

At McCarthy & Stone we used their (Samsung) 51 inch television instead of the projector. Although easier, there was an insuperable snag: the laser pointer is not visible on a television screen (checked at home on a Sony), which must have detracted from the enjoyment of those unfamiliar with Knowle. Back to the projector and screen from now on.

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS



A (very) little progress has been made on the new Archives Committee, in that a considerable amount of sorting has been done; we are close to being ready for a first meeting. The Society's database has also undergone further re-organization. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know: this is something people can mostly do in their own time.

Left: Bentley Heath Cricket Ground

WEB SITE & CLOUD

The web site is more or less up to date, although expansion has been a casualty of the extra projects at the beginning of the year.. Only had one expression of interest in accessing the Society's projects on the Cloud has been received so far

PUBLICATIONS

Regrettably, *The Berrow Inheritance* has not yet made it on to the bookstall - another casualty of the workload in January and February. In the meantime stocks of the other booklets are running low; some printing is needed urgently.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual members of the Society will be on hand at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days on Saturday September 10th. As there is a wedding in the early afternoon, this will be in the morning only. Initially, an exhibition was considered too much work; but as *A Walk Along High Street* is already prepared and eminently suitable, it will be on show. Final arrangements are still under discussion. HODS is a big national event, intended to allow the public free access to buildings not normally open. Knowle has very few of such; but perhaps, with its wealth of historic buildings, the village could make more of it in some way. The Society hopes to take a stall at Dorridge Day, which usually falls the following day. In November we have once more been invited to assist Knowle Primary Academy (Year 6) with their World War 2 project. We were pleased to meet two more members of the staff, including the Head of History, at a recent meeting.

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



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 7 No.3
May 2016

WE HOPE MEMBERS WILL ENJOY THE SUMMER BREAK

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Life has been particularly hectic since January, as extra projects have had to be fitted in. On March 1st an exhibition entitled *A Walk Along Knowle High Street* was mounted at Solihull Library to coincide with the re-opening of the library after its refurbishment. The library particularly wanted a display which would complement their own presentation on the theme of *Enjoy Solihull*. We then had a request for a short talk on the same theme for McCarthy & Stone. The third item was another short talk on the railway station and The Forest Hotel. It so happened that these subjects were on the agenda for 2016 in any case, but not until later in the year. We were happy to do these and managed to fit them in, but it has meant that work planned for the whole year was largely concertinaed into two months. With luck it will make life easier later on. Most recently we have completely re-organized the Society's storage.

continued overleaf ...

Diary

Until May 28th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>A Walk Along High Street</i> First Floor
Tues July 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Summer Buffet and slide show (members and guests only) Call notice enclosed
July Oxfam Books & Music	Exhibition: <i>The Berrow Inheritance</i> (short version) Shop window
Wed Oct 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m. Coffee from 7 p.m.	Annual General Meeting Illustrated Talk: <i>The Railway Station</i> Speaker: In house
Nov 1st to Nov 15th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i>
Tues Nov 15th Guild House 2.30 p.m. Tea from 2 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Knights Templar</i> Speaker: Graham Ibbitson

Inevitably, other projects have been delayed, particularly the expansion of the web site (yet again) and the publication of the Berrow Homes booklet. The Society will be taking part in Heritage Open Days in September as usual and hopes to take a stall at Dorridge Day. More details below.

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

There has been something of a move round recently. We are very sorry to lose John Lyons and Jerry Tucker from the Exhibitions Committee and thank them for their respective contributions. John's interest lies more in oral history; with his extensive circle of Knowle acquaintances, together with relevant computer expertise, he has a highly appropriate contribution. He will also organize both Dorridge Day and Heritage Open Days, as he did last year. It has left the Exhibitions Committee somewhat depleted; we are looking for more people. A draft of procedures to administer the sub-committees (only common sense, nothing too heavy handed) will be circulated with the September newsletter, with a final version agreed at the AGM in October and inserted into the Society Rules. We are delighted to welcome Diane Cooper to our team of helpers. Diane has recently returned from France to care for her father. On an equally happy note, Andrew Bryson is recovering well from a serious operation.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

At the first in-house talk of the year Diane Jones spoke on *The Berrow Inheritance*, which covered the history of the Berrow Cottage Homes Trust from 1885 to the present. We were delighted to welcome several residents of the Berrow Homes. In April Jan Cooper, the chairman of Kenilworth Historical and Archaeological Society gave a talk on *War & Worship: Castle & Church*, which lived up to its promise, although with a very small audience. Between the two the spring lunch took place in March as usual. Planning has started for the Summer Buffet and slide show at the Guild House on July 19th; the latter will be on the collection of photographs taken in the 1890s, in which members expressed interest last year. Details are on the enclosed call notice. The next meeting will be the AGM in October, with a talk on *The Railway Station*. As an experiment this year we have organized some meetings on Tuesdays, as some people cannot come on the usual Wednesday. It has not been successful; we shall revert to Wednesdays in 2017.



Left: The church in 1891

STORAGE

As many of you know, some of the Society's files have for several years been kept in Meg Hole's garage, to whom we are grateful for her generosity in allowing this; but she now needs her garage back. John Lyons has kindly offered to house them in the attic at Lyons' Butchers – one of the oldest buildings in the heart of the village it is a very appropriate place for local history files. So there has been a grand re-organization and heaving around of boxes of papers. The Society has purchased fifteen strong plastic storage boxes (the 'blue boxes') at a cost of £154.50; another four were already in hand. The low activity files, including nine project boxes, have gone to Lyons; with luck John will not have to crawl into the roof too often. He also has Oral History files. We only have one blue box spare. It has taken both time and energy; but everything has been properly sorted. Thanks to Neil McDougall, who has done some scanning, we have gone as paperless as possible and consigned quite a bit of hard copy to the bin. An up to date inventory is now essential.

EXHIBITIONS

The Berrow Inheritance made its first appearance at Knowle Library in April, whilst *A Walk Along High Street*, which has been at Solihull since March 1st, is due down on May 31st, but may remain longer. The next main exhibition will be *The Railway Station* at Knowle Library in the autumn, after an outing to Dorridge Day in September. Further plans for Solihull are still under discussion.



Right: High Street, 1894

TALKS & GUIDED WALKS

The Society has thirteen talks booked for 2016, with a further four events in 2017. A cluster of talks close together at the start of the year has evaporated, with only a few more before the autumn. Just to remind members, all are listed at www.knowlehistory.org.uk/society/programme.html/#OutsideEvents (case sensitive) as well as on the fixture card. As anticipated, *The Canal Through Knowle*, is becoming popular. Of the half-hour talks, *A Walk Along High Street*, first given to the residents of McCarthy & Stone at Bentley Heath in February, needs only minor amendments for a talk to the Alzheimer's Society on June 24th. *Kenilworth Road* can easily be reduced by cutting out places beyond Knowle Hall if necessary. The next candidate is probably *Around the Square*.



Left: the rear of a cottage in Kenilworth Road