

Age to Age

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Comments to:

Hereford Lore

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Inside this Issue



GUIDING GIRLS: Mrs Barnett of Marlowe Drive was in the Girl Guides in the 1930s. "I'm the one next to Margery Scott, the Leader, on the left (with an X on my tie)."



WORKING GIRLS: But who and where are they? See Working Girls on page 3.



WINTER SNOW: Mary West sent in this photograph of the celebrated Dr Cyril Francis with his horse and trap one snowy morning in Castle Street, Hereford. Mary's father stands by the horse.

New Group

TIME flies, as the old saying goes. How true this is. It must be that there is so much happening and so many things to occupy our minds, that it is a job to keep abreast of time. May I say a very big thank you for all your support over recent years. I do hope that everyone will continue to back a new group which will be in place early in 2001 to continue the successful

production of Age To Age. Our next issue in February will contain more details of the future.

On behalf of Hereford Lore, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Roy Kennett, chairman.

Age to Age



SERIOUS CYCLISTS: Members of the Hereford and District Cycling Club on a day out. Tim Beach of Eign Mill Road loaned the pictures, but can you help date them?





JOLLY TARS: The old Kemble Theatre which once stood in Broad Street was the venue for this performance of *Sons Of The Sea*, above, presented by Hereford's sea cadets, seen in the second photograph below, on parade in 1948 with Ray Preece, Brian Taylor and Graham Wooles.



LINE 'EM UP: The Labour Club skittle team line up for formalities in the early 1950s. Monica Beavan (whose father ran Coburn and Baker, featured in our last issue) has sent in the picture. "Extreme left is Caleb Haines who was steward of the Labour Club; other remembered names are Joe Emery, Bernard J. Hemming and Edgar Ruff."

Characters

HEREFORDSHIRE has always been home to a few eccentrics and characters. Anthony Hall, Pretender to the Throne, is recalled by T.F. Bigglestone from Holmer Road. "King Anthony, as he was known, was a smart, upstanding figure of a man and always dressed in dark grey, sombre clothing and a wide brimmed trilby hat which picked him out in any crowd. He held meetings all over the country imploring people to help him oust the impostors in the Royal Palace so that he could take his rightful place as head of state."

Tales of Teddy Narraman - or Narriman - continue to fill our postbag. "I well remember his cry of: 'Sort 'em out ladies. Whiskeys, wines or Johnny Walker. I have not come to wake you from your slumber, but ask you to sort out your old lumber So sort 'em out ladies, sort 'em out' writes T.F. Bigglestone. One of the mysteries surrounds his name but, as Leslie Vaughan Jones from Tupsley tells us, that's because his real name was Vaughan. "The family came from Dishley Street, Leominster."

"Teddy was such a popular character - so much so - that he was featured in one of the Sunday papers. When he died (in a lodging house in Bewell Street around 1945) he was buried in Much Cowarne Churchyard. A memorial was erected on his grave and, if my knowledge is correct, he was so popular that the villagers paid for the memorial," says

Working Girls

JOY Doody (nee Powell) sent Age the photograph on the front page. Taken in the gardens of the old Castle Pool Hotel, it shows (take a big breath) the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Feeding Stuffs Department. Joy, now in Bartley, Birmingham, was brought up in Eaton Bishop but moved to Hereford to work for the Department when they were based at the Castle Pool Hotel in Castle Street, Hereford. Now, who are they all? "Back row, left to right: Joan Jones, Ivy Billings, Kathleen Rowe, Betty Spencer, Doreen Reece, Doreen Godsall, Joan Lloyd, Evelyn Bailey - not sure who's on the end, second row: Pamela Poppelston, Violet Priday, Miss Weaver, Mr Hardy, Willy Williams, Audrey Williams, front row: Gwen Thomas, Josie Vanstone, Mary Williams, 'me', Ivy Powell, who was that? and Valerie Edgar. And by the way, my mother Nellie Powell was in the Rotherwas photograph shown in the June and October issues."

Number 10, Broad Street

FROM time to time, readers send their memories of times past. This month it's the turn of Rita M Sullivan from Little Rock in Arkansas. Rita has lived in America for almost 50 years, but, as she says, "my roots will remain forever in England."

"I was born in 1932 at 17 Lewis Smith Avenue, Hunderton, where, on the banks of the Wye, we captured a marvellous view of the railway bridge, old Wye Bridge and Cathedral. From the living room my brother John and I used to watch the regatta races and, when winters froze the river, people came with sleds and chairs to play on the ice.

Up the road, across from Lakins shop stood a red post box. Mr Cotterall, the postman, occasionally allowed his daughter Enid and me to watch him collect the letters, place them in a gunny sack before tossing them into his Royal Mail van.

With its barley-sugar style sideboard, gate legged table and chairs it now resides in my home in Arkansas.

In 1932 mother's sister Gladys and husband Hilo Davies lived in Berrington Street. Mr Morgan delivered milk with his pony and trap. Uncle Hilo played football for Evans Football Club. In the 1920s our father's parents, Thomas and Clara Simmons, moved from Cardiff and lived at 10 Broad Street. It was a wonderful house, once home to Brumwells book shop and The Chocolate Box. Built around 1540 by Sir William Ayers, physician to Elizabeth I, Jacobean panelling lined the walls and across one wall from floor to ceiling was a built in dresser lined with crystal, china and pewter. Terra cotta tiles covered the area where the well once stood. During World War Two an Anderson air-raid shelter was installed in the huge kitchen. The metal cover

REST BREAK: Men from the British Cannery (where the city's Tesco now stands), take a break. John Wright, who loaned the picture, has identified Harry Oliver, Jim Heal, Fred Clisset, Reg Morris, George Wright and his father, John Wright, second from the right.



Milk and bread were delivered by horse and cart and I can visualise little curtains swaying on the tiny windows of the carts. The horses wore blinkers and, in winter, a cover was thrown over their backs.

It was a long walk to school past Jordans boathouse, over the Wye bridge up Bridge Street to St Francis Xavier's Catholic school. I remember in 1936 a Jewish girl, Zoe, in class. She was a boarder as her parents were living in Germany. The nuns wore big white winged hats and long navy robes. Sister Gertrude was our head mistress, a strict one too. Sister Agnes, a kind, gentle person taught infants. Mrs McGlochlin wore sparkly glass beads and ear rings, taught knitting and spoke with a heavy brogue. Mother's father, George Oswald Price, may still have relatives in the area. He served in the Boer War and again in France during World War One. A cabinet maker, he worked in a loft in a house at Berrington Street. Sometime in the 1920s he purchased a 400 year old building where he constructed a dining room suite for our parents' wedding gift.

became useful for numerous things including rolling out pastry. Skylights adorned the high ceiling, uneven brick covered the floor. A magnificent polished staircase graced the hall. There was a secret panel which supposedly led to the Cathedral. With its six guest bedrooms, Grandmother took in paying guests including, during World War Two, an artist and his wife who had escaped from France. One permanent resident was the manager of the Fifty Shilling Tailor; another Bert Barton, who, when his Daimler caught fire, replaced it with an Austin 6.

Visiting the museum on Broad Street and Christmas pantomimes at the Kemble became a habit. Last but not least there was Greenlands Fairy Grotto with its dolls houses, dolls that opened and closed their eyes and said 'Ma Ma', cradles, rocking horses, Hornby train sets and bagatelle games. I recall the animated scene of three men in a boat, bobbing on an ocean of blue. What a thrill for grown ups and children alike."

Snippets

Bonner's Babies

MORE on May Bonner from Mrs E. Jones of Credenhill. "I don't think I was one of her babies" (May was a midwife) "but my brothers and sisters may well have been. My husband, myself and two sisters worked for Les and May Bonner who owned a small bakery in Edgar Street. It was a lovely, friendly place to work in the early 1950s."

Painter Brothers

"ANYONE remember someone called B. Round who worked at Painter Brothers from 1927 to 1952?" asks Michael Young from Rugby. He found a dusty bronze plaque on a dealer's stall in Nuneaton. When he cleaned it up, he discovered the inscription: 'To commemorate Twenty Five Years Service, B. Round'. "He would have been there at the time of the Festival of Britain when the Skylon was constructed. I wonder who remembers that?" asks Michael.

Jungle Edition

"MANY thanks for the latest Age To Age", says Colonel John Blashford-Snell. "It's a joy to get it .. even in the jungle," writes the Colonel who noted his father, Rev. Blashford-Snell, pictured in our last issue. Here's a list of names of people pictured outside Holy Trinity Church: Back row, left to right: Brenda Morgan, Jean Helme, Beryl Gwatkin, Mrs Smith, Rev. Snell, Fred and Christopher Gwatkin, Miss Handley, Miss Wilson; second row: Elizabeth Butler, Rosemary Austin, Olea and Thelma Powell, Brenda Hughes, Wellington, Jean Archer, Ann Southey; third row: Margaret Eason and Beverley Dean; fourth row: Barry Griffiths, Peter Husbands, Jean Siderfin and front row Tom Wheatstone and brother.

Tremendous Tree

ON holiday here from her home in Brisbane, Australia, Hetty Thomas has delivered an interesting newspaper cutting from 1935 about her family, Davies, the timber hauliers, from Spring Gardens, Holmer Road, Hereford. The Hereford Times reported how they moved a difficult oak tree which had fallen at Cwmma Moor, Eardisley and blocked the ditch, with block, tackle and a steam engine. The tree weighed between 17 and 18 tons.

More Snippets on back page

Notice Board

Thinking of a book for Christmas?

How about the "Schoolchildren's Tale", published by Hereford Lore and available from the Tourist Information Office in King Street at £2.50.

Then there's "In Our Dreaming & Singing" at £6.95. This review of the Three Choirs is available at most local bookshops or from the author, Barbara Young (01432 270544).



PRE-CHRISTMAS CRIB: Preston-on-Wye may not be noted for its hops these days, but this picture from Mrs E. Turner shows hop pickers standing by the traditional hop picker's crib at Carwardine hop yard around 1943. "It was very cold first thing in the morning," recalls Mrs Turner of Preston. "We had to pick four bushels of hops for one shilling. On average we would pick ten bushels that would have been about two shillings and sixpence just after the war." (For our post-decimal readers, two shillings and sixpence or half a crown is 12.5p in today's money).

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FULL MONTY: Field Marshall Montgomery visited Bradbury Lines in 1953 when it was base for the Boys Battalion, says Betty Barton from Blakemere. Betty, her daughter Christine, and friend Roger Hesten (with hat and glasses) are in the centre of the picture. (Photo: Royden Willetts). Now the Special Air Services have moved out to Credenhill, the old SAS base is now empty and on sale by the Ministry of Defence. If you have any memories of the old camp, why not send them in to Age To Age at 26, Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS or use our new email number:- agetoage@hotmail.com

More Support

BRIAN and Betty Skyrme from Borth have joined our long list of subscribers with, as they put it, "a small sum to pay for an excellent newsletter of the City of our birth."

Dennis Powell, another new subscriber, writes from his Shrewsbury home: "When one hears of the money wasted on some schemes funded by lottery grants and the public purse, which fail miserably, your efforts deserve more support. A grant to

fund Age To Age for the next fifty years (at least!) isn't too much to ask!"

June Lyke now lives in Teignmouth, but, as young June Bailey, she lived at the New Inn, Pembridge. "Devon's lovely - but Herefordshire's better," she declares. "Just to say how much I enjoy your newsletter, writes Westfields resident, Mrs Chandler. "Dot Davies who wrote to you from Australia is my dear friend who lived amongst us in Westfields before leaving for Melbourne 33 years ago."

"May there always be a future for Age To Age", writes Juergen Koenigsbeck "We hope and wish that more money will come forward to keep you publishing many more reminiscing tales of Hereford's rich past."

Well, we hope so too. Age To Age relies on a small grant from Herefordshire Council and your subscriptions and donations to keep going. And **we're on the look out for new recruits. If you are interested in joining up, give our editor Bill Laws a call (01432 272337).**