

THE VELLUM

THAT NEVER WAS 1



George's last day

He died holding

It is rare these days to add anything significant to the well-documented life of George Formby. But here for GFS members we print a letter written just a month after George's death in Mount Street Hospital, Preston, by Kath Howson, the mother of George's fiancée Pat Howson. She tells of George's final moments, and in doing so reveals the depth of feeling her daughter had for George.

*Hotel Santa Christina
Lourdes
April 10th 61*

Dear Clare

Since I remembered the Holland family and their intentions and your mother's at The Grotto this morning, I feel it was time I dropped you a line.

It seemed impossible before we were so upset, it seems fantastic that all those tremendous things happened - four short weeks.

Every side of the story is terrific I hardly know where to start, perhaps since we are in Lourdes I'll start with the spiritual side.

You know George had never been to church for many years and although we had known him for about 20 years it was only when we met him on the Broads 7 years ago that we found out he should be a Catholic. Beryl ridiculed us for going to church and George for being a Catholic (she had statues of the Devil in the house).

It happened that we came to Lourdes that Sept: and I remember so well, that when we prayed for lapsed Catholics we both said "particularly George Formby" because he was such a nice man. A lot of my friends at church remember us saying at the time "Do pray for George Formby to come back to church".

Well apparently all his life he had



**Kath Howson - her letter details events surrounding George's death.
Photo courtesy of Lewis Clifton.**

said "Hail Marys" and we actually met on the Broads in her month, May.

Altho' we used to see him occasionally and regularly before then, we never saw him again and sometimes wondered why. Apparently he fell in love with Pat

then, it was his first time he'd seen her grown up, and none of us had any idea, he didn't let her know by even a look.

Then he used to say 'Hail Marys' to try to forget her because he was married, but he said he could always

Pat's crucifix

see her sitting in his boat in blue jumper and check slacks.

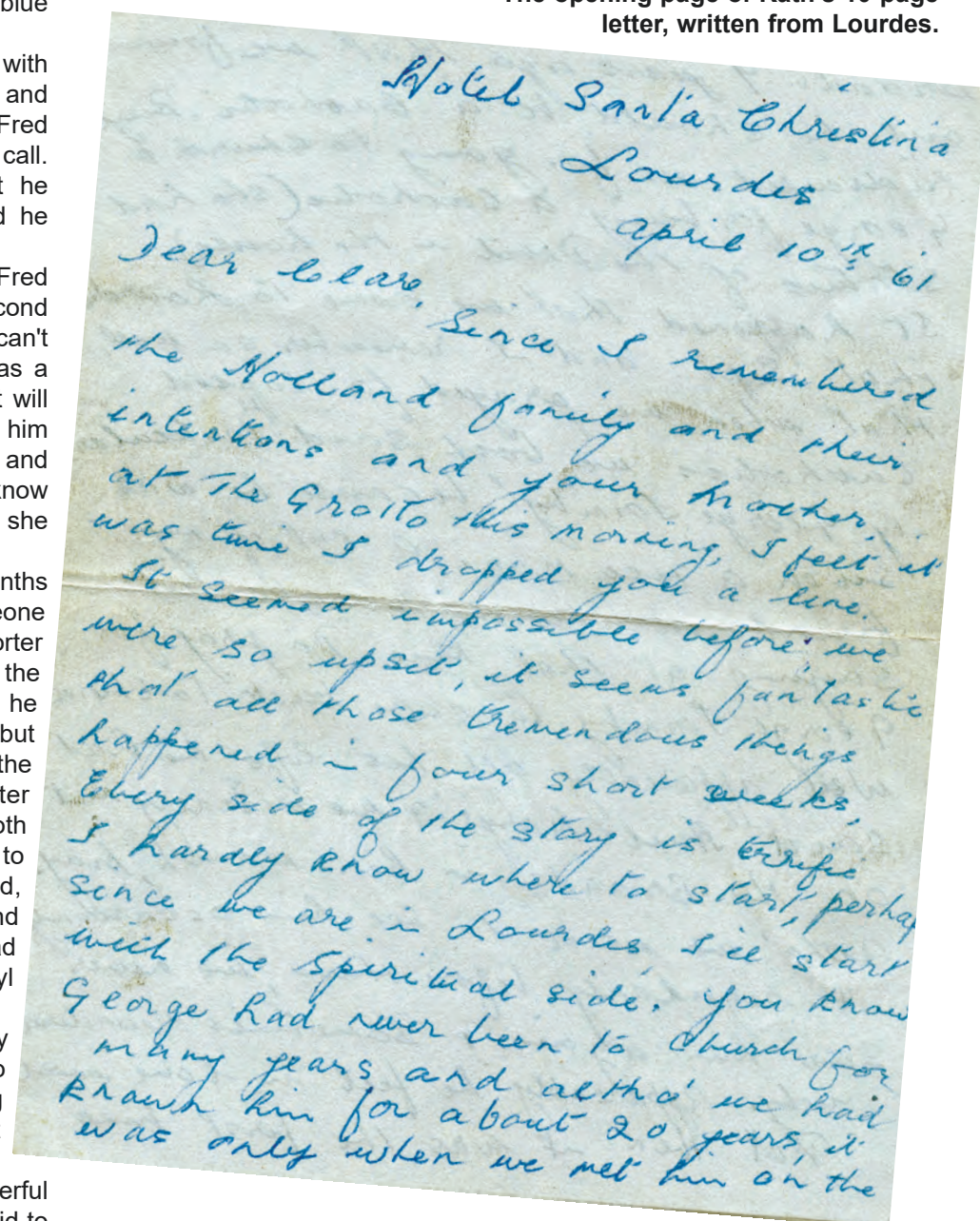
And because he'd fallen in love with her, he purposely stayed away and never even bought a car from Fred again in case he was tempted to call. Then when Beryl died, he felt he hadn't a day to waste, little did he know how true that was.

He came to tea after ringing Fred from Victoria Hospital but the second time he came he said to Fred "I can't pretend that I'm coming to tea as a friend, like I used to; I hope Pat will marry me one day." Then Pat told him she had a great respect for him and liked him very much but you know how honest she is, she told him she didn't love him like he loved her.

They would have waited months before getting engaged but someone tipped off the Daily Mirror reporter that there was an engagement in the air and being a friend of George he told him but didn't tell him why but whoever it was got £10 for the information! When the reporter came they - Pat and George - both agreed that as they had nothing to hide, they would be engaged, rather than try to keep it quiet and perhaps look as though they had been going about before Beryl died.

Whoever told the press, actually did them a good turn as he had so little time left. The strangest thing to me was Pat saying I "must pray that I can love him in the same way, he is such a wonderful person" and one morning she said to me "Will you come over with me to see George" and altho' I knew he was coming over to Preston in the afternoon, I didn't ask why and imagine my surprise when we arrived and George said "I've been praying to Our Lady that you would love me just

The opening page of Kath's 10-page letter, written from Lourdes.



Hotel Santa Christina
Lourdes
April 10th 61

Dear Clare,

Since I remembered the Holland family and their intentions and your brother, at The Grotto this morning, I felt it was time I dropped you a line. It seemed impossible before, we were so upset, it seems fantastic that all those tremendous things happened in four short weeks. Every side of the story is terrific. I hardly know where to start, perhaps since we are in Lourdes, I'll start with the spiritual side. You know George had never been to Church for many years and altho' we had known him for about 20 years, it was only when we met him on the

a little" and Pat said "I do love and more than a little." I could weep when I remember them together after that, it was so lovely to see them both so very happy.

They had tried to get married

quickly but what with forms to fill in, birth certificates etc.

On the Tues. he took her into our church and said "Take me to Our

Continued on next page

George's last day



Pat Howson - "She wanted to come to Lourdes to thank Our Lady for having saved his soul and also for a bit of peace from the Press"



St Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston. Set for demolition and redevelopment, this is where George died. Picture: Peter Pollard.

Continued from previous page

Lady" and he promised aloud then he would never give Pat a moment's unhappiness if he could help it, never tell her a lie and that every thing he had was hers. The next day he was taken ill and through being in Preston

went into Mount St. tho' his own doctor wanted him to go to Victoria Blackpool.

He was anointed and got so much better. Then told Pat to get the wedding ring and the licence ready for the Doctor saying he could go to Hill Chapel Goosnargh.

They had tried to get the special licence to marry in hospital but it is not available to Roman Catholics and would not be a legal marriage.

You know the rest, she broke an app. to go to the hospital to tell him about the ring and had been there only half an hour when he collapsed and through Pat being there got the Priest.

There was no staff about and as she ran out she found someone, they just caught a Priest leaving and he was in time.

George died in about 10 minutes holding the only present Pat gave him, a crucifix with a Happy Death Plenary Indulgence. His last bit of Purgatory was being so upset at the Daily Express reporter printing the story of his unhappy domestic life, as

The letter's provenance

This letter was given to GFS stalwart Alan Southworth by a friend of Pat Howson's mother while Alan was a BT Engineer.

After his death, his widow Hilda passed it to another Honorary Member, Peter Pollard, who thought it would be best preserved in the hands of Lewis Clifton, who has kindly consented to its use here. Alan was an enthusiastic committee member and the secretary for some years in the 1980's and he worked continually to make the Society the success that it is today. He was a great source of knowledge and was



always happy to share it and was a good friend to all who knew him. In 2004 Alan was awarded honorary membership, the highest award that the GFS can bestow.



JANUARY 1961 - This is likely one of the last photos taken of George, seen here in Blackpool Victoria Hospital after a health scare. He was soon back in hospital, this time in St Joseph's, Preston, after suffering a heart attack. He died there two months after this photo was taken.

though he had published it.

He was so upset the specialist thought that could have brought on that thrombosis. We've decided that reporters are rats, that one phoned to apologise to George after he'd done the damage.

They've given Pat a hell of a time and never print the truth.

She wanted to come to Lourdes to thank Our Lady for having saved his soul and also for a bit of peace from the Press, we purposely didn't tell anyone which hotel we were coming

to and you'll never believe we've not been here 2 days and the Daily Express have been on to the Police in Lourdes to find out where Pat is. She told the Police she would not see them so they refused to tell where we are.

We've had enough of all the rubbish the Formby family are putting out.

You know George told Pat they had sponged on him all his life and if he left anything to his mother at 82, it would only go to the rest. His mother having plenty to live on as he told us she owns the block of flats she lives

in, in one of the best districts of Liverpool.

It is unkind of the family, because he was too good a man to do anything mean.

Well you can't say I haven't given you all the news. You won't get this until after we are home, as letters take 4 days at least.

Will get in touch with you, when we get back to normal.

Tell Betty and John we prayed for them too. Pat sends her love to you all.

Love Kath

Beryl remembered

George's wife Beryl has, over the years, had a reputation as something of a pantomime villain.

Most people grudgingly agree that it was her efforts which propelled George into super stardom, while at the same time accusing her of keeping him on a tight leash, denying him affection and curbing his natural zest for life and love. But whatever the truth, we should be grateful to the attractive clog dancer who caught George's eye, and was more than simply his Svengali for the 36 years of their marriage.

Here we present some unfamiliar glimpses into her life.

A friend's memories

Hidden away in the Society archives is the transcript of an oral history given in 1982 by Beryl's long-time friend, Hilda Oglesby, who was a member of the Beryl Formby Troupe, dancers who performed in George's shows. It is from the collection of Wigan Museum Archives Service that Hilda is quoted.

People - and family - used to express surprise at the women's friendship: "I said, well actually I think she's rather a lonely person, because she doesn't mix with the crowd the team mixed with and a lot of them didn't like her, but it was only because she was reserved, she couldn't help it, because she was reserved with me."

"To me she was a lonely sort of person and I really liked her and I felt sorry for her in a way, because all the people she used to meet and she was always very charming with them, it didn't matter who, nobody went to her head, it didn't matter what status they had or anything like that, even down at the film unit.



"And I used to wonder what it was, whether it was because they'd never had any children, but it was a thing I never liked to ask but they never had any, and I wondered if, you know, whether she couldn't have any or something like that, that was always at the back of my mind

that she was definitely a person that seemed to prefer to be on her own.

"She could mix, but she only mixed because she knew she had to do for George's business but she was quite content with just me and her on a Saturday afternoon when George was out, and we've just sit in the garden. And I've walked out with the dog just along the main road there, while she did a few chores in the house. She'd only a woman that used to come in, she did a lot of the housework herself."

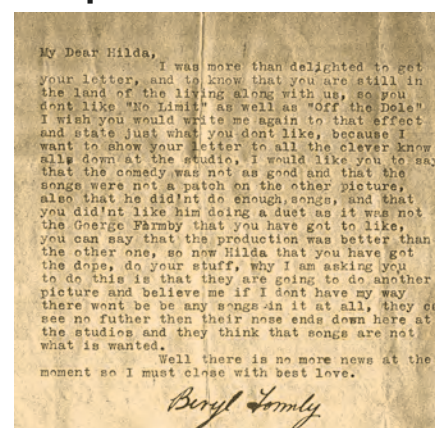
One of Beryl's edicts was the women of the troupe could not watch George from the wings.

"She said, by the way girls, when we open the show, don't think you can come down and watch Mr. Formby, I'll tell you when you can come down, you can all have a turn at watching him, I'm not taking that away from you, you can have one night in every town that we're in and you all take your own night. We'll say start with you, she'd pick a girl out, now you're Monday night, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, go down the line. She said, now Hilda will see that you don't disobey

"Now that was a little chore of mine

and I said, don't nip down girls because she'll find out, I shan't tell her but she'll find out, I said, and you know she can be very nasty. They said, I'll say she can. So I said, I'm only telling you, I'm on your side really, not her's, I'm on your side."

Beryl coaches Hilda to complain about latest film



In this remarkable letter, Beryl uses her friend to write a letter complaining about 'No Limit' so it will add weight to her own input. It reads...

"So, you don't like "No Limit" as well as "Off The Dole". I wish you would write me again to that effect and state just what you didn't like, because I want to show your letter to all the clever know-alls down at the studio. I would like you to say that the comedy was not as good and that the songs were not a patch on the other picture, also that he didn't do enough songs, and that you didn't like him doing a duet, as it was not the Goerge (sic) Formby that you have got to like. You can say that the production was better than the other one, so now Hilda that you have got the dope, do your stuff.

"Why I am asking you to do this is that they are going to do another picture and believe me if I don't have my way there won't be any songs in it at all, they can see no further than their nose ends down here at the studios, and they think that songs are not what is wanted."

SATURDAY. SEPTEMBER 20. 1924.

MIDNIGHT WEDDING HUSTLE.

GEORGE FORMBY'S RUSH FROM WARRINGTON TO DARWEN FOR HIS BRIDE.

Mr. George Formby, jun., who appeared with conspicuous success at the Royal Court Theatre last week, was married in romantic circumstances on Saturday.

When he finished his turn at the theatre shortly after ten o'clock on Friday evening, George, who is not yet 29, had not even proposed to the lady of his choice, Miss Beryl Ingham, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Ingham, 5, Richmond-terrace, Darwen. She is well-known in the vaudeville world as a partner with her sister in a dance-

groom, and at ten o'clock, at the registry office, Wigan, the marriage took place.

It was a quiet event, and the only witnesses to the ceremony were Miss May Ingham and Mr. Eugene Fawcett, uncle of the bridegroom.

Later George returned to Warrington, where he gave his final performance the same evening. This week he is appearing at the Hippodrome, Preston.

DOESN'T THINK SHE WAS SURPRISED.

Mr. Formby first met Miss Beryl, who is 23 years of age, when they were appearing at a theatre at Castleford several months ago, and

THE BRIDE.
Photographs by Dobson Studios, Liverpool.

THE BRIDEGROOM.

ing turn of distinction, which they have presented for 12 years, first as the "Two Violets" and latterly as "Beryl and May."

"I'VE COME FOR BERYL."

While Warrington slept, young George was speeding over the moorland in a taxi-cab to the home of his bride-to-be, where he arrived at 2 a.m. He roused the sleeping family, and declared "I've come for Beryl and I want to marry her this morning."

His proposal was accepted, and at seven o'clock in the morning the bride and bridegroom, accompanied by Miss May Ingham, drove away in a taxi to Wigan. They proceeded to the home of a relative of the bride-

from what he says it would appear that with him it was a case of love at first sight. Many times he thought of proposing to her and, he says, "I didn't do it until Saturday morning. The idea that I would get wed entered my head on Friday night. I suppose I must have gone a bit mad. I decided all of a sudden to go and propose to her. So I went. Before I saw her at Darwen in the early hours of the morning I had not mentioned marriage to her, but somehow I don't think she was quite taken by surprise. The honeymoon will come later."

The bride has several stage contracts yet to fulfil with her sister, and it is not yet decided whether or not she will continue her successful career as a dancer.

This wonderful news item, smacking of self-publicity, gives a glorious romantic view of George's proposal.



The Angel Inn, Darwen, where George is said to have serenaded Beryl and proposed to her in 1924. Photo courtesy Alan Parkinson.



Whatever you think of Beryl she steered a young illiterate copy-cat performer out of his father's shadow into the hearts of millions. And for that we should be grateful.

She was fierce in his defence and shrewd in guiding his career, maybe a little controlling and over-protective, but without her, the George Formby we love may have been long forgotten, like so many other music hall acts.



A sad send-off for the star-maker

Beryl Booth died at her home in St Annes-on-the-sea on Christmas Day, 1960 aged 59. Cause of death was uraemia, degenerative heart disease and haemolytic anaemia.

It was just two days later that she was cremated at Lytham St Anne's Park crematorium, with none of the ceremony or mourners she deserved. George and his mother Eliza Booth (84) were there, but the only showbiz representative was Jimmy Brennan, theatre owner and impresario.

She left £25,537 in her will.

Much has been made of George's haste in becoming engaged to Pat Howson.

Perhaps this was the reason neither he nor Miss Howson arranged for a memorial stone to be placed at the crematorium.

That was left to family stalwart Harry Scott, whose memorial remained until it started to fade, and was replaced by the Society.

Quoted after the funeral, George said "I've got to keep going. Beryl would want it. But it's going to be hard. She was my life."

The family got more than they had bargained for

Share and share alike?

His wife's illness, and his own, prompted George to write three wills in a short time; the first was written while Beryl was ill, in which they each left the other virtually everything. The second in 1961 was prompted when George suffered chest pains and was hospitalised during a panto run at Bristol. In that will, he left £5,000 each to chauffeur/handyman Harry Scott, a former tumbler, and his mother, and the remainder of his estate to be shared between his three sisters.

And it was these three women, who together with his mother, Eliza Booth (82), challenged his final will, and Miss Howson's right to the estate, in the High Court. They claimed George was not in a sound state of memory or understanding when he dictated his third and final will to solicitor John Crowther in March of 1961.

But the court heard he was determined to leave Miss Howson everything apart from the bequest to Harry. "If he was to die tomorrow, he wanted Pat to have everything. She brought him more happiness than he had known before" said Mr. James Fitzhugh acting on behalf of Mr Crowther, who was trying to prove the validity of the will made on February 23 1961, a month before George's death at the age of 57.

"He said he didn't want his sisters to have anything," Mr. Fitzhugh went on.

"And then he described the rest of the family as a set of scroungers."

Mr. Fitzhugh said some of the letters found among Formby's effects after he died solicited Formby's "help.."

"I am not suggesting: that these letters show that the description of "scroungers" is applicable to members of his family" he went on.

"What they do show is that some members of the family sought help

■ The two-day court scramble for George's money in 1963 was a sad postscript to a life which brought joy to millions.

■ Much to the anger of his family – described at one point as 'scroungers' - in his final will he left the bulk of his £135,000 estate to fiancée Pat Howson.

■ Contemporary newspaper articles give us an insight into how this family feud unfolded, and form the basis of this article.



from him, and that he had a certain resentment that greater demands were made upon him than ought to have been."

Mr Crowther said George was "bright, cheerful and alert" when he made the will. "There is no doubt in my mind he knew what he was doing" he said.

The case ended prematurely when a settlement was reached: George's mother accepted an offer of £5,000 to withdraw her objection to the will, and her three daughters, Mrs Mary

Anderson, Mrs Louis de Hailes, and Mrs Ethel Corless, accepted £2,000 each to withdraw their objections. These payments, together with death duties and legal costs, meant Miss Howson, a schoolteacher, would inherit around £64,000.

This was the same offer which was withdrawn before the case, because the women had not responded to it. At that time Miss Howson commented: "I have done my best to avoid a lot of trouble and this is something of a bombshell. I suppose it will mean

when they challenged George's will

by Peter Lee

court action and no doubt some unpleasantness, but otherwise I am not in the least worried"

After the settlement, Miss Howson, who planned to marry George the week he died, said she was "relieved it had all ended in a friendly way. I shall certainly never marry. I shall never find anyone like George. Everyone loved him. He was the most wonderful man I met in my life."

But the bad feeling was not over; the family bristled at being called 'scroungers' and leapt to their defence.

Eliza is quoted as saying: "I will never, not to my dying day, believe my son ever referred to us as scroungers."

"It is not the kind of thing he would do. I want to clear our name of this slur."

"It is true that most of us Booths at one time or another had asked George, the most successful member of the family, for a little help."

"But doesn't this happen in every family, where a son or a daughter has got on? Georgie always said he was grateful for the help we all gave him in the years when he was struggling for success"

Mrs. Booth, who listened in court with a hearing aid, said she was glad the case was over.

"But I do not consider myself under any obligation at all to Miss Howson," she went on. "There will be no question of my sending her a letter of thanks."

"I have forgotten about her existence. I just want to get home and decide my future."

Meanwhile, Miss Howson explained her side of things: "I haven't lost the case, but I haven't got George," she said.

"I hope to go back to the English Martyrs Secondary school in Preston and teach again. Perhaps that will help me to forget."

"I loved George very much indeed and I know that he loved me."

"Why did I love him? It was his honesty, simplicity and humility. He

£135,000 COMEDIAN SAID FAMILY WERE 'A SET OF SCROUNGERS,'

AND HE LEFT HIS FORTUNE TO MISS PAT — JUDGE IS TOLD

'She brought him more happiness than he had ever known before...'



COMEDIAN George Formby—the ukulele man—cut members of his family out of his £135,000 will because he thought they were a "set of scroungers," a court was told yesterday.

And he willed nearly all the money to Patricia Howson, 37, the Preston schoolteacher he planned to marry, telling his solicitor: "She has brought me more happiness than I have ever known before."

The will, made in February 1961, eleven days before Formby died at the age of 56, is being contested by his 84-year-old mother, Mrs. Eliza Booth, and his three sisters.

They claim that when the will was made at St. Joseph's Hospital, Preston, Formby was "not in a sound state of memory or understanding."

Formby's solicitor, Mr. John Hilton Crother, is seeking to prove that the will is valid.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF

was warm and he was generous. He was the most wonderful man I have ever met in my life. There can never be another for me."

Pat talked about the whirlwind romance which ended with the death of George two years earlier, days before they were due to marry.

She said: "I first saw George when I was a little girl of nine. He used to come to our house."

"I saw him again during a holiday on the Norfolk Broads in 1954. He was there with his wife, Beryl, and I was with my parents."

"Then, after Beryl died on Christ-

mas Day, 1960, my father and I were asked to go round for a drink.

"We went on February 3. That evening our eyes met as we drank cocktails at his home in St. Annes-on-Sea."

"Two days later he proposed and I accepted."

Pat died of cancer in 1971. She was 46.

There were no real winners in this story, just a sad footnote to the memory of a much-loved and warm-hearted entertainer.

Newspaper articles courtesy of the Lewis Clifton collection.

A jinx on George's cash?

The will saga continued even after Pat's death.

She left almost £20,000 in her will, and this sparked another legal wrangle over what the Liverpool Echo headlined 'Jinxed' money.

Miss Howson didn't leave a penny to her £6-a-week OAP dad Fred, who lived in a caravan parked in a field in Garstang.

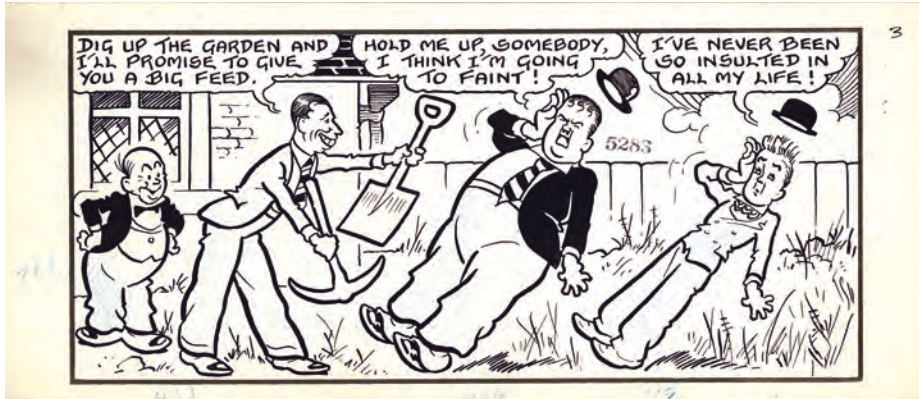
He said "If I'm not left anything I will fight the will"

And George's sister Mrs Ethel Corless, commented "I am sure there is a jinx on the money."

The biggest beneficiary, receiving £2,000, was the Carmelite Convent, Stoney Brow, Upholland, near Wigan. She also left £100 for Masses to be said for the repose of her soul.

Sharing GFS archive treasures

Seldom-seen items from the Society's collection



The Society has a number of original ink-drawn cells from the popular George Formby strip cartoon and story which ran in Film Fun. In this cell, one of several for the episode, Laurel and Hardy co-star.

Amazed at public's kindness

A few weeks after Beryl's death, George sent this touching letter to Norman B Howard, a Norfolk JP, written from the Grand Hotel, Bristol, where he was still in panto.

"Very many thanks for your kind letter which was forwarded to me here.

"I have been amazed at the

public's kindness to me since Beryl died in december.

"It is going to be 'tough' for me on my own for a while, but it is something I am going to have to get used to.

"As you may know I have had many happy times in Norfolk, especially on the broads at Wroxham and Potter Heigham. The staff at King's Lynn hospital were wonderful after my accident a couple of years back.

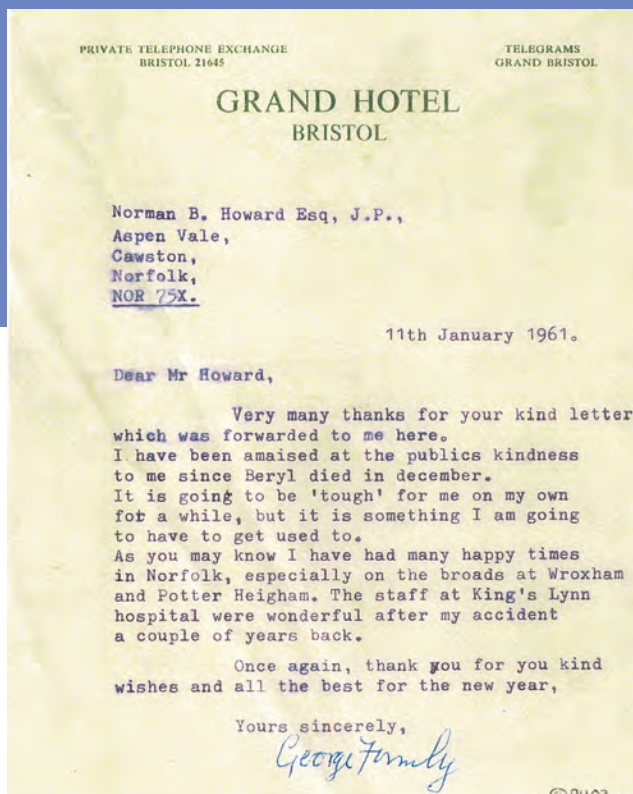
"Once again, thank you for your kind wishes and all the best for the new year."



ABOVE - a beautiful vignette photo, signed in 1932.

BELOW - George at home in front of his radiogram and his silver disc for 'When I'm Cleaning Windows', which sold over 100,000 copies in two weeks on its release in 1937.

A lamp just like the one in the photo is listed in the infamous Beryldene auction catalogue as 'Bronzed twin figure electric lamp and shade', as too is an upholstered bucket seat like the one he sits in.



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In the air for George and Beryl

This faded wartime press release from Normandy has George and Beryl putting on a morale-boosting show for air crews near the front line. It was typical of the couple's commitment to the armed forces during World War II.

28.7.44

Embargo

George Formby vies with the RAF - and likes it

So great was the noise of RAF fighters and fighter-bombers landing and taking off from a nearby frontline airfield that, for the first half-hour of the show, almost every sentence spoken by George Formby and his wife Beryl at the first ENSA show to arrive in France had to be repeated.

Typhoonns of RAF Second Tactical Airforce loaded with rockets roared a hundred feet above the 'barn theatre' on their way to the fighting lines south of Caen, as George Formby shouted from the front line of the ration-box audience seats to his wife Beryl, who was trying to beat the roar of aircraft engines with the help of a home-



Normandy - George and Beryl with General Montgomery.

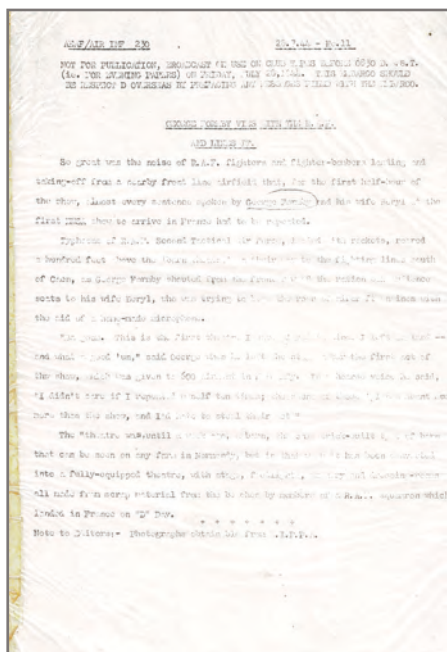
made microphone.

"Ba goom. This is the first theatre I have played in since I left England, and what a good 'un" said George when he left the stage after the first act of the show, which was given to 600 airmen in Normandy.

In a hoarse voice he said "I didn't care if I repeated myself 10 times. The sound of those planes meant so much more than the show, and I'd

hate to steal their act."

The theatre was, until a week ago, a barn, the type of brick-built barn that can be seen on any farm in Normandy, but in that week it has been converted into a fully-equipped theatre, with stage, footlight, scenery and dressing rooms all made from scrap material, from the beaches by members of the RAF squadron which landed in France on 'D' Day.



A bob well spent!

This military shilling note was signed by George in Malta.

Unusually, it is undated.

It was contributed by Mr J R Jones of Blaenau Festiniog, Gwynedd.

He was one of the crew assigned to look after the stage for George's concert, and that's how he obtained the autograph.

He also took the photo of George and Beryl.



Sharing GFS archive treasures

Seldom-seen items from the Society's collection



George tells us of his dad's views of Wigan

In a 1938 newspaper article, likely ghost-written, George gives us a glimpse of his father's dour humour...

I never once saw dad on the stage, and what stories I know about him come from other people.

My father always stuck up for Wigan. As a rule the mention of Wigan on the music-hall stage never fails to bring the house down. It was the same yesterday as it is to-day, and it annoyed my father intensely.

I have a letter before me in which Dad defends Wigan.

"I've no doubt it's a great joke," he said. "but I can't see it. and my sight's good. It's getting on my nerves.



"A little while ago at a London music-hall I happened to mention Wigan. and you could hear the waistcoats tearing all over the house. I can't understand it! I can't see anything funny in Wigan. (Dad is still defending Wigan)

"Wigan is no laughing matter. It's, a great place. No. I wasn't born there. Ashlon-under-Lyne saw the curtain go up on me.

There's a plate on the house I was born in. It says, 'Fire Hydrant, 20 feet.'

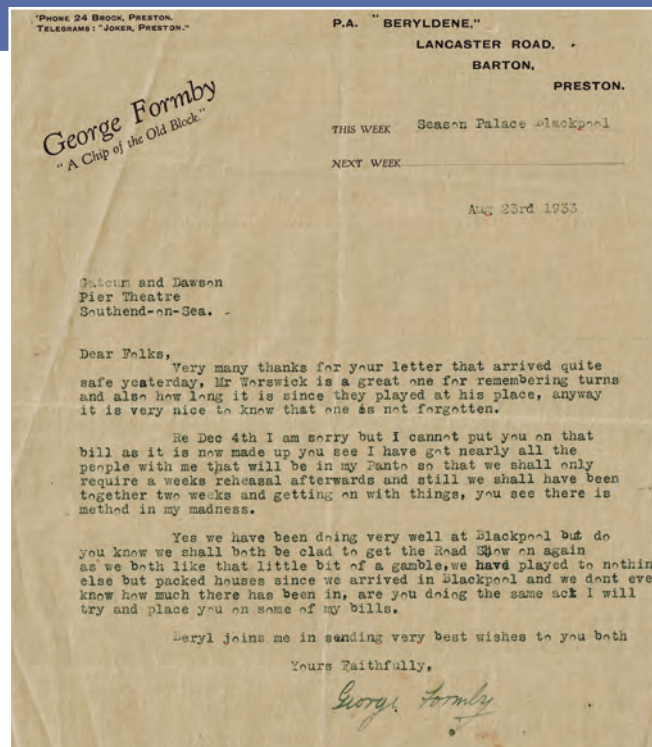
"I've got a house there. It's so nice and central for provincial tours.

"Such a quiet town. too. Beautiful coal mines all round, and wonderful cotton mills inside.

"And then it's only two-and-sixpence away from Blackpool and one-and-five from Manchester (that was in Dad's day!). Oh. yes you can get out of Wigan quite easily.

"And progressive! My. but they've got real electric trams there, and real horses, and there's a lovely river, the Douglas. I've got a lovely house there, next door but one to the infirmary—in case of accidents.

"Sundays I go out for a walk Across the fields, the coal fields, to see the Derby brights and kitchen cobbles, and all night I can lie in bed and hear the mills all around me making shirts and sheets by the million. Eh, lad. Wigan's a great town!"



1933 - George explains he cannot fit an act into an upcoming panto, and says although he is enjoying playing Blackpool, he looks forward to going on a road show again - a bit of a 'gamble'.



A rare publicity photo signed as George Hoy, in 1921, before he changed his stage name to Formby