

THE NORTH - WEST

GEORGE FORMBY

Newsletter 17

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Specially Produced for the
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Welcome to Newsletter No. 17

and what have got this month? Well a special appeal is going out to all readers to send in articles. These have dropped off considerably over the past two months.

We have news of a GF Special Show for the launching of Channel One on Granada TV and reports from Blackpool, Crewe, Penyffordd and Liverpool.

A report on how George's money, 35 years after his death, is still supporting charities, and an up to date report on George's family grave at Warrington.



Jack and Jim took six hours to walk to the Crewe meeting and we have an up-date on Harry's latest joke. It all sounds very exciting so now you can start reading. 😊😊😊👍👍👍

Call My Bluff - again... 😊😊😊😊

This TV show give mention to George in almost every programme. On the 14th of October, the team were asked the meaning of the word "Jindyworobak" and Alan Corrin claimed that it was 'an Arabian Spirit leaning on a lamp post on the corner of the street in case a certain little lady comes by.' Can only assume that Alan is a Formby fan.

Many Thanks from Iris Hillman -

Members who go to the Wintergardens will know Iris Hillman. On occasions she has performed on stage with Francis Terry and you will often see her sat at the back practising with her little wooden uke. Unfortunately Iris, who attends all the Wainwright meetings, has had a fall and she will be laid up for a number of weeks.

She writes in. . . . Dear Stan, would you please give a big thank you in the Newsletter to all the well wishers for my speedy recovery and the "get well cards." I regret that I will not be able to get to the next meeting.

No problem Iris. On behalf of the readers I wish you a very speedy recovery. Usually a bit of good comes from a disaster so now, while you're laid up, you'll have plenty of time to get down to practising on the uke. Best Wishes.

The Formby Story - Part 7.

3

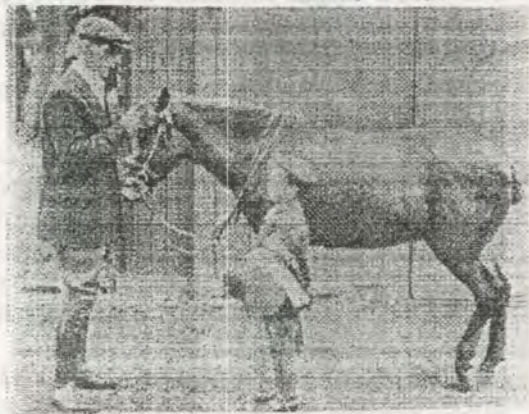
Still on George Formby Senior.

George Formby (Senior) was becoming famous throughout the country and money started to roll in.

He and his family required a larger home so they moved from the small terraced house, No.3 Westminster St, Wigan, to Leigh Rd, Wigan and then to Warthew House Farm, which has long since been demolished and is now the Heinz factory site. Eventually they moved to Hindley House, Atherton Rd, Hindley, Nr Wigan, where they trained racehorses. George had ambitions for young George. He wanted him to learn all about the racehorse business so that he could manage the Formby racing stables. George's plans for the children were to do anything other than go on the stage. He said many times, "One fool in the family is enough." Although there was an understanding that the children were not allowed to watch his act, or even consider following in his footsteps on the stage, he did introduce the family to the theatre audiences on many occasions.

George and Eliza had great taste in choosing excellent and expensive furniture to fill their home, and, although George received very little education in his young years, he collected many books and created his own library study.

There are many stories about George, from the Wigan locals, and one in particular was when young George, who was little more than a baby, ran away from his mother and disappeared from the street. After many minutes of searching they found him posing in the local antique shop window with a small crowd gathered round.



As a boy, George had a habit of running away so his father had bars fitted to his bedroom window to stop him breaking out and climbing down the drain pipe.

George and Eliza now had 6 children, George, Louie, Ella, Ethel and Frank. And Eliza's mother took care of them while George and Eliza toured the halls. During the first world war, George had difficulty in finding man power to manage the land so in 1917 they moved to "Hillcrest" London Rd, Stockton Heath, Warrington. This home suited George better as Warrington had far easier access to the transport services to enable him to travel to the theatres.

More Next Month.

Des ' Gets a Bit Hot Around The Pyramids

By Guest Correspondents Pamela and Connie

Des Redfern took up Brian's suggestion in the last newsletter and superbly performed 'Out in the Middle East' which was well received by the 52 strong audience and they all joined in the fun as usual.

Several new members were welcomed. They had seen our publicity in the local newspaper and on the hall notice board. It was also good to see Vera Rympel arrive complete with her ukulele. We met Vera at the Blackpool Convention - she is a great Formby fan.

Jonathan our M.C. played an audio tape of the 16th September 1961 - the first meeting of the George Formby Society. Members heard Bill Logan, the first President paying tribute to George. Jonathan always comes up with something special for us all to hear.

It was great to have Harry Stanford and Lottie with us again after Lotties illness. In fact Harry had to give an encore. It seems that since the emergence of a Harry Stamford Impersonator at Penyffordd (complete with long arm Banjo) Eighty-five year old Harry has had to sharpen up his repertoire and dig out some new jokes and this he has done, making his fans scream for an encore!

Our resident magician Stan Evans did great trick for us with a piece of rope - 'Ee by Gum we saw a real miracle in Crewe' but please Stan do be careful when stepping down off the stage with those scissors in your pocket we dont want you to experience a real disappearing trick!

Yodelling Barry Bowler took to the boards for the first time, his performance included no other than "The BOWLER hat my Grandad left to me!" Gareth Sumner ventured spectacularly "Down the Old Coal Hole" and Gary Luyt entertained us all with his own composition "Leaf on a Stream" which he played on a ukulele. Every single performer made it a wonderful evening and the audience too. They are so important as there is not much fun performing unless there is someone there to listen. All those attending for the first time left with remarks as to how they had enjoyed the friendliness of the occasion and without exception said they would be there next month and that is what we all like to hear. Don't forget the next meeting (November) is party night at Crewe and there is sure to be something very special in store as well as a good buffet supper. (Admission - £1.50) - See you all there.

It's a long walk to Wisterrr - Whistert - Wista
- err Crewe

5
♪ ♪



Keep practising Jack

"With me little ukulele
in me hand"



"Hey Up"

I'm sure Brian
said we could walk
it in 20 minutes



Or did he say
20 weeks?



"Now there's a
place in Wigan"

"Six Tons"

I wish I was back
on the farm



Welcome to the Crewe

Meeting Lads - Hey Up!

Crewe

Have a mint

"Do you know what Jim?
I've forgot me uke"

Uncle Jim's Mint Balls



Still Raising A Smile . . For Charity! ☺☺

I'm often asked about George's cash, and what happened to it, so here is an article which was printed some 15 years ago.

When he died, 20 years ago, the mirth, melodies and memories turned sour. There were squabbles over George's will in which he left the Formby fortune - and his royalties from his work - to Penwortham schoolteacher Miss Pat Howson. She died in November 1971 - 10 years after George's own death in St Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston - leaving the last £20,000 of an estimated £135,000 to two close friends who both live in Preston.



But Pat Howson also ensured that the formula for rib-tickling fun would continue to weave its magic. For she left the royalties from George's star studded show business career - the records, 22 films and countless saucy songs - to Lancashire based charities.

Now a decade after her death, local solicitor Mr John G Turner executor of her will and trustee of the royalties fund has revealed that so far more than £21,500 has been shared by a long list of charities, many of them in Preston.

In fact, during the 10 years since Miss Howson death, £29,000 has been received in royalties some of which has been paid to two beneficiaries named in the will, with a small proportion used for administrating the fund.

Every time there is a resurgence in the Formby fun - and there has been many since his death - the royalties fund swells and local charities benefit. During the last year £14,395 was collected but the best year was in 1979 - 80 when BBC2 TV staged a season of Formby films and the total receipts topped the £6,000 mark.

Top of the Formby pops last year was a song as synonymous with him as the unmistakable Cumberland Gap grin. "When I'm Cleaning Windows" brought in £1,000 of the £4,395 total takings. A glance at the list of Performing Rights Society and royalty returns paints a very different picture as far as some of his lesser known songs are concerned, "Goodnight Little Fellow" brought in a meagre 6p and "Lancashire Romeo" 49p.

It was while George lay on the hospital bed that he changed his will. Long and legal wrangles followed in which the final will - made in favour of his fiancée - was contested by the family. There were long delays and arguments and Miss Howson

even appealed to her MP to help her sort out the problems of the estate claiming that mounting administrative and legal costs accounted for about £20,000 of George's legacy. Then, when Pat died, in 1971, Mr Turner was appointed to take, collect and distribute the royalties to charities of his choice - a task he will continue to do for the next 30 years, until the royalties expire.

So far, various charities have received £2,200. . .the Jumbulance bus service which runs missions of mercy for Preston people and also takes trips to Lourdes, has had £2,300 and similar amounts have gone to local churches, and the Caring for People fund. Smaller sums have gone to Coppice School Therapeutic Swimming Pool at Bamber Bridge, Handicapped Children, Marriage Guidance, Prison Service, Lives in Danger and the Lancashire Schools Symphony Orchestra. There are others also who have felt Pat's legacy of love.

Each time a Formby record is played, or gets on air, or a film is shown, one charity or another gets a boost.

Since the Warrington Exhibition and the explosion of interest in George's songs, it would be interesting to know what the latest figures are. Must drop 'em a line. It's very pleasing to know that George's songs and films are helping charities.

Blackpool Evening Gazette - February 1st 1939

Four Years Without A Holiday

I was talking on the telephone today to "Beryldene" the Little Singleton home of George Formby. They are preparing for the famous comedian's return within a day or two. George, who has been seriously ill, had an X-ray examination a couple of days ago, but chiefly, I am told, because of the intense cold was ordered to bed again in his suite at Grosvenor Hotel in London yesterday.

"As soon as it is a little warmer," said his mother-in-law, "George will be coming home. Beryl, my daughter, will have to go to Manchester for a day or two for everything was left in chaos when George was ordered to London. When Beryl was on the phone the other day she was talking about a cruise. Definitely, whatever their plans, he will not be in a film studio again for two or three months. . . .

"Beryl," said her mother, "knows that they must both have a rest for not only is George ill, but, Beryl herself is ill too, if she would only admit it. Four years and not a holiday. That's what they've done. Now they'll have to have a holiday whether they want it or not."

Poser for you . . . This man had to carry three brass balls over a bridge. They weighed 10 lbs each and he weighed 150 lbs - making a total of 180 lbs. There was a sign on the bridge stating that the bridge could carry a weight of 170 lbs only. How did the man carry the three balls across in one trip?

Answer on Page 19.

Blackpool Evening Gazette - February 4th 1942

A Strange Autograph

When George Formby autographed an Airgraph Letter to the East, before he left the Town Hall on his waste-paper chase in Blackpool, on Saturday, the incident was recorded under the headline, "His Strangest Autograph." But was it?

Not, according to Mr John Kelleher of Coop St, who still possesses a glass marble containing the famous comedian's signature - a stranger autograph it is.

George signed his name on the marble after visiting the famous marble tournament at Castleford, Yorkshire, before the war. John Kelleher was in the A.F.S. team, defeated in the final, and won one of the autographed marbles when they were raffled after the match. *There's no doubt about it, our George was up to all sorts!*

John O'Leary has just called in. ☺☺☺☺ John

recalls when, as a teenager, he worked for Fred Bailey in the Warrington Market. "The year was 1946 - when I was only 14 - and one day Fred told us that George Formby and Beryl would be visiting them. I was instructed to gather a load of banana boxes to make a passageway for George to drive his small MG car inside so that crowds wouldn't gather round. When they arrived I was introduced to them and George spoke 'dead posh,' unlike when on the films. I was also instructed to go to the town centre shops to buy some expensive crockery - fancy spoons with a saint perched on top and China cups and saucers. Fred took the crockery home after to his wife.

I'll never forget them. Beryl looked kind and a very nice person. She had lip-stick on her teeth and was dressed in a coat with a fox fur round her neck. George was plumper than normal as he had put some weight after being demobbed from ENSA. Very smartly dressed. I've always been a fan of George's and love his songs.

It was my birthday yesterday and, last night, my friends gave me a surprise party. They booked a trio from Knutsford who sang and played George's songs. It was a great night. ☺☺☺☺ 👍👍👍

Another Youngster Doing Fine . . .

I was personally dead chuffed when young Gareth Sumner took the stage at Crewe. There is no doubt about it this boy is making an excellent player and entertainer. He is not in the least nervous and he sets his stall out like a professional. His split strokes, double shuffles - call it what you wish - is coming along really fine. He received a well earned applause from the audience.

GREAT WORK GARETH. Some day you'll be as good as George.

Peniffordd Meeting by Kevin Blanchfield

9

The October meeting at the Penyffordd British Legion Club went with a real swing. Due to the extreme bad weather there were less players than usual which meant that we all had two bites of the cherry, and we were able to try out other numbers, sometimes half-remembered. The none playing audience grows with each meeting, and the group is making quite a name for itself locally.

The December meeting is a fancy dress Christmas party with a bottle of whisky for the best costume. Food is free and a warm welcome is extended to all.

Finance has allowed the Branch to up date its sound equipment, which is now "state of art," but it still doesn't make us play any better! After two years of struggling with a split stroke I know where I would like to split it.

A warm welcome to all for our next meeting on the 1st November. Enjoy a drink, food, magic - sorry, miracles! And George Formby music in a wonderful comfortable atmosphere. Bring your friends to a great night out.

Thank you Kevin. Now I like the bit in the 2nd paragraph "Food is free and a warm welcome is extended to all." Why not send posters to all the local schools or the Scroungers Society. We'll soon fill the place!

George's Family Grave

Usually if any of the GFS members pay a visit to Warrington I give them the tour of George's house (Hillcrest) and the grave at the Warrington Cemetery. I recently paid a visit and discovered that damage had been done to two of the three horizontal base flags that lie at the foot of the headstone. The end of the one of the flags had been broken downward and looked as if it could drop down onto the coffins.



As we are not in a position to interfere with the Formby family grave, the only action we could take was to notify George's brother, Ted, and await his reply. This has been done and we look forward to hearing from him. Will keep you up to date with the news.

Saturday, September 20th, 1924**Warrington Examiner****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 20, had not even proposed to the lady of his choice, Miss Beryl Ingham, the youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs J. J. Ingham, 5 Richmond Terrace, Darwen. She is well known in the vaudeville world as a partner with her sister in a dancing turn of distinction, which they have presented for 12 years, first as the Two Violets and latterly as Beryl & May.

**I'VE COME FOR BERYL**

While Warrington slept, young George was speeding over the moor land in a taxi-cab to the home of his bride-to-be, where he arrived at 2am. 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 house of a relative of the bridegroom 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 in Castleford several months ago, and 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

Snippets of News Wanted for the Newsletter

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

Darwen Advertiser August 3rd 1989.

SHE SKIPPED DOWN ARTHUR'S LADDER

George Formby fans can vouch for his popularity - and that his wife, Beryl, was the power behind his rise to fame. But few people know how the couple's determination to marry in spite of opposition from Beryl's family led them to elope. And it is not generally known that a Darwen man made the elopement possible.

George and Beryl started courting and when they made plans to elope they enlisted the aid of a close family friend, Mr Arthur Mellor who lived in Crewdson St. Mrs Jean Branighan, Haley Rd, Darwen, recalled this week that Mr Mellor, who was her grandfather, took a ladder by pony and trap to Beryl's home one dark night. She nipped down the ladder and she and George eloped. They were married at the Register Office on Friday 13th 1924 by special licence. Two months after they had a church wedding.

She also claimed that Beryl ran away at the age of 12 to join a circus. He grandfather knew where she had run off to so he went with his pony and trap to bring her back.

Now there appears to be a few **discrepancies** re. George and Beryl's wedding. Both George and Jean Brannighan claim that G & B were married on Friday the 13th but the Warrington Examiner reported that he was married on the Saturday. Her claim that they had a church wedding 2 months later was confirmed by George's sister, Louie.

I find it difficult to understand why they eloped. Beryl was 23 years of age and above the age of consent. Ella, George's sister claimed that both George & Beryl had asked Eliza for permission to marry (George, 19, was under the age of consent) and she reluctantly gave it. So why did they have need to elope? Perhaps someday we will find out.

One Night I worked on the Newsletter till 12pm and got to bed at 1am. At 2.45am the phone rang and, thinking it might be a wrong number, chose to ignore it. It rang a second time so I naturally assumed that it was an emergency. Before I could get downstairs he left a message on the answer phone:- Stan, could you send me a copy of "I Wish I Could Play The Ukulele." At 2.45am I know what I would liked to have done with his ukulele.

HAVE YOU A STORY FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Wainwright Meeting - Saturday night at the

Wainwright Club was another great Blackpool Formby event. Anthony Mason was unexpectedly freed from his Saturday night commitment and was able to handle the sound equipment, so Charles made a last minute decision to attend his Navy Reunion in Lowestoft, which he was longing to do. It turned out into a bonus because John Shreeve flew from the Isle of Man that week-end and came along too. Thank you gentlemen for helping us and for the great entertainment you provided.

How nice to have Harry & Lottie back with us and looking so well. Harry was in brilliant form, no doubt Stan will nit-pick as usual, but we love you so keep it up. It was a joy to have Brian and Connie Edge with us for the first time. We are always pleased to have lovely Formby fans doing their favourite songs and enjoying our local meeting.

We were able to have backing on the keyboard from Anthony and John, who are both excellent players. They also gave us their exciting William Tell Overture duet. . . and who followed that? . . . Cyril Palmer with his delightful and melodious songs on the uke.

Stan baffled us yet again with another "miracle" and came up with another burst of fresh sing songs. John Taylor and Jim Howarth are growing in confidence and make an able contribution to our concerts. Jack & Jim have something to answer for with those "Mint Balls! . . . What a number that is!

Thanks to Alan Middleton for keeping us all in order and looking after the raffle. Everyone enjoyed the excellent buffet. Many thanks to Eileen Abbott and Carol Middleton for their tasty contributions, and to Steve for his help with the seating . . and how would we manage without the willing labours of Maureen and Doris with the dishes. On the way back from the Navy Reunion, Charles was concerned to see such a tail-back of traffic from the Illuminations at about midnight. Hope you all got back safely.

Thanks Eve. I'm working on two new miracles at the moment: First sorting out the traffic from the illuminations - we were crawling for the first 10 miles - so I'll possibly blow all the lights out about 9.30. The second one is to cut Harry's spot down to about 2 hours. Now that would be a miracle.

Christmas Knees Up at Penyffordd -

There'll be a special at Penyffordd's December meeting. Dennis has given instructions for everyone to come along Fancy Dressed in Christmas fashion and the winner of the competition will receive 12 month's free banjo lessons from Harry or Elocution and Silent Meditation Tuition from Kevin Blanchfield. Two great prizes!

Obituary

by Brian Edge



Beryl Reid, the comedy actress who died on the 13th October made her film debut in 1940 in the film "Spare A Copper" where she briefly la, tra, la la lard much to George's apparent disgust during song 'On The Beat.' Born in Hereford in 1920 she became an accomplished stand up comedienne and in her early career toured the halls with stars like George, Max Miller, and Billy Bennett.

Way back in 91 I received a letter from Roland Lee of Liverpool. He wanted to know what George is singing in "Riding in the T T Races." Does he sing "Women posed on the pillion seat" or is it "Winning post on the pillion seat?"

In the Spring 93 issue of the Vellum I printed the song using the words "Women posed" - from the George Formby Complete, and several members informed me that this is incorrect. It should be "Winning Post." So I'm still no wiser. Do you know?

Tommy Miller a Teller of Tales!

At every meeting there is always someone who has a story to tell. Tommy Miller, one of the Billy & Wally cast, told me that in the 1950s he was one of the crew on the HMS Empress of Scotland, and on one occasion, when they were carrying passengers from Montreal to Liverpool, they had George & Beryl on board. There was a public bar on board called 'The Pig & Whistle' where George would frequent quite often and have a chat and a drink with the lads. George, who wore a James Cagney type coat and trilby hat, came over as a quiet man. He didn't give them a song.

New Channel 1 TV by Stan Evans

My apologies for not contacting more members but Granada TV only wanted 10 to 15 bodies due to the venue being small and a complete sell-out was expected.

We were asked to do a spot for the launching of the new Granada Channel 1, which will be on Cable TV. The venue was the Atlantic Pub, Dock Road, Liverpool, and, although it looked extremely rough from the outside - and not much better inside - it had loads and loads of character. George's photo was on show with lots of genuine banjos, guitars, mandolins, trumpets, cornets, theatre posters from 1890, film posters and photos.



Wally Scott and Billy Butler. For many years they've hosted the very popular "Hold Your Plums" show on Radio Merseyside - and then: Radio City. In 1991 they invited the G F S members along to their show. 20 members took part.

The place was oozing with atmosphere and packed to capacity. Someone on stage claimed that the sawdust on the floor was last night's furniture - joking of course.

The stage, which was loaded with instruments, was just about big enough for a duo so we had extreme difficulty in cramming 16 players on - with ukes.

Wally Scott and Billy Butler - two very popular N. West characters, presented the show and the bill consisted of Rachel McCann, 16 G F S players and an excellent comedian, Micky Finn, who has performed on TV many times with 'The Comedians.'

The main reason for doing the show was to give the Liverpool Branch a boost. Unfortunately it didn't go as planned as Billy Butler soon had us off the stage.

The setting up of the sound system was carried out in typical Warrington fashion. Someone pressed 're-wind' instead of 'play' and this resulted in the audience having

to wait. In the end we settled for playing the same song - Blackpool Rock - twice. Surprisingly, the audience were none the wiser and even some of the players hadn't spotted our deliberate mistake.

Anyway, it was a good night out and an eye-opener for most of us. Our thanks to all who answered the call for support:- Hope none have been missed out.

From LIVERPOOL:- Tom Bailey, Dave Hook, Joe McCaffrey, Len Phillips, Paul Robinson.

From CREWE:- Brian Edge, Carl Basford, Colin Wood, Des Redford.

From N. WALES:- Dennis Lee, Martin Fowell, Jim Knight.

And from WARRINGTON:- Anthony Mason, Stan Evans. 😊😊😊 👍👍👍

Charles and Eve Stewart, of BLACKPOOL, got lost doing a Liverpool tour but, thanks to the comedy of errors in playing the backing tapes, they managed to squeeze in for the last 3 minutes and Blackpool Rock.

Why the slip up with the backing tape? Well, we were told to do about 20 minutes so Anthony made up a special 20 minute tape. But on arriving at the venue we were allowed one song only. After a few verbal fisticuffs we managed to squeeze 3 songs.

It was a great night but we must get our act together for more of these shows. Many Thanks to all who took part.

P. S. Just received a phone Call from Wally - The filming didn't turn out nice again - could we bring the lads back for another shot?

Ah Well - George must have gone through this many times. 🙄🙄 😞😞😞

The Gods Are Not With us at Liverpool!

On Wednesday night - 16th October - 8 players turned up to do a re-run. This time we were determined to get our act right. The lads turned up all dressed smart with white shirts and GFS ties, - ukes at the ready to start our spot. We were asked to do two songs so we chose Windows and Lamp Post. Tuned to "C."

Tons of applause from the crowd and Windows started well. The lads were in excellent voice - Pavarotti wouldn't have stood a chance! And then . . . disaster fell. During the uke solo either the tape player was at the wrong speed or some of our group were playing in the wrong key! It sounded dreadful so the TV people told us to play it again, which sounded just as bad. Shame - shame - shame.

We didn't get the chance to sing Lamp Post as Billy Butler quickly whipped us off stage.

Don't TegroF The Newsletter - Or Else.

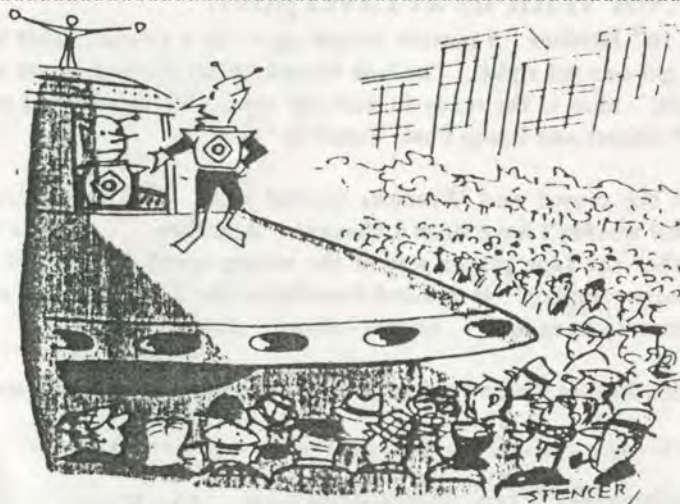
From Charles & Eve Stewart - Stan, A teacher friend of ours asked for help doing a project entitled "Music Through The Ages." She had got as far as the 1930s and not being sure about the Banjo family asked for enlightenment.

It seems to have been a follow up of what Pam & Jon Baddeley have done. The children were intensely interested in seeing and hearing a Ukulele. Most of them weren't aware of their existence, (There's a project, Pam - the stringed instrument family)

The teacher had covered some of the early types of musical style and entertainment, through the ages, and wanted typical songs from the thirties. What better then than "Lamp Post," a nice little love song and a lively chorus of "Knees Up Mother Brown."



Eve and I passed a few ukes round the class, answered the questions, enjoyed the sing song and the expressions and friendly company that was generated . . . they loved every minute. Charles & Eve. *Thanks C & E. Every member should be passing on to the kids, otherwise, after our generation, the uke will die and become an extinct instrument. Surely not!*



"We're obviously expected to DO something . . .
hand me my ukulele"

Coronation St

In the last issue it was reported that Betty Turpin (Betty Driver) referred to George's songs as "Dirty little ditties."

I wrote to the writers asking why they consider George's songs to be dirty compared with the trash that is churned out today. They acknowledged the letter but gave no reply.

Laughter is the Best Prescription

Happiness is catching. It may sound corny but it is true - laughter is probably the best medicine. After a good laugh your blood pressure will be lower, your breathing will be easier and you will sleep better.

Your lungs and heart will be exercised and special healing hormones will be released inside your body.

The single most important thing you can do to put more laughter into your life is to spend as much time as you can with happy and cheerful people.

If you spend your time with miserable people, you will eventually acquire a gloomy disposition yourself.

Depression, like measles, is contagious. Bright and cheerful friends will help to make you bright and cheerful too.

N. West Plans for the Future??????

Every time the TV people, or the Radio, ring up we spend endless hours ringing round for players and then deciding on what to play, what key, which tuning, what to wear etc.

We must get down to forming a group of players - plus extras - who would be willing to perform, arrange a set programme and supply each player with words/chords to practise with. At all the N. West meetings we could run through the programme until we get it SPOT ON! Also we need a George Formby regular kit to wear. So let's get on with it! URGENTLY! Must arrange a meeting.

N. West Plans for the Future??????

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Also we should establish a George Formby kit - like a white (although the TV people don't like white as it flashes back at the camera - light blue would be better) and a George Formby tie and dark trousers.

So let's get on with it!

John & Doris Myerscough got all toffed up to go to an Organ Recital at one of the local venues. The organist, John Roberts, walked on stage - looking every bit the part to play recitals - and everyone waited anxiously for him to start playing. What a great thrill they had when he struck up with a medley of George Formby songs. Very unexpected!

Which reminds me of the time when Eva & I took friends of ours - Ken & Irene - to Blackpool Tower for Irene's birthday. Irene, who was nearing 60, was obsessed with keeping her age to herself and going to all sorts of trouble to look young.

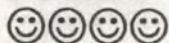
While they were dancing to the resident Tower organist I managed to sneak away to ask for a birthday request. "But," I said, "don't ask her age." A few minutes later he announced Irene's birthday and asked them to step on the floor to lead the next dance. He then struck up with "Silver Threads Among the Gold" and poor Irene threw a wobbler. She hardly spoke to me for the rest of the day. 🙄 🙄 😞

BINGO - Every week I pop down to the 'Over 60s Club' to call their bingo numbers for them. After one of the games a lady came to me to tell me that her father, John Gill, used to play snooker with George at the Stockton Heath Snooker Hall, over Turton's Chemist, on the corner of London Rd and Walton Rd, which is a few hundred yards from Hillcrest - George's home. This was when George was in his teens. So this is another piece for the jig-saw. 😊😊😊 👍👍👍

Think Positive . . .

As you are travelling through life, let this be your goal
Keep your eye on the doughnut and not on the hole

Another of Jim Bramwell's Jokes - The ASDA Supermarket chain have merged with M.F.L. He went there last week to buy a chicken and when he got it home he found that one of the legs had dropped off.



And a Joke from Harry. . . . He went into a confectioners shop and asked the lady if she sold Parkin? The lady said, "Of course we sell Parkin!" And Harry replied with, "But there's a sign outside that says NO PARKIN."

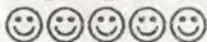
That is a dreadful joke Harry. How on earth do you get away with it? 😊😊😊😊👍

10 year old Mark Walsh writes . . . 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

Dear Stan, I hope you are well. I wrote to say that I thought that the Blackpool meeting was brilliant. I went to The George Formby Experience, at Lytham St Annes, and Alan Randall signed two photos for me. I also bought a new uke at the Wintergardens and play it every day. Love from Mark Walsh. Thank you for your letter Mark. I'm pleased that you are enjoying your uke playing and I'm sure that some day you'll be a star player. Best Wishes. P.S. Terribly sorry about the Junior Competition. Maybe they'll hold it next year.



Harry was back on form at the Wainwright Meeting - he jumped on the stage, told his old (75 years) jokes for about 3 hours, sang 6 songs, told another load of old jokes and then, as he was about to burst into another medley songs, got hooked off by Alan Middleton. He's a rum lad is that Harry!



Another Harry??? - It was quite a coincidence at the N.Wales October meeting. One of their members was introduced as "Another Stanford, who plays the 5 stringed banjo and tells jokes" I can't believe that we have two in the society. We've had enough problems with the first one. 😊😊😊😊😊😊

Answer:- He was a juggler. 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

N.West Branch Meetings and Future Dates.

N.Wales Branch - British Legion, Penyfordd (10 miles west of Chester).
Every first Friday in the month. Ring Dennis Lee on 01244 544799. Adm 50p

Blackpool Branch - Wainwright Club, Hornby Rd, Blackpool - Every
First Saturday in the month - Ring Eve Stewart on 01253 768097 Future
Dates:- Nov 2nd, Dec 7th. Adm £1 with Buffet.

Liverpool Branch - Broadgreen Conservative Club - Every Second
Friday in the month. Ring Tom Bailey on 0151 228 9769 Adm 50p

Sale Branch - (NEW VENUE) Brooklands Sports Club, George's Rd, off
Marsland Rd, Sale. Every 3rd Friday, Ken Ratcliffe 0161 430 8290 Adm 50p

Crewe Branch - Wistaston Memorial Hall - Ring Brian Edge on 01270
69836. Future Dates:- Nov (special £1.50p) 19th, Dec 17th. Adm 50p

Warrington Branch - Alliance Sports & Social Club Evans House,
Orford Lane, Warrington. - Stan Evans 01925 727102 Special Meetings Only.

If you wish to receive regular copies of the George
Formby N.West Newsletter just send a cheque for 50p
plus 25p. Or £2. 25 (inc post) for the next three
issues - Payable to Stan Evans, Address on front cover.

Or Branch Organisers can order a minimum lot of 10
for £3 plus 60p postage and you are welcome to sell
them to help raise extra funds for your branch.

Deadline for next issue - 15th November

So as George would say -

“GET CRACKING”

ReTtElSwEn RuOy TrOpPuS

Remember:- Crazy paving is not all it's cracked up to be!

