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Video Format: MPEG-4  
Bit rate: 30.18 mbits/s  
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Audio Sampling rate: 44.100 kHz

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Transcript:

I'm Ron Parrott. I'm the official club historian, originally for Hereford Utd and now for Hereford FC, who in four year's time, will become Hereford Utd again. I was taken to my first ever game at Edgar Street by my grandfather, at the tender age of three. Can't remember a thing about it but he was Chairman of the supporter's club at the time and was keen to get me into Edgar Street. He was also Sports Editor for the Hereford Times for many, many years, from the twenties right through to about 1960. So that was how it all started.

Ok, I'm Ron Parrott. I'm club historian, originally for Hereford Utd and now for Hereford FC. I first got involved with the club at the tender age of three, when my grandfather, Bill Parrott, who was Chairman of the Supporter's Club at the time and Sports Editor for the Hereford Times for many, many years, from the twenties right through to about 1960, decided it was time for the young sprog to be introduced to Hereford Utd. I was dragged along to a game and I still have the programme from it and in all honestly, I can't remember the match itself. But that was it, I was hooked from there on and used to follow the results every week and eventually started going under my own steam at a fairly young age and have been watching them ever since.

The club was formed in 1924, became members of the Birmingham Combination, which was mainly made up of companies who had their own football teams. Birmingham Transport for example, Sunbeam Motors, exotic clubs like that. We stayed in the Birmingham Combination for four or five seasons then joined the Birmingham League in 1928, which in those days was probably the third highest non-league league outside of the Football League. We stayed until it gradually diminished in stature, less and less people, less and less clubs were actually coming involved with the Birmingham League. It was falling apart quite honestly. So, we sought a higher level of football and we became members of the Southern League, which was the top competition outside the Football League in 1939. Great prospects and hopes for the future but unfortunately, we only played four games before the outbreak of war and then football was suspended for the duration of the war. So, our debut in the Southern League only lasted

four matches. All of which were unbeaten I hasten to add!

Post-war, football resumed in 1945/6, we came very close to winning the title that year. Should have won it. We actually finished top, but there were a lot of unplayed games and the Southern League in their wisdom decided they would award points for unplayed games and Chelmsford City from Essex were given points that perhaps they wouldn't have won and pipped us for the League title. And from thereon we remained in the Southern League right up until the time of the giant killer match with Newcastle in '71/2, and that season culminated in our election to the Football League, a life-long ambition for many Hereford fans.

Would you say that match was one of the club's highlights?

Oh, without a doubt. Yeah, the '71/2 season the cup run we had, the game against Newcastle will be remembered for ever by everybody. Such a fantastic achievement. I think it was the first time ever that a non-league club had held a first division team to a draw and then beaten them in the replay. Other clubs had beaten first division teams before – I mean, Arsenal suffered against Walsall, and Sunderland lost to Yeovil I believe – but this was the first time it had ever gone to a replay. And it is very much that one game that defined the future for Hereford. League clubs started sitting up and taking attention at last and thinking, 'well, perhaps there is a club here that should be given a chance in the football league'. Because in those days there was no automatic promotion and relegation, it was a re-election. So, the founder members of all the clubs had a representative on the board and they voted on the AGM as to whether any new clubs should be voted in. and there was very much an old pal's act if you like and they always voted every other club back in again. But this one season we were in contention with Barrow at the bottom, Barrow-in-Furness and it actually went to yet another replay. That season was full of replays in the Cup. And we tied on votes in the first ballot, and won in the replay ballot if you like and became members in the football league.

It had been a long wait, football league status. The club first applied probably back in the late forties, early fifties. 1950 in particular there were quite a few Southern League clubs who did become members of the Football League, and Hereford decided they wanted to follow suit, so it took from 1950 through to 1972 before we actually made it. So, it had been a dream for a lot of people for a long time. I'll never forget the occasion when we were awaiting the results of the Football League's AGM. I was actually on holiday in Norfolk at the time and we were lying on the beach at a place called Brandcoster on the north Norfolk coast, with a transistor radio all day having no idea what time of day the news was going to come through or indeed if it was ever going to come through. Of course, it was in the days before

mobile phones so there was no other way of finding out what the news was. But eventually, at about five o'clock the news came through on the radio that we had been elected to the football league and, oh, the feelings at the time were indescribable. Dancing up and down on the sand. Yeah, it was a life-long ambition again.

(Newcastle match) I was at the game, both games. Went to Newcastle on the train, took time off work and I think we got back into Hereford about half past five in the morning. And that was a wonderful occasion. Full house at St James' Park, they were expecting to slaughter us. Malcolm MacDonald, England centre forward at the time, had boasted he was going to score ten, so we took great delight in bringing him down, and we actually took the league up to 13 seconds. We were quite late coming out onto the pitch and all the Newcastle fans were jeering a bit, 'Hereford is scared to come out', you know. We kicked off, thirteen seconds later the ball was in the back of the net and we were all dancing Swan Lake at the back of the stands' seats, waving to the Newcastle fans. It was a fantastic evening, we thoroughly deserved it. And what people forget, they look at the replay in Hereford and they say, 'oh, it was a terrible pitch, and the mud didn't suit the opposition and it never would have happened'. What they forget, is we beat them over two games. First game at Newcastle, perfect evening, perfect playing surface, and we outplayed them, now we could easily have won that one.

At the time, you have to remember that the county of Herefordshire was undergoing a lot of change. It was at the time of the merger with Worcestershire. So, the exploits of Hereford Utd came to represent the county in the outside world and everybody took so much more interest in Hereford Utd than perhaps, in fairness, they normally would have done. They were fighting the cause of the county if you like. And so, the following we had in those days was just unbelievable. And every car, every car had stickers on them, and 'say no to the merger' you know, and next to that was the Hereford Utd badge or poster, you know. It was just a tremendous time, the atmosphere, the fervour if you like around the town. Everybody was interested and we probably could have filled Edgar Street twice over that day. In fact, there's a very famous story that going the rounds that I know is true, heard it from a reliable source as they say.....there was a board meeting the week before the Newcastle game and the secretary came bursting into the board room and said to the chairman Frank Miles, he said, 'we've got a problem, we've sold all the tickets!' and Frank just looked round at him and said, 'that's not a problem, just go and print some more.' That's a true story. So, although it wasn't officially our record crowd, nobody will ever know how many were in Edgar Street. Personally, I'm convinced it would have beaten our all-time record against Sheffield Wednesday in 1958. 18,114 was the record attendance again in the FA Cup, third round, the first

time we had ever got to the round, against first division Sheffield Wednesday. We didn't win that one but we held our own for about an hour and they scored one fairly early on and then sealed it with two more late goals.

Hereford games, back in the seventies in particular, although there was a lot of football hoolagism about at the time, Hereford stood apart, it was very much a family club, even through all the troubled times, families still attended. All generations used to turn up together, it was just a wonderful occasion.

In the seventies in particular, there were probably as many women as there were men, not quite, but far more than there are today. Young girls used to come along because they quite fancied some of the younger players, mothers used to come along to watch their offspring play, because there were all different levels of football, different age groups and different leagues for the different standards, so it very much has always been a family club. Even today, we've got teams playing at about six different levels now all under the same banner name of Hereford FC.

Over the years there have been so many highlights, it's difficult to recall them all. Many giants killing acts in the FA Cup. Sometimes it's not necessarily a massive cup win or league victory that takes the highlight. My memories, one of my favourite ones is quite recently in the season before the undesirable people took over the club, we went to Aldershot for the last game of the season and not only did we have to win, but we had to rely on Salisbury, who incidentally we played in the FA Vase this week, and they had to get at least a point at Chester to stop Chester finishing above us and getting us relegated. And The game was so full of emotion it was unbelievable. And right at the very end in the space of about thirty seconds everything changed. One minute we were drawing and Chester was winning and therefore we were relegated, and then we scored to beat Aldershot 2-1, and within thirty seconds Salisbury scored at Chester, so they were drawing, and we actually stayed up. Months later, unfortunately, we actually got relegated anyway. But for sheer emotion, that game takes some beating. And very often disappointing performances as well stand out in your mind. I'm so pleased this week we've actually got to Wembley. A life-long ambition of mine. And four times I've been within 90 minutes of seeing Hereford at Wembley and each time we failed at the last hurdle. And on Saturday we were one nil up from the first leg and they equalised and I thought, oh no, here we go again, but we came through that one. I'll never forget the very first one at Leicester City's original ground at Filbert Street back in 1970. We got to the semi-final of the FA Trophy and we were playing a team called Hillingdon Borough from London and we played them twice in the Southern League that season, we put six goals past them at home, four away. It was a foregone conclusion we were going to play at Wembley, we were going to

beat them easily, and we lost 2-0, complete with John Charles and everything, just didn't turn up on the day, didn't perform. For the wrong reasons that game will stick in my mind for ever. So it made Saturday's victory against Salisbury even sweeter.

The FA Vase is the competition for clubs below the Southern League or Northern League area, so we are in the top tier of teams that are actually able to compete in that. Years ago it used to be known as the Amateur Cup, and post war, back in the late forties, early fifties, a hundred thousand people would fill Wembley to see the Amateur Cup final. Those days are gone, football has changed, but nevertheless, it's still a national final at Wembley. My personal life-long ambition to see Hereford at Wembley. So through the different rounds as we progressed, has been quite traumatic. We've had some difficult ties, come through them all, culminating in the semi-final, two-legged match at Salisbury. We beat them one nil at home in the first leg and travelled to Salisbury last weekend, again, with everybody's dream of playing at Wembley. So it was a game you had to go to. I was fortunate enough to get tickets, there were many people who didn't. we probably could have sold our allocation four times over. But as a day out it was a wonderful occasion, certainly wonderful. The atmosphere was terrific, the players gave it everything and thoroughly deserved the victory overall. And so the next stop is Wembley. My tickets are already booked, hotel is booked. I can't wait. I think being totally honest now, I wouldn't mind how we performed, it was my ambition is to see Hereford at Wembley, and that's going to happen, I'm going to be happy.

Yeah, been at school, I was a kid about ten or eleven, everybody used to support Man Utd and Liverpool, and they used to say to me, 'who do you support?' and I used to say, 'Hereford!' Who?! There's only one United! Not Manchester.

As I said before, I've supported Hereford since I was knee high really and as I grew up I started playing football myself. At school everyone supported Manchester Utd and Arsenal and they used to ask me who I supported and the answer was always the same, Hereford, Hereford United, there's only one united. I think that's what made it more important as we progressed up the footballing ladder. The highest we ever achieved was the old second division, which is now of course the championship. To me it was a dream come true. On equal terms, we were playing teams like Chelsea, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Southampton, teams as a child I never dreamt I'd see Hereford play against, and we were playing them on equal terms. Another dream come true!

At this moment in time, the situation we are in is exceptional. As you know the new club was only formed 15 months ago. 15 months ago we had a club name, we had a ground, having successfully negotiated a new lease on the ground. We had no team and no manager and twelve months later here we are in

Wembley. And so as a community, the spirit within the football club and within the supporters is better than I've ever seen it. There's no mistrust as there always is between the board and fans and supporters. Everyone knows who's in charge, they know they are decent men, they are men that have got no interest in making money out of the redevelopment of the ground. Everybody pays their way. The Chairman has to pay for his own season ticket. So the community spirit really, at this stage, is greater than it ever has been in the history of the club.

The darkest days of the club, there have been a few over the years, relegation from the football league in 1996 was probably the worse of those. But that was over-ridden entirely by the events of 2014. The club had been mis-managed for several years. We had a new chairman, whose heart was in the right place but it turned out he didn't manage the club's affairs very well and we lost a lot of money in a very short time. And he decided that he wasn't prepared to put any of his own money in and wanted to put the club up for sale. Unfortunately the people that he sold it to weren't local people. They were Londoners, some from Essex and the Chairman as it turned out, was a convicted criminal. He bought the club for a £1 and it was soon decided by the FA that he wasn't a fit and proper person to be chairman of the club so he had to find somebody else to manage it, and we had a succession of people that were in charge, culminating in a situation where the fans boycotted the club. They didn't like the way it was being run, they didn't like the prospects about these people redeveloping the ground and reaping the profits from it. So attendances of about two thousand plus soon dropped to about three hundred. Myself personally I boycotted it completely, which hurt. On a Saturday afternoon I just didn't know what to do. I used to go to the ground, buy the programme to keep my records going and that was it. I had no interest in the club. I actually rejoiced when they lost. I remember my wife saying at the time, she couldn't believe it. She said, 'I never thought I'd see the day when you'd come home and say, oh good, Hereford have lost!' it was just unreal. It wasn't our club, it was no longer our club. And things went on, they got themselves into a lot of debt. Money was required to pay the tax man, we faced about twenty different winding up orders, we went to court nine or ten times, and each time the chairman of the day saying, 'yes, yes, we have invested, we're going to save the club'. And the judge finally came to the end of his tether and said, 'you've got one more week. If you don't come up with this proof that you've got the money, the club will be put into liquidation'. And lo and behold a week later the next court case came up, the barristers were there and the chairman of the club wasn't, and the judge basically said, 'well, have you got proof the money is now available?' and the barrister said, 'yes, it is, I can confirm it is available, the chairman has got it with him. He's in his car on the way here and is stuck in traffic'. And the judge basically said, 'I've had enough of this' and said, 'that's it, the club's going into liquidation, being wound

up today'. And I'll never forget the day, a very sad occasion. Also, as things have turned out, the best thing that could have happened to the club. I was having afternoon tea in the Castle Pool hotel and news reaches me that this has happened. And an appeal went out to fans to get down to the club immediately because some of these people that were there were basically stripping the assets of the club. One of the trainers when we got there reversed his car up to the door and TVs were coming off the wall and being loaded into the back. So we did our little bit to make sure they didn't get away with it. And that really was the end of the club. We never saw these people again, they disappeared, I think they had put some money in fairness, but only to keep the club going. At one stage the council tried to repossess the ground under the cover of darkness because they'd not paid the rates on the ground for god knows how long. And fortunately it failed because people were actually living in the club, a lot of the young players were on bunk beds in the board room. It really was a mess. And then the very next morning these people came up with about £30,000 to pay the backlog of rates. So they had money but they had no intention of keeping the club going. All they wanted was the development rights for developing either end of the ground. That's all behind us now. As I say the new people who have been in charge and now own the club have no interest in this and are quite happy for the council to develop it if they want to and take the profits themselves. It's a new club, everything has changed and everybody is happy and that I think is the important thing, including myself. I'm happier now with the direction the club's taking and the way it's being run than I ever have been.

Yeah, the old club has been around for ninety years until 2014 when everything went rapidly downhill. Fans, when the thing went under, fans were devastated, there's no two ways about that. But having said that, there was almost a feeling of relief that the thing had come to an end, because everyone knew it was going to end in disaster. And although the club folded, we all knew it was for the best. And there was hope for the future. People were saying if a new club is formed it's not going to be Hereford Utd, it's going to be a new club. But my official view as club historian at the time was that I didn't agree with that at all. As far as I was concerned it was going to be chapter two. You know we're still playing at Edgar Street, we're still in black and white, we've still got the famous bull's head on the shirt, far as I'm concerned it's still Hereford Utd. Unfortunately the FA have deemed that if the club goes under they can't come back under the same name straight away. So we're going to be Hereford FC for five years. In four year's time now we will be Hereford Utd again.

The club anthem has been around since '71/2, when Danny Lee first sang it and it's as popular now as it ever has been. It's still sung every week, it's still Herefordshire Utd, not Hereford FC. But yeah, it's tradition.

The club anthem was sung originally by Danny Lee in 1970/71, it's known as Herefordshire Utd we all love you'. It's as popular now as it was then. It's sung at every home game and it is still Herefordshire Utd. They don't sing Herefordshire FC we all love you, it's Herefordshire Utd, always will be.

Team colours are identical. We still play in white shirts, black shorts, with the bull's head on the left of the chest. So that's another reason really for saying it is one and the same thing, it's still Herefordshire Utd.

From the community point of view, Herefordshire Utd is very very important I think to the town. It brings lots of visitors in. gone are the days when it brings undesirables in. they are genuine people attending matches nowadays. So I'm sure the centre and the city and the county have benefited from it, in terms shopping and in terms of accommodation, people coming for the weekend, staying over for the weekend, touring around.

Well over the years we've played I think all but about four of the Premiership sides nowadays, in one competition or another. We've never played Liverpool, we've played Arsenal on four occasions, once in the FA Cup, went to a replay and were unlucky not to beat them at Hereford. We played them in the League Cup and came within I think about twelve or thirteen minutes of becoming the first-ever fourth division side to win at Highbury. We played Manchester Utd in the Cup. In fact many say Alec Ferguson owes his whole career to Hereford. They came down to us at a time when he hadn't been with the club for very long. They were four or five from the bottom, not playing very well, and they came to little Hereford in the third round of the Cup and if they'd had lost, he would have been sacked. I don't think there's any doubt about that. We should have beaten them. We lost to a goal by Clayton Blackmore with about eight minutes to go and we were all dreaming of a replay and going to Old Trafford. And that one goal resurrected his career. And of course the rest is history. So if it wasn't for Herefordshire Utd Alec Ferguson wouldn't have had the career that he had.

In terms of long-serving managers, Graham Turner was with Hereford for a long while. Came originally, when would that have been? In '94. And the only person who served as football manager longer than him was actually Alex Ferguson. But Graham did a lot for the club, started off as first team coach, eventually bought the club when things went wrong – often regretted that he did. But I fairness he did a very good job financially. Slowly, slowly turned the club round. Season by season bought a better class of footballer and slowly started to bring Hereford back up the league again until eventually we got back into the football league in the play-off against Halifax Town at Leicester City's ground. Graham eventually decided he wanted to go back into management with Shrewsbury Town, who he was with for a long

time before. So he left us and went back there. he was actually given Freedom of the City, still lives in Herefordshire and very often comes to watch the games at home now.

Yeah, Graham Taylor became our manager back in about '94. In his first season he took us up to the playoffs in the old fourth division. Unfortunately we failed in the final of that and again came within 90 minutes of Wembley. And then the next season sadly we suffered relegation with a final shoot out on the last day of the season with Brighton & Hove Albion. We had to win and Brighton draw to stay up and unfortunately, having taken the league, we drew one all so we went down to the Conference, which was devastating at the time, after all those many many years of hard work getting into the football league, to see it all thrown away like that was terrible. There were a lot of tears in the main stand that day. But Graham Turner offered his resignation, the board turned it down, he stuck with the club, slowly started to rebuild it. When the original board decided the time had come to move on, they offered Graham the opportunity to buy the club, which he did. So he became Chairman, manager, chief coach, chief bottle washer, just about everything. And slowly but surely, he built the club back up. Standard of football improved each season, financially he got things together. He wasn't a financial man, he was a footballing man, but nevertheless, he did a fantastic job. Eventually got the club into the black, when he finally called it a day and moved on to Shrewsbury, he left the club with quite a healthy bank balance with about half a million, which within three or four years had turned into a debt of about a million and a half.

Colin Addison is a folk hero, a legend in Hereford, and he'll tell you himself he is! He loves to chat. Colin took over from John Charles as manager of Hereford in 1971. In fairness, inherited most of his side but tweaked it. He had the uncanny ability to get the best out of players. Perhaps fairly average players but under Colin they were heroes. And we had a great cup run of course, and Colin has always lived in Hereford, still lives in the same house now that he did when he moved to Hereford in 1970. He's had a second spell as manager that wasn't quite as successful as the first one. He then moved on and eventually joined the board and was there during that final, fateful season. Although I hasten to add it was absolutely nothing to do with him. Colin is still recognised as a cult hero around Hereford: has had the main bar at the club named after him, even has a road named after him, just up the road from Edgar Street, on the corner, Addison Court I think it is. He still comes to games now, with his big friend of Pete Isaac, who's also been a fantastic servant to the club for years. And he is still very very welcome.

Peter Isaac is a hero. One of my favourite people, a real gentleman. A good amateur boxer in his time in the Welsh valleys, eventually playing football. He was a goal keeper, a

very good goal keeper too. Started off with Barry Town and then eventually moved to Northampton Town in the old Fourth Division. Came to Hereford in the very early sixties and basically just been there ever since. He's served the club in every capacity you can imagine: he was a player, he was a coach, he was the tea maker, he was the laundry man, kit man, wonderful chap. Will do anything for you, a gentleman. And he still comes now, not quite so often perhaps as he used to. He still supports the club and likes to come and see them.

Hereford is a family club, very much so. And if a player comes to Hereford, it is amazing how many players have come to Hereford from elsewhere in the country and have settled here. Going back to the fifties and the sixties, there's still loads of players around Hereford. And it does have that magical attraction. It's not perhaps the most attractive place in the world to live, the youngsters will tell you that anyway, but it is a beautiful city. The people are very friendly, they make you welcome. From the football club in particular, you know, it's like being a member of a close family. And even when you leave you still get invitations to come back for open days. Ex-players are always welcome. There are so many that have settled in Hereford over the years.

Tommy Best, yeah. Wonderful chap, Tommy Best. Tommy was a centre forward. I can't remember where he was from originally, but he was the first black player to ever to turn out for Hereford. And stayed with us for about five or six seasons. He played for QPR. An excellent striker and a great record, bustling, old fashioned type of centre forward. He's still alive now in a nursing home down the Ledbury Road. I went to see him, oh, a couple of years ago now, we had an old goal keeper vase that lived down in Romford in Essex and came back for a day and we made him welcome, gave him a good weekend, bought him a photograph of one of his appearances for Hereford in 1950. And at the end of the day he thanked me so much for looking after him and he said, one last question, Ron, he said, do you think there's anybody else in Hereford that's still here from my era? We're talking late forties, early fifties. I thought hard and I thought there was Roy Williams, who was unfortunately was seriously ill with cancer at the time, and then I thought, Tommy Best! So I rang the nursing home up that night and I said look, I can't make any promises but I'll give them a ring and see if we can get in to see him. So I rang the nursing home up and asked them to go and have a word with him and see if he would be willing to meet Jock Letham. And they phoned me back and said yes, he would love to. So we made the arrangements, picked him up from the B&B and took him down to see Tommy Best the next morning. And they met each other, eyes met down the corridor, and they almost ran, you know with their zimmer frames and crutches, they almost ran to each other and embraced each other, it was just wonderful to see. There were two things that stick in my memory, I was chatting away to Tommy and I was asking what it was like in those days

for black players to be playing in English football. And he said it was terrible. Far far worse than it is obviously today. He used to get the monkey chant and people throwing bananas. He said it was dreadful. I'll never forget, he said the worse place of all was Merthyr Tydfil, he said they were terrible down there. and he had a twinkle in his eye when he looked at me and he said, you know what, he said, the more they ridiculed me the harder I tried. And I thought, what a wonderful attitude. And then as we were going out and this guy had to head back home to Essex, and as he was leaving, tommy Best took me aside and patted me om the shoulder and said, that Jock, he said, he was a dirty bugger! And he was the goalkeeper. And that was Tommy Best, thankfully still alive now.

Similar to Alex Ferguson, Motson also owes his career to Hereford Utd. He was a junior reporter at the time we played Newcastle in the cup and he was allocated the replay at Edgar Street. And two of Hereford's players actually lived in Barnet, we'd signed them from Barnet, and that's where Motson came from. So they actually travelled up to Hereford in the same car for the match. The idea was that Newcastle was going to win, the script said they were going to win and he might just get the odd five-minute highlight in the Match of the Day. No of course the rest is history. He commentated on the game, we won it, and it became the main match of the BBC on Match of the Day that night. And of course the goal went on to win the goal of the month competition and finally the goal of the season competition. So John Motson was immediately catapulted from an unknown state to one of their head commentators in a very short time. And we have reunions of the old giant killing XI, every five years probably, and every single one John Motson comes to, even now. He's got a very soft spot for Hereford.

David Ike, yes, strange character. David joined Hereford as an amateur from Coventry City in 1970. As a goalkeeper he was quite a slender lad, not very well-built, but a good keeper, he made some tremendous saves, good shot stopper. And unfortunately, he had problems with arthritis and he was advised when he was at Coventry City that he should stop playing. But he decided to persevere with it. He was in goal for the first of the Hereford seasons in the football league when we got promotion in our first year. And I think statistically he will probably go down in history as having the best defensive record, least number of goals conceded per appearance. Probably because he had such a tremendous defence in front of him, but even so he proved himself. He had one more season with the club and then the arthritis in his knee got worse and he was forced to pack the game completely. And as we all know he pursued a somewhat different career after that.

Grenville Smith was a director of the club for several years. Ex policeman, made his name I think really for fund raising. He raised an awful lot for. Grenville was a director of the club

for three, four or five seasons perhaps. And before the demise of the club, well known for his fund-raising activities. He ran the Starlite room and arranged different acts to appear there. did a good job but he has nothing to do with the club now whatsoever.

I knew Derek Evans quite well, as a youngster admittedly. He was a member of the Herefordshire photographic society, of which my father was a member as well. And I remember every Sunday we used to go on these family outings, these photographic society outings to remote spots of Herefordshire taking photographs, Arthur's Stone at Dorstone, things like that. Again, it was a good family occasion. I remember Derek at Edgar Street very well, yeah, for many many years. Yeah, Derek at Edgar Street was quite an active man. He would give anything to get a decent shot of the action, sometimes getting very close to encroaching on the pitch. I can see him crouching behind the post taking pictures through the net. He was quite an artistic photographer I think and some of his pictures of the action would stand up pretty well I would think with today's modern standards of photography. Derek was there from the fifties right the way through to when we got into the football league and for a few seasons after that as well. So he was the guy who took the famous photographs of the Newcastle game, the PC in the dressing room undoing Billy Meadows' boots and taking them off. He always came up with original shots if you like, he used a lot of imagination in them. Derek had supported the club for many many years, Not only as a photographer but as a supporter as well. Derek's photographs have stood the test of time. It will be nice when they are all archived together so we can actually access them. Personally I've got quite a few in my own collection and I've put them with the programmes, and some wonderful shots there. I think they are very important as part of the archive. The only criticism I have of Derek is he never wrote on the back what they were, so he's caused me a lot of trouble. I've got these wonderful photos that I've inherited of his, but I've got no idea who the players are. Normally I can track them down, a bit of investigation in the Hereford Times or whatever, I can find similar pictures, and think, oh yeah, that's so and so. But wonderful to have and I'm hoping in the future that access to the other pictures will be more available to the general public.

I've been going to the Mayfair in Hereford like every child in Herefordshire since I was about four or five. I think memories of it, disappointment about it now, the whole May fair has changed so much over the years. It's about a quarter of the size it used to be. and when I first going as a youngster it used to go right the way to the bottom of Commercial Street, it used to go right down by the railway station, the big wheel and everything was down there. there used to be a big car park by Ravenhills, right opposite the entrance to the railway station, there used to be a car park there. that was always full. They had a boxing ring, people would just turn up and take on all

challenges. Yeah, the whole thing has shrunk. I suppose the rides are more exciting now than they used to be. But obviously as a youngster the ghost train used to be the most popular thing. But yeah, it's changed over the years, but it's still a wonderful event. I've taken my children, I've taken my grandchildren and hopefully that tradition will continue for ever.

I've never been hop picking in my life I'm afraid, no. mother used to many years ago, out in Dormington. They used to have big hop fields, there, well they still do. But again that's changed. The travelling community don't turn up any longer for hop picking. It's all mechanised. Yeah to a greater extent that's a shame. But that's progress. You can't halt it. I think the days of the travelling hop pickers are long gone. I know Derek had some wonderful photos of it, he's recorded that for history, or it would have been lost for ever. It's not the sort of event people would normally photograph. But again that was Derek. He'd pick on something ordinary and turn it into something extraordinary.

Peter Davies used to be heavily involved with the Vice President's Club, which is a club started by John Jackson, who was landlord of the Salmon Inn, and he was a director of the club and his project was to get the Vice President's club up and running. Basically it was a club designed for local business men to come in and watch the club in comfort in their own lounge, the bar and everything else. Very very popular in the early days. You had to be nominated and seconded to get in. there was always a long waiting list. And so, he had a lot to do with that, he controlled if for a few years, was heavily involved with the club in developing the ground and no doubt he's got fond memories of his time there.