

# GAZETTE

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

**SHARING OUR VISION:**  
PROGRAMME FOR UNDER 11'S  
PAGE 06

**TOOLBOX:**  
PREPARING FOR  
THE NEW SESSION  
PAGE 35

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here



**BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE**



**Summer 2015:** July 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](mailto:gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk)

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

For details on advertising within the magazine see our rate card and information at  
[boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm)

**Editorial Team**

Mary Care, Steve Dickinson, Chris Norman,  
 Niall Rolland, Jan Williamson

**Designed by** [www.visiontank.co.uk](http://www.visiontank.co.uk) **Printed by**  
[cpo.org.uk](http://cpo.org.uk)

**Publishing & Circulation**

Quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer & Autumn)  
 Average circulation during 2015: 9,500 copies

**Patron:** H. M. The Queen

**President:** The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

**Brigade Secretary:** Andrew Johnston

**UK & ROI Headquarters**

Felden Lodge  
 Hemel Hempstead  
 Herts HP3 0BL

**Tel:** 01442 231 681

**Fax:** 01442 235 391

**Email:** [enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk)

The Boys' Brigade is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales number 145122.

A registered charity in England & Wales number 305969 and in Scotland number SC038016.

Registered Office: Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0BL.

**For More Information**

Visit our website at: [www.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://www.boys-brigade.org.uk)

[/theboysbrigade](https://twitter.com/theboysbrigade) [/theboysbrigade](https://facebook.com/theboysbrigade)

06



**VISION: PROGRAMME FOR UNDER 11'S**

# ISSUE CONTENTS

VOLUME 123: NO 3 | SUMMER 2015

04 Welcome

05 The way I see it

09 Informed

15 Your views and news

31 Focus

40 Global

43 My experience

46 Directory

48 BB Supplies

35



**TOOLBOX: PREPARING FOR THE NEW SEASON**

37



**TOOLBOX: DIGITAL WORLD**

42



**VOICE: ZERO HOURS CONTRATCTS**

19



**RESOURCE: IDEAS FOR YOUR SECTION**

<b>Anchors</b>	20	:	<b>Discover</b>	26
<b>Juniors</b>	23	:	<b>Challenge +</b>	29



**GET INVOLVED: WORLD VISION**

## Read More Online



To read more features, watch video & enter competitions visit our website. Check out the digital and online versions at:  
[boys-brigade.org.uk/gazette](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/gazette)



Follow us on Twitter and join in the conversation about articles in the Gazette:  
[twitter.com/bbgazette](https://twitter.com/bbgazette)

Image - Front Cover, Main Picture:  
 Members 1st/2nd Milngavie Company



## Life is a gift. A precious gift...

From the day we arrive on the planet  
And blinking, step into the sun  
There's more to see than can ever be seen  
More to do than can ever be done  
There's far too much to take in here  
More to find than can ever be found  
But the sun rolling high  
Through the sapphire sky  
Keeps great and small on the endless round

Now if I told you the next line, you would instantly recognise where these lyrics come from. Some of you may have figured it out already – "It's the Circle of Life..." from the Lion King.

As I have a deep love for Africa you will not be surprised to know it is my favourite West End show of all time. I am writing this the day after the new royal baby was born so the first line is pretty apt too!

Life is a gift. A precious gift. The words above pretty much sum up my philosophy. There is so much to see, so much to do, there's far too much to take in and there's more to find than can ever be found... What an amazing creation our God has entrusted us with.

Coming back to Christian youth work is a bit like coming around in the "circle of life" for me – as I started my career (after a few years of fun in the French Alps) at the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs HQ in 1988, having come to faith in Christ at an International Methodist Youth Rally in 1980. In those days I used to chomp at the bit, itching for more travel and an opportunity to

"see" more of the world. Well, 30 years on, almost 100 countries visited, I have travelled across the continents and I can say that that itch has been well and truly scratched!

One conversation I had in Sri Lanka last October led me in a way to The Boys' Brigade. A Buddhist colleague said to me, in the middle of a conversation about my own Christian faith, "It is such a shame that the UK is no longer a Christian country". How our country needs the BB like never before.

I wrote on getting back from Africa two weeks ago: "Home at last. I wish Africa had more of what we have materially, but I wish we had more of what Africa has spiritually. Which is more important? Perhaps they are actually richer than us..."

So here I am. Here to serve you. Here to learn from you. Here to step into Steve's big shoes and to take forward the great work he did. Here to share my faith and my life's journey and learn from yours and here to proclaim the brilliant work that the BB does. If you had told me on January 1st I would be taking up a role as CEO and Brigade Secretary this summer, I would have asked, "Are you crazy?" But as that old saying goes, "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."

Let us all be ready to hear His call to us in the BB.  
Do get in touch – I would love to hear from you.  
God bless

Andrew

**Andrew Johnston**  
Brigade Secretary

 Follow Andrew on Twitter  
**@ajohnstonbb**



**Andrew working with civil war survivors in Sri Lanka as part of a Comic Relief project called Life After War**



## Moved, Inspired and Excited

**Fifty Anchor Boy leaders were moved, inspired and excited when they heard a BB Captain tell something of his own story at a conference last autumn. The story deserves a bigger audience.**

Colin Millar is Captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ards Company and is a BB man from top to toe. His father and mother were both Officers. Colin joined the Brigade when he was four, reached the rank of Staff-Sergeant, and has been an officer for thirty-three years. In itself that is a good story, but admirable as it is, it is not in itself an inspirational story.

What makes Colin's story exceptional is the terrible experience which overtook him and the wonderful response to it. He

was returning from an educational visit to China when he collapsed on the flight. He was rushed to the emergency room at Heathrow Airport and from there rushed to hospital. The hospital diagnosis was the deadly swine flu and pneumonia. His lungs had collapsed and he had stopped breathing. For the next three weeks he was in a coma and close to death. Meanwhile, large numbers all across Asia were dying of the disease.

Colin did not die. When he came out of the coma in the Royal Brompton Hospital, where his care was of the best, he had to learn to swallow, learn to walk and learn to breathe unaided. Eventually, he was flown home to Northern Ireland and the long process of physiotherapy and recovery began.

It is a very good story, but what makes it more than that, what makes it an inspirational story is the involvement of the whole community, including the BB community, in his recovery. In Colin's own words *'Throughout all this the local community were praying. Many things happened which showed me God's hand in so many ways and people who clearly reminded me that the BB was where God wanted me to be.'*

Whenever he recalls the darkest days of his illness there are some remarkable BB points he always makes: 'Throughout my coma I always saw an anchor on the wall; the first card I was aware of was the card my Anchor Boy section sent to me; the night I came out of the coma beside my bed was an officer from a Company in London; when my wife played "Will your anchor hold?" as I lay in the coma my eye lids would flutter.'

All of us need stories like Colin's story to give us confidence and faith. All of us need to be reminded of his words, whether or not we have had any experience as dramatic and powerful as his.

Keep your eyes and ears open over the summer; there may well be events and people who remind you that the BB is where God wants you to be.

**The Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan CBE**  
Brigade Chaplain



**COLIN WITH CARD FROM MEMBERS OF ANCHOR BOYS**





# Planning for the Future: Programme Review for Under 11's

It's hard to believe that it's been ten years since the current Anchors' and Juniors' programmes were launched and the Brigade Executive determined that the work with this age group was due for review and advertised through the Gazette for interested persons to be involved.

## A group was formed consisting of:

- |                       |  |                        |                                  |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Ian Rumbelow</b>   | - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stoke Sub Hamdon (Chair) | <b>David Love</b>      | - 8 <sup>th</sup> Paisley        |
| <b>David Cleland</b>  | - 1 <sup>st</sup> Lisburn                  | <b>Andrew McCaldon</b> | - 35 <sup>th</sup> Liverpool     |
| <b>Vicki Brownlee</b> | - 5 <sup>th</sup> Hull                     | <b>Ross Playle</b>     | - 1 <sup>st</sup> Chandlers Ford |
| <b>Andrew Dinnett</b> | - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Paisley                 | <b>Dan Young</b>       | - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bedford        |

With **Alan Hunter, Chris Norman and the Brigade Secretary** from the staff team.

The Group members are all experienced in working with this age group, but were keen that all of the membership was able to feed into the discussions and thus an online survey was conducted in January 2015 to review current provision and make suggestions for the future.

## This is what you told us:

### Who Took Part?

The 259 respondents came from a range of experience from both working with Anchors and Juniors and the different Regions were represented well. Generally respondents came from growing Companies and there were lots of examples of Anchors and Juniors working together on some activities (eg. Games, craft, trips etc).

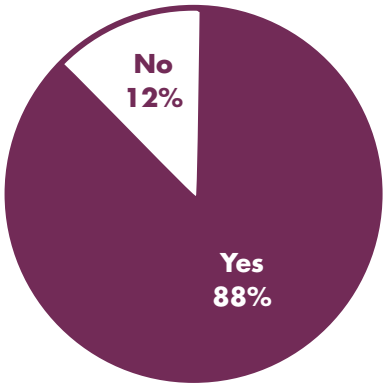
### General

Games and physical activities tended to take up the most time during the normal programme, with creativity a close second, and most respondents said the balance was structured in this way because of the enjoyment of the young people. Generally, respondents were happy that the current programme for Anchors and Juniors were not too similar, but making sure there was good progression within and across age groups was considered paramount for both the working group and for Companies.

### Battalion

Lots of great examples of Battalions offering competitive events were shared. Many respondents thought that there was room to develop more non-competitive events and to provide more for Anchors. Some respondents suggested Battalions could look to provide residential opportunities where Companies struggled to provide these themselves.

Do you use other faith based material than what is in the BB programme packs? (%)



### Outdoors

Most Companies said they spent some time outside during their programme, accessing local facilities or visiting points of local interest.

“I feel that the Juniors’ programme should reflect the ‘Adventure begins here’ theme and look to encourage outdoor activities.”

Article Continued →





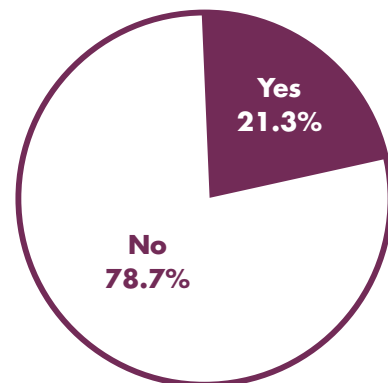
## Rewarding Participation and Achievement

Over two-thirds of respondents thought that the current rewards structure was useful, but that there was room to develop the number of badges and to ensure that the rewards catered for the needs of all children and young people. An electronic recording system would be helpful.

## Sharing Faith

The vast majority of Companies said they used other material to share and develop faith with their young people, especially Scripture Union material, other Sunday School material, as well as the Gazette resources. There were some great examples shared of Companies engaging their church in supporting activities and projects.

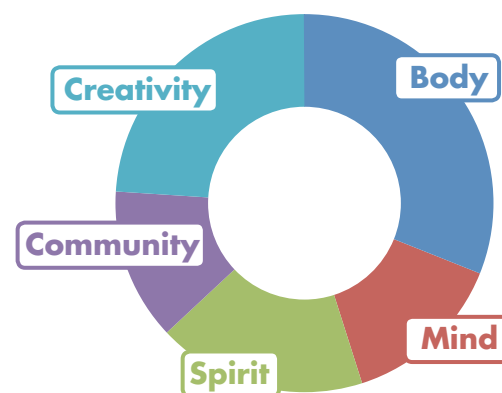
Do you think that the Anchor and Junior programmes are too similar? (%)



## Residentials

Half of respondents said their Companies offer Juniors a residential experience, some joining with other local Companies and/or other youth organisations. When asked if the current regulations prohibiting Anchors attending residential should be amended or removed, about half of respondents were in favour. Those hesitant tended to think Anchors were too young and being able to attend sleepovers offered good progression when young people joined Juniors. It was appreciated that if there was to be any change to the regulations, then this would not be obligatory.

The Programme is split into five sections. How much time do you spend on each area? (% of Programme)



## What Does The New Programme Need?

Lots of positive comments were received about the resources shared in the new Gazette format and wanted to see that continue. Seeing new craft and games ideas in the new programme was popular and encouraging sharing great practice through the Gazette was desired.

“Programmes are only as effective as the people delivering them.”

## So What Happens Next?

The Brigade Executive has received reports from the Group and is supportive of the direction of travel. The Executive is keen that any branding relating to these age groups takes into account the progression into the over 11's work. It is intended that the Over 11's Group will start its review in the new session and the timeline for both pieces of work is that new materials and badges/rewards will be available for September 2017.

The Under 11's Group will be making a presentation at Conference in September in Wolverhampton.

# INFORMED

LATEST NEWS, REPORTS AND UPDATES  
FROM BB HEADQUARTERS

The ‘Our Community’ Week campaign will run throughout the 2015-2016 session, focussing around a week of social action. It’s all about making a difference in our communities, through a nationally coordinated initiative with a truly local impact.

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 of social action. We’ve pencilled in 26<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 but remember there is the freedom to do this at a time best suited to your needs in your local area.

You will find some great examples of local work already going on across the country in case studies featured on this page and also on the Our Community webpage; these fantastic examples are just a small selection of local initiatives we have been made aware of and we want to be able to share more of the amazing work being done in Companies by children and young people across the Brigade.

We’ve put together a range of resources to help support you in your local initiatives; these include banners, posters,



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

balloons, press releases, cartoons and we’ve added hundreds of photos to our online photo library. Go to [boys-brigade.org.uk/ourcommunity](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/ourcommunity) to access all these resources.

We want to challenge every Company to get involved in some way, consider what each age group could get up to, and encourage parents and family members and your church congregation to also get involved.

So, when planning your programme for next session, consider how you could build in activities for community week, remember it’s all about making a difference in our communities. But don’t worry if you cannot fit in with the week of social action, get involved when it is appropriate and let us know what you get up to.

@ If you have any questions send an email to [ourcommunityweek@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:ourcommunityweek@boys-brigade.org.uk)

Check out resources & support at: [boys-brigade.org.uk/ourcommunity](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/ourcommunity)



**Company:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tonbridge  
**Location:** Tonbridge, Kent, England  
**Date:** February 2015  
**Activity/Event:** Pancake Sale / Goat Giving

What they did: In order to raise money for a church mission trip to Uganda, the Amicus group at 2<sup>nd</sup> Tonbridge decided to hold a Pancake sale. Raising over £300 the money was used to buy 4 pairs of breeding goats which were donated to needy families in Rwentobo in Uganda. A team from the church including members of the Amicus group went out to Rwentobo later that month and presented the goats to local families whilst also spending time volunteering at the World Shine Foundation Primary School. The local custom is for the families to return the first goat that is born from this pair to the school, so it can be donated to another family.



## Registering your event/activity

It would be great if your Company could register your event/activity using our online form to let us know what you are getting up to. In return you will be sent out a bespoke event/activity pack we have put together to help you promote, run and celebrate your event/activity. The pack contains a banner, poster, balloons and other resources. Just go to the Our Community webpage to register your event/activity today, packs will be sent out within 5 working days from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

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 01442 288 558

 If you have any questions send an email to [brigade.conference15@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:brigade.conference15@boys-brigade.org.uk)

 Please visit: [boys-brigade.org.uk/conference2015](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/conference2015)

Accounts 2014-2015

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2015 for The Boys' Brigade (A Company limited by guarantee) can be viewed online.

A copy of the accounts will be provided in a paper format to delegates attending Brigade Conference (Annual General Meeting). Paper copies can also be sent out on request by contacting BB Headquarters.

 View the accounts at: [boys-brigade.org.uk/annualaccounts.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/annualaccounts.htm)

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
49 <sup>th</sup> Aberdeen	Stuart Watson	Woodside Congregational Church, Aberdeen
65 <sup>th</sup> Aberdeen	Andrew Cowie	Northfield Congregational Church, Aberdeen
1 <sup>st</sup> Buckley	James Williams	Buckley Boxing Club, Flintshire
33 <sup>rd</sup> Cardiff	Muyiwa Owoniyi	RCCG Garden of the Lord Church, Cardiff
7 <sup>th</sup> Eastbourne	Linda Melton	St. Michael and all Angels Church, East Sussex
2 <sup>nd</sup> Edmonton	Ruth Ajiboye	RCCG Kingdom Life Chapel, London
2 <sup>nd</sup> Kilmarnock	Stuart McKelvie	Riccanton Parish Church, Kilmarnock
25 <sup>th</sup> Luton	Rita Effeyota	RCCG Kingdom Builders Family, Luton
1 <sup>st</sup> Nenagh	Gerard Maher	St. Mary's Church Nenagh, Republic of Ireland
1 <sup>st</sup> Stocksbridge	John Myers	Stocksbridge Christian Centre LEP, South Yorkshire
1 <sup>st</sup> Windy Nook	James Smyth	Windy Nook Methodist Church, Gateshead

Readership Survey

We hope that you enjoy reading the Gazette and find it useful in your role. The Gazette Editorial Team is always reviewing and looking at ways to improve the magazine and we would love your feedback so we can make sure that the magazine is a valuable resource and source of information for you. It should

International Junior Section Team Games

There were 172 entries to the competition this session including Companies from New Zealand, Thailand, Ghana, Australia, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Well done to 1st Chandlers Ford Company (England), winners for 2014/15 session. Details of the 2015/16 games will be available on the website from October 2015.

 Find out more at: [boys-brigade.org.uk/international-team-games.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/international-team-games.htm)



National Competitions

This year the finals took place from the 28th March to 9th May 2015. Companies experienced new venues and made new friends as they travelled around to participate in each of the rounds.



Badminton – Hosted by Scotland		
Champions	65 <sup>th</sup> Edinburgh	
Runners-up	1 <sup>st</sup> Garvagh	
Table Tennis – Hosted By Scotland		
Champions	1 <sup>st</sup> Grangemouth	
Runners-up	1 <sup>st</sup> Kempston	
Masterteam – Hosted by England		
Champions	100 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	
Runners-Up	25 <sup>th</sup> Stirling (Dunblane)	
Junior 5-A-side Football – Hosted by England		
Champions	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gourock	
Runners-Up	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saintfield	
Senior 5-A-Side Football – Hosted by Northern Ireland		
Champions	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gourock	
Runners-Up	16 <sup>th</sup> Newtownabbey	
Chess – Hosted by Northern Ireland		
Champions	1 <sup>st</sup> Glenwherry	
Runners-Up	32 <sup>nd</sup> Nottingham	

Top Team Challenge

A total of 181 teams took part in this year's Top Team Challenge for Company Section & Seniors members. Participants took part in a range of physical and mental activities testing their knowledge and skill. Activities in this year's challenge included: name the fruit, roll the gap, plane crazy, crab walk relay, weakest link and animal word chase. Well done to 8th Newtownards Company, winners for 2014/15 session. Details of the 2015/16 challenge will be available on the website from October 2015.

 Find out more at: [boys-brigade.org.uk/top-team.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/top-team.htm)

Voting at Brigade Conference (Annual General Meeting)

The voting form for this year's AGM (Wolverhampton 5th Sept) is included in the Company mailing which has been sent to Company Captains & Battalion/District Secretaries.

Who can vote?

- ✓ Companies
- ✓ Area Groups (Battalions, Districts)
- ✓ Members of Regional Committees
- ✓ Members of the Brigade Executive

You can vote in person by attending the AGM, by proxy or by post. Don't forget to complete the voting form to register and exercise your right.

 The form can also be found on the website at [boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm)

Obituaries

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

Geoffrey Brooke	Halifax Battalion
Kenneth Cuthbertson	35 <sup>th</sup> Birmingham
Allen Hamby	16 <sup>th</sup> Cardiff
Tommy Pattison	Paisley & District Battalion
Peggy Perfect MBE	1 <sup>st</sup> Watford
Ken Solomon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Slough
Jim & Ann McQuire	5 <sup>th</sup> Cumbernauld

 A full obituary appears on the BB website at [boys-brigade.org.uk/obituaries](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/obituaries)



# President's Commendations

The President's Commendation has recently been awarded to:

**Luca McCafferty** - 12<sup>th</sup> Newtownabbey    **Adam Gordon** - 9<sup>th</sup> Route



On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 Irene Lowry, District Vice President, presented Luca McCafferty with his President's Commendation. One Saturday in September 2014, Luca, aged 7, and his younger brother Kai, aged 5, were playing gymnastics at home with their father while their mother was out. Their father fell awkwardly and being a physiotherapist realised he had sustained a major neck injury. He was unable to move from his position and was in considerable pain. Luca found his dad's mobile as he knew his grandfather's number was stored in the memory. He rang his grandfather who was then able to summon help and dad was removed to hospital on a spinal board. It is clear that but for Luca's actions in raising the alarm the situation might not have turned out as well as it has done.

**Ayden McQuade** - 277<sup>th</sup> Glasgow



On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Gary Ralston, ex member of 277<sup>th</sup> Glasgow and now a sports journalist with the Daily Record, presented Ayden McQuade with his President's Commendation. Since birth Ayden as suffered from Cystic Fibrosis and for much of his time in the BB he has spent long periods in the Sick Children's Hospital in Glasgow, but he always bounces back for a few weeks before he is hospitalised again. Notwithstanding his illness Ayden has never let it keep him back. He takes a full part in all activities both on Friday nights and at weekends. He doesn't allow his illness to interfere in what he seeks to achieve and he really is an inspiration to the entire Company.



On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Cecil Cousley, Battalion President, presented Adam Gordon with his President's Commendation. In February 2014 Adam, a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Route Anchor Boys, was diagnosed with leukaemia. For over a year he received treatment in hospital in Belfast unable to attend BB or school. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Adam was finally well enough to return to the Company and to receive a cheque for the Northern Ireland Children's cancer unit fund. His father, Denver, explained how Adam had benefitted from the practical help in Belfast, such as play therapy, that had been offered by the cancer unit fund.

**Andrew Berry** - 4<sup>th</sup> Carluke



On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015 John Neil OBE, Honorary Brigade President, presented Andrew Berry with his President's Commendation. For a number of years Andrew has suffered with his balance, often resulting in him losing his balance completely. In the summer of 2014 he was admitted to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow for tests and treatment. Unfortunately, Andrew's condition worsened and since his discharge from hospital has required the constant assistance of a wheelchair.

Since Andrew's return to the Company he has used his time to challenge his circumstances head on. Every week, without fail, Andrew attends the Parade Night with a determination that acts only as an inspiration to others. Andrew embodies all that the Brigade stands for; his unwavering determination in the face of all the odds acts as an inspiration to those around him. He has not seen his disability as a disadvantage, or as an excuse, but rather an opportunity.



## SUPPORTING LOCAL WORK

## Resourcing the Regions - What does it all mean?

Colleagues may have read the motion in the name of the Scotland Regional Committee in the last Gazette referring to the Brigade Executive's discussions on 'Resourcing the Regions.' Many will have wondered what the background to this was.

With very few exceptions, local Companies in all parts of the Brigade belong to a Battalion. Until the 1990s Districts (groupings of Battalions) elected representatives to the Brigade Executive. Members of the Brigade Executive are the trustees of The Boys' Brigade and are responsible for the management of the organisation in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

That changed when the Brigade created a structure whereby committees were created for 5 "Regions" of the Brigade (England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales). Under this setup, Electoral Areas (Districts or former Districts) now elect representatives (including young people) to a Regional Committee and Regional Committees elect members to the Brigade Executive. Certain functions are also devolved to the Regional Committees.

In all parts of the UK and RoI (except England) the Region now covers the same area as the District. In England, there are several Districts which make up the Region. In the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales there is only one committee – acting, in effect, as both the "District Executive" and the Regional Committee. In fact, since there is only one Battalion in Wales and the Republic of Ireland, the District and Regional committee effectively acts as the "Battalion Executive" as well.

Some Regions attract support from local or devolved government whereas others are not so fortunate. Some Regions have well-developed work plans whereas others have not. Some have locally employed staff whereas others are assisted by staff employed by the Brigade centrally. Where there are locally

employed staff, the Brigade makes a contribution by way of a grant (or rebate) of subscriptions (except in Wales where there is no such support).

At a meeting of the Brigade Executive in June 2014, the Chairman (Matthew Smith) circulated a paper entitled 'Resourcing the Regions' which raised a number of questions about the existing structure. The Executive agreed that a Group under my Chairmanship should be set up to consider the issues.

That Group consists of one member from each of the 5 Regions, together with the Brigade Treasurer, Brigade Secretary, Chair of Executive, and myself.

The first meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and a second meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The role of the members is to consider the issues in the best interests of the Brigade as a whole, and not to act as delegates from their particular Region. At its meetings the Group considered the relative strength and weakness of the different Regions and at what level required functions were best carried out.

The broad consensus which arose as a result of this exercise was that we should be asking the question **"WHAT ARE THE BEST SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR LOCAL BB WORK?"**

The Regional Directors have been asked to carry out a scoping exercise which seeks to understand how Area Groups, Districts and Battalions are governed and what resources are available to them.

As a result of our discussions, a consultation paper for the Brigade has been prepared. A copy of the consultation document is available at [boys-brigade.org.uk/rtr.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/rtr.htm). It draws on some work done by the England Committee which looks at

Article Continued →



how Companies can be best supported by reference to their geographical spread and the motorway network. A copy of the map can be viewed by following the above link.

In particular, Regional Committees and members of the Brigade have been asked to discuss three questions.

- a. Do you agree with the proposed division of functions as between Headquarters and a more local source of support for Companies?
- b. Do you agree that local support for Companies is best provided at District (or in England, 'hub') level?
- c. Do you agree that resources for Districts (or in England, 'hubs') are best raised locally?

There will also be a discussion of these questions, and the related issues, at the Brigade Conference in Wolverhampton on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The next meeting of the Resourcing the Regions Group will be in late September. The deadline for all consultation responses is 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 so please do express your views before then by writing to BB Headquarters

@ You can also send responses to [enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk)

Perry Donaldson  
Brigade Vice President

### IMPORTANT! Motion to Council from the Scotland Regional Committee

In the previous edition of the Gazette, notice was given of a motion which the Scotland Regional Committee intended to propose at Brigade Council. That motion was formulated before the consultation paper circulated by the Resourcing the Regions Group had been prepared. In order to allow for that consultation process to proceed, the Scotland Regional Committee will not propose the motion at the meeting this September. Where a motion is not proposed and seconded at Council itself, the meeting will simply move on to the next business. No vote will be taken and postal and proxy votes will not be counted. Although the motion has been printed in the voting papers (as it must once notice of it has been given), since the motion will not in fact be proposed at the Council meeting, there will be no vote.

## YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Llantwit Major goes the extra mile... and then some!

Setting a target of collecting a mile of pennies was going to be no easy task, but between January 1<sup>st</sup> and Easter this year members had not only hit the target but had gone well beyond.

The total distance achieved was 1 mile, 204 yards, 2 feet and 8 inches, weighing in at almost a third of a ton this amounts to £885.07. The money raised is to boost Company funds and support cost of uniform, equipment and to pay for activities that the young people might not otherwise be able to afford. Well done to everyone involved.



### You Can do It at B&Q

Members of 12<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Company were invited to go along to their local B&Q superstore and had great fun making flower planters for Mother's Day. B&Q provided everything they needed, from the wood, to the screws, flowers and soil. The boys put the planters together using power tools; stapled in the liner and added decorative bits. It was time to then get their hands dirty filling the planters with compost and putting in the plants. Great fun and a fantastic surprise for their mums.



### Out & About on Park Clean Up

After it was noticed that litter was building up in a local park, BB/GB members from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford took matters in to their own hands to clean-up their park. Contacting the local council, they acquired grabbers, bag collectors and florescent jackets at no cost and organised an evening cleaning up the beautiful Bedford Riverbanks, close to where they meet. All in all a 90 minute activity and once all the bags of rubbish were put together - combined they came to 4 full bin bags of paper, plastic, cans, bottles, etc. The boys and girls also got the chance to spend some time in the play area in the park. But they all really enjoyed and were enthusiastic about the litter pick, racing from tree to tree to find as much as they could. A gentleman walking in the park stopped and applauded the group, 'Bravo' he shouted at the kids. Company Captain, Allan Tresidder said "It's definitely something we will be looking to do again".

f

### 28th West Kent

A fantastic church parade this morning - awarding 3 Junior Gold badges, 6 Presidents Badges, 2 Queen's Badges and a Jack Petchey Award. Well done to all boys achieving these awards.



### Wear dots... raise lots

Wear dots...raise lots this October by exploring the braille alphabet.

Get your groups involved and combine learning, creativity and fun!

Sign up now at [www.rnib.org.uk/dotsbb](http://www.rnib.org.uk/dotsbb) or call 0845 345 0054 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) and get a free fundraising kit.

© RNIB 2015 Charity nos. 226227, SCO39316 and 1173

**RNIB** Supporting people with sight loss





## 1<sup>st</sup> Llay Community Clean-Up

Thirty five Anchors, Juniors and leaders gave up their Saturday morning to clean-up various areas in the local community. The rain did not put the children off, armed with black bags and litter pickers they set out to make a positive impact on their local community. Many local residents stopped and encouraged the children and volunteers as well as asking about The Boys' Brigade. Well done to all involved.



**Natalie** @natwhip

I volunteer for days like 2day the future is bright & young people make a difference @theboysbrigade #volunteersweek



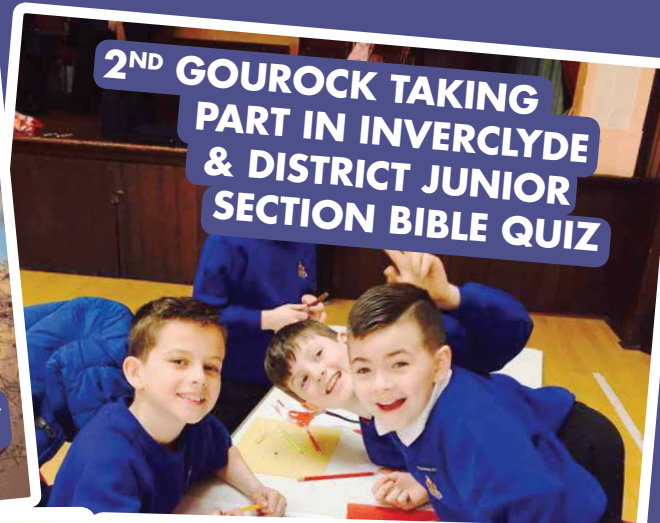
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Blantyre Easter Egg Appeal

During the week before Easter, members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Blantyre collected 39 Easter Eggs to support local business 'Smith's Funeral Services' in their annual appeal collecting for deserving people in the area. Ian and Jack from Smith's Funeral Services were presented with the eggs the week before Easter and Ian told the boys he was delighted that an organisation he had been involved with as a boy and young adult was getting involved and helping those less fortunate in the community. The eggs were then distributed the following day, bringing a little happiness at this important time of the year.

# SNAPSHOTS



**1<sup>ST</sup> KNOCKNAMUCKLEY JUNIORS' WEEKEND AWAY**



**2<sup>ND</sup> GOUROCK TAKING PART IN INVERCLYDE & DISTRICT JUNIOR SECTION BIBLE QUIZ**



**YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE QUEEN'S BADGE PRESENTATION**



**1<sup>ST</sup> CONDORRAT BB/GB ON CAMP AT DALGUISE**




**8<sup>TH</sup> FALKIRK AT PARENTS' EVENING WITH SCOTTISH CUP**



**1<sup>ST</sup> HANLEY VISIT NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**



**1st Alderholt BB** @1stAlderholtBB

Wonderful evening of relaxation and fellowship at the beach. The simplest things can so often be the best :-)! 




## Stirling Juniors walk for Charity

Members of 25<sup>th</sup> Stirling took part in a sponsored walk along the Forth and Clyde Canal. The boys walked from the Falkirk Wheel to the Helix Park, where The Kelpies (the world's largest equine statues) are located. The effort was in aid of raising funds for Strathcarron Hospice, Water Aid, The PSP Association and 500 Miles, which is a charity that helps those who need prosthetic limbs in Africa.



**11th Northampton BB** @11thnorthantsbb

Today we had the pleasure of performing at @SDickinsonBB farewell do. Thanks for all you have done Steve! #ThankYou 





## Singing in the rain

Eleven Company Section members and five leaders from 1<sup>st</sup> Bloxham spent a long weekend camping at Broughton Grounds Farm, North Oxfordshire in June. Despite some miserable weather with lots of rain, everyone had a great time taking part in a series of squad competitions, including tent inspection, a quiz, beetle drive, orienteering challenge, indoor games, twilight team building challenges, tenniquits, campfire songs and their own version of the Highland Games. All this came out of the young people planning the weekend away as their 'perfect camp' as part of their badgework a few months before.



## Portadown Under 14's Success

Members of Portadown Battalion's Under 14's Football Team have won the Torrens Northern Ireland Shield for the third year in a row. The final went to penalties after an entertaining 2-2 draw which saw Portadown take a commanding 2-0 lead, but for Belfast Battalion to come back in the last 5 minutes, scoring twice to equalise. Both teams scored and missed penalties, until the final kicks when Portadown keeper Adam McAlpine scored to make it 3-2 and then made an excellent save to win the shield.



### 2nd Hutton

2nd Hutton Boys Brigade at Emirates Airline Cable Car. Great fun on the Emirates Air! We got a lot of return waves from the passing cars!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Mid Suffolk

In April this year the 1<sup>st</sup> Mid Suffolk Boys' Brigade Band performed in a unique collaboration with the Stowmarket Concert Band. Each band played a variety of their own musical arrangements plus four joint pieces, bringing together the concert band ensemble with the bugles and drums of The Boys' Brigade Band. With band members aged from 7 to 70 years old this was an inspirational concert, which was well received by the enthusiastic audience.



### 41st Edinburgh BB @41edinBB

Hands up if you enjoyed Anchors this year



## Fly past moves heads at Drummond Safari Park

Members of 1<sup>st</sup> Stewarton visited Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park, near Stirling. Visiting the birds of prey display a Harris Hawk flew very close, just above their heads, as captured by Captain, Willie Campbell's photograph.

# RESOURCE

## GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the Summer 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



#### iChild

Thousands of ideas to keep children busy and entertained, including free printable activities, worksheets and resources.

Check out [ichild.co.uk](http://ichild.co.uk)



#### Youth Work Resource

Find a huge range of resources including lesson plans, games, ice breakers and ideas for leading school assemblies or residentials.

Check out [youthworkresource.com](http://youthworkresource.com)



#### Sparklebox

Great selection of resources for use with children including crafts, games and other activities all shared by teachers and children's workers.

Check out [sparklebox.co.uk](http://sparklebox.co.uk)

## ? The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Uxbridge or Uphall, Vale of Leven or Vale of Glamorgan.

### 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](mailto: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 Winter 2015/16 issue? Send it to [gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk)

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

Check out the programme ideas and resources for your section:

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:

fingerspellathon

#### OCT Fingerspellathon

Get your group involved in this sponsored spelling event for children in aid of NDCS. Not only is it a fantastic interactive lesson for children, it is also a creative fundraising event. Your children could improve their spelling, learn a valuable new skill, become more deaf aware, raise money to help deaf children and have lots of fun!

Check out [ndcs.org.uk/fingerspellathon](https://ndcs.org.uk/fingerspellathon)



#### 4 OCT World Animal Day

There are lots of ways to get your group involved on or around World Animal Day. Get the children to bring in food to donate to local animal (cat/dog) shelters, organise a trip to a shelter or farm, encourage children to bring in an animal for 'show & tell', invite an RSPCA representative to visit your group, organise a group visit to a 'Pets at Home' store (many stores offer organised visits for children, contact your local store to organise) or why not hold an animal theme night.

### Get Active: Cat & Mouse



Ask to the children to space themselves out around the meeting space, they can stand or sit but must not move about. Nominate or ask for volunteers for a 'cat' and a 'mouse'. The game is all about the cat chasing and catching the mouse, with the mouse trying to escape by sitting in front of another member of the group who then becomes the mouse. While the cat chases the mouse the rest of the group should be standing still or sitting down and should count to 20 slowly. The 'mouse' must sit in front of someone else before the rest of the group get to 20, if not then both the mouse and cat have to be changed. If the cat catches the mouse then they swap roles. Once the mouse changes the group needs to restart counting from 1.

### Get Learning: Farm to Fork Trails



Farm to Fork is an initiative from The Tesco East Happy Project, and is all about helping children to learn how their food is made and where it comes from, so they can have a happier and healthier relationship with food. Your Company could organise a local 'In store', 'Distribution Centre' or 'Farm and Factory' trail to find out more about the food we buy in the supermarkets.

On a trail the children might get to see bread being made in the bakery, or fish being prepared at the fish counter, or understand how food has to be stored at the right temperature. If you are lucky enough to be able to go on a farm trail you might even see how food on their plate starts its journey, by watching cows being milked or what part bees play in the production of fruit.

You can find a trail near you by going on to the website and searching for your local trails. If you cannot get out and about then it may be possible for a Farm to Fork guide to come to you. There are also online resources and a printed resource pack so it's not just about a visit to a store or farm.

Find out more at [tesco.com/eathappyproject](https://tesco.com/eathappyproject)

## Theme Ideas



Turn your section bear crazy with these programme ideas:

### 01 Suitcase relay

You need 2 lightweight suitcases with handles/wheels. Each team facing a chair placed 3 metres away on which are items you might take on holiday (Sun glasses, towel, sun tan cream etc). You will need as many items as members of the team. The first player runs to the chair pulling or carrying the suitcase, places an item from the chair inside (unzipping and zipping) and runs back to the team and the second player. The relay continues until all of the items are collected and the winners are the first team with all items ready to catch the train.

### 02 Bring your Bear



Action Medical Research's 'Bring your Bear' is a simple and fun event that everyone can take part in. It's all about getting the children to bring along their favourite bear. Action Medical Research funds medical research to beat the diseases that devastate the lives of so many of our children. You could have a teddy bears picnic and/or ask each of their children to tell the group a little bit about their bear. There are lots of online resources on Action Medical Research's website to help you run your Paddington theme night. You could also help support the work of Action Medical Research by doing some fundraising.

Check out [action.org.uk/events/bring-your-bear](https://action.org.uk/events/bring-your-bear)

### 03 Paddington Bear Paper Plate



#### Equipment

- ★ Paper plates
- ★ Brown paint/Colouring Pens
- ★ Fork
- ★ Red paper or card
- ★ Black paper
- ★ Black marker pen

#### Instructions

With a paper plate, paint the plate brown (scoring the paint whilst wet gives the impression of fur). Draw a hat on to red paper/card and cut out (you may need to do this in preparation). Add facial features with the marker or with pieces of black paper/glue. You can add elastic and eye holes to make it into a mask.

### 04 Guess the number of bears in a jar

Beforehand fill a marmalade jar with jelly bears. Get the children to each guess how many bears are in the jar, whoever guesses most accurately wins the jar and its contents.



**05 Getting into the Bible**  
Ask the children if any of them have ever been lost. How did it happen and what did it feel like? How must Paddington have felt when he was all alone on the station platform? The only story of Jesus as a boy is when he got lost or at least his parents thought he was lost.

 **Read Luke 2 v41-52**

Although his parents were worried and thought him lost, Jesus knew he was in his Father's House and he felt safe and secure. Pray for situations when the children might feel lost and afraid, that Jesus might comfort them.

**06 Pin the label on Paddington**



Draw a big picture of Paddington, and prepare a 'Please look after this bear' label. Then blindfold each child one at a time and have them fix the label on his duffle coat. Nearest to the top button wins.

**07 All Aboard**




Mr Brown found Paddington at the Railway station. Label the four corners of your meeting place as railway stations. You can add local ones as well as using 'Paddington' Station. On the word 'Go' or as the music plays the children move freely round the hall. When the music stops or on the shout 'Stop' the children have to go to a railway station. A leader, who is not looking shouts out the name of a station where the train has not stopped. The children waiting at that station are out and the game continues. The winner is the last person left in, you can make it more difficult by not allowing more than 2 people at any one station.


## The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... **"We already welcome parents to stay and observe what we do on the first night they bring their child along, to see how we operate and make sure they settle in. We've got a child at the moment who won't stay unless his Mum is also there (several weeks in). Has anyone else had a similar situation; what can we do?"**


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

 "A few years ago we had a mum who never missed a night (with her son) and we joked that she was getting an award at the Display. The next season her son had settled that wee bit more, flew into the hall on the first night, and never looked back. In his final year in our Section he was the 'Best Boy' and an example to all."

Ivan Vincent, 43<sup>rd</sup> Belfast

 "I would suggest working with the mum and try over a period of weeks a gradual leaving. Starting off by mum saying she needs to pop outside to make a phone call/check the car/get tea bags if shop nearby. Just 5 minutes. The child will be reassured when she returns swiftly. Then build it up from 10 minutes the next week and then so on."

Graeme Hunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Whitburn

 "I would introduce a sticker chart/reward system, a sticker for every time he lets his Mum leave. An incentive may just be the push he needs. You could also buddy him up with another child who could have the job of 'looking after him' for the evening. If all else fails, sign his Mum up as a helper!"

Hele Gardiner,  
1<sup>st</sup> Saffron Walden



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

Send your question to [gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto: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:



**18-21 SEP Great British Beach Clean**

The UK has some of the most beautiful coastline you could hope to find, but it is being ruined by a rising tide of litter that is increasing year on year. Could your Company help to tackle this menace? It's easy to take part. Most events will take an hour or two - time well spent making a difference to the growing problem of beach litter.

Check out [mcsuk.org/beachwatch/greatbritishbeachclean](http://mcsuk.org/beachwatch/greatbritishbeachclean)



**END SEP Harvest Festival**

A time to give thanks for the crops that have been grown and to celebrate the end of the season. Could you get involved with your Church's Harvest service, do a collage or help collect foods to share with those in need in your community? Speak to your Minister about how the children could get involved. You could also link into Water Aid's Harvest Appeal for 2015.

Check out [wateraid.org/harvest](http://wateraid.org/harvest)



**OCT Wear Dots for RNIB**

Get your group involved and combine learning, creativity and fun! By taking part and fundraising you will be making a massive difference and helping RNIB to get everyone on the same page, and open up the world of reading for blind and partially sighted people. Register your group today and receive your free pack filled with activity ideas and tips to start planning your event/activity.

Check out [rnib.org.uk/dotsbb](http://rnib.org.uk/dotsbb)



### Get Active: French Cricket



#### Instructions:

Get the children to stand in a circle, and select someone to be the first to bat. The batter stands in the centre of the circle. The rest of the players forming the circle try to throw the ball and hit the batter's legs below the knees. This area is known as the "stumps". The batter must hit the ball away for if they fail and the ball passes by, the batter cannot turn around to face another bowler. Instead the batter must twist and turn to try to defend the stumps without moving their feet. If the batter hits the ball and it is caught the batter is out. Once out, the batter is replaced by the player who bowled him out.

#### Equipment

- ★ Plastic Cricket Bat or plastic tennis racket
- ★ Lightweight Plastic Ball (approx size 4/5)



### Get Active: The Detective

Get the children to form a circle and ask for a volunteer 'The Detective'. The Detective must leave the room / turn around / close their eyes whilst the starter is picked. The starter then starts an action that the rest of the group follow (e.g. clapping, waving, etc). The Detective has to try and guess who is starting the action. Once guessed select another Detective and starter.



Shared by  
**Tina George, 3<sup>rd</sup> Enfield**



## Theme Ideas



### LIGHT PARTY

Halloween is now the UK's third highest spending festival behind Christmas and Easter.

Many of today's children associate Halloween solely with witches and wizards as that is what they see portrayed in the media, in the shops and of course on their streets. But, it is also the Christian festival of all Hallow's Eve and All Saints' Day, which remembers the lives of those Christians who gave up everything for their faith in Jesus. Most children know nothing of this and many churches simply end up ignoring the date. So why not re-claim the festival for the church, and focusing on Jesus 'The Light of the World'.

Try out some of these activities at your Light Party this Halloween:

## 01 Candle Holders



### Equipment

- ★ Air drying clay
- ★ Coloured bead, pebbles, shells (to decorate the clay)
- ★ Tealights

### Instructions:

Give each child enough clay for them to roll into a ball, and then push the tealight into the clay. Then they need to push the ball onto a hard surface to create a flat bottom. Finally decorate the clay with beads and shells and leave the clay to dry out overnight, although remove the tealight before hardening.

## SU Light Party Pack

Get your Scripture Union Light Party Pack with tips on how to plan and run your party along with ideas for crafts, games, recipes, and discussion starters.



Order your Light Party Pack  
[lightparty.org.uk](http://lightparty.org.uk)



## 03 Getting into the Bible

Ask the children to list as many types of lights as possible. They could mention torches, candles, lightbulbs, car headlights etc. List them on a flip chart and show them some real life examples if you can. Get the children to think about why the light source is used – what's its purpose? You could link this back to the torch treasure hunt. You might get responses like 'shows us the way', 'guides us'. Think about a lighthouse and its purpose. The light guides the ships and warns of danger.



Read John 8:12

Explain that the Bible tells us that Jesus is the light of the world; Jesus spoke about himself using the words, "I am the Light of the World." What do the children think he meant by this? Link to the previous discussion on guiding and showing the right way. Jesus is the best light there is.

With enough glow sticks for everybody, snap them all together as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world—He is good and its good to get to know Him. Explain that even though these glow sticks will eventually go out—the light of Jesus will never go out—He is always with us.

You could finish by listening to or singing one of these songs: Shine Jesus Shine, We are marching in the light of God, This little light of mine or Light of the World.

## 03 Torch Treasure Hunt

The children may be familiar with a treasure hunt around the building or within a particular room in the building, but this time use torch light to find the treasure which could be chocolate coins or other sweets. Ensure the room you use is safe and free from trip hazards that may be more difficult to negotiate in limited light.

## 04 Pass the Pumpkin



A variation on pass the parcel. Prepare a hollowed out pumpkin which is then filled with treats. The pumpkin is passed around the children seated in a circle while the music plays. When the music stops, the child holding the pumpkin at that moment offers it to someone else to take a treat rather than take a treat for themselves.

## 05 Recycled lanterns



### Equipment

- ★ Small food jars (empty & clean)
- ★ Thin steel wire
- ★ Beads
- ★ Heavy duty scissors
- ★ Tealights

### Instructions:

Wrap a piece of wire twice around the top of the jar and cut and secure.

Use another piece of wire to make the handle shape, thread some beads onto the handle and then secure this on to the wire around the top of the jar. Place a tealight in the jar to make a lantern. The children could decorate the lantern using glass pens.

## ? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... "We're busy recruiting for the new session, expecting some new children on the first night and looking for ideas to get us off to a flying start!"

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

"Plan an action-packed evening. We had a very successful "bring a friend" night in October 2014 that included lots of activities with prizes, including a short quiz, an obstacle course and other games. We also served pizza. For the prizes we gave vouchers that were redeemable on specific BB nights in the future at the tuck shop, so to get the prize the boy had to come back another week! We designed the activities so that the boys were paired with their friends for each activity. Perhaps on a first night back you might pair each new boy with an established member of the section. Make sure that games don't involve boys sitting out for long periods of time. Give the boys things to look forward to, e.g. talk briefly about any special trips you may be planning for later in the year. At the end of the evening try and speak to each boy with their parent(s) to find out if they enjoyed themselves."

Andrew Burchell, 20<sup>th</sup> Luton

"Plan the evening even more carefully than normal (with some ice-breaking activities) so newcomers can experience a well-structured and well managed session - where the time should fly by, and they will go home looking forward to next week."

Bill Wright, East Anglia District



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

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



## Great activities & ideas for your section:

### Planning your Programme

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



#### SUMMER RNLI & Lifeboat Week

Throughout the summer period the RNLI hold Lifeboat Week's at RNLI stations across the country. Find out about how you could get involved by visiting the nearest RNLI station to your meeting place, or look out for the nearest station whilst at camp.

The RNLI also have lots of useful resources and information about staying safe at or near beaches and the sea on their website. Check out pages 44-45 of Spring 2015 Gazette for ideas on how you can get involved.

Check out [rnli.org.uk/education](http://rnli.org.uk/education)



#### 25 SEP World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Ready, steady, bake! We all know that cake tastes better together, so get your Company together and invite parents, family, friends and supporter along for a Macmillan Coffee Morning this September and help us be there for more children and families facing cancer.

Sign up today and get your free Coffee Morning Kit, filled with everything you need for a brilliant get together. We've added an extra helping of fun too, with a brand new cake stencil, sweepstake games, pretty cake flags and lots more. Every cake sold could change someone's life for the better so sign up today and start planning the scrummiest morning of the year.

Check out [macmillan.org.uk/coffee](http://macmillan.org.uk/coffee)

### Get Active: Human Hungry Hippos



#### Equipment

You will need the following for each team:

- ★ Bungee cord or rope
- ★ Furniture dollies or skateboards
- ★ Cushions to go on the dollies
- ★ Plastic laundry basket or plastic box
- ★ Plus lots of plastic balls (or you could use inflated balloons)

#### Instructions:

Attach a piece of bungee cord or rope to furniture dollies/skateboards and place a cushion on top. Using large empty hall space, divide young people into teams, give each team a basket, and have them stand in different parts of the hall. Release the small plastic balls (or you could use balloons) into the middle of the hall. For safety children should wear helmets. Each team should push their dolly with a member on into the balls, the member on the dolly places their bucket/box down and then is pulled back by the team to get the collected balls. The winning team is the one to collect the most plastic balls. Inspired by a popular video of the game online, the activity is thoroughly engaging for all age groups.

Shared by  
**Andrew McCaldon,**  
35<sup>th</sup> Liverpool

## Theme Ideas



Use this latest blockbuster to introduce the story of Moses.

### 01 Watch the Movie

Exodus : Gods & Kings hit cinemas in December 2014 and was released on DVD in March 2015. The Bible inspired epic fantasy filmed by Ridley Scott tells the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of captivity. Although there are many inaccuracies from the Biblical text, the movie is a good door opener to start to explore the story of Moses. Could you watch the movie with your young people as a movie night or over a number of weeks? Or if not, perhaps just watch the trailer which you will find on YouTube. Look at discussing key points from the movie and link back to Biblical text.

### 02 Crossing the Red Sea

Mark a space about 10 metres apart with two lines (with tape/chalk), with the middle representing the river. The object of the game is for two teams of equal size to cross the river without touching the water. Each team should be given an equal number of cardboard pieces (approx. 20 cm square) to use as islands/stepping stones (they can be moved around), make it as easy or as hard as you like (reduce number of pieces to make more difficult and repeat). If anyone makes contact with the river, then they must go back to the starting point. The team that gets its team members across in the fastest time wins.

**Note:** This activity could lead into a discussion on teamwork.

### 03 Acting it Out

Get the young people to devise or write a sketch. The sketch could be on Moses asking Pharaoh, the 10 plagues, or the exit from Egypt. Could the young people perform this at a church or service or for a younger age group to help them understand the story.

### 04 Ten plagues



God sent the ten plagues to persuade pharaoh to let his people go. Give the young people these anagrams to unscramble to identify the plagues. Looking at the Bible passage (Exodus 7:14 – 11:10) will help.

#### Anagrams

- |                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1) <b>BREW TOADSTOOL</b>    | (6/2/5) |
| Answer: Waters to blood     |         |
| 2) <b>ALF GOUGES PROF</b>   | (6/2/5) |
| Plague of frogs             |         |
| 3) <b>LASTING DANCE</b>     | (5/2/4) |
| Answer: Gnats or lice       |         |
| 4) <b>FORMLESS WAIF</b>     | (5/2/4) |
| Answer: Swarm of flies      |         |
| 5) <b>ALIEN MAIDS</b>       | (7/3)   |
| Answer: Animals die         |         |
| 6) <b>BOOGIE LAPFULS</b>    | (6/2/5) |
| Answer: Plague of boils     |         |
| 7) <b>HANDRAIL HUNTER</b>   | (7/3/4) |
| Answer: Thunder and hail    |         |
| 8) <b>CLOSEUPS GUT LOAF</b> | (6/2/7) |
| Answer: Plague of locusts   |         |
| 9) <b>ASK NERDS</b>         | (8)     |
| Answer: Darkness            |         |
| 10) <b>FBI TORRIDNESS</b>   | (9/4)   |
| Answer: Firstborn dies      |         |





Set up two goals and provide a soft ball. Tell the group that the object is to score as many goals as possible, throw the ball in and shout go. It won't be long before someone asks for the rules or claims that people are cheating. Say that it's impossible to cheat as there are no rules. Stop the game before it breaks down completely and ask what went wrong. With no rules it might be dangerous, weaker players get left out and it becomes boring.

#### Get the young people to consider:

- What rules would they introduce to this game?  
God's Rules – Whilst they were in the Desert, God gave the Israelites rules (Ten Commandments) as guidance to live by.
- Do the Ten Commandments still apply today?
- How hard is it to obey God's rules?

Moses was a great leader; this activity is all about getting the young people to think about the role and qualities of a leader. Give each young person a piece of paper and a pen. Explain that everyone needs to imagine that they are taking part in a variety of expeditions – for each expedition they can choose one famous person to be their leader and one person who is present in the room as they do the activity to also be their leader.

They are only allowed to use each person once (famous and friend), so they must think carefully who would be best for each of the following:



Across the polar ice caps



Across London using the Underground



Across the Sahara desert



Through the tropical rain forest



Around a new school or college



Disney World

Share their answers and comment positively on the choices they made within their own peer group.

## ? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... **"We've been running a successful Company Camp for as many years as we can remember, but have gradually been seeing numbers dropping. A few years ago we started going to camp with other Companies, but even that is now a struggle. We don't want to not have a Summer Camp, but equally realise it's not working. We've started to consider what else we can do, invite more Companies, lower age to incorporate Junior Section, etc. Has anyone else experienced similar issues and found a solution?"**

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



"Think strategic. If there is no likelihood of numbers increasing - you could of invite BB Companies from further afield. However our work is relational. So if we invite YP from miles away and the next time we will see them is the same time next year - then if we are seeking to be relational in our work - is that the best way to do things. Maybe we should partner with other Christian youth work. So are there Youth Groups who are on the same page as you locally? You could partner with them - but also continue partnering going forward over the year."

Richard Barker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bournemouth



"Historically, most if not all the Boys looked forward to camp. However over the past few years, we experienced a downturn in numbers. This got us looking at reasons - who better to ask than the boys. Up until then, we operated a traditional camp usually based in a farmer's field with basic facilities including dry toilets, outside wash basins and whose previous occupants were invariably herds of cows. The consensus of opinion was that they are used to regular showers, proper toilets, dish washers, electricity etc. We looked at what we could do to meet some of the boys' aspirations. We looked for a campsite with more acceptable facilities. This looked more like "glamping" than camping, but we had eleven attend camp last year, opposed to six the previous year. I am happy to report that we have twenty attending camp this year. Happy Camping!"

Walter Williamson MBE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bo'ness

## Great activities & ideas for your section:

### Programme Planning

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



18 SEP - 31 OCT **Rugby World Cup**

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 18<sup>th</sup> September at Twickenham and involves England and Fiji with the Final at the same venue over six weeks later on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Get your young people involved perhaps you could watch a match or have a go at the sport if it is not already part of your Company programme. Check out resources in Spring 2015 Gazette under 'Discover' programme.

**Engage 2015** is a cross denominational campaign set up to help UK churches serve the rugby community during the World Cup, find out more about Engage 2015 and how your Company / Church can get involved.

Check out [engage2015.co.uk](http://engage2015.co.uk)



12 - 18 OCT **National Curry Week**

National Curry Week continues to celebrate our nation's favourite food, why not get your young people cooking some dishes, reviewing a local takeaway or holding your own 'Come Dine with Me' (everyone bring along a main dish, or cook one at BB and then mark each other's out of 10). You could also try the Poppadum Speed Eating Challenge, check online to find out the record you need to beat.



## Get Active: Quick Team Building Games and challenges



### Helium Stick

Get the group to line up in two rows which face each other. Give them the Helium Stick (long, thin, lightweight such as garden cane or similar). Ask the young people to point their index fingers and hold their arms out. Lay the Helium Stick down on their fingers. Get the group to adjust their finger heights until the Helium Stick is horizontal and everyone's index fingers are touching the stick. The challenge is to lower the Helium Stick to the ground. Everyone must be touching the Helium Stick at all times, pinching or grabbing the stick is not allowed – it must rest on top of fingers. It might sound easy but the stick seems to float to the top until the group works diligently to lower it to the ground. The trick is that the collective upwards pressure created by everyone's fingers tends to be greater than the weight of the stick. As a result, the more a group tries, the more the stick tends to 'float' upwards. Alternatively you could try this with a hoop with young people standing around in a circle.





### Hula Hoop Circle

The young people stand in a circle and hold hands. Start one hula hoop hanging over one pair of joined hands. Each person in the circle must pass the hoop over him/herself and on to the next person - WITHOUT letting go of hands. Add to the fun by adding a second hoop that has to travel round the circle in the opposite direction.



### Alphabet Pockets

Divide into teams of 4 or 5. Everyone on the team searches through their own pockets, wallets, pocketbooks, etc. The group tries to come up with one possession which begins with each letter of the alphabet. The winning team is the one to have objects representing the most letters.



### Birthday Line-up

Have the young people line up in order of their birthdays (month and day, year isn't necessary). Sounds easy, but no one is allowed to speak. They may resort to sign language, and look out for who takes control.



### Blind Square

You will need as many blindfolds as you have team members and a long rope, at least 10 – 15 metres in length. Simply blindfold all your team members and throw a rope on the ground next to them. Tell them to make a square, using the full length of the rope lying on the ground next to them. Give them no further instructions. See if any individual takes charge and discuss afterwards how they set about the task.



### Circle Game

Get the group to hold hands in a circle around one member, the member in the middle then has to start walking forwards. The rest of the group will then start walking away so that the person in the middle does not walk into them. The person in the middle has to try to get out without walking into anyone.

## ? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following... **"How do you keep in contact with your young people over the summer period? Are there things that your Company does to ensure you maintain contact and that young people come back next session?"**

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



"We try to run as late into the spring as we can. After parade nights finish around the end of April, we will run a simple summer programme up to the end of June that can be little more than playing football in the park, games in the church halls if it's raining, going to the swimming pool or mini-golf. It doesn't suit every boy every week and with exams in May/June we often find a few boys missing weeks, but it does maintain contact and keeps the group together. We will organise a couple of weekend expedition camps in late June and August with reasonably challenging hikes which our boys like and again keeps everyone together. Early August has our week long summer camp, so including prep for that, another couple of weeks in August are occupied. So really it's only the month of July that would see no Company activities, hence there is never a sense that BB has finished for a long period of time."

Robin Wilson, 82<sup>nd</sup> Belfast



"This problem applies to all ages and not just Seniors. Some years ago our Captain was working away and could not attend for quite a few months. Company section numbers were already critical anyway and we didn't want to lose any more. Six weeks is long enough for young people to 'lose the habit' and think an Xbox is more fun than BB. We decided to cancel summer holidays for Company section and Seniors. We now run what we call our 'Summer Events'. In July and August we go out every week, weather permitting and activities can include going to the beach, park, visit a zoo or animal park, have a go at adventure activities like archery or canoeing, or even just going for a walk. We finish our summer with a BBQ.... but it's about doing just about anything you don't do on a normal parade night. Summer Holidays are when we are needed most."

Roger Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Llantwit Major



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

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

# FOCUS ENGLAND



f /theboysbrigade  
@theboysbrigade

## Wow, what a weekend!

From 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 250 young people and leaders met together at Felden Lodge for the first ever Unite camp. The event was advertised as a 'camp with a difference' and it really did live up to the expectation. It was a unique opportunity for young people and leaders from across the England Region to meet, explore their faith and enjoy a range of activities together.

Like on any camp, there were early mornings and late nights. From Bush tucker trials, inflatables, archery, wide games, quizzes, water games, mocktail masterclass, human hungry hippos and films, there was plenty to do for everyone. Leaders enjoyed some excellent workshops on Company development, music ideas for the non-musical, ideas for working with under and over 11s and even an afternoon tea!

Campers were grouped into 'villages' based on the Unite logo; red, blue and yellow. Over the weekend the villages competed against each other in a range of activities to win the sought after 'Best village' trophy. Red village took the title led by their village leaders Adam Morris (21<sup>st</sup> Cardiff) and Rachael Knowles (53<sup>rd</sup>/59<sup>th</sup> Manchester).

Worship was led by James Oxford and his band who introduced us to some new songs, as well as bringing out some old classics. Mark Greenwood talked on the theme of uniting together with God, also including his thoughts on curries and Bradford City F.C! Jacob and Lucy did a fantastic job of leading the campfire with an acoustic sing along and speaking to the 15-18 year old group about their journeys of faith. The pastoral team hosted lots of crafts, art work, teaching and even created a 'Unite' song!

### For more information about the event as it unfolded:



Facebook  
[facebook.com/unitebb](https://facebook.com/unitebb)



Twitter  
[@unitebb](https://twitter.com/unitebb)

Campers posted comments and pictures over the weekend under [#unitebb](https://twitter.com/unitebb). By the time you have read this, a decision will have been made about future events, so please check the website for further details.



Find out more at:  
[unitebb.org.uk](https://unitebb.org.uk)

## WHAT'S ON - ENGLAND



### 1-7 AUG KGVI Youth Leadership Training

For those aged 17 to 21 who would like to move into leadership in the BB.

[boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi)

### 03 OCT DofE Leaders' Training Day

To be held at Bradford Citadel, the day is designed for both new Leaders and those who have been active within the Award for some years.

### 10 OCT Trainers' Update

To be held at Felden Lodge, an opportunity for Trainers across the Region to come together for an update led by Karen Jay, Director of Youth & Children's work.

### 13-15 NOV Skills Weekend

For young people aged 16-22, held at Felden Lodge, an opportunity to learn new skills, also can be used as 'Skills for QB'.



For a full list of dates go to:  
[england.boys-brigade.org.uk](https://england.boys-brigade.org.uk)





f /theboysbrigadeinscotland  
@thebbscotland

## General Assembly

It was a fabulous display of BB teamwork, skill and leadership during the Sunday of the Kirk's General Assembly in Edinburgh. Company Section members and Seniors from across the central belt took centre stage in the bands, the Guard of Honour and also during the Heart and Soul festival.

## Seniors Sevens

BB Seniors from Airdrie/Coatbridge, Stirling, Strathkelvin and West Lothian represented their Battalions in this annual football tournament. All competed well, but it was the Airdrie, Coatbridge & District team which again claimed the title! Well done! Can they make 2016 four in a row?!

## WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



1-7 AUG **KGVI New Entrants' – Carronvale House**

4-5 SEPT **Enhancing Your Skills – Carronvale House**

5-6 SEPT **Enhancing Your Skills – Carronvale House**

12-15 OCT **Scottish HQ Queen's Badge residential, Carronvale House**

14 OCT **Badminton Basics, Carronvale House**

For a full list of dates go to:  
[scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk)

## BB1000Km Challenge

Well done to all the Companies and Battalions who organised events as part of the challenge during the autumn. Collectively, members covered a distance of 1076km, exceeding the 1000km by some margin. There were numerous great examples of how distances were covered, including hundreds of laps at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, hikes and fun-runs. Special congratulations go to the YLN team from Strathkelvin, who covered the greatest distance circumnavigating the Isle of Cumbrae 25 times! They received the Simon Smith Memorial Trophy during their own event at Airspace.

Take a look back at the challenge by watching this short video  
<http://bit.ly/1Aceen4>

## Scottish Bands Contest

Nearly 300 young musicians and over 500 spectators came together in Musselburgh's The Brunton for the annual musical showcase. The day's big winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Troon Company, which took first place in the Pipe Band Championship Class as well as three other competitions, and 1<sup>st</sup> Tulliallan Company, which won the Wind Open Class Championship. The bands performed for VIP guests Kenny McAskill MSP (Former Cabinet Secretary for Justice), Councillor Ludovic Broun-Lindsay (Provost of East Lothian) and Brigade Vice-President, Alistair Burrow.

## Easter Sports Camp

After a successful trial in 2014, BB Scotland held another Sports Camp during the first week of the Easter Holiday. Twenty-four young people, from nine different Companies throughout the central-belt, attended the event at Carronvale House. In an active and packed three-day programme, young people got the chance to try eight participative sports – ranging from the popular everyday sport of football, to more unusual ones such as American Football! For more information about developing sports in your Company, please contact Scottish HQ.

## Scotland Committee

Two long-serving members of the committee will be standing down at the end of this session. Alistair Joss has served on the committee since 2000 and David Richmond's commitment goes back to 1996. The Brigade in Scotland wishes to thank Alistair and David for their service.



f /theboysbrigadeinwales  
@BB\_Wales

## BB in Wales Conference

Earlier this year a successful conference was held bringing together leaders from across the Region. The conference was a fantastic opportunity for all involved in BB across Wales to get together to talk about the great things happening as well as share ideas. Time was spent looking to the future, with the conference hearing from several young people who shared their thoughts on what BB means to them. The Brigade President was in attendance and spoke passionately about the work of the Brigade and inspired all. There were also a number of workshops on offer during the day. After the success of this event it is hoped that a similar event can be organised again next year.

## Development Update

Gareth Hiller, Supporting & Enabling Officer for Wales, shares something of his activity over the last few months:

"It has been a busy few months in Wales and we are pleased to announce we have launched three new Companies in North Wales. We have just completed our training with them and excited to see these new Companies go from strength to strength. As well as these new Companies we are busy working with several existing Companies helping to launch new sections and looking at ways to support and help their Companies to grow. Over the summer we are looking forward to working with several other churches planning and preparing to launch more new Companies early in the new session."

For a full list of dates go to:  
[boysbrigadewales.org.uk](http://boysbrigadewales.org.uk)

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



## Activity Day

Over 100 Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a fun filled action packed activity day. The event, hosted by the newest Company in the Region, 1<sup>st</sup> Nenagh, took place in the Community College in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. The photo was taken during the well-deserved break for lunch.

## Thanksgiving Services

During the months of March and April Services of Thanksgiving were held around the Country in Achonry, Athy and Gorey with many members, leaders, parents and friends attending. We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of the United Dioceses of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, the Right Rev. Michael Burrows to the service in Gorey. As is customary the host Company provides refreshments for all after the Service and is an important part of the fellowship of the day. Thanks to all who were involved in providing refreshments at the various venues.

## WHAT'S ON - R.O.I



09 SEP **Leaders' Meeting & YLT, Carrick on Shannon**

14 SEP **Leaders' Meeting & YLT, Portlaoise**

16 SEP **Leaders' Meeting & YLT, Monaghan**

17 SEP **Leaders' Meeting & YLT, Dublin**

05 OCT **Leaders' Meeting & YLT, Bunclody**

For a full list of dates go to:  
[boysbrigade.ie](http://boysbrigade.ie)



# FOCUS NORTHERN IRELAND



## Anchor Boy Fun Day

Northern Ireland District welcomed nearly 700 Anchor Boys on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to Newport, its new Headquarters, for a day of entertainment and activities to help raise funds for the renovation and extension of the new premises.

The Fun Day provided the boys with an action packed selection of activities including a train ride, bouncy assault course, crafts, penalty shootout, 'soak the leader' and a puppet show with the most popular being the train ride and 'soak the leader'.

This was the first event of its kind to be held at Newport and received rave reviews. Warm spring sunshine made it a perfect day for the outdoor event. It was interesting to observe how the simplest of activities and the puppet show captured the boys' attention and imagination. NI District has now set up a YouTube Channel.

Take a look at the Fun Day video:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=cNwPZP\\_USaM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNwPZP_USaM)

The new BB superhero character 'Incredible Ed' (representing NI District's Community Relations, Equality and Diversity programme) made his first appearance at the Anchor Boy Fun Day. The costume was based on a winning design from an Anchor Boy colouring competition during 2014/15.

## WHAT'S ON - N.IRELAND

**12 & 26 SEP** Youth Leader Training – Fintona, West Ulster

**03 OCT** Anchor Boy Conference – NI Headquarters (Newport)

**07 NOV** Junior Section Conference – Wellington Presbyterian Church, Ballymena

For a full list of dates go to:  
[ni.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://ni.boys-brigade.org.uk)

## Junior Section Big Day Out

The Junior Section held its Big Day Out at Ganaway Activity Centre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Despite some wet weather in the lead up to the event, the day itself was warm and dry with some boys even taking a dip in the sea. Activities included crazy golf, climbing wall and zorbing.

All the action can viewed here:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=0iPI-v6hro8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iPI-v6hro8)

## Queen's Badge Celebration

259 boys attained the Queen's Badge this year in Northern Ireland. A celebration evening was held in Carnmoney Presbyterian Church on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The special guest was Drew Harris OBE, Deputy Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, who presented the boys with their certificates.



## Impact of Volunteering Research

Volunteer Now launched an 'Evaluation of the Impact of Volunteering in the Uniformed Organisations in Northern Ireland' report at Stormont on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Representatives from Northern Ireland District attended, along with those from the other uniformed organisations in Northern Ireland: Catholic Guides of Ireland, Scouting Ireland, The Girls' Brigade NI, Girlguiding Ulster and the Scout Association NI. The research highlights the vital contribution made by volunteers in a wide range of roles – leaders, administration, training, and governance. Respondents highlighted their positive experiences, describing their volunteering as 'challenging', 'amazing' and although hard work most felt that it was worthwhile. They also felt their skills were being well used, they received useful and relevant training and their contribution was valued. Parents and young people valued highly the immense contribution made by the volunteers, recognising that without them, the work simply would not happen. The full report highlights figures such as 'volunteers contribute 13,820,988 hours every year' and can be downloaded from the BBNI Website (in the downloads section under the 'Resources' heading).

# TOOLBOX



## Preparing for the new session

It hardly seems that the doors have been closed on the last session, when it's suddenly time to open them again to let in the new.

The success of the new session may well lie in how we prepare for it. The following article is a brief reminder of things we need to consider before the session starts. It is not an exhaustive list and there will be different ways of approaching things, but as the old training adage goes, 'If we fail to prepare, we prepare to fail'.

### Preparing yourself

Being a leader in a BB Company is demanding. It is demanding physically, spiritually and emotionally and we all need time to recharge our batteries. Ensure that you take some time for yourself. There are some leaders who feel guilty if the Company isn't meeting every week. Remember, we all need a break and that goes for the children and young people too.

God equips us to do the tasks that he calls us to; but we do need to take that time to listen to his leading. Sometimes we can all become so involved in the busyness of church and BB life, giving out all the time, that we forget that we need nourishment too. Take time to reflect on what God is asking of you as you give yourself to another demanding year.

### Preparing Together

Most Companies will hold some form of planning meeting in preparation for the start of the new session. How do we use this time to build on the work that has gone before as we continually strive for improvement? Involve as many leaders as you can, if not all, in your planning and don't forget your Chaplain/Minister is part of your staff team.

### Reviewing the last Session

Start with a review of the previous session. This can be over complicated when really it's a matter of three simple questions;

- ✓ What went well?
- ✓ What didn't go quite so well?
- ✓ What would we do differently next time?

Often we get bogged down on the things that didn't go as well as we remember them all too readily, but it's really important to reflect on things that go well, consider why and strive to maintain and build on these. And don't restrict these reflections solely to the programme, as important as that is, but consider aspects of Company life such as relationships (between the staff, with the young people, with parents, with the church), levels of participation of the young people and areas such as involvement in the local community. Don't forget to ask the young people for their feedback on the previous year and to ask for ideas about the sorts of activities they would like to be involved with.

### Targets for the Session

Having reviewed what's gone before, set yourself a few simple targets for the new session. These could be about the recruitment of additional adult volunteers within a particular section, it might be about introducing a residential, it could be about strengthening the link with the church or it may be seeking support with challenging behaviour. Identifying needs in such a way focuses our thoughts and helps us make strides towards achievement.

Make use of the Company Development resource at  
[boys-brigade.org.uk/pdfs/companydevelopmentscheme.pdf](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/pdfs/companydevelopmentscheme.pdf)

Article Continued →





## Building in Number

It's always important to think about the numbers you have and whether you can take additional children & young people or whether this would need additional staffing. Be clear in strategies for recruitment. Many Companies run successful recruitment campaigns and there are lots of ideas and resources to help support you in your recruiting efforts.



Check out recruitment resources at:  
[boys-brigade.org.uk/  
recruitmentresources.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/recruitmentresources.htm)



## Retaining your Membership

How do we ensure that the young people already in membership return for the new session? Clear information is really important so that parents and members know the re-start dates. Some Companies use online communications with parents, but it can also add to a youngster's sense of belonging to receive information through the post.



"Get to know the parents as well as you possibly can, which will give them and their son a better connection with BB. Tell them directly about all that we do so that they will want their son to return. We use email extensively as it is easy for both leaders and parents. Combine this with texts, making yourself available at the end of a session and always be friendly – remember that the customer is always right!"

Steve Mann, Captain, 28<sup>th</sup> West Kent



Ensure the first night back is exciting and highlights key activities such as residentials and visits that are already in the diary – make sure there's always something to look forward to. And if a member doesn't return, don't leave it too long before contacting the parents, it's quite easy to get out of the habit of attending if no one bothers that you haven't been for three weeks! Some children and young people will actually decide to leave so make sure that they know that if they change their mind, they're always welcome back.



## Budgets & Finance

It's always a good idea to look at budgets for the year. What is the likely expenditure for the normal activities during the year? A review of the previous session's expenditure will help with this. What will your Brigade capitation fees be likely to be, based on your expected numbers? Do you have any fees / donations to pay to your Battalion/District? What's the cost of buying weekly resources for craft/badgework? What will the cost be of any new activities/equipment you wish to introduce?

Having considered these things you're in a position to think about setting your subscription rate for membership for the session. Remember not to undervalue what you do. Have you increased fees in recent years? Have you looked into whether your fees are in-line with other similar activities in your area? Can you offer financial assistance to those that need it?

Also think about additional fundraising you may need or look to do which may offset expenditure or support a charity.



## Programme Planning

Planning the programme is a key element of preparation. With the whole staff together it's useful to consider key dates that should be diarised for all sections such as the enrolment/church parades, residentials, church events, Battalion competitions etc. Planning for individual age groups is often best left to those involved, but don't lose sight of the key targets for the whole Company that you have set for the session.



## Finally

Don't forget to pray. Pray as a staff team that God will bless your endeavours and make them fruitful. Pray for the children and young people, that they might come to know Jesus for themselves through the work of the Company. There will be others who would be very willing to pray for your work too; Church members who may not be able to offer practical support on a Company night, but can offer prayerful support for specific issues or young people.



# Making sense of the digital world

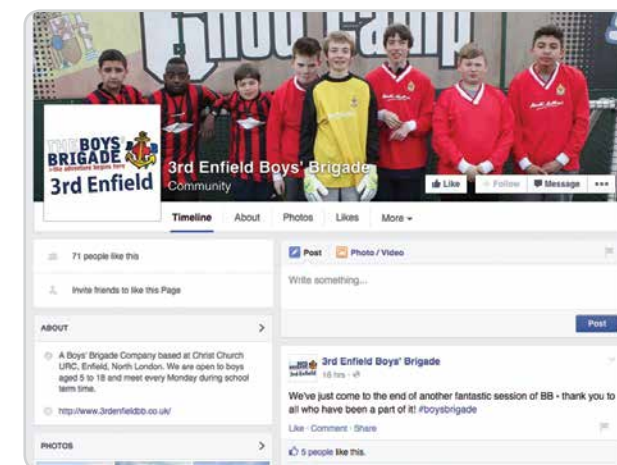
We are told about the wonderful opportunities and exciting things this 'digital world' can deliver, but sometimes it can seem beyond our means or our comfort levels.

In this second of two Toolbox articles focussing on the digital world, BB Development & PR Officer, Niall Rolland, highlights the benefits and impact that social media can have within the BB.

## Building links with our community – is your Company online?

Social media platforms can be really effective tools to help build connections in our community. Communicating your news and stories, such as upcoming events to families, alumni, church contacts, schools or the local authority sometimes feels like an uphill task. Like anything else, what might be a really important message or good news story will have to compete against other local initiatives and people's increasingly busy lives. Sometimes it feels like the news about BB work is being drowned out. However, there are ways which can help us shout a little louder.

Using the likes of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram can really help highlight the messages and news you want to get across to your immediate, but also the wider community. It's great to see more and more BB Companies going online each week, and seeing the benefits/impact that social media can have. The benefits of this can be significant – for example: help attract new members and volunteers; boost awareness of BB locally, make connections to local elected representatives; or reach out to other BB Companies not only here in UK and Republic of Ireland, but also the worldwide BB family.



## Is your Company/Battalion/District online?

If you have not already, you can easily create an online presence for your Company/Battalion on social media. On Facebook it's about creating a 'Fan' page (for public use) or a 'Group' page for a select audience e.g. your members/parents/volunteers. Twitter is all about creating a profile, you can create @1stAnywhereBB (if it is available) or an alternative that works for your Company/Battalion. Instagram is similar to Twitter in that you create a profile like @1stAnywhereBB.



Discuss this with your Company Captain, other leaders and also parents as well as young people whether these would be of benefit to your BB work.

Article Continued →





## Some tips on using these tools

Here are some tips how to make the most of these platforms and also help engage with, as well as build, your online community:



**Tweet/post as regularly as you can,** but keep it relevant - why are followers interested in you? Most likely, they are BB, Church, family or local community contacts – so keep to these topics more.



**Make at least one tweet/post each week** – could you get into the habit of sharing a photo of what you are doing at BB each week? E.g. craft / game.



**Include video or images** - your followers are more likely to pay attention to images or video rather than just a wall of text.



**Keep things 'chatty' and short** - don't talk like a robot!



**Use hashtags where you can** – you could include #BoysBrigade so it's easy for others to find BB related activity, or use a hashtag created for an event or one referring to your local area – eg. #Liverpool.



**Acknowledge a comment or a tweet with a response** - it doesn't need to be an essay – even a 'like', favourite or a retweet can be enough.



**Be Nice!** You're in a public space, so building a positive reputation about the Company/Battalion is important.



**Unless defamatory, you don't need to delete negative comments** - A considered response acknowledging a point of view can be more effective.



**Mention the location you are at in your tweet/post where possible** – it will notify them and they may respond/like/re-tweet your post sharing it with a wider audience.



**Ask for feedback, opinions and ideas** – most people will be helpful, have useful ideas and will welcome the chance to get involved.



**Promote safe and better internet use** - Like any public space, there are instances when people can say the wrong thing. Take opportunities to promote initiatives like Safer Internet Day ([saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2015](http://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2015))



**Avoid posting only about your own programme or events:**

- Take an interest in your followers.congratulate / thank people.
- Highlight local events which may be of interest to your followers.
- Favourite / share / like statuses of good news stories from other organisations or individuals in your church and community.

## ⚠ Staying safe online

It's important that we think about online safety when making use of social media in a BB setting. Putting some simple rules in place when you start out will ensure your use of social media will have a positive impact on your work and be safe for all.



Some guidelines on setting up social media accounts can be found at [boys-brigade.org.uk/facebookguidelines.pdf](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/facebookguidelines.pdf)



In conjunction with these guidelines, anyone thinking of setting up a Facebook page, or similar, or checking the safety of an existing one should read the BB Safeguarding Policy and Procedures guide at [boys-brigade.org.uk/safeguarding.pdf](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/safeguarding.pdf).



You will also find out more about staying safe online at [thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk), [saferinternet.org.uk](http://saferinternet.org.uk) or [ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk).

If you are unsure about getting into social media, have questions or concerns then please contact BB Headquarters who can provide advice and support.



## We asked what benefits/impact using social media has a local level...

We posted out to social media to find out what it was that BB Companies already using tools such as Facebook and Twitter saw in terms of benefit and impact, these are some of the responses we received:



**Ross Playle** 1st Chandler's Ford  
Social Media has allowed us to connect with other leaders, companies and also our local community. It has been most useful in sharing ideas for activities and games with other youth leaders.



**1st Armagh BB** @1armBB  
@theboysbrigade get to share ideas with other Companies and easier to keep contact with old boys!



**Ami Wager**  
We've got a company page [facebook.com/2ndhutton](https://www.facebook.com/2ndhutton) that we use to update parents with info, share some carefully timed pictures, and express our delight at what the boys are achieving each week! We've found it really benefits both the company and the parents as it keeps a constant line of communication and feedback between both parties!



**Andrew Baldwin** 1st Tewkesbury  
We find using Facebook is really useful to show parents photos of what we're up to, a forum for publicising fundraising events including asking for help / donations, a method of parents messaging us with queries / comments through something they are comfortable using, and an opportunity to share our activities and achievements with a wider audience. The traffic and numbers of people reached with each post is regularly around the 300 mark, and quite often we manage to achieve 1,500 plus.



**3rd Enfield BB** @3rdenfieldbb  
@theboysbrigade Social media is a great way of seeing what other Companies/Battalions etc. are up to - it's fantastic for idea sharing!



You can contact Niall at [niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk)



Follow him on twitter  
[@niallBBscotland](https://twitter.com/niallBBscotland)

### Already using social media?

Could you share what benefits/impact you have seen from getting online?



Tweet @BBgazette using hashtag #BBdigital



Alternatively email [gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk)





## Easter Course 2015

This year the European Fellowship Easter Course took place on the Island of Malta, with the theme of Closer to...

The course looked at Free Speech and Conflict resolution, focussing on the developments taking place globally on these issues. We looked at our own organisations and shared our own experiences, learning new games and skills. We had a chance to share in a Catholic Easter Parade and see how Easter is celebrated in Malta, developing and sharing our own faith journeys. Eight different nationalities were present including five members from BB in UK & RoI.

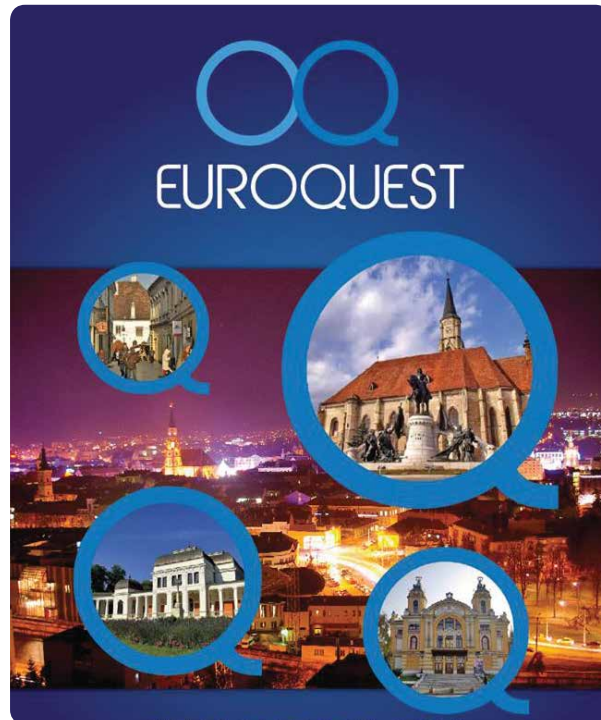
"I didn't know what to expect, but this has been a truly life changing experience"

"I am now equipped with so many new games, activities and ideas that I can take back to my own group"

"I've been able to share my faith and life experiences with others and learn so much from their own journeys"

Next year's Easter Course will be taking place in Central Europe, and will be advertised in the next Gazette.

 For more information contact the European Fellowship Training Facilitator, Vaughan Staples by email at [vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk)





## Euroquest 2015

Euroquest is an exciting activity weekend, created by the European Fellowship, which will take place in Cluj in Transylvania, Romania in October 2015.

Teams will take part in exciting, challenging and problem solving tasks while having the opportunity to visit many of Cluj's famous landmarks and experience the youth capital of Europe in 2015. This is a fast paced, challenging, team building, inter-cultural fun filled event and one your Company could take part in.

Euroquest will take place over the weekend of 9th to 11th October 2015. Starting at 10am on Saturday, the event will finish at 4pm on Sunday. The cost is just €50 per person, which includes all activities, accommodation and food (on both days). Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs in getting to and from the host city. Deadline for registration is 30th August 2015

 To register your interest or find out more information contact Vaughan Staples by email at: [vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk)

 Find out more at: [europeanfellowship.org](http://europeanfellowship.org)

## Global Round-up

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



### COMMUNITY ACTION IN THAILAND

Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nakhon Ratchasima Company completed part of their community service badge requirements by cleaning parks and walkways in the Sathaporn estate and the Beungyitho district.



### 2ND ANTIGUA ON CAMP

Members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Antigua Company went away on a weekend camp to Pigeon Point Beach on the South East coast of Antigua.



### NCO LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR 6TH KABWE

Members 6<sup>th</sup> Kabwe Company in Zambia arriving ready for their NCO Leadership Course.



### SINGAPORE BB INVOLVED IN SEA GAMES

The Southeast Asian (SEA) Games was held in Singapore in June and members of 27<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company had the opportunity to take part in the Games' closing ceremony.

Whilst down under visiting family, Andrew Baldwin, Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury Company took the opportunity to go along and visit a couple of Companies including 18<sup>th</sup> Victoria (Berwick), which is based south of Melbourne. Andrew said "I was made to feel very welcome and was impressed by what this Company has achieved in just 13 years since its formation. The Captain, Brendon Cameron, used to travel an hour to get to BB when he was a boy. The Company had great facilities at its church base with about 70 boys enjoying their badge work and games."



### VISITING BB AUSTRALIA





## Zero Hours Contracts

Much talked about during the recent UK General Election was the practice of Zero-Hours Contracts – where workers do not have fixed hours, and in many cases, don't know whether they're working from one day to the next. Whether the jobs are in leisure, catering, retail, or other sectors, these kinds of contracts often affect young people.

These roles are sometimes associated with low-pay, insecurity and exploitation, but is that your experience? The Gazette took a moment to gather the thoughts of some BB young people who shared their experiences.

**Rachel, 20, Manchester** has been a nursery assistant for the last three years. The part-time post was ideal to fit round her studies. However, the lack of regularity brings its difficulties. Rachel explains: "It's only recently started to become annoying for me as I don't know when I'll be in work and sometimes it can be on quite short notice. It has resulted in me being increasingly unmotivated to work, and led me to begin to think about leaving that particular job". **Kris, 22, East Ayrshire**, who worked in a relief role for the local authority, had a similar experience. Kris explained: "It suited me because I was at college at the time and could work around this, but as I left college it became a lot more uncertain of hours etc."

A survey by Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development at the end of 2013 indicated that a majority of those on zero-hours contracts were happier with their work-life balance than the average UK-based employee. **Andrew, 23, Dumbarton** has been a security steward for the past three years. He acknowledges the benefits these contracts bring: "When I was looking for the job, I was in University studying and it was highly flexible to suit my academic week. I could work as much or as little I wanted when work was available." However, his experience wasn't all positive, as he explains "When work was poor I tended to struggle with paying the regular bills". **Rachel** agrees that these working conditions offer greater flexibility, but it's only better if your circumstances allow: "They are great for those people that do not rely on the income that they gain from the job; however, if you do, then you need a more reliable job with guaranteed hours."




**EXPLOITATION, OR OFFERS MORE FLEXIBILITY?**

The research also showed that 16% of zero-hours workers said their employer often failed to provide them with sufficient hours each week.

So are there changes which need to be made? Some prominent politicians and young people's groups call for an end of the practice of zero-hours contracts. **Andrew** comments "I think if people want contracted hours they should be entitled to them - especially if the work is available"... and **Kris** says "I think after a length of time people have to be offered a contract with regular hours. This would have helped me so much when I left college."

 **Get more info about Zero-Hours contracts at**  
<http://bbc.in/1qCa3uY>

### Discuss this with your group of Seniors and young leaders:

-  Are the experiences of Andrew, Kris and Rachel similar to your own?
-  Are you happy not having regular hours?
-  What impact does your work pattern have on your daily life?

 **Share what your young people think, email us at:**  
[gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk)

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

## 60 Years of supporting the leaders of tomorrow

"The KGV experience is one that will live with me forever" and "The best thing I've done in the Brigade" are just two of the reactions when asked about the KGV Youth Leadership course. Two one-week residentials with a year working in a Company in between offers an experience like no other, where young people can gain skills, make life-long friendships and develop their faith.

2015 marks 60 years since 36 young people from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic came together at Carronvale House for the first ever course between the 9th and 16th July 1955. A month or so later on the 27th August 1955, over 50 young people gathered at Felden Lodge for its first ever KGV experience. In both instances, the applications far exceeded the number of places available.

So much has changed in the last 60 years with new methods and approaches, but today's structure and aims of KGV look very much like how they did in the summer of 1955. Given the restraints on capacity, both then and now, only a small number are able to participate each year. As we celebrate this milestone, The Gazette chats with five recent (and fairly recent!) graduates of The Boys' Brigade's Youth Leadership course.

### What was it about your KGV experience...



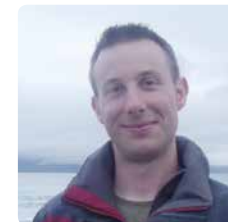
#### **Alice Sullivan**

"KGV has allowed me to develop my faith, and helped me understand what makes me tick."



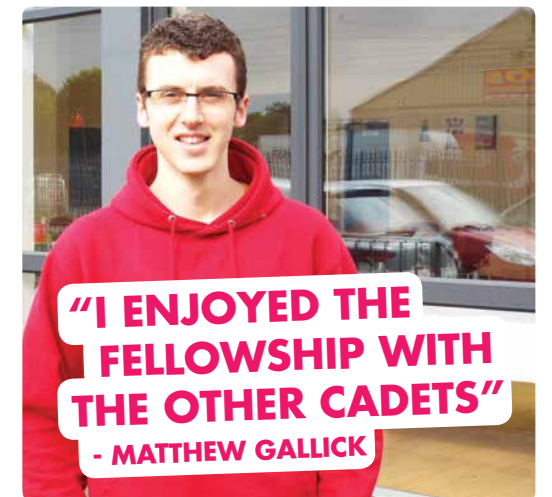
#### **Ross Walker**

"It sounds a bit dull, but the nightly evening prayer sessions were the best! Our very own 'smooth Rev' Keith Mack was a master at getting a group of 17 and 18 year-olds charged up about faith."



#### **Duncan Hepburn**

"KGV has undoubtedly helped develop strong leadership and communication skills, which form a very important part of my day job in a busy and dynamic operational environment. KGV builds self-confidence and an ability to face challenges."



#### **Sarah Whitty**

"I really enjoyed being able to meet new friends from all over the country and work with them and then be able to meet up with them again for the second year!"

 **If you would like to find out more about KGV contact your Regional Headquarters or visit**  
[boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm)



# GET INVOLVED



**World Vision®**  
Every child free from fear

**EVERY CHILD  
FREE FROM FEAR**

World Vision is the world's largest international children's charity, bringing real hope every day to millions of children in the world's hardest places as a sign of God's unconditional love.

Its vision is of a world in which every child has the chance to live life to the full; where they are loved, protected and cared for, and enjoy good health and an education. Where they can live free from fear.

To make this vision a reality, World Vision works alongside communities in close to 100 countries to bring about long-term change; they give children a voice in the places where decisions are made and they respond quickly to the emergencies that affect more than 250 million people around the world each year. As they do this, they focus on three key areas: child protection, child health and emergency response.



## Child Health

Every day 19,000 children die. Most of them die needlessly from preventable diseases and malnourishment. World Vision focuses on putting an end to this by improving the health of children and families living in poverty.



## Child Protection

World Vision wants children living in the world's hardest places to be free from exploitation and abuse, to be flourishing in safe communities. Their child protection programmes are helping them to do just this.



## Emergency Response

From devastating natural disasters to violent civil conflict, every year millions of children suffer in emergencies. When they happen, World Vision is there, providing immediate relief to the most vulnerable children and communities.

## Child Sponsorship Programme

Child Sponsorship helps World Vision to protect children so that they don't have to be afraid. It does this in a number of ways such as providing access to what communities need most - nutrition, clean water and healthcare. Also by helping families find other ways to earn an income so children are less likely to be 'sold off' into early marriage and miss out on an education.

World Vision aims to mobilise the communities to stand up for children by forming children's groups so they may stand up for themselves and are not alone to face their adversaries. Supporting children to be registered is vitally important in order to enable access to health and education services they need.

Through these sponsorship programmes World Vision is also able to monitor the well-being of children as the community becomes more child focussed and learns how to protect them from danger and abuse.

## Case study

### Tan's street struggles to classroom dreams - Cambodia

Tan (not his real name), was disowned, along with his siblings by his mother because they could not live with their stepdad who was abusive and violent. They had to live in makeshift shelters. Life was very hard for all the children with Tan's oldest sister working around the clock to feed her brothers and sisters.

Life changed for Tan and his siblings when they became sponsored children. He remembers the time they received a bag of rice, just at the time when their rice jar was empty – part of the wider work the community owns through the rice bank and savings groups. He says he will never forget the joy he felt that someone other than his sister cared for him. They framed the photo of their sponsor and thought of her as a member of their family.

World Vision staff met Tan's mother and the local authority to advocate for the children's rights to a small piece of their mother's land. Finally their dream became a reality. They worked hard to pay back every penny of their housing loan. The children learned about good hygiene so they could protect themselves from infectious diseases. They also grow vegetables and plants and rear cattle, giving them both a healthy diet and a little extra money to buy household essentials, clothes and schoolbooks.

Thanks to his sponsor, Tan looks forward to leading a happy and productive life. "In the future I want to become a teacher and I hope I will be the one who can sponsor needy children using my strength and knowledge."



## How could your Company get involved?

There are a range of ways your group can get involved and support our work, consider the following:



### Raising Funds

World Vision relies on giving. In response to what they have heard, could the young people organise a fund raising event for World Vision? Could the Company take on the long term responsibility of sponsoring a child, maybe in connection with other church groups?

Whatever your children & young people love doing, they can do it for World Vision. Whether it's baking cupcakes, playing music, holding themed events or sponsored sports, their passion will help change children's lives.

If you register your event with World Vision they can send you a free Fundraisers' Toolkit on DVD that gives you all you need to get started. You can also request a toolkit by calling 01908 24 44 17.

 Register your fundraising event at:  
[worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-world-vision/](http://worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-world-vision/)



### Awareness

Share the information about World Vision with your young people. They may already be aware of the charity and its work, but sharing a case study helps to bring home the differing situations that many of the World's children face.

 Find case studies and updates at:  
[worldvision.org.uk/our-work/](http://worldvision.org.uk/our-work/)



### Praying

Become a regular prayer partner for World Vision, children and young people in your Company could pray for the work of World Vision and particular situations they are working in around the world.

 Find particular situations in need of prayer at:  
[worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/prayers/](http://worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/prayers/)



Find out more about the work of World Vision at:  
[worldvision.org.uk](http://worldvision.org.uk)






## 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

### Bromley Battalion Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, IOW

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




### Contact:

 Keith Francis on 01474 705485  
 bromley\_campsite@outlook.com  
 www.bbcampsite.co.uk

## 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 on 07760 111615  
 Tony Drury Smith on 07930 177764



**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.cmcpensarn.org.uk

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centre's and items wanted or for sale should be sent to **gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk**. Advertisements for the next issue (Autumn 2015) should be received by 1<sup>st</sup> September 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.*



## North West District Training & Activity Centre

The Centre is located outside the village of Treales in a quiet location with easy access by rail or road, within easy reach of Theme Parks, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Lake District National Park.

The ample car park is suitable for coaches while the field is ideal for canvas camps and outdoor activities.

For large groups **Centenary Hall** with its newly refurbished kitchen and disabled facilities can accommodate up to 44 people while for small groups **Stedfast Lodge** has beds for 16 people and disabled facilities.

The **Sports Hall** with Table Tennis, Pool, Snooker and climbing wall\* together with outdoor adventure area, archery\* and orienteering combine to make your stay and active and fun filled one.

For more information or to check availability please contact the Wardens.

*\*Archery and Climbing Wall activities require a qualified instructor - Available if needed.*

**For Brochure or to arrange a visit contact the Wardens on 01772 685000 • www.bb-northwest.org.uk**







## MEMBERSHIP CARDS 2015/2016

**Product: 31 380 1: Boys Only (Pack of 10)**

**Product: 31 381 1: Girls' Association (Pack of 10)**

There's a fresh new look to the Membership Card for the 2015/16 session with the card being redesigned to be more user friendly and fit into a wallet/purse. The new style card will feature an information card containing the usual information and church attendance table on the reverse with a credit card sized membership card which can be inserted onto the information card for presentation. The membership card has space for member's name and Company/Church details. Versions of the card are available for Companies with boys only and also for Companies with a Girls' Association. The membership card is ideal for presenting as part of an Enrolment Service or at the start of the session to promote a sense of belonging to the Company and Church.



**NEW!**  
**£2.00**

## ANCHORS RED BASEBALL CAP

**Product: 18 600 0**

Red 100% cotton cap with the Anchors logo embroidered on the front.



**NEW!**  
**£6.00**

## PARKER JOTTER PEN

**Product: 11 701 1**

The famous Parker Jotter pen (black ink) with a blue barrel and stainless steel top featuring the 'adventure begins here' logo.



**NEW!**  
**£8.50**

## 2015 - 2016 DESK DIARY

**Product: 31 004 1**

A5 diary for the academic year, August 2015 to July 2016 featuring the BB 'adventure begins here' logo.



**NEW!**  
**£6.00**

## CHEERING STICKS

**Product: 11 697 1**



**£1.50**

A pair of cheering sticks featuring the BB 'adventure begins here' logo. Blow them up and bang them together to create noise to encourage your team or support your cause! Great for spectator participation at any event. Packed in pairs, they come with a straw to blow up and deflate and are approx 50cm long when inflated.

**SHOP.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK**



Order your items online 24 hours a day. Visit [shop.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://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)