

NOW ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol.3 Issue 4

July 1995

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS

Dilwyn School Celebrates

THIS ISSUE OF AGE TO AGE SPONSORED BY



*D*ilwyn School is celebrating 150 years of history.

In 1845 the school had about 100 pupils on the register. Dorothy Stephens, now 81 years of age, recalls starting at the church school in 1919 under Mr Probert the headmaster. One favourite headmaster was Albert Lloyd. A great disciplinarian, Mr Lloyd taught shorthand and typing and helped a number of pupils gain grammar school passes.

Dorothy remembers she always did well with her poetry and scripture and was in great demand when it came to reading

Today many children are following in their parents' footsteps in attending the school, although none today would walk the three or four miles to school that they used to.

Frank Mathews is the present headmaster and he, his staff and pupils, have been busy preparing for a day of celebration on July 15.



The Dean of Hereford introduces this issue of Age To Age

Hereford Cathedral is the Mother Church of a very large rural Diocese. It is one of the nine old Foundations of England which, because they had Deans and Chapters before the Reformation and were not monasteries, were not reformed in. The same way as others. This means that the system of government which the Cathedral has remained unchanged for about 1300 years.

From the earliest time of the Cathedral the worship, library and school have an unbroken continuity through history to the present day

Next year of course will be an exciting one for the Cathedral when the new library which is to hold the historic chained library the largest library in the world, the Mappa Mundi and the modern theological library is opened.

When we buried the time capsule with copies of Age To Age under the library this year it seemed to me that it was just a sign of the whole Cathedral itself being a marvellous time capsule in which things old and new blend together and are kept as a sign of faith to inspire future generations.

The Dean

Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in September. 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. Thanks to The Rural Media Company and Natalia Silver. We are grateful for the support of :



HEREFORD
CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE
arts

Hereford Churches

Safe From Bombs

An interesting feature which once stood on top of St Francis Xavier's church in Broad Street, Hereford, was the figure of Christ, carved by Mr Charles Gertner. Our picture taken in 1941 shows Mr Gertner standing beside the figure in a yard at Hunts Lane. The yard where the sculpture was carved was the site of Andrew Barnett's basket making workshop.

When the sculpture was erected over St Xavier's, Father Brendan Minney a monk from Belmont Abbey said that Hereford would never be bombed so long as the statue remained on top of the church.

We think the statue was put in place in the late 1930s, but was removed some time around 1950 when the base was found to be unsafe. Does anyone know where the figure of Christ now stands?



Holy Trinity

The church of Holy Trinity at Whitecross, Hereford was founded in 1885. But it was during the ministry of the Reverend Leland John Blashford Snell between 1935 and 1959 that the popular animal services were begun.

Rev Snell who was rural dean from 1948 to 1959, and father of our famous explorer Colonel John Blashford Snell started the animal services to commemorate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. He invited parishioners to bring their animals to the church and the congregation responded by bringing the dogs in arms, shown in our picture, lambs and even horses.

Freda Mary Gwatkin recalls Holy Trinity in an entertaining article in the June



Fire damaged St. James

issue of the parish magazine, Crosstalk. She remembers the old church when "there was gas lighting and rows of chairs with coconut matting in each row. The kneelers too were made of coconut matting and were very rough on the knees. The organ had to be blown by hand (a choir boy's job when his voice had broken!)" And she also remembers the Rev Snell and his famous son. "He was a born soldier" she writes. "I have a memory of him at three years of age shooting all who visited the vestry with his toy gun."

St Martins

This year marks the 150 anniversary of the present church of St Martins in Ross Road, Hereford writes **Tom Woolaway**.

The original church was situated on the south bank of the River Wye on the site

of the old Duke's Head public house, now the car park in Wye Street. This medieval church was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell's troops in the Civil War see John Newman's article, Two hundred years later with the coming of the railways it was found necessary to be build a new church for the community living south of the river

Today St Martins is part of the South Wye Team Ministry with Saint Francis of Assisi at Newton Farm covering a large area.

As part of the 150th celebrations there will be a flower festival weekend at St Martins from September 29 to October 1 which will conclude with a flower and craft festival and a concert given by Hereford Police Choir. There will be a concert of classical music on September 30 and a festival service at St Martins on October 1

Vicar Forgot Insurance

There is a commemorative plaque in St James church in Green Street which reads:

Stone laid by the Lord Bishop of Hereford, May 6th, 1902 to commemorate the re-building of the church of St James after its destruction by fire December 23rd 1901

In the early hours of that fateful Monday in 1901 fire raged at the church for four hours and hundreds of people lined the streets to witness the blaze.

An act of omission on the part of the vicar and wardens was discovered on examination of the insurance papers, rescued from the fire the following day. It turned out that the church was not insured. The vicar and wardens had intended to pay the premiums, but had not got round to doing so.



The animal service at Holy Trinity

City Royals

1995 will be 350 years since the Earl of Leven and ten regiments of Presbyterian Scots soldiers, 14,000 of them, arrived in this county, writes John Newman. The Scots had been told that if the king was victorious he would impose bishops on Scotland; this was an anathema to the Presbyterian bishops and they entered the Civil War on Cromwell's side.

On July 31, they surrounded Hereford in an awe-inspiring show of might. The year was 1645 and Charles 1 was on the throne.

The citizens of Hereford put up a stubborn resistance under the leadership of the Governor of the City, Barnabas Scudamore, during which the churches of St Owens and St Martins were damaged beyond repair. On the

Wye Bridge, the third arch out from the city was blown up on Scudamore's instructions to stop the enemy crossing into the city. The dissimilarity in the arches can still be seen today.

Five weeks later the citizens awoke to find the Scots had disappeared, "gone

just like a Scotch mist," said Scudamore. The truth was that the King was on his way from Worcester with a large cavalry force. On September 4 he entered the City to be met by the Mayor, William Cater. The City was jubilant and the King, to show his appreciation to his loyal citizens gave the city its motto: "Invictae Fidelitatis Praemium - reward For Faithfulness Unconquered". He also granted an honourable augmentation to the Coat of Arms.

The King probably remained on his horse for, although it was not widely known, he was not exactly a regal figure, standing only four feet eleven inches tall. That night he stayed at the Bishop's Palace and next day journeyed on to Raglan.

But three months later, the City would once again become the scene of a major event in the Civil War.

John Newman's history of Hereford's role in the Civil War will be continued in next month's copy of Age To Age. (Subscribe today! Fill out the form on the back page).



St Martins Church

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office generously accepted that the premiums were about to be paid and sent a telegram to the church "Directors have decided to pay full sum insured under old policy."

"At 9.00 a.m on December 23rd we found ourselves without a penny to rebuild our church. In three weeks by the goodness of God, we had over £3,000, "the vicar Rev A.S. Weatherhead, is reported as saying in an account of the fire taken from The History of Hereford Churches (written by the anonymous

"A.L.O.H" a Lover Of Old History).

At the end of the last war St James Church sent a cheque for £500, raised by the parish, to the church of Chilvers Coton near Coventry bombed during the Coventry blitz.

On the wall of the church there is a plaque to Bunty Turner tenor, owner of Turners Toy Shop in Commercial Street for his 50 years service to the choir, while their organist, Gordon Workman, must have been one of the longest serving in the county playing at the church from 1910 to 1947.

Snippets

Heins Pianos

Ruby Clinkett of Thompson Place, Holmer Street, Whitecross has loaned us an old programme of a performance of Carmen by Hereford Choral Society, performed at the Shirehall in November 1926. We note Sir Edward Elgar's name on the list of the Society's vice - presidents and an interesting advertisement on the back page from Heins & Co, 53 Broad Street offering second-hand pianos "from £20" and new ones "from £35" boldly "guaranteed for all time, tuned free and delivered free.

Redhill Air Crash

Two readers, Rob Salisbury of Macaulay Avenue, Whitecross and Stephen Crump of Cusop Close, Newton Farm have responded to our appeal for information on air accidents. Both correspondents give details on the Mosquito aeroplane which crash in a field next to the Golden Pioneer Garage at Red Hill in 1944. Rob writes: "The aircraft was Mosquito Mark B.1V DZ477 from the 1655 Mosquito Training Unit based at RAF Warboys just to the north of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The date of the crash was August 15, 1944 and both crew did bale out successfully from the aircraft."

Just why they baled out remains a mystery. Stephen Crump tells us: "The exact reason for the crew to leave the aircraft will never be known although a possible explanation has been obtained from an ex-Mosquito pilot, Group Captain Benny Goodman. He has suggested that the pilot put the aircraft into a tight banking turn which could have disorientated him and affected his ear canals so much that he refused to trust his instruments." It seems that this pilot had baled out of a Mosquito once before after he claimed to have been "blown out of the aircraft by an explosion."

Stephen also reports the eye witness account of a young boy who had seen the aircraft from a distance and cycled furiously to the crash scene. He found fire fighting personnel attempting to extinguish the blaze, but felt they were fighting a losing battle as the heat was so intense. He noticed an American serviceman with a white helmet, who he referred to as Snowdrop, act with some authority and order people to enter the premises of the nearby houses in an attempt to locate the crew."

Thankyou telecom

The cost of producing and distributing this month's issue of Age To Age has been kindly paid for by British Telecom. Many thanks to them. If your organisation would be interested in sponsoring an issue, please write to us at Hereford Lore, 26, Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.

Best Wishes

Best Wishes to Vi Woolaway, recovering from a recent operation

GRAND OPENING

Hereford Summer festival
Friday 7 July
Fireworks, performances
and refreshments
King George V Play Field
8.30 pm Free

NOTICEBOARD

ARTS REVIEW

Meet
Age To Age
at the Arts review
on Saturday
15 July, Hereford
Town Hall, from
10.30 am 4.30 pm

The Merry Wives of Winsor

An open air production in
High Town of Shakespeare's
funniest comedy
11 15 July 7.45pm
£6.50
Box Office 01432 359252
or 01432 268430

Arts Exchange

A wide variety of
Painting, prints and
photography on
display and for sale
at Hereford Cathedral
Saturday 15 July
10.00am 4.00pm

Tea Dance

An afternoon of
ballroom dancing
with music by Ken
Griffiths, tea and
biscuits provided
Hereford Town
Hall, St Owens
Street, Hereford
Friday 14 July
2.30pm 5.30pm
£1.50

AGE TO AGE DOOR TO DOOR

Do you have a problem getting your age to
age regularly? Have it delivered to your door
from as little as £3 a year by joining our
expanding mailing list. Simply fill in the slip
below and send it with your cheque/postal
order to Age to Age, Treasurer, 26 Quarry
Road, Hereford HR1 1SS

Please send me your bi-monthly Age to
Age until September 1996 I enclose
£..... (please fill in) made payable to
Age To Age to cover postage

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

PostCode.....

Tick the box with the number of copies
you need.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 copies | £3 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 5 copies | £4 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 10 copies | £5 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 20 copies | £7 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 - 40 copies | £10 a year |

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.

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.

Our Country Church Tour

Herefordshire possesses at least one world
famous church at Kilpeck, a rare survivor
of the Hereford School of architecture.

For anyone who fancies a summer's evening
church tour, Vi Thomas with the help of Jean
Lawes of the University of the Third Age, offers a
potted history of some of the best.

Aymestry church was dedicated to St. Alkmund, an
Anglo Saxon saint in the eight century, killed by the
Danes. Ethelfleda, Lady of the Mercians in the ninth
and tenth centuries dedicated several churches to this
ancient hero.

Bredwardine church has some surviving Saxon work
with Norman additions. Owen Glendower is said to
have knocked bits of this church down in the fifteenth
century. Francis Kilvert, the Herefordshire diarist is
buried here.

Brilley church was rebuilt in Victorian times, but has
a bucket shaped font, possibly from the eleventh or
twelfth century. A funeral stone once stood outside
the churchyard and coffins were carried three times
round this to prevent the devil getting at the dead
person's soul!

Brinsop church dates from the fourteenth century
with Hereford School carvings reused inside. Legend
has it that George killed his dragon in a nearby field,
but we suspect this was not The King George who
was a Roman soldier and never stationed here.

Bromyard church has late Norman carvings on the
south and north doorways. There is a little carving of
St Peter, possibly from the Saxon Minster church
which stood here before the present building.

Castle Frome Well there's no castle here now. The
church is partly eleventh century with a fine twelfth
century font. On a window ledge is a little bust of a
happy smiling knight holding his heart in his hands.
When people died away from home it was traditional
to return their hearts for burial back home.

Clifford church is a dank, creepy sort of church, but
inside is a very rare wooden effigy of a twelfth

century priest.

Clodock's church of St Clydawg is big and very old,
at least eleventh century. Clydawg was a Welsh
prince, murdered while out hunting by someone who
was jealous of his lady friend.

Eardisley has a nice large church with a lovely font.
Probably twelfth century and of the Hereford School.

Fownhope church: again the Hereford School makes
its mark with a tympanum (part of an arch) showing
the Virgin and Child flanked by Mark's lion and
John's eagle.

Kilpeck has the surviving church of the Hereford
School. Behind the church on a mound are the
remaining walls of the castle and in a field on the right
as you approach the church there are humps and
bumps where houses of a deserted village stood.

Leominster church was once a monastery. In 1046
Earl Gwein kidnapped the abbess of Leominster's (it
is unclear whether she was a willing party!) and then
the monastery was dissolved. The present church was
built as a priory and all the monastic buildings have
gone. There is some evidence of Hereford School
work in the doorway.

Michaelchurch is a little Norman church now
redundant but in an idyllic setting and a sacred place
of great antiquity. Most walls show the remains of
thirteenth century decorations painted on the plaster.

Moccas church has a complete Norman church hardly
altered and built almost entirely of tufa, a sort of
limestone with holes in it.

Peterchurch is a large Norman church complete with
Norman font and twentieth century fibre glass spire!
Rowlestone church is the Hereford School again. The
Kennedy window of 1964 commemorates the
Kennedy family's association with Rowlestone which
dates back to 1864.

Shobdon church, one of the finest known churches of
the Hereford School, was knocked down in 1756 by
Viscount Bateman. A new church was built, blue and
white inside in a style known as "Strawberry Hill
Gothic."

The fonts at Bredwardine, Kilpeck and Madley are all
huge washing up bowl shapes, some four feet in
diameter, big enough for baby to go for a swim! The
font at Madley was smashed to bits by Cromwell's
Scottish troops who stabled their horses in the church.
After the restoration the pieces were collected up and
stuck together again.

I have mentioned the Hereford School several times,
but although we know they were sculptors working in
this area and that their work is very recognisable, no-
one knows very much about who they were or where
they were based.

Vi Thomas

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

Freestyle Graphics

Croydon House, 5 Eign Road, Hereford HR1 2RY Tel: (01432) 343188 Fax: 01432 358513

The Good Old Days

Chandos House, 42 St. Owens Street, Hereford. HR1 2PR Tel: (01432) 357352

Abbotsfield Funeral Directors

Monkmoor Street, Hereford. HR1 2DX Tel: (01432) 356445

H.P. Bulmer Limited

Hereford Amateur Operatic Society

Barclays Bank PLC (Staff)