

OUTSIDE EVENTS

There were more outside events than usual in 2017/18, some of which may become a regular part of the programme. The Society provided guides at Knowle Parish Church for Heritage Open Days in September 2017. The *Kenilworth Road* exhibition attracted interest and we hope enhanced the Church's own event. The Junior School project took the same form as last year, with a group of members and others interviewed by Year 6 pupils on the Second World War. In October the Society took a stall at *Warwick Words* Local History Fair for the second year, when we renewed contact with members of other Warwickshire local history societies. Another first came in November, when the Society laid a wreath at the cenotaph outside the church. Many thanks to Neil McDougall, who laid it, complete with medals earned as a regular soldier. April saw us at Barston Local History Weekend, with the *Images of Barston* exhibition. The last outside event of 2017/18 was Barston Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday, to which we were invited after an absence of several years. Our gazebo was full for most of the afternoon; the Lippiatt Album, always a big draw,



attracted constant attention; the computer was used by several people. The Society was pleased to attend both these occasions at Barston, at which we made more local contacts. Our talks are still much in demand from other organizations: eight were given in the year 2017/2018, with several already booked for 2018/19. Doubtless there will be more.

Left: A full gazebo at Barston Fete.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The 2018/19 year began with Heritage Open Days on September 8th, which has already passed. The Society had an excellent HODS. The exhibition, *A Stroll Along Station Road*, was shown at Knowle Parish Church and then at Knowle Library. The Lippiatt album and the Society's database on the computer both proved a big draw. This year HODS ran over two weekends; the Society took part in both, showing *The Westminster Connection* on the second weekend. *Warwick Words* Local History Day on October 6th will be very near when members receive this newsletter. The Society will lay a wreath at the church on Civic Sunday on November 4th.

The meetings programme will follow the usual pattern; the Guild House is already booked; in-house talks have been decided; outside speakers will be finalized soon. Outside events are expected to be as usual, plus attendance at Barston Fete; but we shall not go to Dorridge Day. Remaining dates for 2018 and early 2019 are in the Diary Box; the fixture card will be circulated in January, when the final programme for 2019 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 2019.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 9 No. 2
September 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2017 to August 2018

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Another year has flown by. As usual the Society has continued to meet its objectives through exhibitions, talks, publications and social events, plus a service to individuals and organizations. There have been the usual outside events, including Heritage Open Days, the Junior School project, events at Warwick and talks for other societies. A considerable number of enquiries have been answered during the year. Innovations in 2017/18 include a stall at Barston Fete for the first time in several years and more exhibition boards. The committee must now consider what the Society needs to do about the new Data Protection Act. Once more we thank the library staff at both Knowle and Solihull, Oxfam Books & Music and the many local residents who have provided material and/or information, together with all those who have worked to make the Society a success: the committee, the working groups, and many more; and not least our members for their support. More details overleaf.

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Diary

Sat Oct 6th 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Warwick Words Local History Day Ballroom, The Court House, Jury Street Warwick.
Wed Oct 17th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Wilson Arms</i> Speaker: Andrew Bryson. Preceded by a short AGM.
Nov 6th - Nov 20th Knowle Library	Exhibition: <i>The Great War in Knowle</i> Ground Floor
Wed Nov 21st Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Talk: <i>Warwickshire & The English Civil War</i> Speaker: Mairi MacDonald. (Note change of speaker)
Tues Feb 12th Guild House 2.30 p.m.	Illustrated Talk: <i>The Sweet Life in Bourneville: Cadbury & Bourneville History</i> . Speaker: Bob Booth
Saturday in March	Spring Lunch. Date to be confirmed.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday October 17th 2018 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 be sent to the Secretary at 23 Blackdown Road, Knowle B93 9HP. It would be helpful if any member wishing to propose amendments to the rules or any other motion would let the secretary know. The present officers and committee must all retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election. We shall welcome Tony McClelland to the committee as Membership Secretary. All the existing committee members are willing to continue in office.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & PEOPLE

The secretariat has been augmented by the very able Tony McClelland, who has taken over as Membership Secretary from Meg Hole. He is a great asset to the committee, with expertise which complements that of the other members. Meg will continue as Secretary and Events Secretary. The new boards purchased last year have been such a success that more were purchased during the year, making fifteen in all. Just as well: at Heritage Open Days in September 2018 *all* of them were in use. Membership is up somewhat at 148. Publicity has taken its usual form, although we are still not using the television at the library. Organizing the files to optimize the work involved will take some thought. Although no articles have been written for *Our Warwickshire*, entries on the web site can be linked to the OW site. 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.

Canon Michael Parker has taken his last service after twenty years as Vicar of Knowle. We thank Michael for all he has done for the Church and the village and wish him and his family the very best for the future. And another change: at Oxfam Books & Music Sue Eagle, who has been the manager since it opened, has retired. We owe Sue a great deal, as Oxfam sell our publications for us, allow us to put exhibitions in the shop window and are generally very good to us. We wish Sue the very best for the future. We extend a very warm welcome to the new manager, Kathryn Jones, who happens to be a history graduate. We look forward to a continuation of the good relationship we have always enjoyed with Oxfam.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The 2017/18 programme followed the usual format, with two talks on Knowle with in-house speakers and two with outside speakers. Diary constraints caused the first in-house talk to be in April rather than February, which was better for the

Exhibitions Committee, several of whom are on holiday in February. Preparation also clashes with that of the January newsletter. Both the in-house talks were in the evening, but it is the easiest option. Outside speakers were Jan Cooper on *John of Gaunt*, who proved to be a popular subject, with several people making a special effort to come. Nick Holmes spoke on *The Canals of Lapworth & Rowington* in April. The Spring Lunch was again an enjoyable occasion for those who wish to come; the Summer Buffet at the Guild House is now an established part of the programme.

EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The two main projects were *The White Swan & The Red Lion* in Autumn 2017 and *The Outlying Farms & Farming Life* in Spring 2018. Both included a talk and an exhibition. The *Farming Life* talk and exhibition and the previous year's *The Knowle Farms* need some thought as to whether the split between the two is right. The talk at the summer buffet this year was *The Lippiatt Collection*, featuring a selection of photographs from the album donated by the late Eunice Lippiatt. No more booklets have been published and time for printing existing ones is still hard to find. *Knowle at Christmas* and *Knowle in the Snow*, timed to coincide with the switching on of the Christmas lights in late November 2017 were innovations at Oxfam, although there was no exhibition at Oxfam this summer. Two exhibitions were prepared for outside events (see below): *Kenilworth Road* for Heritage Open Days was a virtual tour from the church to Temple Balsall, passing through the original medieval village. *Images of Barston* was mounted for events in Barston.



The River Blythe in flood at Eastcote

THE IMAGE LIBRARY, DIGITAL RECORDS & THE WEB SITE

A number of items have been added to the collection during the year. Many thanks to those who have given them. We are especially pleased to receive items from Janet Davy, who has given us, among other things, a copy of Bickley's transcription of the Register of the Guild of Knowle - hard to find these days. Jessie Moorhouse, the late Jean Powrie's daughter has donated items from her mother's archives, including spare copies of her four books on the Knowle Hall Estate (now available from Oxfam). At long last the first phase of the People & Places section of



the web site was uploaded at the beginning of the year and will be augmented as time permits. However, we have hit a snag: due to a change in Google's policy the maps do not download. A little progress has been made to rectify this, but technical help is needed. A future problem is that Serif will not publish further upgrades to the software we use. *Left: a drawing of Grimshaw Hall donated by Mrs. Frances Gibson*