

Issue 4

Winter 2007

In Our Age

Living local history

Herefordshire Lore

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Bartonsham Dairy

Milking at Woolhope

Polish children at Foxley

Saturdays at the Odeon

On the buses in Llangarron

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Hereford Market

People would dress up for Market

When agricultural merchant Michael Ball from Eaton Bishop first started going to Hereford Market from Madley in the 1940s, he often hitched a ride with Mr Breeze of Wormsley, a great character who always wore britches to Market.

People would dress up for Market. Farmers would have their shoes and boots polished and wear their best britches and leggings while, in the Butter Market, some women were renowned for their hats.

Mr Breeze had a horse and float, a two-wheeler trap with one axle. Mr Breeze's wife and daughter, off to sell chickens or butter in the Butter Market would sit at the front. Mr Ball would put his piglets in the back, throw a net over them and sit above the wheel. There would be a line of horse and carts at Whitecross queuing for the Market. Livestock was deposited at the Market and the horse left with the stable boy at the Horse and Groom or other pubs with stabling. Everyone met at the temperance cafe, the Deanlea, for strong tea and a gossip. At the end of market day some farmers who had thrown temperance to the wind and were the worse for wear with drink, were put up in their traps and with a slap on the horse's behind, sent off home.

The Butter Market, selling flowers, butter and dressed chickens, was always busy on Wednesdays. Michael Ball recalls taking rabbits they'd shot or caught with ferrets into the Butter Market on his bike. "I used to carry rabbits on a stick on the handlebars."



Michael Ball; "The Market's temperance cafe was a popular meeting place." (photo: Bobbie Blackwell)

One of Britain's busiest markets

It's all about the relationship between man and his animals

Auctioneers Julian Gallimore and Terry Court from Brightwells shared their memories of Market days with Bill Laws.

"Hereford Market was a fantastic place," says Terry who started his working life in the mid 1950s selling horse tack at the Market. "It was a five-day-a-week operation. We would have anything up to 3,000 or 4,000 fat sheep on a Monday and 500 pigs and 600 fat cattle. Tuesday we'd have 600 bulls or 200 horses. On a Wednesday we'd have 12,000 sheep, 1,000 pigs, 600 calves, 500 young cattle and then on a Thursday anything up to 2,000 store cattle, up to 600 barren cows and 400 dairy cows on a Friday so it was a busy old place."

Julian agreed. "At one time the Market had the biggest turnover of any council-owned market in the country," he said. "The whole Market was about the relationship between man and his animals and it was a wonderful relationship."

Both recall the great days when pedigree Herefords went on sale. "People came from all over the world to the January bull sale," recalls Terry. "There was one taxi man called Len Oliver who did nothing else before and after the sale but taxi South Americans to and from London airport."



Auctioneer Bill, father of Julian, Gallimore above left, with, behind him, Bill Sinnett of Stockton on Teme. The young man with him is unknown, but is that John Sevenoaks to his right?

Front cover photograph:

Emily Sarah Pritchard was born in 1915 and lived in Widemarsh Street. In the war she joined the Womens Auxilliary Police Constabulary (WAPC). After the war she met and fell in love with an ex German prisoner of war then living in her mother's lodging house in Commercial Road awaiting repatriation. Sadly he returned to Germany and Emily, following in her mother's footsteps, joined the Pritchard family's market business. She became a Wardrobe dealer, driving to markets across Herefordshire. Her nephew Colin Breen who supplied this picture described Emily as an auntie to them all and remembers her busy stall under the Clock at Kington Market. Emily never married and died in a car accident in 1981.

When Cyril Harris from Treharris, Llangarron was a lad at Woolhope he didn't often get to Market as he told Marsha O'Mahony.

"You couldn't go far 'cause you had the milking to do. I didn't mind milking by hand especially in the winter 'cause it was warm." But he did used to get to the Saturday horse sales.

"In the 1940s there might have been 50 or 60 horses for sale there. You'd get a lot of Gypsies as well: they'd sell the riding ponies. There was a space in the Market about 50 or 60 yards long and these horses would have a halter on, and the owner used to trot them up and down."

June Smith writes from Bridgend about the public weighbridge (right) next door to the Market Tavern. She and her parents, Bill and Winifred Jones, moved into the house next door (later removed along with the weighbridge) when her mother was appointed Weighbridge Attendant in the mid 1950s.

They weighed new vans and lorries for their 'tare weight' slips, apples for Bulmer's, fruit and vegetables for the canning factory and even, section by section, the TV mast for Sutton Colefield, made by Painter Bros, section by section. But their strangest request was to settle a bet between two draymen from the Cheltenham and Hereford Brewery as to who had the heaviest horse! "If I remember rightly there wasn't a lot in it," recalls June.



Last of the drovers



Mac Higgins: long-distance drover
(photo: Brightwells)

'Mac' Higgins was one of the last long-distance drovers. One day he walked 150 ewes from Carmarthen to be sold in Hereford on the Wednesday. He sat in the corner of the market getting his breath back. But they didn't sell. So his father tried to get a sale: he went into the Market Tavern leaving Mac with the sheep and, at half past eight at night, he came out to tell Mac he managed to sell them. But there was a bit of bad news: the buyer was from Swansea and he had to walk them back there.

Bartonsham Dairy - Six men a'milking

John Matthews of Bartonsham Dairies, Hereford bought and sold his cows at the Hereford Market. And, as John told Sarah Laws, he loved his cattle. "We've always had cows, mostly Friesian."

Bartonsham kept a 'flying herd'; in other words, he'd buy his cattle from the Market on a Friday, fresh calved so they were full of milk. When they had finished milking they were sold back at the Market for meat.

"When I was a little boy we only had room at Bartonsham for about 80 cows and we milked them all by hand. Dad had half a dozen people, men principally, sitting on milking stools at six o'clock in the morning to milk these cows. Then they'd clean them all out; the cows didn't go out in winter - they were cosseted these cows! They'd calve once a year - you had to have a calf or else you wouldn't get any milk! For a period, three or four weeks, perhaps six weeks, they'd be dry, building up their reserves for their calf. Then they'd be milking again. But we wouldn't have any like that, we'd just milk these cows and sell 'em for meat. You'd just milk 'em and sell 'em at the market. So we didn't have any animals around that were non-producers.

Bartonsham's beginnings

John's great-grandfather Edward Matthews started the Bartonsham dairy at Whitecross, 1869, with one cow, Old Brownie, which cost him £14 12s 6d.

A Herefordian, Edward, had sailed to America to drive steam trains in 1833, but returned home when the Civil War began. He started driving trains between Cardiff and Liverpool, but after surviving an accident, took up the milk business. He made his first deliveries in Whitecross Road from a wheelbarrow.

Living Local History – Picture



Cider project: the bottling plant



Cider project: the

Apples and Pears: The Cider Museum's Apples and Pears Past oral history project is drawing to a close, writes project manager Rebecca Roseff. Over the last nine months fifty-two people who worked in cider factories, made farm cider and sold cider, were interviewed. The recordings will be used in the museum displays and on the website. A database of the recordings - and much else besides - is available on the website: www.HistoryAtTheCiderMuseum.org.uk

Home Front hands over to Records Office

Herefordshire Lore, the county group that collects, records and publishes local memories (and brings you In Our Age) has delivered another batch of recordings to Herefordshire County Records office. Last year we interviewed land workers, farmers and farmers' wives, fishmongers, market stallholders, hauliers, factory workers and gardeners for the Home Front Project.

People remembered having to drink cabbage water ("It was awful"), evacuees being shocked at the sight of a cow being milked, selling farm-made butter at the Butter Market, learning to plough with horses, and the relief mothers felt when schools started giving free milk to their children. Senior County Archivist Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe welcomed the new collection. "These oral histories are an important part of Herefordshire's history, both to professional researchers and on a personal level." The Herefordshire Lore oral history collection, amassed from interviews over the last 16 years, was a useful resource, she said. John Turner, Herefordshire Lore's chairman, handed over the Home Front material. "These represent some great local histories. It's vital to record these skills and crafts before they are lost and forgotten."

John thanked all who had contributed their recollections including Phyllis Edwards. A former cook at RAF Credenhill, she said: "It's good to have these things recorded: for a lot of people there's no one to pass these memories on to."



Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe with John Turner, Rosemary Lillico, Betty Webb, Eileen Klotz from Herefordshire Lore

The Home Front project was helped along by: John and Gladys Barnet, Aileen Hepworth, Bill Dean, Brian Davis, D.J. Benjamin, Don Glead, Doris Helme, Edith Todd, Elizabeth Godsell, Eric Morris, Eunice Latham, Harry Carroll, Joy Davey, Ken and Leni Williams, Margery Burman, Megan Bennett, Kitty Latham, Phyllis Yapp, Stan Fryer and Phyllis Edwards.



scatter mill



King George Meadows in the days when the trees were mere juniors.
Do you have an old scene for IOA?

The family store

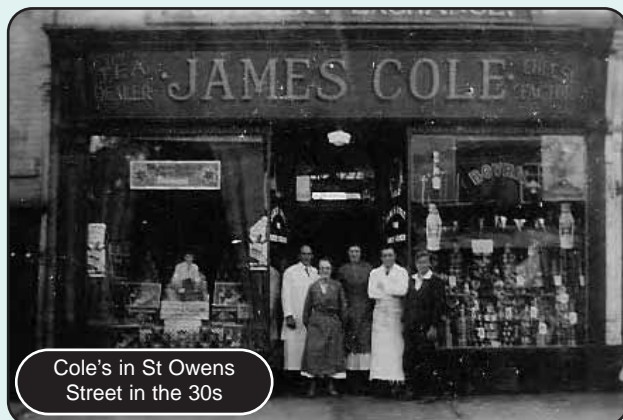
Sub-postmaster John Davis of Redhill Stores recalls the history of the family business. "My mother Doris (nee Broad) learned the grocery trade at James Cole grocers (below) in St Owens Street during the late 30s. In 1956 Hereford Council converted Old Redhill Hostel's laundry into retail units. Doris, who always wanted her own grocery business, leased units and started her own business. My father Jack Davis, with Jack Rawlings (below), built up a big delivery round employing lots of staff to pack.



Grasstrack and stagecoaches

Ken Williams and son Alan recalled their days grasstrack racing with Sandy Green. Ken, who started both the City Walls and Stagecoach restaurants in Hereford, promoted Neath Speedway. When he gave up Alan, above, carried on. Alan, who until recently ran Mr Chips in Commercial Street, hung up his riding helmet when a friend was seriously injured.

The Stagecoach was the old coaching house for the Royal London Mail service that used to change horses every seven miles - which is why there was a staging post at Tarrington and Ledbury. Ken also revealed the story behind the name of the Cock of Tupsley pub: the Cock was the male horse that used to pull the Mail coach up the hill into town.



Cole's in St Owens Street in the 30s



In bad winters our delivery van could be a life-saver for customers in remote areas.

In 1968 my father added a sub-post office becoming Sub-postmaster for Redhill. Doris went on working into her 80's and died at 91. With my wife Sue, my sister Joy and myself, our mum's business continues to this day."

Delivery man Jack Rawlings



Left to right: Isabel Haines, Olga King, Mabel Rawlings, Dorothy Baillis, Joy Davis, Hazel Bunton.

HEREFORDSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE AIRFIELDS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



ROBIN J. BROOKS

Airfield Histories

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Airfields, by Robin Brooks (Countryside Books, 01635 43816, £12.99)

Reviewer: Rosemary Lillico

Readers interested in local airfields are in for a pleasant experience with Robin Brooks' book. He lists the airfields of Difford, Credenhill, Honeybourne, Madley, Pershore, Shobdon and Perdiswell as well as others of minor importance, but nevertheless vital in their combined work that helped win the war.

A chapter is dedicated to each of the airfields giving the reader a detailed account of the work carried out there.

Land was often requisitioned from local farmers and the accommodation was basic. Credenhill had no runway so that base was used for training only. The author did his National Service here in 1960 and mentions fond memories of Hereford.

Madley had three grass runways and was a busy training station for the duration of the War. Shobdon became a base for training glider pilots in 1942. Unfortunately there were many crashes and very few survivors. The author mentions three crashes close to Hereford: in July 1942 a Wellington crashed at Llangrove churchyard; two crew died and four survived. On October 22 1943 a Sterling bomber crashed at Rosemaund Farm, Preston Wynne with nine crew lost. They were buried at Credenhill. In August 1944 an American B42 Liberator crashed into the chimneys of what was then Burghill Asylum. Eight crew died and two survived. The author dedicates the book to those killed or injured in the War.



Bygone Hereford

Around Hereford, by Derek Foxton (Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2QG. 01453 883300. £12.99)
Reviewer: Mary Horner

Anyone interested in images of bygone Herefordshire, and those of us who have purchased and enjoyed Derek Foxton's previous Hereford - Then and Now publications, are sure to welcome his latest offering.

This new compilation containing over 200 pictures includes fascinating, previously unseen photographs from two local, private collections. The Hatton and Preece families, together with many local residents, have given Mr. Foxton access to much valuable pictorial information, which helps us celebrate Hereford's rich history and to see and compare the many changes that have taken place over the years. Once again Derek Foxton has produced another fascinating photographic record of Hereford that is of great historic and nostalgic value.

Fifty Years Ago



These Polish children were photographed with their priest John Vigar at Corpus Christi in 1957 by Alida Lee, the district nurse and midwife at Foxley Camp, Hereford in the 1950s. An American G.I. base, Foxley later became a refuge for many Polish people in exile. Teacher Vera Bond from Widemarsh Common worked there: "It amazed me how an infant could start school knowing no English, but, by the end of term, could speak quite well." (From Age to Age: back issues at the County Records Office, Harold Street, Hereford)

Your News & Views

Can you help with Munitions memorabilia?



The Waterworks Museum has been given a Blackstone diesel engine and pump, designed to provide a water supply in case of fire, from the Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory. Once restored they will form part of a special new display about the Munitions Factory in the last war. But can you help them? To tell the story of Rotherwas the Museum needs anything that catches the mood of the time for the new exhibition. It could be ration books, identity cards, bills, letters, photographs of a wartime wedding or local photographs of people and places (to be copied and returned), clothes and hats, small items like clocks, radios, fire buckets, gas masks, shell cases and tools. Call chairman Dr Noel Meeke on 01600 890118 or write to him at Llan Craugh Cottage, Marstow, Ross-on-Wye HR9 6EH. (info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk)

Copies of Herefordshire Lore's book about Rotherwas, In The Munitions - Women at War in Herefordshire are still available, price £9.99 (call 07845 907891)

Helpful Baptists

Hereford Baptist Church raised £100 for In Our Age at their Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy sale in November. Many thanks for their help.



Back by popular demand

The sight of cyclo cross champion Eddie Thompson's muscle-bound legs in our last issue prompted demands for more: so here he is again.

Speaking of cycling, it's 50 years since the death of The Little Wonder, Mickey (Herbert) Minton. Born at Much Dewchurch in 1883, Mickey was an amateur cyclist who became a national record breaker in the early cycle competitions.

Was it Father's friend?

In the summer Issue 2, page 6, Mary Morris remembers hearing of her father's death, killed in Arnhem when he was with the Herefordshire Regiment Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. My father, Mutt

Cole, was from Hunderton and joined the KSLI in 1939 with his best friend, also from Hunderton. (I'm not sure of the name, but believe it was Jones). They joined the army air corps together and were attached to the Pathfinders. I know my father was with him when his friend was shot and killed. Is Mary's father is the same person? **Geof Cole**, email.

Blown away

I found your Dear Doll letter (Issue 3, Autumn 2006) very interesting.

As a child of 5 and living at Hills Farm, Hill Gates, Llanwarne, I remember hearing a huge explosion. I was led to believe it was a Tallboy bomb used to attack German submarine pens, deep under ground. In 1973 I joined Thorn Lighting in the Street Lighting Dept. (Now occupied by R.H. Smiths I believe). I was intrigued to see shrapnel holes in the huge RSJs of the roof structure. The RSJs were large because they were also used as crane supports during the war. The building next door no longer exists except for a small section at one end. I was told it was destroyed when a large bomb exploded. Apparently the buildings were designed with very strong steel frames, but weak walls made from hollow bricks. The building could be quite easily repaired as long as the frame was not too badly damaged. It would be interesting to establish if the letter is referring to this incident. **Chris Tomlinson**, Intrigued of Clehonger.

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Herefordshire Lore depends on grants and subscriptions to keep up the work of collecting, archiving and publishing people's memories.

In Our Age is read by around 10,000 people county wide. The magazine is sent out free to all Herefordshire libraries, tourist information centres, and museums.

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Your News & Views



On the spot: John Harris and Ted Green share their memories of the Market with Sarah Laws.

Herefordshire Lore is working on a new project, Butchers, Bakers, Cidermakers, about Hereford Market. And we need to hear from you. Although the Butter Market is staying put, plans have been announced to move the Market from Edgar Street to a new out-of-town location. Herefordshire Lore wants to talk to farmers and farmers' wives, auctioneers, publicans, drovers, animal dealers, stallholders - in short anyone with memories of the Market. Call us on 07845 907891 (or email us at inourage@btinternet.com)



Twelve-year-old Stan Fryer worked for Percy Tumney's bus service out of Llangarron during the war. "I started conducting because there were more people going on the buses with petrol rationing. I used to have time off from school to do this which I really enjoyed." Stan, who lost his Mum when he was only ten, met his wife-to-be Mary in curious circumstances: "On June 7 1944 in the afternoon I heard this twin-engined plane crash on Garron Hill. The wreckage was spread over about five different hills. I went to see what had happened and at the same time Mary came from another way: I hadn't seen her before. Anyway, I thought she looked quite good and we arranged to meet. Our first date was a concert in the village hall." Mary and Stan were married at St Weonards Church in 1950.

The Magic of Movies

In the early 1950s Saturday mornings would find my brother and I heading for the Odeon in High Town, writes Rosemary Lillico. My father, a mechanic at the nearby Enterprise Garage, looked after the Odeon manager's car. In return he was given complimentary tickets. We usually made straight for the front seats where we met up with the College Hill gang.



Entertaining:
Ambrose Emerson

The manager would come on stage with Ambrose Emerson who played the piano and the show would start with us all singing the club song. Then birthday names of club members were read out and Happy Birthday sung. Afterwards there'd follow a talent competition on community singing with the words of songs like Old MacDonald and Ten Green Bottles on screen.

While this went on a few of us kids would go to the toilet and open the back door to let in friends who didn't have the money to pay. The usherettes knew what we were up to so we used to create a diversion such as starting a fight. There was usually a couple of cartoons then the big film, a comedy by Laurel and Hardy, a George Formby, or a cowboy film like Hopalong Cassidy or Lone Ranger and Tonto. When a cowboy film was showing and the goodies were chasing the baddies we'd bang on the seat in front and stamp our feet, drowning out the sound of the film. This bought the usherettes running down the aisle with: "Be quiet or you're out!"

When we came out my brother and I would go to the Wye Cafe nearly next door for a 3d bag of chips and be back in the queue with free tickets for the afternoon performance with Mr Gray, the commissionaire, walking up and down to keep us kids in order. By now the manager had changed into a coat tailed black suit and bow tie and would wait in the foyer to greet everyone. He'd be back there at the end of the performance to say good night.

Events

January 20 to March 3 - The Art and Craft of Design: the work of Christopher Dresser (1834 - 1904) Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

February 5 Unfair Trade: Slavery. The Museum's new 2007 Exhibition is launched.

February 8, 2 pm - Marjorie Stockley talks about Lace at the Hereford Textile Group. (01432 840559).

February 23, 1 pm to 4 pm - ID day with finds liaison officer Peter Reavill Hereford Museum and Art Gallery.

March 20 to May 8 - Ten Years of Market House Heritage Centre, Ross. This special exhibition also celebrates the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's visit to the town.

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 Lillico, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Marsha O'Mahony, Harvey Payne, Dawn Turner, Betty Webb, Lenora Williams.

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