


G.F.C. NEWS



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This Magazine is issued from the office of:

The Organising Secretary
George Formby Club
169 Oxford Street, W.1.

to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

EDITORIAL

The War still goes on - like the Formby Club - but whereas, in spite of all the little set-backs and disappointments, we are drawing nearer to the final victory of the Allies, the Club will carry on ad infinitum. This is only the second issue of the year, but that in itself is an achievement.

It is good to know that the vast army of Formby fans are as keen and as loyal as ever, still anxious to receive this little reminder of their friends who are now, unfortunately, split up all over the world.

You have no doubt read in your favourite national newspaper the accounts of George's Blitz Tour and we hope many of you have been able to enjoy seeing him in person. No sooner had this tour finished than George was at it again - this time for the Tanks. He was the first to organise a show for the new drive for more and more tanks. This took place at the magnificent Odeon Theatre in Leicester Square. The 3,000 seater luxury theatre was packed to overflowing and the scenes outside beggar description. Real tanks were on view to Londoners for the first time - in fact they made this show the starting point for their tour of the Country. To see them, plus the chance of seeing some of the biggest stars in variety, was a glorious opportunity which the public did not intend to miss on this grand Sunday afternoon. The prices were 5/- to £5 and if they had been £50 top you just couldn't have bought a seat an hour before the advertised time of starting. What a tribute to your President, that stars like Vic Oliver, Ben Lyon and Bobe Daniels, Issy Bonn, Noel Coward, Tommy Trinder and the war-time "commentary" sensation Quentin Reynolds should agree to give up their Sunday rest for this special occasion. During the evening, as a further means to secure funds, various articles kindly donated were auctioned by George, aided and abetted by Beryl and the marvellous sum of over £4,000 was raised.

What with the Blitz Tour and the Tank Fund Show, George must have raised directly and indirectly - as his lead has been quickly taken up by others - quite half-a-million pounds. What an artist - what a trouper - what a sport!

Needless to say, organising these shows has meant much hard work and a lot of travelling for George and Beryl, but the show they will always remember and which gave them the most personal pleasure is the one described on the next page by an eye-witness.

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

An air of mystery surrounded a request on a recent Saturday afternoon to join a party George Formby was taking out of town. We supposed it was another one of those sudden urges which prompts George to rush away and give his services to bring a smile to those who are doing their bit in remote places.

Arriving at our rendezvous, we found a complete dance band assembled, which included representatives of the Guards, the Air Force, the Home Guard and Police, all giving up precious moments of their "rest" period. Other artistes were also there in order to make up the programme. A turn from the north and one from the south arrived with a few minutes to spare before setting off.

The journey was occupied by careful planning of the programme with the band leader. On arrival at our destination, we found that this was to be no ordinary concert. The scarlet, bemedalled coats of the attendants suggested "distinguished patronage." A few minutes for a final check-up on the improvised stage by George and Beryl, the conjurer assembling his props, the singer testing the tone of the piano and then the troops began to arrive.

Prompt to the minute, a sudden hush came over the room and with all present standing to attention, Their Majesties, The King and Queen arrived with the Princesses. The King in military uniform, the Queen in her favourite grey and the Princesses in sky blue multi-pleated skirts.

Without fuss or ceremony, the proceedings started and to warm up the family party the band played popular hits with the company joining in the chorus. George and Beryl gave a condensed version of one of their music-hall sketches - much to the delight of the troops and the Royal party. The conjurer and the straight singer were well received and then came the star attraction, with George Formby rendering in his own inimitable style, seven or eight songs with chorus accompaniment. From a privileged position back-stage, we were able to see that the Royal party were not only enjoying the chorus, but Princess Margaret knew most of the words of the verse.

The programme finishing "on the dot", the audience quietly dispersed. Then came a big moment when the company, headed by George and Beryl, were ushered into the private apartments. In the drawing-room was a typical family gathering, with the King and Queen and the little Princesses becoming Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen and their daughters, complete with their famous pet

Welsh Corgie, a spaniel and a "scottie." There was a specially private audience for George and Beryl with the King and Queen, after which they joined the party of remaining artistes and members of the band in informal talk round a typically English log-wood fire in one of the stately homes of old England. A final adjournment to another room with tea served for the company, with Lady --- and Lord --- doing the "honours."

As a memento of the visit, the King presented George with a pair of gold cuff links with the Royal monogram in enamel and to Beryl the Queen presented a beautiful gold and enamelled powder box. As George already has a pair of cuff links presented to his father by King George, he is now the proud possessor of two very precious heirlooms.

We were then rushed back to town in time for our evening duties after a memorable day. Had this party taken place in peace time, the national papers would have been full of a vivid description of the event - the first command variety show of the war - but the war prevented all this and all that was published was a small paragraph - "George Formby entertained Their Majesties and a party of 400 troops in the Home Counties yesterday."

QUEEN MARY'S GIFT FOR THE BLITZED

In addition to a subscription, Queen Mary presented three articles which substantially assisted the distressed of the blitzed areas. The presentation was made personally to George Formby when he and Beryl gave their second Command Performance at an entertainment arranged by Her Majesty for the troops, for which they had to make a quick dash from Portsmouth.

The programme, arranged under Queen Mary's supervision, opened with community singing, in which she joined, and was followed by George's film "Spare A Copper." After selections by a Military Band, George and Beryl appeared in a sketch, followed by further singing and finally, by George singing all his popular numbers to ukelele accompaniment.

The Queen asked George about his Fund for the distressed and in addition to a subscription, gave him a George III Silver Cream Jug, a Silver Georgian Tea Strainer and a Silver and Agate Etui of the same period, which she asked him to auction for the fund.

After the performance, which lasted three hours and, with the exception of the Band, was entirely a George Formby show, the troops present cheered when George and Beryl came before the curtain and the Queen went forward and shook hands. To add to their collection of souvenirs of notable occasions, George and Beryl now have a specially posed photograph of themselves and Queen Mary.

In between these hectic tours, George has completed his latest film "Turned Out Nice Again" and those of you who have seen it will no doubt agree that this is yet another celluloid triumph for him. The only times George and Beryl have spent more than one week in any place, including their home at Blackpool - are while this film was being made at Ealing and during his new picture which is now in production at Elstree. What a life! This latest film has been given the title of "South American George" and presents him in an entirely new role. We are sure you are all looking forward to the time when it will be shown at the cinemas. What their immediate plans are on completion of the film, it is impossible to say. You never know what they will be up to next, but there is one thing you can be certain about, they will not be shooting off to America while the war lasts. They think - and all credit to them for it - that their place is right here, but it's nice to know that the U.S.A. are anxious to get George over there just as soon as possible. There are also urgent requests for a tour of the Dominions - following the tremendous success of his films.

Incidentally, Beryl's birthday took place on September 9th and we are asked by Beryl to convey her sincere thanks to all those who so kindly sent cards and best wishes.

PRIZES OF AN AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. & MRS. FORMBY
FOR BEST CONTRIBUTIONS ARE AWARDED TO:-

NORA TURNER	CECIL PHILLIPS	J.M. GROVES
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Bristol

Sergeant: "I want volunteers for railway work."

Recruit: "Right, put me down for a sleeper."

DOROTHY HOLMES
UTTOXETER

PEN PALS

CHARLES SHAW) would like a girl pen pal, age
11, Broadway,) 15-17, who wishes to correspond
Grangetown,) with someone in the North of England.
Middlesbrough. Yorks.) Please enclose a photograph.

DERYCK HOWLETT) is 17 years of age and would like a
Old Mill House,) girl or boy pen friend of the same
Rattlesden. Suffolk.) age or thereabouts. His hobbies are
) autograph collecting and collecting
) our President's records.

DESMOND HILL) I should very much like a boy or
37, Sandringham Road,) girl pen pal. I am 16 years old and
Redcar. Yorks.) my hobbies are films and reading.

GRACE STEWART) would like to get in touch with some-
54, Grierson Street,) one, preferably a boy, learning the
Glasgow. E.1. Scotland.) ukelele and interested in stamp
) collecting and cycling.

ROSEMARY HARDY) I should very much like to have a
The Old House,) pen pal, either a boy or girl. I am
South Downs Road,) 14. Interested in stamp, autograph
Hale. Cheshire.) and cigarette card collecting, films
) and sport - mainly riding and tennis.

JUNE WELCH,) would like a boy pen pal aged about
Penrhos College,) 17 - 18, if possible living in
Chatsworth House,) England.
Nr. Bakewell. Derbys.)

RITA GRIFFIN) is anxious to communicate with a
"Newstead", Chester Rd.) boy or girl living somewhere in the
Hazel Grove,) British Isles, between 17 - 18
Stockport. Ches.) years of age. She is 16.

LEONARD WILDEY,) is 16 years old and would like a girl
Blue Coat School,) pen pal about 16-17 years old,
Bath Rd. Reading. Berks.) interested in films, swimming and
) cycling.

CONNIE BAKER) would like a pen friend from 15-18
25, Lodge Road,) years of age. Interested in film
Stoke Green,) stars, all sport and dancing.
Coventry. Warwicks.)

PEN PALS

- TONY LAMBERT) would like a boy or girl between the ages
119, Blammerle Road,) of 17 and 21 to correspond with him. He
Now Eltham, S.E.9.) is 18 and interested in all sport including
) cycling, also films and autograph
) photograph collecting.
- LESLIE ROLES) would like a girl pen friend about 16-17.
31, Birch Street,) He is turned 16 years of age and interested
Moss Side,) in everything!
Manchester.14.)
- FRANK WRIGHT) would like a pen friend of the opposite sex
2, Guild Road,) living in England. Interested in
Foleshill,) photography and film shows.
Coventry. Warwicks.)
- FAITH BUCKTON,) would like a girl or boy friend of 13, the
70, Rocky Lane,) same age as herself. She has long brown
Perry Barr,) hair and is interested in singing, swimming
Birmingham.22.) and tennis.
- EDNA DOWNSWORTH) would like a pen friend aged about 12 or 13,
389, Anlaby Road,) interested in dancing, singing and film
Hull. Yorks.) stars. A girl please.
- MARY INGRAM) would very much like a girl pen friend who
27, Tower Avenue,) does not live in either England or Wales.
Monk's Tower Estate,) Somebody of her own age - 13.
Lincoln.)
- W. HILLER) is 17 years of age and would like a girl
7, South Esk Road,) pen friend about 16 years old. He is
Forest Gate. E.7.) interested in films, dancing and autograph
) collecting, not forgetting his ukelele.
- C.E. MEAD) would like a young lady pen pal, if
60, St. Phillips St.) possible in the London area, about the
Battersea, S.W.8.) age of 15 - 16.

OUR LETTER BOX

We wish to thank all members who have written to us since the last issue of the NEWS and have pleasure in dealing with some of the letters below. Will those members who require a direct and personal reply to correspondence please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

"I wonder if you will ask any member if they have the last set of film star cigarette cards, with autograph on, that came out, I think, of Players cigarettes, only before my home was bombed I had three sets but I lost them all. I will pay all postage necessary if they care to send them." PERCY A. LEWIS. GLENWOOD. WEST ST. BANWELL. SOM. We are sure you will all agree this is a very worthy appeal. Poor Percy lost his father in the raid and we extend to him our heartfelt sympathy. Will you please see what you can do for him?

"I am collecting photographs of film stars. If anybody has any of Fred Astaire, Robert Montgomery, Charles Boyer or any other stars which they do not want, I would be very grateful for them." MARY INGRAM. 27, TOWER AVENUE. MONK'S TOWER ESTATE. LINCOLN. The above appeal speaks for itself. We know our members are always anxious to assist each other, so do your stuff!

"I am trying to complete my cigarette cards and I would be very pleased if anyone would swop with me." ROSEMARY HARDY. THE OLD HOUSE. SOUTH DOWNS ROAD. HALE. CHESHIRE. Rosemary doesn't say which cards she is collecting, but we are sure interested members will write to her.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE IN NO:1 ISSUE

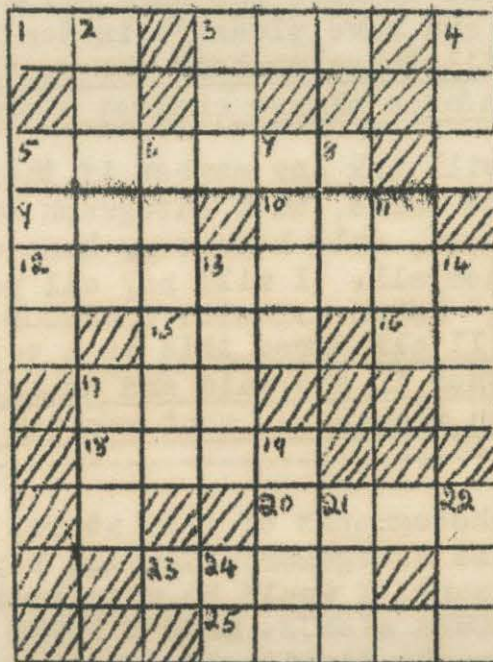
Across.

- 1. Fl.
- 4. Beg.
- 6. Pa.
- 8. Lo.
- 9. Ely.
- 11. Nail.
- 13. Over-issue.
- 16. Request.
- 17. Roe.
- 19. Alum.

Down.

- 20. Boar.
- 21. Ya.
- 22. Steeps.
- 25. Lea.
- 26. Valet.
- 27. In.
- 29. Gretas.
- 30. Paste.
- 34. Boast.
- 35. Seas.
- 1. Flora.
- 2. Lovcity.
- 3. Serum.
- 4. Byss.
- 5. Gnu.
- 6. Pi.
- 7. Alter.
- 10. Lie.
- 12. Acroplane.
- 14. Equal.
- 15. St.
- 18. Oases.
- 20. Boat.
- 22. Sages.
- 23. Ever.
- 24. Tip.
- 28. Nab.
- 31. So.
- 32. Ta.
- 33. As.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS.

1. A preposition meaning to belong to.
3. Is used to connect words and sentences.
5. To lie close and snug.
9. Before.
10. The one of cards.
12. A tree.
15. This stands for United Cattle Products.
16. Part of the word rat.
17. To make a mistake.
18. To change direction.
20. To make a promise.
23. To have a life.
25. Whey.

DOWN.

2. Fierce.
3. An insect.
4. An animal.
5. A bird's home.
6. Safe.
7. A vessel for burning oil with a wick.
8. Part of the word economy.
11. The same as 17 across.
13. A measure of land containing 4,840 sq.yds.
14. To chew and swallow food.
17. A girl's name.
19. To roam about.
21. Part of the word aerial.
22. This is not rationed.
24. 3rd person singular present of the verb to be.

Submitted by
 NORA TURNER
 CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY.

Hidden Birds.

1. Below are some jumbled words which, when re-arranged, will spell the names of seven birds:-

RILDAALN. TACEVO. SNATHEAP. DOWCKOCO. BISI. TUTAHCHN.
URGEOS.

A Buried Rainbow.

2. In each sentence below is hidden a colour. Can you find it?

I'll race Freda to school.
Te and fro ran Gertie, greatly excited.
He stopped on hearing a yell: Oh! wait Alan wait.
An ogre entered the castle.
The bluebottles were busy buzzing.
Blown in by the wind I go by.

CECIL PHILLIPS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Answers on next page.

STARLIGHT

No bright uncurtained window sends,
A friendly light across the moor,
No man can tell where city ends
Or where the sea or where the shore
But clearer than on other nights
The stars define infinity
As England re-awakened fights,
The battle of eternity.

Across the sea men are obsessed
That kneel before a clown, their God,
Who drives his craven helots west,
But flounders where his master trod.
Beneath his feet the mute oppressed
Cry help to England in their pain
And Englishmen are flying lest
Their fathers should have died in vain.

How fierce and long the fight may be
No eye can see, no tongue can state
And who shall fall on land or sea
Lies hidden in the hand of fate.
Yet mighty though the helots power
And though they fight like frenzied slaves,
The truth shall light their dying hour
And freedom dance upon their graves.

J.M.GROVES.
BRISTOL.5.

OUR PRESIDENT'S LATEST GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.
YOU MUST ADD THESE TO YOUR COLLECTION:-

THANKS MR. ROOSEVELT.....(M.R.
BLESS 'EM ALL (NO.2) - George's Own Version.....(3411.

YOU'LL BE FAR BETTER OFF IN A HOME.....(M.R.
I DID WHAT I COULD WITH MY GAS MASK.....(3463.

DAN, THE DAIRY MAN.....(M.R.
HI-TIDDLY-HI-TI-ISLAND.....(3432.

I'M THE HUSBAND OF THE WIFE OF MR. WU.....(M.
OUR SERGEANT MAJOR.....(3425.

FORMBY FAVOURITES FOR THE FORCES. Two Parts.....(M.R.
Intro: Our Sergeant Major; The Lancashire Toreador; (3482.
It's a Grand and Healthy Life; With My Little Stick
of Blackpool Rock; I'm the Husband of the Wife of Mr.
Wu; The Window Cleaner.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GREAT DEAL WORSE.....(M.R.
DELIVERING THE MORNING MILK.....(3472.
(With orchestra, conducted by John Firman.

THE EMPEROR OF LANCASHIRE.....(M.R.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING TO ME.....(3512.
(Both from "Turned Out Nice Again.")

AUNT MAGGIE'S REMEDY.....(Both from "Turned).....(M.R.
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG IN THESE.(Out Nice Again.").....(3520.

ALL THE ABOVE ARE REGAL-ZONOPHONE RECORDS

Answers to Puzzles on previous page:-

1. Landrail. Avocet. Pheasant. Woodcock. Ibis.
Nutthatch. Grouse.

2. Red. Orange. Yellow. Green. Blue. Indigo.

"Are you going to use your knife and fork then?" asked the
angel child.

"Yes," replied the guest. "Aren't you?"

"Yes, but daddy said you ate like a horse."

OLGA HALEK. CAPE PROVINCE.

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