NO LIMIT

The Yorkshire Ukulele Circle Newsletter - December 1996
Edited by Peter Pollard - Volume 2 - No. 5





Another nice picture of our hero, from the archives of that most dedicated Formby fan and thoroughly nice person, by dear pal Reg Thacker. Reg is always interested in our goings on and supports us totally in all we do. If you see a picture of GF between these pages you can bet that it will be from Reg's collection so a big thank you and Merry Xmas to Reg for all his assistance.



With a bit of luck you will be reading this newsletter at the Mirfield meeting in December. So let me say a MERRY CHRISTMAS not only to the members of the Uke Circle, but also to all my ukulele friends who might happen to read this. We have had another great year within the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle and the GFS goes from strength to strength. It has not been easy having to produce this modest journal but it is rewarding and I think from your reactions that you are all in favour of a periodical publication. As well as the Newsletter I try to produce the odd video. Spare a thought then for poor Peter, I have just spent five weeks producing the GFS September meeting, I've just finished at 2-o-clock in the morning and discovered that I have spelt one word wrong in the credits. Why don't I just learn to sing?

UKE CIRCLE PULLS IT OFF AT YORK STREET WMC

A great night out was experienced by the members of the Combined Services when they organised an evening of "Wartime Memories" and asked members of the Uke Circle to entertain them.

Quite a unique occasion really because whilst we had mainstays in Paul Mountain, Lionel Owen and Charlie Hever, there was no Dennis Taylor, Dennis Mitchell or the man himself, Dickie Speake. All these lads had prior engagements but has they say in show biz - the show must go on.

And go on it did with many of the lesser but just as enthusiastic lights of the Uke Circle certainly lighting the sky up on this special evening.

Guests of Honour were the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield and a packed and enthusiastic audience enjoyed a couple of games of bingo, a pie and pea supper and the unique talents of the Uke Circle. There were many veterans displaying well won medals in the audience and it must be said that the lads who represented the Uke Circle gained a medal or two themselves with their performances. The fact that they pulled this one off **in style** can only be a boost for the confidence of some of these lads and proves once again that of all the ukulele playing groups within this country, the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle must be the strongest of the lot. Take a bow *PAUL MOUNTAIN, LIONEL OWEN, CHARLIE HEVER, BRIAN WEBB, MAC McGEE, GEORGE BUTTERWORTH, DAVID WHITE, PETER FIRTH, TONY MARSHALL, KEN, "TETLEY DAVE" AND PETER POLLARD.*

Chairman Paul Mountain writes …

Let me say a big thank you to all the members of the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle who came along to play and support us at the York Street WMC, Wakefield, where members of the Combined Services gathered to commemorate Armistice Day on the 15 November. A great time was had by all. We had three spots, enjoyed a smashing pie and pea supper with them, and by the comments that myself and some of the others received, I believe it was very well accepted to the point of not asking us but demanding that we go back next year on the threat that if we didn't, they wouldn't let us go home which shows that they all enjoyed it very, very much.

So thanks once again to all the players and supporters who came along that night. Let's get some practise in for next year!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



Shall We Dance?



David White & Frank Wilson

At the end of another highly successful year we can reflect on lots of happy times within our unique Circle and here are a few memories of our gatherings together. I am pleased that you dear reader are in favour of our Newsletter and hopefully we will continue in 1997 to record our times together and also, snippets about George Formby and maybe even articles about you. I care very deeply for the Yorkshire Ukulele Circle and I believe that if you get enjoyment out of something, then it is only right to try to put something back. I hope that this Newsletter will serve that purpose. Our Circle is I believe, unique within the world of the GFS and ukulele playing in general. I might be slightly biased but I do believe that we have the strongest group of players in this country. Not that unusual when you consider that we are privileged to have within our members the likes of Dickie Speake, Dennis Taylor, Dennis Mitchell, Stan Brown and Lionel Owen. I could go on. We are the only ukulele playing group who meet **twice** a month and fill the room at ***every*** meeting. Yorkshire Ukulele Circle nights are always special and I am sure that they will continue to maintain that extra magic. I trust that the Newsletter also helps to make your Uke Circle evening a little more interesting and I sincerely thank the people who have contributed during 1996. I hope that their efforts will inspire you all to write something in 1997.

Peter Pollard

'Tetley' Dave with his fan club!





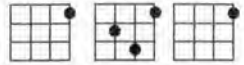
The team at York Street WMC

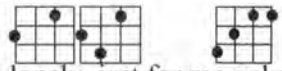
Some Of These Days

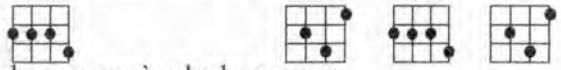

Some of these days, your gonna miss me honey


Some of these days, your gonna feel so lonely.

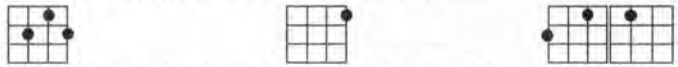

You're gonna miss my hugging, your gonna miss my kissing,


You're gonna miss me honey - while I'm away


You'll be so lonely, just for me only


But you know honey, you've had your way.

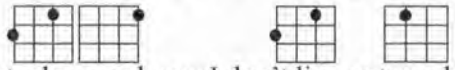

And when you leave me, you know it will grieve me,


You're gonna miss your Dad, Dad, Dad, Dad, Daddy some of these days.


No girl made has got the shade on Sweet Georgia Brown


Two left feet but oh so neat as Sweet Georgia Brown

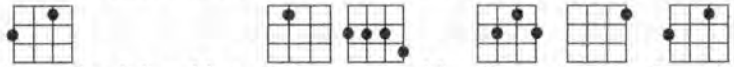

They all sigh and want to die for Sweet Georgia Brown

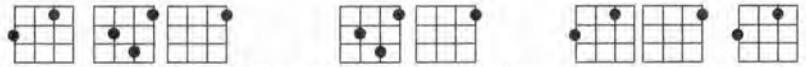

I'll tell you just why, you know I don't lie - not much.

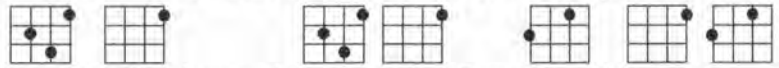

It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she lands in town


Since she came why it's a shame how she cools 'em down


Fellows she can't get, Ha, fellows she ain't met

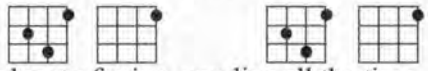

Georgia claimed her, George named her Sweet George Brown

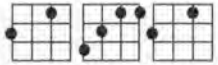

Every star above, knows the one I love - Sweet Sue just you,


And the moon up high knows the reason why, Sweet Sue - it's you


No one else it seems, ever shares my dreams


And without you dear I don't know what I'd do


In this heart of mine, you live all the time


Sweet Sue - just you.

1997

The Yorkshire Ukulele Circle meets at
Carrgate WMC - 1st Tuesday in the month.
Mirfield Conservative Club - 3rd Tuesday in the month.

The Time of Your Life...

This was George Formby's last show in 1960 and featured the lovely Yana, Lancashire comedian Jimmy Clitheroe and opera singer Toni Dalli. On the back page is the front cover of the programme you would have bought for 3d when you entered the Queen's Theatre, Blackpool. I wonder if any of our members actually saw the show. If you did, let's all here about it.

Incidentally the Queen's Theatre used to be known as Feldman's Theatre and George appeared there many times throughout his career. The Theatre was situated in Bank Hey Street and started life in September 1877 as the Borough Theatre. Music Hall artists of the day clamoured to play at Feldman's, renamed after the music publisher Bertram Feldman.

In the 30's, a summer was not complete without a dose of 'Rockin' the Town' - the Feldman's Summer Show. Feldman's underwent a £10,000 renovation in April 1938 when all the latest art deco features were introduced. It became a venue for ambitious revues and was one of the first theatres in the country to boast the latest in a steel and asbestos safety curtain!

The theatre could seat 1,680 people and had three bars. As well as featuring George Formby, many other famous music hall stars played there including Frank Randle.

Feldman's was sold and changed it's name to the Queen's in 1952 but is still affectionately remembered by many. It is sad to note that whilst George was playing in 1960, the other attraction was striptease. Obviously this famous theatre was all ready in decline. A ladies fashion shop now stands on the site of the theatre.



Leeds Town Hall

There were unusual scenes in Leeds Town Hall in November when a standing ovation was given to three of our members when they entertained in front of the Lord Mayor of Leeds and a packed audience who had gathered to commemorate Armistice Day. Dennis Mitchell, Dennis Taylor and Dickie Speake really did lift the roof with a performance right out of the top drawer. Also on the bill was ever popular Charlie Hever. Charlie delivered his songs with style but even he had to take second place to the ukulele skills of the aforementioned three. I am told that the concert was a very emotional affair and whilst there were numerous and varied acts on the bill, our lads gave them something to remember.

Pie & Pea Supper at Carrgate

Even though the night was atrocious weather wise and it was only 48 hours after the GFS Winter Convention, the Carrgate venue was the scene of an entertaining evening for the Wakefield branch of the Uke Circle. The only loser on this particular evening were the members who didn't get there and the local fish-and-chip shop were the members usually make for at the end of the entertainment. Not tonight though as everybody was full of pie and peas.

It was nice to see Alan Harris and Jack Transport amongst us and also, a really special welcome to our dear friend Ron Holliday who was with us after his recent spell in hospital. Ron is always good entertainment and on this evening he sang and played beautifully and you could have heard a pin drop.

We are all aware of Ron's health problems and I know that ukulele friends both in Yorkshire and beyond are sincerely wishing Ron well.

I would also like to commend Dennis Mitchell for his efforts in bring the sound equipment and Dickie's backing tapes from Halifax, in spite of the exhausting weekend in Blackpool and the fact that Dennis was working throughout the day, he was still ready for another ukulele session and his arrival ensured the success of the evening.



George Butterworth his always with us, usually snapping away with his camera and always supporting the newsletter with his high quality photographs. Tonight though he takes on his annual role as the fat jolly bloke who slides down chimney's, only works one day of the year and talks to reindeers. It's a wonder he isn't locked up. He is though another reason why the Uke Circle is so unique, we not only have all the leading lights within the Formby world, we also have the only Santa Claus with a real beard, pull it tonight if you don't believe me!

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