

THE

# GEORGE FORMBY

# Newsletter 95

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Specially Produced for George Formby Fans  
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# Welcome To Newsletter No. 95 and

this month has been very busy with the mail coming in. In fact the Newsletter was almost full at the end of March. Many Thanks to all who contributed. Sorry to give you the sad news first. . .

## Malcolm Palmer of Stourbridge reports

another loss. Our dear friend Glyn Williams, of Wem, sadly passed away on Sun 16th March. I had known Glyn now for 6 years and we've kept in contact almost on a daily basis via Martin Thomas who also lives in Wem. We attended Crewe and Blackpool together and the Ken Dodd Show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall. He always looked forward to his visits to the Blackpool meetings with Martin & Terry Pain, they were last there in Sept 2002.

Glyn has not been in the best of health for some time, and was having medical treatment. His condition became worse in early January. His funeral was on Fri 21st at Wem United Methodist Church.

Glyn was a very popular character in Wem and at the age of 78 he could be seen around the town on his push bike, or on the bowling green, a sport which he enjoyed. He will be missed in the area. Your Roving Midlands Reporter, Malcolm Palmer.

*Thanks Malcolm. Anyone who goes to Blackpool will remember Glyn as the 'always cheery little chap' who enjoyed his George Formby songs. He was a great little character. He often turned up at Crewe with Martin Thomas. Hope you and Glenys are keeping well.*

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Glyn Williams

## Tom Bailey sent in a load of cuttings—Ricky Tomlinson is fed

up of these "Spotty young entertainers" hogging all the limelight before they've had any experience before the cameras. So, he's organising a "Golden Oldies Show" for the over 60s.

Anyone interested in performing should send a brief CV and photo to PO Box 929 Liverpool L69 3HF. As Ricky says, "You shouldn't give up entertaining because you've not made it at 30. Ken Dodd is 75 and better than ever. Ricky is 61 and in 2001 he got into the charts with "Are You Looking At Me?" So lets see some George Formby players applying.

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## Warrington Council have just phoned. They

are interested in a George Formby Show in the town centre on Saturday May 17th, or alternatively, a show for George's 100th Anniversary in May 2004. I told them that they'd left it late for the first show but we could certainly do something for 2004.

They have offered to chase up the 1991 exhibition display boards which they unconvincingly claimed had been destroyed.

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THANKS TO ALL who contributed to this issue. The response this month has been overwhelming. My apologies for not including every article. These are put on file for a later date. Thanks again.





# Pre-Battle Speech by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Collins,

that has struck quite a cord in Britain.— "We go to liberate not to conquer. We will not fly our flags in their country," he said. "We are entering Iraq to free a people and the only flag which will be flown in that ancient land is their own. Show respect for them.



"There are some who are alive at this moment who will not be alive shortly. Those who do not wish to go on that journey, we will not send. "As for the others I expect you to rock their world. Wipe them out if that is what they choose. But if you are ferocious in battle remember to be magnanimous in victory. "Iraq is steeped in history. It is the site of the Garden of Eden, of the Great Flood and the birthplace of Abraham. Tread lightly there. "You will see things that no man could pay to see and you will have to go a long way to find a more decent, generous and upright people than the Iraqis.

"You will be embarrassed by their hospitality even though they have nothing. "Don't treat them as refugees for they are in their own country. Their children will be poor, in years to come they will know that the light of liberation in their lives was brought by you. "If there are casualties of war then remember that when they woke up and got dressed in the morning they did not plan to die this day. "Allow them dignity in death. Bury them properly and mark their graves. "We will put them in their sleeping bags and send them back. There will be no time for sorrow. "The enemy should be in no doubt that we are his nemesis and that we are bringing about his rightful destruction. "There are many regional commanders who have stains on their souls and they are stoking the fires of hell for Saddam. "He and his forces will be destroyed by this coalition for what they have done. As they die they will know their deeds have brought them to this place. Show them no pity." He said: "It is a big step to take another human life. It is not to be done lightly.

"I know of men who have taken life needlessly in other conflicts, I can assure you they live with the mark of Cain upon them. "If someone surrenders to you then remember they have that right in international law and ensure that one day they go home to their family. "The ones who wish to fight, well, we aim to please." "If you harm the regiment or its history by over enthusiasm in killing or in cowardice, know it is your family who will suffer.

"You will be shunned unless your conduct is of the highest for your deeds will follow you down through history. We will bring shame on neither our uniform or our nation. "It is not a question of if, it's a question of when. We know he has already devolved the decision to lower commanders, and that means he has already taken the decision himself. If we survive the first strike-we will survive the attack. "As for ourselves, let's bring everyone home and leave Iraq a better place for us having been there. Our business now is north."

Given to the men of the **1st Battalion, Irish Guards**, on war alert in Kuwait, Wednesday, 19th March, 2003.

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**Cliff Royle Emails** - I happened to see and hear a bit of the England v Ireland game on TV this afternoon. Yes, and guess what? They pinched 'The Past Its' and Des's song. "The Fields of Athenry" which could be heard in the background. I expect you will be sending a formal complaint. *Thanks Cliff. Truly Past It will be sorting em out!*



## Another Sell Out at Crewe

Steve Hassall, Crewe's resident drummer, opened the March Variety Show with a couple of Formby numbers including the little played "*Sentimental Lou*."

One can be sure our audiences would be delighted to hear more of the excellent Formby comic songs that are never given an airing. "*Sentimental Lou*" is just one of so many. So let's hope your artistes will have a dig deep into the archives and see what they can come up with for your future entertainment.

The latter end of March brought us some lovely weather and on the day of our show we were delighted to find that the weather had not only brought out the spring flowers but a great attendance of 102 to see our show. What a tremendous audience you were too! You know it is a great feeling for the performer on stage to know there is such a warm atmosphere out front and in turn it brings the best out of him or her. We had a number of new faces at the show and we hope that they enjoyed their first visit to Wistaston and that we will see them all again at future shows.

It was good to see Mary and Brian Allen, Joyce Sumner and Fred and Wynn Stevenson who had not been with us for a few months mainly due to illness. Fred gave us one of his yodeling numbers, which are always enjoyed by everyone. Connie Edge performing under the pseudonym Miss Dee Cline, performed a Patsy Cline number "*I Love You Honey*." This was followed by the popular "*I Double Dare You*." Jim Knight played "*Twelfth Street Rag*" on his uke to his own accompaniment on the keyboard. Not simultaneously however! Popular teenager Walter Kirkland performed "*Isle of Man*" and this was followed with a bones recital which included Jacko, the ever smiling Eunice and Jim Knight. I am getting very worried about these bones, as I noticed Frank Humfreys limbering up prior to taking a set of bones out of his pocket. I get the feeling someone in the society must be breeding them. Don Chalkley performed "*You don't need a Licence for That*," and "*Pleasure Cruise*." Alan Evans all the way from Redditch and husband of the smiling Eunice previously mentioned sang two Formby Numbers "*I Promised to be home by Nine O'clock*" and "*Sunbathing in the Park*" two numbers that our dear late friend Carl Basford used to perform for us. Alan and Eunice first came to Crewe for our exhibition commemorating 40 years since the death of George Formby and have since paid us regular visits. Alan has worked hard on his ukulele and is now an excellent artiste with a wide repertoire of songs. Vera Jones gave a really first class confident performance of her two songs, I would say her best performance to date. Well-done Vera.

Alison gave us a paper folding demonstration which was quite fascinating. How she can remember all the pater and all the folds is amazing. A great turn. Tom Meredith performed a uke number and followed with a vocal "*My Way*" and Brian Edge tried a new number "*Don't Let 'Em Touch My Ukulele*." Alan Newton another artiste with a wide repertoire, performed a topical number "*Springtime Is Here Again*."

It was to be Connie Edge's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the next few days and as a surprise on the night Jean and Alison Nadin very kindly bought Connie a lovely birthday cake which was cut up and passed around the audience during the interval.

The second half opened up with a couple of Jazz Numbers and these were followed by young Greg Simister who is always a hard act to follow these days. Greg is our youngest supporter





and his act was followed by our most senior performer, Matthew Kelly. Matthew who sang "Easter Parade" is in his 91<sup>st</sup> year and there is little doubt that he is determined to prolong adolescence beyond all previous limits. It is always great to have Matthew and his Daughter Dianne with us. Bill Turner was on really good form with a rousing version of "I wish I was Back on the Farm." And this was followed if my memory serves me right "Five Foot Two." Jonathan Baddeley who was MC for the evening always adds a touch of class to our shows with his knowledge of Formby history and his now famous puns. Actually few of you know that Jonathan is well known in academic circles for his masterly translation into Latin of *The Wizard of Oz* which remains to this day the standard Latin version of that work. It is amazing the talent we have among us. Jonathan performed another Formby song which is new one to most of us "It's a Grand and Healthy Life." And his performance was excellent. Pamela then sang "Noughts and Crosses" accompanied by the pu,1 master on his clarinet. Jonathan our MC then appealed to the audience "Give me an OOH, give me an AAR" and the audience responded accordingly which was the signal to our ever smiling and retired farmer Arthur Newton to take the stage. Arthur's act was followed by the "Pastits" your Editor Stan Evans and his partner Stan Watkinson.

Also present was Frank Humphrey and Cliff Royle who did not perform on the night. Frank is one of the three "PenyFforDders (Phil, Frank and Deg) and unfortunately he was the only one of the three who could be there on the night. As for Cliff he had hurt his shoulder and was unable to play his uke on the night. Lets hope that Cliff is soon back in action.

There was quite a buzz around the room at the return of Margaret Moran who delighted the Crewe audience with her lovely singing. Margaret sang two requests "Crazy" and "I'll Gather Lilacs in the Spring Again." Margaret is a lovely singer and is always welcome on our stage at Crewe.

### Connie Edge Thanks Everybody—

I would like to thank everyone for all their greetings cards, telephone messages, gifts and good wishes that I received on my special birthday. Special thanks to the Penyffordd branch for hosting my surprise party and for their hard work in making it such a successful event. Thanks to you all, I had a lovely birthday, which I will always remember. Love Connie.



Nay Connie, you don't look 50

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### Eric Sykes—

Thanks to Tom Bailey for this Liverpool Echo cutting. Eric, who will be 80 this year, is a member of the sadly dying breed of comic geniuses like Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers, Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson and Frankie Howerd. Thankfully Eric is very much alive.



"Entertainment is too aggressive today" he claims. "If comedians want to make a social comment they can go to the House of Commons. I'm proud of being a vaudevillian. I don't swear or do anything suggestive, and I've held on to that because when you are on stage you're a role model."

Born in Lancashire in 1923, Eric knows what he's talking about having devoted his life to making people laugh. He left the RAF in 1946 and began his career at the famous Oldham Rep. But it wasn't long before his writing talents saw him creating scripts for top shows like *The Goon Show* and *Educating Archie*. His TV show, which lasted 20 years, with Hattie Jaques, broke all records for domestic comedy. Good old Eric.



## Our Cliff Reports on N Wales - The night

seemed more of a Birthday Party than a Concert, but of course that just underlines the comradeship of the GFS. There was about the usual attendance, but it was very pleasing to see that there were quite a number of new visitors in the audience, not to mention some young faces on the stage in the THRASH; Jean Smith's young Grandson Daniel, her teeny Granddaughter, and another young chap. Are they our budding stars of the future? Perhaps before long we will manage to get some of our Up-and-Comers on a mike with back up by one or two others.



Alan Newton opened the show in his usual flamboyant style, and he seemed to have started the thread of the evening when he talked about lapses of memory as one gets old. Do we need reminding?. Strangely a fair part of the evening was taken up with songs and Medleys from Yesteryears sung by Vera Jones, Alice Cronshaw (glad she is feeling a bit better), Cyril Palmer with songs about his two ladies Cecelia and Virginia. Our own Martin Fowell and friend Alwyn, both from North Wales, gave us a good sing-a-long session of old time songs. Alwyn has a lovely voice. What dare I say about Martin? Well he was the one with the Uke. Jonathan Baddeley commenced with a Formby song and followed it with "Memories" played on the clarinet. The latter was one of those meaningful and moving songs with a lovely melody. And I ain't no musician.

So what about George Formby! Well Walter Kirkland did well with his new song about the Isle of Man, Arthur Newton did a couple including Hindoo Man; Tom Meredith did a couple of more modern ones and included the lengthy War Medley always fearing that he would be cut off. I did Blackpool Rock played with a sore arm and a bad cough. What no Uke? So now we come to the unusual items. Des Redfern did great with his two Irish songs said to have been written by Shamus Formby. These Irish tunes are really catchy and they suit Des. We had a couple of "bones" sessions. This seems to be getting quite a craze for even Frank Humphries is now in on the act. Jim Knight, who recently came second in a Talent Competition in Wrexham, excelled himself on the Uke. when he played Twelfth Street Rag to his own backing. Every time the tune was repeated it went faster and faster. How he coped with the tempo I do not know. Something very different and exciting. Could you sing it that fast Jim?. I don't think I should let things pass without mentioning the Three Tenors; Phil, Frank and Deg. Many said how they enjoyed their performance. It was to say the least a little different, as were the songs they sang which included "The Old Kitchen Kettle" and "Blackpool Belle".

So who were the Birthday boys and girls? Harry Jones from Crewe on the very day; Jean Smith from Wrexham a day or so previously, and wait for it; Connie Edge with a very Special Birthday coming up at the weekend ( won't say how many years it represents). There were Birthday Wishes all round. An excellent buffet was provided in the interval by Brian and Connie Edge to celebrate Connie's big day. This was followed with helpings of the Bingo Birthday Cake. Many thanks Brian and Connie for providing such a wonderful repast. Your kindness was appreciated. The Edges also provided their own entertainment. Connie sang Down in Dallas, and followed this with an old wartime song in appreciation of our lads in the Gulf. It was a nice thought Connie and I am sure the lads would have appreciated it. Brian gave us two of his very different and witty songs "Don't let them touch me ukulele", and followed this with a tribute to George with "Mr. Banjo Man". So we came to the end of another late night. I think our neighbours now only go to bed after we get home in the early hours of the Saturday mornings. In closing may I say thanks to all who helped in any way to make the evening a memorable one for Connie. No matter how much or how little you did your support was appreciated. *Thanks Cliff.*



# News From Dennis in Cyprus—



Hi Stan, Thanks for your message & regards to all. I've come to the conclusion that the best thing for me to do is to keep busy. I'm up at 6.30am most days and then do my chores. There's been a lot of running around seeing solicitors etc and then there's the house to sort out. I should be moving in about 2 weeks time so that will be another thing off my mind. Incidentally when I move I won't have a phone in the house, they say it'll be about 6 months, and so neither will I be on the net. I'll still have my mobile of course so you can give it to anybody who asks for it. The number is - 00 357 99755714.

We had our meeting in March but I asked someone else to be the m/c as I didn't feel up to it. Over 100 attended. Our next meeting is this Thursday and I'm determined to front it this time. In addition we have a 3 hour practice once a week and the group have made marvellous progress. We've completed your Beginners Uke Tuition course and I've now started them on the Concert Script which you & I drew up a couple of years ago. I've promised them that this summer we'll be out on the streets busking. I'm off to see the local council this week to seek permission to play down at the harbour which is a local tourist attraction. I was invited to perform for the local bowling club in front of an audience of 100 and invited them to join me in a couple of medleys. They loved it and it's really whet their appetite for more.

There's a hotel which runs monthly talks - "The Flora & Fauna of Cyprus", "Water Conservation", "Cyprus Entry into the E.U." etc. Two weeks ago the title was "The Life & Times of George Formby". On the morning of the talk I completely lost my voice. I wasn't overly concerned thinking it would come back during the day. It didn't. Imagine 120 guests who'd just finished dinner waiting to be entertained and there was no way I could do it. I was on the stage and on the point of asking someone to cancel the talk. As I looked around I noticed one or two people who'd taken part in our GF meetings. By means of a pencil & paper I ran round the room and insisted that they do something as this was a dire emergency. The hotel didn't have a keyboard but we found a piano in another room and got 4 big blokes to fetch it. On the dot of start time my apology was given out by a friend and we then proceeded to have an impromptu concert which lasted for over an hour.

Everyone said it was of the best nights they'd had and the hotel manager was over the moon. So that's what I get up to. Also I've resumed membership of a weekly walking group which takes up a large part of the day and have started singing at a karaoke bar. I know almost everyone who goes to the local ex-pats club where they have regular events so I need never be lonely. I'm invited out for meals all the time- 4 times this week - but I find I've lost almost a stone in weight.

Thinking of Lesley upsets me and when people talk about her I fall apart at the seams and have to excuse myself and get away. I'm often told things will get better, let's hope so. Can you give me some info on the ukes you have for sale? Dennis. *Thanks Dennis. Everybody's rooting for you. Every week someone asks how you are, so we're pleased to have up to date news. Sounds as if you are going great with your meetings.*

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**John Ceaser is Chuffed!** Stan, you won't believe it but I've just bought the only tenor banjo that Griffin Banjos ever made—their first and last! Wonderful quality, workmanship and tone. I bought it from James Bowen who I'll be meeting again on the Skipton mountain top for the Bluegrass Festival in July. It's a four day event. If anyone is interested contact me at 6 Elizabeth Drive, Wyke, Bradford BD12 8PP. Or Skipton Town Hall.



# Andy Eastwood Forthcoming shows

May 2003

- |         |                                 |                                    |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Thur  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Gordon Craig Theatre,<br>Stevenage |
| 2 Fri   | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Lyceum Theatre, Crewe              |
| 3 Sat   | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Lyceum Theatre, Crewe              |
| 5 Mon   | High Elms Craft & Country Fair, | Farnborough, Nr Bromley            |
| 6 Tue   | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Grand Theatre, Blackpool           |
| 7 Wed   | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Pavilion Theatre, Worthing         |
| 8 Thu   | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Winter Gardens Theatre,<br>Margate |
| 9 Fri   | The Ken Dodd Comedy Festival,   | Victoria Hall, Hanley              |
| 10 Sat  | Masonic Function,               | Floral Hall, Southport             |
| 11 Sun  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Floral Pavilion, New Brighton      |
| 13 Tue  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Broadway Theatre, Lewisham         |
| 14 Wed  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Harlequin Theatre, Redhill         |
| 15 Thu  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | The Playhouse, Harlow              |
| 16 Fri  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury          |
| 17 Sat  | The Ken Dodd Happiness Show,    | Regent Theatre, Ipswich            |
| 18 Sun  | The Jimmy Cricket Show,         | Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth         |
| 19 Mon  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Theatre Royal, Nottingham          |
| 21 Wed  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Castle Theatre, Wellingborough     |
| 22 Thur | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Pavilion Theatre, Bournemouth      |
| 23 Fri  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Civic Theatre, Darlington          |
| 24 Sat  | The Ken Dodd Comedy Festival,   | Southport Theatre, Southport       |
| 25 Sun  | The Ken Dodd Happiness Show,    | Opera House, Manchester            |
| 27 Tue  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe       |
| 28 Wed  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | The Assembly Rooms, Tamworth       |
| 29 Thu  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | New Theatre, Hull                  |
| 30 Fri  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | New Theatre, Hull                  |
| 31 Sat  | The Golden Years of Variety,    | New Theatre, Hull                  |



**ANDY RANG:**  
Stan, switch on to Des & Mel and I'm on it today. What a grand job he did! Full of confidence he belted out Lamp Post and gave a brilliant solo Great Andy.

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Arthur Brown Emailed Another good issue Stan, keep it up.

*Advertising these Andy Eastwood shows has helped Andy and many readers appreciate the information. Crewe will be booking at The Lyceum Theatre. Christine and Janet from Milton Keynes have booked five seats and the Liverpool members also look for any local appearances.*

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## What Went Wrong?

- At the Crewe meeting, Pam Baddeley was on stage and all ready to burst into song, when they couldn't find her backing on the mini disc. Pam stood there waiting for the music to start and—nothing—Disaster! All sorts of remarks like: "Tell em a joke Pam," and "Gerrum Off," came from the audience but Pam didn't fancy either. There were cries from her musical director, Jon, "It's on that disc somewhere!" He was worried, and kept muttering "I'll get it in the neck after." Alas poor Pam had to abandon ship—unsung. About an hour later there was a cry, "Found it." Pam was back on stage singing her heart out and Jon looked a very relieved man.

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## Bob Muirhead

has sent in a load of "Kids in Church" sayings— Here's one from three year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name." " Amen" More next month.



# Margaret Moran's Experience

It was back in 1977 and I entered a Butlin's Talent Competition. I sang Ave Maria and at the end of the show I was presented with the winner's certificate and cup. The red coats came back stage to see me and one of them was quite disturbed. They said that as I was singing Ave Maria, the Public Relations Officer pointed to the theatre wall when he saw something that was quite appropriate.

They saw a cross which was the full length of the wall, and it got brighter and brighter as I went into the song. Then flames came from the bottom of the cross. As I finished the song it all faded. I didn't see the cross but other people stopped me to say that they had seen it quite clearly. But that's not all!

Three years ago I was in Blackpool and as I was talking to the hotel manager he mentioned that he was the manager at Butlin's when the cross was seen. As they were searching into the weird experience they pulled down some very heavy drapes that had been hanging there for many years. It was then that they discovered a small room that no-one knew existed. It was so small they had to bend down to get into it.

In the room they came across a religious painting which, after valuation found it to be very valuable. The theatre was also known to be haunted by a benevolent ghost.

In the Butlin Show I was 7th on the bill. It was July (7th month) and the year was 1977. Thanks for your article Margaret. You have definitely been blessed!

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## Jon Baddeley on last month's article

Hello Stan, I fully

support your comments in Newsletter 94 in respect of keeping the name of George alive and the missed opportunities in recent years. I subscribe to many nostalgia magazines and the letters pages are full of criticism of the current music policy of national and local radio.

Generally speaking, music recorded prior to the 1960s is given no air time and consequently it is becoming more and more difficult to promote the music and the artists who recorded during this period of time.

Next year is a very special year for all of us. I am sure that at local and regional level, each and everyone of us will do our best to bring the name of George Formby to the forefront. I feel sure that the Executive Committee Of The George Formby must realise the importance of next year and let's hope that we will soon be made aware of the many events planned in order that we will be able to keep the dates free in our diaries. Regards, Jon Baddeley *Thanks Jon, next year might be the last opportunity we'll have of promoting George.*



And here's another unusual sighting Margaret. There's a STAR above your head from the stage back-drop. How's that for a coincidence? And another blessing for the Irish!



# Theatre of war

## QUESTION Were any members of ENSA killed in action in World War II?

THE Entertainments National Service Association was set up at the outbreak of war by the actor, theatrical impresario and dramatist Basil Dean (1888-1978).

Initially, its purpose was to provide professional entertainment for the Armed Services wherever they were fighting. But later this was extended, with encouragement from Minister of Labour Ernest Bevin, to providing entertainment for civilians at their place of work.

The entertainment generally took place in canteens or mess halls, and although most of the big names of the day played their part, the quality of the productions was variable. It wasn't long before wags gave ENSA another name — Every Night Something Awful.

ENSA performers were civilians who, for the first two years of the war, didn't have uniforms. There is no record of any of them becoming casualties and they were accused by many of having an easy war.

But the fact that many ENSA members travelled to all theatres of operation (from Burma to North Africa) — and, being in civvy uniform, could technically have been shot as spies if taken prisoner — countered these criticisms.

At the end of the war ENSA, whose headquarters were in London's Drury Lane, was disbanded.

In recent years, pressure was put on the Government to recognise the service of ENSA members and the important role they fulfilled.

This culminated in 2000 when they were officially represented at the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremonies at the Cenotaph.

Carolyn Manners, Manchester.

MY SISTER Alma auditioned her way into ENSA at the age of 18 in 1941 and for two years toured Britain in concert parties, entertaining the forces.

A big fan of Deanna Durbin, she sang popular songs of the time,



Tonic for the troops: George Formby entertains the Forces overseas

**ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS**  
 Compiled by James Black and Charles Legge

with Deep Purple her favourite. On a visit to the Orkney Islands during a fierce mid-winter, the party was ferried by small boats to perform on the aircraft carrier Ark Royal.

Alma was taken ill but, like the trouper she was, insisted that the 'show must go on'. We learned later she had stood in the wings, wrapped in blankets, waiting to go on stage.

She came home to Walthamstow, North-East London, that February

very unwell, and died a month before her 21st birthday.

She was certainly among those who lost their lives 'doing their bit' in the war — and the entertainment business lost a girl who was reckoned to be a future star.

Albert Sewell, Greenford, Middx.

## George was a big ENSA Star

The above article from the Daily Mail was sent in by Alan Newton. Thanks Alan.

It was a very rare occasion when George got angry but he was certainly annoyed when top stars preferred to stay home rather than entertain the troops abroad.

## Happy Memories of a comic Cousin.

Cutting from The Weekly News I had to write to you to say how much I enjoyed your recent item on Freddie Frinton, as he was my cousin. The article brought back happy memories. My husband and I used to go to visit a friend in Blackpool and if Freddie was on at the Opera House, we'd make a point in going to see him.



He was always pleased to see us when we went backstage afterwards, but would chide us, "Why didn't you let me know you were here and I could have given you tickets. When he was appearing with Thora Hird, I met her often and she was always very kind. If Freddie had lived he would have been 94 now. From Mrs P.S. Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Dear old Freddie Frinton. I remember him well. He was the best drunk ever with his broken cigarette hanging down. A favourite sketch of his was "Dinner For One" which is about an old dowager duchess who lived alone in her mansion. Every year she puts on a dinner party with only herself there. The other guests all died long ago but she imagines they are with her at the party, and they must all be served their dinners with wine after every course.

Freddie plays the part of the butler who has to do the serving and make sure that each of the guests drink their wine. Freddie's only solution was to drink the wine himself which brought roars of laughter from the audience as he became drunker and drunker after each glass. It was very funny. Dear old Freddie Frinton.

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## Mike Turner Reports Gerry's Last Stand

Hi Stan, Went to the Westhoughton meeting last week which was the last one that Gerry was running. Gerry and Viv were thanked for their dedication and commitment over the years in what originally started out as a "few blokes getting together and playing the uke" (This was Gerry's quote to Val 3 years ago).

Over 50 people attended and what a tremendous night it was which was evidence of how popular this meeting has become. Gerry and Vivien surprised us with a duet together and the star guest was John Shreeve who went down an absolutely bomb, you could hear a pin drop when he was playing he captivated the audience so much. There was a great atmosphere and we would like to thank Gerry and Viv for all their help and support from all the people who have attended the Westhoughton meetings. Mike Thanks Mike. Hope it doesn't close down. We need a regular meeting in the Wigan area.

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DON'T FORGET TO WRITE TO THE GEORGE FORMBY NEWSLETTER



# Our Cliff is on the Ball Good Morning Stan,

"The North Wales Branch have again been invited to play at the Llandudno Extravaganza on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May, then at a similar event at nearby Colwyn Bay on Monday 5th. May. These are excellent outdoor events at which many hundreds attend and for whom playing goes on through much of the day. If any players would like to join us on any of these days please let Alison Nadin know in good time so that they can be included in the programme. Her Tel no. is 01745. 330668."

Thanks Stan. If you do not get this let me know. Today's Joke. Copied to your Grandson just in case. Cliff.

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## Warrington's Little Ray of Sunshine Alf Caldwell



Warrington's little ray of sunshine, Alf Caldwell.

Dear Stan, I've been a George Formby fan from the age of 11, that's 60 years ago, and here's how I came to acquire my first banjolele.

My uncle Fred, who played the uke, had an accident at Monks Hall steel works Warrington, severing three fingers of his right hand. After the accident his banjolele lay in a cupboard at his house for over two years. One day he came to visit his sister (my mother) and asked if I would like to own the instrument. His brother Jack offered to give me tuition. He was a musician, playing the concertina, mandolin guitar and piano. I started off with two cords, G and A7, and learned to play "It aint going to rain no more no more".

After awhile my dad got tired of me playing the same song so I then had to practice in the loo down the bottom of the yard. As my playing improved, my dad let me use the parlour.

In the late 1970s I was fortunate to meet Jessie Bailey. Fred and Jessie were very close friends of the Formby family. This came about when I visited Syd Heath cycle shop in Winwick Road Warrington, for a part for my bike. Jessie and Gertie Heath were sisters, they also had a sister named Dot. Dot was engaged to be married to my uncle Bill, but he was tragically killed in action in May 1916 at the age of 19.

Having introduced myself to Gertie, she arranged for me to visit Jessie at her home in Manx Road Warrington. Jessie showed me numerous Formby scripts, plus photos in a scrap book which Fred her husband collected. I sometimes wonder what happened to all the memorabilia.

*Thanks Alf. It was well known that Jessie had a huge collection, including George's private cine films, and from time to time some of the locals will bring some of her collection in. I've heard nothing of the whereabouts of the films. They may still be here somewhere in Warrington.*



Good hearted Jessie, who was a well known personality in Warrington, is feeding the pigeons.

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YOU'VE STILL NOT SENT IN AN ARTICLE FOR GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER



# A Prayer from Alan Newton

(Mutilated and re-built by Stan Evans)

Today, dear Lord I'm 90 and there's much I haven't done  
So I hope, dear Lord, you'll help me, to live till I'm 91

And then if I haven't finished, all I want to do  
Please help me to stay little longer, - until I'm 92

There's so many places to go to, and so much I'd like to see  
Do you think that you could manage, to make it 93

The world is changing quickly, and so much for me in store  
So I'd like to live a year longer, until I'm 94

And then Lord, do me a favour, assuming I'm still alive  
What's the chances of living, until I'm 95

I understand quite clearly that favours you can fix  
So how's about an extension until I'm 96

I know dear Lord you're planning, a place for me in heaven  
But couldn't we stretch it a bit longer, and die at 97

I'm know I'm getting slower, and sometimes rather late  
But surely, I'm not in a hurry, so I'll stay till I'm 98

By then dear Lord I'll be ready, to go now will be fine  
Oh damn it dear Lord, what's the hurry, I'll go at 99

Well there's no point in staying much longer, I'm all packed and  
ready to go  
I've had a good life, can't grumble, though my hair is the colour of  
snow

So thank you dear Lord for the favours, you did on me bestow  
I'll be a hundred tomorrow, so goodbye all, cheerio.

\*\*\*\*\*  
An old lady was being interviewed on TV and asked about her ex-  
periences in the war.

Interviewer: Why didn't you go down in the air raid shelters?

Old lady: Bombs maybe, spiders definite!

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**BBC Radio Merseyside** are holding a vote for the "Best Comedian" and at the moment Ken Dodd is leading the field. You can vote by ringing 0845 3031500 or log on to [www.icliverpool.co.uk](http://www.icliverpool.co.uk) However Ken's vote is for Arthur Askey: Ken said, "He was the funniest man I have ever met off stage. He would light up the room with his personality and story telling.



Always ready with a song  
Alan Newton.



Humpty Dumpty (playing a uke) advert sent by Flea Market Music USA. Web site [www.fleamarketmusic.com](http://www.fleamarketmusic.com)



## Springtime's Here Again by Cyril Palmer



Billy Uke Scott



The Sale March meeting was on the first day of spring. We didn't expect a repeat of the number in February, but, as just less than fifty arrived, quality was the overriding factor. To our great delight Billy (Uke) Scott accepted Alan Southworth's invitation to pay us a visit. Billy's eightieth birthday was celebrated at the Formby Society convention the previous weekend. After a lifetime's professional entertainment demonstrating the versatility of the ukulele, Billy, for a while, had been unable to play the ukulele comfortably. But, being a persistent fellow, continued playing of the keyboard restored his uke-playing ability. Billy composed about 50 songs, at least 30 were published. "Down by the Old Turnstyle", sung by Max Miller, is possibly the best known. On this evening Billy himself sang and played "We heard it on the BBC" and "B.I.N.G.O." Dickie Speake sang Billy's "Give me the chance to be twenty again," while AL Diamond & The Sapphires, (Alice, Hilda & Vera,) performed "I've got a boyfriend." Dickie also sang "Be, bah gum," From 1928, which was recorded by both George Formby and Gracie Fields.

Just after the interval, it was announced that Alan Southworth and Hilda (of the Sapphires) were about to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary, and behold, 45th is the Sapphire Anniversary! Before I forget -again--apologies to Bob & Sheila Muirhead from Liverpool. They made their first visit last month and I didn't mention it. I hope they will come again soon.

Back to the beginning, Eddie Bancroft to date had stuck to one song only, but tonight he made the move up to two, "Blackpool Rock" and "Mr Wu's a window cleaner." Keep up the good work, Eddie. Now to the end, Alan Newton closed the show. He had spotted the seasonal connection singing "Springtime's here again," then announced, in song, "I'm getting married in the morning."

In between, our other singers were in great form. Pure Formby contributions came from a lively Paul Kenny- "Spotting from the top of Blackpool Tower" and the Frowsy "Fanlight Fanny." More from the young but talented Greg Simister with "Home Guard Blues" and "Aunty Maggie's Remedy." Alan Southworth was "On a Pleasure Cruise" as he recalled that "She's got two of everything." Dennis Mitchell-coy with "I don't like" enthused about "Madame Moscovitch" -one of his favourites, I believe. Jack Valentine sang "It's a grand and healthy life" after "I can't give you anything but love." Walter Kirkland sang "They call it the Isle of Man," and Jim Knight gave us "A long time gone." Walter and Jim also featured the Bones, boosted by Dickie Speake on **Spoons** for their Old Tyme medley. They also backed Arthur Newton for "Hang down you head, Tom Dooley," after Arthur's nice version of "Don't get around much any more." Brian Edge sang Walter Langshaw's very humorous "Bowler hat that Grandad left to me." Roy Fielden's monologue was "The return of Albert," followed by a harmonica medley. Connie Edge sang "I love your automobile," (new to me) then, in fetching mood, "I double dare you." Two lovely songs from Margaret Moran—"Crazy" and "Danny Boy." Tom Meredith sang two popular Ballads, "And I love you so," and "My way." My own songs were "Raining in my heart," and "There's a blue ridge round my heart, Virginia." September this year makes Thirty Years of Ukulele playing in Sale. We want to make September 19th an extra-special day. Meanwhile let's look forward to April. *Thanks for your report Cyril*



## Cliff Royle replies to Albert

Hi Stan, I refer to Albert's

e-mail about names in branch Reports. Sorry that I do not know however who Albert is as his surname is not given.

In reply I would say that I will do my best to put the matter right in future. However there are two things to be considered. Firstly that many players come from other Branches, and I would not like to infringe on their patch. Secondly this has been tried before at Penyffordd. We had some success in getting information in the Newsletter, but try as we would it was impossible to get some people to give us information in spite of numerous requests. However, although it may have been heard before here is a bit about me.

I am a true Lancashire Lad. Born in 1922 in a little village called Flixton, which is between Manchester and Warrington. As a youngster I went to St. Michael's Mission in Flixton where I was a choirboy. To raise money for the Mission, Plays and Black and White Minstrel Concerts were organised. In the concerts a couple of chaps played ukulele banjos. The usual songs were very simple ones like Swanee River. I became interested and by some means or other got hold of a wooden uke and a book of simple songs. Eventually I could do the three basic chords. Possibly by the age of thirteen or so my interest in the uke had gone, being replaced by other things. Possibly girls; I cannot remember. Still have both problems and the memory is getting worse.

I happened to be in Warrington when the George Formby Exhibition was on in 1991, and after being in to see it my interest in the Uke was aroused. After perhaps twelve months and some investigation as to a contact about playing I arrived at the home of Stan Evans where I received a warm greeting, some basic help and information and went away with an expensive ? uke, a book of 13 Thrashes, and a backing tape Total cost about forty quid. I went to a few evenings at the Warrington Branch, and then joined Dennis Lee's new Branch that he had just formed at Penyffordd.

That was the start of my new life. It has taken me a long time and involved a lot of practice to get to the stage at which I now am. The backing tape is now really worn out, but without it I would have made no real progress. But it has been worth it. My Wife enjoys her evenings out at the Local branches etc. It is the first thing that both she and I have found an interest in. I think I have one confession to make. Had I known it would take so long to get to this stage I do not think I would have bothered. Some said I would never make it. Well maybe I haven't made it all the way; yet!. But I admit time is running out. As they used to say at work "You're getting old and losing your memory when you can remember the first time, but not the last. At least I can play a bit.. I have however to thank many who have helped me on the way. Dennis Lee, Stan Evans, and Brian Edge and his fellow members at Crewe. Thanks for opening up such a new and wonderful world; and I still do not know anything about music. What a shame.

Cliff Royle. (North Wales Branch).

*Thanks for your Profile Cliff. It helps non-members, like Albert, to know who you are. A new couple came to me at N. Wales and said that they recognise some of the faces from the Newsletter. I'm sure I undercharged you for the uke It should have been hundred & forty quid. Perhaps it was Happy Hour.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
TUITION BOOK & TAPE—WE'VE HAD ENQUIRIES FOR THE "RAW BEGINNER'S BOOK & TAPE" THAT ANTHONY MASON & I COMPILED SOME YEARS AGO, SO I'VE GOT SOME IN STOCK TO SELL. CONFUSIUS SAID: IF YOU CAN'T LEARN TO PLAY FROM THIS BOOK & TAPE THEN TAKE UP THE DRUMS. "14 VERY SIMPLE SONGS—PRICE £8 inc pp.



# So Who's Going to Dublin?



Colin & Chris Wood—Alan & Pat Chenery— Alice Cronshaw & Walter Kirkland—Alan & Eunice Evans—Val & Dorothy Wood—Paul & Jill Woodhead—Jack & Margaret Davies— Tony & Marge Elsdon—Peter & Cynthia Whittaker— Tom & Nora Meredith— Chris & Margaret Volp—Stan & Eva Evans— Ted & Ruth Kennedy—Bill & Sheila Found—Jim & Myra Knight— Kay Walsh & Jackie Mullock—Charles Penman—Chrissie Bussingham—Joan Cain & Jean Parkes—Des Redfern— Alan Newton—Anthony Mason—Betty Cox & Molly Smith.  
*Plus a party of four—Eve Stewart and Co. from Blackpool. All Happy Trippers ready to invade Dublin.*

**P.S. WE HAVE SEVEN SPACES AVAILABLE. RING CHRISTINE IF INTERESTED on 01270 663558 and you'll have a great time.**

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## Des & Mel TV Show—What A Nice Surprise.



Des and Mel

It was a great treat when a lady named Beverley popped up on the show with her scrubbing board and thimbles. She complained that her family didn't approve of her playing old fashioned skiffle type songs. So she came on the show to see what the audience and the TV viewers thought of her.

Well she was really great and she did a grand job in accompanying George singing "Windows." It

went down very well. Des sent a message to her children from the studio, "If only my mum could have played like that—be proud of your mum, - she'll be in the charts some day."



Beverley



Johnny Casson

**Johnny Casson**, a brilliant Yorkshire comedian, was on the same show with some one-liners—"As they say in Yorkshire, one day you're the dog and next day you're a lamp post." - "I had a cousin who was the unluckiest I've ever met, he was an only twin." - "He had a kidney transplant off a bed-wetter." - "Marriage is an Anagram of 'grim area.'" - "On my wedding day my granddad said to me, Marriage is based on trust and understanding. She doesn't trust me and I can't understand her." - "Granddad used to race pigeons, silly old sod they beat him every time." - "He crossed a pigeon with a woodpecker. It could deliver a message and knock on the door." - "He was 88 when he died and his teeth were like pearls, both of them." All great stuff.

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**GEORGE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY**—On Wednesday 26th May 2004 George would have been 100 years old, so we need to organise a number of events around this date. Every meeting that month should be special and we must make the media (TV—Radio—Press) aware of George's birthday events. Now is the time to start planning shows, exhibitions, talks, etc. Whatever you are doing let us know about it so that we don't double book. The media are always pleased to respond to these special occasions, so lets make it big.



## George Formby players wanted at the Alvis Car Club Weekend and at George's Lytham St Anne's Beryldene home, from Robin Bendall

Stan, We now look forward to the events we are running for 2003 and, as you know, we have the International Alvis weekend 21st, at Beryldene Blackpool, and 22nd June at Houghton Tower, near Blackburn where we start at 11am and finish around 4pm. All is set so we hope we can get some George Formbys there. There is sheltered accommodation, café, electric etc.

**BERYLDENE**— On Saturday, 21st, we are parking our cars on the front at Lytham and have been asked by the press to take a car to Fairhaven so they can photograph it in front of George Formby's old home, it would be great if we could have one of your members there as well. Keep in touch. Regards, Robin.

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## Have a Laugh with Blackpool's Win & Tony Innes

Charles Stewart stood outside his local cinema playing his ukulele when, after an hour, he was approached by a policeman. "Have you got a busking licence?" he asked. "No" said Charles. "In that case sir you will have to accompany me." "OK," said Charles, "What do you want to sing?"

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Butcher: What can I do for you.	In a local taproom a newcomer asked
Customer: I've come to complain about the	a veteran at the bar:
meat pie you sold me yesterday	"What do you do for a living?"
Butcher: What's wrong with it?	"I underseal cars for the village folk
Customer: There's a maggot in it	"So you work at the garage?"
Butcher: There's only one	"No, I drive the cows back and to for
Customer: I know, but it's eaten all the meat.	milking.

P.S. We will attend the Blackpool monthly when the nights are lighter. We go there and back by bus. There's a long lane up to the club which is a bit weird in pitch black of night. *Thanks Win & Tony. We have a party that arrives by mini bus. Why not contact the driver?*

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Patient: "My wife thinks I'm crazy because I like sausages."  
Psychiatrist: "There's nothing crazy about liking sausages, I like them too."  
Patient: "Great - come and see my collection, I've got thousands of them."

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**NO! GEORGE HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN** by Cliff Royle—The N. Wales Branch are putting on a special event in his memory, on the evening of Sat 15th May 2004, which shouldn't conflict with any other GFS event in the North West. It is in the Community Centre at Frodsham. ( Where's that? Well it is in Cheshire and is not far from Warrington where there is a strong Formby connection). The Hall has already been booked and will hold up to 300, and profits will go to a local charity or charities. I know it is a long way off, but in due course we will be asking who would like to take part in this event so that a suitable programme can be arranged. Here's hoping we can put FORMBY in FRODSHAM in the high-lights. It will hopefully stir up some more interest in George, His Music and the Uke. *Thanks Cliff. The Past Its will be there.*

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Grandson: "Granddad, there's a man at the door with a bald head."  
Granddad: "Tell him I've got one."



**Ukes For Sale—Martin Fowell rang** to say "Thanks" for advertising his ukes in the George Formby Newsletter. Those sold no problem so here's another batch of Uke Banjos from him.

A Dallas "B" in good condition £150, - A Down South similar model plays very well. Has been completely renovated £150.

A Slingaland also in superb condition, £375. Ring Martin on 01745 854390.

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**Bob Muirhead Emails**—Hi Stan, Sorry I couldn't make Broadgreen but my better half had tickets for Art Garfunkel so I had to obey the command, went to Blackpool on Saturday shouldn't have bothered as I had my car broken into Saturday night, window smashed, and facia damaged when they tried to get the radio, Frank said you don't seem bothered, no I said I come from Liverpool and am just glad they left the wheels.

I won't manage our next Broadgreen either as I am away, but seem OK for May, June, and July, can I ask you Stan to send me two copies of Newsletter for this month, and two for April as I always send one to my Brother in Law, if you let me know cost including postage I will bung a cheque in post. Whilst in Blackpool had a couple of chats with Andy Eastwood, and Martin Harrison which got me thinking about that age group, you know Jenny Cronshaw, Nick ( from IOM ), Anthony, and many others, and wondered if a " Where are they now " type of feature might be of interest to your readers. A crowd of us gave the Saturday night concert a miss at the convention and went to see the Pasedena Roof Orchestra, it was a great show and a change from listening to Lamp Post fourteen times.

Kathleen Hammond and Walter ( Mr Bones ), asked me to call into Ameritz for their Catalogue, told the BLOKE I had been asked at the Convention "oh yes" he said "Ukuleles Do you know a Stan Evans?" Bob.

*Thanks Bob, you mentioned publishing news relating to the youngsters that we had some years back. Well, I have a lot of interest in them and whenever possible I add an article on how they've progressed. In fact Young Jenny Cronshaw, Christian Lee and Mark Ward are featured in the latest issue. In the past I've reported anything new on Anthony Mason - in fact he has played with the Pasedena Roof Orchestra that you mentioned. Andy Eastwood gets a lot of publicity in the Newsletter.*

*Young Francis Collins turned up at the Blackpool monthly meeting and put on a grand professional performance. She is very busy singing at various Blackpool clubs and mixing in a few impersonations of the old Coronation Street characters. She promised that someday she'd do an "Hilda Baker" for me.*



*Some 12 years ago I played a part in the growth of these kids so I get dismayed when, over the years, they've not been encouraged to stay on the scene.. Youngsters are very valuable to the future of the society. If you don't encourage youngsters then mothers and fathers won't show interest. The children bring the parents along and create a pleasant and clean atmosphere.*

*Sorry about your car. I know how you feel. On Eva's 70th Birthday we went to see a most excellent Music Hall Show and the night was perfect until we found our car had been smashed into. Yes, the young man at Ameritz is David Green. Nice lad. Very helpful. Cheers, Stan.*

**DON'T FORGET AN ARTICLE FOR THE GEORGE FORMBY NEWSLETTER**



**It Must Be Sods Law!** - My granddaughter (she's a primary school music teacher) rang to say that she'd left her mini disc player at school and could I take my player over to her house because she had to prepare lessons for the following morning.

Eva & I loaded our equipment in the car and off we went to help her to make some backing tracks for the kids. We arrived and the first song we had to put on mini disc was "If I Were A Butterfly" - a rare song that not many people knew.

Jennifer had previously played the tune, and filed it in the keyboard piano. All we had to do now was to transfer the song from the keyboard to the mini disc player, - a job that would normally take about five minutes. Not so in this case.

For the next three hours everything went wrong. We had one problem after another and we were sick of hearing the Butterfly song which we'd heard several times over. It was almost 11pm and, as if by magic, the backing suddenly came out perfect. "Right" we both shouted, "Get it transferred on to mini disc and we'll call it a night."

The following night she rang to say, "You are not going to believe this!" "Try me" I said. "Well, when I went into school this morning the first thing I did was open the post, and in a small parcel there was a CD from a company that has started making backing tracks for schools. Believe it or not but the first song on the CD was "If I Were A Butterfly. And it's a far better backing than the one we took three hours to make."

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**Jon Baddeley wants to know**—It was interesting to read the letter in the Newsletter 93 about George Formby Senior using the name Tom Foy. I've heard this from about half a dozen sources over the last ten years and I have always wondered about whether or not this was the case.

Do any readers have any evidence to back this up? Certainly, Tom Foy recorded on the Zonophone label and this label was amongst many that George Formby Senior also recorded on. All the best. Jon Baddeley

*So, are there any readers out there with information on Tom Foy? Was George Formby senior and Tom Foy the same person? Drop a line if you know or give us a ring.*

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**Walter went to see his doctor**—He's been having these nightmares in the middle the night and when he wakes up he sees monsters hiding under his bed. The doctor gave him some tablets but they didn't do him any good.

Next he booked an appointment with a psychiatrist who charged him £60 for an half hour session. That didn't work either, and he could still see these monsters lurking under his bed.

A week later he visited an hypnotist who also charged him £60 for a session. Once again the treatment didn't work. "Complete waste of money" said Walter. "I'll never go there again"

Not to be beaten Walter called in the local joiner, who soon got rid of them. "How did he do it?" I asked him, "No problem," said Walter, "I gave him a fiver and he's sawn the legs off the bed."

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DON'T FORGET TO SEND SOMETHING FOR THE GEORGE FORMBY NEWSLETTER



# 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 Mawdsley 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 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.

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THERE'S SEATS AVAILABLE ON THE DUBLIN TRIP