

GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** | **SPRING 2015**

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE

Spring 2015: April 2015

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.

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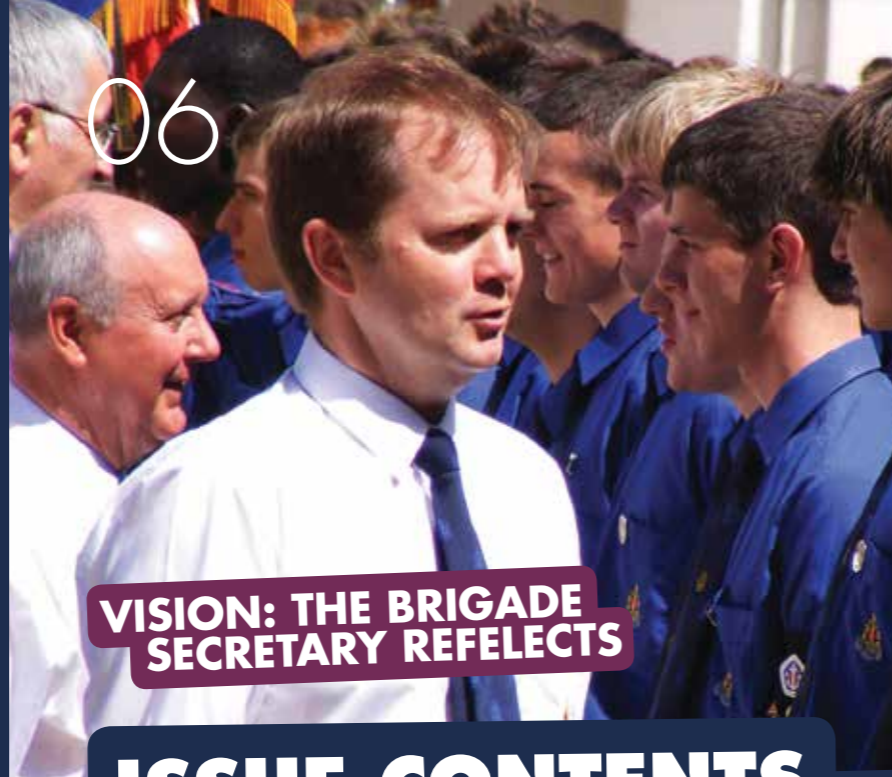
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VISION: THE BRIGADE SECRETARY REFELECTS

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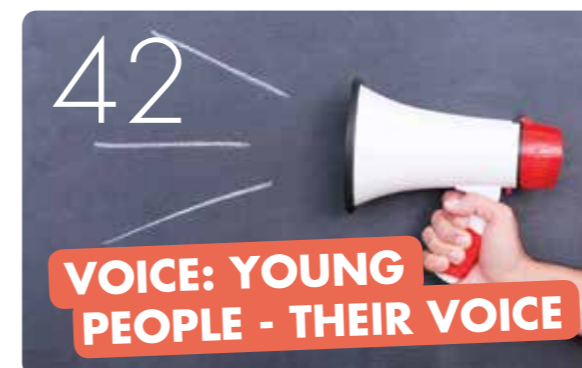
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TOOLBOX: FREE PLAY



TOOLBOX: THE DIGITAL WORLD



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boys-brigade.org.uk/gazette



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We all need someone who believes in us...

That word of encouragement, that pat on the shoulder, usually only known between the recipient and the giver, which makes all the difference.

Many leaders will testify to the effects of that quiet word of praise, that well done, that reassuring nod, on a young person; on their attitude, on their smile and even on their physical stature. Young people who begin to believe in themselves and begin to realise their true worth.

What a great blessing to be considered an encourager.

In January I attended the funeral service of the Rev Dr Ron Frost OBE, taken by the Brigade President at Wesley's Chapel. I first met Ron about ten years ago at the 10th London. He was well into his eighties and was the Company Captain. The Company was meeting in the upper rooms of Archway Methodist Church. Ron was refereeing a football match between ten enormous Seniors, in a crowded room surrounded by piles of chairs with a few buckets catching the water dripping in from the leaking roof. Ron blew his whistle and gave a goal. It wasn't a goal, I knew it wasn't a goal and the lads certainly knew it wasn't a goal. But the game stopped, one of these colossal players brought the ball back to Ron for the re-start and said, "Thank you Mr Frost," and the game continued.

It was some of these same young men who carried the coffin of their Captain and one of them who spoke at the service as an 'honorary grandson'. "He believed in us, he always told us we were good boys."

What a fabulous example of servant leadership.

*A hundred years from now it won't matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove...
but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a CHILD.*

Steve

Steve Dickinson
Brigade Secretary

 **Follow Steve on Twitter**
[@sdickinsonbb](https://twitter.com/sdickinsonbb)



Steve with young people from East Midlands District on their Queen's Badge Completion Residential.

The forgotten words

"Go and make disciples of all nations" are some of the last words spoken by Jesus as recorded in Matthew's gospel.

I wonder where these words fit into your thinking whilst working with young people today? It's been a challenge to me recently. You see, I love youth work. I've been working with young people for well over 15 years now. At Christians in Sport we're gearing for a summer of sports camps activity with hundreds of 11-17 year olds. Working with young people is fun, it's energetic, it's demanding, it's rewarding.... The list goes on!

But, strip away all of the clutter, all of the peripheral and the secondary. What is our primary task with the young people we work with? Back to the words of Jesus.

Three striking ideas:

- 'Go'.** Jesus doesn't say 'wait' and see if young people come to you. He doesn't say 'stay' and watch folk come flocking your way. Jesus says 'go'. As the disciples were stood in Galilee wondering what next, shortly after (Acts 1v8) they are told that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. There's the challenge – Am I looking to 'go', to keep looking for others to share the good news and share life with? Are you?
- 'Make disciples'.** The concept to 'make disciples' is the primary focus of Jesus' words. His call on every Christian is to go and make life long followers of the Lord Jesus. That in itself is such a task. What does it look like to be a disciple of Jesus? How do we go about making them? Paul gives us a pretty good model (1 Thess 2v8.) He loved these people so much so as to share life and the good news of Jesus with them. He spent time investing, training, having fun, chatting and yet saw it a priority to share the good

news with them too. That's a great model for any church-based youth work as we seek to make disciples of all of our young people. And it doesn't stop there. Making disciples is not just the youth leader's remit, its every disciple's remit. We should be training and encouraging every young person who becomes a Christian to go and make disciples of Jesus themselves. Make disciples who make disciples who make disciples – you get the picture!!!

It's good to stop often in life to remember and thank God for the people that invested in us. Who was it who helped you become a Christian? Who shared life with you and told you about Jesus? My youth leader played a huge part, my best friend too. And so the discipleship relay baton has come to me. Who will I pass it on to? Who will they pass it on to? We're part of the greatest movement in the history of the world.

- 'All nations'.** The place to go and make disciples is 'all nations'. In fact this isn't a place at all. The word nations is 'ethne' from which our word 'ethnic' comes from. This can be translated to 'people groups', different tribes and tongues around the world. It's great working for Christians in Sport and being immersed in the 'nation' of sportspeople and all its many sub-cultures. I think this is my mandate – to go and make disciples of young sports people. I know their language, I understand their culture and I want to bring the good news of Jesus to bear on their lives.

So we have a wonderful mandate and a privileged calling on our lives as Christian leaders. In all your activity and life sharing, don't forget the often forgotten words...but keep 'going to make disciples of young people in your context and culture', for the rewards are immeasurable!!

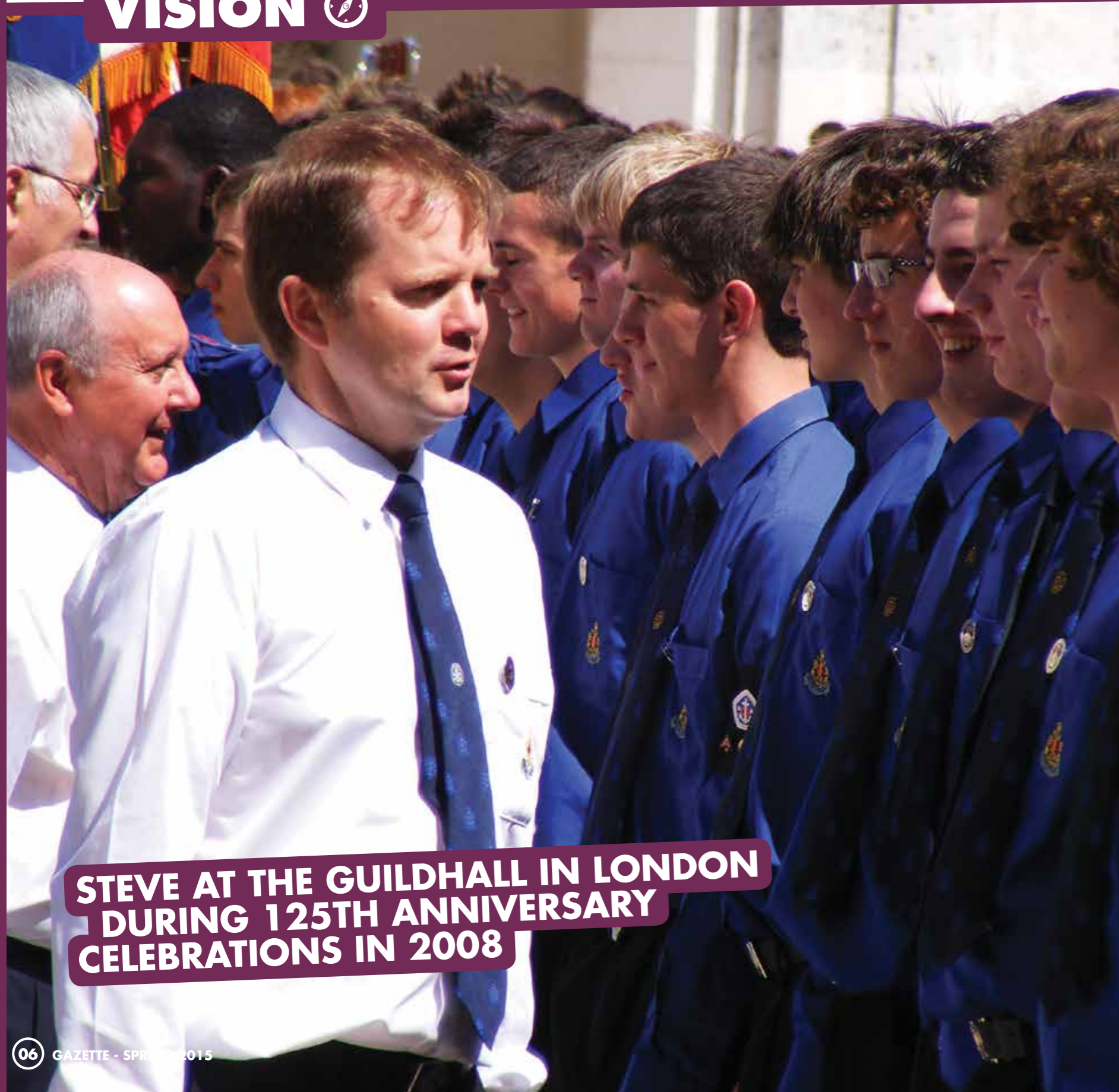
Ian Lancaster
Christians in Sport



Christians in Sport

Our mission is to reach the world of sport for Christ. Christians in Sport has more than 35 years of experience supporting Christians in the world of sport and helping sportspeople explore the Christian message. For more information on who we are and how we can support you.

 **Check out...**
christiansinsport.org.uk



**STEVE AT THE GUILDHALL IN LONDON
DURING 125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS IN 2008**

An immense privilege...

I have been greatly humbled by and appreciative of the kind and thoughtful messages that I have received since the Brigade President announced my resignation at the Brigade Conference in Glasgow last September.

It has been an immense privilege to serve the Brigade in this capacity over the past eleven years and I am most grateful to the support that has been given to me from so many of you.

When I joined the Brigade as a twelve year old in Leeds (a number of years ago!) I never imagined the adventure that was beginning. I am conscious of those significant adults who played such an important part in my formative years, in helping me to become who I am and in determining the values that shape my decisions today.

It would have been quite easy in this position to get drawn into the peripheral, to take your eye off the ball and forget that BB at its essence is an organisation for children and young people, an organisation where individuals are supported to reach their potential and where they begin to realise their true worth as the children of a loving God. That was my experience as a member all those years ago and it is what I have sought to replicate; not the programmes I followed, not the uniform I wore, but the sense of belonging, of being valued and all under-pinned by the challenge of the Gospel. Maintaining my role as a Company Captain has hopefully kept me grounded in this and on my office wall is a picture that reminds me every day. It simply is a copy of the cover of my first Gazette as Brigade Secretary, an Anchor Boy on the back of a Junior with the words overprinted, "What have I done today, that makes it better for these...?"



**"WHAT HAVE I DONE
TODAY, THAT MAKES IT
BETTER FOR THESE...?"**

Article Continued →



STEVE WITH 42ND DUNDEE SENIOR NATIONAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION WINNERS

Over the past few years I have attended some fabulous occasions in glittering locations and met some of society's elite, but there's nothing better at bringing you back down to earth than a member of the Juniors asking, "Are you that bloke we were told we had to behave for?" If only my own Juniors would adhere to this principle!

Obviously there are areas in which I wish I had been able to make more progress. I had hoped that participation and empowerment of young people would have become embedded at all levels of the Brigade and that we would have become more youth led. There are great examples, but sadly I still witness great young talent not being harnessed and released. My intention was also to encourage the Brigade to be more 'at ease with itself'; to engender a spirit of trust and mutual respect between those who do things differently, but sadly only in the last month I heard the comment, 'but it's not proper BB', as if there was such a thing.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Brigade staff. I see at first hand their dedication to the movement and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Thanks also to those men and women who serve the Brigade on Regional Committees and on the Brigade Executive. There have been challenges and joys and they have been diligent in their responsibilities. My particular thanks to the Presidents with whom I have worked; John Neil, Alan Main, Ken Calman and Leslie Griffiths. Each has brought different gifts to the role and I have enjoyed their company and gained from their counsel.

The greatest privilege though has been visiting ordinary Companies across the whole of the Brigade and meeting the young people and leaders. And I mean no disrespect by using the word ordinary, because they are ordinary Companies, but doing extra-ordinary things. I never fail to marvel at the

dedication, commitment and devotion of BB leaders who work tirelessly week by week to make a difference. You do so without expecting any recognition or thanks, but in my final writings for the Gazette I do want to say a massive thank you. Because of the efforts you make, young lives are enriched and nurtured and some, for the first time, catch a glimpse of the creator

Thank you all for your support, prayers and good wishes. I wish you every blessing and success as you continue to advance the Kingdom.



STEVE WITH MEMBERS OF 7TH NORTH STAFFS COMPANY

Steve Dickinson
Brigade Secretary

 **Follow Steve on Twitter**
@sdickinsonbb

INFORMED

LATEST NEWS, REPORTS AND UPDATES
FROM BB HEADQUARTERS

Appointment of New Chief Executive and Brigade Secretary

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Johnston as the Brigade's new Chief Executive and Brigade Secretary.

Over his 30 year career, Andrew has been involved with Christian organisations, including the Methodist Church and Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and has amassed a wealth of commercial development, strategy, fundraising and communications experience.



ANDREW JOHNSTON

Andrew is 51, was born in Rugby, Warwickshire and grew up in Fleet, Hampshire before studying at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. Andrew lived in Tottenham, London for a number of years before moving back to Fleet where he currently lives, he has two grown up sons, Gregg and Tim. He is a member of Fleet Methodist Church, where he currently serves on the Leadership Team. Andrew's interests include skiing, cycling, tennis, running, travelling and supporting Tottenham Hotspur.

Taking up his position on Monday 13th July 2015, Andrew will be succeeding Steve Dickinson who took up the post in 2004. Steve is going on to be the new CEO of The Global Fellowship of Christian Youth - the international family of uniformed Christian youth organisations of which The Boys' Brigade is a part.

All requests or invitations for the new Chief Executive / Brigade Secretary should be addressed to Brigade Headquarters.

Make a Difference Awards 2015

Celebrating inspirational children & young people

Have you considered nominating a child or 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 recognize commitment through the Go Make a Difference awards to acknowledge, encourage, reward and most importantly promote the positive achievements of our young people.


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




NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD ARE OPEN UNTIL END OF JUNE 2015

Brigade Staff Appointments

Please note the following recent appointments / changes to Brigade Staff:

 **Natalie Whipday** has been appointed as the Development Worker for Greater Manchester, following the resignation of Mitch Jones and will take up her post in April for a period of 12 months.

 **John Myers (Project Manager) and Martin Fuller** have been appointed as Rural Schools and Community Development Workers in Yorkshire and Mid/North Wales respectively and will take up their posts in April/May until July 2016.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY 26TH SEPT TO 4TH OCT 2015



Our Community Week

'Our Community' Week will take place from Saturday 26th September to Sunday 4th October 2015. It's all about making a difference in our communities, through a nationally coordinated initiative with a truly local impact.

Children and young people across all age groups can get involved in age appropriate activities, working together on something big or independently each age group might set its own goals/objectives. As well as making a difference in our local communities, it is an opportunity to raise awareness of BB locally.

We know that many of you are already engaging with and making a positive impact in your local community, and this initiative is

not to undermine the fantastic work that is already going on, but all about building on what you are already doing, and if possible planning some of these initiatives to coincide with the 'Our Community' week, to boost the impact of this weeklong initiative.

Each Company is challenged to get involved by planning activities to take place during the week. This could be supporting a local charity in some way, perhaps by raising money or providing hands-on support, it could be cleaning up a local space like a park by doing a litter pick or removing graffiti, it could be getting green fingered and doing some gardening to brighten up a space in your community, it could be running an event/activity for older people in the community such as a dinner/tea or organising an IT skills workshop, or anything else you and your young people can think of!

Remember this is a great time of the year to welcome new members to all age groups, so could your recruiting activities from part of this week?

So, when planning your programme for next session, consider how you could build in activities between 26th September and 4th October 2015, to make difference in our communities.

More information and resources will be released by email over the coming months and the Summer issue of the Gazette will include a pack to help you get going.



If you have any questions send an email to:
ourcommunityweek@boys-brigade.org.uk



Competition Time: Christmas Card

Could your children and young people design a new Christmas card for BB Supplies ready for sale later this year?

Christmas might seem a long time away, but to allow time for this competition and then for production of the chosen designs we need to get moving.

The competition is open to all children and young people, with three age groups, being under 8's, 8-11's and over 11's. There will be one winner in each age group with the three winning designs being put together and sold as part of a pack of cards.



All entries must be received at BB Headquarters by Friday 26th June 2015.



For information download the competition information and template at:
boys-brigade.org.uk/christmas15comp.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 Bentilee	Sharon Gwilt-Bowen	St. Steven's Community Church, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
1 st Bognor	James Munro	Elim Pentecostal Church, Bognor Regis, West Sussex
4 th Bournemouth	Mark Inkpen	St. Christopher's Church, Bournemouth, Dorset
37 th Bristol	Helen Kiroro	RCCG Glory of God Parish Church, Bristol
5 th Dagenham	Ayotunde Oluwamakinde	RCCG City of Goshen Church, Dagenham, Essex
6 th Dagenham	Kaycee Dappa	RCCG Redemption Light, Dagenham, Essex
1 st Hanley	Neil Keighery	All Saints Church, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
1 st Llay	James Williams	Caergwrie Methodist Church, Llay, North Wales
1 st Longton	Sandra Lockett	St. Mary & St. Chad Church, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
24 th Luton	Adedeji Oyawoye	RCCG Victory Centre for all Nations, Luton, Bedfordshire
25 th Luton	Rita Effeyota	RCCG Kingdom Builders Family, Luton, Bedfordshire
1 st St. Helens	John Paul	Ormskirk URC, St. Helens, Merseyside
54 th Manchester	Mark Williams	Elmwood Church, Salford, Greater Manchester
1 st Teignmouth	Sue Pallett	Teignmouth URC, Teignmouth, Devon
1 st Thornton Heath	Francis J. Beke	RCCG De-Vine Sanctuary, Croydon, Surrey
1 st Windy Nook	James Smyth	Windy Nook Methodist Church, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear
1 st Wrexham (Trinity)	Sara Hallam	Trinity Church, Wrexham, North Wales



Go Make a Difference Award Winner

Congratulations to Robbie McLean of the 5th Hamilton Company on receiving a Make a Difference Award. Robbie received the award for helping others in his local community where he carried out in excess of 200 hours at Ups and Downs theatre group – an organisation that enables those with Downs Syndrome to rehearse and perform an annual musical show. As a huge Motherwell FC fan he was thrilled to be presented with the award by Manager Ian Baraclough and Club Captain Keith Lasley.

Recognised in New Year's Honours

The Brigade congratulates the following leaders who were recognised in HM The Queen's New Year Honours:

Denis Stuart MacGregor, Lieutenant 14th Nottingham who was awarded the MBE for services to The Boys' Brigade and to the community in Nottingham.

John Michael Wilson, Lieutenant 11th Birmingham for services to the community in Kingstanding, Birmingham.

Cenotaph Parade Whitehall

If any Company would like to apply for tickets to attend the Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall, London, in November this year, (Company Section age upwards).



Please contact Jan Williamson at BB Headquarters
jan.williamson@boys-brigade.org.uk



GET YOUR BB WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY BADGE

World War 1 Commemorative Badge

The Brigade Executive has approved a badge to be awarded to young people commemorating the centenary of WW1.

The badge is based on the design of the First World War National Service Badge. The aim of the badge is for young people to understand something of our history, to explore the concepts of conflict and peace and to provide opportunities for social action.

The badge is available to be awarded to any young person member of the Brigade by participating in an age appropriate activity related to the First World War. The awarding of the badge is at the discretion of the local Company.

The badge will be available from BB Supplies until the end of the 2018/19 session, but can be gained only once by a young person. The Executive is looking at the current badge layout and will determine at its next meeting where the badge will be worn.

There will also be a plain silver badge that can be purchased and worn out of uniform. The badges are available to order from BB Supplies from April onwards (see back page for details).

A selection of programme ideas that could be used:

- Learn about the role of BB members in WW1
- Discuss the acts of valour by former BB members awarded the Victoria Cross
- Research how your own BB Company operated in war time or the experience of an individual family member
- Visit the local war memorial and reflect on the experience
- Take part in a Service of Remembrance
- Consider the words of Jesus, "Blessed are the Peace Makers for they will be called the children of God"
- Provide practical service to a veteran
- Be involved in a fund raising project for a service charity

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.

Malcolm Ian Baxter	3 rd Lytham St Annes
Philip John Fox MBE	7 th Hounslow
Eric Hitcham	16 th East Durham
The Venerable Robert L Metcalf	31 st Liverpool
Rev Ronald Frost OBE	10 th London

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

Join us in Wolverhampton

The Brigade Conference will take place in Wolverhampton on Saturday 5th September and will feature a full programme of workshops and worship as well as the Annual General Meeting of The Boys' Brigade.

For more details about the conference including booking accommodation and other activities surrounding the event please visit the website or contact the England Office on 01442 288 558 / brigade.conference15@boys-brigade.org.uk

Please visit: boys-brigade.org.uk/conference2015

Brigade Council - Annual General Meeting

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Annual General Meeting Of The Boys' Brigade will Be Held at the University of Wolverhampton, City Campus, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB on Saturday September 5th at 2.00pm to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions, all of which are being proposed as ordinary resolutions.



AGM Agenda

- To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- To confirm the annual capitation fee for 2015/16 session as agreed at Brigade Council in Glasgow 6th September 2014 and to fix the annual capitation fees for the 2016/17 session as proposed below.

Capitation Fees for 2016/17

The Capitation Fee structure with effect from 1st September 2016 is:

CATEGORY		FEE
Annual Company registration fee		£135
Fee per young person		£13.25
Officer fee	Company Officers	£27.00
	(second officer at the same address)	£22.00
	Battalion & District Officers not on Company roll	£27.00
	Officers in receipt of state retirement pension	£21.00
	Officers in full time education or training	£21.00
Helper Fee		£13.25

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 £1,650.00

- To reappoint Whiting and Partners as auditors of The Boys' Brigade and authorise the Brigade Executive to fix their remuneration.
- To appoint Brigade Office Bearers for 2015/16 session as follows:

President:	Lord Griffiths of Burry Port
Vice-Presidents:	Mr A S Burrow Mr T W P Donaldson Mr M J Smith
Treasurer:	Mr C Bygrave
Chaplain:	The Very Rev'd Andrew McLellan CBE

- Motion in the name of the Brigade Executive
In Brigade Regulations, section 3 – The Organisation – Regulations and Procedures delete clauses 10 and 11 and replace with new clauses 10 and 11. Add new clause 61.8

10) Each Company shall be part of a Church or Christian Organisation approved by the Region. Such Church or Christian Organisation shall be responsible for the Christian education of the Company. With the consent of the Region, a Company may be connected with an institution, school or club, provided that adequate arrangements are made for the Christian education of its members.

11) For any prospective new Company the Church or other body will submit the Company Registration Form to the Regional Headquarters. The Region, having taken the view of the Battalion, will determine whether or not the Brigade should register the Company and this will be communicated to the church or other body. On the registration form, the new Company will indicate the name by which it will be known. Should there be any objection; the Region will determine the Company's name.

61.8) The registration of Companies within the Region.

These changes clarify the process of registration of a Company.

6 Motion in the name of the Scotland Regional Committee

Following the Brigade Executive's discussions on "Resourcing the Regions", the Brigade Executive is instructed to bring detailed proposals with a timescale for change to Brigade Council in 2016, to allow the Brigade in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland to move to a federal structure, which would allow autonomy in the Regions.

7 To transact any other lawful business

By order of the Brigade Executive

Steven Dickinson - Brigade Secretary 1st March 2015

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 July Gazette and, if used, should be returned to the Company's Registered Office not later than 2.00pm on Thursday 3rd September 2015.

Registered Office: The Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 0BL Registered Company No.: 145122 Registered Charity No.: 305969

YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS

World Record Officially confirmed!

Well done lads... We are delighted to announce that The Boys' Brigade in Scotland has been confirmed as Official Guinness World Record Holders for the longest ever game of five a-side football.

The actual event took place in September last year and it has been a long 6 month wait to get official confirmation. The official record title is 'Longest marathon playing five-a-side football (soccer)' and is recorded with a time of 55 hours. On the confirmation of the World Record, Scotland National football manager Gordon Strachan was on hand to congratulate the team at Hampden Park.



Check out the Official Guinness World Records website:
guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/



Cheslyn Hay BB @CheslynHayBB
Great day on @Cannock_Chase today brushing up on @dofe nav skills with Wolverhampton Battalion @theboysbrigade



5km Run for Red Nose Day

Thirteen members of the 10th Enfield Company have raised over £300 for Comic Relief after collectively running 5km. The boys started out by watching the Comic Relief fundraising video on YouTube and thinking about how they could help, before setting their sights on doing something to help. After setting the challenge to run 5km, the boys worked hard collecting sponsorship and on their meeting night on 12th March completed the challenge. The money raised for Red Nose Day will help people living unimaginably tough lives across the UK and Africa.



London Young People come together to celebrate

Young people from across London came together at Kensington Town Hall on Saturday 7th March for the annual Jack Petchey Celebration. More than 40 young people and 4 leaders were presented with their Jack Petchey Achievement Awards.



Glasgow Cleans Up

Members of the 5th Glasgow Company ran a fund raising car wash event which helped to raise nearly £7000 for church funds. Local company Copely Developments Ltd supported the car wash event by donating equipment to make the event possible and ensure that every penny that was collected on the day went to support their church, St. John's-Renfield.



Dunblane BB @dunblanebb
St. Blane's Church in #Dunblane was full of #BoysBrigade boys and families on Sunday for our church parade



All aboard for Portsmouth Adventure

Members of 1st Chandler's Ford took the train down to Portsmouth for a day out. The group reached new heights when they went up the Spinnaker Tower, over 170 m above Portsmouth Harbour and The Solent. Whilst in town they also visited the Blue Reef Aquarium.



Malvern Gold Rush

In January eleven members of the 1st Malvern Boys' Brigade & 7th Malvern Girls' Brigade received their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards from Mrs Harriett Baldwin MP at a ceremony held in Malvern Theatre. Mrs Baldwin spoke to each recipient and learnt about his or her expeditions as well as their plans for the future. The girls had undertaken back packing in the Black Mountains while the boys cycled over 140 miles and climbed several thousand metres along the northern Pennines range.



1st Nottingham visit Sheriff

Members of the Company had the opportunity to have tea, cakes and a tour of the Nottingham Council House with the Sheriff of Nottingham, Councillor Jackie Morris.



Crazy hair fundraising in Tralee

On February 27th, members of 1st Tralee took part in the Today FM's Shave or Dye or Oh My! Campaign. This annual fundraiser collects money for the Irish Cancer Society's free cancer services. On the night members gave each other, their leaders and some parents, a crazy hair make over, raising €125. Then on March 17th the Company took part in Tralee's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Young First Aiders

19 Young people from 7 Companies across Nottingham took part in a new First Aid Competition. Well done to Ellie Holland of the 1st Nottingham who came 1st place achieving 45 out of 50 marks, and was presented with the new Eric Hawkins Shield.



1st Dearham raise money for Hospice

Members of the 1st Dearham Company raised £503.31 for Hospice at Home West Cumbria.

SNAPSHOTS



7TH EDINBURGH WIN BATTALION QUIZ



STIRLING BATTALION SENIORS BUBBLE FOOTBALL



1ST CHARLEMONT JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY WINNERS



35TH LIVERPOOL PIZZA MAKING



3RD FALKIRK FOOTBALLERS



9th Route pink night raises £700 for children's cancer unit fund

In February 2014 young Adam Gordon a member of the 9th Route Anchors was diagnosed with leukaemia. The Officers and boys in the Company wanted to help so they decided to run a special non uniform night when everyone in the Company wore something pink and gave a donation. The pink night, as it became known, was an outstanding success with boys, parents and members of the public all giving most generously.

In February Adam was well enough to return to the Company to receive a cheque for £700 for the Northern Ireland Children's Cancer Unit Fund. Adam was able to meet up with his friends and was able to take part in some of the activities. With most of his treatment behind him he is hoping to get back to school and most of all get back to playing with his Anchor Boy pals at BB!



Finalist in Scottish Youth Worker Awards

Congratulations to Cameron Gray, 1st Cumbernauld Company on being runner-up in National Youth Worker of the Year (uniformed orgs) Award. Cameron was nominated for the award by BB young person, Kyle McCallum, for his work in the Company, in Strathkelvin Battalion and also as part of the Engage a Generation project. On receiving the accolade, Cameron said "It's a fantastic honour. There are a lot of BB people across Scotland doing great work, and to see that recognised through my nomination is a reflection on all of us."



2nd EK Boys Brigade @2ndEK_BB
A great effort to reach the Scottish Final.
#BoysBrigade #AdventureBeginsHere
#BBweekend

MY EXPERIENCE



DofE Gold Experience

Linked to both President's and Queen's Badges, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is one of the most widely recognised non-formal learning awards in the UK.

Attaining a DofE Award, particularly the Gold Award, takes a great deal of commitment, enthusiasm and drive.

We hear the views and experiences of 17 year old Richard Howie of 1st Prestwick Company who has not long since attained the Gold award.

Q What made you go for your DofE Gold in the first place?

A "I completed both Bronze and Silver and decided that it would be beneficial to work to achieve my Gold as I like to continually challenge myself and wanted to further my DofE experience with my peers."

Q What was the toughest part of your DofE experience?

A "Without a doubt the toughest part of my DofE experience was the expedition. The weather was wet and windy for the days that I was away and this made the expedition quite difficult in parts, but this made it even more special when I completed it."

Q As part of your award you helped others in your community. What did you do and how do you think others benefitted?

A "I helped at my school by mentoring the Bronze participants get through their DofE programme. I helped lead camp craft training and map reading work, as well as helping the participants use the e-DofE programme. I also volunteered at my local Marie Curie Cancer care shop."

Q Is there a particular memory which sticks out?

A "After a long, hard, day walking on the expedition, getting into the cosy bothy sitting by the fire having a cup of hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows."

Q Who supported you most to achieve the award and why?

A "Alex Lobban (my DofE coordinator), was the one to make sure that I met all the deadlines and offered me help and support when needed from Bronze right through to Gold."

Q You meet young people unsure whether to take on the challenge of DofE Gold – what would you say to encourage them?

A "Give it a try, it is a rewarding and exciting experience where you will learn many new skills and meet lots of new friends."

Q In one sentence, what did you learn about yourself as you worked towards the award?

A "I learned about endurance, perseverance and self-belief when things are hard and also that I enjoyed being part of a team."

Q You've gained a prestigious achievement, but what's next?!

A "I have just completed my Duke of Edinburgh Leadership Award and I am now currently half way through my KGVI experience."

Q AND... Sum up your DofE Gold experience in three words:

A "Fun, challenging, inspiring!"

RESOURCE



GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the Spring 2015 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



DLTK's Crafts for Kids

A variety of printable children's crafts, colouring pages and activities for 5 to 11 year olds including educational themes.

Check out dltk-kids.com



Great Group Games

Find **great group games** with simple instructions and videos, browse the database of **over 100 + fun group games and activities!**

Check out greatgroupgames.com



Primaryresources.co.uk

Check out a wide range of free lesson plans, activity ideas and resources for those working with 5 to 11 year olds.

Check out primaryresources.co.uk

? The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in St. Helens or Stirling, Tralee or Templepatrick.

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 2015 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:

20 → Anchors

23 → Juniors

26 → Discover

29 → Challenge Plus

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



MAY National Share a Story Month

Get involved in the annual celebration of the power of storytelling and story sharing. This year's theme is 'Dragons' and you can find lots of ideas including books/stories, crafts and games to help you get into this theme on the 'Federation of Children's Book Groups' website.

Check out fcbg.org.uk



5 JUNE Roar into action - Wear it Wild

Get involved in WWF's new nationwide campaign 'Wear it Wild'. The charity is seeking to raise awareness and funds to help support its work in creating a future in which people and nature thrive. Order your free resource pack online with lots of info, ideas and activities. Could you get your group dressing up as lions or their favourite animal?

Check out wwf.org.uk/wild



7 JUNE The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch takes place annually on the first Sunday of 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 13th to 21st June.

Check out thebiglunch.com



21 JUNE 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 Active: Traffic Lights



This is a game which can be played with any number of children. Firstly explain that Red means 'STOP' and when you shout red (or show the red traffic light) then the children must stop and stand still, Amber means 'GO SLOW' (walk slowly) and Green means 'RUN' (run as fast as they can).

Instructions

All children should start at one end of the hall or your meeting space and as commands are given move towards the other end. The first to reach the other end is the winner, although if they do not follow the command correctly or do not do so quickly (you will need to judge this) they will need to restart by going back to the other end of the hall. You could work this game into a theme such as healthy eating by replacing red, amber, green with types of food e.g. chocolate, bread, fruit or other suitable items.



Shared by
Angela Smith, 18th Enfield

Theme Ideas



Ideas to get your children out and about into your church grounds or local outdoor space during your meeting night.

01 Tree & Leaf Faces



Every tree has a face, can you find it? Get the children out in an area with lots of trees, and get them to look for faces in the trees. Can they spot any cheeky grins or googly eyes? A scowling frown or an impish wink? They might have to look really closely, some trees keep them very well hidden. Examine knobbly, swirly bark for eyes, noses and ears. Look for faces peering out from tree stumps. Hunt for characters created by hollows in tree trunks, tangled tree roots or masses of branches and twigs.

Alternatively they could make leaf faces and muddy smiles on tree trunks, stumps or the woodland floor. Let their imagination run wild and create a human face, an animal, a fairy or something completely different. Look for leaves, grass, moss and other items to make eyes, hair, noses, teeth, beards, glasses and ears. Look for different colours, textures, shapes and sizes to really bring the face to life. When finished, they could leave their creations for other visitors to discover. Remember in doing this that the children should be encouraged not to damage trees, plants, etc.

Have a camera ready to take photos as the children find faces in the trees, you could give a prize for the best one.

02 Matchbox Hunt

This can be a team game or one for individuals. Give each child a matchbox and have them collect as many different items as possible. You could offer a prize to the team/individual that collects the greatest number of different items in their matchbox.

03 Tree Countdown

This game needs to be played in an area that has at least five large trees in it. Each tree is given a number from one to five. The child who is 'in' stands with their back to the trees and counts to 20. Each of the other players hides behind a tree so that they cannot be seen. The player who is 'in' turns around and shouts out the number of a tree. Anyone hiding behind that tree is then 'out'. Everyone else is safe. Then the child who is 'in' turns around and counts to 20 again, while those still playing run and hide behind a different tree. And so on, until there is only one hider left!

04 Leaf Characters



Get the children to collect large flat leaves that can be stuck onto lollipop sticks to make a character. The leaves can be painted if desired, before fixing googly eyes. The children can make a range of different characters which could be used to make a drama. Bible passages such as the Good Samaritan could be acted out.

05 Scavenger Hunt

Divide the children into teams and give each team a number of items to collect in a plastic bag. This could be done in the church grounds or on a defined walk through a park or other open space. Items to collect may depend on the area, but could include:

- ★ Feather
- ★ Leaf – of a named tree
- ★ Smooth stone
- ★ Twig

Beware of rubbish, sharp and un-clean objects which may be in and around the area, remind the children not to touch or pick-up such items. If possible you could give each child a disposable glove, but always ensure they wash their hands after the activity.

06 Leaf Printing



Get the children outside to collect some leaves, remind them to choose leaves that are still fresh as leaves that are dried will not work. Make sure that the leaves are dry before using. Dip one side of the leaf into a paint tray or paint one side of the leaf, you could use more than one colour. Carefully apply the painted side of the leaf on to a sheet of paper and peel off slowly. Repeat this with the same or different leaves.

? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... **"We're putting together a summer programme and want to plan some activities outside our meeting place. We would also like to involve parents in some of these. What can we do?"**

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

"We organized a 'nature hunt' on our local common, preparing a booklet for the children to use to identify various things they could see that God had created. Parents were encouraged to come along and join in with their children. We stopped for a 'picnic' of squash and biscuits. They all loved it and the children learned about nature, kept the book of their efforts, and had great fun!"

Gill, 1st Wandsworth

"If you have suitable walkways/cycle paths nearby why not organise a sponsored walk or cycle? You could spice it up to include a mystery tour or even a simple treasure hunt using clues found along the route - either man-made or natural. We've done this sort of thing and enjoyed a picnic enroute. A BBQ with games for the kids on its own is another simple idea. Hope these spark off some ideas that might be of use!"

Katie Rogers, 51st Bonnyrigg

"We had a very successful barbeque evening for both the Anchor and Junior boys where we invited their parents to come along. It gave the parents the opportunity to share in a relaxed setting and also for staff members to get to know them better and build relationships."

Paul Neville, 1st Oadby

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

Send your question to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk and we will feature a question with a number of responses in future issues of the Gazette.

JUNIORS RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



11-15 MAY Christian Aid Week

This Christian Aid Week, go cow crazy with Christian Aid's 'Mooove over, Poverty!' campaign, and learn about the amazing work that's going on in Ethiopia. Find out more and how you could get your group involved.

Check out christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/



31 MAY - 7 JUN RSPCA Week

Find out more about the work of the RSPCA, their work with animals and how your group could get involved.

Check out rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/rspcaweek



22-28 JUN Recycle Week 2015

Get involved in recycling during the annual Recycle Week 2015. Help raise awareness of the need to recycle and consider how you could support recycling at BB or in your Church.

Check out recyclenow.com

Get Active: Ball Dash



Equipment

- ★ Chairs (x3)
- ★ A Hoop
- ★ 5 Light Balls

Setting up:

Place 3 chairs, facing inwards, in a triangle shape at equal distance from each other with a hoop in the middle. Inside the hoop place 5 lightweight balls. Get the children into three teams, each standing behind a chair and identify by giving different colour bibs (if possible).

Instructions:

Starting with the first player in each team the players should attempt to get 3 balls on to the seat of their chair to win the game. Players can only move one ball at

a time, players can take balls from other player's chairs or from the middle hoop. Players are not allowed to protect balls on their chair. The next player in line can stand behind their teammate's chair and help keep balls on the chair so they do not roll off, but must not obstruct other players from taking balls. The winner is the first to get 3 balls on their chair at the same time, their team gets the point and then player 2 on each team attempts the same. Go through all players in the team, you could go through more than once. You can make the game harder by taking out another ball, so only starting out with 4 balls, although you might find it is near impossible for anyone to win!

Shared by
Mark Tobias, 10th Ealing

Theme Ideas



Ideas to get your group thinking about the outdoors, and encourage you to get out into your church grounds or local outdoor space during your meeting night.

01 Green fingers
Is there a small piece of ground that the children could use to make a garden. Some Companies have worked with their church to develop a piece of ground. The children could grow flowers or vegetables, or develop a sensory garden or grow plants to attract wildlife. If you do not have any natural spaces then you could perhaps get some pots or a window/planting box that they could use. This could lead to be a longer term activity.

02 Improving the local area
The children investigate a local area identifying things that need improvement. They then discuss what could be done and consider priorities and practicalities and who needs to be involved. This could result in a social action project improving a piece of ground for the local community.

Children could use a simple check list to record their ideas.

An example might be:

THINGS WE SAW	HOW WE COULD IMPROVE
Litter	Arrange litter pick Write to Council about bins
Graffiti	Arrange clean or re-paint
Cracked broken slabs/ weeds growing through slabs	Write to Council about slabs. Gardening project to remove weeds
No seating	Fundraise to buy and install a bench
No plants	Bulb planting in one area

03 Location, Location, Location
Take a series of photos in preparation in the outdoor area you will be using, print and laminate these as required. Give a set of photos to each group of children who have to locate the exact spot from where each photograph was taken. It might be appropriate to give each group a digital camera or mobile phone to see if they can replicate the photograph.

04 Get Creative: Kitchen roll bird feeder

Equipment

- ★ Tube (kitchen roll inside)
- ★ 1 Jar of Peanut butter (special peanut butter suitable for birds is available on the internet) If you can't get suitable peanut butter, then lard can be used
- ★ 1 small bowl
- ★ 1 plate
- ★ Plastic knife
- ★ Bird Seed

Instructions:

Put the peanut butter in the small bowl. Using the plastic knife, spread the peanut butter onto the tube until you have a smooth layer.

Spread some birdseed onto the plate. Take the tube covered in peanut butter and roll it on the plate attaching the birdseed to the roll.

Take the bird feeder outside, slide it onto a branch, and your tree is now the place to be for hungry birds!

05 Open Fire / Roasting Marshmallows



Using an open BBQ base or fire pit make a small fire using appropriate items. The children could gather up some items as part of this activity if that is possible. Alternatively you could purchase some kindling/ firewood from B&Q, supermarket or garden centre. To make it easier to get the fire going it would be a good idea to also buy some firelighters, and ensure you have matches or other ignition source. Before lighting ensure you have a bucket of water nearby and that children are at a safe distance. Depending on your numbers you could have more than one fire. Give each child a bamboo/wooden skewer and allow them to put a marshmallow on the end and hold over the fire to roast. Ensure they hold skewer at full arm's length, keeping their body a safe distance from the fire itself. Ensure the fire and children are supervised at all times and that the fire is fully extinguished after use.

06 Getting into the Bible : Creation Story
Talk to the children about the 'Creation' story, that God created everything, the plants and trees, birds and animals and of course us. Ask the children about their favourite outdoor space, maybe a beach or a

park, you could also ask them what their favourite animal is, etc.

Read Genesis 1

To make it a little different in preparation have a flipchart or some large sheets of paper on the wall and some pens. As you tell the story invite different children up to depict parts as you go along (e.g. draw sun, moon and stars).

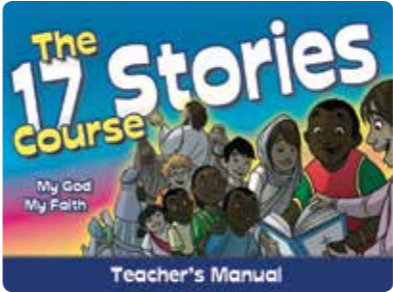
Get the children to think about the creation story, and about our responsibility to look after God's creation. You could ask the children how they can help look after our planet and God's creation.

07 Nature Detective Bingo
Children are given a Bingo card and asked to tick off the items as they find them. You will need to put items that are relevant to the location. The children could be asked to collect the item as they find it.

Example:

Feather		Petal	Something nibbled		Something soft
	Something spikey		Nut	Oak leaf (or other tree)	
Something smooth		Something brightly coloured			Signs of an animal

Getting Into The Bible: 17 Stories



Check out:
ucb.org.uk

Holding the attention of children is never easy, ever at a loss on how to share Bible stories with your Juniors in a fun and engaging way that they understand? Then 17 Stories might be perfect for you!

17 Stories is not just your typical Bible lesson. Through the seventeen-week course (adaptable to 32 or even 52 weeks), children are taken through key Bible stories. After every lesson, each child will receive a collectable card with an image of the story they just learned about on one side and a puzzle piece on the opposite side. The cards fit together like a puzzle to create an image of the overarching theme of the Bible, referred to as 'God's Big Story.'

The 17 Stories programme comes in three parts: a teacher's manual, collectable cards for each child, and a training DVD. A copy of the teacher's manual along with a sample pack of cards has been sent out to Company Captains and OIC Junior Section with this issue. Additional copies of this resource are available on request from BB Headquarters.

This resource is produced by United Christian Broadcasting (UCB) and we are grateful for their support in making these resources available to BB leaders in this way. UCB also produce a number of other resources which can be ordered for free (you only pay for postage & packaging).

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Planning your Programme

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



27 APR – 1 MAY **Live Below the Line (World Hunger Day)**

Live Below the Line is an awareness and fundraising campaign run by the Global Poverty Project. Could you get your group involved? Live on £1 a day for 5 days (or may be just 1 day to see what it feels like)? Live Below the Line is a great way to engage your group in issues of extreme poverty in an informative and experiential way. There are resources and programme ideas available to download.

Check out livebelowtheline.com



6 JUNE **Champions League Final**

The Champions league Final will be held in Germany, the 2014/15 Champions League started out with 32 teams in the group stage. The final will be played at The Olympiastadion in the German Capital, a 70,500 seater stadium. 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 host nation's culture.



29 JUN – 12 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 cream.

Check out wimbledon.org

Get thinking: Bridge Bulding



A great activity to get young people thinking, it will get them working as a team, communicating, problem solving and bring out leadership skills. The idea of this activity is simply to build a bridge across the water.

Split the young people up into group of 3 or 4, and give each team a "Building Kit" and a bowl of water. Each group has 30 minutes to build a bridge to span across a bowl of water. At the end of 30 minutes, each group has to demonstrate their bridge. You then test it for strength by adding pebbles one at a time, until the bridge collapses. The team with the strongest bridge wins!

The 'Building Kit' could contain a variety of building materials, including ice cream sticks, bluetaq, string, small pieces of wood, glue, sellotape, paper, cardboard, etc. Make sure each group has the same amount of materials, just to keep things fair.



Share your pictures of this challenge by emailing:
gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk



Post on Twitter and mention:
[@bbgazette](https://twitter.com/bbgazette)

Theme Ideas



The 2015 Rugby World Cup is being hosted by England and Wales and each of the home nations is competing. The opening game takes place on Friday 18th September at Twickenham and involves England and Fiji with the Final at the same venue over six weeks later on Sunday 31st October.

01

Think it out

There are four pools (groups) of five teams. The five teams in a group play each other once to determine the two quarter finalists from each group. The winner of each quarter final progresses to the semi finals. The two losing teams in the semi final compete for the bronze medal position whilst the two winning teams compete in the final.

Including the final, how many games will have been played altogether?

02

The Haka

The Haka is the traditional dance performed by the New Zealand team before their matches. Watch a performance on You Tube.

The dance has been performed by the Rugby Team since 1905.

Discuss with the young people why the team does the Haka and what are the players seeking to achieve. What other examples of engendering team spirit can the young people think of? Do they think that traditions such as the playing of National Anthems helps to focus the team on the task ahead?

03

Breakout Tag

Mark out a square grid within your space (3m x 3m or proportional to space available) with some marker cones. Using marker cones mark out a 'try zone' at each end of your playing space, giving a 'try' zone of approximately 1m. Four attacking players (with balls) are in the marked out grid in the middle and four defenders (without balls) are in the outside playing area. The attackers aim is to score a try in the 'try'

04

Statues

Give all players a ball, which they should be holding with both hands. Divide the group into pairs and each pair will have a turn at being the chasers. The first pair on the command of 'GO' turn the other players into statues by touching them with the ball. The ball must be held in both hands at all times. A player who is touched must then stand still and hold their ball above their head and in both hands. The chasers continue turning the other players into statues until everyone has been caught. The coach should note the time that the pair has taken to complete their turn. The winning pair is the pair who turns everyone into a statue in the shortest possible time. The goal should be to turn all players into statues within two minutes.

You could change-up this game by allowing statues to be freed by players who are not chasers or who are not statues themselves, by touching the statue with the ball they carry. The statue is once more alive to run around. After one minute the leader shouts 'STOP' and counts how many statues remain. The number of remaining statues becomes the score for that pair of chasers.

05

Warm-up / Skills Drill

Mark out a square with four cones, the square should be approx. 5m x 5m (or as appropriate depending on your space). Split the group evenly behind each corner cone. The first player in each group is to run across the square with a ball each and pass it to the person opposite them, progress through a number of passes, eg above the head, below the knee, chest pass, kick, etc. This activity will get the young people warmed-up and also practising passing and kicking skills.

06

Tag Rugby – The Game

TAG Rugby is a safe, fun and exciting form of non-contact rugby suitable for both males and females of all age groups and abilities. There are no scrums, line-outs or tackling allowed in TAG Rugby. Give it a go with your young people, this could work in your hall or meeting space or outside on a marked out pitch.

Instructions:

You will need some cones to mark out your pitch, if playing in a hall just mark-out try lines at either end of your hall using marker cones (approx. 1m from wall). Split your young people into two teams. The simple aim of tag rugby is to score a try by grounding the ball over the opposition's try line, although to make the game safer and avoid players going to ground you could allow players to just go over the try line and hold the ball with both hands in the air and shout 'try'.

The basics of the sport are similar to the traditional game in that you pass the ball sideways or backwards

(if they pass forwards then a *tap & pass* is awarded to the non-offending team) and have four opportunities to score. When tagged the ball carrier must stop running and pass immediately. The ball carrier is allowed a maximum of three (3) steps and three (3) seconds to pass the ball. If they fail to do this then a tap & pass is awarded to the non-offending team at the place of the infringement.

A *tap & pass* is used to start the game or restart it at the place the ball went out of play or an infringement or *changeover* took place. The ball may be placed on the ground or held in the hand and on the instruction "PLAY" by the referee, **and not before**, the attacker must tap the ball with the foot, or lower leg, and pass the ball. At a tap & pass the opposition players must retire back towards their own *try-line* and be at least 1m away.

To stop the other team from scoring you must touch the player with the ball. A legal touch is on any part of the body, clothing or ball and constitutes a tackle (with a light touch/tap – no excessive contact). You can purchase tag belts with tags that can be worn, with a tag being removed constituting a tackle. After four touches/tags the ball is handed over from the attacking team to the defending team, you could change the number of touches/tags required.



You can find out more about Tag Rugby, including full set of rules and variations on how the game can be played at different ages/levels at:
tagrugby.org

**Get Active: Blanket Volleyball**

This game is just like normal volleyball, but each team is given a blanket.

The team should stand around the edge of the blanket, stretching it out so it is tight. The 'serving' team should start by placing the ball on the blanket, loosening then bringing it tight so it 'throws' the ball over the net. The other team then

use their blanket to catch the ball then throw it back. It's an interesting and fun variation to a game we're all familiar with, see how it goes with your young people.

**Well done to 21st Cardiff**

In the Autumn issue we featured a 'James Bond' theme night, and as part of that themed programme we asked you to re-create a scene from a Bond film and send it in to Headquarters.

Well done to Tom, Ethan, Jess, Ben, Ewan, David, Anderson and Tim of 21st Cardiff Company who recreated scene 1 from 'The World is Not Enough' which is set in the Swiss Bankers Office. The Brigade secretary presented representatives from the 21st Cardiff with their prize, £50 cinema vouchers during the recent Wales Regional Conference held in Cardiff.



Check out their clip at
boys-brigade.org.uk/bestofbond.htm

CHALLENGE PLUS**RESOURCE****Great activities & ideas for your section:****Get Planning: Planning a Seniors' Residential**

As with all residential activities it is important to think about the objectives and why you want to take a group of Seniors away.

Is it just for fun, will you be tackling part of the awards programme, is it to try out an adventurous activity or maybe it's to develop their identity as a group. Whatever you're planning to do, one key objective could be that the Seniors organise the residential themselves and the leaders are there as the facilitators.

**Starting Out**

It's no different to planning as a staff group. Ask the young people all of the things that they would need to consider if they were to have a weekend away.

They're likely to come up with:

- Location
- Accommodation
- Transport
- Programme/activities
- Cost
- Safety/Risk Assessment

You may need to help the young people to break each of these areas down, but they should be able to come up with a series of questions or suggestions for each.

**Location**

- Is this determined by what the group wish to do?
- How far away can we go?
- Shall we go to a city, countryside or coastal?

**Accommodation**

- Has the Company access to camping equipment?
- Could we stay in a church hall?
- How could we use the internet to investigate accommodation options in the chosen location?
- Does the location provide any additional services like food, activities?



All of these are simply examples of the sorts of discussions that the group could be involved in and there will be lots of other questions you or they could raise. It may be that you need to raise the issue of safety and obviously the leader has the final say if they plan skydiving from the church roof!

You could, of course, plan the whole thing yourself. It would save a lot of time and the young people will probably have a great experience, but you will have missed the opportunity for the young people to develop important life skills of negotiation and planning.



Transport

- How will you get there?
- What is most cost effective?
- Do you need transport once you're there?



Food

- What meals do we need to allow for?
- Are there facilities to cook?
- Could we eat out or get takeaway?



Programme/Activities

- What do want to do?
- What's on offer nearby?
- Is there a budget for activities?
- Who will book the activities?
- What can we do that costs nothing?



Costs

- Do you start with an individual cost that you have to stay within?
- What will each part cost (food, accommodation, transport, etc)?
- If it looks expensive, can we do some fundraising to subsidise the cost?



Safety/Risk Assessment

- What about BB requirements for leaders and notification?
- Do we have insurance?
- What about consent forms / parental permission?
- Is everything we are planning safe?
- Do we have risk assessments?



Let us know how you get on by emailing gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... **"We keep our Seniors up to the age of 18, but most don't get involved in the wider Church (outside of BB) – are there any tips on bridging the gap?"**

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



"We are fortunate to have some Seniors who are musicians. They take part in a monthly evening service mainly aimed at 11 - 18 year olds. Called 'Praise n Pringles' it consists of praise, dancing and eating Pringles!"

Malcolm Godolphin, 2nd Camborne



"I think the 1st thing to say is that there are no magic answers. The other thing to consider is what is 'church' to your 18+ group? Coming to a traditional church service on a Sunday morning may not be their thing, so are there other ways of engaging them, e.g. getting involved with Messy Church, discussion groups at Costa's etc. All are valid forms of church and whilst we should be encouraging our young people into the full life of the church, their absence on a Sunday morning shouldn't be seen as the be all and end all."

Paul Neville, 1st Oadby



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

Send your question to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk and we will feature a question with a number of responses in future issues of the Gazette.



"Recognising that for sometime there has been nothing for those aged 18+, we've recently started a group called 'Connect' with the aim of retaining young people in the life of the church through a bi-weekly meeting. Based on a Facebook group and a few of us administrating this and inviting people, the group is made up of young people aged 18+ who have been involved with BB, GB or the church. One week we will meet out and about somewhere, be it a meal out or an activity like bowling – this is a great chance to catch-up with everybody. The second week each month we meet and discuss a current issue or particular subject, as a bible study at the church or at somebody's house. It's been really good bringing together young people from different parts of church life, some of whom although may have seen each other in passing have never spoken or gotten to know each other... we're really hoping this group will develop further as we would like to do more including perhaps a residential later in the year. Have you got some young leaders in your Company that could set up something similar?"

Chris Norman, 10th Enfield

FOCUS ENGLAND



/theboysbrigade



@theboysbrigade

Development Focus

The London Borough of Hackney has 257,379 people, and is the second most deprived local authority in England with a quarter of its population under 20. Hackney is a culturally diverse area and it is within this background that Bishop Brian Robinson of The New Testament Church of God saw the opportunity to partner with The Boys' Brigade to bring positive activities to the many children and young people in the Borough.

The 1st Hackney Company was started in January 2014 and currently has 15 Anchors, 15 Juniors and 5 members in Company Section, with 12 registered leaders. The Company has given the young people many new experiences, including representing the BB at the Youth United celebration event at the House of Commons. They are looking this year to widen their programme including the possibility of taking the children and young people away on a residential weekend.

Captain Neil Folkes said "I grew up in Hackney, I have seen the riots and the burning cars, and I have been fortunate to improve my life. I wanted to give other children and young people in the borough the same opportunities." The BB Company has also started Parents' Café for the parents and carers of the BB members. This has provided the opportunity to give support and advice to the community, with skilled advisers on areas such as children's behaviour at school, housing issues, and debt.

WHAT'S ON - ENGLAND



16-17 MAY The Waltham Walk

Get involved in the hike base challenge across the Essex countryside.

www.walthamwalk.org.uk

6 JUN Marching Band Championship

Find out more about how your band can take part in this event and join hundreds of other young people in 2015.

showcasemarchingbands.co.uk



For a full list of dates go to:

england.boys-brigade.org.uk

Support to Existing Companies

The England office has been supporting a number of existing Companies and two of them are hoping to re-launch in coming months. There are plans afoot for a fun afternoon on Saturday 9th May to re-launch 2nd Ruislip initially with a new Junior Section, meeting on the evening of the following Wednesday. We have also been working with 1st Witney and hoping to re-launch the Company in May with a weekend of activities.



Rural Schools and Communities

The Boys' Brigade has been awarded funding to support work specifically in Rural Schools and Communities in Yorkshire and Mid/North Wales. The project will involve recruiting volunteers and establishing groups to provide sustainable activities. Part of this project is to build up strong relationships with local churches and communities.

Company Development Pack

We now have a Company Development pack, which has been redesigned to help Companies look at how they plan their activities and support their leaders and members. There is also training available in using the pack and we would be very happy to hear from Companies that would like one and Battalions who might like to arrange some training in the use of them.



Caring for Carronvale

f /theboysbrigadeinscotland
@thebbscotland

Carronvale Appeal

For almost 70 years Carronvale House has been at the heart of The Brigade in Scotland. Each year, thousands of young people and leaders attend courses or evening and weekend sports' programmes here. However, Carronvale offers much more than a venue for a course or sports match, it is where many young people make lasting friendships and have opportunity to realise they are part of something much bigger. The time has come to once again invest in the House's long-term future, to secure its place for the next generation of BB young people and over the coming months the fundraising team will be explaining how you can get right behind the appeal.

Scottish Government

Officials have recently confirmed it would continue to support the work of the Brigade as part of the 'Strategic Funding Partnership'. The Scottish Government has indicated The Boys' Brigade in Scotland's core funding will be maintained at the same level until 2016.



Young Leaders' Networks

Participation in seniors' and young leaders' programmes continues to increase at local and national level. There have recently been excellent examples of joint events and sharing best practice, such as Battalions working together for Challenge Plus days.

@ For further information, please email
niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



6 JUN WMF Picnic,
Carronvale House

20 JUN Training Conference, TBC

11-17 JUL KGVI Second Year,
Carronvale House

01-07 AUG KGVI New Entrants,
Carronvale House

For a full list of dates go to:
scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk

Sports Development

New funding has been secured to continue the post for Craig McMurray, Sports Development Officer. Craig will continue to support and develop programmes in Glasgow. In particular, his work will focus on developing a network of young sports leaders across the city.

World Mission Fund

Plans are in hand for another World Mission Fund Picnic – this time it will be at Carronvale on Saturday 6th June and will have a Caribbean theme to link in with this session's appeal. More details will be sent out very soon.

Why not take a look at this year's appeal?
worldmissionfund.org.uk

Development Update

The start of the year has been a busy one for BB in Wales. Companies began the year with fresh enthusiasm and many groups have seen new children and young people attend, which has been fantastic. We are gearing up for some great events and activities over the next few months.

The two new Companies which launched in January up in Caergrwle and Wrexham have started really well, with good numbers attending. We have also been fortunate with some great new volunteers and pleased to see BB go from strength to strength in that part of the region.

We are also excited to be launching a new Company in Tremorfa around Easter and look forward to seeing how that goes.

Gareth Hillier, Development Officer

For a full list of dates go to:
boysbrigadewales.org.uk



f /theboysbrigadeinwales
@BB_Wales

WALES: 02920 483555 The Boys' Brigade, 58 Richmond Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AT

FOCUS R.O.I



Aviva Stadium Tour

Over 40 young people and Leaders visited the Aviva Stadium on Thursday, 19th February 2015. The Aviva Stadium is home to Irish football and rugby. The tour included visits to the home dressing room, players' tunnel, pitchside, press room and level 5 in the stadium.

National Youth Council of Ireland

The Boys' Brigade in the Republic of Ireland has continued its membership of the National Youth Council of Ireland. The NYCI is a representative body for national voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. It represents and supports the interests of over 50 voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. It seeks to ensure that all young people are empowered to develop the skills and confidence to fully participate as active citizens in an inclusive society. NYCI's role is recognised in legislation through the Youth Work Act 2001 and as a Social Partner in the Community and Voluntary Pillar involved in shaping government policy and funding for the youth sector.

For a full list of dates go to:
boysbrigade.ie

WHAT'S ON - R.O.I

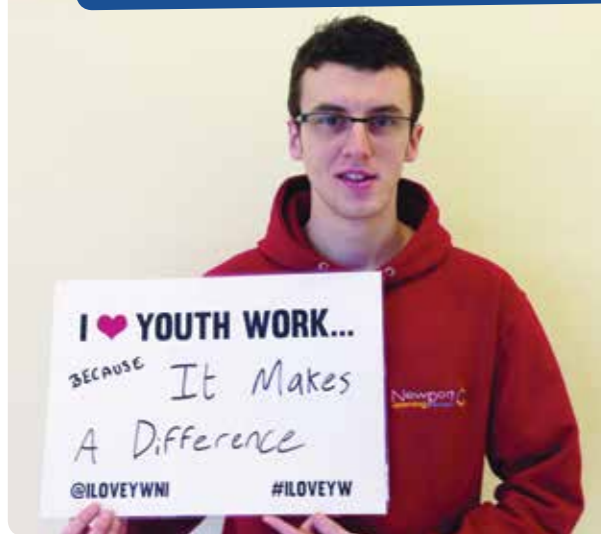


07 MAY Annual Council Meeting

16-17 MAY Juniors' Activity Weekend

R.O.IRELAND: +353 1 296 4622 Unit C1 Nutgrove Office Park, Nutgrove Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

FOCUS NORTHERN IRELAND



#iloveywni

Northern Ireland District is taking part in Youthnet's social media campaign #iloveywni which is an ongoing campaign to protect youth work in Northern Ireland and to celebrate all that youth work does for our society, for our communities and for individuals. Youth workers and young people are being encouraged to share what youth work has done for them and why they love youth work. Matthew Gallick, a member of staff at Northern Ireland Headquarters and a leader in 1st Magherafelt Company loves youth work "because it makes a difference".

WHAT'S ON - N.IRELAND

1 MAY

Fundraising Golf Day
Killymoon Golf Club,
Cookstown

15 MAY

Queen's Badge Celebration
Carnmoney Presbyterian
Church, Newtownabbey

09-23 MAY

Youth Leader Training
(Non-Residential) –
Newport, Hillsborough

25-31 JULY

KGVI (Years 1 & 2)
– Rathmore House, Larne



For a full list of dates go to:
ni.boys-brigade.org.uk

BB Code Academy

Northern Ireland District has introduced a six week accredited training course for boys in partnership with the University of Ulster. This is delivered by Brigade Training Officers and has proved very popular. The practical, hands-on course is accredited at level three by the University of Ulster and there is no cost to participants or their Companies. Laptops are provided and the course takes place in the Company setting.

Anyone interested in hosting a course for ten boys aged 15+ or partnering with another Company in the local area, should contact Kenneth McLaughlin, Training & Programme Officer, at Northern Ireland Headquarters.



Junior Section Musician of the Year Competition 2015

Now in its tenth year the Northern Ireland Junior Section Musician of the Year took place on Saturday 17 January with an excellent entry of 32 boys from throughout Northern Ireland. The variety of instruments and selection of pieces entertained the very appreciative audience throughout the afternoon. All boys performed extremely well and the overall standard was very high. The adjudicator, Mr Drew Vincent, provided very useful guidance and advice along with very encouraging comments.

The results were as follows:



Connor Cox / 1st Hillsborough
Instrument: Voice
Piece Performed: When You Believe



Oliver Gunning / 1st Muckamore
Instrument: Guitar / Voice
Piece Performed: Wonderwall



Jamie McNeill / 1st Spa
Instrument: Flute
Piece Performed: The Entertainer/ Amazing Grace

TOOLBOX



PIETER BREUGHEL'S PAINTING "CHILDREN'S GAMES"

Programme Pack from the Middle Ages?

It's not often we go all arty at BBHQ but this painting from 1560 has struck a few chords. It was painted by Pieter Breughel and he called it "Children's Games". It is sometimes referred to as the "encyclopaedia of children's games".



It shows more than 250 children playing over 84 games. Count them if you don't believe it!

It was very unusual to have children as the subject of a painting at that time as "childhood" was not seen as a distinct phase of life as we see it, and children were treated as little adults. But look at how energetic and imaginative the children are – in every part of the picture. Some of the games are familiar too: leapfrog and jacks (called knucklebones then), tug of war, playing with sand, musical games and spinning and jumping games. Some children are happily playing on their own making dolls or blowing bubbles.

If you look closely (or look at the picture online) you can see dressing up games and a mock wedding and a mock baptism. Just like today, children imitate aspects of adult life as a way of preparing for it. Or perhaps to feel more powerful?

There are "toys" that the children have made. Can you see the three boys sitting on a fence "racing horses"? Or the child blowing up a pig's bladder to use as a ball?

Breughel was realistic too. While most of the children are playing cooperatively, there are some bullies at work and children are seen fighting.

So what's wrong with this picture? If you look closely you will realise that there are no adults. Some people think that Breughel was making a point by showing children playing with the same seriousness as adults engaged in their more important pursuits. His point (some say) was that in the mind of God, children's games were as significant as the activities of their parents.



Article Continued On Next Page →

Today, we would call this scene a good example of self-directed, or freely chosen play. We now understand how important play is to the well being and development of children. It exercises their bodies, engages their creativity, teaches them negotiation and conflict resolution skills and enables them to understand themselves and others.



We asked some BB leaders that tried out the concept of “free play” how they got on:

Leigh Maydew, Leader 6/11th West Bromwich shares his experience....

As a Company we use the concept of free play quite a lot, particularly with our increasing Anchors Section. The beginning of the night is an opportunity for the children to get together, to play together and to catch up with each other before we more ‘formally’ start the evening. We tend to get a range of items out of the cupboard and allow the children to pick what they fancy doing, actual games like Connect 4, some sports equipment such as footballs or skipping ropes and a few other random things. We often find that the children prefer to play what many would consider are more traditional games such as Stuck In The Mud and Tag. Some just prefer to sit and talk with each other. This free play session allows the children to use their imagination and engage with the other members more freely than the more structured sessions that follow through the evening.”

Sue Paddington, Captain, 22nd Northampton shares her experience...

At the 22nd Northampton, we are always open to experimenting with our programme. We were introduced to ‘free play’ at one of our local training sessions, and the initial thought of allowing our youngsters to play without any guidance or structure made us as leaders feel a little apprehensive. That said we went ahead, the equipment was placed in the middle of the hall, with hoops, beanbags, hockey sticks, cones and softballs to name a few items. We then took a back seat which wasn’t as easy as we thought, we wanted to interfere, but acknowledged that if we did it could

halt the flow of play. As the boys looked at it, then at us trying to work out why the staff hadn’t given any instructions about what games were to be played, they were informed they could ‘play’ or choose to create their own game. Some were at a complete loss, looking to the leaders for guidance. Others took up the opportunity to play; new games were created, with rules being made up and adapted as they played, engaging and re-assuring one another.

The result of this ‘free play’ session was that it identified team leaders, problem solvers and team players as well as reinforcing friendships, the youngsters managed to create their own boundaries & had recognised for themselves how to keep one another safe whilst having fun. We noticed that creating the ability to play without having an outcome or result meant those less competitive were more eager to participate.

I am glad to say that some of the games created by the youngsters have become part of our regular programme which the boys love & ‘free play’ continues to be a part of our programme.

Any apprehension & concern the staff had was far outweighed by seeing the pleasure on our youngsters’ faces as they played, recognising that sometimes we just need to let them play! If you haven’t tried it - please consider giving it a go - we did and recognise its benefit & value.”

We have a DVD at BBHQ that you can borrow called “The Scrapstore Playpod”. BB Leaders who’ve seen this short film have tried out some of the ideas and the feedback has been that it has been very successful. The idea of it is quite similar to that of the painting – children will invent endless games and activities out of a few inexpensive bits of “rubbish” and in doing so will learn a lot about themselves and others. Although, unlike the painting, the adults at BB won’t be entirely out of the picture!

Could you introduce ‘free play’ into your programme?

Why not give it a go and let us know how you get on, share your experiences with us at gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

Karen Jay
Director of Youth & Children’s Work

If you have any questions then get in touch at karen.jay@boys-brigade.org.uk

Find out more about the current Growing Bigger, Growing Better campaign at www.playpods.co.uk



Making sense of the digital world

‘Digital’, ‘online’, ‘apps’ and ‘technology’ are terms we hear and read about more and more. There is a huge range of apps and websites out there that can help us in delivering our Company programme. In this latest Toolbox article, BB Development & PR Officer, Niall Rolland, highlights ways to make the most of some these apps and websites.

Why now and how can it help me in my BB work?

Talking about being online or making use of technology can be a signal for some to ‘switch-off’ as it can seem like a foreign language and something beyond their reach. However, accessibility has improved enormously and, indeed, so too has the availability of guidance. Sometimes it can just be a case of dipping the toe into the water to appreciate that being online and making use of the technology available, instead of being daunting, can actually bring huge rewards! Also there have been great advances to improve internet access - speed and coverage is improving all the time, but there is still some way to go in more isolated communities.

In our BB work, we know the importance of meeting the needs of our members with an engaging and relevant programme. Technology and the internet are used extensively in schools and, even at primary school age, pupils are encouraged to have basic online skills and be comfortable using devices such as tablets, laptops and other hardware. In many cases, we are working with a ‘digital generation’ whose first experience of Roald Dahl may well be reading from a ‘Kindle’.

Of course, it isn’t essential we use iPads when delivering the Junior Section programme or install cutting edge software on the Company’s computer, but being aware of what’s out there is really important. And when used appropriately, could really enrich the experience of both young people and BB leaders. In many cases, technology can be helpful, user-friendly and affordable.

Where to find more advice...

There is a great amount of support out there, but here are couple places to help you get to grips with online and technology:

- www.digitallyagileclid.org
- gdsocialmedia.blog.gov.uk/playbook/
- www.edudemic.com



Article Continued On Next Page →

Digital in Action

How can we use digital tools in our BB programme? Whether an app to help with fundraising, or a YouTube clip to bring a Bible story to life, there are many ways in which digital tools can make a difference to our work in The BB.

Why not try out some of these...



Wordle

Word clouds can be a really effective way to bring feedback or discussions to life. 'Wordle' is probably the most common, but you can find a whole host of other ones here.

<http://bit.ly/KH4kjS>



Google Hangouts

One way you could communicate with other BB leaders at Company or Battalion level could be Google Hangouts. You are able to share files, schedules, chat or event video call.

www.google.com/hangouts



Fotor

Looking for easy-to-use ways for you or your young people to design a collage or a card? There are many useful websites and apps, but one to look out for is

www.fotor.com



Polltogo

Download this iTunes app and create a quick poll or quiz on the go, or participate in someone else's. Each polltogo poll has a unique short URL and QR code that you can share with your audience, students, customers, readers, etc., for instant feedback on any topic or question. Voting/Participation in polls you create can be done using ANY mobile device, tablet or desktop browser.

www.polltogo.com



Poll Everywhere

Set up your own poll, and ask your audience a question with the Poll Everywhere app. Audience answers in real time using mobile phones, Twitter, or web browsers. You can see your response live on the web or in a PowerPoint presentation. It's free to use for up to 25 responses (and you can reset for different groups), so could be a great tool for using to get your young people's ideas/vote.

www.polleverywhere.com



How to utilise Video and Audio techniques in your section

Andrew McCartney, 1st Monifieth Company, has also come up with some particular audio and visual ideas you could run in your section... We have been looking this year at how we can run some media stuff in our hall with no Wi-Fi and minimal phone reception.



Time lapse

Why not try small time lapse experiments....? Taking a two second video of each member each evening they are there. They can then use a programme such as Movie Maker on Windows device, iMovie on Apple devices (e.g. ipads/iphones) or Splice which is an app for Apple or Android devices to put together each of their own time lapses during the current session. Each person then has a one minute or so video of themselves. This could be repeated each year and by the time they come to gain their Queen's Badge they have a time lapse from 10-18! (not that I have done that - one session might be enough!) We have encouraged the youngsters to take the clip themselves on their own devices, but have a generic camera there for any who don't.



Soundcloud or Audioboo

You could contact your local Hospital Radio who could be willing to let you conduct short interviews with patients. Using a small hand held dictophone or a mobile phone, you can record the interview on Soundcloud or Audioboo. You can work with your young people to research the interviewee and develop the questions they are going to be asked. It's a great way to develop communication and communication skills.



My favourite movie scene

Think of your favourite Movie Scene (TopGun): Your brief is to recreate it on a budget of nothing or as closely as possible! Video camera and some pens and scripts (free from the internet) if needed! This is a competition that was quite competitive and had youngsters working in teams as well as individually!



10 Second Video

The 10 second video is something that you can try as well - on a trip or adventure ask the young people to take a few ten second clip of their days - when you return to base - collate them all in one place and you have built up a much more personal array than a generic photo shoot of your day out - this can also be uploaded to Twitter/Facebook/YouTube. We had a great set of videos from our time at the BBC and Transport Museum.



Stop / Go animations:

This can be a project that can run all year - with planning on story boards and scripts, set design, character design (you can even use lego), and a camera; this can be a very effective way of showing the painstaking way films like this are created. Once completed it is possible to premiere on the 'big screen' with popcorn and some invited guests. PIVOT stickmaker is a free programme that can be downloaded on a computer to make stop go with a stickman!



You can contact Andrew or Niall via email at:
andrew.mcartney@btinternet.com
niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk



Follow Andrew and Nail on Twitter
[@mcchief14](https://twitter.com/mcchief14) | [@niallBBscotland](https://twitter.com/niallBBscotland)



Why not give some of these ideas a try?

Let us know how you get on by sending an email to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk or mention [@bbgazette](https://twitter.com/bbgazette) on Twitter

Why not check out these programmes and applications?



Comic Life: This is a great programme that allows you to build up a comic strip using graphics, photos and speech bubbles. Simple enough to be used with Juniors but still relevant to use with the Seniors as well!



Colour Splash: A small Anchor Boy in a big field... Colour splash will show that red jumper!



GIMP: Like Photoshop, but free and ideal for editing images etc.



Animoto: Still a valid app for building up presentations / video clips. Themes regularly and one can be found for each occasion.



Audacity: This is freeware to edit sounds and interviews. Good enough for the BBC to use!



1st Ackworth visit to Kenya

In October 2014 seven members of 1st Ackworth Company made a hugely rewarding and enjoyable trip to Kenya.

After 18 months of fundraising and preparing for the trip the group left Ackworth on 23rd October for a 24 hour journey to Kibos, a town north-east of Kisumu, Kenya's third largest city.

Whilst in Kenya, the boys and staff worked with the Isaiah Trust, a Christian charity working to help some of Kenya's most desperate children find a new beginning. The boys, Kenyan and British, enjoyed a variety of activities together, which included football, parachute games and camping. The group from Ackworth also helped the Trust in a very practical way by providing funds to purchase 2 x 5000 litre water tanks, planting



21 banana trees and helping erect a huge greenhouse so the Trust can grow food all year round and not just during Kenya's rainy season. Any surplus fruit and vegetables grown can be sold to provide an income for the Trust.

After a week spent with the Isaiah Trust, the group from Ackworth enjoyed a 36 hour safari in the Masai Mara before returning home on Sunday 2nd November. It is hoped that this trip will be the beginning of a long term relationship between the Isaiah Trust and 1st Ackworth Company so that every boy who progresses through the Company will have the chance to experience a similar trip.



Further details about the trip can be found on their blog www.ackworthbb.org.uk

Tim Broughton, co-founder of the Isaiah Trust blog www.outofthestreets.blogspot.com



Hong Kong adventure for Bearsden Lads

Three members of the 1st Bearsden Company travelled to Hong Kong over the Christmas and New Year holidays to participate in the 55th Anniversary Camp of the BB in Hong Kong. In addition to taking part in the camp, Alistair Thomson, Fergus Hempel and Ross Brown managed to see many of the sights the region has to offer and paraded with the 3rd Hong Kong Company on their regular meeting night.



Read about their experiences at the BB Scotland blog <http://bit.ly/1xrMids>

BB Thailand Discovery Tour 2015

Join BB members from across the globe in Thailand from 1st to 6th December 2015. Find out more about The Boys' Brigade in Thailand and enjoy the opportunity to visit famous sites, take part in special events, interact with local BB Companies, and find out more about the culture of the country.



For more information / registration form email bb.thailand@windowslive.com

New CEO for Global Fellowship

The Global Fellowship of Christian Youth is pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Dickinson as their new CEO. Steve will take up the post in the Summer.



Keep up to date with news from the Global Fellowship www.globalfellowship.net

Global Round-up

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



Members of 3rd Trinidad Company on parade in Tabaguite.



Members of BB in Malaysia helped at the 'Running with the Stars' marathon, with a number of roles including stewarding and serving drinks.



Iconz and Boys' Brigade members from Otago and Southland region in New Zealand went on a camp to Queenstown.



Members of 1st Kuala Lumpur Company went on a trip into the jungle, getting close to nature and finding out about different types of trees, plants and leaves.



300 boys and 80 adults descended on Lake Karapiro for the Auckland ICONZ Regional Camp. Activities at the camp included karting, zorbing and kayaking to mention a few.



Over 80 members of BB Malaysia had a great time at the BB Hong Kong 55th Anniversary International Camp. Many friendships were built and many existing ones strengthened.








Young People – Their Voice

The ongoing success of The Boys' Brigade and its ability to remain relevant is thanks in no small part to the contribution to the programme from our young people. While approaching 132 years since the organisation's founding, it is more important than ever that the voice and the needs of our young people are being heard.

Seniors and young leaders, in particular, can have a pivotal role in shaping ideas and events, as well as helping with the running of events – at Company, Battalion, District and National levels. These range from helping deliver activities for younger age groups in a Company to shaping their own Challenge Plus project. There are also examples of Seniors and young leaders working to foster international connections which in turn can lead to overseas visits.

What are the experiences of your young people?

-  Have they had the opportunity to have a say on your Company's programme?
-  How does your Battalion/District involve young people in the planning of events and activities?
-  What impact did they have?
-  Has a young person taken the lead in running an event recently?
-  What did they learn?



We have already heard back from some young people on their experiences on taking a lead...

Ross, 22, Kilmarnock

"We ran a pool night for Seniors. Seniors and staff had a great night playing and enjoyed a good burger. It was simple but a really successful and enjoyable evening."

Christian, 15, London

"We often get asked what we want to do by our leaders, and we come up with ideas. We recently got the chance to say what we wanted to do during our summer programme activities this year, once all the ideas were written down the next week all the boys got to vote, I voted for kayaking, paintball and raft building!"

David, 17, Coatbridge

"I was the main coordinator for a Seniors Top Gear night, consisting of - a "star in the reasonably priced car" championship via an x-box 360, dinner from a local award-winning chippy and of course watching episode 3 of the latest series of Top Gear. I learned that organising and running this kind of event is not easy, however it was all worth it in the end as we all enjoyed the evening. We have started making plans for a second one but it could be a while as the future of Top Gear is uncertain."

Ian, 22, Dunblane

"Stirling & District's Young Leaders' Network is run by a group of young leaders. Support from Company Staff and those in the Battalion is available, if needed, but it is run entirely by young leaders. The programme is based on what young people want, with young leaders providing the link between Seniors and organisers. In the past couple of years we've done Go Ape, rock climbing, paintballing, Edinburgh Dungeons, MegaZone, bubble football and so on..... still work to do, but seems to be working quite well!"

Please keep the conversation going online!

You could share examples of youth-led events, or share ideas on how best to consult your young people.

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

 Continue the conversation on Twitter: [@BBgazette](https://twitter.com/BBgazette) [#BBvoice](https://twitter.com/BBvoice)

GET INVOLVED




Lifeboats

Elaine Hakes, from the RNLI shares with us what the organisation is about, what they get up to and how they can support your Company programme.

We provide, on call, a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service around the UK and Ireland, and a lifeguard service. With our lifeboats, lifeguards, safety advice and flood rescue, we are committed to saving lives.



The RNLI has a fleet of over 340 lifeboats operating from 238 lifeboat stations across the UK and Republic of Ireland. We also patrol 220 of the busiest beaches in the UK and Channel Islands with our lifeguards, providing safe places to swim and have fun.



In 2013, 167 people died in water-related incidents around the UK coast. More than two thirds of them were men. That's more than the number killed in cycling accidents. That said, our volunteer lifeboat crews rescued 8,384 people, and our lifeguards helped 21,938. In all, our charity saved 425 lives around the UK and Republic of Ireland. We undoubtedly prevented many potential tragedies by giving assistance and advice.



It costs around £385,000 a day to run the RNLI, all of which is generously donated by the public. This might sound like a lot, but we think the 23 people rescued a day (on average) are worth it.

Did you know?

There are two Atlantic 75 Lifeboats currently in active service which you may be particularly interested in, these are 'Sure & Steadfast' in Harwich, England and 'The Boys' Brigade' in Arran, Scotland. Both lifeboats were purchased following The Boys' Brigade Millennium fundraising appeal which raised over £120,000 for the RNLI.



We are committed to helping young people stay safe. All our young people, whether they live inland or near the coast, need to learn how to stay safe by the sea. They may all find themselves in a difficult situation, whether they visit the beach every week or once a year.

Find RNLI online:



Your BB Company can help us to save lives...

There are a range of ways your group can get involved and support our work, take a look at the following ideas:



Fundraising with a kick!

Fill your Boots is a fun way to raise funds for the RNLI. We're asking you to fill a welly boot with coins to help our charity save lives at sea. You can Fill your Boots however you like; and with our cool free downloads and themed activity ideas, you're sure to have fun doing so.

Remember, RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew save lives at sea every day around the coasts of the UK and Ireland. Their protective yellow welly boots help keep them safe at sea. RNLI wellies keep crews' feet warm and dry. They're non-slip so the crews can move safely around the lifeboat in heavy seas, while reinforced toe-caps and soles protect the crews' feet from crushing injuries. They're not common or garden wellies; that's why they cost £42 a pair. £42 would be a great fundraising target for a small group. But if you're at a bigger group, you could raise enough for two, three or even ten pairs! However much it takes to Fill your Boots, your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

There are also lots of other ways you could fundraise and help us financially, check out more ideas on our website.



Volunteering

Do you have young people who are looking for volunteering opportunities? Whether they are at school or university, there are lots of ways for 14–25 year olds to get involved with the work of the RNLI. We have some exciting volunteering opportunities which could count towards your Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards or Queen's Badge. From helping at our lifeboat stations to working in our shops, we have volunteer roles to suit all tastes.



Shorething

Encourage your children and young people to access the RNLI web pages for 7–14 year olds. Build a lifeboat, train a lifeguard, download cool stuff and so much more, all at rnli.org/shorething



Educational Resources

We have a range of educational resources including booklets, posters and maps to help you to teach children and young people about the work that we do and also about being safe around water. All of our resources are available FREE to download or order online to be sent out, with resources for all ages groups from 4 to 18 years including:

Saving lives at sea - Learn about the lifesaving work of the RNLI. Show your children and young people a world of lifeboats, volunteering, action and courage.

Respect the Water - Water is powerful. These resources explore the importance of water safety and help educate children and young people about potential dangers.

Lifeboat Lab - Try out our online tools to build your own lifeboat, go on a tour of a lifeboat and find out about how they work.

Our Heroic History - Find out about our work over the years, how things have changed since the RNLI first started out some 190 years ago.



Visits & Trips

Our trained volunteers can come out and visit your group, where they'll run water safety talks and RNLI-themed activities. Young people can learn about beach safety in one of our short, active group sessions. Our team can also offer a range of hands-on creative and educational activities based on saving lives at sea. Whatever your needs, we can tailor a session to suit your group, just get in contact and let us know what you'd like us to do. Alternatively could you arrange a visit to a local Lifeboat station? Could you visit one whilst away at camp or perhaps even organise a special day by the sea for your group and include a visit. Our lifeboat stations are a hub of activity. Arrange a visit and see what it's like for crew members volunteering there, you'll see what they do and hear some of their rescue stories. Our station visits are a lot of fun and your group will even get a look at our lifesaving craft!



Find all the above and more on our website at: rnli.org/education






You can telephone the education team on 01202 336330 (UK) or 01 1895 1879 (RoI)

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




2016/2017 BB canvas campsites (operated by 10th Enfield) fully equipped for up to 70 (smaller camps welcome) in West Runton (North Norfolk) and at BBUK HQ (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@vectisyouthcamps.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 for 2015, 2016 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. Close to safe sandy beaches and leisure centre. Enquiries contact John Osborn.




Contact:

 07796 177795
 info@freshwatertrust.com
 www.freshwatertrust.com

Warcombe Farm Youth Camping,

Morteheo, North Devon. Self-catering group camping for up to 100 people available from April to September. Showers, toilets and cookhouse in purpose built barn plus timber frame marquee (60'x40')

Contact:

 Lynda Hill on 01256 764410
 info@warcombe.org.uk
 www.warcombe.org.uk




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.


Contact:

Wardens, The Boys' Brigade, Carr Lane, Treales, Kirkham PR4 3SS

 01772 685000
 office@bb-northwest.org.uk
 www.bb-northwest.org.uk




Rock Uk Adventure Centres. Bring your Company/Battalion to one of our spacious adventure centres. Carrot Wood in Kent, Frontier Centre in Northants, Summit Centre in South Wales and Whithaugh Park in the Scottish Borders.

Contact:

 0844 8000 222
 sales.info@rockuk.org
 www.rockuk.org


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




Greenmoor 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:

 07760111615



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 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

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@cmcpensarn.org.uk
 www.cmcadventure.org.uk

Swanage Methodist Church. Excellent accommodation for BB holidays/indoor camps. Well equipped hall, smaller rooms, showers, kitchen, youth room, WIFI & car park. Participation of BB groups in all age services very welcome.

Contact:



 Ralph Lewis on 01929 422421
 ralph@swanagemethodist.org.uk
 www.swanagemethodist.org.uk

GOOD HOMES WANTED

FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Band Equipment drums bugles
- Vaulting Horse with spring board
- Metal 5aside goal posts with nets
- Little Anne Laerdal
- Boat for canal approx 12' long
- 3 ridge tents

Contact:

 01252 629804
 bb-1stfleet@ntlworld.com

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 2015) should be received by 1st May 2015. All advertisements are based on up to 225 characters (including spaces and punctuation) plus contact details (telephone number, email and website address) at a cost of £10 per issue.

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

BEAUDESERT PARK www.beaudesert.org



Set in 124 acres of parkland, adjoining Cannock Chase Country Park, Staffordshire.

- 7 fully equipped accommodation buildings suitable for 2 - 24 people
- Camping for 1500 people on 40 sites in woodland and open parkland
- Modern, well maintained toilet facilities with free hot showers
- A range of instructed and self-led activities available including the new activities - Via Ferrata, Monkey Trees, Metal Detecting, Traverse Wall, Indoor & Outdoor, Rifle Ranges, Double Crate Stacking and Audio Trail

Check availability and book online at
www.beaudesert.org - Email: **info@beaudesert.org**
 Tel: 01543 682278 - Fax: 01543 682623

WWI COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

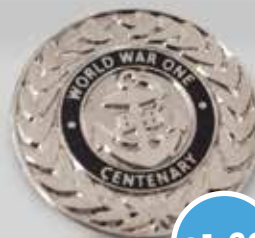
Product: 11 236 1 (SILVER BADGE)

A special World War 1 Commemorative badge which can be purchased and worn out of uniform.

WWI BADGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Product: 02 515 1 (RED BADGE)

A special World War 1 Commemorative badge for young people in The Boys' Brigade. The badge can be awarded to any young person by participating in an age appropriate activity related to the First World War. For full details of this badge see page 12 of this magazine.



£1.30



£1.30

ANCHORS OPEN CERTIFICATE

Product: 31 184 1



£2.20

A5 certificate with the 'Anchors' age group branding for general use.

JUNIORS OPEN CERTIFICATE

Product: 31 194 1



£2.20

A5 certificate with the 'Juniors' age group branding for general use.

GIFT EDITION NIV BIBLE

Product: 35 354 0



£20.00

Durable pocket sized grey soft tone bible with zip, ideal for presentation to Seniors/leaders.

KEYRING TORCH

Product: 11 676 1



£2.75

Metallic blue torch keyring featuring BB 'adventure begins here' logo.

LARGE CUP

Product: 03 559 1

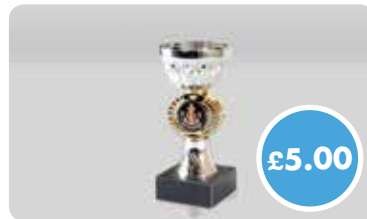


£7.00

Silver cup on a black marble base with BB emblem centre (130mm height)

SMALL CUP

Product: 03 558 1



£5.00

Silver cup on a black marble base with BB emblem centre (110mm height)

SHOP.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK



Order your items online 24 hours a day. Visit shop.boys-brigade.org.uk



Order your items by telephone on 08707 442 292 (Mon to Fri)



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