

Age to Age

Available on Tape

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 5 Issue 3 June 1997

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



A group of Rover Scouts, pictured somewhere in Hereford in 1931. Arthur Shute is one of those in the picture which was loaned to us by Mrs Kathleen Lawrence of Dinedor Hill. The leader was a Mr Brumbill. Is there anyone you recognise? Let us know at Age To Age.

Inside:

- ✳ Secrets in St Owens' Street
- ✳ Sixty Scouting Years
- ✳ C.S.Lewis at the Palace
- ✳ Lovers on the gallows
- ✳ Shucknall's home made road

This Beautiful County

As we grow older, we tend to look back over our lives, usually containing a miscellany of good and bad experiences, and wonder where time went. Despite poor eyesight and advanced years, I

still consider it a bonus to have been born a Herefordian, and to have lived most of my life in this beautiful county

Edith Gammage

Looking For Pat

John Hunt who wrote about the Redhill hostel in our January issue last year and this month tells of the Aladdin's Cave in St Owen's Street, is trying to make contact with Pat Duffield who lived in Whitecross Road and was one of the three telephonists who maintained a round-the-clock service at the hostel. Pat may remember practising ballet leaps with John after an inspiring visit to the Hostel by the Ballet Rambert!

Write to us at Age To Age if you can help.

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 August.

We are grateful for the support of:



Charity Projects UK

**COMIC
RELIEF**





Mrs Dot Bevan of Hoarwithy Road sent us this picture of the Painters Bros ladies taken in 1961. Is there anyone you recognise here? Write and tell us at Age To Age.

Aladdin's Cave in St Owen's Street

Few people know of the Aladdin's Cave which existed at 6 St Owen's Street during World War Two, writes **John Hunt** from West Sussex. This was the Western Stores Depot of the YMCA and housed all sorts of goodies only faintly remembered in the rationed world outside: tinned fruit and jam, sacks of sugar, hundreds of biscuit tins, thousands of cigarettes and chocolate bars were among the goods stored at No. 6 with its wide side entrance. The goods would have commanded a high price on the black market, and yet there was never an attempted break in or theft. The Hereford YMCA served military camps where there were no NAAFI's as well as gun sites and Land Army hostels. Many of the goods arrived by weekly van load from Carmarthen, where I had been working until 1942, when I was transferred to become storekeeper at No. 6. Goods flowed in and flowed out again like a tide I had as sole assistant an elderly man, Bert, who'd been bombed out in Birmingham. Together, day after day, we lugged goods, including 140lb sugar sacks from delivery lorries into the yard. The

one consignment we grew to hate were the 7lb biscuit tins, sometimes up to 120 in a delivery which had to be carted all the way to the upper rooms where they were stacked ceiling high. All eventually had to come down again. I have never felt the same about biscuits since carrying them, six at a time, up the stairs, only to see them come down again a week later. Fed up with broken finger nails, bruises and a back strained from carrying those sugar sacks, I applied for an administrative post on the staff at Redhill late in 1942 and the Aladdin's Cave saw the last of me.

Sixty years of scouting

The 1st Holmer (Hereford) group has completed 60 years of continuous scouting, having started out in October 1936 at the Parish Room in Holmer. Known as the Holmer Church group for the first 28 years, they eventually changed their name to the 1st Holmer (Hereford) and moved to headquarters on Painter Bros' sports ground in Holmer Road. But in 1975 the headquarters burnt down and the group moved on to its present HQ at Hereford race course. A service to commemorate the long serving troop will be held at Holmer Church, July 13. Scouts are asked to assemble at 2.00 o'clock, ready for the service at 2.30.



Scouts pour through High Town during the parade with George Mason and Wakefield.



Senior members of the 1950 Holmer Group photographed on the summit of Plynlimon.

S

M

and
us
wa
Goddard,
shared the
Birch Hall
villagers h
talk and g
Thorn Villa
good idea

B
en
dray
our
from Che
Angler's Ir



During the St Georges Day parade in 1972
Knights in the background.



n i p p e t s

Village Memories

Margaret Sutton of Little Birch has called to tell us the tale of the May Fair in our last issue as one of the wonderful stories told by Edith Manning and Percy Oliver when they shared their reminiscences with local people at Little Birch in September last year. The enterprising team have recorded Edith's, Doug's and Percy's story given it an even wider audience in the Kings Norton Community Newsletter. Now there's a tale.

Ben Identified

Witherstone has been identified as the man pictured on the front page picture of our last issue, delivering barrels and bottles from Eltenham and Hereford Brewery to The Angler's.



Doug and Olive Prosser who used to run the Angler's Inn in Union Street loaned us this picture of a cheerful group of cup winners from the Angler's. Doug is third from the right. They are members of a victorious Darts team.

C.S. Lewis meets Baba The Elephant

Three years ago, Joy Robinson from Thame discovered Age To Age while she was staying in Herefordshire. It prompted her to send us a delightful account of war-time life in the Cathedral precinct, part of which we reproduce here. "I was in Hereford for ten years in all (as Joy Parsons) first at the Bishop's Palace from 1940 to 1945 with my father-in-law, the Bishop, and then again from 1950 to 1955, when I lived next to the Rowing Club in Greyfriars Avenue. Living in the Cathedral Close had a very Trollope feeling about it and I soon got to know the various canons and their families. Canon Jordan became my son Philip's godfather, but best of all I met the daughter-in-law of the Diocesan Registrar, Grace Gwynne James, who became and remained my closest friend. We shared so much together, both then and later our children,

our dogs" (her ancient Scottie fell hopelessly in love with "Vicky" who belonged to the Bishop). Often Scottie would appear at breakfast and we did all we could to encourage the romance. Weeks after Vicky died, he would sit disconsolately on the doorstep. I shared her 80th birthday celebrations and in May 1983 she shared mine and we sat together for the last time. A few weeks later she died very suddenly and quite unexpectedly. I shall always miss her. All sorts of people came to stay at the Palace. Once it was C.S. Lewis (author of the Chronicles of Narnia) who was speaking during the Christian Life Campaign in the city. At first I found him very intimidating. I had just finished reading his Screwtape letters, and had come to the conclusion that I had never done a disinterested act in my life. But both of us thawed when he got

onto the subject of children's books and I discovered that one of his favourites was E. Nesbitt, who was also mine. He said he planned one day to write a novel about the Bastable children in the Treasure Seekers when they grew up. He was also a fan of Beatrix Potter and had recently returned from a pilgrimage to her farm in the Lakes. He asked for some children's books as bedside reading, as respite from the Blitz in London. So I introduced him to Baba The Elephant and he sent me a most delightful note about it. I gave it to Ruth Pitter, the poet, when she was writing a paper on him, and she in turn gave it to the Bodleian Library to include in their 'Lewis archive'.

AGE TO AGE ON TAPE

Do you know someone who is blind, or partially sighted who would also like to enjoy Age To Age? Contact Roy Kennett 01432 354934

Noticeboard

Hereford Lore

Publishers of Age To Age Newsletter

invite you to a Coffee Morning and Launch of the Book

"The Schoolchildren's Tale"

to be held at the Town Hall, Hereford on Wednesday

1st October 10.00am at 12.30

Admission free.

Your support would be greatly appreciated

Hereford Carnival

Sat 12th July

Why not take part in the 1997 Hereford carnival as a group or as a individual.

For more information contact
Hereford Arts In Action on 01432 364652

Hereford Summer Festival

11th - 20th July

Bishops Meadow

The new festival programme is out now and available from the new festival Box Office in Bewell Street.

For more information contact 01432 359259

Schubert Ensemble of London

Friday 18th July

The Ensemble will be performing as part of Madley Festival with guest flautist Daniel Palethorpe

for more information contact 01981 250309 or 01981 5502923

Lovers On The Gallows

Our second report on Herefordshire hangings from intrepid researcher John Newman tells tales of arson, highway robbery and poisoning! It was on April 11 1818 that John Burlow was executed at Hereford for setting fire to Mr Thomas Gibb's (for whom he worked) stabling at Munsley in which seven horses, two stable buildings and a hay barn were destroyed. He had just turned sixteen years of age. He was also "simple of mind." On the morning of his execution some delay took place due to John Burlow placing his bed against the cell door and preventing the officers getting in. He was at last brought out and taken by force to the scaffold. Every means was used to obtain a reprieve for him, but none was forthcoming. He was buried within the precincts of the Gaol.

When James "Crutchley" Williams (he was lame and used a crutch) was executed 12 years later the charge was of highway robbery with violence at Tupsley. Williams was said to have attacked an old soldier called Francis Wellington who was on his way home to Lugwardine when he was robbed of his pension. Two years later in 1832, Williams' brother was executed for the murder of one, Walter Carwardine, of Pembroke in a brothel in Quaker's Lane (now Friars Street). Carwardine's body had been thrown into the river Wye and then been pulled from the river three weeks later at Eign. The brothel was kept by a Joseph Pugh who was also executed along with a Brecon man, John Matthew, all for the same murder. Then there was the beautiful 18 year Susannah Rugg, branded a "common prostitute" and living in Monmouth with William Jones, alias Watkins of Cloddock. When Jones' wife was found dead, it was discovered she had been poisoned with arsenic. It seems that Susannah Rugg and William Jones had intended to marry, once Jones' wife had been removed from the scene, but instead both were hanged for the crime on August 1 1790 in St Owen Street, now St Owen Square, opposite the old county gaol (now the site of the Shirehall). Jones' body was taken and hung in chains at Longtown Green near his former home where the dreadful deed had been committed. Next month John Newman tells the sad tale of Susannah Minton from Kilpeck and of the mass hanging of April 2, 1784.

The Shucknall Road builders

Roy Kennett and Vi Thomas visited Shucknall and met Basil Morgan and his wife May. Basil was born in Shucknall and went to school at Yarkhill two miles away until he was 14. He became an agricultural engineer at Wargent's in Stoke Edith for 22 years and later at Hereford Tiles, Withington for another 22 years. In the summer of 1952, the people of Shucknall decided to build their own road. After house to house collections were made to raise the money for materials, the amateur roadmen, Basil included, completed the work. Basil remembers his boyhood when Ted Bayliss the water carrier would fetch water in buckets from the Spout and



Basil and Taffy the corgi await the arrival of hardcore for Shucknall's home made road

walk up the hill to supply the 40 houses at the top who had no other source of water. Sometimes someone would throw a stone into Ted's bucket who would patiently empty it and start all over again. Basil also mentioned that during the last war, the quarry on Shucknall hill supplied stone for Foxley Camp. The quarry was worked by Indian soldiers and one day a local lady was surprised to find one of them inside her house. He was not trespassing he had just never before been inside a house. Basil's wife, May, hails from Yorkshire. She joined the Land Army when she was 18 and came to Kilpeck. For nearly 5 years she worked at Pidgeon House Farm looking after cows and hens and remembers with pleasure the good food and pleasant working conditions. May, an active member of the Red Cross Volunteers, who recently received a 15 years service medal, married Basil in 1950 and they still regularly visit Pidgeon House Farm.

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

FREESTYLE

Croydon House, 5 Eign Road, Hereford HR1 2RY

Tel: 01432 343188 Fax: 01432 358513

ABBOTSFIELD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Monkmoor Street, Hereford HR1 2DX

COPYING & RESTORING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, PHOTO GLAZING
Juergen and Janet Koenigsbeck, Telephone 341608 Work 851560 Home

HEREFORD AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

ROCKFIELD DIY

Station Approach, Hereford 01432 274146
Your Local Independent DIY Store