

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE

GAZETTE



ISSUE: SUMMER 2020

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Summer 2020:

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

Please send all contributions to

gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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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For More Information

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MISSION AND VALUES**

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Welcome

Like many of our leaders, I joined The Boys' Brigade as a young person, when my best friend at school invited me along to the Junior Section, not realising that forty years later I would still be involved! Over the years I have served the organisation in many capacities. I was instrumental in re-forming the 21st Northampton Company, serving as Captain for thirteen years. I have been a Battalion President and was a member of the Brigade Executive before joining the staff team at BBHQ.

I believe my experience as a volunteer leader, as well as the insight from a staff perspective, has been invaluable preparation for this role.

This is my first "Welcome" article so I thought I should share something of the experiences that have led me to this point. But don't worry, this won't be a regular thing! I believe my role is to focus on telling the story of the organisation and not merely my own journey.

We are living in unprecedented times, and like many of you I'm having to take decisions that even a month ago I hadn't even imagined. Although the world around us seems scary and uncertain, I have been inspired by the creative ways in which our young people, volunteers and staff team have found to stay connected and keep the BB adventure alive during these difficult days. The #BBatHOME programme is a good example of this and is providing opportunities for us to engage with many young people and their families for the first time.

As well as coping with the present, it is important at times like this we also have one eye on the future, and the possibilities that await us, both for ourselves and our organisation.

The last few years have been about re-positioning ourselves as an organisation, the Raise the Bar campaign, launch of the new under 11's programmes and strategic review consultation have all been part of that, and prepare the ground for the new Strategic Plan which will be launched in September. The new Strategic Plan will run for five years and I hope will shape the priorities and plans for us all over the coming years.

However, before we start charging into the future, it is important that we take a moment to pause, to reflect

on the reason we are doing this, the purpose of the organisation and the motivation we each have to be involved at this time.

A few years back, as part of the introductions on a course I was attending, we were challenged to describe our organisation in a phase or sentence. My description came from the first line of our mission statement "We are an organisation that has faith in young people". I went on to explain that we believed in the ability and talents of young people to shape our organisation and the world around them, and that the Christian Faith and experiencing Jesus in our lives is an important message for young people too.

If you were asked to describe the organisation in a phase or sentence what would you say? Perhaps it's not something you have ever thought about before.

For our future plans to be successful they must be rooted in the very purpose and reason for our work. Over the next few months and in readiness for the launch of the Strategic Plan this will be our focus.

Our core Vision, Mission & Values is the theme of this issue of the Gazette and is the focus of the Vision article (see page 6). We will also be communicating these through social media and other channels over the coming weeks.

As we make plans for the future, whether that be in our Companies, Battalions, Districts, Staff Teams or as Trustees, the challenge for us all is to ensure that our vision **"that children and young people experience life to the full"** is at the heart of everything we strive to achieve.

That we demonstrate that we have **"Faith in Young People"** and provide them with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian Faith.

We have a great story to tell, a story that can honour our heritage, celebrate the achievements of the present, whilst having confidence in the future for the next stage of the journey.

So, back to describing The Boys' Brigade in one sentence – have you thought what you would say?

With very best wishes and thanks for all you are doing.

Jonathan

Jonathan Eales Chief Executive



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



Living out our Vision, Mission and Values

So our young people can experience the truly abundant life God has for them!

Some of you may have spent time since the start of the year looking back over the previous twelve months asking yourself "how did we get on?" But in 2020 it is different to any other year - we are now in a new decade, we have entered "the roaring twenties".

A century ago this meant, for most places, the growth of cities, the rise of a consumer culture, the upsurge of mass entertainment, and the so-called "revolution in morals and manners". This represented liberation from the restrictions of the country's Victorian past.

Gender roles, hair styles and dress all changed profoundly during the 1920s. But for many other factors the nation seemed to be changing in undesirable ways. The result was a thinly veiled "cultural civil war", in which a pluralistic society clashed bitterly over such issues as foreign immigration, evolution, racism, women's roles, and race.

How far have we come forward?

I started this year thinking it would be a year for perfect vision (20:20, see what I did there?). A year that God reveals a vision for us all moving forward, an inward glimpse to his Kingdom. But it has been a very different start to the year. The nation is on lockdown, the typical rhythm and patterns don't exist and we are all wondering what a world post-Covid might look like. Are we ever going back to "normal"? After the Spanish flu pandemic of 1920 they probably were thinking the same thing.

We still need to ask ourselves if our mission and values are fit for achieving God's vision for us... because I believe we are agents of change, people who can affect the lives of young people so profoundly, especially considering the abundant life God has made for them to encounter even more so in a new landscape.

The Boys' Brigade's mission is to provide young people with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith. Is the way we are executing this mission in line with God's vision? Our mission is to set them up in such a way that next year, next decade or next century people are forever changed by the investment we have made in sharing God's vision with this radical generation regardless of what they may face!

We have a call upon our lives to develop values of being inspiring, caring, trusting and rooted in faith. Are these values shining through in all that we do? Because the reality is the issues of a century ago are just as much issues today as they were then. If we want to make these truly things of the past our young people need these values to be in their DNA!

I believe if we live out our values for these young people, we are serving and driving the mission we have forward and this in turn will provide space for our young people to experience the truly abundant life God has for them! That is what I want to see throughout the rest of this year!

Dez Johnston

Director, Alpha Scotland



Dez heads up Alpha Scotland supporting churches all over the nation. He also lives as part of an incarnational urban mission team with his wife Fi, daughter Amber and their new wee boy, Cody. When he is not cooking for his fam, Dez loves music, the PS4 and sunglasses! He also has a small addiction to really, really old books and working out new ways of communicating to our culture.

our VISION, MISSION &



OUR **VISION** IS THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE 'LIFE TO THE FULL.' **JOHN 10:10**

VALUES



There is a well told story of John F Kennedy visiting the NASA space centre in 1961. During the visit the President met a man carrying a broom and asked him about his role. The janitor apparently replied, “I am helping to put man on the moon”.

A great story that makes a great point. At its peak NASA's Apollo programme employed 400,000 people. Thousands of people - all united, all connected, from janitor to astronaut working collectively towards the same common purpose and vision.

The Brigade may not be as big or have as complicated a structure as NASA, but we are an organisation of many different parts and many different people. We all care deeply about what we are doing and want it to be successful, we all have ideas, views and opinions about the best way this should happen.

Last year we conducted a strategic review to help shape and inform the direction we take over the next five years – different ideas were expressed though very clear common themes emerged, including the need to focus above all else on the **quality of experience offered to young people**.



You can read the findings of the Strategic Review by going to:

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

2020 VISION

Beyond and above our new strategy, which will be launched later in the year and which sets out our direction of travel for the next five years, lies our vision, mission and values, and indeed the Object.

Our Vision explains why we do what we do.

Our Mission explains what we do.

Our Values describe who we are and what we believe

Over the last two years we have taken opportunities to explore with the Brigade family what they think about our vision and mission, and what they believe our values are. We have consulted with young people, leaders (including through the recent strategic review survey), staff and Trustees.

This work was sparked by the absence of any clearly articulated organisational values. Obviously, we are not a value-less organisation. The values are there, implicitly, but we don't communicate them in any real way.

We have brought together the learning from what we have heard from the Brigade family and have outlined this below. To be clear this is not about diluting our Object- **the advancement of Christ's kingdom** remains the bedrock of the Brigade.

Article Continued →

Our Vision

Our vision is that “children and young people experience life to the full”.

A direct reference to John, Chapter 10, verse 10, where Jesus says that “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Our prayer and hope must surely be that children and young people experience life to the full through coming to know Jesus for themselves.



Our Mission

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

As Jonathan mentioned in his welcome to this Gazette (see page 4), we are an organisation that has **Faith in Young People** – believing in their abilities and talents to shape our organisation and the world around them. We also believe in, and our work is fundamentally about, providing opportunities to explore the Christian Faith and for those young people to come to know Jesus.

Our Values

Our values describe who we are and what we believe:

Faith

We are a Christian youth organisation, and our work is rooted in the Christian Faith. We have a hope in Christ as our anchor that sustains us throughout life (Hebrews 6:19).

Caring

The Boys' Brigade is a family. We believe in building loving, caring and inclusive relationships, as well as creating a safe and fun environment that is supportive and nurturing. We are responsive to the needs and aspirations of others regardless of ability, identity or background.

Inspiring

We seek to inspire children and young people, challenging them to live their lives in the fullest sense. We also believe in people's abilities to inspire and act as positive role models to others.

Trusting

We are honest and trustworthy. We seek to empower children and young people to participate and to lead, believing in their skills, abilities and ideas.

In any context vision, mission and values are essential for an organisation to function effectively, providing identity and a sense of shared purpose. They are important for every aspect of our work, including:

- Guiding how we work
- Having self confidence
- Communicating and engaging with the world

Guiding our work

At my daughters' primary school the pupils are all very clear about their school's values, what they mean and why they are important. Their sports hall has them emblazoned on the walls, the pupils have given presentations to parents on them, the Head Teachers email signature has them immediately under her name, and they are referred to in reports.

Our work, in every way and across every part of the organisation, should be guided like a compass by our vision, mission and particularly our values. Our actions and decision making must be based on who we are and what we stand for.

Self-confidence

Being confident and clear in our vision, mission and values allows us to **be bold and strong** in who we are, to be self-confident. It is about us being unified at a foundational level. It is about us being bold and being strong, banishing fear and doubt – as described in chapter 1 of the book of Joshua.

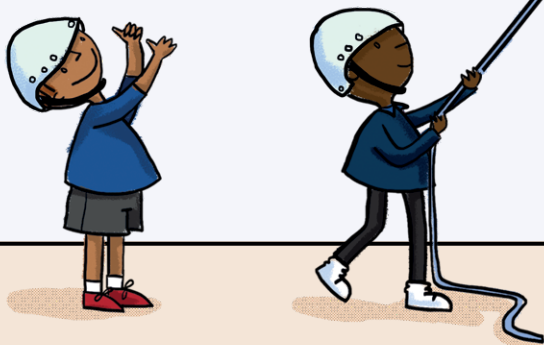
“ Be Bold and Be Strong

Joshua 1

Let's stop comparing ourselves with other organisations.

We have much to be proud of, not least our history and heritage but also our who, what and why - which is still as relevant today as its ever been, if not more so.

Let's be confident in who we are – a Christian youth organisation, and also how we engage with our partners, the most important partner being the local Church. We have so much to offer in terms of outreach to young people across the country.



Communicating and engaging with the outside world

One of the constants that I have heard since starting in post three years ago, are leaders' frustrations with our profile and organisational visibility. I think we have to acknowledge at the start of a new decade that our public profile is not huge.

So how do we tell people about The Boys' Brigade. Well marketing has changed over the last few decades to become increasingly about values. For example, technology giants will talk less about the specifications of their product and more about what they say it is designed to give the user – bold words like 'creativity' and 'freedom'. Adverts for things like kitchens now even attempt to connect with selling the idea of 'family', rather than how good the drawers or cupboards are!

Vision, Mission and Values is about engaging with people – a parent, a teacher, a potential donor - who aren't aware of us or who have existing preconceptions which need challenged.





Advancing Christ's kingdom

Refocusing and re-affirming our Vision, Mission and Values is not about changing or diluting the Object of the Brigade.

In order to live our Object it is important though that we connect and engage with the post-Christian world. It is an unfortunate fact, but a fact none the less, that the fastest-growing 'religious' group of our time is those who say they have no religion.

In an increasingly post-Christian world, where we operate as a counter-cultural organisation – we must explain and expand upon 'Advancing Christ's kingdom'. To a person who has little or no base knowledge of the Bible, the Gospels, or of concepts like salvation we must find a way need to engage with them – otherwise we cannot meet our Object.

I remember attending a youth conference in Scotland in 2018 – where speaker after speaker referred to the 'new' idea of love in youth work. We should be able to say that as a Christian youth organisation love has been central to our work for 136 years.



However, have we ever told people that, have we celebrated that, have we shouted it from the rooftops?

Unfortunately I believe we have fallen behind secular youth organisations, who have claimed and are claiming these kinds of values in their work. We have not made the most of what should be one of our greatest strengths.

Explaining to people why we do what we do, should be strong ground for us – after all we do have an anchor. Love is important to our work, not because it's becoming fashionable to say that, but because Christ's kingdom is a kingdom based on love – that's a message that's over 2,000 years old.





What happens next?

Please don't mistake this as an academic or 'tick box' exercise. This is not just about the wording in an annual report, or the 'About Us' section of a website. It is not something that we can say is complete now that an article has been written in the Gazette.

In many ways this is the easy bit... we now have to get on with living this all out in practise and in action.

I believe the new strategy, which was approved by the Executive in February is a first step in expressing this work. I believe the focus on the quality of experience for young people – roots us firmly back to our Object, Vision, Mission and Values.

To fully live our vision, mission and values we will all need to incorporate and embed them into everything we do.

Being confident in vision, mission and values is not something that will happen overnight, but I would urge every Company, Battalion and District to consider this work, and to consider how it is reflected in what you do, where you spend your time, energy and focus. We should always be asking the question - does this, and how does it, relate to our Object, Vision, Mission and Values. If it doesn't then maybe, it's not the right priority.

My prayer as we move into a five year period, that I believe will determine the future of the Brigade well beyond 2025, is that we are firmly focused on what we do and why we do it.

John Sharp

Director for Scotland



Follow John on Twitter at:
[@johnbbscotland](https://twitter.com/johnbbscotland)

“ The most dangerous phrase in the world is we have always done it that way

Rear Admiral Grace Hopper





Bringing the BB adventure to you...



Launching #BBatHOME Programme

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the UK, our face-to-face meetings with over 40,000 children and young people have had to be suspended.

In response to this, on Friday 20th March we launched #BBatHOME a new programme to enable The Boys' Brigade to continue to reach out to members and non-members alike with opportunities to learn, grow and discover through a balanced programme of activities in their own homes supported by their parents/carers.

Through this alternative programme we believe we will see...

- opportunities for all our members to engage in a fun and exciting programme of activities.
- children and young people getting into the Bible and having the opportunity to come to know Jesus for themselves.
- leaders continuing to engage with the BB family and build on the well-established relationships with children and young people and their parents/carers.
- The Boys' Brigade sharing a positive message of hope by showing how we care for and support our members and their families.
- opportunities for children and young people to be recognised for their participation and achievements.
- engagement by non-members, recognising that this will be a difficult time for children and young people who are restricted in their activities.

There are a number of elements to the #BBatHOME programme including:

Weekly Activity Packs

Each week we are providing an activity pack containing 6 activities, one from each of our Activity Areas (Get Active, get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get into the Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning) for Anchors, Juniors and Company/Seniors age groups.



Competitions

Opportunities for children and young people to get involved with a number of competitions – there are prizes to be won!



We've launched the first of our #BBatHOME competitions with **BB's Got Talent**, an opportunity for children, young people and leaders to show off their talents, whether it is singing, dancing, playing an instrument, magic, comedy, a skill (i.e. circus, sports, etc) or anything else!

Find out more at

boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome-competitions/

Weekly Devotional Videos

Each week we will be sharing devotional videos for leaders and children & young people to watch.

Guidance has also been put together for leaders, which provides more detail about what the **#BBatHOME** programme offers and ideas about how leaders can deliver the programme to members through their parents/carers.



Running 'Virtual Sessions'

To support the **#BBatHOME** programme, we have been looking at ways for our leaders and young people to stay safely connected through 'Virtual Sessions' during this period. As such we now have some guidance for leaders on how to setup and host interactive virtual sessions with children & young people, in line with what is happening with schools and other youth organisations.

Check out the 'Staying Connected – Virtual Sessions' guidance at boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome-bb-leaders/

We've had a fantastic response so far to the **#BBatHOME** programme, with members and non-members alike getting involved, trying out the weekly activities, entering competitions and engaging with our devotional videos. The programme is really enabling us to stay connected with our members and reach out into the wider community to support children and young people through these challenging times.

There's been lots of activity on social media with great photos and videos being shared by parents/carers of children and young people taking part in the activities and challenges. You can catchup with all that is going on by searching for **#BBatHOME** on social media.

If you're Company has not yet got involved and shared the programme with members then we would really encourage you to do so. The first step is to organise a meeting with your staff team by phone or video conference so you can have some discussion about what you might want to do and how you will go about it.



You can find all the guidance and resources at boys-brigade.org.uk/BBatHOME/

#BBATHOME SNAPSHOTS

MURRAY, 13TH MOTHERWELL
NOAH'S ARK ORIGAMI



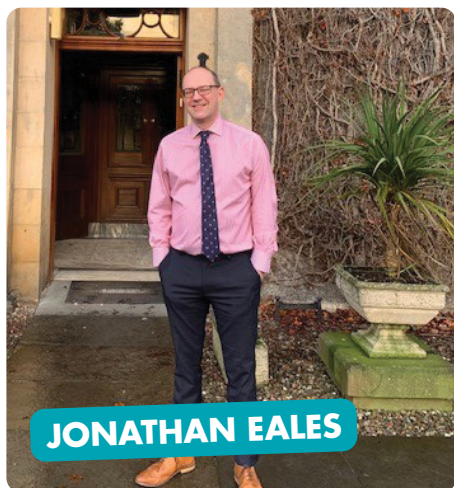
JOE, 10TH ENFIELD ANCHORS
RECYCLED MONSTER



11TH NORTHAMPTON JUNIORS
GOD'S GOT THE WHOLE
WORLD IN HIS HANDS



51ST BONNYRIGG JUNIORS
WATCH IT GROW



New Chief Executive Appointed

The Brigade Executive is delighted to announce that it has appointed Jonathan Eales as Chief Executive with effect from 1st April 2020.

Jonathan originally joined the Brigade as a young person, and over the years has served the organisation in many capacities. He was instrumental in re-forming the 21st Northampton, serving as Captain for thirteen years. He has been a Battalion President and was a member of the Brigade Executive before joining the staff team at BB Headquarters.

The Brigade welcomes Jonathan to this new role as we prepare to launch our new Strategic Plan at Brigade Conference in September, which will help shape the future of the movement. The Executive has also agreed to discontinue the use of the title "Brigade Secretary" with immediate effect.

Please pray for Jonathan as he prepares to respond to God's call to serve in this new role.



UK Parliament Week is back!

Taking place from 1st until 7th November 2020 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 130 BB Companies got involved in events and this year it is hoped that even more will sign up! Once you register you'll be sent a free kit packed full of goodies including a booklet tailored to BB, bunting, a ballot box and more.

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



Sign up by visiting:
ukparliamentweek.org

Update from meeting of Brigade Executive

The Brigade Executive, our Trustee board met on 22nd & 23rd February and the following key decisions were taken:

- **Strategic Plan**

Following a presentation from the Senior Management Team (SMT) and discussion the Executive agreed a new five-year Strategic Plan to run from September 2020. The Plan will be launched at Brigade Conference in Birmingham.

- **Sub-committees**

The meeting was updated on the range of sub-committees now in place to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan, these

include groups for Programme, Leader Development, Christian Faith and a new group focussing on Governance.

- **Budget**

Following a detailed session reviewing the proposed budget, the Executive unanimously agreed the budget for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2020.

- **CEO**

It was agreed to appoint Jonathan Eales as CEO from 1st April 2020.



Brigade Conference 2020

The theme of this year's Brigade Conference, to take place on **Saturday 5th September 2020** in Birmingham, England, will be **"2020 & Beyond"** as we celebrate our current work and think ahead to the future.

The focus of the day will be the launch of a new five-year strategic plan which has been shaped by the strategic review carried out in 2019. The day will include the AGM, a session focussing on the quality of our work led by Graeme Reekie (author of the strategic review), updates from the staff team and a chance to worship together and share in fellowship and discussion.

The conference will be held at Carrs Lane Conference Centre in Birmingham and is deliberately being styled as a day event commencing at 10am and finishing by 5pm. The venue has excellent transport links and is located at the heart of the city

centre. The cost for the day including lunch will be £30.

The Brigade is at an exciting and important moment in its history, and we hope the conference will provide the opportunity for us to inspire and encourage one another for the journey ahead.

We hope you will be motivated to attend, and to encourage others to come along too.



For more info & to book online please go to leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm

We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham!

Brigade Council 2020 - Annual General Meeting

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

AGM Agenda

- 1 To receive the Accounts for the year ended **31 March 2020** together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- 2 To agree the tier one capitation fees for the 2021/22 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 transact any other lawful business.

By order of the Brigade Executive

Jonathan

Jonathan Eales - Acting Chief Executive
5 March 2020

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 31st August 2020.

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.



FA Guidance on Heading

The Football Association has introduced new guidance on the use of heading in training sessions.

The updated heading guidance, introduced with immediate effect, provides grassroots clubs, coaches, players and parents/carers with the recommended heading guidance for training sessions only. The guidance does not make any changes to the way matches are played.

Leaders should be aware of the updated guidance and as with all sports follow guidance issued by the relevant governing body.



Find more details on The FA website at:
bit.ly/2TUj7gO

The updated heading guidance includes:

- Heading guidance in training for all age groups under 18 years.
- No heading in training for Under 11's.
- Graduated approach to heading training for children aged 12+.
- Required ball sizes and types of balls used for training and matches for each age group.
- No changes to heading in matches, taking into consideration the limited number of headers in youth games.

Brigade Staffing Update

New Appointments

We are pleased to announce the recent appointments of **Simon McNeill** as Development Worker for Central Scotland and **Stephen Taylor** as Support & Development Lead for London.

Coronavirus Update

As you will be aware, COVID-19 (coronavirus) has had an impact on businesses, charities and families across the world. The global pandemic has, regretfully, affected The Boys' Brigade too with income streams for the organisation being reduced significantly since the social distancing restrictions came into force, with considerable uncertainty around when restrictions will ease. The Brigade has taken the decision to take action to protect jobs and to provide financial stability for the longer term.

As of 1st April, the Brigade has been operating a reduced staffing structure, with a significant number of staff going on 'Furlough

leave', as part of the Government's Job Retention Scheme.

Over the coming weeks the focus will be on delivering the #BBatHOME programme, providing essential support to leaders, including the safeguarding function, and in complying with our statutory obligations. You will still be able to contact us by phone or email in the normal way, although please recognise it may take longer to respond to your query. BB Supplies will continue to operate as normal as the distribution element is outsourced, with adequate contingency measures in place.

We will be reviewing the situation on a monthly basis and further short-term changes to the staffing structure may be required. The furlough arrangements for staff will be for the shortest period possible. Updates will be communicated through the weekly eBB News to leaders and on our dedicated webpage at boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-managing-the-risk/

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
2 nd Somerton	Peter Spearman	St. Cleers Chapel, Somerton
1 st Stoke Newington	Amina Al-Chamaa	St Mary's Church

1st Denton win easyfundraising Competition

As part of the launch of a partnership with easyfundraising, the cashback fundraising website gave Companies the opportunity to win a free £100 donation. Congratulations to 1st Denton who won the competition!

Company Captain Darren Ratcliffe said:

"We are very pleased to hear we have won! easyfundraising is an excellent way of raising additional funds to other Companies. There is no cost to parents or staff, and it doesn't take time to organise and participate - we would definitely recommend it."



Companies can sign up for easyfundraising and begin raising free donations at easyfundraising.org.uk/the-boys-brigade

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.

Joanna Catteral

1st Stocksbridge

Paul Hern

1st Malvern

New Year's Honours

Congratulations to BB leaders recognised in the New Year's Honours for services to The Boys' Brigade and their local communities...

Kenneth Twyble

Portadown awarded BEM

Bryan Brehaut

Guernsey awarded BEM

International Junior Section Team Games



Congratulations to 1st Samut Sakhon 'J' Team from Thailand, winners of the 2020 Juniors International Team Games. A total of 86 teams from Australia, England, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Thailand and Wales took part in this session's competition.



Full results can be found at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/international-team-games.htm

Anchors & Juniors Programme: Summer 2020 Activity Cards

As we are currently unable to meet face-to-face due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have taken the decision to not publish the Summer 2020 Activity Cards for the Anchors and Juniors age groups (this includes both printed and online versions).

Rest assured during this period our staff team are working hard to support leaders through delivering the #BBatHOME programme, which provides a set of weekly activities for each age group along with other resources. We will continue to resource the #BBatHOME programme whilst groups are not able to meet face-to-face and would encourage all groups to get involved in sharing the programme with members,

The Autumn 2020 Programme Planner is available to download at boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/ to support programme planning for the new session (although this will be subject to change at a later date). We are planning to distribute the Autumn 2020 Activity Cards as usual with the next Gazette which is due to hit doorsteps at the end of July.

Top Team Challenge 2020



Well done to 1st Greenisland Company 'A' Team, winners of the Top Team Challenge for 2020. A total of 155 teams took part in a range of physical and mental activities testing their knowledge and skill.



Full results can be found at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/topteam.htm



BB Bands visit Normandy

To commemorate 75 years since D-Day, a group of BB bands visited Normandy to play and lay wreaths at St Mere Eglise, Omaha USA Cemetery, Arromanches, Juno Beach and Pegasus Bridge.

85 young people and leaders took part in the trip along with 5th Croydon Pipers. The Pipers played at the memorial to Bill Millin, a BB member who piped the men ashore on D-Day. Wreaths were laid on the graves of known BB members who died in the conflict, and Pegasus Bridge was closed to traffic for the parade.

The trip was part of a Heritage Lottery Award to 2nd Sawston to explore the role of the Brigade in the D-Day landings. The various events were supported by three Mayors from the Normandy region and much publicity and local support was provided to the Brigade.



2nd Guernsey visit Channel Islands Air Search

13 members of 2nd Guernsey were invited to visit the new Channel Islands Air Search (CIAS) plane and purpose-built hangar facility at Guernsey Airport. CIAS is an entirely volunteer-run service providing a rapid response airborne search and rescue service in Channel Island waters.

The young people heard about the 24 hour, 365 day, all weather service provided by CIAS in the 4,000 square miles of water surrounding the Channel Islands and the adjacent French coast. They also had the opportunity to check out the aircraft, which is equipped with search radar, night vision, smoke floats, radio homing and loud hailer system, and an air droppable life raft.



Crystal Maze Live Experience in Enfield

Over four evenings around 180 members of Enfield Battalion took part in a Crystal Maze Live Experience hosted by 10th Enfield. The event saw the young people take part in a 8 games consisting of physical, mental and skill based challenges, with the aim of winning crystals to give their team as much time as possible to collect gold tickets in the Crystal Dome at the end of the evening! Congratulations to the winning Juniors team from 1st Barnet and winning Company Section team from 10th Enfield.

Buchan Battalion wins Minibus!

Congratulations to Buchan Battalion, who won a competition run by the Press and Journal newspaper in which community groups had the opportunity to win a new minibus worth over £40,000.

The Battalion plans to give all Companies in the area access to the minibus, with hundreds of young people set to benefit from the prize as they make their way to activities and events across the north-east of Scotland - an area which can be hugely challenging in terms of transport.



Highland Battalion @bb_highland

Well done to all our boys who took part in @invrnessparkrun for our Battalion Cross Country! Thanks to the parkrun team for letting us join in!



Beth Dobson @bethdobsonbb

Proud of 2nd Macduff boys for completing a 10 minute silence and raising £110 to fund trauma bears for their local fire engines, giving comfort to children involved in emergency situations in their local area
#BoysBrigade #community #FaithInYoungPeople!!



Robot Mania at 1st Martock & Hamdon

Members of Juniors and Company Section at 1st Martock & Hamdon took part in a 'Robot Mania' event, where they worked in teams to build robots using only recyclable materials. Once built the teams waged a robot war with bean bags to find which one was the most stable!



4th Newtownabbey Boys' Brigade

Anchors had a great night with a visit from MR Sports. We had so much fun learning how to play hockey and dodgeball!



Celebrating a Community Hero

Congratulations to Ken Willows, former Captain of 21st Nottingham, who received a County Community Hero award for being a long-time volunteer in the community. Ken has worked with the Brigade in Nottingham for 68 years and serves as a local Church pianist/organist. The award was presented by Cllr Kevin Rostance, Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council.

1st Moneymore Sponsored Games



Anchors at 1st Moneymore took part in a sponsored games evening, with the money raised being donated to the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children.



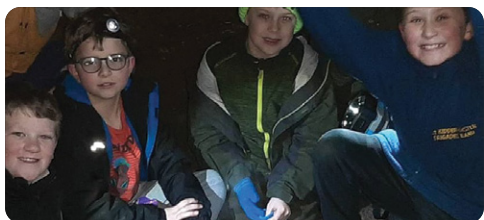
5th Glasgow BB @5thglasgowbb

The Company Section scaled new heights tonight at Clip n' Climb at the Kelvin Hall. Lots of challenges to face (and fears to overcome). Quickest speed climb was a mere 9.47 secs. Not too shabby! #BoysBrigade



1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade

Our Juniors enjoyed a night walk at Burlish Top. We had bacon butties, marshmallows and hot chocolate!



1st Elderslie Forensics Workshop

Company Section members of 1st Elderslie were visited by the Chemistry Department of the University of Strathclyde, who put on a forensics workshop at which the young people looked at analysing fingerprints and powders, DNA profiling, and blood typing.

SNAPSHOTS



**4TH BROMLEY AMICUS
VOLUNTEERING AT
WHITECHAPEL MISSION**



**1ST BUCKIE LIFEBOAT
STATION**



**1ST CHEPSTOW TREE
PLANTING**



25th Stirling Get Fundraising

Just before Christmas members of 25th Stirling got fundraising at their local Marks & Spencer in Dunblane, with young people helping to pack bags for shoppers and the Company's band performing outside the store. The store was very busy and the Company reports that it had a very successful day.



13th Bromley BB @13thBromley

Well done #Team13. Some outstanding performances from our lads at the @Bromley_BB Table Tennis! #BromleyBattalion #WorkingTogether #BoysBrigade #BBWeekend



Shoobox appeal in Exeter

Just before Christmas members of 5th Exeter's Company Section were part of a group from St Thomas Methodist Church who put together around 100 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children and adults in areas of eastern Europe such as Moldova.

2nd Llantwit Major visit local Coastguard Station

Juniors at 2nd Llantwit Major visited their local Coastguard Station, where they learnt a bit about what the service does and had the opportunity to see and try out some of the equipment that they use in their rescues.



STEPHEN TAYLOR

f /theboysbrigade
@theBBEngland

New Member of the Team

We're pleased to announce that **Stephen Taylor** has joined the team as **Support & Development Lead for London**.

The purpose of the role is to improve the quality of experience for members by supporting groups in delivering a high-quality programme which results in real and sustained growth. The role will focus on three key areas including communicating with the membership and key stakeholders; assisting with the planning and delivery of training and events; and working with existing and newly formed groups to support programmes and recruitment.

Stephen says: "My BB experience started when I joined 31st London at the age of 5. I remained a member in the BB from then until the age of 18, at which point unfortunately the Company closed. The experiences that I had whilst growing up have stayed with me for life and I can honestly say that there are so many activities and achievements I am thankful to the Brigade for. In 2012 I decided to volunteer and joined 4th London as a Helper. When I moved home I moved to 7th West Kent and ran the Company Section, until August 2017 when I was asked to take over as Captain of 4th London. Within my role as a volunteer I have been involved with both West Kent and Croydon Battalions and my experiences mean that I can relate to the challenges of helping at both Company and Battalion level whilst holding down a full-time job."

BTEC Level 2 Opportunities

We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with CVQO in order to offer Seniors the opportunity to gain a BTEC Level 2 Qualification in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community.

4th Southport has previously worked with CVQO at a local level, but we have decided to run a pilot residential event in spring 2021 (dates to be confirmed).

The BTEC covers:

- Teamwork & Communication Skills
- Employment Skills
- Health & Fitness
- Navigation and Expedition skills
- Volunteering

Whilst there will be an element of studying and completing workbooks during the event, there will also be team building events and times to relax. The practical elements of the qualification may well have been covered by other activities that have already been completed

(DofE, Queen's Badge etc.), however young people shouldn't be put off applying if they haven't done these.

Emily Norcross, young leader at 4th Southport, said:

"I've been able to develop my skills as working as part of a team and leading a team. I've also had the amazing opportunity to be part of the Westminster Award. I've gained many new friends from this and developed my teamwork and leadership skills further."

Andrew Norcross, Leader at 4th Southport, said:

"By completing the BTEC course, the young leaders at 4th Southport have developed their teamwork and leadership skills, which has supported them in their transition to leaders within the BB."

Further information will be sent out once the date of the residential has been confirmed. If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please email stephen.taylor@boys-brigade.org.uk

KGVI Youth Leadership

This year's KGVI Youth Leadership course will take place from **Saturday 25th to Friday 31st July 2020** at Felden Lodge (BB Headquarters), with a second residential in summer 2021.

KGVI is aimed at all those aged 17 to 21 who would like

to move into leadership in the Brigade. It covers all of the elements of Youth Leader Training that are needed to become a Brigade leader. The cost is £168 per person which includes the course itself, accommodation, all meals and refreshments.



For more info and to book visit:

leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm



Church of Scotland Guild



f /theboysbrigadeinscotland
 @thebbsscotland
 @the_bb_scotland

Our partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild is one of the most exciting areas of our current work, and provides us with an opportunity to raise our profile in Churches across Scotland as well as generating funds to support growth and development. The Church of Scotland Guild fundraised over £50,000 for The Boys' Brigade in the first year of our partnership. The generous support that we have received throughout the partnership is humbling; and the work that this support has allowed to take place is inspiring.

281 Guild talks have either taken place or are booked in across Scotland. It has been a privilege to speak to Guild members about the progress The Boys' Brigade is making today.

Have you applied for the Mini-Grants Scheme?

The Church of Scotland Guild's support has allowed us to launch a mini-grants scheme. Many Companies have already applied to the scheme to support their work with children and young people, and nearly £20,000 has been awarded to Companies so far. As we move through 2020, we are hopeful that more Companies will take the opportunity to apply for this support.

More information can be found by visiting boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/guildpartnership/

Our three-year partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild has a project title of 'Faith in Young People', which is very fitting for the work that The Boys' Brigade carries out each week.

Growth in Faith

A partnership has been formed with Alpha Scotland and we are working together to improve the way that we encourage young people to explore Christian faith. Their tools, resources and support have been shared with our membership in Scotland, and we look forward to working closely with Alpha as we move through 2020 to share more resources.

Alex McLean, 19, 5th Hamilton

"I think The Boys' Brigade is vital in helping to grow faith within young people. Even in Anchor Boys listening to Bible stories helps to build a foundation. I personally found that The Boys' Brigade gave me a platform to ask questions I wasn't comfortable asking elsewhere, and it let me explore my faith."

Growth in Community Partnerships/Engagement

We know there are opportunities to work more effectively with partners which will be of mutual benefit to the young people we work with and our partners. We have been developing those partnerships and have enjoyed seeing the benefits that they bring to young people.

Growth in Young People

Young people are at the heart of everything that The Boys' Brigade does. As an organisation, we embrace new challenges because each year we see the incredible difference that The Boys' Brigade makes on the lives of so many young people.

We have run new training courses at Carronvale House for young people. The two new courses, Creative Media and Young STEM Leader (an SCQF Level 6 course), were well received by the young people who attended the courses, and we look forward to their continuation in 2020.

CashBack Funding

CashBack funding continues to support young people across Scotland. 55 projects have now been supported in the past three years, benefitting nearly 500 young people. Funding is available to support young people (aged 10+) in the top 20% areas of social deprivation in each local authority.

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

New Development Worker



We are delighted to welcome **Simon McNeill**, who joined the team at Carronvale in February, as Development Worker for Central Scotland.

Simon has been a BB leader since 1995 and is currently Captain of 45th Glasgow. Simon joins us with extensive professional experience in the field of corporate learning and development. We are sure that his skills and aptitude will serve him well in this new role where Simon will be, amongst other things, supporting Companies and leaders with the development and delivery of their programmes.



Anchor Boys Raise £11,642 for Children's Heartbeat Trust.

Anchor Boys in NI raised an impressive £11,642 for Children's Heartbeat Trust; their nominated charity for the 18/19 session. The Anchor Boys from 1st Garvagh recently presented the cheque to Family Support Worker, David Templeton from the charity.



Junior Section Musician of the Year

The Junior Section Musician of the Year was held on Saturday 11th January in Templepatrick Presbyterian Church Halls. Congratulations to the winner **Benjamin Paul, 1st Ballynure**, runner up **Lewis Doherty** from 1st Ballykelly and 3rd place **Callum Gray** from 3rd Newtownards. 24 boys took part on the day.



I Way Youth and Klass Kids - Mission 2020

The Christian Education and Church Relations Committee is planning an outreach event for all Brigade children and young people in 2020. It's going to be big and will run in four locations in the District on four consecutive Saturdays in October 2020.

In partnership with Crown Jesus Ministries, on each of the Saturdays at each venue, there will be two dynamic events; Klass Kids for Anchors and Juniors in the afternoon and One Way Youth for Company Section and Seniors in the evening. Times yet to be confirmed.

Save the Dates!

3rd Oct - BELFAST;
10th Oct – ANTRIM; 17th Oct - COLERAINE;
24th Oct - PORTADOWN.

Select the venue most suitable for your Company to travel to and get the date in the diary now!

New Consumer Champion Programme Resource for Company and Seniors

New Consumer Champion Silver and Gold Badge Award in partnership with The Consumer Council.

For Company and Seniors: This new resource is a great way to kick start your planning for the 2020/21 session! On completion you can award a BB Consumer Badge and Certificate for Silver & Gold levels to the boys. Copies of the resource have been distributed to Captains and Correspondents. Additional copies are available on request from NIHQ.



7th Dublin Company Sleepover for the Homeless

The 7th Dublin Company welcomed longtime friend, Mr. Hobson, to speak to Junior and Company section members about homelessness. Mr. Hobson runs the homeless charity 'The Mustard Seed', which is a ministry to people who live on the streets, and provides them with food, hot drinks, and clothing.

Following this, 18 Young People and Leaders had a 'sleepover' in Coolock Hall, to highlight the work of The Mustard seed. All the Young People brought donations of food and warm clothing, which they were delighted to be able to give to The Mustard Seed.

South Eastern District Roll and Bowl

45 young people from 1st Littlewood, 1st Dunleckney, 1st Kiltegan, 1st Gorey and 1st Baltinglass Companies attended the annual Roll and Bowl in The Dome in Co. Carlow. The annual trophy was awarded to the 1st Dunleckney Company's 1st team. Dunleckney's 2nd team came in at second place and the 1st Gorey Company team came in third place. Another award on the night was given to the person who received the highest score during the event, this was presented to a lad from 1st Dunleckney Company.

Founder's Day Service

131 people including young people and leaders attended the Founder's Day Service on the 20th October in Castleknock Parish. The four Dublin based Companies in the Eastern District (2nd, 7th, 10th & 12th) enjoyed teaming up together to participate in the annual Founder's Day celebration. This is a day when boys & leaders gather to give thanks for the life & vision of our founder, William Alexander Smith. In recent years, a fun afternoon of games and fellowship to accompany the service has been introduced. The host Company for this event this was the 10th Dublin, and their church, St Bridget's in Castleknock provided the venue for the service. The theme for this year was The Creation, Rev'd Norman McCausland enthralled the gathered Congregation of BB Members, past and present with his important message.



Midland's District Commemorative Service

On the 3rd November, The Ron Condell commemorative service took place, which also included their enrolment service. A letter from The President of The BB Rol was read to the congregation, and then after a short speech from Derek Stacey (Company Correspondent- 1st Athy) they held the presentation. Any member past and present of 1st Athy Company came forward. Mr Condell was presented with a hand-made lamp made by a former member of 1st Athy Company, Johnathan Ashmore from a tree which had grown in Athy's Church Rectory. He was also presented with an engraved Newbridge silver pen, for writing his memoirs of 46 years of The Boys' Brigade in Athy.

South Eastern District Service

42 boys and 15 leaders attended the South East BB District Service in Shillelagh Church on Sunday 24th November. The service was conducted by Canon Brian O'Rourke, Rector of the Tullow Group of Parishes. Companies in attendance were 1st Baltinglass, 1st Bunclody, 1st Dunleckney, 1st Kiltegan and 1st Littlewood. Music was provided by The Stedfast Band Ensemble under the baton of Mr. Peter O'Callaghan. An excellent address was given by Mrs. Jane Burns, an Ordinand in The Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Bishop Michael Burrows imparted the Blessing.



The Boys' Brigade has an incredibly powerful vision statement. For those involved in The Boys' Brigade, we see these words come to life on a weekly basis, and we get to see the happiness and fulfilment that young people experience when they live "life to the full".

We recently took the time to ask two members of the Brigade Executive (our Trustees) the following question...

Q: What does the vision mean to you?

Vicki Brownlee



Vicki is a member of the Brigade Executive, but is also Captain of 1st Howden Company and President of Yorkshire & Humberside District.

A: "All young people are different." This is a statement that means a lot to me. We hear young people referred to collectively on so many occasions, both good and bad, but it is the uniqueness and individuality of young people that draws me to working alongside them on a voluntary level.

The Boys' Brigade provides fabulous experiences for young people, from the more traditional camps, competitions and learning an instrument to some one-off experiences like a visit to Buckingham Palace, a trip abroad or trying something

completely new.

But what is experiencing "life to the full" (John 10:10)? I believe that experiencing life to the full is getting the best out of every situation, having wide-ranging experiences, being with friends and the BB/Church 'family' and being prepared to be an integral part of an ever-changing world.

"All young people are different."

If the BB is to provide these opportunities to all, it needs to ensure that it is delivering a varied and high-quality programme. I am proud to be part of the Programme Group, which is striving to deliver this for all age groups through the areas of Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get Learning, Get Involved and Get in to the Bible.

Young people are not the same and do not want the same, but they do all want a quality programme delivered to them in the BB so that they have the opportunity to experience "life to the full" – only we can offer this to them!



Robert Cunningham



Robert is a member of the Brigade Executive and also a leader in 4th Carluke Company.

A: The Boys' Brigade has been a big part of my life for over 15 years now, and though I know that pales in comparison to some of my fellow leaders, I pray I have made a difference in those 15 years. I still today count my Queen's Badge as one of my life's greatest achievements and nothing does my heart more good than seeing young people earn the award themselves. One of the highlights of my BB year is the Lanarkshire District Fellowship Queen's Badge Completion Course.

Over recent months I have asked myself, "Robert, what would a life lived to the full look like?". I believe it would

be a life rooted in the Christian faith, having had an opportunity to make friends, learn useful life skills and contribute effectively and responsibly to society. It would be a life where questions are encouraged and answered, positive role models shine through and where we all strive to be happy, in the tender embrace of Christ. That, to me, is living one's life to the full. To me, The Boys' Brigade is poised perfectly to fulfil that aim for its young people (and its leaders).

“When The Boys' Brigade works, it works well, and there is nothing better.”

We, as an organisation, must continue to ask ourselves those difficult questions, and more importantly listen for, and listen to, the answers. Times change, and the Brigade must continue to adapt and realise these changes, whilst staying true to our core principals. I am excited for the future as we do just that, and I am minded of a phrase I heard not long ago that has stuck with me – **"When The Boys' Brigade works, it works well, and there is nothing better"**.



Vision Article

For more about our vision, mission and values check out the VISION article on page 06.



Let us know what our Vision means to you and send it in by email to newsdesk@boys-brigade.org.uk or share on social media using [#LifetotheFull](https://twitter.com/LifetotheFull)



Working with Children With Additional Needs

20% of children and young people in the UK have an additional need or disability of some kind ¹, that's roughly 2.5 million; every Boys' Brigade Company is likely to include children and young people with additional needs and many of them will need some support.

A Mumsnet and Scope joint study shows that many of these children and young people, and their families, feel excluded from a wide range of social and other activities², so how could The Boys' Brigade reach out to and meet the needs of these children and their families?

Inclusion is something that should be offered to every child; it doesn't stop at wider doors, ramps and disabled loos but should also be about creating a culture of welcome and belonging for all, as well as looking to develop the faith of every child whatever their ability or needs.

Urban Saints has responded to this challenge by leading the way for children's and youth workers within both Church and secular sectors, including uniformed organisations, to gain the knowledge, skills, resources and inspiration they need to enable them to reach and support all children and young people and to introduce them to the love, grace and hope of Jesus.

As BB Companies across the country plan for their summer programmes, perhaps even looking to attend a summer camp, what does reaching out to children and young people with additional needs and disabilities look like in this context? What can Companies do to include and create a culture of welcome and belonging for every child and young person, while ensuring the safety and well-being of all?

In this article, we'll look at a range of tips and ideas that you can add to your 'toolkit' as you plan for the summer and beyond. Practical strategies that have been proven to make a real difference to how children's and youth work can successfully include everyone whether in weekly groups, holiday clubs or summer camps. There will also be some 'signposts' towards other resources and sources of information and help that you can access going forward.



'Inclusion Leader/Champion' or 'Company SENCO'

Of all the strategies that can be put in place to support children, young people, and also adult leaders with additional needs or disabilities, the single most important and impactful is to have someone who 'owns' this. Where there is an Inclusion Leader/Champion or 'SENCO' (an education term meaning 'Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator') it can be transforming, enabling everyone to be treated equally and supported appropriately.

The person fulfilling this role doesn't necessarily need to have an in-depth health, education or social care background, but be willing to look at the things the Company does through the experience of the children and young people that you journey with. What is hard for them to access; what barriers are there including physical, programme, or cultural barriers? What modifications can be readily made to make things easier and more inclusive?

For example, a nine-year-old Autistic boy may find that coming to the weekly meeting, or a main meeting at a summer camp, at the same time as everyone else can be very hard as his senses are overwhelmed by the noise, number of people etc. Could he be invited to come in 5-10 minutes earlier and have a familiar 'safe place' where he can settle as others gradually come in? Could some resources be provided giving him something to do while he acclimatises to the environment?

Or what about a twelve-year-old Dyslexic girl who finds that the words to the songs, which are creatively displayed on the screen on top of a beautiful photo or video clip, are unreadable for her. Could there be a screen that doesn't have a background image so that people have a choice of what works best for them?

Sometimes it's as simple as thinking about the words we use; a leader who excitedly shouts out "Everybody jump up on your feet!" may not realise what that can do to someone who has a physical mobility disability.

The Inclusion Leader and Safeguarding Leader also make a great team, working closely together to ensure the safety of everyone, being points of contact for parents/carers who need to talk to someone about the support needed for their child, ensuring that the whole team think about these two vitally important strands of children's and youth work together.



¹Reforms for children with SEN and disabilities come into effect'

www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities-come-into-effect

²'Mumsnet parents: negative attitudes are holding back our disabled children'

<https://blog.scope.org.uk/2014/02/17/negative-attitudes-hold-disabled-children-back-during-half-term/>

Article Continued →



Building support strategies/ communication with parents

So often we can be reactive to the arrival of a child or young person with additional needs, rather than anticipating in advance that they might like to engage with our BB Company, holiday club, camp etc. Reacting is never as good as preparing; being ready with strategies in place, so that everyone can be included in any activity that we offer, is always better.

We can also fall into the trap of thinking that we need to build these strategies on our own, whereas there are likely to be strategies already in place to effectively support children with additional needs in other areas of their lives e.g. at school and at home. Understanding what support strategies are in place in these other settings, and bringing those strategies into our own activities, provides us with ready-made ideas to try as well as providing consistency and continuity for each child.

The language we use when seeking this information from parents/ carers is vitally important too. How often do we include a box on our joining or consent that asks, "Does your child have any special needs?", and are then surprised when that box is left blank and a child subsequently arrives who needs a lot of support. Asking parents how their child best likes to be supported and helped, what they enjoy doing, what positive things people say about them, are all questions that are much more likely to unlock useful and helpful information and be great conversation starters. A useful tool to help with this is a 'one-page profile' and sample templates for these can be found in the resources area of the 'Sheffkids' website: www.sheffkids.co.uk

Once a child is in our setting, how we then communicate with parents/carers during or after the session is something we also need to think about, especially for children with additional needs. Helping parents to inform us what kind of a day their child is having when they arrive, and to help them know how their child has done while with us, is key to building this important relationship. Again, language is key, highlighting the achievements of a child while asking for advice in how to support them better in areas where they might need a little extra help, while avoiding negative comments.

Matthew

What people like and admire about me...

- Always Really happy
- Cheeky and fun
- Really friendly
- Mischievous!
- Great sense of humour
- Really helpful And always helps to tidy up!
- A great laugh



What makes me happy

- Having some independence
- Working with my hands and using tools
- Being around animals like cats, dogs, snakes and other reptiles
- Bubbles
- Playdough, blu-tack and anything else I can fiddle with!
- Food technology
- Reading books about animals
- Playing games
- Using I.T.
- Being part of a group

How I want to be supported...

- Don't rush me when I'm on my feet
- Use Makaton signs when you talk to me
- Keep my hands busy or I can get over enthusiastic!
- I only like some foods, like: pasta, fruit, chocolate and ice-cream. I don't eat bread or crisps
- Always encourage me



Recruiting one-to-one support or 'buddies'

Many children or young people with additional needs can become anxious and stressed if they are left to cope on their own. Not knowing where they are in the programme, what is happening now/next, what is expected of them, can all build up to the point where they struggle to cope with the feelings they are experiencing and this may then result in a meltdown which can be hard for them and for others.

Having one-to-one support can make a big difference, providing a child or young person with someone who can help them understand what is happening now and next and what they are supposed to be doing. To check that they are coping well and to know what to do to support them if they are struggling.

One-to-one support team members don't have to be 'typical' children's or youth workers; their primary role is not to lead or run activities, rather to pastorally support a child or young person. Someone with a caring, loving, empathic approach is ideal. We sometimes have to fish in a different pond for these people, looking outside of the usual children's work demographic to other groups. The grandparent generation can be really great in this role, as can other young people as 'buddies'.

Clearly it is important that any one-to-one support team members, or buddies, are suitably safeguarding vetted and trained, both for their own protection and the protection of the child/young person they are supporting (see also 'Safeguarding and additional needs' below).



Sensory support

It is important to provide safe ways for children and young people with additional needs to be able to regulate their senses, calm and relax. A safe sensory room or zone, appropriately supervised, and equipped with calming lighting, sounds, seating/floor mats etc. and with safe, calming things for children to engage with to help them relax, will be helpful. Sensory overload can be a common issue for children and young people with a range of additional needs and so providing ways for them to manage and regulate this sensory input is essential. A simple pair of ear defenders can make the difference between someone being able to enjoy the programme or being in physical pain because of the noise.



Another useful addition to the kit list is a 'fiddles' or 'fidget' box. This usually contains an eclectic selection of items that can be stretched, squeezed, spun, clicked or simply fiddled with. The sensory stimulus that this provides can aid focus and concentration, especially for children that might otherwise be easily distracted.



Using what they love to help them learn

Most of us learn best when our learning is fun, engaging us in activities that we enjoy and are good at. It's no different for children and young people with additional needs. Using what they enjoy to help them learn during weekly groups, holiday clubs, summer camps etc. will often deliver great results.

Children with additional needs might be really good at jigsaw puzzles, get them to build a jigsaw of the story you are telling or the theme you are sharing. Maybe they like Lego? Get them building something from the Bible; I recently got sent a photo of a Lego version of the Temple of Jerusalem, brilliantly built by some young people with additional needs, although I have a feeling that Darth Vader has never been the High Priest before! And did you know there is a (Lego) Brick Bible? A lot of young people with additional needs enjoy spending time in the online world, with Minecraft being a favourite... did you know that there

is a Minecraft Bible too? There is also a Minecraft Bible YouTube channel, called 'Pixel Heart Bible', give it a look. Why not get them building Bible scenes online? Creating Jericho in Minecraft and then marching around it before bringing it crashing down would bring the story to life far more than just telling them the story!



Safeguarding and additional needs

We've touched on a few safeguarding areas already, but there are other areas where careful thought and advice needs to be sought when supporting children and young people with additional needs. Some children and young people, for example, may need help with toileting, or in a camp setting with showering or getting dressed. Suitable guidelines to protect both children and adults will need to be considered, to ensure that no adult is alone with a child in a toilet, shower block etc.

Some children or young people with additional needs may find it harder to communicate effectively, which raises the risk of them being unable to alert someone if they are being abused. All of the usual signs to look out for when working with any child will apply here, but with an increased duty of care due to the vulnerability of the child. Understand how a child or young person communicates best, maybe through signing, symbols, gestures, speech or a combination of several of these, so that they can be better understood.



Benefits

It is sometimes easy for us to focus on the challenges around supporting children with additional needs or disabilities, but this would be to ignore the amazing benefits that doing this well can have for the whole group. Getting this right makes the group, camp or Church a place of welcome and belonging for everyone; a place where people are missed if they can't come, for all of the right reasons. The culture of caring, supporting and inclusiveness that this creates is wonderful to see and is so transforming for everyone.



Further resources and support



For more information on Urban Saints and their additional needs ministry programme, please visit:
urbansaints.org/additionalneeds

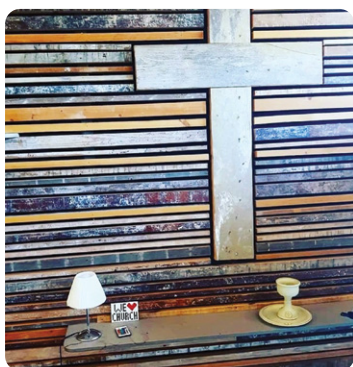
For information, support and resources to help with your work with children and young people with additional needs, please visit the Additional Needs Alliance at additionalneedsalliance.org.uk or join the Facebook group (search for 'Additional Needs Alliance').

Mark Arnold

Additional Needs Ministry Director - Urban Saints
Co-Founder – Additional Needs Alliance

Global Focus:

BE1 Ecumenical Course in Denmark



In January myself and Thom Hammond, our new European Representative and a leader at 3rd York attended the BE1 Ecumenical course which took place in Copenhagen in Denmark.

The course was organised by the European Fellowship of Christian Youth in conjunction with the Conference of European Churches and the Churches Together networks in Copenhagen, Lyngby and Roskilde. The course allowed us the opportunity to meet with other youth leaders and youth pastors from various denominations from across Europe, share the good work and challenges of working with children and young people within different churches, denominations, cultures and countries.

There were opportunities to visit several different Church denominations within Denmark and how they work within their communities and sample different worship styles including traditional, modern and Taizé. We also learnt more about how Churches and Christian youth groups can do more to be green and work towards the Global Goals.

Thom said:

"What an amazing weekend! Copenhagen was a beautiful setting and it was fantastic to meet so many wonderful people from so many countries. I have always had an interest in ecumenicalism, it is such an interesting subject and I couldn't have learned about it any better way."

"The course gave me the opportunity to meet a variety of Christians from across the globe and from all walks of life who were members of Churches that ranged from Orthodox traditional Churches to community based liberal Churches. It was a privilege to see the work that the Churches and participants undertake and the topics which were discussed throughout the course were very thought provoking! It also gave me the chance to experience new and different ways of worship and sharing faith and gave me the chance to share with others my own journey of faith and how the Brigade works with different denominations, especially looking at green Churches and how we can improve the effects of our footprint on God's earth and how we can promote green Christian values."

"Probably one of the most interesting parts for me was going to see a Vineyard Church and the work they undertake. Since attending the course, I have made plans to visit a Vineyard Church within my local area and have shared the experiences and learning I had with my own Company and Church."

Thom will be assisting me in organising next year's course which will be held in the UK. If you would like to take part, look out for the details which will be released in the new session. If you are taking part in any international exchange or event or would like more information on the many international opportunities available, please get in touch with Vaughan by email.



v.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk, check out our website boys-brigade.org.uk/international or follow our Instagram account [@bbukintl](https://www.instagram.com/bbukintl)

Vaughan Staples

Area Lead for International Affairs

Global Round-up

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



To celebrate the 2019 Rugby World Cup, 1st Bloxham Juniors sent a special rugby ball on a world tour. It has since visited The Boys' and Girls' Christian Brigade in Canada, 339th Hong Kong, 1st Serdang in Malaysia, 12th Medan in Indonesia (pictured), 1st Brunei, and is still going!



Over 200 young people and leaders took part in the 20th Pan Australian Camp, an event which is held every three years in various locations around Australia. This year's camp was held in Stanwell Tops (near Sydney), with those present enjoying 10 days of games, activities, devotions and more!



To celebrate 90 years since the founding of BB Singapore a special anniversary service was held at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church, where 1st Singapore Company was formed in 1930.



Members of BB Macau came together for their annual Anniversary Conference, with Companies taking part in a joint parade, inspection, worship and awards presentation.



A number of Queen's Men and Women from BB New Zealand were presented with their Queen's Badges at Government House in Wellington.



Representatives from all full member organisations of European Fellowship came together for the network's Annual General Meeting, which took place in Helsinki, Finland and was hosted by Nuori Kirkko.

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 2021 and beyond.

☎ Ted Walliss 01737 352732
@ edwardwalliss@btinternet.com

The Albert Wilson Memorial Field,

Prestatyn, North Wales - Two camping areas each with cookhouses/toilets/shower. One field is suitable for up to 36, and our main field with new refurbished cookhouse for larger groups. Marquee and Tents available.

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

IN THE HEART OF NIDDERDALE.

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

☎ 07746569507
@ carolnormanton@aol.com

Peak District - Leslie Johnson Centre Warslow Near to Alton Towers.

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

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

Popular BB approved campsite at

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

📞 Jon Tickle 07770 795701
💻 www.freshwatertrust.com
@ freshwatercamping@gmail.com

Dartmoor Activity Centre, Broadleas.

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

📞 01364 661283
@ info@dartmooractivitycentre.com
💻 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 2020) should be received by 1st June 2020. All advertisements are based on up to 225 characters (including spaces and punctuation) plus contact details (telephone number, email and website address) at a cost of £10 per issue.

CRAGGAN Outdoor Centre

10% off new bookings made by 30/06/20 quote "BB Gazette"

Contact

- Phone: 0131 551 1200 ext. 1
- Email: office@thebb-edinburgh.org.uk
- Web: www.thebb-edinburgh.org.uk



CRAGGAN is situated on the south bank of of Loch Tay in the beautiful countryside of Perthshire

The centre is available for use by groups of all ages with ready access to local facilities and is well suited for water activities, hill walking and group holidays.

The centre sleeps up to 29 people on a self-catering basis with additional space for camping.

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

NEW

75TH ANNIVERSARY VE DAY BADGE

Product: 112501

This new badge has been introduced to mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and commemorate this important time in our country's history where we can remember and reflect on the courage and enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad. Consider what you could do as part of your programme for VE Day and consider how you could present the badge to those who participate.



£2

SPARKIE BEAR

Product: 111991

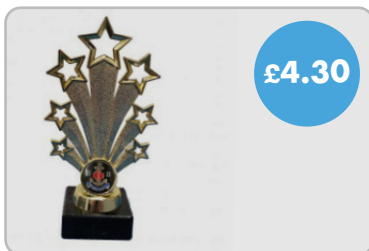


£9.60

20cm high teddy bear wearing a blue hoodie with the BB adventure begins here logo.

STAR FANFARE GOLD TROPHY

Product: 035881



£4.30

Gold coloured shooting star design trophy with a marble base (17cm height) featuring BB trophy centre.

NCV YOUTH BIBLE

Product: 353550



£20

Youth Bible (New Century Version) - Purple Hardback edition with BB Logo (foil blocked in silver). Presentation page inside. Ideal presentation bible for Company Section and Senior boys.

NIGHTS AWAY AWARDS

Product: 026311 TO 026401



The Nights Away award is a metal pin-on badge. These awards recognise and encourage overnight experiences, a key part of the programme and overall BB journey. The Nights Away awards operate across all age groups (except Anchors who are not permitted to take part in residential) with members moving up through the awards which range from 1 to 100 nights.

For more information about the Nights Away Awards see www.boys-brigade.org.uk/programme

NAVY BLUE SOFTSHELL JACKET

Product: 181261 TO 181301



£36

Regatta Navy Blue Softshell Jacket.


Available in sizes Adult Small to Adult XXL.

Warm backed woven stretch softshell fabric with durable water-repellent finish. Wind resistant and quick drying. 2 zipped wer pockets, adjustable shock cord hem.

SHOP.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK

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

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

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