



Whilst formal events were cancelled there seem to have been quite a few informal street parties organized. Here in Blackdown Road we all had tea in our front gardens on a beautiful sunny day, with most of the road taking part, many showing union flags and more and all dutifully staying well apart. There was a real party atmosphere. Similar celebrations took place elsewhere, and American vehicles were believed to be driving round the village, presumably Steve Chaplin's.

THE IMAGE LIBRARY & DIGITAL RECORDS

We have heard nothing more about the Council's plans for Chester House. Heath Pratt was invited to visit a digital imaging company with Tracey Williams (Solihull Local Studies Dept.) and three members from Knowle Society. This visit is understood to have been helpful.

WEB SITE & CLOUD

Just when we thought at least some of the problems with the web site had been resolved, up popped another one. The Society's hosting company did a bit of jiggling about their end and all was well - until we updated it to show the 2020 programme. It still shows the old version. Inspection with WinSCP (for the initiated an FTP client - Filezilla didn't cut the mustard) showed that the updated files are there. A conversation with the hosting company is needed when things become more normal. Let us hope this will sort it out quickly.

ENQUIRIES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

The usual crop of enquiries has been received and answered to the best of our ability. The Junior School Second World War project took place in February, one of only two outside events to escape Lockdown. It was a good afternoon, well organized as usual. The other event was a walk for Solihull Discovery Walks on February 19th, which everyone seemed to enjoy. There is a talk booked for Solihull Probus in September, unless of course they decide not to go ahead. As said, the Society will not attend Barston Fete or take part in Heritage Open Days this year due to social distancing problems. We hope to take part in both in 2021.

*We hope you enjoy your membership of the Society and look forward to seeing you soon.
The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2020.*



KNOWLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Making History Live

Newsletter

Volume 10 No. 3
May 2020

WE HOPE ALL OUR MEMBERS ARE SAFE AND WELL

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Like every other organization the Society has had to amend its programme. Events early in the year took place as normal, and as it happens the early summer is normally a quiet time, other than for the Exhibitions Committee. This newsletter has been held back a little, but what the next few months will bring remains uncertain. Meanwhile, the committee (consulted by phone) needs to keep members informed of programme changes, at least until the next newsletter in September. Even if Lockdown eases further, people may have reservations about attending inside events where social distancing is difficult. The Society has therefore reluctantly cancelled the summer buffet, Barston Fete and Heritage Open Days. Warwick Words Local History Day has been cancelled by the organizers. Those of you for whom we have email addresses will receive this newsletter electronically, the remainder will be sent by post. We shall not ask anyone to deliver by hand. Cancelled events are shown in the diary box. The next event will be the AGM on October 14th. More details overleaf as usual.

Elaine S. Warner
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Diary

June 29th to Aug 10th Solihull Central Library	Exhibition: <i>Lodge Road ~ Across the Common</i> Cancelled Local Studies Dept., 1st Floor
Wednesday July 15th Guild House 7.30 p.m.	Summer Buffet Cancelled Slide show: <i>The Wootton Collection</i> Speaker: In house
Monday August 26th Bulls Head, Barston	Barston Fete Cancelled Exhibition: <i>Six Knowle Buildings</i>
Saturday September 12th Saturday September 19th Knowle Parish Church	Heritage Open Days Cancelled Exhibition: <i>Six Knowle Buildings</i> Exhibition: <i>The Wootton Collection</i> Members will be on hand to answer questions about the church. In association with Knowle Parish Church

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Two cancelled events in the Guild House have obviously helped the Society's coffers. By how much will be revealed at the end of the financial year. Those of you who receive *Knowle Parish Magazine* may have noticed that a couple of articles have appeared not related to forthcoming events, the latest being in the June 2020 issue. We have also provided material for the July 2020 issue, of which more below. Many thanks to Rosemary Watts, the magazine's editor for including them. We hope there will be more. Membership stands at just below 100.

MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

The first of the spring talks took place as usual, with an enjoyable afternoon reminiscing on *Memories of the 40's, 50's & 60's* by Alan Thornton. Many of the audience had memories of their own and chipped in accordingly. And then came Lockdown and the inevitable cancellation of the April meeting and the Spring Lunch. The next event would have been the Summer Social, which the committee felt people may be uneasy about attending, as it is inside. The next meeting will therefore be the AGM on October 14th, always supposing things are back to something near normal. Things should be clearer by the time the next newsletter is circulated in September.

Outside events, other than talks, are listed below. Further ahead, the in-house talks for 2020 will be deferred to 2021. We await developments before Meg Hole books outside speakers.

EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS



Copt Heath Croft, 1978

display. Safety first. There will therefore be no exhibition at Knowle Library in September. At Solihull, however, exhibitions are behind glass. At the time of writing Solihull Library is closed, but if possible there may be one later in the summer, which will be *Peace & Remembrance*, commemorating the end of the Second World War (see also VE Day 75 below). The main exhibition and talks programme for 2020 will effectively be deferred until 2021.

As said, the Society's spring talk on *Warwick Road ~ The Wilson Arms to Solihull* did not take place. Neither did the associated exhibition, the library being closed. The exhibition is ready prepared, save for one or two photographs which we have been unable to take (Lockdown again). It is a very promising project, which we hope both members and the public will enjoy.

The Exhibitions Committee has some reservation about showing exhibitions where the public can touch items on

The talk at the AGM, assuming it goes ahead, will be *The Wootton Collection*. The Exhibitions Committee has been unable to do much about *Six Knowle Buildings*, originally due for Barston Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday: it has not been possible to do the research.

Talks are still in demand from other organizations, some of which invite us back for another talk.



Slang Field, by Eva Wootton

VE DAY 75 IN KNOWLE

The Society was delighted to be asked to take part in Knowle British Legion's commemoration of the seventy fifth anniversary of VE Day. It would have been held on May 8th, a public holiday rescheduled from May 4th. The Society would have shown the *American Interlude* exhibition to complement Steve Chaplin's fleet of American vehicles, which would have also been on show.



VE Day Party in Hampton Road, 1945.

We shall, however, show *Peace & Remembrance* at Solihull Library if we can. It is very appropriate and it may be the last time it is seen for a long time. It could come midway between VE Day and VJ Day in August, depending on when the library opens. It starts with entries from Eva Wootton's diary between April and May 1945, in which she chronicles the days leading up to the end of the war in Europe in a way that makes those of us too young to remember feel as if we were there. Following sections on post-war rationing and some well known Knowle faces who served, choirboy Ray Morton's diary of three days in May (7th to 9th) brings them alive. Rosemary Watts plans to include some of this material in the July issue of *Knowle Parish Magazine*. The exhibition ends with the honours of those who served and remembrance events since.