

In Our Age

Living local history

21 Years
in Herefordshire

Winter 2010
Issue 15



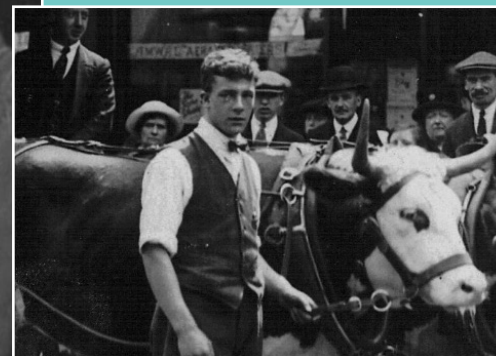
Bull in a China Shop
Page 6

It's 25 years since Herefordshire Lore began publishing the memories and photos of local people, before they are lost with the passing of the generations.

Help us to carry on for another 25 years!
Subscribe to In Our Age – still only £10 a year
– and fill out the form on the back page.



Home at last
Page 3



The long journey
Page 4



Searching for the Zeidels
Page 7

In Our Age 2010 Calendar – still some left! Turn to back page for details

The Close in Living Memory – Life at the Cathedral Close

Your recollections of life at the Close keep coming in.

Tales of American forces gathering there in the 1940s; of how Canon Moreton's son, Michael, used the Close as his playground in the 1930s; and of how 14-year-old Eric Morris used to deliver telegrams from the Post Office informing relatives of another soldier's death.

We are still looking for stories about the Close.

Who recalls a hairdresser's in the row of shops that bordered the close in the 1930s? Do you know anyone who went to St John's School on the Close? Do you recall grand cars being taken and photographed in front of the close by the Palace Yard? Did you hear of any ghostly goings on?

**You can call Julia Goldsmith (01432 277424
Julia@catchermedia.co.uk)**



Recognise it? The Cathedral Close pictured around the turn of the last century.



*The saddler's shop, with Mr D.L.Ellis on the left, in front of the Cathedral. Sidney Davies worked there from 1922. "Heating was from an open coal fire, but there was no sanitation and we were obliged to go across to the public house and use their outside toilet," he recalled in *The Saddler* (Shire Publications, 1980). "There were no tea breaks of course: you just worked steadily through from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with a dinner break from one until two.*

"One day there a big Ruston-Hornsby car, parked in Palace Yard near the shop, shot back and went through Madam Mounstephen's window,

knocking a lady through the glass. My mate and I watched for a while, but when the boss came back we told him we hadn't seen very much. 'We have been pretty busy here today.'

Then when the Hereford Times came out there was a picture of the crash showing my mate and me, standing out there watching. "You weren't too busy," said the boss when he got his Hereford Times.

(See Joy Atkins' recollections of a city saddler on the back page)



The Queen visits Hereford. Were you there? Did you shake hands or give a posy to the Queen on any of her visits - 1957, 1986 or 1996?



Mind the bike! The row of houses fronting the Cathedral come down in 1935.

Film of the Close

Memories, photos and memorabilia are to feature in a film about the Close.

The Close Connections project is looking into the history and heritage of the Close as part of the restoration of the Close. The film is being made by Catcher Media.

Catcher Media's Rick Goldsmith says they have had a great response from people. "We are very impressed at the richness and variety of the people that have got involved in the project and feel very excited that the project is now entering the production phase. We hope that people continue to be involved at all levels."

Catcher Media have posted a short film on how young people use the Close on the web: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CatcherMedia>).

More News on Foxley

June was relieved to find a home at Foxley – even if she was ashamed to admit it.

"People were ashamed to say they lived at Foxley. But I enjoyed it." So says 88-year-old June Walter who moved there in 1954 with four children, Kathleen, Tony, Audrey and Christine, and husband Tony.

Christine takes up the story: "Mam was about 23, Dad around 30, when they moved from Pontrilas to a tied agricultural cottage, Causeway Cottage. There was snow on the ground, no wood pile and the cottage was so damp that my sister Audrey was scraping mortar off the walls to make mud pies. Dad complained to the farmer in vain. Nothing was done.



Mum & Dad



Christine, ready for school



Kathleen, looking her best

"It was hard having your living accommodation tied to your job, especially when some of the farmers weren't very nice. In the end Dad had enough. He went to Hereford Council and was given the keys to a place in Foxley. Mam was so relieved their home was no longer tied to his job.

"Dad used to go the Market every Wednesday and buy hens and rabbits which he would sell at Foxley. In spite of being so poor we had a good childhood and were truly loved by our parents. We are still very close: and I'm the oldest eight children now!"

Read Christine's appeal for news of the Zeidel family page 7.

Left: Audrey, one of eight



Tony at Foxley

Flying Squad

One reader recalls the McAlpine Flying Squad. "They were the workers who came to build accommodation for the people who built Foxley. They lived in double decker buses, sleeping on the top floor and messing on the bottom. They were from all over the country, hell of a nice bunch."

Demolishing Foxley

Ken Williams of Harold Street helped pull Foxley down between 1961 and '62. Working for Dawes Williams they took down 32 of the huts. Later Ken ran his own haulage business, hauling stone down to Swansea Bay where the steel works were to be built. Ken also recalled the Nieuport House sanatorium, Almeley: his wife and her two sisters, suffering from TB, had convalesced there.

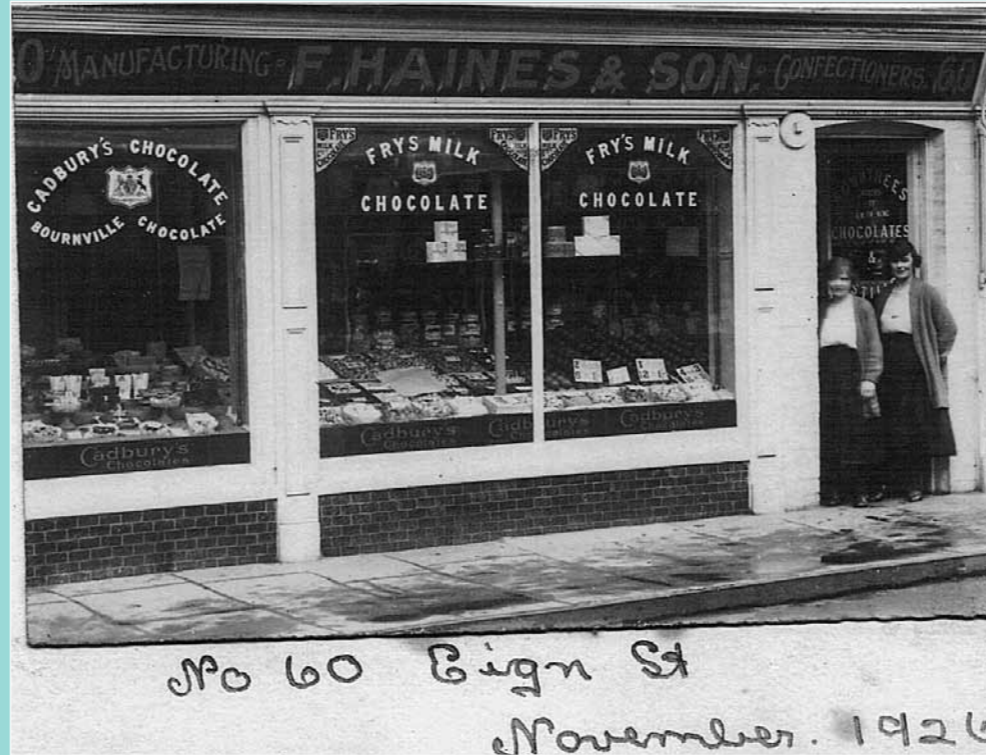
Runaway bride

For **Dilys Price** Foxley was a turning point. She met (and married) a US pilot who was recuperating from his war wounds. She met her airman at the May Fair and when he was sent back to the States she set off after him on the *Queen Mary*. "I'd never been further than Malvern: I was only 17!" She forged her father's signature to obtain the right papers then set off for Nebraska, where she would live for many years. It wasn't all plain sailing. "At one point I drank from the finger bowl," she confesses.

From My Album – Diana Seaborn opens up her family album for Shop Front



An Eign Street card, postmarked 1945.



Nuff Sed Haines for Sweets: "In 1929 my father married into the well-known family business. Here is the shop (where Steels is now) with my mother, Vida Haines, on the left. The Haines also had a shop at 80 Eign Street and a stall in the Butter Market."



Haines were also well known for their ice cream and ran the kiosk in the Castle Green in Hereford.



Ration free: In December 1952 butchers had their first ration-free Christmas. Diana's father, Harry R Hartland, had set up his butchers at 77 Eign Street in the 1930s, living above the business, until in 1948 the family moved out to the country. Here's the Christmas sale of hind and fore quarters of beef, produced from cattle bred and reared by Harry, which won champion beast at the Hereford Christmas Fatstock Market. "Meat was limited and customers were not allowed the same meat each week. I remember marking customer's ration books each week: a pencil mark for lamb, a red mark for beef and a blue one for pork," writes Diana.



Walking to London: "Before father married he was asked to break in two Hereford bullocks for Atora Beef Suet. This he did and then walked them to London (here they are passing through Hendon). This would have been the mid 1920s. How I wished I knew more of this journey.



Best English Meat: Diana Seaborn's grandfather Arthur Robert Hartland ran the shop at 8 Eign Street. Later he moved to Eign Street (now Eign Gate) from High Town.



Best English Meat: Diana Seaborn's grandfather Arthur Robert Hartland ran the shop at 8 Eign Street. Later he moved to Eign Street (now Eign Gate) from High Town.

In Our Age Banners

Do you have an empty shop window? Herefordshire Lore, in association with Hereford City Council, has two 6' x 4' banners depicting some of the shops you, the readers, chose from our selection in IOA 14. Pictured below left: a Shop Front banner in Thrashers (thanks to Turner and Co.)



Brighten up your office!

One reader has asked for an A3 version of our banner, above right. They cost £10 including p&p. Call 07845 907891 to order your copy.

Shop Front
Hereford – 'a lovely place to shop'
Bridgewaters, Burton's Bakery, Catton's, Chadds, Deans, Edwards, Green's, Greenlands, Haines, Hardings, Home & Colonial, Kings, Lakins, London House, Marchants, Marks and Spencer's, Monkeys, Ogdens, Pritchards, A.W.Stone, Sid Wright, Thompson's, Tudor's, Wakefield Knights, Wilsons, Woolworths, West's, Webb's.
In Our Age – Living Local History
Herefordshire Lore PO Box 9, Hereford HR1 9BX
M: 07845 907891 E: info@herefordshirelore.org.uk www.herefordshirelore.org.uk

Bull in a china shop

Bodenham Noggin shows (below) **John Powell** of Quarry Road, Hereford, just how calm a bull in a china shop can be. John and his wife, Evelyn Nancy, ran the glass and china shop, T.W. Rutters, in Widemarsh Street. Evelyn's father Thomas had worked in Lawleys in High Town (bottom) and is the man credited with persuading Mr Chadd to open up his first shop in Hereford. John's father, Harry, meanwhile was manager of the Home and Colonial Stores in Eign Street. More shopping memories? Send them in to Shop Front, Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 9 Hereford HR1 9BX or email: info@herefordshirelore.org.uk



The Brave Boy and the Bull

Country columnist **John Thacker** recalls the day when youthful bravado overcame natural fear.

There was a man called Bert Martin on the next farm, Park Farm. There was no proper road to the farm, only a track.

A Mr Percy Pennington, a dealer and a very tall man, came to Bert and bought his Hereford bull. The bull was in the field with the cows and he'd been outside for two years or more so, of course, he'd not been handled.

I went round one day and went into the stable with Shirley and there was the bull in the foals' stall (that was where you put the foals when the mares were working in the fields).

"It's Bert's bull and he's to be collected," said Shirley.

So Bill Griffiths the haulier from Suckley came up with the cattle lorry to fetch the bull. Well there was only Shirley and I there, it being a Thursday and the boss having gone to market.

We all looked at this bull and he started throwing his horns around and pawing the ground with his feet.

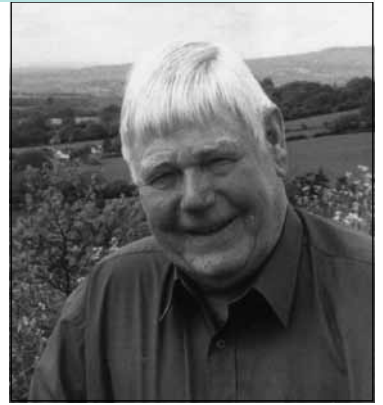
Bill Griffiths backed the lorry down the track and put the ramp down. Well we looked at the bull for ten minutes or more.

"He's got to go on the lorry," says Bill Griffiths.

I was 16 and full of myself. I said: "Give me the cord." And I went in to the bull and put the cord through his nose and pulled his head up high. And I led him into the back of Bill's lorry!"

I was only a lad and I was very proud of myself and I wasn't afraid of the bull. I would be today!

Whenever we met in the market after, Bill Griffiths used to say: "Remember when you led that bull into the lorry?"



Look out for **Rosemary Lilico's** researches on the air crash at Rosemaund Farm, October 1943, in our next issue.

Bridgette Kempson

M.Inst.Ch.P.

HPC registered

Podiatrist/Chiropodist

at

Beautonics

97B Old Eign Hill, Hampton Park, Hereford HR1 1UA

Tel: 01432 370550

Domiciliary visits **01568797543**



Design & Print
Solutions

reprodux
design & print



The only accredited
environmental printer
in Herefordshire



t 01432 269341

Station Approach Commercial Road Hereford HR1 1BB
admin@reprodux.co.uk www.reprodux.co.uk

Tupsley's huts

"I think the huts (IOA 14, page 7) may be what was known as 'Brickyard Camp'. It was used by both American Servicemen and as a POW camp for Italians," writes **Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe** from Herefordshire Record Office.

"I have information from a declassified document for an American Unit which says: '19 Feb 1944 Departed Port of Debarkation and arrived at its destination Brickyard Camp, Hereford, Herefordshire, England on the same day. 20 Feb-29 Feb 1944 Company occupied in cleaning and straightening up the Brickyard Camp as it had not been occupied for some time. Three or four short road marches were taken to get the 'kinks' out of muscles that had not been exercised during the travel across the Atlantic.'" Want to find out more? archives@herefordshire.gov.uk, 01432 260750.

Searching for the Zeidel girls

Does anyone know Irini and Carol Zeidel, asks **Christine Green**. They were the daughters of Carol (he was Polish) and Hetty (she was English) Zeidel, our friends when we lived at Foxley. They had a third daughter, Wanda (below right), who, sadly, died young with heart problems.



Send us your memories

Call us (07845 907891),
email us (info@herefordshirelore.org.uk)
or send us a letter

Burma Star

Christine Millard from Staffordshire recalls her father's memories following our Burma Star feature (IOA 14). **Norman Allen** from Bromyard worked on Spitfires at Castle Bromwich before being posted with the 115 Leicestershire Regiment to Burma. "We travelled for three weeks on PO Strathmere to Bombay (Mumbai) and another week by train into the Chindit Hills on to road making with the help of elephants. I was lucky not to be captured by the Japanese, but did suffer from malaria. At the end of the war I rode with my officer at the head of the victory parade down the main street in Mandalay with 2000 soldiers, band playing, b u n t i n g everywhere and *Burma Star* all the local girls throwing garlands of flowers as we passed. That day lasted in my memory for years."



Norman Allen: Burma Star

Note: Our caption (IOA 14 page 5) of Owen eating bananas should have read Owen Gittings with Stan Ide, not Tim Foster. And it was Stan pictured in the wreckage of Nagaski (not Hyde).

The Dump

After **Kathryn Ironside** wrote about her gran, **Blanche Richards** working at the 'munitions factory at Ewyas Harold' **Bob Davies** adds: "It was always known as the Dump. When I was younger - I enjoyed watching the little trains going round. There were security gates at each end - but they always let locals through!" **Ivor Mahoney** wrote that **Blanche** lived at the level crossing at Monmouth Cap. His mother, **Elsie (Pat)** worked at the packing dept at Elm Green. His father, **Stan**, drove the Ford & Reims workers' bus to Wales and back.

Munitioneer

It's 1917 and **Florence Ellen Mary Weeks** has joined Royal Ordnance Factory, Rotherwas to fill shells for the Front. Her daughter, **Joan (now Ward)** says that **Florence** was married at **Whitley Bay, Northumberland** in 1916. She'd been working in a sweet shop when husband-to-be, **Arthur**, met her on convalescent leave from the War. Despite returning to France **Arthur** survived and served in the army for 26 years. **Florence** lived with **Joan** and her husband in Canada and died at 100 in 1996.



Channel sinking

Major Tom Barnes recalls how his uncle, **Edward Bird**, served as wireless operator aboard the **Inverdale**, a ship bringing in oil from America in January 1940. At 3.30 in the afternoon the **Inverdale** was moored in the Bristol Channel off Watchet harbour waiting for the pilot. But as the pilot's boat approached, carrying the captain's wife on board, the ship was torpedoed. In the ensuing fire all were lost.

Looking for Glenview



My grandmother (left) lived in a second-floor flat at Blenheim House (below) with her spinster daughter before she died in 1934, not long before the buildings were pulled down, writes **Joy Atkins** from Aylesbury. "My grandfather, Arthur Thomas Peppercorn was rector of Stoke Prior and they had sixteen children! When he died the family moved to Lulham Court although the boys stayed at Glenview in Hereford while they went to the Cathedral School. I don't know where Glenview was? Up a dead end road



with the river on the left and a water tower?"

Joy's father (below) was rector of Upper Sapey and Woffeston. When we visited Hereford we would visit the stables by the Bishop's Palace to look at the horses. Beautiful! At the top of the Market Square there was a saddlers' with a wooden horse in the window. I would have given my eye teeth for that horse!"



Where's this? Our poser in the last issue showed the old toll house at the top of the Callow Hill on the Hereford to Ross road.



Cusop Home Guard

Hay and District Royal British Legion is working on a fund raising booklet for this year's Remembrance Day and they need all the help they can get finding all those listed on the memorial in Hay's Market Square. Can you help? Call secretary **Bernadette Barnes** 01497 831018 (berniebarnes@live.com)

Eric Pugh (www.oldsay.co.uk) has identified (back row, third from left) Billy Bounds, (back row, fourth from left) Charles Williams, (front row: first from left) Herbert Williams (second from left) Charles Parry and (sixth from left) Charles Watkins. Can you name any of the others?

In Our Age Herefordshire Lore PO Box 9, Hereford HR1 9BX

M: 07845 907891 E: info@herefordshirelore.org.uk www.herefordshirelore.org.uk

Editor: Bill Laws **Picture Editor:** Bobbie Blackwell **Design:** Lisa Marie Badham @ pinksheep

Herefordshire Lore: David Benjamin, Eileen Klotz, Mary Horner, Rosemary Lillico, Stasia Dzierza, Marsha O'Mahony, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Sandy Green, Harvey Payne, Liz Rouse, Chris Tomlinsonm, Betty Webb, Elizabeth Price, Mary Hillary and Mavis Matthews

Please subscribe to IOA

"Friends and relations in N.S.W. Australia look forward to IOA" – Jim Whent

We need more subscriptions if we are to keep going. Our target: 600 (we've got around 150 at present). Don't delay – subscribe today and guarantee the future of IOA.

Thanks to everyone who bought their Herefordshire Lore calendar and a special thanks to Margaret and her team at Garrick House. It raised vital funds for IOA.

To subscribe to In Our Age, or buy a calender for £5 + £2p+p, please send this slip to:

Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 9, Hereford HR1 9BX. Cheques for £10, must be made out to **HEREFORDSHIRE LORE**.

Name: Contact Number:

Address:

