

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS

More items have been acquired for exhibitions, including a wonderful set of photographs and documents from the Davy family archives. Most of the items the Society acquires are scanned at a very high resolution to produce a 50MB file in accordance with advice from English Heritage. However, occasionally items cannot be borrowed for scanning. Others, such as posters, are much too big for a domestic A4 scanner and require several images to be 'stitched' together. The late Geoffrey Dean was exceptionally good at this and made great efforts to hide the joins, but inevitably they sometimes showed. In these circumstances we have reverted to using a camera, but mounted on a posh new tripod rather than the old copy stand: safer for the camera and a lot more portable. There is still a lot of work to do. Many thanks to Neil McDougall for taking on some of the scanning.

Right: an early photo of Milverton House, with Sam Davy standing outside (copied with the camera)



OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual the Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September 2015. The Junior School project took the same form as last year, with a group of members and others were interviewed by Year 6 pupils on the Second World War. The Society met the Head of History earlier in the year, with a view to helping the school in other ways. The Society took a stall at Dorridge Day in September. Our talks are much in demand from other organizations: twelve were given in the year 2015/2016, with nine already fixed for 2016/17 and others under discussion.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The first events of 2016/17 was Heritage Open Days on September 10th, which has been and gone. On October 8th (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) the Society will take a stall at *Warwick Words* Local History Fair, to be held at the Friends Meeting House, Warwick (opposite the Lord Leicester Hospital). The festival runs for a whole week, with some well-known speakers seen on television. Warwickshire Local History Society's third umbrella conference takes place on November 12th, when the theme will be *Getting On Line for Publicity and Research*. The meetings programme will follow the same pattern as in 2016; outside speakers are already booked; in-house talks will be decided shortly. Remaining dates for 2016 and early 2017 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for 2017 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 2017.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 7 No. 4
September 2016

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2015 to August 2016

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 Heritage Open Days, the Junior School project, events at Warwick and talks for other societies. Our contacts with other organizations have continued to expand. As usual, a considerable number of enquiries have been answered during the year. 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. More details overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner
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Diary

Wed Oct 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Railway Station</i> Speaker: In house. Preceded by a short AGM.
Nov 1st - Nov 15th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Railway Station</i>
Tues Nov 15th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Knights Templar</i> Speaker: Graham Ibbitson
Wed Feb 22nd Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>To be announced</i> Speaker: In house
March	Spring Lunch (to be confirmed)
Wed April 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Compton Verney</i> Speaker: Dr. Sylvia Pinches

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 19th 2016 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 5th. This year there is an addition to the rules to cover the administration of sub-committees (included with this newsletter). Members are welcome to make comments. It would be helpful if any member wishing to do so or 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.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary and the Treasurer have continued to work well together as they have done for several years. Finances remain healthy. As said in the last newsletter the Society purchased fifteen storage boxes (the 'blue boxes') for the filing system, now housed at Lyons shop. Other expenditure includes a small reading rest for use during talks. How best to raise the projector is under discussion - but likely to involve more blue boxes. As stated above and in the last newsletter, procedures to administer sub-committees will be inserted into the Society rules. Inevitably they are formal, but contain absolutely nothing unreasonable that any well run organization would not have in place; this is long overdue. Membership currently stands at 139. Like most organizations we have lost a few members; sadly several have died, whilst others can no longer get to events. Publicity has taken its usual form, although articles on the *Our Warwickshire* site have dwindled: they have to be in a specific layout, which is not always easy to manage

We have welcomed Diane Cooper to our team of helpers; John Lyons has swapped from Exhibitions to Oral History; we were sorry to lose Jerry Tucker at the beginning of the year. We must emphasise that the Society is expanding; more people are needed. It is a voluntary society and important that people do things that they enjoy and where they feel they can make a contribution. 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.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The 2015/16 programme followed the usual format, with two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers and two with outside speakers. However, alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday was a disaster and will not be repeated in 2017, except in November when the Guild House is not available. The talk after the AGM, given by Andrew Bryson, was *Bowling in Knowle*, at which we welcomed members of *Ye Olde Knowle Bowling Club* and *The Avenue Bowling Club*. In February Diane Jones presented *The Berrow Inheritance*, when again we had visitors, this time from the Berrow Homes. Outside speakers were Tony Gulliman, who enthralled us all with tales of *Charlecote House*, without notes or any visual aids at all. In April the excellent Jan Cooper of Kenilworth History and Archaeological Society spoke about *War and Worship: Castle and Church*. The Spring Lunch was an enjoyable occasion for the relatively few who attended; but the Summer Buffet, held at the Guild House and followed by a slide show, was a big hit.

Right: Members at the Summer Buffet in July



EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

These three major aspects of the Society's work are all handled by the Exhibitions Committee. For the first time the Society had its own exhibition at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September: *The Old Parsonage* - highly appropriate. The two main projects were *Bowling in Knowle* in autumn 2015 and *The Berrow Inheritance* in Spring 2016. Both included a talk as well as an exhibition, with a new booklet for *Bowling in Knowle*. A booklet for *The Berrow Inheritance* is at editing stage. A short version of the Berrow Homes exhibition was on show at Oxfam Books & Music in August. Early in 2016 we provided a short talk entitled *A Walk Along High Street* and another on the station. As it happened these were on the agenda for later in the year; but life was hectic from January to March. The High Street talk became the first of the short talks already planned, and was converted to an exhibition for Solihull Library in March, to complement the library's own display after its refurbishment. *The Place Names of Knowle*, planned at Solihull for the autumn, proved too much work. A short talk on the Jaques-Green collection of photographs, taken in the 1890s, was given for the Summer Buffet in July. The Exhibitions Committee works hard and is enthusiastic, but needs to be careful about how much work it undertakes: these projects are time-consuming and we all have other lives.



Left: Kingscote, from *A Walk Along High Street*