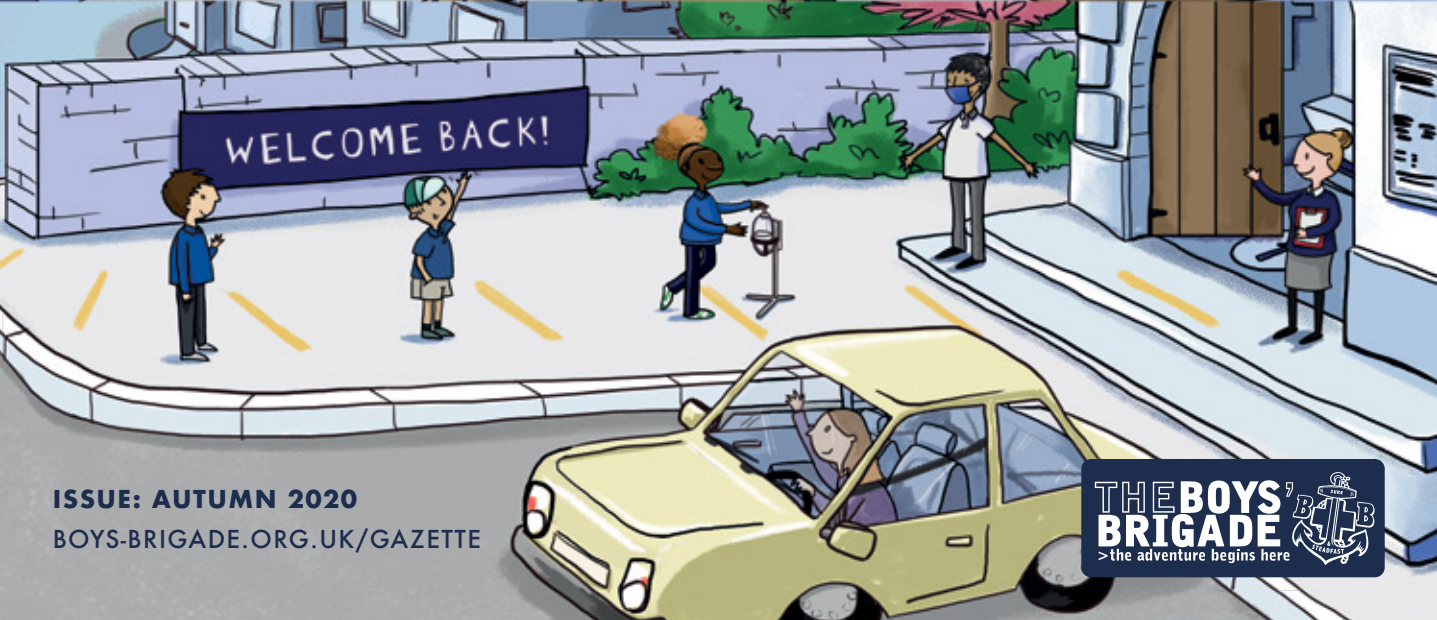
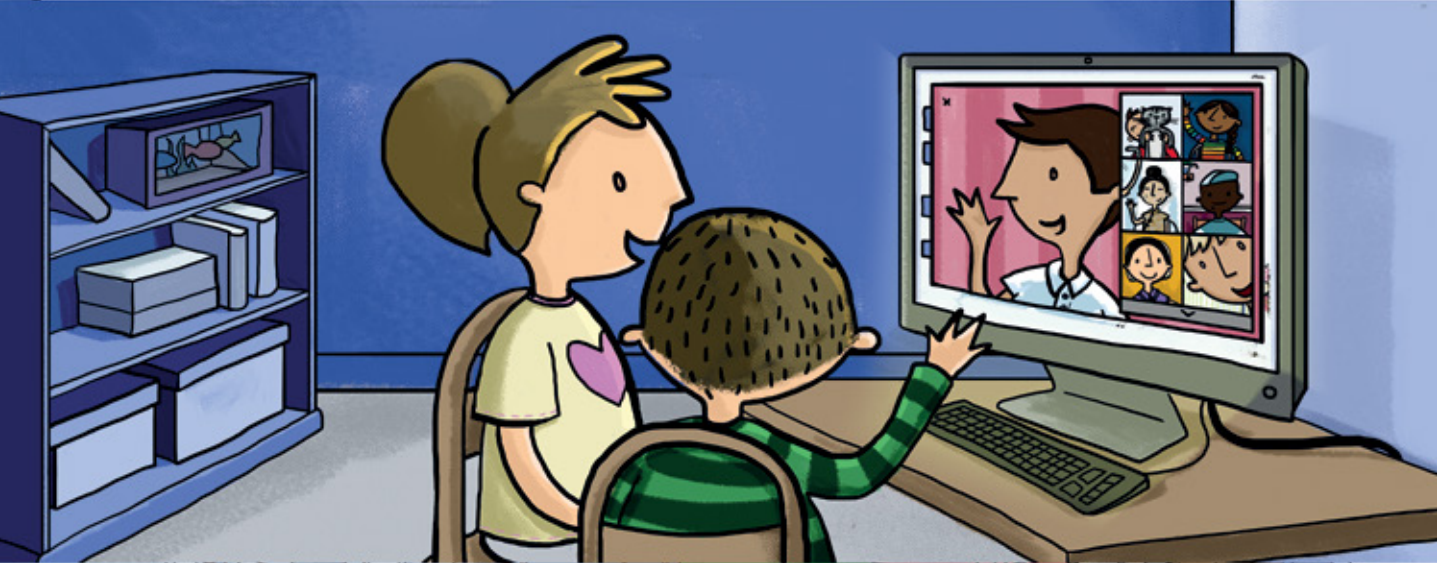


THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE

# GAZETTE



ISSUE: AUTUMN 2020

BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**  
B.T.B.   
>the adventure begins here

## Autumn 2020:

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

## The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

## Please send all contributions to

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

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

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

[boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm)

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## UK & ROI Headquarters

Felden Lodge

Hemel Hempstead

Herts HP3 0BL

**Tel:** 01442 231 681

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

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## Welcome

To say a lot has changed in the last six months, I think you will agree is an understatement! We have all experienced life “in lockdown”, establishing new routines and ways of keeping in contact with friends and family. It has certainly been a challenging and concerning time.

The impact on The Boys' Brigade has been significant too. The way in which we engage with young people is unrecognisable compared to the beginning of the year. The creation of #BBatHOME has become central to the way we deliver the programme and virtual sessions have increasingly become an important part in maintaining contact with members. Just six months ago #BBatHOME didn't exist, and I for one hadn't even heard of zoom!

Although such rapid change can be overwhelming and scary, as we begin to prepare for a return to face-to-face activities, we should pause and reflect on all we have achieved during this period. The Boys' Brigade has not closed or retreated, just adapted to meet the needs of the times. I continue to be inspired by all the imaginative ways that leaders have found to establish a sense of community, as we support and encourage one another.

The response of a parent in the #BBatHOME survey sums this up for me.

*“As a family, we've really appreciated the efforts made by the leaders during these uncertain times. Their commitment to weekly zoom meetings and staying in touch with the boys has been a really positive experience for our son. I think the BB activities will feature strongly and positively in his memories of this time”.*

The focus of this Gazette is to celebrate all that has been achieved during these unprecedented times, and to prepare leaders for returning to face-to-face activities from the beginning of the new session. Of course, we must all accept that this doesn't mean we will be able to go back to doing things how we did them before. Our new way of operating will look quite different.

To assist leaders, we have developed a guidance framework which sets out the steps that need to be taken to prepare for welcoming young people back to face-to-face activities when it is safe to do so. I encourage you to take time to read the information contained in the pages of this Gazette, and to consider as a staff team, in conjunction with your sponsoring church, how best to approach a return to face-to-face activities. It will be vital that we build confidence with leaders, young people and their parents.

Our Church buildings and meeting venues may have been closed, but our work in equipping young people for life and sharing with them the Good News of Jesus has continued to be at the forefront of all we do.

Go forward in faith, as we step out on the next chapter of our journey together through the work of The Boys' Brigade.

Thank you for all you continue to do

With best wishes

*Jonathan*

**Jonathan Eales**  
Chief Executive



Follow Jonathan on Twitter at:  
[@jonathanealesbb](https://twitter.com/jonathanealesbb)

## The way I see it

**W**ith change comes challenge, but with challenge comes great opportunities... often in ways we would never expect!

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6***

What strange times we have lived through in recent months, but it has provided more opportunity for me to spend time in my new garden.

At the start of lockdown my sons brought home from school a sunflower seed which we planted in a pot and put it in the dining room where it is warm and bright. We watered it and tended it and soon we saw a shoot. The shoot grew and we continued to tend it. All three of us were pleased with our efforts, and when the sunflower shoot grew two little leaves, we transplanted it into an old chimney pot outside. We gave it a stick so that it could grow tall and straight. Two days later when we went to check on the leafy shoot I discovered that a slug had had a snack and eaten both leaves clean away! I explained to my boys that without the leaves the flower would never grow...maybe we could try again next year!



I had meant to pull up the tiny green, leafless shoot and plant something more exciting in its place, but time got away from me and I totally forgot. It stayed in the pot as a sign of a forgotten promise, a promise that one day from

this tiny seed a yellow flower would grow- but how was this possible without its leaves?!

Several weeks later I noticed that the shoot had grown and not only that, above the nibbled remnants of leaves grew two small, fresh leaves, a second chance for the little shoot- and from this point it hasn't stopped- it is now four foot high and shows promise of a bud forming at the top.

**Trust God and do not rely on your own insight!** I had given up on the plant, I used my own insight...God knew better!

The times that we have spent recently away from our Companies has been challenging and maybe we have not been able to share parade evenings and activities in the way that is familiar to us, but change and challenge provides great opportunity. As we look to our future sessions, may we be open to God in our planning and our decision making. May we know that God's plans are bigger than our own. When our attempts maybe at first don't appear to work, may we be given the perseverance to carry on, the listen to others and to listen to God.

In the coming weeks, look for the Son, shining in our lives, through the challenges, so that we may come through this time knowing that we have not relied on our own insight, but on God.

May God uphold you and bless you as you continue to advance Christ's Kingdom in your context.

### Nicola Langton-Miller

Liverpool & District Battalion Chaplain



Nicola has been the Liverpool & District Battalion Chaplain for five years whilst working as a lay worker for the Methodist Church; more recently becoming a Full Time Methodist Minister.

Nic is currently a member of the Christian Faith Group within Brigade nationally and is looking forward to supporting the work of The Boys' Brigade in this area.

Married to Neil for the last 14 years, the couple have two boys- Jack (8) & Joel (6) and a number of pets including 5 hens, 2 cats, a rabbit and Dave the dog. Nic enjoys gardening, sewing, cooking and crafting as well as spending time with family and friends.





# STRONGER. SAFER. TOGETHER.

It was anticipated that we would be using this issue to announce our new strategic plan for the next 5 years, but instead we are focusing very much on how and when we can emerge from the enforced shutdown. No one could have envisaged the position we have all found ourselves in over the last 6 months, and our priority now and over the coming months is how we can return being stronger, safer and ultimately be together.

Like many of you I have spent a long time thinking about how to sum up what we have collectively and individually experienced and I kept coming back to our Boys' Brigade values of **faith, caring, inspiring** and **trusting**. For me these four values have summed up perfectly our journey as an organisation since mid-March.

## STRONGER

I am sure that there have been times over recent months that all of us have found our faith being tested. Not necessarily our Christian faith, although God would appear to have some explaining to do, but maybe our faith in others and even in ourselves. Yet keeping that faith is ultimately what has brought us through and what will see us emerge even stronger.

Some of the stories we have seen of community spirit and the sheer scale and outpouring of support for our neighbours, our key workers and our most vulnerable has been special and is something we need to work hard to continue. I don't know about you, but that very first clap for carers really made me feel proud and somewhat emotional.

Perhaps the most inspiring part of the lockdown for me is being continually amazed by the sheer creativity and innovation of our members, be it our children and young people, or our volunteer leaders. Lockdown has forced us to engage in different ways and we must strive to maintain the sharing of programmes and good practice we have seen on the numerous webinars and social media platforms.

Well done to all of you who have adapted and used the technology available to continue to interact and support our young people and their parents. We have received some incredible feedback on the innovative approaches groups have been taking and how this has further strengthened relationships with families.

Our #BBatHome programme is recognised for its quality, format and sheer quantity within the uniformed youth sector and has been universally well received. We have had so many members and non-members engage with the programme and the feedback from parents has been unanimously positive.



“ I was not really aware of what the BB offered, until the resources were shared by a friend and they are outstanding! It has really made us think about what I will encourage my son and daughter to engage with once we are back to some kind of normal

Parent/Carer (non-member)

#BBatHOME has opened new avenues showcasing what we have to offer even in the most difficult of times. We must build on this and our willingness to adapt to deliver our mission and to build our relationships with members. A key part of any Company is the quality of the programme which will attract members. However, the relationship and friendships formed will be what retains the children and young people over a longer period of time.

Leaders have also had to trust HQ as we have had to make some very difficult decisions, some outside of our control which is never easy. I know when we made an early call to stop face-to-face activities this was worrying for all, as it was when we made the decision to not reopen until September. I know so many of you are worried about children and young people returning following such a lengthy period of absence, but I truly trust in our programme and the strong relationships we have with our members, that we can come out of this stronger.

## SAFER

Within the coming months it is extremely important that we put plans in place to ensure **we can operate safely**. We are all desperate for the return of our young people and elsewhere in this Gazette we set-out our framework on how we plan to emerge from this crisis and ultimately return to our face-to-face activities.

But whilst we may seek to return as quickly as possible, we need to only do so once we have put everything in place, much of the planning will be to make sure we are what we are calling 'Covid-Ready'. This means that you have done everything you need to as leaders in preparation to restart the Company safely – with risk assessments, a new look programme and other safeguards in place to ensure we can come back together safely.

In this issue we have also shared details of where you can access the guidance which is ever-changing and I would strongly advise you try to keep abreast of the latest developments – the best place to do this is on our website (see [boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-update/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-update/))

The term 'the new normal' is one that is being used across all walks of life at the moment and it is true that even when we do return, we won't be able to do things in exactly the same way as we did before. However, why does the 'new normal' need to be something scary? For me this is an exciting opportunity for us to really thrive and create a movement which takes the best of pre and post lockdown and where the 'new normal' is something better?

# TOGETHER

The Boys' Brigade is, and always has been, **about us being together and building relationships**. We might not have been physically together for what feels like a very long time but spiritually we have never been closer. As the time approaches, let's all work collectively to make sure our offer to young people is an exciting and irresistible one.

Of course, parents and carers are going to be nervous about sending their children back and of course children may be very different than we remember them when we return – this has been very tough on them with all routine ripped from underneath them. But, this is where our personal relationships with parents and young people will really come into play.

**We need to reassure and support.** We need to operate safely, but not clinically. We need to give the new normal, time and learn from every experience.

I am not going to pretend that this is going to be easy, it isn't. But it will be worthwhile. Now more than ever our young people and their families need us.

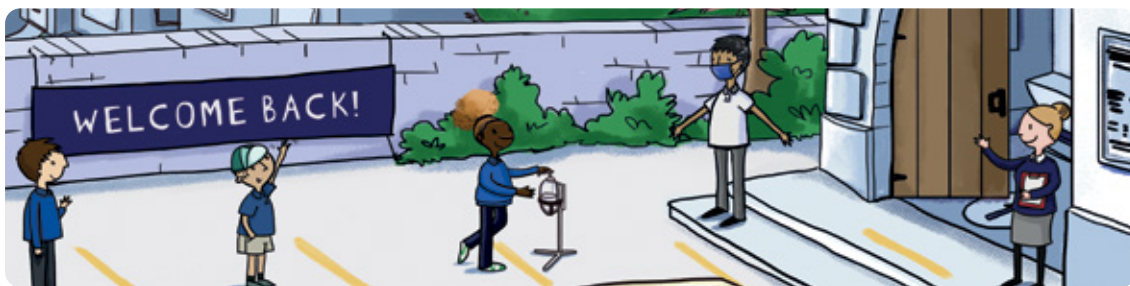
Remember that the staff team is here to provide support to all of you; we know that you too may be feeling apprehensive and nervous. Please be reassured that the health and wellbeing of you and your young people is our utmost priority and everything we have put in place has been done so with this in mind.

I will leave you with this thought...**what if our new normal turns out to be so much better than our old one?**

**Natalie Whipday**

Director for England & Wales





## Stronger. Safer. Together.

### A Framework for Returning to Face-to-Face Activities

To support a safe return to face-to-face activities we have developed a framework in line with guidance issued by the Government and Youth Sector across the United Kingdom.

This framework applies to Companies in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and will support Companies in:

- understanding the **staged approach** to returning to face-to-face activities
- assessing **hazards and risks** related to Covid-19 and putting control measures in place for everyone to follow
- completing the **approval process** to be 'Covid-Ready'
- **clearly communicating** with parents/carers, children & young people and leaders

Companies in the Republic of Ireland should follow separate guidance issued by Republic of Ireland District.

The framework should be used in conjunction with **the latest Government and Youth Sector guidance** (which will differ across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) as well as **existing Brigade policies and procedures** (i.e. safeguarding, health and safety, etc). The following documents form part of our framework:

### Guidance

Our Guidance will provide an overview of how the framework should be implemented including how to follow our 'Staged Approach' to returning to face-to-face activities. It will also provide guidance to support the planning of a high-quality programme that reflects the need to be able to keep everyone safe.

### Company Action Log

This document is a checklist to help leaders ensure they have actioned everything necessary to aid a safe return to face-to-face activities.

### Covid-Ready Risk Assessment

The template risk assessment needs to be reviewed and completed based on your local plans for returning to face-to-face activities. The template risk assessment

identifies common hazards and the risks they present, with suggestions for control measures which could be put in place.

### Resources

Ready-to-use activities for all age groups are being provided to support leaders in delivering face-to-face socially distanced activities alongside providing resources to support #BBatHOME Virtual Sessions where face-to-face activities are not possible. Leaders will also find a range of additional resources available online including sample letters, digital graphics for social media, press release template and posters.

**All Leaders-in-Charge of Age Groups and Company Captains** are expected to read the framework and guidance; and be involved in reviewing and completing the **Company Action Log** and **Covid-Ready Risk Assessment**.

### Staged Approach

A key part of our framework is our Staged Approach to returning to face-to-face activities, which is flexible and will provide clarity to Companies over what activities should be taking place at any given time.

**BB Companies will NOT be able to return to face-to-face activities (Stage 3) until at least 1st September**, and then only if the appropriate **Stage** (see 'Staged Approach') has been reached (as announced by BB Headquarters) and the **Approval** process has been completed.

To enable leaders to get together to plan and prepare for returning to face-to-face activities, **leaders will be permitted to meet from 1st August**. Such meetings must follow current Government and local social distancing guidelines.



Find out more about the stages and the current stage we are operating at by going to [boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-update/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-update/)



You can find the framework and guidance along with a range of resources to support a return to face-to-face activities at [boys-brigade.org.uk/ourframework/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/ourframework/)



## Unite & Cumbrae Camp at Home

Young people, families and leaders from across the Brigade came together virtually for the **Unite & Cumbrae Camp at Home** over the late May bank holiday weekend.

Sessions were live streamed throughout the weekend and gave opportunities to get involved in a series of activities including Football, TikTok and Bake Off challenges, a Morning Workout & Thought for the Day each morning, a Quiz, Sports Day, Challenge Hour and more. There were times of worship where we heard from Dez Johnston (Director of Alpha Scotland), Revd Jonathan Fleming (Chaplain of Cumbrae Camp), Revd Leigh Maydew (Brigade Chaplain / Chaplain of BB England), Revd Steve Bunting (Chaplain of BB Wales) and Revd Nicola Langton-Miller (Chaplain of Liverpool & District Battalion), and music from the Unite 'virtual' band.

There were also opportunities for leaders to participate in a range of workshops including Delivering a Virtual Programme,

Over 11's Programme, Social Media & PR, a Young Leaders Workshop, and more.

Natalie Whipday, Director for England & Wales, said: "It was fantastic to see so many people getting involved in Unite & Cumbrae Camp at Home. A number of groups engaged in sessions together as part of their virtual programme, and it was great to see groups that had never been to one of the events taking part."

"Both Unite and Cumbrae Camp are volunteer-led events, and I am extremely grateful to the planning teams who worked together to put on an online event – a first for the Brigade on this scale - in such a short space of time. I would also like to thank all of the other volunteers who helped out in any way to make the event happen, as well as everyone who got involved!"

Search the hashtag **#UnitedInLockdown** to see more of what went on over the weekend.



## Commonwealth Day Service

In early March a group of BB young people and leaders attended the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey. The service was also attended by HM The Queen, members of the Royal Family, senior politicians and many others as a celebration of the people and cultures of the 54 Commonwealth nations.

## BB's Got Talent

As part of our #BBatHOME programme in May, we had an incredible response to our BB's Got Talent competition, with around 150 entries representing Companies from across the Brigade. Three finalists in each category were put to a public vote which amassed over 3,000 votes in total. Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone who entered!



The winners for each category were as follows:

Anchors - **Harry** (45th Glasgow)

Juniors - **Adam** (25th Stirling)

Company & Seniors - **Tom** (1st Lichfield)

Groups - **Charlie & Jack** (1st Crossgar)

Leaders - **Kenny** (4th East Kilbride)



Check out videos of the winning entries at [boys-brigade.org/bbathome](https://boys-brigade.org/bbathome)



## VE Day 75th Anniversary

Although lockdown meant that face-to-face celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May weren't possible, Brigade members across the country marked the occasion in their own homes - celebrating as best as they could whilst remembering those who gave so much in the Second World War.

A number of that week's #BBatHOME activities were themed around VE Day, with children and young people in all age groups being encouraged to hold a VE Day Party with their families. Search the hashtag #BBatHOME to see more of what went on over the weekend.

## The Great BB Bake Off

Over 200 children and young people got baking as part of our Great BB Bake Off competition, with photos of a wide range of delicious looking cakes, bakes and biscuits being sent in to us. Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone who took part!



**Anchors - Oliver**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Polmont)



**Juniors - Hannah**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Poole)



**Company & Seniors - Konrad**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Ossett)

## #BBatHOME Art Competition

In June as part of our #BBatHOME programme we had over 100 entries in our #BBatHOME Art Competition, with children and young people given the challenge of creating a piece of art sharing what living 'Life to the Full' means to them.

The theme was based on our Vision, that "children and young people experience life to the full" (John 10:10).

Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone who took part!

The winners for each age group were as follows:



**Anchors - Tommy**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury)



**Juniors - Daniel**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Moy)



**Company & Seniors - Jacob**  
(278<sup>th</sup> Glasgow)

## Summary of Brigade Executive Meetings

The Brigade Executive, our Trustee Board, met by video conferencing on 6th and 27th June and the following key decisions were taken:

### COVID-19

The Trustees agreed the approach to navigating the organisation through the coronavirus pandemic, including the priorities for the staff team in supporting leaders. It was decided to defer increases in capitation fees due to be introduced for the 2020/21 session, and to hold Brigade Council as a virtual event limited to the statutory annual business.

### Sub Committees

Reports were received from the Finance Committee, Health & Safety Committee, Safeguarding Panel and National Competitions Coordinators. The membership of a new Governance Committee was also agreed.

An Adults at Risk of Harm Policy was adopted and is available to download from the website.

The decision has been taken not to hold National Competitions in the 2020/21 session but to complete the finals that could not take place in the 2019/20 session.

### Over 11s Programme

A presentation was given on behalf of the Programme Group, and new programmes for the Company Section and Seniors age groups were agreed in principle. The intention is to introduce the new programme resources from Spring 2021 with changes to the badge structure coming into effect from the 2021/22 session.

### Annual Accounts

The Brigade Executive will consider the Annual Audited Accounts at its next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020, and, assuming approval, these will then be published for consideration at Brigade Council on 5th September.

# Get involved in UK Parliament Week

This year's UK Parliament Week is taking place from 1st to 7th November 2020.

It is an annual festival that engages people from across the UK with their UK Parliament, explores what it means to them and empowers them to get involved.

Last year more than 130 BB Companies got involved in events and this year it is hoped that even more will sign up! Once you register, you'll be sent a free kit packed full of goodies including a booklet tailored to BB, bunting, a ballot box and more.

Sign up now by visiting [ukparliamentweek.org](http://ukparliamentweek.org)

## Capitation Fees

Due to the exceptional circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic, the Brigade Executive has decided to defer the increase in fees that was agreed at Brigade Council in 2019 for the 2020/21 session.

The amounts shown include both the HQ and Regional elements of the fees.

Fee Type	Level of Fee
Fee per Young Person	£21.00
All Officers	£21.00
(Second person at same address)	£16.50
Battalion & District Officers (not on Company Roll)	£21.00
Officers in receipt of state retirement pension	£16.50
Officers in full time education or training	£16.50
Helpers	£15.50

The fee in respect of an Associate Member is £28.00.

The maximum fee (both elements) that a Company will pay in respect of young people is £2,050.

## 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.

Roy Cayley	12 <sup>th</sup> Croydon
Hugh Young	4 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> Paisley
Douglas Wilson	1 <sup>st</sup> Croydon
Dennis Finch	5 <sup>th</sup> Croydon

## Brigade Conference 2020

Due to the social distancing requirements in place, the Brigade Executive has decided to hold the Annual General Meeting as a virtual event starting at 2pm on Saturday 5th September 2020.

Full details of the business for Brigade Council, together with details of how to register can be found on the website at [leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm](http://leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm). Voting forms can also be downloaded from the website and these should be returned to Brigade Headquarters at Felden Lodge by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 to either submit a postal vote or to register to vote at the meeting.

As the AGM will be held virtually, we are asking people to use a postal vote or to register to vote in person. It will be helpful if as many people as possible could vote by post on this occasion. Please note it will not be possible to register to vote on the day of the meeting, voting registrations **MUST be received at Brigade Headquarters by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.**

## Brigade Council 2020 - Annual General Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** will be held online on Saturday 5th September at 2pm to consider the following business:-

### AGM Agenda

- 1 To receive the Accounts for the year ended **31 March 2020** together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- 2 To re- appoint Whiting and Partners as the independent auditors of The Boys' Brigade until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and to authorise the Brigade Executive to fix their remuneration.
- 3 To appoint Brigade Office-bearers for Session 2020/21 as proposed by the Brigade Executive.
- 4 To transact any other lawful business.

By order of the Brigade Executive

*Jonathan*

**Jonathan Eales** - Chief Executive

Registered Office: The Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 0BL Registered Company No: 145122  
Registered Charity No: 305969 and in Scotland number: SC038016.

# Office Bearers

The Brigade Executive is proposing the following Office Bearers for the 2020/21 Session:

**Vice-Presidents:** David Aubrey QC  
Alison Chambers  
Mervyn Murdock  
Ian Rumbelow

**Treasurer:** Steve Mann

**Chaplain:** Revd Leigh Maydew

Below is a profile for each person being nominated:



## Alison Chambers – Vice President

Alison is a leader in Airdrie, Coatbridge and District Battalion, and has served as a leader in 6<sup>th</sup> Airdrie and 15<sup>th</sup> Coatbridge Companies. Alison has been Training Convener at Airdrie, Coatbridge and

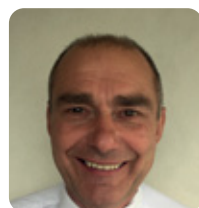
District Battalion, Queen's Badge Co-ordinator for Lanarkshire District Fellowship and has also served on the staff of KGVI at Carronvale. She has been professionally engaged in education for 25 years and is currently Deputy Head Teacher at Moffat Academy and has been Acting Head Teacher at Dalbeattie High School.



## David Aubrey QC – Vice President

David joined the Life Boys in Cardiff, and it was there that he became a Christian. David gained his Queen's Badge and was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award by His Royal Highness at Buckingham Palace. David has served

as an Officer and Company Captain, and is now the President of the BB in Wales. He is also the Chairman of the Brigade Safeguarding Panel, and involved in the Archive Trust and Heritage Society, having collected BB memorabilia for many years. As a Brigade Vice President, David has been able to visit Companies in different parts of the UK, as well as being able to serve with colleagues on the Brigade Executive. By profession David is Queen's Counsel, and sits as a Recorder in the Crown and County Courts as well as a Legal President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.



## Mervyn Murdock – Vice President

Mervyn has been a member of The Boys' Brigade for over 50 years and has served as a Lieutenant in 1<sup>st</sup> Raffrey Company, becoming Captain in 1986, a position he still holds. Mervyn is President of the Down Battalion and a Northern Ireland District

Vice President. After becoming a Christian in his late teens, he has served God at Raffrey as a Sunday School and Bible Class teacher, BB leader, on the Church Committee and as an

Elder. Through work, Mervyn has managed a team of University Technicians for 4 years and has served on and chaired numerous committees through work, BB and Education Authority youth advisory groups.



## Ian Rumbelow – Vice President

Ian has a wealth of experience as Captain of 1<sup>st</sup> Martock & Hamdon Company and also previously as President of Somerset Battalion. He has recently also chaired the group reviewing the Under 11's programme

and is currently chair of the recently formed programme group. In a professional capacity Ian has been a Head Teacher for many years most recently specialising in supporting local authorities and schools in special measures.



## Steve Mann - Treasurer

Steve has been a qualified accountant in practice for over 25 years and is currently Head of Finance at a mental health charity. Steve graduated from the University of Southampton in 1986 with a degree in

Mathematics with Computer Studies and trained as a Chartered Accountant in the City of London, qualifying in 1989. Steve has recently gone on to gain a Masters degree in Charity Finance and Accounting.

Becoming a Christian while at University, Steve attends Eltham Park Baptist Church in South East London. Steve is a leader in 28<sup>th</sup> West Kent Company, part of Eltham Baptist Church, and has served in a number of roles including Captain of the Company for some 14 years, currently a Leader in the Junior Section. Steve is actively involved in the West Kent Battalion and in London District, where he is currently a District Trustee and also the Treasurer.

Steve has also served as chair of governors at a local primary school, finance chair at a secondary school and is currently a trustee of a small heritage charity.



## Revd Leigh Maydew – Chaplain

Leigh has been stationed to the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit of The Methodist Church. Before moving to Yate, Leigh was a leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesbury Company in the West Midlands. Leigh

has also been the West Midland District representative to the England Regional Committee and served on the Brigade Executive. He has a background in the Charity Sector previously being employed by his local Methodist Church in various capacities and working for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District as their Administrator.

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20



## Introduction

Our 2019/20 session has been like no other session that I can remember.

Despite the challenges we have all faced in recent months, it is important to stress that The Boys' Brigade's work with young people never stopped. We may have had to work in more creative and imaginative ways than ever before, but our mission to provide children and young people with opportunities for learning, for growth and discovery has continued.

As we look forward to returning to face-to-face activities next session, we reflect on the incredible journey the BB is on, all that has gone before us and all that is to come as we celebrate 137 years since the organisation started.

I believe that the value and impact of The Boys' Brigade is as important as ever, and as we move into the 2020/21 session that will bring with it new challenges we can surely be confident that our work will be vital in supporting children and young people as they find their way in the 'new normal'.

Thank you to all our leaders for their dedication and commitment, as we support children and young people to live their lives to the full!

*Jonathan*

**Jonathan Eales**  
Chief Executive

Article Continued →

# Vision, Mission and Values

Much has been achieved during the session and these pages only provide some highlights from the year under review.

Over the last few years, we have explored with the Brigade family what they think about our vision and mission, and what they believe our values are. It is important that we are confident in who we are, what we are doing and why we are doing it.

In many ways it was appropriate that as we adapted to extremely challenging circumstances of Covid-19 and lockdown, that we took time to remind ourselves of the foundations of the organisation.

Our vision is that **"children and young people experience life to the full"** (John 10:10). Our prayer and hope must surely be that children and young people experience life to the full through coming to know Jesus for themselves.

**Our Mission explains what we do . . .** The Boys' Brigade has faith in young people and provides them with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

**Our Values describe who we are and what we believe...** our values are Faith, Inspiring, Caring and Trusting.



Find out more about our Vision, Mission and Values at [boys-brigade.org.uk/ourvision/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/ourvision/)



## Covid-19 Response

Following Government guidance, all face-to-face BB activity was suspended in March. Within days it was inspiring to see the creative and imaginative ways leaders found to keep the BB adventure and community alive.

Within a week of suspending face-to-face activities the #BBatHOME programme was launched, providing activities across each age group. 18 weeks of online activities were delivered for children and young people to try out at home supported by their parents/carers.

During lockdown Companies have also delivered Virtual Sessions, using platforms like Zoom, and in many cases, this has increased engagement with members and helped us to continue to build relationships with members' families and the wider community.

We pay tribute to our BB leaders who are also key workers, playing such an important role in keeping the country going during these unprecedented times.

In addition to this the Brigade has been providing support to leaders through online training and workshops as well as providing a wide range of resources to support engagement with members. Online opportunities have proved to be a great way of sharing learning and experiences from leaders across the country. We have learnt so much about the value of online support and training and this is an area which has already been included in our new strategic plan.



# Strategic Plan

In 2019 we completed a consultation with the membership on the future direction of the Brigade, this saw a new five-year strategy being approved by the Brigade Executive in February this year, with it being launched in September 2020.

The clear recommendation from last year's consultation was that **Quality**, **Voice** and **Growth** should be retained as the three strategic priorities but re-ordered to put a greater emphasis on improving quality and consistency of experiences offered to young people. This will include launching a new Over-11s programme in the Spring of 2021.

We have now moved the launching of the new strategy back until January 2021 as we enter into a short-term recovery phase of getting the organisation back to face-to-face activities. However, the focus of the new strategy will remain the same, and although it was developed in pre-Covid-19 times, it remains relevant to where we need to be going in the years to come.



## Our Partnerships



We continue to work with organisations across the youth sector through the **Youth United Foundation**, by sharing good practice, creating opportunities for children & young people and supporting each other.

Through our partnerships in Scotland with **Cashback for Communities** and the **Church of Scotland Guild**, we have been able to provide financial support to Companies. This funding has enabled Companies to purchase equipment, organise trips, go on residentials - improving the quality of programme offered to children and young people.



## Our Children & Young People

We have continued to **recognise the achievements of our children and young people** through our award systems, with members achieving the highest awards during the session, including the Queen's and President's Badges and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

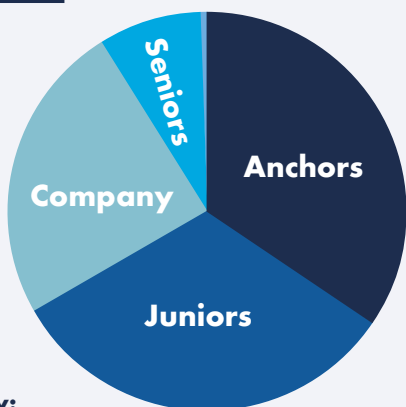
During the session many of our young people have been **contributing to their local communities and making a real difference**. Before lockdown we saw fantastic examples with young people supporting local charities, running a food bank collection point and cleaning up local spaces to mention just a few projects. And since the lockdown, we have seen an outpouring of kindness, with our members delivering care packages, sending messages and keeping in touch with those who are lonely or vulnerable, fundraising for local and national causes and so much more. We are rightly proud of the achievements and contributions of all our members.



## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



### Our age group numbers



#### Key:

Anchors – 13,439	Seniors – 2,603
Juniors – 12,420	Amicus – 117
Company – 10,451	



**= 1,220**

Churches  
across  
UK & RoI



**= 9**

new Churches have  
chosen BB as their  
partner in outreach and  
mission with children  
and young people in  
the local community



**= 11,228**

adult volunteers

**7,559** / **3,669**



**= 796**

new adult volunteers  
have come on board



**= 7,637**

children and young people started out  
on their BB adventure

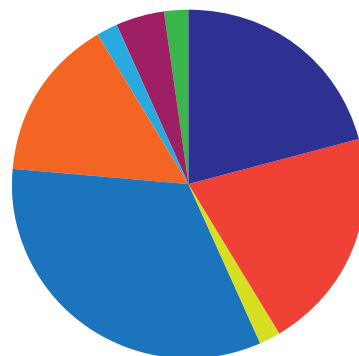


**= 39,030**

children and young people in  
membership

**37,180** / **1,850**

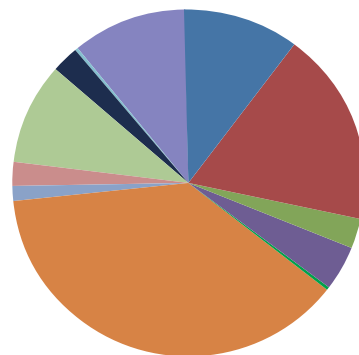
## OUR FINANCES 2019/20



### INCOME

Annual Capitation	<b>£951,530</b>
Donations and Legacies	<b>£604,576</b>
Training Centre Income	<b>£590,470</b>
Investment Income	<b>£55,011</b>
Supplies Sales	<b>£434,264</b>
Unrestricted Grants Received	<b>£60,000</b>
Restricted Grants Received	<b>£125,074</b>
Annual Festival & Events	<b>£60,784</b>

**TOTAL: £2,881,709**



### EXPENDITURE

Cost of Raising Funds	<b>£285,402</b>
Training Centres (non-Brigade use)	<b>£502,940</b>
Training Centres (Brigade use)	<b>£75,151</b>
Unrestricted Grants Payable	<b>£115,637</b>
Restricted Grants Payable	<b>£16,990</b>
Unrestricted Management & Delivery of Activities	<b>£1,044,022</b>
Actuarial Losses on Defined Benefit Scheme	<b>£32,000</b>
Supplies Administration	<b>£65,935</b>
Supplies Cost of Sales	<b>£261,098</b>
Net losses on Investments	<b>£70,329</b>
Investment Management Fees	<b>£4,964</b>
Restricted Management & Delivery of Activities	<b>£295,584</b>

**TOTAL: £2,764,133**

## 75<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day Anniversary in Guernsey



On 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945, the Channel Islands regained their freedom after five years of German Occupation during the Second World War. 75 years on, 9<sup>th</sup> May is still strongly cherished by islanders whose collective memory of privations and hardships still echoes around the island. In Guernsey, half of the population was evacuated, including 4,000 children, the other half endured hunger, poor medical attention and fear.

The celebrations on 9th May are about thanking those who fought and the joy of freedom, a renewed plentifulness and family life. The day is a very happy occasion with a military street parade, Church services, fireworks and entertainment for all generations to share. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown this year, communal celebrations were cancelled and replaced by scenes of reflection and commemoration on social media and local TV and radio.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Guernsey was formed in 1947, one of two BB Companies formed shortly after the war. Some of the local children who returned to the island after the Occupation had joined Companies whilst in the UK and asked for something similar in Guernsey, and since then the

Company's band has continually supported the 9<sup>th</sup> May celebrations. Each year it is honoured to lead the morning Church parade attended by the Royal British Legion, ex-service men, uniformed organisations and island dignitaries including the Lt Governor, the Bailiff, and Jurats of the Royal Court. Every five years an afternoon cavalcade is the highlight of the day, and parish floats, military vehicles, charities and visiting bands process along the seafront entertaining up to 20,000 excited people. The day ends with an impressive firework display over the harbour of St Peter Port.

This year the Guernsey Post Office released a special set of stamps to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Liberation Day. The 70p stamp shows a painted depiction of drummer Daniel Roussel and Drum Major Aled le Cras from 2nd Guernsey Company, acknowledging the role the BB has played in celebrating Liberation Day since 1947.

Copies of these commemorative stamps are available at [guernseystamps.com](http://guernseystamps.com)



### 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbride Clean Up

Before lockdown, members of 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbride along with GB members put on their gloves and hi-vis jackets to help the local community of Burnside by taking part in a clean up of the village. As well as supporting the local community, members were able to build up a few hours of volunteering for various awards along the way.

### Haircut for Charity

Kayden, an Anchor at 4<sup>th</sup> Plymouth, and his family recently suffered a devastating loss as his father Steve sadly passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. While Kayden, his sister Kianna Rose and their mum Tracy were coming to terms with their loss, Kayden decided to have his hair cut off into a short style, a big decision as he had only ever had long hair.

Kayden decided to do it to raise money for local charity Jeremiah's Journey, who support children, young people and their families when they are facing grief, saying he chose the charity as "They helped me feel happy after Daddy died". After setting an initial target of £100, Kayden went ahead with the haircut when the barbers reopened, by which point he had raised an amazing total of £860 - a very big well done to Kayden!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Moneymore Delivering to the Community

Young people at 1<sup>st</sup> Moneymore have been busy in their local community during lockdown, undertaking daily newspaper runs as well as weekly deliveries of government care packages and food parcels.



### 10<sup>th</sup> Enfield BB & GA

Great to get Bronze and Silver #BBatHOME medals out to a number of our boys and girls, recognising their participation in #BBatHOME activities!



## Keeping in touch in Cheltenham with Care Packs

4<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham have kept in touch with their young people through the lockdown period with a combination of #BBatHOME Activity Packs and monthly care packs delivered to their doorsteps. One of the care packs encouraged members to have a family picnic, which was enjoyed by many of the families!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Hull Stay in Touch

During lockdown 5<sup>th</sup> Hull have been holding a bi-weekly family quiz. The Company was able to secure funding from Tesco Bags of Help to provide gift voucher prizes and to enable them to post out extra craft activities to their young people. They are planning to carry on with the quizzes as they have found them to be very useful in building relationships with families.



### Greater Pollock BB (208th Glasgow)

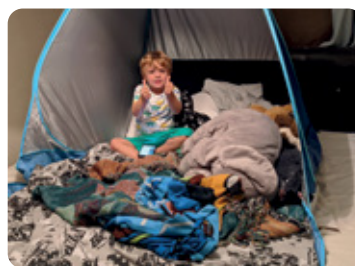
In early March our Juniors joined with around 50 others at @TheBBGlasgow 'Kip on the Ship' @The\_Tall\_Ship @riversidemuseum. Fantastic night!

#BBWeekend #BoysBrigade



## 1<sup>st</sup> Margate run Virtual Camp

1<sup>st</sup> Margate BB & GB held a virtual camp, with activity packs being delivered to members giving them the opportunity to take part in activities such as baking, yoga, scavenger hunt, quizzes, crafts, movie night, family games and more. The young people were encouraged to make a camping den, and there were check ins on Zoom, a virtual Church Parade on the Sunday morning with medals presented in the final Zoom session.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Newtownabbey Boys' Brigade

We had a Zoom meeting with our second year boys and the highlight was our smoothies. They were filled with fruit and very flavoursome - just not a nice flavour!





## 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury Craft Activity Packs

Leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury provided each of their Anchors and Juniors with a craft activity pack during lockdown, with donations funding the cost of the packs. Over 40 packs were put together and delivered by the leaders to members' homes, giving them the opportunity to engage with the children and parents/carers. The initiative was really appreciated and generated a very positive response.

Some weeks later the leaders decided to put together the same packs for children of families in the local community who might be struggling financially. Using the Company's minibus, over 120 packs were put together and distributed via the Tewkesbury Community Response Group, an initiative overseen by their own Church. These packs were funded by donations from parents/carers as a result of the first set of packs, raising over £600 and also enabling the Company to provide packs to GB members in their local group as well.

## Kilsyth Food Bank Collection

William McMurtrie, a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Cumbernauld has been making an impact on the local community with his efforts to support Kilsyth Community Food Bank. As part of his work on his Queens Badge and DofE Award, William has taken to organising donations for food banks in the local area to continue his service work despite the current Covid-19 pandemic. His efforts have paid off, with 58 bags of food donated by neighbours in Smithstone, which have been gratefully received by the food bank.

BB leader, Greig Bradley, commented "It's truly inspiring to see one of our boys take real initiative to go out and try to improve others' lives in these times of uncertainty. We can all learn a lot from William and his actions."



## Recognising Achievements at Dunfermline Annual Display

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dunfermline overcame the challenges presented by the lockdown and hosted a successful Annual Display with over 50 connections on Zoom and well over 100 in attendance altogether. They used the theme 'Zooming' and presented the programme as inflight entertainment with boys conducting videoed flight safety demonstrations with Captain, Malcolm McGregor, their trusty pilot throughout. They presented a series of videos to parents of the highlights of the year and shared videos that the young people had put together. For the awards ceremony they had hand delivered each envelope as a surprise for the boys and, as they read out their individual awards, each boy stood and was presented with their awards by their parents. The boys were delighted with their #BBatHOME medals and the feedback received about the #BBatHOME programme provided by the Company throughout lockdown from the boys themselves, their parents, wider families, Church members and others has been so positive. Importantly, the Company has managed to keep the boys engaged and supported throughout the lockdown and are confident of being able to deliver a similar standard of programme into the next session as required.

### f 44<sup>th</sup> Aberdeen Boys' Brigade

So nice to see the first group of boys as we handed out awards and #BBatHOME medals. Great to see the smiling faces and all the boys in their BB uniform. Well done to you all.



## Young Butchers at 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh



Shortly before lockdown, 15 young people from 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh went behind the scenes at J. D. Hunter & Co Supermarket, where they learnt how to make their own sausages!



### 25<sup>th</sup> Stirling (Dunblane) Boys' Brigade

Congratulations to everyone who received an award in our Annual Display online! Thank you to our trophy delivery team for racing around delivering these 'live' and getting some photos of boys looking very proud.



## Community Heroes at 5<sup>th</sup> Plymouth

Amelie and Araya, who are both Juniors at 5<sup>th</sup> Plymouth, have been recognised as Community Heroes by Oreston Community Academy by working hard to provide comfort and entertainment to many people throughout lockdown. They have contributed to online activities including dancing, singing and quizzes to help to reduce isolation and provide entertainment, and have created and posted letters to those who are vulnerable and alone.



## SNAPSHOTS



### 1<sup>ST</sup> GREENISLAND JET PACKS



### 133<sup>RD</sup> LONDON VEGETABLE PEOPLE



### 1<sup>ST</sup> WATERLOOVILLE FINGER FOOTBALL



## 2,000 Food Parcels delivered in Dundee

Leaders at 44<sup>th</sup> Dundee volunteered their services and Company minibus to support their local community during lockdown. Over a 14 week period the team delivered over 2,000 food parcels in support of RockSolid, and packed supplies for Broughty Ferry Food Bank.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Scarborough Boys' Brigade

Some of the boys have really started the week off well with the Week 15/16 challenges! #BBathome



## 35<sup>th</sup> Liverpool Go Virtual

Seeing other Companies running Virtual Sessions encouraged 35<sup>th</sup> Liverpool to give it a go locally, and the Company is now running 7 weekly sessions, engaging with over 70 children and young people.

They have used a variety of games and activities including those provided in the #BBathOME material and have had fantastic feedback from parents/carers, with one commenting: "It really does my son good to see all of you, thanks so much for what you're doing". The children and young people themselves have valued the opportunity to engage with BB, albeit virtually.

The leaders didn't stop engaging with families when lockdown began but delivering Virtual Sessions has improved engagement massively. It has provided them with the chance to speak to their young people each week, it has prompted more communication to and from parents/carers, and it has given them the opportunity to reward members for their participation, whether with certificates or simply a thank you card and some sweets.



## FAREWELL TO ALL THAT

Some reflections from your President as he bows out.

**The Boys' Brigade welcomed Lord Griffiths of Burry Port as its thirteenth Brigade President in September 2011. Lord Griffiths steps down as Brigade President in September 2020 and in this article shares some reflections from his 9 years as President.**

“ I should have remembered when Steve Dickinson invited me to have lunch with him that there's no such thing...

Being invited to become the Brigade's President came completely out of the blue and it somehow destroyed all the protective fences I usually put up when someone wants me to do something and I heard myself say yes.

In 1970, my wife and I, just married, began a ten-year stint in Haiti. That's where I first saw the Brigade in action at

the Carrefour Church on the edge of Port-au-Prince.

Later, I found myself Chaplain of the Caversham Company in Reading. In the 1980s, we found a struggling Company in Loughton. That's where our sons joined and where, for a while, I ran the Anchor Boys' section which often turned out to be a handover point for divorced or separated parents. In the mid-90s, I began my final period of active ministry at Wesley's Chapel in the heart of London and served as Chaplain of the 5<sup>th</sup> London.

During these years of "marginal involvement", I awarded prizes, led devotions, visited families when there were difficulties. I even went on camp and began the week by digging the latrine. But I didn't get involved with the 'organisational' side of the BB.

Nine fulfilling years later after my lunch with Steve I find myself stepping down as your President and can say that I've become very, very proud to have been part of this wonderful movement.



**THE BRIGADE PRESIDENT AND BB MEMBERS MEET OUR PATRON AT BALMORAL CASTLE AS PART OF THE UK WIDE BATON RELAY TO CELEBRATE HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE IN 2012**

Looking back, it didn't take me long to realise that news of my appointment didn't necessarily go down well with everybody. However it has been heartening to sense a growing affection, increasing support, even a degree of pride shown towards me over the years as I've travelled around and in doing so met Mayors, Members of Parliament, Lord-Lieutenants, Bishops, Moderators and Archbishops and even Her Majesty the Queen in my role as the President of The Boys' Brigade. And I've certainly sensed that a number of those who looked at me suspiciously at first gradually lowered their defences and warmed to my visits and conversations.

In truth, I have found much nostalgia in some quarters, I've looked at so many old photographs of camps, heard about the great events of yesteryear, that I'd want to issue a challenge.

**Cherish your memories by all means.** Thank God for the friendships you made, the influences you came under; but don't dwell in the past. Don't create a sense among the membership of this generation that things are not as good as they once were. They need leaders who can seize the present moment and squeeze it for all it's worth. Our children and young people are living in perilous times. Today and tomorrow are challenging enough. Measuring themselves against benchmarks from yesterday isn't really helpful.

From the outset, I was determined not to be swallowed up in the BB bureaucracy. When all's said and done, the movement is the members. At Company displays, Battalion events, presentation ceremonies and KGVI courses I've found myself surrounded by the enthusiasm, candour, energy and generosity of spirit that young people seem to have in abundance. It has rejuvenated me, buoyed me up and driven me forward. It's so easy to think of the Brigade as the transference of wisdom and experience from



**THE 2016 MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD WINNERS WERE PRESENTED WITH THEIR 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS' BY THE BRIGADE PRESIDENT AND BBC RADIO 2 PRESENTER, CHRIS EVANS AT A PRESENTATION INSIDE THE STUDIOS OF BBC RADIO 2 AT BROADCASTING HOUSE IN LONDON**



**THE BRIGADE PRESIDENT WITH MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD WINNER, DANIEL COOKE AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2015**



**PRESIDENT'S COMMENDATION PRESENTED TO TAYLOR ROBERTS, 1<sup>ST</sup> BROMBOROUGH COMPANY IN 2014**

an older generation down to another. It's been my experience that the transference has been two-way. I must pay my thanks in this little message to all those young people who've been prepared to engage in conversation, I will be eternally in their debt.

**And so to our leaders.** I've met so many fine people in every part of the land – men and women who give up their time and offer their gifts to inspire and encourage their young charges. "Christian manliness" is, of course, a key part of the Brigade's object. It may sound like an outworn phrase in this day and age but its core meaning cannot be avoided. Our leaders seek to help youngsters grow up to be men (and these days, of course, women too) in the style and after the manner of Christ. I salute all those who go out week after week, rain or shine, winter and summer, to serve the present age by investing in the future generation.

Having confessed my luke-warmness for bureaucracy, I must now eat humble pie and take my hat off to all those who keep the organisational side running. Those who serve on our committees, who keep an eye on our strategy, the balancing of our books, the safeguarding of our children, the production of programme materials, the care of our properties and so much more. All those who have so imaginatively kept on producing a programme through the recent months of lockdown deserve the very highest commendation.

**I end with a reference to the noblest of all my tasks,** and the most inspiring aspects of the work. It falls within my power to grant "Certificates of Commendation" to members of one Company or another who has shown courage or set an example beyond the call of duty. As I've read some of the things our children and young people have done, I've often been moved to tears. A little boy who takes control of the situation when a parent has a heart attack, phones the emergency service, loosens a collar, sits with the troubled person and waits till an ambulance arrives. Or a teenager who copes with multiple physical disabilities, faces a constant round

of hospital treatments and surgical operations, turns up at BB week after week without fail. Or a child with Downs Syndrome who plans the annual camp. And so I could go on.

I must pause to remember the parents of these children who surround their children with love and support year after year. And all those in their Companies who, without ever patronising, include them in all the activities, watch their backs, stick with them through thick and thin.

Over the past nine years there have been so many wonderful, glittering and shining occasions that I have been fortunate to join as your President. But none will outshine the memory of those children and young people who overcame the odds, who dug deep and showed tremendous courage. That's what The Boys' Brigade is all about. That's what we're working for.

**Thank you for the memories. The Lord bless you and bless you kindly.**

**Lord Griffiths of Burry Port**



## New Chair for England Regional Committee

**Lee Bird** has been appointed Chair of the England Regional Committee, with his term commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

On his appointment **Lee said:** *"I've been a member of the Brigade since I was 5, having progressed through the ranks. I sat on the Battalion Executive for 6 years and have been on the England Regional Committee now for 3. I've represented the Brigade nationally through the Youth United Network and at the House of Commons as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group. Professionally I work with boards and Executives so will be able to bring this experience to the Committee. I have experience of training Chairs and Board members of national charities, and at a time when the Region's remit is growing to accommodate the scrutiny of the new strategy, this will be a crucial set of skills to have. I am approachable and open to new and all ideas on how the Committee can grow, and I am still (technically) a "young person" so I think it sets a great example to the rest of the Regions, and to the Brigade that a young person can contribute at the highest levels of the Brigade."*



## Young Leaders at the Fore

Due to lockdown the Young Leaders Weekend that was due to take place at Kingswood Dearne Valley in April had to be postponed. We are hopeful the event will now take place next session, bringing together young leaders aged 17 to 25, looking at the theme of **"BB 2030"**.

As part of the Unite & Cumbrae Camp at Home virtual weekend in May, a Young Leaders Workshop was held to get attendees discussing various scenarios and thinking about how the Brigade could help young leaders. This included discussions around opportunities to do more digitally, training events with social activities for young leaders, communication at different levels of the Brigade and what can be done to support the transition from young person to leader.

## Raise the Bar in Wales

Just before lockdown, the Region held a Raise the Bar event in Caerphilly. It was attended by leaders from across Wales as well as Natalie Whipday, Director for England & Wales, and representatives from Wales District. Those present were able to hear updates from BB Headquarters, discuss the key priorities for Wales, look at Church relations, as well as an opportunity for fellowship.



## BTO Update

Natalie Whipday (Director for England & Wales) and Debbie Moore (Brigade Safeguarding Manager) provided a BTO Update for trainers from across the Region at the North West District Training Centre in Kirkham immediately prior to lockdown. The session was strongly supported and was an opportunity for trainers to meet with Debbie who delivered some new material for our 'Safeguarding' Module. It was also an opportunity for trainers to hear about intended developments for the future.

## Regional Webinar for Battalions & Districts

A Regional webinar took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July and was aimed specifically at District and Battalion officials. It was great to have every District and almost half of all Battalions within England represented. The webinar was a platform to hear from colleagues from around the Region about what they had been doing and what had worked well during the recent unprecedented times. There was also an opportunity to discuss what resources could be provided to ensure District and Battalions are directly supporting Companies in emerging from lockdown.

## Unite 2021

We are delighted to announce that Unite 2021 will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May at Felden Lodge, BB Headquarters. The planned price of the 2020 event, £80 per person, will be carried over to next year. Keep an eye on Unite social media and the website at [unitebb.org.uk](http://unitebb.org.uk) for more details as they become available!





## Supporting Your 2020-21 Session

Through our partnerships with the Church of Scotland Guild and CashBack for Communities, we are able to provide financial support to Companies across Scotland.

'Faith in Young People' is the title of our project with the Church of Scotland Guild. Using funds received from this partnership, we have established a mini-grants scheme to support the development and growth of Companies in Scotland. The aim of the mini-grants scheme is to support the growth of The Boys' Brigade in Scotland and to improve the quality of the experience offered to members and leaders.

Grants of up to £1,000 may be applied for. The funds can be used to support your programme development, for example through:

- the purchase of programme-related equipment
- accessing training
- trips/visits
- instructor costs for a particular activity
- promotional/recruitment materials

The next round of the mini-grants scheme has an application deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

More information can be found by visiting [boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/guildpartnership/](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/guildpartnership/)



Generation CashBack funding continues to support young people across Scotland. 55 Boys' Brigade projects have now been supported in the past three years, benefitting nearly 500 young people. Funding is available to support young people (aged 10+) in the top 20% areas of social deprivation in each local authority. You may not think you're eligible, but it is worth getting in touch to find out. You might be surprised!

The support can help to develop Companies' work in the following broad areas:

1. **Grow:** Supporting growth in membership, programme and opportunities
2. **Lead:** Supporting leadership training opportunities for young people

If you think your Company or Battalion could benefit from CashBack, please get in touch with Jackie Wilson, Development Officer, by emailing [jackie.wilson@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:jackie.wilson@boys-brigade.org.uk) or calling 01324 550 859.

## #BBatHOME in Scotland

We are frequently impressed by what our leaders in Scotland achieve over the course of a typical year. The past few months, however, have been far from typical. They have been challenging and they have been difficult. The response from leaders in Scotland, however, has been heart-warming and inspiring.

Professor Jason Leitch CBE (Scotland's National Clinical Director and former member of 6<sup>th</sup> Airdrie Company) recently took time to record a message of thanks to the entire BB community for the role it has played throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. That message of thanks is echoed by each and every member of the team at SHQ. Thank you.



“The Boys' Brigade and other youth and community groups are so important at this time of lockdown for all of us. Thank you for all you're doing in the whole BB community.”

Jason Leitch CBE

## Scottish Youth Parliament

The Boys' Brigade's two MSYPs continue to work hard to represent the views of our members at the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Christopher Winters MSYP has been working with a fellow MSYP on a joint motion; that motion recently passed at an SYP sitting with an incredibly uncommon 100% vote in favour. Christopher's motion called on SYP to support the use of disability assistance initiatives, such as the Thistle Assistance Card scheme and the Sunflower Lanyard Scheme, and called for their implementation across the transport sector and beyond.

Meanwhile, Alastair Thomson MSYP has joined the Young Scot Health Panel, which has been focusing on Coronavirus, mental health and body image. We're incredibly thankful for the work they've done so far and also for the fantastic manner in which they continue to represent The Boys' Brigade.



## Captain's Training Online

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

7:30pm -10:00pm, Cost £5

Captains' Training is to equip BB Captains with the skills and knowledge to run effective Companies. The course is open to new and existing Captains. This course is an online course via zoom.

To book go to the Events section of the NID Facebook page for the booking link and more details.

## Charity Projects for 20/21

The Anchor Boys Project for the 2020/21 session is **Habitat for Humanity**.

**New!** The Company Section have introduced a Charity to support for the 20/21 session - **Hope365**. More information will follow on how Company Section Boys can get involved to raise funds for Hope 365. Find out more at [hope365.co.uk](https://hope365.co.uk).

## Online Holiday Leadership

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

7.30pm – 10pm, Cost £5

The Holiday Leadership course is a requirement for all leaders leading a camp or holiday of any overnight stay, including an overnight in a church hall. Holiday Leadership certificates last for a period of 5 years and can be renewed for periods of 5 years.

To book go to the Events section of the NID Facebook page for the booking link and more details.

## Queen's Badge News

The Northern Ireland District has produced a PDF resource for Queen's Badge Advisors, Captains and Young People for guidance on how to continue with their Queen's Badge work during Covid-19.

This was emailed to Queen's Badge Advisors, and is available to download from the NID website at <https://bit.ly/ContinuingQB>

**Queen's Badge Celebrations!** 292 young men achieved their Queen's Badge in 2020. We could not meet up as planned in Belfast's City Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April to present our Queen's Men with their certificates and give them the celebration they deserve. Instead we marked the occasion with a virtual celebration video, released on social media with a congratulatory message from our President David Blevins - you can view it here: <https://youtu.be/rpwmuBQvBA4>.

A commemorative programme and certificate will be sent out to all the Award Recipients in due course.



## Mission 2021

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Mission planned for Autumn 2020 has been postponed until 2021. Please continue to join with us in prayer as we prepare for Mission 2021 and save the new dates. The Mission will still be in four venues Belfast, Portadown, Antrim and Coleraine - further details will follow. There will be 2 events at each venue on each date – 1 Way Youth for Company and Seniors and Klass Kidds for the Anchors and Juniors. More details on booking and promotional resources will follow in 2021.

## Education Authority Funding for BB Companies and Battalions

Please note the Education Authority deadline for applying for funding for BB Companies and Battalions, commencing April 2021 has been extended to 30 October 2020. More information on applying for the funding is available on our NID website at [bbni.org.uk/nieducationauthor.htm](https://bbni.org.uk/nieducationauthor.htm).

If you need help with registering or applying for this funding, please contact the NID Support and Communications Officer Alison Irvine.



## NI District Competitions

Congratulations to the winners of the following competitions which took place before lockdown.

**Anchor Boy Fun & Games** - 1<sup>st</sup> Spa.

**Anchor Boy Challenge** - 1<sup>st</sup> Donaghmore.

**Swimming Gala** - 1<sup>st</sup> Muckamore.



## Capture the Flag Event

1<sup>st</sup> Clontibret Company hosted 'Capture the Flag' as a District event for Company Section on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020. This was attended by 34 young people and 13 leaders from 1<sup>st</sup> Glaslough, 1<sup>st</sup> Drung 1<sup>st</sup> Clontibret. The weather was very favourable and the night dry and bright for everyone to take part.

The young people and leaders went to Castleshane forest for two hours where a course had been laid out. Two teams competed (red and blue) to capture the flag from the opposite team's camp. The blue team won the event. The night finished with burgers and hot dogs back in Braddox Church hall. The event was enjoyed by all young people involved.

## Northern District Service

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the 1<sup>st</sup> Longford Company hosted the Northern District Service in St. John's Parish Church Longford. Five Companies attended, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavan/Kilmore, 1<sup>st</sup> Drung, 1<sup>st</sup> Glaslough, 1<sup>st</sup> Killeshandra and 1<sup>st</sup> Longford. There were approximately 150 in attendance at the Service, which included 80 young people, leaders, and family members. The service was enjoyed by all who attended. It was the last time the Northern District Companies could meet before lockdown began.



## COVID-19 Wash Your Hands Activity

The 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin decided to get a "stay safe-wash your hands" message across to its members in an activity one week before lockdown began. The leaders put a light hand cream, followed by different coloured glitter onto a "test group" of young people's hands. They then continued with their normal nightly activities. After an amount of time the "test group" were asked to raise their hands for everyone to see and for the rest of the Company to raise their hands also. They found it amazing to see that everyone now had glitter on their hands! After explaining to the group about how "The Virus" could be spread far & wide just as quickly, the leaders demonstrated proper handwashing, which was followed by all young people doing the same.



## Lockdown in The Republic of Ireland

All BB activities were suspended from the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Since then, all leaders have been kept up to date with Government guidelines and Company Challenges through email and Rol's Facebook page. The Rol's Headquarters was informed of a range of activities that the young people had taken part in during the 2019-2020 Session. Some of the activities included; Easter Challenges, fitness challenges, thank you videos and artwork to our frontline workers, birdhouses and bee feeders to link in with Biodiversity week, links to virtual book readings and virtual quizzes hosted by different County Councils, designing new exciting boardgames, creating a user friendly cookbook and Zoom calls between Companies. The Rol Management Committee will be conducting risk assessments with Companies to assist them when following government guidelines on returning to a "new normal" come September.

## Virtual Display

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, for the first time in its 129-year History the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Company hosted its annual inspection and display as a virtual event. The YouTube video consisted of photos and video clips of BB activities from earlier in the year, complete with the leaders announcing the prizes and awards. The Display was hosted by the Captain, Stephen Vincent. The Display included an age-inclusive Bible talk from Rev Norman McCausland and a reading of The Church of Ireland's "A prayer in the time of the Coronavirus" by the Junior Section Boys. Also featured was a surprise thank you announcement to Denise Crosse, to celebrate 25 years as a leader in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Company. The Display is still available to watch on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Company's YouTube channel "Seven Dublin".

# DELIVERING VIRTUAL SESSIONS

BB groups up and down the country have been adapting to the world we find ourselves in, by running Virtual Sessions. Using online video conferencing platforms such as Zoom and Facebook Live leaders have been able to maintain that all important regular engagement with children and young people.



**Virtual sessions** have been crucial in engaging with our members, providing opportunities to come together as a group and take part in a wide range of activities all from the safety of their own homes. With so much uncertainty, this engagement has been a huge boost to young people's mental health over the last few months.

“ We feel it is important to maintain face to face contact at this time in order to help the young people retain a sense of normality in us meeting as a group.

**Vicki Brownlee, Leader, 5<sup>th</sup> Hull**

Whilst we will all be looking ahead in hope for a return to face-to-face activities, it is likely that Virtual Sessions will remain an important tool for Companies over the coming months as groups work within new social distancing and other Covid-19 guidelines. It is so important that as we move into the new session that we see our groups continuing to meet together for activities, and so where this is not possible face-to-face then we encourage Companies to consider running Virtual Sessions.

**In this article we share more about Virtual Sessions, how they help support your Company with practical information and some top tips for getting started...**



## Getting Started on Zoom

Whilst there are a wide range of different platforms you could use, Zoom is one of the leading online video conferencing platforms, and one that we are recommending BB leaders use. This is because it is a platform we have tested and will enable leaders to easily and safely run virtual meetings and activities.



Zoom can be accessed via computers, tablets & phones and is therefore accessible to the vast majority of our members. Setting up a Zoom account takes only a couple of minutes and requires just an email address to do so. The 'Basic' plan on Zoom is **FREE** allowing meetings up to 40 minutes in length with up to 100 participants. But, if you do want to host sessions which are going to be longer than 40 minutes, you could purchase the 'Pro' plan which is around £14 per month.

The great thing about Zoom is that only the person hosting (known as the 'host') the meeting needs a Zoom account, everybody else joining the meeting just needs a link and an internet connection. That said Zoom will also enable participants to join the meeting (audio only) by telephone as well, making virtual meetings accessible to everyone (not just those with the right technology/device).

So, we recommend checking out [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and setting up an account for your Company to use.

As with anything new it is important that you spend some time well in advance of your first meeting going through all the settings. We have put together guidance to help you with all this, with tips and advice for getting started on Zoom.



Watch our online leaders workshop 'Getting Started on Zoom' at [boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/](http://boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/)



At first we just did it as a one-off trial to see how it went, but before we even finished the first call our boys were asking if they could do it every week.

During the sessions we've run so far, we've played quizzes, challenged them to the 'find me' game and run a music quiz. We're also been using some of the #BBatHOME activities too. The #BBatHOME fitness dice and emoji quiz activities worked particularly well over Zoom. Next week we are getting even more adventurous and having a cook along.

More and more boys have been joining us each week and we now have nearly a full turnout each time.

**Joe Harrison, Leader, 11<sup>th</sup> Northampton**



## What Should I do First?

Firstly, it's really important to come together as a staff team to discuss what you hope to achieve and how you intend to do it. By running this meeting on Zoom, it is also a really good opportunity to test out the technology.

You'll need to consider when (day/time) to hold Virtual Sessions, how often, with which age group(s) and who will be responsible for programme planning. Whilst planning your Virtual Sessions it is important to remember what makes a BB session enjoyable and attractive to your members. Sessions which are fun, engaging, varied and relevant are essential in order to keep attracting members to these sessions and for you to maintain and build on the relationships you have with your members.

You may feel that you do not have enough members in an age group to run a Virtual Session, although Virtual Sessions can work well with small numbers. However, you could join up with a different age group in your Company or there may be another Company locally who you could join up with for Virtual Sessions. This would help to increase numbers of members taking part and spread the workload of running sessions between more leaders.

Once you have agreed to run Virtual Sessions, you'll need to communicate this to your members via their parents/carers. This can be done via email, text, post, telephone or any other method you would normally use to contact parents/carers. Make sure you explain clearly what you intend to do, how to access the sessions and any other important information.

You may not get all young people on a session straight away, but don't let this discourage you. Continue to remind and encourage members to get involved and take the time to listen and work with any concerns or worries they may have in joining Virtual Sessions. Not everyone may wish to get involved, this is of course ok, but as a group you may wish to consider what other ways you can still engage with those members and make them feel valued and part of the group.

## How do I structure Virtual Sessions?

It's important to spend some time thinking about how you wish to structure your Virtual Sessions, especially as the free account is limited to 40 minutes, although we would suggest for most groups that 40-minutes is an ideal time for Virtual Sessions.

You'll need to think about what you'll want to achieve and what activities you'd like to include. If you try to cram too much in, then the session will seem rushed and it will give little time to maintain and build on the relationships you have with your members. However, if your session does not include enough activity then there is the potential for those participating to get bored and for the session to drag.

By giving thought to your structure, this will help you to include everything you wish to in a well thought out and considered approach.

We've put together an example programme below:

Activity	Duration	Information
Welcome & Updates	10 Mins	Give young people an opportunity to share something about their week and to catch up with each other. You could also share pictures/videos of what young people have been up to.
Game 1	5 Mins	Get everyone active with an action game, fitness session, etc
Core Activity	10 Mins	i.e. - Quiz, Craft, Challenge etc
Game 2	5 Mins	Get everyone active with an action game, fitness session, etc
Thought for the Day	5 Mins	An opportunity to share a short thought for the day & prayer
Goodbyes	5 Mins	Wrap up and time to say goodbye – could you set a challenge for the week ahead?

You'll also need to consider how many members to include in a Virtual Session at any one time. If you have too many, then this may affect the quality of the session and the ability for young people to interact and take value from the activities. We would suggest looking at splitting the sessions if you have more than 15 young people.

## What Activities Can I Run?

To begin with, thinking of activities to do as part of Virtual Sessions can seem daunting. However, the more sessions you run, the more activities you realise are adaptable for a Virtual Session. Here are some sources for activity ideas which will help you run your Virtual Sessions.

### BB Virtual Sessions Resources

There is a page dedicated to Virtual Sessions on the BB website. On here, as well as finding guidance and support, you'll also find a library with over 100 ready-to-use activities. Many of these activities also come with PowerPoint slides or a PDF which can be downloaded and used to run your session (by sharing your screen). Activities include action games, quizzes, memory games, challenges, devotions, and a whole lot more.

Check out the BB Virtual Sessions resources at [boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/virtual-sessions/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/virtual-sessions/)

### #BBatHOME Activities

Some of the #BBatHOME activities will be suitable for use as part of Virtual Sessions. Since week 8 of #BBatHOME, 'Virtual Session Ready' activities have been marked with a box in the top right corner of the #BBatHOME activity card. Most weeks this has included at least two activities from each age group. Activities have included Guess the Sound, Minute to Win It Challenges,



Thumbs up for God, World Flags and many more. A supporting document to help with adapting #BBatHOME activities to be run as part of a Virtual Session can be found within the Virtual Sessions area of the website.

Check out #BBatHOME activities at [boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/activity-packs/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/activity-packs/)

## Devotional Videos



There are a wide range of devotional videos, suitable for different age groups which have been produced over the last few months. Including one of these videos in your Virtual Session can be a great way of communicating a thought for the day, having a short discussion and sharing a part of the Bible.



**Check out Devotional videos at**

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

## Sharing with Others

Many BB groups across the Brigade will be adapting activities to run virtually. Start conversations with other BB leaders, whether in your Battalion, District, Region or nationally. Share your ideas and resources with them and they will hopefully share things that have worked with you too. Has your Battalion/District got a platform for you to do this? You can share with leaders nationally on Facebook, by joining the leaders Facebook group.



**Check out the Leaders Facebook Group at**

[facebook.com/groups/thebbleaders/](https://facebook.com/groups/thebbleaders/)



## Top Tips for Running Virtual Sessions

- ✓ **Get to Know the Functions** – Zoom has many different functions which you can use to enhance your Virtual Sessions. Functions include sharing your screen/sound, muting all participants, breakout rooms, spotlighting videos and waiting rooms, to name a few. Check out the webinar 'Getting Started on Zoom' for a demonstration of some of the most useful functions at [boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/)
- ✓ **Keeping Everyone Safe** – Safeguarding your members whilst running Virtual Session is extremely important. With a few easy to implement steps, keeping your Virtual Sessions safe for all is an easy process. For guidelines and tips on safeguarding for Virtual Sessions check out the 'Getting Started on Zoom' leaders Guidance at [boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/virtualsessions/)
- ✓ **Themed Nights** – Many groups enjoy running themed nights for their members, particularly with the Anchor and Junior age groups. Virtual Sessions don't need to be any different. Themed nights can be run virtually and provide young people with something a little bit different to look forward to and take part in. Potential themes could include Pirates (Pirate Bingo, Captain Says, Treasure Hunt), Spies (Code Breaking, Memory

Games) or Superheroes (Superhero Action Game, Superhero Logo Quiz, Superhero Fancy Dress).

- ✓ **Recognising Achievements** – Having a reward system or a points chart can be a popular way of encouraging and rewarding members for their participation and achievements. Points can be awarded for attending sessions, winning challenges, playing games etc. Keep a tally and award prizes on a weekly, monthly or termly interval. #BBatHOME certificates, medals and trophies are available, find out more at [boys-brigade.org.uk/recognising-achievement/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/recognising-achievement/)



- ✓ **Weekly Challenge** – Setting a weekly challenge at the end of Virtual Sessions can be a great way to keep members engaged with BB throughout the week and give them something to work on. Encourage them to take a photo or video of the challenge and then these can be shared with the rest of the group during the next Virtual Session. Challenges could include trick shots, a craft activity, baking, helping around the home and so on.



## The Future of Virtual Sessions

Virtual Sessions will continue to be an important tool for BB groups into the Autumn term, with Companies responding to social distancing guidelines and requirements. Because of this BB Headquarters will continue to provide resources which can be run virtually throughout the whole of the Autumn term. At least one activity per week per age group will be available to support and assist Companies running virtual sessions, and there will be a programme planner to support this.

The programme that BB groups have been running through Virtual Sessions so far, has shown the BB at its best. An organisation that is pro-active, inventive, caring and passionate about children and young people. The next few months will continue to require leaders to show these qualities, as we engage and encourage our members through the Autumn term.

We hope you are ready and prepared to give Virtual Sessions a go if you cannot return to face-to-face activities next session.

**If you need any additional support with running Virtual Sessions get in touch with BB UK & RoI Staff team who will be able to provide advice and help you get started.**

# Global Round-up

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



Brigade Neenah (Wisconsin, USA) provided a series of small group activities, fun outdoor excursions and Brigade workshops over the summer period. Titled "Save Your Summer Series", the activities were open to all young people aged 10 to 18.



It has been great to see #BBatHOME activities being used in other countries, bringing the BB adventure to members around the world. The photo shows Elijah of 3<sup>rd</sup> Pine Rivers (Queensland, Australia) completing the "Climb Big Ben" activity with his grandfather.



Members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Pathum Thani in Thailand served their community by cleaning the Sathaporn Estate and Rangsit Canal. They cleared litter and disinfected the playground to prevent the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes and to combat the spread of COVID-19.



After three months of lockdown, leaders of 1<sup>st</sup> Sibu in Malaysia were able to get together to have a simple celebration of the Company's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday.



Jack, a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Rangiora in New Zealand, contributed to the local community during the country's lockdown by using his 3D printer to make face masks for health workers. People were able to place their orders online, which were made and sanitized by Jack and then delivered by his parents.



Nuori Kirkko ry, a Finnish member organisation of European Fellowship, has recently undergone a rebrand. It is now known as Lasten ja nuorten keskus ry, which translates as "children and youth centre association" (official international name to be published later). Executive Director Sami Ojala commented: "Our new name highlights what is central to our work. Our organisation exists to support the holistic growth and good life of children and young people."



“When you have the ability to really help others, you should do it.”

## MR. MOTIVATOR

**aka Derrick Evans, is best known for getting the nation's hearts racing in the 90's, with his fat-burning fitness routines. But he is also a proud ex-member of The Boys' Brigade and Queen's Badge holder.**

He recently spoke with Sorted magazine and is now sharing some of his story with you in this edition of the Gazette.

### How did you become Mr. Motivator?

For ten years I tried to get onto television, and I kept getting turned down. I'd go to the TV-am studios trying to persuade them, and they'd say it had to be a woman, and she probably had to be blonde. I'd worked in marketing and I knew that marketing is critical with everything, so I looked at the people on television. There was Mad Lizzie who you wouldn't remember, because all she ever wore were cardigans - they weren't significant enough for you to remember her. And there was the Green Goddess, who stuck with me because of her green outfit. So, I created Mr. Motivator, with the colours and the music, as a way of engaging and empowering people and making them feel

good. If I'd worn a black t-shirt and a white pair of shorts, you wouldn't be speaking to me today!

You've been back on our screens, on BBC One's HealthCheck UK Live, keeping us fit during the Coronavirus lockdown. What's really stood out is the feel-good factor that you bring, not just to exercise, but to TV. Do you think that's been missing?

There's a saying by Maya Angelou: "You may forget what people say, you may forget what they do to you, but the one thing you'll never forget is how they make you feel." And that is so important - how we make each other feel. I'm trying to give people a good feeling, so when I walk out of the room, the footsteps behind me are something they want to follow - or they want to learn how I managed to walk that way. That's how we should be living our lives.

I'm really pleased to be back because it's given me the opportunity to do not just fun fitness, but also to talk about the deeper aspects of our wellbeing, because I think it's important to have a positive outlook and to recognise and accept where we are, and realise there's some things we can do something about, and some things we can't.

## Talking on BBC HealthCheck UK, you said your time in the Christian youth organisation The Boys' Brigade was a great beginning for you, and that their motto of "Sure and Steadfast" has stayed with you. Can you tell me about your time in the BB?

I joined when I was ten, and I was a Drum Major so I led the band, marching in front of the Company. I was in there until I was nearly 20, so it was the formative years and I really thank him above. I may not practise, but I honestly believe there is a God, and I would never deny their existence. The Boys' Brigade is founded on Christian principles, and so what you're taught – and you do learn this, is respect for each other and looking after each other, caring for each other, and realising you're not in a vacuum in this world – you've always got to be open to helping people.

It gave me an anchor – something to hold on to. In fact, one of the badges I won when I was in The Boys' Brigade had an anchor on it, and that was important. I wish The Boys' Brigade was as strong now as it was then, because I believe that if it was, we wouldn't have a lot of the problems we have nowadays.

**“ It gave me an anchor - something to hold on to ”**

## Do you think that's because BB keeps kids active or because of the Christian values being instilled?

I think it's the values that were instilled, which were reinforced by your parents. They sent you to Boys' Brigade, so they believed in the principles of it, and when you came home, they'd make sure you carried on with the principles you learnt. When I mentioned it on television, BB groups around the country wrote in and thanked me. But why would I deny something that's fundamental to who I am?

## Your early life was quite incredible. I heard you say on Premier Christian Radio that your mother gave you away in the market when you were three months old?

Yeah, a couple came up to her and said: "Can we have him?" She was only 17, so she said yes because she couldn't manage. In Jamaica, that's how it was in them days. There wasn't any organisation called the adoption agency. People did look after children and my folks always took people in. They never changed my name, so I remained Evans, even though they were called Rose, and they took me to Church and taught me to pray and say grace, and to look after everyone I meet, and to have a smile on my face. It was poor beginnings in Jamaica – there were five of us living in a two-room house. The bathroom, toilet and kitchen were outside and there was no running water – we had to fetch it. But

three times a day, you went to Church – in particular on a Sunday. During the week it was more choir practise. I wasn't singing, but I'd go with my mum. One evening she forgot me – I woke up in the pews and the Church was all locked up! When she realised I was missing, she came running back! We came to the UK when I was ten, and the Church played a major part in every single Sunday, and during the week. If you could move, you were going to Church – that's how it was.

## You've had some difficult times in your life, with homelessness and being a single parent. Would you say it's your Christian values that have kept you going?

For sure. You can't ignore the foundations – they're part of who we are. When a meal was cooked at my folks' house, there would always be other mouths to feed, and now, if I'm about to eat and someone comes to the home, I've literally got to stop or share what I have. That goes back to how things were, and the lessons we learnt. Things become a habit and once they're formed, it's like not brushing your teeth one day. If you don't brush them, you don't feel right. People say: "Are you always happy?" Yeah I am! Because I've been to the university of life. I've been through all the hurricanes and I've realised that I have a choice and everybody out there has a choice. Do you want to be happy or do you want to be sad? You have that choice. Because even if something sad happens in your life, you can still find a way to be happy. If I lose someone, like when I lost my mum or a good friend, I still smile through it and say, "let's celebrate the life they lived." People go: "Well it got cut short." No! Because we don't know what we've been doled out. We don't know whether we get 39 years or 115 years. So how can you say it's short? You can be impactful, no matter how young you are. You can be 21 and you could impact someone in such a positive way, that they learn a lesson, and maybe that is all you are on this earth for.



**Check out Mr Motivator's Workouts on YouTube at [youtube.com/c/MrMotivatorWorkouts](https://youtube.com/c/MrMotivatorWorkouts)**

*This article appeared in a longer feature in [sortedmag.com](https://sortedmag.com) – and is used with permission.*



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

### Norfolk / Felden Lodge Campsites

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

☎ 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.

☎ 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.

☎ John Sharp 0121 530 4580  
@ info@bbcamping.co.uk  
📧 www.bbcamping.co.uk

### 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.

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

### Campsite Morthoe/Woolacombe

Traditional ridge tents /marquee.

New barn housing toilet /shower block and Fully equipped kitchen. Small or large groups.

weekends available Easter, weeks during school holidays.

☎ Clive Gordon 07718 761150  
@ cliveg04@yahoo.co.uk  
📧 www.warcombe.org.uk

### 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.

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

### Bromley Battalion Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, IOW

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

☎ Keith Francis on 01474 705485  
@ keithfrancis2606@gmail.com  
📧 www.bbcampsite.co.uk

### Near Blackpool at Kirkham in the Rural Fylde North West District.

Training & Activity Centre provides excellent indoor self-catering accommodation. Centenary Hall 44. Stedfast Lodge 16 plus a camping field and sports hall (see aerial view).

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

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

### Well Road Centre, Moffat, Scotland.

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

☎ 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.

☎ Mark Boswell (bookings) 07760 111615  
☎ Tony Drury-Smith 07930 177764  
📧 Greenmoor Centre

**Swanage, Dorset.** Church hall available for camps. The accommodation can comfortably sleep 24 people.

☎ 01929 422421  
📧 www.swanagemethodist.org.uk/hallbookings.htm

### Coopers Mead Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight.

Traditional camping at its very best and at a reasonable cost! Weeks available in 2021 and beyond.

☎ Ted Walliss 01737 352732  
@ edwardwalliss@btinternet.com

### 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.

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

### IN THE HEART OF NIDDERDALE.

Set in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Leeds Battalion Boys Brigade Hostel, Heathfield, Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire, HG3 5PU. Sleeps 26 in 3 dormitories. Large lounge with coal fire. Fully equipped kitchen. Toilets and showers. Lots to do and see in the surrounding area.

☎ 07746569507  
@ carolnormanton@aol.com

### Peak District – Leslie Johnson Centre

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

☎ Kevin Ford on 01782320287  
@ kevingford@yahoo.co.uk  
📧 northstuffs.boys-brigade.org.uk

### Popular BB approved campsite at

**Freshwater, Isle Of Wight.** Fully equipped for 60 (approx), canvas tents/marquee, purpose built toilet block, cookhouse. Minimum charge 20 campers (£750). Close to safe sandy beaches and leisure centre.

☎ Jon Tickle 07770 795701  
💻 [www.freshwatertrust.com](http://www.freshwatertrust.com)  
@ [freshwatercamping@gmail.com](mailto:freshwatercamping@gmail.com)

### Dartmoor Activity Centre, Broadleas.

BB focused, with 3 accommodation choices, Camping, up to 55. Cabins 32 plus 4 staff. Indoor accommodation. Self-lead or contact for activities we now provide.

☎ 01364 661283  
@ [info@dartmooractivitycentre.com](mailto:info@dartmooractivitycentre.com)  
💻 [broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk/](http://broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk/)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Yeovil Campsite Corfe Castle

Fully equipped for 60 persons, all white canvas 14'x14' ridge tents. 75'x30' Marquee. Weeks available 2021 and beyond.

☎ Graham Voizey on 01935 422 292  
💻 [graham.voizey@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.voizey@btinternet.com)

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centre's and items wanted or for sale should be sent to [gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk). Advertisements for the next issue (Spring 2021) should be received by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. All advertisements are based on up to 225 characters (including spaces and punctuation) plus contact details (telephone number, email and website address) at a cost of £10 per issue.



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

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS - 2020/2021

31 380 1 – BOYS ONLY

31 381 1 – MIXED (BB AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION)

**NEW**



Pack of 10 cards including an information card which includes church attendance table on the reverse along with a credit card sized membership card. Versions of the card are available for Companies with boys only and also a card for Companies with a Girls' Association.

The membership card is ideal for presenting as part of an Enrolment Service or at the start of the session to promote a sense of belonging to the Company and Church.

**AVAILABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2020.**

## #BBATHOME MEDALS

BRONZE: 117921 SILVER: 117931 GOLD: 117941

**NEW**

To support leaders in recognising achievement outside of the existing awards, BB Supplies has a range of #BBatHOME medals which can be presented to children and young people. Bronze, Silver and Gold medals featuring the #BBatHOME logo with a blue ribbon.

It will be up to leaders to decide how these are presented, as there will be no set criteria, ideas on how these could be used include presenting them for completing a specific number of activities (i.e. 10 activities = Bronze Medal, 20 activities = Silver Medal, 30+ activities = Gold Medal) or based on completing a percentage of activities.



£2.70

## #BBATHOME TROPHY

Product: 035951

**NEW**



To support leaders in recognising achievement outside of the existing awards, a #BBatHOME trophy is available which can be presented to children and young people.

The #BBatHOME Trophy is a small (115mm height) plastic trophy on a marble base featuring a large 50mm #BBatHOME centre and blank plaque which can be used for engraving.

£5.50

## BLACKHILL TORCH

Product: 117301



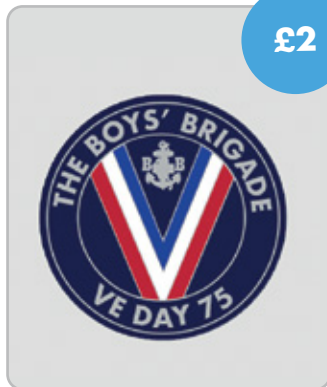
£4

Metallic 5 LED bright torch with batteries and a wrist strap. Laser engraved with the BB 'adventure begins here' logo.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY VE DAY BADGE

Product: 112501

£2



This badge has been introduced to mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe AND commemorate this important time in our country's history where we can remember and reflect on the courage and enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad.

Consider how you could present the badge to those who participated.

**WHILST STOCKS LAST!**

## HYDRO DRINKS BOTTLE

Product: 117341



£4.50

Attractive 750ml drinks bottle with coloured lid. Bottle features the BB 'adventure begins here' logo. Dishwasher safe.

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



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



Order your items by telephone on +44 (0) 333 320 8078 (Mon to Fri)



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