

GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** | **SPRING 2017**

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



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CELEBRATING IN 2

Spring 2017:

The **Gazette** is the official magazine of **The Boys' Brigade** in the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland.

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Please send all contributions to
gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

Official notices to members appear in the 'Informed' section of the magazine. Please note that views expressed in other articles by members and contributors are not necessarily those of The Boys' Brigade.

For details on advertising within the magazine see our rate card and information at
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For More Information

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**VISION: ONE FOR ALL:
WHAT A TURNAROUND!**

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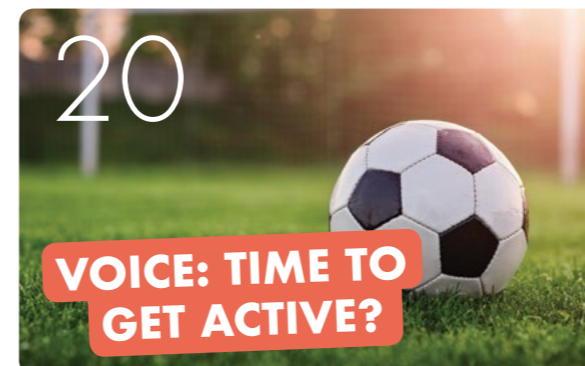
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COMPASSION

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twitter.com/bbgazette

Image - Front Cover, Main Picture:
members 8th Paisley outside 10 Downing Street during a trip to London in April

WELCOME



Numbers are important! Well at least that is what my primary school teacher told me when I was learning my tables back at Leith Academy. Have you noticed how much numbers feature in our lives each day? Whether it is dialling a mobile, working on a spreadsheet, buying a newspaper or even just checking the time we are surrounded by numbers all day...

Numbers are key to many aspects of our work in the BB too. The Brigade Executive recently agreed the budget for the 2017/18 session. The staff, the Finance Committee and then the trustees spent a considerable time reviewing the figures and agreeing just what we can afford to do in the months ahead. Like all charities we would always like to do more but are restrained by just how much we can afford to spend on different aspects of our work. Whatever we do it is always difficult to make the right choices.

Numbers of young people are also very important. When I was a Company Captain we always kept a good eye on numbers in each section to ensure we could deliver a successful programme and make the meeting nights as enjoyable as possible. I would be the first one to agree that big doesn't always mean best; some of the best events I have run in the BB didn't rely on massive numbers, but I think most leaders would agree that you need a certain critical mass to be able to organise a lot of our activities.

It looks like across the Brigade numbers have dipped again this session. In many areas numbers are very healthy and a good percentage of young people access the BB each week, but

in some areas there are reasons why it is more difficult to do this. It is not always easy to grow a Company. Where I grew up in Edinburgh, as the council has been closing primary schools over the years and there are now actually more pensioners than young people. For similar reasons, Companies in inner cities often find it hard to recruit and there is much more competition from other activities (sports clubs, games consoles, etc) than when I was a Boy.

One of the main aims in our development plan is to grow the BB, and it would be great in the next few years if together we could get our total membership back above the 50,000 mark (currently around 47,000). The One for All campaign has made a start and has certainly boosted numbers in many Companies. Attracting new members to every section would of course be a massive boost to the Brigade, but as we know, it would also provide a real encouragement to our current members and our Churches.

Every blessing for all your plans for the remainder of the session!

Bill Stevenson

Bill Stevenson
Brigade Secretary & CEO



Follow Bill on Twitter at
@BillBBHQ

THE WAY I SEE IT

Tricks and Treats

I do comedy magic. If you don't find it funny, it's just magic. Now, of course, it's not real magic, it's just tricks.

My occupation does tend to raise a few eyebrows when I introduce myself to new people. Even my wife, Rebekah, laughed and answered, "No, really, what do you do?" when she was first chatting me up. (If you stop reading for a second and listen hard enough you will hear her protesting across time and space that she never chatted me up – but as a man, I can assure you – she did.) She recovered admirably when I insisted that I use tricks and for many years escapology to communicate the Good News of Jesus to young and old all over the world.

And I get to work with great characters, too. I've met and made friends with so many people who share the same passions as I do. Perhaps one of my greatest and longest-standing friends is the well-known singer and author, Ishmael.

One particular time, we were sharing the stage in a large, thousand-seater auditorium. Part of my act was to get a child up and ask them to give me one of their socks, eventually placing it in my magic bag and attempting to turn the single sock into a pair. Of course, everyone knows that I can, so I put my hand into the bag and bring out a – pear. Pretty straightforward and very juvenile, but usually sufficient to raise some laughs and a round of applause.

Not this time, though. Ishmael had decided that he wanted to be the funny man – he had seen me do the trick before and had tampered with my bag. I'd called a young lad up onto the stage, was rude about his socks and played with the audience until I was finally ready to put my hand in the bag and announce as usual, "Ladies and gentlemen, you all witnessed me put one sock into the bag, now here, as if by magic, I have a..." But instead of pulling out a pear as expected, I pulled out a... battery, which gave me quite a shock (boom, boom).

I was flabbergasted. The battery must have weighed the same as the pear and I hadn't noticed the switch at all. I yelled, "Ishmael, I'm going to get you!" and ended up chasing him around the stage like a mad Duracell Bunny, which everyone



found hysterical, and most probably thought was planned. It wasn't, and I was thrown just a bit, but the audience loved it.

Our lives can be like that – we can create routines, build traditions and make plans but things will come along and catch us off guard. Events break into our world and throw the plans out of the window, crashing through our routines as though they were made of nothing at all.

We like to protect ourselves with family and friends, with nice houses and cars. We work at careers, but still things happen beyond our control. Good things and bad things – the daughter we've doted on brings home a boyfriend with a ring through his nose; illness comes; or our spouse tells us they are leaving us for someone else – things that rock our world and shatter our dreams.

When we align our lives with Him, when we give Him control of the plans, then we can relax in the knowledge that no matter what life throws at us, God is with us and will never leave us as He guides us on the adventure He has in mind. Instead of spending our time building fences around our neat little lives, let's sit back and watch to see what amazing surprises God has in store, whether that store sells groceries or electricals.

And never trust Ishmael with soft fruit.

Steve Legg

International baffle and funny guy Steve Legg celebrates 29 years on the road in 2017. In that time, he has visited over 23 countries and made hundreds of TV appearances as he uses a unique mix of tricks and comedy to communicate the Gospel to young and old.

Steve is a regular contributor at major Christian events and festivals including Spring Harvest, New Wine and the Big Church Day Out to name just three. The author of 13 books, in 2007 Steve also launched Sorted Magazine, the world's most wholesome lads mag. This innovative lifestyle magazine gets given out in tube and rail stations, gyms and health clubs, bars and restaurants in London as well as airport departure lounges globally.

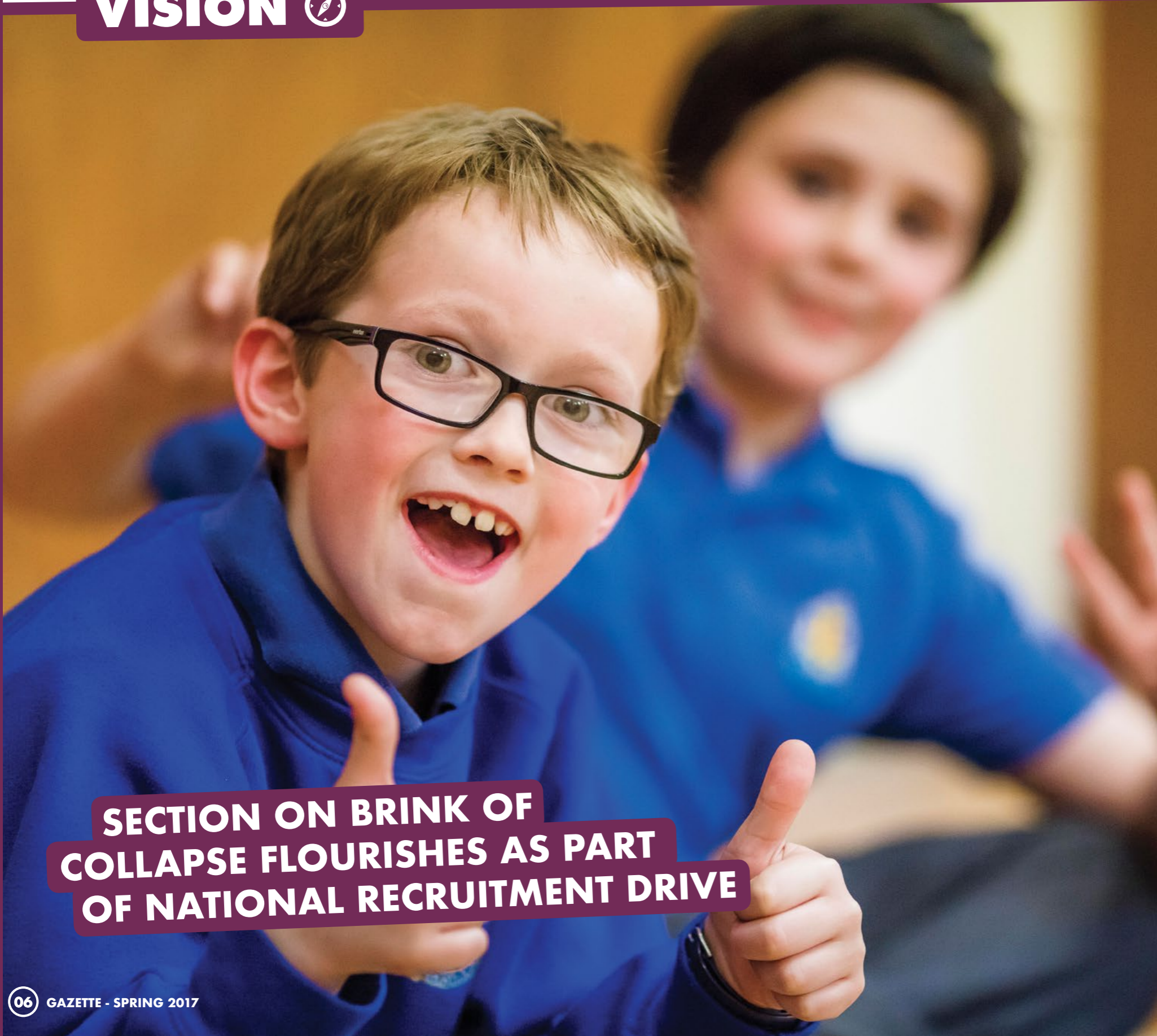


Find out more about Steve at stevelegg.com
or about subscribing to Sorted Magazine at sortedmag.com



Follow Steve on Twitter at
@stevelegguk





SECTION ON BRINK OF
COLLAPSE FLOURISHES AS PART
OF NATIONAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE

WHAT A TURNAROUND!

The One for All Campaign has contributed towards some fantastic success stories. Few are more eye-catching than that of the Junior Section of 94th Glasgow, based in the Shettleston area of the city, who increased members from 1 to 17 in one session!



Alistair Haw

Alistair Haw, Leader in 278th Glasgow (Netherlee) Company and a new addition to the BB Communications Group for UK & RoI – chatted with the Officer-in-Charge of 94th Glasgow (Shettleston) Junior Section, **Nicola Bell**, to see what’s behind such growth and to look to what can be learned from such a fantastic story.



Nicola Bell

Nicola has only recently taken up the role as Officer-in-Charge, having not long participated in Youth Leader Training. Nicola, 41, is now a stay-at-home mum and is clearly passionate about her volunteering with The Boys’ Brigade.

Alistair is a new leader too, in October 2015 he volunteered to help reconvene his local Anchor Section, which his son then attended, after it had stopped meeting due to the retirement of the previous leaders. He was appointed Warrant Officer and, further to the completion of his Youth Leader Training, became Officer in Charge in 2016. Whilst the section, and indeed the 278th Glasgow as a whole, continues to grow, Alistair was keen to hear and learn from other success stories about what we can do together to develop the BB across the board...

Q Thanks for agreeing to share the experiences of your success Nicola. Let’s start at the beginning. When did you become a BB leader and why did you get involved?

A I became a Junior Section leader eight years ago, and went on to become an Officer and took over as Officer-in-Charge two years ago. My husband has been a BB officer for 21 years and I was always happy to support the BB. However, due to occupational constraints, I could not volunteer as an officer. Once I changed occupation to become a stay at home mum I knew I wanted to get involved as, basically, I love children!

Article Continued →



Q Lucky for the BB you changed jobs then! What do you find most rewarding about your role?

A One of the most rewarding things is to see the boys progress through the Company and become successful and outgoing young men. But even more simple things are rewarding, such as the boys saying 'thank you' for a good night.

Q So that's the good bit, but what do you find more challenging?

A The Company's original church closed last year, which has been a big challenge and created a lot of uncertainty. Fortunately, we are now attached to Causewayside Church in Tollcross.

The lack of staff can be a huge challenge when you want to take the boys on trips, for example. It has been hard work dealing with such a large number of boys with limited staff, although we have been grateful to our Company Sections Leaders who have helped out where needed. Junior Section requires a great deal of organisation and planning prior to boys arriving. We need to have games and badge work prepared well in advance and have all equipment ready before boys arrive.

Funding is also a problem, which we try to overcome with sponsored events. Luckily we have some very kind parents!

Q Your section has seen some incredible growth in membership. At Netherlee we were chuffed to grow our Anchors from 5 to 13 (so far!), but your 1 to 17 puts that in perspective! Looking back, did you ever feel like giving up when numbers were so low? What motivated you to carry on?

A Yes, I did feel like giving up on many occasions. When numbers are low, staff morale can become low too. However the boys themselves were what motivated me to carry on. I thought, if they can turn up every week, then so can I. I also hoped that, one day, I would be able to bring my own ideas into the Company to help shape it.

Q It must be really satisfying to see the rewards of having stuck at it. What did you do to secure such an incredible turnaround? And, where did you recruit the new members from?

A We approached the leader of the younger section and asked if we could meet with the parents and boys due for promotion. We did this to let the parents know what Juniors was about and what we did. We also asked the boys to bring their friends along and recruited locally with posters and leaflets. Whilst many of our new members have come up from within the Company, some are friends brought along by our boys and others, I am pleased to say, came completely independently via our other promotional work.



Q When reading the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin to the Anchors at Netherlee I was struck by how relevant this seemed to BB leaders trying to grow their section. The parable of the friend at night is another. Did you find inspiration from the Bible that motivated you not to give up when all seemed lost, allowing you to succeed as you have?

A As a Christian, my faith is very strong and this is generally what has motivated me to succeed. I believe God will always guide us on the right path and that He would help me to achieve my goals.



Q What about local schools, have you had much support or involvement with them?

A Not yet, but this is something I am keen to establish. I intend to approach local schools, to give them information about the BB and, hopefully, get them to promote the Company.

Q We've had great support from Netherlee Primary School – I hope your schools are as supportive when the time comes. What about other promotional activities? Do you make use of traditional or social media, for example?

A We have set up a closed (private) Facebook group for parents. This enables us to share pictures and videos of the boys and gives parents an insight into what we do. It also lets them know the boys are enjoying being at BB. We also communicate with parents via text messaging, which has proved beneficial when plans change at the last minute.

Q Turning now to the BB more generally - what do you believe sets us apart from other youth organisations?

A I think it's the structure and discipline for certain. I think the way it can shape the boys and the life skills they can learn, are what sets it apart.

Q Do you have any stories or events from your experience that may help to motivate other BB leaders?

A When I first started Juniors, there was a boy who had challenging behaviour and would shout and get angry with the other boys. When an officer would shout at the boy and tell him off, his behaviour would escalate and he would literally shut himself down to everyone. I watched this happen over and over again and his behaviour would worsen if he was told off.

One night when he started misbehaving, I took him aside and quietly asked him what was going on. He apologised for his behaviour and was fine for the rest of the night. We took this approach thereafter and the boy went on to win best boy award the following year. His mother also noticed a great improvement in his behaviour. This just confirms that we must treat each boy as an individual.

Q That's a great example of the huge difference BB can make to people's lives.

Turning back to growing your section again; you've said what you did off your own back, but do you think there's anything the BB could do better nationally or regionally to assist companies to grow?

A I think the BB could assist Companies with ideas on how to promote themselves, and maybe do a national campaign with the media highlighting what the BB does, and that it is open to everyone.

Q How about top practical tips from you to other leaders looking to grow their number?

A Firstly, I would tell them never to give up. Speak to staff in your feeder sections about speaking to boys due for promotion and their parents. Advertise your Company locally, i.e. in supermarkets, post office, library etc. Make sure the night is fun for the boys and have varied activities, such as visits and outings. We also have craft nights at Christmas and Easter, where the boys make a range of things.

Q One more question though: many argue that, long term, the decline of Christian focused organisations is inevitable due to decline in church attendance and the role of Christianity in society? Do you agree?

A No, I don't believe this. I think we need to better promote the fact that, although we are a Christian Organisation, children from any background are welcome.

I think we can all agree that your story serves as an inspirational example to all of what can be achieved. Thank you so much for sharing it with us, and keep up the great work!

Do you have an example of successful growth in your section you'd like to share? Or perhaps the experiences here have got your ideas flowing? Get in touch at gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

 You can follow Alistair's BB Company, 278th Glasgow on Twitter @NetherleeBB278



Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey

On Monday 13th March, BB members from across the UK joined 800 children and young people from across the UK at the Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey, in celebration of Commonwealth Day.

Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, attended, accompanied by other members of the Royal family. High Commissioners, dignitaries from across the UK and around the Commonwealth, senior politicians and faith leaders were also present.

Representing the BB were Tom Baird from 1st Legacurry, Cabrini Brown from 1st Ballygowan, Lucy Mawhinney from 1st Lylehill, Daniel and Michael Akintoye from 2nd Bermondsey, Cameron Stein from 1st Kirkliston and Jon Rogers from 28th West Kent.

The Service celebrated the 2017 Commonwealth theme of 'A Peace-building Commonwealth', reaffirming the Commonwealth Charter principle that: 'international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all'.

Jon Rodgers, member of 28th West Kent Company, said "It was an honour and privilege to attend such a service, see the Queen and appreciate what the Commonwealth does and what it represents."

Make a Difference Awards 2017

Our annual Make a Difference Awards are about celebrating inspirational children and young people.

Have you considered nominating a young person in your Company for a Go MAD Award?

We all know children and young people (5 to 19 years old) who make a significant difference in the lives of others.

We want to recognise commitment through the Make a Difference awards to acknowledge, encourage, reward and most importantly promote the positive achievements of our young people.

Nominations for the award are open **until end of June 2017**.

 **Download the nomination form at**
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/gomad.htm



Welcome to our New Companies

It's fantastic that we can report that the following Companies have recently enrolled:

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
1 st Chichester	Simon Holland	St. Paul's Church, Chichester
2 nd Thornton Heath	Grace Ngunyi	Restoration World Revival Church, Croydon

Appointments

An update on recent staff changes across the Brigade:

BB Headquarters

Jan Williamson, Assistant to the Brigade Secretary retired in March following 11 years' service. Jan has been a key part of the Gazette Editorial Team since joining the staff team and her valuable input will be missed. The Brigade sends its good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Director for Scotland

John Sharp has been appointed as the Director for Scotland. Originally from East Kilbride, John has worked in the voluntary sector in Scotland and Ireland for more than fourteen years, and will bring a wealth of experience in heading up the BB in Scotland. The father-of-two has worked for charities, including Oxfam and the World Council of Churches as well as spending time volunteering in Malawi and the Middle East. John's previous role was based on Hebridean island of Coll where he had been working as the Assistant Director for an education charity, the Project Trust.



John, a former BB member for many years, took up the role in mid-April. On his appointment he said "I'm thrilled to be joining The Boys' Brigade as Director for Scotland. I've spent much of my career working for youth organisations and charities and I am looking forward to getting started and working with everyone in the BB family."

@ You can get in touch with John at
john.sharp@boys-brigade.org.uk

Change to Leadership Regulations

At their last meeting the Brigade Executive amended Section 4, Part A of the Leadership Regulations to read:

A prospective leader may not take up their role or start working in a Company in any capacity until the registration process has been completed.

This change will take effect from 1st September 2017. This has been implemented to bring our safeguarding procedures into line with many of the churches we work with and is generally recognised to be good practice. Company Captains and leaders of all sections are asked to note this change which will mean that no one should be allowed to volunteer in a Company until they have had the appropriate disclosure check and been fully registered with Brigade HQ.

Please note that a one-off visiting speaker or trainer should be fully supervised but does not require registration or a disclosure check. However, any adult working in or attending the Company on a regular basis (once a fortnight or more) should be registered and checked. An adult helping at any overnight activity whether it is the annual camp or holiday, or a one night sleepover in the Church must be registered and checked. People in this category are registered as "Residential Activity Helpers". These volunteers are included in the new regulation about being fully registered before they attend. Remember to plan your staffing for residential events with enough time for the registration process to be completed.

Proposed changes to Capitation Fee Structure

You will see from the Calling Notice for Brigade Council (see page 14) that it is proposed to change the structure of the capitation fees with effect from the 2018/19 session.

The purpose of the changes is simply to create a fairer distribution of fees across all Companies and to alleviate the disproportionate burden on smaller Companies that the Company Fee element imposes. It is proposed that to achieve this, the Company Fee element should be abolished. The Boys' Brigade is currently the only major Uniformed Youth Organisation Fee to charge such a fee.

The Brigade Executive also recognises the contribution made by volunteers and believes that the membership fee for Leaders should be reduced. To simplify the structure it is proposed to have the same fee for both Leaders and Young People. All Leaders paying a fee (regardless of role) will receive a copy of the Gazette.

It is important to stress that the proposed changes will not result in an increase in overall capitation fees being collected by The Brigade and the total amount collected will be in line with fees agreed for the 2017/18 session.

These proposed changes have been carefully considered by both the Finance Committee and Brigade Executive.

If you have any questions or require further clarity please contact the Business Director, Jonathan Eales at BB Headquarters by email at jonathan.eales@boys-brigade.org.uk.

Leaders & Members Discounts

We are pleased to announce that a number of retailers are now offering BB Leaders and members discounts, please find further details:



Cotswold Outdoor and Snow+Rock

BB leaders can get a 20% discount by using the discount code 'AF-BOYSBGD-L3' or in-store by presenting a valid leader registration card. Go to cotswoldoutdoor.com or snowandrock.com.



Go Outdoors

Through OBM, Leaders can get an extra 15% off and Parents/Carers can get an extra 10% off the Discount Card price of all Departments. To use this discount logon to OBM and go to 'Help', 'Tutorials & FAQs' and 'Retail Discounts'.




Ordnance Survey

Through OBM, Leaders and members can get 15% off online subscription maps or 12.5% off paper maps from Ordnance Survey. To use this discount logon to OBM and go to 'Help', 'Tutorials & FAQs' and 'Retail Discounts'.

Going on a Camp or holding a Sleepover?

Don't forget if you are taking your young people away on a residential this summer you need to notify BB Headquarters. You can complete and submit the notification form online or download and print off a notification form to send in by post.

 **Download the nomination form at**
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/gomad.htm

Obituaries

We record below the names of BB members who have recently died. We thank God for their faithful service to the Brigade and Church and their witness in the community.

Alan Skelly 49th Liverpool Company
John Easterby 1st Malvern Company

 **A full obituary appears on the BB website at**
boys-brigade.org.uk/obituaries



President's Commendation

The President's Commendation has recently been awarded to:

Matthew McConville – 1st Moy Company in Northern Ireland

On the 1st April 2017, David Blevins, Brigade Vice President, presented Matthew McConville with his President's Commendation. Matthew joined the 1st Moy Company at the age of 4 years old, which was a big step for him and his parents, due to Matthew having a condition called Ataxia. Ataxia is a disease that affects co-ordination, balance and speech. Matthew has shown great determination and courage throughout his time in the Company, having now been a faithful member for 14 years, and this year achieved his Queen's Badge at the age of 18. His positive, cheerful attitude and enthusiasm is an inspiration to all that know him and the Brigade is proud to have him as a member.



Juniors 100

It is fantastic to see lots of Companies that are already getting involved in the Juniors 100 celebrations across the Brigade. As we continue to move through 2017 there are many of ways you can get involved through the **Juniors 100 Challenge**, **International Team Games**, **The Big 100 Birthday Party** as well as other resources and ideas to support your programme.

Please send your pictures and news reports to newsdesk@boys-brigade.org.uk and use the **#juniors100** on social media.

 **Check out the resources and all you need to know at**
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/juniors100

Congratulations to all our Finalists

The finals of the Brigade's National Competitions take place between March and May each year, and we are pleased to share with you the results of the finals which have taken place so far this session.



National Chess Final

Members from 7th Edinburgh, 1st Bearsden, 1st Ardshaw and 1st Cheslyn Hay Companies showed skill, commitment and concentration in order to make it through the regional heats and compete in the finals. But the 1st Bearsden Company made all the right moves as they took home first prize at the National Chess Final held in Coatbridge on Saturday 25th March. John McEwan, Alistair Ramsey and Fergus Hempel from 1st Bearsden beat off the competition to be crowned overall winners following a tie-break with 1st Cheslyn Hay.

On winning, John McEwan, 17, said "It was an incredibly competitive tournament. For a sport that is often considered 'boring', it was great to see the spectators fully engaged and I highly doubt they would have described the chess games in this way. Despite the inevitable high stakes, the tournament was conducted in a friendly manner and was thoroughly enjoyable. My only regret is not competing in previous years."



National Masterteam Final

Six BB teams made up of members from 1st Bearsden, 1st Polmont, 1st Guildford, 1st Cheslyn Hay, 1st Ardstraw and 4th Newtownabbey went through to the final, held in Belfast in April. It was John McEwan, Greg Wood, Ross Brown and Fergus Hempel from 1st Bearsden who scooped this year's championship in a quiz tournament which included rounds on general and biblical knowledge, famous landmarks, history and famous faces. The win by 1st Bearsden has provided double success for the company this year as its team clinched the national chess title last month. Two of the Masterteam team members – John McEwan and Fergus Hempel – were also part of the winning chess team.



National Table Tennis Final

Liverpool Battalion hosted a thrilling day at the Ian Robinson Sports Centre in Liverpool as six teams from across the UK took part in the National Table Tennis finals. The 4th North West Durham Company were crowned winners, with 1st Grangemouth clinching the runners-up spot. It was a case of third time lucky as the team from Lanchester in Durham finished third in the last two outings. This year they worked well as a team, showcasing their skills, training and personal commitment, resulting in a win for Sam Humes, Matthew Grimes and brother Sam Grimes. Also competing in the finals were teams from 1st Monifieth, 1st Newport (Isle of Wight), 1st Ballyclare and 2nd Coleraine.



Comedian and entertainer Sir Ken Dodd, former member of the 66th Liverpool Boys' Brigade, Knotty Ash was at the event to present the awards and offer the young people some encouragement saying "We all have gifts and it's important that we use them. Sport is great training for the mind and it's very important. Seeing the young people today brings back many happy memories I have from my time in The Boys' Brigade."

The remaining competitions including Badminton and Five-a-side Football will be reported on in the next issue.

Brigade Council 2017

Notice Is Hereby Given That The **Annual General Meeting Of The Boys' Brigade** will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Salford, Manchester, M50 3SN on Saturday 2nd September at 1.30pm to consider the following business.

AGM Agenda

- 1 To receive the Accounts for the year ended **31 March 2017** together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- 2 To confirm the annual capitation fee for 2017/18 session as agreed at Brigade Council in Belfast 3rd September 2016 and to fix the annual capitation fees for the 2018/19 session as proposed below.

Capitation Fees for 2018/19

The Capitation Fee structure with effect from 1 September 2018 is:

CATEGORY	FEE
Company Fee	Nil
Fee per young person	£19.50
All Officers / Helpers	£19.50
(Second person at the same address)	£15.00
Battalion & District Officers / Helpers (not on Company roll)	£15.00
Officers / Helpers in receipt of state retirement pension	£15.00
Officers / Helpers in full time education or training	£15.00

The fee in respect of an Associate Member is £27.00
The maximum fee that a Company may pay in respect of young people is £1,750.00

- 3 To appoint the auditors of The Boys' Brigade and authorise the Brigade Executive to fix their remuneration.
- 4 To appoint Brigade Office-bearers for Session 2017/18 as will be proposed by the Brigade Executive.
- 5 Motion in the name of Brigade Executive:
To amend various Brigade Regulations with a view to clarifying a number of items including the relationship between a Company and local congregation, the appointment of leaders and electronic notice of meetings.
- 6 Motion in the name of Alan Ayling 12th Dublin, Paul Christmas 25th Stirling, Tim Dundee 4th Newtonabbey, Phil East 53rd Manchester & Alen Pasley 21st Cardiff.
To amend Brigade Regulations to reduce the size of the Brigade Executive to 12 members and introduce direct elections for Brigade Executive posts.

- 7 Motion in the name of Dr T Drury Smith 1st Dronfield, Nicola Langton - Miller 48th Liverpool, Martin Townsend 53rd Manchester, Alan King 1st Barnet & Karen Broster 1st Scape Goat Hill.

Brigade Council authorises the Brigade Executive to update Brigade Regulations where appropriate to amend the words "Boys" or "Boy" to "Young people". Anchor Boys should also be renamed as "Anchor Section". The name of the organisation should not be changed.

- 8 Non Constitutional Motion in the name of Northern Ireland District. Council instructs the Brigade Executive to bring to Brigade Council 2018 proposals to provide accountable autonomy in Regions for the management of resources and delivery of support to Companies and Battalions in accordance with Brigade policies and regulations in order to maintain the bond and benefits of a national organisation.

- 9 To transact any other lawful business.

By order of the Brigade Executive

WCF Stos

William C.F. Stevenson - Brigade Secretary
10 April 2017

Please note the full wording of each motion is detailed in a supplement to the Gazette issued in the Company mailing. Additional copies of the supplement can also be found at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm or requested from BBHQ by contacting Jayne Thorne jayne.thorne@boys-brigade.org.uk or 01442 509511.

Any proposed amendments to the above motions should be sent to the Brigade Secretary at BB Headquarters to arrive no later than 9.00am on Friday 26th May 2017.

All Members of Brigade Council as defined by the Articles of Association are entitled to be present and vote at this meeting or, in their absence, they may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf. A form of proxy will be sent to all members with the Summer Gazette and, if used, should be returned to the Company's Registered Office not later than 2.00pm on Monday 28th August 2017.

The Members of Brigade Council are: Companies, Area Groups (Battalions & Districts), Members of the Brigade Executive and Members of Regional Committees.

Registered Office: The Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 0BL

Registered Company No: 145122
Registered Charity No: 305969 and in Scotland number SC038016.

See leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm for further details of the Brigade Conference event of which the AGM forms a part.

YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS



Wallingford members gain recognised sports qualification

The half term break is normally a time to relax and catch up on unfinished homework. Not so for some Seniors from 1st Wallingford Company. As part of the Challenge Plus programme, Chris and Sophie took up the challenge to gain a recognised sports qualification, the qualification chosen was the 'National Pool Lifeguard' Qualification.

During the week, the young people were collected from home at 7:30am and returned home at about 6pm each day. The training took place at a local school pool and lasted for 36 hours of which about 15 hours were in the water. This was then followed by 5 hours of testing, making a 41 hour week, during which they swam almost 3K in sports clothing. They were taught and tested on how to manage a swimming pool and all the safety issues about the operation, as well as how to undertake a range of rescues including the recovery of bodies from the bottom of the pool and how to deal with a swimmer with a spinal injury.

It was a tough course, but following their examination they both passed and are now qualified to work as a lifeguard at the local leisure pool. A manager from the local pool watched them being tested and has invited them to apply for jobs at the centre, which is a fantastic opportunity for them both.



Portsmouth Prince Caspian Sleepover

Around 50 members of 4th Portsmouth BB and 8th Portsmouth Girls' Brigade took part in the event at their church which featured lots of fun and games based around the children's fantasy story, part of the Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis. The children who attended pretended to be Second World War evacuees at a 1940s train station before arriving in Narnia where they joined Prince Caspian and some of Narnia's talking animals in defeating the evil King Miraz. Leaders from BB and GB wore themed fancy dress and part of the church building was decorated as the station and another part as the magical land of Narnia - complete with castle ruins and trees.

Games included dressing up as warriors, morse code message translating, and hide and seek of Narnian characters. The children and young people, aged four to 18, then enjoyed dinner before those aged under eight went home. The over-eights watched the Prince Caspian film before sleeping over and attending a special church service the following morning. The event was the sequel to a previous Narnian activity day and sleepover organised last year by the groups themed The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

Paisley Lads collect 100+ Eggs

Members of 15th Paisley Company collected together more than 100 Easter Eggs and donated them to Renfrewshire Foodbank. The boys, parents and friends of the Company all helped to make the collection a fantastic success. A representative from Renfrewshire Foodbank collected the eggs on their Company night and the Boys were given a short insight into the workings of the Foodbank and how their donated eggs will be used over the coming weeks. The eggs will go to people in need in Renfrewshire, especially children who may not otherwise receive a chocolate egg this Easter.



Keep sharing your stories using
#Juniors100



53rd Manchester BB @53rdBB

Happy 100th birthday Dame Vera Lynn from all our juniors who are also 100 this year @theboysbrigade #veralynn100 #juniors100



1st Brixham

Some of our Junior Section at the 1st Brixham, celebrating 100 years of the Junior Section #Juniors100 - at Brixham United Reformed Church



Dunblane BB @DunblaneBB

Are we the first boys on #BoysBrigade twittersphere to use the #Juniors100 selfie frame? Figure marching winning team leading boys.



1st Leith

Smarties game No 15 - enjoyed by juniors as part of the #Juniors100 Challenge



5th Hull BB @5thHullBB

#juniors100 number 94 Science Experiment @theboysbrigade



Loughaghery BB @LoughagheryBB

Last night our junior section cracked out #juniors100 selfie frame.



2nd Wishaw BB @2ndWishawBB

Our Junior Section making the number 100 for #juniors100



Bromsgrove Love your Neighbour Campaign

Members of the 2nd Bromsgrove joined forces with Houseman Court and The Basement Project for its month-long campaign 'Love your Neighbour'. The local campaign, which ran throughout February, has been set up in a bid to bring members of the town's BB group and their local community together as part of a project to show how Community Matters.

The group of 40 BB members, aged 4-18 years, spent two weeks preparing and making the gifts as part of their badge scheme. All of the boys got involved and have really enjoyed the art and craft work undertaken and learnt more about being part of their local community too.

Carina McAuliffe, Project Activity Manager at Houseman Court said "Our residents enjoyed meeting the 25 youngsters who came bearing homemade cards and treats for everyone, with one resident receiving her first ever Valentine's card, it put a smile on everyone's face".

The left-over cards were distributed among the congregation at Bromsgrove Methodist Church on the following Sunday. Over the month of February, the Company also collected non-perishable items and tinned goods for The Basement Project, a local charity which helps young families and people who are homeless, in and around Bromsgrove. The boys and their families collected over six large bags of goods to donate.



14th West Bromwich @14thWBWB

Congratulations to our Juniors for winning the Figure Marching and the Band for finishing as runners up this afternoon.



7th Coatbridge BB @7thCoatbridgeBB

Thanks for the Grant of £500 which allowed us to purchase new chairs for our #BoysBrigade headquarters.



Dearham Boys & Girls raise money for Team Evie

Greg Johnston, co-founder of the 'Team Evie' charity in Cumbria, has been back to visit the 1st Dearham, seventeen years after gaining his President's badge as a member of the Company. Greg returned to collect a cheque for £634.92 which had been raised to help his work with sick children and their parents.

On collecting the cheque Greg said "I have very warm memories of my time in the Brigade and I really appreciate all the efforts of the boys and girls. Thanks to people like them we can make a stay in hospital a little less daunting for children and their parents". Greg founded the charity in 2015 with his wife Jill shortly after losing their six-month old daughter Evie. Since then the charity has raised over £65,000 which has helped fund a whole host of projects to help buy equipment, toys and books for children's wards and for use in the homes of sick children.

The charity's latest scheme has been a bereavement support group which meets on the first Thursday of every month in Victoria Hall, Cockermouth and provides a counselling service to parents who have lost babies.

The cheque was presented by members of the Company including, Ben Nicholson who raised £321 in a sponsored one-mile swim in Lake Windermere.



2nd High Wycombe Baptism

On 12th March, members of 2nd High Wycombe Company held their bi-monthly parade service at Oakridge Baptism Church and were delighted to also witness the baptism of one of their members. Patrick Hepworth, 18, joined the Company soon after its formation in 2010 and has continued in membership of the Company Section since then. Patrick was baptised by Rev Mark Macaulay and BB Captain, Calvin Hanks.



1st Rotherham @1stRotherhamBB

A great night last night for @comicroelief lots of fun and activities @theboysbrigade @bbgazette #RedNoseDay #comicroelief @rednoseday #BoysBrigade



Pride of Charnwood

The 1st Loughborough Company was nominated for three categories in the 'Pride of Charnwood' awards; for Caring for Others, Helping the Community and Youth Group of the Year. The Company won the Helping the Community award by making a difference in their local community through volunteering at a range of events including helping elderly residents set up a coffee morning in the local community centre, marshalling for the Rotary Club and manning water stations for the Barrow runners.

SNAPSHOTS



1ST BELCHLEY AT BATTALION BOWLING



NETHERLEE LADS GET INVOLVED IN RED NOSE DAY



46TH ABERDEEN JUNIORS LITTER PICK



1ST UXBRIDGE VOLUNTEERING ON HILLINGDON NARROWBOATS



MID SCOTTISH QUEEN'S BADGE COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL



ANCHORS FIRE STATION VISIT



1st Castlederg Scripture Champions

Well done to members of 1st Castlederg, winners of the West Ulster Battalion Scripture Competition 2017.



Liverpool Battalion @LivBatBB

Many congratulations to @LanchesterBB on winning the #BBTableTennisFinals! Trophy presented by Liverpool's own Sir Ken Dodd #BoysBrigade



21st Cardiff 'Doctor Who' Fan Film

The Doctor arrives on Boys' Brigade camp where all but one BB member has disappeared. This ultimately leads him to battle an old friend in a bid to save the Galaxy!

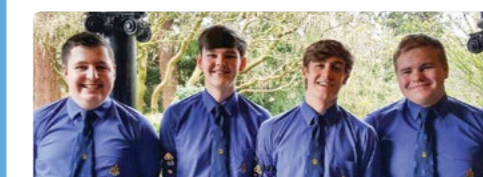
Members of the 21st Cardiff Company have followed up their success at winning the BB Gazette's 'James Bond' scene competition by making a 'Doctor Who' fan film. The film was made in memory of Oliver Davies, a member of the 21st Cardiff Company who tragically lost his life in 2015. Ollie loved attending BB camp and was a huge Doctor Who fan.

The film is available to watch on YouTube and can be watched / shared by visiting: <https://youtu.be/hQy3kY5nbaY>. The film was written and directed by Tim Pasley and stars Thomas Wilcox, Anderson Brown, Adam Morris, David Martin and those attending BB camp 2016 (young and old!)



8th Hartlepool BB @the8thBB

Four new Queens Men for 'the8th' after a successful QB completion weekend @theboysbrigade well done lads!





Time to Get Active?

A recent survey from The British Journal of Sports Medicine suggests that children go off the idea of exercise from as young as seven years old. The findings indicate that there is a sharp decline between the ages of seven and nine, with a further drop as children move into their teenage years.

At the age of seven, the average boy was moderately or vigorously active for one hour 15 minutes a day, the study found, dropping to one hour 10 minutes by the age of nine, and just an hour by the age of 12. By the age of 15, the figure is just 51 minutes, the research shows.



Is Tech the Biggest Barrier?

The study points to technology, such as tablets and smart phones, as having the biggest detrimental effect. Another factor which has a part to play is that more children are getting a lift to school, rather than walking.

In The Boys' Brigade, much of the programme and activities are geared to getting young people more active – both indoors and outdoors. Play, sport and recreation are prominent throughout a young person's journey through the organisation, but is there more that The BB **could** or **should** be doing?

Exercise, of course, plays an important role in children and young people's physical health - both within and out with BB - but it's also been shown as a way to boost confidence and mental wellbeing.

These findings have been announced at a time when the England & Wales Regions have launched the Get Active roadshow events for Junior, Company and Senior members, whilst there has also been a Brigade-wide survey into how much physical activity currently takes place in each of our age groups.





In our Get Active 2017 survey, you told us...

- 78% of sections provide at least half an hour of sport each week
- 25% include over an hour of physical activity every week
- Amongst the most popular activities BB offers its members... football, dodgeball, table-tennis, badminton and swimming
- Sections spend an average of £120 on sports equipment annually

Discuss this with your group

- Do you undertake less physical activity now compared to when you were seven or eight?
- Is it fair to blame the decline on technology alone?
- What other barriers are there to being more active?
- What more would you like to see The BB and others doing to help?
- Do you and does your section have access to good-quality facilities and equipment?

 Share what your young people think, email us at: gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

 Continue the conversation on Twitter: @BBgazette using hashtag #BBvoice and #GetActive



GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the Spring 2017 programme supplement, showcasing some great activities and ideas that you could use in your Company.

Resource Bank

Selection of resources with activities and ideas for all sections



National Trust: 50 Things to do before you're 11¾

Get your children out exploring the outdoors, learning new skills and trying new things. The National Trust have come up with 50 activities for children to have a go at. Check out the list of activities and see how many they can complete as a group or encourage the children to complete with their families, for those they complete individually ask them to bring in some evidence (i.e. a photo).

Check out nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do



Grain Chain

Grain Chain is a curriculum linked education resource for teachers to inform school-aged children about the story of grain-based food - from the farm to mill to plate. Find tailored teaching materials, worksheets, videos, quizzes, recipes and activities about farming, flour milling and baking.

Check out grainchain.com



BBC Terrific Scientific

BBC Terrific Scientific is a UK wide primary science initiative aimed at 9-11 year olds and their teachers. It contains lots of activities and resources ideal for using with the Juniors age group.


Check out bbc.co.uk/terrificscientific

The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Fegg Hayes or Fenton, Gateshead or Grangemouth.

Do you have a question that you would like to ask other leaders?

We will look to share your question with leaders across the Brigade and include a selection of responses in the next issue of the Gazette.

 Send your question(s) to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

Your Help

RESOURCE is all about sharing what works well for you in your Company with others. Could you contribute a game, craft, devotional or themed night idea for the Summer 2017 issue? Send it to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

Please indicate something about why this idea works well in your Company.

Check out the sectional programme ideas >>>

 22 Anchors

 25 Juniors

 28 Discover

 31 Challenge Plus

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

Some ideas to help you with your programme planning over the next few months:



15 MAY -
15 JUN

NATIONAL SMILE MONTH

National Smile Month is the UK's largest and longest-running campaign to promote good oral health. It highlights three key messages, all of which go a long way in helping us develop and maintain a healthy mouth. Consider what your group could do to promote healthy teeth and a healthy lifestyle. Could you invite a Dentist or medical professional in to talk to the group?

Check out nationalsmilemonth.org



17 - 18
JUN

THE BIG LUNCH

The Big Lunch takes place annually in June – but your group can join in and host one whenever you like. You could organise as part of a Church Parade or Sunday Service and involve the congregation as well as parents and family of the children. You could also link this into 'National Picnic Week' which runs from 16th to 25th June 2017.

Check out thebiglunch.com



21 JUN

FATHER'S DAY

Celebrate Father's Day by making a card to say thank you, or how about a coupon book of promises and favours!

Get Creative: Cork Boats

Equipment

- ★ Corks (can be purchase online or from craft store)
- ★ Wooden Skewers
- ★ Foam sheets (range of colours)
- ★ Rubber bands
- ★ Colouring Pens/Pencils
- ★ Scissors

Preparation

In preparation, a leader should cut out the sails and flags from the foam sheets, with one of each for each child. Cut down wooden skewers as required to fit flag and sail and insert into cork.

Instructions

1. Decorate the foam sail and flag.
2. Put the 3 corks together and hold together using two elastic bands.
3. Push the wooden skewer through the flag and sail (top and bottom) and then insert the skewer into the middle cork.
4. Test out the boats in a large bowl or small paddling pool. You could race them in pairs with children blowing the boats.



Theme Ideas



Get your section into Spring/Summer with these beach inspired programme ideas.

01 Sand Castle Building

Get into the beach theme by borrowing a sandpit or creating your own. Hold your own sand castle or sand sculpture competition. If you have the opportunity to visit a beach nearby you could be more creative and look to build not just a sandcastle, but a city.

02 Getting into the Bible

Hopefully most of the children in your group will get the opportunity to go to the beach this summer. Ask the children if they know if they are going away on holiday this year and if they will be going to the beach. Ask them what they like do when they go to the beach.

Read Matthew 7:24-27

Illustration: Using two plastic clear containers, place some sand in one and a rock/brick in the other, and use these to tell the story of the Wise Man. Place an object to resemble a house firstly onto the rock and add some water into the container, then do the same by adding some water to the container with the sand.

Ask the children about what happened and why the foolish man was wrong to build his house on the sand. Tell the children that this story is about Jesus explaining to us that we need to listen to him and follow what he asks us to do and that if we do that he will look after us and keep us safe.

03 Beach Towel Islands

Lay out towels around your meeting space, these will be your islands. Select one child to be 'it' who counts to 10 while everyone runs about and chooses an island to sit on. Then the person who's 'it' shouts out a colour and everyone has five more seconds to get up and run to that coloured towel. The last person to sit on the island or who can't fit on after everyone else, then becomes 'it'.

04 Beach Ball Games



There are lots of activities you could do with a beach ball including throwing & catching, volleyball, dodgeball and relay games. Perhaps try out some of the games you usually play by swapping your normal ball with a beach ball.

05 Get Creative

You can purchase a variety of craft activities from Baker Ross and similar companies, including sand art pictures and bottles to fill with different coloured sand. Visit bakerross.co.uk and search for 'Sand Art'.

06 Limbo Dancing

With two leaders holding the ends of a rope or garden cane each child takes a turn trying to go under the "bar". After each child has succeeded at a certain height of the bar, lower it again and again.

06 Crab Walk Race

Get the children into teams and crossing the finish line on their hands and feet with stomach in the air (aka crab style).



Get Out and About: Egg Box Scavenger Hunt

A great activity to get the children outdoors this summer.



Equipment

- ★ Egg Box for each child
- ★ Print a Grid Sheet

Preparation

Put together a list of items for the children to find and create a grid with one item in each square on the grid (see example). You could go with specific items or with textures (soft, rough, light, hard, bendy, sticky, smooth, etc). Print out the grid and stick it to the outside of your egg box, depending on the size of the box you will need 6/10/12/15 items. Another idea would be to pickup some paint colour cards from a local DIY store and

give each child one and ask them to find something to match the colours (or as near as possible).

Instructions

Take the children out into an open space or parkland for this activity and ask them to collect an item to match each item on the grid and place it in the corresponding space in their egg box.

Grass	Leaf	Stone
Acorn	Flower	Twig

The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"How do you greet new members on their first night? Do you have a welcome pack ready to give out? How do you help them integrate into the section?"

In response to this a number of leaders have shared their thoughts.

"Think it's really important to give a good first impression to the child and to the parent. Have a welcome pack ready to give to parents. This should have a welcome letter explaining about the section including times, uniform, subs etc and the annual consent form. This will save time later and hopefully answer the questions that the parents will have thought of. Make sure you talk with the child and not just the parent. Ask if they already know someone in the section or buddy them up with an older child for the first few meetings."

Warren Mayes, 7th Northampton

"We have a small booklet which we give to all new members which tells them who we are and what we do. Also, included is the annual consent form and contact numbers for the officers."

Ian Arnold, 44th Nottingham

"Much of the welcome time is spent reassuring the parent or carer. They stay for the session and the first session is free. If they feel confident enough, we ask for a phone number and they go. The new member often already has a friend in the section who will help to tell them what and how we do things. If they don't know anyone, we ask an established member of the group to buddy up. At the end of the night we give out the registration form and other information."

Ruth Jones, 1st Bletchley

"We have a welcome pack to hand out comprising a consent form, our Company information about fee structure, meeting times, uniform etc and usually a copy of our latest newsletter. We also start each week with a welcome game, Boys join as they arrive so that no one feels left out and parents coming in to make payments etc can see boys are organised, engaged and being cared for from the outset."

Carol Jasper, 3rd Dunfermline

RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

Some ideas to help you with your programme planning over the next few months:



3 JUN

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

The Champions League Final will be held at the National Stadium in Wales, The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Former Wales and Liverpool forward Ian Rush is the ambassador for the 2017 UEFA Champions League final. Could your group host a Champions League Party? Perhaps you could organise a mini-tournament, watch the match, get behind one of the teams, and/or embrace something from the home nation's culture.

Check out uefa.com/uefachampionsleague



16 JUN

SAVE THE CHILDREN DEN DAY

Help build a better world, by taking part in Save the Children Den Day. Take your group on a den-building adventure. They can build dens together, learn about the importance of a shelter and raise money to change children's lives.

Signup now to get your free fundraising kit at denday.org



16 - 26 JUN

DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

Drowning Prevention Week is the national campaign from the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK). One person drowns every 20 hours in the UK and hundreds more suffer life changing injuries through near drowning. By spreading water safety advice far and wide, Drowning Prevention Week aims to teach people how to stay safe near water.

Check out resources at rlss.org.uk

Get Outdoors: Blindfold Rope Trail

This is a great activity to do on a camp or weekend away, but could also be completed on your meeting night. The activity is great at building trust, developing communication and encouraging children to use other senses in the absence of sight. It should be a lot of fun!

Equipment

- ★ Rope (lots of it)
- ★ Blindfolds

Preparation

This activity needs to be setup by leaders in advance, ideally so the children cannot see the trail before they start. Using trees, branches and other items the rope should create a trail through a wooded area involving obstacles like trees to go around, holes to avoid, hills to go up, obstacles to go over or under, etc.

Instructions

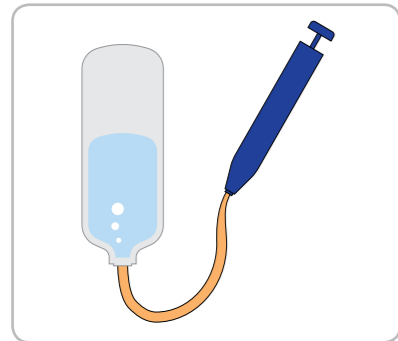
The children should get into pairs, with one of the children being blindfolded and holding on to the rope, their partner can help them by giving verbal instructions to guide them along the route. Once

complete the pairs should swap over so everyone gets a go. Ensure close leader supervision along the trail at all times.



Get Creative: Water Rockets

Try out this fantastic activity and see how high your group can get the water rockets. The rockets work simply by putting water into a drinks bottle and filling it with air, when this is done the water in the bottle is forced downwards and the rocket flies up into the air (they can easily reach 100ft or more).



Preparation

In advance a leader should setup a launch pad, there are several ways you could do this, but essentially it is a way of holding the bottle, neck down at an angle to the ground ready to launch. Ideas could include launching from the handle of a garden fork/spade or a flower pot.

Checking that the cork fits tightly into the bottle, create a hole in the cork and then insert the valve into the cork, making sure it is nice and tightly fitting, and goes all the way through.

Equipment

- ★ 1l or 2l plastic bottle
- ★ Plastic coated wine bottle cork (that fits bottle)
- ★ Foot or hand pump
- ★ Launch pad (to hold the bottle)
- ★ Water
- ★ Valve from a bicycle inner tube (ask local bicycle shop for used inner tubes)

SAFETY

The launching part of this activity should be carried out in a large open space. Ensure you check that the area around the launch site is clear, and that all spectators are standing at a safe distance from the launchpad.

Instructions

1. Using an empty plastic bottle, remove the labels and then decorate the rocket. You could add fins and/or a nose cone as well to help the rocket dynamically.
2. Once ready to launch, fill the rocket (bottle) with water, approx. 1/4 full.
3. Push the cork with the valve into the bottle.
4. Place bottle into your Launch pad neck down.
5. Connect the valve on your rocket to the foot/hand pump and begin to pump gently and steadily. Keep going until the rocket launches!
6. You could try with differing amounts of water to see how high the rocket goes, other bottle shapes and or designs (fins/noses) to see how this varies the flight and height.

Get Active: 40-40 In

Try out this old classic, a great game to get your group outside into your local park or other outdoor space. Ideally for this game you want to be playing in a wooded/forest area with lots of trees, bushes and other places to hide.

Instructions

1. Establish a base, like a big tree or a tree stump.
2. One member is nominated as a 'spotter' who then guards the base and counts to 40. As they count (eyes shut, no peeking!) all the other players move away to hide: behind trees, under bushes and so on. Explain what the boundary is in terms of the area that players can use for the game (you don't want them going too far away, and should always be in sight of a leader).
3. The spotter then has to leave the base to start looking for those who have hidden. Once they've "spotted" someone, they run back to the base and shout "40-40 Out!" followed by the person's name. That person is then out of the game.

4. The aim of the game is for those hiding to try and sneak to the base before the spotter does, shouting "40-40 In!" when they do.
5. If the player is spotted by the 'spotter', then a race ensues to see the first one back. However, if the first one to be in contact with the base is the 'spotter', then they must still call out where they see the other player, example "40-40 I see 'name' running towards me".

6. The first one to be caught becomes the 'spotter' in the next game, but the current game must continue until all the players have been found or run for 'base'.

Safety

Before playing the game remind the children to move about with caution and be aware of the obstacles in the forest/woodland area.



Theme Ideas: The Secret Life of Pets

Check out an Activity Pack resource created by the team at Damaris Media for this fantastic animation film that the children will love. Run your own theme night based on the film The Secret Life of Pets which is now out on DVD and can also be downloaded online.

The aim of the resource is to get active, get creative, strengthen friendships and have an adventure! Through taking part in the activities the group will be exploring the value of difference and of being grateful for the people who take care of us.



Download the resource at secretlifeofpets.damarismedia.com

Get Creative: Bouncy Balls

All you have to do is layer up the crystals and place the casing into water for a few minutes to let the ball set. Everything you need is available to purchase as a 'Make Your Own Bouncy Ball Kit' available from Hobby Craft stores and online.

Shared by Robert Smith, 46th Liverpool

"We were looking for something different that we had never done before, thinking outside the box we came across these. Our Junior Section thoroughly enjoyed the activity, especially throwing their creations around the hall. This would also work with other age groups too".



? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"What's the best way (from your experience) of getting into teams for games/activities? Do you split by age group or create mixed ability teams/squads? Do you keep them the same or change them up each week?"

In response to this a number of leaders have shared their thoughts.

"We are fortunate to have approx 60 boys in our Juniors, roughly 20 per year. We use a dual approach during our meeting night - the boys are split into groups of mixed ages - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Years in each group for some activities. These groups stay the same all year so that the younger boys can meet older boys and the older boys get an opportunity to develop leadership skills. For other games & activities we split the boys into year groups i.e. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years so that they can play & mix with their peers, often from different schools."

Steven Lowry, 4th Newtownabbey

"We use a supply of coloured juice bottle lids of different colours. Hand them out to boys randomly when they are arriving or when the games session starts. You can also get them to line up in different orders, which is a thinking activity in itself: line up by shoe size, sock colour, hair colour, house number, etc and then get your teams from there. We do tend to just give them team games in their groups (squads) most of the time, however."

Fraser Boyd, 25th Stirling

"We nearly always number the boys 1,2, 1,2 etc (this is if putting them into 2 teams), but can number accordingly depending on team numbers. We find this alleviates friends pairing, leaving others out, and usually ensures a mixture of team members each time, to make it more interesting we might choose a fruit or football team name etc instead, this keeps the boys engaged!"

Phyllis Reppion, 16th Liverpool

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

Some ideas to help you with your programme planning over the next few months:



24 JUN

ARMED FORCES DAY

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. There are many ways to get involved and show your support, resources for children and young people can be found online.

Check out armedforcesday.org.uk



3 - 16 JULY

WIMBLEDON

Focus your programme on this annual sporting highlight, could you hold your own tournament, learn more about the sport, or try out that winning combination of strawberries and ice cream.

Check out wimbledon.org



21 JUL - 3 SEP

NATIONAL FISHING MONTH

National Fishing Month is a celebration of the sport of angling. All over the country qualified coaches give their time to welcome newcomers to this marvellous sport. Events are organised around the UK to show people who have never fished before how to do it. Could your group organise an afternoon fishing at a local fishery?

Check out resources at nationalfishingmonth.com



Challenge: Snooker Trick Shot



More than 1m people have watched a trick shot created by a Sports Bar in Bristol which ran to a length of 500ft and took 11 hours to setup. Check out the video on the BBC Sport website and challenge your young people to see if they can create a trick shot albeit probably on a smaller scale.



Check out the video at bbc.in/2jevz8j

Send in your videos and let us know how they did, mention @BBGazette on Twitter



Get Out and About: Sand Sculpture



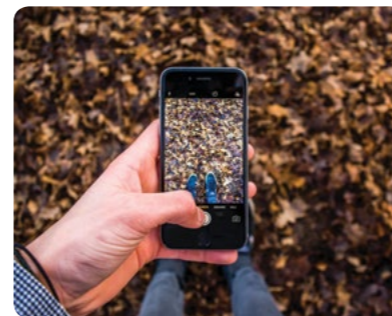
This summer whilst on camp or if you are lucky enough to be near a beach why not have a competition to create a sand sculpture. This could be done in groups (tents if at camp) or individually. You could give the young people a theme or let them be creative.



Send us your pictures, mention @BBGazette on Twitter



Get Out and About: Geo-caching



Get out and about this Spring/Summer and try geo-caching in your local area. Geocaching can be described simply as a treasure hunt for the digital generation, where GPS (Global Positioning Technology) is used to locate hidden boxes or containers (caches).

Caches are often airtight Tupperware-style containers which could be found in trees, in a bush, under a seat or anywhere else it is possible to hide one (although they will never be buried in the ground). They will usually contain a record book, but may contain other items and much of the excitement of geocaching is about what else you might find in the box. If there are other items in the box and the finder decides to take anything away, they're required to leave something of equal or greater value for the next person to discover, so be sure to take some items with you when you go out geocaching.

Before you can go out geocaching you will need to register with an online community, the largest of which is geocaching.com.

By registering and downloading the app onto your smartphone you will be able to find Geocaches near to you. The 'Basic' version of the app is free, but to access premium Geocaches you will need to upgrade to the 'Premium' service for a small fee (full details online).

The great thing about Geocaching is that there are more than 3million Geocaches worldwide and there are some near you, so there's no need to make a long journey away from your meeting place, as there's likely to be some within walking distance. Before taking part in activities such as this outdoors ensure that you are fully prepared, participants have appropriate clothing and there is appropriate leader supervision.



Get Active: Human Pac Man



Don't forget to make a boundary around the entire playing area, and the "holding cell" in the middle! If you are using chairs, you can just set it up like the maze.

When you have the set-up of the maze completed, take one colour (RED) of "saucers" that Pac Man will be after and place them in the maze like the classic game. You can also use pieces of A5 paper. Also place a couple of (BLUE) saucers in the maze for Pac Man to pick up so he can defend himself against the ghosts. Now you're ready to play.

Rules

- ★ Choose one person to be Pac Man and make him or her wear a RED bib
- ★ Choose 3-5 ghosts and make them wear a different coloured bib
- ★ The object of the game - Pac Man must pick up all of the saucers without being caught by the ghosts.
- ★ Give Pac Man a 20 second head start on all of the ghosts.
- ★ Then, every 10 seconds, release a ghost into the playing area.

★ If Pac Man is about to be tagged by one of the ghosts, he can hand the ghost a saucer and the ghost must return to the holding cell for 10 seconds.

★ The ghost must be in the same 'lane' to tag Pac Man. In other words, the ghost can't reach over the back of a pew or between chairs and tag Pac Man.

★ Pac Man gets three lives to accomplish his goal of clearing all of the saucers off the maze and exiting.

★ Pac Man can run, but the ghosts must walk.

★ If Pac Man is tagged three times before he collects all the saucers, the ghosts win.

★ If Pac Man collects all the saucers before he/she is tagged three times, Pac Man wins.

Get Active: Frisbee Golf

Equipment

- ★ Frisbee (for each player)
- ★ Targets (professional catchers or use hoops/buckets hung on trees etc)
- ★ Marker (for first hole 'tee off')
- ★ Numbers (for Targets)

Preparation

Setup your course, for a nine-hole course you will need 9 targets. Put out a marker cone as the 'tee-off' point for the first hole, and a target for each hole, ideally the targets should be numbered for clarity.

Instructions:

1. Players should be grouped in teams of 3 or 4 and go around the course hole by hole. Players could start according to age, each player should throw their frisbee, but then wait until all other players on the hole have thrown their frisbee before moving on.
2. Players should now move on from the start point out to their own Frisbee, but be aware that the nearest frisbee is the next one to be thrown. Each player should throw their Frisbee in turn, with the nearest to the target going last.
3. Continue on, the aim is for players to get their frisbee into or through the target in the smallest number of throws.
4. Once a player has finished the hole they will need to wait to one side whilst all players finish the hole. Record scores as you go for each player.
5. Once they have all completed hole one, they use the target for that hole as the 'tee off' point for the next hole, and so on around the course.
6. Add up the scores at the end, and the player with the lowest score is the winner.



? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"How do you provide space in your programme for your young people to just chill out, to relax and chat with friends/leaders?"

In response to this a number of leaders have shared their thoughts.

"Our Seniors have their own room in the church, they fundraised to decorate it and have bought a TV, sofa, games console and fridge. With a place to call their own they feel comfortable to talk to each other and their leaders. They often arrive early before their programme starts to catch up and relax. Having a cafe styled part of the evening with either tuck shop or drinks and cakes mean that the young people are all together in a relaxed atmosphere."

Luke Mulhern, 1st Newport IOW

"Some weeks we have hot chocolate/tea and toast time which enables boys to sit around and just talk. They can also chat and have a laugh with leaders. We tend to have this towards the end of the night."

Rhonda Phelps, 1st Craven

"At the end of the more structured part of the evening, have a range of activities the young people can opt into if they wish, but allow them just to 'not do anything organised' and provide space for them just to sit and chat. Always a good idea to have food available and a loaf and a toaster are fairly inexpensive."

Warren Mayes, 7th Northampton

CHALLENGE PLUS

RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Get Active: Live Cluedo! The Game is Afoot!

In November, Leaders at 2nd Witham BB dressed up and staged a live-action Cluedo! Night. The evening began with a short skit featuring Sherlock Holmes, Doc Watson and Inspector Lestrade to introduce the weapons, rooms, suspects and rules. After which, the boys set off in groups of three or four to solve the mystery... going room-to-room "interrogating" suspects. Realistic weapons, a bit of decorating various rooms in the church and fully costumed staff made for a most authentic feel!

Who-done-it? Col. Mustard in the Billiard Room with the Lead Pipe!



For a full set of rules, script and advice on how pull off a Cluedo! style murder mystery night contact jason@2withamboys-brigade.org.uk

Get Learning: UK Youth Parliament

Have your young people heard of the UK Youth Parliament? The UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

Current Campaigns

A total of 276 Members of Youth Parliament aged 11-18 took part in the debates, the subjects for which were voted for by 978,216 young people across the UK. The UK Youth parliament has chosen 'votes for 16 and 17 year olds in all public elections and referenda' as its national campaign for 2017.

The other top topics which came up were:

1. **Stop cuts that affect the NHS.** Funding that affects the NHS shouldn't be cut. We must keep up vital services to protect young people.
2. **Transport.** Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
3. **Tackling racism and religious discrimination,** particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish. All young people should work together to combat racism and other forms of discrimination, and ensure we know the dangers of such hatred.
4. **A Curriculum to prepare us for life.** Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.



Share the above with your young people and use these topics as discussion starters to see what they think and if they agree that these are the top 5 topics that should be being debated.

You can find out more about the UK Youth Parliament at ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Get Active: Ultimate Frisbee

All you need to play 'Ultimate Frisbee' or 'Ultimate' as it can be known is a frisbee and some cones/markers if you don't have a marked out playing space.

Setup:

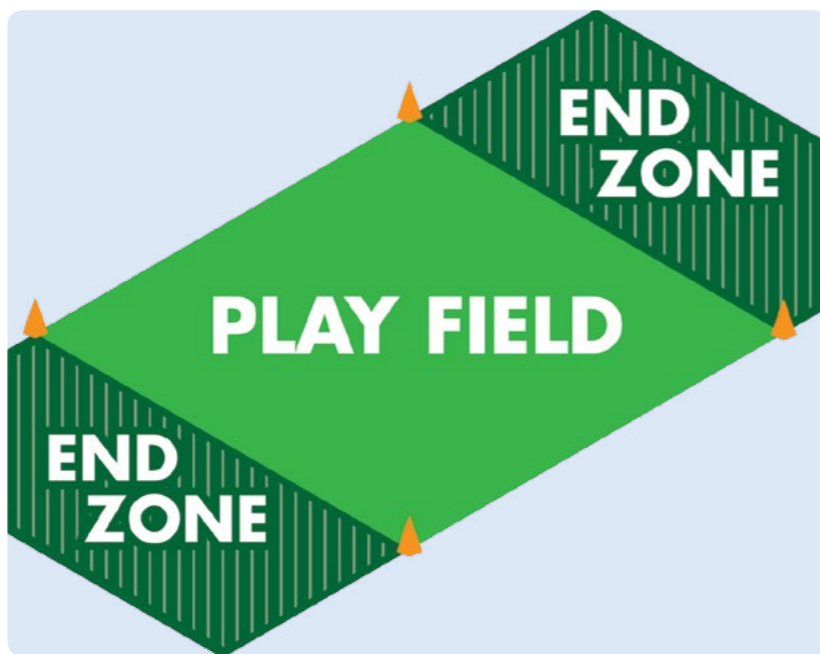
Setup a playing area consisting of two 'End Zones' (goals), one at each end of the field, and a centre section known as the 'Play Field'. This is similar to the field of play in American Football. You could potentially use a football pitch and use the line from where the penalty area starts as 'End Zones'.

Instructions:

To play the game, split the young people into two even teams, you will need a minimum of two players on each team. It is usually best to play with between 5 and 7 players on each team.

Decide which team will start by a coin toss or similar, then the opposing team should all start in their end zone with one player throwing the disc high into the field of play towards the other team, for a member of the opposing team to catch. Once they have thrown, they should go out onto the field of play to start defending.

Play is advanced by moving up the field of play, completing passes between team members, to reach the other teams end zone. A goal/point is scored when a player successfully catches the disc in the opposing teams end zone. On scoring the teams switch ends and the team that scored will throw the disc out to the other team, in a similar way to how the game started.



Players must not move when holding a disc, and must not hold on to the disc for more than 10 seconds. It is the defenders job to count the 10 seconds and manage the time. When releasing the disc, it is permitted to take one step in any direction. The disc can be thrown to players in any direction. A player receiving the disc must stop immediately, although it is acceptable that a few steps to allow the player to stop their forward momentum.

If a disc is dropped, goes out of bounds, or is intercepted (slammed down to the ground), play is turned over to the opposing team from the same spot. The

team not in possession of the disc should be trying to intercept the disc and disrupt passes being made by their opponents – they must not come into physical contact though and only one player can defend within 1 metre of the player with the disc.

The game is usually played up to 15 goals, but you can reduce that to 10 or 5 if you have less time.

'Ultimate Frisbee' is a self-governing game and there is no referee. Players should call their own fouls etc in the true spirit of the game - but you may appoint an impartial observer to help keep track of time etc.

Challenge: Human Table Challenge

Has your group tried out this challenge? All you need is four participants to take part, with an additional person available to help out.

Instructions:

Place 4 chairs facing in towards each other (see diagram). The four participants should place their back on the chairs, with their bottom and shoulders hanging off each side. One at a time the additional person should move around the group and remove the chairs until the group are supporting themselves, thus creating a 'Human Table'. You could also try this without using chairs and see how you get on.



Share what attempt on Twitter mentioning @BBGazette and #HumanTable

FOCUS ENGLAND & WALES

Welsh Assembly



We had the pleasure to host an event at the Welsh Assembly, Pier Head on 21st March. The aim of the event was to showcase the work we do in Wales and highlight some of our recent alternative ways of working within schools and rural communities. The event was a great success and well attended by partners, Assembly Members, Church officials and leaders.

Celebrating Juniors 100

As a Region, it has been agreed that although the Juniors 100 celebrations will run throughout 2017 a dedicated party week for England and Wales will be 23rd - 30th September 2017.

It would be fantastic to hear some of your plans and ideas for celebrating and we would encourage you to send details and photographs to ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk along with sharing on Twitter @TheBBEngland.



KGVI - Saturday 29th July 2017 - Friday 4th August 2017



The booking form for this years KGVI course is also online at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm. Do not delay in reserving places for your young people.

Online Brigade Manager

The next OBM clinic is scheduled to take place during the Unite weekend at Felden Lodge on **Saturday 3rd June** and is open to all leaders. The session will run from 10am-1pm being an open clinic with two presentations scheduled to take place:

- 10:30am (30 mins) OBM Update and vision for the future.
- 12 noon (60 mins) Getting the most out of OBM – a session digging into some of OBM's functionality, with tips and advice on how to get the most out of the system for your Company.

The open clinic is an opportunity for leaders to get 1:1 support on OBM from a member of the BB Headquarters team.

There will be a café running on site and there is a leaders workshop scheduled for 1.30pm, which is headlined "Success Sharing and Problem Solving" which any leaders attending the OBM clinic are welcome to stay for. This will be a fantastic opportunity for leaders to network and discuss ongoing matters with fellow leaders and staff.

To book your place at the clinic please register by contacting ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk

Social Action Awards at Buckingham Palace



10 members of 1st Battersea recently attended Buckingham Palace to receive a Social Action Award to recognise the work they have been doing in their local community. Two members were honoured to meet and chat with HRH The Prince of Wales.

Abraham, 12 reflected on the day by saying "Today was great, when I joined BB never did I imagine I would end up at the Palace!"

Company Captain, Vincent said "An amazing once in a lifetime experience for me and the young people".

Juniors 100 Sleepover



The England & Wales Regions will be hosting a giant sleepover open to all Junior Section members to celebrate the centenary, in partnership with Kingswood Centres (who are offering a 10% discount to members during the centenary year).

Kingswood are leader led centres across England and Wales which promise “an adventure to remember, a taste of independence, a rush of adrenaline making memories that last a lifetime.”

There will be two host venues on offer depending upon initial up take, those being:


- Staffordshire**
Barr Lane, Nr Albrighton,
Wolverhampton, WV7 3AW
- Peak Venture**
Huddersfield Road, Sheffield,
South Yorkshire, S26 7GF


The sleepover will include an indoor overnight stay, a range of exciting hands-on activity sessions designed to develop team-building skills and build confidence. It will also be an opportunity to celebrate with other Companies from across the Brigade.

All activities, accommodation and food is included at a special subsidised price of £30 per person (leaders and young people).

This is a great opportunity for those Companies who are not able to provide a residential experience for their young people. Leaders are not required to have the Holiday & Outdoor Leadership certificate to attend this event and all activities, food and accommodation are being organised by the centre.

Places are limited so please do not delay in securing your Company's place by completing the booking form and paying your deposit by 16th June 2017.

 Find out more about the event and download the booking form at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ewjuniors100.htm

 You can find out more about Kingswood Centres at kingswood.co.uk



Get Active 2017



The first Get Active event took place in Manchester and very positive feedback has been received along with requests from other Battalions to host further events next session.

80 young people were in attendance at the launch event in Manchester and the day was packed with laughter and enthusiasm both from young people and leaders.

The next Get Active events are;

Somerset Battalion	13 th May 2017
Wales Region	13 th May 2017
South Lincolnshire Battalion	1 st July 2017
Plymouth	15 th July 2017
Bloxham	15 th July 2017

The host Battalions will be sending out more details to Companies in the surrounding areas, however if you would like further details please contact England & Wales office or email getactive@boys-brigade.org.uk.

To keep up to date with the latest news follow us on Twitter @GetActiveBB or contact us by email getactive@boys-brigade.org.uk with any questions.

WHAT'S ON - ENG/WAL

- 20 MAY**
Big Night Out
Lightwater Valley Theme Park
thebignightout.org.uk
- 2 - 4 JUN**
Unite Camp
unitebb.org.uk
- 29 JUL - 4 AUG**
KGVI Leadership Course
Felden Lodge
- 23 JAN**
Wales AGM and Queens Badge Presentation
Venue TBC

FOCUS SCOTLAND

Lifetime Achievement Awards



Alistair Joss of Dundee & Angus Battalion and 3rd Kilsyth's, Jim McCormack have both been awarded the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Youth Worker of the Year Awards 2017 at Glasgow's Crowne Plaza on 16th March. The national award recognises their long-term commitment and outstanding achievement in the field of youth work.

Commenting on Alistair and Jim's achievements, Alan Hunter, Training & Development Officer, said "On behalf of the entire BB family, I would like to wish Alistair and Jim massive congratulations on receiving these national awards. They have played integral roles, both locally and nationally over several decades. We are extremely lucky to have so many passionate and dedicated volunteers like these in the BB. This award is an excellent personal achievement for them, but it is also recognition of the work carried out by so many across the organisation."

Advance for the Future

Battalion Chaplains, Secretaries, Presidents and Under 26 reps met in Edinburgh on March 4th for the Advance for the Future event. Attendees got the opportunity to reflect on the recent Battalions' health-check, share best practice examples and take advantage of a variety of workshops - including Company support and the relationships between church, Company and the Battalion. Handouts and resources from the event are available here <http://bit.ly/2na0R46>

YoYP 2018

Next year will be the Year of Young People (YOYP) in Scotland – which will be a chance to inspire the country through its young people. The Boys' Brigade will be using the year to highlight young people's achievements and celebrate their contributions to the community. Learn more about how you can get involved in The Boys' Brigade's plans by visiting boys-brigade.org.uk/yoyp2018

Scottish Cross - Country



150 runners aged 11 to 18 competed at The 79th Annual Cross-Country Championships in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park on Saturday 18th March. Young athletes from 12 Battalions completed in three separate races in what turned out to be very challenging weather conditions.

Brodie Aitken (representing Airdrie, Coatbridge & District) clinched the Junior title in 09:21; Jonathon Houson (representing the East Ayrshire team) won the Intermediate race with a time of 12:16; and James Gillon (representing Wishaw & District) took the Senior individual title with a time of 19:05.

Bands Contest 2017



More than 220 young BB musicians took to the floor at the annual Scottish Bands Contest on Saturday 25th March at Hutcheson's Grammar in Glasgow. This was the first time that the contest had taken place at this venue. Bands participating included: 1st Largs, 25th Stirling (Dunblane), 1st Monifieth, 1st Troon, 4th Dunfermline, Wishaw & District, 1st Tulliallan, 44th Dundee, 6th/8th Dundee and 2nd Port Glasgow.

1st Tulliallan and 6th/8th Dundee clinched the Championship trophies, in the Open and Pipe classes respectively.



The Boys' Brigade joined forces with four youth organisations as part of the Young People Take the Lead (YPTtL) project. Seventy young leaders from Girlguiding Scotland, Girls' Brigade Scotland, Scouts Scotland, Youth Scotland and the BB took part in the 'Strive 2' residential programme which was led and delivered by young people at the Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre in Argyll.

The event and wider project has been made possible thanks to CashBack for Communities funding.

Over the past three years many Companies from across Scotland have benefitted from the Cashback for Communities Small Grant Scheme and also the Young People Taking the Lead project. The three-year funding came to an end in March and we are very grateful for the impact that money, seized from proceeds of crime, has made to the BB community.

We have now moved into the next phase of CashBack funding, however the target has a narrower focus than its predecessor. The target group will be young people disadvantaged by living in areas of deprivation, measured by the top 20% deprived areas in each local authority in Scotland. The funding has allowed the BB to employ a Development Officer to look at starting new provision for the 10+ age range and with the aid of additional funding to help them grow. As a result, existing Development Officer Jackie Wilson will fulfil this role for the BB. The Boys' Brigade is part of a consortium with Scouts, Girlguiding and Youth Scotland to deliver this work. Help with leadership training opportunities and events for young people from within the target group will also be considered.

This new funding is very much in its infancy but we look forward to helping make a difference for young people who would not have the opportunities that many of our Companies have.

CfE Guide

Launched last year, The Boys' Brigade Curriculum for Excellence guide provides advice on how the BB programme and activities work alongside the national curriculum. It is available for download at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/downloads.htm

KGVI



The Boys' Brigade's accredited youth leadership course for new entrants takes place 29th July until 4th August. More information about the incredible KGVI experience is available at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm

Juniors 100 Sleepover at Glasgow Science Centre

As part of the BB Scotland events to mark Juniors 100, Glasgow Science Centre will again open its doors to Junior Section members on the night of Friday 3rd November. Information has already been sent out to all Companies and is also available at boys-brigade.org.uk/events

Scottish Youth Parliament

The board at the Scottish Youth Parliament has recently accepted The Boys' Brigade's application to be an SYP National Voluntary Organisation. This means that there will be an election for two BB young people (aged 14 – 25) to represent BB members in the parliament.

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Niall Rolland niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk

FOCUS NORTHERN IRELAND

Anchor Boy Fun & Games

The Anchor Boy Fun & Games was hosted by 3rd Antrim Company on Saturday 28th February. As usual it was a lively day with lots of fun and laughter as the Battalion finalist teams all competed for the Winners' Shield.

The results were:

- 1st: 1st Knocknamuckley
- 2nd: 3rd Antrim
- 3rd: 1st Ballynure



New CRED Programme on a Plate Resources Launched

The CRED team has produced two new 'Programme on a Plate' resources - one each for Anchor Boys and the Junior Section. These are ideal to introduce Community Relations, Equality and Diversity to your under 11's from a Biblical viewpoint.

These are a real gift for busy Leaders! Just what you need to pull out of the drawer during that manic week with work and family life. The resources have been created by the NID CRED Team and were funded by YCNI; containing all you need to run an entire evening with your section including stories, prayer, craft, games, and links to download PowerPoint presentations and suggested songs on YouTube.

The 'Programme on a Plate' for Anchor Boys is based on the Bible story of David and Goliath whilst the Junior Section one is on The Good Samaritan. A printed copy of each will be on its way to your Officer in Charge of the relevant section very soon. They are designed in the format of the current programme files and can be conveniently slotted in so you know where to find them.

You can view and download both 'Programme on a Plate' resources from the CRED page of the NID website at bbni.org.uk/nicred.htm.



Junior Section Musician of the Year

Well done to our 2017 Winner, Harry Douglas from 1st Ballygowan on Flute and runner up Adam Hunter from 1st Connor also on Flute.

Once again the Junior Section Musician of the Year provided a very entertaining afternoon as Boys from throughout Northern Ireland competed in the annual competition. A wide range of instruments were played. The adjudicator, Miss Susan Graham, was very impressed at the standard and quality of playing and in her remarks gave the boys some helpful advice.



Inclusive Skills Training

Leaders from NID took part in an Inclusive Skills course facilitated by Disability Sport NI. This was a 3 hour course to provide leaders with the knowledge and resources required to run a series of warm up activities, core skills sessions and fun games for disabled and non-disabled children aged 5yrs+. Plans are in progress to share this learning and cascade it through the NI District.



NI Juniors celebrate the 100th Anniversary with 'Play the Game' competition

51 Junior Section teams took part in three venues across the region on three Friday evenings during February and March, with the top teams taking part in a Northern Ireland Final on Saturday 25 March in Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, Lisburn. Well done to all the teams that took part, the winners were 1st Muckamore and the 1st Mountjoy were runners-up.

The boys played games through the ages in teams for 100 minutes to include marbles, Scalextric, Connect 4, Guess Who, blow football, Wii Bowling, Tiddley Winks, Battleships, Beetle, Snakes & Ladders, Air Hockey and Downfall.



The trophies were presented by Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP for Lagan Valley. All those taking part received a special 100th Anniversary participation certificate and each Company who competed in the Final received a special 'Play the Game' trophy to present annually to a Junior section boy who shows the 'Play the Game' spirit.

KGV 2017

A residential experience for 17 to 21 year olds, providing everything you need to become a Leader in The Boys' Brigade. This year's course takes place from Saturday 22nd to Friday 28th July.

- Download the application form at www.bbni.org.uk from the downloads page.
- For more information email nitraining@boys-brigade.org.uk

In the Same Boat

Members from 4th Ballymoney, 1st Culnady and 1st Route Boys' Brigade Companies have recently completed a CRED Project (Community Relations, Equality and Diversity) for 72 young people and 18 volunteers from all over Northern Ireland, running from October 2016 - March 2017. Young people from the five other Uniformed Organisations in NI took part as well: The Girls' Brigade, The Scout Association, Scouting Ireland, Girl Guiding Ulster and the Catholic Guides.

The project entailed 3 residential weekends for young people aged 12 – 16, with the theme 'In the Same Boat'; each weekend concentrated on one of the following: Trust and team building; cultural diversity; conflict and breaking down prejudice. Thematic workshops exploring the identity and culture of each side of the community were explored in a variety of ways: including sports; flags; and, religious beliefs, icons and practices. Along the way there was lots of team building activities on land and water.

Some comments from the young people:

- "I learned that to achieve something as a team you have to work as a team"
- "That I could make new friends easily."
- "That symbols are just objects, they don't matter, it's the story behind that does."
- "I learned that I can do things if I put my mind to it."

WHAT'S ON - N. IRELAND

- 19 MAY** Queen's Badge Celebration Ballymena
- 3 & 17 JUN** Non-Residential Youth Leader Training Dundrod
- 23 - 25 JUN** Queen's Badge Skills & Residential
- 29 SEPT - 01 OCT** Expedition Assessment

TOOLBOX



OBM Top Tips

Online Brigade Manager (OBM) went live in June last year and since its introduction, over 92% of the organisation's membership has been added on to the system. Many leaders have jumped into the system further to take full advantage of the functionality OBM offers. In this article we look at some top tips that will help your Company get the most out of OBM.



Staying on top of things!

It's always important to stay on top of administration and to keep everything up to date, something which we know a majority of you will do on a weekly basis. But to help ensure that your Company maintains accurate records on OBM of all children and young people, **the very minimum this should be done is every 4 weeks**. So, new members should be added on to OBM within 4 weeks of joining and equally if a young person leaves the Company they should be removed from OBM within 4 weeks.



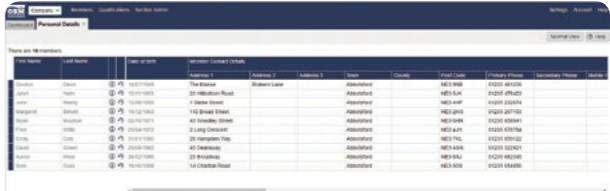
OBM has revolutionised my record keeping in terms of awards. It is no longer a time consuming once a half-term job involving lots of bits of paper and a homemade spreadsheet. It is now merely a couple of clicks weekly (often done in a few quiet moments during or at the end of the Company night). The speed of input and the ease in which data can be viewed has meant that it is a stress free task and that planning can be amended to reflect which elements young people still need to complete - vital at this time of year. I now can't imagine how I got on without OBM."

Vicki Brownlee, 5th Hull

Normal View vs Grid View



Normal View



Grid View

Did you know that there are two different ways to view the Personal Details of leaders and members? In the top right hand corner, you can find the option to switch between the 'Normal View' and 'Grid View'. Both views are useful for different reasons and we are sure you will find it helpful to switch between the two when using OBM.

Article Continued →

For instance, in the 'Normal View' it's a simple and effective way of seeing an overview of who is in the section, communicating (SMS or e-mail) and managing individual or multiple records (i.e. transferring to another section or removing someone who's left). On the other hand, 'Grid View' has other advantages – you can view all the records in a spreadsheet format, enabling you to easily compare or update personal details for multiple members without the need to continually switch between records (i.e. adding in new or updating parent's contact details).

Attendance Register

OBM Company Section - Spring 2017 - Members Badges Programme Section Admin

Dashboard Attendance Update

First name	Last name	Total	09/02/2017	16/02/2017	23/02/2017	09/03/2017	23/03/2017
Luke	Skywalker	3	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes
Darren	Jones	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominic	Pearce	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kai	Harris	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Casey	Ward	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liam	Viebs	3	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes
Charlie	Smith	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Harry	Bracewell	3	No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
TOTAL		33	6 + 1	5	6 + 1	8	7 + 1

Yes, that's right there is an 'Attendance Register' that is ready for use straight away. If you've added all your members into the section, then you're ready to start using the 'Attendance Register'.

It's been great being able to log attendance on my phone with OBM Anywhere, especially for non meeting nights, i.e. Church on a Sunday, as I don't need to make lists and write up later."

Jo Ryder, 133rd London

You can log in to OBM on your BB night and update your 'Attendance Register' there and then, even if you don't have internet connectivity at your meeting space (See 'OBM Anywhere' for more details). You can use the 'Update' button to create a new column for your current week and update all of those who have attended or are absent. You can select multiple members (or even all members) at once, so there's no need to do it individually. There are options to mark them as attended, absent or informed absence and you can view statistics i.e. percentage of sessions attended for each member in 'Personal Details'

OBM Anywhere

OBM is not just designed for use at home or where you have a WiFi or other internet connectivity, but it can also be used offline. 'OBM Anywhere' is a mobile friendly version of OBM which can be used online or offline, and is also designed for use on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets as it has a responsive design which makes it easier to use on these smaller devices. 'OBM Anywhere' gives you offline access to personal details, attendance register, badge records, Flexi-records and much more, so you can really run everything wherever you are.

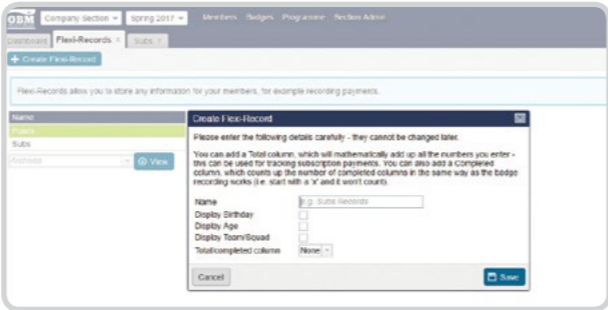
FACT 870+ LEADERS USING OBM ANYWHERE



To access 'OBM Anywhere' for the first time go to obm.boys-brigade.org.uk/m/ or if accessing for the first time on a mobile device you may find you are automatically asked if you want to login to 'OBM Anywhere'. Once you have accessed 'OBM Anywhere' for the first time and setup your PIN, you should bookmark the page on the device you are using to enable you to access 'OBM Anywhere' offline.

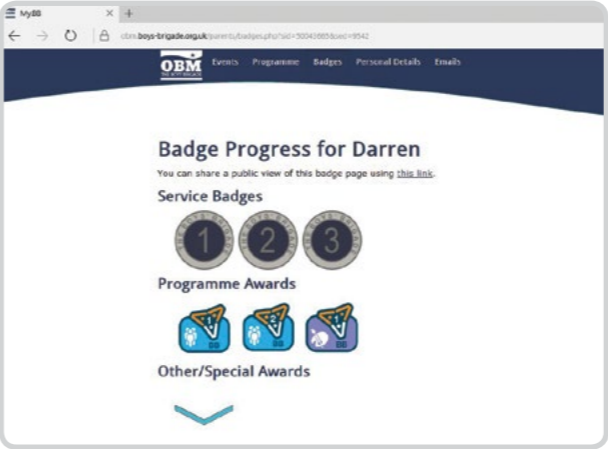
When using 'OBM Anywhere' in 'Offline' mode, all changes you make will be stored and be synchronised with OBM when you next go online, so you need to make sure you go online once you get home for OBM to be updated.

Flexi-records



Within the Members drop down area there is the option to create your own additional records on OBM – it's called Flexi-records. We have found that lots of leaders on OBM are already using this area for a range of different things including recording of subs collected each week, inspection results and points gained as individuals. Flexi-records can be used to record virtually anything for the members in your section and have the added functionality to be able to add up or count columns. You can also easily export Flexi-records as a PDF and print out if required.

My.BB



It's not only leaders that can use OBM, it's also for parents/carers too. You don't have to invite parents/carers into the system, but the experiences of those that have done so is that it reduces administration and the need for you to continuously nag Parents/carers to let you know if they will be attending events/activities, as OBM and the parents/carers can do all the work for you!

FACT 6500+ PARENTS/ CARERS INVITED TO USE MY.BB

In most cases Parents/Carers will be sent an email when you invite them to attend a new event or ask them to do something and to login all they have to do is click the secure link.

That said Parents/carers can also create their own username and password and have a separate login page to access My.BB.

Organising and planning events has become less of a headache as parents respond promptly when we invite them to events, instead of having to wait for paper slips back or having to call them up to confirm if their child is coming. Many of them are full time working parents, so being able to respond and pay for events 24/7 instead of waiting to see one of us on a Company night has been a great asset."

Paul Redford, 4th Bromley

To allow parents access to this, add their e-mail address in to the 'Primary Contact' details for their child on OBM and send them an invitation by email using the 'Send Email' functionality select 'Special Content' and 'Invite to My.BB'. My.BB enables parents/carers to view information about their child including personal details, badges, events, programme and they can also update and manage personal details and indicate attendance at events amongst other things.

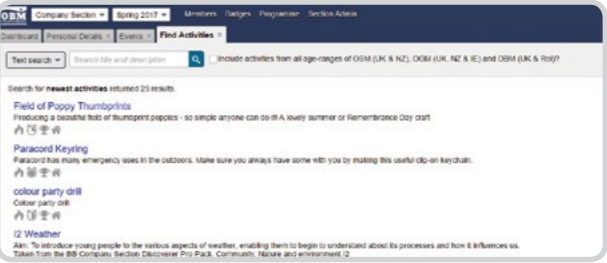
Sharing Programme and Events

OBM offers the ability to plan your weekly programme and to manage events and we hope that you will have already had a look at this functionality. With 'Programme' you can share what you are doing with other sections you have access to, so for example it may be useful for you to share the Anchors programme with the Junior Section (and vice versa) so you can see what each section is doing (if you don't currently have access to both sections your Company Captain could enable the sharing).

With 'Events' you can share events with any section in your Company or in fact with any section in any Company across the UK & RoI. This is ideal for joint Company events including Camps and Residentials, where one Company can setup the event and invite the other Companies to share the event. When you invite a section to share an event, it will not share it with their members until a leader in that section has accepted the event. It is possible to setup different parameters i.e. cost for the sections you are sharing the event with, which will work well if you are subsidising the event for your young people but not those from other Companies.

Activity Search

A great resource is available at your fingertips on OBM, where you can tap in to thousands of activities and ideas that have been entered on to the system by others. There are descriptions of the activities, including running times, and you are even able to make a search on criteria set (i.e. an indoor activity or to cover badge requirements). Why not make use of the 'Activity' search and freshen up your programme by finding some new activities for your young people to enjoy. This functionality gives you the added benefit of not only searching for activities added by BB leaders, but those added by Scout and Guide leaders across the globe.



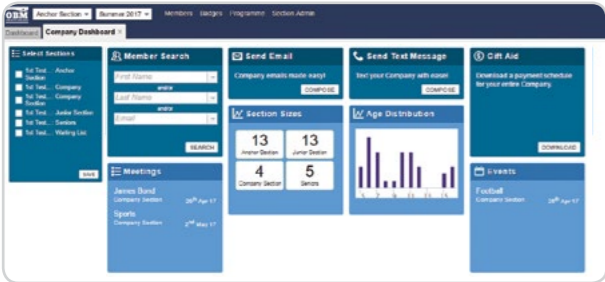
FACT 9500+ ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE ON OBM

OBM has been an absolute God-send for our Company and me in particular. I now spend a fraction of the time reading and responding to emails and counting up cash and cheques for the bank! I no longer have to make any lists and it's also really easy to email just the boys (and parents) who are involved in one specific event."

Fraser Boyd, 4th Stirling

Article Continued →

Company Dashboard



OBM has largely been set up based on Sections. However, there are no doubt times when you'll want to complete tasks for the Company as a whole. This is possible through the 'Company Dashboard' which can be accessed by using the main white drop down box in the top left hand corner of OBM.

The 'Company Dashboard' will enable you to combine any sections on OBM that you have access to, providing statistical information based on this, the ability to search for members across these sections and view other sectional information. If you need to send a quick e-mail out to parents/carers across multiple sections you can also do this through the 'Company Dashboard'.

The above are just some of our top tips, but there is even more to OBM and we would encourage you to explore its wider functionality.



OBM Vimeo Channel

Check out our Vimeo channel for video tutorials to help to explore OBM, the videos include a step by step walk-thru for key areas of functionality.

Go to: vimeo.com/channels/onlinebrigademanager



Get in Touch

Let us know how you're getting on with OBM by sending us an email or giving us a call.

If you have a question or require some help please we'll be pleased to assist you between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, or until 8pm on Thursdays.

Just call the Support Team at BB Headquarters on **01442 231 681 (option 4)** or email support@boys-brigade.org.uk.



A Boys' Brigade Company – Value for money?

Have you ever asked yourself whether the work of your BB Company provides value for money? You have perhaps never thought of it like this before. So what value for money does our work provide and how would you measure it?

These are the very questions the 53rd Manchester were asked to consider when they recently took part in a "value for money" assessment conducted by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, as part of a wider study commissioned by the City Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.

The study focussed on assessing the income generated by the Company, the number of young people impacted and how this was measured through the following key outcomes:

- Broadening horizons
- Increased Confidence
- Developing Leadership Skills

The report concluded that improved confidence was an outcome common across all age groups.

The range of activities on offer provided opportunities for young people to develop and improve social skills. There was a consensus from the young people that had they not been at BB on a Monday evening, they would be bored at home, watching TV or playing on an Xbox/iPhone.

For many, the opportunity to do productive things, socialise and have fun with friends in a safe space was highly valued.

The young people agreed that they'd been kept fit and healthy and adopted a healthier lifestyle as a result of a strong focus on sports. They believed that volunteering in the wider community had helped them to understand some of the challenges faced by others living around them.

Parents and young people were involved in the consultation...

“ My daughter is far more confident now. She used to be really shy, so much so that her teachers had spoken to me about it. BB has really brought her out of her shell”

“ After gaining my Queen's Badge, I went on to attend the KGV Youth Leadership Training Course. As part of this I had to lead a worship session, I was really nervous, but got through it and made some good friends along the way”

Phil East (Company Captain) said “The leaders at 53rd Manchester found the exercise to be really useful and demonstrated that with limited financial resources a significant difference can be made to the lives of children & young people”





Wear dots... raise lots

••••• ••••• ••••• ••••• •••••

Wear dots...raise lots this May by exploring the braille alphabet. Get your groups involved and combine learning, creativity and fun!

Sign up now at:
www.rnib.org.uk/dotsbb or call **0345 345 0054** (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) and get a free fundraising kit.

 **Supporting people with sight loss**

© 2017 RNIB. Reg charity nos. 226227 and SC039316

FACT

“ We estimate that youth work in Scotland delivers at least £7 in value for every £1 it costs”

Youthlink Scotland, Jan 2016

Too often we can under sell the value of our work. When was the last time you reviewed the subscriptions you charge and considered them in relation to the value for money the programme delivers? The authors of the study undertaken at 53rd Manchester were astounded at the low level of subscriptions charged, particularly when comparing to other groups and activities young people pay to attend. Do you know what other activities children and young people in your Company do during the week and how they compare?

Successful BB Companies require sufficient funds, to run activities, purchase equipment, provide badges and so on. However, if we are not careful at times leaders can find themselves running a fundraising programme, rather than an activity led programme.

🔍 DID YOU KNOW...

Local football, karate and other sports clubs often charge £4+ for a weekly session.

Top Tips for providing value for money

Subscriptions – Don't undersell what we offer!

Are you still charging the same weekly subscription that you were 5 or 10 years ago? Consider the following:

- Review the subscriptions charged and increase by small amounts regularly.
- Subscriptions should be set based on your planned expenditure, taking into consideration other income you may receive.
- Encourage payment to be made termly or even annually.
- Offer financial assistance to those that need it, whilst those that can afford it pay a more realistic subscription.
- If the money is not going to come in from subscriptions where is it going to come from?

💡 TOP TIP

Consider using the online payment system provided through Online Brigade Manager to collect subscriptions and other payments in an efficient and manageable way.



Typical Income & Expenditure

Below is a list of typical areas of income and expenditure you may have in your Company.

Income:

- ✓ Subscriptions
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Grants
- ✓ Donations
- ✓ Sponsorship
- ✓ Interest on Investments
- ✓ Gift Aid (you could claim 25p in every £1 back)

Expenditure:

- ✓ Annual Capitation to The Boys' Brigade
- ✓ Annual Capitation to Battalion/District/Region
- ✓ Programme/Activity Expenses for each section
- ✓ Subsidies for Events/Activities
- ✓ Purchasing Equipment
- ✓ Rent for Hire of Premises
- ✓ Training Fees
- ✓ Leaders Expenses (travel, etc)

Planning Expenditure

When planning any activity it is important to think carefully about:

- What you want to do?
- Why you want to do it?
- What you need money for?
- What the benefits will be?

Consider how you could share resources across sections to reduce duplication of equipment. You could set a fundraising challenge for each section to fund a particular piece of equipment or to be able to run specific activities.

💡 TOP TIP

You can record Income and Expenditure on OBM using the 'Invoicing' functionality under 'Section Admin'. This allows you to record money going in or out and export records to present to your Treasurer, and is ideal for using for Camps and other events.

Involve the children and young people in determining how money should be set, coming up with fundraising challenges and in deciding what funds should be raised for.

Managing the Finances in the Company

It's important to keep a close eye on the finances of the Company and for most this will be the role of the Treasurer. Appoint someone with the necessary skills to be Treasurer, remembering they do not have to be registered leader so long as they are not working with children and young people.

💡 TOP TIP

Consider putting together a budget and allocating a budget to each section or for specific areas of expenditure.



Remember it isn't the Treasurer's remit to act as sole decision maker on how funds are spent. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure funds are spent wisely, but it is hoped that all leaders would have some involvement in decision making when it comes to the finances of the Company.



Download our **Fundraising Guide** which contains advice and ideas for fundraising in the Company at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/fundraisingguide.pdf

If you have identified the need to do some fundraising, could you consider setting up a fundraising group or Parents/Friends group to assist with fundraising to not put all the pressure on Company Leaders.

Keeping thousands of pounds in the bank (for a rainy day) isn't necessarily the best approach - it is ok (and will often be right) to spend money on enhancing and expanding the programme of activities you offer.

Good Financial Governance

It is important you have good financial governance in place, check through the good practice guidelines below:

- ✓ Keep accurate records of all money coming in – you could use a weekly record sheet to do this, download a template at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/recordsheet.pdf.
- ✓ Keep accurate records of expenditure including all receipts and claim expenses in a timely manner.
- ✓ Ensure accounts are produced annually and monitored during the year.
- ✓ Compare income & expenditure with previous years so you can make comparisons and to assist with future budgeting.
- ✓ Make sure the Company has its own separate bank account, you should not be operating from a personal bank account.
- ✓ It is always best practice to require two signatures on any cheques, and payments via internet banking should replicate this policy. Do not sign blank cheques.
- ✓ Keep an inventory of all equipment and assets owned by the Company.
- ✓ Ensure that the Company Accounts are independently reviewed each year (and filed with the church accounts if required).
- ✓ Check if you are required to register independently as a charity with The Charity Commission (England & Wales), OSCR (Scotland) and The Charity Commission NI (Northern Ireland).

If you have any questions please contact BB Headquarters or your Regional Headquarters who will be able to offer additional support and advice.

Moderator Visits World Mission Fund Project

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, recently visited Kenya to see how fundraising by BB & GB Companies in Scotland is helping young people in the East African country.

Last session's 'Kit for Kenya' World Mission Fund Appeal raised £10,000 to help provide much needed uniform for BB and GB members. During his visit, Dr Barr paid a visit to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa's new Brigade centre at Ngenda, which is only the start of exciting plans for the future of the Brigade. The Moderator also handed over the cheque on behalf of BB & GB Scotland.

Commenting on his trip, Dr Barr said "As well as a cheque from the Brigade in Scotland (£10,000), I brought gifts and a letter of greetings and good wishes from Bill Stevenson, the Brigade Secretary. We all helped to plant a number of trees in celebrations of our visit and over lunch I had the opportunity to meet and chat with some of the most delightful youngsters you could hope to meet. It was so good to see the Brigade continues to offer activity, friendship and a sure and steadfast anchor for young people today."



 Find out more about World Mission Fund at worldmissionfund.org.uk

Global Fellowship Update

The Executive Committee of Global Fellowship met at Felden Lodge to look at ways to implement its recently adopted three-year strategic plan.

The plan's main focus is:

To support our member organisations to provide a positive and engaging experience for their young people

Thus the emphasis of our work will be with senior staff and Board members of national organisations to develop their capacity to best deliver their organisational objectives.

The Committee sees the Consulting Partners' programme linking skilled key volunteers with organisations in a geographical area as a significant factor in supporting members address strategic development. Linked to this, the Investing in Member Organisations grants programme was reviewed to include other forms of support required as well as finance. Finance is often critical, but by itself does not guarantee sustainable development. The two programmes will become more interconnected as Consulting Partners support organisations to submit viable grant applications and also play a monitoring role in project implementation.



There is much to be thankful for and news was shared of the recently started Brigade work in Mozambique. Our colleagues there are seeking to expand provision and have requested further support with training, translation of materials into Portuguese and access to uniforms. GF is co-ordinating help from neighbouring countries and is grateful to BB Zambia for its leadership. There was also positive news from the Caribbean area with Boys' Brigade started in the Turks Islands thanks to an initiative from The Bahamas. Also in the region, Brigade work on Anguilla has seen a recent upsurge in interest and GF will support workshops for leaders highlighting the island's success and methods used at the Caribbean Camp to be held in Antigua in July where hopefully this will act as a catalyst for resurgence amongst the other islands.

Your prayers and support for the work of GF are gratefully acknowledged and should there be any particular pieces of work you would like to find more about or could assist in any way, then don't hesitate to get in touch with Steve Dickinson at steve@globalfellowship.net

Global Round-up

A snapshot of what is going on in BB and Global Fellowship member organisations around the globe



Richard Harkness, President of The Boys' Brigade and Iconz New Zealand, was the honoured guest of Reverend Taufua Filiai of The Boys Brigade Tonga. Tonga is a kingdom of more than 170 islands in the South Pacific and the visit was an opportunity to meet leaders and hear of their plans to grow BB in Tonga, including understanding something of the challenges they face. BB Australia has recently provided leadership training for BB Officers in Tonga.



Year 2 members of 12th Singapore Company had a great time getting their kayaking badge.



A smart turnout in Queensland, Australia for their first Company Church Parade of the year.



A group of young people and leaders from 1st Howick BB and Iconz Company in New Zealand before they set off on a tramp in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.



379 Junior Boys from 42 Companies in Singapore formed 86 teams to participate in the 2017 BB Adventure Quest which featured a range of games and activities.





Members of 1st Brunei Company showing off their awards presented at their Annual Enrolment Service.

GET INVOLVED



**EMPOWER A CHILD
TO OVERCOME POVERTY**

 /CompassionUK
 @CompassionUK


Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

Compassion

Ella Dickinson from Compassion UK shares with us more about their work, the impact it's having across the globe and how BB Companies can get involved.

Who is Compassion?

Compassion is an international child development charity with over 60 years' experience working with some of the world's poorest children. At present, more than 1.8 million children attend Compassion's church-based projects in 25 of the world's poorest countries.



Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Poverty robs children of their God-given potential. Working through the local church, Compassion restores children's hope for the future as it gives them access to education, medical care and the spiritual and emotional support that every child needs.

Compassion sponsored children are protected from traffickers, child labour, early marriage and FGM. Independent research shows that a Compassion-supported child stays in school longer than his or her peers and is more likely to have a salaried job when they grow up.

Everything Compassion does is about ensuring the children in their care are known, loved and protected. Many of Compassion's graduates have gone on to have careers they would never have dreamt of and have become leaders in their communities and churches and are helping to shape their nations.



100,000+ CHILDREN
WERE HELPED TO GO TO SCHOOL
THANKS TO UK SPONSORS



12-year-old Elmer, Angel and Cristian all attend the same Compassion project in Bolivia. Their friendship was forged over a love of sport, football in particular. Every week you can find them playing together at their Compassion project, it's smiles all round when one of them scores a goal.

"We became friends 5 years ago when we entered the program when we were 7, Cristian and Angel are with me in the good and the bad times. We tell each other our problems, and we support and encourage each other. We share our secrets too. We pray for each other. Sometimes we pray together, for example, when Cristian was injured." Says Elmer.

How can you help?

You can sponsor a child

Compassion's approach is a personal one, working with the local church, we link a child living in poverty with a loving sponsor. As a sponsor, you give your child the chance to attend school and a church-based Compassion project. At the project, your sponsored child is given nutritious food, health check-ups, biblical teaching and additional life-skills. What's more, through sponsorship, you'll encourage your child through your letters and prayers showing them they are loved and significant, when their circumstances or environment might tell them otherwise.

NEARLY
11,000
CHILDREN
WERE SPONSORED
IN 2016



Could your Company sponsor a child?

It costs just £25 a month to sponsor a child. Consider how your Company could sponsor a child and how you can change their life forever. Could you do a weekly collection with the young people donating a small amount each week?



Find out more about sponsoring a child at compassionuk.org/sponsorship/

You can pray

Globally, almost 385 million children are living in extreme poverty. Prayer is a powerful and effective way you can help us fight the injustice of poverty and your commitment to pray will make all the difference. Please pray for the children in our projects, that through Compassion their lives will be transformed. Please also pray for all the project staff who work hard to love and support the children in their care and for our 7,000 church partnerships around the world who are faithfully serving their communities. Check out Prayer updates and blogs at compassionuk.org/pray-connect/



You can volunteer

We have volunteers from all walks of life who are passionate about transforming the lives of children living in poverty. There are many ways you can volunteer with Compassion. You can volunteer at a church event, conference or concert. Here, you will get the chance to chat to people about the life-changing impact of sponsorship in the lives of children around the world.

You could also use your passion to inspire and challenges those within your sphere of influence by speaking with your friends or church group about the difference Compassion makes and encourage them to sponsor.

You can fundraise

There are all sorts of unique and creative ways you can raise money for Compassion's programmes, such as having a bake sale or taking part in sporting events or for the more adventurous you could take part in one of our Compassion Challenges.

Find out more about the Compassion Challenges and fundraising ideas at compassionuk.org/get-involved/fundraise/

One child at a time, Compassion is fighting poverty, and it is winning the battle.






Find out more about the work of Compassion at compassionuk.org

APPROVED CAMPSITES

The following sites have been officially approved, having met Guidelines laid down by the Brigade, and local Fire and Public Health Authorities.

Auchengillan Outdoor Centre in the Central Scottish Highlands offers camping and modern indoor accommodation. There are many challenging and adventurous activities (on and off-site) and lots of places of interest to visit.




Contact:

 01360 770256
 centre@auchengillan.com
 www.auchengillan.com

Norfolk / Felden Lodge Campsites




2018/2019 BB canvas campsites (operated by 10th Enfield) fully equipped for up to 80 (smaller camps welcome) in West Runton (North Norfolk) and at Felden Lodge, BBHQ (Hertfordshire).

Contact:

 Chris Norman on 07703 571915
 chris@boys-brigade.org.uk
 10enfield.boys-brigade.org.uk

Honeyhill Camp (NW Kent Battalion) 12 acres Bearsted Maidstone. Open from Easter to October. Small and large camps welcome. Showers, toilets, building with large kitchen, sports facilities. Canvas for hire or bring your own.




Contact:

 Andy Foster on 07946 163176
 honeyhill@boys-brigade.org.uk
 honeyhill.boys-brigade.org.uk

West Midland District Camping Centre,



Dyffryn Ardudwy 3 fully equipped canvas sites available for mixed camps. Main centre site caters up to 90 people with dormitory accommodation for 40. 2 smaller sites cater up to 50 people.

Contact:

 Jamie Copson on 01905 480 955
 info@bbcamping.co.uk
 www.bbcamping.co.uk



Vectis Youth Camps Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight. Two self-contained campsites with permanent kitchens, showers and toilets. All tenting equipment included. Ideal for organised camps of between 25 and 250 people for weekend and weeklong camps.

Contact:

 Dettie Quirke on 07582 429929
 info@vectisouthcamps.org

Craggan Outdoor Centre, on the shores of Loch Tay, Perthshire. A great Centre for camps of all ages, with disabled access, sleeps 29 and is self-catering. Ideal for outdoor and water activities with own canoes and jetty.



Contact:

 0131 551 1200 ext 20
 craggan@thebb-edinburgh.org.uk

Coopers Mead Campsite, Whitecliff Bay,




Isle of Wight. Traditional camping at its very best and at a reasonable cost! Weeks available in 2018 and beyond.

Contact:

 Ted Walliss 01737 352732
 edwardwalliss@btinternet.com




Broadleas, Haytor, Devon Indoor sleeps 30, 2 staff bedrooms sleep 5. Showers etc. kitchen, dining hall. Camping for 55. Tents provided. Equipped kitchen, dining hall, showers etc. Outdoor pool, large hall.

Contact:

 Diana Dale on 01452 615072
 broadleas@boys-brigade.org.uk
 broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk

Popular BB approved campsite at **Freshwater, Isle of Wight.** Fully equipped for 60 (approx), canvas tents/marquee, purpose built toilet block, cookhouse. Minimum charge 20 campers (£750). Close to safe sandy beaches and leisure centre. Enquiries contact Jon Tickle.




Contact:

 07770 795701
 freshwatercamping@gmail.com
 www.freshwatertrust.com

Bromley Battalion Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, IOW



Large & small marquees, traditional ridge tents. Purpose built Cookhouse/QM; Shower & Toilet block (M/F) Mains Gas & Electricity. At competitive prices, catering for 40 to 120.

Contact:

 Keith Francis on 01474 705485
 bromley_campsite@outlook.com
 www.bbcampsite.co.uk

Brixham, Devon Fully equipped for 60 persons 14' x 14' ridge tents plus 70' x 30' Marquee & 30' x 13' Toilet tent all in white canvass. Bookings now for 2017.




Contact:

 01935 422292
 graham.voizey@btinternet.com

CAMPING/HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES




Near Blackpool at Kirkham in the Rural Fylde North West District. Training & Activity Centre provides excellent indoor self-catering accommodation. Centenary Hall 44. Stedfast Lodge 16 plus a camping field and sports hall (see aerial view).

Contact:

Wardens, The Boys' Brigade, Carr Lane, Treales, Kirkham, PR4 3SS
 01772 685000
 office@bb-northwest.org.uk
 www.bb-northwest.org.uk

Well Road Centre, Moffat, Scotland. Fully equipped self-catering for up to 70. 13 bedrooms. Separate shower/toilet areas. 2 meeting rooms, spacious kitchen and dining room. Indoor games hall.




Contact:

 01683 221040
 ben8363@aol.com
 www.wellroadcentre.co.uk

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centre's and items wanted or for sale should be sent to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk. Advertisements for the next issue (Summer 2017) should be received by 1st June 2017. All advertisements are based on up to 225 characters (including spaces and punctuation) plus contact details (phone number, email and website address) at a cost of £10 per issue.




Greenmoor Residential Centre S35 7DX. Reopened after extensive refurbishment. Flexible sleeping in 6 rooms for 30 Accessible facilities, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 showers, toilets, washroom, games room, staff room, projection equipment, heating, 15 minutes M1 and dark peak

Contact Mark Boswell:

 Mark Boswell (bookings) 07760111615
 Tony Drury-Smith 07930177764
 Greenmoor Centre

Dyffryn Campsite, Nr Barmouth, Nth Wales. Fully equipped for up to 60 people, operated by 1st Nth Wales Company. Purpose built cookhouse, dining hall, & shower/toilet block, with traditional ridge tents & caravan on site.




Contact:

 01978 761105
 admin@caergwrlebb.org.uk
 www.caergwrlebb.org.uk

The Boys' Brigade takes no responsibility for statements made in any advertisements here or elsewhere in the BB Gazette.

Abernethy Adventure Centres. Visit one of our 4 Outdoor Adventure Centres in Scotland with your Battalion/Company for an activity filled all inclusive weekend. Visit the weekends section of our website for more information




Contact:

 Karen Edmondson on 01479 818005
 marketing@abernethy.org.uk
 www.abernethy.org.uk

Christian Mountain Centre, North Wales

Can provide residential accom. or just activities for your BB camp. Try anything from archery to climbing, paddleboarding to gorge walking (a BB favourite). On the coast near Dyffryn Ardudwy.

Contact:



 01341 241718
 office@cmcadventure.org.uk
 www.cmcadventure.org.uk

Stoke Gabriel Camp 2017

All white canvas camp set in secluded private site close to Paignton, Brixham and Torquay. Modern porta loos on site with



shower facilities on adjacent site. Cook tent and large marquee.

Contact:

 Clive Gordon 07718 761150
 cliveg04@yahoo.co.uk

The Albert Wilson Memorial Field, Prestatyn, North Wales - Two camping areas each with cookhouses/toilets/shower. One field is suitable for up to 36, and our main field with new refurbished cookhouse for larger groups. Marquee and Tents available.




Contact:

 bookings@prestatyncampsite.co.uk
 www.prestatyncampsite.co.uk

Peak District – Leslie Johnson Centre

Warslow Near to Alton Towers. Fully equipped self catering for up to 31 people. Lounge, dining and games rooms, showers etc. playground & garden. 2 staff bedrooms sleep 7. Open all year.

Contact:

 Kevin Ford on 01782320287
 kevinford@yahoo.co.uk
 northstaffs.boys-brigade.org.uk

ACTIVITY BREAKS & CAMPS LOCHRANZA CENTRE ISLE OF ARRAN



The Lochranza Centre offers a **comfortable & affordable** base on the Isle of Arran. **Easily accessible** by direct train through Glasgow & ferry from Ardrossan. We offer a wide range of **adventure activities** including canoes, orienteering, archery & abseiling. Our accommodation includes **twin en suites** & bunk rooms. Lounges, drying room, shop & games room on site. Healthy, **home cooked** meals.

WEEKEND STAYS FROM £99.99



Email: info@lochranzacentre.co.uk
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Abernethy Glen Kin

BUNKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION IN RURAL ARGYLL

A 24 bed self-catered bunkhouse near Dunoon, with space for outdoor games. Glen Kin is a great place to bring your Company to get away from it all.

 For more information email glenkin@abernethy.org.uk or call 01567 820523

WWW.ABERNETHY.ORG.UK

YELLOW HI-VIS JACKET

Yellow Hi-Vis Vest with reflective tape with BB 'adventure begins here' logo on back and left breast. Conforms with standard EN471. 100% polyester.

XXS 85-88cm 7-9 years (183010)	L 108-112cm (183031)
XS 89-91cm (183000) 10-13 years	XL 116-122cm (183041)
S 92-96cm (183011)	XXL 124-132cm (183051)
M 100-104cm (183021)	

Larger sizes available - prices on application (Tel 01442 231681 ext 215).



£3 -
£5

I FILE HANDBOOK

Product: 31 148 1



£4

The I-File Handbook is for the Discover and Challenge Plus programmes (11 - 18). Contains info about The Boys' Brigade, the programmes and awards, and a section to record progress.

ANCHORS RED BASEBALL CAP

Product: 18 600 0



£6

Red baseball cap with the Anchors logo in white. 100% cotton. One size fits all.

A Juniors Blue Baseball Cap is also available. Product 11 710

FOLDABLE WATER BOTTLE

Product: 11 687 1

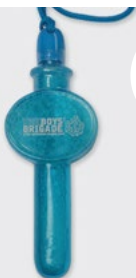


£1.75

Blue reusable, collapsible water bottle, eco-friendly. Fits into pockets, backpacks, especially when travelling or hiking. Made of durable strong plastic, comes with karabiner to clip to your belt loop or back pack.

LANYARD BUBBLE BLOWER

Product: 11 211 1



£1.50

Bubble blower on a lanyard featuring the BB 'adventure begins here' logo.

CHEERING STICKS (PACK OF 2)

Product: 11 697 1



£1.50

Inflatable cheering sticks which when hit together make a loud clapping noise. Supplied in pairs with inflating straw. Navy blue printed on both sides with 'adventure begins here' logo.

FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

Product: 11 697 1



£1.30

A badge to commemorate WW1, available to wear out of uniform. In a silver colour finish with brooch fitting. WWI Commemorative Badge, part of an award scheme, is also available (Product: 02 515 1) at £1.30.

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Also available at local depots around the UK (See Supplies Catalogue or Website)