

Age to Age

HEREFORDSHIRE LORE LIVING LOCAL HISTORY

Herefordshire Lore
P.O. Box 2,
Hereford HR2 8YE
john.herefordshirelore@btinternet.com

Vol 10 Issue 5

October 2002



Flying The Flag: It's party time in Moor Street, Hereford. They blocked off the road for their Queen's Coronation party in 1952. Christine Hill sent in the picture.

Bargain Offer!

Welcome to the October issue of Age to Age. We do hope you like the new look of the newsletter to mark the tenth anniversary of Age to Age.

On a more practical note we will be setting the date for subscription renewal as 1st April every year. We hope that this single date will be easier for you to remember. But, **if you re-subscribe before the end of December 2002 your subscription will not be due for renewal until April 2004.** That will give you two free issues of Age To Age! **Thanks to all of you who have renewed your subscription recently - you too will have nothing to pay until April 2004!** All other subscriptions will be due on 1st April 2003. We hope the change will be as straightforward as it can be but if you have any concerns please drop us a line at Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE.

Home From Home

The Young Womens Christian Hostel, the YWCA, was opened in 1877 on the site of Hereford's Town Hall, writes Margaret Beare. Around 1900 a new YWCA was built at 17 - now 35 - St Owens Street. A YWCA hostel reunion is planned for Sunday October 20 at Hereford Town Hall. Were you there? Let us know at Age To Age.

Eye Hospital

As the old County Eye Hospital is absorbed into Hereford's new hospital, railwayman John Davies recalls the gratitude that railway workers felt for the old place.

"Many drivers and firemen suffered with hot ash in their eyes and were treated in this hospital open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



In Gratitude: Herefordshire Railworkers and staff outside Redhill Hostel in 1948.

"One fireman who arrived in Hereford on Christmas night called at the Eye Hospital. He was treated on the spot. Fireman Ray Jones was returning to Hereford on the night mail when an open door on a passing train struck the visor throwing glass in his eyes. Despite it being 4.00 a.m. he was rushed to the Eye Hospital where the surgeons saved his sight."

Railworkers fund raised for the hospital into the 1990s. "We wish them well in their new home," writes John.



HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL



We Can Make It Better

Herefordshire Lore was set up in 1989 to collect, remember and celebrate our past. Age To Age is our bi-monthly newsletter. We want as many people as possible to receive Age To Age so we send free copies to the county libraries and Tourist Information Centres and Museums, Age Concern (Hereford), Hereford Town Hall and Herefordshire College of Technology. But we rely on your subscriptions, grants and donations to keep going. Take out a subscription if you can - details on the back page. Herefordshire Lore is Margaret Beare, Bobbie Blackwell, Mary Blackwell, Siriol Collins, Eileen Klotz, Bill Laws, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe (County Archives), Harvey Payne, Sylvie Smith and John Turner. The next Age To Age will be out in December 2002.

Country Boots

Kington on Tuesdays, Hay-on-Wye on Thursdays and Leominster on Friday - Cash & Co. used to tour the country areas with their shoes and boots. Jim Claytor's sister, **Beryl Reece** from Cheltenham, sent in this picture of Jim and his work mate Jim, she says, is pictured beside the van (VJ 6310) in 1936. "Cash & Co was a shoe shop in High Town which, at that time, was owned by W. & E. Turner of Leicester, the then owners of the repair shop in Church Street."



An ex pupil of Holmer, Jim, who now lives in Shrewsbury, left school at 14 and learned to drive the van. "He was always made welcome at the farms, selling boots mainly and gathering cash monthly" It was on one of the farms in

1939 that Jim heard news of the civilian call up. He promptly drove back to Hereford, resigned from his job and joined the Hereford Regimental Band.



A Bulmer Mystery

This photograph of Bulmer's Tool Room employees was taken some time before 1964, writes **Jean Evans** from Studley in Warwickshire. Her father in law, Herbert Arthur Evans - or Bert to his friends - is third from the left on the back row. But Jean knows no one else in the picture. And what was the trophy for, she wonders. If you can help, write to use at Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 2, HR2 8YE.

Office Life

Staff at the City Survey's Department at the back of the Town Hall, 1938. Those pictured include Douglas Hughes (who sent in the picture) typist Miss Davies, Brian Bolt, Harry Gittins (first honorary treasurer of Hereford United when the club formed in 1924), a Mr Shackleton and, in the hat, Mr Weston, head of planning.



Familiar Faces?

Pupils at Scudamore School in 1933. The picture, from Joan Hiles, includes her husband Fred, as well as Eric Bounds and Roy Pearce. Scudamore School has taken out a subscription to Age To Age - fill in the form on the back page if you want to subscribe.

Snippets

Keeping Records

Bob Johnson writes (by email): "My late grandfather John Sidney Davies was a lifelong resident of Hereford and served with the Herefordshire LI (TA) at Gallipoli and later with the Royal Engineers in France. He was one of the three old comrades who made the trip back to Gallipoli in 1965. Subsequently he wrote a book of Memories, which covers his life from his birth till the early 1970's. I have transcribed these memories and lodged a copy at the records office." The Records Office in Harold Street, Hereford is a fund of useful information, visit their exhibition of two- and four-legged creatures. The office is open 9.45 - 4.45 Mondays and 9.15 - 4.45 Tuesdays to Fridays.

Crash Landings

Penry Prosser, then 15, was walking home near the old St Mary's Hospital on August 18 1944 when a black painted American B-24 Liberator plane crashed killing all ten Americans on board. The crash, recalled in our last issue by Jack Wakefield, prompted Penry of Stretton Grandison, to write to Age To Age. Records from the American Cemetery in Cambridge record the deaths of the ten members of 406 Bomb Squadron.

Meanwhile the observation aircraft flown from the field at Dinedor was

a Piper L4 Grasshopper operated by the US Army Air Corps, writes Les Causer from Westfaling Street, Hereford

Mr W.E. Causer from Putson adds that the plane, said to have crashed in Harold Street, actually hit a walnut tree in the garden of a black and white house in Eign Road. Some years later the Air Cadets HQ was built on the crash site having relocated from an HQ over the Fifty Shillings Tailors, now Burtons opposite All Saints Church in Hereford

D. Powell from Tupsley also witnessed the crash and that of a Blenheim bomber which crash landed on the Lugg Meadows. "There were concrete blocks and cables strung between wooden pylons all over the field," he remembers.

Black And White

Katie Causer's recollections of US officers being billeted in Herefordshire homes reminds Mrs **A. Dean** of Shakespeare Road, Hereford of the two GIs billeted at her parent's home. "One day American officers came to Holmer School to invite us to a party at Moreton Camp. The tea was super - no shortages. We had games and sweets to bring home, but the best thing was a ride in the Jeeps around the camp." She is still in touch with one of the soldiers. (Let's see a picture of him. Ed)

Black GIs were stationed at the Convent on Holme Lacy Road and

white GIs at other stations including Moreton Camp, a supply depot for both English and American troops, says **W.E. Causer** from Putson. "It's true that the blacks and whites were not allowed out on the same day. I would say that the blacks were the most polite and well mannered " And he points out that the race course (not Widemarsh Common, as we reported in our last issue) was the base for Indian troops in the last war "No whites were allowed in their camp and if a shadow passed over their meals, which were usually lamb, they would not eat it."

Pool End By-pass

It's the Pool End near Putley, says **Basil Butcher** and **Ken Griffiths** from Hereford, responding to Ron Chatburn's picture of some civil engineering works published in the last issue of Age To Age.

Listen To Us

"I am 94 years of age and read and enjoy your publication," writes **Gay Bonner** from Wessington Drive, Hereford. Now, thanks to Herefordshire Talking Newspaper for the Blind, Age To Age is again available on tape for those who find it hard to read

Pat Wright, **Ruth Penson** and **Gordon Campbell** are recording Age To Age - the trouble is we don't know who wants it. If you know of someone who would like to listen to Age To Age, drop us a line at PO Box 2 Hereford HR2 8YE - it won't even cost them the price of the postage!

Festival: Mid
just is the time of
the great Three
Choirs Festival, held
this year at
Worcester. Next year,
the festival will be
back in Hereford.
This Festival line-up
was taken in 1946,
the 219th Festival
says **Griff Jones** who
loaned the
photograph. He is
the fourth lad from
the left in the front
row, in front of the
choirmaster, Sir Percy
Hull and the Dean. In
the second row at
the back, tenth and
eleventh from the
left are Herbert
Sumption and Sir
George Dyson, the
composer



Herefordshire Lore - Living Local History



Above: Sixties Secretaries? It could be the Typing and Business Class of '59. What do you remember of the Sixties and Seventies? Write to us at Herefordshire Lore, P O Box 2, HR2 8YE.

The Fifties, Sixties and Seventies

Recent issues of Age To Age have been preoccupied with wartime Hereford. But what about the Fifties? The Sixties? And the Seventies?

One Ross reader recalls visiting a pub in the sixties and finding the bar still festooned with banners proclaiming: "Welcome To The Gls". Did you go pubbing and clubbing? Or take bracing bike rides through the Herefordshire lanes? Where did you work? And what was it like?

We are all part of the Living Local History - and we want to hear your stories and see your pictures.

I Witness

A book featuring Herefordshire's munition workers and their recollections will be published early next year.

Herefordshire Lore is being supported by the Countryside Agency's Local Heritage Initiative Fund to meet up and talk with former workers and publish their words and photographs. "We started with a small grant from the South Wye Community Pride fund earlier this year for a pilot project," explained Herefordshire Lore chair, John Turner. "It was very well received and has lead on to the book, as well as a web site and a touring exhibition - we want to show what it was really like in war-time Rotherwas."

If you worked there during the war - or have a relative who did - write to Bill at Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE or at Herefordshire Lore (I Witness), Pool Farm, Belmont, Hereford HR2 7JZ.



Firing Line: Women munitions workers from the First World War in a picture loaned by BBC Hereford and Worcester's Jane Williams.



Albert Wood worked on the railways that carried the munitions in and out of ROF Rotherwas. He stayed until it closed in 1966.

Friends of Age To Age

Thanks to all those organisations that have made a donation or taken out a group subscription to Age To Age. A Group subscription will bring your residential home, day centre, nursing home, group or club 12 copies each issue for only £25 a year.

- TUPSLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
- ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH LUNCHEON CLUB
- HEREFORD BAPTIST CHURCH WEDNESDAY CLUB
- PEOPLES ADVOCACY NETWORK
- RAIL REUNION ASSOCIATION
- THE BAY HORSE INN

GUARANTEE YOUR OWN COPY OF AGE TO AGE WITH A SUBSCRIPTION. Still only £5 a year!

Fill in your details below (or send them on a piece of paper) together with a cheque or postal order made payable to Herefordshire Lore to: Herefordshire Lore, PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE

Name

Address

Postcode