

Issue 3

In Our Age

Living local history

Autumn 2006

Herefordshire Lore

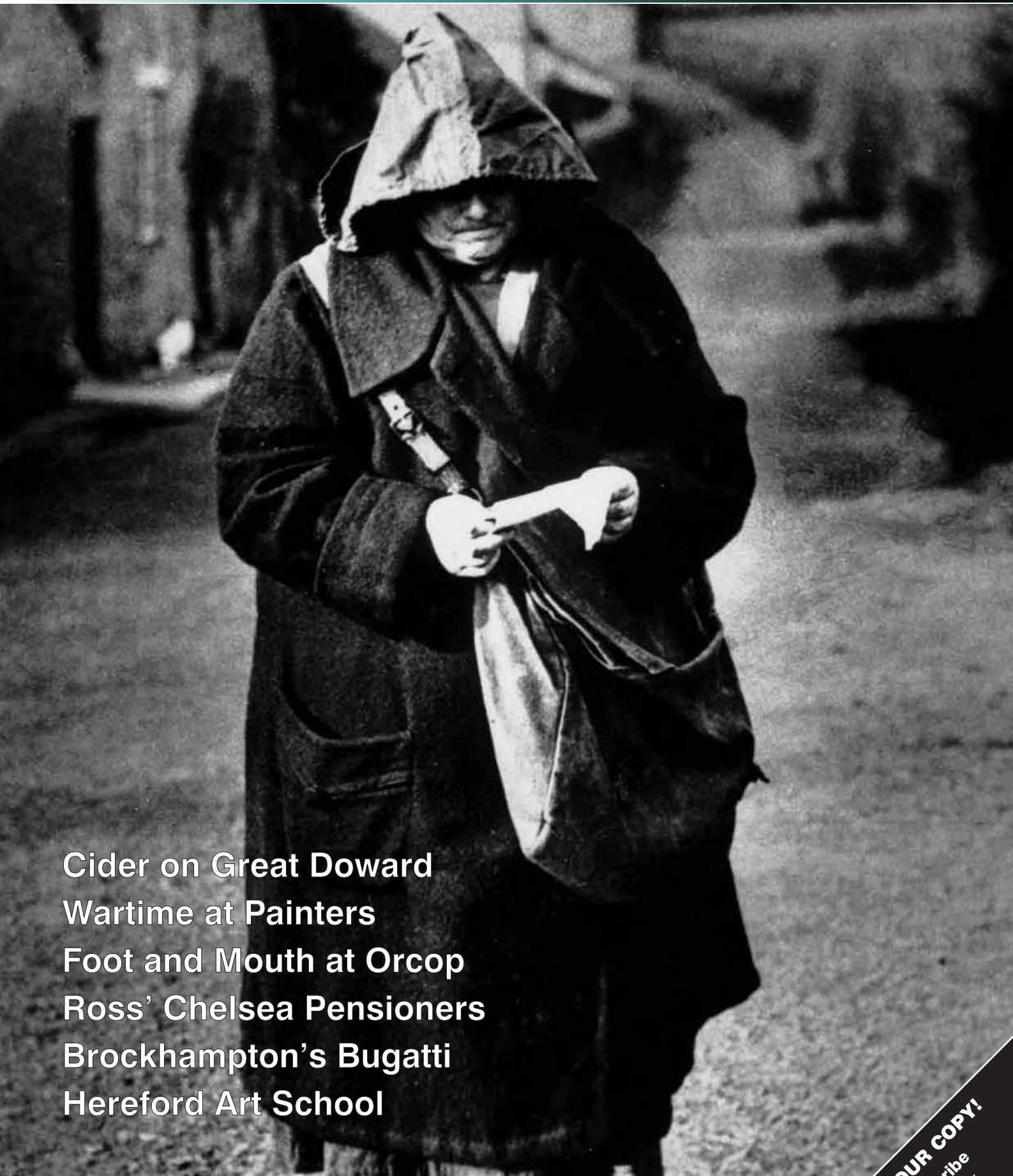
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Cider on Great Doward
Wartime at Painters
Foot and Mouth at Orcop
Ross' Chelsea Pensioners
Brockhampton's Bugatti
Hereford Art School

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Making Merry

Cider on Great Doward

Micky Jarrott, now in her eighties has lived in the same cottage on Great Doward near Ross for over 60 years. Micky who worked at Rotherwas munitions factory in the last war, told Marsha O'Mahony about cider making.

"There was a fair few that did make cider. It was a big trade around here. Anybody that didn't make cider, well they'd have spare fruit. We used these great, long hooks to shake the fruit off the trees. Shake it down, pick it up - didn't matter about them being bruised and filthy - and put it in sacks. The kids were expected to help collect the fruit. They didn't stand over us with a whip or anything: they made it known we had to do it, but we had lots of fun as well. And any excess fruit dad used to take up to Bulmer's.

"We used to make our own cider, look. And perry. The cider mill was along the lane, a big (place) with a zinc roof and there was room for the barrels to be lined up all round. You had to make the fruit crushable to make it suitable for pressing. The mill was heavy as lead and it lay in

a stone trough. You put your fruit in there, proper cider apples and perry pears, and there's this huge stone with a harness on and you pulled it round and crushed the fruit. When we had a pony he did it: then he got a bit old and we took over!

"After crushing, the mush was put into a sort of sacking: we used to call them hairs. The crushed fruit was scooped out and put in layers, like a big cake. This was folded over and then the next one slapped on, about half a dozen and then it was put in the press.

"So the potent cider went down into a well. They used to have huge barrels with a tap see? Ex-whiskey if my father could get them. And they used to bale it out - filthy utensils; they wouldn't allow it now - into the barrels and then it had to stay for so long to mature. Then it was fit for drinking.

"Everyone used to congregate and we used to have these cow horns hanging up there, never washed, and they used them for sampling the cider and the perry. Used to get drunk as lords!"



Collecting fruit at Roy Rossiter's Co-op orchards near Marden.

Crane Driving Girls

Sisters **Ruby Fox** (below) and **Nancy Hooper** (nee Fox) from Whitecross, Hereford talked to Sarah Laws about their days at Painters driving the cranes during the war.

"With all the men gone, there was only the women left to do that work," explained Ruby (below). And, she said,



a lot of the women at Painters joined the Emergency Land Corps. "After a day's work at Painters we would go out on the

Wartime workers at Painters

land to help with hop and apple picking for 3 hours and get 3/-. If we worked all day Sunday we would get £6."

Nancy enjoyed working at Painters but her husband asked her to stop when she had her first child.

Dried Milk for him. The milkman came round in his horse and trap, and the fruiterer, Mr. Young, came round to the house and would call her 'Fancy Knocks' instead of Nancy Fox! "That would drive me real mad!"



"It used to be a challenge to see what you could get with the money," she remembers. Her son was put on condensed milk, which they couldn't find anywhere, by the doctor, but eventually they were able to get a tin of National

Above, Painters' yard. Front cover: The mail must get through. Fanny Morris delivering the post at Orcop in all weather.

Farmer **Eric Morris** of Moat Farm, Orcop, who shared his recollections with Sandy Green, was born in 1923, but promptly emigrated to Australia with the family.

"You could go out under this scheme - I think it cost them only £10 for a whole family. We went out on a passenger boat and we had to go right round Cape Horn. I think we were on the water for about seven weeks.

"But the family didn't like it out there. We went to an area called Denmark in West Australia. We didn't go to farm under this scheme and I think they found a job for father more or less clearing the old scrub. It was pretty wild



out there and a bit lonely. Mother didn't like it. So we came back.

"Course we never wore shoes or socks out there. Coming back home up the Suez Canal in 1925 on RMS Orana on the Ordent Line, I hadn't been used to nothing on my feet and mother bought me a pair of sandals and I whipped the one off and flung it overboard!"

Eric also recalled the foot and mouth outbreak in Orcop in 1940 when all the stock were shot. His father lost all his stock at that time.

Sandal overboard. Eric's homecoming was aboard the HMS Orana

Hold your noses – the hops are coming!

From this week onwards, passers-by hurrying up and down Broad Street, will react in one of two ways. Either they will raise noses heavenwards, give an ecstatic 'Ah!' and sniff the air with as much appreciation as the Bisto kids, or they will exclaim 'Euh!' and clutching their noses hurry on by as quickly as possible. The hops are coming in.

So wrote journalist Marjorie Craddock of Lower Eaton in Hereford Times' Out & About column some years ago. Marjorie, who also wrote under her maiden name, Lloyd, continued:

Hereford's municipal hop house in Broad Street is not the ugliest building in the city, but it is certainly at ground level, the least prepossessing in this important shopping street. Of course its days have been rumoured to be numbered for years.

The rumours turned out to be true and the warehouse was eventually pulled down.



Planting spuds and painting pigs

Mary Grice of Merryhill, Callow was born in 1917. Before she died she shared with daughter, Alison Chappell, tales of her early days.

"The snow lay deep, crisp and even in Grafton Lane on January 15 1917. My father drove his pony and trap up Ridge Hill to collect the midwife, Nurse Bidmead. Her skirts were wet with snow, but she had no time to dry them before delivering me and moving on to her next assignment.

"My parents' first home was The Veddoes in Grafton Lane. Although it was a new house, the windows leaked, the fire smoked and would not draw. The Veddoes was a mixed farm, but mostly dairy cattle and corn. Dad used to take the milk to Blakes in Hereford, in churns, by pony and trap. The cottagers around us would help to plant the potatoes and, in payment, would have a row of their own.

"Grafton Lane was dry and the communal well was in Merryhill Lane. We had our own well in our garden: we had to pour water down the pump and then pump like billyo! We also had a soft water tank which was plumbed into our house.

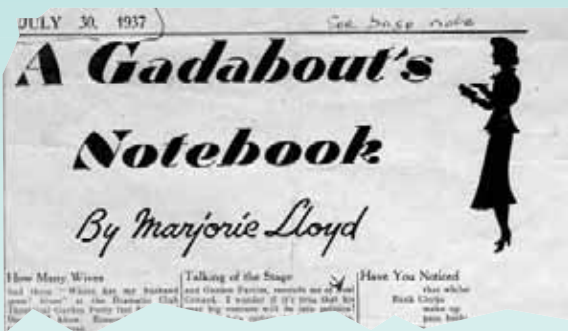
"The local pub, the Brick Kiln, now the Grafton Inn, was where the bricks were once made. Lady King was the last private resident of Graftonbury House, now the hotel. She rode side-saddle and once instructed my father to 'open the gate, my man'.

"Mr Wakefield Knight lived nearby on the Ross Road and on summer Sunday evenings we all sang hymns on his lawn. During the 1925 general election Tory sympathisers painted his gates blue: rumour has it that a blue pig was also spotted running around the meadows!

"Also in 1925 I had played the son of Lord Nelson at the Kemble Theatre wearing a three-cornered hat, buckle shoes and satin breeches. I was given a box of chocolates because I was the youngest in the cast, but they were taken from me to share with my brothers."



Mary's parents, John Gilbert from Allensmore and Mary Amy Sayce from Garway Hill.



Where's my pan gone?

My saucepans have all been acquisitioned
The teapots gone from the hob
The colanders left the cabbage for a very different job.
So now when I hear on the wireless of
Hurricanes showing their mettle
I see in a vision before me of a
Dornier being chased by my kettle.
Elsie Lawser

(Spotted by Rosemary Lillico in *Fighter Pilot* by Philip Kaplan, Aurum Press, 1999)

Living Local History – Pictures

Hereford Art School



The shadowy figures outside Hereford Art school on Castle Green include Dorothy Williams, Mary Johnson, Nellie Wallis, Betty Milligan, Arthur Doderall, Gordon Davies, Alfred 'Jim' Slawson, David Burton, unknown, Agnes Kilgore, Barbara Moore, Elizabeth H. Milligan and in front, the principle, T.V. Milligan.

David Wilde, who sent us the picture from America, recently donated to Hereford Museum a set of drawings by Alfred Slawson, his uncle. Slawson attended the college with Jehan Daley and the portrait painter John Ward.

"The college has changed a lot since these pictures were taken at its original site on Castle Green (though I feel sure I recognise at least one member of staff in there)," adds Art College head Richard Heatly. "I am very interested in finding out more about the earlier history of the college and if anyone has pictures from their student days please get in touch with me at the college." 01432 845339 r.heatly@hereford-art-col.ac.uk

The College of Art (right) in 1970: Fred Uhlman talks with a group of students including Paul Adshead, Jenny, Angus Copper, Mo Burns, Ian Robertson, Alan Parker, Ian Shingler, Michael Jones, Jude Perkins, Macolm Parsons, Maggie Wilson, Pauline Rolfe, Terry Meyrick, Philip Joy, Shona Keith and Nicky Rollins. But just who is that smiling girl at the front, left? Thanks to Shona for the loan of the picture.



Campaign for male nudes

Inside Hereford's old Art College on Castle Green the ubiquitous life drawing class was regularly attended in a hushed chill behind a big wooden door, writes **Bobbie Blackwell**.

The rise of the Feminist Movement in the early 1960s must have influenced the 1963 thinking of young female art students and I was one. In the loo one afternoon a group of us girls began questioning why only female nudes were used for life drawing. To us, this could only mean sexual inequality and the exploitation of women in a male-dominated society.

Fired by our revolutionary thoughts we requested a meeting with the then Principal Mr Craddock and a few days later seven of us piled into his office. We informed him he should provide students with male nudes for life drawing.

He turned bright red and told us the male form could not be used for such purposes. Our ideas were unthinkable and would not be implemented. We left his office in the certain knowledge that the sixties' sexual revolution would not change Hereford.

es From Herefordshire's Past



Brockhampton's Bugatti



Lady Lucy Fitzmayer of Lower Weston, Ross turns out to have been the owner of the 15 horsepowered Austin, registration CJ 696 pictured on the front cover (left) of the last IOA being driven through Lea. The 'lake and red' car, first registered on April 4 1910 was last registered up with R.J. Blenkin of Stone House, Staunton and the car was scrapped in 1928. Our informant is **Brian Demaus** from Stagbatch Farm, Leominster who reveals that the owner of this Bugatti Royale (top right), supplied new in 1933, was Captain C.W.

Foster of Brockhampton Court. The photograph comes from the late Basil Butcher's collection.

Our own motoring correspondent, Rosemary Lillico, has been hot on the trail of the little Westland Healeys, made between 1947 and 1949 in Hereford at Westland Motors. This Westland Healey (bottom right) was number 58 out of the 64 made in the city. Sadly owner Peter Mokler died recently.



Ascend Charlie's Final Flight

The American 'Flying Fortress' Ascend Charlie was struck by anti-aircraft fire over La Rochelle, France on September 16 1943. The plane was piloted by 22-year-old Herbert Turner, second from the left (front), who managed to fly the aircraft back to Britain. But it crashed into the hillside above Cwm Farm, Llanbedr killing all ten crew. The average age of the crew was 22. Ascend Charlie's history is researched by Derrie Edge from Newton Farm, Hereford and he wants to find out more about the RAF Mountain Rescue team, based at RAF Madley, who attended the crash.

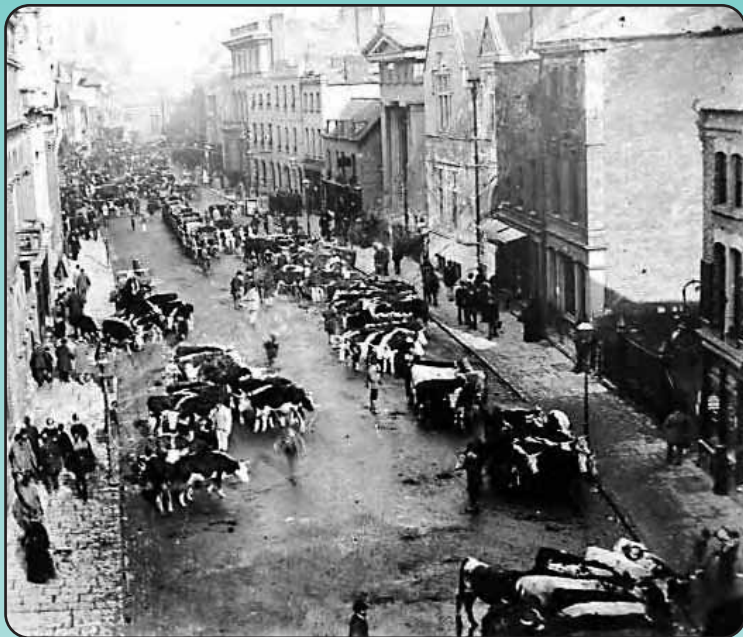
The May Hill Methodist Church at Malvern in 1937. Thanks to Russell Green, the small boy in front on the right, and Roger Cox.



Ross' Chelsea Pensioners

On Saturday September 2 1939, 52 Chelsea Pensioners arrived at Rudhall Manor, near Ross, evacuated from the capital, writes Gordon Amand. Later Moraston House near Bridstow was also brought into use for the pensioners, along with another house near Leighton Buzzard. Between 1939 and 1945 23 died and were buried at St Mary's in Ross. Above, a nurse helps one of the old soldiers at Rudhall Manor. There is a CD of this and other pictures from the period at Ross Heritage Centre.

Market Memories



Hereford's cattle sales in Broad Street at the turn of the 19th century.

Herefordshire Lore will be collecting your memories and photos of the market in *Butcher, Baker and Cidermaker*.

Photo: Herefordshire Archive Service

Who remembers the early poultry sales? Taking - or being taken - to see the pigs? The auctioneers' sales patter? Buying - or selling - the Christmas roast at the market stalls?

Hereford's cattle market off Edgar Street has been a focus for the city for 150 years. Its days in town are numbered, but before it leaves, Herefordshire Lore will be talking to people about their market memories for *Butcher, Baker and Cidermaker*.

Thanks to a Heritage Lottery grant, we

will be collecting material for a book (similar to our *In The Munitions*). We'll also be getting a new website and producing a useful market guide for young people in county schools.

We've already heard from many who played a role at the market - we'll be calling you back soon! - but we want to hear from many more. (Leave us a message on 07845 907891.)

Keep the recollections rolling in and we'll publish a sample in the winter issue of *Our Age*.



May Hill Anthology by Valerie McLean

Having painted and drawn May Hill, that landmark on our border with Gloucestershire, Ledbury-based artist Valerie McLean has produced an art book about the hill. She recalls the late Francis Watkins

telling her about life on the Hill: "On a Monday morning I used to cycle with my son on my bicycle to Ledbury to do my mother's washing. The journey was about ten miles. After cycling back home, I would do my own washing and also used to wash and iron the smocks from Woodend Farm in Huntley. There were no washing machines then and on May Hill water had to be fetched from the well over the road before being heated in the boiler."

Valerie can be contacted on 01531 635857.

For King And Country

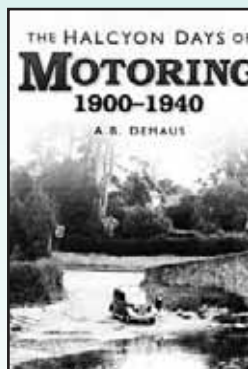
by David Gwynne-James chronicles the story of a Herefordshire family during two world wars. Eric Gwynne-James died at the Somme in 1916, Henry served in the Royal Navy in both wars and John was killed in action in Perugia in 1944.

For King and Country, £12.95 plus £2 p&p from Wye Valley Publishing (01432 820636).

The Halcyon Days of Motoring: 1900-1940 by A.B. Demaus

Brian Demaus who lives in north Herefordshire has brought together a collection of rare photographs from the early days of motoring including many from Herefordshire.

The Halcyon Days of Motoring, £14.99, Sutton Publishing.



Dear Doll

17 Venns Close,
Alms House,
Hereford
Thursday 1st June 1944

Dear Doll,

Just a line to let you know we are alright, and hoping to find you all in a better state of health. I expect you heard on the wireless of the excitement and in many ways a catastrophe for Hereford which occurred on Tuesday evening about 7.30. We had finished tea and Jose had gone up to lay on the bed for half an hour and I was sat at the little table under the window in the front room with the window open, as it was very hot as we had thunderstorms earlier when all of a sudden a tremendous explosion occurred which fairly roked the town, and the blast of air rushed through the window and fairly dazed me for seconds and the bedroom doors swung back with a thud and Jose started bellowing out.

Loads of men and trailer pumps were going over the Wye Bridge down to the factory. After the first explosion the fire fighting service connected with the factory had begun to function when the second lot of bombs began to explode which put the men and their appliances Hors De Combat and fires started in all directions. They say the Yanks did splendid service there especially the coloured chaps, they rushed in irrespective of danger and did good work, there was dozens of jeeps and USA red cross van and stretchers and USA mobile canteen in service, so there is no work for Jose this week, nor the other girls and it don't look very healthy about ever starting again there. They are paying the three shifts their last weeks wages on Friday afternoon.

Cheerio and all the best,

Dad XXXXX

Alfred Parry's letter, sent to us by grandson **Brian Millington** from Solihull, heralded the end of munitions manufacturing at Rotherwas. His daughter, Jose, died of TB in 1945. Alfred and his wife Violet had both been munitions workers in the First World War.



Alfred Parry:
"The blast fairly dazed me."

Your News & Views

Cycle tracks for oldies?

What about cycling for oldies in Herefordshire? I was overweight as a child, but enjoyed cycling around Dorset where I lived. The enjoyment of cycling helped me to love the countryside and slim me down a bit!

On this point couldn't Herefordshire produce cycling maps showing where a decent distance can be covered on the flat with good car parking at one end of the route. Such routes would encourage people to stay active, boost tourism and sell more electric bikes.

Dr Malcolm Rigler

Keeping fit

Hereford's Gannet Cycling Club was a busy post-war club which competed in road racing, time trialling grass track and cyclo cross. They produced two riders good enough to represent Britain in Cyclo cross world championships: Tony Rodway in the 1960s and Tony Lyne in the 1970s. Mastercraft Cycles' Eddie Thompson, still club secretary, is seen here on cyclo cross over Dinedor in 1972.



Musical benefit

The WaterAid charity has benefited by £90 thanks to an evening of Music and Memories from Herefordshire Lore and the Singing Tree in August. St Peter's hall was full to capacity (we were really squeezing them in!); the songs and local reminiscences were a treat; the singing was lovely and the readings were a delight. Thanks to both groups, and to Bill and Hilary for their collective work and the warm and friendly performance. A real 'fringe' treat - please come back again next time.

Mary Tolhurst, Director, Three Choirs Festival Fringe

Coffee benefit

All proceeds from our Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy on Wednesday November 8 2006 at 10.30 a.m. in Hereford Baptist Church, Commercial Road, Hereford will be in aid of In Our Age. And In Our Age will be there. Meanwhile, we are looking forward with great anticipation to your next edition of In Our Age.

Jurgen Koenigsbeck, Hereford Baptist Church

Friday's fish

In 1944 my brother and I contracted diptheria and spent July and August in Burghill Isolation Hospital, writes **Rosemary Lillico**.

My brother, Leslie Harris was three and very ill. I was 6, but not confined to bed so I ran errands for the other children, patients and nurses too. The nurses were all very kind: two I remember were Sister Harris and Nurse Blackburn.

We were expected to eat all our food which was OK 'til it came to Friday when lunch was always boiled fish and parsley sauce which I hated. I overcame this problem by tipping my lunch down the toilet. When the others found out about this I was expected to dispose of their lunches as well with the result that the toilet became blocked up.

There was a big enquiry by the matron and I was found to be the culprit. I had a severe telling off and from then on my meals were closely supervised. To this day the smell of boiled fish takes me back to Burghill. I wonder who else remembers being there.

Ready for an emergency

Megan Bennet from Ledbury joined the Nuclear Emergency Team in the 1950s. She had worked as a London nurse through the blitz but, at first, could find no



paid work at Hereford Hospital. "I couldn't be employed because I was married. So I volunteered for the Team." The team included Dr Ronald Francis, and Mrs Powell, a supervisor at Marks and Spencer's. "We did the usual training for an incident, stretcher work, registration, examinations, treatment and disposal. We practised on Bromyard Downs. We were expected to go into action to tend to people in the event of a nuclear war."

Welfare advice

Did you know you can get advice on welfare benefits from Herefordshire Council. Call 01432 383530.

Credenhill harvesters

Your article Herefordshire Harvest Camps brought back memories of August 1947. I was 16 and working in my school holidays for Percy Meredith at Mill Farm, Credenhill.

We were busy one afternoon loading wheat sheaves on to a horse-drawn wagon in Shed Meadow. I was on top of the wagon positioning and loading the sheaves that were being pitched up by Percy.

Two teenage lads from the Byford harvest camp came looking for work. Percy was short of labour and wanted to get back to feed the animals so he offered them work. It says much for their perseverance and something for my agility in avoiding the pikes that we succeeded in getting a load on the wagon before Percy returned.

Younger members of Credenhill Cricket Club also played an evening match against a team from the harvest camp.

My present home in Glebe Close is over the spot where we were all those years ago.

Trevor Watkins, Credenhill

Frank Rook

Fenella Rook from Ontario, Canada is trying to find out more about her father Frank Rook (1882-1977) who spent all his life in North Devon apart from a spell at Rotherwas in the First World War. allennef@yahoo.ca

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In Our Age

Thanks to everyone who sent in or emailed their pictures and stories - you're helping to write history!

This latest IOA is packed with fascinating gems from cider making on Great Doward and the Painters' women crane drivers to memories of Hereford Art College, Chelsea Pensioners at Ross and Tupsley's Home Guard.

This autumn issue will be sent around to all Herefordshire libraries, tourist information centres, and museums to be picked up and read by more than 12000 of you.

Just make a note: if you want to be sure of your copy (and support the work of Herefordshire Lore which produces IOA) you can subscribe for only £10 a year: that's four copies sent direct to your home . . . before any other copies go out.

And you can support us and reach your customers by advertising. It's a bargain at £60 for an eighth of a page.

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John Turner, Chairman,
Herefordshire Lore

1958 and the Colour Party prepares to parade through Hereford with Sgt Maj Jack Greenhouse (left) from Leominster and Sgt Maj Frank Warr (right). Do you know any of the others, asks Andy Taylor from The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum?

"The parade marked the 50th anniversary of the Territorial Army in 1908. This saw the forming of The

Herefordshire Regiment which fought in the First World War at Gallipoli, in the Middle East and in France. In the Second World War they landed in France over the Normandy beaches and fought through Germany, ending the war in Flensburg where they took part in the capture of Grand Admiral Doenitz, who had taken over from Hitler as Führer. In 1947 the Regiment became The Herefordshire Light Infantry and in 1966 the County title was lost and the Regiment became part of The Light Infantry (Volunteers)." More details on the Museum from Andy (andy@taylors5.fsworld.co.uk) at The TA Centre, Harold St, Hereford, HR1 2QX.



Tupsley Home Guard

My late father-in-law, Bill Griffin, is second row from the back, third in from the right, writes **Linda Griffin** from Cheltenham. Bill and his wife, a teacher, lived in Geoffrey Avenue, Hereford for over 45 years. Linda thinks the photo was taken around 1941/42.



Events

October 18, Wednesday 10.30 am - Courtyard Club 0870 1122330 monthly event - Gentle movement and dance

October 21 & 22, Saturday & Sunday - Cidermaking Festival, the Cider Museum near Sainsbury's. (www.cidermuseum.co.uk 01432 354207)

Until October 28 - Herefordshire Photography Festival, including Paul Shambroom's images of American Councillors at work with an exhibition of archive material from Hereford City Council. Hereford Museum and Art Gallery. Free.

October 25 Wednesday, 10 am to 12.30 pm - Funky Gear: make a figure and dress it up as a 50s Teddy Boy, a Pink Lady or a 70s Punk. Dress up in original costume from the 1940s to the 1990s. Ross Market House Heritage Centre and again on October 26, Thursday at Ledbury Heritage Centre.

October 27 Friday 1 pm to 4 pm - Finds Identification Day. Found something interesting while digging your garden or out walking? Find out what it is from the experts. Hereford Museum and Art Gallery.

October 28 to November 12 - The Life and Times of Elizabeth Postuma Gwillam both in Whitchurch near Ross and Toronto, Canada. Ross Market House Heritage Centre.

November 8, Wednesday 10.30 am - Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Hereford Baptist Church, Commercial Road, Hereford. In aid of In Our Age: come and meet the editors.

November 11 to January 6 - the Society of Wood Engravers. This Society was founded in 1920 by a group of artists that included Lucien Pissaro, Eric Gill and Gwen Raverat. Hereford Art Gallery.

November 15 Wednesday 10.30 am - Courtyard Club Singing for Seniors with Hilary Smallwood and David Huke 0870 1122330

Herefordshire Lore has been collecting and publishing people's memories since 1989, working closely with the *County Records Office*, *Herefordshire Museums*, *Herefordshire Libraries* and *Age Concern*.

Previous publications include: *Age To Age*, *Amazing How Times Change*, *The Schoolchildren's Tale*, *The Shopkeeper's Tale* and *In The Munitions - Women At War in Herefordshire*.

Herefordshire Lore includes: John Turner (chair), Siriol Collins, Sandy Green, Mary Horner, Eileen Klotz, Sarah Laws, Rosemary Lilloco, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Marsha O'Mahony, Harvey Payne, Dawn Turner, Betty Webb, Lenora Williams.

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