

# THESE ARE THE TIMES

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*London Gang Show Fellowship*  
*Founder: Ralph Reader CBE*  
*Spring 2019*

## **CHAIRMAN'S SPRING MESSAGE**

### **Reunion**

Another great night with friends, old and new, it was good to be joined by members of other gangs which always makes the evening even more enjoyable. Phil Philips provided music throughout the evening and, as usual, helped everything go with a swing. Frances Fry entertained us well and helped create a lovely atmosphere.

The toast to the memory of Ralph and to the London Gang Show Fellowship was proposed with great humility and humour by Fred Reeve who shared some early memories of Ralph and enthused us with his excitement at seeing the Gang Show film as a young cub which sparked his wish to become part of the gang.

### **Sad News**

I am sorry to have to report that since the last issue of TATTS Den Layall has passed away. Our thoughts are with his friends and loved ones.

### **Thai cave rescue**

David Hunt, who organised the blue plaque on the cottage at Upper Denton where Ralph spent some of his early years, writes from Rottingdean about John Volanthen who was a cub and scout in Rottingdean and appeared in Rottingdean scout group shows. John was one of the British cave divers who conceived and executed the rescue of the 12 young footballers and their coach. Last September the Scout Association awarded him the Bronze Cross, the scouts highest honour given for "heroism or action in the face of extraordinary risk". John said that he started caving in the scouts and, as a leader in Bristol, still takes scouts caving. He was also awarded the George Medal in the New Year Honours list.

### **Promise Path**

Thank you to everyone who has made donations towards the brick which we will be placing in the Promise Path at Gilwell. The committee are considering designs for the brick, more news later in the year.

### **Gilwell Reunion**

We have been invited to have a display stand at this year's reunion as part of the Gilwell 100 celebrations. Early days yet but the Heritage Collections Dept. are investigating how various collections can be displayed charting and celebrating the Movements history.

The committee are considering how best we may participate.

## Website

Don't forget, suggestions for items for inclusion on the website always welcome, please send to Michael Hoffman

[Mikeh25@waitrose.com](mailto:Mikeh25@waitrose.com).

**The Gang goes camping!** Our next event is the camp at Hurley, details elsewhere in these pages. Do try and come even if only for a day visit, it really is a good reunion with time to share. I hope to see you there.

.David Clay

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## FUTURE EVENTS.

**ANNUAL CAMP** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Hurley, Berkshire

**AGM** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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## **FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2019** circa 2018

This is a follow-up to Peter's article in the December TATTS, Sylvia has FORCED him to go on a cruise again. That poor boy!!

This year's Fellowship Camp will again be held in our "home" at Hurley Riverside Park. The jamboree will run from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June until Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. We have booked sufficient pitches, we hope, but as we get closer to the dates the management will probably try to claw back some of our allocation because the site is becoming ever more popular. It is therefore a good idea to reserve your spot with Peter as early as possible. He has already received a great response and it would be wonderful if he had to find more pitches if they have them, although not always easy. So get in touch with him as early as possible. I think you all know by now how to get to the site, but if anyone needs information please get in touch with Peter (0115 9656531).

Hurley prefer you not to arrive before 1300 hours due to a narrow access to the Park making it very difficult if you meet people leaving the site. For sat-nav users the post code is SL6 5NE. On approach to the Park, avoid the signs for Hurley Village and follow the International Camp Site signs, following along Shepherds Lane and bearing left at a sharp right bend and forward into the site. Present yourself at Reception, giving your name and pitch number (which Peter will give you when you book-in with him), and mention London Gang-show Fellowship [or Peter Bessell and although the poor staff's face will drop they will know who and where you are!).

If you should need to contact Peter during the week prior to the camp, He can be reached on 078 543 75515. We are all looking forward to seeing you there, He should be back from his jaunt very soon!

**[Tree One (Peter Bessell) Tel: 0115 9656531, Mob: 078 543 75515]**

## **Dinner, dance 2019**

This is an extract of an email received from Freddy O'Hare. I have had dreadful trouble opening the link but hopefully many of you will be successful

“our sincere *thank you* for your kind invitation to, and for all the background work done in arranging such a wonderful evening of fun and laughter at the LGS fellowship dinner and dance. It was great to be with the gang once more – I could almost smell the Hippodrome stage scenery the warmth of the lime lights and the joy from the of the gang doing their routines.

I have put together a short video of the evening which I hope you will be able to open. The link below opens a direct connection for you to download the file to your computer <https://file.direct/f/8JtggwQZvH6Qbhvn> By clicking the green **download** button the video file [190mb] will eventually appear in the “Download” folder of your PC.”

This was Freddy and Jenny’s first visit to our reunion and I am thrilled they had such a good evening. It was great to hear stories and get to know them. He also mentioned the camp in June and next year’s dinner, so hopefully we will see them enjoying the gang’s company again very soon.

### **Image of Dougie Gordon!**

A video that Hilton has produced all about the London Hilton, where Douglas worked for a time, as you know.

Imagine the surprise and delight that he makes an appearance at the bar, enjoying a cocktail not long after the hotel opened.

You might like to see the video, which you can do by following this link:

<https://partneredcontent.fortune.com/hilton/the-hilton-effect/europe-the-middle-east-and-africa.html#video-london>. However, the shot is very short, so don’t blink!

### **Editor’s Notes**

Please don’t forget to look at the website and encourage others to do the same, there are and will be some amazing photographs and fabulous memories. Have a chuckle at yourself and remember old friends and the great fun we all had **lgsf.org.uk**. As David said any contributions will be gratefully accepted, address in the Chairman’s message, or I can pass anything on.

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

[bt-bp49@hotmail.com](mailto:bt-bp49@hotmail.com)  
[lgsf-tatts74@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lgsf-tatts74@hotmail.co.uk)

Richard Micklefield  
Remohca House  
Woodlands  
Wimborne  
Dorset  
BH21 8LW  
[richard@remohca.com](mailto:richard@remohca.com)

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.

As you can see a shorter issue this time! It would be great to hear about your shows so that we can publish details and any locals or those wanting to catch up with friends to visit and of course any great reviews or relevant information about members. Although it is difficult to include too many features keep them coming please and I will include as many as possible.

Thank you all again for your kind thoughts and calls while Brian has been unwell. I am happy to report that he is doing very well and getting out and about, although still limited in how far he can go. We are booked on camp and look forward to seeing everyone there.

Brenda

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