



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 25

EASTER 1978

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme
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Price :
HALF-A-CROWN

Dear Friars,

We are in the happy position of being able to announce the Greyfriars Book Club Programme from Easter 1978 to Autumn 1978 : due to a lucky opportunity to acquire some rare series in advance, i.e. Tatters of the Remove, plus the famous two-part Hollywood series. That is to say, Club volumes for April, June and August.

Therefore, GBC members please note that the order of publication of our exclusive Club volumes is as follows :

April : GBC Vol. No. 19 - Tatters of the Remove

June : GBC Vol. No. 20 - Harry Wharton and Co.
in Hollywood

August: GBC Vol. No. 21 - The Greyfriars Film
Stars

If you have not filed your 'blue Pledge' forms yet, please do so now to avoid disappointment later, as supplies are strictly limited and demand for these volumes is expected to be heavy.

As the cognoscenti are aware, the Greyfriars Book Club form of pledge is in no way binding, and proformas from us may be dispensed with at will. You receive no 'Statements', 'Final Demands' or other such



FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon London, S.W.20 Telephone 01-947 5482

incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers

Cables: Bakerbook London

pressures. The sole purpose of our requesting advance orders is to enable us to make an estimate of demand -- essential to our forward programming. No more, no less.

Greyfriars Book Club

G.B.C. Books in Print (Available Now) :

Vol. No. 2	: Loder for Captain
Vol. No. 4	: Harry Wharton & Co in India
Vol. No. 5	: Tom Merry's Schooldays
Vol. No. 6	: Paul Dallas at Greyfriars
Vol. No. 7	: The Greyfriars Crusaders
Vol. No. 8	: The Sheik of Greyfriars
Vol. No. 9	: Dick the Penman
Vol. No. 10	: The First Ten Bullseye
Vol. No. 11	: The Treasure Hunters
Vol. No. 12	: Harry Wharton & Co in Africa
Vol. No. 13	: New Boys at Greyfriars
Vol. No. 14	: Levison's Return
Vol. No. 15	: The Boxer of Greyfriars
Vol. No. 16	: Cock of the Walk
Vol. No. 17	: The Outcast of the School
Vol. No. 18	: The Bounder of Greyfriars



AUTUMN PLANNING

So much for the Club advance notices. It is not as easy to advise on the Summer-Autumn General G.P. Programme. We can drop a few clues when we mention Billionairing Across Europe, perhaps A Visit to Kenya, Billy Bunter at St. Jim's, and Wally Bunter at Greyfriars, but little of our Autumn programme is as yet firm. However, be assured a mouth-watering list is in process of preparation.

THE GREYFRIARS MAP

Friar McGough has written us as follows :

'I say, you fellows,

Thanks awfully for the Greyfriars books : I'll order some more later. Can you let me have some on account ? I'm expecting a Postal Order...



But why are there mistakes in the map, you silly beasts ? Everyone knows that the Sark flows down from Courtfield, past Popper's Island and Friardale and reaches the sea at Pegg. You must be potty. If you put the coast at the bottom of the map, with the river widening out as it reaches Pegg, it would be a lot better.

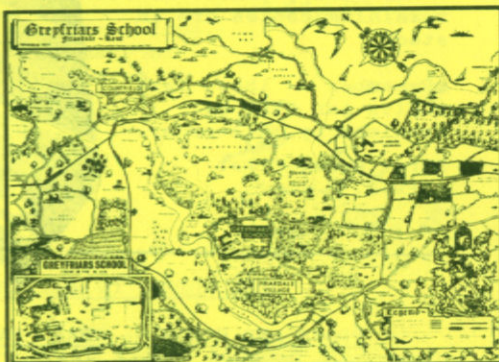
I have noticed other little oddities and will tell you what they are if you send me a large fruit cake.'



The Friar in question has been awarded five hundred lines by Mr Quelch, accompanied by the stern warning that any further encroachments upon authority will result in even more condign punishment. As for the suggestion of a bribe (cakewise), he has been warned that such Bunter-like activity can only lead to floggings and, ultimately, to expulsion from our arcane Society.

The totally serious answer to Friar McGough is this : the difficult problem has always been to strike a balance in the imaginary topography of Greyfriars School and environs. Of course, it has often been recorded that Greyfriars men rowed up the river to Popper's Island. But to arrange things in such a way as to accomodate this idiosyncrasy would have involved our artist, Basil Reynolds (nephew of Warwick) in turning a great many other topographical references upside down.

In truth, as all keen students of Greyfriars lore have always appreciated, it is impossible to produce a totally non-controversial map of our well-loved Kentish scene. Some of Frank Richards' descriptions were baldly contradictory. Our revered author cut his cloth according to his wove. What we have attempted to do is to draw a pleasant, attractive map of the Greyfriars area, one that evokes a happy feeling of deja-vu for the majority of our readers without entirely alienating the more pedantic, and this hundreds of Friars have attested to over the past decade, since publication. More than this it is impossible to do, due to Our Author's cheerful lack of concern for verisimilitude. F.R. really should have had our map on his wall in front of 'Old Remington' !

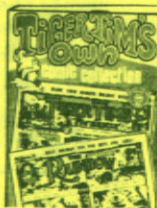


TIGER TIM'S OWN COMIC COLLECTION

A Howard Baker compilation of 16 of the best-loved pre-war children's comics: acknowledged world-beaters in a supremely talented comic kingdom.



TIGER TIM



Following the qualified success of our Comics Volume Number 1, we plan to produce a second such volume later this year which will add substantially to the range of comics already published. Further details will be announced shortly. Meanwhile, in order to calculate our print order more accurately this time, we would be grateful if intending collectors would write in now so that we can begin to prepare a firm list of potential customers.

OUT-OF-PRINT TITLES

Titles out-of-stock at our warehouse (i.e. for Trade) and thus not appearing on the stock-list catalogue but still available in very limited quantities via mail-order, direct from this office, for private subscribers only, are as follows :-

- Billy Bunter in China
- Mystery of the Moat House
- Bunter Tells the Truth
- The Greyfriars Hikers
- GHA 1975
- GHA 1976

Order early, while the few remaining copies are in stock.

•Remember -- these last copies can ONLY be obtained by mail-order.

First come, first served.

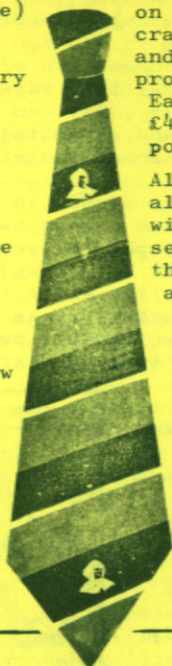
THE GREYFRIARS TIE

At long, long last -- work on the Greyfriars tie and cravat is nearing completion and our manufacturers promise delivery in time for Easter. Prices : £4.00 and £4.25 respectively, plus postage/packing 20p.

All those Friars who have already indicated their wish to purchase are being sent pro-formas, on which they may remit -- or not -- as they desire.

However, it should be noted that we are only producing a strictly limited quantity of both ties and cravats, so blame us not if your orders come in too late.

The colours are blue, white and red, with a 'Friar' motif. And very nice too.



PRO'S AND CON'S -- THAT 'FAMOUS FIVE' BOOKJACKET

Friar H. Dear, of Poole, Dorset, was forthright :

'I must make a comment on the dustcover of the Howard Baker Summer Omnibus 1977. I think it is terrible. To imagine the Famous Five and Bunter looked like this is a travesty of justice. Surely the person whose work this is cannot be an old reader of the Magnet ? Could you not have shown him a few copies published in the late twenties and early thirties so that he could see how we all imagine the boys of Greyfriars look ? To sum up in four words : Contents OK, cover ugh!'



And Friar Freddie Osborn, of London SE 22, also took up his pen :

'I must say that I dislike the cover portrait of the Famous Five and Billy Bunter painted by N.M. Kadish. In my opinion, not one of them looks like an English schoolboy.'

But W.O.G. Lofts spoke up for the defence :

'Whilst -- possibly in common with many other readers -- I did not care all that much for the Kadish picture of the Famous Five and Bunter, one should at least give him some credit for originality.'

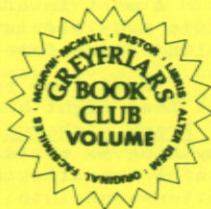
'We have all been so steeped in the pure line drawings of C.H. Chapman and Leonard Shields that the work of any other

artist is virtually automatically rejected by the reader. Mr. Kadish attempted to put real flesh on the bare outlines of the Greyfriars boys, thus to make them more human. He could so easily have simply copied or 'coloured-in' artists Chapman and Shields, but he didn't. All credit to him for at least trying to be original.'

A POINT TO PONDER



A request for more frequent publication of the GB Club Volumes comes from Friar James Murtagh, of Hastings, New Zealand. He says: "Would like to see the Club books issued at Monthly intervals, rather than bi-monthly as at present. Your Club customers are probably in the older age group and can more easily afford them. So they would no doubt like to obtain as many as they can while they are still around, and well enough to enjoy them."

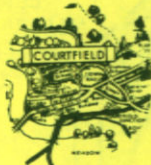


A sombre thought, though doubtless true, Friar Murtagh. But one wonders how many of our Club members would really be prepared to double up on expenditure ?



THE FRIARS CLUB AT COURTFIELD

We have been informed by Friar Robert Acraman that the next Club meeting at 'Courtfield', 49 Kings End, Ruislip, Middlesex, will be at 3pm on Sunday 12th March (4th Sunday in Lent).



A warm welcome will be extended to all Greyfriars Press readers wishing to attend. If possible, 'phone Robert Acraman beforehand to advise him of your intention (Tel : 71-31025).

Your Publisher plans to attend this meeting also to meet old and new readers and to answer their questions, and complaints -- hope there are not too many of the latter !

BOOK PRICES

Our readers will have noted and, we hope, appreciated that there has been no increase of our £4.50 price during the best part of the last one-and-a-half years. Surely a remarkable achievement in these inflationary times! All about us, costs have been rising : prices of paper, binding charges, printing costs, labour &c &c. And it is our intention to maintain the status quo for as long as possible. However, because there may be some larger-than-usual volumes included in future lists we may not be able to adhere to our present all-one-price policy. Thus, if a volume contains more than

the usual eight-issue contents (such as The Kenya Series) we may have to adjust our prices accordingly. But all eight-issue volumes should remain priced at £4.50.

Fair enough ?

POST BAG



A most interesting letter has been received from BBC Radio and Television Personality Roy Plomley, of Desert Island Discs fame, who writes :

'Next time you see Messrs Lofts and Adley, will you put them right about Bunter's Nervine ? (Page 46, The World of Frank Richards). It was never claimed that it cured anything -- certainly not coughs and colds -- but it was very useful for alleviating toothache. You dipped a tiny piece of cotton-wool into the stuff and pushed it into the cavity in the tooth with a matchstick, and it did a good job. What was in it, I don't know, but I do seem to remember it tasted of Oil of Cloves. The bottle was far from large; it was very small indeed.

'I know all this because Nervine was invented by my great-grandfather, George G. Bunter, J.P., who was a dentist in Maidstone, Kent. He lived on into his nineties, so it is possible that Frank Richards came across him or his name. He originally came from East Coker. (Coker -- now there's a coincidence!) near Yeovil, in Somerset, so the authors are right in referring to Bunter as a West Country name.

'Nervine was still being manufactured during the 'thirties and it may still be going on today for all I know. The rights of it were sold when my grandmother died.

(The secret is out -- I'm a quarter a Bunter!)

To which W.O.G. Lofts has replied

'In the Nineties, and when Frank Richards claimed to have invented the name of 'Bunter', there is no question but that the statement that Derek Adley and I made in The World of Frank Richards was completely correct. The advertisement for Bunter's Nervine which we reproduce here shows quite clearly that the claim was made that it

**BUNTER'S NERVINE,
THE GREAT NERVE TONIC**

CURES
NEURALGIA,
RHEUMATISM,
DEBILITY.

TOOTHACHE
IS INSTANTLY
CURED.

Medical Testimonial.
FRED J. HURWITZ, Esq.,
Surgeon, Bridport.

"Very severe cases under my care have found instantaneous and permanent relief. I therefore, having used it with invariable success, recommend its use to the Profession and the Public."

Of all Medicine Vendors, see 1/6d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d.

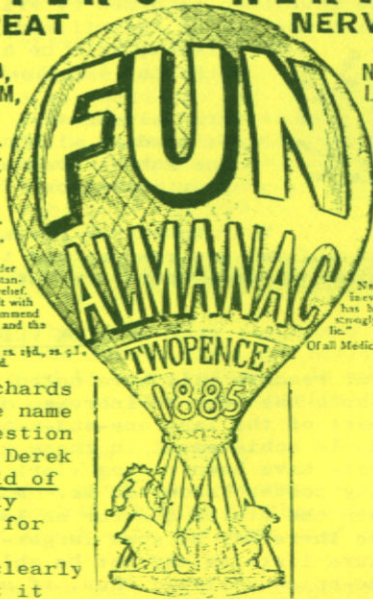
CURES
NERVOUSNESS,
LOSS OF APPETITE,
COUGHS, COLDS,
&c.

TOOTHACHE
IS INSTANTLY
CURED.

Medical Testimonial.
FRED E. SMITH, Esq.,
Surgeon, Sherston.

"I have tried Bunter's Nervine in many cases, and in every instance permanent relief has been obtained. I therefore strongly recommend it to the public."

Of all Medicine Vendors, see 1/6d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d.



cured coughs, colds, and many other ailments as well as tooth-ache.

'The mixture was marketed as a medicine and probably contained some form of aspirin, which would 'cure' toothache to some degree. There were three bottle sizes, as the advertisement shows.

'To be fair to Mr. Roy Plomley, however, he probably only recalls the advertisements for Bunter's Nervine which appeared in the late twenties, when a tiny bottle was featured. The mixture was then compounded to a different formula from that originally used, and seems to have consisted chiefly -- as Mr. Plomley indicates -- of Oil of Cloves. When applied with a tiny piece of cotton-wool and a matchstick this had the effect of deadening the pain in the affected molar, and was certainly handy to have in the medicine cupboard for emergency use until such time as one could visit a dentist.

'Today's Trade Descriptions Act firmly outlaws advertisements such as the one which we reprint. Such sweeping claims would simply not be permitted today. Nevertheless, I am sure that Bunter's Nervine did do some good, at least relieving the effects of the complaints it claimed to cure.'



Mr Alex Berlyne, Literary Editor of the Jerusalem Post, Israel writes : "My son is enjoying your Magnet volumes immensely, and his English has improved beyond all measure -- though he still tends to fail to distinguish between Edwardian and modern colloquialisms!"

Friar K. Ayling of Roehampton Church School says : "May I take this opportunity to thank the members of your organisation for their enterprise in producing the books of the Greyfriars Press so expertly. Having been an avid Magnet and Gem reader from 1931 until the final wartime issues, it is hard to put into words the pleasure your reprints have given me. Long may you thrive!"

Our Tiger Tim comics collection has received tremendous praise and congratulations from comics aficionados.

From Friar Phil Harris of Montreal, Canada : "The reproduction is an amazing effort. I marvel at the clarity of colours and even of the smallest print. Excellent -- just excellent."

Also from Canada, Friar Robert W. Story of Bramalea, Ontario, declares : "Your Tiger Tim volume is simply fabulous; an absolutely superb collection."

From Hobart, Tasmania, Friar Max Farrow writes : " With Tiger Tim's Comic Collection you have excelled yourself. You cannot possibly do better. We must now have seen the ultimate. To say 'Thank you' seems very inadequate indeed.

For our part, we say 'Thank You' for such kind messages from Friars Harris, Story, Farrow, and the many more who have written in similar vein. Which reminds us, many thanks, too, for all the lovely Christmas cards from readers at home and abroad received at Yuletide.



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SALES AND WANTS



FOR SALE : Billy Bunter in China (HB Vol.25) Price £4.50 plus post. WANTED : 1974 Greyfriars Holiday Annual -- Mr A. Goodridge, 3 Pentney Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4JE

FOR SALE : Offers invited for two Charles Skilton publications, Billy Bunter's Benefit and Jack of All Trades, personally autographed by Frank Richards -- Mr G. Thomas, 31 Cornwall Street, New Plymouth, New Zealand

WANTED : 1974 Greyfriars Holiday Annual -- Mr M. Wakeland, 6 Alexandra Avenue, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts., NG17 4BO



WANTED : The Greyfriars Double -- Mr T. Johnson, 33 Talbot Street, Church Gresley, Nr. Burton-on-Trent DE11 9PG

WANTED : The Tyrant of Greyfriars (HB Vol. 21) -- Mr K.G. Thompson, 28 Dover Road, London E12 (Tel. 01-989-9224)

EXCHANGE OR SELL : Joe de Freitas of 648 Stud Road, Victoria, Australia 3179, has about 40 original Magnets, mostly issues below number 600, which he wishes to exchange or -- less preferably -- sell. Also he would like to obtain Club Vol. 3 : The Making of Harry Wharton, and would pay a good price.



FOR SALE : The Joker of Greyfriars (HB Vol. 23) and The Kidnapped Schoolboys (HB Vol. 24) Price £20 each volume post free -- Miss A. Parkin, School of English, Leeds University, Leeds 2, Yorks.

WANTED : Billy Bunter's Christmas (HB Vol. 22) and Club Vol. No. 1 The Worst Boy at Greyfriars -- Mr Michael Pyne, 5A Pixham Ct., Lake Road, Wimbledon, London SW19

Хрущовское Вещье

It only remains to wish all our readers a Joyous Easter and happy holiday reading.

The holiday has come disconcertingly early this year, so we must hope that our rather premature Spring offerings reach you in good time.

With all best wishes from

Your Publisher

Howard Baker



MAIL ORDER

The sure -- and quickest -- way to obtain Greyfriars Press books

