

THE

GEORGE FORMBY

Newsletter 90

Vol. 8
No. 6
Dec 2002

LONDON
PALLADIUM
6:10 TWICE NIGHTLY 8:45 MATINEE WEDS. at 2:40
VAL PARNELL presents
GEORGE FORMBY!
IN OUR BIG AUTUMN SHOW
FUN AND THE FAIR
BILLY COTTON & HIS BAND
TERRY-THOMAS
DEEP RIVER BOYS
MUST TERMINATE SAT. DEC. 19TH
TO MAKE W.-Y FOR VAL PARNELL'S MAGNIFICENT PANTOPHIC
CINDERELLA BE WISE BOOK EARLY
WITH THE GREATEST CAST EVER!

Specially Produced for George Formby Fans
by Stan Evans, The Hollies, 19 Hall Nook, Penketh, Warrington,
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Welcome To Newsletter No. 90

Due to shortage of space we'll go straight into the news. . .

Superman Cliff Royle is 80 By BRIAN EDGE

Maybe its hard to believe, but it is true! Cliff Royle really is eighty years young. When I say young, I don't say it in a patronising way, I really mean it! After you have read my notes you will understand. Just how does the average person celebrate the end of any decade of his or her life? Well, usually one gets just a little depressed and asks oneself "Where have all the years gone, can I really be so old?" That's how the average person thinks. But then Cliff Royle is no average person. How then did he celebrate becoming eighty years old? Well I'll tell you. He got up at 4.15 in the morning, had a bowl of cornflakes. Got his bike out of the shed and cycled 80 miles. When he got home I expect that you will imagine that he slumped in his armchair put his feet in a bowl of water and swathed a hot towel around his head. Wrong! Cliff decided that he would go for a walk to Dunham Hill and back, a mere 8 miles. You see when he was seventy he cycled 70 miles and then walked 7 miles. Yes, you may ask the obvious question. Does he hope to cycle 90 miles when he is 90 and then walk 9 miles? No chance! You might well say, but I for one wouldn't like to bet on it as I know that Cliff has a very special pedigree.



It might surprise readers to learn that Cliff has run no less than thirty-two (26 mile plus) Marathons, his best time came when at 60 when he clocked an amazing 3 hours 42 minutes. One of his most disappointing performances was an Ultra Marathon 100 kilometres (about 62 miles) from Grantham to Lincoln and back which took him just under 12 hours! Cliff also belongs to the most exclusive body of people in the world - the Centurians. There are not a thousand people who can wear the coveted Centurian's Tie that shows that the wearer has walked 100 miles in less than 24 hours. Cliff achieved his 100 miles in 21 hours forty-one minutes and 23 seconds back in 1949. This amazingly involved walking around a quarter of a mile circuit four hundred times! He recently cycled from London to Paris to raise funds for the British Legion and he also has covered 350 miles on a bicycle in 24 hours. He is certainly a remarkable man.

For years whilst Cliff was learning the uke our Editor gave him so much stick that any lesser mortal would have packed it all in. But what Stan Evans didn't know at the time was that Cliff Royle was no ordinary mortal, and that he would refuse to be punched into the ground without a fight. As a result with the passing of years Cliff's performances have improved rather than declined as time passes by. Stan only has kind words and a great feeling of admiration for Cliff these days. So Ladies and Gentlemen you have just read a few of the talents of Cliff Royle, I really can assure you that it would take a whole book to tell you all about this remarkably modest man so I hope that when you see him next, you will warmly shake him by the hand and wish him a very Happy 80th Birthday. He certainly deserves it. *Thanks for the report Brian. Young Cliff is one of my super heroes!!! About 10 years ago I remember Cliff coming to see me at home. I sold him a banjo uke and set him off with a few chords. Watching him struggling with three basic chords and 15 thumbs left me with a few thoughts: "He'll never make it". - "Flash in the pan". - "In a week or two and he'll be selling the uke". But how wrong can you be? I am most deeply SHAMED for harbouring such thoughts of a MAN who is now a giant. Cliff, We all wish yourself and young Margaret the very best of health and may you go on to be a bigger star than George Formby himself. You deserve it!* P.S. Did you pay me for that uke?

Followed by Cliff's report on N. Wales

Hi Stan, As there seems to be a great deal to report this month I am afraid I will have to leave out the mention of some concert performances. However be rest assured that no one is being purposely "victimised". Our audience was swelled this month by twenty odd, better change that, by twenty four members of the local Monday Club who it seems really enjoyed there evening with us, although they had to leave early when their coach arrived.

Deg Bruce acted as M.C. in the first half by announcing that following Greg Simisters success in the New Brighton Talent Competition, and his subsequent appearance in a GMR Radio Programme (Five Minutes of Fame), he had been picked to play in a Music Hall Show at the Stockport Plaza Theatre on Sunday 3rd. November, at which a number of well known stars would also be performing. Well done Greg! All George Formby Fans are proud of you. Greg has really improved his presentation over the past months, and seems quite at home in front of any audience. In our show this evening he sang Bunga Bunga Boo, and Out in the Middle East to get a rousing applause. He and Tom Meredith did an unusual miming act with Trumpets and Ukés to a jazzy backing tape. Gerald Jones (Jones the Uke from Llandudno Junction) sang a new and humorous version of the Barmaid at the Rose and Crown which pictured the antics of the Bar Staff at the Penyffordd British Legion. Gerald and Wife Julie have spent some time designing and printing 2003 Calendars, all in colour, with pictures of George Formby, and some Branch Members on them. Their production is excellent. The page to a month is £4 and the plasticised single sheet is £2.

All the more expensive ones have already been sold, and further copies are being printed for next months meeting. All profits from the sale are being given to the Branch for allocation to the Hope House Hospice Charity for Sick Children. Many thanks Gerald and Julie for your excellent productions and kind thoughts. Well you usually ask "What do you think of it so far?". Our response "Great". In appreciation of all the tremendous help and support given to us over the past year by the Penyffordd British Legion a cheque for £50 was presented to Arthur Arnold (The Secretary) for their Poppy Appeal. I was given the honour of presenting this as well as a personal cheque following a performance I gave to a group for which a charity donation was made. I am sure our association with the Legion will continue for many years to come.

It was all go with presentations. Norah and Tom Meredith were presented with a Bottle of Wine on the occasion of their 5th. Wedding Anniversary. Pity because perhaps Tom does not now drink. Then Gregory Simister came up to receive his applause on the occasion of his eleventh birthday the following day, and then to finish off I got a card and a balloon on a string for my eightieth birthday. Apparently it was considered I needed something to play with. Thanks anyway it was all a bit of fun.

Next month is our Christmas Party. Bookings have officially closed, but there may still be a chance to get the odd ticket. To check possible availability please ring Dolwyn Shone on (01244) 544 605 as soon as possible. It will be a great night. We will have something different for you, including a new show from that Star Entertainer our very own ALISON NADIN.

So what was different this month? Stan Evans sang "The Soldiers Dream" accompanied on the Tambourine by Ashley Caldicott who in his Marching was followed by a dishevelled and bloodstained soldier from Liverpool; Stan Watkinson (the well and truly Past It). Jim Knight swapped the Uke for his Accordion and when he played "Don't fence me in" with the accompaniment of a backing tape it sounded superb. Well done Jim. So he can do something as well as play the "bones". There is of course always some wit in the audience, and someone on the front row who shall be CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX.

Living Marionettes Debut at Crewe a Hit

After the overture our MC Alan Newton was introduced to the audience and after a four song thrash he and Jonathan Baddeley opened the show with a duet of Walter Langshaw's composition of *Lancashire Lad and his Uke*, a popular tribute song, written in memory of George Formby.

For those who remember George Formby in the 1930's and 1940's it is hard to imagine that on the 26th April 2004 we will be celebrating 100 years since his birth. It is not so long ago that we at Crewe had a very special meeting commemorating 40 years since George's death which featured a superb exhibition of George Formby memorabilia. This was featured on BBC radio and on Granada Television and was the only event of its kind nationwide. You can look forward to something on similar lines for George's 100th. How many artistes can you name that 40 years after their death live on as George Formby does. Not very many I know.



Our drummer and uke exponent Steve Hassall continued the show and the highlight of his spot was the Formby number "*You can't Say no*" which includes a special Steve Hassall uke solo which was enjoyed by all. Connie followed with "*I Double Dare You*" and then roped me into a duet "*I like riding on a Choo Choo!*" a popular Lesley Saroni number. Don Chalkley, whose performances are improving all the time, then sang "*Dare Devil Dick*" and "*You don't need a Licence for That.*"

Walter Kirkland gave a good performance of "*You Can't Keep a growing Lad Down.*" You certainly can't keep him down when he has his bones out. You read about the earth tremors in Manchester but don't you believe it, for it was Walter practising his bones to defend his title of BEST BONES PLAYER IN THE WORLD. He is a delight to watch but as I told you last month these bones players are multiplying and this month Jim and Jack accompanied him. Jack is a new member of the bones fraternity but he certainly has the footwork to match.

Walter was followed by his friend Alice who tackled a very difficult song "*Love Letter Straight from your Heart*" but didn't she sing it well? This she followed with the ever popular "*The Bells are ringing for me and my Gal*" which she modified to "*The Bells are Ringing for me and my Man.*" Better watch out Walter! Tom Meredith performed two Formby numbers "*Lancashire Toreador*" and "*Little Ukulele.*" Tom very kindly said how much he enjoys the atmosphere at Crewe. We are proud of the fact that our audience listen to the performers and don't spoil others enjoyment by talking during acts. Also our artistes do a lot of practise rehearsing for their six minutes spots and it doesn't take much of a distraction to make life difficult for them.

The next artiste was 10 years old Greg Simister. The MC introduced Greg but when he arrived on the stage the sound engineer played a recording of an interview on BBC Radio Manchester two days earlier when Greg had his five minutes of fame. It was an excellent interview although Greg was somewhat embarrassed at parts of it. He gave a splendid performance of "*Leaning on a Lamppost*" which came over so clearly in typical BBC quality. Greg went on to play "*Get Cracking*" with all the confidence of an experienced performer and was rewarded with resounding applause from an appreciative audience. From a ten year old we



Young (89) Matthew Kelly jumps up on stage to sing about Miss Otis.

spanned 79 years when 89-year-old Matthew Kelly sang "Miss Otis Regrets" and a new song for him "Get out and Get under." Matthew is a great inspiration to us all in the thought that we too can still have the courage and enthusiasm to get up on stage when we are 89. Special thanks are also due to Dianne for bringing her Father along to our meetings. Concert Producer for the evening Carl Basford excelled with the Formby songs "Bunty's Such a Big Girl Now" and "I'm going to stick to my Mother." His performance concluded the first half of our show very nicely.

The start of the second half turned out to be a high spot of the night. Talented Alison Nadin presented her very own "Living Marionettes" based on the first marionettes that Frankie Woods used when entertaining almost 40 years ago. Alison, a "Jack of all Trades", has long wanted to bring back this art form but to enable her to bring this act to us she has had to construct her own mini theatre. This is a complex bit of joinery, hinged for portability, painted and all bolted together. She also had to make all the surrounding curtains, stage curtains, complete with curtain rails and runners. Her performance was unique, a perfect piece coordination and miming. I will not reveal how the act works so as not to spoil it for those who have not yet seen the act. It is a great act and I can imagine what pleasure it gave Frankie.

Bill Turner began his act with "Saving up For Sally" and followed with the ballad "Mona Lisa" which he sang to his own backing music. Bill gets better with keeping doesn't he? I will let you into a little secret. Bill is one of our boys who scrambled up the Normandy beaches on D.Day and we all know how much we owe to Bill and all servicemen way back in those dark days. For those who are new to our happy circle of friends about three or four years back we took a coach to Normandy on the anniversary of D.Day and entertained the old soldiers on the beaches and also members of the British Legion in Caen. I recall standing near to Bill Turner as he slowly walked up the sandy beach towards the shore (Bill was determined to come on the trip even though he had just come out of hospital after a heart bypass operation). I remember his words well "You know Brian I moved a ruddy sight quicker up here the last time I was here!" Bill wore his beret and medals with pride and quite rightly so.

Our meeting is very close to Remembrance Sunday and our Hall is a War Memorial to fifteen Wistaston men who died in the Second World War. As a tribute to these men Gerald Beadle very aptly sang, unaccompanied, "Where have all the flowers gone." My own contribution was the Formby number "Trailing Around in a Trailer" and this was followed by Billy "Uke" Scott's composition, especially for Georges brother Frank, "Its another Fellow's job by Now." Wrexham's Jim Knight added more variety to our show by producing a Piano Accordion and entertaining us with a couple of songs the last one being "When they Sound the Last All Clear." He is a versatile chap Jim; he plays the keyboard, the uke, the bones and the accordion. One never knows what he will play next!

Our own Des Redfern played on his late Auntie Mary's ukulele which she bought over thirty years ago. Mary who was over eighty was a star performer on our stage, a Liverpudlian with a great sense of humour. She was always immaculate on the stage. Des certainly did her proud with his performance of two of the most difficult Formby numbers the lovely "You're Everything to Me" and "Swing Mama." Well-done Des. Vera Jones really got to grips with her medley of songs and finished with "It had to be you" especially for her husband Harry. Harry may be a very quiet chap but I have to tell you that he works so very hard for us behind the scenes prior to every concert that he must have a mention here. Without the likes of Harry the show would not go on. Popular Cliff Royle is another that is getting better all the time which was obvious by his performances of "Mr Wu's a Window Cleaner Now" and "The Formby Friends are Meeting Tonight" Cyril Palmer and his Baritone ukulele entertained us with two numbers including CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE—nameless passed me a note on which was written. "I'm glad that you were able to squeeze him in" Get it!!

One of our newer members Derek Lucy from Wrexham came on the stage for the first time with a uke and a bag of tricks. His first comment was that he could not play the uke, neither could he sing. So he put the uke down. He then told a story about an antique Violin and Painting which had been produced by Stradivarius and Picasso. The crunch came at the end of his talk when he reported on his visit to an Antiques Auction in London where the violin fell to pieces, and the picture exploded. Well done Derek, a very unusual act.

I was pleased to report that quite a number of Backing Tapes used both at this meeting and elsewhere were produced by Jonathan Baddeley. Everyone who has either heard them or played to them considers them excellent. It is such things as good backing tapes that make our evenings a success, as are all the many things that go on behind the scenes; setting up the room and stage; seeing to all the equipment (who else other than Alison Nadin); getting together the names of players etc; and drafting out a balanced programme. Tonight the latter was done Jim Knight although he said he wanted to rest. That is why I became M.C. in the second half.

I regret to report that the Three Tenors have problems. Phil is suffering with severe pains in his leg and back and Frank had a lucky escape when his car caught fire. He is not a write off but his car is. So Deg, don't go out we need you. Sorry I have had to leave out the names of so many excellent performers, including of course our ladies, but I feel on this occasional space only permits me to present a very broad picture; otherwise one of the Past Its may be complaining. Cliff Royle. Stan. I see you have your own programme on T.V. "Stan the man". Success at last. *Thanks Cliff. Have a happy and prosperous eightieth.*

And a Double Birthday at Liverpool

What a coincidence that on Liverpool's 11th Birthday, our star of the night, Greg Simister, was also 11 on the same day that we held our meeting. And what a grand night it was with standing room only at the back and a buffet fit for royalty. It was also Ken Dodd's birthday.

Yes, it was our 11th birthday and outside it was pouring it down. But the rain wasn't as bad as was 11 years ago when the heavens opened. It was Friday the 13th 1991, - soon after the Warrington George Formby Exhibition finished, and Tom Bailey had found us a room at the Broadgreen Conservative. The room, which was badly in need of a few coats of paint, left a lot to be desired, and possibly this is one of the reasons why the attendance dropped considerably for our second meeting. However, we are still plodding on and the latest was, without doubt, our best ever.



For 11 years Tom's done a fine job.

We were pleased to receive for the first time Jon & Pam Baddeley (Jon is getting really excellent with his clarinet accompaniments) and also Ged Jennett who was back again after a long break. In fact, Ged must have been having a few lessons from John Taylor and Des Redfern because he forgot to bring his backing tape. You could hear a pin drop as young Greg performed and ten foot tall Andrew Little did us proud with his Formby numbers. Stan Watkinson had the sound system safely under control. Thanks to all for their support on the night and to Tom for organising a grand feast.

Alison Nadin Reports

Hello Stan, We went to see Greg Simister last night when he was appearing at the Plaza Theatre in Stockport in an Old Time Music Hall. I've done a report on the show if it's of any use for the newsletter.



Greg made a visit to BBC GMR's radio station in October 2002 to appear on the Phil Wood show where he has a spot called 'five minutes of fame'. As a result of this appearance he was offered a spot on the bill at the Plaza Theatre in Stockport where there was to be an Old Time Music Hall with guest stars including Norman Collier and Rosemary Squires.

The Plaza Theatre Stockport is a 1920's building that has recently been restored to a theatre after being a bingo hall for many years. It has all been done by volunteers to a very high standard.

The Old Time Music Hall was held on Sunday 3rd November 2002 it was produced by Steve Garner who is a producer with BBC GMR. The chairman for the evening was Dougie Chapman from the Music Hall Theatre in Blackpool and in the orchestra pit were former members of the National Dance Orchestra. The show opened with a troop of young dancers from the Cheshire Stage School. Also in the first half was a juggler by the name of Van Buran an operatic singer Beryl Johnson, two comedians Steve King and Pete Lindup a Bing Crosby sound-a-like Roy Chappell plus the first appearance by Norman Collier.

The second half opened with Johnny Roadhouse the saxophone player. Also in this half was Rosemary Squires and Ross Wagman who performed two Stanley Holloway monologues.

Then it was **Greg's turn**. It's a large stage at the Plaza for such a young lad, but his personality certainly filled it. He gave a nice greeting to the audience before his first song **Leaning On A Lamp-post**. His second song was **When I'm Cleaning Windows**. He then invited the audience to get involved with the La La's of **Out In The Middle East**. His final song was **You Don't Need A Licence For That**. He left the stage to a great round of applause.

The next act on was Norman Collier and before he began his act he said **what a fantastic job Greg had done** and that everyone would see a lot more of him in the future, to which **Greg received another round of applause**. The show's finale was sung by the Stockport Operatic Society and they were then joined by the entire cast. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, but the **highlight, without being bias, was Greg**. Well done Greg.. *Thanks Alison. But isn't it wonderful that on page two we have an eighty years of age Dynamo and here on page seven we have a ten (He was 11 on Thursday the 8th Nov) year old superstar.*

A Joke from Jim Bramwell

This lady boarded a bus carrying a baby. The bus driver took one look at the baby and said, "My God woman, that's about the ugliest baby I've ever seen." The poor woman was distraught. She went to the back of the bus and told a man that the driver had been very rude to her. The man said, "You go up there and give him a piece of your mind. I'll look after your monkey."

AND ONE FROM GED JENNETT—I see that Speke Council are selling their own Advent Calendars now. All the windows are boarded up.

WE ARE RUNNING LOW ON JOKES AND ONE-LINERS SO PLEASE SEND SOME IN.

Have a nice day!

By Spike Milligan and sent in
by my granddaughter Jennifer.

'Help, help,' said a man, 'I'm drowning.'
 'Hang on,' said a man from the shore.
 'Help, help,' said the man, 'I'm not clowning.'
 'Yes, I know, and I heard you before.
 Be patient, dear man, who is drowning,
 You see, I've got a disease.
 I'm waiting for a Doctor J. Browning,
 So do be patient, please.'
 'How long,' said the man who was drowning,
 'Will it take for the Doc to arrive?'
 'Not very long,' said the man with the disease.
 'Till then try staying alive.'
 'Very well,' said the man who was drowning,
 'I'll try and stay afloat
 By reciting the poems of Browning
 And other things that he wrote.'
 'Help help,' said the man who had a disease,
 'I suddenly feel quite ill.'
 'Keep calm,' said the man who was drowning,
 'Breathe deeply and lay quite still.'
 'Oh dear,' said the man with the awful disease,
 'I think I'm going to die.'
 'Farewell,' said the man who was drowning.
 Said the man with the disease, 'Goodbye.'
 So the man who was drowning drowned
 And the man with the disease passed away,
 But apart from that and a fire in my flat
 It's been a very nice day.

KEEP READING

If Captain Kirk (of the Starship Enterprise) boldly goes where no man has gone before - why does he always meet somebody when he gets there?

If you have an hour to spare, don't spend it with someone who hasn't.

Is there an afterlife? We're all dying to find out?

The grass may be greener on the other side of the fence, but it still needs cutting.

What was the name of the lady with two toilets?
Lulu.

CREWE—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"Music Maestro Please." Excellent entertainment. Popular Arthur Newton always very pleasant on stage



Arthur Newton performed a great trick when he suddenly produced another head. How did he do it? sang "Baby" and "Hindu Man" which got lots of laughs and smiles from the audience.

Master of Ceremonies Alan Newton sang "I'm Getting Married in the Morning" from My Fair Lady a new uke number and this he followed with a truly great rendering of a Jazz vocal "After you've Gone." Alan is a totally dedicated performer who delights the audience with his own style of singing.

Top of the bill was Jonathan Baddeley who concluded the night with two Formby songs "Our Fanny's Gone All Yankee" and "I Blew a Little Blast on My Whistle." It was a great night for the eighty- four who ventured out on such a bad night. Thanks Brian. Sorry not to be there but at the last minute my grandson (who's car was in dock) had to borrow mine. The following Monday my car was in dock so we couldn't get to Blackpool. What a week

Email from Edna, Stan, Joe and I will be passing through Warrington. Where's the GF grave? Easy Edna, From Town Centre towards Manchester (A57) About 3/4 mile are traffic lights with cemetery on the right. Either walk or drive through the gates. Immediately turn left and the grave about 300 yards ahead. It stands high above the others with a cross on top, and about 200 yards from the main road.

The Menopause

When I was very young and slim, I seldom had a care
My skin was clear, my eyes were bright, with gold and glossy hair
I gorged myself with chocolate, my figure was my pride
Inside I was a beauty queen, but growing big outside

If it weren't for Marks and Spencer, I'd be twice the normal size
As I stand encased in Lycra from the neck down to the thighs
The crow's feet have all landed, there's lines around my mouth
And bits of me that once were firm are slowly drifting south

I'm always feeling tired now the kids have all left home
And stand here soaked in sorrow, by myself and all alone
My doctor says my aches and pains have an underlying cause
And all of this is normal, - it is called The Menopause

"How dreadful" I quickly thought and visualised my plight
Of flushing in the morning, and sweating through the night
My husband hates these mood swings, but sometimes he is thrilled
'Cos he doesn't know at any time if he'll be kissed or killed

And add to this the crying all due to some neurosis
Not to mention broken bones - from osteoporosis
Oh, perish now, the awful thought that I should very soon
Assume the spitting image of a wrinkled up old prune

So I bought some women's magazines and studied every page
For restoring all my youthful bloom and keeping out old age
But it seems that all these remedies, like pills that we rely on
Will only work and make us slim if we keep pumping iron

There is no way that I'll do that, they'll have me on my knees
Lifting barbells all night long, my back is bound to seize
No, I think I'll just sit it out, and take life as it comes
Take up music, sing a song, or perhaps I'll play the drums

Anything, but I won't be sad, I'll sing a cheery song
It's no use crying in your tea and moaning all day long
They often say that sunshine will always follow rain
So after this damn menopause, it'll turn out nice again

Pete Waterman—Some of you might have seen the TV Pop Show where they have a panel of so called experts who put the hopeful kids to a singing test and then very rudely destroy them. Well this panel is led by Pete Waterman, who is a very keen Formby fan. He is also responsible for these mechanically manufactured pop stars, like Kylie Monoghue, who, as another panellist, Louie Walsh said, "Can't sing to save her life." Pete was a GFS member for 12 months and appeared with us on some of our 1991 TV appearances. He bought Anthony Mason's Grover uke for £750 but we haven't heard from him since. I've still got his Musima uke hanging in my front room which he didn't collect. Stan.

Max Miller

Society Just received the latest Newsletter and what an enterprising lot they are. They've only been in existence for three years and already they've got the backing of well known names like: Ken Dodd (Patron), Roy Hudd (President), Clive Allen (Vice President), Graham Stark (Honorary member), George Melly, Adam Faith, Des Lynam and prominent members of the Music Hall Society.

And, in such a short time they've got plans and funds well on the way to erecting a statue at the front of Brighton Pier. So they have to be greatly admired for their work in keeping Max's memory alive.

The name of their Newsletter is "There'll Never Be Another." Very appropriate.

Anyone interested in joining can contact Vic Chapman 248 Dyke Rd, Brighton BN7 1TU

How To Play The Spoons by Marian Billo

Different kinds of spoons give you different tones. Metal spoons tend to ring a bit and wooden ones give you a sharper sound like castanets. First, hold the spoons back to back. Curl your fingers toward your palm. Put the bottom spoon between your ring and middle fingers. the top spoon is held either between the middle and index fingers or index finger and thumb. Whichever is most comfortable for you. The butt of the spoons handle should sit against your palm. Spoons with flat handles are the easiest to play for extended periods. The spoons should match in size. However, if you can't find two wooden ones of exactly the same size, I find that it is easier to control them if the larger one is on the bottom.

The motion is from the wrist more than the arm. Swing them down and tap your knee. Do this until you stop being embarrassed and it feels comfortable. Now, hold your other hand above the spoons and tap them at the top of the swing on your left palm (right, if you are left-handed).

Spoons have the advantage of being small enough to conceal in a pocket or purse, thereby allowing you to become a rhythm section before anyone can stop you.

AN ALTERNATIVE GRIP—Since the above writing, we have learned of what is called the "Irish" grip. All of the above stays the same, except, that you hold the spoons between your thumb and index finger and face them forward while playing.

Bones Players - Well Walter (World Champ), I think we've only a few bones players in this country and according to the Internet, America is full of em. They have shops over there that specialise in selling bones, all sorts of bones, and they have an "Annual Bones Festivals" where loads of em turn up to create a racket. Anyway, we are not worried are we Walter? You'll be ready for em and, no doubt, Alice is keeping you in strict training and ready to take em on.

Email from Jan Henshall Hi Stan, I have just bought a uke off Andy Eastwood and have asked him if he could help out with some chords. I have already got the George Formby songbook from the GFS and the ones I want are not in there. Andy said you might be able to help me with chords for: Got to get your picture in the press, - I'm making headway now, - Unconditional surrender, - Bell bottom George, - Many thanks for your attention! Kind regards, Jan Henshall. *Sorry I can't oblige Jan but maybe our readers can. HELP!!!!*

Email from Jon Baddeley Hello Stan, We recently visited the Laurel and Hardy Museum at Ulverston. It really is quite worth a visit and a fitting tribute to a great double act. Of course, there was a lot of memorabilia on display and one particular item caught our eye.

On 21st September 1947 there was the Grand Order Of Water Rats House Dinner held at the Savoy Hotel in London. The Water Rats have subsequently presented the Museum with various plaques to commemorate the fact that Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were in attendance. Whist there is no indication whether or not our George was present, one of the plaques was a list of the members of the Water Rats at the time including George Formby. *Thanks Jon, the L & H Society are to be admired for constant promotion. They are always active somewhere.*

My Favourite Video A True Christmas Story

by Stan Evans

Some 15 years ago I managed to record on video one of the series of "Just Amazing" which took us into the backwoods of Canada. May & Joe Lempkin had just moved into their new log cabin when the phone rang. It was from the local orphanage where a new born baby had been brought in. May & Joe went to the orphanage and had a shock when they saw the child. He had no eyes, and would never be able to speak, feed or look after himself. The child was in a hopeless state and needed loving care. The matron said that she felt that they would be strong enough to take on the child and was pleased when May told her to get the child ready for taking home.



Joe and May Lempkin

They took the child away and for the next 16 years they cared for Leslie, fed him, carried him, and loved him as they would their own. Around his 16th birthday they bought him a piano and taught him how to plink plonk on the keys.

About one o'clock in the early hours of the morning, May woke Joe to tell him that he had left the television on downstairs and she could hear music playing. Joe explained that he hadn't and they both went downstairs to see where the music was coming from.



Lesley sings "The Lord's Prayer"

What a shock when they found Leslie sitting at the piano. He'd actually got out of his bed, walked to the piano, sat down and started to play. And he wasn't plink plonking. He was playing great classical music like an expert. He was playing "The Warsaw Concerto." They broke down in tears and thanked God for remembering Leslie. This was a very moving part of the video.

After a short while Leslie gave them a bigger surprise when he started to sing. The most beautiful voice came from him as he sang "You Light Up My Life" and "The Lord's Prayer." At this stage he broke down and started to cry for the very first time. May said, "Let it flow Lesley, let it flow. And it did, like a river. With it came torturous howls as if from the depth of his soul"

News of Leslie's new found gift started to spread around the area and very shortly Leslie was giving concerts to packed audiences. As soon as the episode was screened I wrote to Granada Studios asking if they would contact May & Joe for copies of any tapes etc. but they showed little interest as if they were busy filming the next show.

Young Cliff Again—Stan. Heard last night that Jim Knight has been asked to open the second half of a concert at the Memorial Hall in Wrexham on both 22nd and 23rd November with three George Formby songs.. The organisation involved is the Wrexham Musical Theatre Society. Honoured at last!!

You can use my recent one liner. "Liverpool Football Club have signed up a new striker from Italy. His name is Pinchatellie". Got it? Cliff. *I got it, but just wait till you come to Liverpool*

You Can't Keep George Out.—My Granddaughter,

Jennifer, rang. She is a school teacher and Musical Director at one of our infant schools and for the past couple of months she'd been busy training the children to sing at a Harvest Thanksgiving Concert, which was to be held at the local Ryfields Retirement Centre.

They'd made a backing tape, which was produced by holding a small portable tape player in front of a piano, but they were concerned that the volume was too low and there was quite a lot of hissing in the background. Now the hall where they were due to play is huge and there is no way that the tape would be heard on a portable player—especially as there would be 60 children singing—so, is there anything that could be done to increase the volume and improve the quality? Well, after a few runs through mini disk recordings we finally got the volume up and the hissing down, and it sounded reasonable.

On the day, I arrived at the hall in time to set up some PA equipment, amp, speakers, mike etc. and the sound was perfect. The children came marching through the streets of Warrington lead by Jennifer and about a dozen mothers. They looked excited about the whole thing and the Head Teacher thought it was a wonderful idea to have the children entertaining the older folk.

The photographer from the Warrington Guardian held up proceedings while he took a few photos, and for a few minutes there was a lull. The children were getting a bit bored with waiting so this was a good opportunity to introduce them to George.

"Right children" I announced, "Let's have a George Formby song while we are waiting." There was an uproar of "Yeh" - "Right," I said, "this is a simple little song that you can all join in with, and it's called, I Like Bananas Because They Have No Bones." another - "Yeh."

After a short rehearsal they learnt the tune and the whole 60 voices raised the roof every time we got to "I Like Bananas" Every face in the room was smiling and the kids were warmed up and ready for the harvest songs.

That night Jennifer rang to tell me that when they marched the 60 children back to school they were marching in step and singing out loudly, "I Like Bananas Because They Have No Bones." She said she didn't know whether to feel embarrassed or to join in with the singing. Back at school the mothers all agreed that George suddenly springing up like that was a real treat and, "Can we get him back for Christmas?" Good old George gets everywhere.

The following day I received a phone call from my Granddaughter. "You and your bananas, we've not been able to get them to do any work today, they kept on asking for the banana song."

Jon Baddeley Emails—Hello Stan, I am currently reading a

fascinating book about Laurel and Hardy entitled Stan and Ollie. It is interesting to note that during the early to mid 1920s in the US, a two reeler film could cost up to 80,000 dollars—about £20,000 at the time. Compare this figure with the £3,000 that was set aside for the making of BOOTS BOOTS in 1934.

When I tell the story of George Formby it is sometimes apparent that £3,000 was a lot of money in the mid 1930s. Indeed it was, but compared to the budget of the American silent films that were made more than ten years previously, perhaps it was not a large sum for the film industry itself. All the best, Jon.

S.O.S. Email from Paul Morrison— Hi

Stan, I am a recent member of the Sale branch (three visits now) and currently learning to play the uke banjo. I've got the video, song sheets, learn to play all that stuff, and can do the basics, change cords, a slight double strum etc. but what I need now is one to one tuition. Can you help me please?

I live in Flixton, quite close to Cyril Palmer who has offered to help but as he says is not up to speed with all the move's of the uke banjo. so if you can put me in touch with a local lad, sorry person, there's a drink in it for you mate at the next meeting. Regards Paul. P.S. Keep up with the good work with the George Formby Newsletter.

Thanks Paul. Well John Shreeve is not a local lad but he is the best you can get to teach you all the tricky ups and downs on the uke banjo, and he's always pleased to earn a few bob for himself. His mobile number is 07909 832330 and he is based at Garston, near Liverpool. Alternatively I would advise that you ask Cyril to announce it at the next meeting and someone might be pleased to give you a few lessons. Maybe a group might be interested in getting John to visit you. See you at the next meeting.

Fame At Last—Dennis Lee Emailed asking for the words to my song, "It's

Only Friday" which is a serious send-up of "My Way". No problem, and the words were on his screen in Cyprus before he could say Frank Sinatra. He wants it for their Christmas Party. Well it's a nice feeling to know that your musical inspiration is in demand in another part of the world and I hope he makes a good job of it.

This song was inspired one Saturday night around midnight. We'd just left a social club where the compere insisted on singing "My Way" at the end of every club night. Believe me he had the most dreadful voice, which sounded like the noise of scraping the sharp edges of two tin lids together. "My Way" is not an easy song to sing if you can't reach the high notes, and this man killed it completely. He couldn't even reach the low notes, - or any notes for that matter. Some of the club members asked if I could do anything to stop him singing it because it was a great song being butchered. "Nothing I can Do" I replied.

But that night, on the way home, I was inspired with some very funny lines to make it into a comic song. The following Saturday night I jumped up on stage just before the end, gave the accompanist a nod, and launched into "It's Only Friday," a story of a CHAP who has to go home to face his missus. He's spent all his cash and "It's Only Friday." "My Way" had now become a comic song at that club, so the compere could never attempt to sing it again.

Secret Spy again—Hello Stan, Yes it's the Secret Spy again. You missed

another cracking night at Wistaston. In fact, history was made and I don't think that any of the audience we aware as such. Tom "Two Ukes" Meredith went on to the stage with a little ukulele in both hands and then proceeding to sing both of his songs by using only one uke. As far as I recall, this is the first time that such an event has happened at Wistaston. Brian and Connie, both formerly in the employ of British Railways, certainly let off steam in their duet entitled RIDING ON A CHOO CHOO CHOO. However, the prize for the most enthusiasm should be awarded to Ashley. It was apparent that he couldn't wait for the opening thrash to begin as he was ready about ten minutes before anyone else. More next month. *Thanks 007*

Sorry I wasn't there. At the last minute I had to loan my car to my grandson. Next time maybe

Out and about with Ukuleles. by Cyril Palmer



October meeting: Our members often travel quite lengthy distances to enjoy the various ukulele meetings, but how about Paul Morrison and Brian Cook. They went all the way to Minorca to play their ukuleles. Having discovered the delights of the Sale meeting as recently as July, this month they achieved their ambition of performing George Formby songs in a Spanish restaurant. They sang during the prize-giving evening on their annual golf club holiday. Paul said their performance went down a bomb. Ten out often for the two of them, and we now need to see them at the microphones in Sale. We were happy to welcome their wives, Judith and Barbara, to our meeting. Another Paul, this time Paul Kenny, made his mark -again -on the Radio. Local Manchester Radio (GMR) features an early afternoon "Five minutes of Fame" spot. About two weeks ago I had the radio playing and was suddenly surprised to hear Paul being announced as "This afternoon's Five Minutes of fame--er." Paul played and sang a medley of Formby songs, and the chat with presenter Phil Wood provided nice publicity for the Formby society.

Another surprise was in store when, at our October meeting, I discovered that Greg Simister was to display his talents in exactly the same way on October 22nd. Where will it all end? Well, not yet, by the time you read this I will have followed in their youthful footsteps. Phil Wood will be thinking there is a conspiracy to have all the Formby society members on his show.

A few of our more persistent members were missing this month. (I'll want a note from their mother next month.) However, there was still a good attendance, with extras making up some of the shortfall. Brian and Elizabeth White made their second visit to Sale. Our music brought four of the Taverner's members in from their clubroom. They stayed for the evening. Roy Fielden from Huddersfield is a good example of our long-distance travellers. After his disaster monologue concerning the gasman, he played a nice sing-along harmonica medley.

Les Pearson and Margaret Moran brought John and Eddie, who entertain as "The Melody Makers." John used two backings borrowed from Margaret to sing "My way" and "I only have eyes for you." There was a nice (deliberate) humorous touch to his performance. Margaret has had a CD produced with eleven lovely tracks: "Introducing Margarita Moran. The Lady of Song." It is well worth a listen. Margaret's approaching birthday was one of two that we marked with cards and a chorus of -you know what! The other was that of young Ivy Lockerbie, who has long greeted our arrival at the door. If life begins at forty, they will be respectively 25 and 42 !



Versatile Dick Eaves shares the M/Cs job, helps with the sound system and picks out the raffle tickets.

M.C.s Dick Eaves and Les Pearson introduced our performers for the evening. As usual there was a good selection of Formby songs sung by Eddie Bancroft, Alan Southworth, Greg Simister, Jon and Pam Baddeley, Tom Meredith, Walter Kirkland and Jim Knight, Walter and Jim also adding bones medleys. There was a nice mix of other songs. Our three ladies, Alice, Margaret and Pam were all in good voice and, added to those mentioned earlier, there were songs from the "Past its", Tom and myself. Altogether there were twenty performances, including the two thrashes. At £1 entry that's a cost of 5p per performance. It doesn't fit with the Formby song "I could make a good living at that," but it brings home the wonderful value of our meetings. So, in the words of the song, "Here's to the next time."

Alison Nadin Emails

—Hi Stan, Here a photograph of the Pen-Y-Ffordd group in our new black and white outfits, (no it's not the negative!!) this was taken whilst we were entertaining at a Golden Wedding celebration at Rowton Hall in Chester. Please send our best wishes to Eva. See you soon, Alison.

Thanks Alison, Al Capone's bunch below look frightening. Like a load of bank robbers.



Anyway it's a treat to see them all spruced up and setting a good example

Left to Right: Young Cliff (Bugsy) Royle, - Alison (works like a Trojan) Nadin, - Greg (Super Star) Simister, - Tom (I'll stay on this stage all night) Meredith, - Jim (Scarface) Knight, - Phil (Lefty) Hughes - Frank (Stick em up) Humphries and Geoff (We've no pasties) Shone

When Dennis Lee sees this photo over in Cyprus he'll be getting home sick and wishing he was back in N. Wales.

Greg's A Star!!!

- Just been listening to 10 year old Greg Simister on Greater Manchester Radio. The programme was "Five Minutes of Fame" presented by Phil Wood.

Phil fired all the questions at Greg, who didn't waver one bit and answered them all like an expert, and with a good clear voice. To finish off his five minutes of fame he sang "Leaning On A Lamp Post" and expressed every word perfectly. His timing and uke playing were also perfect. "Who's your favourite artist?" said Phil, "George Formby" replied Greg. "and the first time I heard him was when he sang 'Cleaning Windows.'"

What a wonderful treat it is to see these youngsters carrying George's name on. Apart from George Formby, Elvis Presley and possibly John Lennon, I can't think of any other artist who's name is carried on by the kids, years after death. George has been dead for 41 years and he's still remembered. Great work Greg.

More Fun from Joe Taylor

- Be Alert. Your country needs lerts.

I hate graffiti, in fact I hate all Italian food.

Time is a great healer but it's no beauty parlour. Archives: Where Noah kept his bees.

Darwin, - the man who made a monkey out of Adam.

A Tax Payer is a person who doesn't have to take a civil service examination to work for the government.

For a man who couldn't tell a lie, George Washington went a long way in politics.

Thanks Joe. Keep sending em in.

SPOTLIGHT ON FRANKIE WOODS.

Frankie tells his own story.- From a very early age, when growing up in Macclesfield I was always interested in entertainment. The main influence in the early years was George Formby and so, of course, I learnt to play the ukulele. As I grew older I began to introduce magic, balloon modelling, comedy and marionettes into my acts.



Very talented Frankie

My very first marionettes were called living marionettes, and I can tell you that very soon Alison will showing you her own version of this art form for your pleasure and entertainment. Then I started to make and use large stringed marionettes and my wife Barbara used to dress them. I have about 70 different puppet characters.

About 1952 Barbara and I were offered our first professional summer season at the Pavilion Gardens in Filey, North Yorkshire. We entertained there until 1956. During the winter months we would return to Macclesfield and work doing private functions. These included children's parties at schools and we also did many adult functions for weddings etc. We worked at Blackpool Tower as children's entertainers and we were then offered a contract for Pontins Holidays. Our first season was at Morecambe in 1960 and we stayed with Pontins, working at their Blackpool and Prestatyn sites, until 1980. It was whilst I was working at Prestatyn that I wrote the song "Thumbs up Book Early" for Sir Fred Pontin and this he used in many of his advertisements.

Sadly in 1982 my dear wife Barbara died very suddenly, just as we were beginning to slow down and enjoy our free time. But with the help of friends I managed to carry on entertaining and did a final season at Pontins in Southport.



One of my living marionette shows

As a complete change in 1983 I bought a share in a Newsagents in Macclesfield with friends Jean and Alison Nadin and we ran the shop together as "Hargreaves and Nadin" for eight years. In 1993 I suffered a stroke and this left me with no use to my left hand side and it also affected my speech. This meant that I could no longer play my ukuleles or perform the magic or operate my puppets but I am very grateful for the forty years or so that I earned my living doing something that I loved and I hope it brought much pleasure to others. I suppose most of the children that I entertained in those days will now have children or even grandchildren of their own!!

We now live on the seafront in Rhyl, North Wales. Thanks to Alison and Jean I am able to regularly see my puppets and magic at the George Formby Society meetings at Penyffordd, Sale and Crewe where we regularly attend and this gives me much pleasure. Also the artistes at those venues sing some of the ninety-five songs that I wrote over the years. As I am not able to communicate easily with you I thought that, perhaps, you would like to know a little bit more about me. My best wishes to you all. Frankie Woods.

Thanks Frankie, We see these wonderful puppet shows put on at the meetings without realising the amount of effort that you must have put in to create them, also the grand work by Alison and Jean in showing them. The clown above is very life like. You were extremely talented.

Good For You Margaret

With a change of Christian name to Margarita Moran. Sale member, Margaret, has produced her own CD and Tape and it is an excellent production.



Having spent many successful years as a professional entertainer (A true Lady of Song). Margarita has returned to her love of giving people happiness with her incredible voice and diverse range of songs. With the recording she presents to you a collection from her current performances. As Margarita says, "I hope these songs will give you many hours of pleasurable listening."

Margarita's songs on the recording are: "I Could Have Danced All Night, Love Is All, Danny Boy, Ave Maria, Till, My Way, The Anniversary Waltz, I Only Have Eyes For You, Memory, The Way We Were, You'll Never Walk Alone."

LATEST NEWS—Margaret has just phoned to say that all the Tapes and CDs are sold out, however, after Christmas she will be ordering a further supply.

If you want to buy one of Margarita's recordings give me a ring and I will put you in touch with her (After Christmas). The price is £7 CD and £4 Tape and no doubt the income will help to provide for the many hours she spends raising funds for various charities, one of them being Broughton House where the war veterans are cared for. Good work Margaret.

Mike & Val Turner's Anniversary

—Stan, Just a little note. Val and I recently celebrated our silver wedding anniversary. We had 140 guests of all ages including their families. Our piece de resistance and the highlight of the night was a spot by the Westhoughton branch of the GFS i.e. Gerry Mawdsley, Andrew Little, Fred Stephenson, Gareth, Neil Forshaw and of course myself. The kids were sat on the dance floor enthralled by ukuleles, that were ringing around the room. The guests aged from 20 upwards were singing, clapping to the songs and the whole room came alight. It was a tremendous atmosphere and it has been the talking point between colleagues, family and friends for weeks. They all thought it was absolutely fantastic. It is nice to know that in this day and age of dance music that George's music can still captivate an audience. Many thanks to the Westhoughton crew for coming along with their ukes and for putting on such a fabulous show which was totally unheard-of but then they can also be the best. Mike Turner.

George Tyrer by Cliff Royle

— Stan, Have just heard from George Tyrer down in Abergavenny where he really misses GFS activities. Unfortunately he and his wife still have problems with poor health. George reports that he has had another minor stroke, but thankfully is slowly recovering, and his Wife Alison is now losing the sight in one of her eyes.

Thought you could be interested in this snippet of info. We are lucky to have good health even though we do occasionally have bugs in our computers. Cliff.

Thanks Cliff. Yes, we are very lucky to have good health and all we can do is to give thought to any of our members, and readers, who are unfortunate with their health. We wish them well.

Joe Taylor writes: In the pitch black night, the Captain saw a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal: "Change your course 50 degrees east." The light signals back: "Change yours 10 degrees west." The angered Captain sends: "I'm a navy Captain! Change your course." The reply comes back: "I'm a seaman, second class sir, change your course sir." The Captain is now furious. "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing my course!" There was one last reply, "I'm a Lighthouse sir. It's your call!"

Alan & Eunice Evans write—Dear Stan, Winter is on its way and after a few days rain (*wonder if this a weather report*) we start thinking of things to do indoors. Alan is never lost for things, as uke playing and singing fills most of his time.

The thing that gives both of us a lift is to receive the George Formby Newsletter. It's stimulating rolling round on the floor to fight over who is going to read it first. Alan always wins as he is a heavyweight and I'm only lightweight.



Steve Evans at Stratford on Avon is still holding his monthly meeting and has been so lucky—deservedly so—with guest artists appearing each month from the North West: Fred Stevenson and his wife, and Andrew Little.

Thank you for the mention in the Newsletter regards my debut as a bones player. I have to end now to get some practise in.

P.S. You do meet some lovely people at the GFS meetings. One bones player at Blackpool by the name of Peter Waterhouse went home and found out information about bones playing from the Internet and sent them to me. I was so thrilled.

A few howlers for you: Whoever invented Sandpaper must have had a rough time. Whoever invented the Motor Car must have had a strong drive. And the CHAP who invented the lift must have had his ups and downs. Our milkman gave up when he lost his bottle, and our dentist is looking down in the mouth. Teacher: Give me a sentence with the word Harmony in it. Pupil: Harmony more of these jokes can you take?

Thanks Alan & Eunice. Actually Eva & I have been spending an hour every morning with you both. Now that's got you thinking hasn't it? Well it's like this. When I printed Newsletter No. 87 I overprinted page 6 by a hundred sheets. Now Eva & I have a ritual every morning. We do the crosswords and puzzles in the morning paper. Usually these crosswords are far too small to read so I blow them up larger on the photocopier and, to save paper, I use the backs of any waste sheets. We fold the sheets over to do the crossword and for the past 50 mornings we've had you both staring at us while we fill in all the squares in the crossword. So you've been quite popular for the past couple of months at The Hollies. Send some more news in, and carry on playing the bones. Cheers, Stan.

THANKS TO ALL who contribute to the GEORGE FORMY NEWSLETTER. Due to your valuable efforts these issues keep us informed of any news items relating to George or GF activities. Very much appreciated.

From John Mason—John was looking through the Wigan Observer Newspaper and found the centre spread full of cartoon drawings of various events and activities that made Wigan history. And right smack in the centre of the page was our George playing his ukulele. Now we are very pleased that Wigan remember George but I often wonder why they don't know what George looked like. The sketch on the right is nothing like him.



Way back in 1991, during George's 30th Anniversary, they opened a café in Wigan and called it FORMBY'S. All the décor was to be in Formby style with pictures of George all over the walls and tables. However, nobody involved in the job knew what George looked like, and all pleas for help to various council departments were met with vacant looks. In the end the designer had to settle for a Charlie Chaplin look-alike, with a walking stick, and leaning on a lamp post.

Considering that George was Wigan's most popular character and the comedy singer who put Wigan on the map, both attempts at sketching him are very poor.

Wherever George went he would sing Wigan's praises. He mentioned his birth town in many of his songs including: Wigan Garden, Wigan Boat Express, and two unknown songs: Wigan Butcher and Wigan Regatta. In the TV "The Friday Show" he said, "Whenever I drive through Wigan I always give thanks. I'm proud of Wigan."

Tribute To George Harrison—The Liverpool members have been invited to join a George Harrison Tribute which is to be held at the Albert Dock, Liverpool on Friday the 29th of November. The organisers feel that as George was a great fan of George Formby, it would be fitting to have GF represented on the day.

A Cavern has been built on the Dock to represent the one where the Beatles first started their career, and, after a request from ourselves, a mini disc player will be added for our use.

If anyone wishes to come along on the day there is no charge on the door, and it will be open from 10am to 5pm. See you there. Let me know if you want to entertain. Stan.

Another Great Superstar, KEN DODD was 75 years of age on Friday the 8th of November. A letter was sent to his office wishing him luck for the future and we hope that he will be entertaining us for another 75 years. How on earth he keeps up with the pace has us all beat.

Thanks from Tom & Nora Meredith

Nora rang to say many, many thanks for everyone's kindness in wishing them well for their 50th Anniversary at the North Wales Meeting. "It came as quite a surprise when we were asked up on stage for the presentation." *All the very best to you both Nora.*

P.S. How on earth have you managed to keep Tom under control for 50 years?



George Formby Meetings

North Wales Branch - British Legion, Penyffordd (10 miles from Chester) Every first Friday in the month. Tel Geoff Shone on 01244 544605 Adm 50p. Where can you get a better bargain than that?

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 (THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON THE 13TH) - 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:

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th March 2003

Sat & Sun 28th & 29th June 2003

Sat & Sun 13th & 14th Sept 2003

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th Nov 2003

Concerts usually start around 1.30pm each day.

Please Ring the Secretary, Sylvia Roe on 01142 846245 for details on the GFS or Wintergarden meetings.

Web Site —Two Lancashire Lads:

www.thehollies.u-net.com/formby.

E Mail: stan@thehollies.u-net.com

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