

Comments to:  
Hereford Lore  
26 Quarry Road  
Hereford  
HR1 1SS

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

# Age to Age

Vol: 8 Issue 4

August 2000

Read All About It!

- The Odeon — A Family Affair
- Railway Queens
- Bravery Awards at Rotherwas
- City Freedom



*It's Victory Japan Day, 1945 and the band of 124 (Hereford City) Squadron of the Air Training Corp, led by Flt Sgt Douglas Baxter pass through High Town. Alan Willis who loaned the picture has identified Bobby Griffiths, Drum Major Goodwin, Cpl. Drummer Derek Cross, Tenor Drummer Alan Willis and Reg Colwell, hidden behind the Flight Sergeant's elbow.*

## Good Response

OUR appeal for help from chairman Roy Kennett has aroused much support. Age To Age has a circulation of around 3000 copies, and each copy costs about 28p to produce and post.

Reader Charles Bubb suggests raising subscriptions to £5 a year and making a small over-the-counter charge for copies. This would bring extra

income. However, we are committed to providing Age To Age free (or as cheap as possible) especially for older, housebound people and the job of collecting the money would add to our volunteers' already considerable workload.

Several city clubs, Day Centres and Residential Homes now contribute towards Age To Age and many readers have not only taken out a subscription, but also sent a donation. Another reader, Michael

Young, suggests "pushing the sponsorship side from individuals as well as organisations." Recent sponsors like Hereford Police Choir and the City Of Hereford Probus Club have been a great help.

Judging from our post bag, most of you share the view of Charles Bubb: "It would be a great shame to lose Age To Age."

We will keep you posted on developments.

For £3 a year, you could have Age To Age delivered to your door, six times a year. Age To Age is the bi-monthly newsletter from Hereford Lore, a group formed in 1988 to collect and remember our past. The editorial team includes Roy Kennett, Vi Thomas, Tom Woolaway, Jim Thomas, Kit Gundy, Bill Morris, Edith Gammage, Vera Kelly and Bill Laws. Age To Age is

available free at the Town Hall, City Libraries, Tourist Information Centre, Age Concern and Garrick House reception. The next issue will be out in October. Comments & subscriptions to:  
**Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road,  
Hereford HR1 1SS**





## Curtains For The Odeon

HEREFORD'S Odeon Cinema, demolished in 1984, left behind many memories. Olive Evans from Whittern Way was especially sad to see it go — she started her first full-time job as junior cashier in 1951 and when she left nearly 30 years later she was House Manager. Her aunt, Rene Watts (one of those pictured in the last issue of Age To Age) was manageress and, according to her sister Heather Knight from Barricombe Drive, would save young Heather the price of admission (6d) by slipping her in for the Saturday morning show. Olive came from a family of ten and all six sisters, including Eileen, Hazel, Wendy and Annette worked at the Odeon from time to time. "Ambrose Emerson was the pianist when I started," writes Olive. "He played every week at the Saturday Morning Children's Show. When he left to join the Forces, we had others to entertain the children. Danny Lee, then known as Flash and the White Tornadoes, Paul Hodges and his Whizz Disco and Alan Marsden with his Black Magic Disco."

"We even had three football teams made up of Odeon lads — the Whites, Blues and the Juniors."

Heather remembers meeting Roy Rogers and Trigger at the Ritz and watching Don Winslow of the Royal Navy. "But, my greatest joy was the organ which came up out of the pit all bright and shiny."

See Flash and the White Tornadoes on the back page.



Hold Still and Smile. Class 3 Infants at St James School, Hereford in 1932. The picture was loaned by John Bunn.

## Playing Games

MRS. M. Houghton (nee Hughes) now lives in York, but used to attend St Peters Girls School in 1938. "Can any reader help me?" she asks. "I have fond memories of a ball games such as the one which began. 'Onesy, twosey', etc. reaching a climax of 'tensy' I am desperately trying to remember so that I can teach my seven year old grand daughter." Ideas please to Age To Age at 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS. While we are at it, who recalls Miss Mitchell and her sweet shop in Commercial Road? Phyllis Kennett remembers her as "a tall lady with a fresh complexion, grey hair made into a bun. And she always wore a long skirt covered with a white apron."

## Those Railway Queens

EILEEN Sargent's misty pictures of a Railway Queen at Hereford Station, published in the last Age To Age, prompted Michael Young from Rugby to do some research. He believes it was Mabel Kitson, a Ledbury Grammar School girl, whose father, Arthur, was a signalman at Colwall. He dates the occasion as February 1928 when the Queen, elected at a Railway Carnival held annually during the interwar years, visited the 'King of Locomotives', the King George V, which used to be based at Bulmer's Railway Centre.



Match winners. Judging from these triumphant smiles, it looks as if N... photograph and has managed to identify Albert Badham in the front r...

## Busking

THERE'S nothing new about buskers in High Town. Donald Austins recalls a harpist, Mr Walters, playing in the street outside the hairdressers, Edwards, in Eign Street. One of Edwards' customers asked if Mr Walters played by ear. "No," came the reply. "He usually plays outside the City Arms in Broad Street."

Donald also recalls the colourful Mr Mayo, a gentleman who operated a small haulage and general dealer business with horse and cart in Catherine Street. But when members of the County Hunt met - "and in those days they regarded themselves as the elite of the county" — Mr Mayo, in full hunting 'pink', would join them on the horse which, the previous day, had done sterling service behind the cart.

## Snip

### Edward Elgar

AS the Three Choirs... Betty Reinold... composer Elgar was... Malvern to live at P... Park in 1904. This... knighthood and, two... turned down a re... authorities to become... wrote, he was too... perhaps, as he wen... Introduction and AL... two Wand of Youth su... public appearance... Hereford Cathedral at



Its 1951 and St Peters Church Choir pose for their picture outside the... Howells, Fred Siderfin, Malcolm Steed, Linda Thomas (nee Rose), C. I... Woodhouse, George Powell, Bert Perks (organist), Rev. Hopkins (vica... Can you complete the list? (Picture: Hereford Times).





Newton Football Club won their match. John Bunn loaned the bow and Gilbert Wood in the second.

# opets

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s Festival draws near,  
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legro for Strings and  
ites. He made his final  
as a conductor in  
the Festival in 1933.

## Tile Works

SEVERAL readers wrote to put a name to those ladies from the Tile Works, pictured in our last issue. The full list is: Lucy Butcher, Lill Lawrence, Kath Price, Elsie Salmon, Gladys Williams and Olive Probert. "Thanks for reviving such lovely memories," wrote Kath Price.

## Age to Age

CHARLES Bubb, writing from Macclesfield, writes in response to our piece 'Difficult Times' in the last issue. "I feel this sort of informal record of people and what they did is of great importance to a community and to more formal historians as well."



Shire Hall. We have managed to remember most of the names: Tom Matthews, N. Clinkett, Jasper Matthews, John James, Frank Davies, Fred (r) and church wardens, Messers Hill, Williams, St Jones and Phillips.

# Bravery Awards At Rotherwas

IN May 1944, Marguerite Woodward was living in Guernsey under German Occupation, when she heard, on a forbidden wireless, news of an explosion at a ammunition factory 'somewhere in the West Country.' Her brother, Nick St Vincent de Lisle Carey, had slipped out of Guernsey with his family shortly before the Occupation of the Channel Islands and moved to Hereford where he worked at the Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory. His sister, Marguerite, feared the worst. A year later in 1945 the London Gazette reported that there had been three consecutive explosions at the ammunition factory following a fire which had started in one of the bombs. Men had fought for 20 minutes to extinguish the first fire, but when the bomb exploded it detonated neighbouring bombs, demolishing the explosives filling house and sending a sheet of flame 2,000 feet into the sky. According to the Gazette "sixteen men ignored the danger to save their work mates" Marguerite's brother

Nick and four other men, Frederick Tyler, Frederick Lewis, James Little and Fireman Harold Davies were awarded the George Medal for their bravery. The British Empire Medal was given to five firemen, W. Davies, A. Chamberlain, J Jenkins, A. Haynes and A. Morris; two overlookers, T. Boucher and E. Bromley; and two electricians, C. Bennett and J Breen. The factory superintendent, R.E.D. Ovens and W.L. Fitzmaurice, the chief technical assistant who later defused 1,500 lbs of explosives, respectively received an O.B.E. and an M.B.E. "My brother died a few years ago, but I often wonder what became of his friends," writes Mrs Woodward who now lives in Devon. "His children were Vincent (1936), Mary (1937) and Ann Carey (1939), perhaps someone can remember them in their schooldays?"

## German Bomber

MARGUERITE'S (we hope we have spelled her name correctly) memories were sparked off by a report in the last issue of Age To Age of the day in July 1942 when a German bomber hit the factory. It reminds ex RAF sergeant James Board of Hampton Bishop of his wife and daughter's experiences at the time. "I was stationed in Algiers with the RAF Unit SLU5, one of the Enigma units. News of the bombing reached me at 11.00, but of course I could do nothing to contact my family."

All was revealed in his wife's next letter. "She wrote to say she was dressing when she heard a low flying aircraft, looked out of the window and could clearly see the German insignia on the fuselage. Moments later there was a huge explosion and a large chunk of ceiling fell on the bed she had recently vacated. My two year old daughter, in her cot in the same room, merely murmured. "Oo. Boom!"

As an aside, one of James' codebreaker colleagues in North Africa was Geoffrey Webb who, with Godfrey Baisley, covered the event below and went on to write that famous story of country folk, The Archers.

## Freedom

THIS curious Christmas card from 1945, loaned by Mrs Richards, records that the Herefordshire Regiment was granted the Freedom of The City on September 29, 1945. Our own Roy Kennett recalls Archers' scriptwriter, Godfrey Baisley, giving a commentary on the event from the Town Hall balcony when Tom Powell was mayor. When Herefordshire became a unitary authority in 1998, it could no



Continued overleaf



# Notice Board

Meet Members of  
**Hereford Lore**  
at the  
**South Wye Super Fun Day**  
on  
**September 2**  
on the  
**Bishop's Meadows.**

Plenty of entertainment  
and the chance to find out  
all about the South Wye  
Regeneration programme.

Don't Miss  
**Hereford  
Three Choirs Festival**

August 21 - August 25 2000

Festival details from  
the booking office:

1 Castle Street,  
Hereford.  
01432 265005

**The Pop Explosion**  
heralds three weeks  
of summer fun  
for children aged 8 - 12.

**Starts July 31.**

Details from the Courtyard.

01432 359252  
*Book early if you can.*

*(Freedom Continued)...*

longer issue such Freedoms. A number of Hereford councillors, however, have been granted the Freedom of the City of London, a privilege which is accompanied by some strange rights, according to John Newman. They have the right to take sheep over London Bridge, to start a business in the city, live in a City alms house and, if they committed a crime for which the punishment was death, to be hanged by a silk rope. "The reason was that when a Freeman is in his coffin after execution there are no burn marks on his neck to show he was hanged and bring dishonour on the Order of Freemen," explains John Newman, himself a Freeman. So who else has received the Freedom of Hereford city? John Newman lists Lord Nelson, the explorer John Blashford-Snell, the painter John Ward, the poet John Masefield, the millionaire John Paul Getty and a number of naval heroes including Cpt. John Boscawen Savage, Admiral Sir Richard Onslow and Captains Edward Brace and George Papps. "Perhaps, in the not too distant future, we can once again confirm the honour of Freedom of the City in appreciation of past deeds," says John.



*In their white suits, and leaning on a Roller, Danny, Nick, Richard and Neill were Flash and the White Tornadoes, one of the groups which entertained at the Odeon (see Curtains For The Odeon, inside). But where are they now? Let us know at Age To Age.*

## Friends of Age To Age

**ABBOTSFIELD FUNERAL DIRECTORS**, Monkmoor Street, Hereford HR1 2DX

**HEREFORD AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY**

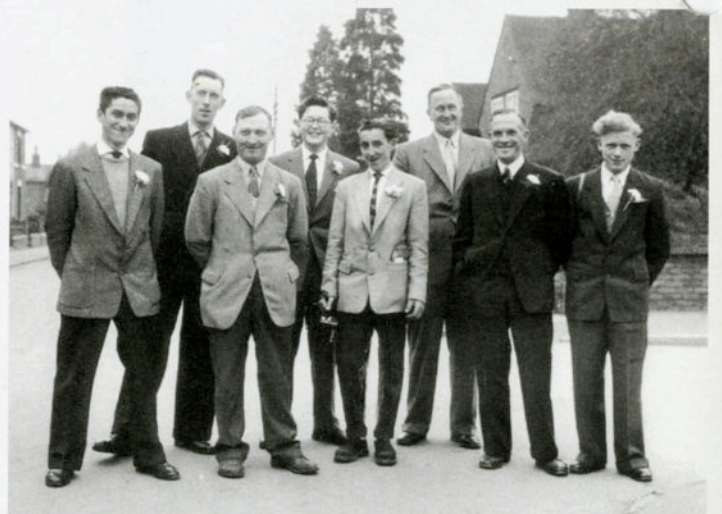
**ROCKFIELD DIY**, Station Approach, Hereford (01432) 273646. Your Local DIY Store.

**IMPERIAL RESTAURANT AND BARS** Widemarsh Street, Hereford (01432) 273646.

**BAY HORSE INN**, Kings Acre Road, Hereford (1432) 273351.

**ADVOCACY FOR OLDER PEOPLE**, 25 Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NW (01432) 261165.

Would you like to become a Friend Of Age To Age? Write to us at Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.



*Looking suitably relaxed well it was a wedding are staff from Bartonsham Farm at the wedding of David Kilgour, son of the vicar of St James. Back row, left to right: Eric Sheffield, John Matthews and Stan Matthews; front row: Archie Wheatstone, Len Oliver, Tom Wheatstone, Bill Morris and Neville Foster.*