

THE

# GEORGE FORMBY

# Newsletter 93

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Specially Produced for George Formby Fans  
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# Welcome To Newsletter No. 93 and

we've certainly had a tragic month. Brian phoned with the sad news that our friend and fellow member, Carl Basford, - the singer of lovely quiet and calming songs, had passed away. Poor Carl, who has suffered during the past months, has finally given up fighting. Just like the photo on the right, Carl always had a beaming and contagious smile. He was a working member of the Crewe group. Our thoughts go to his family. Brian has sent in a full report on this.



Carl Basford

**A VERY TOUCHING LATE MESSAGE FROM CARL:** I would like to thank everybody for all their cards and good wishes received during my latest spell in hospital. They have all been very encouraging. I've had many tests during my stay here and am still awaiting the results. Thank you once again and my best wishes to you all. Sincerely, Carl.  
*So sad.*

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## Very Sad News from Cyprus

Well I just couldn't believe it when Dennis Lee rang with the tragic news that Lesley had drowned at sea. He explained that they were boating and soon they found themselves drifting out to sea. When they attempted to make for a rock a tide upturned the boat. For quite a long time Dennis managed to keep Lesley afloat but they both got very tired. A Helicopter came to their rescue but it was too late for Lesley.

How on earth could this happen to Lesley? She was a lovely woman, always bright and cheery, oozing with bounce, enjoyed life to the full, very adventurous, a 'hands on' person, always the first to volunteer, pleasant personality, enjoyed a joke, and much more.



I rang to tell the main organisers of the meetings, and in minutes the tragic news was spread over the country. Like myself they too were stunned. It was impossible to take in.

**E-MAIL TO DENNIS**—Dennis, your news yesterday has knocked us all for six. How terribly tragic! I've rung around to let all your friends know and they were just as stunned. How on earth are you managing? Look! I know that we are miles apart but if there's anything we can do please let us know. If you have any other friends who need contacting we will be pleased to help.

When you rang yesterday I couldn't take it in, so when you feel up to it please let me



have more details to pass on. We are all so terribly sorry. Stan.

DENNIS REPLIES—Thanks Stan, I've been overwhelmed with messages, phone calls, visitors etc. Give me a couple of weeks to sort myself out and I'll be in touch. I've just returned from the hospital after identifying Lesley so am upset at the moment. It seemed unnecessary as we were both taken to the hospital at the same time in the helicopter and I insisted on seeing her before I was discharged. Suppose they have to have regulations.



I've just taken the decision to have Lesley buried over here - I'm sure that's what she would want as we've discussed it many times in the past. Damian, Christian & Lesley's sister are expected here soon. Thanks for your support, Dennis.

At this end loads of calls have come in from members who knew Dennis & Lesley. One way or another they've touched almost everybody in the Formby Society. For a few years Dennis was the GFS Chairman and M/C at Blackpool. They founded the N. Wales meeting at Penyffordd. Many players remember Dennis for his enthusiasm in pushing them, as raw beginners, into uke lessons and insisting that they make their debut on stage. Such is his determination.

Every member supporting Dennis. Within minutes news reached every branch in the country and calls were flowing back. Those who came on the coach trips were stunned. Paul Woodhead said, "Just as they were building their dream home in the sun." Mac and Milly Magee were shocked at the news, and John Taylor couldn't believe the answer phone message. It was too much for Geoff & Dolwyn Shone to take in, and Andy Eastwood, who stayed with Dennis & Lesley in Cyprus was devastated by the news, Tom Bailey was stunned. So very sad!

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**It's On The Air** by Super Cliff the First—Yes the North Wales Branch did "Hit the High Spots" this Sunday Morning (26th Jan ) when we played live on GMR Radio from the G-Mex Centre in Manchester where there was a Caravan and Camping Exhibition. The show was organised by Jean and Alison Nadin and Frankie Woods who are great friends of Fred Fielder the famous GMR Radio Presenter, another Lancashire Lad!. He and his colleagues were just fantastic and they looked after us really well.

Those taking part were Geoff Shone, Frank Humphries, Deg Bruce, Phil Hughes, Jim Knight, Myself, and our very own wonderful Lady Alison Nadin. After some "off Radio" sound checks and a short wait we went on the air Live on GMR Radio. Fred gave us an excellent introduction following which we played Blackpool Rock. There was then a rapturous audience request for more, which we expected, after which we swung wholeheartedly into Lamp Post. It was fantastic. We could have played all day, but alas there was no suitable opportunity.

Within minutes reports came in that our songs had been heard on the radio from far and wide, and we were superb. Some of us have home recordings which confirm this. We had our supporters there of course in Dolwyn Shone, Myra Knight, Margaret Royle, Margaret Moran and Les Pearson. Not of course to forget Jean Nadin and Frankie Woods. Well I think a great deal of credit is due to all those involved. Our members were superb. Last but by no means least a big thank you to Fred Fielder, his assistants and GMR for giving us such a wonderful day and the opportunity to show off our talents. Cliff.



## Crewe Score Their Maiden Century.

The South Cheshire "George Formby" Ukulele Society (Crewe) held their 100<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting in the Wistaston Memorial Hall on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2003. Congratulations were received from our friends at Penyffordd in the form of a super card which featured a montage of familiar faces who have graced the stage at Crewe over the past eight and a half years. There was a full house as usual for a night packed with music, variety and fun.

Alan Newton was the MC ably assisted by Arthur Newton as Concert Producer. Apologies were received from Stan Evans, Colin Wood, Cliff Royle and Jeff Shone. Angela Caldicott was our Sound Engineer. It was a nice surprise to have Trevor Colley and Ann with us, it must have been a couple of years since we last saw them. We were very pleased to welcome ten guests who were present for the first time and they all agreed how much they had enjoyed the music and fun.



The twenty four artistes who performed were Steve Hassall, Jonathan and Pamela Baddeley, Cyril Palmer, Don Chalkley, Jim Knight, Walter Kirkland, Ron Whiston, Alison Nadin, Des Redfern, Alice Cronshaw, Vera Jones, Brian and Connie Edge, The Penyffordders (P for Phil, ff for Frank and dd for Deg), Arthur Newton, Alan Newton, Greg Simister, Tom Meredith, Trevor Colley and Ann, and Des Redfern. Connie who sang "Keep Fit" explained to the audience that whilst she was rehearsing the number Colin Wood had accompanied her with a demonstration of his versatility and fitness with an exhibition of press ups. Connie further explained that unfortunately Colin had reported sick shortly before the show began and that she would regrettably have to perform the number without him!

Jonathan Baddeley gave a great performance of the Formby number "Mr Wu's and Air Raid Warden Now" which in my view was a highlight of the show. Alan Newton also performed a new number "Buena Serra" which was also top class entertainment. Steve Hassall opened the show with a new medley of Jazz on his four string banjo and contributed to the rest of the evening on the drums. The Jazz Band played "Swing Low" which was well received by the audience who joined in as they did with Des Redfern when he performed "Out in the Middle East." We have all been a bit worried about Des as he has been arriving at meetings fairly early by his usual standards, but we will forgive him in view of the applause that he received after his spot. It was the evening's top applause, seven points on the Richter Scale according to the Clapometer! Jim Knight gave us a recital on his piano accordion and the The Penyffordders were again excellent in their turn out and performance. Their second number being a very old Formby number the "Old Kitchen Kettle." Alison Nadin brought along Grandad (Alf) for a chat. During his spot Alf gave the audience a few tips on the art of fishing, Des Redfern, however, found the advice quite unhelpful in his own particular circumstances, but perhaps the least said about that the better!



Without exception every artiste performed well on the night and as a result a fine show resulted doing justice to our One Hundredth Meeting. We had hoped there may have been a chance to have Dickie Speake, the George Formby Society Keyboard Wizard, with us on the night but Halifax really was too far to expect him to come. Dickie has been responsible for



providing us with all of our George Formby backing tracks over the past nine years, and without his contribution we could not have done what we have in creating so much fun for so many people and at the same time helping to perpetuate the memory of George Formby. Dickie apologised for not being able to come but he wished us well and added "if I was the Queen I would have sent you a letter!"

*Thanks Brian sorry I couldn't be with you but it sounds like it was a grand occasion.*

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## The Funeral Service of Thomas Carl Basford.

by Brian Edge -

Over 200 packed the Newcastle-under-Lyme Crematorium at Bradwell on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> February for the funeral of Carl Basford. "I'm the Ukulele Man" sung by Alan Southworth was played as the mourners entered the Chapel and a group of twelve "Formbyites" performed "Leaning on a Lamp-post" at the conclusion of the service. Carl was a faithful member of the George Formby Society, the Staffordshire Knot Society and the South Cheshire "George Formby" Ukulele Society at Crewe. He was 64.



Carl came from Fenton but has lived in Chesterton for over thirty years. He was forthright, totally loyal to all his friends and a real "collar and tie" gentleman. He served in the Royal Air Force Regiment arguably the smartest outfit in the Armed Forces and it was not surprising that in civilian life he was always immaculate in dress and grooming. Carl was a painter and decorator by profession and he made many friends as a result of his work. He was a member of the North Staffordshire Diabetic Association and he also loved dogs and was a member of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Association.

Carl's long illness was fought without complaint. He will be badly missed by all his ukulele friends.

The ukulele mourners included, Cliff Royle, Cyril Palmer, Colin and Christine Wood, Brian and Connie Edge, Arthur and Mary Newton, Wynn and Fred Stevenson, Andrew Little, Joyce and Gareth Sumner, Jonathan Baddeley, Bill and Ivy Turner, Derrick and Trudie Jones, Dave Price and Simon, Derek and Barbara Ball, Mr and Mrs Cliff Hine, Margaret and Don Chalkley, Alan Newton, Ron Whiston, Alison and Jean Nadin and Frankie Woods, Des Redfern, Ann and Trevor Colley, Peter Gratton and Martin Thomas.

**Cynthia Basford writes**—Dear Stan, I would like to thank all members of the branches of the George Formby Society for all their cards and wishes of encouragement that they sent to Carl during his long illness also for their support at the funeral which was such a comfort to me at that difficult time. Thank you all so much. Yours Sincerely, Cynthia Basford  
*We were all terribly sorry to hear the sad news Cynthia.*

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**Ukes For Sale**—Martin Fowell on 01745 854390 has a load of ukes for sale including a Dallas "B" for £150 and a Martindale Gibson copy, pearl inlays on the fingerboard, and in mint condition at £425.

But the uke that impresses me is the one that Martin has made in his workshop. The quality is excellent and with sixteen tension rods it gives off a great sound, at £275. Give Martin a ring.



## Super Cliff's Report—Penyffordd

We seem to go from strength to strength; almost a full house, quite a few new faces in the audience, some twenty three different turns, with an evenings entertainment which lasted about three and a half hours. It was unfortunately rather overshadowed by the announcement of the death of Lesley Lee in a tragic boating accident in Cyprus. Lesley and Husband Dennis were the founders of our Branch well over ten years ago, and the success of the Branch is in no small part due to them.



The evening started with everyone standing in silence in memory of Carl Basford from the Crewe Branch and of course our very own Lesley Lee; a very sad occasion, but as Dennis would have said "The Show Must Go On". We are organising a collection which together with monies we raise from Charities this year will go to purchasing some major item of equipment for use in the Hope House Hospice for Sick Children which is currently being built in Colwyn Bay. It is intended that this will bear a plaque to the memory of Lesley who we are sure she would have wished us to support such a worthy cause. It is intended to have a short memorial service for Lesley at a future meeting; hopefully in March.

After the initial Thrash Jim Griffiths opened the evening in his usual jovial fashion. Walter Kirkland followed his singing with a "bones" medley accompanied by fellow players Colin Wood, Alan Chenery, Jim Knight and Jack (foot stomping) Bolton. They also appeared later on in the show. This really gets everyone going. Vera Jones gave us some Old Time Medleys. Gerald Jones (no relation) sang "My Wife's Bingo Crazy". Gerald presented us with a cheque for £50 to go to our Charity Account. This was the profit he and Wife Julie made from recently producing and selling George Formby Calendars and Christmas Cards. They are now in the process of starting the 2004 production run on improved equipment so watch this space and support them and our Charity Fund in December.

Brian Edge gave us "Nurse come over here and hold my hand"; Alan Chenery performed a couple of songs he had just learned including "When my old wedding ring was new". There followed the Three Tenors all dressed in another new rig out including black arm bands in respect of Lesley (nice touch chaps); Greg Simister sang "We remember George"; how can he learn all these songs so easily? The M.C. Deg Bruce tried his best to delay the show so as to give Des Redfern a chance to turn up. But Des let us down. We cannot complain however for he turned up last week by mistake. A week too soon. Sorry Des but we did miss you although it gave The Past Its a chance to do one of your songs.

Tom Meredith took his Uke on the stage but did not play it. However he gave a great singing performance of "Mona Lisa" and "I did it my way". Pleased to hear you are getting back to better health Tom. Jonathan Baddeley did a couple of Formby songs so bringing us to the interval. But here we were in for an unexpected treat. Phil Hughes produced a copy of a recording made of the Live show seven of our members did on GMR Radio at the end of January. This was played for the benefit of our audience, and received loud applause. It moved Alice Cronshaw so much that she said she felt like crying. Do not however get the wrong impression. It was the sound of success. A comment was also made about our very young ladies "The Teeny Tots" helping with the raffle and not suffering in any way with stage fright. They now have ukes and together with a smart young lad always get to the front in the Trash. Nice to have some "Up and comers" interest. CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT.



# Dear Old Ronnie (the whistler) Ronalde What

a surprise when I received another list of theatre bookings from Andy Eastwood. This time it was for "The Golden Years of Variety" starring the legendary Ronnie Ronalde. Well, Eva & I remember Ronnie (now 80) from the late 40s when he appeared in Warrington. We'd never believe he was still performing. What a great chap.



He was very popular in his day, in fact he was one of the biggest stars anywhere in the 50s. Regular visits to America earned him a huge following and he filled Radio City Music Hall in New York (six thousand) every night for 10 weeks. In Canada he topped that: he filled a Toronto venue with 25,000 people each performance for a fortnight.

Ronnie is more than a voice, he is a combination of vocalising, whistling, yodelling, bird impressions, coupled with a terrific personality. He joined Steffani's Silver Songsters at 18 via broadcasts on Radio Luxemburg and BBC's Children's Hour. When he started recording he became a million selling artist with songs like: 'In A Monastery Garden' and 'Bells Across The Meadow, If I Were A Blackbird, Mocking Bird Hill, Ave Maria, Sorrento,' and others. He was a headliner breaking box office records all over the world.

Ronnie has entertained with many top stars including, Marilyn Monroe, Duke Ellington, Sophie Tucker, Josef Locke, Julie Andrews, Laurel & Hardy, Ginger Rogers, Gracie Fields, Max Bygraves, Peter Sellers, Benny Hill, Harry Secombe and loads of others. His autobiography "Around The World On A Whistle" is now published.

ON THE THEATRE BILL is Ronnie, Steve Barclay (Comedy) - Ken Wood (Ventriloquist) - Siobhan Phillips (Singer) - and our own Andy Eastwood who is billed as 'outstanding instrumentalist.'



Ken Wood Ventriloquist

During May and June they have 30 bookings all over the country and here are some that might interest the readers . . .

RHYL PAVILION Sun April 6th. Tel. 01745 330000  
CREWE LYCEUM Fri & Sat 2nd and 3rd May 01270 537333  
BLACKPOOL GRAND Tues 6th May. 01253 290190  
NEW BRIGHTON FLORAL, Sun 11th May. 0151 639 4360  
All the other bookings are probably too far to travel.

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**Des Redfern's New Year Resolution** took a nose dive in the first month. He was determined to turn up on time at all of the meetings for 2003. But he didn't take into consideration that there are 5 Fridays in January and turned up a week too early at Penyffordd, when the Legion was empty. Last night at Penyffordd he didn't turn up at all. So, what's happening Des? Where's it all going wrong?  
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**Two Ukes For Sale**—Tom Meredith has a Keech with six outside tension rods for £75—Good for a beginner. And a fully pearled inlaid John Grey original in very good condition for £200. You can ring Tom on 0151 644 9007.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX —The second half started with a performance by our friend Martin Fowell on the uke accompanied by Alwyn who gave us some wonderful old time medleys. Great to have you with us again Martin. This was followed by Cyril Palmer on his baritone uke with two heart searching love songs.

Of course we had the two Stans with a song pinched from Des Redfern "The Fields of Athenrye". Then Ashley Caldicotte rushed on to join in "Play it on my uke banjo". Ashley unfortunately is not in the best of health, but he really jumps about and plays his tambourine when on the stage. They have really got him doing many things that were not possible many months ago. In memory of Lesley the Two Stans performed "If I had my life to live over again". It was a wonderful tribute to such a lovely lady, and the audience were really moved by the words of the song.

Jon and Pamela Baddeley performed a couple of George's sentimental style songs, and after Jim Knight sang "Lads of the village get cracking" the bones players came on again. They now have the title "The skeleton ensemble". How about that! Alison Nadin came on in good form with Alf and did exceptionally well to get Alf to sing both out of tune and out of sequence with "When you're smiling". Don't know how she did it battling against an audience in full flow. Then there was a new face in our midst in the name of Toby who played flamenco style music on his guitar. After playing a Formby song Alan Newton gave us "Time to say goodnight senorita" in truly Spanish form. A lovely change Alan.

Colin Wood, always says he is nervous, and had to be supported by Alan Newton to give us "Saving up for sally" and then Alan Chenery joined him for "Puttin on the Style". Ladies should not be left to the last but Connie Edge was when she finished the evening off with one of her favorite songs "Keep Fit". I understand this was at her request as she did not consider herself in the best of form early on.

And so we came to the end of a wonderful evening which Lesley and Dennis would have enjoyed. However did you notice we had a new M.C. for the second half? Yes it was Phil Hughes and didn't he do well. Incidentally many thanks to all those who contributed raffle prizes. They are much appreciated. *Thanks Cliff.*

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## Andy Eastwood Forthcoming Show Dates for March 2003



- 1 Sat The Ken Dodd Happiness Show, Town Hall, Dudley
- 2 Sun British Legion Club, Maghull, Merseyside
- 4 Tue Sinah Warren Classic Resort, Hayling Island, Hants
- 5 Wed Littlecote House Hotel, Hungerford, Berkshire
- 8 Sat The Ken Dodd Happiness Show, King George's Hall, Blackburn
- 9 Sun The Ken Dodd Happiness Show, The Anvil, Basingstoke
- 10 Mon Orton Rigg Hotel, Canford Cliffs, Dorset
- 11 Tue Cricket St Thomas Hotel, Chard, Somerset
- 18 Tue Sinah Warren Classic Resort, Hayling Island, Hants
- 19 Wed Lakeside Classic Resort, Hayling Island, Hants
- 22 Sat The Ken Dodd Happiness Show, Plymouth Pavilion.

- 24 Mon Orton Rigg Hotel, Canford Cliffs, Dorset
- 25 Tue Cricket St Thomas Hotel, Chard, Somerset
- 28 Fri Littlecote House Hotel, Hungerford, Berkshire
- 30 Sun Holme Lacy House Hotel, Hereford

MORE NEXT MONTH



## Email S.O.S for "Bananas"



from Dave Moran, Hello Stan, I'm trying to find a CD with Formby singing "I like Bananas" I know the song was recorded by HOOSIER HOT SHOTS in 1934 and also that George recorded it. But can I find it! no I can not. Regards Dave.

*No problem Dave. Bananas is part of "Quick Fire Medley". Send an Email to Mal Scott Taggart on mastersound123@aol.com and he'll fix you up. It is also featured on the "Easy Going Chap" tape, produced by Kevin Daly through Conifer Records Ltd, Horton Rd, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8JL.*

*Just out of interest, what's the appeal? I'm always interested in any bits and pieces for my George Formby Newsletter. Cheers, Stan.*

DAVE REPLIES—Thanks for the prompt reply. I have a general interest in the music hall artists of the early British theatre. I am also keen on the forties and fifties British film industry, Hobson Choice being my all time favourite film, partly due to the fact I am of the 50s vintage and originally from the northern town of Stockport. Alan Randall and I share a mutual friend who was also a close confidant of Jimmy Clitheroe during the sixties. Having met Alan and spoken at length on the life of George Formby I am very interested in his work during the war no-one did more troop entertainment than George.

His war work also fits snugly into my family tree. While researching the family history my cousin sent me her fathers war diary. In it he writes of a surprise show George staged somewhere in France which raised everyone's moral. Unfortunately her father was killed at Arrham. I am also cartographer by trade and Alan Randall has all Georges war time maps with his written instructions on them which I and the map curators group at the British Cartographic Society are also interested in. None of which tells you why the interest in " Bananas " I can only say that it has a charm and If I like something I want it in my collection. Am I right in presuming that " Bananas" was not written by George but by the American band Hoosier Hot Shots ? this band was famous for their novelty songs during the forties much like Spike Jones. Well thanks again for the information and good luck. Regards Dave.

*Thanks Dave, for details of Bananas contact Noel Gay Ltd on 071 836 3941.*

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**Albert sends an Email**—Hee Stan, my wife and I really enjoy reading your Newsletter and there's always a fight when it arrives on deciding who gets it first. Today's newspapers and TV are full of disasters, football or young women flaunting themselves. But the George's Newsletter is topped up with funny happenings and pleasant stories of every day life. We originated from near Wigan so we understand your humour. The story of Ken Dodd cracking the lady's ribs was excellent and the schoolchildren singing "I Like Bananas" had us laughing. You're right! Young Cliff is a superman!

**Just one little criticism.** It would be appreciated if reports on meetings gave less names but more information on the people they report on. 'Out of the area' people like us—and we notice that you have some overseas—don't know them. We need a better picture on who we are reading about. *Thanks Albert. I try to include photos of as many players as possible so that you'll know what they look like. But I do agree that just giving names doesn't help outsiders. I'm sure that our reporters will get the message. Send me a photo of yourselves Albert.*

SO COME REPORTERS—LESS NAMES BUT MORE INFO. OK ALBERT?



## Soldier Hodgson Met George Twice

I met George & Beryl in 1937 (I think) at the Leeds Empire when two friends and I (who played ukuleles) handed them in to the commissionaire to have them autographed. A few minutes later Beryl came out and asked if we would like to meet George. We went into the dressing room and George was sat at a desk. He asked, "Can you play these?" to which we replied that we are only learners. We had a ten minute chat with him and he gave us photos of himself playing the uke.

The next time I saw him was in 1944 when we were in the Normandy Bridge Head. A message came round that George & Beryl Formby were in the area and lots were drawn to go to see them perform. I played George's songs but unfortunately I didn't draw a ticket, - very disappointing. However our officer had a word with George, told him that I play, and a few days later a paper came through saying that I could go to see him.

I arrived in this field and there was this army lorry with the tailboard down. George was playing on the tailboard. Beryl wasn't with him. There was just George on his own entertaining. I remember him asking, "How far are we from the front line" to which we shouted, "You're in it." He was great! He played, Our Sergeant Major—Magenot Line—and Leaning On A Lamp Post, and many more for about an hour.

We were within four miles of Caen so the bombing and shelling was quite heavy. We were well inside the shell range area. It was nice to get out of the trench and just sit down to be entertained, even if we did sit on the grass. It was absolutely weird that one minute we were fighting in the trenches and then we were being entertained by George. It was more weird by the fact that these were songs that we all knew from back home. With regret we never saw him again.

These are memories that will never leave my mind. Being a keen Formby fan, loving all his songs, playing a uke in similar style, and then, from nowhere, and then appears the very man that I idolised. Was it a dream that I'd had? I don't think so.



Soldier Hodgson

## Soldier Clark recalls—We met

George & Beryl off the Sunderland Flying Boat at Karachi Marine Airport. They were in ENSA uniform. Someone told George that it would be cold so he arrived all rugged up in his great coat. He immediately threw off his coat and disappeared among the crowd signing autographs. We chased after him to get his injections, and then we booked them into a hotel. I'm not sure if he dashed around signing autographs so that he could dodge the injections or not, but Beryl was concerned that, when it was her turn to give autographs, he'd used up all the ink in the pen.

We fitted the Karachi tennis courts up with a temporary stage and chairs and applauded George as he walked on to the stage. "Why are all the empty reserved seats at the front" said George. "For the officers," they replied. "There are no officers in my shows, move forward." Which they did, and the officers had to sit, or stand at the back.

I remember him well, very casual. As soon as he started his show his string snapped on his uke. "Don't worry," he said, "I always carry spares." Everything he said brought an uproar of laughter.

**Alan Newton** sent in this article and reminds us of the fact that us ukulele players are known as plonkers. Because we plonk the uke. *Thanks Alan*

## Do you know this song?

We picked it up from the internet. It's a great marching song for the uke and I'm surprised that nobody sings it at the meetings. A bit similar to "Lay Down Your Arms"

### THE OLD HOME GUARD

Call out the navy, call out the ranks  
Call out the air force, call out the tanks  
From the Cliffs of Dover  
Call up the gulls  
And don't forget the loyal territorials  
But who's digging in here, who will defend  
Every inch of England  
No matter what they send  
Who's standing firm in our own front yard  
The soldiers of the Old Home Guard  
That's who  
The soldiers of the Old Home Guard

For we wrote the story  
Of the old brigade  
We know the glory, of yesterday's parades  
Who's standing firm in our own front yard  
The Soldiers of The Old Home Guard  
That's who  
The soldiers of The Old Home Guard.

Let me know if you have a recording of it or if you know who sang it.

# Strange case of the plonkers on the council

AS many a local newspaper reporter will yawningly testify, council meetings have a language all of their own.

Point of order, Mr Chairman; Move progress; Seconded; Carried. To that list can now be added a rather colourful extra - the word 'plonkers'.

It featured strongly in the vocabulary of two rebel members during a heated meeting of Ilfracombe Town Council in North Devon.

And such exception was taken to it that Brian Cotton and Tony Cooper were arrested, and yesterday found themselves in court.

## Daily Mail Reporter

Mr Cotton, 64, and 42-year-old Mr Cooper faced Barnstaple magistrates accused of harassing fellow councillors by using terms of verbal abuse.

They denied the charge and were released on bail.

The meeting in question involved the appointment of a new chairman of finance - a position from which retired builder Mr Cotton was voted out in November.

Such was the ill-feeling that Mr Cotton, a former deputy mayor, was asked to leave the debate after

using the P-word to describe fellow councillors.

He has since admitted such unparliamentary language, saying: 'Plonkers is a word which means foolish. I looked it up in the dictionary. They most certainly are plonkers.'

He said it was 'ridiculous' he had been charged, adding: 'It cannot be us harassing them. It is them harassing us.'

'In a heated debate you expect brickbats to be thrown and they can throw brickbats back.'

Mr Cooper said: 'We are doing our job as councillors. What is going on

is ridiculous. The two of us are an effective opposition and we are entitled to ask questions and hold people to account. We have done nothing wrong and have nothing to fear.'

He admitted that he had referred to members of the council as 'tossers', adding: 'But that slipped out.'

The word plonker, which in certain parts of the country has obscene connotations, was popularised by David Jason's character Del Boy in the TV comedy *Only Fools and Horses*.

He routinely used it to describe his younger brother, played by

Nicholas Lyndhurst, typically observing: 'Ooh, Rodney, you are a plonker.'

One dictionary definition is 'stupid person, an idiot, from West Yorkshire dialect, used to refer something large or substantial of its kind'.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary the word dates back to 1861, when it was used to describe an article which had extraordinary substance or a piece of woven material which is unusually thick.

Australian soldiers used the word as slang to refer to a shell in World War II.





## Richard Howard writes to the Great Yarmouth Mercury

I am doing some personal research in George Formby's last appearance in Great Yarmouth in the summer of 1959. Please could I ask through your pages for information, memories or what you have. All letters will be answered and treated in the strictest confidence. This research is for my own consumption.

Sadly George had a car accident in Norfolk while he was appearing at Yarmouth. Richard Howard, Aspen Vale, Cawston, Norwich. *If anyone has any information on this Howard will be pleased to hear from you.*

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## Young Cliff again

—Hello Stan, I have obtained a brief of the Licencing Bill (Feb issue Newsletter) and some clarifying information from our local M.P., and am wondering if we may not be going over the top and portraying a somewhat wrong picture. However you may have other information which proves me wrong so please do not think my observations are intended to be obstructive; rather the opposite. Seemingly some people appear to be unknowingly spreading mis-information without knowing the facts. Possibly this is how you have become involved.

Firstly. It seems to me it is the venue and type of entertainment which has to be licenced rather than the entertainers. Street Buskers and "general" Carol Singers do not seem to be covered. Presumably they are the subject of other laws.

Secondly. The Bill seems in the main to be intended to cover public safety and nuisance, yet increase many entertainment opportunities. All for the good I hope. The "up to" £20,000 fine and jail sentence I feel can cause unnecessary alarm. It seems to be applicable to very large events rather than anything small which we or others do.

Thirdly. Playing in Old Peoples Homes and similar places (presumably including hospitals) are exempt unless the public are admitted, and/or if a charge is made for admission. Carol Singers can sing "spontaneously"; The Bill appears to be intended to cover organised concerts. Playing at Private Parties in private houses or for such things as weddings etc are exempt unless charges are made for admission. However playing/singing in pubs and cafes is licenceable unless "spontaneous".

As far as we are concerned with our general meetings and outside concerts I expect that appropriate licences will be obtained by the clubs, halls and organisations which are involved. I should be only too happy to let you borrow my associated official papers should you so wish.

*Well I hope you are right Cliff. For the first two weeks I chose to ignore it but then it appeared in the Daily Express. This weekend it is featured in our local Guardian. In my personal experience, when an MP says, "Don't worry," that's the time to start biting your finger nails. I've no time for most of them, - a waste of good skin.*

*Nobody knows for sure if we are being misled or not. There might be some cause to be concerned, I don't know. Anyway, it costs nothing to collect signatures on the petition sheet and send them off. We've collected over one hundred and fifty signatures which will be posted off. Thanks for your mail Cliff.*

# A Letter From Warrington Council—Dear Mr Evans,

**Re. 143 London Road, Stockton Heath**, it has come to my attention that the above property, which was formerly the home of George Formby does not have any recognition of that fact.

I am in the process of writing to English Heritage to request that this property be considered as a candidate for a commemoration blue plaque. To achieve this I require further information on the property, and I would be grateful for any evidence that you may have to indicate that George Formby did in fact live at this address, and evidence of the dates if you have them.

I hope that you be able to assist in this venture, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course. If you wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

## REPLY **GEORGE FORMBY SENIOR AND JUNIOR**

It is common knowledge that 143 London Road (Hill Crest) Warrington, was the home of the Formby family from 1917 and this is the home where James Booth (George Formby Sen) and his wife, Eliza Booth raised their family of seven children.

George Formby senior. A big music hall star of his day, died in 1921 and six weeks later his son, George Formby junior, took over his father's role as a comic artist, also his stage props and some of his bookings. As you may know George rose to become the highest paid and most popular entertainer of his day.

Warrington folk regarded George as one of ours who lived at Hill Crest, London Road, so we wondered why the house has not been granted some sort of plaque recognition before. As time goes on, newer generations will forget the two big stars that lived here, although we are pleased that the Formby grave is most prominent in our local cemetery.

May 26<sup>th</sup> 2004 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of George junior so we wondered if something could be granted for the occasion. Enclosed are various photos and paper clippings giving proof of the Formby family residing at Hill Crest, London Road, Stockton Heath.

In the event that Hill Crest is honoured with a Blue (Formby) Plaque I will be pleased to help to arrange for a group of players to support the occasion. Stan Evans.

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## Hope House Thank Penyffordd—Dear Geoff Shone, We

are delighted to receive the recent donation of £180 from the N. Wales Branch of the George Formby Society, which will help us with our work with terminally ill children. Also thanks to Alison Nadin for their kind donations and for supporting our Christmas Fayre. Hope House relies on donations and each year we need to raise £1.5 million to deliver our vital services.

Demand for our service has grown so much that we have to build another satellite unit in our area. For this we must raise £2 million to build and equip it, and once again we rely on the generosity of supporters like yourselves. Please accept our grateful thanks. Nuala O'Kane.

*Wonderful work there Penyffordd. Don't forget, if you are considering holding a show for Hope House you can include us in.*

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*Thanks to all who support this Newsletter*



## Letting the New Year in by Cyril Palmer



In George's 1940 song he sang "We get surprises by the score, letting the new year in. The most surprise of our New Year meeting was the arrival of Doreen Cumpsty, a special Blackpool landlady, (I'm not sure I can spell "Proprietress.") making up a party of four with Pat & Alan Chenery and Eve Stewart. Doreen takes excellent care of her GFS clientele at the "White House," near The Winter Gardens, and now attends most of the Blackpool monthly meetings. Then it was a surprise and a personal pleasure to see Stuart Tidsey after a longish absence from our meetings. Long ago Stuart and I were hookers at the De La Salle Old Boys Rugby club in Salford. Neither of us knew at the time that the other was secretly learning to play an instrument. (For the benefit of any North-American readers, a hooker in the U.K. hangs about in the middle of a rugby scrum, and not usually on street corners.)

The number of members attending fairly regularly, though never all at once, is sixty-something, so a few birthdays pass each month. Just now we are having a little run of the 3-score-& tens, and so, as I announced that young Dick Eaves celebrated his 70th a few days earlier, we heard that Gerald Lowe, famed for raffle ticket sales, would level up with Dick two days later. Further, I hear that a certain lady, (I use the term light-heartedly,) will celebrate, a little early, her own arrival on the 70's scene at our next meeting. Perhaps we should advertise as an under-80's club.

Though the festive season was over, the atmosphere was just as jolly as ever. The songs were in great variety with a few not often heard and others not heard at all at our meetings.

Eddie Bancroft started the ball rolling with the cheeky "Mr Wu' s a window cleaner." Other familiar songs were "Cleaning windows" & "Little back room upstairs" (Alan Chenery), "They laughed" (Jon Baddeley), "Our Sergeant Major" (Paul Kenny and Des Redfern), "Long time gone" (Jim Knight), "Little wooden toolshed" (Walter Kirkland). Jim and Walter also combined to play Bones medleys.

Alan Southworth and Connie Edge were in daredevil mood. Alan with "Daring young man," Connie, taking chances with "I double-dare you," had just heard Alan advising on how to "Get your photo in the press." Connie also sang the rarely heard "Radio bungalow town." Cliff Royle sang enthusiastically of the "Blue-eyed blonde next door." I can imagine wife Margaret saying "On yer bike, then!" More Fornby songs were "Nothing proud about me" (Alan Newton), "The fiddler kept on fiddling" (Paul Kenny), and "When the waterworks caught fire" (Jon Baddeley.) We had a cabaret spot from Alison Nadin in voice-throwing mode. She had " Alf by her side doing stand-up comedy. I suppose you could say "She was beside herself"

We heard an interesting variety of other songs. "Cabaret," (Alan Newton), Des Redfern sang "My name is Dan, and I'm your man. " Alice Cronshaw was on offer: " All of me" and "On a slow boat to China." Pam Baddeley went sing-a-long gospel starting with "The Saints go marching in, " while Jon Baddeley combined with Brian Edge first for " Avalon" and, later, "Hello, Dolly.» Arthur Newton was philosophical with "Life is a dream" and "Love is just a gamble." (That could just as easily be "gambol.") Tom Meredith sang Andy Williams' "And I love you so» then "Don't laugh at me. Margaret Moran was in" A world of our own" and the oft requested "Crazy." Altogether a great start to the year 2003. *Thanks Cyril.*



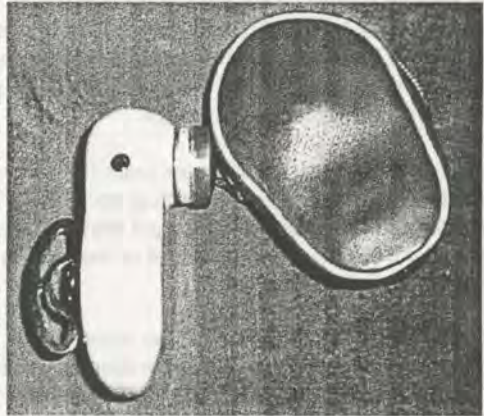
## George's Videos Wanted—David Comin on 01482

786497—a very keen Formby fan—is scouring the country looking for Two GF videos: “The Ukulele Man” which was presented by Eddie Waring, and “The Life and Times of George Formby” presented by Gary Marsh. If you can help him please give him a ring.

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**George's Shaver**—What a surprise when I walked into the Blackpool monthly meeting and Eve & Charles handed me a parcel. It was George's shaver which was bought by a Mr S Alcock of Lytham St Anne's at the 1961 auction held at Berydene, after George's death. It was made by Thorens and the model is Riviera. Made in Switzerland.

It is easy to see why George bought this shaver. It is ideal for anyone travelling up and down the country who wants to look his best at any of the stops.



George's hand winding shaver with carrying case.

It is driven by a key winder so it can be used at any time without electricity. The measurements are around 5" x 3" x 2" and weighs exactly 1lb. It also appears to be quite expensive and well made. “Here you are Stan, show it round,” said Charles, - which I will do.

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## S.O.S. from Westhoughton by Gerry Mawdsley

Hello Stan, I need a volunteer to run the Westhoughton branch. I announced my retirement from the job on last Wednesday evening, We have had Four great years with a regular nucleus of about 30 people attending, Personally, I cannot guarantee to be at every meeting due to other commitments, so regretfully I have handed in my notice. The meetings for Feb and March will be as normal but starting April I would hope some one will take it on.

It's just personal circumstances that have forced this change, I will still attend Westhoughton, other branches and of course Blackpool when possible. Cheers, Gerry

*So are there any volunteers willing to step in a Westhoughton. Ring Gerry on 01942 817346*

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## The Flu Jab????

- Why is it that the flu jab has no effect on some people while others it knocks for six? On the 14th Jan I had the jab, and for three weeks couldn't stop coughing, spluttering, choking and gasping. It was the same last year and the year before. When I queried this with the doctor he said that if I couldn't defend myself against the jab I certainly wouldn't be able to survive the real stuff. Well I don't agree with this. The only time I'm ill is when he pumps the bugs into me.

I'm no doctor but I think they've got it all wrong. If you are oozing fit they should leave you alone to get on with your life. I've tried refusing the jab but he comes knocking at my door with his bag of tools. All the fit uns, like Charles Stewart, tell me that they've never had the jab, and Charles is so fit, the flu bugs bounce off him. He humps those amps and speakers round like a young un, so why should they pump him with stuff to make him ill?



**Stan & I** (The Past Its—Well Past It—Truly Past It and, when Jim is with us, he's Definitely Past It) have just done a grand little show for one of the Liverpool Retirement Homes, which went down extremely well.

But you can guarantee that none of these shows go to plan. As we were performing, there were loud noises of hammering and drilling, a few feet away, from a gang of engineers who were installing alarms to the doors. At one stage we had to abandon ship while they worked in the area where we were playing. However, it was all good fun. As they were banging and drilling they were singing some of our songs.

Although they were in their later years (One lady is 98) they were a very happy crowd who enjoyed singing. As we were setting up stall one lady muttered, "I hope this thing is not going to be too loud." So as soon as we got started I asked her to tell us if we were too loud, to which she replied, "Oh no, you can have it as loud as you like for me." She'd actually forgotten what she'd said a few minutes earlier.

The nurses and carers are always an active bunch. They enjoy watching and listening to them all singing their hearts out, and wave their arms around. Good fun but you need patience.

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**Ray Bernard writes**—In Ella Formby's TV interview (last issue page 13) Ella mentions that George sang one song with his uke after his usual act—she was not quite sure if it was "All By Yourself In The Moonlight" or "Rose Of Washington Square." I believe it must have been the former as "Rose" wasn't written until 1939 for the film of the same title featuring Al Jolson and Alice Faye, many years after George's Argyle Theatre show.



It was nice to read that Brian Edge featured the Billy Uke Scott number, "Give Me The Chance To Be Twenty Again" and it's good to know it's getting an airing. I sang this song—along with Billy's other published songs (Bosworth's) in 1950, at fifteen years of age, and performed it for the next thirty years on club land—I also featured it on my first TV show "Top Town" in 1956, so it's a particular favourite with me. At a later date I mentioned the TV broadcast to Billy and he replied, "I saw it come through on the Royalties List and wondered who the heck had done it." Yes it sure is a great song written by a great artiste. *Thanks Ray.*

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## **Beware of Playing at Birthday Parties—**

Stan and I did a show for a 90 year old on Feb 1st and it was the noisiest ever. The problem with birthday parties for the older folk is that the relatives are usually a large mixture of ages. In this case they ranged from the age of three to ninety and none of those below the age of 50 were interested in our old songs. They yapped all night and created an awful noise.

However a bunch of oldies in the centre—including the 90 year old birthday boy—thoroughly enjoyed all the sing-alongs and sang their hearts out. So, rather than abandoning the show we concentrated on our little bunch and gave them a special treat. (We ignored the others). Later the oldies came to say how they'd enjoyed listening to us revive all the old songs. Time went quick and it turned out to be a great night.

**Email from young Cliff Royle**—Hello Stan. In a TV programme last night about the Windsor Family they referred to King Edward 8th as being an outgoing character who was full of life and very worldly wide. On the other hand, following his abdication, his younger brother who became King George 6th was completely the opposite, being an introvert, and a quiet and uncertain man who found difficulty in speaking because he stuttered.

But wait for it! The comment then made was that it was like comparing the actor Clarke Gable (I think it was him) with George Formby. Well how about that? Cliff Royle.

*Nice little snippet Cliff.*

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## Mary at Ryfields Retirement Village gave us

her story—It was getting late at night and, feeling tired, she decided to go to bed. Before hopping into bed she went to the toilet. Perched on the loo she gave a yawn and fell asleep. The next thing she remembers is waking up on the floor with a sore head. She'd fell off the loo and banged her eye on the wash basin. She looked in the mirror and saw that she had a swollen black eye. But that's not all.



Mary sporting her black eye

She went to the freezer and took out a frozen plastic bag of peas. She went to bed, placed the bag of peas over her eye and, feeling very tired, immediately fell fast asleep.

About two hours later she woke up to discover that the bed was saturated with almost freezing cold water and she was soaked in it. The bag had burst and the little peas, thousands of em, had rolled underneath her. Also the bed was soaking wet right down the centre where she lay. She got out of bed, removed all the peas, - which took ages to find - turned the mattress over only to discover that the wet had soaked through to the other side.

She had no other mattress so she called reception to see if they could help her. They sent a man to investigate what had happened. Mary tried to explain to the man exactly what had happened but noticed that the man, - who kept sniffing, hid his face with his hand. She naturally thought he had a cold and didn't want to spread it round.

After each sniff the man would repeatedly say, "Say that again." After her third attempt at explaining about her disaster she realised that he wasn't sniffing at all. He was stopping himself from breaking into a fit of laughter. Once his secret was out he could hold it in no more. He was rolling round the floor in hysterics. Poor Mary.

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**From Paul Mountain**—A couple of posers for your readers Stan. Paul's answers are at the foot of page 19.

1. You can buy one of these for 50 pence and 12 for £1. What are they?
2. How many hotels or guest houses are there on Blackpool Prom?

*Thanks Paul, keep sending em in.*





**Rare Record Find**—Lee Keeler on 01282 700910 has inherited a stack of 78s records and included is a Zonophone George Formby Senior record which was recorded under the non-de-plume of Tom Foy. The songs are: "Lizzie" and "Mary Ellen" which if I remember correctly goes like this:

"Poor Mary Ellen at the pawn shop door, a bundle in her arms and a bundle on the floor. She asked for two and six but they only gave her four. Poor Mary Ellen at the pawn shop door."

Also the words "Comic Patter" are on the record. Now you must admit that they don't write words like that today.

Lee could be interested in selling the record so if you are interested give him a ring.

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**Neil Forshaw writes** - Ghandi's father said to his son: "There are two types of men in this world, Those that do the work and those that claim credit for it. Be in the first category my son, there is less competition."

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**Uke Banjo for Sale**—Ray Bernard on 01270 874157 is selling a nice pre-war George Formby uke banjo which is in very good condition, complete with original case, price £300.

*To help anyone, Ray has a reputation for knowing his ukes and only handling good quality instruments.*

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**GF Video Bargain**—Films at half price. DD Video of: Unit One, Pool Bank Business Park, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JH are selling boxed sets of five George Formby films at £22.49 per set.

The films in: BOX ONE are Trouble Brewing - Spare A Copper—No Limit—It's In The Air—Keep Fit.

And BOX TWO is Turned Out Nice Again—I See Ice—Come On George—Let George Do It—Keep Your Seats Please.

The phone number is 0845 122 0318—and the Web site is: [www.ddvideo.co.uk](http://www.ddvideo.co.uk)

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**Young Cliff's latest joke**—Especially for the Liverpool gang—Lady Passenger: "Is this bus going to Speke?" Driver: Well I've been driving it for 30 years and it's said nothing up to now."

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**From Email Fred**—I enjoy your little jokes and one liners so here's a few you can add to your Useless Inventions. How's about, "Invisible fog, - or Rubber crutches, - Bottomless sinks so you can wash your hands and feet at the same time, - See through masks, - Or a 365 day clock which tells you what year it is."

GREAT FRED, HAVE YOU ANY MORE?

**John Shreeve** went back stage with Andy Eastwood to meet Ken Dodd at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. Andy asked Ken if he could bring him into the dressing room to introduce him — “no problem” said Ken, half undressed and chewing a cake. “bring him in.” John asked Ken if he could take a photo of him and he replied with, “Nay, gerr out of here.” Andy explained: “He doesn’t like being photographed half undressed.” *Quite right too. Good for you Ken.*

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**Compliment From Charles & Eve Stewart**—

Stan, it’s a pleasure to read the George Formby Newsletter. In fact it reminds us of the Vellum that you produced when you were the GFS Editor. Every page packed with interesting stuff.

It is topical, full of good humour, and doesn’t depend upon old rehashed twaddle to fill its pages. Long may you have the strength to delight us.

*Thanks Charles & Eve, and thanks to the Formby fans for supporting. Without you all I wouldn’t be able to fill the pages like I do. In all our eight years I have never been stuck for some sort of news to go in and I’m sure it’s all George & Beryl approved.*

*But special thanks must go to Welly Cronshaw, God Bless the lad, who, in 1995 haunted and hounded me to launch a N. West Newsletter. It has turned out to be the right thing to do so, no doubt, Wally must have been insp.red from somewhere.*

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**Have a Laugh with Brian Edge**—Hi Stan, Here’s a couple of space fillers.

**THE PURSE SNATCHER**— In a courtroom a purse snatcher is on trial and the victim is stating what happened. She says, "Yes that's him. I saw him as clear as day. I'd remember his face any where. "At which point the defendant bursts out, "You couldn't see my face lady, I was wearing a mask."

**ROAD SIGNS**—A priest and a pastor from the local parishes are standing by the side of the road holding up a sign that reads, Quote: THE END IS NEAR.TURN YOURSELF AROUND NOW BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE. "Leave us alone you religious nuts," yelled the first driver that sped by. From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big crash. "Do you think," said one of the clergy to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says" BRIDGE OUT" instead? Brian.

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**Dear Formby Friends, from Charles Stewart** (who is having

another go at mastering his computer). Having not been in touch lately, I thought it was time that something was done about it. As you can well imagine this blockage between my ears is and has been the cause of my slow learning difficulties. A friend of mine has taken me in hand and I hope to become a reformed character. Thank you for your patience with me in the past, I'll keep trying. Love to all, Chas. Try me out on [CharlesStewart@charlesstewart.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:CharlesStewart@charlesstewart.fsnet.co.uk)

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**Alan Newton says**—it is nice to be important but it is also important to be nice.

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**ANSWERS TO PAUL MOUNTAINS POSERS:** Poser One: Door Numbers.  
Poser Two: Only one (Butlins) all the others are on the sea front.



# 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?

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

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

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

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

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**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.

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## 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.

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Web Site —Two Lancashire Lads:

[www.thehollies.u-net.com/formby](http://www.thehollies.u-net.com/formby).

E Mail: [stan@thehollies.u-net.com](mailto:stan@thehollies.u-net.com)

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For George Formby Newsletters by post please send a cheque for 50p plus 25p postage (or £2.25 for 3 months) - (£9 for the year) payable to S. Evans - Address Front Cover.

Query: Do Eskimos hold house-warming parties?

