

In Our Age

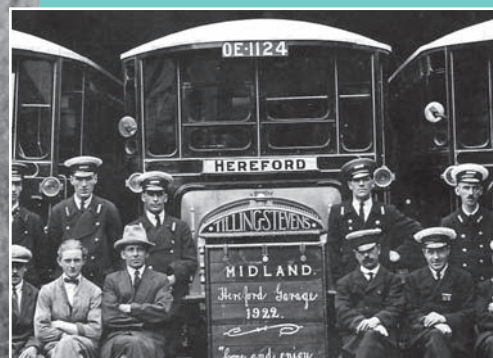
Living local history

21 Years
in Herefordshire

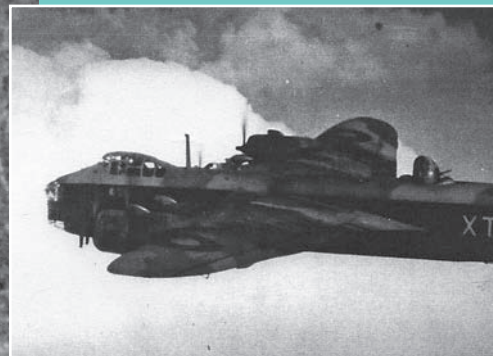
Spring 2010
Issue 16



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to London – Page 3



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On the milk



Was this the old verger's cottage that George Rumsey remembered?

George Rumsey delivered the morning milk around the Close before starting his school day at Lord Scudamore's.

"Charlie Powell of Warren Farm delivered the milk to Withington Dairies in Bridge Street, run by Ellen Jane Davies. I used to get there 7.00 am and then deliver to the verger's cottage in the Close, pulled down now, then to Dr Mole's surgery and all round the Close."

George, of Westfaling Street, worked for William Evans Cider Works on Widemarsh Common when he left school, before joining the Royal Horse Artillery in 1944, serving in India, Egypt and Palestine.

Both he and **Charles Price** recalled the figure of Dean Waterfield,

"always in black with the old gaiters and wide brimmed hat."

Charles of Pilley Road was born in 1917 and attended the elementary school, St John's, that stood in the Close on the Broad Street side until it closed around 1930. "Dean Waterfield used to come and take services before we started school.

"There were only about 50 pupils. Herbert Pile was headmaster and Miss Andrews his assistant. Pile was good, but strict: he had a stick about 2 ft long and cut fresh from the hedge. He used it too! One lad was good at taking his hand away so he (Pile) beat him round the shoulders.

"Miss Andrews lived by the Conservative Club in East Street. She was very big, 16-17 stone and one time she sat on this chair and one leg went through the floor!" Charles left school at 11 to become an apprentice to Ravenhills, Commercial Street. "It cost £16 to start work there and the wage was very poor."

Milk boy George: George Rumsey with a picture of himself as a lad. Photo: Mark Robertson



Cash in a barrow

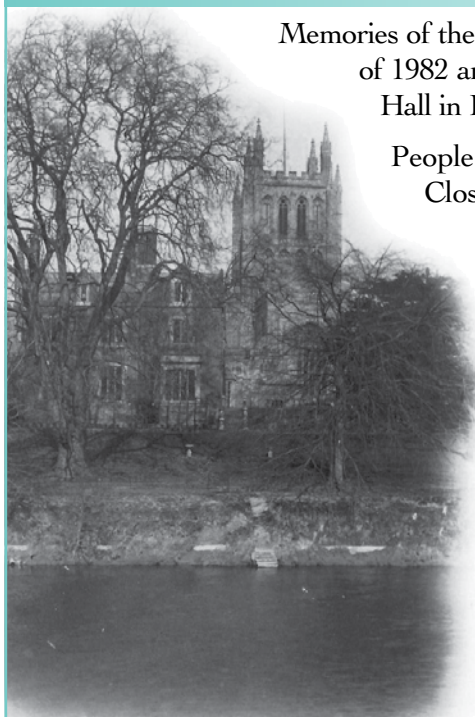
The Friends of the Cathedral group was formed when the houses in front of the cathedral (see opposite) were pulled down, recalled Friend's secretary **June Chase**. Fifty years on, the Friends celebrated 700 years of St Thomas Cantilupe with a medieval fair on the Close.

"There were thousands of cakes for sale, stacked from floor to ceiling: I've never seen so many. The vicar of Tupsley, Paul Matthews, dressed up as a pantomime goose and laid golden eggs in return for cash donations. In fact," said June, "we took so much money that we had to carry it away in a garden wheelbarrow."

The year, 1982, marked another significant event: the day the sundial fell down. Cathedral flower arranger **Jean Hill** was talking to chapter clerk Kingsley Taylor at the time: "The sundial fell down and it only just missed me."

Front page: Ready for the off: Eddie Dzierza on his bike at Foxley: see Festive Foxley, back page.

Memories of the Close



Memories of the day the sundial came down, the great medieval fair of 1982 and the daily life of the Close were shared at College Hall in Hereford Cathedral cloisters recently.

People had gathered for the Heritage Lottery-supported Close In Living Memory oral reminiscence project, which marks the current restoration of the Close and which will culminate in a film next year. Memories were tested, interviews captured on video and everyone chipped in with ideas for the project.

"The project partners, Catcher Media, IOA and The Close Connections team were pleased with the feedback from everyone: we met some fine people and heard lots of lovely stories," reports Julia Goldsmith from Catcher Media.

Have you any memories of life on the Close? Give Julia a call on 01432 277424 (julia@catchermedia.co.uk) or leave a message on the IOA website: www.herefordshirelore.org.uk



Thanks for the memory: Peter Harris shares his photos with Julia Goldsmith. (Mark Robertson)

look at life around the Cathedral Close, Hereford

'A new and strikingly beautiful view of the Cathedral'

This was how the Hereford Bulletin and Free Press described the effect of the proposed demolition of the houses outside the cathedral at the southern end of Broad Street in 1935, write **Ron Shoesmith** and **Frank Bennett**.

The houses had, by 1860, replaced a row of half-timbered buildings shown on a sketch by James Wathen in 1797 (below). It didn't take long to pull the houses (right) down, due to the generosity of Colonel G.B. Heywood T.D. J.P., who gave the Dean and Chapter £4,000 to pay for the demolition and a new plinth, railings and gates. Number 23, the northernmost building was a fruiterers in the mid-19th century,

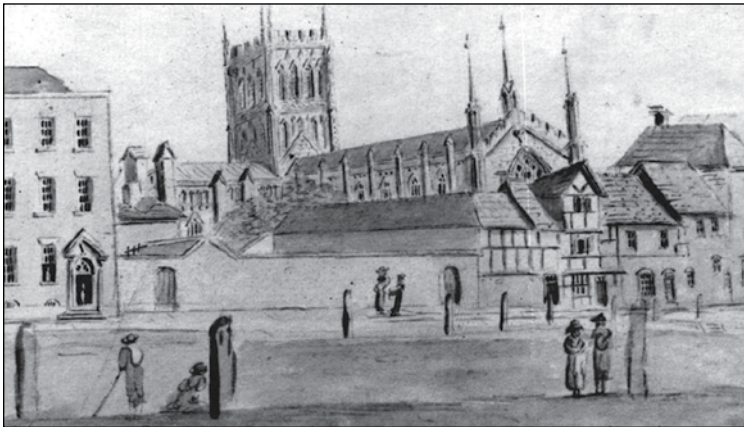
then a perfumery and hairdresser. By the end of the century it was an art and needlework shop, then again a hairdressers and eventually the base for land agents, Foster and Green. For its last couple of years it was again a hairdressers.

The large building next door was originally the Globe Inn (24) which included a shop at its southern end (25). After the Dean and Chapter bought it in 1862 for £1,700 it was converted to apartments. The shop at the southern end was a grocer's and by the beginning of the 20th century had become John James' and later David Ellis' saddlers shop (described in

IOA 15, by Sidney Davies).

The town house at the southern end (26) was occupied by Chandos Hoskyns and Frederick Hoskyns Watkin, and later by eminent surgeon, Henry Cecil Moore. After he died it became a high-class boarding house until, shortly before demolition, Foster's moved there from no. 23.

After demolition a new set of railings was erected along the street, railings that were to disappear a few years later as part of the war effort. Some 60 years on new railings are planned and once again the Close is to be 'enclosed'.



James Wathen's 18th century view of houses in front of the Cathedral



When fire broke out at Ellis' shop on 29 April, 1935 the Hereford Citizen and Bulletin reported that "the cathedral authorities were nearly saved the bother of demolishing the block of buildings".



The Atora Man

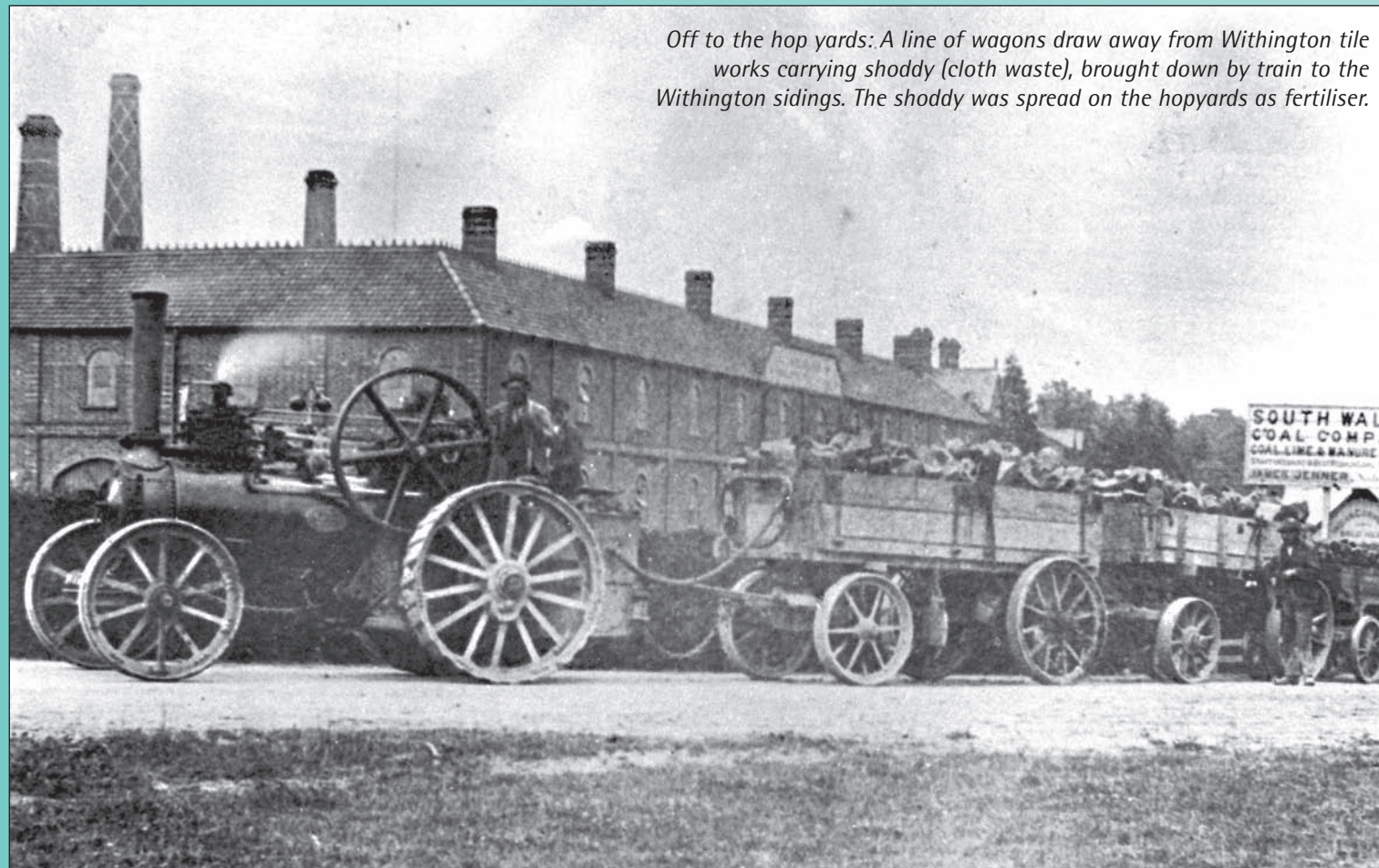


Above Right: Butcher Arthur Hartland (far left) with his son Albert (left) his married daughter, Doris Lewis, and son Harry (right). Harry walked the two steers in the picture (above left) from Hereford to London pulling a wagon advertising Atora Beef Suet in the mid-1920s (IOA 15, p 4). Harry's daughter Diana Seaborn sent in the photos.

From My Album — Joyce Lewis, Noel Mifflin and Diana Seaborn with their pictures from the past



Getting up steam: Traction engines getting up steam at the crossroads in Sutton St Nicholas. These images of Herefordshire's steam age come from **Joyce Lewis** of Sutton.



Off to the hop yards: A line of wagons draw away from Withington tile works carrying shoddy (cloth waste), brought down by train to the Withington sidings. The shoddy was spread on the hopyards as fertiliser.



(Above) Business yard: The traction engines were hired out on contract from the business base at Seabourne House, Sutton. Unusually for the time, the owner was a woman, Jane Kinsey, Joyce Lewis' aunt.



(Left) Early advertising: 'Come and enjoy the open road' reads the destination board for the Midland buses in 1922. (Photo: Joyce Lewis)



Boys' toys: A crowd of small boys look on as car owners line Broad Street, Hereford with their machines. We know neither the date nor the occasion. Call 07845 907891 or email us at info@herefordshirelore.org.uk if you can help, or if you have a family album to share. (Photo: **Diana Seaborn**)



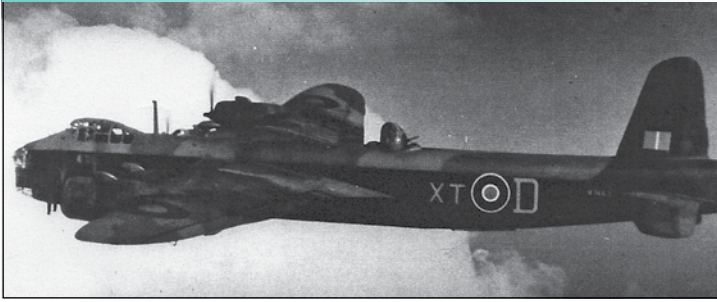
Heavy gear: It's 1940 and a D8 Caterpillar and tractor set to work to build Shobdon airfield. Subscriber **Noel Mifflin** from Llanigon near Hay who sent in the photo would go over at weekends and ride on the tractors: "Happy days and who said anything about Health & Safety?" he writes.

"George and Phil travelled with the contractors while the local men stayed on at the airfield. John Yates was called up later and served in the army, returning safely at the end of hostilities."

From left to right, Jim Mifflin (Pembridge), George (Merthyr), Phil (Leicester), Little John (Cholstrey), John Tates (Pembridge), Charlie Conod (Barons Cross, Leominster) and Jimmy Jones from Leominster on the tractor.

Check out
www.herefordshirelore.org.uk
for archives of all past In Our Age publications

The final flight of EF 352



Flight EF 352, one of the RAF's first 4-engined bombers, was on a training flight on October 22, 1943 when it was struck by lightning over Ludlow. It crash landed at Rosemaund with the loss of all nine crew.

Reviewing *Herefordshire and Worcestershire Airfields in the Second World War* for IOA I became aware of an aeroplane accident at Rosemaund, writes **Rosemary Lillico**. It interested me because I lived at Preston Wynne with my family from 1947 to '52 and, despite my inquisitive nature, I knew nothing about the accident.

Curiosity took me to the crash scene and I realised that our cottage was less than ten minutes walk away. The farm manager told me of a remembrance service at the scene in June 1997 and of a plaque, remembering those who died, at Preston Wynne church.

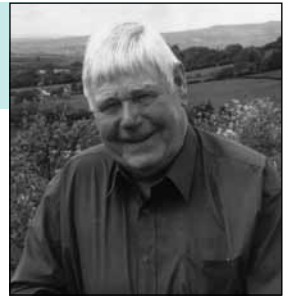
Having visited the church it was time to meet Ron Miles of Bromyard who, as a lad of 15, had cycled to Rosemaund from Pencombe the day after the crash. He will never forget what he saw that day. The plane had crashed vertically into the ground and exploded on impact. Ron picked up a plane part and kept it for 44 years, handing it over to the Malvern Spitfire Club when they started to research the crash. Although the plane was thought to have been struck by lightning, the cause of the crash was never discovered.

During the Remembrance Service in 1997 Ron presented the widow of Jack McMillan, the 21-year-old wireless operator and air gunner on EF 352, with a model of the plane which he had made.

(For anyone interested Rosemary – 01432 273472 – has more information and photos.)

A remarkable dog

John Thacker shares another country tale.



After the War farmers were told to keep more sheep to improve profits on the farms so I went with Jack Yeomans of Salford to Brecon to buy some.

"What sort do you want?" he asked.

I said I wanted to spend £5 a ewe.

I ended up with 70 Radnors costing me £5.15p each. I went to the phone kiosk to arrange transport (I remember the Welsh operator was trying to chat me up!) and rang Charley Jones who came over from Upper Sapey to fetch them. Those ewes did me well.

Another time when I was at the Erwood sheep sales I ended up judging them on sale day. I didn't know which ones to put first, but Glyn Richards, who had a lot of relations there, told me: "I'll tell you which ones to go first!"

I also bought some sheep from Isa Lloyd and when he went to get them in he says to me: "Now watch this." His sheep dog was blind and yet the dog brought all the sheep in from Newchurch Hill on his own. I was amazed to see such a happy, healthy dog.

We had to dip the sheep in government-approved sheep dips, sometimes attended by the local policeman. One time my son Alan fell in. My wife Shirley was shouting: "Get him out! Get him out!" She took him home and bathed him. He was all right, but I don't think the flies bothered him that summer.

Dick Hill and Alan Legg used to do our shearing. I was there one time and wanted to trim the feet on this big ram. I told my boys to hold on to him, but, with one holding round his neck and the other his tail, the ram still ran off. I was so annoyed I threw the fleece I was rolling in the air and it landed on my head. They remembered that day all their lives.

I enjoyed keeping the sheep and even now they are a good trade: an old ewe in good condition today is worth more than a ton of wheat.

Hereford Through Time,

Derek Foxton (£12.99)

With this, his 9th publication, Derek again takes us through the streets of Hereford. Readers who appreciated his earlier work won't be disappointed as he brings to life, with his excellent modern day colour photography, images that are long forgotten. With detailed information to accompany each picture memories come flooding back and show just how much of our beautiful city has been demolished, brick by brick.

Readers might be interested to know that Derek is available to give talks. Call him on 01432 357315.

Reviewer: Rosemary Lillico

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'You must remember this'

Rosemary Hatton (Davies as she was when her Dad, Richard moved to Breinton Road, Hereford to become a postman) recalls the dances at RAF Madley, travelling out on the Yeoman's bus and somehow managing to be back in bed by 10.30. In particular she recalls the dulcet tones of the dance band greats Eric Delaney and George Shearing, but, she asks, who remembers her? "I left Hereford aged 18 and didn't return until recently." Here's Rosemary (right) with IOA's Eileen Klotz during our session at the Buttermarket in March. We'll be back in May – check out our website for details: www.herefordshirelore.org.uk



Family matters

An IOA reader, adopted as a child, wants to find out more about one of the former superintendents at the old munitions factory at Rotherwas, Hereford and his son, Terry Hughes, thought to have belonged to Hereford Rowing Club during the 1950s. Can you help? Call us 07845 907891 or email info@herefordshirelore.org.uk

Hedley Prosser

When we pictured Hedley Prosser (IOA 10), **Anna Austin** wrote to say Hedley was her husband's uncle. "He was my uncle, my mother's brother," says John Martin. "He never married and lived at Duke Street, Withington." John would like to contact Anna Austin, but we have no contact. Anna? Can you call us? 07845 907891.

Church Street

Who's this cheerful Church Street shop girl? Her photo, from Diana Seaborn, highlights the many name changes given to Church Street down the years from Narrow Cappuch Lane (1754) and Cabbage Lane (1829) to Church Street (1920s) and, when Boots the Chemists was located here, Boots Passage.



Off the buses

When Bromyard's Norman Allen returned from the fighting in Burma in 1946 (IOA 14,15), the war with Germany was already over. "My mother met him at Snow Hill Railway Station, Birmingham," recalls his daughter, **Christine Millard**. "Standing with his kit bag waiting at the No 70 bus stop, the bus arrived and the bus conductor wouldn't let them on as it was getting full. My mother said 'But he has just come back from Burma!' However, the bus conductor would still not let them get on the bus."



Send us your memories

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

More of the '60s

Ruth Hulme writes from Derbyshire: "IOA provides a lovely link back home (we were from Bromyard way). However the magazine is usually about events that took place before I was born. I was born in 1960 and have vivid memories of so much about farming at that time - from milk churns on platforms to bull pens and Foot and Mouth. When a TV episode of Heartbeat dealt with the latter I was right back there with my Dad and another farmer putting disinfectant-soaked straw on the roads into the village. I would love to see things about events in my childhood."

Help make Ruth happy - send in your memories and photos from the '60s: call us on 07845 907891 or email at info@herefordshirelore.org.uk



Meanwhile here's one scene from the 70s: weighing in blackcurrants at Poole House, Woonton. (Photo: **John Lloyd**)

Homend

The Homend, Ledbury in the early 1950s. (Diana Seaborn)



Home medicines and herbal remedies

The perfect cure for a spring cold? 'E and P' or elder and peppermint, reckons **Jean Catton**. She remembers her Mum buying the E&P cold cure from Mrs Pigott who ran the herbalist shop in Commercial Street, Hereford.

Colin Breem also told IOA how Mr Pigott had helped his mother, grieving over the death of another son, Patrick. "She was feeling a bit low and he gave her something to help. He was just a magical sort of a guy."

Bill Pigott's grandchildren, Lyn and Neil loaned these photos of the herbalist, who also served as a city mayor. He would fetch fresh herbs from the countryside, on at least one occasion collecting fresh rainwater from the top of cowpats to use in a face pack for treating a patient with chemical burns.

"He made his 'Life Dropine', which was a mixture of elderflower, peppermint and capsicum, himself, as he did many other pills and potions," writes Neil. "Although they are now manufactured by Potters as Eldermint Life Drops they still have the effect (largely from the chilli pepper/peppermint combination) of making you at least forget you have a cold!"



Bill and Kathleen Pigott outside the herbalist shop at 71 Commercial Road and, below, in his mayoral robes.

Incidentally, Jean, who attended the Bluecoat School, has an unusual claim to fame: she was one of the first girls at the Cathedral School: "My brother John Hyde was a chorister. When my father, who worked at the General Hospital, had TB, John would look after me. When he went for choir practice he was allowed to take me in with him – as long as I sat still."



Festive Foxley

Geraldine Kelly (nee Jenkins, above left) with Jennifer Tozer, Ronald Jenkins, Cynthia Fox, Francis Jenkins and Gillian Fox just after the War.

"What's all this about Foxley?" wonders reader Julie Coleman.

Built near Mansell Lacey as a hospital camp for American and Canadian troops, it became a camp for 'displaced persons' in 1946, providing a home and sanctuary for many Polish families fleeing persecution in Europe including Eddie Dzierza. (Eddie's full story is told in issues 6, 7 and 8: go to [herefordshirelore.org.uk/In Our Age](http://herefordshirelore.org.uk/In%20Our%20Age)).

Foxley also provided much-needed emergency social housing in the post-War years for families like Geraldine's. June and her husband Walter Suter moved there in 1954, (IOA 15: we called her June Walter – apologies). Geraldine called IOA (07845 907891) to say her family lived next door to the Suters at Pontrilas before they all moved to Foxley. The Aunt Hetty, mentioned by June, eventually moved to Liverpool. Check out www.foxley.org

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