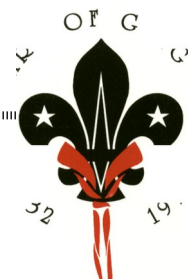


THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gangshow Fellowship
Founder: Ralph Reader CBE
SPECIAL EDITION SUMMER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope that you and your families are keeping well in these difficult days. I would like to thank John Masters for helping us keep in touch so well by issuing emails on happy and sad topics and Brenda for gathering news items and especially for producing this special “lock-down” edition of TATTs.

You will have heard the sad news of Ron Ridge senior and will be able to read “young” Ron’s tribute in these pages. The current situation limited the number of people who could pay tribute at his funeral but the family gave him a good send off, he was in his Scout Uniform with Gang Show Scarf and a Scout Flag on the coffin. A recording of Ralph singing "I wouldn't change" was played and the Scout Hymn was sung as Ron and Clarice both wanted.

Promise Path

Before the pandemic hit, Gilwell were planning to lay the stone in May and we were discussing plans for a small reception at Gilwell. Initially we continued making plans while the association staff worked from home but everything has now been put on hold. We will issue news as soon as we have any.

I would like to thank everyone who made a donation to the cost of the stone. Our special thanks are due to Johnny Beaveridge who made a substantial donation to make up the cost, in memory of his parents who were very fond of and admired Ralph.

Future events

You will read that the camp has been cancelled but, as I write this, I know that Brenda is planning to arrange something special with the help of some regular campers!

We have booked the AGM for Sunday 25 October 2020 at the Anchor Hotel, Shepperton – subject to the hotel being allowed to open and are continuing with plans to hold the reunion on Saturday 30 January 2021 at The Ship Hotel, Weybridge.

We commiserate with all the gang shows that have had to cancel shows this year and trust that they manage to devise ways to keep cast and crew together for next year.

Look after yourselves and your loved ones

David

Sad News

I know many of you are already aware of the passing of Ron Ridge and of course we all send our love and condolences to his family. His son Ron sent the following message and the committee felt it should be included in this newsletter in order to let everyone know the details.

“Hi

Instead of flowers we would like a donation please, if you wish, to the site below in memory of Ron who passed away 3rd May 2020 aged 93. He had been in scouting over 75 years and also in Masonry for over 45 years, in Venturer Lodge and Chapter no 7897 and was a PprJGW in Essex. The funeral will be the 1st of June and according to guidelines there will be immediate family only, a memorial will be held when the current situation allows.

Please could you circulate as this is a very worthwhile cause. Louise and I are both Dementia Friends and Dad suffered from Vascular Dementia.

<https://ronridge.muchloved.com/>



[The Ron Ridge Celebration Fund](https://ronridge.muchloved.com/)

Dedicated to the memory of Ron Ridge
ronridge.muchloved.com

"His contribution to Scouting in East London was huge! His work with Walthamstow and London Gang shows was always a highlight of his life - as was the Agoonorees (camps for handicapped Scouts) which he was camp leader of and his Commissioner work at District, County and Country Level.

W.Bro Ralph Reader CBE was one of the friends of our family who we loved very much and spent time with, whenever we could, either together or individually. Now Dad can enjoy the times we all dream about, with friends and without pain."

Best regards

Ron Ridge
Co-ordinator
Brentwood, Doddinghurst and Battlesbridge First Responder Groups
(EZ32F/EZ06/EZ66) www.ez32.org
coord@ez32.org
Heartstart Co-ordinator
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
ron.ridge@nhs.net
mobile - 07836 208938

in an Emergency don't be a bystander, be a First Responder [Email: responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk) “

Bob Corp-Reader had this tribute to pay to Ron.

“I had heard of the sad passing of Ron Ridge following his suffering with dementia over the past few years. Ron was a member of Venturer Lodge, which met at Chingford in Essex. When the Lodge was founded, comprising mainly of Scouting members, Chingford, was the closest place, with facilities, nearest to Gilwell. I was initiated there in 1964 and in 1973, as W.M. I had the privilege of Initiating Ron into Freemasonry.”

FUTURE EVENTS.

ANNUAL CAMP Friday 26th – Sunday 28th June 2020, **CANCELLED**

AGM Sunday 25th October 2020 - **booked but awaiting confirmation!**

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 30th January 2021 - booked with fingers crossed

FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2020 CANCELLED



circa 2019

It is a sad fact that Covid19 has managed to disrupt our get together at Hurley. As I write this the site is not open and although they are hoping to start receiving visitors in July, they cannot confirm the date and it will be too late for our annual event. Ema Washington and Liz Smith (nee Fricker) are hoping to set up a zoom meeting for the Saturday evening, June 27th June. The regular campers will be contacted with the link should this happen.

Good News re 2021: Friday June 25th June – Sunday 27th June

Peter Bessell has been in contact with Hurley and has secured the usual weekend for next year at last year's prices. WELL DONE PETER!! However, he does need to know sooner rather than later who will be attending, **particularly those members who would like to book either side of the weekend. (“The Early Birds”)** The site is always busy around that time of year, particularly with the Henley Regatta happening the weekend after our rally. **If you are interested in 2021 Camp please contact Peter as quickly as possible so that he can confirm our sites.**

We hope to see as many people as possible next year.

**TREE ONE (PETER BESSELL) TEL: 0115 9656531, MOB: 078 543 75515,
email: sylvia.bessell@btinternet.com**

Of Interest

Ralph's music goes on.

Thank you to several members for letting us know about this link to a fabulous celebration of Ralph's music by 94 musicians from around the UK in Scouting and Guiding. The lockdown orchestra, NSGSO and NSGCB. The site is a great illustration of young people enjoying music whether together or just connected by the internet!

[https://www.facebook.com/NSGSO/videos/241316713989145/
UzpfSTgyNzc5MDMwNjoxMDE2MzM2MTkzMzY2MDMwNw/](https://www.facebook.com/NSGSO/videos/241316713989145/UzpfSTgyNzc5MDMwNjoxMDE2MzM2MTkzMzY2MDMwNw/)

Bob Partington, now living in Australia, sent this through for members.

Not sure if you have seen this?

[https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory/2019/08/15/ralph-reader-and-the-raf-gang-shows/?
fbclid=IwAR13V1XicKIAq6wVSDeKal2qwlx6SdSvozRHDUOc-QlqFd3fE9jDvT2KFRQ](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory/2019/08/15/ralph-reader-and-the-raf-gang-shows/?fbclid=IwAR13V1XicKIAq6wVSDeKal2qwlx6SdSvozRHDUOc-QlqFd3fE9jDvT2KFRQ)

Best wishes, Bob Partington

Greetings All,
I do trust that you are keeping well and smiling ?
Very best wishes
Freddy & Jenny O'Hare

**WAVE THE FLAG TO THE SKY ABOVE,
WAVE THE FLAG OF THE LAND WE LOVE
WHEN EVER DARK DAYS, COVER THE VIEW,
THEN FLY ANEW, RED, WHITE AND BLUE.**

**WAVE THE FLAG LET THE PEOPLE SING,
TO THE FLAG THAT IS EVERY THING,
FOR EVERY BRITON, EVERY WHERE,
WHO HAS A DARN GOOD RIGHT TO BRAG,
COME ON ALONG WITH ME AND WAVE THE FLAG.
Ralph Reader – London Gang Show 1957**

Keeping in touch

I am pleased to report that the LGSF Committee was able to hold a meeting via zoom, not quite so pleasant as meeting in London over a drink but useful and without the travel! Various current issues were discussed which has helped to look to the future. Minutes were taken in order to record the discussion in the usual way. It was very useful to be able to discuss things rather than just correspond by email.

Editor's Notes.

Please don't forget to look at the website and encourage others to do the same, there are some amazing photographs and fabulous memories, which are updated as and when new material is found. Have a chuckle at yourself and remember old friends and the great fun we all had **lgsf.org.uk**.

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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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. It would be great to hear about your shows, when they resume 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.

Looking forward to meeting again soon, stay safe everyone

Brenda

TATTS is sponsored by ATL