

THESE ARE THE TIMES



London Gang Show Fellowship
Founder: Ralph Reader CBE
Spring 2024

CHAIRMAN'S SPRING MESSAGE

Reunion

It was a memorable night with so many friends from Gang Shows around the UK and from London Gang Show not seen for a while making it a fitting final London Gang Show Fellowship reunion.

There are reports in this issue covering what a great night it was, I will simply thank everyone who made it such a great night, thanking in particular Phil Philips who has been with us for so many years that he deserves an LGS scarf.

Lunch and AGM Sunday 27 October 2024

Book the date now. We have booked lunch at The Ship Hotel Weybridge and Phil Philips has agreed to play for us. We are planning a special event for our last formal meeting as LGSF – “in a mini or a maxi, you can come by train or taxi, but we want you there” – Yes, it will be a “Celebration”

Details soon

Saturday 25 January 2025 The Ship Hotel Weybridge

Another date to book. **Edinburgh Gang Show** has taken the lead in running an event carrying on from where we left off. The hotel and Phil Philips have been booked, so make a note of the date now.

Summer event

I hope that everyone attending will have a great time together, I am sorry that I cannot be with you

David Clay

A Report on the Final Dinner Dance in January

What a fabulous night! It was a very full room with more people attending than has been the case in the last few years. I think everyone felt it was great to meet up with members who we haven't seen for a number of years, if at all.

The display of photographs was the usual talking point of happy memories and lovely to see everyone's reactions when they spied a long absent friend. So much to talk about meant it was quite a task to get people to find their seats and settle for the meal.

It was a packed programme with speeches from 4 members of the cast that I could see took many people back to their own experiences and thoughts. The toast to Ralph was given by Bob that was of course very fitting.

The Edinburgh Gang had two tables this year and did a wonderful musical tribute to the show and certain members of the Gang using GS songs, with a few adjustments! They have been such staunch supporters over the years and their presentation showed the love that still exists in Edinburgh for Ralph and gang show. Below is the article that Scott Walker posted on Facebook, which illustrates these sentiments perfectly. Ian Sutherland played for the Scottish contribution, which was a joy – a man with a brilliant talent.

The cabaret was later than usual because of the surprise delayed, however Tracey did a great job in encouraging everyone to join in, dance and of course included a moment with 'Norman'!

The raffle made a decent amount of money and a thank you goes out to all those who contributed this year and over the past 50 years to add to Ralph's Fund.

If you didn't manage to attend you missed a great night and maybe you could think of joining us in October for the final AGM which will be a bigger event this year. Some details are included in this edition and final arrangements will appear later in the year.

Scott Walker wrote a piece about the evening on Instagram (also on Facebook). He has agreed to let us use it in TATTS



Reflections on LGSF Farewell Reunion Dinner 27 January 2024

Last night will live with me forever. To be present at the last ever London Gang Show Fellowship Reunion and Dinner was very special. The curtain came down on the Farewell London Gang Show in 1974 and every year since members of the London Gang Show and others have gathered to remember the times spent together and to celebrate the man who started it, Ralph Reader CBE. I've been lucky to have been coming along, on and off, since I was 21, to represent Edinburgh Gang Show.

To hear Gang Show memories from David Catt-Camfield , Michael Hoffman, Brenda Pow and then Bob Corp-Reader OBE was beautiful and inspiring. What times they all had as part of the original Gang.

'A Wee Treat', a short cabaret item devised by Andy Johnston and Ian Murray Redpath Sutherland , was just sublime. Paying tribute to Ralph and Gang Shows in our uniquely Edinburgh style we sang through some of Ralph's greatest hits of the past 92 years, with a few jokes thrown in. Personally, I was absolutely thrilled and honoured to introduce the last song and sing the opening lines of a newly discovered to Edinburgh Gang Show song by Ralph Reader called 'May The Sun Shine For You.'

And then to join the legendary Peter Straker in singing 'Man Was Born To Be Free' was another moment in life never to be forgotten. Ralph wrote 'Freedom ' for Peter in 1966 and for us to back him was just incredible.

And so, the curtain must fall on the Dinner...in this format. "We'll keep alight the flame. Glowing through every new scene. We'll keep the Gang Show name bright as it ever has been."

Scott Walker, Edinburgh Gang Show

FUTURE EVENTS.

SUMMER GET TOGETHER Friday 28th June – Wednesday 3rd July 2024

For those members attending, don't forget the final payment due, no later than Friday 5th April. I will confirm other details nearer the time.

FINAL AGM AND LUNCH Sunday 27th October 2024

This is being held at **The Ship, Weybridge**. We will have the business meeting to officially close the Fellowship and then, we hope, a relaxed lunch and time to chat and catch up. All members are welcome as final chance to be part of the Gang.

ARCHIVES

Many of you will already be aware that we are storing the London GS memorabilia in Stoke courtesy of Ema, Dave Cregeen's daughter. However, there is a lot of material and many duplicates that need to be sorted and catalogued. Members of the committee and other willing members are planning to take time during the year to work on this task, **if you are interested in helping please contact Brenda for details.**

Many of you will remember Brian Stocking from the show. He has for many years lived in New Zealand with his wife Gillian. They are great friends with Peter and Raewyn Dunlop, who have visited Summer camp in the past. Some years ago Phil Davies (another member) gave Brian a suitcase full of GS memories including a prized cardigan of Ralph's, knitted for him by Podge an ardent admirer and longtime friend of Ralph's. Brian via Peter has been keeping in touch with me and the suitcase is now in Stoke with all the other material. So as you can see it will be a very interesting if long process to sort the archives. I must stress that we are only storing London GS material and if you have any district or group material it would be better to offer it to the relevant districts.

Website

Remember to send ideas for the website to Michael Hoffman.

mikehoffman1939@gmail.com

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**. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted, or I can pass anything on. We hope the website will

continue to be available for you to visit in the future and details will be confirmed in the final edition TATTS in the Autumn.

Editor's Note

Tempus Fugit which has meant the very difficult decision to close the Fellowship. However, I hope that we can still find a way to meet and stay in touch.

Please remember to cancel any direct debits you have set up for your subscription by 1st October 2024

Don't forget to let me know of any reunions and hopefully shows in the not too distant future as we hope to be able to relay the information by the new set up, that will again be explained later in the year.

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 all members in order that they are aware of developments and can meet up to renew friendships and reminisce. 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 have kept me up to date with happy and sad events around the globe and for ideas to keep TATTS more interesting. Although it has been difficult to include too many features I hope you have found TATTS interesting and enabled you to keep in touch and perhaps contact GS friends.

Stay safe and fingers crossed for a happy and healthy year ahead.

Brenda

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