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Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

# Age to Age

Vol 7 Issue 5

October 1999

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## Christmas Past

Once again our very sincere thanks to those of you who wrote contributions for this issue. We hope you will continue to supply us with interesting memories.

As our next Issue is the December Issue, contributions dealing with Christmases long gone will be very welcome.

**Bill Morris**

*Onlookers survey the fire damage as smoke hangs over the remains of Thinghill Court, Withington. We have no more details - but perhaps one of our readers does? Write to us at Age To Age*

## Country Recollections

"In the early '30s when I was a Glasgow schoolboy", writes John Hosie, "my mother would pack me off to the Herefordshire countryside. I was to stay with my grandmother who lived in a farm labourer's cottage in a little hamlet near Ashperton"

"At Glasgow Central Station, my mother would select a compartment which a family occupied and would ask them to keep an eye on me. With my suitcase and pack of sandwiches placed on the rack above and a small bottle of home-made lemonade for the journey, my mother would

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*Lunchtime in the hopyard at Dormington. Bill and Win Griffiths together with Dorothy Griffiths (now Dorothy Marchant) and Ivy, Jack and Michael Goodman are pictured in the 1950s.*

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 December 1999.



Charity Projects UK

**COMIC RELIEF**





*Hunderton Athletic Football Club line up for the lens in 1949.*

## Sporting Days



*Putson Athletic Club in 1946: Donald Lynes, Ginger Gilbert, David Lewis, Percy Lynes, Derrick Whittaker, Derrick West, Mick Rooke, Lionel Lynes, Basil Barrington, Billy Johnstone and Gordon Owen.*



*Hereford's Marks and Spencer's Sports Team in 1953.*

## High School Days

"**N**ews of the death of former Girls' High School headmistress, Miss Attenborough, at the age of 99 will have saddened many former pupils", writes Bill Morris.

"Miss Attenborough became headmistress in the mid '30s when Miss Medwin retired. Miss Medwin had been a very stern headmistress, both to the girls and the staff. She clearly felt her girls should be shielded from the boys across the road - even to the extent of having a different afternoon finishing time to the Boys' High School"

"Miss Attenborough changed all that. We even had inter school parties and dances"

"When war broke out, two Birmingham schools were evacuated to Hereford, St Phillips Grammar School for Boys and St Paul's Grammar School for Girls. This meant sharing schools and each of the four schools attended for only half a day, but an extended half - day. This was much appreciated as was the fact that there were now new girls we could attempt to woo! But the big city lads seemed more sophisticated than we Herefordians and at inter-school parties we looked with some envy at their sm suits and with some dismay at the fact that they were impressing the Hereford girls!"

"Nor were we pleased to find that our pavilion was occupied by soldiers. We were not sure why the Nazis should have the pavilion and the railway tracks behind as prime targets! But ours was not to reason why. As a result we had to cycle home after rugby matches in a rugby kit which was often very wet and covered with mud"

"I'm old enough to remember Miss Medwin", writes Kit Gundy. "She was someone no-one could forget. She always wore her gown in school and under it she wore one of three dresses identical in style. If my memory serves me correct one was blue, one green and one yellow.

Both she and Miss Attenborough ('Atty') were determined to turn us country girls into 'ladies'"

"Our local accents were frowned upon and our deportment, in school and out, was carefully watched over. Woe betide any 'gal' seen in uniform without her hat, floppy felts in winter and equally floppy straw in summer. These last eventually gave way to straw boaters in Miss Attenborough's time. Were our teachers more eccentric then than now? They were certainly more distant and we were in awe of them"

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

have a word with the guard and finally impress on me the need to take care of my ticket.

When I arrived at Hereford at 6.00 p.m., Uncle Albert was waiting for me. I remember the long wait for the train to Stoke Edith station. Stoke Edith will always remain in my memory. I can still see the station gardens with all the flowers in bloom and the pink rambling roses that threaded their way along the railings. The porter would come running to collect our tickets - I cannot recall ever seeing anyone else alighting there - and we would wait for the train to puff out of the station before we could cross the line. Uncle Albert would strap my suitcase to his bicycle and then it was forward to where my Grandmother





*Joan Bevis, centre, at the High School reunion.*

"Our school days at Hereford High School were revived recently by the school reunion at Llanwarne Court", writes former pupil Joan Bevis. "As we get older, school days seem a long way away and when we arrived at the reunion we were all looking for familiar faces which was difficult - it was sixty years since we were together at school!"

"We were ushered into a huge

marquee and found our table, marked 1939, right in the centre. It was interesting watching the tables fill up, especially ours. We soon got chatting, remembering all the good times we had and some not quite so good! Late in the afternoon we began drifting our separate ways, getting on with our lives and remembering our 'happy school days'



## Garden City

*Janet Jones, now Janet Burge of Green Lanes, Hereford was brought up in the Garden City area. "As a child, I went to a party to celebrate V.E. Day. Someone took this photograph of all the children. I can name some: Glyn Beynon (One time Mayor of Hereford), Marian Hurcombe, Mrs Hurcombe, Jean Smith, Brian Parry, Heather Jones, Ann Pugh and two members of the Carter family"*

lived"

"I would breathe in the fresh air that was so foreign to me, see the hedgerows with all the wild flowers and the birds singing their last songs of the evening. We veered off under the Little Tarrington railway bridge then into fields, over stiles and along paths through orchards full of cider apple trees. Finally there were the lights of the cottage shining in the distance. It had been a long journey for me"

# Snippets

## Any Old Issues?

A recent new subscriber to Age To Age has been delighted by everyone's memories and wonders what else she has missed. Does anyone have any spare back numbers of Age To Age so that she can catch up? Write to us at Age To Age if you can help.

## Class of '20

Emily Wright was pleased to find herself in the picture of St James School pupils, published in the April issue of Age To Age. "We moved to Widemarsh Street in 1921 so I went to All Saints, finishing at St Peters before going to the British Cannons from 1930 until they closed in 1976" writes Emily.

## Pony and Trap

George Coleman writes from Queensland, Australia. "During the late '20s my mother Nellie Coleman, lived at Stocking on Common Hill, Fownhope, now known as Glenridge. On market day she would drive to Hereford in a pony and trap. The pony was put into the stables at the White Lion Hotel in Maylord Street. The shopping being done, we had faggots and peas for lunch at the Wellington Hotel, put the pony back into the trap and called at the brewery opposite the White Lion for a few sacks of Brewers Grains for the pigs before trotting back to Fownhope"

## Boxing At The Butts

Edgar Broad writing from Alberta in Canada, also remembers boxing matches at The Butts in Breinton. "We used to camp out every summer and, of course, we did a lot of training together Billy King was a good boxer He was coached by Terry Chamberlain. We, Les Bullar Les Farr and myself were his seconds when he used to fight Tommy Snowzel. It was always a battle and drew large crowds. We all joined the services and went our different ways, but I was sad when I learned that Billy had been killed in action"

## Film Buff

Margaret Maddy from Moor Park used to be a Saturday morning regular at the Ritz cinema. "The manager was Mr Shenton who we knew as Uncle Harry. I think the song we sang went: We are the boys and girls, well known as minors of the ABC And every Saturday all line up to see the films we like and shout with glee. We love to laugh and sing a song. Such a happy gang are we We're all pals together, we're the minors of the ABC" "When it was your birthday, you were called on to stage and everyone sang to you"

## Artist's Impressions

Artist and old Herefordian John Ward takes the opposite view of Charles Morris' experiences at St Owens School under headmaster P.H. Alder-Barrett (see No Room For Nostalgia in our last issue). "As a portrait painter I have met and talked long with many fine and distinguished people and this has made me value my luck in being under him, and the excellent staff at St Owens even more. It was he who introduced me to that other great Herefordian F.C. Morgan. What a man he was!"



Hereford Amateur Operatic Society

Presents

## That Great Musical "Carousel"

At The Courtyard, Edgar Street

On Friday November 5th until  
Saturday November 13th  
Evenings 7.30pm  
Matinees on 6th and 13th  
at 2.30pm

### Tickets

Evenings £9 and £7.50  
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Box Office Open  
Monday October 4th 1999

## NOTICEBOARD

# Final Note

for your Diary

## COFFEE MORNING

in The Town Hall Hereford on  
Wednesday 13th October 1999 at  
10.00am - 12.30pm Admission free

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## Listen to the Band

The Owen family were stalwarts of the Hereford City Silver Band. Joseph Owen (seated with his wife Florence) was conductor for 18 years. Behind them are sons Russell, Allen, Newton and Desmond, pictured outside the Town Hall in 1947. Newton, now 82, says they gave ten concerts a year in the Castle Green from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Newton's son, Norman Owen, well remembers going to listen to them with his twin brother, Graham. "We boys used to get tired of sitting on a deck chair and we would start playing games" "The next thing was to go to Haines ice cream kiosk, but the queue was long as the Castle Green" "Concerts were very popular and, of course, free. The old wooden bandstand (inset) was pulled down when the new bandstand was built around the corner at Radcliffe Gardens"



## Helping Hand

### Bored? Listless? Isolated?

As we get older it's all too easy to withdraw into our own little world. And the time consuming business of looking after someone (or being looked after ourselves) can make it difficult to get out and about.

One way to break the boredom is to join a day centre. Day centres have thrown off the old image of tea and bingo. They can provide stimulation and interest, give our carers a welcome rest and give us the chance to make new friends.

To find out about your nearest day centre call  
Age Concern

(01432 350483) or

Social Services (01432 260000).

Helping Hand is sponsored by Advocacy For  
Older People (01432 261168)

## FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

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