

# THESE ARE THE TIMES

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*London Gangshow Fellowship*  
*Founder: Ralph Reader CBE*  
**WINTER 2021**

## **WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

### **Annual general meeting**

Our AGM was held this year in the Garden Room at the Warren Lodge Hotel as our usual venue, Anchor Hotel across the square in Shepperton, had not yet reopened following the lockdown. Several interesting and useful topics were discussed, details in these pages. My thanks to the committee for their support and help during the year, particularly Brenda and Phil for keeping our records and funds in good order and Richard for maintaining our membership records.

### **GS90 Saturday, 9th July 2022**

Response from gangs around the country has been good; I have spoken recently to folk from Christchurch and Stirling who are pleased with the enthusiasm of their young people. So far 21 of our “not so young people” have taken the opportunity of appearing on stage at the Eventim Apollo Hammersmith with the youngsters who are keeping Gang Show alive.

### **Website**

Remember to send ideas for the website to Michael Hoffman.

[mikeh25@waitrose.com](mailto:mikeh25@waitrose.com).

If you have not viewed it lately have a peep now!

[www.lgsf.org.uk](http://www.lgsf.org.uk)

### **Reunion**

You will already have booked the date, Saturday 29 January 2022, at The Ship Hotel, Weybridge. If you have not yet done so then now is the time to complete and mail your application for tickets.

The evening will start at 6.15 with Bucks Fizz, 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 would like to thank Brenda for compiling and editing “These Are The Times”, John Masters for emailing it (and all the other items he so helpfully sends to members) and Richard Micklefield for copying and mailing it. Thanks also Michael Hoffmann for managing our website and Barry Thurston for his generous help in setting it up and hosting it.

I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

David Clay

### **PLANNED FUTURE EVENTS.**

**ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**ANNUAL CAMP** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**AGM** Sunday 30th October 2022



circa 2019.

## **FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2022**

**A different idea next year.** Many regular campers have sold their rigs or have them stored abroad, there is also the realisation of age creeping up on us which would have made Hurley a depleted gathering. Therefore we have been looking at other ideas and found, we hope, a good compromise allowing those who wish to camp to continue doing so and others to attend in more comfortable accommodation. Below is information about the options:

**Camping/Caravan:** Ty Rhosyn Coch Campsite, Glasbury, Wales (They have a website)  
£15 per pitch (2 adults, 3 children) plus £4 per night for electric hook-up.  
Add adults £7 per person, add children £3.50 per child

This is a small family run site with basic shower and toilet facilities. They have offered to erect a gazebo to enable us to meet for our usual coffee morning or get together on Saturday night. Some members have expressed concern that if they are in hotel accommodation they do not want to put on the campers to supply coffee, drinks and food etc. My suggestion would be to bring mugs and glasses, I am happy to supply paper plates and I'm sure we could come to an arrangement whereby everyone could contribute to any meals.: Or to eat away from the camp and just get together for a chat or sing song. Details can be discussed at a later date.

There is B & B and hotel accommodation very close by. The Harp Inn which is opposite is now fully booked with our members.

Black Mountain Lodge which is also within walking distance still had accommodation at time of writing this.

River Café is ideal for canoeing enthusiasts with accommodation and canoe hire at very reasonable prices.

Foyles is slightly more expensive, but not too pricey.

There are also several more nearby, all with different things to offer.

Both The Harp Inn and Black Mountain have indoor and outdoor areas where we could meet together.

All the B & Bs and hotel accommodation have their own websites that give full information and booking.com is giving good deals and free cancellation.

I have booked to stay at The Harp Inn from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022. I know that some campers are also staying on the site from Thursday.

**If you would like to book the campsite please ring Brenda on 01255 479035, mobile: 07919907330.**

However if you are booking any hotel accommodation then you will need to arrange that for yourselves.

Hay on Wye is close by for book lovers and is also a lovely place to visit for lunch etc.

It is disappointing to have to move in this direction, but I suppose it was going to happen sooner or later and the pandemic along with health factors have brought it to the forefront!

I hope we can still have a get together and if this doesn't suit then we can think again next year.

## **Extracts from AGM held on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

The Chair, David welcomed everyone and said how pleased he was to be meeting face to face. He asked for a moment's thought for three of our members who have sadly passed since we last met.

David brought a copy of the wording and layout of the stone we have commissioned for the Promise Pathway for members to see. He explained that we still intend to have a small ceremony at Gilwell to commemorate the stone once the Gilwell office is open again.

David thanked Brenda, Phil, Richard Micklefield and John Masters for their support in producing information and distributing TATTS and other correspondence and Mike Hoffman and Barry Thurston for maintaining the website and the rest of the committee for their time and support.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.21**

The Committee met face to face for the first time in over a year in September. However communication did continue throughout the Covid restrictions by email, telephone conversations and zoom.

As you know we were unable to hold our AGM last year and it is great to get together this year albeit just a handful of members. There is a copy of the minutes of the 2019 AGM on your tables in order that if you have any queries they can be addressed in the Open Forum

Correspondence received:

I have received a few emails from our overseas members and a zoom meeting was discussed, however as some have a 12 hour time difference this is going to prove quite a juggling act!

The 2021 dinner was cancelled but the committee are delighted to announce that 2022 will go ahead. Next year we will be celebrating 90 years of Gang Show and originally we were thinking of making it the last year of the Fellowship. However we are now hoping to continue until 2024 when it will be 50 years of the Fellowship and it would be great to have a special celebration and keep the annual events going until then.

The venue has been booked for 2022 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. We are also hoping to open this up to other Gang Shows so booking early this year is more important than ever. The dinner and dance details will be added in the normal way to the Winter Edition of TATTS which we hope to publish by the beginning December in plenty of time for members to book their tickets for January.

The camp has had to be cancelled for two years running because of Covid and there have been many discussions as to how to move forward. Several regular campers have sold or transferred their rigs abroad and this probably means that we need to rethink how we can have our annual get together. I along with younger members of the Fellowship have been researching various options and we feel that perhaps we have to go back to the idea of a 3 to 4 day get together at a mutually agreed venue and price as there are still members who wish to continue camping. There are several possibilities in the pipeline and as soon as a decision has been made I will ensure that as many people as possible receive the information. Liz Fricker has worked hard to keep me in the picture with several ideas and it seems we have one that would probably suit everyone. If there is anybody here interested I am quite happy to discuss this after the meeting. As soon as I get an idea of reasonable numbers I will talk to Liz and get it booked.

A subcommittee has been formed in order to deal with the Archive and it is hoped that it can be reduced and catalogued in order to offer it for exhibitions or that we can find a permanent home for the items.

There is to be a GS90 show, as there was for 80 years and original members of the London have again been invited for a 'guest' appearance. I understand this has been well received. The show which is to be held in the HammersmithEventim Apollo (formerly Hammersmith Apollo) very fitting as this venue was opened 90 years ago next year.

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.

## **2020 ACCOUNTS**

A printout of the accounts and a written explanation were distributed at the meeting by Phil Smith. Phil made a proposal that in order to keep the RRMF active within the minds of the Scout Association that this year we transfer £1,000 to the permanent endowment fund of the RRMF held by the Scout Association. This will be balanced by a transfer for the same amount from the General Fund to the RRMF designated fund held within the LGSF accounts. Seconded by Dave Fricker and passed nem com.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David C-C and seconded by Kevin Huggett and passed nem com.

The meeting thanked Phil for all his hard work.

**Unfortunately our membership Secretary was unable to be with us this year.**

## **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**

Proposed by Phil Smith, Seconded by Mike Hoffman, agreed nem com

**Vice-Chairman/Treasurer – Phil Smith**

**Secretary: Brenda Pow**

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

Elections approved by Kevin Huggett and seconded by Eileen Fricker and agreed nem com.

## **RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND**

This was covered as part of the 2020 Accounts Treasurer's report. It had been discussed and approved at earlier AGMs to donate money for underprivileged children through the Scout Association but we have not heard back from them, and could not be sure that our money was being used as we would want. There was a discussion asking the question as to what Ralph would want. It was decided that once we have had our celebrations in 2024 any monies left could be used to help other organisations dealing with children.

The committee will look into other organisations and report back to members so that a decision can be made. The bulk of the RRMF is in permanent endowment. Iain Waddell suggested that we could look into contacting other Gang Shows in order to help or get further support and perhaps, continue the Fellowship in a more national format.

### **2022 REUNION DINNER – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

This is all booked. Phil Phillips has agreed to provide the music provided that he is fit enough, we have offered to help with collecting and taking home his gear. If he is unable to attend he will provide a substitute. The cabaret is booked, but we still need a guest speaker. The menu has been decided but the committee need to finalise other details, including room details before a price is confirmed. Full details will be included in December TATTS as usual. Subsequent to the meeting our President has offered to propose the toast to the memory of Ralph and to LGSF

### **WEBSITE**

Mike Hoffman is keeping up to date with all new material sent to him and has been receiving items from Jack Morath which he is able to upload every few days. There is now a section on Boy Scout, a reference to GS90 and the dinner information will be put on there to encourage sales of tickets. David thanked Mike on behalf of the committee and membership for all his hard work.

### **OPEN FORUM**

David Clay confirmed that we had 17 members interested in taking part in GS90. There were several scrap books from the archives around the room, plus a first act finale photograph from 1970 for members to enjoy and reminisce. After a short reminder and discussion about Camp 2022 Brenda confirmed that an email would be sent to regular campers on Monday, confirming details. There will be full details about the area in TATTS.

A discussion took place about the Archives and although several avenues have already been pursued without success the committee will continue to try to find a permanent home for it, once it has been sorted, collated and catalogued.

Meeting closed at 2.20pm

### **Editor's Notes**

There is a booking form attached to this edition for the dinner and dance. As it has now appeared on the website and was sent to all members earlier in November may I suggest that you book very soon as the numbers are growing daily and you may be disappointed. If we reach maximum numbers I will inform all members by email.

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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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.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the dinner in January.

Brenda  
**“Keep looking for the Bluebird”**

**TATTS is sponsored by ATL**

**LONDON GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP – REUNION DINNER AND  
DANCE  
Saturday 29th January 2022**

**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  
Ardennes Pate with Tomato Chutney & Rustic Bread  
10 Slow Cooked Beef Brisket with Chive Potato & Horseradish Jus  
Served with Seasonal Vegetables  
Profiteroles filled with Chantilly cream & warm Chocolate Sauce  
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 £93 per night (2 sharing)  
Single rooms £69 per night.

En-suite rooms. To make your reservation contact the hotel –

Phone : 01932 848364, Fax : 01932 817153, E-mail: [receptionship@desboroughhotels.com](mailto:receptionship@desboroughhotels.com)  
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. If you wish to pay by bank transfer please contact  
Brenda at [bt-bp49@hotmail.com](mailto:bt-bp49@hotmail.com) with details

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.