

GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE | SUMMER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

VISION: RAISE THE
BAR CAMPAIGN
PAGE 06

TOOLBOX:
EVERYONE IS WELCOME-
NO OUTSIDERS
PAGE 40

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE

Summer 2019:
 The **Gazette** is the official magazine of **The Boys' Brigade** in the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland.

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

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

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

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 Visit our website at: www.boys-brigade.org.uk
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06

VISION: RAISE THE BAR

ISSUE CONTENTS

VOLUME 127: NO 2 | SUMMER 2019

- 04 Welcome
- 10 Informed
- 16 Your views and news
- 33 Focus
- 40 Toolbox: No Outsiders in the BB
- 50 Directory
- 52 BB Supplies

40

**TOOLBOX:
NO OUTSIDERS
IN THE BB**

48

**GET INVOLVED:
TOILET TWINNING**

15

**VOICE: PUTTING AN END
TO KNIFE CRIME**

21

**RESOURCE: IDEAS
FOR YOUR SECTION**

Anchors	22	:	Discover	28
Juniors	25	:	Challenge +	31

5

THE WAY I SEE IT



Welcome

Some BB events always stick in your mind. I was ten and in a Junior Section Choir at the Leith Community Centre in Edinburgh. It was the finale of the Battalion Show or Extravaganza and we sung the song a “Mighty Band of Brothers”. Today we may think the words are rather Victorian, but it did have a great tune and I can still remember some of the words after all these years.

We're a mighty band of brothers, spreading out across the world. Over continent and island see the BB flag unfurled.

I never guessed that I would eventually end up writing some words for the Gazette but I was fascinated then to learn more about the Brigade overseas. I recall our Junior Section set up a pen pal scheme and we would dispatch a letter in the post and then wait weeks or was it months for a reply from a BB Company in another part of the world. It brought home that we were all part of a worldwide movement.

Of course, life is much different now and I receive e-mails or Facebook messages from colleagues and friends in the BB across the globe frequently. It is always encouraging to hear from them and whenever I have been abroad I have always tried to make contact with the local BB Leaders.

This January I was able to visit the BB in Tobago. They have recently restarted two Companies on the island and the Boys and Leaders were just as enthusiastic as any new members here. Last November some BB leaders from New Zealand visited the UK and it was a great opportunity to share ideas and views.

What has been particularly noticeable is that although the infrastructure varies in different countries, we all face similar challenges. Finance and membership usually top the list, and everyone agrees that we need enthusiastic Leaders to keep the Brigade going. The demographics are different though, already a fifth of the world's young people aged under 15 are in Africa and it has been suggested that proportion will rise to a third by 2050. Whereas in many parts on the UK we have seen a noticeable decline of young people in cities which has had a real impact on our membership.

The International aspect of our work can add a new and exciting element to Company programmes. In recent years many young leaders have benefited from exchange programmes and participating in events like the European Fellowship Easter Course. Please look out for ways that you can connect with Brigade friends in other parts of the world. We have recently re-established our International Group and are looking to provide more support in this area.

Later this year I am looking forward to returning to Lusaka, Zambia where Global Fellowship is holding its conference. I'm sure we will discuss many of the shared challenges, but also spend time to reflect and give thanks for the life-changing impact The Boys' Brigade is having across many continents.

Bill Stevenson

Bill Stevenson
Brigade Secretary & CEO



Follow Bill on Twitter at
@BillBBHQ



What fruits should they bear!

I write this in the middle of a sermon series in my little Church in Swansea on what people should see when they look at a Christian. What fruits should they bear! Well I say little Church but it has got a little bit bigger in the last eighteen months since we started our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Company.

In a short period of time we have added over seventy children to our roll and inspired by the BB's "Raise the Bar" Campaign I have decided that I need to raise the bar as Vicar, Captain and Chaplain to my Company!

By raise the bar, I have to make my Church feel like home to people of all ages, worship should be accessible, hospitality should be abundant, and the heating should be on! We have a free breakfast every week, of bacon and sausages, shared together with all of our Church family. The children are welcome every week, not just on special occasions. We have become confident in asking them about faith, explaining what the Church believes and offering the opportunity to explore it for themselves. This has led to a surge in requests for Baptisms and Confirmation with whole families now deciding to start a journey of faith, some parents have signed up for Alpha to begin to explore faith themselves and again have asked for adult baptisms.

The most exciting thing for me about my Journey so far with the BB is seeing the potential it has to transform this nation. The potential to see faith in a new generation of young people who can go on to change their neighbourhoods, schools, colleges, universities and work places. They will be salt and light out in a world that is riddled with anxiety, worry and insecurity. They will build their lives on the solid foundation of the knowledge that they are loved unconditionally,

that they are priceless in Gods eyes and that He has a plan for them regardless of their circumstances.

So I want to challenge you this month... if you are a member of your local Church...Raise the Bar...not just one Sunday a month, not just at parade services or special occasions, but every week, make Church like family and be courageous in offering your young people the opportunity to discover the abundant life that Jesus offers them!

Rev Steve Bunting
Chaplain for BB in Wales

Steve is the Vicar at St Thomas' Church in Eastside, Swansea. Born in Manchester in 1981 Steve moved to Swansea in 1999 and has spent the majority of his working life in finance, but in 2009 went into training for ordination, during which he undertook placements in a number of Churches, a prison and a hospital. Following ordination in 2012, he served two years in All Saints Church, Oystermouth before moving to St Thomas in 2014. Part of his time is spent ministering to students as the associate Anglican Chaplain at Swansea University. Steve started the 1st Swansea Eastside BB/GA Company in 2017, has been Chaplain on KGV courses held in England & Wales in 2017/2018 and became Chaplain to BB in Wales in 2018. Steve is married to Rachel who works in full time ministry to families in Swansea, and they are blessed with three amazing children, Ryan, Katy-Grace and Sam.





RAISE THE BAR

WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR REAL &
SUSTAINED
GROWTH

Our focus as an organisation continues to be how we can raise the quality of experience for children and young people in membership. We launched the 'Raise the Bar' campaign at the start of the session seeking to inspire all levels of the Brigade to consider a number of challenges which we believe will improve our work with and for young people. To raise the bar means to do something better than before. This doesn't imply that we are doing things poorly, but simply asks us all to step back and reflect on a range of issues, challenging us all to be the best that we can be. It's been exciting to see how Companies as well as Battalions and Districts have got involved.

Whether you have taken on a single challenge or completed all 10 then you will have done something to raise the bar in your local area and that's what it is all about. The Raise the Bar campaign will continue into next session to allow us all to carry on working towards our target and through the challenges.

In this issue we share more about two challenges 'Set a target number per section' and also 'Look at Fees'.

RAISE THE BAR: CHALLENGE

Set a target number per section

The Challenge: **When did you last consider what your target numbers were?**

Consider realistic numbers based on your constraints (meeting space, volunteers, etc) and also whether you need to focus on specific age groups.

Raise the Bar is very much about improving the quality of our work and not just focussing on numerical growth. Providing a quality programme is much more important than just increasing numbers. However, to provide a successful and high-quality programme you do need minimum numbers of young people. This challenge questions the numbers and asks us to consider the number of children and young people in each section.

Before considering setting a target, it would be useful to review numbers in each section over the past 3 to 5 years. Have numbers gone up, down or remained constant? Did you instinctively know this or has the exercise brought some surprises? Are there any trends or patterns which can be linked to changes in the local community? Is there anything which stands out to you?

The Boys' Brigade has been getting smaller. There are fewer Companies and the average size of a Company (the number of young people in the group) has also reduced.

Often when we are busy just getting on with running our programmes and working with children & young people, we can find that numbers have changed quite dramatically, but it's not something we have become conscious of as the change has been gradual, perhaps over a few years. Often if we reduce by just one member we consider numbers have remained constant, but if we do that for a number of years the cumulative effect is very telling. If every Company went down by one, then we have lost over 1300 members Brigade wide. One of the aims of this challenge is not to just set a target, but to also understand the maximum capacity for each age group and be able to identify both positive and negative change. As well as setting targets to grow we also need to know where our limits are and where we need to stop and think again – potentially put a waiting list in place.

“ We've set a limit of 40 young people for both our Anchors and Juniors age groups and, unfortunately, that means we have to keep some boys on a waiting list. The maximum of 40 is based primarily on safety (thinking about the size of our facilities and the number of leaders we have) but also we feel 40 means we have the space and time to build qualitative relationships with each of the young people; relationships that allows us to properly support them and nurture development.”

Andrew McCaldon, 35th Liverpool

If our experience tells us that real and sustained growth will only be achieved through focussing on the quality of our work, we need to make sure that our focus remains on improving the quality of experience and does not just become a recruitment exercise.

RAISE THE BAR: FACT

11 is the average size of a section.

So, what is a realistic target number for each section within the Company? Well, there is no specific answer to that, and it will be different for each and every Company. You may find it useful to be considering two different numbers. Firstly, what is the **maximum capacity for each section** and secondly **set a target number** that you would then strive to achieve within a set time frame.

Article continued →

“ We set a target number of 24 boys in Anchors and have taken our numbers from 5 to 21 in a year. To get to this we did have some obstacles to overcome, one of these was staffing and we are pleased to have welcomed two Leaders to the team. We believe this increase in numbers has all been possible by being well organised, planning ahead and getting to know the children and parents as well as by offering a wider programme of activities including offering trips and visits from paramedics, police and guide dogs. From this we have found that the boys and their parents are telling other boys how much fun they have at Anchors and that has been key to our success in reaching our target. Now to retain the boys, we need to ensure to keep our Leaders enthusiastic and passionate, always willing to go that extra mile!”

Jim McCulloch, 1st Neilston

WHAT YOU NEED TO CONSIDER . . .

To be able to put a target number in place, the two most critical factors to consider are the number of staff you have available and the size and layout of the premises you meet in.

In some Companies all age groups meet on the same night. This can have both positive and negative effects. It can allow for greater flexibility with staff and aid transfer between sections, but it might limit the space you can use especially at the crossover periods when an age group may have to use a small room. Does the night(s) you meet enable or restrict sectional numbers and is it something you might review? Staffing levels are vital, not just to deliver a varied programme, but to ensure quality time can be spent with the young people. Consider setting a target number based on your current staffing levels, and when an additional staff member is recruited, then the target number can be increased. The target number should be reviewed annually and always be flexible, as circumstances change.

“ We were struggling for numbers in both the Anchors and Juniors age groups at one point, neither section had sufficient numbers to run separately and so we made the decision to merge these age groups. We also committed as a staff team to spend more time on improving the quality of the programme, we spent more time planning together and set a target that by the end of the session we would have at least 10 members in each age group. So as a staff team we worked hard, we ran some friends' nights and found boys came along, stayed and joined and then brought their friends along. Numbers went up and we soon found ourselves adjusting the programme so the two different age groups although meeting at the same time started slowly moving off to do their own activities. Eventually we moved the Juniors programme back to start later and to go on slightly longer than the Anchors and increased our target to 15 and then increased that again a few months later to 20 in each age group. We found that doing things differently really worked for us and setting a target was helpful in enthusing our staff team and turning our Company around. I would say if combining age groups, only do this as a short-term solution.”

Chris Norman, 10th Enfield

RAISE THE BAR: CHALLENGE

Look at Fees -

The Challenge: **Consider value for money vs what it costs to run the Company.**

Have you looked at income and expenditure? What is reasonable to charge the children and young people? What additional resources do we need and how can we go about getting these?

Have you ever asked yourself whether the work of your BB Company provides value for money? You have perhaps never thought of it like this before, but in modern society, it appears that everything has a monetary value, and the service which The Boys' Brigade provision to young people can also be viewed in this way. So, what value for money does our work provide and how would you measure it? Everyone is looking for a bargain, and to get the best value for their money, but people have also learnt the value of quality products, and the demand for quality is increasing. Are we 'selling' our programme short and not charging enough?

Often people are shocked by the low level of subscriptions charged by BB Companies, particularly when comparing to other groups and activities young people pay to attend. Do you know what other activities children and young people in your Company do during the week and how they compare? Did you know local football, karate and other sports clubs often charge £5+ for a weekly session? Perhaps you could do some research to see what other groups operating from the same meeting space and other local venues charge?



“ My son went along to BB for the first time the other week and I was a little taken back by the fees. Not that they were too expensive, but exactly the opposite, I expected to pay more. After enquiring about the fees, I was told they were £1 a week for his age group (6 years old). Wow I thought... as he came home not just having had an amazing time during the 75-minute session, but he had made a puppet, had a drink, a biscuit and there was an activity taking place at the weekend he could go along to and all I was expected to pay was £1 for that week. In comparison I am paying £6 a week for him to go football training and pay equivalent amounts (and more) for other activities. It is great that the cost is so low, but I think they should be charging more than this – it is worth a lot more!”

Anonymous Parent, Doncaster

Successful BB Companies require sufficient funds, to run activities, purchase equipment, provide badges and so on. However, if we are not careful, at times leaders can find themselves running a fundraising programme, rather than an activity led programme. An alternative may be to find a parent, Church member or member of the local community who may be willing to take on the responsibilities of fundraising, but who does not necessarily want to get involved with the weekly programme with children and young people, freeing up the time for BB leaders to focus on building relationships and delivering the programme.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – DON'T UNDERSELL WHAT WE OFFER!

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

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ Review the subscriptions charged and increase by small amounts regularly. Inflation is a constant, and there is no reason why your weekly fees should not be increased to at least keep up with inflation.
- ✓ Subscriptions should be set based on your planned expenditure, taking into consideration other income you may receive.
- ✓ Encourage payment to be made termly or even annually. This can also help to increase commitment and regular attendance and ensures you are not out of pocket if you have prepared an activity and a young person does not turn up.
- ✓ Offer financial assistance to those that need it, whilst those that can afford it pay a more realistic subscription.
- ✓ Encourage the use of OBM for the payment of fees. It is much easier to handle, parents get easy reminders, and the leaders do not have to deal with cash.
- ✓ If the money is not going to come in from subscriptions consider where it is going to come from? The development of a strong group identity



Check out our resource 'Value for Money' which provides further advice and support on looking at fees and delivering value for money at: boys-brigade.org.uk/bb-gazette/a-boys-brigade-company-value-for-money/

So, good luck and remember we are all in this together and there to support each other, so please get in touch with other Companies, speak to Leaders in your Battalion/District and get in touch with Regional/UK & RoI Headquarters about the challenges we each face.

We would love to hear what you are getting up to and would encourage you to share your thoughts and stories on social media using **#RaiseTheBarBB**.



Find out more about Raise the Bar and find support and ideas to help you take on the challenges at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/raisethebar.htm





Youth United Funding

The Youth United network has successfully secured £5 million investment from the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport. The Uniformed Youth Fund aims to provide further opportunities to reach vulnerable young people whilst also increasing the opportunities for volunteers to expand and enhance their existing skills resulting in an expansion of the overall offering.

Two grants have been secured by The Boys' Brigade; one which will **support organisational infrastructure including, enhancing volunteering capacity, improving systems and processes**; the second grant will allow us to **pilot initiatives to strengthen our work and look at specific ways of working, one such example being working with young people with additional needs**. Both grants have a short timescale for delivery and were pitched at a level that would be deliverable within the timescale and not to the detriment of existing work.

Although this funding has been awarded for targeted work specifically within England, the benefits will impact the wider organisation, particularly in the areas of programme development, recruitment, training and Online Brigade Manager.

Thanks to this funding, Leaders will see the following work being undertaken:

- Significant development to OBM
- Design, production and delivery of the Under 11's Programme
- Design, production and delivery of the refreshed Youth Leadership Training material along with skills training for our BTO network
- Pilot with new Companies specialising in working with marginalised young people
- Refreshing our recruitment resources and providing more digital media
- Providing Additional Needs training opportunities for Leaders
- Internal Research with members and their parents/carers as well as external research with young people and their parents/carers.

Keep up to date with developments over the next few months through the e-BB News.

Welcome to our New Companies

It's excellent to know that the following companies have enrolled recently:

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
1 st Howden	Vicki Brownlee	Derringham Bank Methodist, Howden
1 st Aberystwyth	Timothy Eldon	Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth
1 st Middleton Cheney	Emma Verrecchia	All Saints Church, Middleton Cheney



Launch of Under 11's Programme

Further to the announcement earlier in the year about the launch of the new programmes for both the Anchors and Juniors age groups we are now pleased to confirm that the first set of new programme resources have been sent out to all Companies accompanied by the Information and Awards content. We hope that over the coming months Leaders will be able to familiarise themselves with the new programme and supporting resources ready for take up from the 2019-2020 session onwards.

A reminder that the new programme will be put directly into the hands of the Leader in Charge of each age group alongside the Gazette, 3 times a year. The new resources will feature programme ideas and activities through a set of Activity Cards, Themed Activity Cards and a Programme Planner for each term. All Leaders will be able to access the new resources online with all activities being available through the 'Programme' area on Online Brigade Manager (OBM) and Leaders will be able to

subscribe annually (subscribe online by going to the link below) to receive a set of the Activity Cards each term at a cost of £18 per year including postage and packaging. Additionally a pack of Activity cards for a single term for an either/both age groups can be purchased from BB Supplies for £7.50 per pack (whilst stocks last).

Through funding from the Youth United Foundation we have also been able to provide a Programme Box for each age group and these are being circulated to Companies through Battalions and Districts. If you have not already got hold of your boxes please speak to your Battalion Secretary to find out more. Additional Programme Boxes can be purchased from BB Supplies for £15 each which includes a set of dividers.

Badges and additional resources including records cards and certificates will be available from BB Supplies from August 2019.



Find out more about the new programmes at boys-brigade.org.uk/bb-gazette/launching-11s-programme/



Brigade Conference 2019

Join us in Wales for Brigade Conference 2019 - from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September.

The weekend's programme will take place at the city's Marriot Hotel (Please note change in venue) located in the Maritime Quarter overlooking Swansea Bay and only a mile from the railway station.

The weekend will feature a packed programme with workshops, worship, opportunities for fellowship, as well as the AGM. The Archbishop of Wales will join us for the opening service on the Saturday at the venue. The Sunday Service will take place at St Thomas Church, home of the 1st Swansea Eastside.

The conference is open to all leaders in the UK and ROI, and we would particularly encourage as many young leaders from across the Brigade family to attend.



More details and how-to book are available at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm

OBM developments

New Parent Portal Live

The new Parent Portal is now live and thousands of parents have started using it!

From a leader's perspective - nothing changes, except you'll notice My.BB is now referred to as the 'Parent Portal'. From a parent's perspective - they have to create an account as a one-off process before they can login. This is explained to them when they click a link.

This change brings My.BB into OBM and improves the user experience for parents/carers. If you aren't using the Parent Portal, you can find out about it in Help - Tutorial Videos.

Screen Reader Friendly

We've made the OBM system screen-reader friendly, and have added keyboard shortcuts to make it quicker to navigate. Screen-readers are a form of assistive technology essential for visually impaired people that read out what is shown on the screen. Becoming screen-reader friendly means we can help visually impaired users use our system. Our new keyboard shortcuts will also help users that prefer using the keyboard over a mouse.

You can login and go to **Settings – My Account Details – Site Preferences** to find out more.



Officer-in Charge Role

We've carried out a clean-up to ensure that Companies only have one Officer-in-charge per age group. Unfortunately, due to a bug which we had not found previously it was possible for a Company to have more than one Officer-in-Charge. This has now been fixed and will no longer allow more than one Leader to have the role. It is important for Companies to have the correct Leaders as OIC of each section, particularly as that will be the individual that receives the Anchors and Juniors Programme resources. Where there is no OIC for a section the resources will be sent to the Company Captain.

Should you have any questions about these or using OBM please use the Help function or contact the Support Team on 01442 231681 (option 4).



Taking place from 2nd until 8th November 2019 is UK Parliament Week, 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 60 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.

It also provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the impact of The Boys' Brigade to your local MP.

 Sign up by visiting ukparliamentweek.org

Brigade Council 2019 - Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** will be held at the Marriot Hotel, Swansea on Saturday 7th September at 2pm to consider the following business:-

AGM Agenda

- 1 To receive the Accounts for the year ended **31 March 2019** together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- 2 To agree the capitation fees for the 2020/21 session.
- 3 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.
- 4 To appoint Brigade Office-bearers for Session 2019/20 as proposed by the Brigade Executive.
- 5 To consider motions:
 - (i) in the name of the Brigade Executive
 - (ii) in the name of London Districtrelating to the size and method of election of the Brigade Executive.
- 6 To consider and if thought fit, approve other amendments to Brigade Regulations proposed by the Brigade Executive.
- 7 Accountable Autonomy – report from Brigade Executive regarding the implementation of Northern Ireland District's Motion approved in 2017.

- 8 To transact any other lawful business.

The full wording of motions can be found at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm

Any proposed amendments to the motions should be sent to the Brigade Secretary at Brigade HQ to arrive no later than 9.00am on Friday 31st May 2019.

By order of the Brigade Executive

William C.F. Stevenson - Brigade Secretary
20 March 2019

All Members of Brigade Council as defined by the Articles of Association are entitled to be present and vote at this meeting or, in their absence, they may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf. A form of proxy will be sent to all members with the Autumn Gazette and, if used, should be returned to the Company's Registered Office not later than 2.00pm on Monday 2nd September 2019.

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

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

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

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.

Sylvia Bromley	133 rd London
Bill Ferguson	Nottingham Battalion
Bob Graham	1 st Ormskirk
Randal McLean	1 st Greenock / National Competitions
Joan Spires	Nottingham Battalion

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

Felden 70th Anniversary

We will be celebrating 70 years of Felden Lodge being owned by The Boys' Brigade later this year and an event is being organised over the weekend of 19th and 20th October 2019.

So please save the date and watch out for more details which will be circulated in the next Gazette and via e-newsletters.





ROYAL REVIEW WINDSOR 1994

Our Heritage

We have a rich history spanning over 135 years – have you ever wondered what BB members in the past wore, thought or did? The Brigade's Archive Trust is responsible for ensuring that we are able to safely keep those items and memories which are important to our heritage; and that we are able to celebrate that heritage through sharing this with current and future generations of BB members.



In this issue of the Gazette, we share some stories that we have captured in the BB Gazette over the last 125 years.

125 years ago....
560 Boys form part of the Guard of Honour for The Queen's visit to Manchester. This was the first time The Boys' Brigade had appeared before Queen Victoria.
Gazette Vol.3 No.5 1894

100 years ago....
Copies of newly published 'The Boy Reserves Manual' were sent out to the 120 enrolled sections of the newly formed Boy Reserves, and the Honorary Instructors Badge was authorised to be worn by ladies as a brooch, and by Petty Officers on the arm. *Gazette Vol.27 No.5 1919*

75 years ago....
The Gazette of February 1994 announced that Derek Barsham, the B.B. Boy Soprano from the 1st Enfield Company, who had previously performed at the Royal Albert Hall display, and on the BBC on Christmas day 1943, would return to the BBC Home Service broadcasting live several sacred songs on Palm Sunday, and Good Friday 1944. *Gazette Vol.52 No.4 1944*

50 years ago....
BB Week total £168,387 19s. 1d. raised.
Gazette Vol.77 No.4 1969

25 years ago....
The Royal Review - Windsor Castle. 30th April 1994

In this issue of the Gazette, we share some stories that we have captured in the BB Gazette over the last 125 years.

'A hush fell upon the quadrangle as the approaching band could be heard in the distance. What a magnificent sight - and sound - as they came up the Long Walk, through George IV Gate and into the Castle Quadrangle. On and on they came - what a massive parade of 1,200 young men from throughout the UK and Eire. A Company from Stornoway had faced a two-day journey to be present. There was no evidence of earlier rehearsal problems, the parade filled the green. The sun shone brilliantly, and the scene was thus set at the approach to 15.00, when our Patron would appear. As Her Majesty appeared and as the Royal Salute was played, so each lad on parade clearly found a new strength and pride. Following on from the inspection, The Queen then addressed the parade: 'I am very pleased to be able to welcome The Boys' Brigade back to Windsor after so many years for this parade to mark the retirement of Lord Thurso and the appointment of your new President, Lord Strathmore. The last time members of the Brigade were assembled in the Quadrangle here was over fifty years ago for your Diamond Jubilee celebrations during the last war. My father spoke then of the strength of the movement "because" as he said, "it is built upon the twin pillars of discipline and religion". Those two pillars remain central to the activities of the Brigade today. They are expressed in the values taught by the movement's Christian leaders and in the demanding programmes set by the Brigade to develop your confidence and self-discipline'.... This was truly the BB at its best. The opportunity to meet our Patron became a celebration which was opened and closed in prayer and praise.'

Gazette Vol.102 No.5 1994



For further information about our Heritage please contact the Brigade Archivist, Colin Swinton at archive@boys-brigade.org.uk.

DISCUSSING ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOUNG PEOPLE



Putting an end to Knife Crime

Far too often we hear about another young person who has been a victim of a knife attack. It comes as little surprise therefore, that the 2018 UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Report showed that knife crime was the top concern amongst young people in the UK.

Over one million young people aged 11 – 18 responded to the consultation, which also showed the mental health, equal pay and homelessness were also amongst the top concerns of young people.

Figures released in March 2018 showed that the police recorded 40,137 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales during the previous 12 months. This is the highest number since the year ending March 2011.

“ My friend had a knife pulled on him and held to his throat, the next day I got hold of a knife, we all did.

“ Knife crime is rising fast in our area, but I still feel safe, you just mustn't do anything stupid.

Quotes from BB young people in London

Following the report, the UK Youth Parliament launched its 'Action Against Knife Crime' campaign which calls for a significant reduction of knife crime in the UK.

'Action Against Knife Crime', which was prioritised at the UK Youth Parliament's House of Commons Sitting, demands the Government combat violence through education in schools and community groups.

THE CAMPAIGN'S AIMS:

- Raising awareness of the devastating effects of knife crime and how it affects people across the UK
- Exploring the multiple factors of knife crime, including mental health, education and youth services
- Gaining support from decision makers
- Preventing young people from carrying knives by creating platforms for young people to engage with the community
- Raising awareness of what young people can do to support the cause

But what are the views of your young people?

Discuss this with your group

- How safe do you feel in your community?
- How have you and your community been affected by knife crime?
- What do you think about the campaign's aims?
- How can you make a difference? What can the company or the wider BB do?

Resources

These are just some discussions starters. More resources, guidance and information are available at the Action Against Knife Crime website www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/campaign/action-knife-crime/ including information about the 'No Knives Better Lives' campaign which has been running in Scotland since 2009.

Here you will find a recent article about tackling knife crime and importance of organisations like BB bit.ly/knifecrimeBB



Share the views of your young people...

Consider sharing some of the views of your young people by tweeting @BBgazette or emailing gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk





Going for Gold

Congratulations to the 14 young people from 1st Tewkesbury, 2nd Alton, 2nd Sutton Coldfield, 4th Barking, 4th Barnet, 5th Gloucester and 6th Wolverhampton who were awarded their DofE Gold Awards at St. James' Palace by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and double-Olympic Gold medal winning rower, Alex Gregory on Tuesday 5th February.

One of those receiving his certificate at the Palace was Ryan Jones (18), from 1st Tewkesbury.

Ryan said:

"Completing all The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards means a great deal to me. It is something you can easily use to strike up conversation and from my experience, every time I bring it up whomever I'm talking to seems genuinely interested."

"The group of lads I did my award with I've known for all my life so most of the time we got on well and worked great as a team. Now that it is all completed, its rewarding to look back and actually see how much we've all achieved in the past five years."

"Going to St James' Palace and collecting my Gold DofE certificate was just surreal. Actually being there and taking in all the architecture and small details of the palace was amazing and being able to meet Prince Edward is just something I will never forget. The whole presentation was a lovely culmination of two years' work completing the Gold DofE award."

You can find out more about running the DofE programme in your Company by visiting leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/d-of-e.htm

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

45 young people from across London District came together at Kensington Town Hall on Saturday 9th March for the 2019 Jack Petchey Achievement Awards. The young people were presented with awards by the Jack Petchey Foundation, recognising the individual achievements of each of these young people. All those that were presented with their awards also received a grant of £250 to help support their Company in some way, whether contributing towards the cost of a residential or trip out; or purchasing some equipment. During the event the audience including Leaders, Parents/ Carers and award winners were entertained by fantastic performances from the London Bugle Band and West London Gym Team.



Peterhead Anchors Back on the Map

The Anchor Section of the 4th Peterhead Company restarted after a short break to find new volunteers. Hazel Wiseman, who lives locally, responded to a Facebook advert looking for volunteers to help run the section. Hazel was really pleased with the first night of the restarted group when 14 boys turned up and said "I wasn't sure what to expect so I was delighted and slightly overwhelmed by the turnout."



35th Liverpool @35th_Liverpool

It's #InternationalWomenDay and we want to recognise all the incredible women - our leaders, our mums, sisters and family members, and our church, Brigade and community leaders - who make #BoysBrigade awesome! #FaithInYoungPeople #IWD19 #IWD #BalanceForBetter #GenderParity



46th Aberdeen BB @KincorthBB

Welcoming everyone to World Day of Prayer #WorldDayofPrayer #BoysBrigade



The Greatest Show!



Juniors from 7th Northampton held their very own 'Greatest Showman' theme night! Activities included making 'Wishing Machines', a music/movie Quiz, 'This Is Me' devotions and they even managed to include pancakes by having a 'Greatest Showman' pancake flipping challenge. A great night was had by all.

3rd Enfield get into Fairtrade Fortnight

Anchors and Juniors at the 3rd Enfield Company in North London were recently joined by their Chaplain, Mark Meatcher as the boys learned about Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight which takes place in February each year. The boys took part in a quiz, discussions, watched a video, did some food tasting with Fairtrade vs non-Fairtrade items and enjoyed dipping fruit into the chocolate fountain (which was of course also Fairtrade!).



Island Getaway!



Juniors from 25th Stirling (Dunblane) spent the first weekend of March on the Island of Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde. The weekend was packed with activities, including cycling, crafts, rockpool exploration, on-site aquarium, games, swimming and a visit to the lovely brand-new Cumbrae Parish Church where they were privileged to see four local boys presented with their Queen's Badges.



Beth Dobson @bethdobsonbb

Raise the Bar Roadshow #3! To quote one of the leaders who came along.... "What an amazing day with wonderful people. We are so blessed that we have so many dedicated officers and helpers in this wonderful organisation, The Boys Brigade." #LearnGrowDiscover #BBWeekend #STEM





99th Belfast Boys Brigade Company

Company section having a go at forced perspective Photography tonight not a bad effort for 1st attempt...



Eye for Speed!

Young people from Mid Southern Battalion enjoyed their recent outing to the West London Scalextric Club in Uxbridge. Racing on the day were members from 2nd Reading, 3rd Reading and 1st Guildford.



75 Years of Service in West Bromwich



Ken Dunn has recently retired as an Officer in the 5th West Bromwich Company after serving 75 years in The Boys' Brigade. On Sunday 10th February Ron Vernon, President of the Mid Staffs and Sandwell Battalion, presented Ken with a certificate marking his 75 years' service to The Boys' Brigade. Everyone from the 5th West Bromwich Company would like to thank Ken for the many years of service and wish him all the best for a long and happy retirement.

SNAPSHOTS



WEEKEND ADVENTURE FOR 8TH PAISLEY AT PGL



MEXICAN NIGHT FOR 1ST ALDERHOLT!



4TH NEWTOWNABBEY THROUGH TO UK&ROI 5-A-SIDE FINAL



YOUNG LEADERS FOOTBALL EVENT IN SCOTLAND



1ST SWANSEA BBGA AT LIMITLESS



Heartbeat Charity Gets Boost

David Penney from Northern Ireland HQ was presented with a cheque from Anchors from 5th Carrick for £225 for the Anchors Boys' Charity 2019, The Children's' Heartbeat Trust.

The boys' collected the money over several weeks using Smarties tubes – what a fantastic effort!

Pauline McMullan OIC Anchor Section, said:

"This was the first time as a Company we supported the Anchor Boys' Appeal and it's exciting as a Company to gradually increase our participation in District and National events. It helps the boys understand they are part of a worldwide movement of the BB and knowing they were supporting such a great charity helps the boys even at such a young age understand the importance of giving back and being thankful for all we have."

Anchors & Juniors in the Jungle

Over 70 Anchor and Junior section members from across North London took part in the Jungle Activity Afternoon. Activities included Bushtucker trials, team challenges, jungle crafts, animal 'meet & greet' as well as a time of worship. A great day was had by all!



Ballymena & District @BallymenaBB

Congratulations to 2nd Ballymena (Wellington) on winning this year's Company Section U15 5-a-side football! Runner-up: 1st Portglenone



Belfast Juniors Making a Difference!

Junior Section members, parents and Leaders from 99th Belfast Company went out on a community litter pick in the Ballysillan area of North Belfast. Litter pickers, gloves and bags were supplied by Belfast City Council and onlookers were very appreciative of the work and the difference it has made to clean up this local community space.



Bloxham members on stage in Gulliver's Travels

Despite snow and ice, Bloxham Baptist Church was full for the 1st Bloxham Company's first ever pantomime 'Gulliver's Travels'. A total of 30 boys took part either in an acting role, or as part of the backstage team covering props, sound and lights. Apart from having a lot of fun; gaining confidence and earning some new badges, everyone learnt a lot about working as a team. Following fantastic feedback from the audience this could well become a regular event for Bloxham!



10th Enfield Boys' Brigade Company @10enfieldbb

On Thursday our Junior and Company lads learnt about CPR and got hands on practice using British Heart Foundations Call, Push, Rescue kit... Great to be able to bring this training to our young people and help British Heart Foundation to reach target to train 5m in CPR by 2020!!! #savealife #boysbrigade #relevant



44th Glasgow Boys' Brigade @44thGlasgowBB

44th are the British TT champions. A huge well done to Blair, Sam and Andrew who have won every game today in Northern Ireland, finishing with a 6-3 victory v Kempston in the final. Considering these boys are 15, 14 and 13, this is a huge achievement and after last years close loss in the final, they thoroughly deserve it! Congratulations



The Boys' Brigade in Scotland @TheBBScotland

Very special visitors to @NetherleeBB278 yesterday! Thanks to @guidedogsscot for spending time with these members last night #LearnGrowDiscover #boysbrigade #FridayFeeling #Glasgow #GuideDogs



RESOURCE

GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the *Summer 2019* programme supplement, showcasing some great activities and ideas that you could use in your Company.

Resource Bank

Selection of resources with activities and ideas for all sections



Youth Work Resource

Some great ideas for young people aged 11+ with up-front games, group and individual games along with talks and other great ideas through the YGC blog.

Check out youthworkresource.com



Science Bob

Science Bob is a science teacher, author, maker, and presenter that knows how to share the world of science like never before. There are a range of great science experiments with instructions that you can get your young people involved with. Just be sure to try out the experiment before attempting it with your young people and as with all activities do your own risk assessment.

Check out sciencebob.com



Youthwork Resources

Register on the site to get free access to all of the same brilliant resources from the magazine as downloadable PDFs, including All-age service plans, Discussion starters, Reflective activities, Games, Music and Movies.

Check out youthandchildrens.work/resources



The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Omagh or Overtown, Peterborough or Prestwick.

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

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



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



Your Help

RESOURCE is all about sharing what works well for you in your Company with others. Could you contribute a game, craft, devotional or themed night idea for the Autumn 2019 issue? Send it to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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

Check out the sectional programme ideas >>>

22

→ Anchors

25

→ Juniors

28

→ Discover

31

→ Challenge Plus

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



WEAR DOTS, RAISE LOTS

100 people every day in the UK start losing their sight. It will change their life completely. Braille is a unique system of raised dots that can be read by touch. Wear dots... raise lots this May to highlight the impact of braille and to help people in the UK living with sight loss.

Order your FREE activity and fundraising pack at rnib.org.uk/wear-dots-raise-lots



16 JUN FATHER'S DAY

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

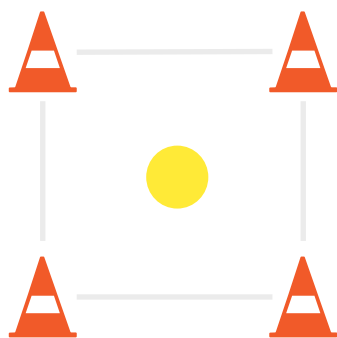


14 - 24 JUN DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

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

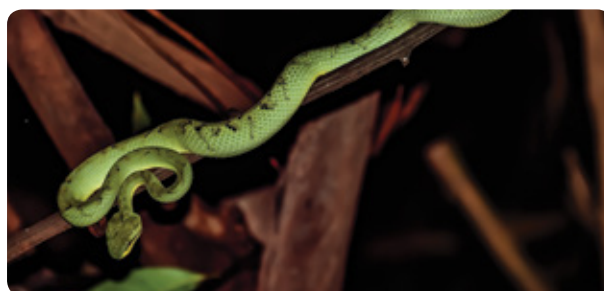
Check out resources at rlss.org.uk

Get Active: Cats in the Corner



Mark off a square playing area with cones, and have one player stand in the middle with a ball. Have the rest of the children spread themselves out between the four corners. When the player in the middle yells, "Cats in the Corner!" the children at the corners must sprint to a different corner of the square while trying not to be hit by the ball. Any player hit with the ball has to sit out the remainder of the round. The last cat left standing gets to be the ball thrower in the next game.

Get Active: Snakes and Worms



Use brown and green wool (Brown for worms and green for snakes). Take an identical length of each colour wool and cut the long length into many pieces.

Hide the pieces of wool outside. Get the children in to two teams – one the worms, the other the snakes and send them off to find the wool of their colour.

They will tie each wool piece that is found, to the next piece and so on. The team with the longest tied piece wins! Set some boundaries and rules to ensure the children do not wonder too far and that they are aware of the potential hazards in that area.



Get Creative: Natural Art

Using natural items, leaves, twigs, stones, pine cones get your young people to create a picture on the ground. Allocate them an area the same size, (marked out with twigs to create a frame) give them a time and get them to create a picture. You could give them a theme, or let them choose what they'd like to do. Make it a competition and have some prizes or points for their team.

Alternatively, using an old bed sheet, draw the outline of a creature & get the young people to fill it in like you would if you were colouring in a picture and see the end result. This would be a resource you could use again and again.

This activity is great for getting the children to work together, get creative, make choices and have lots of fun whilst doing it.



Get Adventurous: Twig Towers

This is another activity which encourages you to get outside and exploring your local woodland or other appropriate space. Set the children the challenge of creating 'Twig Towers', searching the woodland floor for twigs and small branches. Ensure that the children understand that they are not to break off anything from living trees.

Try to create the tallest tower that you can using only the twigs. This could be a competition between different groups.



Get Learning: Identifying leaves

To learn more about some of the common trees we will find in our parks, woodland and gardens. The Woodland Trust has a number of free downloadable identification guides which you can find at woodlandtrust.org.uk.

You will need to get outside and visit local woodland or space and in small groups ask the children to find a 'leaf' for each of the following (you could add to this list):

- with 5 or more points
- with smooth edges
- with more than one colour on it
- that is waxy or rough

Using the identification guides from the Woodland Trust can the children identify the tree from the leaf using the guide? Now ask the children to locate the tree(s) each of the leaves have come from?



Get Adventurous: Woodland Symphony



This is great idea for getting out into your local woodland or other space where there are plenty of natural materials like sticks, rocks, and leaves. The group is given some time to explore and find natural objects that can make a noise, such as two rocks that can be struck together or a blade of grass used as a whistle.

The idea is then to put these sounds together and create a piece of music. You could group similar sounds, ask one member of the group to be the conductor – indicating when each person should make/play their sound. The purpose of this activity is to get out and explore, to discover the beautiful sounds that can be created by the natural objects in our environment. You could always choose a familiar tune with an easy rhythm that they can all join in and play to.



Get Active: Alphabet Game

Preparation:

In preparation for this game you will need a set of A - Z letters, with each letter on a small piece of paper for each team. It would be ideal to have a different colour for each set of letters so you can easily keep track of each teams' letters. You will also need a set of questions, which the Leader should put together beforehand.

Instructions:

Split the children into teams and setup a table with chairs for each team. Locate the teams sitting at their tables at one end of your meeting space and the Leader running the game and asking the questions should be at the other end. The alphabet letters for each team should be placed randomly on the team's table. The Leader asks the questions and each team must select a letter of the alphabet and run to the Leader at the other end and give an answer which starts with letter in their hand, the answer must be acceptable based on the question. The first team to get to the Leader and provide an acceptable answer wins that point. Ensure all members of the team have a go, you could go through multiple times. Stop the game at an appropriate point and see which team has the most correct answers.



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RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



8 JUN HM THE QUEEN'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

Get your section involved in celebrating HM The Queen's birthday, which will officially be celebrated on Saturday 8th June 2019. Why not celebrate by being creative and making crowns, flags or bunting. You could also hold a special birthday party and sing Happy Birthday to The Queen.



8 - 16 JUN BIKE WEEK

Get involved, it's all about encouraging cycling; could you organise a bike maintenance session, bike safety workshop or a bike ride?

Check out cyclinguk.org/bikeweek



4 JUL AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Fancy a themed evening? How about going with an American theme around Independence Day? You will find lots of ideas online for fun activities and games, perhaps you could try out an American sport like baseball or basketball.



Get Adventurous: Water Fun

Get outside and have some fun with these fantastic water games that your group will enjoy.

Water Balloon Throw

Split the group into teams, you can then either play this game one team at a time or run with multiple teams at the same time. You will need to create a wall which could be achieved with a tarpaulin or blanket tied between two poles, this is so that the players on each side cannot see the others. One side are the throwers and the other the catchers. The throwers throw the water balloons over tarpaulin and the catchers attempt to catch them in buckets. This is a timed activity and the team that collects the most water is the winner. Where playing with multiple teams mark out a playing area on each side for each team or create more than one wall.



Holey Bucket

Split the group into teams. For this game you will need bucket that has several holes drilled in it and a larger bucket/tub full of water that they can fill the holey bucket from. The idea of this game is to fill the bucket and move it through an obstacle course and pour into an empty bucket at the end. The amount of water transferred at the end of the game determines the winner. This can be done as a relay or individually and team members are encouraged to try to cover the holes as they manoeuvre the course. You could do this one team at a time or have multiple teams taking part at the same time.





Get Adventurous: Water Fun

Wet Sponge Challenge

Split the group into teams of 4. The object of the game is to transfer as much water as possible from one bucket at the start line using a sponge that is thrown from player to player down the line and squeezed out into the bucket at the finish line.

Teams have a specified amount of time to carry out the activity (suggest 2 or 3 minutes). Players should ideally be 3 to 5 metres apart.



Get Active: Blanket Volleyball

Divide the children into teams of four players and give each team a blanket. One player can hold each corner. Teams must then use their blankets to launch and catch the ball. Teams must move together to put their blanket in position to catch incoming balls. Use a volleyball or beach ball. You can set up the game with two teams like a game of volleyball, or with more teams standing in a circle and simply launching the ball to each other.



Get Active: Sharks & Minnows

One child starts out as the shark and all others are minnows (If the group is large start out with two sharks). Minnows stand in a straight line at one side of the field—facing the shark that is in the centre of the play area. The shark shouts, “Minnows swim to me!” All the minnows run to the other side of the field. If they reach the other side they are safe. If they are tagged they also become a “shark” or “sea weed”. The game continues with the lead shark saying, “Minnows swim to me” and the minnows try to get to the other side...

There are two versions to the game at this point...

1. Once tagged the minnows (who are now sharks) also help run and tag the remaining players. The lead shark is always the caller. The last ‘safe minnow’ becomes the new leader shark.
2. Once tagged the minnows sit down and become sea weed. The sea weed reaches out as the minnow run/ swim by and if tagged—also sit and become sea weed. The last untagged minnow is the new shark.



Get Active: Gutter Challenge



This is a great activity to help develop teamwork and leadership skills. Split your group into teams. Each young person is given a short piece of guttering. Each team forms a straight line and the Leader places a ball on the first member of each team’s guttering.

The idea is the ball has to make it to the other end of the hall into a bucket (but it’s further away than the length of the line of children). Hence, they should work out that the first one has to let the ball roll down and then move quickly to the other end to continue the guttering line all the way to the bucket.

Safety tip would be don’t forget to sand the corner of the guttering down if you buy longer pieces of guttering and cut them down yourself.

Shared by:
35th Liverpool



Get into the Bible: God saw that it was Good

Instructions

Ideally go outside or do this whilst you are at a park or open space. If you are not able to do this outside, then find a suitable image(s) to show to the group.



Read extracts from Genesis 1

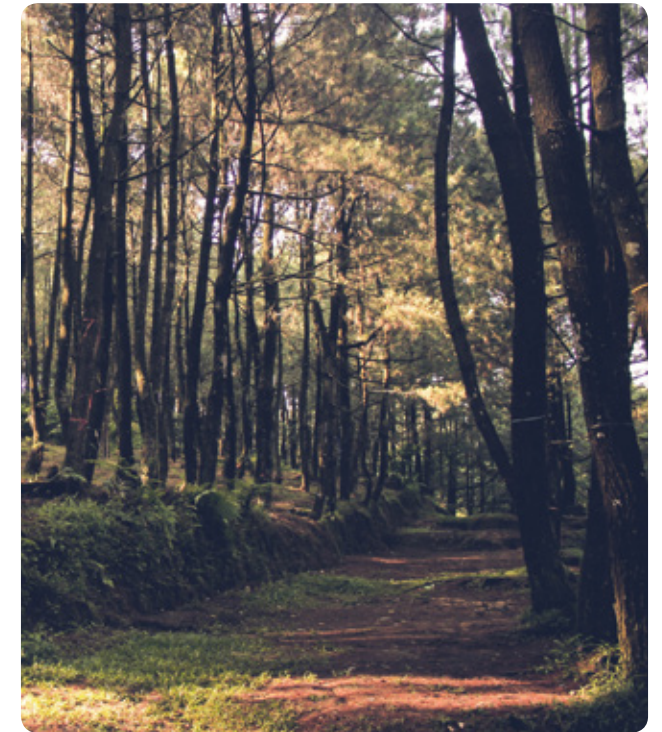
The Bible says: ‘God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good’.

Many Christians believe that the earth and everything on it were planned and created by a loving God. In the book of Genesis, God creates the animals and plants. He creates people and says they are to rule over the other aspects of creation.

Ask the children the following questions:

- What do the children think ‘rule over’ means?
- Does it mean we can do as we wish because we’re in charge?
- What responsibility do we have for nature?
- Have we looked after God’s creation well?

Finish in prayer thanking God for the wonder of nature and saying sorry for the times we have failed to look after it.



Get Adventurous: Simple Kite

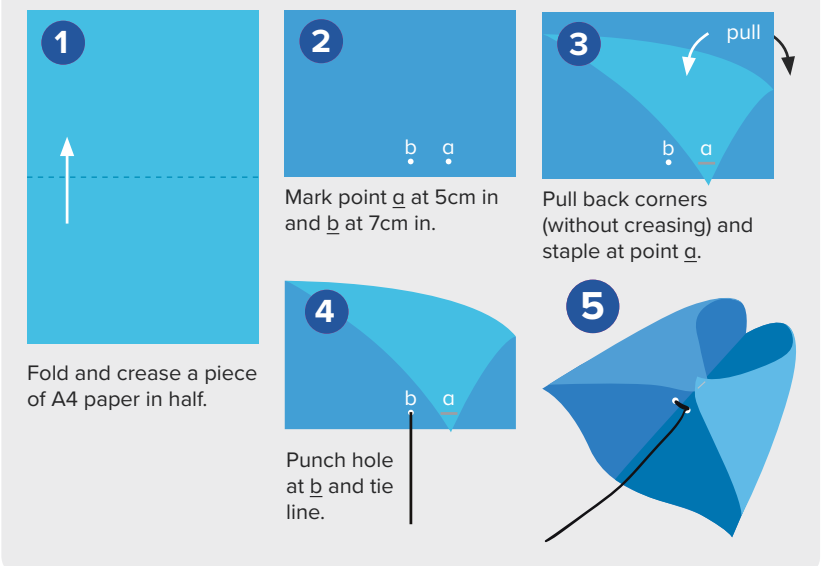
Make this simple kite and then go outside and see if you can get it to fly.

Equipment

- A4 coloured paper
- String
- Stapler
- Hole punch

Instructions

1. If using white paper that you want the children to decorate, do this first before starting the instructions.
2. Fold the sheet of paper in half.
3. Mark two points, A and B on the folded edge of the paper. Point “A” should be 5cm from the end, and point “B”, 7cm.
4. Fold the top corners of the page to point A and staple them in place. **Do not crease the paper**, just bend it back.
5. Punch a hole at point B and attach the string.



Ideas to take this further...

Alternatively or in addition to this you could purchase some kite kits and make and try out a range of different kites (check out a great range of kite kits available to purchase from kitekids.co.uk). Does somebody in your group have a large kite that you could try out? Link this to thinking about the weather and specifically wind.

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



30 MAY - 14 JUL CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 is taking place in England and Wales this summer. What better reason do you need to get your young people playing cricket this summer? Get your young people learning more about the game and giving it a try if it is not something you already do in your programme. Could you challenge another Company to a cricket match?

Find out more about how to play cricket including various short versions (including Kwik Cricket) and related games at ecb.co.uk/play



1 JUNE THE BIG LUNCH

The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours annually in June in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. Why not get your Company Section involved in organising your event? Take advantage of the free event packs, which include recipes, stickers and more.

edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage



1 - 7 JUN VOLUNTEER'S WEEK

Volunteer's Week is a perfect chance to say a massive 'THANK YOU' to all the people who use their time and talents to make the BB happen. It's also a chance to celebrate 'volunteering' in every aspect and the difference it makes to individuals and the wider community. Why not think of ways your section or Company can highlight the difference its volunteering makes to the local community? You could also look to shout about the reasons adults as well as young people give up their time for others. volunteersweek.org

Get Active: Knee Tap

This is really good fun warm-up game that can also be used as an ice-breaker. It's best played without too much extra space, but one big enough to run around in, ensuring that there are no obstacles in the way.

The object is to try to tap the knee of your opponent without them tapping you first. Start by asking the group to split into pairs and explain the object of the game. Each player holds their own knees and faces their opponent – now you're ready to get started!

Include some form of forfeit for those who lose - like five sit-ups, push ups etc. Ask the participants to count the number of wins they get. Repeat the game a number of times, but don't run it for too long – often less is more. See who won the most duels!

Get Into The Bible: 'Dear Theo'

The Scottish Bible Society has launched an accessible version of Luke and Acts in one volume called "Dear Theo – Letters to a Friend", to help young people get to know Jesus better. It's all part of their work to help young people engage with the Bible.

Dear Theo uses the text of the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) which has been produced to be read and understood more easily.

The chapters and verses have also been removed to make it read like other books we are used to. Jason Ramasami's illustrations add a quirky addition to the story providing an opportunity for conversation around what they represent.

SBS is able to offer these books at only £1 a copy when you order ten or more copies.

Find out more at scottishbiblesociety.org/2019/01/dear-theo-letters-to-a-friend/



Get Active: Football Darts

Equipment

- ▶ Football
- ▶ Chalk

Preparation:

In preparation a Leader will need to mark some lines on a wall with chalk (or alternative means) to create a goal (i.e. crossbar and two posts) unless you already have a goal area marked. So, with your goal posts marked out now

add a square on the wall in the middle of your goal. Each element should now be allocated some points, for example post 2 points, crossbar 3 points, middle square 5 points, anywhere else within goal 1 point.

Instructions:

Explain to the group that each part of the goal has a different number of points allocated to it, let them know what points will be given for each part. Players start on 11 points and have to get to 0. Simply in turn each player has a shot at the goal

and based on where the ball touches the goal (wall) they deduct those points from their starting 11. Players have to finish exactly, so if they are on 3 points and they hit the middle square which has a value of 5 points that wouldn't count and they would remain on 3 points. You could make the game more difficult by stating they have to finish by hitting a certain part of the goal or have to have hit the crossbar at least once.

Get Learning: Robo Arm



Humans have lots in common with robots, especially when it comes to arms. The area of robotics is an exciting one – and a technology which has the capacity to improve peoples' lives, particularly those who have physical disabilities.

In preparation a Leader should create a Robo Arm in advance so they know how it works and can show the young people the finished product.

Aim;

Use the completed Robo Arm hand to pick up an object.

Equipment

- ▶ Thin 2 ply cardboard
- ▶ 2 paper straws
- ▶ String
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Hot glue gun or strong tape
- ▶ Ruler
- ▶ Pencil/Pen

Instructions

1. Lay the cardboard flat on a table. Place your arm flat on the cardboard and ask your friend to draw around your arm, hand and fingers.
2. Cut out the Robo Arm.
3. Like your fingers the Robo Arm hand needs three finger bends marked on the cardboard.
4. Cut pieces of straw (12 mm) length and glue to the areas between the finger bends.
5. Thread through lengths of string and glue to the top of each finger point.
6. Cut out cardboard strips for each finger/thumb, and glue or tape the pieces to form a ring.
7. Cut out a cardboard band to go around the palm of your hand, glue or tape to the Robo hand.
8. Cut the strings to length to glue/tape to the cardboard rings. Carefully work out the lengths of strings so you can control the Robo Arm fingers.
9. Try out your Robo Arm to see if it works!

Going further

- Can you make the hand hook, reach or grasp different objects?
- Build a Robo Arm for each of your hands
- Try different materials
- Why not get crafty with your Robo Arm and decorate it?

Staying safe

Use extra caution with the hot glue gun!





Get Creative: Podcasting

Podcasting is an easy way of creating a radio programme which can be shared, potentially, with a worldwide audience. It can be done relatively easily with a mobile device and some fairly cheap (or even free!) software. You do not need to have a connection to the internet whilst recording.

What's more, podcasting can be a really effective and engaging way to develop young people's communication skills – and also spread the word about what your company is up to.

Aim:

To get young people to perform & record their items with confidence and to publish the podcast in order that it can be downloaded & feedback received.

What you'll need:

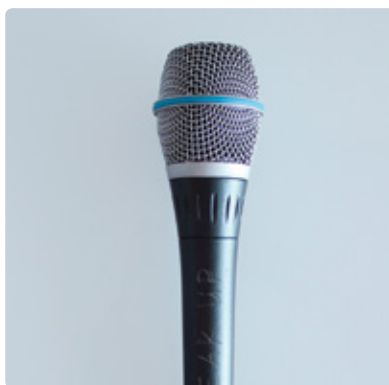
- ▶ Paper and pens for notes/planning
- ▶ Mobile device capable of recording audio
- ▶ External mic (optional)
- ▶ Free podcasting software, such as AnchorFM or Soundcloud
- ▶ Musical instruments being used for any performances (optional)
- ▶ Quiet(ish) space to make your recordings

Instructions

The chances are the young people will know what a podcast is, but not all of them will. A podcast is a radio programme which is available on online platforms such as Spotify and Google Podcasts. People choose their own time to listen to the podcast. A podcast might have regular editions or it may be a one-off.

Have a quick discussion about what makes a good radio show, in the young people's opinions. Points you might cover:

- Variety — a mixture of content
- Regular features to which people tune in
- Music
- Presenters who are lively, engaging
- Good stories



Discuss what kind of items you could include in your show(s). You might have some regular features (such as news, sports/competitions/church updates) and some one-off performances. Some items you could include, if there is a shortage of suggestions:

- Computer games, sport, music
- News – and even news about BB
- Comedy sketches
- Interviews
- 'Human interest' stories – remarkable achievements, helping others, etc.

Once you have a list of ideas, allocate the jobs (pairs work well) and ask them to begin brainstorming what they're going to do. If some young people are unsure about what to do, they could be the 'continuity' guys who MC the programme and introduce each item/act.

Remind the young people that what they're producing will be public so it's important the people's privacy is respected and that they are good ambassadors for the BB and their company. Encourage all the young people to contribute in some way. There will be some who are shy about recording their voice or performing, but they can contribute by helping to write the script.

Aim for a podcast which is about 8-10 minutes long, or shorter if you only have a few young people. Their items are not likely to last more than about 1 minute each.

Recording and Publishing the Podcast

Once ideas are formed and scripts are written, it's time to begin the recording!

- In a quiet space, groups can record their segments onto a mobile device. (most have audio recorders, but if not, there are plenty apps to choose from)
- Remember to have a good introduction and ending and give out a 'call to action' at the end. This might be something simple, like 'Please visit our Facebook page at...'

Apps with built-in recording and editing tools:

The likes of AnchorFM and SoundCloud Pulse apps allow you to record, upload, edit and publish your audio files.

- Upload/record sound effect files into the podcasting software if these are needed
- Edit the audio using an app or software such as 'Audacity'
- Publish your podcast and spread the word!

Going further

The skills used here can be really effective in preparing young people for the likes of job or university interviews. You could also use it to interview someone well-known like your local MP. Why not do a regular podcast telling the 'journey' towards DofE Award or Queen's Badge?

Safety Issues / Risk Assessment

Make sure that you are happy with the recordings before they are published and that no personal details are being shared and all content is appropriate.

Check with parents/carers that they do not object to the young people's voices being available online. You can choose whether to make the podcast publicly available or not, but it is best to check with parents/carers.

Did You Know?

The Boys' Brigade has its very own Podcast channel with terrific stories from leaders and young people who share their experiences of BB. Check it out at boys-brigade.org.uk/media/podcasts

CHALLENGE PLUS

RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



25 MAY – 2 JUN

NATIONAL GO-PADDLING WEEK

Whether canoeing or paddle sports is already part of your section's programme or not, National Go Paddling Week 2019 is the perfect opportunity to try something new and adventurous. This exciting aquatic event kicks off on May 25th and is set to run all the way through to 2nd June. A number of talks and demonstrations will also be held during the week and this could be an ideal opportunity to find out more and whether it could be included in your programme.

Check out gopaddlingweek.info



10 – 16 JUN

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

The focus for 2019 will be the impact of inequality and deprivation on men's health. Reports and materials are available to support your involvement in MHW by visiting the campaign's website

menshealthforum.org.uk/mhw



Get Active: Bleep Test



This is an excellent way to boost fitness and also instil a sense of healthy competition. What's more - this activity can be done with a small or large group.

Basically you're organising a 20 metre progressive shuttle run. The participants begin on the first beep. If they reach the end of the shuttle before the beep, they must wait for the beep before resuming. If three shuttles in a row are not completed before the beep, the test ceases.

Record the level that each participant reaches. Repeat the test in a few weeks' time to check progress.



The audio can be found here bit.ly/bleeptestBB



Get into the Bible: The Greatest Showman



Download the movie or find access to it online and play the clip from **00:53:45 – 01:00:10**. The clip focuses on Phineas premiering his new show to great acclaim. At the reception Barnum takes the opportunity to gloat about his success to his father-in-law and begins to forget why he originally wanted to set up the stage show.

FOR DISCUSSION

- Are there people in our society who need a 'This is me' moment of recognition? Who are they and why do you think society often overlooks them?
- Read together Matthew 9:35-38
- Based upon this passage, can you come up with five things Christians should be doing?
- Is this a realistic expectation of how Christians should behave?
- How would our local area change if some of these actions were put into practice?
- What do you think verse 37 means?

Get Involved: Youth Got The Power!



This is a fun and engaging game to get the group thinking about politics and the importance of young people using their voice effectively.

Start by asking the group about what comes to mind when you think about politics... You can answer in your own way but emphasise that, fundamentally, politics provides an opportunity to make decisions, and the option to share and discuss the reasons behind those decisions.

Let the group know that they are going to play a game about making these kind of decisions but there are two important rules:

- Respect everyone's right to have a different opinion from you.
- Feel free to change your mind, if someone makes a point that you agree with.

TOP TIP: The game is played interactively. One side of the room represents one choice, the other represents another. It's your decision if people can stay in the middle to indicate no strong opinion.

Start with a couple of ice breaker questions. Ask one or two on each side for their reasons:

- Red is a nicer colour than blue.
- McDonalds or Burger King
- Would you rather be 9ft tall or 3ft small?
- Would you rather be incredibly ugly and filthy rich; or the most beautiful person alive and no money at all?
- Would you like to see more badges in the BB?

Ask a few of these, or all of them, depending on time available. The point is to highlight that decisions are easy, fun, silly, and every day. We always make decisions, even if we don't realise it.

But... some decisions can be more controversial:

- School uniforms should be scrapped.
- BB uniform
- We should abolish the monarchy
- Cannabis should be legalised

- Assisted suicide should not be a crime
- Uni should be free at the point of use
- Doctors should be able to refuse to treat people with smoking related illnesses
- Police should be allowed to stop & search anyone at any time

Use some of these, or your own. After a few minutes, ask three-quarters of the group to sit down, asking the opinion of only the remaining quarter.



FOR DISCUSSION...

Was it fair that the last question or two was only asked to 25% of young people? Should all young people have a say?

Unfortunately, this is the reality of decision making within the UK. In the 2015 UK General Election, only 66% of 18-24 year olds were registered to vote. Of them, only 43% voted on the day. That means, only 28% of under-24s voted.

Compare this to the 78% of those over the age of 65 who vote...

Pensioners are entitled to a free bus pass; a free TV license (over 75); the winter fuel allowance; current pensions have been safeguarded and ring fenced.

In the aftermath of the previous two UK elections, it could be argued that policies more friendly to young people haven't been included – such as in education and access to youth services.

Is this related? If you had one spare ticket to a concert: would you give it to a friend you see all the time, or someone you really know? As for politicians, is it easier to cut services for the people who voted them into government, or the people who aren't registered and don't vote?



You can register to vote online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

FOCUS R.O.I.



Juniors' Roll and Bowl

Five companies attended the Midlands Roll and Bowl event on 19th October. Around fifty young people participated in bowling, lazer quest, football and roller skating. It was a great night for all the Companies to meet up and everyone, leaders and young people enjoyed it.

"Raise the Bar" Open Day

As part of the "Raise the Bar" Campaign, the 7th Dublin hosted an open day - an initiative which had not been undertaken in quite some time. The Leaders visited a couple of local schools where there was already a BB presence and utilised the Company social media to raise awareness about the event. Following the open day, 3 new boys have joined the Anchor Section - a success!

Juniors' Quiz Nights

A Juniors' table quiz was hosted by the 1st Kiltegan for the South Eastern District on the 3rd November as part of the Blackstairs Shield competition. The event was again a great success and 1st Dunleckney were very pleased to go home with 1st and 3rd places from the seven teams that took part.

There was great excitement amongst the Eastern District Companies before Christmas as the inter-Company Juniors' quiz was held for the first time in recent years. The 7th Dublin Company hosted the event in Coolock on the 24th November with a total of six teams from three participating Dublin Companies. The 2nd Dublin came out on top that night.



WW1 Remembered

The 7th Dublin Company held a special service to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1 in St. John the Baptist Church, Drumcondra on the 11th November. The service was led by the Rector, Rev. Garth Bunting and the Chaplain of the 7th Dublin, Rev. Norman McCausland. The Captain of the 7th Dublin, Alan Privett co-ordinated the service and music was provided by The Stedfast Association Brass Ensemble. As the church bell tolled 36 times (each representing 1000 Irish soldiers who died in the war), a BB boy or Leader then extinguished a candle, until the church was in darkness, and the Last Post was played by Warrant Officer, Gavin Rothwell. The service was well attended and included members from the 1st Killeshandra Company in Co. Cavan.

South-Eastern District Service

The 1st Dunleckney Company hosted the annual service for the South- Eastern District on the 25th November. Music was provided by "The Band" and many commented on how much they enjoyed the service. As always, it was a lovely social occasion at which 5 Companies from the District attended.

Anchors' Activities

Twenty young people from the South-Eastern District attended the Anchors' Activity event on the 1st December. The Anchors from the 1st Bunclody, 1st Littlewood and 1st Baltinglass played soccer, went on the climbing frames, down the slides and in the ball pools. A great time was had by all.





f /theboysbrigade
t @theBBEngland

Raise the Bar Roadshows

This session we have challenged ourselves to 'Raise the Bar' and build on the quality of what we offer as an organisation. As part of our commitment to raise the quality of experience for children and young people we will be running eight roadshows across the region. The roadshows have created the opportunity to bring leaders together and offer updates and workshops from both a Regional and Headquarters perspective led by members of staff, key volunteers and external partners including Urban Saints and the Additional Needs Alliance.

The programme for each roadshow has included:

- Update on the Raise the Bar Campaign
- Introduction to the new Under 11's Programme
- Workshop on Delivering a Quality Programme
- Update on Online Brigade Manager (OBM) Developments
- Update for Brigade Training Officers on Youth

Leader Training (YLT) Relaunch

- Workshop on Working with Children and Young People with Additional Needs
- Q&A Session with Staff and Key Volunteers

Book to attend

The Roadshows are taking place across the region between March and July, if you have not already had a chance to attend there is still time to book on the remaining events. There is a registration fee of £5 to attend which includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. You can find your nearest roadshow and book to attend by visiting: bbenglandwales.eventbrite.co.uk

If you have any questions about any of the roadshows please contact England & Wales Office at ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk or call **01442 288 558**.

Knife Crime Event



In order to help tackle the growing issue of knife crime in the UK, the Princes Trust hosted a roundtable event at Clarence House attended by HRH Prince of Wales, HRH The Duke of Sussex, along with families and victims of youth crime, as well as community groups and celebrities. Also attending was Shabazz Dyer, aged 17 from 133rd London Company. Shabazz was invited to the event to contribute and promote the importance of uniformed youth groups in offering young people a different route in life away from crime. This was a very high, profile event and a fantastic opportunity to spread the message about the impact of our work.

Shabazz said:

"It was a privilege to represent The Boys' Brigade at such an important event, I genuinely believe our discussions will be useful in decreasing knife crime"

Youth United Consultation Panel



Following the appointment of Lee Bird from 1st Sittingbourne Company on to the panel, Lee has now been appointed Chair of this group, which comprises 11 young people from organisations that are part of the Youth United Foundation. The purpose of the panel is to help shape the work undertaken by the foundation and its member organisations.

This year they are working on creating a number of key principles that youth organisations can sign up to that will encourage social interaction and prevent loneliness. We are also pleased to announce that joining Lee will be Daria Bageac of the 53rd Manchester. Daria will be the second representative of the BB (the only organisation to have two representatives), and the youngest member of the panel at only 14. She will be focussing on gaining research on the benefits of volunteering and the impact of loneliness.

We wish both Lee and Daria all our support as they carry out this important work with the Youth United Network.

Internal and External research

As part of our mission to gain a deeper understanding of how BB is perceived by our members and parents, we are launching a market research project which will enable us to ensure our offering is fit for purpose in the modern day, allowing our young people to flourish and giving them opportunities and experiences beyond those possible at school or at home

In addition to this, we will also be undertaking a piece of public-facing research to explore the UK's general perception of our brand, so that throughout 2019 we can begin implementing changes that ensure our uniformed group is suitable for the needs of families living locally to our Companies.

We would like you to share the link with parents/carers and members to help us gather responses. We'll provide a prize to the Company which generates the most responses, so let the games begin!

As and when the outcomes of the research are achieved, we will share the findings and let you know the next steps. Share the survey link: sv.censuswide.com/survey/cw5073b

Regional Chaplain

Leigh Maydew has been appointed Chaplain for the England Region. Leigh has been involved in BB since he was 8 years old, in recent years has been involved regionally and nationally as a member of the Regional Committee and the Brigade Executive.



KGVI

Saturday 27th July 2019- Friday 2nd August 2019

Much more than a residential experience, KGVI youth leadership training provides you with all you need to know and more to become a Leader in BB, an opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, explore your own faith and to grow in confidence. It enables participants to enhance their leadership skills, share their experiences and develop new ideas and aspirations.

If you are aged between 17 and 21 and want to be fully equipped to move into leadership then this course is for you. Each course takes place over two years at our National HQ, Felden Lodge. The booking form for this year's KGVI course is online (leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm) Do not delay in reserving places for your young people as there is a maximum capacity for each course.

WHAT'S ON - ENG & WALES

UNTIL JULY	Raise the Bar Roadshows Book at bbenglandwales.eventbrite.co.uk
22 JUN	Life 2 the Max Felden Lodge Find out more at thebbinlondon.org.uk
27 JUL - 2 AUG	KGVI Youth Leadership Training Felden Lodge
7 SEP	Brigade Conference Swansea, Wales Find out more at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm

Find a full list of training courses taking place across the country at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/training-database.htm



Raise The Bar Roadshows



During February and March the Scottish HQ team, with the support of volunteers and external agencies, delivered a series of training roadshows tied in with the Brigade's 'Raise The Bar' campaign. Nearly 100 Leaders attended one of the events in Edinburgh, Perth, Banff and Renfrew. In addition to an update on the new programme materials and the Guild project, the events also included training workshops in areas of ASN, mental health, faith development and STEM.

John Sharp, Director for Scotland, said:

"Our Raise the Bar roadshows proved to be a great opportunity to meet with leaders, update them on developments within the Brigade and also spend some time looking at specific areas of training."

"The workshops topics were based on what leaders told us they'd like to focus on through our end-of-session survey"

"We should always be asking the question 'how can we make the BB as good as it can be?' and the Roadshows have provided an excellent platform for everyone involved to share ideas on this. Our hope is that we can secure funding to run similar events again soon."

Scottish HQ delivered these events with the support from YouthLink Scotland's National Voluntary Youth Organisation support fund.

New Youth Forum

During 2018, The Boys' Brigade's Year of Young People Advisory Group ensured a number of Brigade events, programmes and initiatives were all youth-led. The group has focussed much of their recent work on designing a new Youth Forum to make sure the organisation keeps up the momentum of young people being at the centre of what we do. The new 'Youth Voice Committee' will be the lead advisory group for the 'Voice' element of the Brigade's Development Plan in Scotland, acting as the prime consultative body in relation to youth advocacy, youth rights, campaigns and national programme for young people. It will seek representation from each BB area in Scotland.

Further information will be circulated via the E-BB News Scotland.

All Change at SYP!



Following two years in office The Boys' Brigade's two current members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs), David Kong and John Paterson, will be stepping down from their roles this June.

Both David and John have worked hard to represent the Brigade in parliament, but have also championed The Boys' Brigade at local and national level. During their term, they have attended many Company, Battalion and national events, and in September 2018, they fronted the Brigade 'Year of Young People' conference in Edinburgh.

Reflecting on his time as a Boys' Brigade's MSYP, John Paterson MSYP said:

"My time as an MSYP for The Boys' Brigade has been a huge honour and privilege. I've been able to meet many amazing young people in our organisation and I have had the pleasure to represent the youth voice within BB."

David Kong MSYP added:

"It has been a huge privilege to serve as the one of the first MSYPs for The Boys' Brigade. During my term, I had the opportunity to meet a range of remarkable young people and represent their voices at national level. I hope to see our organisation continue to grow, year on year."

KGVI Youth Leadership

KGVI Training is designed especially for young people aged 17 - 21 to support them move into leadership roles within The Boys' Brigade. The experience is like no other offered within the BB and will equip young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become an effective BB leader. What's more, participants will make connections and memories which will last a lifetime.

The two one-week residentials take place at Carronvale House, The Boys' Brigade's excellent training, recreation and residential facility in Larbert, Stirlingshire. Part one takes place July 27th - 2nd August 2019.

More information is available at the leaders' website leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm or by contacting Scottish HQ.

Gold Expedition



You can now register your place on The Boys' Brigade's DofE Gold Expedition. Based at Dundee & Angus Battalion's excellent Scott Lodge facility, the expedition takes place between 19th and 24th June. To find out more, please visit boys-brigade.org.uk/events/ or contact the Scottish HQ office.



Randal McLean

The Brigade family in Scotland has been saddened to learn of the passing of Randal McLean, National Competitions coordinator and former captain of 1st Greenock Company.

The President of Inverclyde & District Battalion Alan Aitken MBE said

"Randal McLean was a BB man through and through. He dedicated his entire life to The Boys' Brigade, both locally and nationally, and his commitment to the organisation was unquestionable. We will miss his wise counsel and his desire to see things done properly."

And in a final mark of respect, one of the largest Guards of Honour in recent memory, with his beloved 1st Greenock Company at the head, was formed as Randal took his final journey at Greenock Crematorium.

For the full obituary please visit boys-brigade.org.uk/Scotland/

New Podcasting Channel!



BB Scotland is always seeking innovative ways to share how The Boys' Brigade is making a difference in the lives of young people, its volunteers and the community. Hosted by 'Anchor.FM', the BB now has its own podcasting channel! You can search for 'The Boys' Brigade' in the podcast section of Spotify or alternatively visit boys-brigade.org.uk/media/podcasts/

Do you have a story to share and want to feature in one of our podcasts? Get in touch by emailing newsdesk@boys-brigade.org.uk

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



8 - 9 JUN

Kilbryde Hike
Find our more at:
kilbrydehike.bbglasgow.org.uk

19 - 24 JUN

BB Gold Qualifying Expedition
Scott Lodge

24 - 27 JUN

Young Leaders' European trip

1 JUL

SHQ Office closed

13 - 19 JUL

KGVI Part 2
Carronvale House

27 JUL - 2 AUG

KGVI Youth Leadership (Part 1)
Carronvale House

You can find out more about getting involved in any of these by emailing scottishhq@boys-brigade.org.uk



KGVI

Planning is well underway for the annual KGVI leadership training course which will be held at NIHQ Newport from 20th to 26th July 2019. This course is designed to equip 17 – 21 year olds with the skills they need for leadership roles in BB. Course participants will cover the core modules of the standard BB Youth Leader Training course alongside time for team building, faith development and some fun too! Interested? Please download the booking form from the downloads section of the NID website at bbni.co.uk/niforms.htm

Autism Friendly Award for Northern Ireland District Disability Team

We are delighted to announce on World Autism Day that the The Boys' Brigade Northern Ireland District Disability Network Team has been recognised with the Autism Friendly Award, from the National Autistic Society – a first for uniformed youth work in NI.

Congratulations to Irene Lowry, Walter Lambe and Colin Millar and a big thank you to them for all their care and work to make BB an inclusive place for young people of all abilities.



Anchor Boy Fun & Games

The Anchor Boy Fun and Games NI final took place on Saturday 26 January in the halls of 1st Milltown BB, Portadown Battalion. Congratulations to the boys from 1st Knocknamuckly who won.

JS Musician of the Year

The Junior Section Musician of the Year was held on Saturday 12th January in Templepatrick Presbyterian Church Hall. Congratulations to winner Lewis Doherty from 1st Ballykelly who played the snare drum in the competition.

Anchor Boy Cheque Presentation

Anchor Boys from 1st Magheragall representing the Belfast Battalion presented Alan Bennett, who volunteers with Down Syndrome NI, with a cheque for £5,500 raised from the Anchor Boy Project in the 17/18 session. A spokesperson for the charity said: 'We are both amazed and delighted at the amount your members have raised for us. We are a micro charity with two staff covering all of NI and without our wonderful volunteers this would not be possible.'

Have you seen Newport's Facebook Page? @BBNewport



Please like and share to spread the word. The Centre is now registered with the NI Tourist Board as a Hostel for Group Bookings - and open for business for group hire for meetings, conferences and residential use! We would love to host some of our Brigade colleagues from England, Wales, Scotland, ROI and further afield. For booking inquiries please contact richard.nelson@boys-brigade.org.uk



TELL IT Company Section Conference

This year the Company Section Committee launched a new Company Section Conference in the Northern Ireland District. Stepping out with boldness and faith they held 'Tell It' on Saturday 19th January 2019 at Newport; following in the footsteps of the Anchor and Junior Section Conferences which have been successfully running for many years.

The response was fantastic, with leaders from across the country gathering to think about the Bible and how we can 'TELL IT' to the young people we work with each week. The keynote speakers Rachel Tweedie and Sarah Coghlan from Scripture Union NI facilitated the conference throughout the day providing advice, tips and creative new ways to engage young people with the Bible. There was also input from Ashley Parks, from The Big House Ireland, an organisation that works with vulnerable young people, who want them to know that there is no difficult day, no dark experience that God cannot bring hope and life into!

Takeaways! Sharing their experiences of the conference, Leaders were saying "Be passionate...with the opportunity we have to tell the boys about the gospel", "Be creative... with the programme and lesson", "Use every opportunity to show them Jesus". One Leader shared how they were leaving "refocused for the great challenge of God's work in young people".

The day was a real encouragement to the leaders who attended, leaving them challenged but having gained confidence to think about the Bible and how they "TELL IT" to their young people; in a way that will impact their lives. Now that was a great way to start 2019!

Skills for Queen's Badge



New Trial Skills for Queen's Badge Course

A new style Skills for Queen's Badge Course was trialled in the Northern Ireland District during the early part of 2019. Based on research on the learning styles of 'Generation Z' the content was re-designed with less time spent on lecture style teaching and more interactive problem solving, teamwork and practical leadership skills introduced. Initial feedback from trainees and tutors was very positive. Spiritual devotions on all courses during the trial was based on The 4 Points initiative: God Loves Me; I Have Sinned; Jesus Died for Me; I Need to Decide to Live For God.

See the4points.com

WHAT'S ON - N. IRELAND

8 & 15 JUN	Youth Leader Training Non-residential
12 JUN	NI District Executive Newport
21 - 23 JUN	Queen's Badge Residential Newport
12 - 15 JUL	NIHQ closed Newport
20 - 26 JUL	KGVI Leadership Training Parts 1 & 2 Newport

For more information on any of the events listed please e mail Dawn at nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

NO OUTSIDERS IN THE BB

PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE
FOR LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN
WHERE **EVERYONE**
IS WELCOME

Vaughan Staples, Area Lead for England & Wales takes a look at the No Outsiders project and how it can support Leaders in the BB and prepare young people for life in modern Britain where Everyone is WELCOME.

We live in a world that appears to be emphasising the differences between peoples. And people seek to exploit those differences to sow division, mistrust and hatred. In contrast to this in 2004 The Archbishop Emeritus of Southern Africa, the Most Revd Desmond Tutu, speaking to the Anglican Communion stated that Jesus had the most radical of ideas, that we are all one family. "Everyone is an insider, there are no outsiders, whatever their beliefs whatever their colour, gender, or sexuality." Can we imagine a world, a continent, a country, a city, a community, a street where everyone is welcome, where everyone is an insider?

“ ‘Faith in Young People’ our mission, expresses our vision and belief in young people as the solution and not the problem

The Boys’ Brigade Mission statement

Over the last session we have increasingly been hearing from Leaders across the England & Wales Region, asking us to provide more support to enable them to ensure The Boys’ Brigade is a place where everyone is welcome.

We have recently come across the ‘No Outsiders’ project, which was setup by a teacher and is being used in schools and organisations across the country – it helps to support those working with young people and provides insight and ideas to support us in making the BB accessible.

“ Our aim is to grow so that any young person, wherever they live or whatever their background, can enjoy being a member.”

The Boys’ Brigade Mission statement

We want any young person, wherever they live and whatever their background, to feel welcome; we are preparing young people for a life in the 2020’s where they will live alongside and work alongside diverse groups of people. Furthermore, we are in an enviable position, able to promote harmony and cohesion among our young people with our Christian ethos as a foundation.

Many schools across the UK are using a “No Outsiders” ethos as their foundation for teaching young people about equality and diversity, using the phrase coined by Archbishop Tutu.

Article continued →

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

EQUALITY TREE - WE ARE ALL EQUAL



The Equality Act 2010 tackles disadvantage and discrimination. There are 9 protected characteristics covered by the act: These characteristics are shown on our Equality Tree.

The No Outsiders Story: Andrew Moffat

Andrew is an Assistant Head Teacher at a Community School in Birmingham. The No Outsiders scheme has now been rolled out across Schools in several local authorities across the country, receiving backing from Ofsted and the Department for Education and Andrew has published a book 'No Outsiders in our School; Teaching the Equality Act'. In 2017 Andrew was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for services to equality and diversity in education and in 2019 has been listed as one of the Top 10 finalists in the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize.

The "No Outsiders" ethos for schools was created by Assistant Head Teacher, Andrew Moffat. Using a collection of engaging picture books, Andrew wrote a series of lesson plans for primary schools based on the Equality Act 2010, to teach children about equality and diversity and ensure that every child knows they belong; all children are different, but no one is left out.

The scheme also uses news pictures and stories to promote community cohesion in assemblies and collective worship.

The challenge for us all is to identify an ethos that works for us, that can be used across our groups to promote the Christian values of community cohesion and togetherness; do our members of different races know they belong in our groups? Do our members of different faith, members who have disabilities, members who come from different families or recognise their own different sexual orientations all belong? In 2019 our challenge is to ensure that ALL young people have a place in our groups; those with black skin, white skin, brown skin; those with disabilities, those with different faiths or no faith, those who are male, female or have other gender identities, as well as other protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

The No Outsiders project that is working so well in schools can also work in the BB and help support your Company. It centres around a language; a consistent ethos driven by understanding that difference is recognised and celebrated. We are countering the narrative of hate and division that some young people may be hearing (and some experiencing) outside our groups. We are promoting a very clear narrative; everyone is different but **there are no outsiders**.

In our Company meetings with young people, we can hold reflection and devotional times; our younger groups, could utilise a No Outsiders picture book with a discussion around themes of difference and acceptance and a role play using the characters and situations or an art session using the story as stimulus. There are packs available of picture books for these discussions which would work well with Anchors and Juniors and Company Section and Senior groups could use the images of news stories available at equalitiesprimary.com which provides questions for discussion and a conclusion for Leaders to use.

To help get you into the project there are two activities which are ideal for you to try out with your young people. The first resource is for the under 11s and focuses on the story book 'Can I join your Club?' by John Kelly and Steph Laberis. This is a great way to get young people to identify their differences but at the same time realise that we are all part of the same club, the same BB family.

For the over 11s there is a photo of a recent North Pole expedition and a number of discussion points to look at how the world has viewed people's differences and attached them to their abilities and encourages all of us that regardless of our differences, we all have abilities that mean any achievement is possible. You can find both of these resources and additional materials at equalitiesprimary.com.

As our young people develop in to global citizens, The Boys' Brigade must recognise they are the solution to the challenges facing the world today. Our own challenge is to identify a consistent ethos across our groups that promotes the crucial message of harmony and cohesion in the world. To build an ethos where there are "No Outsiders", and to follow the example set by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is a good start.

I hope that you feel inspired to find out more about the project and will consider how it could support your Company. If you have any questions or would like to share stories/pics with us then please do get in touch with me at v.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk.

Vaughan Staples

Area Lead for England & Wales and International Affairs

Download

Download the **Equality Tree** poster which you could use within your Company and display on your noticeboard at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/nooutsiders.htm



Catching up with Young Leader, Lee Bird

The Boys' Brigade is blessed to have so many people willing to use their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of young people. Some of our Leaders also use their time to champion and represent the BB at a wider level. **Lee Bird**, Officer in the 1st Sittingbourne Company and U26 member on England & Wales Regional Committee, has also served on the Youth United Foundation's (YUF) Youth Panel since last session.

The Youth Panel is made up of young people aged 14 to 24 who are currently members of the uniformed organisations that Youth United represent, and will lead on a research piece as part of a UK Government-funded research programme into Loneliness.

The **Gazette** caught up with **Lee** to find out more about this role, the work of YUF, and his experiences as a BB leader and member...

Tell us a little about your role with YUF Youth Panel...

"I have the pleasure of Chairing the YUF Youth Panel this year, which means I can use my experience of being part of the Panel last year, and my knowledge of being a BB leader, to support other members of the panel. I have helped plan the sessions, as well as having discussions with the staff team at YUF about how to get the best out of the young people. I also get to take part in the research, which is what the panel is all about! We're looking into loneliness among young people and the effect youth organisations have on young people, which is so important and something that should be talked about a lot more."

How do you think YUF funding can make a difference - for young people and local communities?

"The funding we received from last year's research is so important, not just for the BB nationally, but locally as well it will help us reach into communities and areas where young people can't currently take part in BB activities. Any opportunity to make the BB more inclusive and more accessible is a massive help, and the funding will help us do that, Youth organisations such as The Boys' Brigade have been proven to give young people a good start in life - providing good role models, opportunities and experiences. For me, as a young person the opportunity to be part of The Boys' Brigade has been invaluable."



The Youth Panel is giving a voice and responsibility to young people. Why do you think this matters?

"The youth panel is a really important part of the Youth United Foundation because it puts young people at the heart of its work. The panel is able to give opinions and perspectives on topics that concern them, that will be different from what staff members or adult volunteers think. Taking part in the research activity will give the panel members the opportunity to really influence the work of the BB, and the YUF. I believe that this is so important, especially in a time when young people's views are often ignored. I am also really keen to make sure the panel members leave the panel having felt they have been part of something important and that will have a real impact, so as chair I'm going to be looking at ways that the panel members can really develop and push themselves this year."

What does The Boys' Brigade mean to you?

"I've been involved in The Boys' Brigade for 18 years, so it's a massive part of my life! I've been lucky enough to represent the BB at lots of different events and in lots of different roles, and my favourite part of that is having the chance to meet young people and hear their stories about how they got involved in the BB. The Boys' Brigade does amazing work and it's a real privilege to be a small part in that. Having grown up in BB and still being a big part of what I do, it is very hard to stop, which is why I'm still so involved."

If you could change one thing about BB what would it be?

"I would make leaders wear armbands as part of their uniform! As a young person, you spend a lot of your time working towards all your badges, and then when you finally get them, they end up in a 'BB drawer'. I would love to wear my Queen's badge on my arm when I'm out and about celebrating the great work of the BB. (I actually have the pin badge on my tie- not in the uniform regulations I know but I've got away with it so far!)"

You are on an overnight expedition and you're allowed one luxury item – what would it be and why?

"What a great question! I've spent a lot of my time on expeditions with The Boys' Brigade and, whilst not strictly an "item", I would bring my friend and co-leader Tim! We've spent many hours in a tent together during Duke of Edinburgh's camps, or battalion camps (and all the others!), and we've become a bit of a double act. (It also helps that he's quite handy when it comes to cooking great meals out of not a lot!)"

The England & Wales Region was successful in receiving two YUF Grants earlier this session which will support organisational infrastructure and help pilot initiatives to strengthen specific ways of working, one such example is our work with young people with additional needs.

Follow Bill on Twitter at **@LeeBird**



GLOBAL FOCUS: Caribbean Island of St. Maarten



The Caribbean Island of St. Maarten has several Boys' Brigade Companies, on the Dutch side of the Island is the 1st St. Maarten connected with the Philipsburg Methodist Church in the centre of the capital, there is also the 3rd St. Maarten of the Tabernacle Methodist Church, the 7th St. Maarten of The Bible Baptist Church, and on the French side of the Island, is the 4th St. Maarten of the Ebenezer Methodist Church.

On 6th and 7th September 2017 the island was hit by Hurricane Irma (as reported on in the Autumn 2017 Gazette), which caused widespread and significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. As soon as the curfew was over the 1st St. Maarten Company immediately restarted continuing with their weekly BB programme. The other three Companies are reported to be still operating; however, they are not meeting on a regular basis. The 1st

St. Maarten led by Captain James Gumbs is ably run by the 8 NCO's, with a strength of 22 Boys. The 1st St Maarten work very closely with the 2nd St Maarten Girls' Brigade Company, meeting together for some activities during the week and joining together in Church parades and leading the praise and worship in the Church on the 5th Sunday. Both Companies are integral to the Philipsburg Methodist Church family, participating and attending the Sunday service in full uniform, every second Sunday, sometimes parading with their drum band.

The 1st St. Maarten Company celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2018, with an Anniversary dinner, and Church Parade in December 2018.

The Caribbean Regional Fellowship is planning a camp in 2020 and it will be held on the neighbouring Island of Anguilla July, and invitations are open to international visitors.

Global Round-up

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



The project supports those less fortunate by providing food hampers and grants their wishes for items such as rice cookers, toasters and pillows.



4th Christchurch Company spent a weekend camp at the Waipara Adventure Centre. The young people tried out numerous activities, including gorge walking, kayaking, tubing and archery.



After ten years, BB Hong Kong's Training Centre is moving to a new home



The Malaysian company has added bagpipe classes to its programme this spring with the plan to integrate this into their wider bands work.



Young leaders from BB Indonesia's 6th District attended their levels 1 and 2 of leadership development in February.



BB members from Australia visited The Brigade in Neenah, based in Wisconsin in USA and shared some programme ideas including teaching the Brigaders how to play Netball.



We in the UK love a bit of toilet humour – but for billions of people, the lack of a proper toilet is no laughing matter. Even a basic loo can save lives, protecting families from disease, keeping them safe and restoring their dignity.

Seren Boyd from Toilet Twinning shares how BB Companies can 'twin' their toilets and help families overseas take a big first step out of poverty.

What is Toilet Twinning?

Toilet Twinning is a quirky fundraising campaign which raises funds for lifesaving loos, clean water and hygiene education in some of the world's poorest communities. The scheme, which is part of the Christian organisation Tearfund, invites you to twin your loo at home, work, Church or venue with a latrine overseas and so help a family living in poverty have a proper toilet for the first time. For a £60 donation, you can twin with a household toilet and receive a certificate with a photo of your twin; for £240, you can twin a school toilet block.

“A child under five dies of disease linked to dirty water and poor sanitation every two minutes.”



Why do toilets matter?

Toilet Twinning is a fun campaign that addresses a serious problem: one in three people worldwide – 2.3 billion people – still don't have access to a safe toilet. This leaves families vulnerable to sickness and disease so parents have less time to earn money or farm. Without toilets, women and girls are at risk of attack, especially if their culture dictates that they have to wait until dark to venture into the bush. If there are no toilets at school, girls miss class during their periods – up to a week each month – or drop out of school altogether.

“844 million people don't have clean water close to home.”

What work does Toilet Twinning fund?

We work through local partners who make sure communities have access to clean water and teach people why proper sanitation and good hygiene are so important. We focus on enabling and equipping people to find their own solutions to their problems. So, importantly, while our partners provide training and materials to construct toilets, the families themselves build their own latrines. This means they will keep on using it.

“Since Toilet Twinning began in 2010, it has twinned more than 107,000 toilets and funded projects in 30 countries.”



How could your Company get involved?

Get your BB Company involved and help make a difference, by increasing awareness through your young people and Church and take a hands-on approach to raise money and support the work of Toilet Twinning.

Could you hold a fundraiser – perhaps on **World Toilet Day (19th November)?**

Check out some of the ideas below:



'Blue for the Loo Day' or a 'Do for a loo':

Invite everyone to dress in blue and donate towards a toilet twin. You could combine this with a toilet-themed party with a quiz and games such as 'Chicken poo bingo' and 'Build-a-bog'

📄 (downloadable online – see below).



Get sporty:

Hold a sponsored water-carrying walk or a 'Run for the loo'. The average round-trip for collecting water in the developing world is 3.7 miles.



(No) Soggy Bottoms bake sale:

You can't go wrong with a toilet-themed 'Bake for bogs' and perhaps a 'Guess the weight of the cake' contest. Try chocolate logs, toilet-shaped biscuits or poo emoji cakes.



Loo-se change:

Make loo-roll collecting pots and challenge your Company to fill them with loo-se change, by inviting people to 'spend a penny' when they... do their business.



To find resources, more fundraising ideas and to order a fundraising pack, visit: toilettwinning.org/uniformed-groups/

CAMPSITES & RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

Auchengillan Outdoor Centre

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

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

Norfolk / Felden Lodge Campsites

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

☎ 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.

☎ Jamie Copson on 01905 640 084
@ 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 2018 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.

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☎ 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
northstaffs.boys-brigade.org.uk

1st Yeovil Campsite, Corfe Castle Fully equipped for 60 persons 14' x 14' ridge tents plus 70' x 30' Marquee & 30' x 13' Toilet tent all in white canvass. Bookings now for 2019-21.

☎ 01935 422292
@ graham.voizey@btinternet.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
broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk/

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centre's and items wanted or for sale should be sent to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk. Advertisements for the next issue (Autumn 2019) should be received by 31st May 2019. 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.



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LIFE 2 THE MAX

ON SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019
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WHERE? ESSEX COUNTRYSIDE

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WWW.WALTHAMWALK.ORG.UK

NEW

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Product: 186000



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JUNIORS BLUE BASEBALL CAP

Product: 117101



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Product: 117041



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Satin finished silver chrome pen engraved with BB 'adventure begins here' logo supplied in a presentation box.

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Product: 116881



A stylish notebook with a soft-feel hardbacked black cover, with contrasting coloured elasticated strap and page marker and curvy ballpen. Embossed with 'the adventure begins here' logo

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DRAWSTRING BAG

Product: 116711



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