

THESE ARE THE TIMES



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

CHAIRMANS WINTER MESSAGE **Annual general meeting** Our AGM was held as in previous years at the Anchor Hotel in Shepperton and I would like to thank Phil and Brenda for running it in my absence. Several interesting and useful topics were discussed, details in these pages.

The Promise Path We have agreed the detail of our paving stone, designed by Johnny B, with the team at Gilwell. Whilst we have had a very generous offer from one of our members to underwrite the cost of the paving stone, If you wish to make a personal donation towards the cost please make cheques payable to The London Gang Show Fellowship and send them clearly marked as being a donation to the cost of the brick, to our treasurer:

Phil Smith, 67 Elmstead Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6EE

However, if you are able it would be preferable to transfer money direct to our bank account: Sort code 20-38-83 account London Gang Show Fellowship account no. 70591831. Please quote as the reference your name preceded by PP

As the Promise Pathway will trail through Gilwell Park it will create a lasting memory of Ralph and our donation will help build a brighter future for Scouting. We hope to arrange a small celebration event when the stone is laid and will issue details once everything has been agreed. More details available for information about the Promise Path via the following link:

<https://secure.artezglobal.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventid=43844&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fwww.google.co.uk%2f>

Website Remember to send ideas for the website to Michael Hoffman. mikeh25@waitrose.com. If you have not viewed it lately have a peep now! www.lgsf.org.uk.

Details of the Reunion dinner are on the final page as usual.

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

David Clay

MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP HELD ON SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: Vice-Chair/Treasurer: Phil Smith
Secretary: Brenda Pow
+ 15 members and friends

Our Chair David Clay was unable to be with us this year. However he sent a message which was read out at the meeting:

“I am sorry not to be with you today but know that you are in good hands with Phil chairing the meeting very ably assisted by Brenda. I hope that you have a good meeting.

Sadly we have lost four of our members since our last AGM, David “Tec” Evans, Lilian Boughton (nee Buckman), Den Layall and Lesley Anne Cook. I know that we will each have our own memories of them.

Whilst not wishing to distract from the executive report which Brenda will present nor Phil’s Treasurer’s report, I do want to mention three particular projects which we have been working on this year.

Michael Hoffman has been working with The Scout Association to finalise Johnny Beaveridge’s design for the paving stone to be placed in the Promise Pathway at Gilwell in memory of Ralph, there are copies of the design here today.

Iain Waddell has produced a banner advertising the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund, on display here today, which we will be able to lend to Gang Shows around the country to promote the fund.

The committee has continued sorting and cataloguing Gordon Blackburn’s collection and plan to arrange a weekend to make significant progress in what is a major task. We are exploring options to maintain it as a working archive and will report on progress through TATTs.

Finally my thanks to the committee for their support particularly in maintaining membership records, managing the website, producing TATTs and looking after our funds. I look forward to seeing you at the reunion on 25 January 2020”.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

David and Jenny Clay, Reg and Mary Mitchell, Linda and Mick Moore, Eileen Fricker, Freddy O’Hare, Colin Wells and Joanne Shilling

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 42nd AGM were proposed by David Fricker and seconded by Michael Hoffman and agreed nem com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.19

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

Correspondence received:

An article was received from Peter Baker; this gave an account of Peter’s memories of Ralph and his experiences within scouting and the show. This was included in the Autumn edition of TATTs.

As David mentioned in his report we have had contact with several people about the Promise Pathway at Gilwell in memory of Ralph. I think we should particularly thank Freddy O’Hare who has given us advice and contacts in order to secure this and look forward to seeing it in place. More information about the celebration will be circulated in due course.

We have been able to contribute in a small way to two boys attending the Jamboree this year by a unanimous vote to give each boy £50. A request was made and as at present we have no authority over making donations the committee felt we did have the funds to help in a small way. We felt this was the best way to keep the memory of Ralph alive and help younger members understand his significant contribution to scouting and shows. Phil will be putting a proposition to the meeting in regard to this.

The dinner was enjoyable, Phil Phillips played throughout the evening and the cabaret was considered to be a very good choice. The venue has been booked for 2020 and Brenda and Brian will deal with ticket sales and the raffle. Brenda would remind everyone that early information on how many tickets are required would be appreciated as leaving things to the last minute makes it difficult to confirm with the hotel as well as budget for the evening. Phil will be running a quiz if people would like one. The dinner and dance details will be added to the Winter Edition of TATTS in the normal way which we hope to publish by the beginning December in plenty of time for members to book their tickets for January.

The camp was a great success as usual and our thanks to Tree One (Peter Bessell) for arranging and booking the event. This year we had a new flag proudly flying as the original flag has done sterling work since the beginning, this was given to Eileen and Janet with our love as their mum made it many years ago. Peter again asks that members let him know as early as possible if they would like to attend as the site is now very popular and it is getting more and more difficult to hold on to sites or give back to the site if he over reserves. Many members now stay much longer than the actual weekend and this means friends have time to catch up and the committee members are able to work on the archives in the sunshine. This year on a personal note I would like to thank all those members who stayed on for the Monday and helped me celebrate an important birthday on the Sunday, the weather was lovely and to be amongst friends on my day was fabulous. Hurley will be booked for 2020 on the usual weekend. I'm sure it will be another great time and look forward to seeing everyone there. Full details will be included in TATTS as usual. Our thanks go to Richard Micklefield and John Masters for distributing any notices and TATTS, keeping down the cost and supporting Brenda in getting copies to as many people as possible. Naming and shaming of non-payment of subs will continue where appropriate as this really is the only way we are able to keep contact with members and be current with news.

2019 ACCOUNTS

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

Phil explained the proposal that we do not make transfer to the main endowment fund until such time as the Scout Association reopens applications to the fund. This will give the Fellowship some flexibility in supporting needy cases direct from our designated fund.

Richard Micklefield asked if we were within legal boundaries in doing this. Phil confirmed that by making the money available to scouts and guides making appropriate and genuine requests we are using the money for the purpose the donor to the funds had intended. This is with reference to Tony Cook's legacy to the endowment policy as a dispersible fund.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Richard Micklefield and seconded by Alan Bailey and agreed nem com.

The meeting thanked Phil for all his hard work.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Richard Micklefield confirmed to the meeting that the naming and shaming strategy in TATTS had worked and that he had received some back subs as well as some new members.

The fellowship will continue to try to contact people and name and shame in TATTS where appropriate in the hope of increasing numbers. Thanks to Richard.

ELECTIONS

As the committee have not received any nominations Phil proposed that one vote be taken for the members shown at the bottom of the Agenda to remain serving on the Committee.

President: David Catt-Camfield

Vice Presidents: Bob Corp-Reader OBE, Peter Bessell

Chairman: David Clay

Vice-Chairman/Treasurer – Phil Smith

Secretary: Brenda Pow

Committee: Alan Bailey, John Beaveridge, Richard Micklefield, Iain Waddell, Michael Hoffman, Barry Thurston

Elections approved by David Fricker and seconded by Laurie Derbyshire and agreed nem com.

RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND

Please see the treasurer's report attached

2020 REUNION DINNER

Brenda confirmed the price of the tickets as £44.

The menu has been agreed by the Committee:

Canapes: Sesame and honey glazed cocktail sausages, lamb kofta meatballs, smoked salmon and cream cheese on cucumber.

Starter: Liver Parfait with melba toast and caramelised red onion chutney.

Main: Pork escalope, grain mustard and spring onion mash

Desert: Caramel and honeycomb cheesecake.

As soon as the committee receives confirmation of room prices from the hotel the usual order form will be sent out by email and then included in the Winter TATTS. Brenda emphasised the need to book early as we Phil needs the money in the accounts before in order to pay the bills on the night.

WEBSITE

Michael Hoffman confirmed that he had received pictures from Freddy O'Hare from the 2019 dinner and along with many more photographs backstage from 1958 onwards, these will be published on the website where suitable.

TATTS is published regularly.

Excaliber, the free standing poster, will be put on the site with background information from Iain Waddell, as soon as possible.

A template of the paving stone for the Gilwell pathway was shown to the meeting, apparently the badge motive cannot be reproduced in colour which would prove difficult to highlight the red of the scarf. There was a short discussion and it was decided that the letter GS would be a better option along with a slight alteration to the working; overall it was well received. The size will be about A3 and it is hoped members will be able to attend a small reception at Gilwell once it is put in place. Our thanks go to John and Mike for their work on this. Hopefully more details will be available in TATTS.

OPEN FORUM

There was a discussion about the future of the LGSF. Numbers are dwindling and it is something that has to be considered. The committee feel that it would be appropriate to keep things going until 2022, which will be the 90th Anniversary of the London Gang Show. This will of course be discussed in more depth at a later date.

A vote of thanks was given to the Committee members by Geoff Benge.

Meeting closed at 2pm

FUTURE EVENTS.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 25th January 2020 – booking form and details attached.

ANNUAL CAMP Friday 26th – Sunday 28th June 2020, Hurley, Berkshire

AGM Sunday 25th October 2020

Reunion You will already have booked the date, Saturday 25 January 2020, at The Ship Hotel, Weybridge. Now is the time to complete and mail your application for tickets.

The evening will start at 6.15 with Bucks Fizz and canapés, followed by a three-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.



ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2020

Rounders! circa 2018

Hopefully members will have received the email sent out with information about booking for next year's camp. If you are interested it is imperative that you get in touch with Peter Bessell as soon as possible. The site is proving more and more popular and apparently we now fall into peak season when they can fill all the pitches easily. The campsites have offered alternative dates and prices for 2021 and this will be explained and discussed at the Saturday coffee morning. If you wish to extend your stay before or after the "official" weekend of 26th to 28th June 2020 you will now have to book directly with the site asking for the Early Bird Rally connected to London Gang Show or Peter Bessell will@hurleyriversidepark.co.uk. If you intend to do this it might be a good idea to contact Peter and let him know as well as confirming the GS weekend. Hopefully this makes the situation clear and we will have a full and enjoyable camp. Peter Bessell 01159656531

Note from the Editor

I did say in the Autumn that I would publish more information about Ralph's life from his own words. However this edition has proved to be quite long and so that will be included in the Spring copy – March 2020. **NB Please don't forget to book the camp or dinner as soon as possible or you may be disappointed!**

NAME AND SHAMED: Where are you?? Many of you have not paid subs for a number of years! If you want to stay in touch please contact Richard. Janie Manual, Roger McLeod, Neil McMinn, Mark Mirosevic-Sorgo, Terence Mitchell, Anthony Morris Jon/Lesley Muir, Stuart Murray, Roger Ness, Alan Nunn, Douglas Pell, James Preston, Michael Pritchard, Nigel Rode, Tony Roper, Mervyn Sutter, Dorothy Sacre, Tom Seal, Alan Shirley, Keith Skinner, Alan Stammers, Brian Stocking, Barry Summerfield, Jonathan Tait, Adrian Tallett, Trevor Thomas, Michael Turner, John Walker, Roy Walton, Alan Wolsey.

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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.

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 25th January 2020**



THE SHIP HOTEL

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

Dinner, Dance & Cabaret £44 per person

Star Cabaret and dancing to Phil Philips and his music

Pre-dinner drinks and canapés
Chicken Liver Parfait, Melba Toast & Caramelised Red Onion Chutney
Pork Escalope with Grain Mustard Sauce & Spring Onion Mash
Served with Seasonal Vegetables
Caramel & Honeycomb Cheesecake
Tea, Coffee and Mints
Vegetarian option on request

Reception from 6.15pm – Dinner 7.00pm – Carriages Midnight

We have arranged a special rate for Bed & Breakfast

Double and twin rooms £88 per night (2 sharing)
Single rooms £65 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.

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 £44 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.