

Age To Age

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Also available on tape

Vol 6 Issue 3

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS

June 1998



Greenland Girls

Greenlands Girls Office staff from Greenlands store, Hereford, pose for a snap shot during their picnic on Backbury Hill in the early 1920s. Florence Williams (now Mrs Stinton of Whitecross) is standing in the front row, second from left. For a glimpse of the staff a decade later, see inside.

Hereford Lore

(Age To Age)

Will be holding a

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 7th October 1998

in Hereford Town Hall

10.00am 12.30

Admission Free All welcome

Tell The Grandchildren

Welcome to the 30th edition of Age To Age. The past five years have been very eventful and covered many memories of the past. It is important that we keep records of years gone by. Hereford Lore often visits schools to give talks from Age To Age and we are always

encouraged by the children's interest. If you have grandchildren or even great grandchildren, why not tell them a story or two and get them to send it to us at Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS

Roy Kennett (Chairman)

Public Transport

Betty Reinold from Shaftesbury, Dorset, noticed an advertisement in a 1926 edition of 'A Pictorial and Descriptive Guide to Hereford and The Wye Valley' in which the Hereford Motor Co., St George's Garage, Eign Street offered all day tours of Symond's Yat, Tintern, Chepstow, Madley, Golden Valley, Kilpeck, Abbey Dore, Hay, Builth, Rhayader and Kington "As if this wasn't enough, every Saturday you could go to Aberystwyth. Obviously it was easier to get to these lovely places by public transport over 70 years ago!" Betty also noted an entry from The Residence Private Hotel which used to stand on the corner of Broad Street and King Street. "A single room was 6/6d, a double 14/-, lunch 3/6d and dinner 5/-"

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 August 1998.

We are grateful for the support of



Charity Projects UK

**COMIC
RELIEF**



HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

May Fair Men

Reg Robins shared his memories of the May Fair with Tom Woolaway. "When we wrinklies compare the modern Fair with that of the 1920s it's so different. There was the Cake-walk, the magnificent dragons, the side shows like the Boxing Booth where, if you fancied your chances and you could stay three rounds with their

blokes, you could get three pounds. There were the Hawaiin Dancing Girls (from Liverpool!) who had a good pitch opposite the 'Baptist Church' Like many others, Reg used to wait on Holmer Road for the arrival of the great polished and painted engines like King George and Queen Elizabeth. "The regular fair owner was Mr Jacob Studt and his caravan home was always spotless." **C. Richard Shaw** from Duns- table remembers with some pleasure how "for one glorious week all the north-south traffic was ignominiously shunted aside as the town centre filled with the Fair"

in stately fashion as mums and dads, uncles and aunts rode sedately round One popular attraction was the shooting galleries where young marksmen were challenged to prizes such as huge teddy bears and dolls, sets of china and pint glasses. For 6d or 1/- one received a target card and was invited to put five out of six rounds through the bull. As most of the country lads could bring down a running rabbit with a gun, some were soon strolling round with more than one of these prizes. "And outside Lloyds Bank was the loudest attraction of all, a mighty steam organ, the ghetto-blaster to end all ghetto - blasters. Every night my father come home complaining bitterly about the noise.

tiny tots and - if you were be yours. R win a shilling gamblers w Then my fa gallery. I was took home m you neared got louder magical rides boats which and, oppo wonderfully f with an iron clung to as t and went up pace "On (half day clo came) from 2 went to the G my father was **Edwards** f remembers afternoon's p General - "N those days" reason to rer "Several of dodgems and my head fr upright pole recalls the fi worried my f them, "she w the sation blowing and tl spot at the en opposite the father wisely before the ric became High



Dennis Cooper of Greenways, Ross loaned us this picture of Robinson the butchers in Ledbury where he and his parents used to work. Dennis sometimes fetched the butcher's horse Jimmy from the field and prepared it for the 'tub' or cart. Sadly Jimmy got stuck in a pond one day, caught pneumonia and had to be shot. After that, Mr Robinson bought a van.

Fat ladies

And six-legged **C O W**, fearsome rides in plush' seated contraptions which were swirled around at dizzy speed while young d a r e d e v i l attendants strolled nonchalantly about on the bucking platforms. Horses and peacocks rose

Flea Circus

The May Fair was so exciting and over far too soon for me," writes Pamela Pitt, once **Pamela Upton** when she lived in Greyfriars Avenue. "I would come into King Street and start off with the performing fleas. Have you seen a flea walk a tight rope? Well I have. Then on to the Wall of Death. 'How brave the motorcyclists were and what a deafening noise. Next the Boxing Booth. I was rather frightened of this, as a great many men seemed rather the worse for wear There was always a gathering of strong farm workers there to take up the challenge. "Into Broad Street and the small roundabouts for the

S n i p p e t s

Where Was It?

My son Ken worked out the locations in the photos in your last issue," writes **Mrs Morgan** from Aconbury Avenue. "The first was the cross roads between Victoria Street and Edgar Street, and Whitecross Road and Eign Street. The second was the Commercial Road roundabout by Franklyn House. **Mrs Fishbourne** from Bladon Avenue also got the right answers. But, she added, "I don't know the names of the people on the island!"

Ices, Ices

Joan Law from Three Elms Road identified our ice cream lady (back page, last issue) as **Ivy Lewis** of Weobley who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. The photograph was taken by her aunt, when Ivy was selling ice cream on the banks of the River Thames at Kingston.

On The Railways

Gwen Coles of Abbey Grange, Venns Lane shared her memories of her father Hereford Station Inspector Sidney Coles, when Hereford Lore's Vi Thomas visited Eignbrook Church Luncheon Club recently. Sidney, who died at the age of 71, started work as a railway porter in Shropshire and became station inspector at Hereford in the 1920s. Gwen proudly remembers he

memories

When the coconut shies
 lucky a goldfish could
 all-a-penny, hoping to
 - this is where the
 ere, mostly female
 favourite, the shooting
 rather good at this and
 any a fluffy animal. As
 High Town, the music
 and there were the
 - bumper cars, swing
 covered high in the air
 ite Greenlands a
 st ride in a car for four
 bar across which you
 ne car whizzed round
 and d... at a terrific
 "Thursday afternoons
 sing, so more people
 to 4.30 all the money
 eneral Hospital, where
 the Secretary. **Margo**
 om Exmouth also
 that Thursday
 roceeds went to the
 o County Hospital in
 - but she has good
 ember the dodgems:
 is would go on the
 I still have a lump on
 m contact with the
 " **Margaret Colley**
 st Chair-a-planes. "I
 rather to take me on
 ites," but I didn't enjoy
 as a... wind was
 ey were in a draughty
 l of Widemarsh Street
 Midland Bank. My
 removed a denture
 e started! When we
 School girls, we were

discouraged from attending, so we
 removed our hats so as to be
 inconspicuous.

"After the Fair departed Hereford seemed dull"

As school girls we were made
 to take our coats off outside
 the house so that no confetti
 would be scattered around the
 living room," Margaret also recalls,
 "all the noise and merriment, three
 evenings of action accompanied by
 organ music, screams from girls
 and shouts from showmen; naphtha
 lights shining over hoop-la stalls
 and shove' ha'penny, shooting
 galleries and coconut shies and
 boys chasing girls trying to put
 confetti down their necks. People
 bought brandy-snaps or had their
 fortune told or their weight guessed.
 Men were invited to test their
 strength striking a bell or punching
 a leather bag, or sometimes each
 other On a Wednesday, when the
 Fair was swollen by country visitors,
 there might be a fight or two. "Shop
 owners did not much care for the
 disturbance and many blocked up
 their windows for fear of breakages.
 Most people went into town to
 watch the Fair being erected, but
 after the Fair departed Hereford
 seemed dull and quiet."



Greenlands Girls

Joan Burrow sent these snapshots of the Greenlands float (top) and the 'ladies' portrait (bottom) taken at the Three Counties Show on the Hereford race course in 1931 or 1932. Above, from left to right, are Doris, Roy Brown, Joan herself, Bill, Jack Chapman and Griff.



was six feet tall with a handsome moustache and always wore a
 button hole.

Cold Walk

Douglas Hughes from Wye Street remembers walking the
 frozen river Wye in 1928 with his father and brother Jack,
 "from the old Wye Bridge to the Railway Bridge." He also recalls
 "Jordan's boat house. "It was purchased by Rupert Dutton-
 Thompson who also owned Bastion Mews. But he neglected to
 move the boats with the onset of autumn and the whole lot were
 swept to destruction in one of those floods so characteristic of the
 Wye. He was the son of a parson who married a Belgian refugee
 at the onset of the 1914 war and was one of Hereford's real
 characters. Other names which spring to mind are Jack Nolan,

D.C. Frank Hall, Anthony Hall, Cyril Franklin and Bill Pigott.
 Rupert's passing is commemorated on a plaque fixed to a tree in
 Commercial Square.

Anyone seen BBC's Ann?

"Where is Ann Griffiths whose father owned a Hereford
 butcher's shop in the 50s,?" ask Vera, Gladys and Derek.
 They all worked at the BBC's Transcription Service in Maida Vale,
 London. And **Ivor Williams** of Whitecross wonders what happened
 to the eight policemen who joined him in the call-up in 1939. They
 included Tom Stevens, Reg Kendle, Dai Strong, George Matthews
 (who died of his war wounds). Drop us a line at Age To Age, 26
 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS if you can help.

Noticeboard

CONCERT

**Hereford Gilbert
& Sullivan Society**
with

Gluck auf Choir
Dillenburg, Germany
RNIB College, Friday
June 12 1998 at 7.30

Tickets £5.00

Leominster Festival

5 to 14 June
An exciting range of
music and celebrity
events
Telephone
01568 613477

Nightlife Guide

A listing of pubs, clubs and
restaurants in Hereford.

For your free copy contact

**Hereford Tourism Information
Centre on 01432 268430**

Bromyard Gala

4 and 5 July

**The Great
Herefordshire
Country show
steam rally for the
family**

YOU MUST REMEMBER

*This is a fascinating video of
40 years of entertainment in
Hereford.*

*Produced by Herefordshire
Council and at a special price
of £5 to Age To Age
subscribers*

£6 to anyone else!

**Call Kate Parker at the
Herefordshire Council
01432 260000**

The 33rd Madley Festival

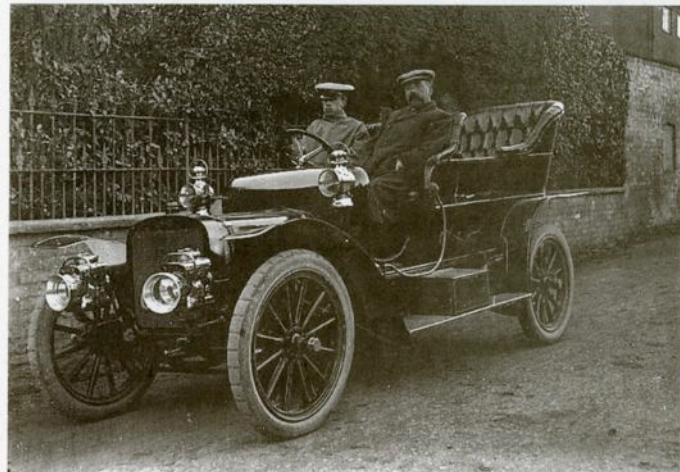
11th to 19th July Concerts from highly acclaimed musicians
Contact 01981 250 309

You Are My Sunbeam

Mr Samuel Prosser, owner of Burtons the bakery, poses in his 1906 Sunbeam with his chauffeur Mr Price. **Mrs Stinton**, of Whitecross, sent in the photograph. A confirmed bachelor, Mr Prosser lived in Bodenhams Road where Mrs Stinton's father, Thomas Williams, worked as head gardener Burtons bakery and grocery shop stood in High Town on the site now occupied by Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society.

Another Mystery

**What's happened? And where is it? Answers please
to Age To Age, Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.**



**Friends
of Age
To Age**

FREESTYLE Fields Yard, Plough Lane, Hereford HR4 OEL 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

Imperial Restaurant and Bars Widemarsh Street, Hereford 01432 273646