

# Age to Age

Available on Tape

## Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 5 Issue 3 August 1997

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



*The Food Office, Hereford Town Hall around 1939. But how did Connie Williams get there? Read Connie's War on page 2*

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## Number 25!

Hereford Lore are very pleased to have produced the 25th edition of the Age To Age newsletter. Over this period of time it has given the group great pleasure in meeting the story tellers. We as a group appreciate the time given to our efforts to record the many memories that many recall. If you are a member of a group and would like Hereford Lore to visit and give a talk, please let us know. In the meantime we look forward to our third book, The

Schoolchildren's Tale, which will be launched in Hereford Town Hall on October 1 at a coffee morning from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30. Admission is free and there will be lots of stalls. We hope to see you there and that you continue to enjoy reading the newsletters and books. Best wishes.

*Roy Kennett, chairman.*



### Off The Bus

*Betty Brimfield loaned us this wonderful snapshot of George Mason's staff outing to Aberystwyth in 1946. We have identified nine of the people. Harry Kennett, Harold Webb, George Ayers, Mrs Webb, Mrs Jones, Dorothy Norton, Daisy Harris, Elsie Knight and Betty Rock*

Age To Age is published bi-monthly by Hereford Lore, a group of people working to collect and remember our past. Our editorial team, 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 October.

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### Boy Soldier

**T**his poignant picture of Arthur Reed was taken at Abergavenny in 1914, shortly before he went to war. If you think he looks rather young to be fighting, you are quite right: Arthur was only 14 years old. He had fibbed about his age in order to join the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. We don't know who the two civilians are, but we do know Arthur happily survived the war and died in 1970 leaving a widow, a son and 4 daughters, a united family who still live in Hereford. Arthur moved to Hereford in the 1920s, married Lillian and worked as an engineer at Rotherwas. In 1968 Arthur was reunited with brother Donald, an ex pupil of St Owen's Primary School who had emigrated to Canada in 1923 and had last visited England in 1926.



### A Public Affair

**M**illie Weeks (see Painter Nurse in Snippets) also sends us this from a postcard she bought in the early 1920s from Elliot's little printing shop in East Street: Going through the city one evening, I was much surprised to see a Coach and Horses, one of the latter being a White Horse and one a Racehorse. It was a real Imperial turnout. The crest on the coach was a Saracen's Head. It turned out to be an advance show for a travelling circus and advertised a Black Swan, a Black Lion, also a Red Lion and a Green Dragon. Some jolly Anglers, coming home from catching nowt, looking very much as if they had been in The Sun. In fact I heard one had been fishing with a Hop Pole and the others had been looking 5 Ways at once. They were betting that the crest was a Kings Head, needless to say was for beer and the Lamb paid for Th one fellow with a Wellington nose ran into an orange 7 was last seen running like a Greyhound Dog along the track. I believe if there was a Victoria cross for sp Volunteer to state, he Mitre won it easily. His mates were an Exchange of hot words, one being nippy with his Duke his Bricklayer's Arms swing about like Belle View firew: finally all were found doing a Spread Eagle under the Ro then they went home by numbers, No 10 and No 5 and "N



### Connie's War

**T**he day war broke out, oh what a beautiful day it was that first Sunday in September 1939! My husband was Hereford Territorial Camp at Weston Super Mare and therefore in the army from then on. It was a great shock as I had believed that peace was with us to stay. How should I manage on (was it?) one shilling (5p) a day? It was enough on £3 a week. I therefore looked up my references and on the Monday, went to the Labour Exchange as it was and asked about a job. I got an interview for a post in the Food Office and started there on the first Monday in October. I used the Town Hall's Main Hall, a big change form dancing in there. There was no overtime pay in those first months. I often had to work late as the Town Clerk was also Fuel Officer, Billeting Officer, etc. But I didn't mind as I thought doing my bit for my country to help win the war. Winston Churchill (so I thought) was responsible for lots of the stuff that you can see on the Town Hall walls in the picture on the front page. Does anyone now remember going there of the staff in the picture?



## What a View

The Tea Gardens at Dinedor looked out across Hereford. In the mid 1920s, writes Connie (formerly Connie Brookes), it was lovely to go through the Castle Green, over the Victoria bridge and along the river bank path to the Wye Hotel, Bullingham, down Watery Lane, over a stile and up a couple of fields to Dinedor Camp. There the Holmes family had a Tea Garden which was delightful. I knew the Holmes because they came to market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, leaving their horse and trap at the White Lion which was my home. Part of the river bank collapsed some years later and although, I think it was repaired later, I understand the river walk was no longer available.

## Tupsley

Below: This view of Tupsley was taken in 1948 from the Folly Lane to Southbank Road area showing the Tupsley brickworks in the background and fields, long disappeared, in the foreground. Thanks to John Powell for the photograph. Does anyone recall the old field names?

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quoth The Raven. After this heated discussion I wended my way to Bullingham and had a jolly good drink in The Wye and feeling peckish, I waded out across the river to enjoy a Whalebone steak. I then Mooned on to Mordiford and got Anchored up at Even Pitt. When I reached Fownhope, the Green Man had turned blue. Must say cheerio until the weather breaks."Now, what was all that about? Answers please to Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.

## Remember Bert's Concert Parties?

Who Remembers Bert Leaver's Concert Parties? asks Donald Austin from Kingsthorpe? As a schoolboy in the mid 1920s, I remember paying a few pence to attend the party on the Bishop's Meadow. A covered stage was erected a few yards from Victoria Bridge, but the auditorium was open to the elements except for canvas walls. Some of the performers were semi-professionals, others I think were local amateurs who fancied themselves as entertainers. I vividly remember a very young girl, probably about 10 years old, doing a song and dance. I have spoken to her within the last few days and she is under the impression that Bert Leaver lived in Church Street. I think the Concert Party went on for a couple of summers only. Can anyone throw a little more light on them?

## Snippets

### Painter Nurse

Millie Weeks from Eign Road recognised her sister, Mrs Kathleen Rounds in our last issue's photograph of ladies at Painter Bros (well, she would wouldn't she?). Kathleen, she writes, was sent to Painter's at the outbreak of war and was appointed work's nurse within five weeks, a post she held until her retirement. Kathleen, now 86 and living in a retirement home was also a crack shot with a rifle and took part in annual shooting competitions at Bisley.

### Nancy McNeill?

Your most excellent publication has rekindled memories of my childhood in Hunderton and Hinton Court, to say nothing of hop picking at Dormington, writes D.J. Powell of Shrewsbury. He is trying to trace Nancy McNeill who lived around Hereford in 1939 and worked, he thinks, at Rotherwas Munitions Factory. You can call D.J.Powell on 01743 355306.

### Dinedor Picnics

Kathleen Lawrence, who kindly loaned us the K scouting picture on our last issue's front page lives in Kings Acre, not Dinedor as we said. But, she says, she did enjoy picnics at Dinedor!

### Kyrle Street Baths

Thanks to Godfrey Broad, writes Vi Thomas. "When Roy Kennett and I visited the Parkinson's Society recently, we revived memories of school children learning to swim in The Basson around 1910 and 1920. Godfrey told us that in 1916 the local swimming baths were in Kyrle Street, the building which later became the Masonic Hall.

### Ghosts and Guns

Betty Moore phoned us from Putson to say she thinks she may have met May Morgan (The Shucknall Road Builders in our last issue) working at Pigeon House Farm during the war. The farm used to belong to Betty's uncle, Domme Davis and it was said to be haunted. One night the men of the family decided to stay up to catch it, armed with a shot gun (we wonder why?) Noises were heard on the stairs, the men bravely rushed outonly to find rats journeying from the attic to the cellars! The farm was sold around 1930 and Betty says happily there was no evidence of rats or ghosts ever since.

### We've found her!

John Hunt was trying to contact one Pat Duffield, a former telephonist at Redhill Hostel. She is now Pat Hamling of Cheltenham and she would be delighted to hear from John. John wrote the interesting account of the wartime stores at St Owen's Street in our last issue, but he was less than pleased with our editor's cuts. Many apologies. We often have to reduce the articles and, of course, we receive so many fascinating pictures and articles you may have a wait before they appear in print. But please, please, keep sending them in.

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*The Slave of Araby* was produced and directed by Godfrey Davies in 1936/7 and performed by the YMCA Operatic Society with over 50 performers. Look out for: Vi Williams, Bill Griffiths, Vin Sullivan, Susie Lofts, Betty Ford, Chris Weager, Arthur Ford, Percy Taylor, Bill Howard, Arthur Williams, Connie Robbins, Megan Thomas, Bruce Elton, Ken Williams, Mary Kenny, Muriel Powell, Travis Tiley, Enid Boucher, Majorie Underwood, Katherine Short, Jim Bishop, Mary Miles, Dorothy Miles, Jimmy Clayton and Renee Davies. Clarence Edwards, Harry Maund and Rupert Hone who did the scenery for this and many other shows.

### Psst! Know Any Secrets?

**T**he Visitor, a community play involving over 100 performers is to be staged in Hereford next April (1998), writes the play co-ordinator, Jan Doran. We are researching war time secrets and life in Hereford in the 1940s to provide script material.

#### Join us!

If you would like to take part, all you need is enthusiasms. We need researchers, tea, cake and costume makers, fund raisers, builders, actors, singers and dancers. We particularly want people who lived through the 1940s so come and find out more at the Folly Arts Theatre, Folly Lane (next to the Art College) on Wednesday August 20 at 7.00 p.m. Or call Arts In Action (01432 278118) or Jan (01531 670729) Join us the day before (Tuesday August 19, 11.00 a.m.) Hereford Lore will share Hereford memories with an audience at the Green Dragon Hotel in Broad Street as part of the Three Choirs Fringe Festival. Why not come along?

## FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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## Noticeboard

### Street Organs

*Hereford's street organ festival, first set up by Hereford's Geoff Alford in 1987 is the largest of its kind in Britain. Listen out for the organ festival during the weekend of August 22 - 24.*

### The Schoolchildren's Tale,

Our third book will be published this autumn during a launch at the Town Hall on October 1st at 10.00 a.m. And for those who missed a copy of our last book, *The Shopkeeper's Tale*, a reprint is now available. Copies can be bought at Age Concern in Widemarsh Street and the Shaw Trust in Saint Peters Street.

### ACCESS GUIDE TO HEREFORD

A comprehensive listing of Hereford facilities and services for disabled people is available free from Hereford Tourist Information Centre, 1 King Street, Hereford. 01432 268430

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

*After a large refit All Saints Church in High Town is open for worship and refreshment*