

Age to Age

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Comments to:

P.O. Box 2
Hereford
HR2 8YE

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Inside this Issue



Dinner Party. A gathering for Vincent Greenhous.



School Days. Woolhope School in the 1940's.



Matelots. Local Sea Cadets page 2.

Was this the real King of England?

COULD it be that a King of England lies buried in a forgotten grave in an obscure Herefordshire country graveyard?

Anthony Hall, born in London just over a century ago, died at St. Mary's Hospital in 1949 and was buried at Little Dewchurch. Now, thanks to Douglas Hughes' researches, Age To Age can reveal a little more about the Hereford man who claimed to be a King.

See "The Man Who Would Be King" on page 2.

Douglas Hughes of Wye View Villas loaned the signed photograph of Anthony Hall.



Changing Times For Age to Age

ONCE again we offer thanks to our readers who have contributed to this issue and to those who write to tell us how much they enjoy reading Age To Age.

In the April edition we will let you know about the changes affecting Age To Age (see Looking Ahead on the back page)

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Edith Gammage** (age 92). Edith was a

very early member of our organisation. A long-standing committee member, she was a warm and friendly person with interesting memories of Hereford in the early years of the twentieth century. (Sample some of Edith's recollection in Never Too Old on page two) We offer, on your behalf, our sincere sympathy to Edith's family. We shall miss her very much.

Bill Morris

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, remember and celebrate our past. The editorial team includes **Roy Kennett, Tom Woolaway, Bill Morris, 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 April 2001.

Comments & subscriptions to:
Hereford Lore,
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The man who would be King

AT the age of fifteen Anthony Hall was working in the locomotive sheds at Barton yard, Hereford. By the time he was 18, he was dodging shells on the World War 1 front in France, serving with the Royal Artillery at the battles of the Somme, Arras, Messines and Ypres. When the war finished, Hall, who had been gassed at Ypres, joined the Shropshire police. It was a short but spectacular career. He became the force's youngest inspector and wrote several law books. But when he inherited his father's fortune, he quit the force and, for the next 10 years, devoted his energies to promoting his claim to the throne. Hall maintained that he was eleventh in direct line of male descent from King Henry VIII, the original Hall having been the illegitimate son of 'Bluff King Hal' and Anne Boleyn. The name of Hall, he explained, was a corruption of 'Hal'. He dismissed James I as an impostor — a James Erskine, he insisted, had been substituted for the natural

child of Mary Queen of Scots when it died in infancy.

Working from a lodging house at the corner of Daws Road and St. Owen Street, the immaculately dressed Hall eloquently put his case before more than 2,000 meetings in Birmingham, London and Hereford. His Hereford meetings, in the open at St Peters Square, reputedly drew crowds of up to a thousand.

Even the international press turned up to cover the story, especially when Hall called on King George V to quit Buckingham Palace and issued his own £1 notes. But when, for the second time of the century, world war broke out, Hall fell from the limelight. He worked as a shell examiner at Rotherwas Ordnance Factory and, shortly after the end of the war, died in obscurity. "It's easy to reject Hall's assertions," writes **Douglas Hughes**, "but could it be that the last of the Tudor kings lies buried in an obscure Herefordshire country churchyard?"



All At Sea: Strange to see sea cadets in land-locked Hereford, but this county has a long tradition of supporting the mariners. Here is **Monica Beavan's** snap of some local sea cadets including **Donald Bateman, Alan Dickinson, Bernard Hemming, and John Terry**. While we are on the subject, that was **Percy Reece**, not **Ray Preece**, in the Sea Cadets picture published in December's issue. Sorry!

Never too old

A founding member of Hereford Lore, **Edith Gammage** died in January.

Dismissing the notion that you need to slow up when you reach a certain age, Edith had continued to remember, research, and write for *Age To Age* until her death.

Here is a flavour of her childhood memories of Hunderton, then a small village on the banks of the river Wye.

"I was born at Hunderton in 1909. It was just a little hamlet, about sixty houses then and I think I knew every person that lived there."

"Early morning you would hear somebody trotting along and it would be the Caller-up. There were a lot of railway men living there. The Caller-up had a long pole and he

would bang on the window to wake whoever it was that had to be called at such and such a time."



Edith Gammage. 1909 2001



Best Bib and Tucker: forty years ago staff, friends and dinner and dance. **June Jones** (who loaned the picture) can identify these sixties surroundings?

Working Girls

"I'M one of those working girls", writes **Ivy Manning** (Ivy Billings as she was then). Second from the left on the back row, Ivy, who retired after 30 years farming with her husband at Trelasdee in St. Weonards, was one of the Ministry Of Agriculture and Fisheries Feeding Stuff girls seen here at the Castle Pool during the last war.

Ivy remembers what happened to some of the others in the picture. "Joan Jones married G. Cole — I played the organ at her wedding; Joan Lloyd married a Young. She died. Pamela Popplest married a Young. Violet Priddy married

"There was a gas lamp just outside and the children used to go out at night and play marbles or whatever around there. The lamps had these long handles to lean the ladder against and then boys used to swing from each end. A man used to come up with a long stick and he used to just pull the lights on and the boys used to cheer. People used to crowd every Sunday to walk through fields — river this side, cornfields that side — right the way up to Belmont. The children used to know it as 'the Rough' or 'the Bankie'. The Bankie, now the Three Counties Hotel, is where we used to go for mushrooms. And we used to go to the Belmont woods and pick flowers galore there, things you never see now, wild orchids, the little wood anemone and that sort of thing. It is amazing how those times have changed."



Family of Vincent Greenhous gather for their annual and her late husband Glyn are pictured here, but who



Stan Rushgrove and lived at the Wheelwrights Arms in Pencombe before her death. Josie Vanstone married Brownbridge. Gwen Thomas, front left, died of TB while working with us, she was only 16." Ivy wonders what happened to their boss, John Thompson.

Snippets

"Line up please . . ."

THE unidentified picture on page two of October's Age To Age was of the Holy Trinity Sunday School, according to **Mrs Margaret Kent** (nee Wellington) from Marden.

"I can't remember why it was taken," says Margaret, "but it was around 1946 when I was seven years old. I'm in the centre with my head turned to one side (probably talking as usual). My sister, Aileen, is just behind and to the left with dark hair." Her third sister, Mary, is in the second row on the far right.

Skylon

Painter Brothers of Hereford built the Skylon tower for the Festival of Britain in 1951. **Tony Bateman** who now lives at Havant remembers the Festival as does **Mrs Ibott** of Vineyard Road. Just to prove it, here's her picture of the Skylon beside the Festival Hall and what looks suspiciously like another Dome.

Michael Young from Rugby wrote in our December issue about a Painter Brothers' plaque he found in Nuneaton commemorating twenty-five years service of a **B. Round**. Who was this person, he asked?

Maureen Dawe from Swansea and **Mrs Dean** from Shakespeare Road, Hereford both remembered Bert Round as manager of the Template Department at Painters. Tony Bateman remembered him too. When Mr Round first came to Hereford in 1927, he stayed at 45 Mortimer Road, where young Tony lived with his parents. Later Bert moved to 21 Mortimer Road. His second wife, Kath Weekes, was a secretary at the factory.



Roy Wood of Mortimer Road reports that the plaque was the conventional reward for 25 years service. In later years a watch would be presented. The fact that Bert originally came from the Midlands may, in part, explain why the plaque turned up in Nuneaton.

Finally **Mrs Dean** and **Maureen Dawe** remember Bert's son, Philip, who, says Mrs Dean, "still lives in Hereford."



Newton Farmers

Bobbie Blackwell, writing for the South Wye News community newspaper, unearthed some local history when she went to meet farmers **Derek** and **Ken Powell**. The identical twins of Frank and Ada Powell, Derek and Ken farmed Newton Farm in the days before it was turned into one of Hereford's largest housing estates.

Newton Farm's 300 acres, and another 150 acres now under concrete and tarmac in Redhill, produced wheat, barley, sugar beet, potatoes, cider apples and hay, and supported a flock of 200 sheep and 100 dairy Shorthorns, the

milk being taken daily by horse and trap to the Devon Creamery in Whitehorse Street.

One of the brothers' intriguing recollections was the number of bones which rose to the surface when they ploughed the fields surrounding the rise of land around what is now Pembridge Close, close to the Belmont Road.

Bobbie's researches, confirmed by Age To Age contributor **John Newman**, reveal this as the site of the city's gallows. John Newman, writing in April 1997, reported that six Welshmen had been publicly executed for murder on the spot in 1770 and three others for burglary in 1789.

"No church represented the South side for 200 years so it's likely that these were the bones of criminals buried on the unhallowed lands around the Gallows Tump," writes Bobbie Blackwell. "No church would have wanted them. Maybe the dark associations with the South Side of the Wye are nothing new. Perhaps it's always been the place where Hereford has put its difficult things."

In a footnote to the Powell's story, **Mr A.J. Preece** of Victoria Park writes. "My step father, Tom Lloyd, was employed by Mr Powell for 40 years."

Guiding Light

GRACE Morphew (nee Lewis) writes from Wantage to name some of those in the front-page picture of Guiding Girls in December's Age To Age. "I think the photograph was taken outside Holy Trinity Church. The captain on the left is Miss Norah Smith of Ryelands Street. The Lieutenant on the right, is Miss Barbara Parry of Cotterell Street."

Ritz Cinema

WHO sent in that picture of the Ritz Cinema staff published in the June issue of Age To Age? Drop us a line with your name and address so that we can return your photograph.

Please write to Age to Age at
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Neat Arrangement: Lined up in ascending order, these were the children from Mr Derby's class at Woolhope School in the late 1940s. The picture is another from **June Smith**, then June Jones, seen third from the left on the front row. "The school is now a private house," writes June from Bridgend, "and the girl on the front row with cotton wool on her knee after a fall is the teacher's daughter."

Notice Board



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The 64th Annual Drama Festival of One Act Plays

At
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Tues 20th - Sat 24th March
2001

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Formidable Force: They look like they mean business, but who are they? And where was the photograph taken? Send your ideas in to Hereford Lore.

Looking Ahead

NOTE our new PO Box address. Since heading up Hereford Lore back in 1993, **Roy Kennett** has kindly used his own home and letter box for all our mail. Now, with the imminent retirement of both Roy and **Tom Woolaway**, Age To Age is adopting an easy-to-remember PO Box number — so keep your letters, pictures and subscriptions coming.

Editor **Bill Laws**, meanwhile, has been meeting a group of new supporters who expect to take over the running of Hereford Lore in the spring. More details in the next issue of Age To Age.

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