

purpose. If you would like to take advantage of this, send us an email telling us which project you want (excluding those for which there is a booklet and only one or two at a time - space is limited); we will then upload the relevant files and send you a confidential link. Material will be taken down after a time if space becomes critical. A list of past projects can be found on the Society web site at [www.knowlehistory.org.uk/research/pastprojects.html](http://www.knowlehistory.org.uk/research/pastprojects.html). Some of the early ones may need too much alteration, but most should be suitable. This is a service *for members only*. At present it will be restricted to those with Internet access; but if proved workable we will consider if it can be extended to those without.

### WEB SITE

At long last some progress has been made on expanding the web site to include a People & Places section, using material from *The Old Village* talks. After a lot of homework and several experiments, technical difficulties in dividing the site into manageable sized chunks have been resolved more easily than feared. Moreover, the site can still be put on to a disk, making it available when we have no Internet access - an unexpected bonus. A small sub-committee has been formed to handle this. The committee is in favour of including only limited information, but it will still run to many more pages than the twenty-five on the site at present. It is quite a long job, so information may be uploaded gradually.



Right: Mrs. King in the garden at Kingscote

### PUBLICATIONS

*Bowling in Knowle* was published in November - not in the plan, but sparked off by a comment from Kate Woodcock, who sold fifteen copies to members of the Bowling Club. The other booklets still sell well: one recent order came from a bookshop in Hove, which wanted two copies of each. The next one will be *The Berrow Inheritance*, planned to be available at the talk in February, but which may be put back due to the early date for the first exhibition at Solihull Library.

### OUTSIDE EVENTS

Three regular events took place in 2015, which we hope will be repeated this year. The Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September and took a stall at Dorridge Day the same weekend. In November members and others assisted Knowle Primary Academy (Year 6) with their World War 2 project by recounting their memories (or those of their parents) to very attentive and well-behaved children. A well-earned cup of tea afterwards allowed us to talk to the staff and exchange experiences of the afternoon with each other.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.  
The next newsletter will be circulated in May 2016.*



# KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## *Making History Live*

### Newsletter

Volume 7 No. 2  
January 2016

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The fixture card for 2016 is enclosed; we hope you will enjoy the year's programme. With so many outside requests, we have continued the sensible course of preparing two projects a year, with a talk, an exhibition and a booklet for each. This year's projects are *The Berrow Inheritance* and *The Railway Station*. One or two items are still to be confirmed, including exhibitions at Solihull. In September the Society will be on hand as usual to answer questions at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days - something we do for the Church. In previous years we have also mounted an exhibition; but this has proved too much work; one or two other ideas are under discussion for 2016. Much has been happening since the last newsletter: progress has been made on expanding the web site; access to projects for members is a major innovation; some overdue administrative procedures are in place; plus all the normal activities, which take the majority of our time. More overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner  
01564 775887

### Diary

Wed Feb 17th Guild House 2.30 p.m. Tea from 2 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Berrow Inheritance</i> Speaker: Diane Jones (née Lyons)
March 1st to May 28th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>A Walk Along High Street</i>
Sat March 12th Wilson Arms 12.30 p.m.	Spring Lunch (members and guests only)
April 5th to April 19th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Berrow Inheritance</i>
Tues April 12th Guild House 7.30 p.m. Coffee from 7 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>War &amp; Worship: Castle &amp; Church</i> Speaker: Jan Cooper. Kenilworth Historical & Archaeological Society

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## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

At the AGM in October the officers and committee were re-elected. We are delighted to welcome Heath Pratt, who was elected for the first time. Those present will know that the Society's finances are healthy, with a closing balance of £543.33. As the treasurer explained, the loss of £859.25 is accounted for by the purchase of equipment, the major item being the repayment of £975 for the projector, *which we have paid out of income*. Stock, plus an estimated amount for unclaimed Gift Aid, gives total assets of just over £780.

Many thanks to those who have renewed your membership. Those who haven't will receive a telephone call from the secretary. We hope you wish to continue as members, but *please* pay your subscription. Membership remains at about 160.

The Society is about to form a new Archives Sub-committee (see below), which will be appointed after one or two informal meetings. This seemed the right moment to give the existing Exhibitions Group its proper status as a sub-committee, rather than the informal group it has been hitherto.

## **MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS**

After the AGM Andrew Bryson gave a talk on *Bowling in Knowle*, at which we were pleased to welcome about twenty members of Ye Olde Knowle Bowling Club. In November a lamentably small audience (the weather?) heard Tony Gulliman speak on *Charlecote House*. Without notes or visual aids he kept us riveted.

Details of the 2016 programme are on the fixture card. The first talk this year will be *The Berrow Inheritance* in February, which will cover the history of the Berrow Cottage Homes Trust from 1885 to the present; it will include William Berrow's sixty acre estate. In April we welcome Jan Cooper from Kenilworth Historical and Archaeological Society for what promises to be an interesting talk entitled *War & Worship: Castle & Church*. We made contact with Kenilworth last year, when we gave a talk at one of their meetings. The spring lunch will take place in March as usual (call notice enclosed); but the summer meeting will take the form of a light buffet supper at the Guild House, with a slide show, probably showing the 1890s collection of photographs, which members requested last year. We hope the change meets with approval.

*Left: The Wilson Arms, 1892. From the 1890s collection.*



## **EXHIBITIONS**

Two successful exhibitions were held at Knowle Library in the autumn: *The Old Parsonage* for Heritage Open Days in September, followed by *Bowling in Knowle* in October - too much work so close together. This year starts with *The Berrow Inheritance* in April. At Solihull Library there will be changes due to re-organization at

the library. Two exhibitions are planned for 2016 in the usual show cases (which have now been moved): *A Walk Along High Street*, is scheduled for March, to complement the library's own exhibition in the Heritage Gallery. *The Place Names of Knowle* may follow in the autumn. More details will be advised when known. *Right: the Berrow Homes from the south.*



## **TALKS & GUIDED WALKS**

The Society already has ten outside talks booked for 2016, with more likely. They are on the fixture card; but as most of the organizations concerned welcome visitors they are now also advertised in *Knowle Parish Magazine* and listed at [www.knowlehistory.org.uk/society/programme.html/#OutsideEvents](http://www.knowlehistory.org.uk/society/programme.html/#OutsideEvents) (case sensitive). *The Canal Through Knowle*, first given last year, is becoming popular. *The Railway Station*, due in October, may prove likewise.

Most of our talks have now been reduced to forty-five minutes in length. With one request for a half hour talk in June attention has now turned to dividing *The Old Village* into separate short talks, starting with *A Walk Along High Street*, updated with new photographs. The same material will be used in the exhibition at Solihull Library (see above) and also in the People & Places section of the web site (see below).

## **THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS**

A new sub-committee will shortly be appointed to administer the Society's digital records, which are continually increasing. It will handle the image library, photo restoration, a review of file formats and folder structure, numbering and listing, oral history, backing up and possibly DVD production. It needs a small team of people who are comfortable with numbering systems, good at organizing data and reasonably computer literate. It will be started by Diane Jones and Elaine Warner, who have already had a preliminary meeting. We are agreed that this is a complex subject needing a plan - still to be formulated, but it will doubtless evolve. A number of people have already volunteered; more are welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know. *Left: The Bank House Hotel front lounge.*



## **MEMBERS' ACCESS TO PROJECTS**

The committee is conscious that some of our members cannot get to talks or exhibitions, which are free to both members and the public. We therefore propose to put talks and/or exhibitions (but not booklets) on the Cloud on request, using our free 15GB on Microsoft OneDrive, which the committee has allocated for the