

WEB SITE

At long last further progress has been made on the People & Places section: one constructive working party has been held and a few decisions about content made. The section will be divided into geographical areas (High Street, Kenilworth Road, etc.) plus a section for significant people. The committee agreed that we need at least two items in each area before anything is uploaded at all - otherwise it will look very odd. The working party suggested the individual areas and which items to include in the initial upload, with associated photographs (e.g. Chester House and The Greswolde for High Street). There will be a Google map on the opening page, and another on the opening page for each area. It is still not top of the in tray and will have to wait until after the Farms talk in February, but with luck something should be on line by the summer.



Station Road, 1905.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

As usual the Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September 2016, once again including an exhibition. Last September it was *A Walk Along High Street*, which proved more popular than expected, despite the awful weather. It was a pity that there was a wedding in the early afternoon, for which people arrived to do the flowers in the late morning. The same is planned for this year, when the exhibition will be *Kenilworth Road*. It is already in the Church diary. This year the Junior School project will take place in the Spring term, probably in same form as last year. Whether or not the Society takes a stall at Dorridge Day in September will depend on whether there is enough manpower available; many people are on holiday and it is the day after Heritage Open Days, which must have priority. We do, however, plan to take a stall at Warwick Words Local History Day in October as we did last year. One of the greatest benefits to these occasions is meeting people from other societies and finding out what they do and how they present it. They are all different; we can learn from each other. Where possible committee members will continue to attend events run by Warwickshire Local History Society and the Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office. The latter are usually held at the Record Office. We have also received an invitation to the opening of the refurbished Warwick Museum. Other events will not doubt crop up during the year, which the Society will make an effort to attend.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in May 2017.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 1
January 2017

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

First of all I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter, which you should however, receive before the first event of the Society's year - the general meeting on February 22nd. The fixture card for 2017 is enclosed; we hope you will enjoy the year's programme. Outside requests have continued to pour in and are always welcome. This year there will be the usual two projects. For 2017 they are *The Farms of Knowle* and *The White Swan & The Red Lion*. The Society will continue to take part in the usual outside events, including: Heritage Open Days and the Junior School project. We hope to attend Warwick Words Local History Day again and (if time) Dorridge Day. As the Society has become busier, we find ourselves overloaded (hence the late newsletter). As in other small societies, IT expertise is particularly thin on the ground; we are looking carefully at our priorities. More overleaf.

Elaine S. Warner
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Diary

Wed Feb 22nd Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Farms of Knowle</i> Speaker: In house.
Sat March 18th Wilson Arms 12.30 p.m.	Spring Lunch (call notice enclosed)
April 4th to June 6th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> . (First Floor)
April 11th to April 25th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Farms of Knowle</i> . (Ground Floor)
Wed April 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>Compton Verney</i> Speaker: Dr. Sylvia Pinches
Wed July 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Summer Buffet Illustrated Talk: <i>Woodward's Knowle</i> Speaker: In house.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

At the AGM in October the officers and committee were re-elected with no changes. Those present will know that the Society had an excess of income over expenditure of £384.86, with a closing balance at the bank of £898.19. An estimated £200 for unclaimed Gift Aid plus stock in hand brings total assets at Year End 31st August 2016 to £1230.49.

During the year the Exhibitions Committee was given its well deserved status and formerly constituted; procedures to administer all sub-committees were agreed at the AGM and inserted into the Society rules (which are effectively part of the constitution). The long-planned Archives Sub-committee is still to be formed. This has become very urgent; preliminary discussions have now started. As said previously, we need a small team of people; one or two have already volunteered, but we shall more, some of whom need to be computer literate - but anyone who can handle a numbering system would be welcome. The committee has also discussed storage space, as there is not another cubic inch left in the chairman's study.

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 stands at 141, with some subscriptions still outstanding.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At the suggestion of a member at the AGM it was agreed by all that the Society should put a wreath on the cenotaph in November. It was too late for 2016, as we need to design a centre of the right size. We shall be contacting Knowle British Legion in good time for details of how to proceed.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

After the AGM Valerie Morton gave a talk on *The Railway Station*, followed in November by Graham Ibbitson on *The Knights Templar*, which included a section on the crusades. Details of the 2017 programme are on the fixture card. The first talk this year will be *The Farms of Knowle* in February, of which more below. In April we



Compton Verney.

welcome the excellent Dr. Sylvia Pinches for what promises to be an interesting talk on Compton Verney, which many members may have visited. The two social events will take the same form as in 2016: the spring lunch will be in March as usual (call notice enclosed); the summer meeting will once more take the form of a light buffet supper at the Guild House, with a slide show.

EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Two successful exhibitions were held in the autumn: *A Walk Along High Street* at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September and *The Railway Station* at Knowle Library in November. This year starts with a talk on *The Farms of Knowle* in February, followed by an associated exhibition in April. At Solihull Library *The Place Names of Knowle*, deferred from last year, will now be shown for two months (and possibly longer) beginning in April. Until after the Second World War Knowle was essentially a farming village, with numerous farms of all sizes together with supporting businesses such as saddlers and wheelwrights. *The Farms of Knowle* is a very big subject, first shown as an exhibition on ten large boards in 1991 - much too big for the six smaller boards we use today. The Exhibitions Committee proposes to split it into two or more parts, starting with the farms in the centre of the village, including the 15th century Knowle Lodge.



The rear of Knowle Lodge, 1926.

The talk at the summer buffet will be *Woodward's Knowle*, based on a collection of photographs taken, developed and printed in the early 20th century by Mr. Woodward of Hillcrest in Widney Road. Our talks are still much in demand from other organizations: nine are already fixed for 2017 with others under discussion. You will find them listed on the fixture card, on the web site and in *Knowle Parish Magazine*, as well as on posters round the village. Visitors are welcome at many of them. The programme for 2017 is ambitious; it may be necessary to amend it. Time pressures have meant that we are falling behind with booklets. Printing existing ones is not a problem, but new ones take considerable time. That on the Berrow Homes is still at editing stage; whilst we hope to produce more they may have to be put on the back burner.

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS



The River Blythe by Eva Wootton, 1952

As stated above we are getting short of space. Pending the formation of the much delayed Archives Committee a blitz on sorting will take place with all hands on deck, probably in March, to make an initial list and scan what is frequently needed. We shall then take items to Solihull Library. Although not so convenient, they will be in controlled conditions and can be taken out on a temporary basis.