

## Up river at Eaton Bishop

### Riverside fry ups

When I returned last year to have a new look at Hereford after nearly 60 years, one of the first things that struck me was a complete absence of pleasure boats on the river, writes **John Slatford**.



*From left: John Tebbut, Brian (Fishy) Gardiner (in front), Alan Bradbury, Tommy Dawes, Roy Brimelow, Barbara Jones, John Slatford, Nimmy Hodges, Audrey Baker, Roya Bevan, Malcolm Startin, Margaret Powell (now Margaret Bentley-Leek), Ben Bentley-Leek.*

During 1951- 52, much of my leisure time was spent at the Rowing Club and on the river. For me the summer of '52 was the most enjoyable. After a week of training and Saturday regattas, Sunday was for pleasure and many of those days were spent rowing up the river to the Camp Inn at Eaton Bishop. Now this all seems to be long gone.

As I remember, there were at least four pleasure boats that the club owned and they were already probably fifty years old. The largest of these with four pairs of oars was affectionately known as the Comet. Another with three pairs was called Randan - I've no idea why. Having booked our places, we would set off mid Sunday morning, with food ready for a river bank fry up, to arrive at the "Vee stream", then disembark and climb up to The Camp in time for mid-day opening. There we would stay until closing time at two o'clock.



Then it was down to the river bank for the fry up and a leisurely afternoon swimming, with ball games and generally lounging around until opening time again at seven. Eventually after various 'black and tans' and 'Wickwar ciders' and after ten o'clock closing time, a noisy row back down river to the club house brought the day to a close. Monday mornings at work were often rather hung-over!

