

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS

More items have been acquired for exhibitions, including photographs of 1644 High Street from the Curtis family for *The Old Parsonage*. In all the Society holds over 300GB of data, including the image library, project files and much more. Meticulous backing up is crucial: there will be no change from Drag-and-Drop, which works perfectly well, until we are *absolutely certain* that any new system meets our requirements. A new cataloguing system, however, must be given time soon.

PUBLICATIONS

No new publications have been produced this year. Existing ones sell well, particularly before Christmas. *The Canal Through Knowle*, *The Place Names of Knowle* and for the time being *The Great War in Knowle*, are the most popular.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual the Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September; but the normal exhibition was replaced by two guided tours and a leaflet: *Knowle War Walk ~ The Great War*. The Great War exhibition had a further showing on August 8th at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Royal Warwickshire) World War 1 Day.

Right: Andrew Bryson and John Lyons at Warwick on August 8th



The Junior School project took a different form this year: a group of members and others were interviewed by Year 6 pupils on the Second World War. For the first time we assisted Year 3 (studying the Home Front) and Year 2 (studying the Victorians). The Society is always pleased to help the school in any way possible. In June the chairman was pleased to attend the launch of the *Our Warwickshire* project by Heritage and Culture Warwickshire. Eight talks to outside organizations have been given during the year, with several bookings already confirmed for 2015/16, including some for a repeat appearance with a different talk. In September the Society will attend Dorridge Day, which falls in the Society's 2015/16 year.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The first events of 2015/16 will be Heritage Open Days on September 12th (see Diary Box) and *The Old Parsonage* exhibition. The meetings programme will follow a slightly different pattern in 2016: there will be an additional meeting in July in lieu of the Summer Buffet, which will have a social side (light refreshments with wine), followed by a slide show. This will meet members' wishes for both and will fill the gap between April and October. There will be two exhibitions with associated talks, but no exhibition for Heritage Open Days in September 2016: various alternatives are under discussion.

Remaining dates for 2015 and early 2016 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for 2016 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 2016 .*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 7 No. 1
September 2015

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2014 to August 2015

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Society has continued to meet its objectives through its usual programme of exhibitions, talks, publications and social events, plus a service to individuals and organizations.

As well as the Society's own programme, we have continued to take part in outside events, including Junior School projects, events at Warwick and talks for other societies. Increased demand for our services has further widened contacts with other organizations, but has needed more time - willingly given and to which the Society gives some priority. A considerable number of enquiries have been answered during the year.

continued overleaf ...

Diary

Sat Sep 12th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Events for Heritage Open Days Tours of Knowle Parish Church. For Knowle Parish Church Exhibition: <i>The Old Parsonage</i>
Sun Sep 13th	The Society at Dorridge Day Exhibition: <i>The Canal Through Knowle</i> ; maps, photo album etc.
Sep 14th to Sep 28th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Old Parsonage</i>
Wed Oct 21st Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Bowling in Knowle</i> Speaker: In house. Preceded by a short AGM.
Oct 26th - Nov 9th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Bowling in Knowle</i>
Tues Nov 17th Knowle Church 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Charlecote House</i> Speaker: Tony Gulliman (of NT Charlecote House)
Wed Feb 17th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>To be announced</i> Speaker: In house

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 21st 2015 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 7th. 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.

However, plans which have been on the agenda for some time have had to be deferred and which must be given some priority next year. We are a small team, and must be realistic as to how much we can achieve. More about this under Future Programme below.

Once more we 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

The Society's administration remains in the capable hands of the Secretary and the Treasurer, who have worked well together for several years. Finances are healthy. The Society has purchased more equipment, including an external DVD drive with Roxio software, and has repaid the costs of the projector and some relatively small historic items. This still leaves a reasonable reserve. Membership currently stands at 159 (including three members in Australia) - only slightly down on last year.

Publicity has undergone some change: copy for *Knowle Parish Magazine* is now in a different format, which can be used across various platforms; occasional articles have been submitted to *Our Warwickshire*; images on the television at Knowle Library are now created with different software (significant, but probably not noticeable); the committee discussed using a laptop display at meetings in place of the existing display boards, but came to no conclusion. The Society's mini-guides remain popular.

As the Society expands more people are needed to spread the load, most particularly in the fields of publicity, the web site, digital imaging and maintenance of the image library. 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.

RAY MORTON

We are very sorry to tell you of the death of Ray Morton on August 10th, peacefully at Myton Hospice. Ray supported Valerie in all she has done for local history in Knowle since 1977. Later he was one of the founders of Rowington Records. Our sympathy to Valerie and his family. Ray was a super chap, who will be much missed.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The 2014/15 programme has followed the usual format, with two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers and two with outside speakers. The talk after the AGM was *An Image Library for Knowle*, a tribute to the late Geoffrey Dean. The February talk was once again given by Andrew Bryson, this time on *The Canal Through Knowle*. Outside speakers were Laurence Ince speaking about *Warwickshire and the Holbeche Family* in November and Tim Cogan, to whom we could have listened for hours, on *Evelyn's War*, the story of two young women manning narrow boats on the canal in the Second World War. The Spring Lunch was an enjoyable occasion, but the Summer Buffet was cancelled through lack of support. The committee has it in mind to ring a few changes next year (see Future Programme below).



Right: Poplar Farm in Baker's Lane, identified by a member after the Image Library talk.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions at Knowle this year were *An Image Library for Knowle*, followed by *The Canal Through Knowle* in April, both preceded by an associated talk. A short version of the canal exhibition was on show at Oxfam Books & Music in July and can be seen again at Dorridge Day in September.



At Solihull Library the year started with *Two Knowle Shops ~ Maddocks & Sodens*, followed by *The History of Knowle Park*. Thereafter the programme was affected by the refurbishment of the library. *The Place Names of Knowle* has been deferred until its completion.

Left: The canal from Kixley bridge, showing the winding hole.

TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

Considerable time has been devoted to amending existing talks, reducing them to forty-five minutes in length, inserting new photographs and information and a certain amount of restructuring. *A Thousand Years of Knowle* has still topped the popularity list, with *The History of Dorridge* catching up fast; *The Great War in Knowle* has remained in demand. Time constraints have sent plans for short half-hour talks, which some organizations want after a meal, sent to the back burner. They will be created as soon as possible by splitting existing talks. One or more can be combined as required.