

Hereford Lore

Age to Age

Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 9 Issue 2

john.herefordlore.btinternet.com

Comments to:

P.O. Box 2
Hereford
HR2 8YE

April 2001

Inside this Issue



Vaga Darts Team. Back page.



School History. A reply to the Woolhope School article in the last issue of Age To Age. Back page.



Pageant. Holy Trinity School in the early 50s. Inside pages.



Home From Home: Foxley Camp near Hereford, an American G.I. base during the last war, later became a refuge for many Polish people in exile. This group of Polish children was photographed with their priest John Vigar at Corpus Christi in 1957. *Alida Lee* writes, "I was the district nurse and midwife at Foxley during the 1950s and have many happy memories of the time I spent there. I think some of these children, now grown up and with families of their own, may still be living in Hereford."

Age To Age's new chairman John Turner looks ahead as retiring chairman Roy Kennett looks back.

Changing Places

AS Roy, Tom Woolaway and Bill Morris hand over the reins, we realise that we have a hard act to follow. We are keen to see Age to Age develop from its excellent beginnings and I look forward to helping produce a magazine which already has such an enthusiastic following. We hope to publish more pictures and reminiscences from people living in the rural areas. And we want to increase the number of places where you can find Age to Age.

So, with an eye to the past, we look to the future. A future which we hope will be as successful as Roy and his team have been. We are excited at the prospect and hope you will continue to support Age To Age.

John Turner

AS of April 1 2001, I am retiring from Hereford Lore and Age To Age. During the time we have made great strides. When the group started producing the first copy in July 1993 we were printing 6000 copies a year. Now we are printing 18,000 a year!

I am most grateful to all who have, in some way, contributed to the success of the venture. So many friends were always ready to help in some way; those coffee mornings were a tremendous success. Over the past eight years we have given over 200 talks to local groups and to those people we extend our gratitude for supporting us.

I hope you will continue to support Hereford Lore and subscribe to Age To Age. May I wish the new group every success for the future.

Roy Kennett (Chairman)

Age To Age is the bi-monthly newsletter from Hereford Lore, a group formed in 1989 to collect, remember and celebrate our past.

Age To Age is available free from Hereford Town Hall, Museums, your local Library, the Tourist Information Centre (Hereford) and Age Concern. The next issue will be out in June 2001.

Comments & subscriptions to:
Herefordshire Lore,
P.O. Box 2
Hereford
HR2 8YE



HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL



Not So Contemptible: In 1959 the Hereford Association of the Old Contemptibles met at the Wellington Hotel. (Were they so called because they were first into battle on the French front in World War 1?) Hereford's Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs Tom Stephens, are in the centre of the front row and our own Roy Kennett's father, Harry, is second from the right in the second row. Can you name any of the others?



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Eaton Bishop — 'Nice as the seaside'

"I spent my childhood years in Eaton Bishop," writes **Ivy Doody** "Those carefree summer weekends in the 1930s on the banks of the Wye below the Camp Inn when folks from Hereford used to come in their boats and picnic on the river bank — it was as nice as the seaside."

"We used to paddle in the river then climb the 38 steps to the Camp Inn run by Anne and Tom Flecknor. Or you could walk up to The Laurels, owned by Mr and Mrs Cook, to enjoy tea and home made cake and jam sandwiches. She not only made marrow jam, but also all our costumes when we did our summer school plays in the village hall. The late Betty Cook (her granddaughter), Dorothy Reynolds and I sometimes went to Hereford to Bridgewater's shop in Commercial Road. They were Dorothy's Grandad and Grandma and they made lovely faggots, mushy peas, pork pie and black puddings."

"The three of us also went hop picking in 1940 to Bridge Sollars. We started out very early to catch Ridlers Cider lorry from Clehonger and start picking while the morning dew was on the hops — they weighed more."

"And," adds Ivy, "there was a very nice young man there too. He had a warm and friendly smile, always kind. He was Stanley Warburton and I hope life has been kind to him."

Any News?

THESE three chunky lads — Stanley Gittings, George Taylor and **Bill Sabel** — were photographed in 1929 in Gittings coal yard in Bath Street. Bill, of White Horse Street, sent his copy of the photograph to us. "Anyone know the whereabouts of the others?" he asks.



Alfred Frederick Parks, also known as Malcolm Parks, was a musical director who probably worked at the Kemble Theatre in Broad Street and may have conducted the pit orchestra. His two daughters are looking for any information. Can you help? **Derek Whittaker** of Biggin Hill, who moved from Hereford in 1955, asks, "Is the High School Old Boys' Association still in existence?"

Norman Hands from Woking is trying to trace Grace Prior on behalf of his friend Ken Higgins. "She was born around 1930 and ran a greengrocers behind the ABC cinema in 1946. Her father was a manager at Bulmers."

Write to Age To Age at PO Box 2, Hereford, HR2 8YE.

Meet The New Team



Meet The New Team: As Tom and Roy step down, some of the new group are pictured at our recent editorial meeting. From left to right, Sam Goodwin, Margaret Beare, Eileen Klotz, Geoff Boucher, Bobbie Blackwell, chairman John Turner and Siriol Collins.

OVER the years Roy has contributed some of his own memories to Age Age. He remembered, that for reciting a piece of poetry in Bradleys the Clothiers in Eign Street, a child could earn a ruler.

Every Saturday on visiting my Uncle Clary, he would give my sister and me 6d each pocket money. 3d went into our Christmas Club at Croudaces, the grocers on the corner of Green Street and Harold Street. On a chosen day before Xmas we would visit the shop with our Contribution Club Card and select a wonderful variety of goodies to take home. The difficult part was that they were not to be consumed before Xmas!"

Roy still recalls his working life with Bradleys (Chester) Ltd in Eign Street, Hereford, where, in the 1930s, you could buy a complete suit and top coat with all the accessories for £5.12s.6p. "And good value for money."

Tom Woolaway, who wrote his first piece for Age To Age when he reviewed a photographic exhibition in 1993, will also be familiar to the many who receive Age To Age. Tom was persuaded to join by his late wife, Vi Woolaway, whose unstoppable energies helped us launch in the first place.

One supporter who is rarely mentioned, but who has done so much for Age To Age is Phyllis Kennett, Roy's wife. We're really not sure what we will do without her!

You can contact Age To Age
on our new email number:

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Painters

FIFTY years ago people at Painters Brothers who built the Skylon, a futuristic feature of the 1951 Festival of Britain, went to London to see it, recalls **K.H. Bunce** from White Cross. "My wife was a crane driver at Painters for over 20 years. Painters paid for a special train to the Festival and on the return journey my wife collected for the train driver." Mr Bunce recalls Bert Round mentioned in our last issue, as does **Dorothy Bevan** from Hoarwithy Road, Hereford. "He was works foreman," writes Dorothy.

John Lewis from Kings Acre Road, was a Senior Template maker at Painters and learned his skills from Bert Round's son, Philip. He describes the Template floor.

"The floor was a large room with a blackboard floor where all the towers, pylons, etc were set out full size. Every part was calculated and wood or cardboard templates were made showing the position of every bolt hole. These plates were used by the Fabrication Department to make the parts in steel. The job was very skilled."



Sports Day: Court House School in Ledbury was run by two sisters, the Misses Wades. This photograph of the pupils was taken on their Sports Day. "I am second from the left in the front row of the girls," writes **Betty Howat**, then Betty Bond, from London.

Snippets

Regal Recollections

DOUGLAS Hughes's memories of Anthony Hall ("Was this the real King of England? February 2001") reminded **Nancy Miller** of the day she met the man.

"As a small child in the 1920s in Little Dewchurch, I went with my mother, the newly appointed head teacher, to have tea with Anthony's parents. Presumably this was a gesture of welcome because it was the only time we ever visited. Mr Hall was an invalid and lay on a couch looking very old and fragile and spoke in a whisper. Mrs Hall was tall and stately but very severe. She was dressed in black. I was completely overawed. Some years later when Anthony began his campaign, most of the villagers considered that he was mad but at least it made Little Dewchurch famous for a few years."

Those Working Girls

ALLEN Thomas from Haverfords-west says that the teenager, pictured in the last issue, (Working Girls) who died of TB, was his step sister. "Sadly Gwen Thomas died on her 19th birthday. Due to the war, I did not see her as much as I would have liked."

Formidable Force

"THE photo of the Formidable Force football team on the back page of your last issue was taken in Holmer Road when it was a very narrow road with houses on one side and fields on the other," reckons **Eileen Taylor** from Putson, Hereford. "The house in the background of the chapel is where I grew up. I'm sure the fellow in the white coat was my uncle, Walter Edwards."

Speak Out

"PEOPLE are invited to take part in the discussion over a Government document The Older People's National Service Framework," writes Gussie Hearsey of the Voice of Older People. "Items will include mental health, intermediate care, falls prevention, strokes, and continuing care," writes Gussie. You can contact her at Age Concern, 6 St Peters Street, Hereford HR1 2LE (01432 371241).



Playing A Pageant: Sandra Davies from Bobblestock, Hereford sent in this picture of a group from Holy Trinity Church taken around 1951/52. The trouble is she doesn't know what they were all doing. Can anyone enlighten her?

One Tree Hill Lads?

HEREFORD archivist, **Basil Butcher** happened to be walking One Tree Hill, Checkley, with his camera in 1948. "This bunch of lads, seeing my camera said 'Take our picture!' Stupidly I did not ask one of them for their name and address. If anyone recognises themselves in it, give them the picture," says Basil. Do you see any similarities between these young boys and those in the picture printed in our last issue? (Reprinted below right).



Woolhope School History

JUNE Smith's picture (right) prompted **Derek Price** of Woolhope, one of those in the photograph, to send in the school's history. Opened in 1879, the school regularly educated over 100 pupils. Just after World War 2 the Education Authority began the process of centralisation and the older children were moved to Fownhope. When Bishops was opened in 1959, the school was closed and the children dispersed to Fownhope, Mordiford and Hereford. The redundant school, now known as

Martin's Close, was turned into three houses and three of the present owners were pupils in June Smith's picture, taken around 1947 "

Olive Hince's two sons who work for the Royal Mail were in touch with their mum as soon as they started to deliver the last issue of Age To Age. "They couldn't believe what they were seeing — there

was me, 50 years ago, pictured on the back page at Woolhope School." Olive (then Olive Read) is standing next to her sister Irene in the back row, fourth and fifth from the left.



("By the way", asks Derek, "is your Bill Morris the one who taught English at the Boys High School?" He certainly is!)

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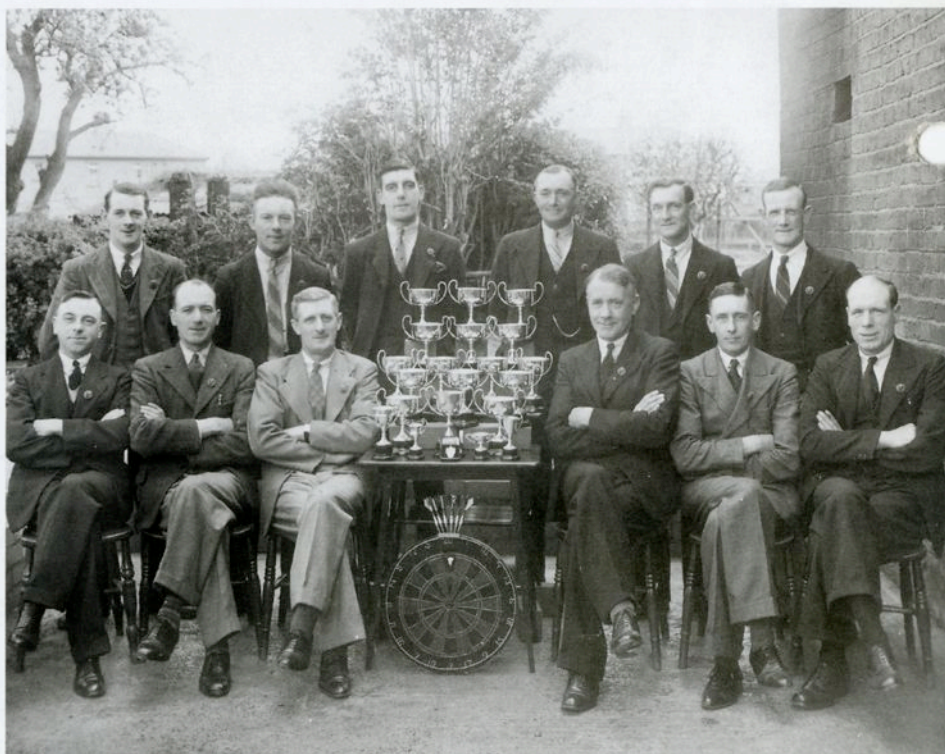
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Vaga Darts: The darts team from the Vaga Tavern at Hunderton, Hereford in 1937 or '38. **Joan Gale** from Bracknell sent the photograph. "I know all the faces, but cannot remember all the names," says Joan, recalling (front row, left to right) **Ernie Fletcher**, her father **Charles Pallett**, the landlord **Chris Powell** to the right of the trophies and **Charlie Sheffield** next to him.