

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Age to Age

Vol: 8 Issue 5

October 2000

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



The Age To Age team were out in force for the South Wye Fun Day on Hereford's King George Playing Fields in early September. From left to right: Tom Woolaway, Roy Kennett, Vi Thomas, Bill Morris. (Photo: Maggie Bridges)

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 1989 to collect and remember our past. The editorial team includes Roy Kennett, 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 and Belmont Libraries, Tourist Information Centre, Age Concern and Garrick House reception. The next issue will be out in December.

Comments & subscriptions to:

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Fond Farewell

I am leaving Hereford to be nearer to my family in Cambridgeshire and would like to thank you all for your interest in Age To Age newsletters. I've enjoyed the last 11 years with Hereford Lore (the group which set up Age To Age), visiting clubs, listening, reading and writing about this lovely city, Hereford. I will miss my friends in the editorial

group: Roy Kennett and Tom Woolaway for transporting me around, Bill Morris for his anecdotes, Natalia for her help and Bill Laws the editor. With Phyllis making the tea and Wendy helping with the packing we've all had a lot of laughs. Hopefully I will visit them all in the future and to those who have written or phoned me to wish me luck — thank you. Happy reading!

Vi Thomas

Who Delivered You?

Were you born in Hereford between November 1932 and July 1934? Well, you may well have been brought into the world by May Bonner. May, from Wessington Drive, explains. "I was sitting up in bed at 7.30 a.m. on my 92nd birthday, enjoying Age To Age. But

in the 1930s I delivered about 200 babies and still have a record of them all." In 1934 she left nursing to marry Les Bonner. When war broke out, she joined the Civil Nursing Reserve to become the first Sister at the County Hospital huts.

Inside this Issue



Hunderton F.C. in 1949.



St. Martin's School in the 1900's.



Modern Decor in 1939.



Scenes from the south: children at the old St Martin's School in the South Wye during the early 1900s. Alice Kemp (now Alice Richards of Ross Road) stands in the second row in her best white dress.



Church Parade: these children from Putson Baptist Church seem to have had a long wait for the photographer, judging from the young lad, third from the left in the front row. Thanks to Mrs Boucher for the photograph which was taken in the 1950s.



Hunderton Athletic F.C. 1949-50

“Line Up, Pl

Remember that feeling? Huddled together, best waiting for the photographer to call. Age presents a selection of readers' pictures.



Who? When? Where? The backdrop looks like Hereford's Holy Trinity. Smilers are remains a mystery. We don't even have a name. Send us a line at Age To Age if you can help.



Scouting Party. Ron Morris from Whitecross sent in this photo from



Modern Times Does anyone remember this shop, asks Whitecross? "It belonged to my father Alf Coburn and where Adams stands today. It was only in existence from 1914 to 1945, it closed due to the war."

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Monica Beavan from
was in Church Street
1938 to 1940 when

MARY Morris of Newtown Road, now 93, supplied us with some interesting extracts from the Hereford Times of September 18, 1944. A stoker in the Royal Navy writes to the Mayor.

"Dear Mr Mayor, I am appealing to you for assistance in finding me a wife. I am a bachelor with no sweetheart to write to and I always feel lonely when I see the other boys writing to their sweethearts. I have just returned home from three years foreign service and I feel strange and embarrassed in the presence of the fair sex. My age is 25 and my home is in Salford, Lancs. I am tall with dark hair, but I can't say I look like Robert Taylor. I will close now, hoping to hear from you in the near future."

Cinema

IN the same issue we read that Hereford's four cinemas, the Palladium, the Kemble, the Odeon and the Ritz offered a total of 12 films during the week while at Redhill Hostel there was a performance of J.B. Priestly's play 'They Came To A City' starring John Clements and Googie Withers with a full London cast. Those were the days!

No-one mentioned the cinema organ, points out Mrs T. Taylor from Kingsway, on reading the recent recollections of the Ritz Cinema's Saturday morning ABC Club.

Mrs Taylor met her husband at the Ritz — he was projectionist at the time — and she went on to become chief cashier. Mrs Taylor is pictured in the photograph of the Ritz published in our June issue. David Apperley from Tillington actually played the organ. "It was a two manual Compton organ and in my middle teens I occasionally played for the Saturday morning children's cinema club. It was great fun rising out of the depths with the coloured lights flashing. A button on the end of the lower manual prompted the operator to change to the next slide. — "What a feeling of power I had!"

The manager then was Les Holman, himself a cinema organist. David also used to help the much-remembered Frank Slater to sort his music out in his office — under the stage! Dot Davies, writing from Australia, remembers Frank Salter too and adds. "I wonder if any readers remember the trio at the Odeon who played in the restaurant when it first opened? My husband and I went for afternoon tea one Sunday and clapped after they played. They nearly fell off their platform bowing! Dot wonders if anyone recalls the May Fair merry-go-round that was always sited down Commercial Road near the British Oak and run by her grandfather, Mr Scot. In her youth, Dot worked for Mr and Mrs Walters, a couple who kept the Crown next door to Watts and Bolts Bakery, demolished to make room for the Belmont roundabout.

Snippets

The White Tornadoes

DANNY Lee wrote to Age To Age from Hinton after finding himself pictured in our last issue along with his fellow musicians from Flash and the White Tornadoes. "I am still living in Hereford with my wife and three young children," writes Danny, who still does a little singing for charity. "We did do a reunion a few years ago at the Hereford Entertainer which brought back some terrific memories." Sadly that was to be their last reunion since Neill, his brother and fellow band member, died earlier this year, aged 50.

Tiled Girls

CELIA Nash from Leominster recognised the girls from Hereford Tile works, published in our June issue. "My mother, Lil Lawrence (née Jones) is in the middle of the back row with Kath Elcox (née Prince) to her right, while Gladys Sandford (née Williams) is front left and Elsie Thomas (née Salmon) is on her right. They were recognised by my cousin Ivy Lewis who also worked at the Tile Works."

Rabbit Man

A request for information on Teddy Narraman who used to collect rabbit skins, bottles and other small objects with his hand cart around the town is echoed by Mary Horner from Credenhill. "My mum was related to the Loughmans, Higginsons, Bridges and Vaughans of Hereford and she mentioned that Teddy Narrowman (as I have him recorded) was also somehow related." Since Mary's mother's death, she has been unable to find out any more. Can anyone help her?

World's Oldest Festival

BARBARA Young of Green Street is the author of a new book on the world's oldest music festival,

the Three Choirs Festival. 'In Our Dreaming and Singing' is a serious insight into the festival — but also contains some tongue-in-cheek comments about the life of the chorus singers. 'In Our Dreaming and Singing' costs £6.95 and is published by Logaston Press.

Footie And Sweeties

MOLLY Wood has recognised several family members in the line up of football heroes sent in by John Bunn and published in our last issue: front row, Reg Wood in his trilby, second row Gilbert Wood (second from left), George Wood (third from right) and in the back row, the wonderfully named Bodger Hodges (third from left). Meanwhile both Betty Lloyd and Ann Morgan (née Heard) recall Miss Mitchell's sweet shop in Commercial Road. Ann, who now lives in Ferrers Street, then lived in Monkmoor Street. "I used to run down to Miss Mitchell's or to Mr Lewis, who owned another sweet shop on the other side of Monkmoor Street."

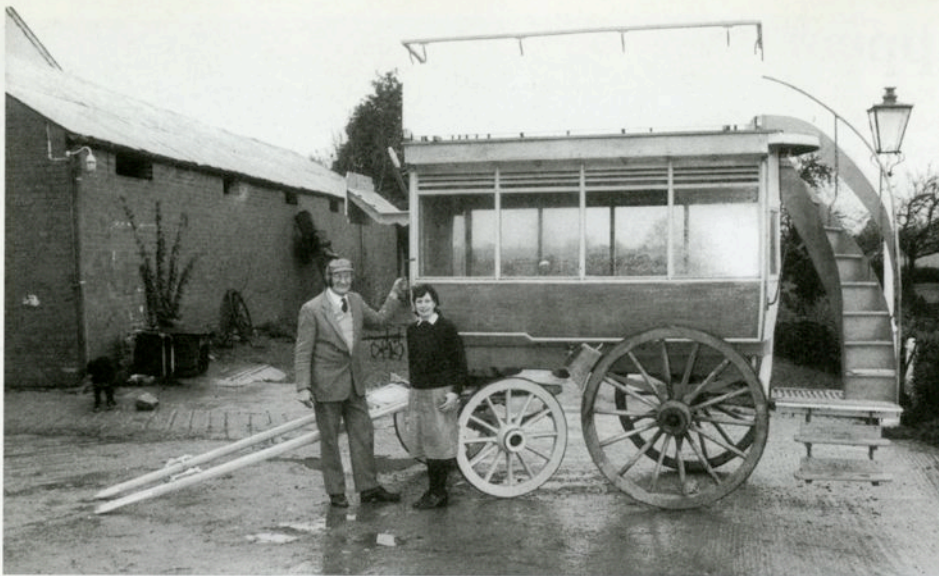
Naming names

KATIE Mason (née Mawson) has lived in Spain for the last fourteen years, but when she managed to get hold of her August copy of Age To Age she was delighted to find herself among the Class of 1932 at St James School. "I am on the top row, fourth child from the right!"

We slipped up when we printed the picture of St Peters Church choir in 1951, loaned by Mrs Bethell. We missed out her husband, Charles Bethell, also in the picture. And two more missing names have been sent in Peter Colwell and Ron Hughes, first and second in the back row.

Nice Thought

"If I win the lottery I will send some support to Age To Age," says Dot Davies from Australia. "The newsletter means a lot to so many."



When John Johnson of Upper Wormhill first found this horse-drawn bus near Ross-on-Wye, it was being used as a chicken house. Undaunted, John who is a member of the Company of Wheelwrights, set to work on its restoration. John, seen here with Susan, his wife, was naturally pleased with the result. Do any of our many readers remember travelling on such a bus?

The Rotherwas Bombing

THE picture of workers outside the Rotherwas Munitions Factory in the the June issue of Age To Age has drawn plenty of replies, including one from Mrs Beale of Putson.

She was preparing to come off night shift at the factory early one morning in July 1942, when the fire alarm sounded. "It was just starting to get light and the chargehand said it was safe enough to draw the black-out blinds. Just as it was done, the fire

alarm went off. Everyone thought it was just a practice, but as we were running to the shelters we saw the German plane and the bombs dropping. At the time I do not think we realised how lucky we were to have escaped. We learned later that several people we knew had been killed."

Patricia Jamfrey (who, although she lives in West Wales, happened to chance upon a copy of Age To Age) not only recalled the bombs falling on Rotherwas, but could add to the story of munitions factory workers pictured in our June issue (left). "My father, Cecil Gethen, who died some 30 years ago, is the man with the moustache in the centre of the picture."

Another ammunition worker was James Breen, an Irishman, who lived at Venns Green near Marden. "I'd like to know what his job was," writes his grandson Mr C Breen of Grosmont Grove. "I don't remember him very much, although he did hurt his right hand at the factory."



Cecil Gethen, centre, outside the Munitions Factory. Do any readers have other pictures of life at Rotherwas?

Autumn Harvest

A young man and his dog pick potatoes from a field at Newton Farm before the last War. Read about the twins who farmed here in the next issue of Age to Age.



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