



*Sporting kit: The daughter of George Clarke (centre), Jose Middleton, loaned this photo of George with his son and daughter-in-law, Elsie and Ralph (left), and grandson Robert (right) with Jose. George made professional sports equipment at Sutton St Nicholas from 1948 to 1966 while brother Willie founded the Holme Lacy Sawmills in the 1930s.*

## Fellars in the Cellars

So many readers responded to **Rosemary Lillico's** poser in our last issue that we're setting you something harder this time. Where is this?



Meanwhile The Cellars (below) is revealed as an off-licence, part of the Kerry Arms Hotel, by **Edward Rumsey**. "Years ago when the hotel was owned by Francis Snell (who also owned the Tudor Bakery and Tea Rooms in Commercial Street opposite Wilson's the florists". When my wife and I married, November 1947, fog delayed the train to our Whitby honeymoon and we stayed overnight at the Kerry." **Sarah Monilaws** writes: "The Cellars was run by my mother: my grandparents were licensees of the Kerry. I'd help behind the counter, especially at Christmas when there were copious amounts of dispensing 'sherry from the cask'.

It mapped out my life – I became a New York bartender." The Cellars became the Fellars run by Rod Ramlal, say **Vera Hadley**, **Rosemary Pye**, **Mrs J. Barnett**, **Mrs A. Morgan** and **Liz Lloyd**. **Robert Lilwall** remembered too, and has "golden memories of living at Foxley. I loved every minute: don't think Mother did, God bless her."



# In Our Age

Living local history

21 Years  
in Herefordshire

Autumn 2009  
Issue 14



Burma Boys  
Fownhope's Farewell



Cathedral Appeal  
Close Connections



Teaching Times  
At Foxley

## In Our Age

Living Local History



## 2010 Calendar

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To celebrate our 21st birthday, here's our 2010 Calendar.

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## You subscribe – we'll survive!

*"In Our Age brings back loads of memories!"* writes Maureen Gilbert, Ross on Wye.

Around 30 readers responded with their £10 sub to the summer issue, many like Edward Rumsey adding a donation too. IOA costs £6,000 a year to produce and we now have around 130 subscribers. We need 600 so send in your subs now!

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## Shop Front – *Help us choose*

IOA plans to turn three of these pictures into posters to decorate empty city shop fronts over Christmas. But which ones?

Help us choose by emailing your choice now to [www.herefordshirelore.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirelore.org.uk) Alternatively you can ring 07845 907891 and leave a message with your choice. And here's an incentive: we'll put all the contributors' names into a hat and pull out a winner who will receive a 21st Anniversary 2010 Herefordshire Lore Calendar.



A



B



C

## More Shop Front memories

I left school in 1953 at 15 and my first job was at the Co-op in Widemarsh Street (below), writes **Maureen Gilbert** from Ross. I remember Percy Hughes, Daphne Preece and Doreen, who worked in the fruit shop, which Brian Marchant managed. I worked on the top floor with Rosemary Williams, Wendy Perkins and Doris Buck and Edith Hooper (I think they were in Hereford Amateur Dramatic Society). I used to deliver all the mail to the different shops, all in Widemarsh Street: Shoe Shop, Drapery and the Furniture shop in Bewell Street. All this on £2.00 a week! (See more small shop memories on page 7.)



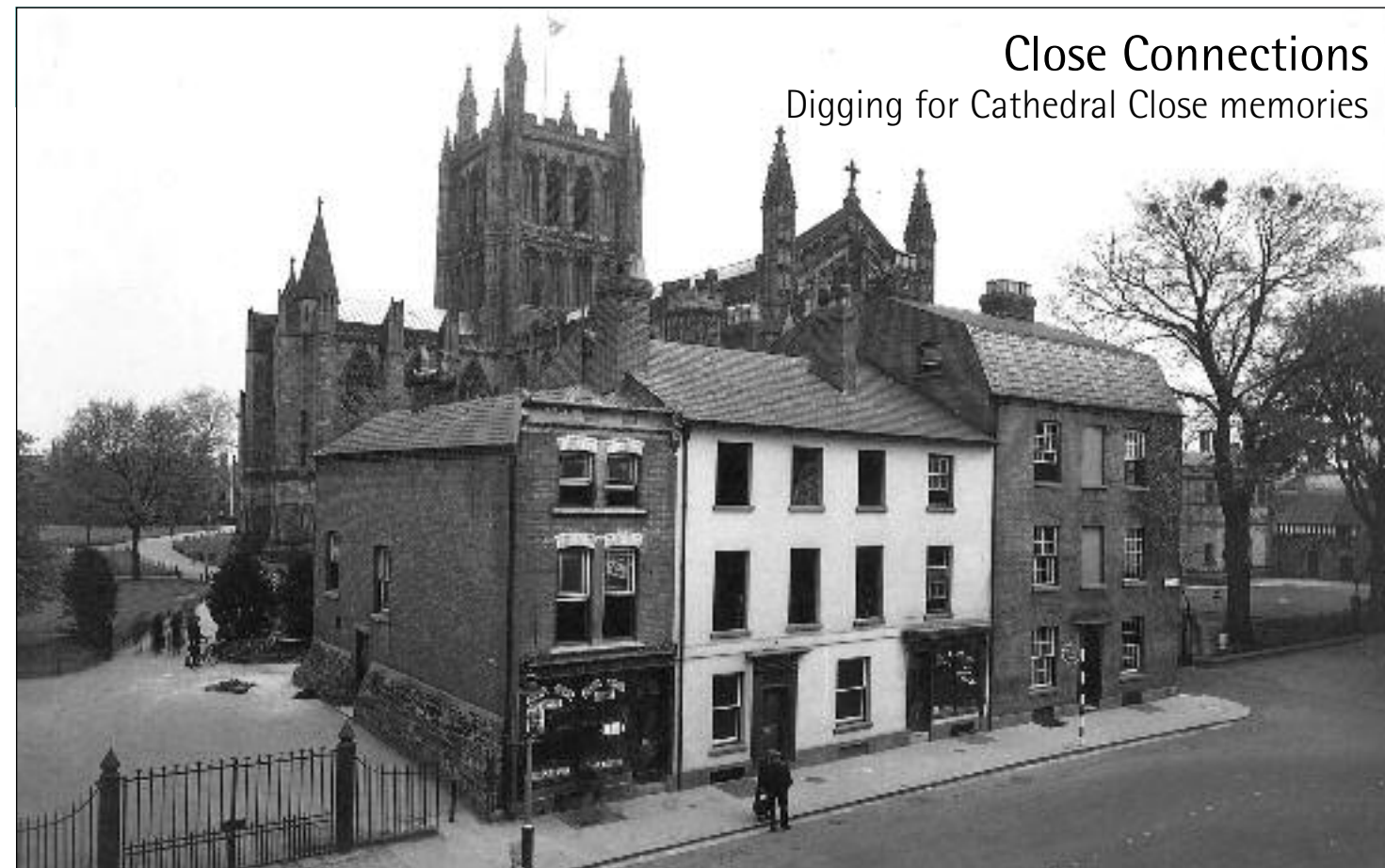
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E

## Close Connections

Digging for Cathedral Close memories



What do you remember about Hereford's Cathedral Close? Do you remember a particular Royal visit? The removal of the railings? Do you recall wartime life, the May Fair or Three Choirs on the Close?

In Our Age readers are being asked to mark the renovation of the Cathedral Close by sharing their memories, photos, films and artifacts. "We are interested in 'living memory' tales - from last week to 100 years ago, from toddlers and teens to older people. Get in touch," says Julia Goldsmith from Hereford's Catcher Media, which is running the Project. You can find more about the Heritage Lottery Project from Julia on 01432 277424 ([julia@catchermedia.co.uk](mailto:julia@catchermedia.co.uk)). Or why not come and meet the Close Connections' team and In Our Age on the Close, at Hereford Library, and in the Butter Market: Saturday 21st November 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Captured cannon

**Percy Pritchard**, who could remember watching Edward Elgar coming to the cathedral, recalled the old buildings in front of King Street, above. "Looking from the library to the cathedral there was a row of shops, Mr James the saddler and his apprentice, Mister Ellis, who took over when James died. And there was Blenheim House, originally an old coaching inn, where my family lived until about 1930 when they pulled the premises down. And there was Miss Storman, she had a wool shop there which later became Miss Hammonds, the hairdresser.

"Then the other side of the saddlers was Foster and Grace, the estate agents. Originally a Dr Bull was there. His daughter Maud Bull lived at that place there. She was a live wire!

"There was a cannon, captured at Sevastopol, tremendous looking thing,

there. The metal railings were taken away during the war, but they found this iron work wasn't suitable for smelting down.

### St Johns

St Johns Elementary School, where the Pizza Express is now, had Mrs Harris as headmistress. "Ooh, she wasn't very nice," recalled **Kathleen Deem** from College Hill. **Edith Gammage's** brother and his friend **Bill Godwin** attended the school. "On the first day at school they were playing football in the playground while waiting to go into assembly. They went in quicker than expected when the ball went through one of the windows!

### Nell's Dad

**Nell Weaver's** Dad worked on the cathedral roof: "He never wore an overcoat, always a waistcoat, a suit, a cap and his watch on a shoe lace! He carried his canvas frail with his tools in, with his hammer.

### Narnia author comes to stay

**Joy Robinson** lived in the cathedral precinct in the 1940s. "It had a very Trollope feeling about it. C.S.Lewis, author of the Chronicles of Narnia, stayed there when he was speaking during the Christian Life Campaign in the city. At first I found him very intimidating; but then I discovered that one of his favourite authors was E.Nesbitt, who was also mine. He said he planned one day to write a novel about the Bastable children in the Treasure Seekers when they grew up. He asked for some children's books as bedside reading, as respite from the London Blitz and I introduced him to Baba The Elephant and he sent me a most delightful B&B note about it. I gave it to Ruth Pitter, the poet when she was writing a paper on him, and she in turn gave it to the Bodleian Library to include in their Lewis archive.



# From My Album — Wartime photos from the albums of Owen Gittings from Hereford and Cyril May from Ledbury.



Above: Herefordshire's Association in earlier days.

Right: Clarence Attfield with Eric Dean. Clarence joined the Worcestershire Regiment at Norton Barracks in 1944 as an infantry soldier. He was sent to India to the Sind district Council becoming attached to the Indian Army for a year.

Eric Dean (far right) has been president of the branch since 1986. In 1942 19-year-old Eric joined the Royal Navy working mostly in the engine rooms of the 277 invasion craft. These 'number only' military troop carriers travelled to Egypt, India, Siam, anywhere where troops were needed. His war ended while he was on his way to Japan following the dropping of the A bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

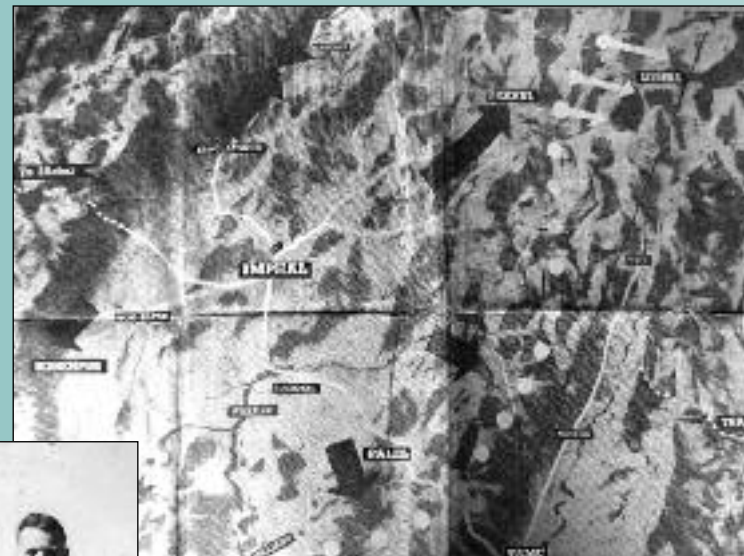


Left: Cyril May, describes himself as "the last Burma boy standing in Ledbury." He joined the Royal Arm Medical Corps at 18, was sent to Burma via Bombay, Deli, Rawlpindi and finally Burma where he worked as a medical orderly for three years in tented field hospitals.



Above: Secret message to Mum: Cyril sent home to Ledbury a SEAC magazine which included a map of Burma. On this map he circled his position at Imphal where he and his mates were surrounded and cut off for three months. "It was the only way I could get a message out, everything we wrote was censored by our captain."

Left: Cyril May with fellow medics and a little mascot monkey at their field hospital in Imphal. The Japanese flag was found by Cyril at Palal after the Japanese retreat.



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Front cover: The Boy Sailor. In 1943 newly-trained 18 year-old Owen Gittings (right) joined the 22nd North Atlantic escort group on destroyer HMS Hart. This ship served in the North Atlantic, later being redeployed in the Far East.



Above: A ship offloading US spares for the Forgotten Army on a dockside in Borneo.



Above: HMS Hart moved down to Nagasaki after the second bomb was dropped here. Owen photographed his mate Stan Hyde, from Cheltenham negotiating the ruins of one of its many factories. "We didn't know what was going on or what this A bomb was all about."

Right: British sailors were among the first sent into Hiroshima after the A bomb was dropped. "Before we went ashore our officer warned us: 'What ever you see, take no notice; there's nothing you can do'. The first thing I saw round the unaffected outskirts were Japanese civilians standing about dazed and shocked by the destruction."



Right: Owen Gittings (right) and Tim Foster enjoying bananas, a luxury no longer available to folks back home. "We sent this photo home to make our families jealous."



Above: After the Japanese retreat Owen found this photo on a dirt track on one of the South Sea Islands. This is an iconic photo of a Japanese guard surveying simple huts clustered around a bay.



## Tales from Foxley

Pat Davies concludes her memories of teaching Polish children at Foxley School.

I remember that some of the children only spoke a few words of English when they first came to school as only Polish was spoken at home, but they soon learned English and there were no problems. Some of the Polish parents had limited understanding of English so brought their children with them to school to translate what the teacher was saying about their progress!

Each September Harvest Festival was celebrated. In 1958 we all gathered in the school Hall, decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers and the vicar from Mansel Lacy came to lead the Service. (I'm sorry I don't remember his name). One year we all walked to Mansel Lacy for a service in the church. By then we had no music teacher in the school so it fell to me to play the organ and I came in too soon at one point, much to my embarrassment.



The Polish children at Foxley used to translate for their parents. (photo: Pat Davies)

It was a very happy time for me starting out on my teaching career, very supportive staff and parents, lovely children, English and Polish working well together and in the most beautiful surroundings where pheasants wandered freely outside the windows and "nature" was all around.

## Saint Francesca and the unmarried mums

John Harnden from Hereford Records Office uncovers a mystery.

Richard Whatley drew a blank when he tried tracing his granddad, born out of wedlock in a home for single mums, St Francesca in Ledbury Road, Hereford.

However, tracing records of the 1921 water rates for St Owen's parish revealed that St Francesca, the home of at least 52 unmarried Herefordshire mums was Ferncroft, now 1 Lichfield Avenue, occupied by MIND.

Built between 1885 and 1890, it was occupied by architect Edwin Barker and his family. In September 1918 the water rates were being paid by a new owner, Lady Butler, joined later by Mrs Bentley-Taylor.

They seem to have been benefactors in the Victorian mould. Lady Butler, daughter of Dean Leigh, Dean of Hereford (founder of the Dean Leigh Temperance café in Hereford Cattle Market) had organised 'Womens' Patrols' during the First World War, keeping an eye on young women especially those working at the Rotherwas Munitions Factory. Several had illegitimate babies, which may have prompted the setting up of St Francesca. Mrs Bentley-Taylor was a JP and chair of the Women's Citizen Association.

There's no record of St Francesca as a Home, but further searches revealed 52 births registered at St Francesca between August 4 1918 and March 5, 1921. Nowhere was the father's name

registered. It seems that while 45 of the unmarried mums came from Hereford, others were from Ross, Dilwyn, Yarkhill and Camberwell, London.

One final clue: each birth was accompanied by 'an informant', possibly a worker at the Home. They include Blanche Redwood of Monmouth (she left for America in 1936), Dorothy Watts, Harriet Carlyon from Truro and Jessie Blower from Manchester.

What happened to these mums and their babies? We don't know, just as we know little about the many other Mums who had to cope with having children out of wedlock in Herefordshire down the ages.

(For a full list of the births, visit Hereford Record Office 01432 260750).

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# NEWS AND VIEWS

## The Tupsley Huts

My parents were married in 1948 and were then housed in The Huts, Quarry Walk, Tupsley, Hereford, writes Ann Morgan from Moreton. It was a wooden, one-roomed accommodation and my mother believed they had been used by prisoners of war or possibly American servicemen. Does anyone remember them?

## There's grandma!

My grandparents, Beatrice and Alfred Tyler and their son William are in the photo, on the right next to the man in uniform. They lived in Blueschool Street, not far from the Vine, writes Maureen Gilbert from Ross.



## Barronia Metals

Did you know Barronia Metals (the war-time manufacturer of vital aircraft carburettors that had been relocated from London during the Blitz) was an army supply depot? asks Mrs Oldman (nee Spiers). "We lived next door and my mother cooked for all the soldiers stationed there. The officer in charge lived in our house." The film, Wartime Secrets made by Borderlines Film Festival's Naomi Vera Sanso, is still available on DVD or VHS from 'Borderlines Film Festival' (£12.50, includes p. & p.), 31 Watling Street, Leintwardine, Shropshire, SY7 0LW.

## Sorry Joyce!

"In issue 13 you say the photos were by Joy Davies. It's not Joy, it's Joyce," writes Joyce's great nephew Aaron Black. And her sister pictured is Dorothy (below). Mrs Barnett noted another error: Chestnut Drive (back page) is in Hinton Court, not Putson.



## Small shop memories

I certainly remember Webbs – it was my grandfather's shop, writes Jean Hart from Sheffield. I particularly remember of an evening, sitting in the kitchen beside the fire (he lived behind and over the shop) sewing the leather soles onto shoes. He wore a full length apron and used curved needles and waxed thread, and the shoe would be on a last. Does anyone else remember him? Or have any photos of the shop?

Roslyn Camden remembers L J Greens. "My Grandfather had the pork butchers, Bridgewater's, next door." By the way, she asks, are those the railings (IOA 13, page 2) down the footpath of Holmer road by petrol station? Not quite: they used to lead off Union Street beside the old St Owens' School, now replaced by the Probation Service building.

Richard Smith (see Callard and Bowser Toffees, right) recalled Kings, The London House, Kings Motor Cycle Shop and Kings Sweet Shop. Mrs Rae Phillips from Hereford recalled Lewis' fruit shop, the Red Lion and Haines and

Deans. "I was born at Cunnings Hospital in the house next to the alms houses. My gran, Elizabeth Cadmore, lived there and me and my brothers and sisters used to play on the preaching cross and in the ruins at the back. And I remember, on VE Day Mum sent me and my brother to Haines to buy a flag each to wave in High Town."

## Callard and Bowser toffees

Callard (not Collins) and Bowsers were given to the local policeman (IOA 13, Barnett's Baskets, page 3), says Richard Smith from Cheltenham, who adds the army unit marching through High Town was probably receiving the Freedom of the City. "I took a trades course at RAF Credenhill during my National Service in 1949. Trade training then followed on from weeks of being sworn at, 'bulling' our boots, 'blancoing' our webbing. Credenhill was a luxury by contrast, with very civilised instructors aside from one Sergeant P\*\*\*. He was immortalised on a latrine door with the words "My favourite s\*\*\*\* house aside from Sergeant P."

## Ewyas Harold

I was searching for information on the munitions factory at Ewyas Harold during World War 2, writes Kathryn Ironside from Cornwall. My gran, Blanche Richards, now 85 and living in Worcester, worked there during the war. I know that many workers were bused in to work from the Welsh valleys.

## Maypole madness

Tom Chambers from Stockton on Tees is writing a book on maypoles – well, someone had to. He's heard of one that used to be in Kilpeck. Can anyone help him out with any information?

## Send us your memories

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