

# THESE ARE THE TIMES

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## *London Gangshow Fellowship* *Founder: Ralph Reader CBE* *WINTER 2023*

### **CHAIRMANS WINTER MESSAGE**

#### **Annual general meeting**

As agreed at last year's AGM we met in central London at The Prince of Wales Feathers in Warren Street and enjoyed a very pleasant meeting with excellent catering. Thanks to everyone who attended.

We discussed several interesting and useful topics and agreed, with some sadness, that we will close the Fellowship at next year's AGM.

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.

#### **Website**

Remember to send ideas for the website to Michael Hoffman.

[mikehoffman1939@gmail.com](mailto:mikehoffman1939@gmail.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 27 January 2024, 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. This year the toast to the memory of Ralph and to the LGSF will be a little different. Phil Philips will entertain us during the evening and 10pm will be cabaret time followed by our sing-along.

#### **Summer event 2024**

If you are interested in joining the party but have not responded to Brenda then now is the time.

#### **AGM 2024 Sunday 27 October 2024**

Yes, a long way off but book the date now. We have booked lunch at The Ship Hotel Weybridge to be followed by our final AGM. We plan to make this a very special event and will subsidise the lunch from our general funds.

Whilst this will be our final formal event as The London Gang Show Fellowship, the bonds and friendships made over 50 years ago in the London Gang Show, and in subsequent years with our friends from other gang shows, will continue unchanged and it is my belief and hope that we will continue meeting regularly.

...and finally

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.**

**FINAL ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**DIFFERENT ANNUAL CAMP** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**FINAL AGM** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### **2024 FINAL DINNER AND DANCE – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

This is all booked at the usual venue, The Ship, Weybridge. Full details and the booking form are attached as the final page of this TATTS. We cannot express too much how important it is to book as quickly as possible this year both with Brenda and with the hotel. Many of the Gang who have either never attended or have not been able to attend for some years are already in touch in order to meet up with old friends for this last dinner. We look forward to seeing you for an evening of laughter, memories and we're sure some sadness.

We hope the speeches will reflect thoughts and memories from many of our members and with that in mind Brenda would like to hear from anyone, **in writing (email or letter)** but particularly from the girls about any amusing anecdotes they may have or perhaps anyway in which working with Ralph and being part of Gang Show has had a positive influence on their lives.



### **FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2024**

circa 2019.

Unfortunately the 2023 camp didn't happen due to lack of interest and difficulties with accommodation. As it is likely to be the last opportunity for the members to meet together as The Gang we were determined to arrange a meet up in June. A notice was sent out in the year and relevant information was given out at the AGM. The result is Warner Hotels, Corton has been block booked by several members for the last weekend in June, some for 3 days and some for 5 days. If you are interested in joining us then full information can be found at Warner Hotels Corton, they have several types of room available which include breakfast, evening meal and full use of all facilities.

We decided to book this type of get away as many of the regular camping members are no longer able to camp, or have given up their rigs etc. Booking is straight forward and the team are very helpful, if anyone is interested and would prefer to be nearby then if you mention Brenda and Brian Pow they may be able to offer you a room close to the block the gang are in. We hope to see a few members there.

### **EXTRACT FROM AGM 2023**

The Chair, David welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the new venue. He asked for a moment's thought for our members who have sadly passed during the year:

Mike Cherry, Dick Lacy and John Shelbourne.

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.

David added how good it was to see both the Vice Presidents this year.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 46<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes were available for the members to peruse. There were two minor alterations before the Chair signed and dated the master copy  
Acceptance proposed by Kevin Huggett and Seconded by John Beaveridge and agreed nem com.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.23**

The Committee met face to face in April 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 2023 was the usual success. The venue has been booked for 2024 and Brenda and Brian will deal with ticket sales and the raffle. Brenda will be reminding everyone that early information on how many tickets are required will be imperative this year as it being the last year she is already receiving requests for tickets from members who have not attended for a number of years, if at all!! Early booking is also 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. If full information becomes available before that date Brenda will send them out earlier.

**Camp** The camp unfortunately didn't happen this year due to lack of numbers. However as you will see from the Agenda camp is an item. Brenda will explain when we get to that.

**Archives.** The Archives were successfully moved to Ema Washington's barn (Dave Cregeen's daughter). David Clay oversaw the loading in London and Brenda travelled up for an overnight stay in Stoke in order to see their safe arrival and storage.

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.

We will ensure that all members are aware of our intention to close down the Fellowship in the next 12 months and hope that where possible everyone can be involved in celebrating 50 years of the Fellowship and a lifetime of Gang Shows and the friendships that have evolved from it.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT year end 30.9.23**

### **2022 ACCOUNTS**

Phil explained to the meeting the problems we have been having with Barclays Bank and that to keep the monies safe and in our control while this is sorted out, everything is now in the current and deposit 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 we are approaching the wind up of the LGSF Phil does not propose transferring any funds at this stage to the RRMF. Once we start to finalise the affairs of the Fellowship then we need to decide where the remaining surplus funds are utilised. The Treasurer's personal opinion is that they should go to the RRMF perpetual endowment fund. He suggested that this matter be discussed. The meeting thanked Phil for all his hard work.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bob Corp-Reader and seconded by Eileen Fricker and passed nem com.

Unfortunately the **Membership Secretary** is unable to be with us this year and no report has been received.

## **ELECTIONS**

As the committee have not received any nominations it was agreed that one vote to 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, Peter Bessell**

**Chairman David Clay**  
Proposed by Mick Moore, seconded by Alan Bailey 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 Mike Ely and agreed nem com.

## **RALPH READER MEMORIAL FUND**

This was covered as part of the 2023 Accounts in the Treasurer's report that is attached.

## **PROMISE PATHWAY**

There were twelve members who attended Gilwell on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was a warm, dry day and in spite of being told there would not be any body there to guide us we did in fact meet up with staff and were invited to tea and coffee. We made our way to the site of Ralph's stone and took our own photographs, reminisced while toasting Ralph with some fizz. We then adjourned to a local pub for lunch and a good time was had by all.

## **ARCHIVES**

As reported in the Executive Report the Archives are now safely stored. The meeting agreed with the Committee's decision that this facility will only be to store London Gang Show, RAF and Ralph's theatrical memorabilia, all local material should be offered to the relevant districts. Brenda confirmed that a notice would be put in TATTS asking for anyone interested and prepared to travel to Stoke to help with sorting and cataloguing the material once the weather is brighter in 2024.

## **2024 FINAL REUNION DINNER – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

This is all booked. The cabaret is booked, Phil Phillips has agreed to play, as long as his health remains good. The menu is still being negotiated as the choices were limited and David is in touch with the hotel to see if they can offer any alternatives. Accommodation prices are agreed. It is hoped that as soon as the price for the event is set Brenda will be able to send out full details to enable people to book early. Full details will be included in December TATTS as usual. The speech will be given by two or three people and will be concluded by the toast to the memory of Ralph and to LGSF. There will be a further call out to members to send in their own memories so that the speeches can be a true reflection of all members and not just those giving the speeches.

## **WEBSITE**

Mike Hoffman is keeping up to date with all new material sent to him and has been receiving items from Jack Morath, although these are often newspaper cuttings which are difficult to upload. He reiterated early requests that photographs are much better. 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/GET TOGETHER 2024**

Brenda explained that she had been researching various options to enable members to meet up on the usual weekend at the end of June. Several members had expressed their interest. The best idea seems to be a Warner's resort, Corton in Suffolk. Brenda explained the pricing and the type of accommodation that was available and suggested that anyone interested but not sure could look up the website and decide. The sooner the better as if Brenda could make a block booking a discount would be available. Brenda will send information via John Masters to help members' decisions and to enable them to get back to her as quickly as possible.

### **THOUGHTS ON WINDING DOWN THE FELLOWSHIP**

The Ship at Weybridge will be the venue for a partly subsidised lunch and the final AGM in October 2024.

We are hoping that the Archives once properly sorted will be available for districts and events to use to publicise gang shows. Nigel Hailey has shown an interest in taking over this, the website and incorporating any other relevant information into a National Gang Show Fellowship. For the interim Iain Waddell has offered to be a temporary archivist.

There were questions and a discussion to explain that the money in the perpetual fund cannot be touched leaving the capital intact. However the personal endowment funds are at present being used to fund activities and holidays for underprivileged children, this we hope will continue.

The members thanked the committee for the lunch and the meeting was closed at 2.25pm

### **SORTING THE ARCHIVES**

We have hoped to have started this but time and life had other ideas this year! The Committee are committed to cataloguing these but there are many duplicates and items relating to other shows; this means we will need a team of people prepared to travel to Stoke and spend probably a couple of days at a time. This will now not be started until the next year when hopefully the weather will be more clement. If you would be prepared to join the work party please let Brenda Pow know, by email, and she will endeavour to arrange mutually convenient dates and enquire about accommodation.

If anyone has any items or enquiries from other people please ensure they are related only to London Gang Show, anything to do with provincial or overseas shows are best directed to the relevant areas.

### **We have received the following sad but very interesting email from Alan Nunn. With his permission we hope it will jog a few happy memories.**

"Not long perhaps.

Joined Cubs in mid forties. 112 North London, Tottenham

Scouts in 1948.

Tottenham Gang Show 49-50.

Met Ralph at our rehearsals.

Offered me The Boy, Boy Scout 51

Photographers day with John Vickers, Kensington.

On the front path stepped a very pretty lady, who gave me a kiss, and said you will be star. Embarrassed me, then went in whilst she skipped away by car.

John said, you do not know who that was don't you? An easy no got me the answer.

Vivienne Leigh the world's top film star he said. A little better informed, we got our photos done.

Over the week, Chief Scout Lord Rowallan, Sir Percy Everett, Deputy, Haydn Thomas Editor Scout and Scouter.

Never ending, for Festival of Britain Year.

The show. sold out every performance 5000 each.

VIP room and Royal Box. Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, Richard and Barbara (Life with the Lyons) Arthur Askey, Cardew Robinson, Arsenal Fc. I hated the latter as a Spurs supporter. Royal Box. The Gloucesters. ( in the corner giggling, was Princess Margaret along with I think a Gloucester. They told me they were not supposed to be there, so do not mention it.

Did Boy Scout 1953 in the cast of Indians. Ralph was flabbergasted, as no other lead wanted to do it again.

1951 joined LGS. Until 1957. Royal Army Veterinary Corps called for two years

Also in We'll Live For Ever.

The movement will, but we do not.

Sorry to say, I have unknown short time, as I have Acute Leukemia.

Given two weeks, but have gone 8 weeks. In North Hall House, Nursing Home, St Austell, Cornwall.

Thanks to all for wonderful times. Good luck always.

Alan"

**DO YOU KNOW THE BOYS IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH?** As happens often when members meet up a particular number is discussed and memories are jogged. This photograph has been discussed among some of the line-up, but as ever there are a couple of names that cannot be recalled. The number was The Lamplighter, so if you can help please let Brenda Pow know and we will fill in the blanks and perhaps have a copy at the dinner showing the full cast. Thanks

Already recognised, Brian Pow, John Beaveridge, Adrian Bailey, Ted Obridge,



GANG SHOW 1970

"It was lovely to see members of LGSF, Oxfordshire and Nuneaton Gang Shows at Edinburgh Gang Show this weekend.

I am lucky to see lots of shows around the UK, they are all unique and it is wonderful that young people are getting the opportunity to appear on stage. Please do support your local shows if you can.

We would love to see you at Warwickshire Gang Show (WAGS), 27<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March next year. 150 young people are rehearsing hard and as you know many more adults are beavering away in the background. You would be sure of a warm welcome at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa. Tickets available from 1<sup>st</sup> December at [www.wags.org.uk/tickets](http://www.wags.org.uk/tickets).

**Nigel Hailey – Chairman WAGS and Producer GS90."**

**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.

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 Micklefield  
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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. 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 – FINAL REUNION DINNER AND DANCE

**Saturday 27th January 2024**

## THE SHIP HOTEL

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

**Dinner, Dance & Cabaret £45 per person  
Last year's price held**

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

Pre-dinner drinks

Prawns with Marie Rose Sauce, Green Apple  
Warm Bread Roll and Salted Butter

5 hrs Slow Cooked Welsh Lamb Shoulder in Red Currant and Mint Sauce  
Served with Creamy Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables  
Lemon Tart with Chantilly Cream

Selection of Organic Teas and Freshly Brewed Coffees  
Vegetarian and vegan options on request

**Reception from 6.15pm – Dinner 7.00pm – Carriages Midnight**

We have arranged a special rate for Bed & Breakfast

Double and twin rooms £99 per night (2 sharing)  
Single rooms £75 per night.

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

Phone : 01932 848364, 03330 035229, 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.**