

THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gangshow Fellowship
Founder: Ralph Reader CBE
Autumn 2017

CHAIRMAN'S AUTUMN MESSAGE

Annual summer camp

Another relaxed and enjoyable weekend at Hurley thanks to Pete Bessell, the weather was good and this year's sing song was not curtailed by the rain, although we had non LGSF neighbours this year and did not give full voice to those wonderful songs.

The raffle raised £130 for the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund so thank you to all those who gave prizes and bought tickets, special thanks to Brenda organising the raffle and to her "gorgeous" assistant Brian for speeding it along.

Read the report in this issue and book next year's date, the last FULL weekend in June.

Ralph Reader Memorial Fund

We have had several communications with the Scout Association this year and Phil has reported in this issue on a very interesting recent development with the fund.

Website

Mike Hoffman has been working closely with Barry Thurston aka "The Wanderer" and his team developing the website which will go live very shortly.

Our grateful thank to Michael and Barry for all the work that has gone into the website, I have had a sneak preview and it is very good with a lot of interesting material. Access details available soon and it will have been worth the wait!

Brian Pow

We are very glad that Brian is making a good recovery following his heart attack which caused Brenda and Brian to postpone their grand tour to another time.

Sad News

We are sorry to report that Nita Mulford, Mick's widow and mother to a "tribe of Gangsters" passed away in June following a stroke and our thoughts are with her family. Nita regularly came to our reunion and AGM and will be missed.

We are also sorry to report that Mike Smith passed away in July having battled bravely with cancer for several years. He bore his trouble lightly and was always cheerful, a great example to us all. Our thoughts are with Tina, his wife, and their family, Martyn, his brother, and his family and with his mother. Mike used to visit the Edinburgh show with his parents and other family member regularly for several years and, with the exception of the last couple of years, was always at our summer camp. We will miss his lively and jolly presence.

AGM

Our next event is the AGM on Sunday 29 October, The Anchor, Church Square, Shepperton - book the date now, details in this issue. Business dealt with promptly with plenty of time for catching up with friends.

Reunion

Another date to book Saturday 27 January 2018 "The Ship Hotel", Weybridge.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM

David Clay

(davidclayathome@hotmail.com)

FELLOWSHIP CAMP WEEKEND 2017



Did you miss a great camp? If you didn't attend then most definitely. More members staying for 8 to 10 days and many others joining us from Thursday. Several visitors, including all the way from New Zealand.



It's a relaxing way to have a chat with friends and not be as rushed as the AGM or dinner is sometimes. Just for the day, I'm sure someone will take pity on you and make a cup of tea with a snack. More of course if you let Peter Bessell know once the article appears in the Spring edition.

The weather was good to fair and I even got to swim in the Thames for 4 days and surprised myself to find it quite warm! Canoes were out and grandchildren, great grandchildren and dogs had a wonderful time. We caught up on the news at the Saturday Coffee hour. Thank you for all the donations of raffle prizes and the generosity of members, we raised £130.

See you next year? Brenda

*****FUTURE EVENTS*****

AGM Sunday 29th October 2017

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 27th January 2018

ANNUAL CAMP Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th June 2018, Hurley, Berkshire

Ralph Reader Memorial Fund

Phil Smith along with the Committee has been working hard to ensure that the RRMF is being safeguarded and used appropriately by the Scout Association in accordance with the terms it was initially set up. Below Phil Smith, The Treasurer explains:

The committee were approached by the Scout Association who outlined the position regarding the financial situation of the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund. Two elements of the fund are locked into endowments from which only the income is distributable.

To quote from the Scout Association “the distributable balance of the fund remains below annual expenditure (£11,000 balance against £14,000 average expenditure) and we cannot use these donations to award grants at this time.”

In view of this the Scout Association made the following request:

Our *Better Prepared* work aims to bring Scouting to the most deprived communities in the UK. This work has been incredibly successful in the last 2 years; however our work has brought unforeseen challenges. Whilst most communities are able to self-fund using a weekly membership subscription payment model, some Groups have young people for whom even this cost of £1-2 a week is too high. In these instances annual HQ membership fees/capitation is out of their reach.

Last year we ran a pilot scheme to fund HQ membership fees/capitation for these Groups; we had very tight criteria listed below, and funded 4 Groups with a total cost of £2,000.

- 1. The Section / Group must have been opened since the 2015 Annual Census. (i.e. Membership Fee support is only available for the first year)**
- 2. The Section / Group must be based in an area of deprivation. This criteria may be met in a number of ways:**
 - a. Based in an area within the lowest quartile of deprivation (Platinum YUF area)**
 - b. Over 50% of the youth membership entitled to Free School Meals**
 - c. In exceptional circumstances other criteria may be approved**
- 3. The County & District must have agreed to cover their element of the Membership Fee**
- 4. The District Commissioner, County/ Area/ Regional (Scotland) Commissioner and Regional Commissioner (England) (as appropriate) must support the application.**

Sections / Groups meeting the 4. criteria specified above may apply for up to a 100% contribution towards their HQ Membership Fee.

The Scout Association proposed to use some of the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund donations from LGSF to support their *Better Prepared* work. They also gave an assurance that they would not touch the capital of the Ralph Reader Memorial Endowment Fund or Ralph Reader Memorial Trust Fund as part of this work. These two funds named being the endowment portions of the RRMF. They would seek to make grants up to £3,000 each year. Grants would go to Beaver, Cub and Scouts section, though some Explorer Scout sections might receive grants if attached to a Group.

This request was considered by your committee and required an urgent response to the Scout Association in order to provide support from the fund to those who were in need of it. It was felt that this was a request that was within the original parameters of the fund as laid down when the original documents were adopted. The committee therefore sent the following response to the Scout Association.

We would like to propose that a maximum of £3,000 per annum for the capitation years 2018 and 2019 is made available from the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund (This is the fund available for grants and not the endowment fund) for the following purpose:

To provide up to £6,000 over two years (with a maximum of £3,000 in each year 2018 and 2019) to fund the *Better Prepared* project as outlined in your e-mail of the 10th March 2017.

In order to keep our membership informed of how the funds are being disposed of we would like within six months of the end of the capitation year (which we understand to be the calendar year) a breakdown of the funds expended showing the number of beneficiaries and amounts granted broken down by district and by scouting sector (i.e. Beavers; Cubs; Scouts and Explorers.) within those districts.

We have received an acknowledgement of this proposal and this has gone into immediate effect. We are sure that using the funds in this way is what Ralph would have wanted and we trust that the membership will be happy to see the funds in active use.

Phil Smith sent me this and thought it would be a a bit of fun to include in TATTS!



Note from the Editor

Brian and I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and many offers of help after Brian's heart attack in The Netherlands. The service we received from the Dutch health system and our insurance was amazing. He is now very well and normal life has resumed.

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 hears of a member who is not receiving TATTS and information please give them Richard Micklefield's or my address and e-mail and we will ensure they are able to get back in contact.

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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.

On behalf of the Committee and the members I would like to thank Phil for his work and explanations that help people like me understand the sometimes baffling jargon.

Brenda

TATTS is sponsored by ATL

LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the forty-second Annual General Meeting of the London Gang Show Fellowship will be held at the Anchor Hotel, Church Square, Shepperton, Middlesex on Sunday, 29th October 2017 commencing at 1.00pm.

The following business will be transacted: -

Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts Election of President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer Election of six members to the Executive Committee

Nominations for any of the above offices should reach the Secretary no later than 12th October 2017

Please join us at 12 noon for light refreshments. There will also be a cash bar available.

Guests are welcome at the meeting but shall not vote.

Members are also reminded that the annual subscription of £5 falls due on 1st October and should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mr Richard Micklefield – address below.

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Committee nominations and apologies please to the Secretary : -

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NB

It will greatly assist with catering if you will please confirm your attendance