

# Age to Age

Available on Tape

## Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 5 Issue 2 April 1997

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



*'No Music -  
But Plenty  
Of Talk And  
Laughter'*

**D**oug and Olive Prosser from Putson ran the off licence and stores in Villa Street for nearly 25 years until their retirement.

They moved to the stores from the Anglers Inn, Union Street, pictured here with the Cheltenham and Hereford Breweries dray ready to deliver

"We were landlord and landlady in the late 1950s until we were advised to get out of the trade as my husband had been admitted to Tupsley Hospital for six months with T.B."

"We had so many happy times at the Anglers where we ran four men's dart teams, a ladies' team, ladies' and men's quoits teams and, of course, Phat and Cribbage card games.

There was no music in the Anglers' just plenty of talk and laughter," writes Olive.

**O**nce again we are very grateful to all those whose contributions have made possible this issue of Age To Age.

Because our last book *The Shopkeepers' Tale* proved so popular, we aim to produce another book on your Hereford schooldays. Everyone has memories of schooldays, some happy, some sad and some frightening. Write to us at 26 Quarry Road, Hereford, HR1 1SS about your schooldays and help to make our book as great a success as the last one!

*Best wishes.  
Bill Morris*

Age To Age is published bi-monthly by Hereford Lore, a group of people working to collect and remember our past. Our editorial team, Margaret Ellis, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Bill Morris, Vi Thomas, Jim Thomas, Tom Woolaway and Bill Laws, depend on grants, donations and book sales to keep going.

Age To Age is available free from the Town Hall, City Library, Belmont Library, Tourist Information Centre, Age Concern and Garrick House reception. But you can ensure your copy by taking out a £3 a year subscription from Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS. Next issue will be published in June.

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The Anglers ladies dart team called themselves the Mermaids. Pictured here in 1960 they were (left to right, back row) J. Pryce, Olive Prosser, K. Preece and G. Wood and (front row) E. Byan, H. Clark, D. Loxton and G. James.

## May Fair Memories

**M**argaret Sutton of Little Birch brings us this tale of the May Fair.

Two chaps went to the Fair and, having no money, wandered into the boxing booth. They tossed a coin and the loser reluctantly donned the boxing gloves. His knees nearly buckled under him when he saw the professional boxer, but he thought, "I've got to get in first."

"Just as the bell struck, I jumped forward and luckily got in a good blow. The bruiser went into reverse, backpedalling and leaning backwards. I knew that if he got upright I would be a goner so I chased him and kept him going

backwards. The promoter kept shouting: 'Ease up - you'll never stand the pace,' but I kept going and the crowd kept clamouring for the bell."

The promoter stopped the timekeeper as he didn't want to pay up. But the crowd chanted menacingly and eventually the bell was rung and the £5 was handed over. Needless to say the two men enjoyed the rest of their night at the May Fair.

**Margaret Colley** has fond memories of the May Fair "After six o'clock on the Monday before the first Tuesday in May, we went to High Town to watch the erection of the roundabouts and other attractions. Big steam engines pulled loaded trucks into position and it was not long before the carousels and merry-go-rounds were taking shape.



These beaming ladies formed the S

The workmen were very agile and quiet and High Town and its adjoining streets were soon transformed into a gigantic fairground. During the Fair, much fun was had by pushing handfuls of confetti down necks! Brandy snaps were bought and enjoyed and there were displays of boxing or acrobatics outside the tents. Sometimes we were diverted by fights among the incomers on Wednesdays, but compared with today's behaviour it all seems very innocent."

## Blondie Jones and Dainty Evans

**H**eather Knight of Moor Farm came across an old **Society** programme (price 2d) from the **British Legion Carnival Committee of 1950**. The programme promised a great show for those attending at Greenlands Hall, St Owens Street that August Bank Holiday Monday.

# Snippets

## Ship Inn

**H**azel Tudor from Newton Farm, recognised the Ship Inn from the picture in our last issue and spotted David Blackmore and Bill Gretton in the pub. She thinks her father, Harry Morgan, was probably there too, although he isn't in the photo. Harry, born in 1886, was one

of the men in a bowler hat pictured on the front page in our November issue. According to Hazel, his father John ran a timber business and stabled his shire horses behind the Greyhound Dog and the Horse and Groom.

**Bob Powell** from Macmillan Close also recognised the Ship Inn.

"This picture appears in 'Then and Now', Volume 2, by Derek Foxton and is believed to have been taken in 1948." And Bob adds, "You talked of horse troughs in the last issue. I recall a horse trough right

in front of the Market Tavern in Newmarket Street."

## Big Bathing Belle

**A**gnes Cox from Crossfields, Whitecross came to live in Hereford in 1929 and remembers a major flood around 1931 when the river spread up over the fields opposite the Rowing Club, almost to Barton Road. "I remember a boat being rowed up to the front doors of houses in Greyfriars Avenue to take the occupants shopping! They were taken up





Hip Inn's skittles team in the 1950s.



The Duke's Head ladies dart team, in 1949 were (back row) Muriel Corner, Evelyn Morris, Mrs Preece the landlady and Joyce Jones. Front row: Winnie Hibbert, Connie Beavan, Rhoda Burton and, appropriately enough for a dart's team, Mary Arrowsmith.

Babs Freeman presented Variety - The Spice of Life and Basil Smith presented The Golden Linnett's Dance Band under the direction of Mr A. Hughes. Acts to look forward to included Heather (Blondie) Jones, 'A sweetheart if there ever was one,' Jean (Dainty) Evans and Joan (Rhythm) Perks in 'Those Good Old Days' Langton Stubbs with his banjo would help out with 'Way Down South', Darkie Impressions by the full company. How times have changed!

The ballet scene ('Down by the Swan Lake') was to include Tiny Tots, Margaret Ann Tuller and Carolyn Davis, supported by Jean Evans, Hazel and Oliver Bigglestone and Glenys Davis. Our own Hazel Knight, then Bigglestone, was among the cast of 'Tiny Tappers' who performed 'Swinging Down Memory Lane'

"I noticed that Hazel Quinsey was among the dancers," she writes. "Was she related to Harold Quinsey, mentioned in your November issue? I

hope that someone might come up with a photograph," says Heather who, from 1940 to 1955 lived at 35 Widemarsh Street. Well, can you?

### Bridge Over The River Wye

**O**n September 29 1998 it will be one hundred years since the Victoria footbridge over the Wye near was opened by the Rt. Hon. Lady Emily Foley, writes Councillor John Newman.

The bridge was built as a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee, celebrating Queen Victoria's 60th year on the throne. The building of the bridge had been proposed by Augustus Edwards at a

public meeting in March 1897 chaired by Alderman T Llanwarne, Hereford's mayor in 1870, 1881 and 1896.

The bridge, designed by Mr John Parker cost £1,200 and the money was raised by voluntary subscription. What, wonders John Newman, would it cost to build the same bridge today?

### Remember the Workhouse?

**D**imp Bayliss of Orchard House can. She visited a girl there many years ago. "Her parents had died and she had to go in the Workhouse. She was about 11 and I remember she was in a cot with high sides. I suppose it was to keep her in." Do you have any memories of the Workhouse?

to Barton Road, opposite St Nicholas Church where the boats would wait for an hour and take them home." This lasted several days and the finger post, stating 'To The River' caused great amusement as it was standing deep in the water.

"When I first came to Hereford, Greyfriars Avenue was just a lane lined with bushes on either side.

Agnes also loaned us a picture of Welsh Guards marching down Eign Gate to mark the opening of the shopping precinct in 1969.

Another amusing memory, again from Agnes, concerns a jumbo sized bath. "When the circus came to Hereford the elephant was led round the town one Sunday morning then taken to the river near the Rowing Club for a bath. Jumbo was so delighted that he would not come out and, as time went on, crowds lined the old bridge watching the poor trainer become more and more embarrassed. He was quite helpless and even offering apples to his charge had no effect until Jumbo decided enough was enough and

came out of the water about two hours later. There must have been a lot of spoiled Sunday dinners that day."

### Well Read

**C**ongratulations to Rees Hopkins of Drybridge House, Hereford and Edith Gresty from Lower Thorn, Bromyard who were presented with certificates for having used the library for so many years. Hereford Library opened in 1913 - Rees joined around 1917!



## Noticeboard

### HEREFORDSHIRE YOUTH MUSIC CONCERT

*A range of brass and choir  
music at the Shirehall*  
Friday 9th May 7.30pm  
Tickets. 01885 488715

### Here's A How-de-Do

*Hereford Gilbert and  
Sullivan Society musical,  
with comedy and opera*  
Aylestone School, Hereford  
Sunday 11 May 7 30pm

### PRINTMAKING EXHIBITION

An exciting exhibition  
of different types of prints  
at Hereford City Art Gallery  
3 May to 8 June

### The Grantham Singers from Pennsylvania

*at Hereford Cathedral*  
Friday 23 May 12.15pm

### MUSEUMS WEEK

Special events at Hereford  
Museums in Hereford  
18 to 25 May  
Tourism Information Centre  
for details

## Ghastly Goings On In Belmont

**W**hen we walk through  
our lovely city, writes  
Councillor John Newman,  
we do not stop to consider some  
of the terrible events that took  
place over 200 years ago. What do  
I have in mind?

Some of the public executions  
which took place in the late 18th  
century.

One of the earliest was at Gallows  
Tumps, on the corner of Belmont  
Avenue and Belmont Road, now part  
of Pembridge Close.

The executions were of six  
Welshmen. Nine were tried, but three  
were acquitted. The six sentenced to  
hang were William Spiggott (barber),  
William Evens (tinker), William Morris  
(sadler), David Llewellyn (farmer)  
and Charles Morgan (farmer). They  
were executed on March 30 1770 for  
the murder of William Powell of  
Glanhereth, Carmarthenshire.

After the executions, the bodies of  
Spiggott and Evens were taken and  
hung in chains on Hardwick  
Common near Hay on Wye. The  
other four were dissected, no doubt  
by local surgeons in the interest of  
medical science.

Three further executions took place  
at Gallows Tump on August 20,  
1789. They were Francis Carpenter,  
Benjamin Trotam and Christopher  
Morris, hanged for a burglary in  
Hereford and for stealing gold, silver  
and metal watches from the  
watchmaker's shop of Maria  
Gammon, a widow, which stood at 5  
High Town.

Morris was a local man and a soldier  
of the 1st Regiment of the Guards.  
The men were buried at Breinton  
after violent opposition from the  
inhabitants.

*Next month: Murder at the Friar's  
Street brothel and execution of the  
Longtown poisoner and his lover.*

## Alf Evans Column



In this final extract  
from Alf Evan's  
memories, the family  
pig is ready for killing:

Now I did not like this moment very much,  
but when you are promised liver for  
breakfast, and later on in the week, the  
brains done in breadcrumbs, you stifled  
your feelings. When the sow was dead  
and my bucket was full, the straw was laid  
out in the yard close to the bench and the  
pig lowered gently on to it. The bench was  
taken away, more straw was laid over the  
pig and lit. Afterwards the other side of the  
pig would be burnt to remove the  
remaining hairs. Great care was taken to  
see the skin was not burnt or marked.

The pig would then be thoroughly  
scrubbed with hot water from the copper to  
remove the hairs. Finally the pig would be  
placed on a short ladder and taken into the  
washhouse and hung upside down with  
legs hooked up to a chain on the beam.

Charlie and Fred would go off to work with  
a "See you tonight, Boss" to my dad.

Seeing the pig hung up like that gave me  
a certain amount of pleasure. She was so  
large and awkward when we had to take  
her to the boar a three mile walk to  
Twyford and again to bring her back some  
days later. She was a large white and  
always had too many piglets. My sister  
and I would have to feed the nestlings with  
the bottle because they were pushed out  
of the way by their larger brothers and  
sisters when trying to feed.

Mr Williams now split the pig down the  
centre and removed the bladder, stomach  
fat, stomach, small intestines, liver, lungs,  
heart, windpipe and tongue. The carcass  
was washed down and dried and left for  
two or three days. We would have the liver  
for our breakfast!

After breakfast the small intestines were  
taken down to the brook, washed out,  
rodded and washed several times, then  
brought back and cleaned with clean  
pump water. They would then be soaked  
in salt water, using a large clay vessel, and  
later boiled. The "chitlings" (no R in  
Bullingham!) were now ready for use.

Chitterlings in a Dutch oven in front of the  
bright kitchen range with mustard, vinegar,  
sugar sauce - beautiful!

Mother would make black puddings and  
faggots. Even the bladder, when cleaned  
and dried would be useful for inside my  
football case.

Three days later the butcher would come  
back and cut the pig into joints: two front  
legs and shoulders; two back legs (ham)  
and two sides for salting down. The pig's  
brains were now ready for me! The pig's  
trotters were nice, but messy.

"Don't use too much salt and be careful  
with saltpetre, Fred," Mother would say to  
Father when the salting down was being  
done.

"No, Minnie," Dad would reply, rubbing it in  
a little bit harder!"

## FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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