


# G.F.C. NEWS



No. 1  
1942



This Magazine is issued from the office of:

**The Organising Secretary**  
**George Formby Club**  
**169 Oxford Street, W.1.**

to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

## EDITORIAL

Since the last issue of our little magazine, which makes contact with our ever-growing list of members, another Xmas has come and gone and another New Year has dawned. We mention this as we are anxious that our first message will be one of thanks to all those members who so kindly sent greetings to our President and Vice-President for these occasions. Under ordinary circumstances, each one of you would have received a personal letter of thanks from George and Beryl, but circumstances are anything but ordinary - in fact extraordinary for all of us, whatever our station in life.

For the same reason it has been impossible to get out an issue of the magazine earlier.

## CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE

Since the last issue, George, accompanied by Beryl, has been almost exclusively engaged on Troop Tours, excepting a spot of filming at Elstree, where "South American George" was completed and which many of our readers will by now have seen. We should require many pages to describe all the variety of incidents connected with these tours, but the following paragraphs will give you an insight into some of them:-

## ANOTHER ROYAL SHOW

We tried in the last issue, to give you a little pen picture of that day of days when George and Beryl, with a full dance band and supporting artistes, made the journey to ---- for the first Royal Variety Show of the war. Believe it or not, they have paid a second visit by special request. This time Geraldo's band provided the music with their regular crooners whom you hear on the air, plus Olive Groves. On this occasion the trip took up the whole day, lunch being served to the party before the concert and tea afterwards. It is the first time any artiste has made a return visit in such a short period. As before, the Princesses showed they are very up-to-date with George's songs and were glad to join in the choruses.

At the reception after the concert, Their Majesties were engaged in conversation with George and Beryl as old friends. The King wore Field Marshal's uniform and The Queen a dress of her favourite powder blue. The Princesses had their now familiar little coats and short pleated skirts - this time in russet brown instead of the sky blue. The dogs were not at first in evidence, but on enquiring how they were, Princess Margaret immediately obtained permission from The Queen and in

they came and we had a surprise, for they included a new one - a Tibet lion. In appearance this little fellow is very similar to a sheep dog with long hair over the eyes, evenly marked across the back in black and white stripes, but much smaller in size than a sheep dog - nearer the Welsh Corgie. In Tibet, this dog is a sacred animal, but in the Royal Household he loves to be petted. He will lie back in your arms and go all limp while you tickle his tummy for as long as you like.

As a souvenir of the occasion, George and Beryl were presented with an autographed photograph of Their Majesties - a gift specially reserved for the favoured few. It is doubtful whether you could find six persons outside the Royal Family circle who possess them.

#### A GIFT TO THE BLIND FROM YOU

The next engagement involved a road journey South to North and making allowances for normal delays, should have taken about four hours. What actually happened was that a thick fog came over half-way on the journey with the result that it took over eight hours - a continuous strain on the nerves, but both George and Beryl agreed it was worth it, for they were due to entertain St. Dunstan's Boys at their Xmas breaking-up party. Don't you wonder how famous funny men can keep up their smiling faces when for hours before their appearance they have been anything but happy!

George and Beryl were greatly moved by the terrific reception from these pathetic heroes of this and the last war. To have George entertain them was a red-letter day and when on top of this he presented the Governor with a cheque for £50 on behalf of the Formby Fan Club - well, his visit was memorable all ways.

Incidentally, if the expenses of preparing this magazine, badges, printing, stationery etc., were really paid by the Club, we are afraid donations would not be possible - but that's another story!

#### GEORGE (FATHER CHRISTMAS) FORMBY ACTS AS AUXILIARY POSTMAN

George Formby, who recently fulfilled one of his very few variety engagements, announced from the stage at his final performance that he was touring the Southern Command to entertain troops and would deliver any parcels or letters sent to him for soldiers in that area. The word was quickly passed round with the result that he was inundated with personal messages, letters and parcels from relatives and friends anxious to secure definite delivery to members of the forces serving in Salisbury and the surrounding encampments. Although doing two and sometimes three shows a day, George Formby entered into the spirit of these requests and the surprise and delight of the recipients can be well imagined when he personally delivered each and every one of these tokens in what spare time he had.

### CANADIANS' LATEST MESS DISH

The last performance of George Formby's lightning tour of the Southern Command took place at the town hall, which was situated immediately opposite his hotel for the night. At the end of the show, requiring an evening meal, he found the hotel was two-thirds commandeered as a Canadian Forces' Mess. The cooking for the day had been completed, but the Canadians insisted on summoning their cook who, aided and abetted by George and Beryl, was successful in preparing a dish which was entirely new to the Canadians - a Lancashire Hot Pot. The cook was so pleased with the result that this appetising dish will have its honoured place on the menu from now on!

### THE IRISH TOUR

In response to urgent requests, George Formby paid a visit to Northern Ireland for a three weeks' tour of the principal troop camps and garrisons and his experiences during the first week were thrilling in the extreme.

After most difficult travelling and having completed three separate shows some miles apart at which he received most enthusiastic receptions, he was prepared to call it a day, but unexpected difficulties arose.

Northern Ireland was in the throes of one of its coldest spells and his journey back to the hotel necessitated going over high country. Even with George Formby's experience as a motorist he was unable to combat the elements, with the result that he found his car marooned on a mountain in a foot of frozen snow, in common with three other cars and a bus, with a 20-ton lorry overturned in a ditch for full measure. For over two hours George and Beryl were stranded and it was not until dawn next morning that they reached the warm confines of their hotel - yet some think that these tours are just one round of pleasure!

Following his enthusiastic reception, George was persuaded to extend his tour for a further week and a broadcast took place on Monday, January 19th from one of his troop concerts.

Many members have written to tell us they heard this and comment on the amazing reception he received. In all, he appeared at 72 concerts in the 21 days.

#### WASTE PAPER

You will find the Formby name prominently associated with whatever is new in the War effort. The latest method is by the collection of waste paper. The personal appeal of your President brought the following amazing results - each in one day:-

Blackpool .....	10 tons.
Blackburn .....	16 tons.
Oldham .....	20 tons.

In each case Mr. Formby drove the van and at Oldham a whole convoy of empty vans set off, with George driving the leading lorry of the column. As each van was filled, it was driven away and George took over the next one.

#### PRISONERS OF WAR

Even our boys in camps in Germany are not forgotten. In response to personal appeals, one uke has already been sent and a further one will go shortly. Yet another soldier, who rejoices in the nickname of Pluto, will receive a case only to replace one very much the worse for wear. Due to being used as a pillow "on the march", it has become, in his own words, "a chewing gum and string affair."

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#### SHORTS

We had first-hand knowledge of George's popularity when a member of the Canadian Air Force visited us. He assures us that he had to wait three weeks before he could get a seat to see a Formby film in Toronto!

All ranks in all services are represented in an ever-growing list of members - including an Admiral and a Knight.

Our membership is over 4,000.

Better times are on the way, so cheerio everybody - will be with you again as soon as possible.

## PEN PALS

- EDITH HARVEY ) would very much like a boy pen pal about  
Oak Cottage ) 16-17 years old. She is 16 and would like  
Watchfield ) to write to someone living in the North of  
Swindon. Wilts. ) England.
- ROSEMARY ALCOCK ) would very much like a girl pen pal living  
Redlands, ) abroad. She is 13 and interested in  
Dore Road ) photograph collecting and sports.  
Sheffield. Yorks. )
- ARTHUR LOW ) would like a pen pal of either sex. He is  
113, St. John's Rd. ) interested in riding, cycling, autograph  
Waterloo ) and stamp collecting, aeroplanes, reading,  
Liverpool.2. ) films and autographed photos.
- MR.M.J. HILLIER ) would like pen friends anywhere, interested  
31, Ayles Road, ) in films in general. All replies guaranteed  
Copnor, ) in time!  
Portsmouth.Hants. )
- HARRY WRIGHT ) would like a pen pal of either sex although  
65, Stamford Sq., ) preferably girls, between 14 and 16. He is  
Ashton-under-Lync ) 15 and interested in sport, autographs,  
Lancs. ) music, films and the stage.
- JACK BRADSHAW ) would like a pen pal of his own age, eleven,  
42, Prestbury Rd, ) interested in cigarette card collecting,  
Liverpool.11. ) scouting and nature study. Either girl or  
 ) boy will do.
- DENNIS FREAM ) would like a girl pen pal aged 17-21  
57, Forest Avenue ) interested in films and sport.  
Fishponds.Bristol. )
- W.BRIAN KENYON ) is 19 years old and would like girl pen  
789, Manchester Rd ) friends.  
Over Hulton; )  
Bolton. Lancs. )
- WINIFRED DAVISON ) age 19; would like pen friends interested  
Rodern, ) in films, autographs, music and writing  
9, Church Terrace ) to stars. All letters answered.  
Darwen. Lancs. )

PEN PALS

- KENNETH FULLER  
216, Meanwood Road,  
Leeds.7. Yorks. ) would like a pen pal interested in  
) swimming, cycling, autograph, stamp  
) and cigarette card collecting. He is  
) fourteen and would like to correspond  
) with a boy or girl about the same age.
- G.N.R.S.E.DEEKES.  
1561775  
38, Bushey Road,  
Sutton. Surrey. ) would like to contact a young lady  
) pen pal about 22 years of age, living  
) in the London area, who is a Formby  
) fan.
- MARJORIE STONE  
Amblefields,  
St. Mellons,  
Nr. Cardiff. ) is twelve years old and would love a  
) girl pen pal about her own age who is  
) fond of horse-riding.
- EUNICE HOPKINS  
1, Close Cottages,  
Stanwix. Carlisle. ) would like a boy pen pal, age 13½ to 15  
) living in Lancashire. She is 12 years old  
) and her hobbies are swimming, cycling  
) and playing her ukelole-banjo.
- JOHN R.F.MELLUISH  
The Knock,  
Rossall School,  
Fleetwood. Lancs. ) would like a boy or girl in any British  
) Colony or the Dominions to write to him.  
) He is fond of music, football, rigger,  
) cricket, swimming and postage stamps.
- MARGARET SMITH  
"Vita Nova",  
Wiersma Road,  
Rondebosch, Cape Town.  
South Africa. ) would like some pen friends between the  
) ages of 17 and 20. She is sixteen years  
) old.
- JACK WHITAKER  
162, Siddals Road,  
Derby. ) would like a girl pen pal about 15-16.  
) He is 16 years old and interested in  
) most sport, chiefly cycling, roller-  
) skating, football and cricket.
- MARY HASKINS  
Camden Farm,  
Nr. Faringdon. Berks. ) would very much like a boy pen pal about  
) 16-17 years old. She is 16 and would  
) like, if possible, to write to someone  
) living in the North of England.
- MISS G. MERCER  
17, Townley Street  
Off Astley Street  
Preston. Lancs. ) is 16 years of age and would like older  
) members to write to her and if possible  
) send their photograph.



### PEN PALS

- WALTER WILLIAMSON ) would like a pen pal, preferably one  
Beeston Moss, ) who has a good knowledge of French, but  
Tarporeley, ) that is not essential. He is 15 and  
Cheshire. ) would like to make a number of friends.
- JOYCE HILL ) would like a pen pal age 14-15, a boy  
69, Birbeck Road, ) if possible. She is 14 and interested  
Beckenham. Kent. ) in everything in the way of hobbies.
- VIOLET McKAY ) would like a boy or girl pen pal aged  
25, Chantinghall Rd, ) 16-18, if possible living in a different  
Hamilton. Scotland. ) country, or someone in Southern England.  
 ) She is interested in most things,  
 ) particularly swimming, tennis, hockey,  
 ) dancing and films.
- FLORENCE NOLAN ) would like pen pals of both sexes,  
Avondale, ) aged 15-16. Will exchange photographs,  
Yew Tree Road, ) snaps, etc.  
Notherton. Dudley. )
- PTE. W. PICKUP ) would like a girl pen pal about 20 years  
3715182, ) of age and a blonde!  
12th Batt.A. & S.H. )  
B. Camp. C. Coy, )  
Campbeltown. Scotland )
- W.T. BRADSHAW ) would like boy pen pals between the  
68, Lea Road, ) ages of 13-15. He is 12 years old  
Northampton. ) and is interested in stamps, films,  
 ) stars and the Air Force.
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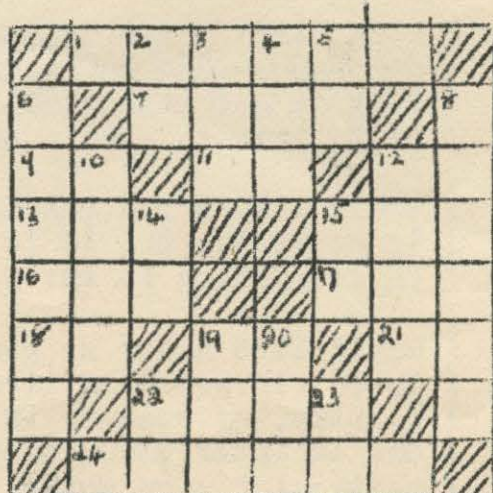
### OUR LETTER BOX

There is only one letter which needs attention through the magazine and that is from ARTHUR LOW of 113, St. John's Road, Waterloo, Liverpool.22.

Arthur wants to start a collection of autographed photographs and wonders whether any member would oblige by starting him off with spares. He lost some personal belongings in the blitz and we shall be glad if any of you can help him.

---

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS.

1. Nearly.
7. To take away.
9. A prefix.
11. Mount (Abbrev.)
12. To depart.
13. A slight bow.
15. A boy's name.
16. One of the 7 dwarfs.
17. Slang for car.
18. Royal Navy (Abbrev.)
19. Either.
21. Luise Rainer's initials.
22. To pull.
24. A cardboard container.

DOWN.

2. Behold.
3. Silent.
4. Lost, without its head.
5. Saint (Abbrev.)
6. Several.
8. Dull.
10. Mid-day.
12. The final purpose.
14. 600 in Roman Numerals.
15. Riding in the -- Races.
19. An implement for rowing.
20. A track of a wheel.
22. An exclamation.
23. Same as No:2.

Solution will be given  
in the next issue.

ALAN WOODHOUSE. CHESTERFIELD.

THE PRIZE OF AN AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. & MRS. FORMBY  
FOR BEST CONTRIBUTIONS HAS BEEN AWARDED TO:-

OLGA HAIK  
CAPE PROVINCE.

ALAN WOODHOUSE  
CHESTERFIELD.

SOLUTION TO LAST CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS.

- 1. Of.
- 3. And.
- 5. Nestle.
- 9. Ere.
- 10. Ac8.
- 12. Sycamore.

- 15. U.C.P.
- 16. Ra.
- 17. Err.
- 18. Voor.
- 20. Oath.
- 23. Live.
- 25. Scrum.

DOWN.

- 2. Fiery.
- 3. Ant.
- 4. Cat.
- 5. Nest.
- 6. Secure.
- 7. Lamp.
- 8. Eco.
- 11. Err.
- 13. Acro.
- 14. Eat.
- 17. Eva.
- 19. Rove.
- 21. Acy.
- 22. Ham.
- 24. Is.

-----

Explorer, relating his adventures to the bored audience:-  
"And as I dashed into the house I came face to face with a fierce ape! What do you think I did?"  
"Removed the mirror," responded a bored voice.

Overheard in a London tube lift:-  
"Ye'll no guess who I saw this morning."  
"No, who did ye see?"  
"I saw Jock McKay."  
"No Jock McKay frae Aberdeen?"  
"Aye, the very same. Jock McKay from Aberdeen."  
"Whaur did ye see him?"  
"He was looking into a shop window. I was so glad to see him, I went up and gave him a great crack on the back and he turned round and it wasna him at all!"

Teacher: "Correct this sentence - 'Girls is naturally better looking than boys.'"

Pupil: "Girls is artificially better looking than boys."

First Nurse: "That new patient in Ward B is very good looking, isn't he?"

Second Nurse: "Yes, but don't wash his face again. He has had that done by three nurses already this morning!"

"And what is a buttress?" asked the teacher.  
"It's a kind of female goat," replied the angel child.

"If I'd known you were so extravagant I would never have married you."

"If I hadn't been, father would never have let you."

OLGA HAIK  
CAPE PROVINCE

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Letter from member RONALD MURCH of FLITWICK, aged 15.

"I think that George Formby is doing a great job of work, obtaining money for the Blind Fund. It is almost equal to that of raising money for the war effort.

It only stands to reason that someone must find the money to support the Blind Fund, for funds are impossible to keep going without money - and money of big value at that - being raised and given to its cause.

If Mr. and Mrs. Formby had not started the G.F.C. then the money for the Blind Fund would have had to come from another direction, but, as it is, they have very kindly consented to being the means of obtaining the money for this fund. So that gives other folk, who might have contributed towards the Blind Fund, the chance of saving money and buying certificates and giving money in the National War effort.

That is why Mr. Formby is really helping us to defeat Hitler. He is giving others the chance of putting their money and trust in National Savings,

The formation of the G.F.C. not only supplies the Blind Fund with money of great use, but also supplies all members with great enjoyment and interest."

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THE LATEST GEORGE FORMBY RECORDS  
FOR YOUR COLLECTION

REGAL ZONOPHONE

- M.R.3521..(THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF EGYPT. Both with orchestra  
(WHO ARE YOU A-SHOVING OF. conducted by John Firman.
- M.R.3550..(GEORGE FORMBY'S CRAZY RECORD. TWO PARTS. Intro:  
(Alexander's Ragtime Band; "La Donna e Mobile (from  
(Rigoletto); She'll be Coming Round the Mountain  
(When She Comes; The Old-(New) Sow. With orchestra.
- M.R.3553..(SWING MAMA Both with orchestra from "South American  
(I PLAYED ON MY SPANISH GUITAR. George."
- M.R.3567..(I'D DO IT WITH A SMILE. Both from "South American  
(THE BARMAID AT THE ROSE AND CROWN. George."
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