

AVAILABLE ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 4 Issue 2 March 1996

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



Inside:-

- City Singers
- Mystery of the Town Hall Key
- Road wreckers at Rotherwas and Credenhill
- Cross legged tailors

Tailor made - Workers at Marshall and Wright, a tailors' shop in Commercial Street pose for a picture around 1900. The photograph was kindly loaned by Basil Butcher. Inside, Percy Pritchard remembers just how hard life was for young workers in the rag trade.

Towards The Millennium

Recently there has been much publicity about the year 2000 A.D.

We appreciate the significance of this religious and historical event, and hope we survive to take part in it, but we members of Age To Age consider memories of the past are more important. Please relate to us your stories of life

here in the city no matter if you consider them trivial. Your letters will provide reading for us all and hopefully trigger off pleasant memories for someone who maybe lonely unwell or housebound. So find paper and pen and write to us at Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road Hereford HR1 1SS

Vi Thomas



Down at the old Lamb Hotel The West End Skittle Team's dinner dance was held at the Lamb Hotel in St Owen Street in the mid 1960s. Marion Davies, who loaned us this picture, is sitting in the centre, third from the right. Marion, now retired and living in Putson, worked for Bulmers cider makers for 29 years. Who are the people? And where is the Lamb Hotel now? Answers please to Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 2SS.

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 Directorate at Garrick House, Age Concern Offices, Berrows House, Bath Street and Hereford Town Hall, St Owens Street.

Hereford Lore Editorial Group are Alf Evans, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Jim Thomas, Vi Thomas, Tom Woolaway, Bill Morris and Bill Laws. Thanks to The Rural Media Company and Natalia Silver.

We are grateful for the support



Charity Projects UK



Singing in The City



*Songsters and civics (right)
The Mayor, George Powell and his
retinue pose for a picture outside
St Peter's Church on January 1
1901 The eagle eyed among you
may spot our youthful Age To Age
chairman, Roy Kennett, fourth
from the left on the back row. Can
you name the young choristers?
(Picture Hereford Times*

*Hats on (left)
The church choir from
St Peter's Church, Hereford
enjoy their summer outing
some time around 1901*

Tailor Made

Percy Pritchard of Castle Street recalled what life was like for an apprentice tailor when he worked in his grandfather's shop opposite the Old House in High Town in the 1920s.

"As many as 12 tailors occupied the workshop and wages were very low. Young people like cripples that were not able to do other things were put to the tailoring and the boot trade. Tailor making a jacket, waistcoat or trousers, working from early in the morning up to seven in the evening might earn 18/6 (89p) a week. If he was on dress wear 25/- (£1.25p).

"We used to get a lot of travelling tailors, Poles and Germans and Irishmen. They used to be called journeymen. They'd come along and they'd work for so long, then they'd be off somewhere else.

"There was a pub in Widemarsh Street that the tailors haunted, called Number Five. Some would go there and they'd drink, drink, drink. Then they'd come at the end of the week and they'd ask my grandfather for 'the boot'. That was just to get another drink."

Dangerous Liaisons

Rotherwas is steeped in history much of it quietly disappearing under the mantle of the modern industrial trading estate. But **Alf Evans** recalls that in 1918, after the First World War something had to be done with all the shells filled with explosives at the Royal Ordnance filling factory in Rotherwas.

"They constructed a number of buildings at Credenhill and employed women to dismantle and empty the shells. The buildings were made of lightweight, hollow bricks to absorb any blast and the women worked with brass rather than steel tools to avoid sparks. They used to undo the gaine, a brass insert that took the detonator after it had been filled. Normally the shells were sent to the front line via train and ship and the detonators fixed to the shells over there."

The ammunition was transported from Rotherwas to Credenhill by convoys of trucks and this went on for months. The trucks were still fitted with the old solid tyres with the result that the roads

between the two villages were stripped down to the base stone.

When the roads were repaired villagers turned out in force to watch the majestic steam rollers and Alf remembers the old night watchmen sitting in their sentry-like boxes in front of their coke-fired braziers, cooking their bacon and eggs on polished shovels over the braziers.

Some of the Credenhill buildings were later used to accommodate people and at the end of the Second World War the shells were taken to Abbey Dore and Ewyas Harold for dismantling. The explosives were destroyed under controlled conditions on Ewyas Harold common.



Furious footballers Holmer School did well in the Herefordshire Schools Challenge of 1913 1914 winning ten of eleven matches played and scoring 86 goals while only letting six through. The semi final was against St Owens and the score? 10 - 1 to Holmer. Better luck next time, lads.

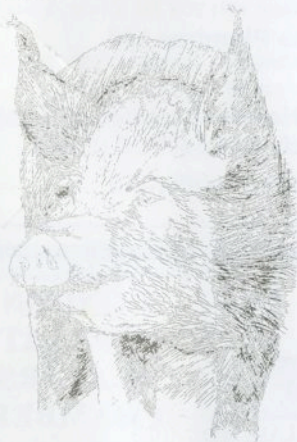


The Black Mountains, St. Mary's Hospital And What To Do With A Pig's Bladder

Have you ever thought of publishing your memories? Here we review three books published recently by Herefordshire people. If you or a relation have written a book, do let us know

Honddu Valley

That inward Eye, A Black Mountain Memoir by **David Griffiths** is a pleasant, relaxing read about life in the shadow of the Black Mountains 50 years ago and will prove interesting to anyone who lived in a country area and enlightening to city dwellers. Many rural expressions and customs are written about and I enjoyed the reference to flowers that grew in the old meadows.



These meadows had never been ploughed or received any artificial spraying. The flowers had such lovely sounding names: yellow rattle, globe flower, self heal, eye bright and orchid. Local fairs were mentioned, some of them dating back to medieval days, and hiring fairs were written about. If a person wanted to hire themselves out to work for a given period, they would wait at a vantage point for a farmer who was looking for this type of help, to come

along and strike a bargain with them. The book has lovely illustrations, full of detail, drawn by the author's daughter Marieanne. Although the author is now blind, one would not realise this from his descriptions. Yes, I liked the book. "That Inward Eye," a Black Mountain Memoir by David Griffiths, is available from the author price £9.99 (add £1.50 for post and package). The Grange, Capel yffin, Abergavenny Gwent NP7 7NP

V T

St. Mary's Hospital

Boots On! Out! is the collected memories of former patients and staff from St. Mary's, the now empty psychiatric hospital. A very good read and down to earth. St Mary's from the outside looks a very daunting place, but from the inside a true place of security for those who need it. The book tells stories of fears, hopes and safety in having someone really interested in their situation.

The personal stories are of human interest: Barbara says: "I felt safe when I was here" and Doris reports: "I wanted to leave but..." The staff had a hard job, but a very satisfying one, so it seems. The photographs reveal the results of a life of suffering in the eyes of former patients and expressions show past pain.

The type is quite large and easy to read. **BOOTS ON! OUT!** is a good publication produced by MIND and Logaston Press and priced at £3.95.

T W

Eardisland

We haven't room enough to do justice to the excellent 155 page book of Eardisland, published last year by the village's oral history group. The book tells some old tales. "After the pig killing we always ended up

Snippets

St James School

Did you attend St James' School in Hereford? The current headmaster, Martin Fowler, is overseeing celebrations of the school centenary and he would like to hear from any ex pupils. Contact him at the school on (01432) 273961.

Well Played

Thanks to Joan and Brian Cutler, Brian Loughman, Bill Griffiths and John Jones who put their heads together to name all the people in our photograph of the cricket team, shown on the back page of our last issue. And they discovered the picture was taken, not in 1946 as we reported, but 1950. They are: E. Monkhouse, J. Terry, E. Pitt, R. Roberts, J. Donaldson, A. E. Johnson, J. Smallbone, R. Williams, B. Smith and N. Sandford. And a name missing from our picture of Lord Scudamore School reunion in the last issue was that of Mr T. Howls.

Good Old Days

Juergen and Janet Koenigsbeck who supported Age To Age from the start have closed their shop in St Owens Street. But they can still mend and repair old photographs - call them on (01432) 357846

having the pig's bladder for a football" And plenty of new ones. "Mr Gransmoor did repairs and sold petrol.

The old boy used to come out with a candle when you wanted petrol at night. He'd stick the candle in the pump and serve you!"

There's the romantic side of life as told by Elsie Stead, travelling as a young girl in summer holidays with her father an outrider for a grocery store: "The day was never long enough for all I wanted to do; to watch the salmon leap, silver in the moonlight; peel the white pith out of the rushes to make brooches, pinning them together with thorns, making necklaces out of buttercups and daisies, picking flowers for mum, always sadly wilted by the time we got home. As Dad returned, I would lie on the pile of empty sacks, and well covered, I would sleep." The typeface is easier to read with a magnifying glass if your sight is poor but the book has a good index covering everything from the AA Box to the W I Eardisland. An Oral History costs £7.99 (worth every penny)

B.L.

All three books are available from the Bookseller in Church Street, Hereford.



Ties and Brylcream - Painter Bros Skittle Team were photographed by the Gloucester Journal some time in the 1940s at the Old Black Swan in Widemarsh Street, the black and white building which was sadly pulled down before its time.

Mystery of the Missing Gold Key

When Hereford's fine Town Hall in St Owens Street was officially opened on June 9, 1904, the mayor of the day turned the lock on the front door with a key of gold.

It was, writes **Councillor John Newman**, a handsome key solid gold, with the Arms of the City worked into one side of the floriated handle and the following inscription on the other side: Hereford Town Hall, 9th June 1904. Presented to Alderman Beddoe (Mayor), H.A.Cheers, Architect, W.J Bowers, Contractors. The key opened all the doors in the Town Hall. The trouble is no-one knows where it is today.

The only carriages in St Owens Street that summer's day in 1904 were those carrying the dignitaries to the opening ceremony. The Bishop was there, the Dean too, the cathedral choir and Rev W.L.B. Janvirn vicar of St Peters. Even the band was there: the 1st Hereford Regiment of Volunteers played from a band stand opposite the Town Hall. The missing key was presented to the Mayor by the deputy mayor Mr R.J. Symonds who was also chairman of the Building Committee.

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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British Telecom, Hereford Amateur Operatic Society Barclays Bank PLC (Staff)

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NOTICEBOARD

Professor Heard's Magic Lantern Show

Tales of Victorian travel using antique lantern equipment and beautiful slides delivered with lashings of wry humour
Eastham Memorial Hall
Saturday 16 March

6.30p.m.

Contact 01584 781526

The Big Family Night Out

Hilarious madcap entertainment including monocycling, juggling and clowning for all the family

Kington Leisure Centre
Sunday 24 March 4.00pm

Contact 01544 230488

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS
Starting afresh in January the gentle exercise class is for people over 60's to have creative fun.
For more information contact: Natalia Silver on 01432 364652

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

A wonderful night of Mozart with string, woodwind and brass sections within the main orchestra.

The Shirehall, Hereford
Thursday 28 March
7.30pm

Tickets £8.00