

## ARCHIVES

After her retirement Jean Powrie (see People above) did a huge amount of research on the Knowle Hall Estate, on which she wrote four books. Her daughter, Jessie Moorhouse, has kindly given the remaining stock to the Society, together with some research notes, another copy of Canon Downing's *Records of Knowle* and a small album with photographs of Maurice Worthington at Springfield Farm. We also have permission to use Jean's slides from her talk on Queen Eleanor of Castile, which Geoffrey Dean scanned for her a few years ago. In a separate issue, there is a move afoot for local history societies in the borough to co-operate with Solihull Library on access to material and data. This is an excellent idea, at present at a very early stage.

## WEB SITE & CLOUD

At long last the initial stage of the People & Places section of the web site is on line. There are only twenty four pages at present; information is to hand for many more entries, which will be added as time permits. It is a major innovation. If anyone has an interest in a particular place or person and would like us to upload, please let us know and we will push it to the top of the list. There are no on line resources on the site yet, as some explanatory pages are still to be written

## ENQUIRIES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

The usual crop of enquiries has included one from the team restoring the Burne Jones windows at Birmingham Cathedral, which were given by the Wilkes family, who were related to the Bowers of Knowle Lodge. After putting them in touch with David Bower we both attended a coffee morning with an interesting presentation.

The Junior School Second World War project took place on March 12th as reported in the last newsletter. In April the Society was very pleased to take part in Barston History Weekend, which reminded us of our own first exhibition in 1977. We hope Barston will build on this success as we have done, and that it will be a catalyst for future co-operation. We shall attend Barston Fete on August 27th for the first time for several years with the *Images of Barston* exhibition. September 8th is Heritage Open Days;



*Cottage in Hob Lane (demolished 1930s)*

members will be at the church to answer questions as usual. The exhibition will be *Along Station Road & Lodge Road*, which will be moved to Knowle Library the following Monday. With regret, we cannot attend Dorridge Day, which is usually the same weekend. Warwick Words Local History Day follows on October 6th, this year in the ballroom at the beautifully restored Court House in Jury Street, Warwick.



# KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## *Making History Live*

### Newsletter

Volume 9 No. 1  
May 2018

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

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Looking back since the January newsletter, activities have been non-stop. We have prepared one talk and three exhibitions, with another two to come: one at Solihull in June and another at Oxfam Books & Music in July/August. We have taken part in two outside events: the Junior School local history project as usual, and this year the first Barston Local History Weekend, which we hope will be repeated. The first tranche of the People & Places section of the web site has finally made it on-line; the full back up disk has been created. Summer is now upon us, with the summer buffet, Barston Fete, Heritage Open Days and Warwick Words Local History Day to come before meetings start again in October. At long last things are getting a bit more organized and jobs do seem to be getting done. More overleaf.

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## Diary

June 4th to July 30th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Knowle on Wheels</i> Local Studies Dept., 1st Floor
Wednesday July 18th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Summer Social & Slide Show (call notice enclosed) Illustrated Talk: <i>The Lippiatt Collection</i> Speaker: In house
July/August Oxfam Books & Music	Exhibition: <i>The Old Parsonage</i> Shop window
Monday August 27th Bulls Head, Barston	Barston Fete Exhibition: <i>Images of Barston</i>
Saturday September 8th Knowle Parish Church 10.00 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Exhibition: <i>Along Station Road &amp; Lodge Road</i> Members will be on hand to answer questions about the church. In association with Knowle Parish Church
Sept 10th to Sept 25th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>Along Station Road &amp; Lodge Road</i> Downstairs

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*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.  
The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2018.*

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Several pieces of equipment have been purchased this year, including more much needed exhibition boards. Combined with a drop in booklet sales due to lack of time for printing this leads the treasurer to anticipate a financial loss this year; but we are still solvent. Membership stands at 153.

## PEOPLE

Again we have to report the death of two members of the Society. Jean Powrie, a retired history teacher, died just before Christmas in her nineties (more below). More recently we learnt of the death of Gillian Knight, who was a member of the committee for over thirty years. Gill did a lot of research in the earlier years of the Society; her name appears in the credits for several projects on the Society's web site. Neil and Jackie McDougall, who have handled newsletter distribution with incredible efficiency for some years, are unable to continue due to ill health. Very many thanks to both of them. They have passed the baton to Diane O'Connor, whom we thank for adding yet one more task to her already busy portfolio. On a happier note we wish Meg Hole's husband, Mike Wilson, a full recovery after a major operation.

## MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The two spring talks have been and gone since the last newsletter: Nick Homes on *The Canals of Lapworth & Rowington* in February, followed by the first of the Society's in-house talks on *Farming Life in Knowle* in April. In between was the spring lunch in March, always enjoyed by the select band who attend each year. The next event is the summer social (call notice enclosed), which will once more take the form of a light buffet supper at the Guild House, followed by a short slide show. The subject this year will be *The Lippiatt Collection* (see below). The next general meeting will be the AGM in October; outside events are listed below.



Left: High Street looking towards the church..

## EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Society's talk on *Farming Life in Knowle* in April went down well. After careful thought and comments from members this huge subject was confined to two projects rather than three. *Farming Life in Knowle* therefore included the outlying farms, to which it did not do justice, but nevertheless it is considered to have been the right decision. An associated exhibition followed; concerns that there was too much

material to fit on the boards proved unfounded. In April the Society was asked to attend the first Barston History Weekend (see Outside Events below), for which we produced a small exhibition called simply *Images of Barston*. There was not a lot of material, but it looked well. At Solihull *Knowle in the Horse Age* remains until June 4th, to be followed immediately by *Knowle on Wheels*. Both were seen for a very short time a few years ago (under different titles). *Knowle in the Horse Age* starts with travelling to and from Knowle in the medieval period, continues to canal horses, farm horses, inns and coaching, tradesmen's horses, taxis and couriers, the hunt etc. It ends with Riding for the Disabled. *Knowle on Wheels* takes us into the era of bikes and motor transport - and roller skates.

Right: an Ardenvale Coach at Packwood.



The Exhibitions Committee is now working on forthcoming projects. First is *The Lippiatt Collection*, for the summer buffet, based on an album of over 200 postcards and photographs donated by the late Eunice Lippiatt. Only those with no duplicates or which are very rarely seen will make the cut. *The Old Parsonage* will get another airing in the shop window at Oxfam Books & Music in July/August. This time, aided by new boards, it can be complete, with the first four boards visible from the street and the final two from inside. Along *Station Road and Lodge Road* follows for Heritage Open Days in September and *The Wilson Arms* (talk only) for the AGM in October. The latter excepted, these all take place before the next newsletter. See *Knowle Parish Magazine* and posters round the village for further details. With exhibitions here there and everywhere, there was a need for more boards, which are proving necessary, despite depleting the coffers. We now have fifteen of the new lightweight boards, providing twelve for two exhibitions simultaneously and a further

three for the Society display. Some proper soft carry bags have also been purchased, which has made transport a very great deal easier.

Since January a number of talks have been given to other organizations; but we are still falling behind with printing booklets; a mismatch between the printer and the screen colours is still to be resolved.



Above: a triumphal arch erected for the coronation of Edward VII at Widney crossroads, 1902