

NOW ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Issue 5 March 1994

Hereford Lore, P.O. Box 87, Hereford HR4 9XS

An open Invitation

School days are the best days, the happiest days of your life!

So often we hear this phrase, but do we all agree? Over the last few weeks we have been collecting tales told by various people of their own personal experiences. I am sure that when you have finished reading through this newsletter no 5 you will be able to identify with some of the happenings. Please let us know if you have anything to relate.

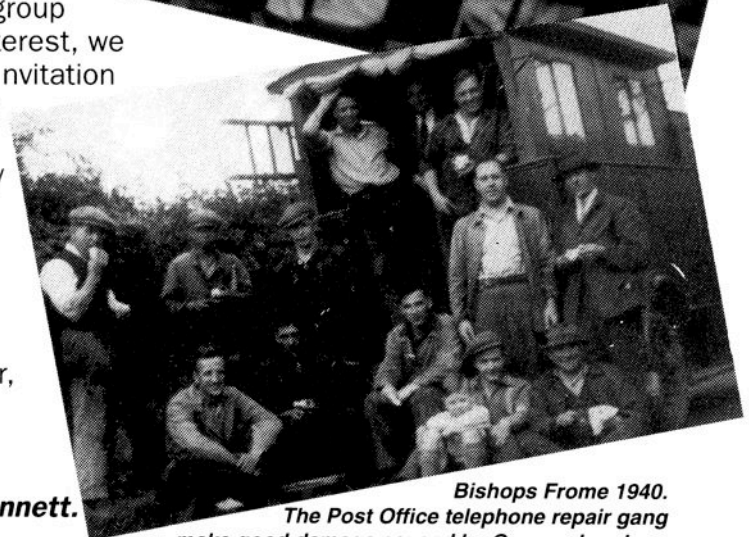
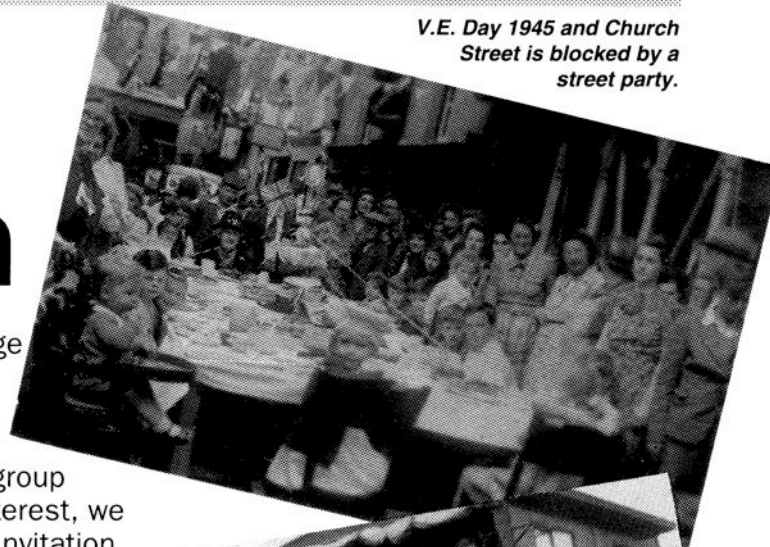
During 1993 the editorial group made several visits to senior citizens' organisations to talk about their work in

compiling Age To Age and retelling some of the stories collected.

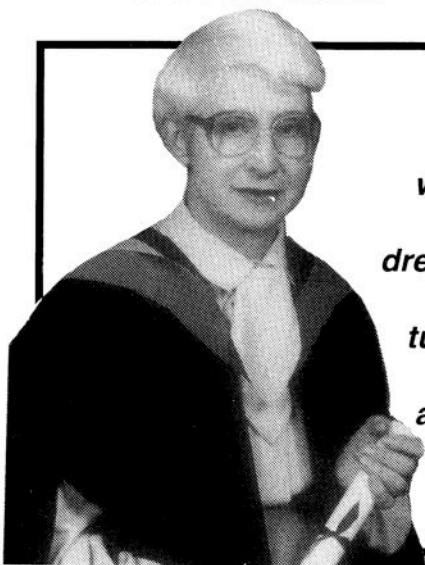
If you belong to a group and think this of interest, we would welcome an invitation to join you. You can contact myself or the main office. My phone number is Hereford 354934, **Natalia Silver**, Hereford City Council's Arts Development officer, is on Hereford 268121 ext 253.

Roy Kennett.

V.E. Day 1945 and Church Street is blocked by a street party.



*Bishops Frome 1940.
The Post Office telephone repair gang
make good damage caused by German bombers*



*If you are
wondering why
Ruth Cross is
dressed up to the
nines,
turn to the back
page and read
about Learning
Later In Life.*

Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in May. Copies are available from City and Belmont Libraries, Hereford Tourist Information Centre, The City Environment Department at Garrick House and Age Concern, Berrows House, Bath Street.

Hereford Lore Editorial Group are Alf Evans, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Jim Thomas, Vi Thomas, Vi Woolaway, Tom Woolaway and Bill Laws. We are grateful for the support of:



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Remember the feel of the cast iron desk on your knees? Miss Daw stands by the window in St. Owens School 1930 while her pupils pose for a formal picture. Denzil Booton loaned the picture



It's 1914 and the girls of Blue Coat School are working on their needlework. In the front row, from left, are Connie Harding, Dorothy Wigley, Salome Jay, Phoebe Astor, and the Pritchard twins.

School days in Her

No Naked Lights

In this edition we have many lively school day memories such as this one from a former pupil at St Owens School "A new boy had recently arrived at school from the big city. This boy was naturally keen to impress the local hicks with his street cred and started by bringing to school a few "dirty French postcards." These were of first world war vintage, but to us lads they were very, very daring as few of us had ever been allowed to see even a naked light before.

"One day this lad turned up with a huge .45 service revolver hidden under his jacket. Fortunately it was not loaded. I was on duty as headmaster's clerk that week and managed to persuade him to let me take care of it while he was in class. In my youthful wisdom I thought the safest hiding place was in the cupboard in the front of the headmaster's desk where we prefects kept our copies of Health and Efficiency as well as Boys Own. I was successful in keeping this artillery piece from being spotted by the teachers and was able to return it to him after school."

As a sequel to the saga, the narrator met the boy's brother in law over 40 years later - and, yes, the story was still part of the school history.

Eggy's Rifle

Weaponry was also a feature of a story from **Bill Morris** who recalled Captain D W Harris, headmaster of Holmer School in the twenties and thirties. "Because he had served in the first world

war he wished to be known as Captain - but to parents he was Boss and to the pupils he was Eggy, a ribald reference to his rather pointed, bald head.

"Eggy Harris wielded the cane frequently and very briskly, but we 'the pupils' were not alone in fearing his wrath. The staff felt the sharpness of his tongue and parents who came to school to complain about the treatment meted out to their offspring were often seen beating a retreat along Holmer Road, hotly pursued by an irate Eggy.

"Our headmaster was probably the only headmaster in the country who kept a rifle behind his desk. When he regaled us with stories of the First World War and the not insignificant part he had played in it, he would brandish the rifle in an aggressive manner.

"So impressed were we with the stories he told us of his exploits on the battlefield that when he asked one boy, Bobby Butler: "Who won the last war, Butler?" Bobby replied (as every other boy would have done) "You, sir." He was caned for impudence which we all thought was most unfair."

Bulbs For Dora

Dora Wilkinson recalls her school days at Lord Scudamore school around 1922. Dora always seemed to be getting into hot water, so much so that her desk was removed from the classroom onto the landing. But Dora would pull faces through the window and cause further disruption.

Once she was given a bowl of hyacinths bulbs

for being with the impresses having to left school

Mary

Scudamore was comp like arith didn't like

"Our head teacher M w told my hand

Enid P

loyal cor Coat Gir Road "T Street. O (next to v girls scho was knoc all becam was walk clothes p about th what hap closed, t Owens in



I are making doll's beds out of recycled son. Edith Preece, edge of the picture, far Ina Preece, Connie Jones, Nora Battersby, Doris Tudor, Irene Barnes, Joy Lambert Majorie and Phyllis.



Miss Hatton poses with her class of '32 at Lord Scudamore School. Mary Waldrop, then Mary Chamberlain, who loaned the picture is fifth from the left in the second row from the back.

Hereford

good and she proudly returned home bulbs Her father was less than d. "You should be ashamed of yourself be bribed to be good," he told her Dora l at thirteen and a half

Orange Peel Cure

Waldrop, now 74, was another re school pupil "My favourite subject position as I loved writing stories I didn't metic, especially fractions because I carrying the dot! admistress was Mrs Pyke, but it was our Mrs Jones who gave me the cane once I by th other kids to rub orange peel on to take away the sting

Honours Boards

arker from Cheltenham is one of our respondents She attended The Blue s School as Enid Preece of Ledbury he Blue School was in Blue School riginally there were two schools, a boys' where Brooks had their garage and the ol When the boys school closed a way ked between the two school halls and it e a girls school "Several years ago as I ing by I went inside the girls' porch, the eggs were still there "I have enquired e Honours Boards, but no-one knows pened to them When the Boys' school heir Honours Boards were moved to St Symonds Street."

Snippets

Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institute have published their book, Herefordshire Within Living Memory. 250 pages of reminiscences and anecdotal stories. One contributor seems to be confusing the Odeon cinema with the Ritz as it was in the Ritz that Frank Slater rose from below floor level playing the Compton Organ. It's a read that I can thoroughly recommend, writes Jim Thomas.

Kinema

The Kinema in St Owens Street, mentioned in our last issue can still be identified from the outside. It was the local Co-op shop during and after the last war.

Curly Wallis

Again in our last issue Bill Stinton mentioned Curly Wallis who lived in St Margarets Road and practiced as a solicitor in St Owens St. But do any old St Owens school boys recall the annual issue of a mince pie and an orange donated by the aforementioned gent? ("I remember thinking, that the pies didn't taste like the ones my mum made," remembers one former pupil.)

Christmas Play

In the 1930s the children of St Francis Xaviers School, Berrington Street always performed a religious play two weeks before Christmas. In 1933 the play was entitled The Upper Room, performed in the Victoria Rooms in Victoria Street. The Virgin Mary was played by Joan Rogers, recalls Monica Pembridge, now Mrs Royston Hill. Does anyone else remember these or similar occasions? Write and tell us about them. Our Box number is on page 1.

Best Wishes

One of Hereford Lore's long suffering editors, Vi Woolaway is recuperating after an illness. She and her husband Tom have played a busy part both, in collecting material for Age To Age and in working for the Hereford Lore group. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Age to Age asked local children from Lord Scudamore School to recall their first years at school and describe education today

"My first day at school was scary because I didn't know anyone. My mum took me to school that day and I was very upset to see her go. It was weird not sitting on the sofa and watching the TV all day" **Claire Preece.**

"I did not like school at first because it was strange and nobody knew me. My first years were getting better. When we had P.E. in our vests and pants I was a bit embarrassed." **Matthew Virgo.**

"On my first day at school mum came in with me, I was very nervous. I was not used to doing work and mixing with children." **Matthew Llewellyn.**

"One day when the teacher asked everyone to go out and play I hid under the table because I had nobody to play

A view of school today

with. The headmaster came in and started having a conversation with the teacher "Samantha Johns.

"At school now I dislike people that will not play with me and people that talk about me when I am not there" **Claire Davies.**

"The worst moment at school was when we had to do History all day" **Kirsty**

"I don't like all the tests because I get them wrong." **Amy Carwardine.**

"I think that when I go up to Secondary School I will be scared and will have no friends and lots of homework."

Helena Sayce.

"I think High School sounds good

because the teachers treat you more like adults." **Christopher H.**

"I think secondary school is going to be hell on earth." **James.**

Many thanks to the following people for their contributions which were not used and to Mr Box for his co-operation: **Donna Evans, Sarah Matthews, Daniel Lewis, Jonathan Devereux, Verity Chilbert, Kimberley, Caria, Matthew Roberts, Richard Jones, David Blair, Andrew Davies, David Price, Jane Healey, Billy, Emma M., Adele, Lucy, Kim Nicholson, Robin Silcox, Michael Eden, David Bishop, Alana Matthews, Martin Sockett.**

The school want any information you have of Lord Scudamore School. The school want to produce a display of Scudamore throughout the ages by using reminiscences and photographs. Send information c/o Hereford Lore P.O. Box 87 HR4 9XS.

Learning later in life

Where there is a will there is a way **Ruth Cross** left elementary school in 1935 to work as a book keeper on a farm. But when her children were studying for their exams Ruth decided to take her O and A level history at Hereford Technical college. Someone at the college suggested she study history with the Open University which, she says, is within the reach of anyone of normal intelligence. The main requirements are self discipline, the ability to study and to meet assignment deadlines.

Ruth now has a Bachelor of Arts degree, has written a fascinating history of the Coningsby family, and says "it's rewarding to find one's grandchildren asking for help with their university work. I don't generally use BA after my signature but its use will ensure an intelligent reply to any letter - no crushing the "silly woman" under the carpet!" Ruth is pictured after receiving her B.A. on our front page

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Monastries to Middlemarch

How do most of us view our schooldays of 40 or 50 years ago, from the relative tranquillity of our retirement? The best years of our lives? A time of enforced study? I suspect retirement for most of us is not looked upon as a time to start learning again. But surprisingly this is often what happens, writes **Betty Winsor.**

Betty is involved with the WEA (Workers Educational Association) which organises everything from courses in local monastic history to theatre visits and literature (Recently they studied George Eliot's Middlemarch - just in time for the BBC dramatisation)

Study can very often become attractive again

because we can pick and chose the subjects that attract us and even sometimes choose the very subjects that didn't interest us at school but do in old age

Whereas we remember school as sitting on a hard chair at a desk, now we often have easy chairs as befits our age, and enjoy a coffee at half time

And how nice it is, when the eyesight isn't as good as it was and the joints get a bit stiff, to find the brain still works!

If you are interested in what the WEA has to offer why not get in touch with Betty at 5 Sinclair Drive, Hampton Dene, Hereford HR1 1UE