NO LIMIT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YORKSHIRE UKULELE CIRCLE
ISSUE NO. 2 -- MARCH 1995

New venue for Wakefield

There has been developments recently with regard to the Wakefield venue, it has been known for some time that the venue was not all it should be and the most noticable sign of this is the disappointing, reducing amount of members who turn up on the first Thursday in the month. Whilst the Mirfield meeting is literally booming with a packed house every meeting, the opposite is the case in Wakefield. The members of the committee feel that the answer is a change of venue and with this in mind, strenuous effort together with two or three damp nights out searching the Wakefield area have produced a new venue. We shall now be based at the Combined Services Club virtually opposite Wakefield Trinity rugby league ground. Also, we now have a new day for this meeting. the first Tuesday in the month. I can't tell you much about the new venue at the moment but I would hope that all our friends will support this new undertaking with similar enthusiasm as is shown at Mirfield. There may be one or two grumbles but we always try to do things in everybody's best interests and we would ask everybody to give it a try. I can tell you that at one stage it was suggested that the Wakefield meeting should be stopped on a permanent basis with all efforts to be directed towards Mirfield but I for one am pleased that we shall continue to support Wakefield.

I know some of you may say that it won't be convenient because you did something else on Tuesdays etc. but I feel that the people who want to be there, will be there. In this life we all have to accept changes now and again so lets all look forward to the new venue, new date and some more good times.

The Yorkshire Ukulele Circle

MEETS EVERY
FIRST TUESDAY IN THE MONTH AT
THE COMBINED SERVICES CLUB, WAKEFIELD
AND EVERY THIRD TUESDAY IN THE MONTH AT
MIRFIELD CONSERVATIVE CLUB, ST. PAUL'S ROAD MIRFIELD

What a night !!!

What more can I say, I honestly don't think we can top Saturday the 11th of February for entertainment, variety, good fellowship and the warmth of greeting of all the lovely people, some who had travelled many miles to be with us in severe weather conditions. Anybody who missed out on the party at Mirfield were certainly the losers. There couldn't be a better way to kick 1995 off, the room was packed and by eight o'clock there wasn't a seat to be had. Highlights were of course, Alan Southworth's always brilliant playing, Miles Pennett and his bagpipes, Robin Bennison's fabulous guitar technique Charlie Hever's always popular Jolson songs performed in his own humorous fashion, John Beevers showed us another ***string*** to his bow with his clever magical trick and to round the evening off, the brilliant Dickie Speake who brought the house down with his astounding skills on the ukulele. Due recognition was given to our ever popular MC Paul Mountain for all his efforts to give the meetings that extra professional touch, whilst we all come along, sit back and relax and enjoy all the talent on stage, Paul is up and down all night long introducing the artists, keeping the chatter from the audience to a minimum and generally making the concerts go just that bit better. A substantial contribution to the appeal for cash to buy new equipment was made by all the sterling and much appreciated work done on our behalf by our two hard working raffle ticket organisers, Brenda Butterworth and Kath Mountain.

All in all, a brilliant night. Ted and Christine Bradley together with Kathryn and Peter Pollard were delighted with the response from all the members and they all agreed that the whole evening was a very memorable event.



This is a picture I'm sure many of you will have not seen before, it is of course George together with Florence Desmond and it was taken on the set of "No Limit" in 1935.

Rumour has it that George and Florence didn't get on too well but I think you'll agree they look happy enough here.

I certainly haven't set eyes on this photograph before and it isn't a still from the film.

A closer up version can be seen on the sleeve of Peter Pollard's November 1994 G.F.S concert video

George and his big red book

Just referring back to 1994 and the 20th anniversary concert, it should be recorded here that George Butterworth has made a valuable contribution to the archives of the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle by producing a photographic record of that very special night. George will be only too pleased to show the work to our members, don't be surprised to see yourself somewhere within the pages.

Well done George, keep snapping.

Did you know....

I was in the local library the other day and having nothing better to do for half an hour I decided to see if I could turn up some information about George Formby. I had only been there a short while before finding knowledge about Noel Gay, Harry Parr-Davies on also, a good article about Zip Goes A Million. For instance, Harry Parr-Davies who was a song writer and responsible for "It's In The Air", was born in West Glamorgan on 24th May 1914. He wrote the song Gracie Fields is most famous for, "Sing As We Go" whilst still at school at the tender age of twelve. He was also for many years, Gracie's piano accompanist and toured with her all over the world. He wrote other hits for Gracie including 'The Sweetest Song In The World' and that other well known song, 'Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye'. Harry Parr-Davies also co-wrote other hits for George including "Bell Bottom George", "Noughts & Crosses" and "In My Little Snapshot Album". He died on 14 October 1955.

Zip Goes A Million

The show Zip Goes A Million was originally called Brewsters Millions and was written and presented as long ago as 1906 where it was originally a big hit on Broadway.

The production cost £40,000 to set up which must have been top budget in 1951 and when the show was preparing to open in Manchester prior to its London launch, union problems threatened to stop the production before it had even commenced because Equity instructed the members of the cast not to work with American star Barbara Perry. Things were sorted out though and the production commenced without further difficulties. We were always aware of course that approximately six months in to the run of this very successful show, our George was taken ill and had to be replaced by Reg Dixon.

Did you know however that when the show finished its London run of 544 performances on 7 February 1953, it went touring for the rest of that year and also 1954 then, in 1955 Reg Dixon was replaced by veteran comedian and radio broadcaster 'Cheerful' Charlie Chester who toured with show for one more season.

On The Box....



Recently seen on our television screens, two extremely rare performances by two of the best ukulele players of yesteryear. First on was Cliff "Ukulele Ike" Edwards who was featured playing his ukulele in one of the series of Tim Holt western films shown recently on BBC Two. He was also featured recently in a Buster Keaton film although this was without his ukulele, in the Tim Holt film, Ukulele Ike gives us a couple of songs accompanied by his ukulele.

The other star was the brilliant Roy Smeck who is seen here. He appeared in a film featuring long forgotten crooner Russ Columbo. Roy gives us a dazzling display of his talent on the uke in a film which must have been made around the very early nineteen thirties.

New equipment required !!!

After last years tremendous efforts by all the members to raise the necessary capital to fund the twentieth anniversary party, it was announced at the February 2, Wakefield branch meeting of the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle that the raffles (which are our main source of revenue) are to continue with the emphasis on the purchase of some new sound equipment to enhance the quality of the concerts. At this moment in time, our members have always generously helped us by loaning their own equipment, Alan Buckley and Dickie Speake are two people who, over the years have provided their gear so that the concert can rise to better standards. We think though that now is the time that the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle after twenty years should own it's own amplifier and all the other bits that are needed to entertain all our members.

With this in mind therefore, we appeal to you all to keep turning up at *both* Wakefield and Mirfield and to bring with you a raffle prize and of course to obviously buy the tickets. I have no doubt that the generosity already shown will continue to be upheld.

Your efforts will be appreciated by all.

A letter from Millie McGee

I had a little letter from Millie McGee who is still recovering from her recent operation, she has had a couple of set-backs along the way but I am pleased to report that she is now making good progress and Mac reported at Wakefield that Millie had actually been discharged from the hospital. I was pleased to hear from Millie who had written to me in response to the January edition of this little newsletter. I thought it commendable that she should bother to contact me inspite of her medical problems. Millie has already been present at one or two meetings and was in Blackpool for the recent March convention.

So welcome back Millie.

Don't Forget...

The Milton Keynes meeting of the George Formby Society takes place on Saturday April 29th, last years meeting was a great sucess. Do your best to be there.'