

THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gangshow Fellowship
Founder: Ralph Reader CBE
Winter 2017

CHAIRMANS WINTER MESSAGE

Annual general meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our AGM, relaxed and enjoyable as usual. It was very good that President David Catt-Camfield and our great benefactor Douglas Gordon who have both been suffering with poor health recently. Our thanks to Douglas for arranging the use of the Disraeli room, which is a lovely setting for the meeting, and refreshments without charge.

Michael Hoffmann gave us a preview of the website which is going to be very interesting and a great source of information. Our thanks to him and Barry "The Wanderer" and his staff for everything that they are doing to present us to the wide world.

Sad News

I am sorry to have to report that since the last issue of TATTS Dave Cregeen, who has done so much to promote and support Gang Show at so many levels and different parts of the country over a very long time, and Marian Goold, a former member of the committee, have passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

Happy News

Warm congratulations to Mary Mitchell, a former secretary of the committee, who was awarded the Silver Wolf last year and this year has been appointed President of Northallerton District Scout Council for her time as district secretary and as acknowledgment of her services to scouting generally.

Reunion

You will already have booked the date Saturday 27 January 2018 at The Ship Hotel, Weybridge. Now complete and mail your application for tickets.

We have had to increase the price this year in view of rising costs but have kept the increase to a minimum by subsidising each ticket by £4. We believe that this represents very good value.

The evening will start at 6.15 with Bucks Fizz and canapés, followed by a four course meal. Phil Philips will entertain us during the evening and 10pm will be cabaret time followed by our sing-along.

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

Extract from the MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP HELD ON SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2017

“PRESENT: President: David Catt-Camfield
Chair: David Clay
Vice-Chair/Treasurer: Phil Smith
+ 21 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. The Chairman asked that we remembered members who had passed away since our last AGM:
Dinky Rew, Gordon Blackburn, Nita Mulford, Mike Smith and Marian Goold Fisher (nee Goold)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

Colin Wells, Mary and Peter Turner, Pete and Sylvia Bessell, Joanne Shilling, Reg and Mary Mitchell, Janet Davies, Tony Haynes, Alan and Belinda Bailey

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 41st AGM were proposed by David Fricker and seconded by Richard Micklefield and agreed nem com.

Matters Arising:

It was noted that under the heading Crewkerne Museum ‘David Clay handed over a red scarf ...’ and not, as stated Phil Smith. It was agreed that the Agenda covered all salient points that would be covered later in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.17

The Committee met in March and communication has continued throughout the year by email and telephone conversations.

Correspondence received:

Ron Ridge emailed Brenda about his parents Ron and Clarice who many of the Fellowship will remember from backstage in the latter GS years and from Walthamstow. Ron now 90 has had a stroke and is due to move into a care facility as Clarice 88 is unable to care for him anymore. However, Ron jnr. tells us that they have many happy memories of GS, Agoonoree and the first to last camps they attended from Malinson Scout centre to Hurley. The lovely comments that was although their memories are fading they still remember the song words. Brenda replied reassuring Ron she would inform the AGM and sending and kind thoughts to them and the family.

An email was received from Robert Lyons discussing the use of Ralph’s funds by HQ, these views will be discussed later in the meeting as other members feel the same.

The dinner was enjoyable, although there were some concerns about certain aspects of the meal that the committee will consider when planning 2018. It made an expected loss of £260, this will be discussed at the next meeting, £270 was raised from the raffle. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a success, to Reg and Mary for tickets sales and coordination. Phil Phillips played throughout the evening and the cabaret got everyone singing.

The annual camp was a fun affair with good weather. Thanks as always to Peter Bessell for arranging the venue and ensuring a continuing good rally price. The raffle raised £130, this is always helped by everyone’s generosity with donated prizes. As ever early bookings will be encouraged to help Peter secure enough sites.

Our thanks go to Richard and John for distributing any notices and TATTS, keeping down the cost and supporting Brenda in getting copies to as many people as possible.

2017 ACCOUNTS

The Fellowship continues to find itself in a satisfactory position financially.

The general fund now holds around £20,000 and we have £1,052 in the social account.

Of the designated funds the RMF has £2,830 and the Crewkerne Museum is now nil.

GENERAL FUND

Subscriptions: Thanks to the efforts of your committee subscriptions continue at a good level over the last year and income totalled £917.

A legacy income from the Telfer estate of £15,000 has been received. We have been told that a further sum may be payable once the estate is finalised but this will be relatively minor.

We have incurred £250 to purchase storage boxes for the LGSF archive.

Following the motion at last year's AGM a further transfer of £1,000 to the RRMF was made and this means that the general fund has therefore made a deficit of £339 in the year. In view of the expected archive costs that will be incurred I am not proposing that we make any transfers to the RRMF at this stage from the General Fund.

SOCIAL FUND

The dinner made in January made a loss of £260. I am assured by the Chairman that this was in line with expectations.

RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

The camp and dinner raffle (£130 and £270) have both been credited to the RRMF. The sale of Tec's DVD's and other memorabilia at the dinner produced a further £237 for the fund. Donations *in memoriam* of Gordon Blackburn totalled £850. In addition we transferred £1,000 from the General fund. Total income was therefore £2,487. In line with the proposal as last year's AGM the sum of £2,000 was submitted to the Scout Association for the RRMF. The designated fund therefore stands at £2,830. I will propose at the AGM subject to approval that we send a cheque to the Scout Association for £1,000 to be credited to the permanent endowment fund.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David Catt-Camfield, seconded by Mick Moore 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 199 members on record; however the breakdown of members will need to be discussed at the next Committee meeting:

Paid up 62 + 10 honorary members

Owing for this year 21

Owing this and last year 19

Owing for 3 years 9

Owing for 4 years 8

Owing for 5 years 6

Owing for 6 or more years 59

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 Mike Hoffman and seconded by David Fricker and agreed nem com.

Chairman: David Clay – proposed by Eileen Fricker, seconded by Ian Waddell and agreed nem com..

Vice-Chairman/Treasurer – Phil Smith proposed by Mike Hoffman, seconded by Geoff Bengé and agreed nem com.

Secretary: Brenda Pow

Committee: Alan Bailey, John Beaveridge, Mary Turner, Richard Micklefield, Iain Waddell (co-opted Mike Hoffman) – proposed Colin Brown, seconded by Mike Lovejoy and agreed nem com.

RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

Phil Smith explained that 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. He referred to an article in Autumn 2017 edition of TATTS as we were approached by the Scout Association who outlined the position regarding the financial situation of the RRMF.

There are 3 funds: The Endowment Fund and Tony Cook Endowment from which only the income is distributable. There is a third fund which 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.

Discussions took place about the possibility of being informed of the specific groups these funds are being sent to and that the criteria are working. There was an enquiry about allowing for an arts element, but the Scout Association say that there is not enough money to be used in this way. Robert Lyons email putting the view that the money was not going to the appropriate people and several members of the meeting were also of this view. Phil explained how the charitable organisations work in order to clarify problems.

A proposal was made that we donate £1,000 to the RR permanent endowment fund from the RRMF designated fund within the LGSF.

Proposer: Phil Smith, seconded by John Beaveridge and agreed nem com.

Thank you to Phil for his continued hard work and explaining the details so succinctly.

2018 DINNER

John Beaveridge confirmed the earlier comment about the food and also mentioned that the music during dinner was too loud for comfortable conversation. David Clay suggested that this can be easily rectified. A speaker for the memory of Ralph continues to be a problem, any suggestions would be useful.

WEBSITE

Barry Thurston is setting up the website free of charge. Mike Hoffman is working with Barry in designing and managing the site as well as checking the suitability of the material. We are hoping that there will be live information in time for the dinner. The meeting thanked Mike Hoffman for all his hard work and research.

OPEN FORUM

Gordon Blackburn's collection

David Clay explained that he had been left Gordon's personal collection on Ralph in Gordon's Will and he was donating this to the Fellowship.

David explained that with the help of Gordon's family quotes have been gathered to help with moving the archive nearer to London in order to give easy access to the Committee and ensure it was safe and dry. Mike Hoffman felt that we need to put the collection onto a digital medium in order to preserve it. This of course is a massive undertaking and will take a great deal of time money! David Clay explained he had found a reasonable storage facility just off the M3 and that the committee has sufficient funds to secure this at present. David therefore proposed that a sum not to exceed £10,000 should be put aside to move and store the archive until final arrangements can be made. Seconded by Linda Moore and agreed nem com

The Heritage collection at HQ and the RAF archive collection may be interested in some of the items and this will be pursued by the committee.

Thanks To David Clay for all his hard work in liaising with the family.

David Catt-Camfield enquired about a memorial seat being in place for Gordon. Apparently The seat at Peebles Peoples Hydrao has been funded by NODA. He also asked whether the Edinburgh GS are doing anything and could we be involved in this? This will be pursued by the committee. David Catt-Camfield reminded the meeting about enquiries 3 to 4 years ago re a Heritage Plaque and a Blue Plaque. Is it worth the Committee making enquiries to English Heritage again?

Geoff Benge explained that SWGS is resurrecting itself next year and is recruiting staff and cast members if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested.

David Clay thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 2.15pm"

FUTURE EVENTS.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 27th January 2018 – booking form and details attached.

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

AGM Sunday 28th October 2018

FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2018



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 Times' approach, 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 more popular each year. So much so that they now request back any pitches we have not filled, two weeks before we are due to arrive. If come the weekend there are no pitches available, people will be 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 22nd June until Sunday 24th June 2018.** 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 book 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

First an apology for not getting this published on 1st December but I was in London last week and have decorators in at home; on my return the internet had been disconnected and I have only just been able to reconnect! I have been able to receive emails on my phone but up until this morning it has not been physically possible to reach my computer!

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.

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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.

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. Book early to avoid disappointment!
I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Brenda

TATTS is sponsored by ATL

LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP – REUNION DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday 27th January 2018

THE SHIP HOTEL

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

Dinner, Dance & Cabaret £43 per person

Star Cabaret and dancing to Phil Philips and his music

Pre dinner drinks and canapés

Three Pork Pate, Tomato Chutney and Melba Toast
Pan fried Chicken Stuffed with Wild Mushrooms and served on a bed of creamed leeks, roasted potatoes,
served with seasonal vegetables
Passionfruit Cheesecake with raspberry coulis
Cheese and biscuits
Tea, Coffee and Mints

Vegetarian option:

Broccoli, cherry Tomato and Feta parcel, roasted new potatoes & rich tomato sauce

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 £80 per night (2 sharing)

Single rooms £60 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 Brian & Brenda Pow on the form below. Early reservation urged as we are limited to 100 persons.

To: Brian & Brenda Pow, 172 Gorse Lane, Great Clacton, CO15 4RJ (tel 01255 479035)

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.

