

# THESE ARE THE TIMES

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*London Gangshow Fellowship*  
*Founder: Ralph Reader CBE*  
*Winter 2016*

## **CHAIRMANS WINTER MESSAGE**

### **Annual general meeting**

As usual our AGM was very much a social gathering with business covered in good time. Thank you to everyone who joined us. It was agreed at the meeting to make a further donation to the **Crewkerne Museum** with a request that they use our funds to maintain and refresh when necessary the Ralph exhibit.

It was also agreed to make further donations to the Scout Association Ralph Reader Memorial Fund – details elsewhere in this edition.

### **Facebook**

As I reported in the last issue Gordon, our archivist, has set up a closed group on Facebook. I am sorry to have to report that Gordon has suffered a stroke and we have sent him our good wishes for a full recovery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers in what will be a long haul back to good health.

### **Website**

Following Barry Thurston's generous offer to design our new website I am pleased to report that Mike Hoffman has kindly agreed to be our liaison. Please send your ideas for content to [mikeh25@waitrose.com](mailto:mikeh25@waitrose.com).

### **Top ten GS songs of all time.**

Don't forget to send your 10 favourite Gang Show songs to Bill Iveson. Among entries received Bill had a reply from Dink Rew and family, Dink commented:

"Thank you for thinking up the idea, Bill. It brought back lots of happy memories to us all..... Those Were the Times! They certainly were. And These Are Still the Times! Please pass on our best wishes to everyone who remembers us."

Remember - The choice would not include "Crest" and "These are the times". Nothing could compare with these two!"

Bill has kindly offered to receive e-mail entries and generate an overall analysis of favourites so start thinking and email Bill.

[billiveson@ntlworld.com](mailto:billiveson@ntlworld.com)

### **Sad News**

I am sorry to have to report that since the last issue of TATTS John Duncan, the musical director of the Edinburgh Gang Show and a regular supporter of our reunion and Sue Rhatigan, a member and

former secretary of our committee have passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

### **Reunion**

You will already have booked the date Saturday 28 January 2017 at The Ship Hotel, Weybridge. Now complete and mail your application for tickets. We have been able to maintain the price of the evening with a drinks reception, four course meal and entertainment. The hotel has made a small increase in the bed and breakfast rate. There will be the usual vegetarian option and if you are unable to eat pork please state that on your ticket application so that we may discuss options with the hotel.

I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

David Clay

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### **Extract from the MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP HELD ON SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Douglas Gordon for facilitating the use of the venue and the staff for catering so well, free of charge.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** received from:

Colin Wells, Peter Turner, Pete and Sylvia Bessell Dennis Layell, Joanne Shilling, Reg and Mary Mitchell, Nita Mulford, Janet Davies, Tony Haynes.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.16**

Since we met last year we have sadly lost a few members – Sue Rhatigan a past secretary of LGSF, Miriam Collett living in Malta but a regular visitor to the annual camp and John Duncan of the Edinburgh show a friend a supporter of the Fellowship over many years.

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The dinner was a great success although there was a planned loss of £106 but £297 was raised 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 Steve Galler.

The annual camp was as usual a success with good weather, although attendance was down this year, due to members' family commitments. Thanks as always to Peter Bessell for arranging the smooth running of the event and ensuring a continuing good rally price. The raffle raised £120, this is always helped by everyone's generosity with donated prizes. Let's hope the weekend numbers are back up to previous years in 2017

The dinner and dance details were distributed around the tables of the meeting and will be included in the Winter edition of TATTS.

## **2016 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.

### GENERAL FUND

Subscriptions: Thanks to the efforts of your committee subscriptions continue at a good level over the last year and income totalled £626. This is broadly similar to last year.

The camp raffle shows income of £120.

Donations were received of £52 and relate mainly to a donation regarding postage.

No expenses have been paid out in the year. Postage costs of £37 I am pleased to say have been covered by a donation thanks to the generosity of a member.

### SOCIAL FUND

The dinner made in January made a loss of £106.

### RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

The raffle at the dinner produced £297. The sale of Tec's DVD's and Terry's memorabilia at the dinner produced a further £85 for the fund. Other donations totalled £84

In addition we transferred £1,000 from the General fund.

The designated fund therefore stands at £2,343

### CREWKERNE MUSEUM

The quiz at the dinner produced another £98 towards the cost of revamping the display on Ralph. During the year members of the Fellowship visited the Museum and viewed the new and shiny display. At the same time we presented them with a further cheque for £250. The designated fund now stands at £393

### INTEREST INCOME

This has always been very minor but I have been advised by Barclays that from 5<sup>th</sup> December we will no longer receive any interest on deposit balances. I am sure we will sadly mourn the loss of the £1.30 that we received in the year.

### BALANCE SHEET

During the year I have tidied up the bank account balances and these now reflect the various funds. The creditors of £50 represent a £50 overpayment of subscriptions in error.

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

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

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Richard Micklefield explained that we have 204 members on record, however the records show that we no longer have any contact with 70 members.

The fellowship will continue to try to contact people in the hope of making more people aware of us. Thanks to Richard.

## **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 Alan Bailey and agreed nem com.

**Chairman: David Clay** – proposed by David Catt-Camfield, seconded by Brian Pow and agreed nem com..

**Vice-Chairman/Treasurer – Phil Smith** proposed by Brenda Pow, seconded by Mike Lovejoy and agreed nem com.

**Secretary: Brenda Pow**

**Committee:** Alan Bailey, John Beaveridge, Mary Turner, Richard Micklefield – proposed Mike Hoffman, seconded by Laurie Derbyshire and agreed nem com.

## **RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND**

Phil Smith referred to last year's minutes and the sorting out of funds with the Scout Association. Anyone interested in checking the Association's Accounts can refer to their website.

Phil offered 3 proposals to the meeting for consideration and approval:

1. That we transfer another £1,000 from the General Fund into the RRMF designated fund.
2. That we send a cheque to the Scout Association for £2,000. Of this £1,500 should be credited to the permanent endowment fund and £500 may be disbursed as grants.
3. That we top the Crewkerne fund to £400 by transferring £7 from the general fund and we send a cheque to the museum for the balance in the fund. The donation will be sent with a request that it is used to keep the display looking "fresh".

David C-C asked for a fuller explanation as to how and why the funds are handled and distributed in this manner. Phil S further explained the three funds and about keeping the Fellowship name and the RRMF fresh in the Scout Association's mind.

Phil's proposals and explanation were seconded by Mick and Linda Moore and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

## **CREWKERNE MUSEUM**

Phil Smith reported on the coffee morning in June and how we were welcomed and looked after by the museum staff and volunteers. The display is bright and informative, including gang show music and songs, Ralph's medals, baby and dance shoes and memories from his childhood to later life. Phil handed over a red scarf and 40<sup>th</sup> Show woggle with a cheque for £250. Our job is done now, however as recorded earlier we will be sending a further £400 to support the museum in keeping the display "fresh".

## **2017 DINNER**

Information and booking forms were distributed on the tables around the meeting and will be included in the Winter TATTS as other years. The dinner price remains the same, but the hotel is asking £5 extra per room, which is still a very generous price.

## **WEBSITE**

Barry Thurston has offered to design and set up the website. He will liaise with Gordon Blackburn for material from the archives and links with the facebook page and Mike Hoffman has agreed to work with Barry in designing and managing the site as well as setting up a link to the Crewkerne site.

Bill Ives is still interested in members 10 favourite songs and this will be advertised on the website as well as TATTS.

It was decided that past editions of TATTS could be added to the website, but that the current year should still only be available to paid up members in the hope that anyone seeing the site and not a member might be encouraged to join.

Meeting closed at 1.50pm.

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## **FUTURE EVENTS.**

**ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – booking form and details attached.

**ANNUAL CAMP** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Hurley, Berkshire

**AGM** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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## **CREWKERNE MUSEUM**

As reported in the minutes the visit to Crewkerne was a great success and it was great to see some members who we hadn't seen for some time. We recently received the following letter from the Curator.

“Dear Phil

It was a pleasure to meet you all in the summer and to be able to show you the new Ralph Reader display. The display has been commented on favourably by a number of visitors and is a good addition to Gallery 4.

We are very grateful for your generous donation to the museum of a further £400. We review our displays every season and be assured that we will continue to refresh the Ralph Reader display when appropriate. The scarf and woggle were added straight away and bring something more of interest.

The season is almost at an end for us now with "Art in the Museum" finishing on Saturday. We open in 2017 on the 1st April and look forward to welcoming lots of visitors.

Thank you again for your generosity and interest.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Harris”

If you get the chance it really is worth a visit and a short walk from Ralph's birthplace with the blue plaque making the house.



## FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2017

circa 2011

It's time to brush away the cobwebs, aspirin away those hangovers, ignore the winter weather and look forward to the HURLEY EXTRAVAGANZA. Yes that time of year is upon us again. 'Happy Time' approaches, and I know you are all looking forward to a sunny (already booked) joyful weekend down on the banks of the Thames. Plus, you've got ME to look forward to. Yes, by popular request, we are back to Hurley Riverside Park. I have reserved our usual field, and all we need now is the names to place on the individual pitches. Hurley, as you know, is becoming evermore popular. So much so that last year they requested back any pitches we had not filled, two weeks before we were due to arrive. This is the first time they have done this, and come the weekend there was not a single pitch available and people were being turned away. It is therefore almost essential that you book early, particularly if you wish to extend your stay, either before or after, so that you will not have to change pitches. To make things a little easier for you, perhaps I should tell you all when we have booked for. **This year's Fellowship Camp will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June until Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017.** The earlier you book, the more chance you have of pitching up next to a particular party, but just remember only two of you will be able to pitch alongside me. Sorry. We are asked to **arrive at the site no earlier than 1.00pm.** This is because pitches have to be vacated by NOON, and those arriving as others are leaving, will have great difficulty passing each other in the narrow lane access to the site. You will be asked to pay £10 for a Key fob to get into and out of the Park during your stay. This is for security reasons and will be repaid in full on departure. When you bok I will let you know what pitch you are on, which you will state at Reception on arrival. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Regards

Tree One  
(Peter Bessell)

(If you need to contact me during the week prior to the camp, I can be reached on 0785437515).

## Note from the Editor

We continue to contact members of the gang but this depends on your support in passing on information to help us. TATTS is being received both by e-mail and post and I can only hope that the numbers grow as more people get in touch. 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.

Brenda Pow  
172 Gorse Lane  
Great Clacton  
CO15 4RJ

Richard Micklefield  
Remohca House  
Woodlands  
Wimborne  
Dorset

BH21 8LW  
[richard@remohca.com](mailto:richard@remohca.com)

[lgsf-tatts74@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lgsf-tatts74@hotmail.co.uk)

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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## 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 Liver Pate, Melba Toast & Caramelised Red Onion Chutney  
Rosemary Crusted Pork Fillet, Dauphinoise Potatoes & Sloe Gin Sauce  
Served with seasonal vegetables  
White Chocolate & Raspberry Brulee  
Cheese and Biscuits  
Tea or Coffee and Mints

**Reception from 6.15pm – Dinner 7.00pm – Carriages Midnight**

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

Double and twin rooms £75 per night (2 sharing)

Single rooms £55 per night.

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

Phone: 01932 848364, Fax: 01932 817153, E-mail: [info@shiphotel.co.uk](mailto: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.

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