

NOW ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Issue 6 May 1994

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



Youngsters at Lord Scudamore School in the 1940's or 1950's. Can you date the picture for us?

Dear Newsletter

We are the Holmer Primary School History Research Group. We are 10 and 11 years old. We wonder if you could help us? We are trying to find out about Holmer School in past times. We have interviewed two people who used to come to our school. We have had eight letters already and have phoned three people. We would like more people to come in to our school or write to us at Holmer School, Holmer Hereford.

Yours sincerely

Aisha Ranganathan
Cecilia Lloyd
Samantha Price

The Pig That Never Was

Since our next issue will focus on war time Hereford, I have been remembering some of my own war time experiences. During the last war the air raid wardens at St Martins formed a pig club. About 30 members subscribed 10 shillings (50p) each and one of our members arranged for a local farmer to rear the pig. During this period pictures of the pig in various stages of growth were posted on the notice board. We were told the pig would be killed and delivered on a

certain evening and our members all turned up carrying baskets like butchers.

We waited and waited until we received a phone call to say the van had broken down. Everyone went home crestfallen. A week later we waited for the pig again. No pig. There was a phone call to say the pig had weevil in it. The truth was the pig had never existed! But we made such a fuss that we all got our money back in the end.

Alf Evans

St. Mary's Hospital

The mental health hospital St Mary's, Burghill is closing down. A courageous group of former patients have joined forces at MIND Day Centre, Hereford to recall their experiences in the Victorian institution which was once home to many Herefordians.

This particular reminiscence project will help to challenge the stigma of mental illness.

If you have any experiences to relate about St Mary's drop us a line at Age To Age, PO Box 87, Hereford HR4 9XS and we will pass on your thoughts to the St. Mary's Reminiscence Project.

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

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



Charity Projects UK



Back to School

Following on from our picture of Scudamore school pupils on the front page **Kathleen Colley** recalls her days in Standard 1 at Scudamore Infants School

"My teacher was Miss Paul who came each day by train from Ledbury. On Empire Day, circa 1919 we all wore a common daisy, symbol of the British Empire. The yellow centre depicted the Mother country, the white petals the various countries of the Empire.

"I vividly remember the preparations prior to the celebration on the Castle Green. They consisted of marching round the school hall four abreast with special attention paid to turning. Those on the inside taking smaller steps than those on the outside - wheeling? - the word fascinated me.

"We spent time learning Rule Britannia and the National Anthem. The weather was always warm, and some children fainted - it was quite an event!"

Like her sister Margaret, Kathleen went on to become a teacher.

She and Margaret also recalled the days when Ryeland Street was made up of local business people. Mr Searle, furniture. Mr Hall the grocer; Mr Mitchell the tailor. Mr Symonds the gents outfitter. Mr North and Mr Constable the butchers, Caple Beavan the poulterer. Mr Roberts the baker. Mr Thompson the dentist and Doctor Corey the physician.

Commercial Street

Mrs Mary Hankins writes from Kings Norton in Birmingham about another part of Hereford Commercial Street - where, as Mollie Mavan, she helped in her parent's sweet shop.

"My grandparents were headmaster and headmistress of Withington school and when they moved to Hereford I spent most of my childhood holidays with them. When I was 14 my mother and I moved to the shop, this being half of the Post Office in Commercial Road. My father kept his job at Cadbury's in Birmingham and travelled down every weekend and during holidays.

"On the other side of Commercial Road where the bus station is now was the prison with its long wall facing us. We rented a house in Pengrove Road. Later we moved to a house in a row opposite the post office. These houses were pulled down after we left, but first the prison was demolished to make way for the cinema. This increased our trade considerably.

"I also remember cows being walked along Commercial Road to market.

"For the first two years I attended the High School, then in Coningsby Street. I used to walk there through the old graveyard from Commercial Road.

"At 16 I started work at Alec Evans, hairdressers in High Street. I joined the swimming club and we used to go to dances in the surrounding villages and spent long summer days boating on the river and caravanning on its banks. We came back to Birmingham in 1937.

"I wonder if any of my colleagues from Alec Evans are



The Post Office Home Guard pose for their picture, lent to us by Eva C

still around, Gladys Farmer, Muriel Breeze, Ruth Turner. I know it's a long, long time but it would be good to hear from them."

Housewifery Classes

There must be many who remember the domestic science building at the rear of the Town Hall in East Street. **Beryl Reece** (nee Claytor) recalls attending Housewifery classes there. The class mistresses were Miss Thomas and Miss Roberts. Beryl started work aged 14 as a nursemaid to Mr T.B. Feltham, Hereford Town Clerk, and his wife.



In The Swim

The bathing belle in our picture is Hereford Lore secretary Vi Thomas, pictured after learning to swim at the modest age of 61. Vi, now in her mid 70s, had as her instructor Chris Ruffe, B.E.M. who taught over 500 people to swim, including one lady of 91. Chris, who received his British Empire Medal for his work with many local community projects, is a good example of how active we can be whatever our age.

Red Noses All Round

Charity Projects UK have put their support behind Age To Age with a grant of £1,000. Charity Projects is a national charity which makes grants available to worthwhile initiatives; much of their money comes from Red Nose Day. Their grant together with the support of Hereford City Council and West Midlands Arts has ensured that Age To Age can run for another year.

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SNIPPETS

Where's the Stuffed Horse?

One of our readers **Dilys Williams** remembers Dr. Francis and Jimmy, his stuffed horse which stood in his hallway. Does anyone know what happened to Jimmy?

And an appeal from an ex-pupil of Scudamore School. Is there anyone out there who would like to try and organise a reunion of girls who attended the school about 60 years ago? Contact Hereford Lore at P.O.Box 87, Hereford HR4 9XS.

Brownies

Who, like **Margaret Swain**, now living in Cambridge, remembers Brownie meetings at Adam Hill when Miss Joan Bulmer and Miss Cecily Wegg-Prosser taught the Brownies how to tie knots and pack parcels?



This church like interior was the old Bulmer's Vaults, a cellar bar with its entrance in Bewell Street. **Dorothy Stubbs** of Three Elms Road sent us the picture postcard. "I have so many happy memories of the Vaults. I worked in the bar, many years ago. Now widowed again, I would love to hear from old friends - I was Dot Livingstone then. Happy days!"

Opera

Following our article on the Highwayman Love opera, we have contacted another five members of the cast, Betty (Ford) Allison, Edward Mayo, Mr and Mrs Rettalick and Barbara (Holman) Cocks.

Heart of Gold

Albert - Bert - Kelland, 78, was one of six people in the country to reach the finals of the Heart of Gold award scheme sponsored by the M.E.B. for his services to the County Hospital. At the award ceremony he received a cheque for £1,000 which will help equip Maple Ward with accessories. Bert set up the Club Shop for Hereford United in 1966, managing it with Doug Mytton until 1983.

Your Country Needed You!

"During the war we lived in Ross Road, next door to the Broad Leys Inn. We had two children from Birmingham, Brenda and Hilda living with us. I remember the group of evacuees arriving at the Bay Horse and standing there with their names on labels, waiting to be collected. The W.R.V.S. were in charge of the evacuees," reports **Joan Bevis** of Belmont.

She also remembered having to spend nights in their shelter as the bombers passed overhead on their way to Birmingham and Coventry. "Dad always stayed outside and watched them fly over. One night he saw them drop a bomb up near Redhill in a field. It made a huge crater, but it didn't go off."

In our next issue we will be reporting your memories of life during the second World War. Were you were in the Territorials, evacuated to Herefordshire, part of the land army, involved in some way in the war effort? Meet the Hereford Lore group and tell us about your experiences during the D-Day Exhibition at Hereford Town Hall on Friday June 10 and Saturday June 11. We will be there from 10.30 to 4.30 looking forward to seeing your photographs and memorabilia.



Cartwright. Eva's Husband is on the top right.

Tragedy Strikes R.O.F.

Wardens, deputy headwarden of St. Martin's Air Warden's from '38 to '46 recalls the Hereford

On 27 1942 at about 06.00 a single German plane flew over the Royal Ordnance Factory at Hereford and dropped two 250kg bombs on to a transit shed. Two men were killed and many more injured.

A bomb struck a girder and was deflected through the large open doors of the shed, striking the roof and continuing for some 100 yards through the shed, hitting a fence into the house of the Police Warden of ROF nearby. Five of those in the house were killed. Mrs E.J. Hursey, their son home on leave, and her mother were killed. Only one other son, then aged 16, survived.

After he told me about the bombing, the family moved into a converted bedroom in the house. On the morning following the house being hit, the family was awakened by the plane. He looked from his window and saw the plane coming straight at him. He saw both bombs fall and the first hit to his amazement the bomb came through the shed doors, bouncing along the ground, heading for the house. He ran downstairs to warn his family. The bomb exploded. Some minutes later he heard a voice calling out: 'Is anyone alive?'

On my way to the Norton Avenue ARP post, the bombs exploded. Arriving on the scene, I found the Warden's house just a pile of rubble and when I went out, somewhat hopelessly 'Is there anyone alive?' replied from out of 14 feet of rubble.

Useable telephone was difficult but the ARP Rescue team were soon rescuing the family. He was taken to hospital for treatment and found clear of any injuries."

Street Organ Celebration.

The 2nd International Organ Celebration will be taking place in Hereford City on May 20-22. Various organs will be heard throughout the city during the three days.

NOTICEBOARD

Miss Julie on Stage

Compass Theatre Company will be performing Miss Julie at Folly Arts Theatre on Thursday May 19. For more information contact the Art College on (0432) 273359

Bursaries to Budding Musicians.

Hereford City Council is offering bursaries to musicians working or living in Hereford to attend a Music Summer School due to take place between August 13 - 20. More details from Elizabeth Bates, 13 Pera Place, Camden, Bath, BA1 5NX

Get Going!

Get Going is a three day festival of arts activities targeted at older people and carers. Reminiscence, song, dance and story telling are among the activities provided for £20 a day. Details from Coventry Centre for the Performing Arts Leaseowes Avenue, Coventry CV3 6BH.

Helping

County Craftspeople

A comprehensive register of county craftspeople and their crafts is being compiled. The register which could help people market and exhibit their work, will also form the basis of a research project by Herefordshire Tourism. Further details from Natalia Silver Arts Development Officer at Hereford City Council Widemarsh Street, Hereford HR4 9EU

Age to Age Door To Door

Do you have a problem getting your Age To Age regularly? Have it delivered to your door for as little as £3 a year by joining our expanding mailing list. Simply fill in the slip below and send it with Cheque/Postal Order to Age To Age, Treasurer, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford.

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Don't Forget: Age To Age will still be free from Belmont and Hereford libraries, Hereford Tourist Information Centre in King Street, Garrick House in Widemarsh Street, the Age Concern offices at Berrows House, Bath Street and Hereford Town Hall. The newsletter will also be sent free to Hereford Day Centres and through the Home Care Service.

Some organisations choose to support Age To Age by becoming a Friend. If you or your firm would like to be more involved, contact Age To Age at P.O.Box 87, Hereford HR4 9XS.

People Didn't Used To Bother You

In the summer more travellers used to live and work in Herefordshire than in any other English county. Still our largest ethnic minority group, travellers continue to suffer from harassment and a poor understanding of their way of life.

The Traveller Support Group is helping a group of Herefordshire travellers to document their lives in a reminiscence project.

Here a Hereford-born woman compares horse drawn waggon life with the modern truck and trailer of today

"My father and mother always had one of those waggins or open tops, what you people called old fashioned caravans. The house dwellers used to like to see em, well they do today. And any nice bit of place what was convenient, you could pull over and you'd have no complaints. People didn't used to bother you.

"Well then the higher people as had the money to spend, different to how my parents did, they'd go and buy a trailer. Well it started the lot having one. But trailers is different altogether. I mean you only been there so long and people wants you to go.

Horses And Waggins

"I tell you why I like the horses and waggins for to go from here to Worcester you'd make it two days travel. Well in a motor, you'm here and you'm there! But you couldn't do that with animals; you had to give them their time.

"I think I was happier to have the horses going along. I mean you didn't have to pay for petrol, diesel, tax, insurance, like. All you had to pay was to have 'em new-shoed about once a month. You could put the horses on the chain, put 'em on side of the road and let 'em fill their bellies. Give 'em a drink of water when they wanted it. It didn't cost you nothin'.

"You could hear 'em eatin when you was in bed, hear 'em a-chammin their jaws all night. We people was proud of our horses that time of day like we're proud now to see one of our sons with a good lorry you know? We was always proud of our animals."

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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