

main disk had packed up (it hadn't - Windows was in a twist). It did, however, bring forcefully to notice that retrieving it by existing methods would be a big hassle. The chairman has therefore bought another 1TB drive (the new red Toshiba), which will be identical with the main drive (the black Toshiba). For practical reasons these are both the personal property of the chairman. Regrettably they contain personal data as well as the Society database - bad practice, but we do not leave the database in an empty house; there is a limit to how many drives the chairman can put in a handbag. In view of recent problems with ransom ware one wonders if it would be wise to disconnect drives when not in use.

### WEB SITE

After good progress on the People & Places section earlier in the year, other projects have got in the way of further action. We still hope to have something on line by the end of the summer.

*Right: Station Road in 1905, one possibility for the People and Places section.*



### OUTSIDE EVENTS

Two members of the committee (Meg Hole and Heath Pratt) attended the opening of the refurbished Warwick Museum, to which we were delighted to receive an invitation. They reported on a very good evening and highly recommend a visit to the museum, which now has plenty to interest children.

The Junior School Local History Project took place in March, when a number of members and others were interviewed by the children. This year the children were aiming to produce a newspaper article based on information they researched. Many thanks to Heath Pratt for organising the event and to the Junior School for inviting us once again.

The Society will take part in Heritage Open Days as usual on September 9th, when members will be on hand in the church to answer questions from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year the exhibition will be *Kenilworth Road*. The committee would like to take a Society stall at Dorridge Day, which may fall on the following day (September 10th). It is, however a very bad weekend, when several of us are on holiday. We are particularly short of people who could help to erect (and strike) the gazebo, as well as man the stall for an hour or so. John Lyons is looking into the possibilities. Anyone willing to help please ring John on 01564 776555. The stall at Warwick Words Local History Day on October 7th is already booked. This is a very good event, well worth attending. The Society will make an effort to attend the 'End of Term' lunch at the Record Office in October - always an enjoyable event, with an opportunity to chat informally with members of other societies and the Record Office staff.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.*

*The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2017.*

**THE SOCIETY WILL BE TEN YEARS OLD AT THE AGM IN OCTOBER**



# KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## *Making History Live*

### Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 2  
May 2017

### WE HOPE ALL OUR MEMBERS WILL ENJOY THE SUMMER

#### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Of late the Society has been establishing contact with other local history groups in the immediate vicinity, with a view to exploring ways in which we can be mutually supportive; we are taking care not to encroach on Warwickshire Local History Society or the Friends of the County Record Office. We already distribute our newsletter and include links on the web site, etc. We are particularly pleased to be in touch with Hampton-in-Arden Local History Group, with which we have such ancient shared history. For myself, I need to spend more time on domestic matters; inevitably I can no longer devote the ridiculous number of hours to Society matters that I have been doing for so many years; the web site and new publications have suffered. New exhibition boards should ease the workflow on the Exhibitions Committee, which may help (explanations overleaf). Happily, there is a glimmer of progress.

Elaine S. Warner  
01564 775887

#### Diary

April 4th to June 6th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>The Place Names of Knowle</i> . (First Floor). Now on show until further notice.
Wed July 19th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Summer Buffet (call notice enclosed) Illustrated Talk: <i>Woodward's Knowle</i> . Speaker: In house.
July Oxfam Books & Music	Exhibition. Details to be confirmed. Shop window.
Sat September 9th Knowle Parish Church 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Heritage Open Days Members will be on hand to answer questions Exhibition: <i>Kenilworth Road</i>
Sat October 7th Market Hall Museum	Warwick Words Local History Fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wed October 18th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	AGM followed by: Illustrated Talk: <i>The White Swan &amp; The Red Lion</i> Speaker: In house

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Members will be pleased to know that the Society has received a cheque for about £250 from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid for the last four years. This will be a big boost for Society funds, but it has been a big job for both the treasurer and the membership secretary, involving individually listing each member who has agreed to Gift Aid for each year and presenting the results in a format specified by HMRC. Many thanks to Graeme Spencer and Meg Hole for their efforts. Membership stands at 147, with some six subscriptions still outstanding.

## PEOPLE

The Society was pleased to welcome representatives from other local history societies in the immediate vicinity, including Solihull, Hampton and Dorridge, to the Spring Lunch. This was primarily a social occasion to enable people to meet each other; but a useful amount of discussion took place over the lunch table. We shall be asking the same groups to our general meetings in future. At home, many congratulations to our secretary, Meg Hole, who is getting married on July 22nd. We wish Meg and Mike every happiness. They will live at 23 Blackdown Road; Meg assures us that she will continue as the Society secretary.

## MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

*The Farms of Knowle* in February was the first talk in 2017, followed by the excellent Dr. Sylvia Pinches, who spoke on Compton Verney in April. The spring lunch was enjoyed by those who attended. The next event is the summer buffet (call notice enclosed), which will once more take the form of a light buffet supper at the Guild House, with a slide show entitled *Woodward's Knowle* (see below).

## TALKS, EXHIBITIONS & PUBLICATIONS

*The Farms of Knowle* talk in February went down well, bringing back memories for many in the audience. An associated exhibition followed in April. Unsurprisingly for an agricultural village, it is a large subject, which needs to be divided into several sections: the February talk covered farms in the centre of the village; *More Knowle*



*Farms* and *Farming Life in Knowle* seem to be the natural successors. The Exhibitions Committee is now working on the talk at the summer buffet, which will be *Woodward's Knowle*, based on a collection of photographs taken, developed and printed in the early 20th century by Frank Woodward of Hillcrest in Widney Road (grandfather of Piers Milne). Some of these were taken in colour before 1900. This is a large collection, from which we shall have to make a

Left: Colour photo of trees and flowers in the garden at Hillcrest, pre 1900

selection, probably opting for those which are seen infrequently. Many thanks to Piers, whom we hope will say a few words.

The present exhibition at Solihull (Local Studies Dept, 1st Floor) is *The Place Names of Knowle*, which will be on show until June 6th (and possibly longer).



There have already been seven talks to other organizations in 2017, with a further seven to come this year and two already booked for 2018. Those where visitors may be welcome are advertised in *Knowle Parish Magazine* and on posters round the village.

Left: Kingscote, named after the King family, who occupied it in the 19th century. From the *Place Names* exhibition.

At Solihull Library three show cases are now available instead of two, meaning that exhibitions will not have to be cut down, making life very much easier when transferring from the main boards. The Society has enough boards for one exhibition to be prepared whilst a previous one is in place, but it leaves us short for other events. The Exhibitions Committee needs to streamline work and make life as easy as possible. The Society has therefore acquired six lightweight boards (two sets of three) at a cost of £146, which will also replace the home-made ones used at general meetings. They are the same size as those we use at Knowle Library. Like all the Society's boards they have been purchased from Marler Haley, who has always given us excellent service. They will be seen at Oxfam Books & Music in July and then at the AGM in October. Those who do the arithmetic will notice that this and more archive boxes (see below) will make a large hole in the Gift Aid money.

## ARCHIVES & DIGITAL RECORDS

The archives continue to grow, with hard copy making housing it difficult; more blue boxes are needed. An initial meeting has been fixed for May 31st to make a start on sorting things out. This will be all hands on deck: we shall go through the boxes, make a rudimentary list and an assessment of what needs scanning before lodging at Solihull Library. The necessary paperwork is already designed. For those with a natural bent, this is an enjoyable job (but not quick). Anyone interested in helping please contact me.

Like all filing systems the Society's database needs occasional re-organising. The time has come, spurred by a belief that the

Right: A very small Clive Fletcher feeding a very large white pig at Dell Farm c. 1948, when the farm was owned by his parents. One of a set of photographs he kindly lent for copying.

