



Autumn 2015: October 2015

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

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

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

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boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm

Editorial Team

Mary Care, Andrew Johnston, Chris Norman, Niall Rolland and Jan Williamson.

Designed by www.visiontank.co.uk

Printed by cpo.org.uk

Publishing & Circulation

Quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer & Autumn) Average circulation during 2015: 9,000 copies

Patron: H. M. The Queen

President: The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port Chief Executive: Andrew Johnston

UK & ROI Headquarters

Felden Lodge Hemel Hempstead Herts HP3 0BL

Tel: +44 (0) 1442 231 681 Fax: +44 (0) 1442 235 391

Email: 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, UK

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WELCOME

For Unto Us a Child is Born...

... A Son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulders

8.15am Sunday BB Conference 2015 I am sat on a lock gate on the Birmingham Link Canal in Wolverhampton. Quincy Jones' brilliant Gospel Messiah A Soulful Celebration resounds in my headphones. The sun is out the birds are singing (yes I can hear them too) - all is well in my world.

But as we prepare for Christmas we know all is not well in the world. In BB we have many challenges – different challenges in different contexts. We struggle to attract leaders and we have resources that urgently need updating.

In our country, foodbanks have never been busier. Zero hours contracts and low pay is the new normal. Young people have given up on ever getting that first house. Recent figures showed 45% of those with mortgages struggled to pay them.

And in the world. Well, shall I go on?

And into a failed broken world, God sent His Son to give eternal light and hope to people who had neither. And this Christmas I for one, feel we need His Refining Fire more than ever.

Let's examine BB this Christmas. Let's drop all that is not holy and Christ like. The squabbles, the arguments, the negativity, the succession blocking. Lets have that conversation with our Lord

'What is it that you ask of me?"

Let's reach out into our churches, our communities and our world as shining examples of Christ's love.

Because Alan Kurdi taught us the power of a small child, his poor lifeless body washed up on that Bodrum beach. How much more powerful should the birth of Jesus be this CHRISTmas time.

What is God asking of you this Christmas?

Andrew

Andrew Johnston

Chief Executive



Follow Andrew on Twitter @BoysBrigadeCEO



Andrew with young people and leaders from 1st Gillingham Company whilst on their Summer Camp at Honeyhill, Kent.



"Do not say, 'I am only a child';

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

- ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- ⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
- ⁷ But the LORD said to me,
- "Do not say, 'I am only a child'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.
- ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

Jerimiah 7: 5-8

These words from Jeremiah have meant a lot to me for a very long time. From the age of eleven, I felt called to serve God in the church in some way. I found it hard at a young age to articulate what this may or may not be, but this passage told me many things and has reassured me through my years of discernment.

God Knows Me... He always has, he always will

In the opening verses of this chapter God tells Jeremiah that He knew him, even before his own mother had met him. God knew Jeremiah in the time when he was being formed and hidden from sight. God was there in his formation and he understood everything about his personality and ability.

God Knows Me... Better than I know myself

Jeremiah was self-doubting. He knew what God was asking him to do...but he didn't believe that he was capable of fulfilling the role that he had been called to. At times in our lives we all have doubts about our abilities or even doubts about others, but we should always be rest assured that God never sets us up to fail. God always equips us.

God Knows...Best!

Even though Jeremiah attempts to escape the calling that God has placed on his life as he believes that he is too young and not 'up to the job' God disproves this theory. God tells Jeremiah that he is more than capable of fulfilling the task in question and not only that, but he will not be alone, God will go with him and help him in all things.

As we lead children and young people, may we be enabled to show them their God given gifts and talents, but even more than that, may we, as adults listen to the voices of our children. My four year old son Jack is always telling me to stop and pray (talk to Jesus) when I get stressed about anything. I always find that when I do stop and I do pray everything seems so much more manageable.

May we encourage our children to speak out and may we listen to what they have to say and may we recognise the voice of Jesus speaking through and with them.

Nicola Langton-Miller



Nicola Langton-Miller is Chaplain to the Liverpool Battalion & 48th Liverpool Company

Nicola was recently appointed as the new Chaplain for Liverpool Battalion. Also currently serving as one of the Chaplains to the 48th Liverpool Company where her husband, Neil, is Captain. Nicola is employed as a Church School Worker in the Methodist Church on the Wirral with a project called the Hope Journey. Alongside this Nicola has been a local preacher in the Methodist church for 7 years and really enjoys leading devotions and services, especially if they're all ages and involve puppets, Gospel illusions, escapology and/or fire!!





Engaging Young People

Our development plan focusses on growth, quality and voice. We know children and young people are our best advocates so it makes sense for them to feel part of your plans to grow.

Andrew Johnston, Chief Executive and **Lee Hiorns**, Trustee/ Brigade Executive member share their thoughts on 'Engaging Young People in The Boys' Brigade'.

Andrew shares...



I can't believe it, I just can't believe it." Screamed down the phone from Croatia, the response I got from Maja Balenovic, in a small village in Croatia still recovering from the civil war, which had engulfed her country, was one of the highlights of my entire career. Not surprising really. Of over 10,000 applicants she had landed the plum opportunity offered by Hostelling

International, to go and volunteer as a Peace Volunteer for a whole year all expenses paid, in the Blue Mountains of Australia, developing educational programmes with native aboriginal peoples. After the New York attacks on 9/11 we decided that we had to get back to the roots of the movement and offer young people an opportunity to do things they could only dream of and things which promoted global peace and understanding between peoples.

So what are we offering to young people in The Boys' Brigade? Sadly not trips to Australia (just yet!) But whether on Facebook, Twitter or occasionally through Gazette, I have seen just some of the incredible opportunities we do offer young people in Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe. And at the Make a Difference Awards in September we heard from young people who had done some truly amazing things in their own communities much closer to home. The reward for them of a trip to Parliament seemed to me to be pretty modest for their incredible endeavours, but we nonetheless gave them a day to remember.

But we must be more than just providing a stage for some 'performing seals' as my boss used to refer to the way young people were engaged at the Methodist Church's annual Conference (in the 1980's – I am sure things have improved since.) I was impressed that the Brigade had had the foresight to involve a young person on the interview panel for the Chief Executive position, but we need to do so much more and go so much further.

It is not just about our Voice agenda, important though that is. It is about the Quality (and integrity) of what we do and it is about driving the Growth agenda.

Because let's face it any of us who were born before 2000 are out of touch with contemporary youth culture. We are, let's just admit it.

Article Continued →

Lee just 'graduated' from one of our youth trustees to being a fully "grown up" trustee on our Board of Trustees (Executive). So let's hear what he has to say...



Lee shares...



I have been involved in national BB work for the past ten years, more recently in the last couple of years as a trustee. I joined the England Regional Committee when I was 16 years old and the buzz words of the time were 'youth participation' and 'empowerment'. Those words are still as important now as they were then, but thankfully the BB has significantly developed to ensure younger leaders are at the heart of its governance and decision making structure.

There is still plenty of work to be done, but in my view the foundations have most certainly been laid.

This work has provided me with the opportunity to increase my knowledge, skills and experience of committees, meetings, team work and problem solving. Don't get me wrong, I still don't understand budgets, pensions or insurance but I am beginning to think I never will! Other than being a great CV buster, it is also positive to be part of the wider BB family, specifically working directly with other volunteers and staff from around the UK & ROI. There is a lot in it for young people to become trustees, but it is also imperative for any organisation that wants to develop because in my view they enable boards to look at issues from a more diverse perspective.

A highlight for me has included chairing a group of young leaders on behalf of the England Regional Committee to launch the 'Unite' event.

Also, I have enjoyed meeting so many brilliant and enthusiastic similar aged and likeminded people in all different parts of the organisation.

There should be more young people on the trustee board, not just for their Voice, but in most cases because they have suitable and relevant skills and experiences to contribute. Not all young people will want to get involved with BB nationally and that's fine. It is not for everyone and often calls for many qualities such as time, commitment, flexibility and perseverance.

It is the responsibility, however, of the more experienced leaders to set an enabling and empowering culture within their existing structures where participation and local decision making is encouraged.

There was some research released recently that caught my eye; it stated that 'fewer than 2% of charities had a young trustee'. I am very proud to be in an organisation that forms part of that 2%.



Andrew concludes...



So if you know a young person who would like to get involved in the decision making processes then why not get in touch? We will soon be seeking volunteers for new groups, such as the Faith Working Group and for our new Fundraising Group. We will also be looking for young people to participate in a range of opportunities through the European and Global Fellowship. Who knows, perhaps I could be making that call to one of your young people and saying "Hi – we'd like you to go to to represent The Boys' Brigade." Hopefully, the scream won't be quite as loud as Maja's was. I am 12 years older than I was in 2003!

Read More

Check out the Toolbox article "Young people's Voice in the Company programme" on page 36 for some practical advice on engaging young people.



Follow Andrew Johnston on Twitter @boysbrigadeceo



Follow Lee Hiorns on Twitter @Ihiorns

YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS 9





Waitrose tokens cashout for 1st Saffron Walden

Mike Turner, Captain of 1st Saffron Walden, received a cheque for £478 from the green token scheme at Waitrose.

This donation helped to fund their camp to Sheringham this summer. Mike said that the donation meant that lack of finance didn't prevent anyone from going to camp. Twenty three young people attended the camp, where activities included karting, archery, walking, swimming, high ropes and wide games.



8th Hartlepool BB @the8thBB

Our second night of this session. 9 new lads across the sections inc 2 in Company, 1 Junior and 6 Anchors. A 10% increase to 'the8th'



Awards for 18th North Staffs boys

Local MP Rob Flellos and Company Captain Vic Ernest presented Ryan Williams and Matthew Ernest with their President's Badges and Jamal Qayum with his Queen's Badge, at the Annual Company Presentation Evening.



Dunfermline members 24 hour relay for cancer research

Members of the 4th Dunfermline Company took part in the 24 hour 'Relay For Life' in aid of Cancer Research. They completed the 24 hour event by walking a circuit at local Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Having originally set themselves a target to cover 500 miles, they reached an amazing 585 miles, the distance from Dunfermline Abbey to Ostend in Belgium. A fantastic effort all round with the group having raised over £1000.



2ndFleetBB @2ndFleetBB Our cross country winning team





Knocknamuckley Juniors retain Hanover Cup

Well done to the 1st Knocknamuckley Junior Section in retaining the Hanover Cup. The boys played extremely well, winning the tournament without even conceding a goal.



1st Slieve Donard Tour Du Mont Blanc

Senior boys from the Company recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Expedition to the Alps, where they walked part of the north end of the Tour du Mont Blanc. The lads walked from France, into Switzerland and then Italy.



Young people visit WW1 memorials

In order for their young people to obtain the new World War 1 commemorative badge, the 5th West Bromwich Company recently visited The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. 35 boys took part in a treasure hunt visiting several memorials related to people and events that had links with the First World War. After completing the treasure hunt all boys were presented with their badge. A great day out was had by the boys and officers.



1st Bearsden BB @1stbearsdenbb Juniors joined Boys from across Lennox & Argyll Battalion for the first Funday 5s series event yesterday. #BBweekend



SNAPSHOTS TO







200th Glasgow BB @200thGlasgowBB Visit from @DirectorBBScot tonight to the only company worth visiting tonight!! #selfie #boysbrigade





Stoke-sub-Hamdon Charity Breakfast

Members of the 2nd Stoke-sub-Hamdon Company in Somerset got involved in their local community by helping out with a charity breakfast event. The lads working towards their President's and Queen's Badges worked hard at the event helping with various roles. The event was organised in connection with their church and raised £800, which was split between the Akamba Aid Fund for their work in Kenya and the Farming Community Network supporting local farmers.

David Scott 26th September Three Boys and Captain of 1st Dunbar Boys' Brigade abseiled Barns Ness Lighthouse today to raise money for Bethany Trust and Rock Trust. Well done!





Kettering Companies collect pennies for Muscular Dystrophy

The 1st Kettering BB and GB Companies joined forces during the 2014/15 session to collect their pennies and loose change for Muscular Dystrophy. A total of £200 was presented to Kay Aslett - Regional Development Manager, Midlands & Anglia at the joint Company Awards Night. The money was raised in memory of Molly Chambers who was, along with her husband David, a major money raiser for Muscular Dystrophy and were both officers at 1st Kettering Company, Molly passed away 2 years ago.



1st Bluestone awards a plenty

One of the last duties for Company Chaplain, Rev'd Leslie Spence, to perform, before retiring from full-time ministry, was to present the Senior boys with various awards they had gained during the year. The awards included the Queen's Badge, President's Badges, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (Bronze & Silver) and Millennium Volunteers awards.





Well done to participants in the 51st Cleveland hike

The 51st Cleveland Hike took place in June with hikers navigating their way round a testing 35 mile route, using footpaths and minor roads which took them up some steep (but short) climbs. Team entries were from West Kilbride, Irvine, Darlington, Teesside, Altrincham and Luton. With their third successive win, the winners were the 15th Luton Company. For more information on next year's event check out **theclevelandhike.com.**



Lee Hiorns @lhiorns

Great night down at @1stBloxhamBB doing a mocktail masterclass. @theboysbrigade #mocktails #boysbrigade #youngpeople





50th Aberdeen & Moray joint camp

This year was the 50th anniversary of the week long camp and it was held at Badaguish, Aviemore. Activities included watersports on Loch Morlich, Reindeer Herd Visit, Swimming, Hill walk and High Ropes Course.



Welcome to the Autumn 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



Youthwork Resources

At Premier's recent 20th anniversary celebration they announced that from now on, all of their resources will be available to download for free online. So register on the website to get free access to all of the resources from the magazine (meeting guides, games, schools work, etc) as downloadable PDFs. And they've even backdated all resources from the last year (with more to come!) and will be uploading new resources every month.

Check out premieryouthwork.com/resources



Kidspot

Great ideas for crafts and games for 5 to 11 year olds, just select an age and category to find some fantastic activities.

Check out kidspot.com.au/kids-activities-and-games/



YFC Resources

YFC have some fantastic resources to help support your Company programme, especially when it comes to getting children into the bible or leading devotions with young people. It's free to setup an account with limited access to resources, but if you like what you see you can take out a subscription.

Check out yfcresources.co.uk

The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Yeovil or Yate, Annan or Aghadowey.

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

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



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

Your Help

RESOURCE is all about sharing what works well for you in your Company with others. Could you contribute a game, craft, devotional or themed night idea for the Winter 2015/16 issue? Send it to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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

Check out the sectional programme ideas >>>





Juniors





ANCHORS RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



5 NOV Firework Night

Remember, remember the fifth of November ... known as Guy Fawkes Night, Bonfire Night and Firework Night. It is an annual celebration observed on November 5 for more than 400 years following the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Think about the safety advice you could give, but also have some fun with some fireworks themed crafts, get creative!



29 NOV - 24 DEC Advent

Most of the children in your group will be opening advent calendars on a daily basis at home in the lead up to Christmas. How could you mark advent at BB and share the advent story? Could you light advent candles each week and unfold the Christmas story in the lead up?

Get Creative: Giant Poppy



Equipment:

- Black Sugar paper
- Red Sugar paper
- Pencil
- Scissors

Instructions

- 1. The children draw around their hands on the red sugar paper and cut out.
- 2. A circle is cut from the black sugar

- paper. This will be the centre of the poppy.
- **3.** Arrange the hands in a circle around the centre.
- **4.** If appropriate, the children could write a person to pray for or remember on their red hands.
- **5.** Display in church on Remembrance Sunday.



Get Active: Jack in the Box



Ask for a volunteer to be the 'Jack in the Box' and get them to sit at one end of the hall in a hoop. The rest of the group start at the other end of the hall and approach the 'Jack in the Box' saying "Jack in the Box come out to play" getting nearer and nearer to the 'Jack in the Box'. It is then up to the 'Jack in the Box' to choose the moment to spring up and chase the rest of the group. Anyone that the 'Jack in the Box' tags (before the children get back to the other end of the hall) is out and sits out, The 'Jack in the Box' goes back to the hoop and the children start again from the other end until there is a winner.



Shared by Colin Watts, 3rd Bedford



Turn your section into an underwater kingdom with these programme ideas:



Crab Hat



Equipment

- 4 clothes pegs
- ★ Paper bowl
- ★ Polystyrene balls or wiggle eyes
- ★ Red/Black Card
- Paint or Colouring Pens
- ★ Glue/Tape
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Elastic cord

Preparation

Depending on time allowed and ability of children, paint the paper bowls and clothes pegs ready for the children to assemble. You could also save time and make this craft easier by purchasing red paper bowls/ clothes pegs.

Instructions

- **1.** Paint/colour the paper bowl and clothes pegs red.
- **2.** Cut out 8 legs from red card, approx. 1cm by 10cm and glue on to the hat, once glued on fold in middle.
- **3.** Glue or tape the clothes pegs together and put on to the front of the hat.
- **4.** Glue on the eyes, and then glue on a mouth cut from black cardstock (or simply draw on).

- **5.** Complete the crab hat by punching a hole in each side and attaching the elastic.
- **6.** Take a picture of the children wearing their crab hats and share with **@bbgazette** on Twitter or email **qazette@boys-brigade.org.uk**



Crab Walk Relay Race

Mark out two lines about 5 metres apart and split the children into teams, and then split each team down with half on one line and half on the other. Starting behind the lines at each end, on the word 'Go' the first member of each team (on one side) must 'crab walk' (moving with your hands and feet on the floor with your belly up) to the opposing line before tagging the next player. The next player then crab walks back to the start line, tags a teammate, and so on until one team's last player has crossed the line and won the game.



Octopus Tag Game

Ask for a volunteer to be the "Octopus," and have this player stand in the middle of the "ocean" (i.e. in the middle of your meeting space). The rest of the players are the "fish" and should stand against one side of your meeting space. To start the game, the "Octopus" yells, "Swim, fish!" and all of the "fish" must then try to run across the "ocean" to the other side. If the "Octopus" tags a "fish," the "fish" becomes a "Tentacle" during the next round. The "Tentacles" and the "Octopus" must hold hands and run together to catch "fish". Play continues until there is just one "fish" to catch, and the last "fish" caught is the winner and is the "Octopus" for the next game.



Getting into the Bible: Jonah and the Whale

Tell the story of Jonah and the Whale.





Get the children talking about the story by asking them a few questions.

- What did God send to save Jonah from the storm? (A big fish)
- What did Jonah do inside the big fish? (Pray)
- What do you like to pray about? (see how the children respond)
- Do you think Jonah was sorry for disobeying
- When we say sorry to God, what does he do? (Forgives us).

Explain that Jonah did not follow God's instructions, Jonah thought he knew better than God. But God created each one of us and we should always be willing to listen and obey God. God watched over Jonah in the stormy sea and sent the big fish to save him. He was inside the big fish for three days and three nights and he thought about what he had done wrong. Like Jonah we should also remember to pray to God - to say sorry, to ask for help and to say thank you.



Let's pray...



Thank you for making us and loving us, thank you for watching over and helping us, thank you for forgiving us when we do things that are wrong, thank you that you are always there for us.

Amen.



Fish Game

Get the children into a circle and sitting on the floor. Give them each a name of a fish - cod, salmon, plaice (you could add more depending on the size of the group). The leader then walks around the outside of the circle and begins to tell a story, "I went fishing one day and I caught some (name of fish)" those fish get up and follow the leader as they walk around the circle, they continue to tell the story "and I caught some (name of fish)" and those fish join the group walking around the circle. The story continues "and

the sea started to get a little bit rougher (start to get faster, jogging), and even rougher (even faster, running)", for the final part of the story the leader says "tide turns" which means that everybody going around the circle turns around and runs the other way, with finally "Sharks about" meaning everybody should continue running in the same direction and as quickly as possible get back to their place, where they started (for this reason do not call all types of fish). You then restart the game, calling different types of fish, different orders, different lengths of time and you can of course add in your own actions.



Get Creative: Reindeer Christmas Art



Shared by Jacquie Boyer, 4th Cheltenham

Equipment:

- Brown paint (water based, washable)
- Tray/Container (to put paint)
- Colouring Pens/Pencils
- Washing up Bowls (to wash hand/foot)
- Towels (to dry hand/foot)
- Wiggle eyes
- White Card (could make a card or a decoration)
- ★ Envelopes (if making cards)

Instructions

- 1. Using either a finger or foot each child should put into brown paint and make an impression on to the white card.
- 2. Allow the paint to dry whilst the children wash and dry their finger/foot.
- **3.** Glue on the wiggly eyes.
- 4. Using colouring pens/pencils add in the nose (red) and the antlers (brown).
- **5.** If a Christmas Card the children could also write inside the card, allow to dry before putting into an envelope.
- 6. If other Christmas art, why not add a Christmas message like 'Happy Christmas'.

ുന്നു RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



24 OCT - 11 NOV World Origami Days

Let's get the world to fold! Celebrate origami by spreading the joy of paper folding. Go online to find some fantastic origami ideas and get folding! Don't forget to share your finished models on Twitter and Facebook.



23 - 29 NOV Road Safety Week

This year's theme is 'drive less, live more', encouraging everyone to consider how they use roads, and if they can ditch some vehicle mileage, and instead walk, cycle or use public transport as much as possible. **Check out the resources and ideas online at roadsafetyweek.org.uk**



DEC 2015 Christingle

Celebrate Christingle with your group in the lead up to Christmas, help raise vital funds for the Children's Society. Resources and information are available to download. **Check out christingle.org**

Get Creative: Minion Cress Planters



Share Neil H

Shared by Neil Hawthorn, 2nd Wishaw

Preparation

Depending on the time available and ability of the children you may want to cut out the card in advance.

You will need:

Equipment to share:

- ★ Colouring Pens
- ★ Double sided tape
- ★ Glue Stick

The following for each child:

- ★ Small Fibre Plant pot (36 for 50p from B&Q)
- ★ Yellow Card (22cm x 11cm)
- ★ Blue Card (20cm x 6cm)
- ★ Black Card (20cm x 1cm)
- ★ White Paper
- ★ Cress Seeds
- ★ Cotton Wool

Instructions

- Wrap the Yellow card around the plant pot and use double sided tape to stick the card in place.
- 2. Around 2-3cm down from the top of

- the body glue the black strip of card around the body.
- Cut out an 'H' Shape (use the template) from the blue card at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ minionplanter.pdf)
- Using remaining blue card, draw and cut a hexagonal shape. Draw a 'G' in the centre then colour a circular area around it black.
- 5. Stick the badge you have just made onto the centre of the 'H' Shape and draw 4 dots as shown so it looks like buttons on the Minion's dungarees.
- **6.** Glue the dungarees on to the bottom.
- 7. Cut out either 1 or 2 eye shapes and draw a black outline and an eyeball on each eye and stick them on top of the black band and draw a mouth.
- **8.** Add Cotton wool and cress seeds to the top of the plant pot and add a small amount of water.



Try out some of these themed ideas with your group.



Simpsons Doughnuts (or Do'h-nuts)



Keeping it simple just purchase plain ring doughnuts and get the children to decorate using a bright pink icing and adding sprinkles. If you have more time and resources then why not try making your own doughnuts before decorating.



Character Quiz

Print out pictures of a number of different Simpsons characters, and put these up around your meeting place, giving the children an answer sheet get them to see how many they can name.



Doughnut Relay

Split the children up into teams for this relay game. Set up a table 5 meters away from the teams and for each team place a paper plate with a mini doughnut on the table. Each team member must run to the table and eat the mini doughnut without using their hands, and then return to the team before the next team member goes. A leader will need to be ready with each team to put a new paper plate and mini doughnut out for each team member.



Draw It

Split the children into teams and just like the game 'Pictionary', one child at a time from each team goes up and draws what they have been shown on the card. You will need a flipchart, whiteboard or just some paper for each team to draw. Download the

ready-made cards at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ simpsonstheme.pdf.

05

Getting into the Bible

Ask the children why is it important that we have friends? What do you like to do with your friends?



During the clip best friends Homer and Barney become business competitors, but a dangerous trick teaches Homer a valuable lesson. The key quote in the clip is when Homer says "When two best friends work together, not even God himself can stop them".

After watching the clip, ask the children the following questions:

- What did Barney do to Homer? (Stole his idea and started a rival business)
- How did Homer feel? (Let down by his friend)
- What did Homer do? (Sent barney up to plough Widow's Peaks, stealing his customers whilst he was busy)
- What lesson did Homer learn? (That friends should work together, and help each other rather than working against each other).

The bible has a very clear message about friends.



Explain that the bible tells us that a friend will help you when you're in trouble or have a problem. A friend supports you in the bad and the good times. Ask the children if they can remember a time when a friend has helped them?



Dear God.

Thank you for our friends, Thank you for the times when our friends help us up when we've fallen down. Help us to be good friends to others, always looking for ways to support them.

Amen //



Many episodes of the Simpsons have good moral / biblical stories which will help get your children into the bible. So why not take a look and see if you could use as part of a series for your devotions time.



Stand-Up/Sit Down

Test your group's knowledge of the Simpsons with this great game. Get all the children standing in a line and read out two statements, depending on the statement they agree with they must either remain standing or sit-down. Those children that get the statement correct remain in the game and the next statements are read, this continues until there is only one player left. They are the winner of that round and should be given a small reward - a sweet or point on chart, etc. Restart the game with everyone involved. A set of statements is available to download (go to leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/simpsonstheme.pdf), but why not add a few of your own in as well.



Character Fridge Magnets



Get the children to make their favourite characters using Hama Beads (available to purchase from hamabeads.com and most toy retailers). The traditional way to use Hama Beads is by placing them one-by-one onto the pegs of a Hama pegboard. Once the desired pattern is created – and every bead is beside another - the design is then fused together using an iron and ironing paper. You will need pegboards for all children, unless you split into groups. Be aware of making designs too complicated or too big as they will take a long time to complete. Full instructions on using Hama Beads will be included with your purchase, and don't worry you can use the pegboards again and again. Once you have your finished designs add a magnetic strip to the back so the children can take home and place on the fridge or other appropriate place.



Get Active: Bridges

Equipment

- ★ Chairs (to form bridges)
- ★ Music

Instructions

Arrange the chairs to create 3 or 4 passage ways (or 'bridges') spread around a loop circuit. Get the children formed up into a line around the circuit. Children then run around whilst the music plays, until the music stops, when anyone in the middle of a bridge is out. Continue the game until there is a winner.



Andrew McCaldon, 35th Liverpool



Get Creative: Christmas Crafts





Check out a great range of Christmas craft ideas to keep you going on Vicki Brownlee's 'My BB Resources' blog at bit.ly/1QzV4uq.

discover Resource

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Planning your Programme

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



11 NOV

Remembrance Day

On this day we commemorate the signing of the Armistice which marked the end of the First World War and remember those that gave their lives in that and other wars. Think about how you could do something on your meeting night or how you could get involved in your Remembrance Sunday service at church.

Check out britishlegion.org.uk



World AIDS Day - Put a ribbon on it...

This year the National AIDS Trust is asking people to show solidarity with the 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK - and the 34 million world-wide - by wearing the universal symbol of HIV awareness, the red ribbon. Get creative - put it on landmarks, people, clothes, buildings, food. There is nowhere the red ribbon cannot go!

Check out the 'Get Involved' section in this issue for a feature on 'Stop Aids' with more on how you could get your young people involved in the fight against aids.

Check out worldaidsday.org



🏹 Challenge: Domino Run



You can find thousands of attempts at Domino runs on YouTube and across social media, but have you ever tried it?

In September members of the 2nd Antrim Company in Northern Ireland completed a successful run of 400 dominoes pieces. Can you beat it?

Check out a video of their Domino run at facebook.com/2nd-Antrim-Boys-Brigade. Give it a go with your Company Section and post a video on to YouTube/Facebook/Twitter so we can see how you get on, we will share the highest run in the next Gazette.



Get Learning: Commemorating WW1 - My Village/Town/City



Find out more about the impact World War 1 had on your village/ town/city. Could your young people visit a local museum/library, local War Memorial or your local archive service. Local archives accessed through your library service or local council may be able to give access for your young people to do some research including reviewing newspapers and other documents. See what the young people can find out about their local area, what was it like to live in the village/town/city they live in today, what was it like to live in Britain between 1914-1918? If old enough, your church/BB records may also give great insight into life during the war, including what your church/BB Company did to support the war effort.



Help get your young people into Christmas with these themed ideas.



Christmas Sketch

Could your young people learn and practice this fantastic sketch to perform in church in the lead up to Christmas, alternatively they could go along and perform to the Anchor or Junior Sections. The sketch tells the Christmas story using a superheroes theme, which is fun and will keep everyone entertained. It's also a great way of reinforcing the Christmas story with the young people in this age group.



Download at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ christmassketch.pdf

02

Christmas Photo-Booth



Purchase a 'Christmas Selfie Props' kit available from high street retailers, online or make your own props. Props could include santa/elf hats, reindeer noses/ antlers, snowman nose/hat, etc. Get members of your group to take a fun selfie or pose for a fun festive group photo. You may also be able to get a frame to use to take the photos for even more effect.



Pass the Parcel (with a twist)

Get your wrapping paper and sellotape at the ready to create your parcel. You will also need some sweets and a bigger prize for the middle and you know what you need to do. But the twist is to add in with each sweet, a challenge. Be creative, but some ideas to get you going include 'sing your favourite nursery rhyme', 'show us your best dance moves', 'tell us a joke', 'act

like a monkey for 20 seconds', 'share a funny story', 'sing We Wish you a Merry Christmas', 'talk about the real Christmas story for 30 seconds'. You should have a great laugh!



Tree Prayers

You will need a Christmas tree, greetings tags and pens. Give each young person a greetings tag and ask them to think about something they would like to pray for this Christmas. They could write several prayers or you could encourage them to write different types of prayer. Once written ask them to attach the tags to the Christmas Tree. If appropriate place the Christmas tree in a location where others can see it and may read the prayers, or you could ask the church if you could put the tags on the church tree. Finish this activity by leading a time of prayer incorporating some, if not all of the young people's prayers.

05

Wrapping Paper Challenge



Get the young people into teams for this challenge. It's all about wrapping up one member of the team as quickly as possible, but remember that presentation is also important! A leader(s) should then judge the team's efforts and decide on a winner.

Article Continued →

06

Secret Santa

Everyone buys a gift for everyone else... write-out a slip for every member of the group and put in a hat, each person should pull out a name (as long as not their own) for whom they buy a gift. Set a limit of $\mathfrak L^3$ - $\mathfrak L^5$ (do not go too high). The gifts should be wrapped and brought along to your last night before Christmas and put under the tree (discreetly) before handing out the gifts and opening later in the evening.



Our Community

Christmas is an ideal time to do something for the community. Imagine the impact if you setup a free gift wrapping service at your local shopping centre. No catches, just a service for people and a way to interact with your local community. Or what about helping at a Soup Kitchen? Ask your young people what they think they could do, and help make a difference to the lives of others this Christmas



Get Active: Pencil Passing

Try out this great team building exercise. Simply create a cavern (no man's land) with a couple of ropes and have two teams of at least four who have to pass a pencil across the cavern. Every time they are successful the cavern is widened. Keep going as long as possible. Check out a video and pictures of the 1st Harlington members giving this a go through the 'BB Night Ideas' Facebook Group.



Shared by Martin Wallis, 1st Harlington



The 'Get Involved' section of the Spring 2015 Gazette featured the RNLI, encouraging groups to visit over the summer. Following on from that article the 15th Coatbridge Company Section sent us in this picture, after visiting the Porthcawl Lifeboat Station in South Wales whilst on their summer camp.

The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"We've been trying to build up our numbers for some time, what's the best method of recruiting into this age group?"

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



"We have successfully recruited a number of boys into our Company Section over the last three years. We talk with our current members about what they really enjoy, what sort of evening they would like to bring a friend along to. We agree an evening when we will encourage others to come along and this is done through personal encouragement by our boys."

Ian Rumbelow, 2nd Stoke-sub-Hamdon



"Recruiting into the Company Section has proved quite a challenge in the past. The most effective recruiters have been other Company Section members. We have found that if the young people are enjoying the programme they are likely to tell their friends so we are constantly listening to the feedback from our young people."

Duncan Daniels, 1st Droitwich Spa



"I've tried all sorts of methods over the years to recruit at CS/Seniors age groups and had little success. To that affect we have concluded that it's not worth the effort. I do though feel that the best method is to concentrate on your younger age groups. And if your younger age groups are failing numbers wise, then make every effort to put that right. Last year we promoted 10 AB's to the JS, 8 the year before and 8 the year before that. So we should in time start seeing our Company Section / Seniors recover stats wise. This session 9 boys have turned up to try out BB and ALL are school years 1 or 2. To back this up I've kept stats for the past 13 years and noted the sections that the boys join us and it's quite hierarchical. These stats exclude boys that left before their 6th week (as I considered these as non-members): AB: 132, JS: 71, CS: 35, SS: 1. Therefore, my advice is to put your efforts into recruiting at the younger age groups."

Allan Tresidder, 2nd Bedford

CHALLENGE RESOURCE



Nationwide Challenge for Seniors is back!

Ultimate Challenge Plus is a Brigade wide mental and physical competition for Seniors. Participants will compete with others from across the UK & Rol without having to leave their hall, and there's no need to use special, or expensive, equipment.

All of the challenges have been designed so they can be completed either indoors or outdoors, with minimal equipment, and a hall which is large enough to run in. With the competition being on an individual basis, it means you can participate, even if there is only one Senior in your Company. Although if that is the case, why not see if you can join with another local Company and take part together, or use it as part of a Battalion Seniors' event?

The challenges are a mix of physical and mental challenges. The physical challenges will test speed, agility, endurance and core-strength, whilst the mental challenges test your knowledge and logical thinking skills.

Each young person who participates will qualify for two Challenge Plus points. In addition if you complete a Project (5 points) and a few more Challenges throughout the session, you'll qualify for the Challenge Plus Bronze Award (10 points).



Ultimate Challenge Plus will be launched on November 16th 2015, check out boys-brigade.org.uk/ucp for more details.

Get Active: Ultimate Ninja

Ultimate Ninja is a great team game that is fun and extremely competitive, requiring quick reflexes and a little strategy. Ideal for 6-10 players in a group.

The aim of the game is to become the 'Ultimate Ninja', with players eliminating others from the game. To start all players must be standing in a circle facing each other with their hands in front of them. The lead player (after the first round, the lead player will be the winner of the previous round) will loudly say "Ultimate," and then everyone in the circle will say "Ninja!" as they choose a pose. Once they have chosen a pose, everyone except the lead player must stay frozen.

The game is then played clockwise, with each person taking a turn. The lead player will then start by choosing one motion (1) an attempt to hit another person's hand with their hand in one swift motion, or (2) one movement, such as taking a step or jump in any direction. On completion of the motion they must freeze in the position they were in at the end of their attack. Defending players are allowed one motion to dodge the incoming strike, but must hold the new position they end up in. If the attacking player hits another player's hand, that player is now out of the game and moves out of the circle. Remember all players must remain frozen, in their last position, unless they are attacking or being attacked when they can make a movement as described. The game is over when there is only one player left. Play again and again; there will be some hilarious ninja-like poses.





Shared by Alex, Jordan and Nathaniel, 133rd London

Are you using CHallenge

Do your Seniors use the Challenge Plus Material?

Sometimes we're told that a Company hasn't enough Seniors to run a separate programme. But we know that this can result in a catch 22 situation, where no programme is operated so there's little to attract or retain the older teenagers.

The Challenge Plus material can work with different numbers of young people and one of the keys to its successful use, is the young people themselves determining what they want to be involved in.





Projects are longer activities that take more hours to complete spread over several weeks. Projects include taster sessions that can act as an introduction and be used to see if the project is of interest.



Young Enterprise. The overall aim of the Project is to create a functioning business model and to take on specific roles within it.

The main activity is 'In Business' to develop a money making idea, with young people taking different roles, bringing out their individual skills/qifts.

One of the taster sessions is entitled, "The Apprentice" and focuses on observing and evaluating a business model. The project also looks at "Ethical Business" discussing how to be a good employer, make money and treat others fairly.



Active Citizen. The overall aim of the Project is to explore the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.

The main activity is 'My Cause is....' which is about exploring issues concerning the right and responsibilities of being part of a community and developing a campaign relating to an issue of concern in your community.

The Taster sessions include: "Heroes" thinking about how individuals have changed the world; and "Hold a Referendum" to see democracy in action.



02

Challenges are shorter activities that can be completed by the group or by an individual. Some challenges can be completed on the usual group meeting night whilst others may require a different night or venue.

Sample Challenges:



Learn and take part in a Winter Sport



Taste and review a local Takeaway (send review to local paper/media)



Changing Rooms – decorate a room in the church



Invite and take the BB Chaplain to a fast food restaurant



Complete at least 50 kick-up's as a group



Raise £100 for a charity

If you do not already have the Challenge Plus Programme Pack then get yours from BB Supplies, just £40.00. The pack contains hundreds of projects and challenges with supporting resources for young people within this age group and encourages them to plan and develop their own programme.



Share what Projects & Challenges your young people get up to @bbgazette or email gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk



Make a Difference Awards 2015

Our President, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port shares his reflections on the recent Make a Difference Awards.

"At the beginning of September, about 100 people were gathered together in surroundings as far removed from a church hall as it's possible to imagine. Young people, leaders, friends and family, had come from all over the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland for a very special event. The meeting place was wondrous – nothing less than the State Rooms which form part of the dwelling place of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The River Thames flowed past and we looked down on Westminster Bridge and across the river to the London Eye. In this place Kings and Queens, Presidents and Prime Ministers, the Great and the Good had walked and talked since time immemorial. It could have been overwhelming. But it wasn't. Those present commanded the space as if it had been created for them. And the cause we were celebrating deserved no less wonderful a setting.

We were there to honour those receiving MAD (Make a Difference) awards, young people who had shown exceptional sensitivity, grace, and courage in their homes, Companies or communities.

Jonathan Hatchet of the 1st Bluestone Company in Northern Ireland, for example, had volunteered in charity shops and taught disabled children how to swim and play rugby since the age of 12.

Niaomi and Mollie Owen of the 1st Hanley Company in Stokeon-Trent had given unstinting help to their parents in looking after their brother Bradley who suffers from a severe functional disability. By playing games, reading and helping with his homework, they take so much pressure off their mum and dad.

And then there was **John Blair** of the 1st Barrhead Company in Scotland. What a lad! He has done a huge amount of volunteering and fundraising for a local Hospice Charity Shop

and for other charities too, to say nothing of the hours he's given in the service of his own church and BB Company.

The awards were given by one of the Deputy Speakers of the House of Commons, Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP. I shall never forget the picture of this august man, wearing official morning dress and accompanied by one of his officials, kneeling down in greeting and for photographs beside one of our MAD award winners.



There was something fundamentally right about that. In this place where power has been wielded and important decisions taken that have affected the life of the nation, due honour and respect was being afforded to those who work tirelessly and sacrificially to make our communities richer and better. Jesus set a child in the midst of his contemporaries to teach them a few lessons about the meaning of life. That lesson was being re-enacted in the Speaker's apartment that day in early September."



A full collection of photos from the event at boys-brigade.org.uk/bb-media/house-of-commons-visit/



Get Involved...

Pictured above are Seniors from 2nd / 4th Motherwell who helped provide activities for youngsters at Forgewood Community Hub.

We are already hearing about events/activities taking place across the Brigade and we know that many more Companies have plans for the coming weeks and months. The 'Our Community' campaign will run throughout the 2015-2016 session.

We want to continue 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 also to get involved. So, consider how you could build activities into your programme.

Register your event/activity to get your FREE bespoke event/ activity pack we have put together to help you promote, run and celebrate your event/activity which includes a banner, posters, balloons and flags.

And don't forget to let us know what you get up to by tweeting or posting on Facebook using **#ourcommunitybb**.



Register your event/activity online at

leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ourcommunity/

Christmas Card Competition

We had a fantastic response with over 800 entries to the competition to design a new Christmas card range for BB Supplies.

The winning designs for each age group were:







Ben 17th **Nottingham**Juniors Section



Grace
1st Ruddington
Anchor Section

The winning designs form part of a new pack of cards now available to purchase from BB Supplies (see back page).

The Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations are offered to Stephen Richard England, Captain of 2nd Guernsey, who received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours, for services to The Boys' Brigade in Guernsey.

Resourcing the Regions Update

Thank you for all the feedback received, by those attending the Brigade Conference, those who emailed / wrote in to BB Headquarters and those who completed the online survey.



The five top conclusions from the survey were:

- More needs to be delivered locally, especially training.
- Clearer explanation needed as to what the fees pay for.
- BB must stay as one organisation.
- Leaders want better value for money from fees.
- Most do not know how much other youth organisations cost (on average, a lot more per member than BB!)

The Resourcing the Regions group and Brigade Truesties are now meeting to discuss the findings of the consultation and to consider the next steps.

Communications, Fundraisers and Faith Leaders

Do you fit the bill? We are recruiting a small number of volunteers to serve on two groups, helping to manage our communications and fundraising strategy and focussing on how we develop Christian faith and relations with our different churches. We would like to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds and with lots of or little BB experience. All applicants should apply before Monday 30th November 2015.



To find out more please email Andrew Johnston at andrew.johnston@boys-brigade.org.uk

Apologies to 4th Newtownabbey

In the Summer 2015 issue we incorrectly stated that the runnersup in the National Badminton Competition for 2014/2015 were 1st Garvagh, the runners-up were in fact 4th Newtownabbey Company.

Online Brigade Manager is coming soon!

With changing needs both externally and internally, the Brigade has been looking into the replacement of our current Membership database.

Following a review of systems by Trustees and Staff and consultation at the Brigade Conference in September 2015 the Brigade is pleased to announce that a new system will be launched in April 2016. Online Brigade Manager (OBM) will provide functionality at local level as well as meeting the needs of the wider Brigade for the registration of leaders and Companies through BB Headquarters.

What will OBM deliver for your Company?

- Streamlining administration manage everything in one place.
- ✓ All leaders can access the system.
- Record keeping is quick and easy young people's data, attendance register, badge records, and camp/holiday/event management.
- Across all age groups incorporates age group programmes and award structures.
- Transfer members when they move up a section or even move to a different Company.
- ✓ Parents/Carers can access system through My.BB to sign-up to events, see badge progress, pay online, update details, see programme and access essential files/publications (e.g. consent forms).

- Communicate inside or outside OBM with email mailing lists or text messaging.
- ✓ Payments / Gift Aid Ability to take online payments for subs and camps/events through the direct debits system which also incorporates gift aid management where applicable.
- ✓ Access Anywhere with online and offline modes you can access on the web or through the app on your smartphone or tablet wherever you are.
- ✓ Proven & Trusted OBM is safe, secure, and a data protection act compliant system already being used by thousands of volunteer leaders in Scouting and Guiding across the globe.

OBM will also deliver functionality to Battalions and Districts providing access to search leader and Company data (within area), communicate with leaders/Companies and access a reporting framework.

Further details about the launch will be announced in the Winter Gazette and e-BB news.

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH	
1 st Amersham	Jan Longhurst	RCCG Christ Liberty House, Amersham, Bucks	
1 st Armoy	Christopher Easton	Northfield Congregational Church, Aberdeen	
15 th Bolton	Ebenezer Ojo	RCCG Love Arena, Manchester	
1 st Kensal Green	Olawale Adetokunbo	RCCG New Horizons Parish, London	
37 th Nottingham	Robert Buckby	Westdale Lane Baptist Church, Nottingham	
19 th Sheffield	Mark Boswell	Mount Tabor Methodist Church, Yorkshire	
2 nd Stockwell	Ayoku Akinlade	Christ Apostolic Church, London	
1 st Tonteg	Rosa Hunter	Capel Salem Tonteg Church, Wales	
Voice of Revival Leeds	Mavis Tembo	Voice of Revival Ministries, Leeds	
1 st Wolverhampton	Abraham Ibanga	RCCG Fountain of Grace, Wolverhampton	

Annual Review 2014-2015

Check out our Annual Review for 2014-2015 which provides an overview of activities and events held during the last year. This is an excellent tool to help you in your local fundraising activities.





View the Annual Review online at

boys-brigade.org.uk/who-we-are/annual-review/

Junior Section International Team Games

Last year there were over 170 entries to the competition including Companies from New Zealand, Thailand, Ghana, Australia, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Your Company could be part of this great competition this session; the games for 2015/2016 are now available, just complete in your own meeting place and send in your results by 1st April 2016.



Download the 2015/16 games from:

leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/ international-team-games.htm

Top Team Challenge

The National Top Team Challenge is an activity for Company and Seniors, where a large number of Companies across the country take part in the same tasks in their own meeting place. It's a great competition and is accessible to all Companies, with no travelling required, minimal equipment needed, on a date convenient to you.

The challenge consists of a number of physical and logical challenges, a team of 4 take part against the clock to complete the mini challenges.



To order packs for your teams go to: leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/top-team.htm

BB Canoe Club Activities

The Boys' Brigade Canoe club is running a number of training courses during the session. The courses are all run by BB leaders who are also British Canoe Union Coaches and so participants will be able to work towards nationally recognised certificates including BCU paddle sport, 1-3 star and FRST. Each weekend will see two courses running in parallel: one for young people (aged 12 and over) and one for leaders. In addition to paddling skills the leaders' course will also involve safety, leadership and risk assessment.

Course dates and venues:

11-13 MAR 16

Chirk (Wrexham) North Wales

6-8 MAY 16

Fountain Lodge Forest of Dean

20-22 MAY 16

Tonbridge Kent

24-26 JUN 16

Edinburgh

16-18 SEP 16

Devon (provisional date)

30 SEP - 2 OCT 16

North Wales



All the details can be found online at boysbrigadecanoeclub.co.uk

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.

David F Kennedy MBE	Belfast Battalion/ Northern Ireland District	
James C White	Manchester Battalion	
Tim Darge	3 rd Maidstone	
William (Bill) Lowry	268 th Glasgow	
Mary Alethea Ward	15 th and 22 nd Nottingham	
Bernard Tilyard	South East Hampshire Battalion	
Richard Brotherton	1 st Middlewich	
Tom Caldwell	8 th Wigan	
William Harrison	2 nd Wigan	
Donald Jackson	5 th Wigan	



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

BB and Young Minds

A series of FREE one-day conferences around the UK

BB leaders tell us that they are increasingly becoming aware of mental health issues in the young people they work with.

Here are some facts from www.youngminds.org.uk



Roughly 725,000 people in the UK suffer from **eating disorders**, 86% of these will have shown symptoms before the age of 19.



Half of all lifetime cases of **mental illness** begin by age 14.



One in 10 young people deliberately **harm themselves** regularly (and 15,000 of them are hospitalised each year because of this)



45% of children in care have a **mental health disorder** - these are some of the most vulnerable people in our society



Nearly 80,000 children and young people suffer from **severe depression**



Nearly 300,000 young people in Britain have an **anxiety disorder**

It has been decided to run Regional Conferences next year to raise awareness of these issues and how we can help young people who are suffering or vulnerable. The conferences will help promote and sign post other organisations and agencies and highlight partnership working. Key speakers in various fields connected to mental health are being invited along and there will be many other partners and organisations in attendance.

More information coming soon – but put the dates in your diary:

13 FEB 16

Edinburgh, Scotland

16 APR 16

Nottingham, England

5 MAR 16

Belfast, Northern Ireland (leaders from Rol are warmly welcomed to this event)

30 APR 16

Felden Lodge, England

News From The Brigade's AGM

Annual Capitation Fees (2016/17)

CATEGORY		FEE
Annual Company registration		£135.00
Fee per young person		£13.25
Officer fee	Company Officers	£27.00
	(second officer at the same address)	£22.00
	Battalion & District Officers not on Company roll	£27.00
	Officers in receipt of state retirement pension	£21.00
	Officers in full time education or training	£21.00
Staff Sergeant / Helper Fee		£13.25

The fee in respect of an Associate Member is £27.00

The maximum fee that a Company may pay in respect of young people is $\pounds 1,650.00$

Brigade Auditors

Whiting & Partners were reappointed as Auditors of The Boys' Brigade and the Brigade Executive authorised to fix their remuneration.

Brigade Office Bearers (2015/16)

President: The Rev'd The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

Vice President: Mr T W P Donaldson

Mr A S Burrow

Mr M J Smith

Treasurer: Mr C Bygrave FCA

Chaplain: The Very Rev'd Andrew McLellan CBE

FOCUS ENGLAND



Development Focus

New Companies in England have been busy developing their activities for the new session. This will build on their work engaging within their wider community, not just their own individual churches and membership. During the summer, many have taken an active role in local communities undertaking projects such as community clean ups, putting on BBQs for local residents and participating in Summer Fairs, Carnivals and special events showing what they offer to families in their particular areas.

The NCS Challenge programme came to an end on 31st May 2015. Over the past year more than 60 NCS Graduates have completed Youth Leader Training and they have undertaken social action projects in their communities, including, photography training, BB Hoodie printing, working on a school allotment and a (legal) graffiti wall.

The work in local **Schools in Stoke-on-Trent** has continued to grow and develop with another Academy looking to start a BB Company. There are already more than 40 children wanting to join, along with three adult leaders and 13 students from the High School volunteering to be young leaders.

Rural Schools and Communities is a project which has been funded under the Government's Uniformed Youth Social Action Fund, setting up BB work in rural communities in Yorkshire and Mid/North Wales. John Myers has been appointed Project Manager and Martin Fuller has been appointed as a Development Worker. Work commenced in April and we are currently setting up new Companies. This work is funded under the innovation section of the fund and will involve BB work being used as after school clubs and will provide transport using minibuses to transport the children home.

Unite 2016

Unite is returning on the $3^{rd} - 5^{th}$ June 2016 at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead. The camp is for young people aged 11–18 years old and accompanying leaders. The event was a huge success last May and the planning group already has lots planned for next year. We are really pleased that Mark Greenwood has accepted our invitation to be the main speaker again in 2016. Booking forms will be available on the website soon, but in the meantime please put the date in your group diary and keep updated by checking out the website or social



Check out the website at unitebb.org.uk



Follow on Twitter @unitebb



Find on Facebook /unitebb

Showcase Marching Band

On Saturday 6th of June over 400 members of the Boys' and Girls' Brigades assembled at the annual British Showcase Marching Band Championships at Stoke-on-Trent. It was encouraging to see a number of new bands, as well as the representatives from some of the UK's best marching bands, performing.



Find out more at showcasemarchingbands.co.uk

WHAT'S ON - ENGLAND



19 MAR / 16 APR 2016

National Music Festivals

Each year The BB/GB National Music Festivals just get bigger and better; and next year we want to see you there too! If you have young people that can play anything from trombone to guitar, piano to maybe even a vuvuzela then why not get involved?



Find out more at

natbrass.boys-brigade.org.uk/musicfestival



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

30 JUL - 5 AUG 2016

KGVI

Youth Leadership Training for those aged 17-21 who would like to move into leadership in the BB.

leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi

FOCUS SCOTLAND



Royal Visit at Carronvale

Our Headquarters at Carronvale House welcomed a very special guest at the beginning of July when HRH Earl of Wessex dropped in to speak with young people, leaders and HQ staff. His Royal Highness spent time finding out more about BB work in Scotland, including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He also met the 'Engage a Generation 7 Summits' team who recently broke the Guinness World Record for the longest 5-a-side football game and completed Ben Nevis seven times in a row.

The visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of the very first KGVI youth leadership course. HRH was interested to hear more about KGVI training and spoke with recent graduates.



A video with the event's highlights can be viewed at: http://bit.ly/1KSncc7



Church Moderator visits KGVI

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison met with 37 young leaders at the KGVI first year course at the beginning of August. He paid tribute to the training course and emphasised the encouragement it gives the wider BB organisation and the Church. He said "The standard of training is very high indeed and this inspirational course is one of the signs that the BB is flourishing . The need for young leaders to guide and support for a following generation has never been greater." Next year's new entrants' course runs from 16th to 22nd July 2016.

Fifteen for 2015

Many Companies and Battalions got involved in the 1,000km challenge last year, so yet again there's an opportunity for your young people to compete in a national challenge! There will be fifteen challenges which all age groups can get involved in. They are designed to help get the new



session off to a flying start and also give you ways to shout about your BB activities to a wider audience. Winners will be decided by an independent jury and will be this year's recipients of the Simon Smith Trophy.



You can find out more and register, by going to leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/fifteenfor2015.htm

Scottish Conference 2016 -Save the date!

The next Scottish Conference will be held on Saturday 5th March 2016 at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Perthshire. The day will be open to every BB Leader and we hope that all Battalions will be represented. More info will be provided in due course but please put the date in your diary!

National Camp

130 years after The Boys' Brigade first ever residential activity run by the 1st Glasgow, the BB in Scotland is hosting a national camp from 9th – 16th July 2016 in the grounds of Dumfries House, East Ayrshire. It is open to Company and Senior aged young people from Companies across Scotland. A packed, exciting and adventurous programme is already being finalised.



For more information go to scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



13 NOV

4-15 NOV

Juniors' Giant Sleepover, **Glasgow Science Centre**

Leading Sporting Activities, **Carronvale House**

4-5 DEC **Enhancing Your Skills**, Carronvale House

> **Enhancing Your Skills**, **Carronvale House**

5-6 DEC

OCUS WALES



Celebrating Queen's Badges

Towards the end of the last session the BB in Wales was delighted to celebrate the achievements of a number of young people. David Aubrey QC, President BB in Wales introduced the awards and invited the recipients to share their reflections on gaining the award.

During the session four young people completed their Queen's Badge and were presented with their awards including Samuel Huntley, 21st Cardiff; Joseph Owen, 2nd Blackwood; Jordan Parker and Connor Carter, 4th Gwent.

The boys spoke movingly and sometimes humorously about their work and the experiences that working towards the badge had given them. They spoke of their involvement in volunteering, skills development, and the expeditions they had undertaken.

They spoke of what it meant to them, the opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have had, their journeys in faith, their stories, and of their commitment to The Boys' Brigade and the impact it has had in their lives.

Alongside this a number of other awards were presented including Western Mail Cup for 2015 presented to Ashley Fowler, 16th Cardiff and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards to Connah Stickler, 1st Caerphilly and Samuel Huntley, 21st Cardiff.

The presentations were made as part of the AGM, which focussed on new growth and opportunities across the Region, as well as celebrating the achievements of the last session.



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

WALES: **\(\)** 02920 483555



The Boys' Brigade, 58 Richmond Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AT

FOCUS R.o.I

Company in Action Training

Over 70 Leaders attended the pilot of the "Company in Action" Training held at venues in Carrick-on-Shannon, Portlaoise, Monaghan and Dublin during the early part of September. The course is designed to enthuse and equip Leaders as the new session commences with emphasis on the Object through the use of the programme packs.

The BB's Got Talent

Whether they choose to do something a bit different or a classic favourite, young people can use their energy and skill set to impress their peers, leaders, parents and community. The Juniors' BB's Got Talent Competition will take place in Dundrum Methodist Church on Saturday, 12th March 2016. Get your young people involved.

Company & Juniors Weekends

Knockree, located in the magnificent glaciated Glencree valley near Enniskerry in Co. Wicklow providing modern facilities in a spectacular location will be the venue for the Adventure Weekends for Company Section in March 2016 and Juniors in May 2016.

WHAT'S ON - R.o.I



Juniors' & CS Hike, Howth

3 NOV

Juniors' Table Quiz, Glaslouah & Killeshandra

15 NOV

District Service, Buncody

17-18 NOV

Company in Action Training, Tralee & Cork



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

FOCUS NORTHERN



New President for Northern Ireland District

The Northern Ireland District Executive is pleased to announce the appointment of David Blevins as District President. This will be for an initial three year term. David has a wealth of BB experience, having been a Member, Leader and Captain of 6th Portadown Company and President of Portadown & District Battalion. David is a journalist and holds the position of Ireland Correspondent for Sky News. He lives close to Portadown with his wife Ruth and children - Sarah, James and Joshua.

WHAT'S ON - N.IRELAND

30 OCT

Carrickfergus Brass & BB Centenary Choir Concert

Junior Section Conference

14/21 NO\

First Aid Training

09 NOV

Drill Workshop

20 FEB

Robin Mark Concert



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



BB NI launches Disability App

The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland has launched a new Disability App to provide quick, basic information for leaders on 25 different disabilities that affect children and young people. The free App was produced by the BBNI Disability Team, led by Colin Millar and is currently available on the Apple platform. Andrew Paul, a young BB leader from Crumlin Boys' Brigade did the 'technical bit' writing the code and preparing the App for use.

Colin Millar is the Captain of 4th Newtownards BB and brought one of his young leaders, Kenneth Downes to speak about his experiences in BB and to help demonstrate the Disability App at the launch. Kenneth has Down's syndrome and has been a member of Colin's BB Company since he was four years old.

Kenneth said: "I am currently 25 years old and I have Down's Syndrome. From the age of five, The Boys' Brigade has played an important part in my life. I have enjoyed making good friends, taking part in sports activities, parades, displays and doing badge work. My faith has grown and I have my President's Badge and Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. At present I am a Warrant Officer in the 4th Ards Junior Section, helping out every Wednesday night. I look forward to going each week working with the boys and officers. The Boys' Brigade welcomes all boys and I would encourage them to join."



Download from the App Store by searching **BBNI** Disability

Anchor Boy ABC Trail - at **Newport this Christmas**

Following on from the very successful Anchor Boy Fun Day held at Newport in June the Northern Ireland District Anchor Boy committee is inviting all Anchor Boys to follow the ABC Trail at Newport this Christmas to discover the real meaning of Christmas, among the reindeers, cookies, and presents. This festive event will take place at Newport on Friday 27th and Sat 28th November and Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December 2015. Various time slots are available over the 4 evenings and may be booked by following this link



To book your time slot go to http://tinyurl.com/abctrail



Staying Safe Online

Karen Jay, Director of Children's & Youth Work continues our series on Digital Tools and looks at how we can help keep our children and young people safe online.

What advice would you give to a 14 year old who told you this at a BB night?

"I went out to the entrance gate of my school yesterday and I stopped the first person that went by. I told him my name, my age, my address, my personal problems, what I'd had for lunch, where I was going tonight and who my best friends were. I gave him pictures of me on holiday, with my mates, my younger sister and on the school trip. He said he "liked"

what I had to say and then followed me..."

Most young people would be far too streetwise to entrust their personal details to a stranger in "real" life but somehow when we're online it feels safer. We know from research that teenagers consistently underestimate the risks they can face when online. The problem for most adults is that we can't keep up with the pace of change in social networking, and as soon as "we" discover a networking site "they" move on to another.

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) is a national crime agency where you can report online abuse. They also produce excellent resources for different age groups on their website "thinkuknow"





These resources are perfect if you want to put something into your programme for Anchor Section, Junior Section, Company Section or Seniors. There are also sections for parents, trainers and teachers.

Here's what CEOP says about how online abuse typically happens:



An offender makes contact with a young person. This can happen anywhere online, including on a social network, in a chatroom, in a game or even on their mobile.



The offender begins a conversation and tricks the young person into sending them an indecent picture, appearing naked or performing sexual acts on webcam. They trick them in a variety of ways including: pretending to be a girl or boy of the same age, pretending to be someone the child knows, flirting with them or sending them sexual pictures or videos.



The offender records the webcam footage. They then threaten to share the video with the young person's friends or family if they don't perform more sexual acts. Some young people have been threatened for money or told to hurt themselves.

This has happened to hundreds, possibly thousands, of young people in this country.

This is sexual abuse. The emotional impact can be devastating. A number of young people have attempted suicide as a result of finding themselves in this situation.

So, realistically, what tools can BB leaders use to help children and young people to stay safe online, assess their own safety and minimise risk?



Technical Tools

Parental controls **Privacy settings**



Reporting Tools

Report abuse buttons **CEOP** reporting page



Education Tools

Thinkuknow **BB** programme activities

Most social network sites will have privacy settings. It's a good idea to read these and check that young people understand what privacy settings mean.

As an example Facebook offers these options:

- Who can search for you this means that when people search your name on a site, your profile does not come up.
- Who sees what this means that you can control the information you share, like your photos or 'wall' posts. You can usually restrict this to friends only, friends of friends, certain groups of friends, or everyone. We would recommend that for young people it is restricted to friends only.
- Who can post information about you some sites enable others to 'tag' photos of you or share other information about you, like your location. Many sites enable you to restrict people's ability to do this.

It is important that you stay up-to-date with the privacy settings that young people use and help them stay in control of their profile.



For more information about privacy settings: www.facebook.com/help/privacy





"Talking about these issues with your young people is really important. Our Company Section and Seniors members are much more aware of keeping themselves safe online. A group of Seniors is now planning an activity for Juniors so that they have a much better understanding."

- Johanna Geddes, 1st Thurso

Above all, the relationship of trust you've built with the young people and children in your Company is the best defence against online abuse or bullying. If they trust you enough to tell you if something has gone wrong or they're being bullied, then you can take advice. Even if you don't "get" social networking you can get in touch with us at BBHQ, contact CEOP, your Church safeguarding person or your local police.



For more information visit ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/



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

or call +44 (0) 1442 231 681



Young People's Voice in the Company Programme

In The Boys' Brigade we can provide fantastic activities for children and young people, and many Companies excel at this, but if we fail to give those young people a voice in the running of their Company and indeed the wider BB, then we are missing the point.

Participation in a Youth Work context means more than turning up or joining in, it means that Leaders share the decision making with young people – even pass over control in some circumstances! Initially, it can feel difficult or odd for young people and adults alike, but you can start with small participation projects and build on these. Ultimately, not only do you reduce your own burden for programme planning and generating ideas, but you give children and young people the opportunity to exceed their own expectations of themselves.



Check out a short video entitled 'Participation' which is part of a series of five short videos talking about the four cornerstones of Youth Work.



View the video at: boys-brigade.org.uk/4cornerstones

Alan Hunter, in his role as Training & Development Officer in Scotland, has witnessed some great examples of participation at different levels:



Regional committees now have equal representation of young people and elected members. The young people have an equal involvement in activities and decision making. They are involved in planning, delivery and evaluating projects on an equal footing with their older counterparts.



Under the 'Young People Taking the Lead' banner in Scotland, a couple of young leaders are involved in an Advisory Group, which is pulling together an event for around 100 young people later in the year. Working in partnership with young leaders from The Girls' Brigade, Scouts, Girlguiding and Youth Scotland, the young people have taken an idea, initially suggested by adults, and are developing, planning and implementing the event, which they will take the lead and evaluate afterwards. They have adapted the idea given to them, providing suggestions to make the event more appealing for the age group.



You will have seen from a previous Gazette that a group of Seniors/Young Leaders set out to break the world record for the longest game of 5-a-side football. In this case the idea, the planning and implementation were all completed by the young people, from organising the venue, to arranging sponsorship, first aid, catering, independent witnesses, to all dealings with Guinness World Records. The adult involvement came from being part of the support team for the attempt – which was successful and is now in the record books for playing for 55 hours!

All things that have worked very successfully and demonstrated the skills that young people have gained from their earlier days in The Boys' Brigade, being put to good use.



But what things can you do in the Company to increase participation?

Here are a few simple suggestions:

- Make effective use of the NCO system, which provides opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles in the Company taking up responsibility within the Company, helping support younger members, helping lead the programme and running activities; running the tuck shop; being a tent commander at camp; and importantly being the link between the young people and the leaders.
- Involve all the young people in the development of your weekly and annual programme. Find out the things that they enjoy taking part in and things they don't like; consider whether you replace them, or look at innovative ways of delivering topics/activities to ensure they are relevant.
- If your Company does an annual fundraising for a charity, ask the young people for suggestions on what that charity should be or to come up with new and innovative ideas for fundraising activities.
- Consider longer term projects that can benefit your local community get the young people visible in the project, 'making a difference' to the lives of others. For some more detailed suggestions, visit leaders.boysbrigade.org.uk/ourcommunity to find out more about the 'Our Community' initiative.



- David, Motherwell

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

- Christian, 15, London

Giving young people the opportunity to participate will help them grow personally and develop relationship and leadership skills - skills, which become transferrable both internally within The Boys' Brigade if they continue on to become leaders and also externally into further education or the workplace.

Over the last ten years, increased participation has helped retain young people in the teenage years within the organisation and helped provide a more confident leadership continuing the advancement of Christ's Kingdom within the BB.

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



Follow Alan on Twitter at @alanBBscotland



News from Global Fellowship



GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP of CHRISTIAN YOUTH

New CEO appointed

Steve Dickinson took up his appointment as Chief Executive on 1st August after eleven years as Brigade Secretary of The Boys' Brigade for the UK and Republic of Ireland. In his welcome letter, Steve wrote:

I am very excited and greatly humbled to be appointed the Chief Executive of The Global Fellowship and am grateful for the support already expressed by many and for the confidence placed in me by members of the Executive Committee.

We are a vast network of organisations with a common Christian heritage and mission, committed to sharing the Gospel with young people. There is great strength in the diversity of experience that each member organisation brings, but I am very conscious of the differing resource base from which we work.

I know the difference that belonging to one of our member organisation brings; how young lives are enriched and transformed and my aim is to support our network to deliver these experiences to more children and young people so that their life chances are enhanced.

I have seen at first hand the great work being done in Europe, North America, the Caribbean islands, in West and Southern Africa, in Asia and in the Pacific. I truly believe that "we are all in this together" and that in mutual learning and sharing we can be true partners. The Global Fellowship belongs to us all and I would love to hear from you and learn from you so please get in touch."



You can contact Steve at: steve@globalfellowship.net

Launch of Consulting Partners

The Global Fellowship is committed to building a vibrant network of uniformed Christian Youth Organisations by strengthening its support for its members. As part of this commitment a team of experienced, voluntary 'Consulting Partners' has been established to work with office bearers and staff of member organisations within a geographical location, to support them in their strategic planning and to promote the excellent work that is taking place locally.



Bill Bates from the UK is supporting work in West Africa



Geoff Holmes from Australia is supporting work in the Pacific and Asia



Ulrich Piltoft from Denmark is supporting work in Central and Southern Africa



Walter Stewart from Trinidad is supporting work in the Caribbean and the Americas



Tim Pratt from New Zealand is supporting work in East Africa

Work within the consulting partners programme has already been initiated with very positive outcomes.



Keep up to date with the work of The Global Fellowship through Facebook at facebook.com/globalfellowship

Easter Course 2016

The Easter Course is heading to the German Capital of Berlin in 2016 and will take place from 20-27th March. Full details will be announced shortly at **europeanfellowship.org.**



For more information contact Vaughan Staples at vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk.



Global Round-up

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



The Boys' Brigade in Zambia this year turned 50 and many converged in Ndola, which hosts the Brigade Headquarters, to celebrate this joyous and mammoth occasion. Among the highlights of the celebration attended by 5,000 Boys were a parade, a Golden Jubilee Service and a fireworks' display. There were also displays of drill and figure marching, bands and gymnastics. A centenary message was read and cased, to be opened during the centenary celebrations in 2065. The Director of Scotland, Bill Stevenson and Development Worker Paul O'Shea were able to join BB Zambia to share in their celebrations.



In East Africa, BB Rwanda has just hosted a four day East Africa Regional Fellowship Young leaders Workshop. Based on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation, the camp attracted 250 participants from Rwanda, 50 from Kenya and 12 from Uganda.



Members of the 1st Montserrrat Company, Caribbean came together for Enrolment Sunday at the Bethesda Methodist Church.



A group from BB Hong Kong had the opportunity to spend 4 days in Malaysia. During their trip the group were hosted by BB Malaysia who provided a full programme of activities, including the opportunity to visit Kaula Lumpa and other sights and attractions alongside some shopping, spending time in worship and playing games.



Members of The Boys' and Girls' Brigade in Neenah Menasha, USA have held a number of camps over the summer on their own 6.5 acre island 'Onaway'. Through the ongoing relationship between Neenah and the 2nd Witham Company based in Essex, members from Witham enjoyed spending a week on 'Boys Camp 4'. Whilst in the USA the lads from Witham also visited Chicago, Niagara Falls and Toronto.



Hundreds of thousands flee to Europe

2015 has witnessed huge numbers of people setting off for new lives in Europe from countries across the Middle East and Africa, and in particular, Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan. In many of these countries, conflict has been common-place for years, leading to unstable and unsafe places for young people to grow up.

Getting to Europe, for the vast majority, has been a lengthy and tough ordeal, and as shown on the news, extremely dangerous. Some choose to travel by boat across the Mediterranean, or look to go through Turkey and into Eastern Europe on their way to a better life. So far this year, 134,000 people have crossed into Greece from Turkey and in total a quarter of a million have travelled across the Mediterranean.

The reaction from European countries has been mixed. Some countries have welcomed people who have fled the region, such as Germany which anticipates 800,000 to reside there by the end of the year. However, this isn't the case everywhere. Some countries have refused to take people in, or made travel very difficult. Hungary, for instance, put up barbed wire along its Balkan border to deter further people entering the country.

The response from local communities across Europe has been fascinating and very varied. In certain areas, such as in Eastern Germany, there have been demonstrations and riots by those against the people settling in their town. Locals are concerned

that it will be difficult for people to integrate into their society and the number entering the country is too great. In many places, however, the reaction has been very different – with placards saying "Welcome", food, clothing and even a place to stay.

What's your reaction to the situation in Europe? It is a very fluid and fast-changing situation, but consider what you would like to see happen...



Find out how you can help at harvestforhope.org



We asked some BB young people for their reactions to this ongoing crisis...

How should European countries react to the crisis?



Matthew, 10

"We might run out of space but we do have lots more money than them"



Josie, 9

"We should help by finding homes for them and giving them new clothes, food, toys, money and a bed. We could stop Hungary from blocking refugees from getting in their Country. It could be us."



Nathan and Callum, 15

"We feel that we should be welcoming the people with open arms because the people that are trying to flee are mostly innocent. Each European country has their own authorities, but personally we think that they should all be considerate about the situation."



Nathan, 13

"Something should have been done sooner, it should not have got to this stage of pictures of children being washed up on beaches for something to be done"

Are the concerns about integration and the volume merited?



Mitchell 16

"Some just want the NHS and we cannot help everyone; we need to save it for our own. We have poor and struggling people as well."



Tom, 15

"Yes, there'll be a language barrier which will make it hard for them. Plus they'll need to learn all about our British ways, which we know some find hard."

Do youth organisations and churches have a role to play?



Grace, 17

"Churches should help as there are no restrictions on who should be helped in the eyes of God. Everyone can and should do something nice to help those in need."



📆 Discuss this with your group

What are the opinions of your young people? You can get much more background to the situation by searching



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



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

Connor, 13

"Churches and youth organisations could help integrate these people into the community, help to find similar interests"



Fran's Experience

Andrew Johnston, Chief Executive met up with and interviewed BB ex-member Fran Hawley about her experience of The Boys' Brigade and here's what Fran had to say...



Fran tell us about your BB experience – how did you get involved and what was your highlight?

When I was about 16 my best friend at school, Anna, invited me to a Friday night youth club at her church. It turned out to be a youth group run by Belle Vue Baptist Church's BB Company (22nd Southend-on-Sea). On my first night I absolutely loved it - it was a mixed bunch of teenagers, girls and boys, with warm, friendly leaders who seemed to be really...normal!! I had such a great time that I kept coming back the following few weeks and within no time I had been invited to the BB camp that summer. Glen Johnson was the BB captain then and he taught me so much over my teenage years and twenties. Throughout my uni years I progressed into leadership roles, and apart from learning about Jesus and making such lifelong friends, my highlight has to be meeting my best friend growing up - David O' Rourke, who still runs much of the BB work at the Company today. So the BB was central to my life as a teenager and continues to be influential to this day.

What is it that you are doing now?

I'm a Public Relations & External Affairs Manager for another Christian charity called Mission Aviation Fellowship which flies light aircraft to a wide range of isolated communities in developing countries. It's a great charity in that it has reached hundreds of remote people groups across Africa, Asia and Latin America with physical supplies like food and medical treatment, but also with news about Jesus who brings spiritual healing and salvation. It's a total privilege to be involved in something that's so loving and so pioneering, with God at the centre. Outside work I'm really into creative filmmaking, youth work and making sure that as the church we are being salt and light in our local communities through initiatives like Street Pastors. There's seriously no point in preaching the gospel to people who know nothing about Jesus and not trying to express that same gospel in practical ways!

How did you become a Christian and what changes happened in your life because of that?

I became a Christian at BB summer camp in Swanage! In a particular field on a Thursday night in July 2000, one of the BB leaders (Daniel Strange, now a theology lecturer at Oak Hill College), gave a mesmerising talk about Jesus. He asked that if God could see every moment of my life played out on a huge film screen, then how would he feel about my life? Even though I was probably pretty good as a teenager by your average mum's standards, I knew I wasn't perfect and could think immediately of tons of things I'd done wrong, things I'd felt or said that weren't 'nice'. I just knew almost instantly that I needed forgiveness from Jesus and everything in me screamed out that this was where I could get that forgiveness. I already believed in God from about the age of 8, and had prayed intermittently between age 8 and 16 - so I saw that night in a muddy field in Swanage as the answer to my prayers to God saying "show yourself to me if you're real"! He had done that beautifully and clearly that night.

It wasn't just Daniel giving this message that convinced me that Christian faith was the real deal, it was Bible study groups I had been to, and also the love and acceptance of the other BB leaders. I couldn't really get my head around the level of giving and serving these leaders were capable of. I knew they weren't getting paid for it so I could see really early on how deeply devoted they were to me and to all the other young people who were part of the BB. My life changed because I had great friends at varying stages of Christian faith, or hadn't decided to make a commitment at that point. The fact we were all friends and we were exploring life and faith together in the BB on an equal footing just meant we could be as honest as possible about that journey. I went off to Uni and I was in a pretty optimistic frame of mind about my life ahead!

What do you say to people who would say "BB should only be for boys and young men?"

I'm a pretty bad example if that's the case!! My experience with BB was that it was a great place to meet friends, get introduced to the Christian faith, and feel something of the love of a Christian community without the obligation of having to 'opt-in' to Christianity. Why should that be restricted to just boys? The fact I loved it and wasn't pressured into anything at all probably helped a huge amount. School for me was great but I couldn't get the same experiences in school that I got at BB. I soon became a youth leader in the older girls' section of BB, not only did that help my faith but being trusted like that also helped me to take responsibility and develop leadership skills. When I look back on it, if BB hadn't offered me that as a girl, I would have lost out massively.

As a communications expert, what do you think BB could do to make itself more well known in the UK and Ireland?

I think the BB has a reputation for being a little bit 'old school', fairly or unfairly. This isn't bad in itself, 'heritage' is no bad thing when it comes to charity communications. But I do wonder what the future holds for BB with that kind of reputation. Modern youth work is so diverse, there's a real need to discern God's leading whichever Christian youth organisation you work for. It does fascinate me to see how BB developed the earliest model of uniformed youth work, well before the Scouts, for example. It's good to know that the BB at its foundation had some quite pioneering approaches to youth work, blending Christian teaching with fresh activities that young people could really gain lots of fun and friendship from. For charities with some heritage behind them, it's a case of understanding how you can refresh your image while staying true to your core values.

The BB's work is still so relevant today that there's every reason to believe the best is yet to come. What the BB does for young people works, I am evidence of that. While some in society are shying away from connections to Christianity, the BB can be upfront and stay true to its Christian roots with confidence.

If you were in my shoes what would be my top priority for BB?

I think just ensuring that the BB knows its purpose for the 21st century and is united behind that purpose! If that sounds a bit highbrow it doesn't need to - I'm just talking about focusing on what the BB is great at and making sure that everyone knows that's what the BB offers right now, and why that's exciting. Being simple and clear about your core purpose is what gets through in the din of the charity marketplace in this day and age. That and passion for what you do. Expressing passion is one of the most powerful things you can do as a leader in my opinion! It shows people that this isn't 'just another nice cause' but something that is making a real impact on young people's lives, as well as on the lives of volunteers.

Are you still involved in BB? How could BB stay in touch with people who like you have had some BB connection but are not currently involved?

I'm still hugely fond of the BB and hear lots of news from friends still serving in the 22nd Southend. To encourage word-of-mouth news through friendships is one good way of keeping in touch. Church BBQs are another thing I've seen work really well in a BB context to reach out to families and friends of those in the group - that could be extended at a local level to invite BBers past and present. I receive newsletters from one or two other Christian organisations that keep me up to date with their plans in a personal way that reflects and acknowledges my past commitment to them. I really love that, it makes me feel valued and part of what they're doing now, even if I can't be heavily involved. I think keeping in touch with young people throughout uni can be crucial too. It's a challenge for many churches to do that but if a young person was part of a BB group, it would be a natural follow-on to keep in touch about BB news and to continue to demonstrate care for that young person.

Find out more...

Find out more about 22nd Southend on sea:



Continue the conversation on Twitter:
@22SOSBB



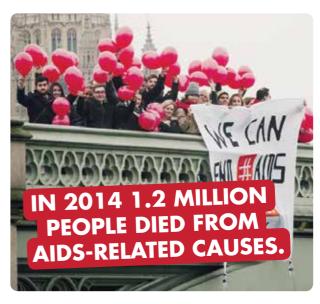
Siomha Cunniffe, Development Manager for STOPAIDS shares with us what the organisation is about, what they get up to and how you can get your Company involved.

STOPAIDS unites UK agency responses on global HIV and HIV-related issues

STOPAIDS is a network of 80 UK agencies working since 1986 to secure an effective global response to HIV and AIDS. Our key role during the last thirty years has been to convene members to share and agree effective policy and programmatic HIV-related practice and build a united platform to influence the UK government and other UK actors to play a leading role in the global HIV response.

HIV is still one of the greatest global killers and there is much to do. AIDS is the biggest killer of women of reproductive age globally. AIDS is also the second biggest killer of adolescents globally and the number one killer of adolescents in Africa. It is estimated that 19 million people do not yet know they are HIV positive and a total of 26 million people would benefit from ARV access but do not yet have it. Huge social, cultural and legal barriers must be overcome to get appropriate services to those most affected by the disease.

"Worldwide there are now
35 million people living with HIV.
12.9 million people are accessing treatment, representing 37% of all those who need it."



What we do

Through our advocacy, we work to secure UK leadership as an essential contribution to an effective and ambitious global response to HIV.

Through our information exchange, we provide platforms for members to share information, best practice, expertise, and offer peer support across the breadth of HIV and AIDS issues.

Drawing on over 30 years' experience of working in HIV and AIDS, STOPAIDS also undertakes consultancy and generates a number of resources.



Find out more about the work of STOPAIDS at stopaids.org.uk

How could your Company get involved?



Join Youth STOPAIDS

Do you want to be a part of positive local and global change? Do you believe that if the world can end AIDS and save millions of lives, then we should do it? If you want to meet like-minded young people, learn more about HIV & AIDS and international development, build your skills, gain experience in campaigning and be part of our exciting network then join us at Youth Stop AIDS!

Youth Stop AIDS is a youth-led movement campaigning for a world without AIDS. We want zero new HIV infections, zero stigma and discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. As a global community, we know how to end AIDS - failing to do so is unjust and morally unacceptable. That's why our network of young people across the UK speak out, take direct action, lobby



and raise awareness to make sure that those with the power to make a difference, like citizens, governments and corporations, are committed to ending AIDS by 2030.



Awareness & Discussion Starters

How aware of AIDS and the global situation do you think your young people are? Learn more about HIV & AIDS, have a discussion with your young people, share some of the facts and make use of online resources at:

stopaids.org.uk/our-work/resources/



Fundraising

World AIDS Day

STOPAIDS is working towards ambitious fundraising targets, and our sources of income have changed profoundly over the last three years. Your Company can help make a difference and support our work by raising funds for us, find out more at:

stopaids.org.uk/our-actions/support-us/





is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV. Could your Company get involved? World AIDS Day is an opportunity for you to learn the facts about HIV and put your knowledge into action. You can also show your support for people living with

World AIDS Day is held on 1st December each year and

HIV on World AIDS Day by wearing a red ribbon, the international symbol of HIV awareness and support.

Join us!

Sign up to our newsletter at youthstopaids.org/signup, follow us on Twitter @youth_stopAIDS and Facebook.

Come to our National Gathering (30th Oct – 1st Nov 2015) in Sheffield; email Tabby, the Campaign Coordinator at tabby@restlessdevelopment.org for more details.



Find out more at: youthstopaids.org

DIRECTORY A

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

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

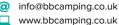
honeyhill@boys-brigade.org.uk honeyhill.boys-brigade.org.uk

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



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



freshwatercamping@gmail.com www.freshwatertrust.com

Corfe Castle 2016 (1st Yeovil BB).

Fully equipped for 70 persons. White canvass ridge/marquee. Dates available in August.

Contact:



Graham Voizey 01935422292

graham.voizey@btinternet.com

Bromley Battalion Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, IOW

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

Contact:



Keith Francis on 01474 705485



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

Contact Mark Boswell:



07760111615 or 07930177764 www.site9017162.90.webydo.com

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

Stoke Gabriel Camp 2016/2017.

All white canvas camp set in secluded private site close to Paignton, Brixham and Torquay. Modern porta loos on site with shower facilities on adjacent site. Cook tent and large marquee.

Contact:



Clive Gordon 07718761150 cliveg04@yahoo.co.uk

Near Millisle in the Ards Peninsula Co. Down

Ganaway Training & Activity Centre, provides excellent indoor accommodation for up to 118 people & camping for 100's. Catering or self-catered & canvas for hire. Wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Large or small groups welcome.

Contact:



028 9186 1297



ganawaycentre@btconnect.com

ganaway.co.uk

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centre's and items wanted or for sale should be sent to gazette@boysbrigade.org.uk. Advertisements for the next issue (Winter 2015/16) should be received by 1st December 2015.

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

BEAUDESERT PARK www.beaudesert.org









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

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

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

COMPETITION CHRISTMAS CARDS

Product: 31 523 1

Pack of 12 Christmas Cards (3 designs with 4 of each) with envelopes inspired by designs from BB children and young people. We had a fantastic response with over 800 received to the competition to design a Christmas card and the 3 winners' designs have been used to create this set of cards. Message inside the card reads "Happy Christmas" and BB adventure begins logo is on the back of the card.



WRISTBANDS

Anchors: 11 533 1 Juniors: 11 534 1



Tubular adjustable wristband with the Anchors logo (Red wristband) or Juniors logo (Purple wristband).

SNAP BAND

Anchors: 11 531 1 Juniors: 11 532 1



A practical high visibility item to help you keep safe in the dark. One size fits all, silver with the Anchors/Juniors logo. Slap/snap the band onto arm or leg.

GLORY TO GOD CHRISTMAS CARDS

Product: 31 514 1



Pack of 12 Christmas Cards (3 designs with 4 of each) with envelopes. Message inside reads "Happy Christmas" and BB logo on the back.

SHOWER JACKETS

Product: 18 098 0 - 18 105 1



100% Nylon Ripstop, 100% Polyester polar fleece inner, Full length zip with concealed, zipaway hood.

UNDER 11'S BANNER STAND

Product: BBA203

A ready to go banner stand with space to add local contact details such as a website address or telephone number. Company/Battalion/District name can also be added. Banner stands are ideal for use at indoor events. 800mm x 2000mm Roll-up banner stands are pole mounted and come with a lightweight and durable base unit. They are versatile and portable and include a handy carry bag.



SHOP.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK



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





