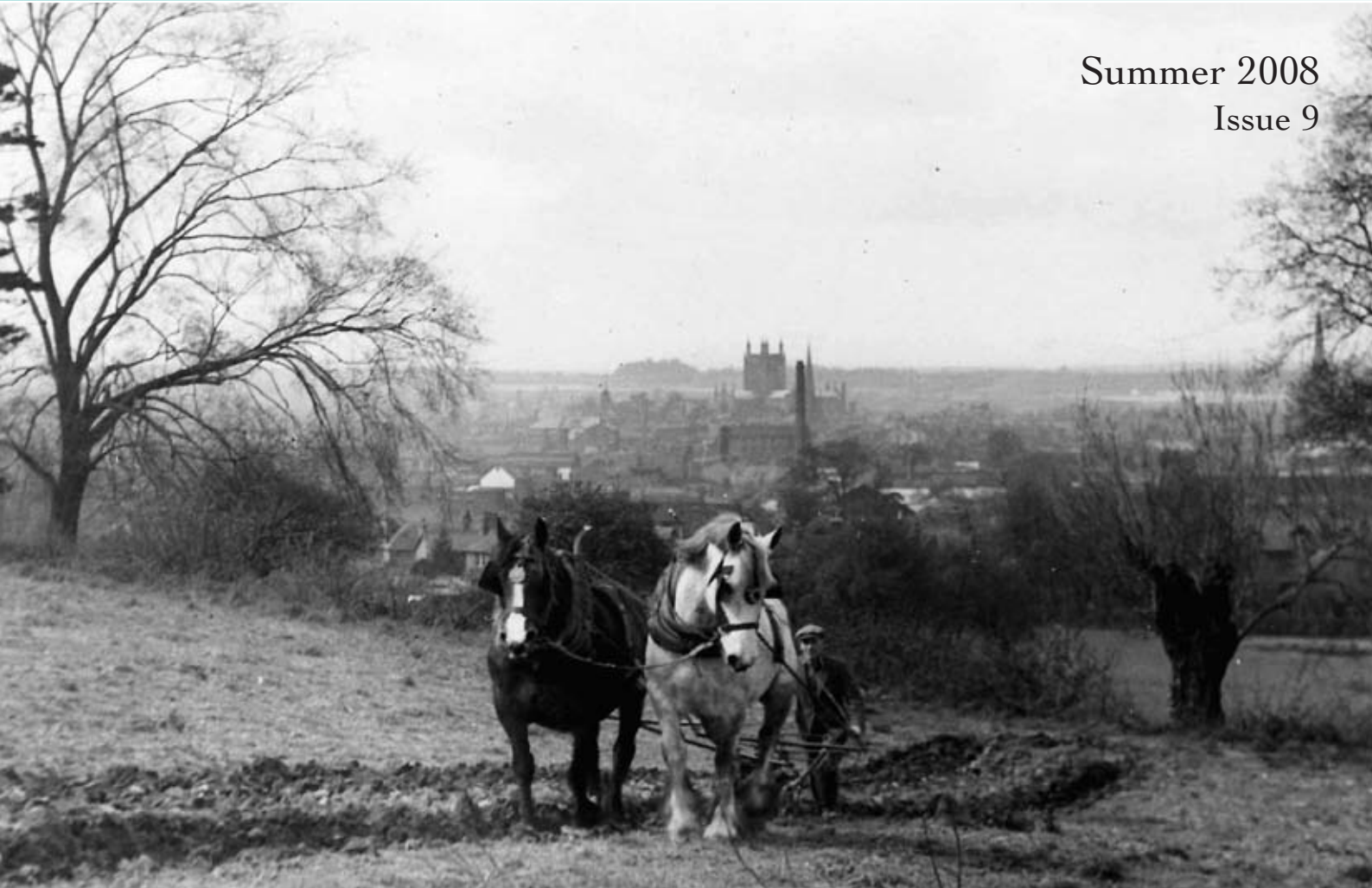


In Our Age

Living local history

Celebrating **60 years** of Herefordshire **NHS**

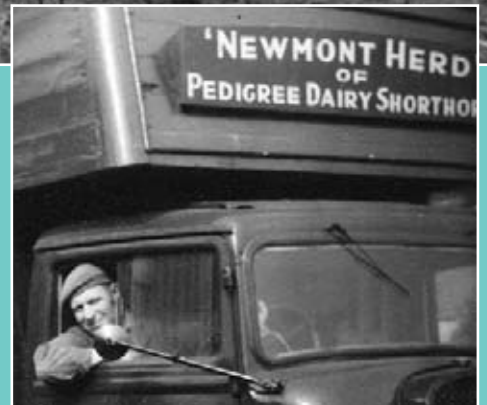
Summer 2008
Issue 9



Herefordshire NHS:
photo special



Marjorie Wight:
forgotten photographer



Newton Farm:
early days

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Did you do your doctoring or nursing in Hereford? We'd love to hear from you. Send your memories and pictures to *In Our Age* (address on the back page) or go to our new website www.herefordshirelore.org.uk



Clean wards

Mary Harding, or Mary Margaret as she was then, left Hope Mansell as a young lady determined "not to stay in the village for the rest of my life in gumboots and smock." It was June 14 1948, the nation was still on rations, the new NHS was only weeks away and Mary was training to be a nurse.

"I was emptying bed pans, rubbing patients' backs, bottoms, feet and elbows (to aid circulation), washing them and using methylated spirits and powder which was horrible stuff - like bicarbonate of soda.

"We had enamel bed pans and no sterilising units. The NHS brought in stainless steel and those horrid sputum mugs. We even helped cleaning wards. All this for £6 a month."

Mary worked in London and later at the Dylke in the Forest of Dean as Sister. "I've seen a lot of changes. Wards used to have a ward sister who taught and ran the ward and we had a ward maid and a ward orderly: they were wonderful and kept the wards clean. And there were a lot of volunteers who used to raise money for the hospital."

Top hat and tails

Mr. Richard Wood-Power, Doctor Wells, Consultant Physician and Bernard Scholefield, Consultant Surgeon celebrate an NHS wedding.

Front cover: Hands to the plough on Aylestone Hill. (Photo: Marjorie Wight)

Keeping the cogs turning

It took a lot of man- and woman-power to keep the hospitals going. **Arthur Radnor**, from Bishops Frome, was one of the plumbers at the County Hospital in the 1960s. "It was a completely different story then," he and colleague **Cyril Shelldrake**, a works officer at the Estates Department, recalled at an event in Ross in July to celebrate 60 years of the NHS. "There'd be 30 painters, couple of joiners, plumbers, fitters, a gardening team and boilermen because the County Hospital had a coal-fired boiler. There were no contractors in those days."

Right, gardener Mr Carr, who managed a large vegetable garden for the hospital, and nursing staff at the General Hospital with Doctor Christopher Dixon.



Contented patients

Sisters **Sylvia Groucott** and **Heather Bartlett** (right) became NHS patients on Easter Day 1968. "We were walking in Monmouth when a car reversed into us." Taken to the Victoria



Ward at Hereford General Hospital (having been dosed with morphine to lessen the pain) the girls settled happily in to ward life. "Although we were strapped to the bottom of the bed, it was great fun. We got to know all the nurses. The service was excellent. And our family, living at Bishopswood, visited every day."



It's twins



Most of the photos on these pages come from former NHS Sister Doreen Davies from Leominster. Here she is (above) proudly holding twins, born at the General Hospital in 1946. IOA photo editor, Bobbie Blackwell was astonished when she saw the photograph: she's convinced it's a photo of her and her sister Mary, who later became a local nurse herself.

Turn to page 5 for more photos from Miss Doreen Davies and Mary Hillary.

Aerial view

Hereford's old County Hospital, now converted into flats, beside the Wye.



Herefordshire **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

NHS 60

Herefordshire Primary Care Trust would like to thank everybody that helped to make the NHS 60th Anniversary celebrations such a success, particularly those who kindly donated photographs and other memorabilia for display.

There will be another chance to see some of that material on display at our forthcoming **ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**, alongside other exhibitions of the PCT's work. This is being held on:

Thursday 25th September 2008

at The Chase Hotel, Ross-on-Wye

Exhibition open from 6pm

Annual Public Meeting from 7pm

Marjorie Wight – the f



Marjorie left no clues to the identities of these women or where they were preparing osiers wands, or willows, for the basket-making trade.

Marjorie Wight had a photographer's eye. As you can see from our front page cover and the pictures here, Marjorie, daughter of Staffordshire solicitor Hollyoak Wight, had an eye for detail.

And yet we know almost nothing about her. She was born in 1889 and died at 86 on July 13 1975 after living for years at 14, Overbury Road, Hereford with her father. She's thought to have worked for Vivian's Photographers, Hereford and, maybe, to have picked up useful photographic tips from Hereford's Alfred Watkins, author of *The Old Straight Track* and inventor of the world's first light meter.

Most of her photographs were given to the County Archive Office, Harold Street, Hereford and we have to thank their staff for preserving this unique picture of Herefordshire country life.

Many of Marjorie's photos feature Mordiford. But who was she? Can you help?



Beneath the Black Mountains, an evocative picture of Craswall country life.

forgotten photographer



Marjorie's photo of a young lad in the hop yard (above) is reminiscent of autumn days on the hops.

Another country skill, largely lost (right), was the craft of corn dolly making.

Peg Man

Is this Bert Morgan (below) who began peg making at Mordiford as a boy? His father was a cleaver and carpenter who worked at Whitebrook, Monmouth, fashioning wooden handles for the colliery men in the Forest of Dean and South Wales.



Marjorie Wight captured this harvest scene, looking across to Mathon and the Malvern Hills.

Nursing Times

It's been Carry On Nursing in Herefordshire for 60 years



Trophy Girls: Ward Sisters dress up as Hereford United for Matron's New Year's Day tea party. (Photo: Miss Doreen Davies)



Staff of '65: Cheerful celebrations on Maypole Ward at the General Hospital in 1965. (Photo: Mary Hillary)



The Healthy Outdoors: To aid convalescence the Hewitt Pavilion outdoor ward at the General Hospital was built so that patients could be wheeled out into the fresh air. (Photo: Miss Doreen Davies)



Nurses' Home: When Doreen Powell, born into a farming family at Newton St Margaret, trained at the General Hospital in 1947, she lived at the Nurses' Home at Saram House in Hereford. "We had to be in by ten at night . . . but it didn't matter because you had so much studying to do."



Life had changed a bit by the '60s as these nurses (above), including Gill Appleton, Stasia Dzierza and Mary Blackwell, show.

Send your memories and pictures to In Our Age

Cultural Exchange: Visiting Doctor Albert from Ghana made a great impression on student nurse Mary Blackwell, left. (Photo: Mary Hillary)

Orcop's Corner Shop

Kath Jasper from Skenfrith recognised the location of the library van (IOA 8, page 7). It was pictured outside Orcop Hill Post Office and Corner shop in 1948. The shop was run by a kindly Miss Evans who presented Kath with a box of groceries when she married in 1960.

Slap of the Hand

Hereford MP Paul Keetch was persuaded to buy a copy of *A Slap of the Hand* by our Rosemary Lillico (left) at the South Wye Big Event in July. With Paul is the new Liberal contender, Sarah Carr. (Thanks to Helen Greenway, Herefordshire Housing, for the photograph.)



Longtown

Congratulations to Longtown and District Historical Society on the publication of their local histories. *In The Shadow of the Black Mountains* was published in July and will be followed by more memories of the district including one on the winter of '47. Titles cost £5 each. 01873 851782.

Do you have a history group or a new publication? Send us details: info@herefordshirelore.org.uk

Canon Frome

"I'm researching the history of the 1st Cheltenham Scout group, founded in 1908, and led by Arthur Godfrey until he moved to be head at Canon Frome School," writes Felicity Cleaves. Felicity wonders where Godfrey and his wife Phyllis went after Canon Frome. Write or email us if you can help.

Cooling Towers

Daphne Ibbott of Vineyard Road picks up on Howard Evans' thoughts about water running down the inside of the electricity generating station towers in the Market (IOA 8, page 7). "I remember water running down the outside," writes Daphne, "and it looked like a small cataract."

And she kindly corrects our spelling: "It was Isobel Baillie (not Bailey) and Heddle (not Heddal) Nash" (IOA 8, page 3). "During the War I used to see and hear Myra Hess playing piano at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London after I had eaten a wonderful lunch provided by the WRVS for service personnel."

Passey Nott

Daphne also restarts the discussion on Passey and Nott (auctioneers or corn merchants?). "I have several Guide books to Kington where their advertisement states: 'Corn and seed merchants': no mention of auctioneering there." Lionel Young says much the same: "My uncle Bill worked for them. They had an office in Newmarket Street near the Wheatsheaf pub and a warehouse in Wall Street."

Cows gambol through the meadows that now lie beneath the south Hereford housing estate of Newton Farm. Above, Ken Powell ploughs the ground while the farm lorry sets out for market.



Newton Farm





Strange Customs: Listed as a 'Maypole' this decorated tree is another picture from the Marjorie Wight Collection. But what's it all about?



Lionel Young of Redhill, Hereford recalls his days as an errand boy at Mr Carver's grocer shop in Eign Street opposite Steels Garage. "I was officially employed through the local education authority and had a badge – No 28." Working from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. weekdays ("except Mondays, my day off") and 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Saturdays, he delivered groceries in Whitecross for ten shillings a week, paid on Saturday evenings. "I took my wages home to my mother and she would give me two shillings back. My father also gave me a shilling so with three shillings pocket money, I felt like a millionaire. Saturday evenings we'd listen to *In Town Tonight* before lighting the candle at nine and going off to bed with a book and a cup of cocoa."

Here are two city views (above) that Lionel would well remember. But can you? Send your answers to IOA.



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In Our Age

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We don't want anyone to go short of IOA because they can't afford it. That's why it's free at the libraries, tourist information centres, museums and council offices. Herefordshire Lore, a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation, spends £6,000 a year on IOA.

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