

AVAILABLE ON TAPE

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 4 Issue 4 July 1996

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



Inside this issue:-

● MARKET MEMORIES

Horses working the land were a common sight on local farms up to the Second World War. In the autumn ploughing matches, prizes were not only awarded for the finest furrow ploughed, but for the best turned out teams. Hours were spent cleaning and polishing the harnesses and horse brasses and grooming the "team." Gordon Williams (left) of Ponty-Pinna, Vowchurch gained first prize in Class 4 in the under 20 age range for digger ploughs at the Golden Valley Ploughing Society match at Pontrilas in 1937.

(Photo Hereford Times)

Shop Talk

Age To Age has begun work on a new booklet about city shopkeepers, shop workers and shoppers, "The Shopkeeper's Tale." "The Shopkeeper's Tale" will be published this autumn and launched at Age To Age's coffee morning at the Town Hall Assembly Room, kindly loaned by the Mayor Councillor Les Andrews, for the event.

We need to borrow your memories and your pictures for the book - drop us a line at 26, Quarry Road. The Age To Age team are as

busy as ever with the Carnival, our talks to local organisations including the ARP 50/50 Club and the Air Crew Association and with this latest offering of Age To Age which looks at farming and the life of Hereford Market.

If you enjoy Age To Age why not make sure of your copy with a subscription? It still only costs £3 a year.

There is a subscription form on the back page. And if you are an up to date subscriber why not pass your form on to a friend?



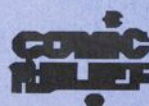
We know very little about this picture, taken around 1920 of a local football team. But we do know Horace Dutton from Moor Street is second from left on the back row, the grinning goalkeeper is Les Bonner of Bonner's Bakery in Edgar Street and seated second from the right is Billy Hill. If you have any more details please let us know. The picture was kindly loaned by Mrs Marchant.

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, St Owens Street. Hereford Lore Editorial Group are Margaret Ellis, 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



Charity Projects UK



Market Memo

Drink and Drove

Rene Clayton at the Over 60 Club could well remember cows being herded to market down Edgar Street when she spoke to one of our editorial team V Thomas, recently

Snippets

Geof Price, who now lives in Quarry House Residential Home, 131 Aylestone Hill, worked for 48 years in the local Health Service, and would like to hear from or be visited by any of his old colleagues or friends.

The name missing from the role call in our photo of Lord Scudamore school reunion in the last issue was Gerald Osley.



The 12th Herefordshire Company A.T.S. was formed in 1938 and was originally attached to the 1st Battalion of the Hereford Light Infantry. Being an A.T.S. T.A. unit, members were called up in September 1939 and, during the war, served in many different locations. In recent years, a few ex-members have held a reunion on April 23, St. George's Day. Seen above, they are, (back row, from left to right): Eleanor English (nee Gilbert), Marjorie Bird, Grace Morphew (nee Lewis) and (front row) Mary Lloyd (nee Millichamp), Stella Bradstock (nee Griffiths) and Betty Reinhold (nee Southall).

There were 25 in the company, so where are they now? If any ex-members would like to join in this informal get-together call, Hereford 276655.

The Lost Canal

Here are a few facts and figures: the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal was 34 miles long with 22 locks and although it closed in 1881 there are still silent stretches of the old water to be found, according to Pat Skeet, secretary of the Canal Trust. If you would like to know more, contact the Trust at 6 Castle Street, Hereford.

Edith Gammage another Age To Age stalwart, also recalled animals going into market for the auction sales and being driven along the roads by a drover "The roads were not as wide and had hedges on either side until you got nearer to the town and the houses."

"Children on the way to school had great fun helping the drover to keep them off the paths. The return journey was a little different as the drover had so much to drink he was glad of the help, and the boys were hoping for a few coppers. Things have changed now with the transport being mechanised but it was nice to see the farmer going along in the pony and trap."

"I went with my mother to buy a goose at the auction sale," recalls Edith. "She liked to buy one early to fatten it up for Christmas lunch. On the way home, she decided it might like a bit of grass, as we were walking along the riverside. It decided to make for the river but we managed to catch it before it got away."

Pig meets Queen

Miss Betty Moore who lived in Whitehorse street before retiring to Putson has had a varied career. Apart from being a Red Cross Volunteer, Betty was a Land Army girl and a warden at Redhi Hostel during the war years. She

also worked at Green Crize Nurseries for many years and remembers with pleasure exhibiting pigs at the market when the Queen visited in 1957. As the Queen approached the pigs were fast asleep, so they gave them a gentle prod to wake them up. One of them gave a bored yawn which caused the royal visitor to smile.

Bouncing Bean Man

Peter Williams of Leominster moved back to Herefordshire six years ago but he recalls a great market character from his days forty years ago as a trainee inspector with the R.S.P.C.A. "Our duties took us into the livestock markets, and in particular to one in Hereford. I will remember one gentleman who was always in attendance on a Wednesday.

"He was always dressed entirely in black, quite smartly and carried a small suitcase. Reaching his pitch, he would discard his outer garments and don a colourful robe which he took from a suitcase. Then he would commence a few acrobatic exercises, including handstands, which for a man of his age, (he claimed to be in his sixties) was remarkable.

"When he had collected a number of spectators he would give a short lecture on healthy living, maintaining that his vigour was due to a certain type of herbal beer."



October 11 1956 and the first of a busy two day cattle sale gets under way. This picture, taken before the new sale ring was built was loaned to us by auctioneer Russell, Baldwin and Bright who celebrate their 150th anniversary this year. George Powell and others in their office were able to identify senior partner Bill Gallimore with the gavel and Frank Robinson and Mike Tomkins nearby. In the ring are porters George Mathews with Reg Wall behind.

ories

42 words



During the late summer, writes Margaret Ellis, many families travelled from the industrial Midlands and the South Wales valleys to spend their holidays hop picking in the Herefordshire hop yards. Families came year after year to the same farm to renew friendships and pick the hops. Hops were measured out of the cribs made from sacking on a frame (see above), into bushels, the measure by which the pickers were paid. The hops had to be picked clean with no leaves allowed. Helping with the hops are Bryan Stephens and Janet Stephens at Hyatt farm, Sarnesfield in 1937

which, he alleged, if stewed in water and then drunk, was an efficacious remedy for all manner of ailments, internal and external. He would then offer these beans for ale and appeared to attract a number of buyers. I daresay that he was a herbalist, but he asked people to address him as Professor. Whether these beans achieved all that he claimed, never knew. "I left Hereford after two months and did not return for many years and I wonder if any readers remember this man."

Myra's Visit

Vi Thomas spoke to Mary Apperley at the Bartonsham Ladies Group, at the Town Hall. During the 1930's Mary Apperley's grandmother, Myra Berry, used to drive her pony and trap from The Bunch of Carrots to Brockhampton over Eign Hill every Friday delivering The Hereford Times. Kitty the pony knew the way and Myra delivered the papers to houses and post offices on the way receiving about 1/2 d per paper.

Market Visit

"My first visit to Herefordshire, from the bleak Welsh hillside village where we lived, was in 1917" writes Ellen Worthing from Much Birch. "Because I was delicate a

family friend suggested a few weeks holiday in the lush Herefordshire surroundings would be beneficial.

"I was taken to the New Inn at Fownhope where I lived with a Mrs Goode her son Fred and daughter Fanny Maude who cared for me lovingly. On market day Fred drove a lorry or brake with seats for six or eight people into Hereford. His horse was stabled in the yard of an inn somewhere near the Old House. We spent our time wandering in the market and city until we met again for the return journey."

Lost Touch

"In Fownhope my paymate was a boy named Bobby Bretton who lived with his grandmother, the landlady of the Green Man. His mother was an actress in London. During the years which followed I lost touch with my friends. Maude married Harry Huff and Fred married the widow of a soldier who was killed World War I. If any of their descendants live in Herefordshire I should be pleased to hear from them.

"I returned to live permanently in Herefordshire in 1949 and am grateful for the happiness the county has given my husband and me and our family."

Alf Evans Column

Early one summer evening around 1920, a customer walked into the bar parlour at the Wye Inn, Bullingham, ordered a pint of beer and sat there drinking it. It was a long narrow room and at the far end four local men, two former Welsh Guardsmen and two from the Herefordshire regiment, talked about their experiences during the recent war. The stranger put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a smoking pipe, pulled it apart and threw it at the men.

The Challenge

Then he emptied his pint, put the glass upside down on the table and stood facing the others. I was only thirteen at the time, but I had heard this was a challenge to fight the best man in the house. The unfortunate man had made a great mistake, however. Instead of one man taking him outside to fight, the four friends took a limb each and carried him outside. As they passed along the passage, his trouser pocket caught in the arm of a huge seat made from a mahogany four poster double bed. It ripped his trouser leg down the seam, leaving his leg naked and the trouser leg flapping on the floor.

The Flight

Someone opened the double front door of the Wye and with a 1 - 2 - 3 he was tossed up into the air (I distinctly remember the pause when he reached full height) and crashed down on the hard forecourt. I watched him crawl away and the four men went back into the Wye. There are no prizes for guessing where the stranger came from!

Alf Evans, a founder member of Age To Age, died recently. Born in 1907 at Ledbury, he moved to Hereford with his family in 1912 where his parents ran the Wye Hotel in Lower Bullingham. He went to work for Harding Brothers in Commercial Street where he eventually became Foundry Manager. He retired in 1972 and, when Age To Age was founded in 1990, was one of the first people to be interviewed by our editor, Bill Laws. He continued to contribute right up until days before his final illness and left behind such a wealth of material that we can run the Alf Evans column for some time to come.

Alf would have been delighted since life for Alf was too short.

As Rev. Trevor Jones said at his funeral: "In hospital, laid out by a stroke, he expressed his frustration: 'There's a lot I've got to do....' he said." Any guesses where the stranger came from?

AGE TO AGE DOOR TO DOOR

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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, 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.

Hereford Lore

are holding a

COFFEE MORNING

to be held at

The Town Hall

on

Wednesday 2nd October 1996

10.00am - 12.00 noon

Admission Free

~ Various Stalls ~



Over the Top

Councillor John Newman, a regular contributor to Age To Age, showed that age is no barrier to experience when he abseiled down a 20 foot high wall erected in High Town by the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Youth Team. "The worst part is climbing over the edge, then leaning backwards into space," he

writes. "This really gets the adrenalin going."

But the wall presented him with no problem and he raised over £300 for Help The Aged with his stunt. "My one ambition is to abseil down the Broomy Hill Water Tower

One day, perhaps. Who knows?"

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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