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Hereford Lore
26 Quarry Road
Hereford
HR1 1SS

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Age to Age

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August 1999

This issue
has been
sponsored
by Hereford
Amateur
Operatic
Society



Emergency Land Girls

(Photo: Hereford Times)

Many recall the Land Army girls, but who remembers the young women who worked the land at the end of their day's work? Mrs Audrey Morgan (right) worked at the War Agricultural offices in St John Street and her friends, Win Philpotts (left) and Ruby (centre), were employed at Greenlands where Marks and Spencers now stands. The three young women were part of the Emergency Land Corp. "Early evenings we would be taken to a farm to do a few hours work. We were hop leafing and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves."

A Very Big Thank You

On behalf of Hereford Lore I wish to express our very grateful thanks to Hereford Amateur Operatic Society for giving all ticket sales from one night's performance of Memory Lane IX. The show was greatly appreciated and the feedback was tremendous.

A very big thank you to all the various individuals and the many clubs present for their support on the night. Most of the audience were readers of our Age To Age

Newsletter. I hope that they and our other readers will support our next event - the annual coffee morning on Wednesday October 13 1999 at Hereford Town Hall from 10 - 12.30. Admission is free.

We need a great effort from everyone to support our work so that we continue to go from strength to strength.

Roy Kennett - chairman

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, 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 October 1999.

We are grateful for the support of:

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Eight bright young things take to the boards. The picture of the Rover Scouts Concert Party in 1930 was loaned by Kathleen Lawrence.



Another Cannon Shot

In 1924 the then 18 year old Kathleen Lawrence of Kings Acre posed on the cannon in Castle Green with her cousin from London, Harry Shute. Meanwhile Margery Spencer from Whitecross found her father's face smiling back at her in our April issue. "He was one of the policemen standing in front of the cannon. In those days (the twenties) I knew nearly all the policemen. They were always calling at home to see my dad and they were a great lot."



Familiar Faces? Staff at Woolwor employee Mrs.M.Spratt of Chartw

Army Lullabies

"I was born in the Drill Hall, Friar Street in May 1932", writes Barbara Dawson of Ross Road, Hereford. "It was my home for seven years and I have very happy memories of my childhood. As a toddler I used to sleep to the music of the Army Band playing in the big yard below my window. To this day I get very choked up when I see a military band"

"My father, Colour Staff Sgt Bill Pullinger, taught me to play the drums from the age of four. He was a Devonshire man who had fought and been shot in the First World War. He had a letter written in ink from the King. He used to be in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and trained the Herefords and the LI in the square and used to run boxing in the big gymnasium which is now the bus depot.

"When he retired as recruiting Sgt he went to Bradbury Lines as a civil servant. I followed in his footsteps and was connected to the Army until my retirement. He died at 83, a fit, kind and wonderful father."

Left: The Army Band in action.

And Lionel Meredith of Armadale Close thinks that perhaps the most important boxing bout held in the Drill Hall was that between Jack Farr and Elfryn Morris in April 1948. By the way, says Lionel, "I send Age To Age to the oldest living boy from the Cathedral School." Mr Briscoe, whose father managed the Tredegar and Hereford Brewery Co. which was in Bewell Street, was 99 in July.

Letters from Australia

I wonder if any National Auxiliary Fire Service people remember the sirens blowing on the yellow warning, ask Frances Coleman in her latest letter from Queensland, Australia? "A fire truck used to leave the Central Fire Station to go to Painters. I used to pick up this truck and travel to Painters on this truck. One night, while going along Blueschool Street, a German raider dropped a flare which lit up everywhere. It was very eerie."

"Another memory is of walking from the Railway Station and seeing soldiers all along Station Road waiting to be transported to various places for kitting out and regaining their national armies. This was after Dunkirk. They were so quiet, tired and, I think, dispirited. I didn't even get a whistle!"

My mother, Clohilda May Dickinson, worked at the ammunition factory in Rotherwas from the outbreak of the war, writes Mrs Dickinson's daughter Sandra Watson from Western Australia. "She lived in the Forest of Dean and cycled to the factory every day with other workers. She was present the day the Germans dropped the bomb on the fac-

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Members celebrate 36 years of service of Miss M. Morris. Former well Road sent in the photograph.

and was outside at the time. They had thought it was one of their own planes until they saw the swastika and by that time the bombs were dropping. One of those killed that day was a man who rode his bike with her from the Forest."

Sandra wonders if any of the photographs taken of the workers in those days have survived. Write to us at Age To Age if you can help her

Holmer Church Choir

The Holmer Church Choir pictured on the back page of our last issue has touched Patricia Braide from Hereford. "My husband, Reg Braide who died in 1998 is standing in the back row of the picture. Reg sang with the choir for many years and his sister, Olive Dawe, was organist at St Mary's Church in Grandstand Road. This would have been our 45th wedding anniversary and it made me very happy to see the picture in Age To Age, a tribute to such a well known and loved man and a dear husband.

No Room For Nostalgia

It would be foolish to suppose that all our memories of school are happy ones and Charles Morris's experiences at St Owen's School under the reign of headmaster Mr Alder Barrett were anything but blissful. "The majority of my class were killed in the '39-45 war," he writes. "I was one of the lucky few and returned to the family building firm. And, "he adds", the headmaster was the only person that I can honestly say I have hated my whole life. I shall be 80 in September." Charles was hesitant about writing to us, but in the end felt that honesty was the best policy.



Another picture from Kathleen Lawrence, this time of children from St. Peter's School on the Castle Green around 1952.

Snippets

Soldier's Cakes

Mrs Maud Andrews (formerly Owen) recalls a curious war-time custom on Hinton estate. Her neighbours would save their empty biscuit boxes and some sugar rations which were passed on to her. Then, when any young soldier came home on leave, there was always enough to make one cake to celebrate his home coming. Sometimes, says Maud, the soldier would marry while on home leave and the new wife was then entitled to the army wife's allowance.

Anyone Remember?

Mrs Lloyd who married in 1910 used to live with her family in Widemarsh Street. A member of Llanwarne W.I. would like to know more about her. Bill Rushton from Tipton asks about the late Yvonne Hurley who served with the Land Army at Helms Farm, Ford Bridge and who knew his wife. And while we're at it, does anyone know of a Sam Neale who worked on the railways and lived opposite Kilpeck Church in 1860? You would need a long memory, but if you know anything about Mrs Lloyd, Yvonne Hurley or Sam Neale, drop us a line at Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.

Drinks At The Vicarage

News that the old Belmont pub is to be pulled down has saddened J.Went from Scorrier, Cornwall. "I remember it well as a child, but my father told me that it was once a vicarage. For the life of me I can't think of a church nearby except for St Francis. Does anyone know the mystery behind the pub,"



Hereford artist John Ward CBE celebrated his 80th birthday at the Rhydspence Inn in the company of many friends including Linda Rose and Herbert Holmes, and a copy of Hereford Lore's The Schoolchildren's Tale (on the table beside the cake pictured above). The book apparently proved a focal point in the conversation. If you would like a copy, write to us at 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.

Naming Names

A kind reader has provided the missing names from A Wiggins Social Club cricket team: George Rachel, Ron Plant, Bob Grocutt, Steve Hull, Ian Parry and Bill Lucas, back row; Richie Thwaites, Maurice Phelps and Aubrey Preston, middle row; and Roy Beare and Ian Preston, front row.

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sure you receive
a copy of
Age to Age by post?

You can, by taking out a
£3.00 a year subscription
from Hereford Lore,
26 Quarry Road,
Hereford HR1 1SS

Noticeboard

Coffee Morning

Wednesday October 13 1999

10.00 - 12.30

Hereford Town Hall

Proceeds to

Age To Age

Admission Free

Hereford Amateur Operatic Society
Present

That Great Musical "Carousel"

At The Courtyard, Edgar Street

On Friday November 5 Saturday November 13

Evenings: 7.30

Matinees on 6th and 13th at 2.30 Tickets:

Evenings £9.00 and £7.50 Matinee £6

Box Office Open -

Monday October 4 1999



Above, Harold King with his 21 lb salmon pictured at Boycott Road in 1937. Sadly Harold died recently.

Hooked on a 21 lb Salmon

The fishing fraternity have risen to the bait following A.J. Thomas' angling memories in our last issue. One of his angling friends, Harold King from Lower Bullingham, regularly won angling competitions as a youngster, but being unable to afford the specialist tackle and licence, he could not afford to fish for salmon. That was until a benevolent Mr Manley presented him with his own old fishing tackle and a note to take to Hattons Tackle Shop in St Owens Street. The note instructed the shop to issue Harold with a licence.

The young man practised hard with his old rod and reel. "It was a heavy reel for a 17 year old and I was continually getting hooked on the bottom of the river" One Sunday in April 1937, he returned to the Eign Stream with his brother Bert and a group of senior salmon anglers.

"I stood on the remains of a tree stump with the high bank behind me and started to cast. On the third cast, which was a good one - half way across the river - as I wound in my line I saw a salmon following my prawn bait about five yards from where I was standing. It opened its mouth and swallowed the prawn. I struck. It made off into the middle of the river with the reel screaming away. I shouted at the top of my voice" "All the senior anglers came running to give me instructions on how to play the salmon. It took a good twenty minutes to beat the fish."

Harold's salmon weighed 21 lbs 10 ounces. "I sold it to MacFisheries in Eign Street for £2.2s, a fortune to me in those days."

Helping Hand With Difficult Phone Calls

Are you irritated by those pre-recorded phone messages telling you to press your Star Button? Are you confused by the options when you phone the gas board, MEB or Welsh Water? Do you spend ages waiting to hear a real voice?

Instead of hanging on to the telephone, write them a letter. And keep a copy of it. If you are writing about something important - an incorrect bill, for example - take your letter to the post office and send it recorded delivery.

If you need help writing your letter, pop along to your local Age Concern or Citizens Advice office.

Helping Hand is sponsored by Advocacy for Older People (01432 261165)

Call:

Citizens Advice Bureau, 1a St Owens St, Hereford
266456 (branches in Ross and Leominster),
Age Concern Hereford - Berrows Buildings, Bath St.
Hereford (01432 350483) and Advocacy For Older
People (01432 261165).

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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