The Rural Partnership Forum, where the Society has previously raised Transport matters, has merged into the bi-annual Solihull Partnership Forum.

Our representative, Bridget Sproston, reports that, at the meeting on 5 March, Centro confirmed that the subsidised bus routes S2, S3 and 88 are performing well and passenger numbers have increased.

Further good news is that the 87, Coventry to Balsall Common, Johnson’s Excelbus route is to be extended to Solihull via Knowle from 27 April. This will provide another hourly service connection to and from the town centre.

Construction of the Solihull Gateway scheme in Station Road and Poplar Road will affect ALL of the buses to and from Knowle and Dorridge until October 2015 and possibly beyond.

Until works are complete, the Solihull bound services are being diverted via Lode Lane.

After dropping passengers near the House of Fraser store on Warwick Road, the buses will not stop again before reaching the interchange at the station.

(Community Services News continues on Page 4)
News from the Society’s AGM held on Sat 7th February

For the first time in living memory the AGM was held on a Saturday afternoon. This was a conscious decision to try and increase the number of members able to attend and we were very pleased that it worked out. Draft minutes will be published in due course, but the highlights were:-

1. The approval of the updated Memorandum & Articles of the Society, which we trust will enable us to continue to achieve the aims of the Society in a modern and efficient way.

2. The award of Life Membership to John Chaloner and Peter Ellis in recognition of their contributions to the Society over more than 20 years.

3. Revision of the Board of Trustees, with Bill Bohanna stepping up to Chairman and with Andrew Marston as Deputy Chairman, in addition to his role as Planning Committee Chairman. Liz Hulse joined as Chairman of the Natural Environment committee. Cheryl Steventon resigned due to other demands on her time and we thank her for her contributions.

From Your New Chairman

I am delighted to be appointed as Chairman of The Knowle Society, and look forward to the adventures and challenges ahead. It was good to see over 80 Society members attending the recent AGM at its new Saturday afternoon slot. Thank you to those members able to attend and meet with myself, and the Trustee Directors.

I have been a resident of Knowle for nearly twenty years and became a member of the Knowle Society seven years ago. After initially joining the history committee I was appointed Trustee Director for Community Liaison, working closely with Arden Academy and Knowle Library.

Then in 2012 I became Deputy Chairman. I really enjoy living in Knowle and feel it is a unique and distinctive community. I appreciate the high street, the buildings, the local history, the natural environment and, most importantly, the friendly people.

In undertaking the role of Chairman, I know that I am fortunate to have the support of my fellow Trustee Directors and their committees. Together we will continue working hard to ‘preserve, protect and promote’ the interests of our village.

Several Trustee Directors have previously held the post of Chairman and their advice and experience will be invaluable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leighton Jones, our retiring chairman, for his three years of excellent leadership and hard work. I am delighted that he will continue to be involved in the work of the Society and leading the Village Greens Project.

It is very rewarding to think that a society formed over fifty years ago with the aim of preserving and protecting the village is still in place and thriving. However, challenges and changes continue to face us particularly those connected with the building and impact of the planned Waitrose/Kimberley development.

We will do our very best to keep you all informed of this, and other developments, via our newsletters and the website.

I know you will all have many questions and concerns about local issues, not least those relating to traffic, parking, and the impact on local businesses. As Chairman, I am looking to you our members to share your thoughts, views, opinions, and solutions. It is my aim to find a range of ways and opportunities to ensure your voices are brought into local debate through the trustees. Be assured that you will be listened to. The strength of the Society’s voice is in its membership.

chairman@knowlesociety.org.uk
Knowle 739390
There is little progress to report since the last edition of the Newsletter on the Village Greens project. We are still waiting for the Council to arrange a date for the public hearing.

In the interim, I have been contacting those people who have said that they will write a statement which can be submitted to the hearing in place of the form they completed, as this will carry more weight. If I have contacted you, please do this, if I haven’t and you are willing to do so, please let me know.

In the meantime we have organised a fun and fund raising evening (details below) for the Village Greens and another environmental project (which Liz Hulse outlines on Page 9).

Leighton Jones, Knowle 773894
villagegreens@knowlesociety.org.uk

Village Greens - A Night of Fun and Fund Raising

Friday 12th June at Knowle Royal British Legion
Doors 7.00pm  First Race 7.45pm

A NIGHT OF FUN AND LAUGHTER
You’ve heard about horse racing nights—well, this is something way beyond that, with ‘live’ fluffy pigs racing. Become an ‘owner’ for £10 and cheer ‘your’ pig to win its race

PLEASE COPY/COMPLETE THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE/PLACES at £15.00 each

Please return this form with your remittance and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Leighton Jones, 23 Newton Road, Knowle, SOLIHULL B93 9HL, tel 01564 773894

The Knowle Society:  Please reserve ...... tickets for “Pig Race Night”
Name .................................................................................................................................

Amount Paid £............

My Address...........................................................................................................................

Tel No.............................. Email..................................................................................

Don’t forget your SAE for your tickets to be sent to you

WALK THE CANALS
Two Delightful Summers Strolls, Great Exercise in Good Company

Wednesday May 20th at 7.00pm - Meet at Old Barston Lane, off Henwood Lane just under the M42. Nearest postcode B91 2SX, 4 miles.

Wednesday June 17th at 7.00pm - Meet at the car park at Kingswood Junction on the Stratford Canal (off Brome Hall Lane, near the B4439 junction). Nearest postcode B94 5RA, 5 miles.
Removal Planned for Local Police and Unwanted Water

And other Community Services News

The Society has given its general support for new parking restrictions at the Longdon Rd/Lodge Rd/ St Johns Close junction and on Warwick Rd, from the surgery to Blackdown Rd. General support has also been given for ongoing investigations, involving residents, police and councillors, in Crabmill Close. A consultation about these proposals ended on February 13th. We shall continue to monitor the situation following implementation of the plan.

Hopefully, further plans will follow as and when construction of ‘the Waitrose store’ gets under way.

AIRPORT

I have attended further meetings about the Airport Consultative Committee and continue to push for community groups such as ourselves and parish councils to continue to have representation on it.

I understand that ‘Option 6 with adjustments’ is now likely to be the Airport’s preferred option for the future take off flight path, to be recommended to the CAA, who make the final decision. The flight path trials ended on February 23rd and ‘Option 6’ will continue to be used for the time being.

Remember, if you find flights noisy and intrusive, please ring 0121 767 7433 or email: environmentteam@birminghamairport.co.uk. By doing so, it demonstrates concern from individuals in the community and lends weight to the Society’s arguments on your behalf.

POLICE

Our Neighbourhood Team is moving their base from Shirley to shop premises in Balsall Common High Street. The Team’s priority areas will still be Knowle, Dorridge and Blythe.

UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS

The natural stream which is running over the path in the park near the Jobs Close Residential Home is being investigated by Solihull Council. The Home had arranged for Severn Trent Water to check it was not related to a leak in their supply some time ago.

It is likely that the bins in the park will be reassessed and replaced.

The project to improve and better maintain the raised flowerbeds in the St John’s Way precinct will hopefully start in the Spring and is featured in the Draft Rural Ward Action Plan for Knowle. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help should email me, please.

Lilla Baker

communityservices@knowlesociety.org.uk

Knowle 739073

The natural stream in the park
Draft Rural Ward Action Plan for Knowle
Solihull Council’s Proposed Priorities for the Area

The Council’s Neighbourhood Management team has invited us to share the following draft Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowle Ward</th>
<th>• Community engagement and consultation through neighbourhood planning</th>
<th>Council/Knowle Society/Volunteers</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowle Precinct</td>
<td>• Work with Knowle Society and businesses to create attractive planting in the Precinct,</td>
<td>Council/Knowle Society/Volunteers</td>
<td>2015/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Future maintenance to be community based.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Meeting has taken place and Knowle Society is deciding on required planting for Spring 15.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowle Village</td>
<td>• Action to ensure that ‘A’ boards in the village are correctly positioned and licensed.</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2015/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowle Village environmental</td>
<td>• Lodge Road/Station Road flower bed to be replanted for ongoing community maintenance.</td>
<td>Council/Knowle Society/Volunteers</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowle Scout Hut</td>
<td>• Monitor, tidy and improve passage from St John’s Close to Lodge Road subject to feasibility and cost.</td>
<td>Council/Knowle Society/Volunteers</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowle/Arden School</td>
<td>• The continuation of Neighbourhood Sports sessions at Arden School</td>
<td>Council/Knowle Society</td>
<td>2015/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Youth Engagement with volunteering/Knowle Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Surgeries at Arden School to engage young people and explore issues/build confidence.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Engagement by YISP at Arden School to support individual young people to build self-esteem and reinforce positive behaviour.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Keeping Homes Safe from Fire and Goin’ Brumroamin’

In January, Andrew Hobday came to enlighten us about fire safety in the home. Andrew is based at Solihull Fire Station and spends a lot of time on advising on fire safety by talks at schools and local groups like Knowle Society.

Most of us take for granted that our home is a place of safety, and indeed it mostly is, but it can be useful to have a professional outsider take a fresh look and offer sensible advice.

Andrew is more than happy to come and visit, if invited, to your home and advise on safety, smoke alarms etc. I believe Home Fire Safety Check is the title of this service, which is free of charge.

Andrew highlighted potential areas to notice in our homes, the obvious ones of smoking, candles, chip pans but also the less obvious ones of leaving mobile phones and the like on charge overnight.

Simple things such as closing doors at night can act as a fire barrier for a reasonable amount of time if the worst did happen.

Andrew can be contacted at Solihull Fire Station and is always prepared to make home visits to check and advise us on the safety of our homes.

Finally on this topic, in October the fire service will offer free testing of electric blankets at the fire station, again a quick phone call to Andrew on 0121 380 7521 will provide full details. Ask for Andrew by name and if he is not immediately available he promises to get back to you just as soon as he can.

Ted Rudge was our speaker on the Gypsy community in Birmingham in February.

Ted has been privileged to gain the trust and confidence of the Romany Gypsies, so much so that he has been accepted into their community.

Romany Gypsies have been part of Birmingham and Midlands life for centuries but their history and roots have remained largely unnoticed. Many fascinating facts were covered by Ted’s talk. An example was that the Romani language spoken by gypsies originated in India, suggesting their roots probably lie in that area of the world.

Mostly talking about our local area and Birmingham in particular Ted gave us an insight into a world usually unnoticed.

Ted has written a book called “Brumroamin” looking at Birmingham and Midland Gypsy and Traveller Culture. The book explores the gypsy history in Birmingham, in particular looking at ‘Black Patch’ in Winson Green which was home to more than 300 Romany families from the 1890’s.

Our Social evening on 19th October will feature “Gabriella The Ukulele Lady”, who will entertain with songs and banter. The evening will have a fish and chip supper at half time and a raffle as usual. A ticket application form for the evening will be in the next newsletter.

Charles Robinson, Knowle 775770
meetings@knowlesociety.org.uk
The exhibition presently showing upstairs in Knowle Library is entitled “Notable Buildings of Knowle - Part 2” and features The Greswolde Arms Hotel, Berrow Homes, Paterson Court (formerly Knowle School) and Stowe House. As usual, the exhibition is free to view and is open to the public any time during library opening hours.

At the beginning of May, this will be replaced by an exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day (8th May 1945) which will have a mainly local theme. With this in mind, if you lived in or around Knowle at that time, or if members of your family did, do you have any photographs we could borrow to copy, or any other memorabilia which you would like us to give a place to in the exhibition?

We have a small collection of photographs of local people who took part in the war but there must be many more out there somewhere. We are also looking for pictures of local celebrations on VE and VJ Day. We only have two photographs of street parties, both in Hampton Road, and yet there were parties in more or less every road in the area on these days in Dorridge, Bentley Heath and other local villages as well as Knowle.

So please, have a look through your old photographs, letters, postcards etc and if you find anything you think may be of interest to us please contact me (details below). Alternatively visit our Local History Centre (upstairs in Knowle Library) on a Saturday morning when stewards are on duty.

Please remember, what you may think of as just a bit of rubbish or might consider to be too dog-eared to show, to us it could be a valuable and welcome addition to our exhibition. Tatty old photos can often be repaired and enhanced.

To mark Heritage weekend (10th to 13th September) we will be staging an exhibition of old and rarely seen items from our extensive archive of over 3,500 photographs dating from as far back as the 1880s.

Again, if you think you may have something you could contribute to this exhibition, please contact me or visit the Local History Centre on a Saturday morning. We can never have too many photographs and it is only through the generosity of our many members, and indeed, non-members, donating or allowing us to copy photos and other items for our archives, that we are able to put on our exhibitions.

The last exhibition of the year, December 2015/January 2016, will be a departure from the norm for us and will be entitled “The Geology of Knowle”. The suggestion for this exhibition came from one of our newer committee members, Betty Ewin, who will be carrying out most of the research for it, ably assisted we are sure, by her husband Peter. Betty is a retired geography teacher so it should be a good one!

Janet Eržen, history@knowlesociety.org.uk
Knowle 779040

A Day Out from Knowle

Elvaston Castle Country Park is a cracking place to visit on a sunny day for all of the family. Whether following the delightful walking or cycling routes in the wooded grounds, and formal gardens, picnicking or larking in the parkland or enjoying the bird hides.

The Castle itself is in disrepair and not open to the public and there are plans afoot to restore it as a hotel, but it is a striking building to view from the grounds and there is a delightful tea room, so why not visit before it becomes a construction site.

It is under an hour away, approached by taking the A50 westbound from Junction 24a of the M1. Turn north onto the A6, right at a roundabout onto the B5010, then left on the B5010 towards Borrowash.
The Greswolde Arms, formerly known as The Mermaid

*In the first of a two part feature, Janet Eržen looks at the history of Knowle’s Hotel*

The Greswolde Arms was known as “The Mermaid” until after the death of joint Lord of the Manor, Henry Greswolde Lewis (his mother married David Lewis) in 1829 when the name was changed in recognition of the Greswolde Family to the “Mermaid And Greswolde Arms Inn”. It did not become known as the Greswolde Arms until around 1860.

Until the mid 20th century, there used to be an elaborately carved sign of a Mermaid over the front entrance. The first preliminary sketch for this was done by John Constable at the request of his friend and patron, Henry Greswolde Lewis. The original sketch of this is now in the Courtauld Institute.

(The Mermaid was chosen for a pub name by a “hostess” in 1631 because “a Meer-mayde will sing catches to the youths of the parish”).

To find information about the Greswolde prior to Georgian times is difficult, but the steep gabling of the centre part of the inn suggest it to be contemporary with other 17th century buildings on the High Street. The facade was probably modernised to blend with the east and west wings, which are thought to have been added to the central block in Georgian times.

The Mermaid was an important coaching inn and posting house with extensive stabling for stage and post coach horses. After the turnpike road to Warwick was opened in the 18th century, it became the usual stop for frequent stage coaches from Birmingham to Warwick, Leamington and Oxford.

It was gathering place, according to local lore, for “Men of Wit & Wisdom". It was also the setting for the old “Petty Sessional Court”, the earliest known court being held in 1837. Eventually, though, the Court was moved to the George Hotel in Solihull.

With the Greswolde being the only hotel in the village for a long time, many famous people have stayed there. Perhaps the most famous was Lady Byron, although rumour has it that the Beatles once used it as a stopover when appearing locally. (One wonders though whether The Beatles will still be remembered after 200+ years as Lady Byron is.)

Over the years many celebrations have taken place at the Greswolde, including on May Day when the maypole was regularly erected outside and the local children had half a day to dance around it. Pennies were thrown for the children to scramble after and each child also received a bag of sweets and an orange. Tea was provided in the Greswolde Club Room.

Pre WW1, the annual Horse Show took place in the Greswolde fields, with classes for trade turnouts, riding horses, farm horses, four-in-hands etc. It was a big village event often extending over two days.

The outbreak of war, though, took away both men and horses and closed another chapter in the history of the Greswolde Arms and Knowle Village.

More recently the Greswolde has changed hands several times. It is currently part of the Spirit Pub Company’s Good Night Inns chain.

For the energetic, there is a well maintained and relatively level, three and half mile each way, walking and cycling route from the Castle all the way to Derby city centre.

Meanwhile, for the less lively, the New Inn at nearby Shardlow is highly regarded for dining and is also a delightful canal-side pub and a listed building.

*Copy of a business card for the Mermaid and Greswolde Arms Inn*

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**Local History**

**Day Out**
A Matter of Glazing at the Planned Store Development

News from the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee continue to consider various planning applications received by the Council. Some which give us concern are those of ‘a non-material amendment’. These allow already approved applications to be changed, generally without reference to the Council’s planning committee, leaving the decision to be made by the planning officer concerned using ‘delegated powers’.

The one presently having the greatest impact on Knowle is that made by Kimberley regarding the ‘Waitrose development’. They want to revert to the original design of a fully glazed screen to the store’s front entrance rather than the partially glazed main entrance which was agreed before the final drawings, later approved by the Council, were submitted.

The reduced glazed area would lessen the impact of a modern store in the Conservation Area and is thus more appropriate.

To have the best opportunity to arguing our case, six objections had to be sent to the Council coupled to a request by one of our three local councillors for the application to be put to the Council’s Planning Committee for their decision rather than determination by ‘delegated powers’. This has been achieved and we wait for the application to be included in a future Agenda of that Committee.

Finally, progress with the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Knowle and Dorridge continues. Over 100 people joined us at our 7th January meeting in Arden Academy resulting in 30-plus residents keen to learn more about the future Forum. Following a meeting with the new officers of Solihull Council charged with the responsibility of working with the Neighbourhood Forum when in place, we had to show full compliance with the Localism Act.

This meant that all Knowle and Dorridge businesses had to have been informed of the proposal. This was achieved early in March and those interested have been invited to a meeting in Knowle Village Hall on 19 March at 7.00pm to listen to experienced Planning Consultants to ‘fill the gaps’ of what is involved.

All being well, at this point, they can continue in their own right as the Neighbourhood Forum.

Andrew Marston
planning@knowlesociety.org.uk
Knowle 774082

Birthday Celebration for Team of Library Volunteers

On 10th January, Library Community volunteers and Knowle Library Staff met for afternoon tea to mark another year of partnership together.

The Library/Community venture now has a team of twenty two dedicated volunteers. Over a delicious tea the volunteers extended their friendship with rota partners, met new volunteers and shared the appreciative comments they often receive from members of the public. The local community really seem to value the extended hours offered each Saturday.

It was good to celebrate together a great example of the community partnership that extends the library opening hours for an additional two hours until 3pm each Saturday, so far serving over 5,000 visitors to the library over the past three and a half years.
I was very pleased to be formally appointed as a Trustee Director, as Chairman of the Natural Environment Committee at the AGM in February.

Our proposals for the bulb-planting project are now taking shape. Our vision is to plant bulbs on all the main road entrances into Knowle over the next few years.

We have taken advice and guidance from Dave Tipping (Parks and Open Space Development Officer for the Council) as to the density of planting required for a real impact. The type of bulb we will use will depend on the location and, to a certain extent, the funding we raise. This is where you come in!

It is envisaged that the project will be carried out over a four-year period, completing at least one road entrance each year, starting with the Warwick Road from the Wychwood roundabout towards the village.

We have estimated that purchasing the bulbs required to complete the project will cost in the region of £15,000. We are very aware that this is a substantial sum, but it does represent a major investment in the enhancement of the village scene for many years to come.

We are hoping to involve all the community in the planting and were delighted when Amey, the main contractor to the Council, offered to undertake the groundwork required, removing and replacing the turf, without charge. Planting will hopefully start this autumn.

We will be approaching Knowle businesses for donations, but we need your help too. If you would like to support this project, there is a form below that gives all the details of how to donate in four possible ways.

All donors will, unless requested otherwise, be acknowledged in the Newsletter. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, we would include their name.

If you have any queries about the bulb project or any other aspect of the work of the natural environment committee, please do get in touch.

On a final note I would like to thank June Vaughan for her valuable work as a member of the Natural Environment Committee. Due to personal circumstances June has decided that she can no longer serve on the committee.

Liz Hulse, Knowle 773951 environment@knowlesociety.org.uk

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**BULB PLANTING DONATION FORM**

PLEASE EITHER COPY OR CUT OUT THIS FORM AND USE AS SUGGESTED BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>In Memory of (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Donation Amount  Gift Aid (Y/N)  Publicity (Y/N)  

FOUR WAYS TO DONATE  (NB: This form is not needed for donating online):

- By Cash (Please complete this form and hand with donation to Martin Warr at a Society Meeting)
- By Cheque (to Dr David Watson, Treasurer, Knowle Society, 49 Wychwood Avenue, B93 9DL - please mark envelope “bulbs”)
- By Bank Transfer (Sort code: 30-97-78, A/C Number: 04942016, please inc name & “BULBS” in the Ref.)

In Conversation ... with Liz Hulse

Cheryl Steventon talks to our new Trustee Director

Liz Hulse was appointed as a Trustee Director of the Society at the AGM in February and has just taken on the role of Chairman for the Society’s Natural Environment Committee. Here, Liz tells us a little more about herself and her exciting plans for the future work of the Committee.

So Liz, what brought you to Knowle?

I moved from Harrogate to Knowle in 1988 to take up a job with AIS in Shirley. I chose to look at Knowle on the recommendation of a local Estate Agent, she told me that it was a pleasant, friendly place and she was right.

I have stayed here, even though I changed jobs, because I fell in love with the gentleman across the road—we married in 1991!

What’s your favourite thing about Knowle?

That it has a heart. The modern housing developments have grown up around the centre, but have not destroyed it. I worked in the retail trade for many years, so retain an interest in the street scene.

When I came to Knowle you could have bought all your needs without leaving the Village. Although this has changed, Knowle has mainly local stores run by local people which means it has an individual identity and provides good service. The beautiful buildings and the park on the doorstep are a bonus.

Why did you join the Knowle Society?

I have been a member of the Knowle Society for many years, but it was only when I retired last year that I felt I had the time to take a more active part in the work of the Society.

I have been closely involved in environmental issues for a long time and when I heard that the Natural Environment Committee needed a new Chairman, I thought it was something with which I would like to get involved.

We are lucky in Knowle to have so many green areas and I want to make a contribution to ensuring that they are in good order for generations to come.

What do you hope to achieve in this role?

I have joined a team who are very committed to protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Knowle.

I am looking forward to working with them and coordinating our efforts with other organisations to make sure we make the best use of the resources available to keep Knowle a green and pleasant place for both ourselves and wildlife.

Our main project at the moment is to make the main road entrances to Knowle a blaze of colour, by planting thousands of spring bulbs in the grass verges. We are aiming to complete one entrance per year over the next four years. The initial outlay for the bulbs seems significant, but the benefit will be there for many, many years.

I have always admired the daffodil displays on the roads into Solihull, and I would love to see the same cheery displays in Knowle.

I overheard two ladies planning a shopping trip before Christmas, they remarked, “Let’s go to Knowle, they always make such an effort with their displays”. I would love people to feel the same about our natural environment.

It sounds like you will be kept very busy with the Society but what do you do in your spare time?

I love singing and have been a member of Solihull Chandos Choir since I came to Knowle. Our next concert in June is Mozart’s Requiem which I am looking forward to very much.

Apart from Choir, I enjoy swimming, catching up with friends far and near and spending time with the grandchildren.

Thank you for talking to us Liz, I am sure you will be a great asset to the Society and Knowle in your new role.
Any time from late April to mid May can see bluebells at their best, and we do not have to venture far to find some. There is a carpet of their vibrant colour to be enjoyed on this three mile stroll which starts in the Car Park of Brueton Park.

The route starts by joining the lakeside path (on the same side as the Car Park) and enjoying the views across the water. At the end of the lake there is a path to the right shortly before the footbridge. This leads to the entrance of the Nature Reserve.

Turn left to enter the reserve and then turn immediately right and follow the perimeter path along two edges of the wetland, noting the bullrushes in the ponds.

Pass through the gateway into the next field of the Reserve, but, this time, follow the left hand edge. This leads eventually to some woodland with the feel of a ‘fairy glen’ as the path turns right twice before, near the woodland exit, there is a path on the left, across a field, which leads out onto Widney Manor Road.

A short distance to the left along the road, just before the first house, a path leads to the left again, down the hill, straight across Lovelace Avenue, and down to a footbridge over the Blythe.

Between this bridge and a further one over the motorway is a small copse, from which a further path leads up the middle of the long field to the left between the river and the M42.

This path then passes alongside one stretch of woodland before entering a further wood at the end of the field. It is here, amongst the trees to the side of the next stretch of footpath, that the bluebells will await you and your camera.

From here the path continues, through a narrow section alongside a field and then through more riverbank woodland, to return you the Brueton Park lake, but on its opposite bank.

This final section, after passing the bluebells, has the constant accompaniment of babbling water and is a delight when the going is firm. However, be wary that it can get very muddy after unseasonal rains.
A Warm Welcome to our New Members
who have joined the Society since our last Newsletter

Only three new members this time, but nevertheless, we are delighted to welcome:

Mr & Mrs R F Edwards
Ms F Andrews

Around The Shops

A new health food shop has opened on the High Street, in the old Covent Garden premises, called Peter’s Health Foods. They are selling a variety of health foods and it is good to see these premises occupied once more.

Another charity shop, St Mary’s Hospice, is opening (or has opened) in the premises once occupied by Tomson Travel Agents, next door to the MIND charity shop!

In Station Road there is a new garden machinery shop called MGM (Midlands Ground Machinery) which is selling a variety of garden machinery and also offers repairs and servicing.

Next door to MGM another beauty shop, “Hair & Beauty Boutique” has opened.

We wish all of the above additions to our village every success and as usual - “Use Them or Lose Them”!

Janet Eržen

Knowle Businesses Gather for Networking

A network event for Knowle businesses was held in February. In an effort to increase community spirit and see how local businesses can work together. About 50 people from all types of companies attended and it was agreed that it was useful for them to get to know each other in a relaxed, social setting.

Julie Blood, from Probate Solicitors, co-ordinated the event and said, “It was a great opportunity to meet other people working in Knowle. It’s amazing just how many businesses there are.”

After this successful start, it is planned that these gatherings will become a regular fixture on the Knowle Business calendar. The next date has already been planned for April. If you have a business in Knowle, and would like to attend, please contact Julie on 01564 758055.

The Knowle Society Newsletter

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