

THE

GEORGE FORMBY

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Newsletter 109



Hee, Many
thanks for the
**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**
Here's a
bumper issue
for you. Four
extra pages

Specially Produced for George Formby Fans
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Welcome to Newsletter No. 109

And what a hectic month May has been. However, with all the activity around George's 100th Anniversary, we have most certainly done George reet proud. Llandudno went with a bang, as reported last month, and Cliff Royle's concert at Frodsham was very successful and raised £900 for his charity. The Wigan Pier event, although beset with setting up problems for the first couple of hours, turned out extremely well at the end.

Brian Edge was very pleased with his two events at Wistaston which brought packed houses on both occasions. Please read on . . .

First The Sad News—We regret to report the sad loss of one of our keen members, John Taylor senior, who unexpectedly passed away quietly on Saturday 22nd May. John was cremated at Overland Crematorium, Bolton on Tuesday 1st June when a packed church was attended by his family and many friends. Our thoughts go to his wife, Maureen who accompanied John to our meetings.



John, father of John Taylor of Morecambe, was a very keen Formby fan who joined us quite often. He served in the army during World War Two and one highlight of his later life was when he visited the Normandy beaches during one of our French coach trips.

He spoke often of how pleased he was to re-visit the beach where he landed 60 years ago, and it seems strange that his death coincided with the last of the Normandy Anniversaries, when so many veterans were boarding the boats for their last return. It was quite a touching scene watching John as he strolled along the beach where he landed. His ambition had been filled and he was pleased.

"Play It Again Sam" **BRIAN EDGE** has produced an excellent biography on the life of the entertainer, Sam Bass, who was a dedicated George Formby fan and impersonator. Sam passed away last year after suffering with throat cancer. Previously he made regular appearances at the Crewe meeting with his friend and accompanist, John Biggins. The cost of the book is £3.50 plus 50p postage.

ANOTHER GF UKE—During his research on the book Brian discovered another of George Formby's ukes (DALLAS) and includes a photo in the book of Pat Howson with Sam holding the instrument. Pat donated the uke to the nuns at St Joseph's in Preston Hospital in August 1964, three years after George's death.

Frank Randle (another Wigan Comedian), Carlton Cemetery, Blackpool. Headstone reads 'I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for. Despite myself, my prayers were answered, I was among all men richly blessed. Died July 7th. 1957

George Formby Senior Plays Glasgow

Well they reckon that Glasgow has always been a tough town to play but George Formby senior did it with high praise. On Nov 13th 1906 the Glasgow News reported:-

"First and foremost this week in the Coliseum company (which, by the way, is an all round excellent one) is the 'pretty boy from Lancashire,' George Formby. This comedian has established himself a firm favourite with the Glasgow music-hall public, and last night his comical ditties, rendered in his own peculiar and inimitable style, practically took the house by storm."



GEORGE FORMBY
The Wigan Sprinter
Showing his prizes

THE ZOO HIPPODROME—GLASGOW

"Foremost in the Hippodrome programme is the performance given by Geo. Formby, the quaintest of comedians. He is known as 'The lad from Lancashire' by reason of his broad Lancastrian dialect, which he uses effectively in his business. 'Walker Walked Away' was one of his hits, but he is an artist who believes in submitting new business, and this he is doing with much acceptance here this week. Never a smile crosses his face while on stage, and his peculiar and unique ways provide no end of entertainment.

Best Ever Blackpool Night BY ALAN CHENERY—

It was the best night ever at the May meeting when every seat was taken at the South Shore Cricket Club. The regulars were: The Pastits (Well & Truly), John Mason, Des Redfern, Ben Halliwell—direct from his North Pier rehearsals—, Alan Chenery with visitors Walter Kirkland, Alice Cronshaw, Don Horton, Fran Collins & Paul Kenny. Greeting at the door were Eve Stewart & Pat Chenery, Sound Engineer Charles Stewart.

As usual we had a grand buffet laid out. Where else can you get a full night's entertainment and top quality food for £1. Many thanks to all who helped with the refreshments. We had quite a number of new visitors who came to see us and thoroughly enjoyed the night. Here's to the next time. *Thanks Alan.*

**DON'T FORGET 17th JULY BLACKPOOL PROM
& 18th JULY TRAM SUNDAY FLEETWOOD**

JACK WINSTANLEY (ex Editor Wigan Observer) writes—Just a line to say how much I enjoyed the day at Wigan Pier, and thank you for organising the event. One song sung by a gentleman from Liverpool was called, "Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go With Friday on Saturday Night" I thought I had a copy at home but I haven't. I am quite interested in old music hall songs and wondered if anyone had the sheet music. My phone number is 01942 256680. Whatever, thanks again for a great day. *So can anyone out there help Jack? - A keen Formby supporter.*

Crewe's Centenary Celebrations kept George's Flag on the Wag!

- What a Fortnight! We've had Penyffordd's Charity Concert at Frodsham, Sale Moor Forces Show, Wigan Pier Celebrations, Crewe's George Formby Story and Film Show, Crewe's Exhibition and Grand Concert, and finally Crewe branch's concert as guests of the Crewe Male Voice Choir. That was three big shows in four days for us! Phew! But we did it - and we were well supported too. 100 attended the film show and 150 the Grand Concert. It was a tough schedule, but I have little doubt that Cliff Royle probably fitted in a twenty mile bike ride and a thirty mile walk into the same period!



We had great support at Crewe for Georges's Centenary Birthday Celebrations. "*The Lancashire Lad and His Uke*" (The George Formby Story) was well told in words and song by our own Jonathan Baddeley assisted on the sound by Angela Caldicott and Pamela Baddeley. This was followed by the popular Formby film "Its in the Air." The audience really loved seeing George on the big screen again. There was much laughter during his hair brain rides on the motorbike and sidecar and some of our audience had tears running down their cheeks. They even applauded the film at times! One begins to realise what a tremendous difference there is in watching a film on the big screen and watching the same film on video on our television sets- there is really no comparison.

We hope that you all enjoyed the exhibition of Formby Memorabilia. This ran from 2pm to about 8pm. There were some excellent exhibits. The famous kimono used in the film "South American George," was kindly brought along by Derrick Pearce. A very valuable exhibit. Then there was a Will Van Allen ukulele that George Formby used in one of his early films exhibited by its owner Stan Evans who also put on a major display which included a fine collection of song assignments relating to George Formby and his Father. Jonathan Baddeley put on a splendid display of memorabilia and records and Alison Nadin displayed several of Frankie Woods Ukuleles. Neil Forshaw brought along his exhibit which showed some super photos of George as a boy jockey and posters advertising Georges stage debut in Earlestown. Connie displayed a fine array of old tins which were of the Formby Era. Did you see the Lamp Post that Colin Wood made and loaned for the exhibition? It is a very professional job. Thanks Colin. Lots of folk got around the exhibition which was satisfying as a lot of work went into setting it up, and many of our ladies put on refreshments for the guests. I will not fall into the trap of thanking everyone individually as I would surely by error miss somebody, so thanks everybody for your contributions to the success of our celebrations however great or small.

The Grand Concert was a big success and special guests included Dennis Taylor (President of the G.F.S) accompanied by his wife Pat, Derek Pearce and his Three Wives, Alan Southworth, Paul Woodhead, Nathan Taylor, Terry Westhead and a party from Cyprus. It was great to have them all with us. It was good to see David Rhodes' debut at Crewe and we hope to see him again before too long.

The Grand Concert - MC Jonathan Baddeley and Producer Pamela Baddeley.

Thrash: *When I'm Cleaning Windows, Auntie Maggie's Home Made Remedy, My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock and My Granddad's Flannelette Nightshirt.* Brian Edge - *Thirty Thirsty Sailors.* Steve Hassall - *She Can't Say No.* Don Chalkley - *You Don't Need a Licence for That.* Alan Southworth - *Trailing Around in a Trailer.* Alan Evans - *Believe it*

or Not Alan Chenery – *In my Little Back Room up Stairs*. Alice Cronshaw - *I've got a Boy-friend*. Arthur Newton, Nathan Taylor (a lefty uke player), Terry Westhead (washboard) & Walter Kirkland (bones) – *Chinese Laundry Blues*. Alan Newton – *You Can't Love Two Girls at the Same Time*. Walter Kirkland (bones) - accompanying George Formby singing *Kiss Your Mamsy Pansy*. Derrick Pearce and his Three Wives – comic quartet – medley comprising; *Coming Home on a Wing and a Prayer, We're Going to Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line, Run Rabbit Run, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, Pack up Your Troubles, I've Got Sixpence and Who Do You Think Your Kidding Mr Hitler*. Cliff Royle – *Swimmin with the Winnin*. David Rhodes – *The Wigan Boat Express*. Dennis Taylor - *It's In the Air*. Gareth Sumner – *Down the Old Coal Hole* Jonathan Baddeley – *The Emperor of Lancashire* (vocal). Alison Nadin with her Living Marionettes performing - *Frankie Woods and his Ragtime Girl of Mine & Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty*. Paul Woodhead – *George Formby Was His Name*. Des Redfern (accompanied by Jonathan Baddeley and Alan Chenery and the entire audience!) – *Out in The Middle East*. Vera Jones – *It Had to be you* (vocal). Colin Wood and Alan Newton (duet) – *I'm Saving Up For Sally*. Cyril Palmer – *I'll See You in My Dreams*. Arthur Newton – *I Wish I Was Back on the Farm*. Peter Gratton (comedian) – *The Laughing Policeman*. Phil Jones – *Riding in the T.T. Races*. Bryn Evans – *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*. Pamela and Jonathan Baddeley (duet) - *Does My Dream Book Tell You That*. Dennis Taylor - *Smile All the Time*. Derrick Pearce – *I Did What I Could With My Gas Mask*. Paul Woodhead (spoons) accompanied by Eunice Evans, Walter Kirkland, Alan Chenery, Jack Bolton & Colin Wood (all playing bones) with Alan Newton (castanets) – *The Teddy Bear's Picnic*. Alan Chenery & Colin Wood – *When I'm cleaning Windows*. Alan Southworth – *On the Beat*. Gareth Sumner – *Auntie Maggie's Home Made Remedy*. Final Thrash: *Leaning on a Lamp Post*. It was certainly a great week for Formby enthusiasts. B.E. *Many Thanks Brian. Hectic? Yes!*

Margaret and Les in Llandudno

by Margaret Moran—Les and I went to Llandudno at the weekend and I sang with the George Formby group on Saturday and Sunday. We both dressed in Victorian clothes and we were approached by a man who asked if we would walk in the Sunday afternoon parade and later take part in the fancy dress competition. We were pleased that we entered the competition because we got second prize as a couple. Later we joined in with the lads again which finished with me singing “We’ll Meet Again.” I was later photographed by Des while I was leaning on a lamp post.



JON BADDELEY Emails—May 26th 2004 was an emotional day and one I'll never forget. The greatest tribute to George Formby was The Friday Show. Even as a sick man in the twilight of his career, he was still a star. I do not know of any other performer that could tell his or her life story without appearing to be big headed or pretentious. The last six minutes of the Friday Show always make me tearful. The show itself was about George going back over his illustrious career. He still had the audience in the palm of his hand as he recounted his career and sang many of the favourite songs. The show was broadcast Dec 1960 and he was never asked back to appear again because of his untimely passing on March 6th 1961. Today's so-called stars and personalities should watch the show—they would learn a lot. However, George Formby is still very much alive and here's to the next 100 years promoting his name and memory

N. Wales by Cliff, Our Super Fast Reporter

The holiday week seemed to have had some effect on our attendance, although we were not short of performers, especially as we had the pleasure of the company of Paul Woodhead and Wife Jill. In all about sixty attended the meeting which included some items relevant to the D-Day Celebrations.



Regrettably we did not have the pleasure of having a few friends with us; Connie and Brian Edge, Pat Chenery; (Connie and Pat were both unwell but we hope they soon recover); Deg Bruce suffering domestic duties; and Frank Humphries away with his Railway Engines. However to offset things we did have a few Birthdays to Celebrate and noted a few new faces in the audience. So what of the Concert!

Our M.C's for the evening were Jim Knight and Phil Hughes with myself supporting them as Concert Organiser.

The evening started with Walter Kirkland doing a Medley of three songs followed by a small gang playing, I use the word loosely, the Bones; the Alice Cronshawe singing I'm a Little on the Lonely Side, and You Made Me Love You; and Jim Knight with Hell of a Long Time Gone, and Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour as a Bones Medley again accompanied by his gang. Jonathan Baddeley kept up the War Time tradition with Frank on His Tank and Mr. Wu's an Air Raid Warden Now; Vera Jones sang You Need Hands, and Are You Lonesome Tonight; and Cyril Palmer with his Baritone Uke played Try a Little Tenderness, The Bells are Ringing for Me and My Girl, and Alexander's Rag Time Band. To close the first half of the evening Pam Baddeley sang Streets of London and Any Dream Will Do both accompanied by Husband Jonathan on the clarinet.

After the interval the D-Day Anniversary was celebrated with the War Time Medley as a THRASH, and then Alan Chenery, a truly Lancashire lad, gave us The Lancashire Lad and His Uke, and Wigan Boat Express. This was followed by Gerald Jones with The Wedding of Mr. Wu and If You Don't Want the Goods Don't Maul 'Em; Phil Hughes with Little Back Room Upstairs and a new War Time Medley as a Solo act for a change, and was then joined by his Grandson Daniel Smith (aged 8) who did a great job of performing Sergeant Major. Well done Daniel keep it up.

Paul Woodhead sang Coming Round the Mountain, and The Fellow With the Ukulele; a funny and catchy song which can be subject to some misinterpretations. Then I came on to "do" The Blue Eyed Blond Next Door, and a song which Stan Evans has encouraged me to try; John Willies Rag Time Jazz Band. It is a very catchy tune and is one of Formby Senior's which it is said was recorded in 1914; a little before my day, but it does reflect some aspects of Lancashire Life at that time. Jim Knight ended the solo acts with You Don't Need a Licence for That.

And so we came to the final Thrash in which we were supported by a bevy of young lassies. One of them, young Sophie (Phil's granddaughter), was particularly noted as a future solo turn for she obviously knew words of many songs particularly Lamp Post. So how long before she and the others CONTINUED FOOT OF PAGE 3

Jon Baddeley Emails

I have been looking forward to May 26th 2004 for many years. It certainly was an emotional day and one that I will never forget. For me, the greatest tribute to George Formby was The Friday Show. Even as a sick man in the twilight of his career, he was still a star. I do not know of any other performer that could tell his or her life story without appearing to be big headed or pretentious.

The last six minutes of the Friday Show always make me tearful. The show itself was about George going back over his illustrious career. He still had the audience in the palm of his hand as he recounted his career and sang many of the favourite songs. The show was broadcast in December 1960 and of course, he was never asked back to appear again because of his untimely passing on March 6th 1961. Today's so-called stars and personalities should watch the show-they would learn a lot. However, George Formby is still very much alive and here's to the next 100 years promoting his name and memory.



Down to earth George with Ma-In-law

It's Not Our Des Surely-

www.portmangroup.co.uk have a campaign to prevent drunken driving and they've called it: MEET DES. Their literature goes on to read: DES is a DESignated driver, the non-drinking member of your group. DES could be anybody . . . Your friend, colleague, relative or even yourself, it may be a different person each time.



Our guide for the night DES

DES knows not to drink and will make sure you get home safely. So the next time you're out . . . Remember to choose DES. *I certainly will.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 will be playing solos? I know you are saying "He's missed someone out". No. I have left her to the end. Yes Alison Nadin not only did her Paper Folding Show but also her Living Marionettes. Firstly with Frankie and his Uke performing Ragtime Girl of Mine (a song composed by Frankie Woods for whom she is a Carer), and Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty. If it is a sign of the times Alison don't worry we all love you, and appreciate all the hard work you do for the Branch. We know you do not like being acknowledged in this way, but we do feel that the world should be aware of the tremendous unrewarded support you give us in the background. However I am a bit worried about the Fairies drooping wand. Get her to keep taking the tablets. All in good fun Alison. Cliff Royle. *Sorry not to be with you Cliff. I was recovering from George's 100th.*

Andy Grimes Manchester Evening News—Way back

in 1989, - alongside an article on Barbra Streisand, Andy wrote an article in his paper announcing that BBC 2 will be showing the film "Come On George" describing George Formby as a Lancashire halfwit with a four string ukulele—the jokes are feeble and the songs are feebler. Ideal for loopy followers to sing along to." He goes on, "The film was dug out of the 1939 archives where it should have been left to rot. And Formby's co-star is the plump Pat Kirkwood."

Well poor Andy was shocked to his boots when letters of complaint poured in. He didn't know that George had such a strong following. Ron Green, changed the words of the song, "Andy The Handy Man" to, "Andy The TV Man" . . .

CHORUS

They call him Andy, Andy, Andy the TV man.
With words he'll bandy, bandy, he'll do the worst he can.
Always so destructive, about TV
And he just loves, George Formby MBE

VERSE

He says that George is witless and gormless to extreme
At least we know what George did, his films have all been seen
But Andy's just a never-was-not even an has been
Oh, ain't it fun for Andy the TV man

VERSE

He claims to be a critic, but as the judgement goes
He favoured Barbra Streisand, instead of George tha knows
But wasn't it a close thing when she won by just a nose
Oh three boos for Andy, Andy the TV man

RON GREEN an excellent cartoonist and lyricist, wrote "Look Stan, these TV critics have certainly got it in for Formby fans but there's no point in going to battle with them. We'll beat them with humour." Which is what we did, and it worked. Andy has far more respect for us now—see next page.

Ron added two more verses and choruses and a tape of the song was made and sent to Andy, plus the following letter . . . "Blimey Grimey, you've done it now. You're head is definitely for the chop. Tangle with "Our George" a favourite of Queens and serfs, and you are dicing with death. Wait till your article is released to the members, it will be all hell let loose. How would you like 500 uke banjos banging away outside your bedroom window?"

"Our next meeting is at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool and we invite you and your readers to come along to join our, not so loopy, but happy band of George Formby followers."

At the next Imperial meeting, I read Andy's articles out to the members and noticed a man and lady making an hurried exit through the door. We then found a notice on the seat. "Tell Stan, Andy was here." He'd got cold feet and rushed out.

A few days later he received the following verse . . .

Andy Grimes we'd like to meet
Unfortunately he got cold feet
Hopped it from the Imp Hotel
And down the prom he ran like hell.

If you find any adverse criticism to George, let us know about it and we'll give em the same humorous treatment.

Months later Andy visited our Warrington meeting and was greatly impressed by our dedication to George, his songs, and his uke. See next page for Andy's latest report.

My salute to Formby fans



■ FAN-TASTIC: George Formby has some friendly followers

It is the centenary of the comedian's birth, in Wigan. At one time, I could not have risked such a perilous excursion. Apart from my antipathy to the ukulele - it sounds like an ill-tuned doss house bedspring - I once wrote a paragraph mocking Formby's ancient movies.

I declared that, even 50 years on, these celluloid archives gave the north a bad name. The reaction of the George Formby Society was instant, withering and dramatic. They composed a clever seven-verse anthem, caricaturing me as a humourless, tone-deaf killjoy, and chorused it at one rally after another, to the accompaniment of a symphonic-sized ukulele band.

I soon realised that the only way to put a stop to these awful recitals was to get myself invited to one of them and promise the fans not to insult their idol again. The one I went to, at Warrington, was filled with some of the friendliest and forgiving people ever assembled in a public hall.

So, if I get to Blackpool, I am certain to be among friends. Not that I have changed my mind about the ukulele. The late George Harrison, a George Formby fanatic, once said: "It is hard to play a ukulele-banjo without smiling." If someone will lend me a ukulele for five minutes, I fear I shall prove the old Beatle wrong.

Ada Smith rang—Stan my husband and I thoroughly enjoyed Wigan Pier. We went for an hour and stayed till the end. I was so pleased to hear the old songs from my childhood, which I thought were dead and gone, I almost cried.

Vera ? Emails—The sight and sound of dozens of George Formbys appearing together on stage is something I shall remember forever.

Mrs Henshall rang - Why not make it a regular event?

Wigan Pier—A Chaotic Start!!!

They say that "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray" and that's what happened at the start of our Wigan Pier event. For the past three months Neil Forshaw, Alan Chenery and myself have kept in constant contact with the management at Wigan Pier to make sure that all went perfectly to plan. However a few days before the event we discovered that the manager's wife had just given birth to a baby (how thoughtless of her) and he was off work for six weeks. From then on all our plans and instructions went completely up the wall. Anything that could go wrong, went wrong!

The main instructions were to keep the doors locked until 1pm to give us time to set up tables and reception etc. However, when we arrived at 11.30am the doors were wide open and the room was a quarter full. Also the car park attendant kept locking the main gates to stop drivers coming through. But we soon sorted him out. We pinched his lock and chain: That'll larn him not to muck about with Formby fans.



Eve Stewart & Thelma Cartwright, armed to the teeth with Lancashire Red Roses, holding back the early avalanche.

We nicely got our reception tables set out when one of the WP staff came, "Ee bar gum lad, tha carn't leave them tables there, - blocking fire escape, tha knows. Fortunately, thanks to our staff, Alan Chenery, Colin Wood, Stan Watkinson, Christine Booth, Janet Hawkins, Pat Ralston, Eve, Charles & Thelma, Des Redfern, Brian White, and Jon Baddeley, we got things under control and from then on it was plain sailing. As each of the visitors entered they were attacked by CHRISTINE and JANET who pinned Lancashire Red Roses on them with the message, "A Red Rose from George."

ANATOLY UVAROV—To open the show we read out a letter from our Russian friend, Anatoly Uvarov (see page 12) and asked the simple question, "If the Russians have such high regard for George Formby, why don't the Wigan council?"

SARAH JANE BOOTH—We followed with a brief biog of how it all started with George's grandmother, Sarah Jane Booth, singing for glasses of wine in the pub. Unfortunately Margaret Moran went a little astray singing the part so we had to explain that Sarah would be drunk while doing her spot, so Margaret did a fine job of acting. Good for you Margaret. We got away with it well.

YOUNG JIMMY BOOTH—Greg Simister played the part of George's father (as a child) with songs from around 1875, having run away from home and keeping himself alive by singing for pennies in the street. Over the past months Greg has studied the words and music to songs like "Bobby Shaftoe, - Gimme Crack Corn, - Camptown Races and Champagne Charlie, which are not easy songs to learn. But he did a grand job of them. Proud of you Greg. You were definitely "Man Of The Match."



GEORGE FORMBY SENIOR—Anthony Mason made a fine job of jazzing up old George's Music Hall songs and sang them very well. Songs like: CONT. PAGE 11 ...

Warrington Guardian at Haydock Park



LEANING ON A LEGEND: George Formby's brother, Ted, centre, joins members of the George Formby Society, from the left, Mike Turner, Neil Forshaw and Gerry Mawdsley at Haydock Park racecourse for the centenary race

Picture: DAVE O'BRIEN FOR THE GUARDIAN

STILL IN GEORGE'S ANNIVERSARY YEAR

We've Received a call from Wigan Pier. They are holding a Special Week-end 4th & 5th September when crowds will be visiting the 100 year exhibition, with Dolly Pegs and Tubs, Mangle Machines, Scrubbing Boards, Poshers, Zambuk, Donkey Stone, Black Lead and all that sort of stuff etc. It'll be a great week-end—it always is at Wigan Pier—so let Alan Chenery or myself know if you can make it.

George Formby Was Tops and Still Is writes Geoff Shryhane in WIGAN WORLD



UKULELE: Celebrating George Formby's centenary at Wigan Pier are Craig and Michelle Roberts and their children John, aged 4, and seven year old Luke.



PROUD: Celebrating George Formby's centenary, his niece Geraldine Smith and Formby concert organiser Stan Evans.



WHAT A LAUGH: George Formby fans Ann Ratcliffe and Marjorie Travis pictured at the centenary concert at Wigan Pier with their special book of photographs and memorabilia of the man himself.

IT turned out nice again for Wigan's George Formby when 600 fans from all over the country turned up in his home town.

There wasn't a lamp post for the Formby fanatics to lean on, but the day-long concert proved the star, who died in 1961, remains a legend.

And one high-point was at the Mill at the Pier was when 40 ukulele-strum-

By GEOFFREY SHRYHANE

ming fans took to the stage to play some of George's most famous numbers.

Organised by Stan Evans, a former official of the Formby Appreciation Society, the concert and get-together on Sunday came just three days before George's centenary.

In the audience, couples from German and France and there was even a telegram from a 90-year-old fan

in Russia. In addition to the music there were story boards with photos of George's career - from jockey to wartime superstar.

Proud

Special guest was George's niece Geraldine Smith of Up Holland, who said: "I've always been proud that we had a great man in the family.

"It's just a pity he died too young. Everybody knows that he was very proud of Wigan.

"He and even mentioned the town in

his last television broadcast."

One of the youngest uke players was 12-year-old Greg Simister from the Wirral who took the stage three times during the afternoon.

He said: "I've been interested in George's music for two years and playing my uke is brilliant relaxation."

In the display section ukes were for sale - but had one belonged to George it would have cost £20,000.

Stan Evans proudly displayed one the comic owned. He bought it years

ago. Also on display, George's bank statement for 1952 - when he had £95,000 in his current account.

One disappointment was that George's last surviving brother Frank, who presented a trophy in George's name at Haydock Park the previous, could not attend.

Fan Tony Marks from Surrey said: "George Formby was the tops and still is. He was all things to all people - and could enjoy everything from his Rolls Royce to a bag of fish and chips."

FORMBY LET DOWN writes Geoff—

The spokesman for Wigan Council rang back within five minutes when I phoned to ask if the Council any celebrations planned for the Centenary of the birth of George Formby. "Nothing at all" was the answer. So I must admit to feeling, just a bit sad that the great star who Wigan on yesterday's map and is still world famous today—was not being honoured. To be perfectly honest I think the Wigan Council would prefer to forget about George Formby altogether.

What puzzles me is that the people of Warrington still show so much interest in George Formby. Even the Council is seriously considering erecting a statue to him on one of its highway roundabouts. Thanks to former Formby Society official, Stan Evans, there were celebrations at Wigan Pier last Sunday, so in the end, all's not lost.



Alan and Colin

We didn't see much of Alan Chenery and Colin Wood at the Wigan Pier event because they were neatly tucked away in the attic operating the sound system. We owe a lot to these two lads because it's not easy finding volunteers prepared to give up their leisure to sit up in the Gods, - all alone with no-one to fall out with. The attic at Wigan Pier is not the prettiest place to spend the day so these two lads deserve a well earned hearty applause. I did take photos of Alan



Colin—built for trap doors. Alan, - tight fit

struggling to get up through the trap door—quite a site from the back end, I can tell you, but unfortunately my camera battery went flat. Many, many thanks lads. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Eve & Charles Stewart—The Blackpool Gazette certainly did George proud when they visited the home of Charles and Eve and published two full pages on George's life and his centenary. The article is far too big to reproduce in this Newsletter but we will use it, in parts, in future issues.

Blackpool Gazette again

Ben Hallewell (12) was featured in an half page article when he played at the opening of the North Shore Exhibition. In the absence of Alan Randall, Jimmy Cricket was interviewed by TV News, and the show was opened by George's brother, Ted Formby, who is the only remaining member of the family left. On show at the exhibition are two of George's ukes and several photos, posters etc. from Alan Randall's collection of memorabilia, which was given to him by Pat Howson after George's death. Also there is rare footage of when George switched on the lights in 1953. Ben was filmed for TV News rehearsing for the North Pier show when he sings George's songs backed by half a dozen dancing girls.



Well I think it's wonderful that these youngsters are keeping George's name alive. Good for you Ben. And we at Blackpool are terribly sorry to hear of the loss of your nan. The best of luck to you.

Anthony Mason - In the Wigan Post was a massive picture of Anthony and his uke, which, again, is far too big for the Newsletter. He is still entertaining between here and Essex, where he has a young boy, Elliott. He is also investing in house property and has houses in Essex, Warrington and Wigan.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10—Standing At The Corner Of The Street, Grandfather's Clock, We All Went Marching In, and John Willie's Ragtime Band—jazzed up—have never sounded so well. These are songs we should be singing along with young George's. I'll bet old George, in his heavens, was dead chuffed at hearing the new versions.

GEORGE FORMBY JUNIOR—The show then went on to our very own George Formby with a gathering of 34 players doing the thrash. For the non-Formbys this means a medley of GF songs, but one verse and chorus only of each song, followed by a uke solo. It sounded great! From then on it was George Junior for the remainder of the afternoon which was opened by **ANDY EASTWOOD** who did one spot before shooting off to an engagement in Blackpool. Many thanks Andy, you timed it perfectly and the crowd appreciated your appearance.

Plans were for two Wigan lads, **DENNIS LEE** and **ANTHONY MASON**, to MC the show and swap tales of the Formbys in Wigan, but unfortunately, at the last minute, Dennis was unable to leave Cyprus. Thanks to **JON BADDELEY** for stepping in as MC for the afternoon show.

The night show was left in the capable hands of **BRIAN WHITE** who did a grand job of Compere. Brian raised a laugh when he said, "Well I've seen everything now. The crowd from Yorkshire are wearing Lancashire Red Roses. Great stuff Brian, and why not?"



Compere Brian White

DES REDFERN on drums certainly did George proud. And how nice it was to see old faces from the past like: Ray, Rita and Keiran Marshall of Runcorn, and Tommy Quirk—the singing postman, known as Tommy Teapot. Reg & Ruth Goldsmith made a special journey from London to be with us, and Jaap Hofman, - a very keen Formby fan, and his friend Awout Von Leeuwen travelled from Holland specially to celebrate George's 100th. Jaap made the long journey even though he was feeling quite ill

when he left Holland. Such is his dedication to George.

DENNIS LEE has certainly done a grand job in coaching his Cyprus band, who turned up in great style. Attired in smart waistcoat uniforms they looked the part as they filled the large Wigan Pier stage. Taking into consid-



eration that they'd trained together for just a few months, they came over very well with the audience, and received wonderful applause.

We were concerned that some would leave early because they couldn't sit in the one room for such a long time. To solve the problem Wigan Pier gave a special 50% discount to Red Rose wearers to visit the rest of the attractions: Exhibition, Schoolroom etc. Although it was announced several times nobody took up the offer, preferring to stay and listen to the Formby players. On the night several said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the event, good venue, great sound, and what about doing it all again for George's next birthday.

Email from Russia—We, Russian veterans of the 2nd World War remember George Formby's songs and such films as "Let George do it". His songs helped us to fight with our British companion-in-arms against the Nazis. You can pass our words of gratitude to George Formby to all participants of the Wigan Pier Celebration. I hope to receive your video. My address: Post box 60. St. Petersburg 194100. Russia. Tel. 812-245-7638.

My war--friend D. Gruverman presented me his poem "To Legendary Generation of Victory", which I translated to English. My friends in UK and Canada edited and retranslated it. Please read it to participants of the Celebration as a gift to young generation from old veterans of War. Yours very sincerely, Captain (Retd.) of Russian Navy, Anatoly G. Uvarov.

TO THE LEGENDARY GENERATION OF THE VICTORY

By Captain David A. Gruverman—Translated by Capt. (Rtd.), Anatoly Uvarov

We are old, dear shipmates, and once again
We see the full dress regiments in rank,
And hear salutes sound and war songs sung
To celebrate our hard-won Victory.

Fill your glasses! We survived! We are alive!
For us a new birth in each Victory Day.
But sad memories torment us to the soul
Of crews, of comrades who paid with bitter death.
Don't hide the tears of war's comradeship.
A high price was paid for Victory.

Remember? In '41 we were seventeen.
The acrid taste of war turned us to men.
We were not saints, indeed we made mistakes.
We fought through frost and fire.
Some were trapped in burning ships.
Victory, like death, came slow and hard.
But we hold a truth; we won with no guilt.

Now we are eighty. Our country steers
A different course in a new age, but
In our day we fought and won a future.
Russia and we remember the feats of heroes.
Memory more than bronze preserves those deeds.

So, old shipmates, raise your glasses.
Be of good cheer.
Hail with pride our war generation.
And toast and guard Victory, holy and worthy!

May 2004 St.Petersburg

Anatoly will be pleased to receive GFS videos

CLIFF & STAN

To help raise awareness of the Formby Centenary Stan Evans kindly gave a Talk about George to the Beacon Hill Probus Group in Frodsham. He chatted about George, and his family; supplementing this with photographs and one of George's ukes. Interspersed were Formby songs and one of George's Dad's songs; all "done" by me. The talk was well received and questions followed. Thanks Stan for giving this talk and donating the fee to the Charity which was that nominated by the North Wales Branch for our Formby in Frodsham Centenary Show; the Claire House Hospice for Children. One member seemed so intrigued by the talk that he donated £10 to the Charity, and a number of Members and Wives eventually came to the Concert. Many thanks Stan for giving your time to us. Cliff Royle. *Thanks Cliff, but I thought you were marvellous and sounded more like George's dad than he did himself. I've never had a Standing Ovation before.*

Super Cliff Does it Again: "FORMBY IN FRODSHAM"

The North Wales Branch contribution to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of George Formby was held in Frodsham Community Centre on Saturday 15th May, and from all accounts was a resounding success. Although the venue was some distance from our normal meeting place it was felt that this would spread interest in George a little further, and so it did. The Hall catered for three hundred, and almost every seat was taken. The result was that £900 was raised for Claire House Hospice For Children which caters for children from North Wales, Cheshire, the Wirral, and the Isle of Man.



We were supported by friends from Crewe, Sale, Blackpool and Stratford Branches, and joined in the THRASHES by visitors George Tyrer from Abergavenny and David Rhodes from Alderley Edge. We borrowed two excellent M.C.'s from Crewe in Alan Newton and Jonathan Baddeley, and used the services of Alan Chenery as back-up on the sound system, which was primarily dealt with by our very own technical expert Alison Nadin. What would we do without her? She did all the printing for us and produced some excellent, and unusual Souvenir Programmes which contained photographs of every artist and some information about them.

So what of the concert? The opening was well choreographed and in all there were four THRASHES of famous Formby songs (over twenty players each time), some individual Formby renditions; a Trio who gave us both Formby and Sing-a-Longs; some old time and jovial songs; a "bones" group, the Crewe Jazz Band, and two somewhat unusual events put on by Alison in the form of Living Marionettes, and Paper Folding. We were honoured by Steve Hassal who accompanied us all evening on his drums.

The North Wales men were busy all evening doing various support duties, as well as playing, and our ladies did us proud by helping out. They were Myra Knight, Margaret Royle, Norah Meredith, Pauline Spark, and Jean Smith. Also helping out were Paul Rowe, Val Wood, and Alan Royle.

Those taking part in the Concert were:- Alan Newton, Jonathan and Pamela Baddeley, Jim Knight, Brian & Connie Edge, Steve Hassall, Alan and Eunice Evans, Arthur Newton, Tom Meredith, Walter Kirkland, Alison Nadin, Phill Hughes, Deg Bruce, Frank Humphries (leaning on the Formby Lamp he made for us), Don Chalkley, Alan Chenery, Greg Simister (our youngest player), Alice Cronshaw, Cyril Palmer of "Delilah" fame, Self, and Margaret Moran who sang "Land of Hope and Glory" towards the end of the evening. The singing to this from the audience etc was so loud that the sound limiter almost got to the stage of switching us off.

The Concert was organised in the main by myself with considerable help from Jim and Myra Knight and Alison Nadin. However I would like to publicly acknowledge the guidance so willingly given by Brian Edge, Alan Newton and Jonathan Baddeley on various aspects of the concert organisation. My personal thanks to all who supported the Concert in any way, and made it such a success. Cliff Royle.

The Sale Meeting by Hilda & Vera

A nostalgic 'Forties' evening was enjoyed by members of the Sale branch on Friday, 21st May. The room was suitably decorated and we had soldiers, sailors, firemen, air-raid wardens, a nurse, spivs and many people dressed in the style of the forties all waving flags, which created a perfect atmosphere for a memorable evening. We were pleased to welcome some of the Cyprus party, Clive, Barbara and Nathan, and Rick and Wynne who quickly made themselves 'at home'. 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Marjorie, Jean and Alison who had just celebrated their birthdays. It was also good to have Eve Stewart back with us after her recent illness. The evening really went with a bang, starting with a wartime thrash, with Dick Eaves as M.C. for the first half.



As usual Eddie Bancroft opened the proceedings with *Lancashire Toreador* and *Windows* followed by Walter Kirkland and Alan Newton *I Wonder Who's Under Her Balcony Now* and a bones medley with Alan Chenery, Alan Newton and Jim Knight. Margaret Moran sang *With a Song in my Heart* and *We'll Gather Lilacs*, then Jon Baddeley playing the clarinet performed a Benny Goodman number *Begin the Beguine* and the great Glenn Miller hit *Moonlight Serenade*. Mark Walsh, all the way from London, did *Frank on His Tank* and *The Old Coal Hole*. The increasingly confident David Rhodes performed *Licence* and *With My Little Ukulele in my Hand* followed by Alan Southworth with *Believe it or Not* and *Horoscope*. Jack Valentine was the next with *Dinah* and *Grand and Healthy Life* and Andrew Little with *Ukulele Man* and *Out in the Middle East* with everyone enthusiastically waving hands and flags to the beat of the music. There was the usual raffle at the interval followed by a splendid buffet prepared by some of the ladies who always do us proud.



Steady Eddie Bancroft

Two of our friends from Cyprus, Rick and Nathan, joined in the second thrash and then Les Pearson, who was the M.C. for the second half, did a Rob Wilton impression, a few jokes and sang *Underneath the Arches*. The next performer was Alice Cronshaw with *All of Me* and *Too Young*. Jim Knight, unrecognisable as a very authentic spiv, complete with cigarette dangling from his mouth, tried to encourage the ladies to buy his illicit nylon stockings which he kept in his gas-mask box, and which Alice willingly modelled for us. Brian Edge played *Mr. Wu's a Traffic Warden now* and *They Laughed When I Started to Play*. Pam Baddeley sang the well known *My Old Man Said Follow the Van* and *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, then, with Jonathan, *Count Your Blessings and Smile*. Cliff Royle followed with *Somebody's Wedding Day* and a *Wartime Thrash*.

As usual Alison Nadin delighted us with her wonderful live puppet, *Fairy Snow*, and *Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty*. Is she really miming? Absolutely amazing. Then Brian White performed *Our Sergeant Major* and *Wigan Pier*. Arthur Newton invited Nathan and Rick to join him on the stage and they did a superb performance of *Chinese Laundry Blues*. Alan Newton completed the evening with *The V-sign Song* and a tribute to Max Bygraves *Red Roses for a Blue Lady* and *If I had My Way*. This was indeed an evening to remember and many thanks are due to all who helped to make it a success. Hilda and Vera. *Thanks Ladies—Perfect!!! Hee you do remind me of the Boswell Twins.*

Chris Hopkins—What a good hearted soul Chris Hopkins is. He



Chris Hopkins

knows that we support Children's Hospices, and also there's a chance that we might be raising funds for a George Formby Statue in Warrington, so he's kindly donated four uke banjos to start the fund moving

Two of the ukes need considerable work doing to them before they are offered for sale, but the other two are ideal for any beginners to get started with. The one in the picture is for sale at £60 if anyone is interested and you can ring me on 01925 727102.

Bob Hodson Editor for the Ukulele Soc of Great Britain

Writes in: - Dear Stan thank you for the George Formby Newsletter 107. Just an observation on page 17. . . . "And there's more—Alan and Eunice Evans went to see a show by the Ukulele Society of Great Britain—WRONG!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It should read, "The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain," who, incidentally are not members of our society. Re. Andy Eastwood's article, I have voted for Cleaning Windows by phone. Pleased you enjoyed the Digswell Thrash. Yours Plonkingly, Bob Hodson.



Thank you Bob. Every now and then we throw in a deliberate mistake to see if anyone out there is reading our Newsletter. You are the only one to spot it, so you are our top reader of the month. No pay goes with the job, just the honour! Keep sending em in Bob. You're doing a great job.

Turned Out Nice Again for Ray

Staffordshire News Ray Bernard beat four other bidders to buy a ukulele presented by George Formby to a fan at a film preview of one of his hit movies more than 50 years ago. Ray, a past President of the George Formby Society has added the coveted instrument to his collection of ukuleles, banjos and other string instruments. He said it was a 'sheer piece of luck' he bought the ukulele, which was not billed initially by auctioneers Gorrings Lewes for its connection to the entertainer and had a pre-sale estimate of just £100.



But Ray, aged 68, beat other keen bidders to finally snap up the instrument for £1,750. It has now added to his collection which includes a a ukulele bought for him by the late ex-Beatle and friend, George Harrison. Ray a musician since his early teens, said, "I'm over the moon with the ukulele. I was the first paid up member of the George Formby Society in 1961. He is one of my musical heroes. The total cost including commission etc. was £2059.

"Hey waiter, this chicken's only got one leg!" "Well, are you eating, or dancing with it?"
"Hey waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?" "I think it's doing the breast stroke."

Letter and GF signed 5 Franc Note

from Fred Bromich of the Padgate Probus Club dated 25th August 1989—

Dear Stan, You will remember your visit to our Probus Club not many weeks ago, and in my vote of thanks I mentioned that I had met George Formby when he entertained my regiment in France (Normandy) and I had obtained his autograph on the back of a five franc note (specially issued to the forces and the only paper I had on my person).

I am pleased to say that after a lot of rooting around I have found the franc note and, as promised I am forwarding it to you to add to your collection of memorabilia.

My regiment, the 2nd Household Cavalry (The Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards) were involved in the breakout from the Normandy bridgehead, but it was a slow and laborious job in the Beny Bocage country—as it was known then—for with high hedges and narrow lanes it was not the best country for armoured vehicles to manoeuvre. Nevertheless after much hard slog (and many casualties) the 2nd Army finally surrounded and captured the town of Caen.

Towards the middle of August the regiment was withdrawn for a rest and refit and we moved back beyond Caen to the river Souleuvre. It was while we were there that George Formby and his company, who were entertaining the troops in the area, paid our regiment a surprise visit. During our stay in France the weather had been warm and sunny but on the day George came it poured with rain. The rain didn't bother George and he and his company gave a splendid hour's performance with George singing all his well known songs to rapturous applause. When the show finished there was a scramble to obtain George's autograph. The only paper I had on me was a few five franc notes which were special Army issue. I thrust my note at him, "Please sign this, it's the only paper I have" I remember him laughing, and I said, "How's Warrington these days?" and he replied, "A Warrington lad eh?"

My thanks went to Fred for his story and I was particularly interested because my brother lost his life in the battle for Caen from Normandy. A very sad time. George's pencilled signature is faint but can be seen across the top - above the French flag.



The 5 franc note that George signed with a pencil



Wigan Pier Cash

INCOME

Door Takings	£500. 00
Raffle	68. 39
Shop sales	320. 00

Total £888. 39

LESS PAID OUT

Wigan Pier	£250. 00
Shop stock	214. 00
Tickets	30. 00
Lancashire Red Roses	66. 00
Raffle Prizes	20. 00

Total £580. 39

Mac & Milly Mcgee Email

Hi Stan & Eva, Milly and I would like to thank the organisers of the Wigan Pier Day. They worked hard and did a splendid job. It was a credit to all involved.

We had a very nice day out and really enjoyed the concert. It was great venue for meeting our friends and I'm sorry I didn't get round them all. Whoever organised the weather did a splendid job.

We would like to think it could become an annual day out. Milly and Mac Mcgee.

Thanks M & M, we've had several requests to make it an annual GF birthday bash and everybody thought it to be an excellent venue. Must give it some thought.

Deducting the Costs from the Income leaves £308. 00 to be sent to either a George Formby Statue Fund, - if any organisation decides to launch one - or to the Lesley Lee Children's Hospice Fund.

Stan Watkinson & I (The Past Its—Well & Truly) are doing a Blackpool Show November 26th for £150 which can also go to the Statue Fund. So that's £458 towards the £40,000 required to have the statue made, if anyone is interested. Surely, with all the Formby fans around it is not an impossible task to raise the money.

Martin Thomas—

our Ebay Auctions News Hound Reports—Traditional classic twin screw diesel motor boat. She was traditionally built for George Formby in 1951. She has been totally refurbished inside and out and is in very good condition.

She is fitted with 2 BMC Commander diesel engines with very low hours. She has got full head room and sleeps 5 at ease, full central heating system fitted. She is at the moment along side in Poole and is ideal for live aboard and

cruising. Included in the final price is mooring paid up for 6 months. For further information please telephone: 07906610116 or 01202625360. There was a reserve of £12,000,00 but with 4 days to go nobody had placed a bid. *Thanks Martin. I am terribly sorry that you have had a death in the family. We were looking forward to seeing you at Wigan Pier*



MARK WALSH IS INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING GEORGE'S BOATS

E Mail from E Carter—

Hello Stan, Some many years ago I saw an old photo of George Formby as a young boy. He was popping his head out of a box which appeared to be in a wheelbarrow. Two other people were with him. Do you know the story of this?

Thanks EC. Here's the photo you are referring to. Young George would be around 10 years of age and he was being trained to be a jockey for J E Drake, Warwick House Stables, Middleham. It was here where he played his mouth organ to the horses in the stables.



George pops his head out of the box

At Middleham, on Whit Monday, they held a large fete and also a fancy dress parade. George was hidden inside a square canvas box and loaded on to a wheelbarrow. Sticking out of the side of the box was a handle and a Mr H Poulton of Middleham, would turn the handle imitating an organ grinder. When he turned the handle George would play his mouth organ. I don't know the name of the lady in the photo but I understand that she was one of the stable hands.

Later George was dressed as a bear, and led round the field on a chain, which caused much amusement. The event was watched by his mother Eliza and friends, and also Fred Armstrong, who was the father in law of Lester Piggott, and owned the stables where "Come On George" was filmed.

Olwen Gale reports—Hello Stan, a bit of news again from me.

Manchester Evening News produced a page of an article on George Formby and his family, and a lot of pictures. It was entitled "Salute To The People's Hero" Famed for his flat vowels and falsetto teeth, George Formby was a Lancashire legend. Born May 26th 1904, George was the eldest of seven children, his father, James Lawler Booth was born in Ashton Under Lyne, the illegitimate son of a prostitute. "Thanks Olwen. I don't think there is any evidence that Sarah Jane Booth actually prostituted herself. Possibly the word didn't crop up until David Brett used it in his book, no doubt to give a bigger impact to boost sales. When George was given morphine to help relieve his pain, Brett claimed he was hooked on the stuff.

Jon & Pam Baddeley Email—Hello Stan, Through the

Newsletter, please thank Cliff Royle for his tremendous efforts in organising Formby At Frodsham. We were pleased for Cliff that the event was a great success. All the best. Pam and Jon Baddeley.

Wanted Violinist and Banjo Player (not Uke Banjo) to join

Two Accordion players playing Irish, Scottish, and Old Time Dance Music. Fee £40 for one and a half hours playing. Must have own transport. Please ring Jim at Elton on 01928 725258 between 10 am and 10 pm".

Not sure if Jim requires a violinist and a banjo player, or someone who can play both.

Dates For Your Diary— Still with George's 100th

Fri 11th June 2004— A Tribute to **Jack Jones** in George's Anniversary Year.

To be held at ROOSTERS, Warrington. Ring Pat Ralston on 01925 655215

Sat July 17th 2004—**Blackpool Prom**—Charles Stewart on 01253 768097

Sun July 18th—**Fleetwood** —Tram Sunday, Alan Chenery on 07967 665069

Liverpool Night—Thanks to Mike Turner and Andy (Lighthouse)

Little coming along we had a great night at the Liverpool meeting. Usually we are a bit thin on the ground for singers but Andy and Mike filled in very well. Young Greg Simister—who is shooting up like a beanstalk—stepped in as Sound Man in place of Stan Watkinson, who wasn't in the best of health. Greg did a fine job.

Bob Muirhead brought along his grandson Alex, who is a natural in front of an audience. He was anxious to get up and soon had his Nan & Granddad organised in getting him up on stage. He stayed with them for the whole weekend and was made up to go to a 'real' George Formby concert, which he hears so much about. Alex is 8 at the moment (he'll be 9 in October) and ever since he was very small, he's been a music lover. Yes he likes all the regular pop bands as you would expect, however he also has a wide and varied taste in music. He loves all of the big band stuff, Frank Sinatra and the other crooners and sings a mean 'Love & Marriage'. He also likes to listen to Classic FM at bedtime.



Bob's Grandson, Alex

Apart from his love of music, Alex is also very passionate about football. Nothing unusual for a boy of his age, although he does play Sunday league and trains twice a week for that. He plays for Town Green Lions (Under 8's), they have just won their league by a clear 16 points (one defeat all season so not as impressive as Arsenal) and they have also just won a local tournament at Burscough Football Club. He goes to Liverpool's Academy in Kirkby whenever they run a course and is firm in the belief that he will be the next Steven Gerrard!

George Pops Up Yet Again—Stevy & Eddie mentioned

George again during the St Helens V Bradford rugby league match. For the second time they've mentioned that 'spectators paid to watch George Forman and out came George Formby', but this time they added, "But there's no ukuleles out there, this is big stuff with plenty of strings. But who is going to pull them first. Great Stuff!!"

And again - On the Mrs Merton Show on Sky TV, Nigel Kennedy, the brilliant violinist, came on and was about to play one of his classics when Mrs Merton said, "Can't you play any George Formby?" "No" he said, "But David Platt plays George Formby." *Who's David Platt I wonder.*

George Formby Meetings

North Wales Branch - British Legion, Penyffordd (10 miles from Chester) Every 1st Friday in the month. Tel Jim Knight 01978 358472 Adm 50p.

Liverpool - Broadgreen Conservative Club, Every 2nd Friday in the month - Ring Tom Bailey on 0151 289 1711 - Bring Your Uke

Sale —Timperley Liberal Club, 43 Park Road, Timperley. Every 3rd Friday in the month - Ring Cyril Palmer 0161 748 6550 Adm £1. Inc. Tea & Biscuits.

Crewe Branch - Wistaston Memorial Hall - Every 4th Friday in the month - Brian Edge on 01270 569836.

Westhoughton - The Red Lion Pub (Opp. Police Station) Ring Gerry Mawdsley on 01942 817346 - Every last Wednesday in the month. Uke Tuition.

Blackpool. SOUTH SHORE CRICKET GROUND, Common Edge Rd, Blackpool. Every last Monday in the month -Tel Eve & Charles Stewart on 01253 768097. Wonderful Buffet—Always in need of players.

Wintergardens George Formby Society Meetings:

11th and 12th September following Liverpool

13th and 14th November following Liverpool

Concerts usually start around 1.30pm each day.

Please Ring the Sec. Sylvia Roe on 01142 846245

for details on the GFS or Wintergarden meetings.

Web Site —Two Lancashire Lads:

www.stanevans.co.uk/formby

E Mail: stan@stanevans.co.uk

For George Formby Newsletters by post please send a cheque for £2.25 for 3 months -

(£9 for the year) payable to S. Evans -

Address Front Cover.



Sergeant: Look lads, there's only 6 of us left, and there's 20,000 Germans advancing this way. Now you've all got 2 bullets each, but I don't want you to panic. Wait till they get 100 yards away, give em all you've got, and then run like the blazes. I'm going now cos I've got sore feet.