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# AGE TO AGE

*Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter*

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Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



## *In This Issue*

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- ✧ Holmer's Hunter
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*To The Manor born Children and Staff at Manor House School in St. Owens Street around 1930 include Joy Brown, Mary Adams, Glenys Morgan, Francis Honey, Norman Bullar, Patricia Pritchard, Mary West, Brian Sparks, Lily Lewis, David Williams, Masie Price, Michael Jones, Frances Turley, Margaret Honey, Mary Millichap, Evelyn Johnson and Muriel Wargen. Thanks to Barbara Fitzgerald for the loan of the picture.*

## School Days

In this issue we turn our attention again to schools and school days. Even if you do not agree that "school days are the happiest days" we hope that you will find something here to evoke pleasant memories. We are extremely grateful to all those who sent us photographs and articles. We have so much

material that we cannot use all of it at once. But we shall almost certainly devote another issue to schools later in the year. So if you are disappointed that your contribution does not appear here we hope to use it in the future.

**Bill Morris**

### *Up umbrellas*

1896



A school foundation stone is laid in 1896. But can you guess which school? Turn to Cause for Celebration on page 3. (Picture, Hereford Times).

Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in June. 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 Cathedral.

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 of:



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*The fourth year at St Peter's School in 1930/31 line up for the camera. Nora Foster from Web Tree Avenue can name them all. Back row: Beatrice Cale, Kathleen Knowles, Winnie Davies, Gladys Fletcher, Doris Davies, Dorothy Bent, Frances Daw, Lizzie Boucher, Lillian Goode. Middle. Molly Davies, Hilda McDougal, Nellie Smith, Olive Howe, Evelyn Wills, Annie Ellis, Winnie Jordan, Mary Bethell, Connie Jones, Nora Bigglestone. Front: Doreen Craven, Phyllis Jennings, Dorothy Clarke, Miss Roache, Joyce Dee, Doris Edwards, Nora Davies (now Nora Foster) Edith Wynn, Gladys Farmer and Winnie Wood.*

### Hunting At Holmer

When I was a small boy at Holmer school 65 years ago writes Bil Morris we were not often entertained by visiting speakers. They were usually clerical gentlemen who urged us to lead the good life throwing in the odd reference to hell-fire and eternal damnation. So it was with eager expectation we greeted the headmaster's announcement that next morning we were to be addressed by A Big Game Hunter! At ten next morning the headmaster ushered in the speaker and introduced him to us. To our surprise he was dressed in a khaki safari jacket, very long khaki shorts and a rather grubby topee. Should have found his wardrobe somewhat unusual in mid-summer but this was mid-December and it was snowing heavily! My surprise was pushed aside as he launched into a loud and vivid description of how he had decimated wild life in Africa and India. He seemed to be growing rather excited and when a little girl said "Please sir did you shoot any crocodiles?" he barked "Crocodiles! Crocodiles?" Extending his arms he bellowed "shot one big" with jaws this big! We could not understand why Doug Proctor our form master disappeared behind the blackboard from where stifled laughter could be heard or why the headmaster ushered our visitor from the room very rapidly.

### The Flying Football

St Martin's School now off the Ross Road used to be in Hinton Road recalls Edith Gammage. My most vivid memory was during the first 1914-18 war when we children were each given a Union Jack flag which we carried along the road singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" felt so proud because my father was in the midst of it somewhere. I think our school was quite up to

standard with Mr Pile as our headmaster who was very severe if you did anything wrong. One of the teachers Miss Brook, used to cycle from Allensmore in all weathers. She later became headmistress. When I was 11, attended Lord Scudamore School. We covered most subjects including housewifery lessons held in a building by the Town Hall and in which cooking was the favourite lesson. Our sports field was by the Water Tower where we played hockey every two weeks and swimming was in Bath Street, in a building which is now the Masonic Lodge. Boys from St Martins went to St John's School which was in the Cathedral Close at the back of the General Post Office as it was known then. On the first day at school my brother and his friend Bill Godwin played football in the playground while waiting to go into assembly. But they went in quicker than expected when the ball went through one of the windows!

### Flag Waving

Dick Birch who died some years ago recalled starting at Lugwardine School in 1912. There were three teachers Miss Jones who we called Carrotty because of her red hair, Miss Macburnie in charge of the middle class and Mr Johnstone who had the upper class. Most children started school at 5 and left at 12. I was only 4 when started. At playtime the big boys played out in the road. In the First World War we collected horse chestnuts for making explosives. One year we got half a ton. We also collected hips off dog roses. We used to start school in the morning with the hymn "New Every Morning" and finish with "Now the Day Is Over". Don't think we ever heard any other hymns. Mr Johnstone was very strict and very good at using the cane of birch. And he was very much for king and country. During the first world war we had only to say that we could hear a



*Twotone tie - Mr Godsell, now 87 went to St Owens' School in the 1920s and stood out in the classroom photograph of the time by wearing the brightest, striped tie in class*





**Miss Geddes' class - One hot day in July 1932 Miss Geddes lined up with her children at St James. They are: Ken Rogers, Dorothy Taylor, Susie Arrowsmith, Grace Monkley, Joan Roberts, Dorothy Reynolds, Geoffrey Lewis, Joan Innes, Hazel Sellack, Brian Symonds, Donald Ratty, Peter Jones, Dorothy Mawson, Ken Conde, Mary Wood, Leslie Hareld, Dennis Snell, Ken Lloyd, Barbara Hadley, Betty Pugh, Kathleen Hall, Edna Roe, Beryl Minett, Majorie Cale, John Ratty, June Perkins, Stanley Holmes, Lucien Bertram, Eddie Phipps, Alan Rudge, Brian Edmunds and Eric Dunn.**

band and he would have us out ining the sides of the roads to salute and sing, "Hearts of Oak" "Rule Britannia" "The Minstrel Boy" "Men of Harlech" And then we learnt "Tipperary"

### Cause For Celebration

Remember those dark, dingy cold school toilets? Ex St. James pupils Dorothy Mawson Donald Ratty and Roy

Kennett can also recall going to school for two hours on a Friday as pre-school pupils, being given a sand tray to draw in and tending the garden at the back of the school St James is 100 years old this June and will be celebrating the fact by turning the library into a museum holding a special church service and a fete in June



**All In Order - Form IVA at the High School for Boys put on a serious face for the photographer with their teacher Mr Rouse in June 1937. There are a few missing names and many missing Christian names. Back row: Hayward, Ken Simcox, Eric Newman. 2nd row: Ken Frost, John Tebbutt, Pulling, Michael, Hart, Sayce and Roper Third row with Mr Rouse: Dale, Peter Wheatley, Don Ratty, Watkins, Eric Preece. Front: Graham Addis, Les Hayward, Bob Hatcher, Munday**

## Snippets

### Full Marks

Full marks to Diane Hurds who named names (as did Valerie Sim (Stevens), Diana Hailey and Vera Banton) in our picture of the West End Ladies Skittles Team in the 1960s and spotted that the Lamb is now the Barrels pub in St Owens Street. The landlord and landlady were the late Dick and Dorothy Potter who came to Hereford from London. In the background there is a picture of their daughter, Mary, who was killed in the war. Names from left to right are Fred and Ida Longman, Joan Gammage, Vie Lilley, Evelyn Green, Ann Green and Mrs Maddox. Sitting are Joannie Tyler, Vera Banton, Marion Davis, Mrs Worth and Dianna Hailey.

### Mad Beef Prices

Back in the days when Mad Cow's Disease was unheard of, Peggy Mitchell at Wormbridge Over 60s Club remembers a Miss Davis who used to cook a full roast beef dinner on the kitchen range for farmers visiting the Silver Grill, Maylord Street in the 1940s.

The farmers all sat round a well scrubbed kitchen table enjoying their beef which was followed by a rice pudding. The price of the meal? Two shillings (or 10p) a head!

### Macular Disease

One of the commonest causes of poor sight is macular degeneration where you suffer from a loss of central vision - very frustrating if you are trying to read this! There is a local Macular Disease Group which meets every month in Hereford for mutual support and the exchange of ideas. Call their secretary on (01432) 263014 for details.

### Percy Pritchard

We are saddened to hear of the death of Percy Pritchard whose many memories have been published in Age To Age. Percy recorded several hours of reminiscences - he will not be forgotten.



# Teacher's Pets

These pictures were taken in the late 1950s at St Martin's School. The poodle was one of two belonging to the then headmistress Miss Maltby. Wherever Miss Maltby went, so did the poodles.

St Martin's School, writes Vi Thomas, began in 1859 on the site of the present Welsh Cub when there were 35 children in the upper school, 42 infants and a Mrs Dixon as headmistress.

In 1937 the foundation stone for a new school building was laid in Ross Road. In July 1939 there were 226 children on the roll and Miss Fanny Brook was headteacher. That September, with war threatening, 119 children were evacuated from Birmingham to the school, complete with their teachers and were accommodated in the district.



Photo Reproduction. Juergen & Janet Koenigsbeck Tel: 01432 357846

Eddie McEnery took up his headship in September 1993 and at present there are 472 pupils plus 60 nursery children.

Despite many changes over the past war years, the school has progressed well in all respects and the atmosphere there seems very happy.



## FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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music from this  
popular choir.

4 May 1996

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### FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

The prestigious  
literature festival at  
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24 May to 2 June 1996  
Contact: 01497 820144

### Exhibition from the Art College

End of year show of work  
produced by the full time students  
at Herefordshire College of Art  
and Design all welcome  
3-9 June 1996  
Folly Lane, Hereford

### A Musical Tour Around Europe

A trio of musicians  
performing a mixture  
of European classical  
music using  
harpicord, cello  
and recorder  
9 May 1996, 7.30pm  
Town Hall, Hereford  
£7.00