

THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gangshow Fellowship *Founder: Ralph Reader CBE* *Winter 2015*

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

Our AGM went well ably chaired by Phil Smith, our vice chairman, as I was unable to be there. The business was dealt with speedily allowing plenty of time to socialise – it always has been as much a social occasion as a business meeting. Thanks are due to Doug Gordon for his great support in making arrangements with the hotel.

Our relationship with the Scout Association regarding the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund has continued on a much better basis. We have been able to make donations both to the element of the fund which is available to be paid out in grants, satisfying the funds aim of assisting young people, and the element to be kept in perpetuity, satisfying our wish that the fund should be a permanent memorial to Ralph.

The next major event in our calendar is the reunion on Saturday 30 January 2016 at the Ship Hotel Weybridge. We will follow the format established by Jack Seaton with a cabaret, and of course music throughout the evening and our sing song. Please send your booking form to Reg and Mary promptly. We are looking forward to another great evening and I hope to see you there.

Dear tree one wants to book pitches early for our camp over the weekend 24 to 26 June 2015 in order to ensure that we reserve enough space so please respond as soon as you receive the notice.

I trust that you and your families will all enjoy yourselves over Christmastide and wish you every happiness and success in 2016.

David Clay

Extract from the MINUTES OF THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP HELD ON SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: President: David Catt-Camfield
Vice-Chair/Treasurer: Phil Smith
+ 23 members and friends

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Douglas Gordon for facilitating the use of the venue and refreshments, free of charge.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

Brenda Pow read the following message from David Clay, Chair:

“David Clay apologises that he cannot be with us today and has asked me to read this note to you. ‘I am sorry not to be with you today at our 40th AGM but I am afraid that I had a serious diary malfunction or, as Our President put it, I am getting a bit “seniorish”

This is the first AGM that I have missed in forty years and would really like to have been with you to enjoy this milestone in the Fellowships history.

I know that everything will be covered in the meeting, and that you are in the capable hands of Phil and Brenda, but would just like to thank the committee for all that they do and also add my thanks to Douglas for all his help and support.

Have a good meeting

David”.

Colin Wells, Pete and Mary Turner, Pete and Sylvia Bessell, Sue Rhatigan, Steve Baker, Dennis Layell, Joanne Shilling, Reg and Mary Mitchell, Dr Stu Murray, Linda and Mick Moore, Lorna Baker, Janet Davies.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 39th AGM were proposed by David Fricker and seconded by Laurie Derbyshire and agreed nem com.

Matters Arising:

Reference was made to the RRMF report and Phil Smith confirmed that this would be covered later in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.15

Since we met last year we have sadly lost a few members – Joyce Thurnell, Janet Mann, Peter Ingram, Roger Rees and of course Ron Meyer.

Roger was remembered in a dimming of the lamps on Broadway theatres and for the first time ever, theatres with the latest LED technology showed Roger’s face with a brief memorial message. Tributes were paid to Roger on both sides of the Atlantic. Roger’s love for Ralph and his appreciation of the guidance and help that he received from Ralph was always evident in any speeches he made. We all know that Ralph would have been incredibly proud of one of the gang’s achievements.

Ron did so much for Gang Shows and helped, supported, influenced and advised very many of us and others in scouting which was reflected in the strong attendance at the service held in his memory. His sister Maureen concluded her circular letter regarding Ron with the following poem that sums up our feelings very well:

A beautiful memory left behind
Of someone who was good and kind
A life made good by kindly deeds
And generous thoughts for others needs.

Perhaps it would be appropriate at this point to take a minute to reflect on our memories of our dear friends who are not with us anymore.

On a lighter note the dinner was a great success raising £404 and £108 respectively from the raffle and quiz. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a success, to Reg and Mary for tickets sales and coordination and to Phil for the quiz. Phil Phillips played throughout the evening and the cabaret was provided by David Capri.

The annual camp was a resounding success with glorious weather and very good attendance. Thanks to Peter Bessell the arrangements always run smoothly and we continue to get a good rally price. The raffle raised £170 and this is always helped by everyone's generosity with donated prizes.

The dinner and dance details have not yet been finalised but the committee hopes the usual form will be included in the Winter edition of TATTS which we hope to publish by the end of November in plenty of time for members to book their tickets for January.

The Committee continue to keep in touch and discuss business by e-mail and telephone and our thanks go to Richard and John for distributing any notices and TATTS.

Thanks to Dougie for facilitating the use of the venues at The Anchor and The Ship for our celebrations. The anchor this year is providing our refreshments for the AGM free of charge.

2015 ACCOUNTS

A printout of the accounts and a written explanation were distributed at the meeting by Phil Smith.

SUMMARY

The Fellowship continues to find itself in a satisfactory position financially. The general fund now holds around £5,638 and we have £1,416 in the social account. Of the designated funds the RRMF has £877 and the Crewkerne Museum £545.

GENERAL FUND

Subscriptions: Thanks to the efforts of your committee subscriptions have remained at a good level over the last year and income totalled £595. The reduction over the prior year is probably due to some arrears that were recovered in that year.

The camp raffle shows income of £375 but this relates to £205 from 2014 and £170 from 2015.

Donations were received of £285. This consisted of a goodwill gesture of £105 from Barclays relating to the creation of group internet accounts. £150 in respect of the badge auctioned at the dinner and a further donation regarding postage.

Expenses paid by the general fund totalled £244. These were the AGM refreshments last year at a cost of £118. Committee meeting expenses totalled £90 and flowers in memoriam a further £35. Postage costs were an additional £75 which I am pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of a member were covered by a donation to both the General fund and the Crewkerne fund.

A transfer of £1,000 to the RRMF was agreed at last year's AGM and this means that the general fund has therefore made a loss of £63 in the year

SOCIAL FUND

The dinner made a loss of £197 in January.

RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

The raffle at the dinner produced £404. The sale of Tec's DVD's at the dinner produced a further £80 for the fund. In addition we transferred £1,000 from the General fund and sent a cheque to the Scout Association for £5,000 which was split £4,000 to the Endowment Fund in perpetuity and £1,000 for disbursement. This was agreed at last year's AGM.

Following the sad passing of Ron Meyer we handled the donations to the RRMF as requested by the family. The total donations in his memory came to £550 and a cheque was sent to the Scout Association to be added to the perpetual endowment fund for that sum.

The Scout Association have also transferred funds as agreed with them into the various elements of the RRMF and this will be reported upon separately.

The designated fund now stands at £877.

CREWKERNE MUSEUM

The quiz at the dinner produced another £108 towards the cost of revamping the display about Ralph. In addition a donation, as referred to above, was received of £52. During the year two of your committee visited the Museum and presented them with a cheque for £400 to get the artwork and display boards under production. The designated fund now stands at £545.

BALANCE SHEET

I have not made any attempt to transfer balances between bank accounts as we have a clear indication of how much each fund holds.

The creditors of £165 represent a £50 overpayment of subs in error and amounts paid by members of the committee expenses. (in respect of meeting rooms etc.)

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David Catt-Camfield, seconded by Mike Hoffman and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The Secretary Brenda, on behalf of the Fellowship, thanked Phil for all his hard work.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Richard Micklefield explained that we have 206 members on record, however the records show that 76 members remain 'a mystery' as they have not contacted anyone and some have not paid for over 5 years. This was discussed later in the meeting.

ELECTIONS

The meeting was asked to vote for the Nominations as shown on the bottom of the Agenda.

President: David Catt-Camfield

Vice Presidents: Bob Corp-Reader OBE, Peter Bessell Proposed by David Fricker; seconded by Mike Lovejoy – all in favour.

Chairman: David Clay – proposed by Brian Pow, seconded by David Catt-Camfield – all in favour.

Vice-Chairman/Treasurer – Phil Smith proposed by Eileen Fricker, seconded by Laurie Derbyshire – all in favour.

Secretary: Brenda Pow – proposed by David Catt-Camfield, seconded by Laurie Derbyshire – all in favour.

Committee: Alan Bailey, John Beaveridge, Sue Rhatigan, Mary Turner, Richard Micklefield – proposed Mike Hoffman, seconded by Eileen Fricker – all in favour.

Phil Smith asked that if anyone would like to offer their time to support in addition to the small number of people working hard for the Fellowship at present it would be much appreciated.

RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

Phil Smith explained and read out in full a letter has been received from Samantha Bowden, Development Grant Board Manager of the Scouts Association (attached) confirming the agreements made between the Scout Association and the Fellowship in February 2014. Since then a further letter has been received confirming receipt of the donation made in Ron Meyer's name and acknowledging the enormous contribution Ron made to Scouting.

Phil Smith proposed transferring £1,000 from the General Fund to the perpetual endowment fund (RRMEF) and this would be transferred to the Scout Association after a period of time. It was Phil's opinion that by sending a little each year it helped to keep the interest alive not only in the Fund but also in the Scout Association's awareness of the Fellowship. This was seconded by David Catt-Camfield and passed nem com.

Nita Mulford enquired about the use of the monies held and Phil referred to the letter which had accompanied the Ron Meyer donation acknowledgement dated 14th August 201 which explained who was eligible for grants.

David Catt-Camfield thanked Phil for all his hard work.

OPEN FORUM

Crewkerne Museum

Phil Smith and Brenda Pow visited the Museum in early June and were able to give them £400 to enable them to commence work on the artwork and agreed displays. We are delighted to report that Ralph's CBE and other medals have been located in the Museum's archives and these will be included in the display. The museum closes during the winter months and we hope that in the spring they will report back to us that the work has been commenced ready for the 2016 season. They intend to have a grand opening and members will be notified and invited to attend.

Dinner and Dance 2016

The reunion dinner is finalised in that the hotel food prices have been agreed as the same as last year, the room rate has also been agreed at last year's rate thanks to Douglas' intervention. The reception has been reduced by half an hour and the same canapes and drinks are being offered and the price capped at £350. Cheese and biscuits are again being offered free of charge.

A discussion took place about the suggestion of putting the price up to £41, an increase of £1, it was felt that this was acceptable and will be implemented.

David Catt-Camfield confirmed that Phil Phillips has been booked and that the cabaret is being arranged.

The menu has been selected by a majority vote of the committee.

Other Business

Richard Micklefield agreed to circulate a printout of the membership and after discussion it was decided that the committee would look into some publicity to encourage contact with past members of the gang. (Paul O'Grady's Sunday evening radio show, Scouting Magazine and any other suitable publications.)

David Catt-Camfield thanked Phil Smith for chairing the meeting in David Clay's absence.

Meeting closed at 1.55pm.

FUTURE EVENTS.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 30th January 2016 – booking form and details attached.

ANNUAL CAMP Friday 24th – Sunday 26th June 2016, Hurley, Berkshire.

AGM Sunday 30th October 2016.

These great memories have been received from a past member of the gang and I hope they will evoke thoughts of happy times for many of you:

Although I have not been involved with the Fellowship for many years, I do enjoy receiving “These Are the Times”, even if every edition sadly seems to include notice of the passing of fellow Gang Members of the past but it is still great to hear news of old friends.

I am sure that every Gang member feels that the time they were in the Gang Show were the best times and shows ever. And I am sure they are right!

My own recollections are very special to me - They include the 21st year of the Show in 1953 and then going forward to what seemed a Golden Period which included broadcasts on Radio Luxembourg, recordings with Vera Lynn, Ann Shelton and also The Beverly Sisters.

We also had the great fun of BBC transmissions of the Show not only from Golders Green but from the Television Theatre at Shepherds Bush with my dear friend Michael Hurl who was of course Ralph`s Godson, playing a prominent roll having joined BBC following a long stint as Stage Director of the Show and other productions.

Ralph had probably a record number of shows at the Royal Albert Hall. My first involvement was with Boy Scout in ,was it 1951, When Barry Summerfield played Boy Scout and his father Bill made a wonderful Indian Chief. There were a number of other productions at Albert Hall including Voyage of the Venturer where Kenny Cregeen played a major part and I had the privelage of being his voice ! Ralph`s involvement with the Albert Hall cannot pass without reference to the Festival of Remembrance which he staged and produced for so many years and which Bob took over when The Boss was no longer able.

As one starts to write, so many fantastic memories flood back. The Centenary Anniversary celebrations of the YMCA in Paris held in the Palais des Sport, where the Six Day Cycle Race was held. We had just one day to rehearse and a French stage hand decided to paint the floor of the arena two hours befor the start, confirming that the paint took two days to dry !

A great adventure was playing a part in “The Wingate Patrol” at the Scout Conference at the Filey Butlins Camp, taken over by the Scout Association for the event. We had a fairly "captive" audience of over 3,000 Scouts and Scouters and as you can imagine a fantastic reception for Ralph`s play. I was playing the part of Geoff, a blind member of the patrol but I am afraid that my blindness "slipped" a bit when we took the play "on tour" to Crewkerne and a rather heavy flood light (fixed by Mike Hurl !) fell with a crash from the flies and missed me by inches - and I thought he was a friend !

Following the Royal Command Performance where the Gang appeaed with such stars as Mario Lanza, Judy Garland and so many others, my last involvement was that memorable experience of the

World Jamboree where we appeared twice nightly - 6.00 and 8.30 at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

These are the Times we dream about and they certainly were Great Days !

They are times shared with so many chums. I hesitate to mention them because i will miss some but some people I cannot exclude, like Kenny Cregeen, Len Feathers, David Camfield, Peter Bessel, Peter Humby, Geoff Benge, Tommy Thompson, Mike Hurl - and his family, Jack Seaton, Frank Holme, John Styles, Duggie Gordon, Peter Dunlop and of course Bob Corp, although he was away in the Antipodeas for much of this time. Plus 120 others !

I hope I have not bored you too much with these memories but there may be a few who have so far avoided the Obit Column to whom these recollections are familiar.

I am writing this in Orford in Suffolk where I retired with Sue my wife of some 50 years. Keep up the good work of the Fellowship, a reminder of Ralph who gave so very much pleasure to so many.

As he used to write -

Yours Aye,

Michael Bellegarde.

Note from the Editor

Contact with members of the gang continues to go well. This means that TATTS is being received both by e-mail and post by a growing number of the gang. However, if anyone has any ideas how we can reach some of our past show members or knows of any members who would like to be contacted, please let Richard or myself know.

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Many thanks to all those people who keep me up to date with happy and sad events around the globe and for ideas to keep TATTS more interesting. It is difficult to include all the features as they come in as TATTS would be too long, but keep them coming please and I will include as many as possible.

The booking form and details of the Annual Dinner and Dance are on the final page and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Brenda

TATTS is sponsored by ATL

LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP – REUNION DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday 30th January 2016

THE SHIP HOTEL

Monument Green, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8BQ (ample car parking)
Easily located from M25 Junction 11



Dinner, Dance & Cabaret £41 per person

Star Cabaret and dancing to Phil Philips and his music

Pre dinner drinks and canapés

Chicken and Ham Hock Terrine with Homemade Piccalilli
Roast Leg of Lamb, Goose fat Roasted Potatoes and a Red Currant jus
Served with seasonal vegetables
Blood Orange Tart served with a Cinnamon Cream
Cheese and Biscuits
Tea or Coffee and Mints

Reception from 6pm – Dinner 6.30pm – Carriages Midnight

Once again we have arranged a special rate for Bed & Breakfast thanks to
Douglas Gordon

Double and twin rooms £70 per night (2 sharing)

Single rooms £50 per night.

En-suite rooms. To make your reservation contact the hotel –

Phone: 01932 848364, Fax: 01932 817153, E-mail: info@shiphotel.co.uk
quoting the London Gang Show Fellowship.

Book with Reg & Mary Mitchell on the form below. Early reservation urged as we are limited to 100 persons.

To: Reg & Mary Mitchell, 8 De Bruce Road, Brompton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 2QE (Tel: 01609 761875). **Please enclose cheque with form otherwise you will not be booked in** and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for acknowledgement.

Name _____

Address _____

Please reserve _____ places at £41 per person, cheque enclosed for

£_____ made payable to 'London Gang Show Fellowship'.

GUEST LIST – to assist with the seating plan please list the names of guests to be seated together, stating whether the vegetarian option or any other dietary option is required.