

The Greyfriars Gazette

NEWSLETTER
No. 38

CHRISTMAS 1982 to
NEW YEAR 1983

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme

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Good news again for all Friars: still no price increase in either the Greyfriars Press monthly volumes — or in the Greyfriars Book Club bi-monthly volumes. Regardless of the fact that the cost of producing the books continues to inch up inexorably — thus narrowing our profit or loss margin to a dangerous degree — we are determined to keep our prices firm and stable for as long as humanly possible.

Our last increase was on 1st July 1981. No increase is contemplated before July 1st 1983 ! Two whole years without an increase of one penny piece. Whilst all about us, our production costs — our bills for paper, printing, binding and all ancillary expenses — have risen steadily.

How do we do it? Simply by tightening our belts, biting on the bullet, and hoping — and going on hoping — for better times ahead for the Old Country.

If Greyfriars Press expires under the intolerable strain, dear readers, well at least you'll know the reason.

Why, many of you are bound to be asking, don't we shed this load and levy a sensible increase here and now? The reason is this: whilst most of our readers could — and would — accept sharp increases, some of you could not. And we must consider the minority as well as the majority.

Our attitude may not sound much like the thinking of the down-to-earth hard-nosed businessman. But then, we don't properly fit into that category anyway. Ours is a labour of love as well as a way of business. Somehow, the twain have to meet.



Christmas
Greetings
FROM

HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Arterberry Road Wimbledon London SW 20

Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

General Fiction & Non Fiction — Political Science — Poetry

Autobiography — Biography — Reference — Specialist facsimile editions



SIX 'BOYS' IN A BOAT

The latter-day Cruise of the Water Lily took place, as scheduled, at the end of Summer. Following faithfully the course of Harry Wharton & Co's famous voyage, Friars Maurice Hall, Bill Lofts, Darrell Swift, Graham McDermott, Brian Simmonds sailed by motor cruiser from Kingston-on-Thames on a fair late summer morning, on a trip that took them past so many of the familiar landmarks beloved of Magnet readers: Richmond, Windsor, Eton, Mapledurham, Pangbourne, Oxford, 'Tipton Lodge' — and many, many more. So enjoyable was the ten-day cruise that the happy participants vowed to repeat the performance at the earliest opportunity.



An even more ambitious project in hand is a cruise on the Nile, from Cairo to Luxor, to follow the course of the well-remembered Egyptian series of 1932 (Land of the Pyramids, H.B. Vol. No. 1) More details of this project at a later date. Finances and Middle East politics permitting !

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir...



'Very many thanks for the consignment of 'singles'— as usual so promptly received in response to my order,' writes Mrs Kathrin Davis, of 53 Hardy Street, Maidstone. 'To be frank, I am very surprised that so many of these issues are still available. From our earlier correspondence, knowing how few of some of these titles were, I can see a fast-growing collectors' market in some of these items in a couple of years time and am laying down my own stocks accordingly.

'If the evidence of your own *Sales and Wants* column is anything to go by, the price of these issues is likely to increase fourfold over the next year or two. And that's a way of beating inflation if ever I saw one ! These are small, limited editions. And cheap ! Thank you very much.'



Another scarce item is the subject of Mr. J. Packer's letter from 48 Alinora Crescent, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex, who writes: 'Immediately on receiving the Greyfriars Gazette Newsletter No.37, I wrote to Mr. John Hyde, one of the advertisers, for Vol. 22 (Billy Bunter's Christmas) which he was offering for sale at £30.

'Mr Hyde replied, advising me that the book has already been sold, adding that my application was only one of dozens he received from collectors anxious to buy it.

'No doubt you already appreciate that there is a great demand for this book. Is there any chance at all that you may reprint it? You may consider that reprinting a limited number would be worthwhile, with so many collectors wishing to purchase, and willing to pay as much as £30 for this extremely scarce item.'



A point worth mentioning has been raised by Dr. P.D. McCall, of 43 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire, who writes: 'A reminder re. the list of 'Magnets Reprinted' in *Collectors Pie. No. 2*. It is mine and not Friar Lovedays. 'In his own words, it's more useful than his !'



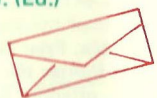
And a request from Miss A. Clarke, of 105 Geraldine Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 2NJ, who says: 'I'm very glad to see so many good stories, especially the *Greyfriars Actors* and *Plotters of St. Jim's* — all my favourite characters! Also more sub stories — they make an interesting change and often give a new slant on the characters as well as bringing in different backgrounds, as in *The Schoolboy Broadcasters* and *Heroes of the Air*.

'I agree with Miss Witty in Australia re. the Union Jack, but I read a Nelson Lee recently that was spookier than anything in the Union Jack — *Nerki the Sorcerer* — 2nd NS Nos 152 - 154 — a Haunted House at Christmas, as good as *The Haunted School*.

'Might some of these be included sometime?'

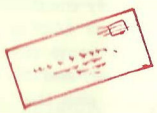
And Mrs E.E. Hopton, of 'Karunda', 79 Scalpcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, has a request, too: 'I am writing on behalf of many of my friends to ask you to reprint Magnet Volumes 21, 22 and 23, and also the *Greyfriars Holiday Annual of 1974*, as there are so many of your Greyfriars fans who have not got these books and would be absolutely delighted if you would print more. Alternatively, would you reprint them as Magnet 'singles'? I can assure you that the response would be absolutely terrific.'

We have thought long and hard about your request, Mrs Hopton, and will be replying to your suggestion in the next issue of the Gazette. (Ed.)

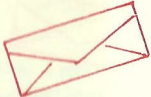


From Friar John A.C. Bridgewater, of 58 Spring Lane, Malvern Link, Worcestershire, comes a veritable paean of joy: 'Great news! No price increase!! Sir, you are a magician!!! Congratulations!!!!'

Early Club Magnets have elicited some correspondence of late. Mr C. Oliver, of 34 Belfield Avenue, May Bank, Newcastle, Staffs, says: 'Re. the early Red Magnets in 'the new Club series — I find that as one becomes involved in these early Magnet stories and accustomed to that period of time, they are very enjoyable indeed to read, though of course very different from the Magnet of the 1930's'.



And from Flat 7, Coryton House, 128 New Cavendish Street, London W1, Mrs Novara James writes: 'I've just finished reading *The Famous Four* and *Greyfriars Versus St. Jim's*, club volumes and enjoyed both tremendously. There is a certain period charm about these very early Magnets which makes me prefer them to those written afterwards. And Bunter's character is not half so obnoxious as it later becomes.'



Friar John Lewis, Inspector-General of Castells and Forts in Wales and Ye Marches, has put quill to paper to record a suggestion: 'When the present stock of Greyfriars 'Old Boys' Club Ties comes to an end, would it be possible for you to consider ordering a new version? I find that, as a banker, my Greyfriars Tie frequently falls under the critical eye of the general public, and I am becoming rather tired of being asked 'How many pints' did I have to lower before I qualified for my Club Tie. The customers in their gross ignorance assuming the friars' cowl motif to be a BEER DISPENSER!

'May I suggest a design based perhaps on the shield depicted on the Greyfriars Press heraldic arms, which embodies the HB motif. For, in all truth, without you, Sir, none of us would be able to wear an Old Friars tie at all!'



Referring to our Editorial on page one of Gazette No 37.

Mr Tommy Keen, of 16 Weston Park, Thames Ditton, Surrey, writes an interesting letter: 'Religion, to a certain extent, did play quite a part in the earlier years of Magnet's and Gem's history. Various characters often knelt down in prayer, but it may be that parents and school teachers who did not approve of the younger generation reading the story papers, may have expressed the view that religion was still lacking in the stories which the boys were lapping up, for in Magnet No. 400, written by a substitute writer, there appeared a story called *The Sunday Crusaders*, which set out to prove beyond all shadow of doubt that Harry Wharton, Bob Cherry and the rest of the noble band were true Christians, as they bitterly opposed a small group called The Pagans headed by Harold Skinner. The Pagans wanted to play games on Sunday if they so wished. Wharton & Co were horrified.

'Even reading *The Sunday Crusaders* today, it is an excellent story, very sincere and, to me, quite moving.'



From Riyadh, PO Box 4735, Saudi Arabia, Friar David Urch writes: 'May I say a word in defence of Mr Cyril Parratt who thought that *Bunter the Bad Lad* (Greyfriars Library No 2) was a substitute story? I was also puzzled by this offering, but I think that the trouble is that three disparate stories have been tacked onto one another. For example, the 'Bandit' part was again available to us in its proper form in the ultimate issue in Magnet Vol. 73, *Under Bunter's Thumb*, and though I have not yet read it I am confident that the first part of SOL 237 has been reproduced, in the original, as Magnet issue 996, *Bunter's Brainstorm*, in the Collectors' Pie volume. Certainly there is nothing to beat the originals, but may I also say in passing that although the 'Bandit' may indeed be the genuine McCoy, it is not a particularly inspired effort by the Master. It is as well to remember, perhaps, that Homer is not the only one to nod.

'As to the vexed question of the subs, surely the dream of most of us is to have Nos 1 to 1683 complete in facsimile? I realise that only those who actually possess all the Club volumes can succeed, and it is possible that there are still some copies of the elusive Volume 3 which don't form a part of a putative complete collection; and for many people it must remain a dream. (Thanks be to God, I have Club Vol. 3, and also the 'difficult' GHA 1974 and G.P. Vols. Nos 21 to 24).'

McCALL'S GREYFRIARS GUIDE



'I don't know if you intend to issue an addenda to this Guide on the lines of the Supplement to the Magnet Companion,' Mr R.J. Lewis writes, from Hill Top, Liverpool Road, Neston, South Wirral. 'But if you do, may I respectfully suggest a few inclusions which are strangely absent from Dr McCall's opus. For example, to name but a few:

COURTFIELD ARMS: A public house frequented by Mr Dance whilst Whiffles' Circus was at Courtfield. (1070)

MAULEVERER, Brian: Cousin of Mauly.

PEAL OF BELLS, The: An inn at Greenoaks, Wilts, where Bunter and Mr Whiffles slept under the same roof. Has a home-brewed draught beer.

REDFERN, Barbara: Fourth Form Captain at Cliff House.

MERRY, Tom: Form Captain, St Jim's.



MAULEVERER TOWERS is another entry in the Directory which is conspicuous by its absence.
SNARKER, Mr: Mr Bunter's office manager. (1076)
SAMSON : Strong man in Whiffle's Circus.

'But when you next see Dr McCall do please salute him for me. Any fool can spot a few omissions, but it takes a real scholar to compile such an epic as The Greyfriars Guide!'



To which Dr Peter McCall has replied: '*Mea Culpa!* Henry S Quelch has given me a 'book' for the omission of Tom Merry. His absence at Calling Over was not noticed until too late!

'On the lesser characters — most are mentioned *en passant* with other people or place i.e. Michael the Gipsy in The Hikers Series is mentioned with Joseph, his friend.

'Brian Mauleverer is entered as Ysabel Dick. (In fact several of the Mauleverers seem to have been purged from my original computer file to my final printout, which is as you see it).

'I still have nearly 1,000 reference cards on file which had to be omitted to try and keep the book down to its working length (240 pages!!) The original plan was to have some two-thirds of the present material on each page. In its present form, there are in excess of 2,200 entries; some had to be lopped.

'But never fear. Rest assured. Plans are already in hand for the Complete Greyfriars Guide: either in the form of Volume II — containing the omissions from Volume I and the cast list from the as yet unpublished Magnets or (and this is my hope!) A TWO VOLUME GUIDE — Volume I, A—M; Volume II, N—Z plus Appendices. However, time will tell!'



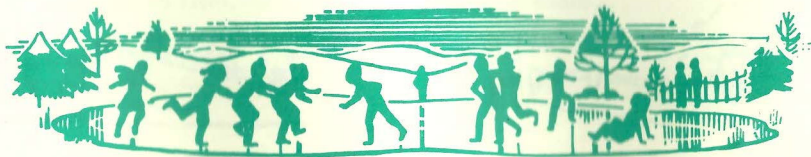
Miss Mary Cadogan, co-author of the best-selling Gollancz Books *You're a Brick, Angela, Women & Children First, The Lady Investigates* &c., of 24 Southend Road, Beckenham, Kent, has this to say: 'Many thanks for the simply splendid *GHA '83* and for *Collector's Pie No. 2*. Each is a veritable dorm feast of delight, and I look forward to many happy hours of reading.

'I loved *McCall's Greyfriars Guide*; what a brilliant idea!

'It's such a joy always to receive your gorgeously produced volumes; and I wish you, as always, more strength to your elbow.'



From Friar Laurie Young, of 211 May Lane, Kingsheath, Birmingham: 'Please convey my appreciation to Dr McCall for his sterling effort in compiling his Greyfriars Guide. I have not been able to resist a daily browse since receiving my copy. I presume a second volume will be necessary in due course to keep track of the as yet unpublished material. My continued thanks for your own efforts in the Howard Baker editorial offices.'





And from Friar Phil Harris, of 5542 Decelles Avenue, Apt 4, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, come these concluding words: 'If, or when, the going gets a little tough, we can withdraw inside the covers of a Howard Baker volume, forget the outside world and, when we have finished the book, discover that the clouds have all rolled by. Yes, Sir, your productions of our old favourites are the best cure for the blues that I have ever encountered, and the beauty of them is that we can go back into any year we wish, from 1908 to 1941. Not even you, I feel sure, could have foreseen the impact those first couple of Magnet editions which you published were to have.'

'With ever increasing production costs, I realise that you are not going to make a heap of profit, but I do hope you feel a glow of satisfaction when you think upon the happiness which your efforts have given to so many. We, your readers, owe you so much, and I know that my humble, but sincere, words of thanks are echoed by many. Thank you, Sir.'

FRIARS CLUB NEWS

Maurice Hall reports: 'The Friars Club held a number of meetings recently, commencing with the Grand Summer meeting in July, at Bob Acraman's 'Courtfield' home. The meeting was attended by over thirty Friars of both genders, and unanimous approval was given by all members to the newly elected Committee, who will continue to promote the Club's activities with vim and vigour.'

'A vote of thanks was given by members to Bob Acraman for his five years service as Secretary of the Friars Club. The Committee also offers grateful thanks to Bob for all his past endeavours and hopes that he enjoys a rest from the pleasant but heavy tasks of office.'

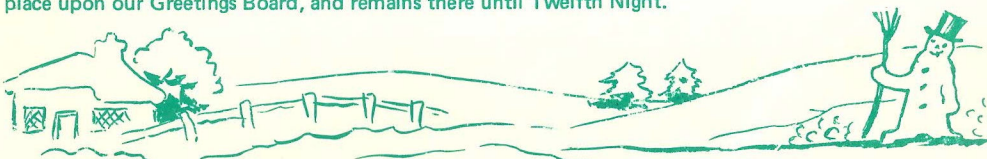
The venue for our next meeting was again 'Courtfield', following a Committee meeting at the home of our new editor, Peter McCall, at Wokingham. On the Agenda at 'Courtfield' on October 24th was a report on the Club's financial status, and photographs of the 'Water Lily Cruise' were passed around while the skipper told of their adventures. Bill Lofts produced a cardboard model of Greyfriars School made by his brother from plans issued in *Chuckles* during 1920. There are nine parts to make up, and each is then joined together to form a detailed representation of the famous school.

'Plans for the future include the Christmas meeting, to be held at Mr Norman Berg's house at Stanmore, on December 5th. (Please ring 01-954 4510 to see if you can join the festive gathering). We are also planning more holiday trips following the very successful 'Water Lily Cruise' — to places such as Egypt, and Polpelly (for Christmas). We are also looking for more involvement from the postal members with crosswords, quiz contests, information on fellow collectors, reviews of books, etc.

'The membership of our London/Home Counties Club now stands at 94 and is still rising, creeping towards that magic 100. Please consider joining us. We will try and make you most welcome.' — Sincerely, Maurice Hall.

OUR THANKS . . .

. . . to all Friars for their Christmas Cards and other seasonal tokens, which have been trickling in since mid-November and which will no doubt reach the usual large proportions by the time this Gazette reaches you. Every one of your messages is well noted and highly prized. Each one finds its place upon our Greetings Board, and remains there until Twelfth Night.






Our Greetings...

... to each and every one of you:
May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you
all, now and throughout the Coming Year!

Sincerely
Your Publisher



Howard Baker



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED
27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon London, S.W.20

SALES AND WANTS

CLASSIFIED ADVTs



It is necessary that in future we levy a small charge for insertion of advertisements in our Classified Advertisement/Sales & Wants section. Please remit at the rate of 5 pence per word.



SALES AND WANTS

FOR SALE: All the scarcer Out-of-Print Club volumes and Magnet volumes at realistic prices, e.g. Club Vol. 1 — £30; Club Vol. 2 — £25; Club Vol. 3 — £50. All plus postage. Send one International Reply coupon for full list. Postal only. Write: Mr J. Hardy, 22 Rue des Asters, Apt. 56, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

FOR SALE: Forty Howard Baker Magnet, Gem and Annual Vols. £6 each plus postage. Write for details to Mr A.E. Angus, 37 Gainsborough Road, Dronfield, London SE18 6QT.

WANTED: Magnet Vols. 18, 22, 23, 24a, 25a, and Club Vol. 3. Will pay top prices. Write to: Mr K. Pawley, 11 Tenzing Drive, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7RR.

FOR SALE: Out-of-Print Magnet Vols. Send s.a.e for list to: Mr M. Baker, 1 Sheridan Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4AP.

FOR SALE: All Mint Condition. Magnet Vols. 7, 10, 19, 27, 30, 37, 38 — £15.20 each; Vol. 35 — £13.50; GHA 1976 — £8.75; Vol. 4a — £8.75; Vol. 20 — £8.50; Gem Vol. 6 — £13.50. Apply: Mr S.G. Smith, 170 Algernon Road, Lewisham, London SE13 7AW.

WANTED URGENTLY: W. Lofts and D. Adley's 'The World of Frank Richards' and an original Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1924. Offers to: Mr Richard Sewell, 42 Station Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1AA.

WANTED: Richmal Crompton's 'William the Lawless'. Write: Mrs E. Hopton, Karunda, 79 Scalcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. DE15 9AB. Tel: Burton 65806.

FOR SALE: Magnet Vols. 3, 8, 13, 64 — £6 each. Mr F. Roberts, Flat 1, New Church Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 4BE.

FOR SALE:



The Greyfriars Gazette



FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar Grisedale. All orders with remittances to Mr John Hyde, 74 Robin Hood Lane, Helsby WA6 9NG.

Out of Print Club Volumes: Club Vol. 6 - £20; Club Vol. 7 - £20; Club Vol. 9 - £20.

The following In-Print Club Volumes are offered at £8 each:
12, 19, 20, 21, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 40.

Out of Print Greyfriars Press Volumes:

No. 2 - £20; No. 7 - £25; No. 10 - £20; No. 15 - £20; No. 19 - £30; No. 21 - £30; No. 24 - £20; No. 25 - £25; No. 27 - £25; No. 29 - £30; No. 30 - £30; No. 31 - £10; No. 33 - £15; No. 35 - £15; No. 36 - £20; No. 37 - £25; No. 38 - £25; No. 39 - £25; GHA 1974 - £30; GHA 1975 - £20; GHA 1976 - £20; GHA 1925 - £15; GHA 1928 - £15.

The following Greyfriars Press Volumes are offered at £4 each:
No. 3, 4, 5, 78, 79, 80, 81; GHA 1982.

FOR SALE: Out-of-Print Greyfriars Press Volumes:

No. 2 - £20; No. 7 - £25; No. 10 - £20; No. 15 - £20; No. 16 - £20; No. 17 - £20; No. 21 - £30; No. 23 - £30; No. 24 - £20; No. 25 - £25; No. 26 - £25; No. 27 - £25; No. 29 - £30; No. 30 - £30; No. 36 - £20; GHA 1974 - £30; GHA 1975 - £20; GHA 1976 - £20; Tom Merry's Holiday - £20; Club Vol. 1 - £40; Ring Maurice Hall on Walton-on-Thames 24848 (evenings) to reserve books.

FOR SALE: Magnet and Gem Volumes. Prices from £2.50 to £4.50, ordinary volumes. Also some Club volumes, greatly reduced. Write to: Mr B. Andrews, 20 Wimborne Court, Samos Road, Penge, London SE20.

WANTED: Club Vol. 3 - The Making of Harry Wharton. Mr Graham McDermott, 4 Castle Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tel: (day), 01-643 2231.

FOR EXCHANGE: Various Magnet Volumes, mint condition. Mr W. Taylor, 1 Basset Close, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey. Tel: Camberley 28795.

FOR SALE: Magnet Volumes Nos. 1 to 60, offers please. Also Club Volumes 2, 9, 11 and 16, and Greyfriars Holiday Annuals 1920, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1977. Mrs V. Connor, 52 King's Street, Cottingham, North Humberside HU16 5QE. Tel: (0482) 842395.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar Osborn. Magnet Vol. 1 - £10; Vol. 2 - £15; Vol. 5 - £9; Vol. 7 - £20; Vol. 8 - £15; Vol. 9 - £12; Vol. 10 - £10; Vol. 13 - £10; Vol. 15 - £15; Vol. 19 - £20; Vol. 21 - £20; Vol. 22 - £16; Vol. 23 - £20; Vol. 25 - £25; Vol. 26 - £20; Vol. 27 - £20; Vol. 29 - £20; Vol. 30 - £15; Vol. 31 - £12; Vol. 33 - £12; Vol. 36 - £15; Vol. 37 - £15; Vol. 38 - £15; Vol. 39 - £15; Vol. 42 - £12; Vol. 43 - £12. **All other Magnet Volumes, up to and including Vol. 78 - £5 each.**

Gem Vol. 6 - £12. **All other Gem Volumes, up to and including Vol. 11 - £4 each.**

Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974 - £20. **All other Holiday Annuals up to and including 1980 - £4 each.**

The Greyfriars Library, Vols. 1 to 4 - £2 each.

HB Easter Omnibus 1978, HB Summer Omnibus 1977, HB Holiday Annual 1974 - £4 each.

Billy Bunter's Own 1979 - £4.

Nelson Lee Vols. No. 1 and No. 3 - £4 each.

The Magnet Companion 1977 - £4.

Remittances, with orders, to Mrs G.P. Osborn, 47 Therapia Road, Dulwich, London SE22 0SD. (Telephone: 01-693 5419) Please add appropriate amount for postage.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar Bassett:

Book Club Vol. 2 - £25; Vol. 3 - £50; Vol. 4 - £25; Vol. 6 - £25; Vol. 7 - £18; Vol. 9 - £25; Vol. 10 - £25. And at £9 each: Club Vols. 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 38, 41 and 43. Write: Mrs D.G. Bassett, PO Box 4 W.Y., 2 Porlock House, 119 Great Titchfield Street, London W1A 4WY.

