

THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gangshow Fellowship
Founder: Ralph Reader CBE
Spring 2023

CHAIRMAN'S SPRING MESSAGE

Reunion

Another happy evening with old friends from our Gang Show family from around the UK, it really is great to be together – we know how happy we are.

Phil Philips helped the evening go with a swing as always and Tracey Martin provided grand entertainment ably assisted by our very own “Norman”.

Special thanks to Brian Pow for proposing the toast in such a heartfelt manner.

Looking ahead, we have booked the venue and started planning our 2024 reunion so just the date, Saturday 27 January 2024.

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 which are currently being finalised. davidclayathome@hotmail.com

Annual Camp

Our thanks to Peter Bessell and Steve Thornton for the inspiration for the camp and to Peter, Brenda and everyone who has, over the years, made it such a success. Whilst the campsite is available this year there is no local hotel accommodation on “our” weekend to recreate last year's event. More detail in these pages

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

David Clay

A Report on the Dinner Dance in January

Annual Dinner Dance

Although not as well attended as we would like, this year's dinner was a great night. Good company, good food with Phil P providing appropriate music throughout the evening and fun entertainment from a favourite singer.

It's always an opportunity to catch up with friends and this year Paul and Carol Foster came back into the fold, fabulous to see them after such a long absence.

The Edinburgh Gang were out in force again and as always helped the evening to go with lots of laughter and of course, way too fast.

The toast to Ralph was led by Brian Pow, a first and a surprise to many that we were able to persuade him to give it! It was lovely to hear him reminisce about fun times and the many friends and opportunities he has been able to take advantage of because of Ralph. I'm sure it stirred many memories in those who were there.

However, I feel it is necessary to remind everyone that LGSF will be closing down in 2024 and **so next January will be the last annual dinner!!** A sad fact but nonetheless something that had to come. Therefore we hope that it can be a big send off and that as many as you will be able to attend. It will be as always the last Saturday of January 27th 2024. We will try to make it special so look out for details in the Autumn TATTS

FUTURE EVENTS.

Visit to Gilwell to see the Pathway Stone laid in Ralph's honour (Date TBC)

AGM Sunday 29th October 2023

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE Saturday 27th January 2024

I am so sorry to have to report that the 2023 camp will not be taking place. This is very disappointing but although we were able to get the campsite all surrounding accommodation is fully booked. I have also been contacted by more members that they are unable to camp or make the journey. However, I am looking into ways of getting members together in June 2024, perhaps in reasonably priced accommodation in order to have one last meet.

Editor's Apolgy

I need to make a huge apology to Bob Corp Reader as this following article was omitted from the Winter edition. I have searched through the records and realized that I probably found we had rather a lot of material in that edition. However I hope I can now rectify that omission and hope that we can all take a moment to remember Eddie Gregory as we read these lovely memories.

Thank you Bob.

Eddie Gregory and "The Angel"

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Eddie as within the "Fellowship" I suppose I knew Eddie the longest. You see Eddie and I were both in the same Scout Troop, the 33rd North London during

which time I was Eddie's Senior Scout Patrol Leader. The troop met at the Emanuel Church, Hornsey Road and right opposite was Eddie's father and mother's fish and chip shop. My goodness we always received 'royal' helpings of chips after Troop meetings in those days.

In 1959 I became producer of the "Islington Gang Show" which was presented annually at the Islington Town Hall. My first Gang Show in Islington was in the cast in the 1949 show, the first after the Second World War. However, back to 1959 when I was producer and Eddie a cast member. On returning home to Hendon one night after a rehearsal, Ralph asked, "What do you intend doing for the Finale?" I replied, "Oh I suppose the normal reprieve of one or two of the numbers," pour yourself a drink he said and come and listen to this. He then played a piece of music he had composed but had not completed as yet the lyrics. At around 3 am in the morning we had completed the lyrics and the number was entitled "The Angel."

The following week I asked Eddie if he would like to lead the number in the Finale and he jumped at the idea. Not only did Ralph give the number to Islington but allowed us to have it printed, and sell, sheet music of it. Someone I knew who had a printing company did the printing, some of you may remember him, Mick Barker, a long serving committee member of the London Gang. "The Angel" became not only the Islington Gangs 'National Anthem' but Eddie's own! When Ralph saw that 1959 show he invited Eddie to join the London Gang of which he was an enthusiastic member up until the finale performance at the State Theatre in 1974. It was however not until 1967, the 35th Anniversary of the London Show that "The Angel" saw the light of day nationally, with Eddie leading it at the Golders Green Hippodrome.

Way back in 1959 I had a Stage Manager who I discovered had done some entertaining in the army during World War 11. I decided his values were being lost backstage as Stage Manager and put him into sketches. When Ralph came to see the show he invited him also into the London Gang, his name you ask? Reg Hatt!

Now both Eddie and Reg are together again in that "Happy Land"

Bob.

Editor's Note

Tempus Fugit which has meant the very difficult decisions that you see in this edition. However, I hope that we can still find a way to meet and stay in touch.

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 www.lgsf.org.uk As David said any contributions will be gratefully accepted, or I can pass anything on.

Don't forget to let me know of any reunions and hopefully shows in the not too distant future it will be good to hear we're still out there enjoying ourselves.

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 it can reach member in order that they are aware of developments and can meet up to renew friendships and reminisce for the final time. If anyone 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 your news so that we can publish details of any events locally so that 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.

Stay safe and fingers crossed for a happy and eventful coming Scouting and GS. year.

Brenda

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