society cannot help. It does, however, take time; we divide things up between us.



Smoode's from the church tower, 1960s

The Society has recently provided Smoode's (at the old Card Shop) with some photographs and an accompanying piece of text on the history of this 17th century Grade II listed building. These are now on the wall for everyone's enjoyment. Text and photographs have been supplied for Widney Junior School's project on Knowle Church; and we are exploring ways in which we might be of service to Arden Academy.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Events later this year are on the programme card, with more details to come in the next newsletter. The Exhibitions Group has started to think about next year's programme, which needs to reflect the amount of work in hand. At the last Society meeting members expressed an interest in a talk on the canal, even though we have already produced a booklet. This would probably be in February (too long for the AGM). It may also be popular with outside organisations. For the AGM the suggestion is *Bowling in Knowle*, which was deferred from 2013. Both would be relatively easy, as most of the research is already done. Other ideas welcome.

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

The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2014.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 6 No. 1

May 2014

WE HOPE ALL OUR MEMBERS WILL ENJOY THE SUMMER

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As expected the year so far has been dominated by *The Great War in Knowle*, which is still taking up time. The Society aims for high standards and achieves a phenomenal amount, but must not overstretch itself. A period of consolidation is needed: some of the talks need updating; the database must be maintained in apple pie order; the web site needs attention to link into Heritage & Culture Warwickshire's *Our Warwickshire* project; and Solihull Council is developing *Solihull Heritage Gateway*, with an on-line archives catalogue, on which the Society already has a small amount of material listed and hopes to have more. (Go to www.calmview.eu/solihull). Meanwhile, requests for information, help and talks continue. More details overleaf.

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Diary

To June 12th latest	Exhibition: <i>Knowle's First Grocer</i>
June 16th to Sep 23rd Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i>
July 3rd - July 17th Oxfam Books & Music	Exhibition: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i> (short version)
Thurs July 10th 6.30 p.m.	Summer Social at 23 Blackdown Road
Sunday August 31st	Stall at Dorridge Day Exhibition: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i> ; Plus maps, postcards, etc.
Sat September 13th Church: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Walk: Time to be advised	Events for Heritage Open Days Tours of Knowle Parish Church (for Knowle Parish Church) Village Walk taking in places associated with the Great War.
Oct 1st - Nov 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Farewell Maddocks, Goodbye Sodens.</i>
Wednesday Oct 15th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	AGM Talk: <i>An Image Library for Knowle.</i> Speaker: Elaine Warner

PEOPLE

We are sorry to lose Keith Barrett from the committee: work commitments are still too time-consuming for him to continue as Membership Secretary. He is, however, happy to help with scanning as and when he has time. Many thanks to Keith for all he has done since last October.

ADMINISTRATION

The Society does, of course, need a new Membership Secretary, which involves maintaining the records in MS Excel and keeping in touch with members. Offers gratefully received. In the meantime, the job has reverted to our super-efficient secretary. Membership has dropped slightly as it usually does for various reasons at this time of year; it now stands at 160. Sadly, some of our members have died.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The first of the two meetings held since the last newsletter was *The Great War in Knowle*, of which more below. The second was *Chedham's Yard* when David Close (from Chedham's Yard) gave a hugely enjoyable talk about the history of the yard, its restoration after winning the BBC restoration programme in 2006 and progress since. It is well worth a visit. The next event is the Summer Buffet on July 10th (call notice enclosed). Last year we enjoyed a lovely summer evening in Meg Hole's garden and hope for the same again. After the summer break is the AGM in October, followed by *An Image Library for Knowle*, - a tribute to Geoffrey Dean.

THE GREAT WAR IN KNOWLE

The talk in February, given by Andrew Bryson, was very well received by a large audience. An associated booklet was ready in time and is selling well, both directly by the Society and through the good offices of Oxfam Books & Music and Knowle Library. Andrew has given the talk again to a Knowle organisation and more requests are in the pipeline. It is available for any organisation which might like it. The exhibition was on show at Knowle Library in April/May. We were delighted to include imaginative contributions from the children from Knowle C of E Primary



1st Knowle Scouts, who made a big contribution to the village effort.

Academy (Year 6), who provided letters, poems and news reports to/from imaginary men serving in France. This followed a visit to the school by three members of the Society to help with the school's Great War project. The exhibition can be seen at various times and places during the rest of the year. On September 13th there will be a guided tour of the village, taking in places associated with the Great War, with an accompanying leaflet. We are grateful for the help of David Gimes and his P.A., Jill Chape.

OUR WARWICKSHIRE PROJECT AND THE SOCIETY WEB SITE

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire's Gateway website has reached the next stage, with funding for a pilot scheme. It will be a first port of call for local history societies, including links to societies' own sites, a means of selling booklets on line and much more. Jerry Tucker, a member of the Exhibitions Group has volunteered as one of the site editors. The Society's priority for this project will be to improve and expand our own site - a major job which has been on the back burner for far too long. We have made a start: the content remains the same, but we have changed the font and the text colour and added a few fancy buttons. A casual eye may not notice, but it has a brighter, cleaner, more modern look. Information will be added rather than changed. First step: add a Google map (easy). There are then some technicalities to sort out at the server end. The main addition will be a large section devoted to People and Places, with brief information about those of significance, such as Grimshaw Hall (right). It will take priority next year.



EXHIBITIONS



Soden's butcher's as Landers. c. 1900

An Image Library for Knowle, based on the talk at the AGM, will be shown at Knowle Library in October, following the talk at the AGM. At Solihull *The Pride of Lyons* was replaced by *Knowle's First Grocer* in March. *The Great War in Knowle* will be in the Heritage gallery from June to September; *Two Knowle Shops ~ Farewell Maddocks, Goodbye Soden's* follows in October.

PUBLICATIONS

Eight publications are now in print; they sell at a steady trickle. As you may know, the Herons Nest has been refurbished and its name has reverted to The King's Arms. This will mean minor alterations to *The Canal Through Knowle*. Similar changes will be needed to *The Place Names of Knowle* and *The Greswolde & Mermaid Arms* when the McCarthy & Stone development is complete. One advantage of in-house printing in small quantities is that we are not left with out of date stock.