

THE

GEORGE FORMBY

Newsletter 102

Vol. 9

No. 6

Dec 2003



Specially Produced for George Formby Fans
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Welcome to Newsletter No. 102

Well last month was very sad with the loss of one of our hard working and most generous organisers, Jean Nadin. At the funeral I looked at the large number of Formby supporters, - some with ukes - that turned up to give Jean a good send off and realised how really lucky we are to have such a good and caring organisation.

Alison summed it up after the funeral when she said: "It was a wonderful send off and it was helped so much by so many of our friends from the GFS. When we were planning the service, one of our friends said that she didn't like too many hymns at a funeral because nobody ever sang them. I said don't worry the George Formby gang will - and they did."

We are like a huge family of travellers visiting one meeting after another and bumping into the same faces every week or month. All supporting each other. I told Brian this and he said: "Yes, that's right and I'll bet you didn't realise what you were building 12 years ago when you ran the Formby Exhibition at the Warrington Museum. It was there and at the Patten Arms where most of us met each other for the very first time."

So we must consider ourselves extremely lucky to be part of this happy band of merry makers.

More George Rubbishing on TV—

I switched on to "Room 101" on Sky Gold TV and Jo Brand was to be interviewed by presenter, Nick Hancock. She was asked what dislikes she had and then debate on whether they should be dumped in Room 101—which is a dust bin. When asked if she had any dislikes, she replied: "Yes, I have a million dislikes and George Formby is one of them." Hancock agreed heartily.



Jo Brand



Hancock

The following week, Peter Cook was interviewed and he claimed that his pet hate was Gracie Fields. But they decided not to bin her because they both hated George Formby many times more than Gracie and you can't bin one without the other.



Peter Cook

Well there's one thing about it. Forty odd years after foul mouthed Jo Brand and Peter Cook (who looked half drunk) and Nick Hancock are dead, - or even 40 days after—they won't be singing their praises like we do George. They will never be good enough to lick the shoes of George & Gracie. Those good old stars of the past didn't have to rely on canned laughter to supply the laughs.

Many Thanks To All who contributed to this issue. Please keep sending articles and news cuttings in. We are expanding in readership! Our first issue sold to 35 readers. Then 50—70—90—120—150 - 170 and now we are printing 180 each month. Or 2000 copies per year. And thanks to you we've never been stuck for words.

Email from Elsie Smith—Stan, when you both visited our Widnes club you sang my most favourite song: "Hurt" and for some time I have tried to find the words to it. You may have noticed at the time that I was trying to jot the words down as you sang them. Well the pen ran out didn't it. So I was wondering if you would kindly Email me the words. Many thanks in anticipation. Elsie.
No problem Elsie. We are always willing to oblige. Here they are.

*I'm hurt, to think that you lied to me.
 I'm hurt, deep down inside of me.
 You said your love was true, and we'd never part.
 But you found somebody new, and you broke my heart
 I'm hurt, much more than you'll ever know
 I'm hurt, because I love you so
 Even though you hurt me like nobody else would ever do
 I'll never, I'll never hurt you.*

Joke from Elsie:- Paddy threw a brick at a lion and shouted, "Get running Murphy, the lion's after us." "Why should I run" said Murphy, it was you who threw the brick."
 Thanks Elsie.

The first time I ever heard this song was when dear old Ron Holiday—now sadly passed on—sang it at the Wintergardens meetings. It was always a favourite among the ladies.

Charles Stewart sent in an old CAB,HANSOM, and TAXI FARES and REGULATIONS LIST from the late 1800s, which is interesting because George Formby Senior's father in law, George Hoy, was in the same business. In fact some of the old clothing that GF senior wore on stage was given to him by George Hoy and the same clothes were handed down to young George to launch his career. Anyway, here are a few Hire Charges from the guide when not fitted with a Taximeter, which records the Fare by a combination of Time and Distance.

If Hired and Discharged Within a Four Mile Circle:-

If by distance not exceeding Two Miles: **One Shilling**
 Exceeding Two Miles for each mile or part mile: **Sixpence**

If By Time:-

For one hour or less: **Two Shillings**
 For every fifteen minutes above one hour: **Sixpence**

EXTRA PAYMENTS:-

For each Bicycle, Child's Mail Cart, or Perambulator: **Sixpence**
 For each other package carried: **Two Pence**

EXTRA PERSONS:- For each additional person beyond Two, the whole journey (One or two children under ten years of age count as one person): **Sixpence**

RIGHT: - Early George Formby Junior wearing his father's stage jacket and hat which was passed on by his father in law.

ALAN CHENERY rang—Switch yer tele on. There's a chap on "Flog It", a Car Boot show and he's singing Blackpool Rock with a little wooden uke. Thanks Alan.

For recording the fare by a
 Taximeter,
 see and Distance.



Audience Stands to Margaret Moran

Artistes and supporters flocked into the Memorial Hall for the October meeting and by



Margaret Moran

ten past seven we were hunting for extra seats. One hundred and two were seated by the time the show started at 7.40pm. As usual, our audience was first class, contributing as much to the show as the artistes. It is great to be on stage and see smiling faces enjoying themselves it really does give confidence to the performer. The Grand Finale brought the best out you all when you all stood and waved your Union flags as Margaret



Moran gave a rousing performance of Elgar's "*Land of Hope and Glory*." So from all the artistes, special thanks to you all out there, you were great!

As we have come to expect of them, Jonathan Baddeley and Pamela put on a well-balanced show and Jonathan's funny puns were jeered at as usual. His joke about the privy that plunged over the cliff got a good laugh but Arthur Newton's subtle "What is the difference between a terrorist and a church organist?" just got the vote on the society clapometer when Arthur explained, "Well you can negotiate with a terrorist!"

That quiet speaking, baritone ukulele playing Cyril Palmer, for many years an activist of the Sale society, has amazed me for years with his ability to strum his uke and talk to his audience at the same time. It is a bit like patting oneself on the head and rubbing your tummy in an anticlockwise circular movement - very difficult. One of Cyril's favourites is an old song entitled "*Barefoot Days*." This song goes back to 1923 and was the work of Al. Wilson and James A. Brennan. Now I know my hearing is not too good but when Cyril sings the line "fish all day, fish all night", he goes on to sing "but the bl--dy old fish refuse to bite." Now I have often wondered how they got away with such language in the 1920's when George Formby got banned for less in the 1930's. So I looked it up and found that Wilson and Brennan actually wrote "and the darned old fish refused to bite." Now I haven't mentioned this to the Crewe Censor Cyril, for I feel sure that there is every possibility that I haven't heard you right!

Twenty-four artistes who performed on the night:- Steve Hassall "*Fanlight Fanny*" and "*Al Jolson Medley*," Cliff Royle "*Mr Wu's a Window Cleaner Now*" and "*Fifty-percent of its Mine*," Alice Cronshaw "*Smile*" and "*Memories*" (vocal), Gareth Sumner "*Little Ukulele*" and "*You Don't Need a Licence for That*," Connie Edge "*Radio Bungalow Town*" and "*Living in the Middle of Trafalgar Square*," Don Chalkley "*I went all Hot and Cold*" and "*Thanks Mr Roosevelt*," Gerald Beadle "Where have all the Flowers Gone," (vocal) Brian Edge "*Talking to the Moon About You*" and "*The Chinese Fish and Chip Shop called the Chopsticks Takeaway*," Arthur Newton "*Its Turned Out Nice Again*" and "*Sitting on the Top of Blackpool Tower*," Jonathan Baddeley Medley "*V Song - Smile All the Time - Swinging Along*," Pamela Baddeley "*Banjo Boy*." The Three Tenors "*Our Sergeant Major*" and "*Side by Side Medley*," Walter Kirkland "*I Wonder Who's Under her Balcony Now*," and "*Bones Thrash*," Alison Nadin "*Paper Folding Display*," Stan Evans and Stan Watkinson - "*The Past Its*" "*I'm Nobody's Child*," and "*The Fields of Athenry*," Ashley

Caldicott "McNamara's Band," Jim Knight "You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming" and "Bones Thrash," Margaret Moran "Love is a Many Splendid Thing," "Some Enchanted Evening" and "Land of Hope and Glory" (finale), Les Pearson (Comedian and vocal), Cyril Palmer "Barefoot Days," Bill Turner "Its No use Looking at Me" and "Far Away Places" (on steel guitar).

Special thanks to everyone who helped in any way on the night, especially with regard to their contributions towards clearing up afterwards. Your help was greatly appreciated and the room was clear in a flash. Magic! Thanks Brian. Another GRAND NIGHT!!!

Martin Thomas scans Ebay Auctions and

finds a most unusual item offered for sale , - A Little Stick

This is a genuine Stick Of Blackpool Rock—7 inches long—It looks like aniseed flavour but I can't promise that because I've not tasted it. It is still sealed in the original wrapper, with a nice picture of Blackpool Tower on it, and also with BLACKPOOL ROCK spelt through the bar.

So go on, go on, go on, have a bid and have a laugh at Christmas watching your friends faces opening their special pressy. Good luck with your bidding and thanks for looking.

Liverpool's Christmas Birthday Night

Liverpool was launched immediately after the Warrington Museum GF Exhibition on Friday the 13th 1991. This was a most dreadful night as it poured down in buckets for the whole of the day and night. However, although we had a wet start, we have enjoyed our stay at the Broadgreen Conservative Club and they've always given us good service.

Normally we have a buffet to celebrate our birthday, but this year, it clashes with the Wintergardens meeting, so we have decided to hold a BIRTHDAY / CHRISTMAS NIGHT on Friday 12th December. See you there.

Book a Holiday with Alice

Alice Cronshaw is taking names for a 4 day holiday at Warner's, Alvaston Hall, Crewe, from the 9th February next year. It is an ADULTS ONLY holiday and this is the fourth year they have booked. What's more they've enjoyed it so much they had to book again.



Those who have booked up to now are Sheila & Cyril Palmer, Alice Cronshaw and Walter Kirkland, Margaret & Cliff Royle, Myra & Jim Knight, Dot & Val Wood and Pauline Sparks. If interested give Alice a ring on 0161 727 9829. Don't forget to take your uke because, although there's a set programme of entertainment the manager always gives them a spot in the show. Sounds like a grand do

Hello, is that the Dating Agency? I asked for a man in uniform and you've sent a lollipop man.

Hello, is that the Bookies? What's the odds on me not getting a winner all week?

Tonight was a night of Celebrations. Firstly I had received an e-mail from Dennis Lee in which he advised that the inaugural meeting of the North Wales Branch took place on 2/10/93 at his house, and the first Meeting was held at Mold Ex-Servicemen's Club on 12/11/93. There were sixteen present at the inaugural meeting. So tonight we were ten years old. Dennis sends his regards to all, and wishes our Branch continued success.



We had a few new visitors including Eric Morris, a Founder Member, whom we have not seen for quite some time as he has not been too well. However he is now a good deal better, and we hope to see him at future meetings. Other new visitors were Doreen and Ralph Barnes, and Rob and Viv Sinch (who had been once before). Regrettably Shirley and John Brown, also first timers, had to leave so soon after arriving as one of them was unwell. Hope it was nothing serious and they have now recovered.

On a rather sadder note we had to report that Jim Griffiths, who opened our evenings on many occasions, has not been too well over the past year and is unlikely to be able to get to future meetings. He sends his good wishes to all his friends at the Branch.

There were four Birthdays to celebrate during the next week; Walter Kirkland, Dot Wood, Myself, and young Greg Simister (age 12) who was presented with a card and a load of money collected on the night. Understand everyone at the next meeting may receive a free drink courtesy of Greg. Although said to have a bad throat he made an excellent job of performing "They can't fool me", and "Lads of the village get cracking". It is rumoured he pinched this song off Jim Knight.

Other acts during the evening were Walter Kirkland (Happy go lucky me and a new Bones Medley); Brian Edge (Talking to the moon about you, and one of his humorous renditions The Chinese Fish and Chip Shop Take-away); Alan Chenery (Little back room upstairs and Wigan boat express); Pam Baddeley (Sang My love and Morning town ride); Tom Meredith (TT races and Lamp post); Gerald Jones Granddads nightshirt followed by a mouth-organ medley which started off with The boys won't leave the girls alone (Nice change Gerald); Alison Nadin assisted by Charlie who I gather was a bit tired after not going fishing for a week (you need to appreciate his joke to follow this); I came on in "drag" to do Swimmin with the women, and then Puttin on the style accompanied by Walter Kirkland on bones, and Alan Chenery on the Uke). Charlie Penman took us by surprise when he came on the stage and performed "The pub with no beer" and "When I'm sixty four". Second time round? He was ably accompanied by Stan Watkinson on his Banjo. Jones "The uke" announced that he had received a letter of thanks from Ted Formby for the birthday Card we had recently sent to him. Gerald still has some of his Calendars for sale, and is currently producing George Formby Clocks and Badges.

The second half commenced with the presentation of a cheque for £50 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal in appreciation of all the support the Penyffordd Legion gives to us. Mark, the Steward, received the cheque on behalf of the Legion, but he also received our personal thanks for the tremendous support he so willingly gives us when we seek his help. We have him to thank for the introduction of the "meal service" which seems to be very successful.

So to the second half of the Show which commenced with the Three Tenors (Frank, Phil and Deg) doing a Sing-a-long followed by Mr Wu's a window cleaner now; and not to be

outdone Phil's Grandson Daniel performed the War Thrash, and a medley of Formby songs. He was impeccably dressed in boater, red and white blazer, and red bow tie. It must have taken a lot of courage to get on the stage and perform even with Granddad's support. Keep it up Daniel, you are doing just great.

Alice Cronshaw sang "If you were the only boy in the world" and "You made me love you"; Connie Edge sang "Radio rodeo bungalow town" and "Enjoy yourself it's later than you think"; Jim Knight gave us "You can't stop me from dreaming"; followed by a Bones Medley with Walter, Alan and Frank; Jonathan Baddeley played "Fanlight fanny" and "They laughed when I started to play"; Des Redfern always giving something snappy with "Swing mama" and "It serves you right"; and last but by no means least the Pastits (Stan and Stan) with "Have you ever been lonely" and then as it was almost Remembrance Day "Land of hope and glory" in Stan's heartrending voice to a backdrop of the Union Flag. I was caught on the hop in announcing the next act as I expected them to carry on. It is usually difficult to get them off the stage and I was expecting them to do "The fields of Athenry" but they didn't. Had Des Redfern refused to give permission to do his song?

And so to the final THRASH, and the end of a great evening. However we should never forget our unsung heroes. Members of other Branches (both performers and others); our own supporters, those who kindly provide raffle prizes, and all those who assist both during the evening and at other times. Thanks a lot.

XMAS BUFFET—By the way. Do not forget the December Meeting is a special Buffet Xmas Concert for which pre-booking is essential. Sorry. No ticket; no admission. We have a special surprise act booked for your enjoyment so Book Now!

PRACTICE NIGHTS re-start in the New Year on a monthly basis; and we are particularly looking for learners and those with some experience to join us.

3 Cheers for Harry & Vera Jones. In response to our request for information on the Southport Pier Plaque, they travelled the all round distance of about 120 miles to search for the plaque bearing the name GEORGE FORMBY. After an hour reading every plaque they finally found it and here it is. To save you a lot of searching the number is 395. Well done Harry & Vera.



Like a couple of love birds.



Bananas To You—Alison & George Tyrer

were holidaying in Australia when they saw a postcard featuring a big banana. As my very first Formby song was "I Like Bananas", they immediately thought about me and posted it off.



Many thanks. It's nice to be thought of all the way from the other side of the world, although at times I think I might be going bananas.

Grand at Blackpool by Alan Chenery

Another good night, although a bit short on numbers, possibly due to the bitter cold night, but everybody enjoyed themselves. We had a change round when Charles Mceed the show and I pushed the buttons on the amp system.



Our bar steward John who is always helpful and obliging.

The show started with a thrash, followed by Rob Brissett who gave us George's popular "Leaning On A Lamp Post" and "Mr Wu." We were fortunate in having Jon & Pam Baddeley with us, who travelled 80 miles from Stoke. Jonathan gave us a couple of songs including "With My Little Ukulele in My Hand" and "They Laughed When I Started to Play." John Taylor, from Morecambe made it again, and after a load of leg pull about Colin Crompton's much broadcasted opinion of Morecambe (*They don't bury the dead in Morecambe they stand them up in bus shelters—and, There's a regular feature on every night. They stand in the streets watching the traffic lights change*) John sang "TT Races" and "Blackpool Rock." We had another visit from Sheila & Cyril Palmer, who travelled about 60 miles from Flixton, and Cyril, with his mellow voice sang "It's A Sin To Tell A Lie" and the much loved old favourite, "Maggie."



Don Horton enjoying himself

Don Horton gave us his rendition of "Somebody Stole My Gal" and George's "Its In The Air," which brought all the aeroplane actions from the crowd. The well and truly Past Its, Stan Watkinson and Stan Evans sang a good sing-along medley "Side By Side" followed by the old tear jerker "Nobody's Child."

Blackpool's own Steve Abbott gave us the old war favourite "Thanks Mr Roosevelt" which George broadcasted thanking the Americans for their aid in the war effort. He also sang George's "Baby" from the film "Boots Boots."

Hee, it's grand to see the older folk up on stage and Frank Bennett, now well into his eighties, did us proud with two of his sing-along medleys. Pam Baddeley—who, I must add, is nowhere near her 80s, serenaded us with "World Of Our Own" and "Island Of Dreams," And yours truly sang "Lancashire Lad And His Uke" followed by the popular "When I'm Cleaning Windows."

Eve and Eileen did us proud, as usual, with the buffet—I ask you, "Where else can you get a night full of songs, a meal, a raffle and a friendly chat for £1?" The evening was closed with a rousing thrash, We would like to thank everyone who supports us and if you are in the Blackpool area on the last Monday of every month do call in for a visit.

Looking through some old files I found a letter from ROY HUDD. Dear Stan, thank you for your letter of June 26th, 1989. I will certainly pen a few words about the immortal George but wait until I can obtain a photo of THE LAD, I'm sure you'd like to use. It is of George in performance at his last show—cabaret, at the Water Rats Ball. Whether or not, it is still a unique picture of the lad entertaining his "oppos" Will be in touch as soon as I can. A photo followed with an article. See next month's Newsletter.



Bob Walsh is selling his ukes.

1. - This is a Keech with original case, made in 1924. Good sound and in excellent condition, even ideal as an antique on the wall. Price £200. NO OFFERS—It's a gift.

2. Baby Gibson Copy made by the late Ron Spears, - a respected member of the GFS who had an excellent reputation for making quality ukes. Price £350—NO OFFERS.

3. Baby Gibson Copy made by Grover, the famous banjo maker. This is a lovely uke and in excellent condition. It is complete with a very expensive velvet lined case that cost £250. Price £450—NO OFFERS.

Bob's reason for selling these ukes is because he no longer plays them. I have known Bob for many years and found him to be honest and thoroughly reliable with any sales. Phone Number: 0161 766 7274 or write to 40 Hathaway Rd, Bury BL9 8EG.

As an extra bonus Bob has sent in a few one—liners.

Dentist: Now then Jimmy, be a good boy and say "Ahh" so I can get my fingers out.

Unlucky? He broke his leg in the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital.

When a woman gets to 50 you should be able to swap her for two 25s.

Husband: "I'm fed up with married life I'm going to join the Foreign Legion."

Wife: "Well if you do don't come back in here treading sand all over the place."

Man in the pub: "Can't stay long my wife thinks I'm in the bath."

"Dad, now I'm 14 can I wear silk stockings and a bra?" - "No Derek, you can't."

"He's a model husband. Unfortunately, not a working model." *Great Bob! Any more?*

George Formby Senior

is photographed with the singer Tetrizzini, whilst making a recording on modern equipment of the day. The horn had to be wrapped with tape to reduce resonance.

Looking at him I would guess that the photo was taken just before his death in 1921. All his life he ebbed and flowed health-wise but in this picture he appears to have aged considerably and lost a lot of weight. According to my records he recorded 12 songs in November 1920, and died 3 months later. Maybe the above was taken during his last recording session.



His better days



LEANING ON THE LAMP-POST: Members of the George Formby Society at their 30th anniversary meeting

By George – 50 turn out for a nice tribute

THE 30th anniversary of Sale's George Formby Society turned out nice again – with more than 50 fans strumming their ukuleles.

Guests poured in from other groups – all of which are affiliated to the national George Formby Society.

The national society was founded in 1961 – the year the legendary singer-comedian died. But 13 years later three fans decided Sale should have its own Formby society.

Walter Langshaw, George Cheetham and Bob Sheldon were the founder members – to be joined shortly afterwards by Arthur Logan-Petch, a circuit judge and fellow enthusiast. Membership boomed in the early years with Formby lookalikes packing monthly meetings.

The society meets on the third Friday of each month at the Taverner's Club in Park Lane, Timperley. More information from Les on 01706 873809.

Apology From Les Pearson

Stan, please report in your Newsletter that, although I rang the newspaper re. The Sale Anniversary, and they kindly responded, I didn't tell them that I was the organiser. I thought I'd made it clear to them that Alice and Cyril were the main organisers.

Don't worry about it Les. Over the years they've had me down for every position in the society from President to dogsbody. Sometimes they are a law unto themselves.

Some years ago, A Wigan Reporter spent a full day with Anthony and I at the Formby graveside. They wanted us looking utterly miserable at the sad loss of losing George. We thought we'd never get it right. It's not so easy for two people to look at each other trying to hold miserable faces. After a while you burst into fits of laughter and then it's hard to recover.

After several attempts they finally got a perfect miserable shot, but low and behold if they didn't use it as a heading for a happy column. Wiganers must have wondered why we were so sad.

Ken Steals The Show

THIS is a fascinating look back at the career of Bob Monkhouse and his 50 years in showbusiness.

It features Ken Dodd, not a comic who likes to give interviews. In fact he's notoriously media shy but Monkhouse will never forget the first time he saw the tousle haired star.

Long before Celebrity Squares and countless other TV shows, he was doing well in 1957, a young comic on the rise. However, Doddy was threatening to steal his limelight.

Monkhouse had been hired by a firm called Monk and Crane to do a gig at a Midland hotel. "We've got a bit of a warm-up act going on before you," remarked the booking agent.

Bob wasn't too worried about some rookie comic stealing his show. After his allocated 10 or 15 minutes, the star would go on and knock them dead. However, by the time he reached the sidelines, Monkhouse was amazed. Fifteen minutes turned into 90 minutes and the crowd were weeping tears of laughter.

"I have never heard such screams of joy from any crowd anywhere," remarked Bob. "The cause of this hysteria is this creature from another planet, a clown escaped from some circus asylum."

By the time Monkhouse went on, the party was over. His warm-up man had succeeded in stealing the show and it was he that ended up doing a quarter of an hour on stage, admitting defeat in the face of a comic master.

Doddy puts his talent down to one main reason: "I had that much love and affection from my parents that I really thirsted, craved for more and I think that's what all entertainers and performers and actors are really searching for - affection."

In this two-part show Bob talks to Doddy, Mike Yarwood and Johnny Vegas about the art of tickling the ribs.

He also pays homage to Benny Hill, Tommy Cooper, Tony

Behind The Laughter (BBC1, 10.35pm)



Roaring 40s by Bradford Reader Holidays

sent in by Paul Mountain.



Bradford & Reader Holidays are offering Winter/Spring Breaks by coach and sea in Jersey at the Mayfair Hotel, - a few minutes walk from St Helier shops. All rooms are en-suite. Cost: £169 per person.



This is a three night break where they react the atmosphere of the 1940s. A weekend of sing-alongs where you receive a ration book on arrival, which entitles you to a number of treats including beer at 1940 prices.

Every evening you will have a varied entertainment programme including GEORGE FORMBY and VERA LYNN sing-alongs, a light-hearted look at Britain during the war years—quizzes and competitions, finishing off with a VE Day dinner, dancing, razzamatatz and plenty of good old fashioned fun. Take a trip out to see the German Underground Hospital or the Occupation Museum. Ring for brochure 01274 742244.

Talented Daniel

It's great to see young Daniel being encouraged by his parents and grandparents at the Penyffordd meeting. Dressed up, looking smart and enjoying George's songs, another young talent for the future. These youngsters are great and know no boundaries. However, Daniel. While you're young it is important that you learn the lines without music because when you get older, like us, it is very difficult remembering the words and chords. Learn em now and GOOD LUCK.



Jon Baddeley Searches The Internet for Jack Hylton

His career spanned the early 1920s up until his death in 1965. He was a successful bandleader setting trends within popular music of the time in the U.K. and expanding into the world of entertainment.



Jack Hylton

Jack Hylton was born in Bolton on 2nd July 1892. He came from a working class background and, as a boy, would accompany his father on the piano when he sang in clubs. He also performed at an early age as the "Singing Mill-Boy" and as a relief pianist for various bands. His early career was as a relief pianist in the 400 club and with the Stroud Haxton Band. After the first world war he went on to play with the Queen's Dance Orchestra where he wrote arrangements of popular songs and had them recorded under the label '*Directed by Jack Hylton.*' He went on from here to form his own band.

The band started recording under Jack Hylton's name in 1923. Jack became a respected band leader and was in great demand, so much so that he had to provide bands simultaneously in various locations under his own name. In the 1920s (*Babyin' You 1926*) the band developed into an orchestra and had a busy schedule. It toured America and Europe and continued until the 1940s when the orchestra disbanded due to members being called up for war service. Jack was also director of the DECCA record label. *All Of Me (Decca Recording)*



At this point Jack Hylton's career was already moving towards that of an impresario discovering new stars and managing radio, film and theatre productions from Ballets to Circuses. His productions dominated the London theatres with such productions as "The Merry Widow", "Kiss Me Kate" and "Kismet". *When I'm calling you (from the musical Rose Marie).* *Run Rabbit Run. (A recording by Sid Buckman and Arthur Askey)*

Some of the stars he managed, appeared in his productions or discovered were Shirley Bassey, Maurice Chevalier, Ernie Wise, Eric Morecambe, Arthur Askey, the Crazy Gang, George Formby, Diana Dore, Thora Hird, Liberace, Noel Gordon, to name but a few.

Jack later went on to work in TV as the Advisor of Light Entertainment for the new ITV channel. He worked in this role until 1959 and was producing stage productions at the same time. Here he was able to promote his stage discoveries on the television as TV stars. He was instrumental in organising various Royal Command Performances and continued

supporting theatre productions until his final stage production "Camelot" in 1965. The world famous Formby hit 'Chinese Laundry Blues', originally rejected by George as it was deemed slightly risqué for the times - has been recognised as one of the 'top 30' archives in the North West.

Staff at the University's Rare Book Archive nominated the 78rpm record of 1932 and it was chosen by a panel of expert judges to be included in the North West Archival Treasury - a 'top 30' of the most important achieves from across the region.

The record is one of the most recent additions to the respected Jack Hylton Archive at Lancaster University Library and Helen Clish, from the Rare Book Archive said "this is just one of the wealth of fascinating archive items we hold. We're eager to open our doors to everyone and show that archives are an intriguing insight into the region's history". *Thanks Jon. As you know, Jack was a clever chap but it appeared that he couldn't spot a winner. When George bought the song "Chinese Laundry Blues" from Jack Cottrell, for four pounds, Jack Hylton didn't agree. He thought it was a lousy song for George. He said, "I'll back the recording for you but don't put my name on the record." His name wasn't added to the credits but the song was an instant success, even though it was featured on the "B" side of the record.*

The Past Its (Well & Truly) were called on to open the show and warm the crowd for the popular Liverpool comedian, Micky Finn, from the TV show "The Comedians." On the bill also were 12 year old Aimee Turner, a singer, and 11 year old Gerrard Loftus, also a Liverpool comedian.



Gerrard

We did our spot, followed by Aimee, and then it was the turn of young Gerrard who, no doubt, was a Micky Finn fan. He performed very well, tons of confidence, delivering one joke after another for about 20 minutes. The crowd loved him. This was followed by a break and then it was Micky's turn, - who had just arrived in time to go on stage.

He did a 30 minute spot, but now and then he was a bit bemused by the crowd who were laughing before the end of the joke. What he didn't know was that young Gerrard had told the same jokes before him and the crowd thought it hilarious. "Move over Bernard Manning, I'm here."

Talking to Pam Baddeley

at Blackpool, she said that it is really amazing how one visit to the Warrington George Formby exhibition in 1991 changed their lives. Before then their car did only a few miles a year but now they are travelling all over the country, giving George Formby talks, meetings, concerts etc. Blackpool alone is a round trip of 160 miles. She also said that an appeal to the readers asking how their lives had been changed would make a good article for the Newsletter.



APPEAL—So if George Formby has changed your life drop me a few lines and let us know about it. Thanks for the suggestion Pam.

Hilda & Vera report on Sale Meeting

Once again we had an excellent meeting at Sale, about 46 regulars and 6 newcomers were entertained in a very



Margery on the door

happy and lively atmosphere. Cyril introduced Gladys Simister who had heard about us from reading the Manchester Evening News' report on the 30th Birthday celebrations, Ivy Ewing (a neighbour of Margaret Moran), Ian Winter and Pauline and Terry Renshaw from Winsford. It was a pleasure to see Alison and Frankie with us again, they travel all the way from Rhyl to attend our meetings.



Vera

Hilda

The entertainment commenced with the usual Thrash and Cyril introduced the performers. Once again Eddie Bancroft was the first artiste, with *Licence* and *Lampost*, two songs that he has added to his repertoire. Cliff Royle followed with *Uncle Joe's Mintballs* and *Fifty Per Cent of it's Mine*. Jon Baddeley played a special request from Margaret Moran, *Stranger on the Shore* on the clarinet and then sang *Happy Go Lucky Me*. Then Jon was joined by his wife, Pam, for *Noughts and Crosses*. Young Greg Simister gave us *Home Guard Blues* and *Pleasure Cruise* (we wonder how much longer he will be able to hit those high notes!) Alice Cronshaw also added to her repertoire by singing *Making Memories With You* and *Love Letters Straight From Your Heart*. Then Brian White performed *Mr. Wu's a Window Cleaner Now* and *Blackpool Rock*, always very popular.

After Dick and Jean had drawn the raffle and having had some very welcome light refreshment, the entertainment continued with Les Pearson as the M.C. Arthur Newton was the first performer after the Thrash with *The Barmaid at the Rose and Crown* and *It's Turned Out Nice Again*. David Rhodes, making his second appearance, played *Windows* and, with Brian White, sang *The Bowler Hat Song*. The next was a speciality act with Alison Nadin's wonderful demonstration of all the different shapes that could be made with a piece of pleated paper, all spoken in verse - fantastic!

Then we had Walter Kirkland (having recovered from his eye operation) in usual jovial mood playing a *Rag Time medley* and, with Frank Humphries, Alan Chenery and Jim Knight, all playing the bones to the sound of *Tijuana Brass*. Frank then sang the Morecambe and Wise favourite *Bring Me Sunshine* and *The Wonder of You*. Then it was Stan Evans' turn with *If You Don't Want the Goods Don't Maul 'em* and the tear-jerker *Daddy's Little Girl*. Margaret Moran delighted us with *Cradle Days* and, especially for Alison (and Jean), a rousing rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory*, one of Jean's favourite songs. Brian Edge (*Talking to the Moon About You* and *The Chinese Fish and Chip Shop Take-away*) Connie's *Radio Bungalow Town* and *The Boys of the New Brigade* were, as usual, very well received. Alan Newton did *Chinese Laundry Blues* (with amusing variations) and a

Brian White and David Rhodes sing Walter Langshaw's "The Bowler that Granddad Left To Me"



"Carpenter's" favourite, *Sing*. Tom Meredith followed with *Maginot Line* and *You Can't Fool Me*. Jim Knight (in his snazzy waistcoat and bow-tie) performed *You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming*, followed by Frank, Walter, and the two Alans (all playing the bones) *Has Anyone Seen My Girl*. The third Alan (Southworth) rounded off the evening with a Jack Jones' favourite, *My Plus Fours* and a *singalong Medley*, which had everyone singing and finished with *We'll Meet Again*. We certainly hope so! Vera and Hilda. *Thanks Ladies*.

Men Strike Back SENT IN BY CHARLES STEWART

We always hear "the rules" from the female side. Now here are the rules from the men.

1. Learn to operate the toilet seat. You're a big girl now. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us men bitching if you leave it down.
2. Sometimes we are not thinking about you. Live with it.
3. Shopping is not a sport and we are never going to think about it that way.
4. Crying is blackmail.
5. Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one. Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints also don't work, and obvious hints do not work. Spit it out, what do you want?
6. We don't remember dates. You should mark birthdays and anniversaries on a calendar and remind us frequently beforehand.
7. We own three pairs of shoes. What makes you think we'd be any good at choosing which pair to wear, out of 30, to match your dress.
8. Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.
9. Remember to check your oil.
10. Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.
11. If something we said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.
12. You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.
13. Christopher Columbus didn't need directions, and neither do we.
14. We are not mind readers and we never will be. But it's not proof of how little we care about you.
15. If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing" we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it's just not worth the hassle.
16. When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. Really.

Great Charles but you'll be getting some replies from the ladies. It wasn't me ladies, honest!

It could only happen in Wigan!

- The Gt Britain Rugby League team have not beaten Australia in 33 years. This year, on Sat 8th November, the first of the three matches was held at Wigan, and, with the brilliant team we were fielding it was to be the best opportunity we'd ever have to finally lay down the ghost and beat them.

But, guess what the background music the Wigan disk jockey was playing at the ground. "Abide With Me," the funeral hymn played as the Titanic went down. "Not a chance" I thought. At the very first second, one of our strongest player's, was sent off for a foul and we had to play the whole match with a man short. Once again we were beaten!

George, Associate Producer?

At the N. Wales meeting Geoff Shone handed me a piece of sheet music called "With All My Heart" by Reginald King and Jack Poppellwell. On the front of the music is a photo of Vera Lynn and the song is from the film "Rhythm Serenade, a Columbia Picture produced by Ben Henry. The song was adapted from the theme of Autumn Sunshine.

However, what we were particularly interested in is this. At the bottom left corner is the name of the Associate Producer and it is none other than George Formby. Well we can only assume that it is Our George—unless you know any different.



I could never imagine George taking on the job of Associate Producer, Beryl yes, but surely not George. So I wonder if Beryl took on the job and registered George's name. We must do some research on it.

Ubiquitous George by Brian Edge

A friend of mine and his wife from Barnton Cheshire have just come back from a Cruise on the 76,000 ton P&O Cruise Liner Aurora bound for the Ukraine. When nearing Yalta in the Crimea they were amazed to hear the strains of the ukulele and a George Formby song. They investigated and found that the entertainer was Nicky Martin who was featured on the pages of this magazine a few months ago. They asked him if he knew me and he replied "he's a Crewe chap" they were quite amazed. I was amazed too as I did not know him, but according to Stan he reads our newsletter. Nicky travels the world entertaining on Cruise Liners. There is certainly no keeping George down is there? And before anyone asks, No, George certainly did not entertain the troops at the Battle of Balaclava! *It's a small world Brian. Yes Nicky was a GFS member some many years ago during the early years and he receives our Newsletter every month.*

Les Pearson has just phoned with the words to "Barrow Boy" for Beryl Eissens of Australia. Beryl made an appeal in the last issue, so here are the words.

All me life I wanted to be a Barrow Boy
A Barrow Boy I've always wanted to be
Now I owns a barrow and pushes it with pride
I'm a Coster, a Coster from off the other side
Now I've turned me back on society
I'm living down where the ripe bananas grow
I sell them a dozen a shilling
That's how I earns me living
I should have been a Barrow Boy years ago
Geroff me barrer, - repeat last line.
Thanks Les. The next time Beryl comes over here she'll be speaking Cockney.

Musical Spoons—I've spent hours ringing round the country trying to buy a set of metal musical spoons—joined together to make an idiot sound like an expert—NOTHING!!!!

DO YOU KNOW where I can obtain a set from? I rang one shop and the man burst into fits of laughter. "Spoons? We don't sell spoons, we sell the finest top class violins!"

Concern by Jon Baddeley

Hello Stan, On the 21st October, I received two telephone calls. One was from BBC Radio Shropshire and the other was from BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester. Both calls related to the fact that Virgin Megastores have recently made a decision that in the future they will not have in stock CDs by certain artists of yesteryear including our George.

Needless to say that after a representative from Virgin Megastores had had his say on behalf of the Company I put the alternative argument on behalf of the many people that love the music not only of George but of music prior to 1960. I let it be known that in view of the forthcoming Centenary I feel that the decision is not correct.

Clearly, the decision is solely a commercial one and for the last few years most of the national stores have devoted less shelf space to Easy Listening Music and more to DVDs and computer games. Thank goodness for the smaller independent stores as well as the market stalls that continue to stock our sort of music. Of course, one of the benefits of the Internet is that it is a source for finding music for all kinds of tastes. *Thanks Jon.*

Jon Again—Hello Stan, In 2001, Radio Stoke held its first Collectors Fair at the Spode Works in Stoke, and the event attracted many hundreds of visitors. I was asked to display some George Formby Memorabilia, and a number of our members turned up with their ukes to sing as and when required.

On 23rd October 2003, the event was repeated and again I was asked to display some George Formby Memorabilia. Sadly, there were very few visitors on this occasion and maybe Radio Stoke will decide not to hold the event again.

For their unstinting support, I would like to thank Brian Edge, Alan Newton, Arthur Newton, Walter Kirkland and Alice Cronshaw, Cliff and Margaret Royle and also Bill Turner for being there on the day and helping to promote our hero. It also gave us a chance to let people know of the forthcoming Centenary.

Have a Laugh with Winnie & Tony Innes -

Colin & Pete were taking a break from work in the factory, and Pete said, "I know how to get some time off. He climbed up on a rafter and when the foreman asked what he was doing he told him that he was a light bulb. "I think you need to take some time off" said the foreman, and Pete walked out. A minute later Colin followed him out of the door and when the foreman asked him where he was going he said. "I can't work in the dark."

Donald, a tough old cowboy, told his grandson, Jack, that the secret of long life was a sprinkling of gunpowder on his porridge every morning. Jack did this religiously and lived to the ripe old age of 96. When he died he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a 10 metre hole in the crematorium wall.

A donkey with three legs is called a wonkey.

A permanent sign outside a bar said "Free Beer Tomorrow." - Tomorrow never came.

A notice in a barbers shop, "Free haircuts to pensioners accompanied by parents."

I wonder if 007 in bed, is an under cover agent?

Used Stamps—In response to Ken Ratcliffe's appeal for used stamps for various charities, Joe Taylor and Eve Stewart kindly sent a parcels in.

Joe goes on: Congratulations on Newsletter No. 100. A lot of effort is obviously involved in its production but the result must give you some pleasure. As I read of the many activities taking place I think of the many backroom staff who are so vital to the successful running of an event. They beaver away behind the scenes without thought of praise or reward. Such people are really worth their weight in gold. There seems to be an abundance of people like that amongst George Formby fans.

I celebrated my 85th birthday last week. I'm still able to run for the bus, but unfortunately unable to catch it.

You appear to be doing GREAT for 85 Joe, even if you don't catch the bus. Thanks for your stamps (I will pass them on), and for your kind comments.

Sods Law Again—For months I've been searching for the Sheet Music to "The Spaniard That Blighted My Life" for a new backing disc. Somewhere in my loads of sheet music I knew that I had an Al Jolson book which contained the song but after many months of searching I couldn't lay hands on it. Very frustrating!



A few nights ago I switched on the computer and logged on to "Sheet Music" on Ebay Auctions, and there low and behold was the very book I had been searching for, with only two minutes to go before the end of the auction. Without delay I put a price of £5 in and, with seconds to go, Ebay bid on my behalf and bought it for me for £3.35. Low and behold, the very next minute I remembered where my book was and immediately found it.

FOR SALE—Now I have two of the same Al Jolson book so if anyone wants to buy the latest copy, complete with music, for £3.35 let me know.

The songs are: Swanee, The Spaniard That Blighted My Life, Down Among The Sheltering Palms, Yoo—Hoo, After You've Gone, Beautiful Dreamer, Camptown Races, and Oh Susanna.

Happy 79th to Walter The Penyffordd

gang celebrated Walter's 79th birthday on the 9th November with a concert for the ex-service and old folk in the N. Wales area. The crowd didn't like the comedian they'd booked because he was too blue. However, they said that they could have listened to the George Formby gang all night, and they looked dead smart in their stage outfits.



Happy Birthday Walter

But there was something strange because MEN ONLY were allowed in the hall and the ladies had to sit in a separate room while the concert was on. Alison was allowed in the hall to do her magic and puppet spot. A laughable sight was watching the men standing up, all holding hands and singing "We'll Meet Again."

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—Tram Sunday

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.

GF 100th Anniversary Scotland Trip

CHRISTINE WOOD Emailed—About the trip. It is being booked
for the 9th 10th 11th 12th of July 2004.

CONCERT ROOM—It is likely that we will be staying at a place
called Nethy Bridge, 20 or so miles south east of Inverness. Din-
ner, bed and breakfast again. There will also be a room for our
concerts. It sounds just the thing for another great weekend.

EARLY DEPOSIT—Deposits of £30.00 are needed as soon as pos-
sible as it appears that there are a lot of people interested al-
ready. These trips are so popular!!!!

LONG COACH TRIP—It will obviously be a very long coach
journey, people should be aware of this before booking. There
was a lot of interest when Alan Chenery announced the trip at
Sale, so I am sure we shall easily fill the coach. Regards Chris and Colin, 01270 663558
*Thanks Christine. The trip is no longer than the Dutch trip and nobody complained about
that one. We are looking forward to another great four day singalong. When we cross the
border we must drop in on Alex & Kitty Barrett at Peebles. Have the kettle on Kitty.*

S.O.S. David Bottomley is looking for a copy of *Pleasure Cruise* with full nota-
tion. Can you help? If so please send a copy in and I'll send it on to David.



Christine does a grand
job so send your deposit
in as soon as possible

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.

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

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

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

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

Blackpool. SOUTH SHORE CRICKET GROUND, Common Edge Rd, Blackpool. Every last Monday in the month -Tel Eve & Charles Stewart on 01253 768097. Wonderful Buffet—Always in need of players.

Wintergardens George Formby Society Meetings:

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th 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.

Web Site—Two Lancashire Lads:
www.stanevans.co.uk/formby

E Mail: stan@stanevans.co.uk

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.



Granddad bought a hearing aid, two hundred quid brand new.
I asked him "Is it working" and he said, "It's ten past two."