

Comments to:-

Hereford Lore

26 Quarry Road

Hereford

HR1 1SS

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Age To Age

Vol 7 Issue 2 April 1999

Inside:-

○ Cubans In

Hereford

○ School Stories

○ Cinema Sounds

○ Rationing



St James - Circa 1920

Miss Mary Price, the angelic-looking young girl seated second from left on the second row, was one of the pupils at St James school photographed around 1920. The mother of one of our regular contributors, **John Newman** from Newton Farm, Mary Price went to work at the British Cannery in Bewell Street after leaving school and spent most of her working life here until moving to Bulmers along with her old friend Emmy Daw. Whether or not Emmy Daw is also in the picture we don't know. If you can place any of the faces here, do let us know at Age To Age. Our address is at the top of this page.

The Lost Russian Cannon

This howitzer on right, says **Ted Hadley** from Whitecross, Hereford used to stand in the Cathedral School playground in the corner of the Cathedral Close. The photograph was taken around 1921 and Ted has been able to name all the officers. They are, from left to right, back row: Sgt T. Edwards, PCs W. Saunders, L. Goode, Sgt G. Daffurn, PCs A. Morris and A. Price. Front row: PCs H. Davies, T. Everall, A. Burgess, W. Spencer, R. James, L. Prosser and Inspector T. Munn.

And, asks Ted, "Whatever happened to the huge Russian cannon which was sited on a corner of the Castle Green near the ice cream kiosk, facing downstream of the Wye? For children it acted like a magnet and there always seemed to be someone clambering over it or sliding along, astride the barrel. It disappeared during the Second World War and one can only assume that it was used in the war effort for scrap." If anyone can come up with a photograph of the old cannon, we would be delighted to see it.

Hello, and welcome to our latest issue of Age To Age.

I hope that you found our last newsletter on sport very interesting and good reading. We had quite a large response from a number of our readers about individual players and football teams. It does bring back lots of memories of past days. I hope that you enjoy this issue.

Keep up the interest and don't forget to send your stories and photographs to us at Age To Age. All the best for the future.

Tom Woolaway

Remember

Book your tickets for the Hereford Amateur Operatic Society's Memory Lane 1X and support Hereford Age To Age. Ticket sales from the Monday night performance, June 21, are being donated to Age To Age. Book early by calling (01432) 354934.



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, Kit Gundy, Vera Kelly, 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 is posted to you, by taking out a £3 a year subscription from Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS. Next issue will be published in April 1999.

We are grateful for the support of: **COMIC RELIEF**

HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

Charity Projects UK



Cuban's Come to Hereford?

There was Glamour on Parade as Cuban Dancing girls performed for a busy May Fair crowd in Hereford in the 1950s. This photograph and the one of the May Fair in King street (left) were sent to Age To Age by **Marion Lister** from Worcester. Can you tell in which Hereford street these stalls were set up? The clues are in the clock above the stall and the smoking chimney, top right.

Pictures: The Hereford Times



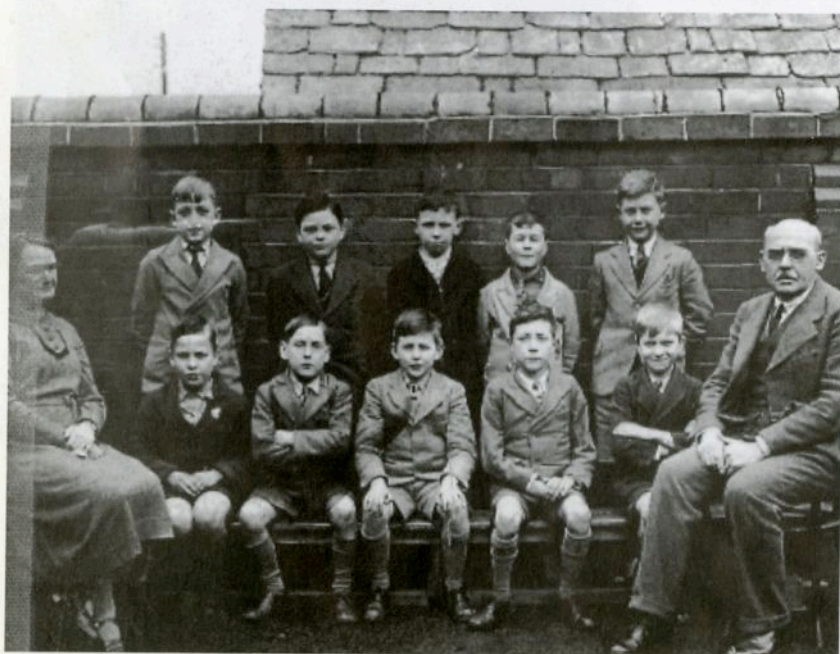
School Days

Dancing on the Castle Green (left) in 1935 are pupils from St James School including Doreen Weaver, Allan Willis, Joan Snell, Joey Forrester, Gerald Lilliam, Rhoda Morgan, Doreen Godsell (who now lives in Horsham) and Sheila Jordan, daughter of the licensee at the Bricklayers Arms.

Marion Lister writes from Worcester to ask who can recall Miss E.M. Medwin, headmistress of the High School for Girls, or Miss Lord and Miss Thornicroft?

"There were so many good schools with excellent results in Hereford: St Owens Boys School and St Peter's Girls. I believe they no longer exist - a retrograde step," she writes.

Marion, formerly Marion Pikes, was both a pupil and teacher at Withington School. "Mr A.R.W. Skipp was headmaster for many years. He would tell us, 'If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well,' and he always wore a daisy in his button-hole on Empire Day. He told us the daisy grew in all parts of the British Empire."



Left, St. Owens School in the 1930s with headmaster Mr Alder Barrett, Mrs Cooke and pupils including John Harrison, Billy Bullock and Ron Summers. This picture and the anecdote which follows are taken from *The Schoolchildren's Tale*: "A serious incident was reported in Lord Scudamore's old school, a male and a female member of staff were found to have spoken to each other in the open playground. This was deemed to set a deplorable example to the children and the teachers were severely censured"

Copies of *The Schoolchildren's Tale* with stories and pictures from all the old schools of Hereford are still available at £2.50 each from Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.



Making Music At The Odeon

Go to a popular film at the cinema in Commercial Road these days and you must queue outside, leave your wheelchair behind and you can expect to hear the noise of the neighbouring night club through the film. Fred James remembers a very different scene at the old Odeon cinema. Built in 1936 with its own café, a trio of musicians would play to entertain the diners - Fred James on violin, Dorrie, his wife, on the cello and Phyllis Morris on the piano. The trio played the Odeon on Tuesday to Sunday and the Imperial Hotel on two other nights of the week.

Roy Kennett went to talk to Fred who was born in Gloucestershire 89 years ago, at his Kingsthorpe home. He learned about the days when Fred played at the Lyons Corner House in London and Boots Restaurant in Cheltenham and, for a spell, with the Wessex Orchestra. Dorrie who, sadly, passed away recently, was a cellist with the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra for seven years when Sir Dan Godfrey was the conductor. The couple came to Hereford in 1944.

For a while Fred was leader of the orchestra at the Kemble Theatre which stood in Broad Street and also played for the city's Gilbert and Sullivan



Society and the Amateur Operatic Society which awarded him a medal for his 47 years service to them. Fred still plays weekly with a group of friends including viola player Mary Jones the organist at Much Birch. He is delighted that his seventeen - year - old great granddaughter Emilie has taken up the cello.

*Pictured above:
Fred and Dorrie James.*

Snippets

In The Swim

Many people learned to swim under Miss Young, the lady whose picture was published in the last issue of Age To Age. Enid Loughman, Muriel Stringer, Linda Rose, Muriel Cowleigh (nee Jones), Mary Dew, Madeline Went, her brother Tim and Kit Gundy were among them and **Betty Reinhold**, writing from Dorset home, recalled her methods:

"Miss Young taught me to swim in the mid twenties when I was about 5 years old. She had a sort of bench on four legs that resembled a miniature vaulting horse and you lay on your stomach on this and moved your arms as in breast stroke while she grabbed your ankles and proceeded to whip your legs out, up, round and down to get the leg movement right.

"You then progressed to a belt on the end of a long pole and Miss Young walked up and down the side of the baths holding you up. Any sign of floundering and you were yanked up as if on the end of a fishing rod"

"She must have taught me very well as I later became a long-standing member of the swimming club's team and Hereford was one of the first clubs to have ladies' water polo team."

Free Wool

Mrs Batten at the Wool Shop in Commercial Road used to give a free ball of wool to any youngster who could go to her shop and recite from memory Corinthians, Chapter 13. Linda Rose, formerly Thomas, remembers because she was one of the recipients.

Throwing His Money Away

Does anyone remember Mr Page, a regular visitor to Hereford? He used to stay at The Residence, a hotel that stood on the corner of Broad Street and King Street. **Elsie Pounds** recalls his habit of standing on the Victoria Bridge throwing coins into the river for children to recover.



Naming Names

Our sporting pictures, published in the last issue of Age To Age, jogged many a memory.

Among those who identified the Belmont Rangers team of 1949 - 1950 were Dot and Larry Davies, two of our correspondents from Australia, together with Jim Finney and Douglas Hughes. The team members named were: Gordon Newman, Tony Munn, the Buchanann brothers, John Warley, John Hill, B. Stinton, F. Peterson, Chris Powell, N.Braithwaite, Llew Preece, Eversham, Davies, John Hughes.

Janet Mussell recognised two of her relatives in the Allensmore's Football team, while Mrs Heir, noting her uncle, Frethy O'Neil, sitting in the front row of the Thistle Football Team, promptly dispatched a copy of Age To Age to his son, John in Australia also noted was Bill Cutler father of Brian, Horice Luker, father of Ross Councillor Mary Dew. Other names noted in Thynnes' team were: Charles Mason, John Ellerton, Brian Thynne. Linda Rose recognised many of the faces. She used to supply the tea on match days at the Essex Arms ground.

Finally Reg Hodges recognised Fred Watkins (from the fish and chip shop next to the Racehorse pub), Archie Baylis, Gordon Pearce, Owen Smith and Ronnie Minton in the Gurney's Skittle Team.

The 34th Madley Festival

July 10th - 18th 1999
Orchestra Of The Swan
The Ebony Quartet
The Pro-Arte Guitar Trio
The Brook Street Baroque
Gala Orchestra of London.
Evening Performances
8.00p.m. Festival Service
July 18th 2.30 p.m.

Noticeboard

A joint reunion for former pupils of the Hereford High School for Girls and Hereford High School for Boys.

April 24. Tickets £15 from I.E. Williams, Llanwarne Court, Llanwarne, 01981 540385.

Hereford Amateur Operatic Society

Memory Lane 1X

June 21 - 26 1999
at the Clubroom,
Whitecross Road, Hereford

Roger Whittaker

direct from his outstanding European Tour will perform at **Hereford Leisure Centre** on **Saturday May 8 1999** in a performance presented by the Rotary Club of Hereford Wye Valley in aid of charities including Riding For The Disabled, the Marie Curie Nursing Services and Shop Mobility.



Jill Southall, formerly Jill Whiting, from Fromes Hill (and second on the right in the middle row) has done a fine job of naming most of the people in this photograph of the staff at the Hereford solicitors, T.A. Matthews, taken in the early 1960s. Back row, left to right: Carol Evans, Trevor Nash, Les Salmon, David Matthews, George Mason, John Bowler, (?), (?), middle row Lilian Staunton, Hazel Badman, Bobby Keddle, (?), Phyllis Sparrow, (?), Mrs Lane, Gladys Pritchard, Elsie Evans, Joan Phillips, (?), Leila Hill, Jill, (?), front row Edward Slann, Reginald Jones, Sidney Nelson, Harold Cox, Mr Kenneth Matthews, Mr Howell Davies, Mr Pritchards, Fred Coates, Mr Thompson and Arthur Williams.

Helping Hand Over Solicitors

Take care when you appoint a solicitor, as in any other profession, there are good ones' and bad ones. Minnie Hill once dealt with a solicitor "I asked him how much he would charge and he told me half a guinea - this was a long time ago! But when he finished the job he wanted 5 guineas! I only paid him half a guinea in the end"

More recently Minnie found herself in a legal tangle and was unhappy with the way her solicitor dealt with the problem. She complained to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau and they helped to speed the matter up.

If you have difficulty with a solicitor ask advice from Age Concern (01432 350483), Advocacy for Older People (01432 261165) or Citizens Advice Bureau (01432 266456).

Helping Hand is sponsored by Advocacy for Older People.

Food For Thought

I recently came across some old recipes I had saved from a newspaper (I think it was the News Chronicle). **Kit Gundy** Writes "They reminded me of rationing and the shortages which continued for some years after the Second War ended. The recipes refer to 'reconstituted dried eggs' or perhaps you were lucky enough to get 'shell eggs' a 'little butter or marge if you can spare some', perhaps a 'little garlic if you can find some'

'Cooking on top of the stove will save fuel.'

It made me think how hard housewives must have worked to feed their families. Perhaps, like my mother and me, you gave up sugar in your drinks so that the men in the family could have your rations. They queued for things on points, like dried fruit. I remember the marzipan for my wedding cake was made from soya-flavoured almond essence.

We salted down beans from the garden and put eggs in isinglass - nobody had refrigerators for some years - we got ours from the council for an addition to our rent - and freezers were unknown weren't they?" What memories do you have? When did you acquire your first refrigerator? Drop us a line at Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR 1 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

Bay Horse Inn, Kings Acre Road, Hereford

Tel: 01432 273351