

# In Our Age

Living local history

Issue 36  
Spring 2015



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## Jazzing it up with Jean

Following our feature (IOA 35) on Chadds' buyer Chick Read, IOA talks to former Chadds' model **Jean Rees**.

Through the mid 1950s and early 1960s Jean was a hard-working girl. She was a book-keeper at RAF Credenhill and later at Turner Sports and, at weekends, modelled the latest fashions for Chadds store in Hereford.

"On Saturday mornings we'd be dressed up and then walk around the store. Shoppers would stop us and ask where they could buy the clothes," remembers Jean who also strolled the catwalk at the Shire Hall and modelled for Blacks. "We generated a lot of sales."

In the evenings Jean would be off singing with one of two jazz bands, the Butchers Row and Easy Riders with Eddie Falconer on clarinet, Lenny Thwaites on double bass and Jeff Nuttall on trumpet.

The bands' repertoires included songs such as Summertime, St Louis Blues and Careless Love and Jean played places including Hereford's Booth Hall, the Racehorse, the Mecca at Malvern where they performed under a giant revolving globe, Cheltenham and Abertillery. "We'd pile into the back of a van and sometimes arrive at a venue with no electricity: it was all right for the band - they just played louder, but I'd have to shout. We did a warm-up for Johnny Dankworth

at Malvern once. [Dankworth had been evacuated to Ford Bridge, Leominster in 1941.] Cleo Lane was singing and she asked me: 'Why don't you do something with that voice?'" But Jean left to spend her working life in Namibia with husband Richard – "I still sang and did drama and radio work" – before returning to Hereford 12 years ago.

*Jean Warnes above with Jeff Nuttall on trumpet and Eddie Falconer on clarinet and right, modelling a winter coat for Chadds.*



## In Our Age



Rarely seen together, **Herefordshire Lore** met at The Courtyard in March. From left: Eileen Klotz, Bill Laws, Julie Orton-Davies, Betty Webb, Rosemary Lillico, Bobbie Blackwell, Krystyna James, Sandy Green, David Clarke, Marsha O'Mahony, Keith James, Irene Tomlinson, Harvey Payne and Chris Tomlinson. Absent on the day were Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe (County Archives), Liz Rouse, Joyce Chamberlain and chair Mark Hubbard.

Munitions Group ([www.rotherwasmunitionshereford.co.uk](http://www.rotherwasmunitionshereford.co.uk)) Barrie Mayne (chair).

**Front cover.** Singer Jean Rees (nee Warnes) with trumpeter Jeff Nuttall and the Butchers Row Jazz Band. Jeff Nuttall, a lecturer at Hereford Art College, was a radical poet and co-founder of the equally radical Writers Forum. He was pipped at the post for Poet Laureate by Ted Hughes and helped start up the famous underground newspaper, IT.

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## Commercial Road

Readers recall life on a busy city street

**Joan Davies** (nee Laurie) started her working life in Commercial Road, running Joan's Baby Shop (at No. 29) in 1938. She returned in 1960 with husband Jack (right) to run The Commercial.

"I was in the draper's trade at Kings and Son when the shop came up. Mother was widowed so we ran it together selling nappies, pants, wool vests and bodices, everything for small children." When war broke out Joan was drafted in as a C.I.A. (inspector) at the ordnance factory in Rotherwas, but she carried on with the shop.

"I'd get a call from Mr. Holmes, our supplier at Peel Watson in Manchester to say something like 'the organdie bonnets are in'. Then I'd have a day off from Rotherwas, catch the 2.30 a.m. train to



Manchester with butter and eggs from my sister's farm and all the cash in my bag. "You'd be dodging the bombs to get to the warehouse [it was destroyed and over 600 killed in the 1940 blitz]. Then I'd give Mr. Holmes the butter and eggs- I was always welcome! - pay for the order and be back on the Hereford train for 6.00 p.m. When the bonnets were delivered they'd go straight in the shop window. You always did the window on Saturday night to look good for the Sunday."

Post war Joan married Jack Davies

and, having run the Chase at Bishops Frome, took on the Stroud Brewery's Commercial. "Bill Edwards had been landlord for 40 years. In the first 12 months we kicked out a load of real naughty people and once we got it straightened The Commercial came back wonderful." Over the next 24 years they hosted everything from the Cathedral Boys' chess club to Buffalo club Lodges. And jazz music? "Oh no, Jack wouldn't have any of that in there!"

## Hérons wool yard

With its distinctive chimney looming up behind The Commercial (above), Heron's wool yard straddled the Tan Brook stream at the corner of Commercial Road and Station Road.

The wartime manager, Herbert Warnes, lived with his family, including daughter Jean (see opposite) at Bryngwyn Terrace in Barrs Court Road.

Herbert divided his time between the yard and the company mill in Bradford

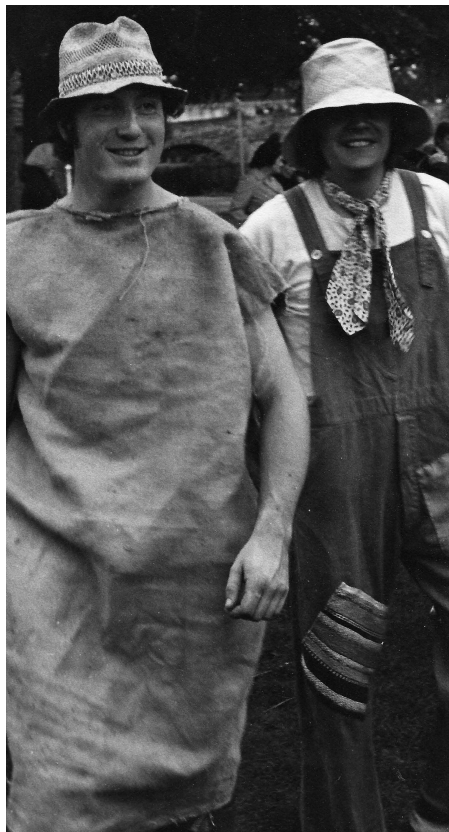
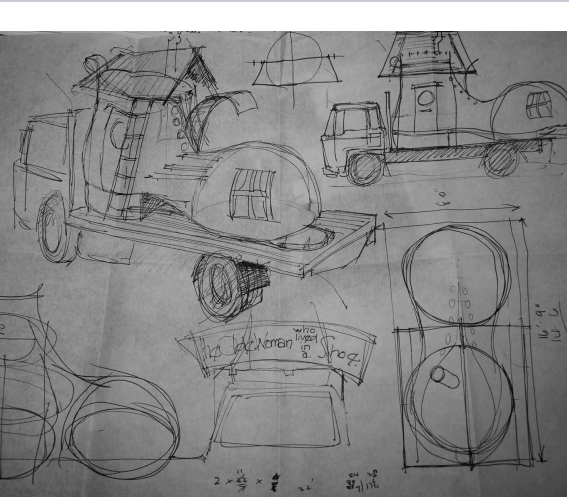
and was a familiar figure on county farms- "we always enjoyed fresh vegetables and meat," recalls Jean. She also remembered her father's wool samples which were sent across the world: "They were beautiful things, laid out on velvet between sheets of card, cream on the one side, dark blue on the other."

Ironically, and in spite of having the abattoir across the street in Stonebow Road, wool was hard to come by in the



war. Joan Davies again: "It was rationed and you could only buy so much on your coupon book." Herons, later managed by regular Commercial customer Horace Jay, eventually closed in 1967 with the loss of around 100 jobs.





The former Wye Regatta Course  
(Photo: Joyce Chamberlain)



Exploring his family history **Michael Lewis** found this photo of estate foreman Gilbert Rogers standing by the pony and his son Frank, with wife Sarah and their baby nearby.

## Afloat on the Wye during the 1970s River Carnival

Hereford River Carnival floats required hours of work, recalls former Denco manager, **John Baker**. John, an ex-Hereford Art College student, co-designed the proposed entries (top) during fevered planning meetings at Denco Social Club. "Floats had to be illuminated and to travel under their own steam between the Wye and Victoria bridges and back." The Denco floats, built by the workers in their spare time, invariably incorporated some spectacular piece of kit such as the moving sails on this windmill (above) or the ferris wheel on the Disney Fair (right). As soon as the Carnival was over the float was ritually destroyed (far right). (Above) Ron Andrews and Andy Mann prepare to launch the windmill. (Photos: John Baker)



## Eggs and bacon

Following the success of MILK, we're collecting your memories of pigs and hens for the next Little Herefordshire History booklet. Here **Mary Wakefield-Jones** and the late **Don Glead** look back.

"Home was Red House Farm, Tillington," writes Mary Wakefield-Jones (nee Palmer) who now lives in Grendon Bishop. "In the 1950s we always had about 100 free range hens, usually Rhode Island Reds, divided between the Top and Bottom Orchards. Day-old chicks were bought mainly from Trebervagh Hatchery in Kings Acre Road, but some came from Wharton near Leominster.

"The chicks' first meal was chopped hard boiled eggs mixed with chick meal, spread on newspaper on our kitchen floor. Mother would dip their beaks in water for their first drink. They then went into a brooder which had a paraffin heater in the middle to keep them warm.

"Our chicken and hen food came from the feed merchant, Monkleys, in New Market Street, managed by Clive Hughes. The eggs went to the West Midlands Egg Packers who (I think) were in Holmer Road. We put them into trays of 30 which were placed in wooden boxes with two compartments side by side and a lid



Mary and Jean Palmer and Barbara Ball feed the hens at Red House Farm, Tillington.

on top. Mr. Pepler collected them and the egg money was brought next week in a small waxy envelope. We also sold eggs locally and to Mrs. Wood-Power, a Hereford surgeon's wife who came especially to buy from us.

"After the corn was harvested a hen house was towed out onto the stubble for the hens to eat the dropped grains. We had a new hen house made by Mr. Roberts from Sutton St Nicholas. When the hens were not laying too well we would have one of the hens to eat. Our father killed it and it was boiled in a saucepan. Our mother was very good at trussing a hen. Others were taken to Hereford poultry market in New Market Street where the noise was amazing: crowing, quacking ducks and what we called hens 'chuckling' especially if they had laid an egg.



The hen house was moved onto the corn field after the harvest. Mary and Jean with Snip the dog, cousins Diana and Jane Rees and aunts at Red House Farm.

## Mother's Day In

"Pig killing day used to upset Mother," recalled Don Glead of Madley remembering how his Mum kept out of the way when the pig killer called.

"The old pig killers never stunned the pigs. The pig could be up to 40 stone with 3 or 4 inches of fat on his back and it took three strong men to hold him on the low pig bench. I've stuck sheep at the slaughter house when I was a lad, but pig killing was a different thing. You brought the pig over on the bench and his front legs had to be held in exactly the right position.

"The old farmers years had done it and there was a lot of skill. Then, during the war, humane killers came in and the farmers were made to shoot them. Was it a much better job? I don't think so!

"After the pig was killed Mother used to make faggots with the race- that would be the liver, the lights, the lungs and odd bits like the gall bladder. She put herbs in that were

[only] known to the women folk – if you talked to a farmer's daughter who was at home during the war, she would very likely tell you what went into the faggots."

Do you have a good faggot recipe? Let us know at In Our Age.

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## AROUND & ABOUT



Cowman William Rees (above) ran a milk round in Tupsley, Hereford. One day he asked his daughter-in-law, Jean (see page 2) to fetch the horse back home. Jean recalls she had a devil of a time. "I had to take it back through Tupsley and, from force of habit, it stopped at almost every house on the way home."

## Newton St Margarets

The wonderful collection of glass plate negatives, discovered in a shoebox in a Golden Valley farmhouse cupboard and featured in IOA 27 and 28, form the backdrop of *Golden Valley Voices – Memories of old days in rural Herefordshire* by Hilary Engel, writes **Mark Hubbard**. The photographs were taken by Richard Jenkins, born in 1890 at Quarrelly Farm, Newton St Margarets, who was a reluctant farmer, but a brilliant amateur



Richard Jenkins – reluctant farmer, brilliant photographer.

photographer. The names of many of Jenkins' subjects remain a mystery and Hilary would be delighted to hear from anyone who can help identify them. Hilary, with the approval of Richard's daughter, Winnie Reece, has interwoven memories of Golden Valley people with the photographs: their words conjure up a world of rural lives- hard-working, remote and self-reliant. A gentle and reflective work, this is a must for anyone interested in Herefordshire. Sold in aid of the Golden Valley Patient Trust, *Golden Valley Voices* is available from Locks Garage, Hopes of Longtown, Ewyas Harold Stores or direct from Hilary at Fair Oak, Bacton, Herefordshire HR2 0AT 01981 241210 (£10 includes p&p).

## Isolation in Tupsley

**Madeleine Went** was a patient at the isolation hospital when she was seven. (Tupsley Isolation Hospital, IOA 35). "The ward had wooden walls and black stoves down the middle. I had diphtheria and visitors were not allowed inside so my parents had to stand in the snow outside the window to talk to me. I wanted to go home with them, but wasn't allowed. It upset me a lot."

The ambulance driver, Mr. Vaughan, lived at the Lodge. His daughter Joyce lives in Ledbury Road, Hereford. ADD QUOTE and well remembers living at the lodge.. Her father collected patients with infections in the horse-drawn carriage and took them to the hospital. Joyce played with the nurses but never caught anything from them.

## Scudamore's Sciddy Cats

It was good to see a picture of Gordon Lamputt and his cricket XI (IOA 35), writes **Ken Hyett**. He was always a sporting type when he was a pupil at Lord Scudamore's Boys school. My brother Derick was a classmate along with Denis (Ginger) Knowles, John Lawrence and a lad called Pugh. I was a year younger and in the following class. The pupils at the school were known as 'Sciddy Cats'. On a Friday afternoon Mr. Cooke the sports master would march my class to the Baggallay Meadows at the back of Holy Trinity Church for sports practice. I'm still in touch with classmate Len Apperley, Dennis (Billy) King and Sidney Gilbert, all unfortunately past our sell-by dates.

## Whitchurch and Ganarew

The First World War memorial in the hall at Whitchurch lists 22 men including Captain Donald Johnston, killed in France three months after marrying Ethel Hardy at Ganarew, and the two sons of the Whitchurch sub postmaster, Bert and Vivian Banchini, who died three months apart in 1917. Bill Webb has researched them all (and one who was not listed) and published his findings in aid of the British Legion. Contact Bill at billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com for details.

IOA editor Bill Laws is looking for more family memories for a **Museums and Libraries history of Herefordshire in the First World War**. Write or call IOA (address below) or contact Bill direct on 07742 825813.



# Who, What Where?

This pair of teasers come from the late Derrick Blake who kindly loaned several photos. Meanwhile the location of the burning church, featured in our last issue, has been solved by Neil Thompson ("It's mentioned in Pevsner's

Herefordshire") and former district nurse and midwife, Sue Baker. "The fire was at Lingen," says Sue. "It started one Sunday afternoon in 1953 after a service. There was an underfloor heating



furnace, which could have caused it. The blaze destroyed the church roof." Sue, whose parents Margaret and Percy Rogers who are buried in the churchyard, was around 12 at the time.



## Herefordshire's history

The Summer is filled with special history events

### July 25 - August 3

Herefordshire hosts this year's **Three Choirs Festival**. Hereford Cathedral in 1933.

### June 7

Royal Hotel, Ross-on-Wye: a **Gallipoli landings exhibition** by the British Legion.

### June 27

High Town, Hereford: **Armed Forces Day** and **First World War commemoration**.

### June 13

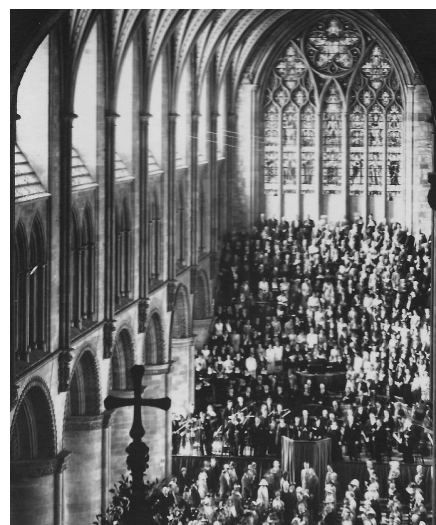
High Town, Hereford: **pageantry and performance for the Magna Carta Story** aim to transport visitors back to the city's medieval past. Look out for Jason Hodges' 'photograph' of Hereford Castle destroyed in the 1650s.

### July 11

Castle Green hosts **Historical Hereford Day** with a procession, live music, stalls and hands-on history from TV's Kate Bliss, the Family History Society and Herefordshire Lore.

### August 8 & 9

Events to mark the **Gallipoli landings** that cost the lives of many Herefordshire men: August 8 at Sulva Barracks, Harold Street, Hereford and August 9 at Ross-on-Wye Market Place.



Michael Young from Rugby, who loaned the image, writes: "This appears to show Edward Elgar on the rostrum with Sir Ivor Atkins behind. I have sought this picture of Elgar's last Festival for over 25 years!"

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