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They did it with a smile 4

Bernard Young \_

# It is with great pride that I am able to write this foreword paragraph for the Rotterdam Branch.



I well remember when I came to Holland to inaugurate the opening of this Branch of the George Formby Society on the continent. Since then another Branch I have also opened has been Kopenhagen and soon on May 30th I hope to do the same ceremony in Gothenburg for Sweden.

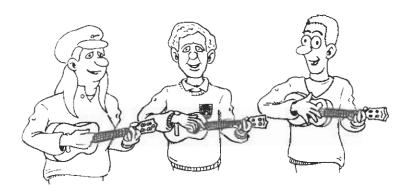
Hans de Roon has worked extremely hard for the Branch in Rotterdam and with his undaunting loyalty has seen it grow from strength to strength. In recent years his friends Janet and Remco have teamed up with him. Special occasions such as this 15th anniversary always makes you remember the good friends that you have lost over the years, like crazy Jan Schreuder and Mario Hannaart. They gave so much of their time and effort to achieve the success of this Branch. Those of you who knew these two wonderful guys will never allow their names to be forgotten.

I am very proud of the Rotterdam Branch and feel sure in years to follow it will keep growing. I wish the Branch every success for the forthcoming 15th anniversary and look forward to attending this event myself.

Your Ambassador in Great Britain and the world,

### Bernard Young

Retired honorary President of the George Formby Society of Great Britain



### HELLO LOCKS (HOM DO AON DO)

Happy to be meeting you! We thought it'd be a good idea to use the starting line of 'I remember George' for the presentation of the Jubilee Book on the occassion of the 15th anniversary of the Rotterdam Branch.

A bit proud we sure are, being just a small club with a great passion for George Formby and his songs. But now there's something to celebrate we wanted to record our history.

We hope you'll appreciate this publication. The weal and woe of 15 years listening to George's records (the splitstroke included), watching his films, telling stories about his life, attending the meetings, pilgrimages to Blackpool and so on. There are few days our thoughts are not with George and our players don't strum their ukes.

Finally we'd like to thank our ambassador Bernard Young for his written contribution to this edition and his visit to the Anniversary Meeting on 16 May 1999. Thanks also to Andries de Boers-Julinyova for his assistance with the lay out.

We wish you pleasant reading.

May 1999

The compilers: Janet Grootoonk, Remco Houtman, Hans de Roon

15 YEARS GEORGE FORMBY IN HOLLAND

GEORGE FORMBY WAS VERY

POPULAR IN HOLLAND DURING THE WAR YEARS. AND HE

STILL IS - AMONGST A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE, 15 YEARS

VAOT? JHT

AGO THESE ADMIRERS DECIDED TO GATHER. THE

ROTTERDAM BRANCH WAS BORN.

In 1972 Hans spotted in the (then still published) B.M.G. magazine an advert about the GFS. It didn't take him long to contact this club as he had been a





JAH SCHREUDER.

great Formby fan

for many years. He was very surprised when it turned out he was the only member on the continent, which lasted until Spring 1976. He then got a letter from a certain Jan Schreuder (from Heemstede), who became a member as well and so, at last, Hans could share his passion with a fellow countryman. Jan had a lot of memorabilia and also reveiled the secret about the "splitstroke", 'cause that was how this strumming technique was called. In september 1977 Jan made the pilgrimage to Blackpool and a Dutch

Radio station (VPRO) made a documentary on this trip. During the years to follow more patriots, like Piet Geurts, Jaap Smit, Klaas van de Weijer and his partner Hannij (who were the proud owners of some 8/16 mm Formby movies), showed of their interest.

### DHITTEM TORIT

After some informal visits Hans thought it was about time to bring these fans together. And so, in May 1984, the first George Formby Meeting took place in Hemelum (in the north east)







JAAP SMIT, ED YD GAAG, HAHS DE ROOH. EGBERT DHIM AND DIET GEURTS.

NO LIMIT

where Jan had his dwellings. A lot of (video) films were watched and as some folks could play the uke, that weekend flew and the foundations were laid for a "Society" in our own country. The respective living rooms however, were not big enough for the events so we looked for a a larger venue. We found a hall on the Isle of Brienenoord (on the

local river Maas) and that also gave us the chance to make more publicity. The general interest in our activities was

> quite good so we decided to give the club a name, "George Formby the

THE ISIC FORMBY FELLOWSHIP - HOLLAND Fellowship", which was officially registered at the Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 18, 1986. During March 1987/December 1988 period

we published our magazine called "No Limit" and the meetings at the "Isle" were very well attended. On one of them we had

highly honoured visitors from The Hague: the British Ambassador, Mr. Archer and his wife. The same afternoon the bemused audience could also witness an improvised "take off" of a model plane, made by aircraft enthousiast Jan Schreuder. Needless to say this took place when "It's in the air" was shown.

CEORGE FORMBY



TON CONDENDED AND THE ADMITE GAVE MAY ADOMED THE HUNDRINGARY WILL HER EIRST EYER UKUTETE TERROK'





JUNIOR PEDINAERS (1990). ASTRID VD CECEM, ANNEMIERE HENSING, REMICO HOUTMAN AND MARIANNE HENSING.

Also a duo that later achieved nationwide stardom went on stage, the "Berini's" (called after a very popular Dutch 50's motorbike). The male part gave a brilliant demonstration of some strokes that, at the time, were hard fo follow for us (now we know better).

Very special was the start of "The Junior Plonkers": four teenagers, Remco and sister, plus Annemieke & Marianne, twin sisters and nieces of Hans. By playing

George's songs they underlined that this music was not just for the elder generation. In the meantime another event on the "Isle" took place, the "First Dutch Banjo Rally". From different countries (the UK as well) lots of players joined in for a historic event. Unfortunately after a 2nd edition (in Breda) this came to and end....

### LOAW'BA Drowner?

Another group that was formed were "The Formby Plonkers", a six piece band including drums and bass. The latter played a huge bassbanjo (built by Leen de Pauw, who was a founder member of this formation) and the difference in size was in funny contrast to the ordinary ukes. The Plonkers, with Thea Rutjes (who also illustrated "No Limit") as the sole survivor of the early days of the band, are still on the road, thus keeping the Formby flag flying high.



GEORGE FORMRY **PLONKERS (1900). JAN SCHREUDER**, THEA Rutjes, Karold, Kans de Roon and Leen de Pauw.

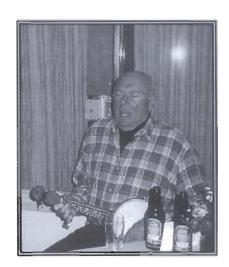
### нэния шираэттоя



MIARBA ANOM HOTEL CENTRAL; JAN FENS, BENT NYIDBERG, BILL DENYER AND Malcolm Eursdon

As the Isle of Brienenoord was a bit remote we moved to the Grand Hotel "Central", in the heart of Rotterdam and changed our name into "The Rotterdam Branch". The meetings were held in the so called Mirror Room, a beautiful piece of architecture and still in the same condition as when it was built in the 20's. Since then the club enjoyed a breakthrough and for seven or so years this

venue was regarded as the "living room" of the Dutch Formbians. As the then owner was a Formby fan as well, our overseas visitors were offered cheap room rates. One of them was Bill Denver who for the first time came over in 1992 and is now one of our stalwarts. Apart from the meetings he's also a well known face at the six monthly assembly of Doctor Jazz (a Dutch society of classic jazz fans) and the trad jazz festivals of Eindhoven, Scheveningen and of course Breda. So we won't be surprised if Bill once will have a Dutch address...



OHE OF OUR REGULARS AND A GOOD FRIEND, BILL DENYER

### BLACKPOOL

Since the "Hotel Central" days we've visited the Blackpool Meetings more frequently and for all of us that was quite a revelation. It resulted in strong friendships with the likes of Mike Metcalfe, Peter Moss, Ron Spears (who built a nice uke for one of our members, Frans Middelham), Malcolm Fursdon, Alan Harris and Bernard Young. For us Bernard Young is generally regarded as the one who knows all about George Formby and some of us have already stayed at his home, the Formby Hotel, where he and his wife Pauline do everything to



DIXIE SESSION IN ALAKAPOOL PETER MOSS AND HANS DE ROON (A.O.)

make it an enjoyable time. So at our May 1989 meeting we decided to elect Bernard as our Ambassador, as no effort was too much for him to promote our Branch home and abroad. During another Blackpool Meeting Janet and Hans met Bent Schmidt Hvidberg and Kimona Hult, from Esbjerg, and they are also regular visitors to Holland and hard-

ly ever miss the Breda jazz festival. Bent, who is a helicopterpilot and sometimes has a job to

do in Greenland, must be the first one who played a tune in the artic circle!

Although we enjoyed our spell in the Central hotel, another move was made. Jan Rutjes, who also did a good job for the Fellowship, gave us the advice to held the parties in a Community House in Crooswijk, a Rotterdam district. It must be said the conditions there are great: a huge stage with a full P.A. system and some backrooms for tuning the ukes etc.



BERHARD YOUNG IS DELIGHTED TO BE HONOURED 'AMRASSADOR'



And the barprices are reminiscent of the days we could watch George's films in the cinema.

Apart from our own get togethers we also meet, twice a year, in Wageningen. In this city, in the eastern part of Holland, there's another branch, formed in 1985. And what about the Breda trad jazz Festival where we, since 11 years, enjoy a three to four days uke inferno?

BEHT HAIDBEAG ELANWIS HIS EINGERR MUBIU IN CUEFUFUHD

### PRESENT

Of course, apart from the three of us, more had their part in keeping the Rotterdam Branch alive. One of them who deserves praise is Mario Hannaart, a very good player who also produced a lot of his own songs.

What the present commanders are concerned, Janet met us in May 1992. Then she was a fascinated spectator when the international party of Formbians were once again playing their tunes at the usual Breda venue: the terrace of Mr.Wu's (that's how he is naturally called) Chinese restaurant. In the years to follow she made her mark



NADIO ILONNOODE OND THE DYDNUEDS COOM MODI

within the branch and also arranges all sorts of Formby souvenirs for the Dutch who can't make the trek across the North Sea.

Remco, who's also our present MC, left the club after his spell with the Junior Plonkers but rejoined, full of remorse, in 1994. That was a timely return as in November of that year Hans moved to Sunderland to fulfil a lifelong ambition: to follow his beloved football club. So until



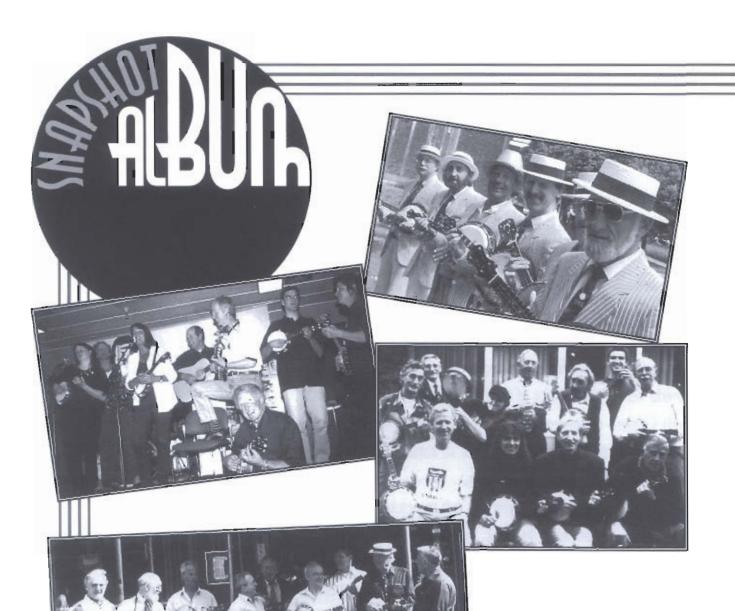
JANET GROOTOOMK AND REMOO HOUTMAN ON STAGE IN BLACKPOOL

November 1998, when Hans made his come back, these two were in charge of the house. It's typical, but in those four years the Rotterdam Branch did very well. Especially the November 1997 meeting was outstanding when approx. 80 people turned up, so since we have a good membership incl. 20 or so players.

Generally speaking we think we know all the fans in Holland. But every now and then, out of the blue, a new face turns up and thus can do a good job for us. Added to the overseas companions in distress, who come over regularly, this makes us a unique group of folks whose aim is to keep the memory of George Formby alive, hopefully for many years to come.

### To be continued...?

May 1999









Ad de Bree

Date of birth:

7 December 1940

Residence:

Tilburg

Hobbies:

Music (in generaL),

travelling, watching

sports (TT races,

boxing, football, cycle-

racing)



Favourite GF-song: Auntie Maggie's remedy

Least favourite GF-song: I like them all

Favourite GF-film: It's in the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: A friend from Antwerp gave me my first uke, a George Formby model from 1928. I still have it.

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: I have never been to Blackpool

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby:

Janet (joke) and Peter moss

Most desirable uke: Don't know

What other instrument(s) do you play: Several kinds of guitars, Hammond organ, mouth organ,

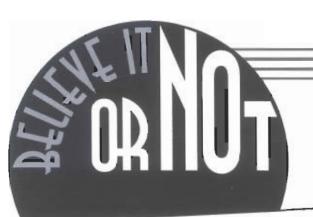


accordeon, percussion and the bones

Favourite music other than Formby: Hot club de

France and much more

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: Formby's special sound



### 'Happy Jazz...' met Scat Cats en Drs. P puur entertainment

Breda - Foyer Stadsschouwburg Concordia. Happy Jaxx and Craxy Poetry door The Scat Cats. Drs.P. en The George Formby Plonkers. Gehoord op zondag 20 april 1886.

#### Door Geert van den Dungen

vel E Bredanaars waren zondagmiddag naar Concordia gekomen om getuige te zijn van de derde afleyering uit de serie fasimiliematinees 'Happy Jazz and Crazy Poetry' Een drie uur durend amusementsprogramma, waarin jazz en kleinkunst voor voldoende afwisseling zorgden.

Dat The Scat Cats gespecialiseerd zijn in het brengen van
jazz als pure entertainmentvorm, werd tijdens hun optreden ondubbelzinnig waargemaakt. Een optreden van The
Scat Cats verveelt geen moment, omdat er altijd wel lets
gebeurt op hun bühne. Dit
Bredase jazzorkest onder leiding van Rob Cremer baseert
zijn manier van spelen op die
van de Amerikaanse WestCoast Revival uit de jaren

dertig. Gecombineerd met de nodige humor vormt deze zevenmansformatie een hecht jazzcollectief, dat ook in het solowerk (cornet, sax, klarinet) zijn mannetje staat.

De bekende Drs.P. repte in het eerste gedeelte van zijn 'recital' over zijn bizarre liefdes voor culinaire verschijnselen als chalottes, komkommers, broccoli, ananas en bananen. De literaire kwaliteiten van deze Einzelgänger overtreffen die van zijn planospel, dat er verdacht gevaarlijk uitzag.

Wat een muzikale verrassing had moeten worden, werd een muzikale afgang. Het optreden van The George Formby Plonkers was ronduit teleurstellend. Deze groep is niet meer dan een fanclubje van de legendarische filmkomiek George Formby. De presentatle van deze Plonkers was een complete aanfluiting. Hun aankondigingen waren onverstaanbaar, het zingen was te vaak onzuiver en het banjolelespel was van een schulfdeuren-niveau Kortom, een bedroevend slechte vertowaarmee ning. Formby beslist geen eer werd aangedaan. Nico Jongenelen was de annonceur tijdens deze matinee. Zijn aankondigingen waren met gepaste humor omkleed, zoals we dat van deze ras-Bredanaar gewend plin.

### ADITY THE THO SHULL

The Formby Plonkers performed, apart from our meetings, also on other occasions, just like Old People's Homes, where a grateful audience appreciated the good old tunes. But it was a different story when they were invited for one of the (monthly) events in the Main Concert Hall of Breda. The programme also included some high profile artists: Hans Liberg (a comedian), the Scat Cats (a local trad band) and Prof.P. (can't be compared with someone, he's unique). And above all, the mayor was also there, probably alarmed by the arrival of the Plonkers. It didn't take long before a packed audience found out that the uke players were not at their best. Also as they didn't play in their usual formation they were the flops of the afternoon and it's obvious that the next day a crushing report appeared in the local newspaper. But it was a one off and soon the bandmembers got their act together and are still very popular in the musical scene.

SILLOHI

Name:

Henk van Brouwershaven

Date of birth:

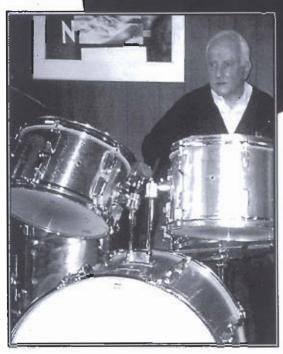
2 december 1920

Residence:

Den Haag

Hobbies:

Music (drums)



Why are you so fascinated with the uke: I like the way the players I mentioned earlier use the instrument

First memory about George Formby: Film It's in the air

Favourite GF-song: Window cleaner a.o.

Least favourite GF-song: None

Favourite GF-film: ?

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: I don't play the uke

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: Years and years ago. I really

enjoyed it

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Thea Rutjes, Remco Houtman, Bill Denver, Pim Hogervorst

Most desirable uke: -

What other instrument(s) do you play: Drums Favourite music other than Formby: Trad jazz

### 'Ukulele spelen, is happy wezen

Rotterdam – Geef een 'plonker' zijn ukulele en een gilsje, en zijn dag kan niet meer stuk. Dan is hij net zo 'nappy' als zijn muziek en speelt hij tot zijn vingers pijnlijk tintelen. Met een sousaphone, washboard, spoons, tenorbanjo en drums op de achtergrond is het feest compleet. Tot in de kleine

De Rouerdamse afdeling van de British George Formby Society – beter bekend als de Rotterdam branche – gaf gisteren een optreden in een zaaltje van het Rotter-damse hotel Central. Veel toeschouwers waren er niet, maar dat mocht de pret niet drukken. The Rosring Tweaties hericefden toch wel met nummers als Coney Island' en 'Oh when the saints of

Daisy'. Rotterdammer Hans de Roon, or ganisator van de jaarlijkse ont-troetingen in Nederland, specit zelf nok. "Ik neem mijn ukulele altijd mee," zegt De Roon, tijdens een van de schaarse pauzes. "Op visite, op een verjaardag, ik zit liever met dat instrument in mijn maag, dan dat ik erom verlegen zit. Dat geldt voor de meeste spelers. Het is een gekie die je echt nooit meer lostaat.

Een muzikante met lang, zwart haar doet een paar vingerhoedjes



op haar vingers en tokkelt op een washboard naar hartelust mee. Een stukje verder zit een man met twee tepels in de rechter-hand. Door de 'spoons' tegen elkaar te tikken roffelt nij precies. op de maat van de aanstekelijke Dixieland-muziek mee. Een ou-dere heer met ukulele heeft een knalblauw bolhoedje op het boofd gezet: hij lijkt regelrecht uit een kanten van de Rotterdamse George Formby Society die gistermiddag in Hotel Central een optreden verzorgde, leken regelrecht uit een oude film te zijn gestapt, Foto Jaap Rotterdan Dagbiad

van de fikus **van Ge**orge Formby te zijn gestapt. Maar het meest opvallende is dat alle muzikanten er evenyeel plezier in hebben. Van klakkeloos een nummertje opåreunen is geen sprake.

#### Drempel

"Dat hoort bij de muziek," ver-volgt De Roon. "Dixieland, old jazz en George Formby is vooral

vrolijk. Als je samen met zulke mensen speelt, stap je over een drempel in een wereld van ple-zier. Het roept bovendien een heel gemeenschappelijk gevoel op. Ukulele spelen, is happy wezen." Een van de spelers is de En-gelsman Mike Metcalfe, een jongeman die ware kunststukjes op zijn ukulele uithaalt. Vooral in Greot-Brittanië is de muziek uit de jaren twintig weer populair. In Nederland mogen maar weinig jongeren voor deze muziek warn-lopen, de Engelse George Formby Society kent tientailen kieuters en kinderen, die zich maar wat grang in hun driedelige kestuumpjes hijsen en net zo lang oefenen tot se het 'slagje' te pakken heb-

De Roon: "Sinds de BBC een aantal uitzendingen aan de George Formby Society heeft gewijd, is rormby society neen gewijk, is het aantal zeer jeugdige speler-ijes førs toegenomen. De eerste zestig jaar is het bestaansrecht van deze moziek in Engeland in elk geval gegarandeerd. Er zal mijn hest doen om Nederland mijn best doen om Nederland daar ook in mee te krijgen. Ukulele spelen is echt niet zo moeilijk. De accoorden zijn erg simpel, al-les drauit om het slagje. Wie veel pefent, krijgt dat vanzelf nader de



tar jaar geleden zaten er twee, dit jaar bezolkten acht en soms tien hanjospelers een terrax in de Bredase Boschstreat tijdens festival. De harde kern wordt gevormd door een paar 'dichards' wit Engeland. Zij sparen een heel jaar om tijdens het val over te komen om hun kunsten te vertonen. Het repertoire is George Formby en andere musiek uit de good old dayn van '30 en '90. Volgend jaar zitten zie'r weer.



Bill Denver

Date of birth:

London 1924

Residence:

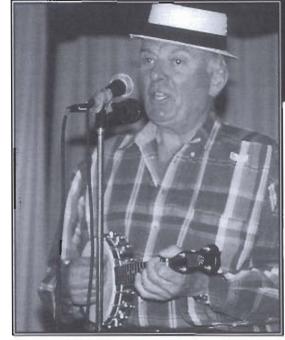
Pinner

Hobbies:

Music (banjo-uke,

guitar, songwroting)

and magic



First memory about George Formby: On BBC radio 1932 singing Chinese laundry blues and on Saturday Night Music Hall in the 30's. I also heard Formby Senior singing on radio a song called I was standing at the corner of the street

Favourite GF-song: Blackpool rock, Little Wigan garden

Least favourite GF-song: Who slapped Nelly in the belly with a kipper

Favourite GF-film: No limit

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: My father bought me a wooden uke in 1932. My first banjo-uke was given to me in 1938 (Dulcetta). Now I have: Banjo-ukes: Bacon & Day, Dulcetta, Luxor Supreme, Chinese model with snake skin. I also have 6 wooden ukes

and 2 guitars (Gibson Les Paul Custom, Aria Pro 2) When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: March 1991. This was the start of meeting new friends, followed by my contact with Hans de Roon and my introduction to the the Rotterdam Branch. From then on I was hooked on Holland!

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Ukulele lke

Most desirable uke: Goldplated Ludwig or Gibson What other instrument(s) do you play: Guitar Favourite music other than Formby: Trad jazz, swing, blues, Music Hall songs, country & western Why are you so fascinated with the uke: Because of its special sound. It's small and easy to carry. Can be played in a phone box, in bath or in bed

### SWING





Jan Fens is a craftsman. Not only did he make the statue of George on the cover, these fine pieces of art are his as well.

Jan also builds and restores uke-banjo's and is equally good at that. His so called Swing-uke's are second to none (not even the expensive pre-war American uke's)!





Jan Fens

Date of birth:

5 January 1931

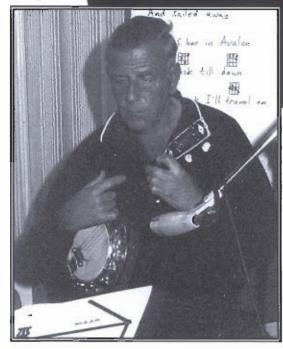
Residence:

Breda

Hobbies:

Playing the uke, resto-

ring



First memory about George Formby: Around 1944 Favourite GF-song: Any song that has a good solo Least favourite GF-song: Goodnight little fellow, goodnight

Favourite GF-film: George takes the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: I got my first uke in 1941 (Martin). It got smashed during a skirmish at home (total loss). Now I have: Dewey uke-banjo (1946), Keech banjo (1993) and 4 made by myself.

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: I only know Blackpool from video. I get the impression it's highly structured - and I can't find a bar!

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Peter Moss and Steve Helme

Most desirable uke: Ludwig

What other instrument(s) do you play: None
Favourite music other than Formby: Country (Hank
Williams), trad jazz, spirituals (hot gospel), Russian
orthodox hymns

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: Even though many people make fun of this tiny instrument, in hands of good players it's a mature instrument. There's more to it than Formby-imitations, looking at the styles of for instance Janet, Remco, Peter Moss and Bill Denver.





Above: George with his wife and manager Beryl Ingham.

On the right picture Remco plays George's Abbott., which
he used at all his gigs and in many of his movies.

What a memorable experience!





Hans and Janet pay a visit to the grave of George Formby.

For both it was a special and emotional day.



George Formby

Date of birth:

26 May 1904

Residence:

Wigan

Hobbies:

Music, speed (cars,

motorbikes) and

everything to do with

China



First memory about George Formby: When I saw myself in the mirror for the first time

Favourite GF-song: You don't need a license for that

Least favourite GF-song: None

Favourite GF-film: All

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: I bought my first uke from a fellow artist in the dressing room of a theater in Barnsley, around 1926. Afterwards I bought many ukes, like Gibsons, Ludwigs and my Abbott

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: Never been there

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby:

Ukulele !ke

Most desirable uke: Ludwig

What other instrument(s) do you play: Mouth

organ. I used to play that for the horses

Favourite music other than Formby: Trad jazz,
opera

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: The sound, the rhythm, the ease and the size



### VAMADO OT DIVERAL

In the Autumn 1998 edition of the Vellum in one of the articles it was mentioned that Gerry Maudesley did succeed in getting a memorial for George Formby erected. Few however, in the UK in particular, know that a Dutch member, Piet Geurts, tried to do the same for many, many years and did sent lots of letters to the municipality of Wigan among others since the mid 70's. Piet, who knows all about George's life and records, has always put a lot of work in getting him awarded the right tribute and some of his writings were published in early issues of the quarterly magazine of the GFS of GB. But in the end the memento is there and that's what this is all about. However, here we think we can raise the veil and spotlight this, always too modest, patriot. All credit to Gerry Maudesley, but our Piet also deserves all praise for what he has done.



On 26 May 1998 George Formby finally got what he deserves: a tribute in the town he was born (Wigan). A lot of members of the GFS were present. From left to right: George's brother Ted Formby, mayor Bill Smith and Gerry Maudesley.



Piet Geurts

Date of birth:

13 January 1935

Residence:

Cuyk

Hobbies:

Handicraft



First memory about George Formby: Around 1948 I saw 'Het zit in the lucht' in the cinema. The owner threatened to stop the film, because the audience were tapping George's rhythm on the arm rests. Was George perhaps the first pop-star?

**Favourite GF-song:** Rhythm in the alphabet, with a unique solo

Least favourite GF-song: Sunbathing in the park Favourite GF-film: It's in the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: Actually I may not call myself a true Formbian, because I don't play the uke

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: In 1978. Clive Helme still sends me tape-recordings of the meetings.

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Jack Jones

Most desirable uke: None

What other instrument(s) do you play: None

Favourite music other than Formby: Comedians Harmonists

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: The possibility to play a complete melody with only four strings



### DAEDA TRADITIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

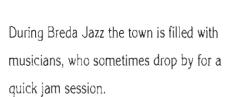
For many years the members of the Rotterdam Branch have been present at Breda Jazz, which lasts four days. At our regular hangout (Mr.Wu's Chinese restaurant) we plonk until dawn sets in.



Our unique plonking attracts many people, as you can see on the picture on the right.









GANTAU VILLAGE



Janetje Grootoonk

Date of birth:

3 November 1969

Residence:

Etten-Leur

Hobbies:

Music, table football



Favourite GF-song: Under the blasted oak (beautiful

chords)

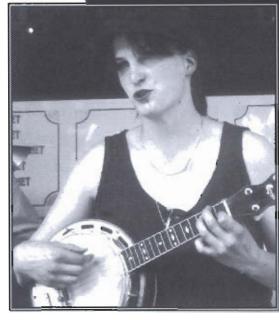
Least favourite GF-song: Banjo boy

Favourite GF-film: Keep your seats please

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: In 1993, a Dallas D. Now I have: Wendell Hall, Glee Club, Favilla wooden uke and something unknown

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: September 1993, or was it 1994? Incredible, all those ukes!

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Me! Most desirable uke: Wendell Hall (already have one)



What other instrument(s) do you play: None Favourite music other than Formby: Trad jazz, sixties and anything that's authentic

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: They're so cute and small. Later I discoverd how many possibilities this tiny instrument has and I try to get as much out of it as I can. There's still a lot to learn...

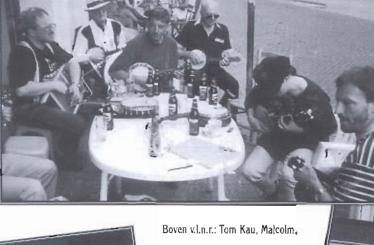
### INTERNATIONAL

We are very proud about all the foreign friends that have visited our meetings over the past fifteen years.

Amongst them of course Bill Denver, Mike Metcalfe and Bent Hvidberg. But let's not forget Malcolm Fursdon, Kimona Hult, Alan Harris, Ron Spears and Peter Moss. We hope we can keep on welcoming them for many years to come.



Peter Moss, by many considerd to be the best there is.



Mike, Bill, Janet en Bent,



Left: Malcolm Fursdon. Right: Mike Metcalfe (standing) and Ron Spears.





Remco Houtman

Date of birth:

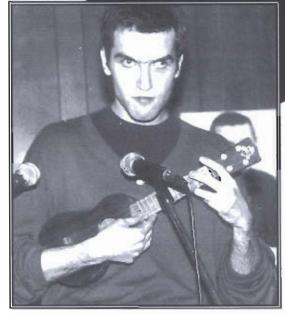
15 October 1973

Residence:

Haarlem

Hobbies:

Music, cartoons, writing



First memory about George Formby: My mother Thea Rutjes was a founder member. The first time I heard George thus must be at home, somewhere in 1985.

Favourite GF-song: You can't stop me from dreaming, On the beat, Why don't women like me Least favourite GF-song: I like banana's Favourite GF-film: Bell bottom George

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: I got my first banjo-uke around 1986, a useless piece of chipboard. Now I have: Melody banjo-uke (20's), Martin 3M ukulele (20's), Martin 0 ukulele (40's), Beltona resonator ukulele (metal, 1999), Red Head ukulele (30's)
When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat

was your impression: My first meeting in Holland was in 1985, in Blackpool in 1996. I was flabber

gasted by the quality of the players (esp. the youngsters). I'm also a regular at the meetings of the Ukulele Society of Great Britain

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Ledward Kaapana, Roy Smeck and Peter Moss Most desirable uke: Abbott (pre-war), Martin 3M, National resonator uke

What other instrument(s) do you play: Guitar

Favourite music other than Formby: Authentic Hawaiian, stringband, jugband, 'old school' hiphop and some groups that are different form anything Why are you so fascinated with the uke: George's rhythm and tempo are incredible and a good uke just sounds pleasant. I find it a challenge to play any music with the limited possibilities (not even two octaves). Other advantages: handy, acoustic and unusual



### WARRY STAMPLE

One of the overseas visitors we've seen only once was Carl Christian Ommundsen from Drammen, near Oslo. We'd never heard of him when Hans got a call from someone with a Scandinavian accent who told him he rang from Dusseldorf. It was at the right time as we were on the eve of another Breda festival & Sunday May meeting. So he

was advised, before returning to the land of the eternal fjords, to make a stop in Holland.

We met, before the festivities started, at Rotterdam Central Station and one of the first things he told us was that he urgently needed a present for his wife, a perfume called "Muskus". At first Hans thought this had to do with his favourite trad jazz tune "Muskrat ramble", but that was not the case. So for several hours we frequented the fragrance shops in the city centre but unfortunately for him without any success. He enjoyed the next few days and also visited the Breda perfumeries but once again in vain. But we do hope that once mrs. Ommundsen will have the right scent on her face.

### NANTELE CONVICTS

Travelling by train to and from the Breda jazz festival has always been an origin for stories. Just like the one we again had a concert between the spurs. Unfortunately the conductor wasn't so pleased with our attempts to cheer up the audience as he wanted us to wrap up the ukes. With the verbal assistence of the travellers we protested but it only resulted in him warning his colleagues in Dordrecht, which was the next station. We had to leave the train right there.... Arriving there we soon found out the whole place was on high alert. A small platoon of riot police, in full equipment, was ready to arrest us. But when we explained the reason of our early exit they could just smile about it.

All is well that ends well so we could take the next train to Rotterdam. When this one arrived the passengers looked bewildered when they saw about ten figures with cases in their hands and in company of the armed band of guards. Of course we did another concert during the final stage of the trip but there's at least one member of the Dutch equivalent of BR who'll never play the uke.



Kimona Hult

Date of birth:

20 augustus 1963

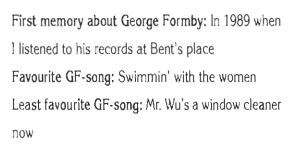
Residence:

Ornskoldsvik

(Sweden)

Hobbies:

Dancing and skiing



Favourite GF-film: Keep fit

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: In 1992. Now I have 2 wooden ukes: a (Ikulele Lux (Swedish make) and a Denmark Blue

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: In 1992, together with Bent. It was fantastic and we had a nice lunch with Alan Harris and friends

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Roy Smeck



Most desirable uke: One from Alan Harris' collection

What other instrument(s) do you play: Trumpet, guitar and spoons

Favourite music other than Formby: Bluegrass, folk (especially from Sweden), trad jazz, rock

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: The beautiful sound and playing makes you feel happy



### Even slikken bij George Formby en de banjo-ukelele

Devr Bernadette Neetissen

Rotterdam — Soms kan een meris zich verschrikkelijk vergissen. Wat bijvoorbeeld te denken van een bezadigd clubje grotendeels oodere mensen, verzameld in de toch al niet al te flitsende zaal van Dienstencentrum Croeswijk, enthousiast meedeinend op de muziek van hango-ukeleles, als je zelf eigenlijk meer van Porno for Pyros of Chemcal Brothers boud? Oan denk je da's niks, even lachen, and weg. Maar dat pakke afgelopen zondag tijdens de George Formby & Trad Sazz Meeting in Crooswijk anders uit. Uiteindelijk werd het even lachen, even huilen. flink wat praten en zo lang mugglijk blijven kristeren naar deze unieke pling-plingmuziek, die of je noa wil of niet een glimlach op het meest gekrekle gehad doet verschijfnen. George Formby (1994-1961) wordt ook wiel de Britse Fernandel genoemd, maar dat zat veel jongefre

George Formby (1994-1961) wordt ook wel de Britse Fernandel genoemd, maar dat zal veel jongkree mensen rôg niks zeggen. Net als zijn Franse collega had Formby een formdublele neus en was hij een komiek van het witte doek, met een heof eigen slag tongue-in-cheek humor: je hield ervan of je verafschunde het. Waar Fernandel zich beparkte tot tekst speelde Formby ook een instrument: de oktelele-hange. Zijn spite stroke, oftwel het George Formby-slagie (een enigszies hakkelend insaar toch vipeiemd kijnkend loppiel, sond serelitetroemd bij de lief-nebbers. Formby's ster straude vooral tussen 1930 en 1945. Honderden keren zong hij voor de Engelse troepen, zijn films trekken volle zilen. Maar vrijwel niemand van de dwee laatste generaties weet meer wie hij s.
Reneo Houfman (24), is de jongste deelnamer en mede-opprints-

weet meer wie hij is.

Berneo Hourtman (2A) is de jorigste deelnemer en mede-organisator van de meeting. Hij kreeg de
iefde voor de ûkelek-bargo met
de moedermelek mee. As tiener
speelde hij zelf een paar jaar,
maar vanst/z'n (1e kreeg hij, oan)
de eneeste kinderen op die bertijd, andere interestes, en bet instrument bleef in de koffer. Niet,
zo vreenst, als puber wil je imponeren, en dat gaal niet zo goed
met een uiselde. Wat evol betreft
kun je beter drie akkoorden kren
spelen op een Pender Stratoussfer
dan een heel eincert op een uikeleke (3f, oan) Bemee het uitdrukt.
Met een uikeldes staje voor gek.
Vier jaar geleden pakte hij de
draad, of llever gerred de snaar,

weer op.
"Formby moet je plaatsen ig de
tijd waaren hij leefde, de tijd van
oorlog en eoonomische recessie.
Met ein supervolijke, zetwat
schuine bedyes en praatjes trof hij
ta die deprimerende tijden preciest de juiste been. Zijn optredens
waaren een mix van songs en sket-

Alvin Harris uit Engeland trad zevidag als één van de buitenlandse gasten op lijdens de George Forsiby-bijeenkomst in Crooswijk. Op het achterdoek een pertret van de Engelse komiek, aan wie de wereld het 'George Formby-slagje' te danken heeft. Fordaap Porematenteroms Dagbied

ches. De kracht van Formby' Hij speelt iets 300 keer en dan klinkt hij nog alsof hij het voor het eerst brengt, zo fris en vers. Ten tweede is het ommogelijk een kamer binnen te lopen waar ukelele-muziek speelt zonder een ket op je geziekt ie krijgen." Vengelijkingen met Brigitte Kaandorp wisd Remco resolunt van de hand: "Da's een gimmigk. Bij Formby hoor it wat voor prachtig instrument het eigenlijk is.

Rind vonge eeuw werd de ukelele uitgevonden op het eiland Hawai liet instrument werd mel popusair in Amerika. Begin deze verw begen de 'uke' ispreek uit 'yoek' in zwang te raken bij dizielanden jazzhands. Omdat de ukelele een zacht geluid produceert, dat nauwelijks tegen de dijkdoorbraak van een hag band bestand is, wesd gezocht naar een manier

cen hem meer volume te geven. In 1917 bedacht de Amerikaan Alvin D. Keech een bardo-achtige constructie, waardoor de 'mini-gataar' ineera een heuse klankkast kreeg. De bang-ukelele was eers feit.

Jaap Stofman (67) is het 'geweten van Nederland' wat betreft George Forntby en zijn marikade erfonis Bij hem moet je zijn, bezweert Remen, als je echt wilt weden wat Formby voor mensen die die tijd helben meegemaant betekent. Jik zag hem voor het eerst in 1946, "agt Hofman, alk zat op de Technische School in Nijmegen, en een vriendinnetje van mij wier vader sandelen in die binscoop had, nodigde mij uit voor een voorstelling met Formby. Dat vond it toen al heel leuk. Maar Formby op het wilde doek is heel jets andere dan Formby op de bûhne. Dat was het voor mij heteman. Zelf maakte het hem niet zoveel zijt, hij heelt noit geoegd. The hoef helemaal niet zo todig op die uikestel te spelen, het gaat mij om de tekst. Als hij zijn vrouw niet had gehad was hij nooid zover gekomen. Dat was een echte dragonder, Beryl. Ze was tegehijkerijd zijn manager. Daar koo mijdeterijk en figuurlijk niet ombeen. Ook hijdens de oorlog vierde Forsiby trienfen. Zijn grootste hit. Ceaning Windows, kan Hofman woordelijk rreezingen. John woordelijk rreezingen. John to pers acangel keek he bushet everplage, tsja, als je daar de humor niet van snage dan vins ie er ook niks aan Hel is een beetge als in 'Keeping Up Appearances', die tweerie. Hofman: "Na de landing in Normandië op 6 juni 1945 was hij pop het Schellenrijk en zan Montag-

ces', de vi-serie.

Hofman: "Na de landing in Normandië op 6 juni 1945 was hij op het hoofdkwartier van Mootgomery oes voor de soldsten te spelen. In de frontlinies lagen de tropeen zo dicht bij elksar dat de Duitsers mee konden huisteen. Als er geapplaudisseeend werd klapte de vijand rece!"



Jan Krammer

Date of birth:

9 September 1933

Residence:

Nijmegen

Hobbies:

Music theory: making

up new rules



First memory about George Formby: His films, shortly after the war

Favourite GF-song: None actually. It's his solo style that I admire. The rest doesn't matter to me.

Least favourite GF-song: None

Favourite GF-film: None

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: In 1948. I still use the same one, and seven more.

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: Blackpool in 1988. Very friendly people

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Steve Helme, Mike Metcalfe and many others Most desirable uke: Any, if it's properly set up What other instrument(s) do you play: Piano Favourite music other than Formby: Trad jazz, classical

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: The rhythm and the sound, especially in combination with accompaniment that with breaks makes the uke stand out



### NANTELE HOOFICAN?

Since the late 80's, when we started to visit the Breda trad jazz festival, our overseas visitors stayed in Rotterdam and travelled to and from that city by train. Leaving the station of the Hottest Place In The South always coincided with a uke concert on the platform. This was always highly appreciated by the travellers, especially when they were waiting for a (just like in the UK) delayed train. On one of those occasions the carriage was in anxious suspense and we soon found out why. About ten The Hague FC football fans were there and as they have a notorious reputation the passengers weren't that pleased. But when we unpacked the ukes the dark clouds rolled by as the fans stopped their raucous language, and became just interested in our tunes. Nick Nicolle was soon surrounded by these guys and got huge approval for each song he played. But after half an hour we had to leave the train, to the disappointment of the North Standers. What happened to those who continued the journey, is not known. But it's for sure there were some new Formby fans among these soccer followers although it was a good idea not to take their names and

### NEGDIGARDE VENIALE

Nick Nicolle didn't only make history as pacemaker when we met the The Hague FC supporters in the train, he also was well known for the loads of stuff he took with him on his trips to Holland. Quite amazing was the picture when he parked his small van in front of Hans' house when he came over in May 1989. He was at the wheel of a vehicle packed with ukes and more personnel belongings. May be not that unusual but he took the same with him in his capacity as foot passenger. It's still not clear how he got all this across the North Sea but it was always great fun when he was homebound,

addresses. A one off concert was, as we believe, more than sufficient.



HICH HICOITE WHO THE FAREBUCE

especially his antics at Rotterdam Central Station. In those days there were no trollies for the general public so Nick confiscated a huge one (2 by 3 metres) belonging to Dutch BR which was loaded with his baggage. Then he took the good elevator (strictly for staff only) to get to the right platform. During this procedure lots of onlookers wondered what this was all about. When the train arrived we helped Nick with the reload of his belongings and he was doomed to take his seat on the balcony which so became a one person domain.



Name: Date of birth: Frans Middelham 17 January 1931

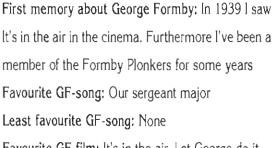
Residence:

Rotterdam

Hobbies:

Music, riding my

bicycle



Favourite GF-film: It's in the air, Let George do it When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: First banjo-uke from Leen de Pauw in 1986. The uke I use nowadays is made by Ron Spears in 1987.

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: I've never been to Blackpool Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Peter Moss, Mike Metcalfe

Most desirable uke: My own

What other instrument(s) do you play: Tiny bit



piano and keyboards

Favourite music other than Formby:Dixieland and bebop. Too bad it's never on television

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: The way Formby plays it, that's the highlight of all his films



### SEKS, DRUGS AND HANS DE ROOM

Apart from the records made by Tobi Rix (who played with George in "The Friday Show") we don't know of any other songs in Formby style made by Dutch performers. But it was Hans who almost did the trick. In 1986 he got a call from a Rotterdam based pubsinger who wanted to do a song in the Dutch version of the Windowcleaner and so, on a summer afternoon, the whole project started. After some attempts the producer and singer were satisfied with the result and that was it. In a neighbouring pub they wrapped it off with a drink and also sorted out the royalties. Unfortunately it turned out that the final product wasn't good enough to be put on the market so this single was doomed for the obscurity of "Never Released". May be you'll find it one day as a bootleg........

At one of his many trips to Blackpool Hans was invited by Dennis Mitchell to act as Master of Ceremonies .





Hans de Roon

Date of birth:

3 March 1944

Residence:

Rotterdam

Hobbies:

English football,

Sunderland AFC in

particular



First memory about George Formby: It's in the air in the cinema

Favourite GF-song: The Baby Show

Least favourite GF-song: Window cleaner

Favourite GF-film: It's in the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: Wooden uke: 1963. Banjo-uke: 1972, built by mr. Sips from The Hague. Now I have one wooden uke (Terada) and two banjo-ukes (Sips and Bacon & Day)

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: 1989. Amazing. It was revelation. Hundreds of fans and many players coming together for a weekend.

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Cliff Edwards

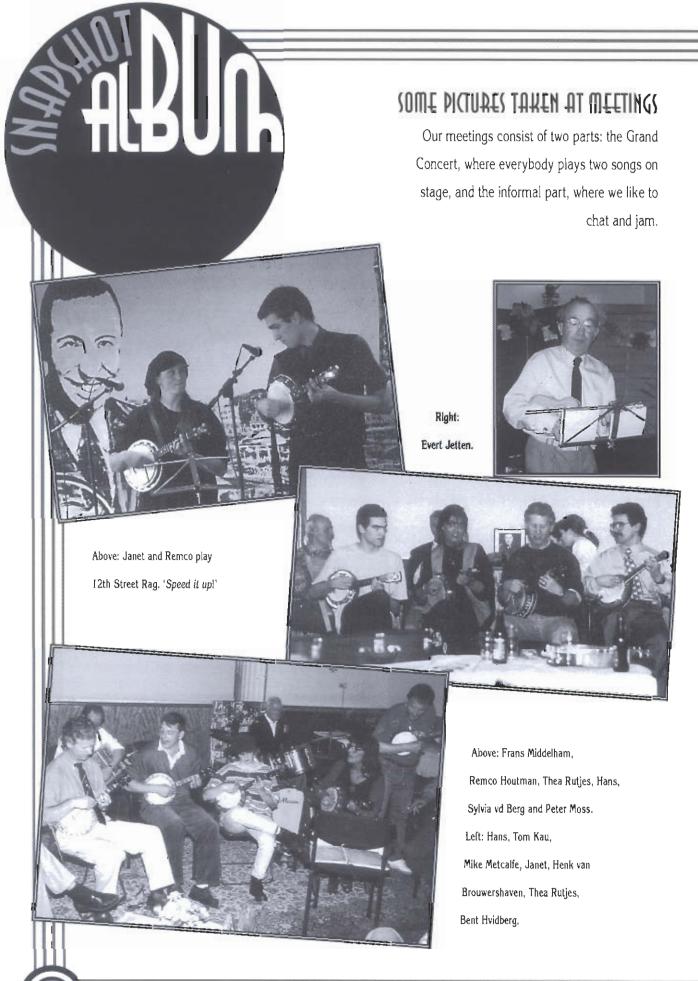
Most desirable uke: The one I already have: my

Bacon

What other instrument(s) do you play: Tenorbanjo, mandolin, autoharp, kazoo

Favourite music other than Formby: Classic jazz, opera, oldtime country, authentic Krontjong (Indonesia), skiffle, jugband

Why are you so fascinated with the uke: Just because the chords are simple (and you don't even need a plectrum) you can get the ultimate pleasure from it. Especially when you play the splitstroke



Thea Rutjes Name: 17 May 1948

Date of birth:

Capelle a/d IJssel Residence:

Painting, drawing, Hobbies:

The Formby Plonkers

and the Kama'aina

Hawaiians



First memory about George Formby:

I was a founder member of both the Fellowship and the Formby Plonkers

Favourite GF-song: Noughts and crosses

Least favourite GF-song: On the Wigan boat express

Favourite GF-film: It's in the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: Jan Schreuder gave me my first banjo-uke in 1985 as a birthday present (a Dallas E). I still use it. In my Hawaiian-band I use my simple yet satisfying Dixon wooden uke.

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: Unfortunately I have never been to Blackpool.

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby:

Remco Houtman (of course)

Most desirable uke:

I'm satisfied with what I've got.

What other instrument(s) do you play:

Tiny bit piano and the spoons

Favourite music other than Formby:

Seventies

Why are you so fascinated with the uke:

The power and the fancy strokes I unfortunately can't play. I like the size and it's easy to play.



### SEEN ON TV

To promote our Branch we have been on radio and television several times.





MHEH	MHEBE	M110	МПЛ	
Sept. 1985	VPRO radio	Jan Schreuder	Trip to Blackpool meeting	
Feb. 1987	Radio Capelle, Hans	Jan Schreuder, Hans de	Programme about George Formby	
	Langeweg	Roon		
Feb. 1988	TROS radio	Hans de Roon	Upcoming meeting	
May 1993	RTL 4, 5 Gur Show (tv)	Our English, Danish and	Recorded during Breda Jazz	
		Dutch uke-players		
May 1994	BEO radio (Breda)	Central Uke Syncopators,	Recorded during Breda Jazz	
		Mike Metcalfe		
March 1996	Radio Rijnmond, Paul de	Remco Houtman	Upcoming meeting	
	Leeuw			
May 1997	Radio Capelle, Hans	Janet Grootoonk, Remco	Programme about Formby + upo	
	Langeweg	Houtman	ming meeting	
Nov. 1997	BOS radio, Capelle	Remco Houtman	Upcoming meeting	
May 1997	Stadsradio Rotterdam	Remco Houtman	Interview + upcoming	
			meeting	



Hvidberg

Date of birth: 21 October 1948

Residence: Esbjerg (DK)

Hobbies: Flying, sport (run-

ning, skiing, surfing, tennis) and music

First memory about George Formby: When I was a kid my mother told me about the movie 'It's in the air'. In 1971 a friend of mine had a bunch of George's LP's which we were listening at and trying to play. But it was hard to learn his rhythm and it still is!

Favourite GF-song: Window cleaner

Least favourite GF-song: None

Favourite GF-film: It's in the air

When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: In Amsterdam 1977. Now I have 6 wooden ukes (mostly Martin's), 1 dobro uke and 6 banjo-ukes (Gibsons, Markendale, Maybell, Musima)

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: March 1992. I was fascinated watching the youngsters and realising how close



they came to George's style. The atmosphere was enormous in between old and young generations. Absolutely very positive!

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby: Roy Smeck

Most desirable uke: Soprano Martin wooden uke What other instrument(s) do you play: Guitar, violin, mouth harp

Favourite music other than Formby: Django

Reinhardt/Stephane Grappelli, Hawaiian music Why are you so fascinated with the uke: It's relatively easy to play. It doesn't take a lot of space, so it's handy to transport (especially the wooden uke). People seem to like this little instrument so it gives you good contacts, good friends and good memories.

# OR NOT

### ONEDMHERWING

Next story is not for the sober Formby fans but for those who can be deeply touched by his songs. We go back to the 1991 meeting in Blackpool when Mario Hannaart, Jaap Smit and Hans were also present. When Sunday came to a close Bernard Young asked us to come with him to his car, parked near the Imperial, as he wanted them to listen to some of George's songs. Five minutes later they sat there and for some hours they listened to many (most unique) recordings and some anecdotes told by Bernard. Also because of the silence of the night an intense mood came over us and we had the feeling that the spirit of George Formby was with us. When, around 4 o'clock or so, we went back to our hotel, we didn't exchange a word, but were just overwhelmed by this impressing experience.

Bernard's 'Formby Hotel' opens
its doors for anyone who likes
George Formby.
On this picture Hans is
accompanied by Bernard and
two of the world's
best uke-players:
Billy (Ike Scott and
Peter Moss (front).



Name:

Bernard Young

Date of birth:

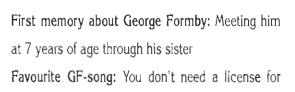
14 September 1930

Residence:

Whitby

Hobbies:

Several



Least favourite GF-song: None

Favourite GF-film: All

that, It serves you right

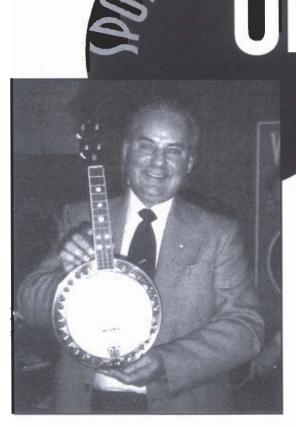
When did you buy your first (banjo)uke and what is your current collection: I have 3 Ludwig's, 6 Gibson's (3 (IB3, 3 (IB2), Dallas C and 7 wooden ukes (Martin's, Kumalae, Keech)

When was your first (Blackpool) meeting andwhat was your impression: June 1968

Favourite uke-player besides George Formby:

Many

Most desirable uke: Ludwig's and Gibson's What other instrument(s) do you play: None



Favourite music other than Formby: None
Why are you so fascinated with the uke: George
played one

# FILMS OF HELIM LI DID LETHE

Most of us were around our teens when we heard of George Formby. For some it even coincided with his glorydays, the 30's. So unfortunately it's inevitable that sometimes we were confronted with the death of one of our members. In this chapter the right respect will be paid to them.

### JAN SCHREUDER

In the starting lines of the story of our Branch we already gave him a mention: Jan Schreuder. He was, as the English say, "quite a character", and Bernard Young always called him Crazy John. Jan, who lived the bohemian lifestyle, was avers from "official" things within the club ("just come together and play the uke") but the title of Godfather wouldn't have been misplaced. Also as he was the first Dutch member who visited Blackpool



(so he knew he was talking about) he was a bit ambiguous concerning our branch. On one hand he wasn't impressed with the way we played (albeit: we'd tried to), on the other hand he attended the meetings very regular. After most of these he said it was the last time he'd shown his (bearded) face: "You'll never learn it, in England they know how to play the uke". But some months later, and long before opening time, a forward bended figure was the first in the queue for another meeting. Always sitting in a quiet corner of the room he observed, with pierced eyes, what was on offer and once again he thought it would have been better he'd stayed at home...

Apart from being a member of the Formby Plonkers, he was also part of a 8 man party that travelled, in September 1989 to Blackpool. But for Jan it became a huge disappointment. He hardly met someone of the (good) old days and the atmosphere was

not what it used to be. Also because of that he became a bit cynical, but who could become angry with Jan, who always was the pacemaker at an "after meeting" supper as well. Although his health wasn't what it used to be, it was a big shock for all of us when we learned he had passed away in April 1998. Jan deserved the right respect and at the meeting following his death those who were present went on stage and sang his favourite song, "Baby".

### LEEN DE PAUW

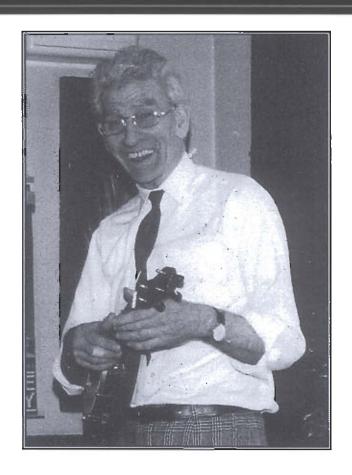
From the start of the Fellowship we had Leen de Pauw in our ranks. Leen not only was someone you could wake up for a uke session, but also a Jack of all trades. So he was always there where a handyman was needed. In The Hague, his home town, he had a Herring (& fish) stall so it was no surprise when, apart from the ukes that were for sale, this Dutch delicatesse was also available at one of the meetings. Behind his Mercedes car he had a huge trailer that seemed to be for unloading the horses but in fact it was always packed with equipment needed for gigs of the Formby Plonkers, of which band he was a founder member. It was no coincidence he built the huge bassbanjo (please see the story of the Rotterdam Branch), as his father in law, Mr. Charles Sips was a world famous banjo maker. Leen's death is a sad loss for the Formby Plonkers in particular.



### TARRINGH DIARM

A very outstanding, and probably the best known figure in the UK, was Mario Hannaart. He played the uke since child-hood and was very surprised (and pleased) when he learned about our branch. He immediately became very active and he left quite a legacy. We already mentioned he also made his own songs. To Bernard Young (our Ambassador as you know), he made a nice tribute when, at a Blackpool meeting, he wrote his own lyrics to the melody of "I do do things I do". But he had already put his stamp at the Lancashire Headquarters when he came over for the first time. From an adjacent room he suddenly came on stage (in a selfmade astronaute costume!) and in front of a dazed audience (the then

concert pianist Dennis O'Connell in particular) he played one of his compositions. On several occasions Mario made the crossing and every time the British audience loved him, just like we did. It was characteristic for his spirit that a phonecall with him not seldom lasted several hours, but so what, it always was for the sake of our branch. At his cremation many (with Nick Nicolle among others) paid their respect and with the uke's at the ready it was a very impressive farewell. No doubt his name will be mentioned for many years.



### EBIK BUBLUCE



Erik not only was a passionate lover of George's songs, above all he was a very kind person. Although he also played the uke, a funny little zither model, he rather listened. If there's been someone who encouraged to play some more tunes, it was him, so not seldom the meetings had an extended final thrash. He was a keen guitarist as well and loved classic jazz, hawaiian and hot club.

(111)14)



Rotterdamse George Formby Society plonkt in Crooswijk

# Klein 'gitaartje' doet niet onder voor grotere broer

ROTTERDAM - Dixieland. old jazz en George Formby. Behalve dat het vrolijke muziek is uit de jaren 20, is er nog een andere overeenkoinst: de Rotterdam Branch of British George Formby Society brengt deze muziekstijlen ten gehore tijdens tweejaarlijkse bijeenkomsten. De vereniging wil de muzikale traditie van George Formby, de in 1961 overleden Engels komiek, in ere houden. Ook op de meeting van 29 november in Crooswijk ligt het accent weer op de muziek, met name het zelf bespelen van het snaarinstrument; de ukelele-banjo.

Het doel van elke Formbian, banjofiefhebber, is volgens één van de
organisatoren van de meetings,
Remoo Houtman, de split-stroke,
het 'slagje' dat George Formby zo
beroemd maakte, onder de knie te
krijgen. "Een ukelele-banjo bespelen is op zich niet zo moeilijk. De
aecoorden zijn, simpel. Wie veel
oefent krijgt het vanzelf onder de
knie. Tegenwoordig zijn er ook
steeds meer spelers die meer uit het
instrument proberen te halen."
Houtman, met zijn 24 jaar de jongste van het stel, speelt zelf ook de
ukelele-banjo. "Afs ik af aan het
plonken denk, krijg ik kriebets in
nijn buik."

Wat Hootman jammer vindt, is dat het snaarinstrument in Nederland zo weinig wordt bespeeld. "De ukelele-banjo wordt echt met uisterven bedreigd. Vaak verklaren mensen je voor gek als de ukelelebanjo uit de koffer te voorschijn komt. Je wordt gelijk niet meer serieus genomen. Het mag dan tijken op een kindergitaarije, maar het kan een schitterend geluid voortbrengen." Als Hootman zijn tievelingsliedje La vie en rose van Edith



remco Houtman tokkelt op zijn favoriete instrument, de ukelele-banjo.

Piaf speelt, blijkt dat het 'kleine gitaartje' qua soko-mogelijkheden inderdaad niet onder doet voor zijn grotere broers.

### Vreugde

Bescheiden verreit Houtman dat hij zich tot één van de drie plonkers mag rekenen, die de banjoukelele gebruikt als een instrument op zich. "Dit is nogal bijzonder, want de meesten gebruiken het snaarinstrument als begeleiding. Voor mij is het een uitdaging. Het leuke is om net zo lang te oefenen totdat het nummer goed klinkt en de melodie hetzelfde is." Ondanks dan de opkomst tijdens de bijeenkomsten matig is, vindt de organisator dat dat de pret niet mag drukken. "Uiteraard zie ik liever dat er mees mensen komen. Hoe meer zielen hoe meer vreugde. Belang-

rijker is, dat de muzikanten die aanwezig zijn er veel plezier in

Volgens Houtman is van klakkeloos een nummerije opdreunen
geen sprake. The Roaring Twenties herleven met nummers als Coney Island en Oh when the saints
of Daisy." Hoogtepunt van de bijcenkomst op 29 november vormt
het exclusieve optreden van de
speciaal uit Engeland overgevolgen ukeleletbanjol-virtuoos: Peter
Moss. Ook hij kent het 'slagje' van
Formby. Volgens Houtman bezit
hij ook een goede techniek. "Hij is
vingervlug, maar kan ook hele romantische nummers ten gehore
breugen."

### Stille wens

Kort na het overlijden van George Furmby werd de George Society of Great Britain opgericht. Enkele Nederlandse fans sloten zich in de jaren 70 aan. Sinds mei 1984 is de Rotterdamse afdeling actief en telt ze 25 banjonsten. Bij de vorige bijeenkomst kwamen tien mensen opdagen. "Toch blijf ik de stille wens koesteren dat er deze keer meer mensen komen opdagen.

In Groot-Britanië is de muziek uit de jaren twintig daarentegen nog steeds populair. In Nederland lopen maar weinig jongeren voor deze muziek warm. De Engelse Formby Society telt echter itentallen kleuters en kinderen, die zich maar wat graag in han driedelige kostnumpjes hijsen en net zo fang oefenen tot ze erbij neervallen." Wie ook het 'slagje' te pakken wil

Wie ook het 'slagje' te pakken wil krijgen, kan zaterdag 29 november een bezoekje brengen aan het Dienstencentrum Crooswijk aan de Goudseplein 245. De toegang is

NATASJA DE GROOT



### Hemelum aktief met George Formby

George Formby arriveerde gedurende de dertiger jaren in de Britse showbusiness, en de verlegen jongeman werd in korte tijd het idool van de massa. En tot van-daag is hij nog een legende. Zijn carrière overspande precies 40 jaar in welke hij

22 films maakte, stuk voor stuk kas-suc-cessen. Voorts enige honderden grammofoonplaten, vrijwel allemaal top-hits. Hij trad enige malen op voor de Engelse Koninklijke Familie ten paleize waar hij zeer geliefd was, had vole theater en TVshows en was gedurende de gehele oorlog in de voorste linies om de troepen te

Hotel in Biackpool. Wat doen de leden? Zij zingen en spelen zijn onsterfelijke songe, verzamelen zijn platen en bekijken met weemoed en

nostalgische gevoelens zijn films. Een aantal van de Nederlandse leden wa-ren afgelopen weekend uit heel het land naar Hemelum gekomen en hadden een zeer geanimeerd weekend. Vijf films werden gedraaid, muziek gemaakt (on-geveer de helft van de leden bespeelt de ukelele-banjo) en er werden voorbereidingen getroffen voor T.V.opnamen die in het najaar plaats zullen vinden, hoogstwaarschijnlijk weer in Hemelum. Een spontaan concert vond plaats in Hote) Jans in Rijs voor een groep kinderen en een jarige vakantiegangster. Geïnteresseerden in de George Formby

Society kunnen contact opnemen door het volgende telefoonnummer te bellen: 05148-251.



Wijlen George Formby.

entertainen. Hij werd onafscheidelijk geassocieerd met een tamelijk onbekend muziekinstrument, de ukelele-bang Zijn populariteit strekte zich uit tot Au-stralie, Zuid-Afrika, de Verenigde Staten, Frankrijk, Rusland, Zweden en Nederland. Tot aan de vijftiger jaren was hij hier een rage en zijn film ... It's in the Air bereikte een ongeevensard record vanst de premiere in 1939 werd hij in een en dezelfde bicscoop geprelsiigeerd tot de Buitse bezetters de film verkoden. Van de vele onderscheidingen zijn genoemde Of-ficer of the British Empire (OBE) en the Lemin Order. Tijdens zijn begrafenis im maart 1961, stoaden langs de route naar het familie-graf 120.000 mensen als eem

De herinnering aan George Formby keeft voort in de George Formby Society, wel-ke drie tot vier maal per jaar een meeting organiseert in het Victoriaans Imperial



Two Abbott's, a Dallas E - to name but a few.

Not bad for the first meeting!

SPECIAL



# Formby-fans vormen een vrolijk gezelschap

ROTTERDAM — Morgen komen ze weer bij elkaar: de fans en bewonderaars van George Formby, de filmster, banjespeler en var riete artiest die rond de Tweede Wereldoorieg faror en maakte. De leden van het George Formby Genootschap Holland komen zes maal per jaar bijeen op het Eilland van Brienenord. Zij Eiland van Brienenord. Zij Eiland van Brienenord. kijken naar Formby's films, wisselen wetenswaar-digheden uit en maken mu-

Formby berbend gemaakte deuntjes als When I'm Cleaning Windows en Cur Sergeant major en probeert nu Hoogtepunt van de "mee-tings" op het Elland van Brienenoord is altijd het op-treden van de Formby treden van de Former Plonker het huisorkest van de Formby-fans. Het vrolij-

gaat het om een kruising tussen banjo en een ukelele. Wit noemen die instrumenten meestal een Uke". (spreek uit als joek). Ben andere kruising is de banjo. iele taja, het santal varia-ties at in de loop der jaren is bedacht is eindeloss", al-dus Hans de Roon, secreta-ris van The George Formby Fellowship, zoals de vereni-ging officieel heet. "De instrumenten waarop wij spelen zijn niet zomaar banjo's. In veel grevallen veel gevallen De grootste Formby-spe-cialist van de vereniging is en dan iets nieuws. H

eerste roem vergaarde in de vete theaterijes. Zeif heb ik er cok een paar maal gespeeld, bij de Engelse ar-lowship", vertett John Hoy. De muziek van George Formby is nog altijd uniek. Formby in de jaren '30 zijn zocht hij Blackpool, de En-gelse badplaats waar nier, en vrijwel niemand slaagt er in die speciale techniek onder de knie to hoewel veel artiesten ge-probeerd hebben hem te lmmiteren. Hij had een heel eigen manier van spelen, een heel ingewikkelde makrijgen. Veel liedjes van George een beetje on-Formby zijn een nummers werd maar eigen past,

naar mijn idee zijn grote een optreden voor leden van het Engelse koninklijk huis had hij zijn teksten aangecen paar iljk gemaakt dat hare ma-jestelt zijn liedjes in hun de horen", grinnikt John hom dulde sueces van destijds.

lowship of wie morgon een kilkje wil nemen op de landelijke ontmoefingedag kan kontakt opnemen met Hans de Roon, tei 010 Wie meer wil weten van

Jan Schreuder, die optreedt onder de artiestennam John Hoy Vele malen be-

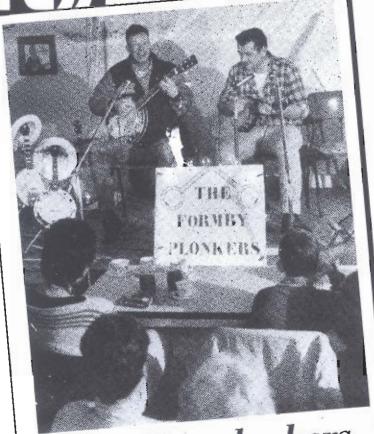
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# Tientallen plonkers eren George Formby

• Een stampvol zaaltje op het Eiland van Brienenoord. Op het podium twee onbekende straatzangers. Vanuit de warme en rokerige ruimte, klinkt applaus. Sommige toehoorders stampen mee op de maat van de muziek. Anderen trommelen met de vingers op de formica-tafels. Zo hield de George Formby Society Nederland gisteren een bijeenkomst voor liefhebbers van banjo- en ukelelemuziek.

Het resultaat was soms uiterst verrassend. Zo kon het gebeuren dat beginnende banjospelers werden afgewisseld door bijna professionele muzikanten. Ver-

ontschuldigde de een zich met een schuchter: "Sorry hoor, maar ik speel pas twee maanden", de ander zorgde ervoor dat de tientallen bezoekers enthousiast meezongen.

Dat lukte ook de onlangs geformeerde Formby Plonkers, die de grootste succesnummers van de in 1961 overleden zanger en filmkomiek ten gehore brachten. "ledereen was echt enthousiast", stelde Hans de Roon kort na het tweede optreden van de 'Plonkers'. "Er zijn tientallen mensen geweest die we helemaal niet kenden. Ze kwamen overal vandaan. Sommigen, zoals verschillende straatmuzikans ten, speelden voor het eerst op een banjo. Maar het klonk soms fantastisch. We zijn er dan ook van overtuigd dat dit soort bijeenkomsten vaker moeten worden gehouden. ledereen had er enarm veel plezier in.



# George Formby stichting viert éénjarig bestaan

CAFELLE/KRIMPEN—
Wie heriment zich niet
George Formby. Die britjante Engelse banjospeler
die de mensen liet lachen grote talent leverde hem geen Windeleren op Toen hij in 1981 op 38-jarige leeftijd overleed, liet hij zijn nabestaanden een imom zijn bilarische films waarin hij de ene blunder na de andere begin. Zijn liedjes, zijn slungelachtige voorkomen en hovenal zijn grote aitstraling, maakten hem tot de lieveling van cen miljoenpubliek.

Belangrijker echter was zijn muzikale erfenis Die wordt in Nederland liefdevol beheerd ting bestaal deze maand den Jaas en dat wordt gevierd met een George Pormby die op stichting Goerge Formby Fellowship De stichposant vermogen na. de

Tage

Sen van de oprichters van de George Formby Fellowship is aan Schreuder uit Khimpen aan den Ussel. "Re hourde voor het erst een liedje van Formby tijdens de oorlog", verteil Mi. "Een verend van mij drande een plaatje, is weet het nog ak de dag van They can't keep a grouning lad down". "Ik was meteen vereloom". "Ik was meteen vereloom. "Ik was meteen vereloom". "Ik was meteen vereloom. "Ik was meteen vereloo tondag it maart wordt gehou-den in cluthuis De Arend en De Zeemeeuw op het eiland Van Brienenoord in Rotter-

spekern Schriffe zich op de Schrider acht in Ansterdam voor [1,50 een banjo aan en daarvan heeft hij geen spij gehad, want hij spekel nog Steeds met heit grootste plerier voor iedereen die hem maar

Hij verdiepte zich bok in de levensgeschiedenis van Geor-ge Formby en dat resulteerde will horen.

onder andere in de artiesten-naam John Roy, naar de meis-jestiaam van de moeder van Formby.

\* Een deel van het bestaur van George Formtry Fellowskip Holland, v.l.n.r. Thea Ruijes, Jan Ruijes en Jan Overigens aldus Schreu-der, Jaid die naamverande-ring wooral te meken met be-lasting-technische rederen. Naar ik heb het zoar zo gela-

## schap Openbare dronken-

was heel belangrijk voor zijn

George Formby erfde het ta-lent van zijn vader James Booth, James leed niet be-

Bekend is dat zij zich ontpop-te als een zeer styrog manager die de Mnancien bebeerde. George kreeg zakgeld en moses due disarroce zien tuste e Enfiger Bil Himschess was zej altijd aanwezig en te lange kurstehens werden door haar seerskit ooderbroken. Ook mocht haar berreemde eetigs hogengeelsters in films secte-ren. Formby wilde graag kin-dern hebben maar Beryl het zich steriliseren want kinde-en parke niet in de zakelijke my parke niet in de zakelijke on parke niet in de zakelijke entriliseren want kindeden brak onder de erigenamen dan ook een verbitterde strijd paald even has are new and new mooders weed 137 keer gear research weed 137 keer gear denkenschap en de Booth soch in het gear gear new and het gear gear het gear het gear gear new en gear al was higte als entertaner. Bush trouwde met Elze Moy de zijn gote steun en reputatie was ligte als entertaner. Bush trouwde met Elze Moy de zijn gote steun en righting de werd. De naam Pormby onleende Booth aan en stad de werd. De naam Pormby fe in Engelonen in 1994. Van zijn wider moch hij oet stell theaterwak in (efen diood in de familie is genoegli en het was pas na diens overlijden del George Pormby toch het podis un verkroos booten en gezon der leven als statjongen. De mustkale kwaliteiten van Pormby. mocht hij oiet meedoem aac pinzoleessen omdat hij altig vulle vingers had. Maar tu pikte alles spelenderwijs og Formby waren ongokend Schreuder: "Muziekles hat hij nooft gehad. Op schoo Zijn gevbel voor timing w fabelachtig en hij had een zendsnelle rechterhand en

16 jaar. De Nederlandse de Engelse troepen. Hij trad op in Duinkerken vlak voor de terugscheft was de Engelse militairen uit Frankrijk. Ook arbeiders in de oortogsindustrie konden Formby wask bejubelen en ratils gaf hij voorschingen in schulkelders. De waar dering in eigen hand leverde hem een hoge Kaninklijke Onderscheiding op. Voor een spionagelin die zich afspeelde in Noorwegen kreeg hij zelfs de Leminbride van de

Zakgeld

George

# Herdenking

Alhoewel Schreuder ruin veerig jaar een bewonderaar is van Formby, duurde het tot 1885 voor de George Formby Pellowship werd opgericht. Aardeiding was de viering van

de bevrijding in 1985.
Schreuder, "Piet Gents, een grote dan van Formby, zet te-gen mij dat her eigenlijk om denkbaar was om de bevrij-ding te herdenken zonder George Formby te noemen. wat andere menses bebben we toen de stichting in het leven geroepen. En daarmee is het balletje aan het zollen gegaan. Tegenwoordig hebben we een Dat was het begin. Samen met Ze paste zoals gözegd wet good op de centjes en dat maakte Formby tot een gefor-kuneerd man. Na zijn overtij-

fildens de tweede wereldoorlog werd Formby enorm pa-

eigen band, The Formby
Plonkers, die op gezette tijden optreest. Erg Jeuk is dat
de jeugd zich sangetrokken
voelt sot de muzink van Formby Heigeen leidde tot de formatte van The Junior Plankers', een gezelschap dat bestaat uit jongeren van the-

Formasy huwde met Beryt, een dersevers die haar carrière voor hem pagat en zich daar-na geheel wijdde aan zijn ar-istieke Loopbaan.

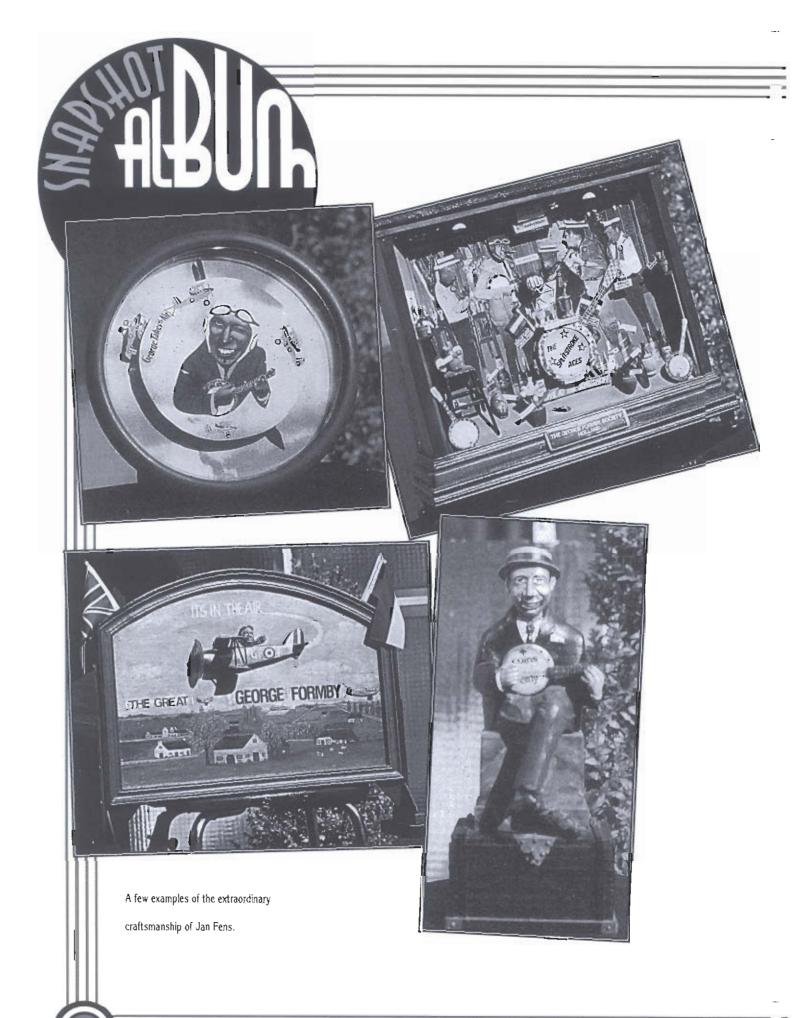
aankangers- houdt jaarlijks zo'n vier a vijf meetings. Op deze dagen worden films ver-toend en zijn er optredens van Formby stichting, er is ook een Britse club van Formby-aantangers- houdt jaarlijks "Mecstal eindigt het met een enshoustaste jam-sension", aldus Schreuder, "maar het is er diverse bands.

kunnen contact opneraen mei Jan of Then Rutjes, tel. 010 -4510378 of Jan Schreuder, tel. 01807 - 10302. Belangstellenden

vooral Antid enorm gesellig.
Federeen die dus zondag gesellig.
Federeen die dus zondag g
maart op fat eiland Van Brieneroord wil kennen, is weikont. We heffen geen entree
dus dat hoeft geen beletsel te

Belangstellenden die meer wilden weten van George Formby of zich wilden aan-melden als lid van George Formby Fellowskip Holland kunnen gesten.

Name:



Γ			
Γ			
F			
Γ			









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