

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS

Geoffrey Dean has been sadly missed; nevertheless we have continued to scan and enhance any material which has come in as required. As usual, most material has been acquired for exhibitions, with the addition of a number of small collections, the latest being a box of papers from the Davy family. Administrative changes have required some re-organization of our digital records. Advances in technology will enable us to back up data more efficiently: the Society has recently purchased three very neat large capacity fast disk drives which do not need mains power; but a new cataloguing system is on the back burner.



The Wilson Arms Garage, 1920s

PUBLICATIONS

The Canal Through Knowle, finally available for the AGM in October, has proved particularly popular. *The Great War in Knowle* followed in February, bringing the total to eight. All sell well, particularly when first published and before Christmas.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Events relating to the Great War are mentioned above; several outside talks have been given during the year, and as usual we provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days. Once more there was no Knowle Festival in the Park, but the Society had a successful day at Dorridge Day for the first time in glorious weather. Many thanks to Knowle & Dorridge Round Table for allocating us an excellent pitch. The first event of 2014/15 will be Heritage Open Days on September 13th (see Diary Box). Several bookings for talks have already been received; more will probably follow.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Society programme will follow its usual pattern in 2015. Additional to our involvement in *Our Warwickshire* and possible projects with both Knowle Primary Academy and Arden Academy, there will be two main projects next year, with a talk and exhibition on each. The exhibitions programme starts with *An Image Library for Knowle* at Knowle in October and *Two Knowle Shops ~ Maddocks & Sodens* at Solihull from October 1st. The Spring project is *The Canal Through Knowle* with *Bowling in Knowle* in the Autumn. The exhibition programme at Solihull is still under discussion. Outside talks will be *Evelyn's War* in April and *Charlecote House* in November. The former is based on the diary of a young woman who passed through Knowle when serving on canal boats during the Second World War.

Remaining dates for 2014 and early 2015 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for 2015 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 2015.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 6 No. 2
September 2014

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2013 to August 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Society's programme has followed its usual pattern of events, through which it meets its objectives: exhibitions, talks, publications and social events, plus a service to individuals and organisations. The commemoration of the start of the Great War has been the major event of the year; it has meant changes to the Junior School project and exhibitions at Solihull, plus a welcome invitation to Arden Academy's WW1 event. We attended Dorridge Day for the first time and made a start in uploading material to the *Our Warwickshire* web site. The Society has continued to take part in outside events, leading to increased contact with other organisations, both voluntary and professional.

continued overleaf ...

Diary

Sat Sep 13th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Events for Heritage Open Days Tours of Knowle Parish Church. For Knowle Parish Church <i>Slides at Smoodes</i> . A laptop display of old photos of Knowle War Walk ~ The Great War. Starting at Knowle Church.
11 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.	
Oct 1st - Nov 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Two Knowle Shops ~ Maddocks & Sodens</i> This may be on show for a longer period.
Wed Oct 15th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>An Image Library for Knowle</i> Speaker: Elaine Warner. Preceded by a short AGM.
Oct 20th - Nov 3rd Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>An Image Library for Knowle</i>
Wed Nov 19th Knowle Church 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Warwickshire & The Holbeche Family</i> (The Holbeche family lived near Knowle.) Speaker: Laurence Ince
Wed Feb 18th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Canal Through Knowle</i> Speaker: Andrew Bryson
Saturday in March	Spring Lunch at The Wilson Arms

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 15th 2014 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 1st. 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. With the exception of Keith Barrett, who resigned earlier in the year, all the existing committee members are willing to continue in office.

The Society would like to thank the library staff at both Knowle and Solihull, Oxfam Books & Music and the many long-standing local residents, who have provided material and/or information, together with 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

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

The Society's administration remains in the capable hands of the Secretary and the Treasurer, with finances in good shape; some necessary equipment has been purchased whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve. Membership currently stands at 164. We are, however, in desperate need of a new membership secretary. As previously stated, this involves maintaining the records in MS Excel and keeping in touch with members. This is urgent: no society can survive without people willing to undertake essential jobs. If you feel you could do this, please let us know. 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.

We were sorry to lose Keith Barrett from the committee earlier in the year. The greatest loss was Geoffrey Dean, who died last October. He was a key member of the committee and is much missed. The talk after the AGM will be in his memory.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

As usual the programme included two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers: Diane Jones on *Barry Holland's Knowle ~ 1954* after the AGM, to which the Holland family came en masse, with Barry's son and daughter hopping on separate 'planes from America on the spur of the moment. In February Andrew Bryson spoke on *The Great War in Knowle* to start the Society's Great War project. The outside speakers

were Lewis Braithwaite on *Birmingham's Historic Buildings* in November and the excellent David Close on *Chedham's Yard* in April. The Spring Lunch in March and the Summer Buffet in July were both enjoyable occasions. We shall continue to run them for those who wish to come.

THE GREAT WAR IN KNOWLE

The Great War in Knowle talk was accompanied by a booklet; an exhibition followed at Knowle in April, moving to Solihull at the end of June as part of Solihull's own exhibition *Solihull Remembers*. It will remain until September 13th. The Society was delighted to include work by the children of Knowle C of E Primary Academy (Year 6), after three committee members assisted them with their own Great War project. A short version was on show at Oxfam Books & Music in July and at Dorridge Day on August 31st. The talk has been in demand from other organizations. We attended both Arden Academy's 100th Anniversary WW1 Commemorative Event and the official opening of *Solihull Remembers* by the Mayor of Solihull. Thank You to both Arden Academy and Solihull Council for inviting us to these two occasions. The first event of 2014/15 will be a Great War Walk for Heritage Open Days on September 13th. The leaders will be David Gimes at 11 a.m. and Andrew Bryson at 2.30 p.m.



A German gun - trophy of war.

EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition programme at both Knowle and Solihull were adapted this year to allow sufficient time for the Great War project. At Knowle Library the year began with *Far End ~ A House in Kixley Lane* for Heritage Open Days in September, which attracted an unexpectedly large amount of interest. *Eva Woolton ~ Her Life & Legacy* followed in November. At Solihull *The Pride of Lyons* replaced *The Guild of St. Anne of Knowle* in November, followed by *Knowle's First Grocer* until the end of June.

OUR WARWICKSHIRE & THE SOCIETY WEB SITE

WCRO's Heritage Gateway website reached the next stage of its lottery bid, for which the Society sent a further supporting letter. The site now has over 200 pages, including an article on the Remount Department at the Wilson Arms during the Great War, based on text from the Society's exhibition. Go to

www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/topics/world-war-one/knowle-first-world-war-4



The Wilson Arms, c. 1915

The next step is to add the Society to the list of organizations, with a brief description of what it does. More articles will follow, also based on completed projects. This very important site may well have an advantageous effect on our own projects and generate sales of booklets. Some improvements to the Society's own web site are already complete, with the addition of a People & Places section due in 2015.