

NOW ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol.2 Issue 3 November 1994

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



A Hereford Baker

Who remembers Master baker and confectioner Ernest Edward Matthews (right)? At fourteen he started seven year's training at Pilley the local confectioners in Eign Street.

His place of work for many years, writes Roy Kennett, was the Imperial Cafe in St Peters Street where the post office is now. The bakery was in the basement. The Imperial Cafe regularly catered for various events including the Police, Hunt and Regimental Balls and it was Mr Matthews' responsibility to prepare the boar's head, ceremoniously carrying it to the table.

One time president of the Master Bakers, he displayed great skill and art in cake decoration especially his own wedding cake, pictured here, in 1926. One of his specialities was the making of marzipan fruits. He compiled and produced his own book of recipes, full of high quality products.

Mr Matthews died 22 years ago at the age of 79 and is survived by his widow a contributor to Age To Age. His brother in law Dennis Parsons from Lincolnshire is also a regular correspondent.



Woman's Touch

It is my turn to write the introduction again. I wrote the first one in July 1993 and since then we have done a lot of investigating, interviewing and writing and we hope that you are still enjoying the newsletter

I've heard a few complaints from women readers that our last issue "Sporting Times" was written with the male readers in mind.

I think this issue, on the theme of Made In Hereford, should remedy that.

To those of you who requested pen friends, we haven't forgotten you but to date we have had little response from overseas.

Thank you to all those readers who take the trouble to write to us. The wealth of information you pass on to us is really amazing, and we try to incorporate your stories in our

newsletter when they coincide with the theme we are using. Thank you to all our friends who listen to our talks on Hereford Lore - you are a lovely audience!

Vi Thomas, secretary.

The editorial group of Age To Age are grateful for the various photographs and stories sent or given in. Please keep them coming. Even if your piece has not appeared, everything is filed for future reference and all pictures returned. Keep in touch with anything you think might be of interest. Our next issue will be on the subject of Christmas and winter, so get writing!

Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in January. 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, Good Old Days' Shop, St Owens Street.

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



Made in Hereford

Ammunition and Memories

Much has been made in Hereford: cider shirts, canals, tiles, blank coins for the Royal Mint, ammunition for two world wars, bits and pieces for Concorde and a lot of memories. In the eighteenth century Hereford's prosperity lay with the city's clothiers who made gloves by their thousand. When Hereford brewer Alfred Watkins invented the first photographer's exposure meter it was manufactured in buildings next door to the Imperial Flour Mill in Friar Street.

The Prongless Buckle

The old firm of Hardings, the ironmongers, used to be at 5 Bridge Street, recalls **Alf Evans**. They bought it around 1912 from a man named Reid. "Previous to that it was run by a man named Evans, no relation called a nail-maker. Down in the cellars you would come across some of these old hand made nails." Alf also remembered the foundry in Bath Street "which did brass work for the shipping industry down in Newport and made things like manhole covers, which still carry their name."

Once upon a time Hereford made its own electricity. The Company's High Street shop was the building behind the Butter Market, where the Midlands Electricity showroom is now. The first prongless buckle for workmen's trousers was invented and patented by Pritchard the Hereford tailors, but manufactured elsewhere. **Percy Pritchard** recalled his father's invention: "He had them made in France but of course everyone copied them and he never made anything out of them. I had boxes and boxes of them and took them away to the scrap merchant in the end."

Another invention which failed to make money was a cider pump invented by Alf Evan's grandfather. "It was made of wood, no metal. You couldn't have any metal touching cider for any length of time," recalls Alf. "The pipes were made of canes with rubber connections and the pump was turned out of solid oak. They used pop bottles for the valves because they were circular and round. They patented it but it never came to anything."

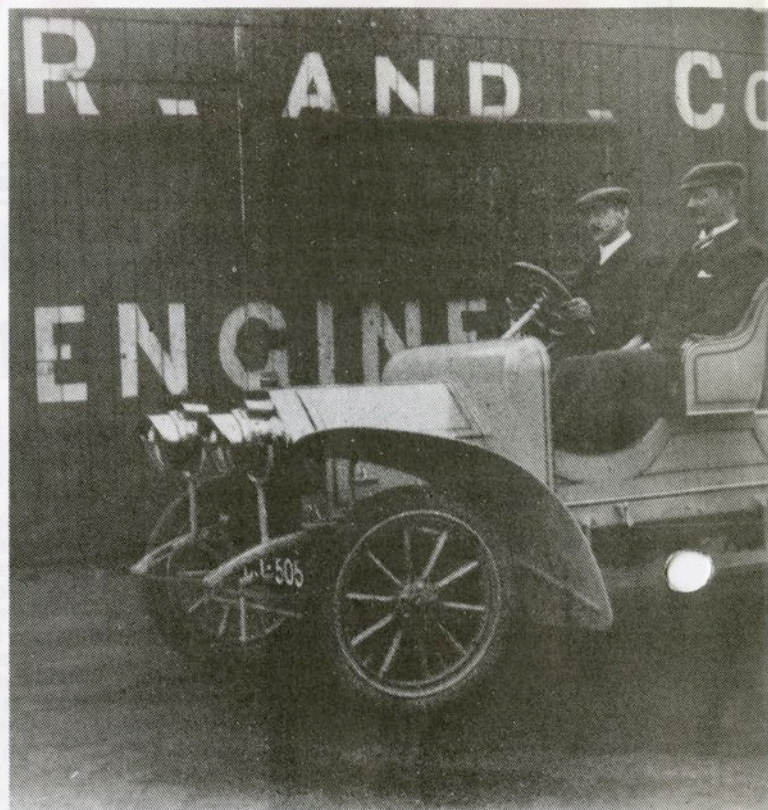
Carving a Habit

The passion to make and create continues among Herefordians.

Alec Carter for example, retired two years ago and can now devote more time to his hobby carving wooden images mounted in picture frames. He uses laburnum, almond, horsechestnut, elm, palm and other exotic woods to create wooden figures, each carving taking between 15 and 20 hours to complete. Carving out a pastime for himself?

Patching Quilts

Patchwork quilts would once have been made in most Hereford homes. **Beryl Keeble** carries on the tradition, sewing each of the 176 squares needed to make a single quilt. Communal quilt making used to give people an excuse for a get-together: these days Hereford's Cross Stitch Club performs much the same function. The club came into being after **Wendy Clarke** and **Rosemary Haverd** agreed to design and make a banner for the Hereford Christian Festival in 1992. The members, aged anything from thirty to seventy, meet every Friday fortnight at 24, Whitehorse Square to embroider and chat for a couple of hours, and they are always looking for new recruits: if you're interested give Wendy a ring on 358143.



Tapestries

Needlework clearly holds a certain fascination for people in retirement. Tapestries are **Joan Bevis'** particular favourite: each takes a month to complete and Joan does still life, country scenes and the four seasons.

During a visit to Drybridge Day Centre recently **Vi Thomas** and **Roy Kennett** noted a lot of knitting in progress. "We discovered **Joyce Mussell**, **Doris Nicholl** and **Lily Elson** knitting squares for Oxfam and **Alice Simmons** and **Winnie Pegler** knitting for the church," reports Vi. All the ladies are well into their 80s.

Vi Thomas, on the other hand, writes stories for her grandchildren about a family of mice. "Big Bad Mouse likes nuts and a little tot of whisky. He stays up late to watch sports programmes and disagrees with the ref's decisions. The children like him best: 'he's naughty and just like Grandad,' they say."



Wilf with one of his pictures

Picture Patterns

Many people take up painting in retirement. Among them are former headteacher **Doreen Rumney** and her friend **Audrie Bamber**. They attended local art classes and after only two years put on their first exhibition. This year they exhibited some of their work again: watercolours of flowers, animals and landscapes at the Art College and the Mayor's Parlour in Church Street. Doreen was particularly pleased to have seen one of her paintings go to the late Bishop Eastaugh. **Wilf Jones** from Callow also has a passion for pictures. He wrote to Age To Age to tell us about it: "People used to retire from work at the age of 65 or older. Now more people are

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In this issue, Age To Age focuses on things which have been manufactured in Hereford - and on some of the arts and crafts which older people enjoy in their retirement



Naylors of Friar Street made the one and only car Hereford ever produced seen here with his driver George Naylor and passenger Tom Naylor



Prize paintings

retiring earlier due to redundancy sickness or early retirement.

"I was forced to retire two years ago due to ill health just before my 51st birthday after 30 years with British Telecom.

I felt I was being put on the scrap heap and thought hard about what I could do to pass the time away

"I started to attend Kilpeck Art Club and found some people much older than me enjoying painting I then joined an art class in Hereford, painting with oils, run by Leominster artist Robin Clifton. Once again I found many of the people were retired, some of them with handicaps. But most of all, everyone was enjoying the painting.

"When I painted at home it was in the spare bedroom but I have now moved summer house in the garden. My son with the help of our neighbour insulated and painted it, and put in electric lighting, and curtains they even named it: Wilf's Dog-house.

now progressing to making models with moulds and painting them and decorating stones to be used as weights or door stops. I've also done portrait painting.

entered a painting in this year's Wormside Agricultural Show at Whitfield estate, the first competition I have ever entered, was awarded a 2nd prize. Mrs Prosser a 79 year old neighbour obtained a 2nd prize older people can still compete with the younger ones.

come on folks, don't feel you are on the scrap heap buy paints, join a club and paint landscape scenery your own or grandchildren or just go silly like me and paint. Life is just beginning when you retire!"

Snippets

Age To Age visited County Hall at Worcester recently to give a talk about their work. While there, they bumped into **Diana Lee** born at New Cottage, Holme Lacy and now living in Worcester.

Diana Jones as she was then is seen here when she joined the WRENS in 1944. How did you look in uniform? Send your pictures to Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.



Still Playing

The photograph of Hereford Cricket Club 1956 in our last issue stirred up many memories. **David Evans**, pictured second from the right, back row, reckons he is the only team member still playing cricket. He is wicket keeper for Burghill and Tillington Nomads and has played in the Hereford Evening League for the past 48 years.

On the subject of our last issue, John Tarrant pictured on our front cover was winning his race in 1966, not 1922. Apologies.

The Unknown Team

Our photograph of the unknown City football team has produced a list of names from one of the players, **Mr. J. Williams**. He served with the Hereford Regiment in Normandy and later was licensee at Englands Gate, The Tabbard, Belmont Inn, Old Comrade and The Orange Tree, not presumably all at once. Now aged 83, Mr Williams lives at LVN Homes, Denham. And the team?



Back row: J.Snead (secretary), C.Massey, Mr.Williams, L.Buften, E.Dykes (trainer). Middle row: G.Harcourt, T.Roberts, L.Bromage, G.Jones, F.Lewis. Front row: B.Davies, R.Hill, E.Howe.

Trees for Thought

Early in October four young guides, Sophie, Hannah, Sally and Lee all from the 3rd Hereford Guides visited Major Davenport's estate at Mansell Lacy to collect a staggering 68lbs of acorns in under two hours. The acorns are being dispatched for planting in underdeveloped countries.

*I remember, I remember
The roses, red and white,
The violets and the lily-cups
Those flowers made of light.
The lilacs where the robin built
And where my brother set
The laburnum on his birthday:
The tree is living yet*

This prompts the thought - do any of our readers have a story to tell about a tree they or one of their relations planted years ago? Write and let us know.

NOTICEBOARD

Don't forget to order you copy of

AMAZING HOW TIMES CHANGE

available, price £3.00 from Hereford Tourist Information Centre, King St., Hereford Bookshop, 24 Church St., or the Environment Department, Garrick House, Widemarsh St. Hereford

Terry Lightfoot and His Band

Music from the 20's, 30's and 40's including jazz, blues, swing and jive.

Saturday 19 November 7.30pm

Tickets: £7.50/£6.50 conc.

Hereford Theatre and Arts Centre, Edgar Street, Hereford
0432 359252

The Zagreb Guitar Trio

Classical guitar music from three young musicians
Thursday 24 November 7.30pm
Tickets £7.00

Hereford Town Hall,
St. Owens Street, Hereford

HEREFORD CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS FAIR

A showcase of crafts produced in Hereford and Worcester County

18, 19 and 20 November

10.00am - 5.30pm

Hereford Town Hall, St. Owen Street, Hereford

CHRISTMAS

★★ PANTOMIME ★★

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

22 December - 7 January

Tickets: £6.50/£5.00 conc.

Hereford Theatre & Arts Centre
Edgar Street, 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 26, Quarry Road, Hereford. HR1 1SS.

Song and Dance

What greater craft can there be than the art of music making, asks Roy Kennett? Two local musicians spring to mind Godfrey Davies and George Robinson or Robbie as he was known

Godfrey's music making in Hereford goes back to the 1930s. He was actively involved with the YMCA and formed the YMCA orchestra.

The musical shows which he produced created many happy memories for those who still survive. Godfrey died a few years ago at the age of 91

His friend, George Robinson was, like Godfrey, a keen musician and composer. George, who was organist at St John's Methodist Church was often inspired by the sounds of nature; he wrote A Blackbird Sings after listening to the bird singing near his Breinton home. In his eighties he wrote an overture to an imaginary opera, he also wrote all fifteen parts for Brass Band a song still in the Wingate Temperance Band's repertoire. George died in 1978, aged 88.

A song entitled Looking Forward was given to Roy Kennett at the time of George's death and is still sung to this day. The words were taken from one of the poems in a collection written by Ursula Sendall, wife of Harold Sendall one time minister at the Methodist Church

Finally a festive memory from Alf Evans as a young lad at the Wye Hotel in Bullingham "On Boxing Day a free lunch was provided, boiled beef with hot vegetables, pickled red cabbage, and one pint of beer, all laid on "After lunch the public bar would be cleared four freshly black-leaded spittoons would be placed across the red tiled floor and four men from the Gaines family would perform a dance with hobby horses (broom handles with mops or brushes) weaving in and out till four sequences were completed. "Music was played on the fiddle by "The Marquis" a shoe maker from Edgar Street, dressed in his deer stalker Norfolk jacket and knickerbockers."

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE FREESTYLE GRAPHICS

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