

IMAGE LIBRARY & OTHER RECORDS

We have recently received a wonderful set of private photographs of Dorridge during the development of Forest Court, which had not been seen before. Many thanks to the donor, to Elizabeth Webb and to Ian Spencer of DDRA for putting us in touch with him. Recently several enquiries have been received from people whose families lived in Knowle in the past, but who are now living abroad. Help is not one way: in return they have provided information and photographs about their own families to add to the Society archive.



Forest Court under construction, 1962.

The Society now has three portable hard drives. They are light, small enough to go in a pocket, have a huge capacity and do not need mains power.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

After assisting Year 6 pupils at Knowle C of E Primary Academy with their World War 2 project in September, the Society then helped Year 2 with Victorian history. Valerie Hamley (a retired history teacher) took several artefacts of the period and explained how children would have used them. With some of the Society's Victorian photographs on-screen, Heath Pratt (a retired headmaster) pointed out some of the differences from Knowle as it is today. The following week several members of the Society and others visited the school and were interviewed by Year 3 pupils, again about their World War 2 experiences. Many thanks to those who took part.

Roslyn Croft, John Lyons, Sylvia Moody and Valerie Morton have recorded another tape for Solihull Talking Newspaper, this year on their memories of Christmas in Knowle, scanning three decades from the 1930s to the 1960s. This year's tape was recorded by John Lyons on his own computer with an external microphone, with excellent results which were clear as a bell. Some of the contributors have revealed hidden depths as natural speakers.

We hope to repeat last year's successful day at Dorridge Day. For Heritage Open Days in September members will be on hand in the church to answer questions as usual, something we do for Knowle Parish Church. The Society's contribution will be an exhibition entitled *The Old Parsonage*, of which all that remains is the only surviving cottage in High Street (No. 1644).

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 2015.



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 6 No. 3

January 2015

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The fixture card for 2015 is enclosed: we hope you will enjoy the year's programme. The Society is exceptionally busy at present. Apart from the usual programme of talks and exhibitions in both Knowle and Solihull, we have provided more help to Knowle C of E Primary School than hitherto; another tape has been recorded for Solihull Talking Newspaper; requests for talks from outside organizations are increasing. It is heartening to be able to provide a service that is appreciated. More articles are gradually being added to the *Our Warwickshire* web site. The production of DVDs and CDs is under consideration: the information is to hand; it is a matter of the right software, learning how to use it and the considerable time needed to put everything together. More details overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner
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Diary

Until February 3rd Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Two Knowle Shops ~ Maddocks & Sodens</i>
Feb 3rd - March 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The History of Knowle Park</i>
Wed February 18th Guild House 2.30 Tea 2 p.m.	Talk: <i>The Canal Through Knowle</i> Speaker: Andrew Bryson
Sat March 21st Wilson Arms	Spring Lunch 12.30 for 1 p.m. Call notice enclosed
April 13th - April 27th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Canal Through Knowle</i>
Wed April 15th Guild House 7.30 p.m. Coffee 7 p.m.	Talk: <i>Evelyn's War</i> Speaker: Tim Coghlan, Managing Director, Braunston Marina The story of two young women who manned coal boats passing through Knowle in the Second World War.

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PEOPLE

Once again we invited members of working groups to the December committee meeting, with drinks and mince pies. With several items on the agenda in which they are involved, it was helpful to have them present. We aim to keep the meeting short and relatively light-hearted meeting, at the same time completing necessary business.

ADMINISTRATION

About thirty five members braved the weather to attend the AGM in October, when all the officers and committee members were re-elected.

The Society ended the financial year (August 31st) with a balance of £1402.58, having paid £460 for equipment out of income. This was almost exactly £200 up on last year. Total assets were £1586.08. We have since spent a further £172.49 on two more external hard drives and several items for the gazebo. Income from sales and donations from talks enables the Society to purchase equipment and function more easily, but which it could not afford on subscription income alone. Oxfam Books & Music has continued to sell most of our merchandise, for which we very grateful. They do not take any commission, but the Society gives them a donation each year. Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership, which currently stands at 160, with a few subscriptions still to come in. Those of you who have not yet paid will not receive a renewal form this year (but may find a note enclosed). We hope you wish to continue as members, but *please* pay your subscription.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

After the AGM Elaine Warner gave a talk on *An Image Library for Knowle*, in memory of Geoffrey Dean, who created it and who died last year. It was a reminder of Geoffrey's considerable expertise and just how much he did behind the scenes.



Bottom Lock, 1999

In-house talks this year are *The Canal Through Knowle* on February 18th, when the speaker will be Andrew Bryson and *Bowling in Knowle* in October. The April meeting will continue the canal theme, when Tim Coghlan, the managing director of Braunston Marina, will speak on *Evelyn's War*, the story of two young women who passed through Knowle manning coal boats along the Grand Union

Canal during the Second World War. A speaker from Charlecote House has been booked for the November meeting. 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.



Coal boats tied up c. 1910, possibly at Kixley Wharf.

TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

The Society receives more and more requests for talks from other organizations; we are more than happy to oblige. Four talks have been given since the last newsletter, a further two are booked for February and another four before the end of the year. There are likely to be more, with people now booking for 2015/2016. Most of the Society's talks are timed to last about an hour, but we are finding that some organizations prefer forty five minutes or less. We are therefore amending them, possibly creating two versions and at the same time inserting new photographs and information not to hand when they were first written. Unsurprisingly, *The Great War in Knowle* has been particularly popular in 2014. Andrew Bryson, who is the usual speaker for this one, has been kept busy. When available, *The Canal Through Knowle* and *Bowling in Knowle* may prove as popular and provide some variation.



Left: Barns behind Kenilworth Road garage, from the Kenilworth Road talk

EXHIBITIONS

This year we shall continue the practice of giving a talk followed by an exhibition on the same theme: the Society's activities have grown to such an extent that preparing more than two projects in any one year would not be possible. Exhibitions in Knowle will be *The Canal Through Knowle* next April, followed by *Bowling in Knowle* in October. At Solihull *Two Knowle Shops ~ Maddocks & Sodens* will be replaced by *The History of Knowle Park* from February 3rd until March 30th and longer at the discretion of the Local Studies Librarian. *The Place Names of Knowle* is planned for the summer, but cannot be scheduled until the dates of a planned refurbishment of Solihull Library are finalized.



Children's playground in the park, 1973.

PUBLICATIONS

The last publication was *The Great War in Knowle*, which came out in February and has sold extremely well. No new booklets are in the pipeline at present; but more will be produced as time permits. Ideas welcome.

Some members would like us to research the village school, which we would be happy to do; but it would be a great deal of work, involving hours at the Record Office going through the school records. Be assured it is on the list, together with Grimshaw Hall and possibly Law & Order; but none are imminent. All three might be suitable for a talk and an exhibition as well as a booklet.