

# Herefordshire Lore

# Age to Age

## Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol: 9 Issue 4

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Comments to:

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**Happy Hopping:** The faces say it all. Cheerful children beneath the crib, the tired mother on the left, the young and self-important teller on the right and, behind him, the wise, old granny who has seen it all before. The photograph, from Mr and Mrs Gilbert of Southdale Estate, Hereford, serves as a timely reminder that our October issue will be devoted to *The Harvest*. Memories and pictures please to PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE.



## Many Thanks

HEREFORD Museum's Siriol Collins made presentations to former chairman Roy Kennett together with Tom Woolaway, Bill Morris and Phyllis Kennett, in recognition of all their hard work with Age To Age. "We don't know how we'll manage without you," she told

Roy. From left: Phyllis Kennett, Herefordshire Council's Natalia Silver, Bill Morris, Age To Age's new chair John Turner, Tom Woolaway, Roy Kennett, Siriol Collins, Bobbie Blackwell, Geof Boucher, Eileen Klotz and Age To Age treasurer, Harvey Payne.

## Inside this Issue



**Foxley Camp:** Vera Bond taught at the Camp. See *War-time Teacher*.



**Party Time:** Greenlands staff party, 1950's. Were you there?

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

Age To Age is available free from the Hereford Town Hall, Museums and local Libraries, the Tourist Information Centre (Hereford), Herefordshire College of Technology and Age Concern (Hereford). The next issue will be out in October 2001.

Send your comments and subscriptions to:

**Herefordshire Lore,**  
P.O. Box 2,  
Hereford  
HR2 8YE



HEREFORDSHIRE  
COUNCIL

# Age To Age looks at Hereford's Picture Palaces City Cinemas

**I**T'S March 1947 and Hereford's Repertory Company present 'Caste', a tale about the triumph of love over social inequality and parental disapproval', at the County Theatre (phone Hereford 2492). According to the Hereford Citizen, the only role affording an opportunity of displaying real acting ability was of the drunken father 'more than competently played by Arthur Lowe.' "His television role as a Home Guard supremo was a long way in the future," writes **Douglas Hughes** who sent the cutting.

The County Theatre, formerly the Palladium and now the Gala Bingo Hall, stood in Berrington Street and the Repertory Company also included the doctor-turned-actor Richard Leech who went on to make a stage name for himself. Like the Kemble theatre in Broad Street, the County Theatre showed films too.

In those days there was plenty of choice:

- The Odeon in High Town, purpose built in 1936, demolished in 1984. The Odeon ran three staff football teams, had its own theatre organ and a musical trio to serenade diners in the café.
- The Ritz, now the ABC in Commercial Street, was another cinema with a café. Fondly remembered for its ABC Saturday morning Minors' Club and the cinema dog, Patch, who earned its owners a 10s fine for biting a policeman.
- Then there was the Garrick in Widemarsh Street, and the dance hall and cinema at the Redhill hostel. Although it had closed by the 1940s, there was also the Kinema in St Owens Street, now a launderette.



**Boy Star:** Ambrose Emerson was pianist at the Ritz from the age of 13 to 18 before he left to join the army.

## The Disappearing Primrose

**A**S a young lad before the Second World War, it was the Herefordshire countryside that first introduced me to the wild primrose, writes **John Hosie** from Glasgow. Even today, he says, it has remained my favourite spring flower.

"I was on holiday at my grandmother's when we decided to go for a stroll as far as Poppinger Bridge, which overlooked the Ledbury railway line. There was a colony of wild primroses in full bloom. Many a time my mind goes back to Poppinger Bridge and I wonder if the wild primroses still grow there."

Sadly, says **Cal Girling** of Poppinger Nurseries, the primroses are no more. "The banks are now covered in brambles," says Cal.



**Party time:** Staff from Greenlands prepare to celebrate at the Imperial some time in the 1950s. Thanks to Mrs S. Merrell from Springfield Avenue for the loan of the picture. (Photo: Hereford Times)

## Reader Feedback

**"T**HE clarity of the photographs has definitely improved," writes **Norman Owen**. But, he adds: "I had great difficulty in getting a copy of the last issue."

Norman's frustration was shared by many. We are printing extra copies, but if you want to be sure of yours, please

subscribe. **Michael Young** did subscribe, but he was unhappy with the quality of the last issue. (A printer's error caused poor copies to circulate — feel free to write and ask for a replacement).

We have called ourselves Herefordshire Lore. "Leave it as plain Hereford," says Mr Young. "I cannot see how you can cover a county the size of Herefordshire in so small a newsletter."

**Bill Rushton**, however, approved. "Thank you for your paper — I like the new name, as I like Herefordshire."

If you had any problems with the last issue, write to us at:-

**Age To Age,**  
PO Box 2,  
Hereford HR2 8YE.

*The Royal George, pictured in our last issue, was on the site of the car park in Widemarsh Street, next to the County Library, writes Ann Morgan. Daphne Tillam remembers it too.*

# Riots At The George

SUNDAY nights at the Royal George in Widemarsh Street used to be a riot, says former landlady **Daphne Tillam**. "My husband Gerry and I were the last, and the youngest, landlord and landlady to run it before it was taken over by the church," she writes from her Burnham-on-Sea home.

"On Sunday nights we always had a sing song because we were invaded by coaches from Wales when they found out we had a Grundig tape recorder and they could hear themselves.

"We also had great fun in the skittle alley on Saturday nights, as long as the library caretakers next door didn't complain about the noise. Then there would be a sergeant and a couple of coppers at the door to find out what was going on. The George was also the first and last coaching inn in Hereford. The stables were still there with two little cottages, one up, one down where the grooms and their families lived.

"A lady who was born there said she was one of 11 children who lived in the two houses. I think it was a case of when father turns we all turn.

"I was also a land army girl at Redhill, but not until '47/'48 when I went to the Burcott and met my husband-to-be in the YMCA opposite the Town Hall. Gerry's parents had a butcher's shop opposite the Lamb Hotel. Later he and I went on to start the first mini-cab business in Hereford."



*Royal George in Widemarsh Street: Gone but not forgotten!*



*Another lost pub. But where was it? Send your answers to Age To Age, PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE.*

**Send your pictures of bygone public houses and Hereford businesses to Age To Age, PO Box 2, Hereford HR2 8YE.**

## Snippets

### It's A Small World

**ANGELA Francis'** recollections of seeing German prisoner Rudolph Hess at Madley, prompted **Ivor Strangward** of Moorfield, Hereford to tell us about his time guarding Hess. "At the end of the war, Hess was taken back to Germany and put in Spandau Prison. My regiment, the 11th Hussars, was billeted in the army barracks for the five months and I was one of the guards."

### Leominster Lads

**ALBERT Price** (below, second from the right) worked for years on the Great Western Railways in Leominster, writes son-in-law **Bill Rushton**. The picture may have been taken when he was working for Duncan, Broad Street, Leominster before World War Two.



## Country Dancing

**RAE Philips**, from Hereford, sheds light on the Holy Trinity Church in our April issue. "I am in the front row, fourth from the right. I used to belong to a country dance club, run by Miss Griffiths (second from the right) so I suppose we had been demonstrating our dancing. Directly behind Miss Griffiths is Miss Aston who played the mandolin for the Club. The group on the left are from Commercial Road Youth Club."



**Norman Owen**, meanwhile, reveals that the Coronation Day picture in the same issue, was of families from the Whitehorse Square area of Hereford enjoying teas and games after Coronation Day. Norman's wife Jean, her parents Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Siderfin and her sister Susan are all in the picture.

## War-time Teacher

**MENTION** of the Polish children at Foxley Camp in north Herefordshire, prompted Vera Bond from Widemarsh Common, Hereford to share her memories. "I taught at Foxley School which comprised converted army huts, very cold in winter, boiling in summer! I recognised several of my former pupils in your picture (April 2001): they were well-brought up and obedient. And it amazed me how an infant could start school knowing no English, but, by the end of term, could speak quite well. We did have a few mistakes such as one boy accusing another: 'He's telling liars.' Several live in Hereford and they still recognise me in spite of my advancing years!"



# Age To Age- From Door To Door

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### Mysterious Couple:

Age To Age sometimes receives unacknowledged photographs such as this one. The walls of the cobbled yard are hidden by Virginia creeper and the windows are open, suggesting a warm evening.

The couple could be brother and sister, but are they mother and son? Faint writing on the back of the picture may read 32 Friar Street. Who are they? And where did they live?

If you have any clues, drop us a line at Age To Age, PO Box 2, HR2 8YE

**Team Shot:** Lugwardine football club team up for a photograph outside the Crown and Anchor. "It looks like 1948 on the ball," writes Les Rowberry, from Portfields, Hereford, who passed the photograph on to us from his friend Owen Smith in Brighton. Recognize anyone?



## Friends of Age To Age

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