

# THESE ARE THE TIMES

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## *London Gangshow Fellowship* *Founder: Ralph Reader CBE* *WINTER 2022*

### **WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

#### **Annual general meeting**

We returned to the Garden Room at the Warren Lodge Hotel this year, thank you to everyone who travelled out to Shepperton. It was generally agreed that next year we will choose a more central venue for the meeting and reduce everyone's travelling time.

Several interesting and useful topics were discussed, particularly the future of the Fellowship as indicated in the AGM notice.

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.

#### **The future of LGSF**

Following earlier discussions at committee meetings it was suggested to the members at the AGM that we need to take action to ensure that the Fellowship does not fade away. Whilst this is a hard decision it was agreed that we would close the London Gang Show Fellowship in 2024, 50 years after its inception.

We have valuable assets in the Ralph Reader Archive, compiled by our great friend and former archivist Gordon Blackburn and including his vast collection of material covering Scout and RAF Gang Shows and Ralph's professional career and in our website. We also have a history of holding an annual reunion dinner which has, over the years, given members of other gangs an opportunity to join us and celebrate the life of our founder "the incomparable Ralph" to quote from one of the toasts in his honour at the 50th anniversary dinner.

We have suggested to the organisers of the recently formed scout entertainment fellowship that there may be a way of continuing what we started in 1974 so that the archive is maintained, the website continued and an annual gang show reunion held.

#### **Archive**

Thanks to the generosity of Ema Washington, Dave Cregeen's daughter, we now have a home for the archive which has been shipped, thanks to Liz Smith (Dave Fricker's daughter – Bermondsey strikes again!) to her property where we will have space to sort and catalogue it so that it may, subject to the appointment of an archivist, become an invaluable source of information.

#### **Promise Pathway Gilwell**

The plan to visit our paving stone in memory of Ralph, outlined in the last issue of TATTs, a brief tour of Gilwell, the highlight for us being visiting Ralph's paving stone, followed by refreshments locally. We are planning the visit for Saturday May 27th – the nearest Saturday to Ralph's birthday.

We do need an indication of numbers, if you responded to the notice in the Autumn edition no need to confirm your interest now. If you are not sure whether you did reply then please do reply!!

Please let me know if you want to come and how many places you want, we will then send you details. davidclayathome@hotmail.com

### **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

### **Reunion**

You will already have booked the date, Saturday 28 January 2023, 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 Hoffman 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**ANNUAL CAMP** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**AGM** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### **FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2022**



circa 2019.

I hope you all noted that the camp went ahead in June this year and although few in numbers a good time was had by all. It seems that we did indeed find a good compromise in allowing those who wish to camp to continue doing so and others to attend in more comfortable accommodation. As I reported in the Autumn issue we were able to meet on Saturday as usual and next year we will be taking the large shelter which will give more protection from either the searing heat or the rain and wind! 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. Some members had expressed concern that if they were in hotel accommodation they did not want to put on the campers to supply coffee, drinks and food etc. My suggestion of taking bring mugs and glasses, etc. worked and basically we all mucked in and I am happy to report that it worked with everyone contributing to a pot for food on Saturday night.

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. There is also a castle, which I know Kevin and Angie Huggett visited and really enjoyed.

I hope we can get together again next year. If anyone has any other ideas and information, please let me know.

### **EXTRACT FROM 2022 AGM**

The Chair, David welcomed everyone and thanked those present for making the effort to attend. He asked for a moment's thought for our members who have sadly passed during the year:

Irene and Eddie Gregory, Mike Luther, Peter Baker, Clarice Ridge and David Clayton.

David thanked Brenda for her work on TATTS and all secretarial work. Phil for his hard work on the accounts and his support as Vice Chair, Richard Micklefield as membership Secretary and for mailing the hard copies of any correspondence to the membership. John Masters for his support in producing information and distributing TATTS and other correspondence. Mike Hoffman for updating and all the work he researches and produces on the website and Barry Thurston for maintaining and paying for the website and the rest of the committee for their time and support.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.22**

The Committee met face to face in July and in spite of difficulties with my train the meeting was full and many items were discussed.

Although we do not hold many face to face meetings the committee are regularly in touch and as you will see from the Agenda today the Fellowship's business still moves forward.

The dinner 2022 was a success and although I was unable to attend because I had good old fashion flu, I was kept up to date with the evening by texts and some great video footage by Angie Huggett. The venue has been booked for 2023 and Brenda and Brian will deal with ticket sales and the raffle. Brenda will again be reminding 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. 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.

### Camp

The camp was held at a new venue in Wales. Hopefully members saw the report and photographs in Autumn TATTS. Those who attended had a great time and we will be looking to repeat the same arrangements next year, using local hotels and bed and breakfast for those who do not wish to camp. The great thing about it was that on the Saturday everyone cooked, ate and stayed together. We will be taking the Fellowship's own awning next year which will give more protection against the weather and make it easier for everyone to enjoy the evening in more comfort. All details will appear in the Winter version of TATTS.

### GS90

This was a young, vibrant, modern and a show of its time. It allowed those members of the London who could to join in with an item after the interval and remember Ralph with song. We were made welcome by the cast and it was good to catch up with members, who are not regulars at Fellowship events. A video was taken and I understand that Tony Guy has copies of these. **(There is a small piece from Nigel Hayley later in this edition, that you may find interesting)**

### Archives

The subcommittee that was formed to deal with the Archive has been successful in finding a safe and appropriate place to store everything permanently. Dave Cregeen's daughter has kindly given a space in a barn on her property, this will mean free storage and access for groups, shows etc to borrow items easily. We are very grateful to Ema and Dave Fricker's daughter Liz, who have arranged the items to be moved in November.

As you will see there are quite a few items on the agenda for discussion and we hope that several issues can be moved forward to the Fellowship members satisfaction.

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.

### **2022 ACCOUNTS**

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

Phil reported that the Fellowship continues to find itself in a satisfactory position financially. As reported last year in view of the expected archive costs that will be incurred, I do not suggest that we, make any large transfers to the RRMF at this stage from the General Fund. Once the transfer of the archive is complete and all expenses have been paid then we should be able to revisit this.

It was approved at a previous AGM that we do not make any transfer to the main endowment fund until such time as the Scout Association reopens applications to the fund.

The meeting thanked Phil for all his hard work.

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

David C-C thanked the Committee for all its hard work.

Unfortunately our membership Secretary was unable to be with us this year, as his wife, Anne has been taken ill in Dubai. We all wish her well.

## **ELECTIONS**

As the committee have not received any nominations it was agreed that one vote to be taken for the members show at the bottom of the Agenda to remain serving on the Committee.

**President**                 **David Catt-Camfield**  
**Vice Presidents**       **Bob Corp-Reader, Peter Bessell**

**Chairman**                 **David Clay**  
Proposed by David C-C, seconded by Ian Waddell and agreed nem con.

**Vice Chairman/Treasurer**     **Phil Smith**  
**Secretary**                 **Brenda Pow**  
**Committee**   **Alan Bailey, John Beaveridge, Richard Micklefield, Ian Waddell, Mike Hoffman**

Elections approved by David Fricker and seconded by Eileen Fricker and agreed nem com.

## **RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND**

This was covered as part of the 2022 Accounts Treasurer's report that is attached. David C-C is concerned that rules and regulations are restricting us helping young people in need.

Phil Smith explained some of the terminology to the meeting.

David C-C has concerns that the donation from GS90 to the fund had not been paid and David Clay agreed to contact Tony Guy to find out if it had been paid direct to the Scout Association.

Elizabeth Smith (nee Fricker) had asked about a donation concerning 1<sup>st</sup> New Cross. David Clay has written to Scout Association and they had asked what RRMF was, David had explained and is awaiting a further conversation.

Bob Corp-Reader explained the original set of the Fund, overseen by Ron Meyer and himself. He then explained when the Scout Association had taken over without consent. Bob expressed his disillusionment with the Association's handling of this and other aspects.

## **PROMISE PATHWAY**

The Committee is planning a visit in May (Ralph's birthday month), probably Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Brenda agreed to publish the details so far in TATTS and ask members to contact the committee. Ian Waddell asked if it would be possible to open the visit up to other shows to ensure other young people learn about Ralph and The Fellowship.

Accessibility was discussed and David and Brenda confirmed that Elizabeth Smith had visited the site today and sent photographs. Once we have a better idea of numbers we will discuss logistics and the possibility of taking some photographs to be viewed and perhaps a light lunch in a nearby pub.

## **ARCHIVES**

David Clay explained the size of the collection and how difficult it has been to work on cataloguing in its present lock up. The collection is being shipped up to Staffordshire to be housed, free of charge, in a barn on Ema Washington's (David Cregeen's daughter) property. This will enable the Committee to sort through and record the contents more efficiently. An Archivist is required and Ian Waddell has agreed to take this on for the time being. Strict rules on access need to be put in place in order to keep track of any articles borrowed and ensure their safe return. The Committee will report back once they have more definite information.

## **2023 REUNION DINNER – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

This is all booked. The cabaret is booked, we did have a guest speaker, but unfortunately Peter Baker has recently died. The menu is being discussed and the committee need to finalise other details, a price is confirmed. Full details will be included in December TATTS as usual. Subsequent to the meeting Brian Pow 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 has been able to upload regularly. Mike was able to supply GS90 with appropriate material for display in the foyer of the show. Hopefully we can include dinner information on the site to encourage sales of tickets.

David thanked Mike on behalf of the committee and membership for all his hard work.

## **CAMP 2023**

As reported earlier the camp was a success, although numbers were disappointing. Brenda intends to book the site again and hopefully more people will attend. Full details will appear in TATTS.

## **THOUGHTS ON WINDING DOWN THE FELLOWSHIP (Open Forum)**

The Committee feel that 2024 is the right time to close The Fellowship as it is 50 years since the last show and 50 since The Fellowship was formed.

The plan is to have the 2024 Dinner in the January and then a lunch followed by the **final AGM in October 2024**.

There is, of course, lots to discuss. Ian Waddell feels it is too good to just close and that we should try to get younger members from other shows involved. There is a National Gang Show Conference in December where it could be mentioned. David Clay is seeing Nigel Hailey next week and agreed to have a chat with him.

However, Bob Corp-Reader feels strongly with several other members of the committee that London Gang Show stands alone and therefore it is the right decision to close The Fellowship in its current format, Brian Pow and David C-C agreed with other members present. We should move away and let others take over a Fellowship but not as London.

Mike Hoffman confirmed that the website has been renewed for 3 year which will enable him to hand it over if a new fellowship is formed and ensure that the name is changed as well as all the contacts. After a short discussion it was decided to rethink the format of the final AGM and find a way of subsidising the lunch as a final farewell and tribute.

Meeting closed at 2.22pm

## **Gang Show 90**

On the 9th July 157 young people from 37 shows from around the UK took to the stage of the Eventim Apollo to mark the 90th Anniversary of the first London Gang Show in 1932.

What an evening! From the moment the lights went down until the finale it was a worthy celebration of Gang Shows past and present and demonstrated that Gang Shows are in good shape for the future. With just a few regional rehearsals and 2 weekends with everyone together the cast put on a varied programme. There was a medley of hits from 1932 to 2022, a song specially written for this show, new sketches and some impressive dancing and singing. Just before the finale a video montage featured shows around the UK, Australia and New Zealand all performing the same routine to the same song.

It was not an easy ride and the cast all aged between 14 and 25 rose to the occasion putting aside some of the challenges from earlier in the day.

There was of course a medley of Ralph Reader Songs. 20 members of the London Gang Show joined the stage, the oldest a spritely 92! The ovation from the audience was tremendous and it brought the show to a halt. Thanks to all those old boys and girls that made the evening even more special.

The finances are still being finalised but more than £2,000 will be donated to the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this an evening to remember. We've made memories for a new generation of young people who will keep the Gang Show spirit alive for many years to come



Nigel Hailey

### **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](http://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.

Brenda Pow  
172 Gorse Lane  
Great Clacton CO15 4RJ

Richard Micklefield  
Remohca House  
Woodlands  
Wimborne, Dorset  
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[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. 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 28th January 2023**

## THE SHIP HOTEL

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

**Dinner, Dance & Cabaret £45 per person**

**Star Cabaret and dancing to Phil Philips and his music**

Pre-dinner drinks

North Atlantic Prawns with Horseradish Marie Rose Sauce,  
Rocket & Brown Bread

Chicken Breast with Wilted Spinach Dauphinoise Potatoes & Rich Gravy  
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 £96 per night (2 sharing)

Single rooms £72 per night.

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

Phone : 01932 848364, Fax : 01932 817153, E-mail: [info@shiphotel.co.uk](mailto: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. 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 £45 per person, cheque enclosed for

£\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to 'London Gang Show Fellowship'.

To assist us with our seating plan please list the names of guests with whom you would like to be seated, **stating whether the vegetarian option or any other dietary option is required.**  
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