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*This issue is jointly sponsored by The Hereford Police Choir and
The City of Hereford Probus Club.*

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Age to Age

Vol: 8 Issue 3

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Water under the bridge.

Mrs. Davies of Tupsley sent us this picture taken during the 1960's, depicting a watery Eign Road

Taking the Bull by the Horns

This photograph, taken at Redwood Farm in Middleton on the Hill in



1928, shows *George Lanman* with a fine example of our local emblem the Herefordshire bull. *George* walked with the animal through the three counties of Herefordshire, Worcester and Shropshire to get to the market in Tenbury Wells, where the bull was bought by Monks butchers of Birmingham. After the sale, *George* walked the animal, weighing one ton, to Tenbury Wells station, and loaded it onto a railway wagon to travel to Birmingham.

Born in Peterchurch, 92 year old *George* now lives in Tenbury Wells and has nine children, twenty grandchildren, thirty-four great grand children and nine great great grandchildren.

Difficult Times

The future of the production of our newsletter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Age to Age committee. The meeting revealed that sufficient income for another 12 months was available. After this, if one or two sponsors are not forthcoming, the production will cease. There are several ways this could be avoided - a £3 yearly subscription would ensure a postal delivery bi monthly. It has been suggested that a charge should be made, and one of the ways this could be done is that already adopted by several clubs who receive copies regularly. They collect from their members a small amount for each issue, and this could amount for a good source of revenue. The question has to be answered do you wish Hereford Lore to continue producing Age to Age? If so, your help is needed. Please give this your kind consideration. The committee will do their utmost to continue production. We know that many of you look forward to receiving your copies. Help us to make this a positive yes.

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 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 August 2000.





Bringing to mind this year's production of Merrie England by Hereford's Gilbert and Sullivan group, actors from an earlier interpretation pose for a picture. Gwendoline Snell played Queen Elizabeth, and the photograph was kindly loaned by her son, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, OBE, who now lives in Dorset.

• "All these ladies worked at Hereford tile works," writes **Mrs. Davies** of Tupsley. "First left is my mother, Lucy Morris. Front row middle is **Olive Miles**." Does anyone recognise any of the other women in the photograph? →

Talking Shop

We've had yet another mention of **Sid Wright**, this time from **Charles Bubb** of Cheshire "As a child," writes Charles, "I lived almost opposite **Sid Wright's** shop, in what was then Eign Street, and it was not the sort of shop you could ignore"

"**Mr. Austins** mentioned Sid's weekly newspaper pieces in the February issue of *Age to Age*, of which seventy were published in book form in 1941 under the title 'Shop Talks.' It is full of Hereford history and gossip, with pungent comments on politics, economics, the price of eggs, Black Vaughan's ghost, and the time Sid appeared before the magistrates. And the cover is, as it should be, in Sid's shop colours of bright orange and green"

Charles also recalls that **Sid Wright** was once described as "seventeen Sid's," because of his many interests, but believes that those who remember the bazaar will think of him as "a man with a gift for what we now call public relations, who tried to make greengrocery interesting and exciting."

Food for Thought

The February issue of *Age to Age* also brought back memories for **Margo Edwards**, (née Brown), now living in Exmouth. While working at Broadfield Court as a housekeeper almost sixty years ago, Margo was sent to work at Broxwood Court for two weeks because of staff shortages, and there she met **J. B Priestley** "Priestley was talking to me the one day and said that he had his lunch with us - the staff - but not at our table, so that he could listen to our conversation, he often used what he heard in his stories."

Margo also recognised her father-in-law, **Billy Edwards**, in the football team photograph in the last issue of *Age to Age*. Billy, who worked for the electricity board, collected money from meters, and was well known in Hereford.

High School Protection

Bill Morris' entry in the October issue of *Age to Age* brought back memories for **Marion Lister** (née Pikes), who now lives in Worcester, and started at Hereford High School for Girls in 1928.

"I remember how **Miss. Medwin** 'protected' her girls from the boys. I cycled to school from Withington daily and there were half a

dozen boys on the road at the same time. One morning late and I passed Black Bar **William's** mother was outside left his dinner sandwiches by Would I take them to him? 'bet I would! "I dash into n form room, and all my for mates were green with envy the thought of me going to t Boys' School. But my delight short lived. **Miss Medwin** s her secretary, **Kathy Gibbs** would take them over, so th was definitely that."

Bulmer's Ang

"Ryelands Street was ver interesting, lined with big trees," recalls **Margaret C** moved to number 53 in 1 lives in Hereford. Margare Kathleen, have v men Bulmers premises in Rye well recall the lovely orch stretched from our garden houses in the street and and Bulmer's lane, bound Railway We and children in the orchard and **Mr. Fr** sometimes appeared and especially cross with the been stealing his crop of apple

"We had nicknames for n workers like **Mr. Tabber-** Pops, the Frenchman Th workers were called Buln they usually spent the dir Cambrian Inn at the bott

Snippets

Run Rabbit Run!

Roy Kennett and **Tom Woolaway** heard some interesting local stories at a recent meeting of a group for people with sight problems at Center in Widemarsh Street.

Who, for example, remembers **Teddy Narraman**? He collected rabbit skins, bottles and small objects on a hand-cart. He always wore a grey dress coat, and is remembered for his saying: "Sort'em out, ladies." For most objects, he would give a few pence, but for rabbit skins, he paid a little extra.

Another memorable character was **Mr. Walters**, who used to entertain shoppers in High town by playing his harp.

Dora Cotterell's son, **Ron Tanner**, remembers Dora telling him about being rowed up the river Wye from Greyfriar's Bridge to visit the tea rooms at Breinton, when someone came running into town to tell them that Mafeking had been relieved. They all danced around with joy.

Radio Days

During the war years, **Nora Foster** (née Davies) was a radio announcer, at Rotherwas Munition Factory playing recorded music and relaying news items from the BBC. Nora remembers going on duty the morning of a bombing.

Remembered Faces

Mary Morris (née Clark) recognised her father, **James Clark**, in an earlier issue. James was for a coal merchant.

Harold Jones has been identified by a relative as one of the gentlemen in a picture of the Thistle Football Club in our last issue of Age to Age. (Back row, second from left) Born in the Westfields area, Harold was an engine driver for many years.

Tent Pegs and Hurdles

If you have any information about **James Davies**, tent peg and hurdle maker, based at Canal Wharf around 1914, can you let us know? **Clare O'Grady** at Burghill is trying to find out more. We will pass your recollections on to her.

Violette Szabo

Does anyone have any stories about Violette Szabo? This year is the 55th anniversary of the death of this courageous young woman, and it would be fitting to publish some stories about the happy times she spent in Wormelow. A museum in her memory is to be opened at Cartraf Wormelow on Saturday 24th of June 2000 at 1:30, by actress Virginia McKenna. Further information, ring Rosemary Rigby Telephone 01981 540477.

Thank you for your feedback on Age to Age. **Dot Davies** from Australia says: "I love it and it does make me think." **Pam Pitt** from Leicestershire tells us to "keep up the good work with Age to Age - you give a great deal of pleasure to people." And **Grace Morphew** sends us "best wishes and grateful thanks to all who make the publication materialise."



Does anyone recall a Railway Queen? **Eileen Sargent** (née Lewis) who now lives in Swansea sent us this picture of the Railway Queen's visit to Hereford. "We all look very glum and solemn," Eileen writes "because the almighty flash used to scare everyone."



A Bird in the Hand.....

The story of **Bill Morris** being cheated out of his half crown reminded **Vi West** née Williams, of a similar story. "My Dad and his mate, **Charlie Hodges**, went to the May Fair and on the darts stall the top prize was a Border Canary. Being quite good at darts, he decided to try to win the bird.

"After the third dart, he knew he had scored enough for the top prize, but the stallholder wouldn't give him the bird. He wanted him to take a pound note instead. My Dad insisted he should have the canary and the man became very unpleasant. While Charlie watched the stall, my Dad fetched a policeman who told the stallholder to hand over the bird. This he did with very bad grace but my Dad got what he wanted, the border canary."

Vi tells us that her father, known locally as Curly, then bred a strain of Borders from that bird which became known all over the country, and he even judged the Cage Bird show at Crystal Palace in the 1940's!



This photograph of Rotherwas Ammunition Factory and workers is included at the request of **Mrs. Sandra Watson** from West Australia, whose mother, **Clothilda May Dickenson**, worked at the factory. "She lived in the Forest of Dean," writes Sandra, "and cycled there everyday with other workers. She was present the day the Germans dropped the bomb on the factory, and was outside at the time. They had thought it was one of their own planes until they saw the swastika on the side and by that time, the bombs were dropping. One of those who were killed that day, was a man who rode his bike as she did everyday from the Forest of Dean."

Popcorn anyone?

Here are the staff of the Ritz Cinema in 1946. The General Manager, **Mr. Shelton**, is seated in the centre, and the Manageress, **Mrs. Watts**, is on his right. Mrs Gladys Clark is on the right hand side of the photograph.

Singing at the Cinema

Recent issues have made mention of the Ritz Cinema and the ABC Saturdaymorning club. We've published the Odeon club song before. Here it is again if you missed it:

"We come along on Saturday mornings,

Greeting everybody with a smile.

We come along on Saturday mornings,

Knowing it is well worthwhile.

As members of the Odeon club we all intend to be,

Good citizens when we grow up and champions of the free

We come along on Saturday mornings,

Knowing it is well worthwhile, while,



while.

Knowing it is well worthwhile.

The club song is well remembered by Ambrose Emerson, who was pianist there from the age of 13 in 1948 until joining the army in 1953, and played it every

Saturday. He also played the accordion and saxophone, and his picture featured in the Odeon "Circle" magazine, a few pages away from another young teenager called **Petula Clark**.



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