

THE

# GEORGE FORMBY

## Newsletter 101

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Specially Produced for George Formby Fans  
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# Welcome to Newsletter No. 101

and although we've had another excellent month of concerts in the N. West, we've also lost another of our most valuable members. On the 10th September Brian rang to say that dear Jean Nadin had passed on that day. Oh dear, what a great loss to us all and especially to the Penyffordd members. She was the back-bone and the strength behind the N. Wales meetings and we are all so sorry to hear of her loss.



Alison writes—Jean Nadin, was born Jean McGinty, in Higher Broughton, Salford. She was the eldest of five children, two brothers and two sisters. After leaving school she worked at the CWS Biscuit Works, packing crackers. In 1958 she married Fred Nadin. She took a couple of short breaks from work in 1959 and 1964 when her children Michael and Alison were born.

The local church was St. Mark's Cheetham Hill and a lot of the McGinty family attended there. Within St. Marks there was a dancing group run by Mrs Peggy Sander-son and when Alison joined the dancing group Jean became one of her many helpers. She and her sister Joan ran a 'Tuck Shop' at the back of the hall, which helped to raise funds for the group of about 70-80 children. It was here that Alison first began to perform her ventriloquism act from the age of 7. Peggy used to produce a big stage show every year, which ran for 3-4 nights, always a sell-out. Then during the year the group would travel around visiting old-folks homes and other venues to entertain. Jean was always on hand to assist with dressing and organising the kids.

It was during the late 1960's and 1970's that the family started to go on Pontins Holi-days. It was here that we met Frankie Woods and his wife Barbara who were the children's entertainers. Alison and her cousin Lee used to do an act together (singing, tap-dancing and ventriloquism) and would enter the children's talent competitions and would then be invited back to the grand final at the end of the year. Frank and Barbara stayed in touch with us and became firm friends with all the family.

In 1976/77 the area that we lived in Cheetham Hill/Higher Broughton was being redeveloped and our houses were to be demolished. Fred worked at the ICI in Blackley and he was offered a transfer to the Macclesfield branch. So in 1977 Jean left the Biscuit Works and we moved to Macclesfield. Once settled in she started work in the towns supermarket, which was then MacMarket, and later became Gateway and then International. She made many great friends there, both staff and customers. By coincidence Macclesfield was the home town of Frank and Barbara and so the friendship became stronger.

In 1982 Franks wife Barbara died. Before she died she asked Jean to look after Frank and as always she kept her promise. Jean and Fred took Frank into the family home and he was regarded as one of the family. Alison worked with Frank entertaining for a couple of years, but then Franks health was deteriorating and so he and Alison formed a business partnership and bought a newsagents shop on Buxton Road, Macclesfield.

Jean left her supermarket job and went to work in the newsagents. It was always known as 'Jeans Shop'. She knew every kids name, she knew all the pensioners and everybody's problems and joys. We used to joke that we didn't sell much but everybody knew where to come for a good 'natter'. Unfortunately in 1992 Fred, her husband of 34 happy years, died from cancer. In 1993 we sold the newsagents business, when we left there were so many flowers, gifts and letters of thanks from our customers that we nearly changed our mind and stayed.

In 1995 we left Macclesfield and headed for Rhyl, to a bungalow facing the sea. We'd been living there about two years when Jeans brother Derek brought a neighbour of his to visit us. He had told us that she was a member of the George Formby Society and he thought it might be of interest to Frank, as he knew of Frank's enjoyment of George Formby music. His neighbour's name was Alice Cronshaw. She told us all about the different branches in the North West and the nearest one to us was Pen-Y-Ffordd. So at the next meeting we went for a visit. One day shortly after Dennis Lee telephoned and asked if he could come round to have a look at Frank's ukulele collection. I remember him telling us that if we got involved the Society our lives would never be the same again – how right he was. Initially we joined for Frank's benefit, but I know that my mum and myself started to enjoy it as much, if not more, than Frank. That's because of the wonderful friends we have made there.

As I'm sure most of you know by now Jean died very suddenly but peacefully at home on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2003. Her health had not been that good over the past couple of years, but she was never one to let it stop her doing things.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the friendship you showed my mum over the past five years. She always held friendship in high esteem. As many of you saw at her funeral, as well as family there were friends there from every stage of her life – the biscuit works, St Marks Church, International Supermarket, Buxton Road Shop and of course the George Formby Society. *Thanks Alison.*

There was an old saying, "You can tell the quality of a person by the number of followers at their funeral" Well if that is so Jean was certainly first class. The crematorium church was packed solid with standing room only at the back and the Rev William Taylor gave a good down to earth service that everybody could understand. The choice of hymns, "The Lord's My Shepherd" and "How Great Thou Art" was excellent and, equally important, they were played in a reachable key. On the way out of the church Formby players formed an arch to play George's "Leaning On A Lamp Post" which also sounded great. A wonderful send off for dear Jean.

MAX—But the star of the day had to be Max, Jean's pet dog. He lay at the front of the congregation, watching the coffin, and as the crematorium curtains were being drawn he let out two painful cries. He knew he'd lost his mate.



Jean's dog, Max, so sad at losing his mate.

**Alison** is a steady rock that keeps the Penyffordd meeting going. Apart from helping to run the meetings and charity concerts, each month she humps the heavy sound equipment back and to, to Penyffordd. Hail, rain or snow, she is one of the first to arrive at the club to set up the sound system. Not an easy task for Alison who is also responsible for Frankie's welfare. Let us hope that she able to continue attending and working at the meetings.

## Arthur Newton Debut as Master Of Ceremonies.



Alan Evans was truly stunned at what was shown to him when he arrived at Crewe's September show. Wide eyed, and shaking his head in sheer disbelief, he could only say "Oh! What a Beauty - I've Never Seen One As Big As That Before! Yes it was everything of two foot long and everyone wanted to have a look and see what it felt like. Alan was absolutely gobsmacked! Now this really is quite fantastic, and readers must agree that it has probably never happened before anywhere in the whole world! You see, as Alan was making his way to Crewe from the West Midlands, casually belting down the M6 accompanied by smiling Eunice practicing her bones, he was silently humming the song he was going to perform later, which was all about a large vegetable marrow! At the same time Crewe's virtuoso drummer, Steve Hassall was walking across the Memorial Hall car park minding his own business, when what did he find laying on the floor - nothing less than a two foot long, 12 lb Vegetable Marrow that must have had slipped unknowingly through a hole in some passer-by's trouser pocket! When Alan arrived at the hall he was still humming to himself his words when what did he find on the table front of him. You are right first time! It was, (to quote a certain Rhyl Wizard), Amazing! Well, Alan performed his song to the delight of the ninety-two strong audience who all joined in "Oh What a Beauty" etc. Sadly (all say Awwwww) nobody had claimed the poor thing by the end of the evening. As it was clearly lost property, some wag, who should be nameless, suggested taking it to the Police Station, but nobody would volunteer to take it. Some thought it would give the Boys in Blue something to brighten up their night, but others said being on nightshift they could well not be in a very happy state of mind and as a result lock up the person handing it in for wasting police time. So put it back on the car park - I hope we made the right decision - let's hope we don't get sued by some drunk who tripped over it when trying to find his way home. I will stop there, as the whole thing has got completely out of hand, but must assure readers that this remarkable coincidence is perfectly true.

We were delighted to be able to welcome Harry and Muriel Elliott of Nantwich and Barry and Doreen Scott of Brown Edge who were at their first George Formby meeting at Wistaston. They all said they had enjoyed the evening and we hope to see them again soon.

JEAN NADIN—A period of silence was held before the meeting in memory of our dear friend Jean Nadin who died suddenly on the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

It was announced that on the last Friday of October (that is the Friday *after* our next show) there is to be a Concert of local Drama, Song and Music to be held in the hall. Alison Nadin and our own group will fill the second half of the show which will include some excellent Irish Dancing. The tickets are £3 each which includes light refreshments and all the money will go to the Memorial Hall. The show starts at 7pm as our own Alan Newton will be opening the show.

Whilst on the subject of MC's we have added a new name to our panel of MC's which will hopefully provide a pleasant variety. We now have four regular MC's to introduce our shows Jonathan Baddeley, Alan Newton, Stan Evans and our latest popular Arthur

Newton. Concert producers are Pamela Baddeley, Arthur Newton, Stan Watkinson and Alan Newton. It is good to report that Arthur made a splendid job of his debut.

Those taking part in the September show were: Steve Hassall ("*Mr Wu's and Air Raid Warden*" and "*When I Come Up on the Football Pools*" and "*It Aint no Sin*" jazz medley), Alan Evans ("*The Marrow Song*," "*Thanks Mr Roosevelt*" and "*The Prune Song*." Pamela Baddeley ("*My Love*" and "*Does My Dreambook Tell you That?*"), Jim Knight ("*Little Ukulele*" followed by a bones bash), Arthur Newton ("*I Promised to be Home By Nine O'clock*" and "*Blackpool Rock*"). Alan Newton and Arthur Newton [no relation] ("*Hindoo Man*"). Connie Edge ("*I Don't Like*" and "*Living in the Middle of Trafalgar Square*"). Cliff Royle ("*The George Formby Society is Meeting Tonight*" and "*Uncle Joes Mint Balls*"). Brian Edge ("*At the Chinese Fish and Chip Shop Called the Chopsticks Take-away*" {debut} and "*Sing a Song About Formby*"). Jonathan Baddeley ("*Get Cracking*" and "*Frank on his Tank*"). Alan Newton ("*Wunga Bunga Boo*" and "*Sing*"). Bill Turner ("*Put Another Log on the Fire*" [with uke] and "*The Answer*" [accompanied by his home made Steel Guitar]). Vera Jones [vocal] ("*You Need hands*" and "*Are You Lonesome Tonight*"). Walter Kirkland ("*Alexander's Rag Time Band Medley*" and a bones bash). Jonathan Baddeley and Alan Newton (duet trombone, clarinet and vocal) ("*Pennies From Heaven*"). Cyril Palmer ("*Goodnight Irene*" and "*The Green Green Grass of Home*"). The Jazz Band ("*Dr Jazz*").

Apologies from Stan Evans, Trish and Gerald Beadle, Rob and Greg Simister and Tom Meredith. *Thanks Brian. Sorry we were not with you on the night but we had eight concerts booked in six days. However it sounds as if you had a great night.*

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**After An Appeal** for ONE—LINERS at the Crewe Meeting we

received these from Brian and Valerie – Stoke on Trent.

Question: Why can't dumb blondes make ice cubes?

Answer: Because they have forgotten the recipe.

Question: Why did the woman tip toe past the medical cabinet?

Answer: So she wouldn't wake the sleeping pills!

THANKS for the one-liners. We need more. So please keep sending em in.

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**From one of the Lady supporters at Crewe: Concerning Exercise:**

I don't jog it makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

I have to exercise quite early in the morning before my brain figures out what I am doing.

I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

I've discovered that if I jog backward I gain weight.

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**Have a laugh!** This chaps applied for a job as a lumberjack and the boss said to him: *You look a bit too puny to be a lumberjack.*

Applicant: *I may look puny, but I'm not. Give me a trial and I'll show you what I can do*

Boss: *OK, let's see you chop that big tree down over there.*

Within 10 minutes, to the amazement of the boss, he had the tree laid down flat.

*Where did you learn to cut down trees like that? - The Sahara Forest.*

*Don't you mean Sahara Desert? - - Sure, that's what they call it now.*

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To keep a marriage brimming, with love in a loving cup.

When you're wrong admit it, and when you're right shut up.

*Thanks for the one-liners to fill these spaces. Many more are welcome.*

## Young Cliff on Penyffordd



It was not holiday time and it was not bad weather so why were so many regulars missing from our audience? We had apologies from Brian Edge who was away, and from Alice Cronshaw and Walter Kirkland. Walter was recovering from an eye operation and was unfortunately unable to drive. We wish him a speedy recovery. Of course these things resulted in a transport deficit so we lost other regular visitors. However there were recompenses. Bert and Ida from Colwyn Bay came to visit us for the first time; as did Les and June who have just come back to live in Chester. They all brought good news; Bert used to play and brought along two ukes; he is interested in getting back into playing though suffers some incapacity in his hands, and Les is keen on learning. A Dallas D was also on sale with an electronic attachment; price £300. It was not sold so is still on offer. Rumoured that Frankie Woods wanted it but no room for more at Rhyl. If interested the contact is Alison Nadin 01745 330668.

The meeting opened with a minutes silence in memory of Jean Nadin who has been one of our staunchest supporters for many years and who passed away in September. Jean helped considerably in raising monies for our Charity Fund, and will be sadly missed by us all. The church service was very well attended by Formby Friends and about £1300 was donated which will go towards a permanent memorial to Jean. This will be a seat sited on the Promenade at Rhyl outside Jeans Home. The sympathies of all were expressed to daughter Alison, son Michael, and Frankie Woods on their sad loss.

There were some Birthday Celebrations; Jones the Uke on the day of the meeting, Jack Bolton the following Tuesday, and Ted Formby who would be 85 on 6th October. Gerald Jones circulated a Birthday Card, designed by him, which was being sent to Ted from the Branch.

After all this lengthy introduction I expect my submission may be cut down by the Editor; so I will do his job for him and keep it as short as possible; so if I seem to neglect anyone please forgive me.

Jonathan Baddeley and Alan Newton gave their usual professional performances, as did our very own young maestro Greg Simister, and Jim Knight played his new song "Can't stop me from dreaming". Greg learns a song in a week, but Jim says it takes him a bit (lot?) longer than that. The Three Tenors, accompanied by Jonathan on the clarinet sang "The Old Kitchen Kettle" as a tribute to Jean Nadin as this was one of her favourite songs. Jonathan is called on to accompany many nowadays even by Wife Pamela who claimed him to help with that wonderful song "Any Dream Will Do."

Tom Meredith sang a Jolson Song and a general medley, and surprised many by leaving the stage much more quickly than usual. But did you see him leap up on the stage before performing? Sadly Tom has not been too well of late. We wish you a speedy recovery Tom, and hope that Nora is keeping smiling in such circumstances. Alas Connie Edge let us down; not by her performance for she did well with "I Don't Like" and "Trafalgar Square", but a rather suggestive rhyme about a young lady from Siberia. Anyway it was passed by the censor Stan Evans so it must be O.K. for GFS Branches..

However the Pastits put on a very lively performance for after singing (don't let Des

Know) "The Fields of Athenry" they got a great ovation from the audience with "The Soldiers Dream" (without Chips) especially played in memory of Jean Nadin. I dare not say how the Liverpool half was dressed, or what he went from the stage to do, but you were great young Stan and the audience really enjoyed it. Gerald Jones (Jones the Uke) twiddled a couple of Formby numbers in his usual style, inserting a few variations here and there, and had to confess to a "Senior Moment" which most of us have. He still has his wit and happy smile however.

In the usual Old Time Music Hall Style we had a few singers tonight. Dan Lewis read a poem he had written "Mr. Wu's a Chip Shop Owner Now", and followed it with a song "Tomorrow Never Comes"; his friend Derek Boardman sang a couple of nice modern songs; and that man who has just discovered he has a lovely voice, Frank Humphries, sang "That's the Wonder of You". But I must mention the "Bones Session" the likes of which we have never seen before with Jim Knight, Frank Humphries and Jack Bolton. Jack seems to have got the bug for he was prancing about in an uncontrollable fashion. Will the stage still be there next time? *Thanks Cliff. On time as usual.*

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## In Memory of Jean Nadin

**By Margaret Royle**—It came as a tremendous and sad shock to us when we heard of the sudden passing away of our friend and staunch supporter Jean Nadin. Our sympathies go to daughter Alison, son Michael, and of course Frankie Woods for whom they were Carers.

Jean joined our happy throng in the mid 1990's following an introduction to the activities of the GFS by Alice Cronshaw, and with her she brought along Frankie Woods (that talented entertainer from some years back) and her daughter Alison who was closely following in Frankie's footsteps.

Although Jean did not play the Uke she helped in no small part in running our Branch, supported other Branches, and through her efforts, particularly from her House Parties, helped to raise considerable amounts of charitable money for those less fortunate than herself; namely the children at the Hope House Hospice for Sick Children.

Yes we will miss you Jean, but we will try to keep up the good traditions you founded. Our thoughts at this time go to her Family and friends, but in particular to Alison who is the backbone of our Branch. We have said to Alison how much we need her continued support. In her own words the reply was "I need you too". Could there have been a kinder thought? Members and Friends of North Wales Branch. *Thanks Margaret. You've added a lovely finish to it. We are a community supporting each other in joy or grief. And that's how it should be.*

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FOR BOB MUIRHEAD we have more youngsters from 10 years ago. Martin Harrison—now married, is back centre, looking down. These kids were dead keen!



## Cliff Lets Cat Out Of Bag—

Well I could sense that something was afoot when a few whisperm were being passed around. My 75th Birthday was due on the 12th Sept. so I was keeping my eyes open for any clues.

Then, from out of the blue came an Email from young Cliff, "Sorry I can't make your birthday party at Liverpool Stan, I'll be away in Scotland." Young Cliff had let the cat out of the bag.



Mark Watkinson

Well it turned out a grand night at Liverpool and every seat was taken. Tom Bailey and Stan (Past It) Watkinson organised a really grand buffet which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all for helping to put on a super night.

Just look at the beaming smile coming from Stan's grandson, Mark Watkinson. He's chuffed because he's getting braver in performing in front of a crowd, - after a bit of persuasion. For years he's formed a duo with his granddad but never had the courage to get up on stage. Give him a month or two and he'll be leaving his granddad behind.

It reminds me of when my oldest grandson (Lyndon) and I performed together to give him confidence. After a few weeks he stopped the show and shouted, "Granddad, you're killing my act," which brought a roar of approval from the Sale crowd. A few weeks later Lyndon appeared on TV for Granada Studios. So come on Mark, get practicing hard and, with a smile like that, you'll make a star.



Mark, in harmony with his Granddad

## Alan Chenery Emails on Blackpool Hi Stan

Just a line or two to say we had a good night at the September monthly meeting with plenty of acts and some old and new faces: Young Ben Halliwell, (who forgot to bring his backing tape), Cyril Palmer, Walter Kirkland (Mr Bones), Margaret Moran (who half way through her song broke into fits of laughter), John Ackroyd, Alan Middleton (who does an excellent version of 'Ferret Down yer trousers'), Peter (coffin case) Brown, Frank Bennett, The two Stans (The Past Its), Steve Abbott, John (electric fingers) Shreeve, & yours truly, and every one performed great. We had our regulars who came to watch and after the first few minutes a field full of caravanners came marching in. At the end of the night every one of them (all in their 50s to 70s) said they'd enjoyed a very pleasant evening. Eve & Charles are still doing a great job. Alan C.

## Tom Bailey Writes—

On Sept 9th the TV programme "Flog It" was on BBC2 and I had a surprise when a chap in his 70s brought out a Baritone Uke to be valued. Nigel Smith, the expert for the day, asked how he obtained it and he explained that when he was helping his friend to clear his parents bungalow, they found it in the loft and it was given to him for helping, knowing that he played string instruments. He wanted to sell it to buy a Tenor Banjo to play in a Jazz Band. Nigel explained that it was a Martin Uke Circa 1930 and should bring £300 to £400.

When the bidding started it soon passed the £400 mark and was sold for £460 to someone on the Internet. I wondered if it was a society member who bought it. *Thanks Tom.*



**QUESTION** Who sang Over The Rainbow when Dr Greene died in TV's ER?

THE wonderfully tender reworking of Over The Rainbow in the episode On The Beach was performed by Hawaiian singer Israel Kamakawiwo'ole — 'Brudda Iz' to his many admirers.

In the episode, Dr Greene, in the final stages of cancer, attempts to make up with his daughter who has deliberately erased all her happy childhood memories.

The reconciliation comes when she places a pair of personal stereo headphones over Greene's ears playing this song, a favourite from her childhood.

The song can be found on the albums Ka Ano I (1990) and Alone In Iz World (2001), where he flawlessly combines the two old standards Over The Rainbow and What A Wonderful World.

The simple strum of the Hawaiian ukulele lends a certain poignancy to not only the episode in question, but also to the memory of Iz, who passed away in 1997.

He died aged just 38, as a result of respiratory problems due to his extreme obesity, at times weighing more than 35 stone. His rendition of What A Wonderful World can also be heard on the final credits of the Brad Pitt film Meet Joe Black.

Brudda Iz made 13 albums. The use of traditional instrumentation and his obvious love for his homeland made him the most popular entertainer in Hawaii.

*Michelle Eaton, Bourne, Lincoln*

← **Thanks to Tom Bailey** for the happy Brudda Iz newspaper article. Well spotted Tom. Keep sending em in.

Young Cliff Royle wishes to announce that the Penyffordd Christmas "DO" - Buffet and Concert will be held on the 5th December, and will be a Ticket Only Night.

Penyffordd Practise Nights will re-start in the New Year. And Gerald Jones is selling his 2004 Calendars— profits will go to the Penyffordd Charity Fund.

You are invited to play at ASDA Supermarket in Queensferry 1st Nov 11.30 am to 4pm when they will be playing to raise funds for the Lesley Lee Hope Children's Hospice Charity.

All are welcome, Cliff

*You are doing a fine job Cliff. Keep going The chap on the left was 35 stone and he kept going. Now he's gone!*

A little song entitled

"They're moving Father's coffin to the Vault - Down at the pub.

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Send me some space fillers.



Rainbow chaser: Farewell song from singer Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

# 3 Recent Daily Express GF Articles by Simon Edge

## Strongly influenced by David Bret's GF Biography



1

**HOLLYWOOD** star Nicolas Cage and gormless Lancastrian crooner George Formby might seem like unlikely bedfellows but Formby's most famous ditty, *Leaning On a Lamp Post*, is to feature in Cage's new film, *Matchstick Men*.

The film's British director, Sir Ridley Scott, fought hard to include *Lamp Post* on the soundtrack – the film, despite its Lowryesque title, is pure Hollywood hokum – and it can be heard as Cage, right, waits to collect his daughter, played by Alison Lohman, from college.

"Formby is not known in America so it was a bit of a battle to get it included but I think it works," says South Shields-born Sir Ridley, whose credits include the Oscar-encrusted *Gladiator*. "I think it's rather sweet, even though Formby is more my father's era than mine. I was brought up on the *Billy Cotton Band Show*."

Could the inclusion of the song lead to a renewed interest in the gap-toothed comic, who died of a heart attack in 1961?



2

### Remember George? We've never forgotten him!

YOU were asking if the inclusion of the song *Leaning On A Lamp Post* in Nicolas Cage's new film *Matchstick Men* could lead to renewed interest in the gap-toothed Lancastrian comic George Formby (*Day & Night*, September 16).

Here, in the North West, we have never lost interest in George and each week hold Formby concerts in Crewe, North Wales, Liverpool, Westhoughton, Sale and Blackpool.

We will be celebrating George's 100th birthday on May 26 next year and will hold special Formby concerts in various venues, including Wigan Pier, located in George's home town.

Stan Evans,  
Address supplied

3

**HIS** weekend the slick US movie *Matchstick Men* opens. Starring Nicolas Cage, it's a classic "sting" flick that's been getting the thumbs-up as the essence of Hollywood cool.

An unlikely participant is the decidedly uncool George Formby, the Wigan-born, buck-toothed, ukulele-strumming music-hall turn who was bigger than Gracie Fields in the wartime years – but is now considered as cool as a chicken vindaloo in a sauna. The crooner, who died in 1961, pops up on the soundtrack singing *Leaning On A Lamp Post*.

"He's not known in America so it was a bit of a battle to get it included but I think it works," said the film's Oscar-winning director – and fellow northern Englishman – Sir Ridley Scott. "I think it's rather sweet."

What US audiences will make of this high-pitched, flat-vowelled singer – whose gormless film persona was not entirely an act – is anyone's guess. In Britain, his songs are instantly recognisable

### I thought we were

in for some good publicity when I found a GF article in the Express. I Emailed a reply to it and was doubly delighted when they published my letter the following morning. "Grea" I thought, "It's a build up to George's 100th."

Alas, two days later, a two page spread appeared which showed George & Beryl in a poor light. I replied explaining that some of Bret's work was unfounded, but they chose not to publish it.

By **Simon Edge**

but his films are rarely screened and the star quality hailed by the likes of John Lennon and George Harrison, which saw 150,000 fans line the streets of Warrington for his funeral, is long forgotten.

Even less do modern audiences appreciate the tragic, repressed reality behind the chirpy, winking banter of an apparently irrepressible flirt who was banned as too smutty by the BBC but was cheerfully received at Buckingham Palace by King George, Queen Elizabeth and the young princesses.

Formby was born George Hoy Booth in 1904. His father James was the illegitimate son of a prostitute who had made his name – and no small fortune – in music halls under the pseudonym George Formby. Young George was one of seven surviving children. At first he was blind due to a membrane which enclosed his head. He claimed he only gained his sight when he sneezed as a baby.

His father wanted him to be a jockey and sent him to various stables, where he was so puny he was bullied by other stable boys. At 13 he got a small film part as a stable boy but then went back to horse-racing. However, in 1921 his father died during a panto and George took over his act. He showed little talent but was allowed to perform out of respect for Formby senior.

His act suddenly improved when he acquired a banjo-ukulele and around the same time he met Beryl Ingham, a pretty blonde clog-dancer, four years his senior. They married and she put her career aside to make him a star.

She helped him trade on his father's name and build an act of his own, while making herself deeply unpopular by bullying Formby and anyone else who crossed her path.

Success came when Formby recorded comic songs full of sexual innuendo – like a musical version of a seaside postcard. The BBC was outraged by the song *With My Little Ukulele In My Hand* – rightly assuming Formby was not really referring to a musical instrument. The fuss merely boosted his fame.

# H

HE WAS rejected by a Hollywood talent scout who said he was "too stupid to play the bad guy and too ugly to play the hero" but instead he was signed up to star in a home-grown production called *Boots!* *Boots!* opposite Betty Driver – later to find fame in *Coronation Street*.

So began a long film career as the banjo-balladeer with the falsetto voice, scattering catchphrases such as "It's turned out nice again". He signed for the future Ealing Studios and his second Ealing film, *Keep Your Seats, Please*, included the famous song *When I'm Cleaning Windows*. Lyrics like "Ladies' nighties I have spied/ I've often seen what goes inside" earned him another BBC ban.

Formby started in 20 films from 1934-1946 and became Britain's top box-office attraction. His popularity further rose when he tirelessly entertained the troops in the war – for which he was awarded the OBE.

His acting range was limited and followed a formula of songs, catchphrases and cheeky, gormless patter. There was a similar pattern on set, too. George was usually cast opposite a pretty, nicely spoken leading lady – and had a reputation for flirting shamelessly with co-stars.

There was little chance of him getting anywhere. In the unlikely event such co-stars as Phyllis Calvert or Dinah Sheridan were attracted to the clown, overbearing Beryl refused to let her husband out of her sight – often accusing leading ladies of flirting when it was the last thing on their minds.

"I'd heard a lot about Beryl but I never expected her to be so bad," said Irene Handl, another co-star. "She was such a nasty, spiteful piece of work to just about everyone, including George. She was so twisted and conniving." Beryl showed little sign of wanting Formby for herself. David Bret, whose biography of the star lifted the lid on their bizarre marriage, says she was repelled by Formby.

CONTINUED from page 11—**George Formby, the most unlikely star in the world** by Simon Edge Daily Express.

est-paid star in the world in the Thirties also had a reputation for stinginess. Beryl refused to let him drink with pals after filming but there were those who suspected this was an excuse. Harry Scott, his manservant, said: "My first week's wages with the Formbys was £5. It was still £5 a week nearly 30 years later when George died. He could be tight with money when he wanted...I cannot honestly remember him buying a drink for anyone on more than two or three occasions."

**I**N THE late Forties, Formby's star waned. In 1949 he was hospitalised for depression and Bret claims Beryl told the doctors: "Keep him in for as long as it takes. If it takes for ever then he is there for ever."

That same year Formby had a heart attack. He was treated with morphine and then struggled with addiction to the opiate for the next four years.

In 1955 Beryl was diagnosed with cancer. She took refuge in the bottle, and in her friendship with manservant Scott, who had long carried a torch for her. George matched her glass for glass but any love that had existed turned to loathing and as Formby's wife lay ill he fell in love with Pat Howson, a pretty teacher 20 years his junior.

Their affair was probably chaste — unlike an affair he also began with a busty chanteuse called Yana (she was really Diana Guild from Essex). Unbeknown to Formby she was living with an actress. As Bret puts it: "She was interested not in the tired, prematurely aged man who was making a last desperate attempt to recapture his lost youth but in his very healthy bank balance."

Beryl died on Christmas Day, 1960. Formby, who was appearing in *Aladdin* in Bristol, had her cremated two days later and barely missed a performance. He put their home at Fairhaven, Lancashire, up for sale and set about erasing all traces of Beryl. He told the Express: "For the last 15 years we did not live as man and wife. The public had built up a certain picture of us and I had no wish to spoil the illusion."

On Valentine's Day he got engaged to Pat but on February 22 he had a heart attack, followed by another, fatal one on March 6, with Pat at his bedside.

Formby's mother and sisters, whom he had denounced as "bloody scroungers", challenged the will leaving the bulk of his fortune to Pat. There was no basis for the action, which only ended after the intervention of the Solicitor-General, but costs and death duties chipped away at Formby's legacy and there was only £20,000 left when Howson died of cancer in 1971.

Formby's films are largely forgotten but a thriving George Formby Society — whose most famous member was George Harrison — keeps his memory alive. And in 1995, when the surviving Beatles used old recordings to release a "new" song featuring the assassinated John Lennon, the track *Free As A Bird* ended with the sound of Lennon saying: "It's turned out nice again."

Now Formby has finally made the leap to Hollywood, is a broader revival of interest on the cards? "It would be nice if there was some follow-up and he got a bit more noticed," says Bret.

He notes that *Leaning On A Lamp Post* is perhaps his least naughty song but, if his new-found American audiences search a little further, they may be in for a shock as they discover the kind of British sauce poor George so rarely got to experience in real life.

Before David Bret finished his book: **GEORGE FORMBY A Troubled Genius** (which isn't true) he rang me and his opening line was, "Hello Stan, I like writing about dead people because they can't sue you." A few days later I received a call from the Blackpool Gazette telling me not to give him any information as he has a bad reputation for maligning top stars who have passed on.

**Email from George & Hilda**—Hello Stan, we were at our local club last night and a young man got up on stage to sing a song about Murphy moving a load of bricks. Do you have the words and music to it? Well G & H, I don't have the music to it but here are the words, composed by Pat Cooksey.

Dear Sir, I write this note to you to tell you of my plight  
For at the time of writing, I'm not a pretty sight  
Me body is all black and blue, me face a deathly grey  
And I write this note to say why Murphy's not at work today  
While working on the 14th floor, some bricks I had to clear  
But to toss them down from such a height was not a good idea  
The foreman wasn't very pleased, he is an awkward sod  
He said I'd have to cart them down the ladders in me hod.  
Now shifting all those bricks by hand it was so very slow  
So I hoisted up a barrel and secured a rope below  
But in me haste to do the job I was to blind to see  
That a barrel full of building bricks was heavier than me  
And so when I untied the rope, the barrel fell like lead  
And clinging tightly to the rope, I started up instead  
I shot up like a rocket, till my dismay I found  
That half-way up I met the barrel coming down  
Now the barrel broke me shoulder, as to the ground it sped  
And when I reached the top, I banged the pulley with me head  
I clung on tightly numb with shock, from this almighty blow  
And the barrel spilled out half the bricks some 14 floors below  
Now! when these bricks had fallen from the barrel to the floor  
I then outweighed the barrel and so started down once more  
Still clinging tightly to the rope, me body wracked with pain  
And half way down I met the bloody barrel once again  
Now the force of this collision half way down the office block  
Caused multiple abrasions and a nasty state of shock  
Still clinging tightly to the rope, I fell towards the ground  
And I landed on the broken bricks scattered all around  
I lay there groaning on the ground, I thought I'd past the worst  
But the barrel hit the pulley wheel and then the bottom burst  
A shower of bricks rained down on me, I didn't have a hope  
As I lay there bleeding on the ground I let go of the bloody rope  
Now, the barrel then being heavier, it started down once more  
It landed right across me as... I lay there on the floor  
It broke three ribs and my left arm and I can only say  
I hope you'll understand why Paddy's not at work today

### A Chuckle Every Day by Bill Gibb

It's often been said that laughter is the best medicine. Now a new study suggests that being cheery could even help ward off the common cold.

The work was carried out by a team at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who studied more than 300 healthy volunteers. Their emotional state was assessed and each given a dose of one of the viruses known to cause colds.

What the team found was that happy people seemed to be resistant. Those who were angry, depressed or nervous were recorded to be three times more likely to become ill than those classed as relaxed, happy and energetic.

The writer of Paddy and The Barrel, Pat Cooksey, claims that the song has had over 20 titles since he wrote it in 1969. The Dubliners called it The Sick Note The Corries and Ray Stevens titled it The Bricklayer Song, The Clancy Brothers gave it a name: Dear Boss, Noel Murphy named it Murphy And The Bricks, and it has been recorded over 100 times worldwide. Pat handed the words to Noel Murphy in a Coventry night club but later insisted that he remove his name from the credits. This song is based on the same story/joke referenced in the "Barrel of Bricks" speech by Gerard Hoffnung given at the Oxford Union (December 4th, 1958?)

## Very Happy 30th Anniversary at Sale

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were a great success, with many thanks to Cyril, Alice and co. The marathon meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. with a delicious buffet and there was plenty of time to chat. Cyril welcomed everyone, especially some of the longstanding members, including Jack Valentine, Bob Walsh and John Higgins. Cyril also welcomed Andrew Little, Harold Warne from Canada and Michael and Brenda from Crewe who were all attending their first meeting at Sale. Two lovely cards were passed round, one made by Vera Eaves and the other one made by Alison Nadin. We also had a visit from a Manchester Evening News photographer who took several photographs. It was with deep



Vera

Hilda



Ann & Ken Ratcliffe sporting their Turned Out Nice Again T-Shirts

regret that Cyril informed everyone that Alison's mother, Jean, had passed away and we held a respectful silence in her memory. Our deepest sympathies go to Alison and Frankie.

The evening was split up into three sessions of music and two intervals. Cyril was M.C. for the first part, Dick Eaves during the second part and Les Pearson for the rest of the evening.

The meeting was soon in full swing. After having eaten and chatted, the entertainment started with 17 jolly uke players joining the Thrash. The first soloist was Eddie Bancroft with *Mr. Wu* and *Blackpool Rock* and then Alan Southworth took us on a *Pleasure Cruise* and *You Can't Fool Me*. The songs of our Yorkshire friends Mac McGee (*Raining in my Heart* and *Crystal Chandelier*)

and Judith Townsend (*Our Fanny's Gone All Yankee* and a lovely song of Gracie Field's, *Love is Everywhere*) were very pleasant to listen to. Jack Valentine then sang *Dinah* and *T.T. Races*. The ever faithful Crewe members, Connie Edge (*I Don't Like* and *Living in the Middle of Trafalgar Square*), Pam Baddeley (*My Love is Warmer than the Warmest Sunshine* and *When I Fall in Love*), Brian Edge (*They Laughed When I Started to Play*) Jonathan Baddeley (*Madame Moskovich* and *Why Don't Women Like Me*), Alan Newton (*McNamara's Band* and *High Hopes*) and the wonderful Jazz Band – the Formby Hot Stompers – comprising Alan Newton, Jonathan Baddeley, Brian Edge, Arthur Newton, Cliff Royle, Walter Kirkland, Connie Edge and Jack Valentine were all brilliant. The band played *Hello Dolly*, *Dr. Jazz* and “*Stomp*” at *Twilight* – wonderful!

The Penyffordd Duo, Frank Humphreys and Deg Bruce performed *Blackpool Belle* and *Blackpool Rock*, Cliff Royle (*My Little Ukulele* and *Putting on the Style*), Jim Knight, with accompanying 'bones' players (*You Can't Stop me from Dream-*



Martin Harrison



Happy, smiling Brian White

ing and *Has Anyone seen my Girl*) were all a joy to hear. David Rhodes plucked up the courage to go onto the stage for the first time with *Licence* and didn't he do well? Frank Bennett gave a wonderful tribute to Johnny Cash with a medley of his songs and Alan Chenery performed *The Little Back Room Upstairs* with Jonathan on the clarinet and then he sang *Mississippi* with Jon playing the uke. Brian White's *Window Cleaner* and *Bowler Hat* (this was written by Walter Langshaw who is a founder member) were well received.

Andrew Little (*Grandad's Flannelette Nightshirt* and *Mr. Wu*) was followed by the Past-its, the two Stans (*You'll Never Find Another Fool Like Me* and *If I Had My Life to Live Over*). Then young Greg Simister sang *Wigan*

*Boat Express* and *Hindoo Man* and Arthur Newton gave us *I Wish I Was Back on the Farm*. Margaret Moran sang *Crazy* and then a duet with Stan Evans (*I Could Have Danced All Night*). It was a great pleasure to have Martin Harrison with us again after a long absence and he did *Smile All The Time* and *I Blew a Little Blast on my Whistle*, followed by another surprise visitor, John Shreeve (*You Can't Keep a Growing Lad Down* and the wonderful *William Tell Overture*). Paul Kenny (*Auntie Maggie's Remedy* and *Fanlight Fanny*) and Phil Jones (*I High Spots* and *T.T. Races*) were also very well received. Ged Collins rounded off the evening with *Quartermaster's Store* and *My Grannie's Got a Gun in Her Handbag* in his own inimitable style.



Ged Collins raised the roof with his own brand of fun

What a wonderful evening's entertainment for the 75 regulars and guests, and thanks are due to all who took part in any way.

Brian Edge paid a tribute to Stan Evans who has just produced his 100<sup>th</sup> N.W. Newsletter and he thanked him for his achievement and for all his dedicated work. *Thanks Brian and Thanks also to Hilda & Vera for an excellent report.*

**Alice Cronshaw** wishes to thank everyone for making our 30 Years Anniversary at Sale a success. To all the people who helped us, Hilda & Vera our lady reporters, Alan & Dick for the music, Marjorie & Gerald for selling raffle tickets, Cyril & Les for compering the show, Pauline, Jean, Sheila, and Ann for helping in the kitchen, - we had two buffets on that night.



Not forgetting the players. I applaud each and every one of you for your talent and also for turning up at 4pm to make it a great day. And we've not forgotten the partners who support the players. They seem to be forgotten but do a grand job. Thanks a million to all. Alice Cronshaw, Chairperson. *And thank you Alice you also are doing a grand job.*

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TARZAN arrived home late one night and said, "Jane, it's a jungle out there." I hate washing up. I wash them one day and 6 months later have to wash them all again

# Margery and Gladys

## ANOTHER HOTEL GETAWAY

I received an Email advising me to switch on the tele Channel 3 on Sunday night at 9pm as we were in for a treat with a bunch of uke players appearing in the show. "Great" I thought, it's about time we had some good old fashioned entertainment.

Nine o'clock came and Eva and I sat there watching, eyes glued to the screen, video on, trying desperately not to miss any of the scenes. After the first half hour of this long drawn out saga we both came to the conclusion that we were watching another load of mixed up hotch-potch, British rubbish.

The direction was abysmal, the story line poor, and the filming far worse. The situations were fatuous (Two old ladies smash a chemist shop window—with no alarm fitted—and climb through to steal medicine) - nonsense—and so were the scripts.

It was as if they'd filled it up with anything just to drag out a two hour show. Why on earth they had so many actors and extras in the film beats me.

Charlie Catchpole in the Daily Express said, "Daft wasn't the word for it. Try nonsensical, ridiculous, preposterous and utterly bonkers. Just what I thought. The Formby players made a strong determined effort to add some spark to the show but unfortunately the bad direction appeared to overshadow them.



Gerry Mawdsley looks great. Other players were Dickie Speake, Dennis Taylor and Denis Mitchell.

I wouldn't be surprised if the writers of Hotel Getaway weren't involved in this one too. They also were very mean at adding supporters names to the credits.

The above opinion is mine and Eva's. Some may have enjoyed the show. I hope they did. In fact, a few minutes after the finish Margaret Moran rang to say that she'd thoroughly enjoyed the show, in fact she broke into a sweat and it took some time to cool down. So there. I might be biased and still smarting from the Hotel Getaway disaster.



MF Everdon writes in the Weekly News: Terrific television. It was lovely to see June Brown away from Albert Square and Penelope Keith was superb as ever playing the posh Margery.

So there. It takes all sorts. Let's hope George gets some positive response from it.

## Jon Shreeve CD

If you are interested in really top class melody uke playing then they don't come any better than Liverpool's Jon Shreeve. There are many uke players around, but very few who can actually play a full melody of a song on this small four stringed instrument.

Jon however, is one of the best in the country and he gives evidence of this on his "Hot Uke Shuffle" CD which he has just launched.

For years, due to his quality of playing, Jon has had requests to produce a CD and only now, through the influence of Andy Little, has he decided to make one.



£6.00 + 50p post.

Believe me this CD is superb with melody numbers like: If You Knew Susie— California Here I Come, - Waiting For The Robert E Lee, - Tiger Rag, - Five Foot Two, - Rocking The Uke, - William Tell Overture, - It's A Sin To Tell A Lie, - I'll See You In My Dreams, - Mr Sandman, - Yes Sir That's My Baby, - The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise. A really excellent production by Andy Little. The price of the CD is £6 + 50p postage and can be ordered from John at 2a Ramsey Close, Allerton, Liverpool 19 4XH

**Bob Muirhead Emails**—Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Unervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentn tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit plcae The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. amzanig huh?

**Jon Baddeley Emails**—Hello Stan, Imagine my surprise to open the Daily Express on Saturday 20th September and read an article about George Formby. I do not have a scanner but the gist of the article is that a new generation of filmgoers are about to be introduced to George some 40 years after his death.

The article carries the headline THE MOST UNLIKELY STAR IN THE WORLD and the reason for the timing of the article is because George's most famous song Leaning On A Lamp Post is featured on the soundtrack of a new film entitled Matchstick Men starring the actor Nicolas Cage. It also points out that John Lennon was inspired by our George. It amazing where George Formby pops up and as we are soon to celebrate his Centenary lets hope that we are able to build on this renewed interest.

THANKS to SALE—On a completely separate note-many thanks to everyone at the Sale Branch for a wonderful night on their 30th Anniversary. A lot of hard work went on to make this such a successful occasion and through the Newsletter please express our gratitude. Jon

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GEORGE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY IS NEARING. ARE YOU GETTING READY?



**The Mystery of the Plank**—In a recent issue we reported that a whole gang of us entertained in the open air in Southport to buy a plank towards the Pier Restoration programme. Well Tom Bailey claimed that we had it wrong because, according to the newspapers it was a plaque we were raising money for, not a plank.

Anyway, thanks to Alison Nadin and Co. the mystery has been solved. They went to Southport and found a plank (No. 395 down the left hand side of the pier) with a George Formby plaque on it. Well, I'm glad that's been sorted out. If anyone takes a camera to Southport please send me a photo. Many thanks.

**For Computer Users - from Miles in Germany—**

Even the most advanced virus protection programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to mostly affect those of us who were born prior to 1960.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit "DELETE" instead of "SEND".

Anyone who thinks old age is golden mustn't have had a very exciting youth!

*I've reached the age where the Happy Hour is a nap.*

Scratch a dog and you've a job for life.

IT'S CALLED THE C-NILE VIRUS— *Thanks Miles.*

**Paul Woodhead Emails**—Did a harvest festival supper last night in

Knighton, Powys. Met with a lady who used to live in Smethwick, West Midlands. She told me that she used to work at Finnegans Sweets in Smethwick & that whenever George was playing Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, he would call in at the factory to load up with sweets which apparently he threw out from the stage onto the audience. When collecting the sweets he was apparently allowed onto the shop floor and would sing & play 2 or three songs. *Nice little story Paul.*

**Appeal from Beryl Eissens in Australia**

Hello Stan, hope you and Eva are well, enjoying the "heatwave". The radio station is going great guns, I even have the other presenters playing George Formby now...We are still on a temporary licence and looks like we may even have to share with a sports group on a weekend but they thought because we were not broadcasting on a weekend that we would let them use all our facilities that cost us thousands and plenty of heart ache over the past three years...so don't know what will happen. Nice to know your friend Dennis in Cyprus is coping. Best Wishes To All.



Dennis Lee welcomes Beryl

HERE'S THE APPEAL—I'm looking for the song which goes something like this: " I wanna be a barrow boy, a barrow boy I wanna be." *So does anyone have the words & music to this song? If so let me have them please and I'll forward them on.*

## Dates For Your Diary—Building up to George's 100th

Until Sun 7th Sept 2003—In The Mood Exhibition at The Imperial War Museum Nth The Quays, Trafford Wharf Rd, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1TZ.

Until April 2004—"Grin Up North" Exhibition at Museum of Lancashire, Stanley St, Preston. Ends April 2004, will feature Northern comedians. Good show.

May 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2004—Llandudno Extravaganza. Ring Alison Nadin

Sat 15th May 2004—Grand Show at Frodsham Community Centre, Cliff Royle  
01928 731088

May 2004—Date and venue not yet decided—Children's George Formby Concert in Wigan with the Brownies will sing George Formby songs, plus others.

Sun 23rd May—Grand show to be held at Wigan Pier - More details later.

Wed 26th May 2004—George's 100th Birthday—Wistaston Memorial Hall 7.45pm  
Jonathan Baddeley presents the "GEORGE FORMBY STORY"  
possibly followed by a film show.

Fri 28th May 2004—Exhibition of George Formby Memorabilia in Wistaston Memorial Hall followed by A GEORGE FORMBY CONCERT.

Fri 11th June 2004—Jack Jones and George Formby Tribute in George's Anniversary Year. To be held at ROOSTERS, Warrington.

Sat July 17th 2004—Blackpool Prom

Sun July 18th—Fleetwood Festival

Have a go at holding an event leading up to George's 100th Anniversary? If you do, please send details in. As soon as we have sufficient dates we will notify the media: TV, Radio, Press. Let's make it an Anniversary to be remembered.

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## Email and Website Address Change—Over

the past few months I've been receiving a lot of unwanted junk mail in the Emails offering all sorts of services. Quite a number of them are from people in Africa who have been left several million pounds, in a British bank, and they need someone to draw it out for them and to share it with them. There's a trap somewhere.

Loads of them come in every day so I've changed the Email and Web site addresses. In future the Email address will be stan@stanevans.co.uk and the web site address is stanevans.co.uk/formby

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### Andy Eastwood has just phoned

- He is currently touring the country appearing at various British Legions, but unfortunately he doesn't know in advance where the venues are.



He's also been booked by Yours Magazine to perform in a Music Hall Variety Show 18th and 19th November at Butlins Minehead. Also on the bill is Norman Collier.

Also he is appearing on the 23rd November at Manchester Opera House in a Ken Dodd Special, which is extra pack-filled. *Great work Andy.*

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## CD Wanted

—Jon Baddeley is looking for a George Formby CD called "V For Victory". If you have one to spare please contact Jon on 01782 680587.

# George Formby Meetings

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

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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 13th & 14th Sept 2003

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th Nov 2003

2004—6th and 7th March Following Penyffordd

26th and 27th June following Crewe

11th and 12th September following Liverpool

13th and 14th November following Liverpool

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.stanevans.co.uk/formby](http://www.stanevans.co.uk/formby)

**E Mail:** [stan@stanevans.co.uk](mailto:stan@stanevans.co.uk)

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

Paddy died in his sleep. He doesn't know he's dead yet. If he wakes up and finds out, it will kill him.