

GAZETTE

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

IN THIS ISSUE

VISION: YOUR UNIQUE
SELLING POINT
PAGE 06

TOOLBOX:
BB COMPANY AND THE
CHURCH
PAGE 35

TOOLBOX:
RESIDENTIAL
EXPERIENCES
PAGE 38

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



BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE

Autumn 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

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Brigade Secretary/ CEO:

Bill Stevenson

UK & ROI Headquarters

Felden Lodge

Hemel Hempstead

Herts HP3 0BL

Tel: +44 (0) 1442 231 681

Email: enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk

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06

ISSUE CONTENTS

VOLUME 127: NO 3 | AUTUMN 2019

04

Welcome

10

Informed

16

Your views and news

27

Focus

34

Our Heritage

38

Toolbox: Residential Experience

42

Global

46

Directory

48

BB Supplies



recycle

When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it. Thank you.

Image - Front Cover, Main Picture: Life 2 The Max 2019, Felden Lodge

35

**TOOLBOX:
THE BB COMPANY &
THE CHURCH
STRENGTHENING THE
PARTNERSHIP**

44

**GET INVOLVED:
OPERATION CHRISTMAS
CHILD**

14

**BLOG: TAKING YOUNG
PEOPLE TO EVENTS**

21

**RESOURCE: IDEAS
FOR YOUR SECTION**

Anchors	22	:	Discover	23
Juniors	22	:	Challenge +	26

05

THE WAY I SEE IT

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Welcome

I always find it strange that some sermons or talks from years ago stay fresh in your mind but sometimes I can struggle to remember what last Sunday's service was about. I often come back to a talk I heard many years ago at a BB leadership course. I was a young leader then so you can guess how long ago it was! The Battalion President challenged the Boys (there were no girls then) to always try to *leave things better than you found them*.

That simple idea has stayed with me ever since and it still makes good sense. I have been involved in many organisations over the years and I have always tried to make some improvements. On a daily more practical level it can just mean picking up a piece of litter or clearing away a few weeds. Once during a stay in Toronto I came across some guerrilla gardeners who went out at twilight to tidy up roundabouts – I thought that was interesting but probably a bit extreme even for me.

Some of you will be aware that over the last few months we had to undertake a review of the staff employed by the Brigade. It has not been an easy job and some difficult decisions had to be made. As a result some very loyal and dedicated colleagues left the Brigade; we are most thankful to them for all their hard work over the years. However, we have also created new posts to ensure that we have the right things in place to be able to support the

work of the Brigade going forward. I know many leaders have been praying for us during this time and I can assure you your prayers were much appreciated.

Of course, leaving things better than you found them ties in well with our current "Raise the Bar" campaign. I have been greatly encouraged travelling around the country to see how Companies, Battalions and Districts are getting behind this. The campaign does seem to have caught the imagination of leaders and already we are hearing results of increased numbers, improved programmes and increased engagement with local Churches. I was delighted when visiting the 11th Leeds to see that they had dedicated a whole wall in their Church hall to Raise the Bar. A great idea that I hope many of you will follow, but if nothing else please do make sure it is at the top of your agenda at all BB meetings when making plans for next session.

If we all just make a few improvements, we can transform the work of the Brigade across the country. I am trying hard to do my bit – will you?

Bill Stevenson

Bill Stevenson
Brigade Secretary & CEO



Follow Bill on Twitter at
@BiilBBHQ



Prepare to the best of our ability, and trust on the Lord

This year will be something like my 27th Session in BB, it's nothing really, I know of two leaders (Ken Dunn of 5th West Bromwich and JP of 1st Yate) who have both retired recently after being in the BB for 75 years! I'm sure there are so many more I'm not aware of.

New sessions are always a little daunting. For young people there is so much to deal with at the same time, a new teacher, school year or even a new school. Whilst as a leader there's all the planning that we do as we prepare for what is ahead - have we organised a good enough programme, will the youngsters return, whether anyone will want to go to camp next Summer and so on.

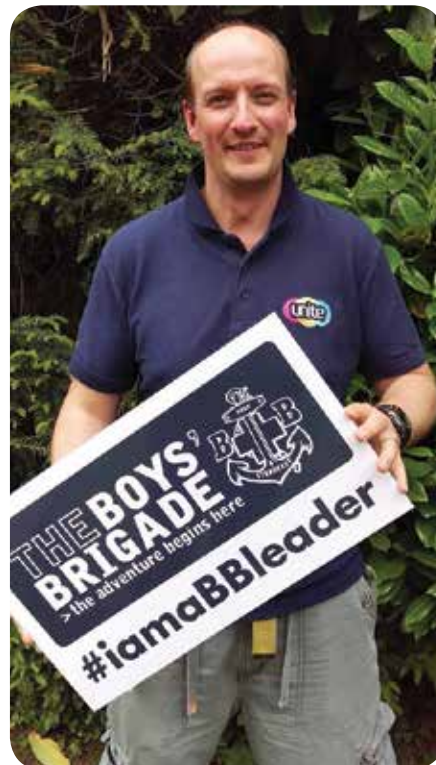
This year my family and I have huge changes too as we move from the town we have always lived in to South Gloucestershire, where I take up my new role as a Probationer Presbyter with The Methodist Church in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit...a new home, new jobs and new schools for our children.

We all have our own challenges as we look towards the new session, even as an organisation, as we come to Brigade Council to vote on the constitution of the Executive, consider our finances and think about what might be ahead for The Boys' Brigade.

It might seem completely daunting, but there is hope and light in all we do that keeps us focussed on what is important, the experience we offer to the young people we work with. This is especially true as we continue to explore how we can *Raise the Bar* and make best use of our new programme resources for the Under 11's.

I've always been a fan of the opening words from John's Gospel, *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.'* There's a reassurance in these words, that no matter how worried we might be about what is ahead of us, we can find hope in the fact that God is already there, preparing the way for us. Our job, is to prepare to the best of our ability, and trust on the Lord to be there for us.

Every blessing for the session ahead as we continue to advance Christ's Kingdom!



Rev'd Leigh A. Maydew
Chaplain, England

Leigh is a Probationer Presbyter in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit of the Methodist Church after recently finishing ecumenical formation training at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. Alongside this he is Chaplain to the England Region. In past years he has served as the West Midland District representative to England Region and a member of the Brigade Executive.

Leigh is married to Leanne and the couple have two children Josh and Poppy, Josh is looking forward to joining a new BB Company in September and Poppy looking forward to starting GB.



YOUR *UNIQUE* SELLING POINT



Have you ever thought about what your USP is? What attracts young people to your Company? What are you offering the local community which is unique and enticing?

Everyone is being encouraged to Raise the Bar, so let's consider our programme as a product we are selling to young people and work out our USP's.

USP (Unique Selling Point) is an acronym used often in the competitive business world, so what relevance does it have in youth work? Can anything be learnt from the achievements of the successful business? Generally, all successful businesses have one thing in common, a USP which attracts their customers, and which is unique to them. So, what does selling have to do with The Boys' Brigade programmes which are run throughout the country on a weekly basis?

UNIQUE SELLING POINT :

Is a factor that differentiates a product from its competitors, such as the lowest cost, the highest quality or the first-ever product of its kind. A USP could be thought of as *"what you have that competitors don't."*

When The Boys' Brigade was founded 136 years ago, it was the right product, at the right time, in an uncluttered market of youth activities. Skip forward to 2019, and things are very different. We now exist in a very cluttered youth arena, with school, clubs, sport, homework, online activities and social networks all vying for the attention of the young people. Now is a good time to consider what our USP is. Successful Boys' Brigade Companies, without even realising it, will have found their USP, and this is what is attracting both the young people and leaders alike. For the Companies struggling to attract members, it is incredibly important to figure out what your USP is, and then market that to the young people.



If you cannot identify your USP, then how are you going to convince young people to join The Boys Brigade?

A USP can be any number of things - harnessing the talents of leaders, making use of the resources which the Company or Church has available, or indeed the values of The Boys' Brigade and the Church itself. The USP at a local Company level may address a specific need which is not necessarily relevant to BB Companies in other parts of the country, however the organisation as a whole needs to promote its USPs for fear of being lost amongst the many other youth organisations which are currently in the market. The Boys' Brigade, the oldest Christian Youth organisation with 136 years of heritage is, in itself, a USP.

Have we for many years been hiding our unique services and values, in an attempt to try and blend in with the rest of the opportunities on offer through clubs and organisations? Are we constantly looking at what everyone else is doing, and then trying to create a similar product, which, ends up being just another one of many youth programmes available to young people? Whilst it is good to know what else is on offer to young people in our communities, we need to have and be clear about what our USP's are and so do the young people we want to attract.

Our programme needs to be innovative, current and unique, and not merely a copy of everything else available to young people. The fact that the BB Company is part of the Church and that it seeks to advance Christ's Kingdom through providing children and young people an opportunity to get into the Bible and find a personal Christian faith is certainly a USP.

Article continued →





Why should young people choose The Boys' Brigade programme over the many other activities vying for their time and attention?

Ask yourself, what can we provide for the young people which others cannot? Do the parents and the young people look at the morals and values of an organisation before they choose how to spend their time?



If people believe they share values with a company, they will stay loyal to the brand.

Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks

When The Boys' Brigade carried out a survey with 300 parents/carers and young people earlier in the year, the top 3 values that came from this were **Faith, Fun and Friendship**. A number of parents/carers and young people that completed the survey indicated that their prior perception of BB was not what they found it to be, with the majority saying it was far better – so there's certainly something there about us not selling ourselves as well as we could be. These represent the views of the audiences we are trying to attract, and may well be some help when thinking about the values you would associate with your Company too.

The USP of your Company may well be defined by the core activities you offer such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, playing in a band, playing a sport, being active in the community or having international connections. We should also consider if the USP is different for each age group (section) as it may well be the case that what is offered to each group of young people is very different and therefore our messaging should also be different.

You need to think about your target market. It is no good, hoping young people will turn up at the beginning of a session. Think about what your Company stands for and what you want to be known for. The Raise the Bar campaign challenges us to improve the quality of experience for young people, and by identifying your USP's, you will become more focused in delivering this.



Maybe you have previously thought about this, but ask yourself, is that USP serving the needs and wants of young people today?

Don't sit back and assume your USP will last forever. There are so many opportunities out there for young people, products and services are always evolving and there are always new things coming along, so you need to be aware of this, ready and willing to review and where necessary adapt your offering. Successful businesses are continually developing products and ideas, to ensure they have something that will ensure they continue to be effective, and youthwork is no different.

Once you have established your USP's, it will then allow you to focus your energy on delivery and raising the bar on the quality of experience for children and young people. Having a unique selling point, even one that may not appeal to everyone, is an advantage and stops you falling into the trap of trying to please everyone all the time. It will mean you are able to focus your efforts in terms of sustaining your existing membership and look for growth through recruitment initiatives. By trying to please everyone all the time, we lose our uniqueness, and no longer stand out from the crowded youth sector.

We need to make sure we stand out and are clear about what we are offering – it's all about finding the right mix that works for your Company, Church and local community.

“ Build something 100 people love, not something 1 million people kind of like.

Brian Chesky, cofounder of Airbnb

In a society where everyone is striving to be the best, is it not better to strive to be different? Let's not forget that often the personality of the leader is the USP of a successful Company. A strong dynamic leader can be a powerful USP and must not be ignored.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR USP

Consider what the unique selling points are for your Company by following these steps:

1. **Your target audience** – make a list of who your target audience is, consider different age groups and engagement with parents/carers, young people and other audiences.
2. **Consider what you offer as part of your programme** - Make a list of what you offer or could offer - these are all potential selling points.
3. **Consider other opportunities on offer in your local community** – Make a list of what else is on offer through other organisations, products or services. Remove the selling points that are already being well met by others in your local community to see what is unique to your Company.
4. **Match each potential USP to your strengths** – Match to what your Company/Church (leaders) are especially good at, and how you want to be seen.
5. **Create clear messaging for your Company** - Create short phrases that concisely identifies your USP's that can then be clearly articulated for each of your audiences.
6. **Keep things fresh** - Monitor trends and opportunities on offer in your local community that could impact your USP and where necessary review and change things.

“ If you can't explain it to a 6-year old, you don't know it yourself.

Albert Einstein

Decide what your USP's are, and by clearly communicating them to your community, not only will it help you to focus your energy in raising the bar, but it will also help young people, parents/carers and leaders alike to understand what you are offering, and a clear message will hopefully encourage growth and a healthy youth work provision in your local community.

Article by
Colin Swinton



Share what you come up with for your Company with us by tweeting [@theboysbrigade](https://twitter.com/theboysbrigade) or emailing: gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk



BB members attend Trooping the Colour

Around 100 BB members were in London on Saturday 8th June to watch HM The Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards. Alongside Her Majesty The Queen, the parade was also attended by The Prince of Wales, The Duke of Cambridge, The Duke of York and The Princess Royal.

During her reign The Queen has attended Trooping the Colour every year except 1955 when it was cancelled because of the general strike. Over 1400 parading soldiers, almost 300 horses and 400 musicians from The Household Division and The Household Cavalry took part in the ceremony.

The BB members joined hundreds of members from other youth organisations including The Girls' Brigade and Scouts in a special youth enclosure. After watching the parade they made their way up The Mall to Buckingham Palace for the balcony appearance and flypast. It was a fantastic experience for all the young people who attended. If your Company is interested in attending next year, watch out for details in the eBB news.

Staffing Review

Following a decision by the Brigade Executive a number of changes to the Brigade staffing structure have recently been introduced.

Jonathan Eales has become the Operations Director and his role now includes oversight of the finance team and safeguarding. Chris Norman has moved to a new position of Development Support Manager. Six staff either volunteered or were selected for redundancy and as a result the following staff members have now left the Brigade's Service:

- Rhona Drummond, Administrator, Scottish HQ
- Karen Jay, Director of Youth & Children's Work, UK & Rol Headquarters
- Robbie Powell, Support Team, UK & Rol Headquarters
- Deborah Seton, Catering Manager, Carronvale
- Lois Strawn, Support Team, UK & Rol Headquarters
- Gemma Scott, Housekeeper, Carronvale

In addition, Niall Rolland left Scottish HQ to take up a post with a new employer and Ian McCallum, Scottish HQ retired at the end of June. The Executive would again like to record its grateful thanks to all the above for their loyal and dedicated service to the Brigade over the past years.

As part of the review a number of new roles were created, these have now been advertised and new staff members will soon be in posts. These posts are:

- Safeguarding Manager, UK & Rol Headquarters
- Communications & Engagement Officer, UK & Rol HQ/ England & Wales HQ
- Communications & Engagement Officer, Scottish HQ
- Development Worker, Wales & South West England

An organogram of the revised structure can be found at: leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/staffingreview.pdf

Bill Stevenson has also indicated that he will be leaving the Brigade at the end of 2019. The Executive is considering the future role of Brigade Secretary and has agreed that Jonathan Eales will act as Brigade Secretary from 1st January 2020.



Top Team Challenge 2019

Well done to 1st Crossgar Company winners of the Top Team Challenge for 2019. A total of 197 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

Two tier Capitation Fees

After discussions with the Regional Committees, the Executive has agreed to introduce a new format for capitation fees from 2020-2021 session. In future the total will now be split into an HQ element and a Regional element. The HQ element will cover the "core central" costs for the Brigade and will still be set by Brigade Council. The Regional element will be set by the appropriate Regional Committee and is designed to reflect the cost of delivering services in a particular region.

England & Wales and Scotland will have the same Regional element and all fees will continue to be collected via OBM in the same manner. This is a significant change for the Brigade and the Executive hopes this will encourage greater transparency and accountability regarding our finances. The intention is that

each Region will also formulate a method of allowing individual Companies to approve the fees in that region. The initial expectation is that the Regional fees will all be similar, however, there is sufficient flexibility in this new system for the Regional Committees to set differing fees.

As a result, Council in September will be asked to approve an HQ element for 2020-2021 as follows:

£13.50 for young people and leaders / £10.00 for helpers.

The regional element will be £9.00 for young people and leaders (£7.50 for helpers) in England, Scotland and Wales. The fees for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have still to be agreed but are not expected to exceed those in other regions.

Office-Bearers

The Brigade Executive is proposing the following office bearers for the 2019/20 Session:

President: Rev Dr Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

Vice-President: David Aubrey QC
Alistair Burrow
Ian Rumbelow

Chaplain: Rev'd Leigh Maydew

Treasurer: Clifford Bygrave FCA, CTA, TEP

This year there are two new nominations and a profile for each of these can be found below:



Ian Rumbelow – Vice President

Ian has a wealth of experience as Captain of 1st Martock & Hamdon Company and also previously as President of Somerset Battalion. He has recently also chaired the group reviewing the Under 11's programme. In a professional capacity Ian has been a headteacher for many years most recently specialising in supporting local authorities and schools in special measures.



Rev'd Leigh Maydew – Brigade Chaplain

Leigh has recently been stationed to the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit of The Methodist Church following formation training at The Queen's Ecumenical Foundation in Birmingham. Leigh has also been the West Midland District representative to the England Regional Committee and served on the Brigade Executive. He has a background in the Charity Sector previously being employed by his local Methodist Church in various capacities and working for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District as their Administrator.

Brigade Council 2019 – Motions & Voting

London District has indicated that they have withdrawn its motion relating to the size of the Brigade Executive and have instead tabled amendments to the Brigade Executive's motion. Other amendments to the motion on the size and composition of the Executive have been received from five leaders from Northern Ireland.

Full details of all the business for Brigade Council can be found on the website at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm. Voting forms can also be found on the website and these should be returned to Felden Lodge by 23rd August 2019.

It is still possible to register for conference and we would encourage every Company to try and be represented. Full details on how to book can be found on the website and any questions directed to England & Wales team at ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk.

Obituaries

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

Les Banks	16 th Enfield Company / Enfield Battalion
Sir David McNee	
Mary Mabire	1 st Guernsey
Ray Mabire MBE	1 st Guernsey
Audrey Norman	10 th Enfield
William (Bill) Syson	9 th Edinburgh / Edinburgh Battalion

National Competitions

Congratulations to all the finalists in the 2018-2019 National Competitions. We are pleased to announce the results for each of the competitions as below:



SENIORS 5-A-SIDE



**JUNIORS 5-A-SIDE
7TH WISHAW**



**BADMINTON
4TH NEWTOWNABBEY**



**MASTERTeam
4TH NEWTOWNABBEY**



**TABLE TENNIS
44TH GLASGOW**

Competitions Results

Masterteam

Winners - 4th Newtownabbey 
 Runners Up - 2nd Gourock 
 Finalists - 3rd Gateshead  1st Guildford  128th Glasgow 
 1st Granshaw 







Table Tennis

Winners – 44th Glasgow 
 Runners Up – 1st Kempston 
 Finalists - 2nd Port Glasgow  4th Southampton 

5-a-Side Football Junior

Winners – 7th Wishaw 
 Runners Up - 14th West Bromwich 
 Finalists – 7th Northampton  1st Kilkeel  3rd Kilkeel 
 1st Overtown 

5-a-Side Football Seniors

Winners – 1st Moneymore 
 Runners Up - 4th Newtownabbey 
 Finalists - 2nd Tonbridge  16th Liverpool  1st Buckie 
 6th/8th Dundee 

Badminton

Winners - 4th Newtownabbey 
 Runner up - 1st Garvagh 
 Finalists - 25th Stirling  3rd Inverness  8th Hartlepool 
 9th Southend 

Chess

Winners – 1st Crowborough 
 Runner Up – 11th Bangor 
 Finalists – 1st Scone  2nd Llantwit Major 



Full details on how to get involved at
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/nationalcompetitions.htm



FELDEN LODGE

— CONFERENCE & TRAINING CENTRE —

70TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

Felden Lodge was acquired by The Boys' Brigade in 1948 and was officially opened in 1949. To mark the 70th anniversary of this event, a celebration will take place on the 19th & 20th October 2019 and you are all warmly invited to join us.

Saturday 19th October

There will be an Open House from 10am to 3.30pm with refreshments available throughout the day, along with an exhibition, and tours of the house and grounds. The day will be very informal giving you time to greet old friends, have a wander around and enjoy the grounds.

This will be a FREE event for all attendees although you are asked to register at feldenlodge.co.uk for catering purposes.

Saturday Evening to Sunday

An evening dinner will take place at Felden Lodge which will include a drinks reception, 3 course meal and speeches. Overnight accommodation will be provided in twin en-suite rooms in the house. On Sunday morning breakfast will be provided and following that a morning service. There is limited availability for the dinner and overnight package and bookings should be made online.

There will be opportunity to purchase new Felden Lodge memorabilia and some exclusive items that will only be available over this weekend.

Find out more and book at:

feldenlodge.co.uk or call **01442 288 557**.

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
2 nd Radstock	Adam Emanuel	Radstock Baptist Church
62 nd Birmingham	Gillian Harlow	South Aston URC
1 st Netherton (Dudley)		Cole Street Methodist Church

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Mr Walter Lambe (1st Ballylinney Company) who was made a MBE in the Birthday Honours list. Walter is a BTO and a well known face in training circles in Northern Ireland.



Juniors International Team Games 2019

Well done to 1st Barnet A (England) winners of the Juniors International Team Games for the 2019. There were 169 entries into the 2019 competition with entries from Australia, England, Ghana, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Thailand. Well done to all those that took part!



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

Changes to Leader Re-registration

At present leaders are required to re-register every five years requiring the completion of a re-registration form. This has been the mechanism used to initiate a new disclosure check. Following the introduction of OBM we are no longer reliant on this process to trigger disclosure checks.

From 1st September 2019 it will no longer be a requirement for a leader to re-register every five years. This process will be replaced with a series of 'milestones' which leaders will need to complete in order to keep their registration active. The first of these milestones will be the five yearly disclosure check (where required) and we will be using the triggered emails and notifications through OBM to initiate these. As part of the new process, every 6 months leaders will be sent an automated email to remind them to review and update their personal details. Over time additional milestones may be added.

If you have any questions please contact the Support Team at BB Headquarters at support@boys-brigade.org.uk or **01442 231 681** (option 4).



3 reasons why taking young people to events could be the best thing you do...for them and for you!

Can I be honest for a moment? Sometimes, when I am stuck in another hot minibus with music blaring in my ears and Haribo being thrown around my head like confetti I've wondered whether the effort I put into taking young people to events stacks up higher than whatever they get out of it.

However, I have to say that attending Life 2 the Max 2019 has given me a much-needed fresh perspective and washed away any jaded feelings I might have had.

Here are three reasons why activity days are more than worth the character-building minibus ride:



Life 2 the Max 2019 took place at Felden Lodge on Saturday 22nd June and saw over 700 young people and leaders from Companies across London and beyond come together for the day.



Find out more about the event and details of how you can attend in 2020 at:
thebbinlondon.org.uk/life-2-the-max/

1. They give young people opportunities they wouldn't typically experience

As I drove into Felden Lodge, I was met with a sea of white vans (minibuses) and instantly knew I'd arrived in the right place! I hadn't really known what to expect from the day, but I had to agree with one young lad's thoughts as he ran to the field "Ohhhhh word!"

I'm always a little sceptical when I hear people say "It gives young people opportunities that wouldn't normally have" but to be completely honest, even I hadn't done the majority of the activities on offer! From the fairground rides to the bungee trampolines, there was a climbing wall, zorbing, nerf ranges, roller races, sumo suits, crafts and games - the selection was unreal. One leader from 1st Slough explained that he loves bringing his group here because of the range of activities; "Take the falconry show for example - that's amazing! It really exposes them to opportunities they would never normally get". 14-year-old Stephen from 3rd Enfield enthusiastically agrees; "I do things here I've never done before".

I know from experience that exposing young people to new opportunities fosters some of those vital life skills; confidence, resilience and teamwork.

2. They expose young people to their peers

I spoke to several BB leaders who told me they love bringing their Companies to events like Life to the Max because it allows their young people to meet like-minded people. The 2nd Uxbridge leaders explained that "bringing our young people here shows them that BB is



bigger than just our Company". 9-year-old James Williams from the same Company agreed; "There are so many people here that I can play and make new friends with!". The more leaders I spoke to, the more the same message kept pouring out; "It's so important to bring young people here so they can see that BB is bigger than just our group" - Leaders from 5th London. Perhaps I had underestimated the power of exposing our young people to wider groups of people. Yes, it's certainly beneficial for them to mix with other young people from all paths of life and grow in their social skills - but watching the young people interact with others really highlighted to me the sense of purpose it creates. Knowing there are other young people out there with similar interests is incredibly validating and can only encourage our youth to continue with their passions and be proud of their memberships.

3. It helps leaders to feel part of a community

Probably my most surprising and significant realisation through attending *Life to the Max* was that events like this do not just benefit the young people but their leaders as well. Ever heard the term '*happy mum, happy baby*'? Well, how about '*happy youth leader, happy youth group*'! Vera Willaims from 2nd Hornchurch explained in more depth; "You can feel very isolated in your BB group, so it's so nice to come here and meet others". Vera's comment has been such an eye-opener to me, and as I've reflected on her views, I feel increasingly passionate about the importance of self-care for youth leaders. We can get so caught up in catering for the needs of our young people that we can often neglect our own (often depleting) fuel tank. If I'm being real, sometimes, youth work can feel exceptionally lonely, so I wholeheartedly see the benefits of joining up with other workers who are in the same boat. You can't feed someone from an empty fridge - so you need to make sure yours stays stocked!

I'm incredibly grateful for my opportunity to experience *Life to the Max* and it has definitely appeased my reservations over planning outings to youth events. What stood out to me the most was summed up by one leader who earnestly said, "Where else can you go where all the work is done for you? All you have to do it turn up!". And it is so true - what a gift to have a whole day of activities catered for! I don't know about anybody else, but I can get so consumed in planning the youth sessions that I bypass spending quality time with the youngsters. Days like this give you the freedom to enjoy spending time with your young people rather than focusing on the itinerary of activities that you are rolling out.

A massive thank you to The Boys' Brigade for letting me experience this fantastic event, and I am also extremely grateful to all the hardworking volunteers who spoke with me. Hopefully, see you at another event in the near future!

Louise Mary



Louise resides by the seaside in Margate, Kent. She has been working with young people for over 12 years in different capacities, both in and outside of London. She has recently trained as a counsellor to explore how she bring those tools into youth work. Her and her husband currently serve at New Life Family Church, Margate as youth leaders.



BB in Nottingham recognised by Lord-Lieutenant

On 22nd June The Boys' Brigade in Nottingham was awarded the Lord-Lieutenant's Award for Promoting Voluntary Service by the Lord-Lieutenant Sir John Peace at his Summer Reception at his home The Manor in Cauntton.

Four Companies around Nottinghamshire; 16th Nottingham (Stapleford), 44th Nottingham & 45th Nottingham (Clifton) and 37th Nottingham (Mapperley), all applied for this award. This was due to the work they have done and are currently doing in their local community ranging from litter picking, collecting items for food banks, volunteering in their local Companies and local community events and collecting bedding and towels for the RSPCA in Radcliffe.

The four Companies were jointly awarded this new award in its first year. Four young people, one from each Company, attended the Summer Reception along with 8 other organisations from Nottinghamshire. The Awards have been introduced by the Lord-Lieutenant to help recognise organisations in Nottinghamshire with outstanding service to their local communities and where there is significant benefit made to the lives of others.

Luke, 11 from from 16th Nottingham said;

"I had a really nice time. It was a fantastic place to celebrate at and the grounds were beautiful. I enjoyed the experience and representing the BB to gain this award made me feel extraordinary. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."



What a day... Life 2 the Max 2019

Life 2 the Max 2019 took place at Felden Lodge on Saturday 22nd June and saw over 700 young people and leaders from Companies across London and beyond come together for the day. Activities included funfair rides, inflatables, games, crafts, workshops and performances for the Anchors, Juniors and Company Section age groups. Chip Kendall concluded a brilliant day with a powerful message about living life to the full through a relationship with Jesus. Find out more about the event and details of how you can attend in 2020 at thebbinlondon.org.uk.



Magnificent Poppy Display



In July 2016, the 14th North West Durham (Lanchester) Company started on a project to make and display 2,500 air dry clay poppies in the grounds of their Church to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1. With the magnificent help of the whole village including local schools 4,118 poppies were completed and displayed in four different locations within the village. Some poppies were sold at the end of the display and £14,700 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Eric Hepplewhite said "From July 2016 until November 2018 our Company played a major role in the project with one of our Leaders having the vision for the project and driving it forward. We appeared on BBC local news coverage and took an active part in our own villages Festival of Remembrance. I am extremely proud that our Company took such an active role in the project which can only have increased the profile of The Boys' Brigade locally".



4th Southport BB

@4thSouthportBB

Thank you #southportcoastguard for tonight's talk and activities. Everyone had a great evening @theboysbrigade @CVQO @CVQONW#boysbrigade #raisethebarbb @SSJSouthport



First Queen's Badge in High Wycombe

2nd High Wycombe Company was formed in 2010 and were delighted to present the Queens' Badge to one of its members at a recent Church Parade. This is the first time that any member of the Company has received this award, the worthy recipient, Sabrina Hanif joined the Company shortly after it started and has remained a loyal member ever since, starting in Juniors and now finishing her time in Company Section as she prepares to head off to University.



The Mark Myhan Award



Corporal James Orriss of 4th Ealing Company was presented with the shield at the Company's Annual Display, and is pictured with Chaplain Revd Chris Fox, who made the presentation. The Award was set up recently, in honour of the late Mark Myhan, long-

standing and much-loved Captain of 4th Ealing, and is open to all Companies in the West London Battalion. The Mark Myhan Award is given for "dedication, commitment and service" within the BB, qualities which Corporal Orriss has most certainly shown: many congratulations to James. 4th Ealing will hold and display the shield for one year.

Sawston DofE Awards

Congratulations to 12 young people from 2nd Sawston Company who were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards by the Bishop of Ely at the groups annual presentation and awards. The Bishop presented 4 Bronze Awards, 3 Silver Awards and 5 Gold Awards which have been achieved in the last twelve months.



Ed Anderson, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire

@LordLtWY

Pleased to present the Queen's Badge to 16 members of the Boys Brigade this evening at @Theshaystadium Halifax with Deputy Calderdale Mayor Cllr Angie Gallagher @TheBBEngland @theboysbrigade

Stowmarket Camp



2019 marks 100 years since the 1st Stowmarket first Company camp at Southwold as recorded in this extract from 'A History of Boys' Brigade in Stowmarket' by Steve Williams.

'In 1919, with World War One over, the Stowmarket Company with staff returning from the forces, took up the challenge of organising a camp. The site chosen was the common at Southwold. For the next twenty years the Company made Southwold its camping home when war brought it to an end. The equipment from Battsford was loaded onto a farm wagon and pulled by farm horses. They left on a Thursday for Southwold. The village of Dennington was reached for an overnight stop, a rest for the men and horses, before reaching Southwold on Friday afternoon. The boys left on Saturday morning. They gathered in full uniform at the Congregational Church and proceeded to the railway station.'

Over the weekend of 28th to 30th June 2019 they recreated the full experience (excluding the horse!) starting with a parade from Stowmarket United Reformed Church to the station on Friday evening. They took the train as far as Darsham and Buckland Coaches provided an extra surprise by bringing a vintage 1960's coach for the final leg of the journey to Southwold Common.



The BB in Nottingham @bbinnottingham

Yesterday our Anchors had a great day at Manor Farm. Lots of smiling faces #bbweekend #faithinyoungpeople @TheBBEngland @theboysbrigade @BBnottmpres

SNAPSHOTS



**WEST OF ENGLAND
DAY OUT @ CREALY**



**SCOTTISH GOLD DOVE
AWARDS PRESENTATION
AT HOLYROOD**



**3RD GATESHEAD REACH
SUMMIT OF SCA Fell PIKE**



**MID SCOTTISH QUEEN'S
BADGE PRESENTATION**



**2ND BALLYNAHINCH
WIN NORTHERN
IRELAND JUNIOR
FOOTBALL**



50 years on for the Waltham Walk

This year the Waltham Walk celebrated its 50th anniversary, it all started back in December 1969 when a group of Officers of the Waltham Forest Battalion met and Michael Wilding, 22nd Waltham Forest Company set out his vision for what was to become the Waltham Walk, one of the largest expedition events affiliated to The Boys' Brigade.

To date the Waltham Walk has attracted entries from 294 diverse organisational groups including 73 BB/GA, 21 Scout, 9 Girls' Brigade, 4 Guides, 33 Cadets, 29 Schools, 37 Youth Clubs and 58 Independent groups. Although entrants are generally from a 200-mile radius of Essex there have been teams from Scotland and Ireland over the years with more than 7000 entrants having taken part. To commemorate this milestone, the history has been collated into "WALTHAM WALK ...the first 50 years". Copies can be purchased at £5 + postage and packing (contact mike.wilding44@googlemail.com).

So, the 50th event was held over the weekend of the 11th & 12th May 2019 with 49 teams taking part. The event started at High Easter Village Hall, camped overnight at Skreens Park and finished at Blackmore Village Hall an overall distance of 23 miles. Apart from a few light showers on the Saturday, which did not dampen the teams' spirits, the weather was good for trekking across the Essex countryside. Well done to all those that took part in the walk, next years walk will take place from 16th to 17th May 2020, for more information go to walthamwalk.org.uk.



Tewkesbury Medieval Parade

It was a fantastic turnout from the members of 1st Tewkesbury for the Medieval Festival Parade in Tewkesbury, a great spectacle as ever. The parade entry was a model of Tewkesbury Abbey, made by the Juniors. Well done for all those involved, it's always good for The Boys' Brigade to be visible in the local community.

East Kilbride wins in Annual Adventure Challenge



The 7th East Kilbride won the newly presented Willie Brownlie Cup in this year's Kilbryde Hike. The Senior team, beat off stiff competition to be crowned this year's winners covering a gruelling 29 miles.

In the 'Expedition' category, the winners were 2nd East Kilbride, who did the best trekking 20 miles and also completing their checkpoint challenges along the way to clinch top spot.

The 'Junior' category was won by 25th Stirling (Dunblane) with the one day 'Explorer' category being won by 4th Carluke BB.

The Hike is a competitive two-day adventure challenge in the hills of South Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire run by The Boys' Brigade although open to entries from all youth organisations. This year's event attracted a total of 125 young people from 31 teams and also included members from Scouts Scotland.

Over the last 50 years the Kilbryde Hike has given over 8,000 young people from around the UK the chance to develop teamwork, resilience and expedition skills. As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, teams were encouraged to raise funds to support the work of local charity Kilbryde Hospice, and to date just over £500 has been raised.

Next year the hike will take place on 13th -14th June 2020. For more information contact: kilbrydehike@bbglasgow.org.uk.



5th Hull BB @5thHullBB

Had great fun looking at Diversity and Inclusion with Anchors and Juniors tonight! #NoOutsiders #inclusion #diversity 'Love is love', 'love and other as I have loved you' and 'I am who I am' everyone is made welcome at 5th Hull!



Saint Catherine's @StCathsBurnley

Our Brigade Company section were busy up on our Community Allotment yesterday evening helping to plant, water and weed! @theboysbrigade @BpBurnley @cofelancs

Congratulations to Diana Award Recipient

Andrew Taylor is a sixth Year Pupil at the High School of Glasgow, a member of 1st West Kilbride Boys' Brigade Company and also a KGV Cadet completing his officer training at Carronvale this summer.

Andrew was nominated by his school nurse for The Diana Memorial Award which is awarded "to young people for their social action or humanitarian work". Andrew was selected by the judging panel as a deserved recipient for his work towards promoting better discussions and work for better mental health facilities within schools.



He demonstrates the belief of Diana, Princess of Wales, that young people have the power to change the world. Andrew's contribution relates to depression and anxiety caused by school pressure and stress, trying particularly to get boys to talk honestly about how they are feeling.

Andrew set up groups that met on a Friday lunch where anyone in 5th/6th year could meet and just sit and chill and talk about whatever they wanted. Andrew also set up a whole booking system so that each classroom and toilet in the school has a QR code which can be scanned on your phone and takes you to a site where you can discreetly book an appointment with the school nurse/counsellor. To draw attention to the support system, Andrew also spoke at a school assembly of his own personal struggles to show that it's not an unusual or unacceptable thing and that it is right to speak up and to accept help. As a result of these experiences, Andrew co-wrote, with the school nurse, a 3-week block of lessons for 1st Year pupils regarding mental wellbeing.

Andrew was presented with his award at the Scottish Parliament on 14th June 2019.

RESOURCE

GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the *Autumn 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



Sparklebox

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

Check out sparklebox.co.uk



Icebreaker Ideas

Everything you ever wanted to know about icebreaker games and activities. There are ideas for all age groups on this great website.

Check out icebreakerideas.com



Primaryresources.co.uk

Check out a wide range of free lesson plans, activity ideas and resources for those working with 5 to 11 year olds.

Check out primaryresources.co.uk

? The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Redditch or Roslin, Swansea or Slieve Donard.

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 Spring 2020 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

22 → Juniors

24 → Discover

27 → Challenge Plus

ANCHORS RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

With the launch of the new termly resources for Anchors you will find the following activity cards available through OBM and the Leader in Charge will have received printed copies of them.

Autumn 2019 Term (September through to Christmas)



Activity Cards



Heads, Shoulders, Knees & Cones



Search for the Stars



God's Love for All



Remembrance Handprint Poppies



Children in Need



Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors

Themed Programme Cards

- A Healthy Heart - Rugby World Cup - Fireworks & Bonfires - In the Jungle

JUNIORS RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

With the launch of the new termly resources for Juniors you will find the following activity cards available through OBM and the Leader in Charge will have received printed copies of them.

Autumn 2019 Term (September through to Christmas)



Activity Cards



Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors



Conker Fun



God's Love for All



Road Safety



Saving our Oceans



Origami Frogs

Themed Programme Cards

- A Healthy Heart - Rugby World Cup
- Fireworks & Bonfires - In the Jungle



Download the Autumn 2019 Programme Planner and find out all you need to know about the programme at:
boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



7 – 13 OCT

NATIONAL CURRY WEEK

Celebrate one of the Nation's favourite dishes by learning to create a mouth-watering curry from scratch, take on the poppadom challenge (eat as many poppadom's as possible in 2 minutes), review local Indian takeaways and try out some different curries.



2-8 NOV

UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

UK Parliament Week aims to inspire interest in parliament, politics and democracy and encourage young people and the public to engage with the UK's democratic system and institutions. Get your young people involved and receive free resources by registering at

ukparliamentweek.org



14 NOV

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS DAY

GWR Day is an annual celebration of record-breaking, a day which sees thousands of people around the world come together with one common goal, to become a title holder. Could your group have a go at a world record attempt?

Check out kids.guinnessworldrecords.com



30 NOV

ST ANDREW'S DAY

On November 30th the world celebrates St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day. St Andrew has been the Patron Saint of Scotland since 1320. Celebrate his patronage by learning about his life, holding your own ceilidh or sampling Scottish delights such as haggis.



Get Active: Cup Relay Tap

To play this game you will need two large disposable plastic cups (pint size or similar) and you need to tape the bottoms of the cups together. Make one for each team and it may be worthwhile making a spare in case one gets broken.

Get the young people into equal teams and lined up one behind the other with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front. The individual at the front starts with the cup and passes the cup on their foot down the left hand side first, on left foot and then the person at the back changes from their left foot to right foot and it goes back down the right hand side on the right foot to the front of the team. All players must have their hands on the shoulders of the person in front at all times and may only using the specified foot as the cup travels down that side.



Get Learning: Marshmallow Tower



A great game to get young people thinking, it's fun but will get young people working as a team, communicating, problem solving and bring out leadership skills.

All you need are packets of marshmallows and spaghetti.

Split the young people into groups (4-6 persons) and the goal is to see which group builds the highest tower using only the items provided. The towers must be stable and standing within the set time frame.

Theme Ideas

GETTING INTO CHRISTMAS

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

01

Candy Cane Chain

Split the group into teams and each team should sit or stand in its own circle. Once grouped, pass out candy canes, every player needs one and you will also need some additional



candy canes. When ready to start the game ask all players to put the candy cane in their mouth holding it between their teeth. Hang another candy cane from one of the participant's canes and the aim of the game is to pass the loose candy cane around the circle. The group will pass the loose cane clockwise around the circle, using only the candy cane in their teeth. If the candy cane drops, the group must start over, the first group to complete the circle wins.

02

Christmas Sketch

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

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

03

Christmas Photo-Booth

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

03

Penguin Waddle



This is a race to the finish! Setup a racecourse, it could simply be a straight

line, or it could be something more complicated that the penguins have to navigate. This game could be played in teams or as individuals. To make the contestants waddle, they must hold a balloon between their knees (no hands!) and be careful not to pop it. If anyone drops their balloon, then they must go back to the start and try again. There should be no contact in this game with no bumping into others, grabbing balloons, etc. The first person to cross the finish line is the winner.

04

Pass the Parcel (with a twist)

Get your wrapping paper and sellotape at the ready to create your parcel. You will also need some sweets and a bigger prize for the middle and you know what you need to do. But the twist is to add in with each sweet, a challenge. Be creative, but some ideas to get you going include 'sing your favourite nursery rhyme', 'show us your best dance moves', 'tell us a joke', 'act like a chicken with its bottom on fire', 'sing We Wish you a Merry Christmas', 'talk about the real Christmas story for 30 seconds'. You should have a great laugh!

05

Tree Prayers

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

07 Let It Snow

Play this game in teams or as individuals. Give each player a plastic spoon and each team/player a cup of cotton balls. On the other side of the meeting space, place an empty bowl for each team/player. Teams/players must race to get 10 cotton balls from the cup to the bowl on the other side of the meeting space, using just the plastic spoon. The plastic spoon must be held in the player's mouth. If they drop a cotton ball, they should pick it up and return to the start line and try again.

08 Secret Santa

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

Get Into The Bible: Alpha Youth

Alpha is an interactive series for 13 to 18 year olds exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha will help to you to spark life-changing conversations with young people, helping them discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus

Alpha is a great way to help young people engage with the big questions of faith. Anyone can run Alpha for youth using the Alpha Youth Series. It's designed for young people with no Christian or church background and it's all available for free online!

Alpha Youth is designed to be run over 9 sessions (or weeks) and helps equip leaders by providing videos along with discussion starters and tips. So why not look at running Alpha with your young people.

Find out more about Youth Alpha at
alpha.org/alpha-youth-series



Get Active: Magic Carpet

You're flying on a magic carpet, when you realise it's upside down. Can you flip it over without anyone falling off? For this activity you will need a sheet, tarpaulin, or blanket (big enough for around six payers to stand on) for each team. Get the young people into teams of upto six, and give each team a sheet which is their magic carpet.

Each team should get into a space and lay out their magic carpet. Once their carpet is ready, the team should jump aboard and get ready to go. Teams need to work together to flip their magic carpet over, so that the side facing the floor faces the sky. No one can step off the carpet, as they're already in the air.

How well did they do? Teamwork will have been key to completing this challenge successfully. After the activity has come to an end spend some time talking about what happened, you could ask the following questions:

- Did you work well as a team?
- What happened when there was a disagreement?
- Did anyone take the lead?
- Did you solve it first time or did you have to try different things?
- Did anyone take the lead?
- What was the most difficult thing?



Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



20 SEP – 2 NOV

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Hosted every four years, the Rugby World Cup is Rugby Union's centre piece event, with teams from all across the world competing. The 2019 tournament is being held in Japan from 20th September to 2nd November. Get your group involved by watching a match, learning something about the sport, trying out some skills or organising your own rugby match.

Check out rugbyworldcup.com



18 OCT

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY

Anti-Slavery Day, provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address the problem.

Find out more at antislaveryday.com



11 NOV – 15 NOV

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers, youth workers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2019 is 'Change Starts With Us'. Discuss the effects of bullying with the young people and look at cyber bullying.

Check out anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week



Get Active: Hands In



Get the group kneeling in a circle, with both hands placed flat in front of them. Then each young person moves their right hand in between the person on their right's hands. Thus create an alternating hand pattern. To start, one person calls out the tapping direction, left or right and slaps their hand once on the ground. The hand closest to the first slap (in the named direction) slaps the ground, then then next closest, and so on. If hand A slaps, hand B can either single slap or double slap. A single slap keeps the slap going in the same direction, but a double slap changes the direction so the slap travels away in the opposite direction. If someone slaps out of turn, they must remove that hand. All other hands stay where they are, even if they are no longer crossed over. A person is out of the game when both their hands are out. The game is over when there are only two people left. Try and go faster as the game progresses.



Northern District Service

Almost 70 Young People from five Companies attended the Northern District Annual Service in Braddox Presbyterian Church, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan on Sunday, 10th March. Young People and Leaders paraded to the church before the Service, led by The Clontivret Pipe Band. The National Chaplain, Mark Acheson and the President, Brian Weekes also attended.

It was a lively Service and the Young People from all five attending Companies led prayers or readings. The participation was further enhanced by Jamie Porter (1st Clontibret) playing the keyboard during the collection.

South- Eastern District Indoor Soccer Competition

On the 2nd March eight teams from all South- Eastern District Companies attended the event. There were two teams from both the 1st Gorey and 1st Dunleckney and a team each from the 1st Littlewood, 1st Bunclody, 1st Kiltegan and 1st Baltinglass. Great sportsmanship and fun was had by all with the 1st Dunleckney team coming in at first place, 1st Gorey second place and 1st Bunclody third place.



Drill Competitions 2019

Three events were held on the 16th February in Swords with 45 Young People competing. The Juniors' Figure Marching was very tight between the 2nd Dublin, 7th Dublin and 1st Gorey Companies although the 1st Gorey came out as winners. The Elementary Drill had some tricky moves and each squad did well, with 7th Dublin and 2nd Dublin Companies taking part on the night and the 7th Dublin coming away as winners. Four Companies took part in The Lewis Crosby Competition, with the 12th Dublin Company having a little bit of an edge to win it. With so little time to prepare squads these days compared to the past, the standard was of great credit to all Companies that attended.

Eastern District - ZIPIT

On Saturday 23rd March the 7th Dublin and 1st Dunleckney Company took their Young People and Leaders to new heights! An exciting day of Zip-lining through Tibbradden Forest was enjoyed by all who attended. It was agreed that it should be made a regular event on our calendar and other Companies shared their interest after the event took place.

Food Challenge - 1st Tralee

On Friday 22nd March, members of the 1st Tralee Company completed a challenge whereby they went to Dunnes Stores and had to buy items to create a meal for a family of four with only €5.00. This challenge taught the members just how difficult it is to feed a family with a low income budget. After some careful shopping everyone was able to complete the challenge and the food was then donated to The Tralee Soup Kitchen.

Eastern District - Seniors' Training Course

Following on from observing a Seniors' Skills and Leadership Training Course run by The Belfast Battalion in February, the 7th Dublin took it upon themselves to hold a course in the Republic of Ireland for the young people participating in the President's Badge. It was held on the 26th April and was found to be a very worthwhile exercise, brining Seniors from across the region together. It involved nine modules and it was open to all Companies in The ROI.



f /theboysbrigade
@theBBEngland

Raise the Bar Roadshows

We 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 ran nine roadshows across the region attracting over 300 leaders. The roadshows gave us the opportunity to bring leaders together and offer updates and workshops from both a Regional and Headquarters perspective led by key members of staff, key volunteers and external partners including Urban Saints and the Additional Needs Alliance.

We have had some great feedback and hope that we can build on the roadshow concept next session. Some quotes from leaders who attended . . .

Leader, Midlands said:

"The roadshows provided a welcome opportunity to meet with leaders and staff members, the high-quality venue and workshops offered shows that the BB values its volunteers and their input"

Leader, South West said:

"I left feeling much more positive and enjoyed meeting new people to share ideas and frustrations"

Leader, North East said:

"The quality of the resources is really good"

Natalie Whipday, Director for England & Wales said:

"The roadshows have given us a real opportunity to meet with leaders and highlight the work taking place across the Region. More so there was the opportunity to share the challenges currently faced at all levels and identify together some solutions and priorities for the coming session."

Mark Arnold, Additional Needs Ministry Director, Urban Saints said:

"It has been really exciting, and a great privilege, to partner with The Boys' Brigade for the 'Raise The Bar' roadshows over the last few months. Experiencing the professionalism and enthusiasm that the team put into these events, sharing in the passion and commitment of the participants to all that the BB is doing, and being able to help everyone along on their journey to equip the BB to be accessible and inclusive for everyone with additional needs, a place where all belong, has been a total joy. I very much hope, and fully anticipate, that Urban Saints and The Boys' Brigade will partner and collaborate in other ways going forward, and I for one can't wait!"



Alpha Youth Collaboration – Get your FREE resources

We are excited to announce a collaboration with Alpha UK within England and Wales. This will allow any Company to register to run the Alpha Youth Series which has been adapted and branded to support our over 11's programme. The series is a flexible approach which allows it to be utilised as part of the award scheme for both Presidents and Queens Badge. To register your Company's interest and to receive the FREE resources please email natalie.whipday@boys-brigade.org.uk.

In support of the collaboration Alpha will be offering some training events and webinars specifically for leaders.

If you are not familiar with Alpha, it is a Christian course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions, it is described as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". Please sign up to gain a greater understanding of this fantastic opportunity.

Unite 2019 - Celebrating 5 years



Around 280 young people and leaders from across England and Wales came together for Unite over the late May bank holiday weekend (24th to 27th May).

Unite takes place annually at Felden Lodge and is a weekend camp featuring a semi-structured programme, primarily aimed at 11 to 18 year olds. It is a great opportunity to enjoy a range of different activities, explore the Christian faith and meet other people from around the region.

The weekend saw opportunities to take part in activities such as football, archery, water games, a quiz, a campfire, human Cluedo, escape rooms and much more. The Sunday afternoon saw the Unite Carnival take place, which included activities such as various inflatables, zorb football, splat the rat, sponge throwing, coconut shy and sumo suits.

Evening entertainment included disco bingo, films, a neon-themed disco as well as Lip Sync meets Stars in Their Eyes, where lots of people got involved to put on a series of great performances!

There were times of worship where everyone came together in the Marquee (the main venue). Our speaker was Dez Johnston, Director of Alpha Scotland, who spoke on the theme "Avengers: Some Assembly Required!"

For those who wanted some quieter activities, the Cornerstone was a place to try some crafts, just chill out or have a chat with one of the pastoral team.

Dez says 'As someone with limited BB experience I didn't know what to expect from Unite! I was blown away by the level of involvement in the young people's thoughts, ideas and even recommendations on how to improve the camp! The team were epic and from a huge spectrum of backgrounds and really demonstrated what it meant to be part of a team to show with integrity what it means to be a Christian today. This is without doubt a huge part of the reason we saw 37 people Become Christians at the weekend! This camp is by far the most focused, diverse and fun camp I have ever been a part of and I have been to loads of camps and weekends! I cannot explain just how amazing it was... in fact I can I am coming back next year and bringing some Scottish groups to see just how amazing it really was!'

Each group at Unite was part of either the blue, red or yellow village, each of which was led by two Village Leaders. They competed against each other to earn points for taking part in activities and winning competitions, with the aim of being named the 'best village' during the Unite awards ceremony at the end of the weekend. For the second year running the winners were the blue village, led by Dan Charles of 3rd Gateshead and Will Dixon of 1st Newport (IOW). Well done team blue!

Planning is already underway for Unite 2020, which will again take place over the late May bank holiday weekend (22nd to 25th May). Keep an eye on our website and social media over the coming weeks and months for more details!

Find out more at unitebb.org.uk



Young Leaders Weekend @ Dearne Valley

Friday 17th-Sunday 19th April 2020

We are excited to host a leader weekend at Kingswood residential centre at Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire. The weekend is aimed at members who are 17-25 and will look at the theme of "BB 2030". Accommodation will be a "glamping" experience in specially designed echo pods. The price for two days including food and all activities is heavily reduced at £55 pp. Places are limited so please register your interest now by emailing ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON - ENG & WALES

12 OCT

Youth Alpha Leader's Training Day
Felden Lodge

15 OCT

Youth Alpha Leader's Webinar

2 NOV

YLT Day 1
Felden Lodge

16 NOV

BTO Update
North West District Training Centre

17 NOV

Refresh Training Day
Felden Lodge (hosted by London District)

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



50th Kilbryde Hike



The 50th Anniversary of the Kilbryde Hike took place earlier this month, with Calderglen Country Park marking the finishing point for the 31 teams taking part. The Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, was on hand to see the teams completing the last challenge and also to present the prizes. Next year's hike will take place on the 13 – 14th June, 2020.



NEW: Mini-Grants Scheme

We are now moving into the second year of our three-year partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild. We have had extremely positive feedback about the partnership, which has provided us with opportunities to talk more about our work and celebrate what we provide for young people in Scotland. In the first year we completed 178 talks/presentations in Churches across the country

A new mini-grants scheme, using funds from BB Scotland's Guild Partnership, has now been launched to support Companies in Scotland. Grants of up to £1,000 may be applied for to support:

- the development of a new Company or Sections
- development in existing Companies including the purchase of equipment, accessing training, trips/visits or promotional materials.

Find out more at:

boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/guildpartnership

Scottish Youth Parliament



Our two new BB Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) - Alastair Thomson (1st Bearsden) and Chris Winters (7th Wishaw) attended their first sitting of the Parliament at the end of June.



Cumrae Camp

Our national camp took place in May with 128 young people and staff from 15 Companies in Scotland taking part. Young people got the opportunity to experience living under canvas, outdoor activities such as water sports, hill walking, cycling, STEM activities and so much more, there was something in the programme for everyone giving them the chance to learn, grow and discover whilst in a safe, fun environment. In contrast, the weekend got off to a great start with everyone taking part in the 'Safe Place Challenge' led by Christian Aid, an outdoor challenge learning basic survival skills like those used by millions of people fleeing war, conflict and disaster worldwide. Although the weather was not so good this year it didn't dampen the spirits of the campers and on a very wet Saturday night we were invited by the Chaplain for camp (who happened to be the local minister) to watch a movie and dry out at the new Cumrae Parish Church.

STEM in the Brigade



Boys from 4th & 5th Fraserburgh have been attending North East Scotland College (NESCol) for a pilot scheme run at their STEM Centre in Fraserburgh. The 10-week programme (Community Youth STEM Introduction) covered Computing, Electrics, Joinery and Car Maintenance.

STEM Ambassador for Buchan Battalion and Captain of 4th & 5th Fraserburgh Martin Dunbar has coordinated the project along with the college and said, "It's a really terrific facility and the boys have thoroughly enjoyed getting involved with the various activities, things that they wouldn't normally get to do at school or at the BB."

The boys completed the course in June and all received a certificate of achievement from the college. The lecturers at the College expressed their enjoyment of the sessions, and have highlighted how impressed they were with the behaviour and application of the boys.



Young Leaders' trip to Poland

For a number of years now, young leaders in Scotland have been able to join an annual trip to a European city, with the aims of providing support, encouragement and networking opportunities for our young leaders. This summer young leaders from across Scotland travelled to Krakow, in southern Poland. Nicola Sobieraj from 66th Edinburgh helped to organise the trip, which as well as seeing the sights around Krakow also included a visit to the town of Zakopane that is surrounded by the Tatry mountains close to the border with Slovakia. Duncan Cameron who was on his first young leaders trip commented afterwards, "It's a great way to meet other young leaders, share experiences and make friends all over Scotland, all of whom share the common goal for helping young people learn, grow and discover".



Guard of Honour to the General Assembly

Over 150 BB members from across Scotland were on parade for this year's Guard of Honour to the General Assembly at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh in addition to those playing in the bands. As always it is an honour for The Boys' Brigade to be involved in this event.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



21 SEP

Forward in Fellowship Conference
Lanarkshire

28 SEP

Guild partnership Speaker Training
Carronvale House

30 SEP

SHQ Office closed

5 OCT

Scottish Cross-Country 2019
(re-arranged from March)

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



Lady Mary Peters - Special Guest at Annual Queen's Badge Celebration.

The Annual Queen's Badge Celebration took place in Belfast City Hall on Thursday 18th April 2019. The special Guest was Lady Mary Peters. 227 young men achieved their Queen's Badge this year. Pictured back row Andrew Swann NID Trainer and Tom McCormick Captain of 1st Saintfield both of whom have extensive experience of running the advanced award. Each spoke on the evening describing their experiences of being involved in the Queen's Badge. Both Leaders had the same message for fellow BB Leaders - 'Don't deny your boys the opportunity to do Queen's Badge!'

If you would like to start Queen's Badge in your Company please email david.penney@boys-brigade.org.uk for more information.



Junior Section Five-a-Side Competition

Congratulations to 2nd Ballynahinch who won the Junior Section Five-A-Side football competition in the 2018/19 session held in Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt on 13 April 2019.



Conference 2019

A conference for Anchors & Company Section Leaders. TIME TO... re:think, re:new, re:source, re:refresh and for re:vival. Saturday 12:10:19 Ballyclare Presbyterian. 10.00 - 15.30 £20 admission. Download the booking form from our website at www.bbni.org.uk

Note! There will be separate tailored sessions for both sections throughout the day.



Junior Section Figure Marching Competition

Congratulations to 1st Banagher Juniors who won the NID Junior Figure Marching Competition for the 2018/19 session.



Toilet Twinning

Boys attending Skills for Queen's Badge courses at Newport during 2018/19 donated money to twin one of the toilets at Newport with a latrine in Democratic Republic of Congo. Collections are on-going to twin the remaining toilets at Newport. Well done!

£510 raised by Queen's Badge Residential course Participants

Thank you to our Queen's Badge Residential Course participants who raised £510 for Release International during the 18/19 session. Release International is an inter-denominational Christian ministry working through local church partners in more than 25 countries, helping persecuted Christians prayerfully, pastorally and practically. Our ministry is based on Hebrews 13 v 3: 'Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.'



Ten – Scripture programme for Company Section boys now available

The new Scripture Programme 'TEN' studying the Ten Commandments, for use with Company Section members is now available to purchase from NIHQ. Introducing 'TEN', Rev Jonathan Moxen says: 'Teaching the Bible has always been at the forefront of The Boys' Brigade Northern Ireland District programme. It is by teaching its message that we are able to convey to young boys the priceless principles of the Gospel and the way of salvation as the greatest and best way that anyone can follow'.

Launch of Newport Website

Newport Conference and Training Centre has launched a new website. Please check it out at www.bbnewport.org.uk. Find out about the excellent location and superb facilities on offer for conferences, training courses and residential experiences including a wide range of AV, tech and sports equipment available. Newport offers a range of catering options to suit all tastes and budgets and is NI Tourist Board approved for group hire.

BB at Mayor's Parade in Lisburn



NIHQ were delighted to promote BB at the Lisburn and Castlereagh Mayor's Carnival and Parade on Saturday 6th April 2019. We set up a promotional stand and handed out lots of literature about BB including a flyer listing all the BB Companies in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. Some local BB Boys and Leaders took part in the Carnival parade as well. There is still time to promote BB for the start of the 2019/20 session. If there is a local community or civic event in your area and you would like help to promote BB at it please contact Alison Irvine at NIHQ for help.

WHAT'S ON - N. IRELAND

10 SEP

NID Annual General Meeting
Newport

20 SEP

Young Leaders' Network Event
Newport

12 OCT

Anchor Boy Conference
Newport

12 OCT

Company Section Conference
Newport

19 OCT

Youth Leader Training
Newport

23 NOV

Junior Section Conference
Newport

23 NOV

First Aid Training
Newport

24 DEC –
1 JAN

NIHQ Closed (inclusive)

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

Our Heritage

We continue to take a look at the Gazette in history and of course in turn the Brigade's rich heritage by sharing some of the events and activities which took place all those years ago...

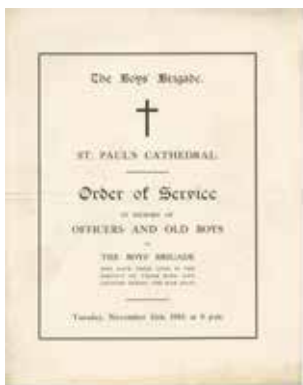


125 years ago....

The B.B. a monthly magazine for Boys, was introduced in 1894 at a price of 3d monthly. The gazette reminded readers that: 'A Captain can render no greater assistance to his Boys than getting them to read and take an interest in wholesome literature'.

Gazette Vol.3 No.5
1894

100 years ago....



Memorial Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on 11th November 1919. The Service on the anniversary of Armistice Day in the Cathedral of the capital of the Empire, in memory of our Officers and Boys who gave their lives in the war, must be regarded as a national and not merely a

local ceremony. That on this day above all, the privilege of holding a Memorial Service at St. Paul's should have been granted to The Boys' Brigade is a mark of appreciation of which we have reason to be both proud and grateful. Though only members of the Brigade and relatives of those in whose honour the Service was held were admitted, the great Church was filled, the programme states that at least 2,650 Officers and Boys were present. The reverence, the quiet, unobtrusive, effortless discipline shown, as Company after Company entered the Cathedral, moved quietly to their places, joined in the prayer, praise, and worship, and listened intently to the wonderful voice of the Chaplain-General of the Forces, made a profound impression upon all who were privileged to take part. *Gazette Vol.28 No.4 1919*



75 years ago....

"Since the last issue of the Gazette the flying-bomb attacks have inflicted further hardships on Companies that had already borne the brunt of the air raids of 1940 and 1941. We honour them for the pluck and tenacity they have again shown. Even when the attacks were at their height parades and classes continued and sports meetings were held. Many a successful Company Display this year was carried out despite the wailing of the sirens and the other noises that so often followed." *Gazette Vol.53 No.1 1944*

50 years ago....



Jamaica - 500 Boys took part in an Island Run in order to raise funds for the new Headquarters building.

Gazette Vol.77 No.4 1969

25 years ago....

Three hundred and seventy attended the Scottish Open Conference to discuss Brigade matters, policy and hear talks and presentations on youth work in other organisations, including the DofE programme.

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.

THE BB COMPANY AND THE CHURCH STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP

TOOLBOX 



We continue to look at the Raise The Bar challenges and in this issue, the importance of the relationship between the BB Company and the Church.

Steve Dickinson, Chaplain to 7th Northampton Company and former Brigade Secretary shares some ideas that could help Leaders to consider the relationship between the BB Company and the Church.

Challenge 5 – Engage with your church -

with a view to strengthening the partnership between the BB Company and the church, make opportunities for the congregation to join in with BB activities, whilst also looking at how the Company can engage with Church events. Consider how you share what you are doing through the Church newsletter, website etc.



Write a sentence or a single word that you are prepared to share that describes the relationship between your Company and your Church.

When this question was asked on a Captains' residential at Felden, there was a huge range of answers.

“ Integral “ Passive “ Non-existent

“ It used to be very good with the previous captain, but now..... “ Strong

“ The Church aren't interested and we never see the minister “ BB is seen as an important outreach for the church

For the BB to be successful in its mission, then evidently the relationship between Church and Company is critical. As an organisation we declare that we partner Churches to bring the Gospel to children and young people, but if this partnership is weak or strained then the Kingdom suffers. To ensure that there is a partnership, the church has clear responsibilities for its Company:



The Church appoints a Chaplain for the Company - This person, usually the minister, is a member of the Company staff and could be involved in staff meetings and supporting other leaders.



The programme of Christian education - Material is provided by and recommended by The Boys' Brigade to help with the Spiritual development of children and young people, but ultimately the church determines the materials and methodology used.

That sounds fine in practice, but in reality unfortunately things go awry leading to some of the comments above. So what can we do to strengthen the partnership and whose responsibility is it?

The Minister and Captain have key roles to play and often the relationship between the two individuals sets the tone for the wider relationship. Like all human relationships, there are times when things can be difficult. Lack of communication and understanding on both sides may often be the cause of tension, but it is important to remember that the partnership is bigger than individuals and will continue beyond any temporary challenges.

In the 'Faith in the Company' booklet, there are 4 bullet points suggesting things to consider when seeking to develop a more fruitful relationship:

- Could Church members lead devotions, share a skill, pray regularly for the Company?
- How often is BB talked about and prayed for at the leadership level of Church life?
- What avenues are open to communicate successes and concerns?
- Could the Company contribute in worship, promote church activities, regularly pray for the shared mission?

Faith in the Company

Check out the Faith in the Company booklet which can be a great tool to help support the relationship between the Company and the Church.

Download at:

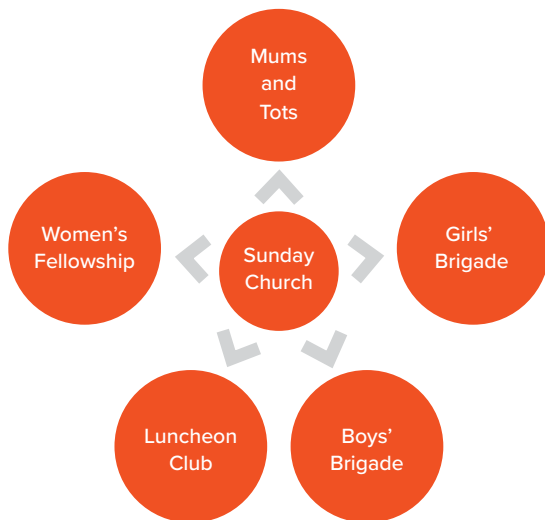
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/faithinthecompany.pdf

For many of our young people, Church is an alien culture and there is no connection apart from BB. We have publicised ourselves as a bridge into the community, reaching out to children and young people who otherwise wouldn't cross the threshold of the building. And that is a strength and provides great opportunities for the Church to access communities and share with families it otherwise wouldn't touch.

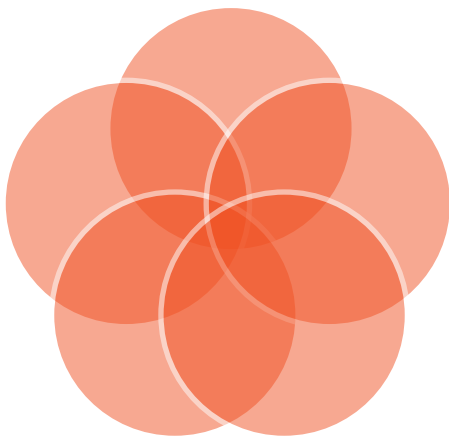
The Company and the Church need to be conscious of this potential and support each other in mission. One way to consider this is to ask, do the BB members see themselves as part of the Church family or are they just BB members. How as BB leaders can you encourage this or is the perception that BB must come first? Does your Church have a Children's and Youth work policy which is explicit about the role of the BB and how it contributes to the wider youth work of the Church, if there is any? This could be the starting point for a fresh dialogue with the church leadership – if there is a policy in place use this as a basis to reflect on the success of the Company and if there isn't, why not get together to create one?

BB and church leadership teams need to be clear on what the BB is seeking to achieve and its role in the wider Church mission.

Some Churches seek to measure success with numbers attending worship. In such Churches, groups may be set up solely with the objective of getting more people on a Sunday. This philosophy can lead to negative comments about groups such as BB and leaders are criticised for not getting the young people to attend. This scenario could be considered as **one Church, many activities:**



Other Churches may take a different approach and not restrict the concept of Church to a Sunday morning and consider all of its activities as Church for those who attend. This scenario could be considered as **one Church, many congregations:**



For those who come to BB that is their Church. Which scenario is your Church most like? Would it be useful to discuss this with the Church leadership team and see if there is value in adopting the one Church, many congregations scenario? For this to bear fruit and for a mid-week session to be Church, then it needs to contain the elements of what makes Church, such as prayer time, worship, bible study, fellowship etc. but these are things that are included in BB programmes as a matter of course.

There are lots of practical things that can be done to build the relationship:

- ✓ Invite Church members to BB evenings. Invite the minister to events and not expect him/her to simply lead the devotions. The Minister could have a greater influence by playing table tennis and being seen as a real person.
- ✓ What Church activities could the Company be involved in and support? Attend the regular coffee morning and set the objective of the young people learning Church members' names and vice-versa.
- ✓ Ask the Church to pray for the Company and its young people. Could you set up prayer partners with whom to share specific concerns?
- ✓ Regularly communicate what the Company is doing? Get Church members to follow your Facebook page. Could you put a monthly update in the Church notices/newsletter? This is something that the Seniors could get involved in.
- ✓ Don't let finance dictate things. This can be a source of strain with some Companies being expected to pay to use the premises, some making a donation to cover the cost of utilities, whilst others receive financial support from the Church including payment of national capitation fees. Churches find themselves in different financial circumstances and you will be aware of your own situation. An honest discussion rather than moans and grumbles will allow for understanding and an agreed approach.

These are a few quick wins, but the importance of determining and understanding the role the BB in the Church's youth ministry cannot be over-estimated. By working together with shared objectives then there is a greater chance that those who we are called to serve, may catch a glimpse of the kingdom.

Steve Dickinson

Chaplain, 7th Northampton & Former Brigade Secretary



THE IMPORTANCE OF OFFERING A RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITY

Residential Experiences

Offering a residential experience is so important, something which provides opportunities that other parts of the programme just cannot!



As we launch a new partnership with Kingswood, one of the UK's most experienced outdoor learning providers, we wanted to take the opportunity to encourage you and your Company to consider the benefits of offering a residential experience.

Sometimes with the busyness in our Companies, we lose sight of something which is so important - building relationships with the children and young people. Residentials can provide that opportunity for us as leaders to really get to know the children and young people whilst also helping the individual and the group as a whole in a range of ways.

Taking children and young people away from home overnight, particularly camping, has always been an important part of growing up in the BB. The BB first started camping in 1886 and since then residential experiences have played an important part in our programmes. Often our memories and those of the children and young people in our Companies will be of residential experiences, that "week in Dyffryn", or "weekend away in France". Survey of children and young people carried out by the Brigade show that camps and residential trips are important and were the highlight for many.

How important are residentials in your Company? What do you offer each year? Do you have a residential opportunity on offer to every child/young person (as eligible)? Have you considered progression? What does a young person who is 11 have to look forward to when they are 16? Residentials can often be the key to retention, especially with older members.

What do residentials offer?

An opportunity:

- 👍 to be outdoors
- 👍 to meet requirements for awards
- 👍 to develop and strengthen friendships
- 👍 to help leaders share their faith
- 👍 for young people to take responsibility for themselves
- 👍 to give young people a chance to exercise a leadership role
- 👍 to build teamwork skills, strengthen the links within the group
- 👍 to give young people the chance to be self-sufficient and develop independence
- 👍 to learn and develop skills
- 👍 to travel and see different places
- 👍 to do other activities not usually possible
- 👍 to provide a high point to the year's activities
- 👍 to increase self-confidence
- 👍 to provide a holiday for those that might not otherwise have one
- 👍 to have fun and adventure!

There are so many ways of going about running a residential experience, with different types of venues and environments. These could include, but are not limited to, a sleepover at your meeting place, going to a residential activity centre, youth hostelling, going to a festival or event, using a church hall, an expedition; narrow boating, camping or even going abroad.

“ Fundamental to the work of The Boys’ Brigade is building relationships and there is no better time to do this than a time away. To laugh together, to talk nonsense, to play silly games, to hike the mountains, to have a midnight ramble, but most importantly to talk about issues that concern the boys, to explore that all important journey of faith and to advance Christ’s Kingdom. Time away? It’s vital to the work of the organisation... just listen to the buzz when we start talking about it!!!!”

Walter Lambe, 1st Ballylinney

ARE THERE REASONS WHY WE CAN’T OFFER RESIDENTIALS?

The main barrier cited is often the lack of available leaders. Other reasons can be lack of experience, associated costs, lack of transport or local resources.

How can we break down these barriers?



Availability & Responsibility

You need at least two leaders to be able to run a residential of any type, and someone has to take responsibility for it. But you can perhaps lighten the load. In BB terms the person taking overall responsibility would be a registered leader (an Officer) who has the Holiday Leadership Certificate (a 1-day course being run throughout the Brigade). The Holiday Leadership course will be of great help in providing the opportunity to think through what you will need to do and give you some ideas on how to go about things (choice of location, risk assessments, etc).

Alternatively it might be that you could organise a residential as a joint activity with another Company or group of Companies, or as a Battalion/District which might mean that someone else takes on the responsibility for leading the residential and/or may mean your Company only needs one leader to accompany your young people.

Another fantastic way to offer a residential is through our outdoor education partner Kingswood, who welcome groups all year round, for day visits, great value weekend breaks and longer adventures. Their outdoor activity and adventure programmes are tailored to the objectives of your group, the age of your young people and the duration of your stay to ensure you enjoy maximum impact from your trip. The best thing of all is that you have an experienced team working alongside you to organise the programme (although you will have some options to choose from), provide all meals, accommodation and can even provide the transport. This can leave you and your leaders with less of the load and allow you to focus on building relationships with your children and young people.



We don’t have the staff with the necessary training and experience to run a camp on our own, so being able to offer our children and young people opportunities to go on Battalion run residentials was a boost to our programme!

Paul Bracher, 1st Edmonton

TOP TIP

Sometimes running a residential will mean leaders will need to take time off work; it’s worth talking to employers, as some will be supportive and give additional time off, allow half days before or after, etc. Did you know that some businesses as well as those working in the civil service have Employer-supported volunteering schemes where employees are encouraged to volunteer and given time off to do so?



Experience

It’s always going to be helpful to have learned from previous experiences. If you’ve never run or been on a residential with children/young people before, then why not see if you could go along to something being organised by another Company? If your Company runs residentials already, have you considered succession planning? Encouraging others to take responsibility and build up valuable experience across your team.

Important!

Remember that all adults going on a residential **MUST** be registered with BB Headquarters. For those leaders only involved in residentials, there is no cost in registering them as ‘Residential Activity Helpers’.



Cost

A big factor for parents/carers will be around cost and value for money. But it’s also important to realise that cost can also be a barrier for some leaders. However, the cost of BB holidays is often very reasonable compared to the costs for residentials by schools and other providers. The cost of our residentials can vary considerably, from using your own hall for a sleepover where food and other costs might mean £5 per person to organising a trip abroad which might cost £500 per person.

Check out some of the fantastic prices being offered for weekends away by our partner Kingswood. (see page 41)

TOP TIP

Don’t under-value the creativity of your own staff and equipment/resources, with what you can do on-site or in public places (parks, beaches, sightseeing) or at free attractions (museums, exhibitions, etc.).



Putting together a budget and planning well in advance will help you to keep costs down and under control. Numbers will play a big factor and there will be some financial risk based on a minimum number of young people attending. Again, forward planning and encouraging small deposits before you have to confirm bookings can help to reduce this risk. Some adventure and activity centres offer per person costs rather than hiring out a whole building and exclusive use of activities, and they sometimes offer free leader places. So, the big message here is to do your research and plan the what, where and when based on it being affordable for your children and young people (and leaders!).

Does your Company offer assistance to children/young people that would struggle to meet the cost? If not, could you offer support, by doing some fundraising or approaching your Church/ Battalion for support? You could also consider putting in a funding application to cover the cost of a specific activity or element.



Transport

Naturally here we think of leaders driving cars and minibuses, which probably is the most common way, but not the only way. Some Companies will ask parents/carers to drop children/young people off at the location (if a reasonable distance) and ask that parents/carers help each other out and work together. Others will jump on a train, as children and young people can often travel cheaply by rail. Some residential activity centres will organise transport for you to take that hassle away. Importantly it's about working within your means here, what options you have available to you and choosing your location based on those.

“Camps allow the boys to have time away from home and I believe that it allows the boys to learn, grow and discover as a young person and also allows the staff to get to know the boys better and vice versa. The residential experience, I believe is an important part of The Boys' Brigade programme which can't really be done as part of normal meeting nights. The experience and memories made at camp last a lifetime!

Martin Dunbar, 4th & 5th Fraserburgh

So, if you're still asking yourself the question “How can I offer residential opportunities?”

You should speak to another leader, ask for some support from someone you know who already runs residential activities in their Company, or bring it up as a point for discussion at a Battalion meeting. You could also speak to the team at Kingswood to find out how they can help. Alternatively contact your Regional Headquarters who will be able to offer some support and advice and point you in the right direction.

Chris Norman

Development Support Manager, BBHQ



Follow Chris on Twitter at
@chrisnormanbb



Why not try a Kingswood Adventure?

An adventure to remember, a taste of independence, a rush of adrenaline, a breath of fresh air, a sense of achievement and making memories that last a lifetime. That's what we're here for.

We are raising the bar to provide the very best outdoor learning experiences. A Kingswood adventure utilises experiential education and non-academic ways of learning to provide a taste of independence, the chance to make lifelong memories and gain a sense of achievement. The experience equips young people with skills for their future and broadens their horizons to the opportunities available to them.

By taking young people out of a formal learning environment and into fun and exhilarating experiences focused on challenge and adventure. We encourage whole groups to bond and be captivated, the shyest to shine as leaders and the unmotivated to become the most enthusiastic about developing a new skill.



What your group can expect from their stay...

- ✓ A full and varied programme of outdoor activities
- ✓ Evening entertainment
- ✓ Expert instruction from our enthusiastic and highly trained teams
- ✓ Full-board accommodation with tasty, healthy food cooked on the premises
- ✓ En-suite rooms for adults at most centres
- ✓ Social spaces available including a yurt at some of our centres
- ✓ A comprehensive information pack, fundraising kit and launch materials
- ✓ A specialist and dedicated team available to support you throughout your experience
- ✓ Downloadable risk assessments for all our activities and centres

PLUS One free group leader place for every eight young people.

Locations across the UK and beyond!

With nine inspiring centres across the UK, plus a Château in France, we provide unbeatable experiences.

KINGSWOOD OFFERS

As proud partners of The Boys' Brigade we are offering a range of special rates to choose from:

2 night stay for £59 per person (Fri - Sun Minimum 10)

1 night stay for £35 per person

Day visit for £25 per person

Prices are exclusive of VAT.

We love welcoming uniformed groups to our centres because their ethos inspires us – enjoying new adventures, experiencing the outdoors and gaining confidence is what we're all about. Through our variety of adventure experiences, you can work on problem solving, increasing motivation and team work skills whilst enjoying a fun-packed outdoor activity break. Whether you're working towards a badge, after a group celebration or simply enjoying a fun weekend away, we will work with you to tailor-make your programme.

For more information visit kingswood.co.uk

email: groups@kingswood.co.uk

telephone: **0800 288 9990**

GLOBAL FOCUS: Easter Course 2019 in Snowdonia



The Boys' Brigade had the pleasure of hosting this year's Easter Course in the beautiful surroundings of the Snowdonia National Park. Over 40 participants attended from European Christian Youth Organisations from countries including Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Malta, Romania, Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia and the UK. Activities included faith development, sharing activities from different organisations and looking at the challenges facing European Christian Youth and what solutions can be found.

The theme of the course was 'Agree to Disagree' and focussed on how the Brexit debate has affected communities in Wales as well as exploring the No Outsiders project and the guest speaker was Andrew Moffatt the Assistant Head Teacher in Birmingham who came up with and started the No Outsiders project which has been rolled out in schools and local authorities across England.

A participant said "The course was an amazing opportunity to learn from others on how to interact and support effectively the young people in my youth group, and how I can make the group as inclusive as possible ensuring there are No Outsiders. I have had a fantastic experience and made memories that will last a lifetime and already can't wait for next year's course".

A big thank you goes to the volunteers who supported the course and to the staff of the Christian Mountaineering centre in the picturesque Llanbedr where the course was held.

Easter Course 2020

If you want to take part in next year's course in Transylvania between 5th and 12th April 2020 get in touch with v.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk for more information.



ARE YOU TAKING PART IN ANY INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, COURSES OR EXCHANGES OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO?

If you want to know any more information on any international opportunity, would like to invite international participants to your camp or activity or want to make international work part of your programme then please get in contact with Vaughan Staples, Area Lead for International Affairs by emailing v.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk or call 01442 509 515.

Global Round-up

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



Following a visit in July 2016, BB Leader Sandra Trout of 1st Ossett Company in Yorkshire was invited to go back and visit BB Thailand's National Camp. The National Camp of BB Thailand is held every 4 Years, on this occasion the camp was held in the Pat Chong District, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. As well as meeting the Brigade President and Secretary of Thailand Sandra met with boys and girls from across the county and got to see some of the activities they were doing and also hear about the experiences of members and leaders.



Leaders from 10th Enfield Company in North London dropped in on Boys' & Girls' Brigade in Brockton, Massachusetts whilst staying in Boston. The visiting leaders shared something of their BB experience back in the UK and spoke with the young people and leaders about what they get up to and their experiences and exchanged gifts. They also got to see the programme in action with young people and leaders taking part in a range of activities including singing, practising drill and helping with the Church spring clean.



Congratulations to 1st Sri Aman Company in Malaysia celebrating their 20th Anniversary together with 1st Sri Aman Girls' Brigade Company.



Fantastic to see 89 boys from BB Companies across the state of Queensland in Australia coming together for the 2019 Leadership Course.



Members of Mahurangi ICONZ in New Zealand began working on the WORX badge where they found out about jobs in the real world. Greg from Skywork Helicopters kept the boys interested telling them about his path to being a helicopter pilot. They had a tour of the site, a look at two helicopters and also saw the ground support vehicles.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Your Boys' Brigade Company can show children in need around the world you love them and God loves them by packing shoebox gifts with Operation Christmas Child. In 2018 over 10.6 million shoeboxes collected globally are equipping thousands of churches overseas to reach out generously to children with the joy of a simple gift and the Christmas story of Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

In this issue Nick Cole, Director of Operation Christmas Child UK at Samaritan's Purse shares with us more about their work, the impact it's having across the globe and how BB Companies can get involved.

Who are Samaritan's Purse & Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief organisation. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United Kingdom to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

Impact of a Shoebox

“ My name is Losif. I am 10 years old. I am from Dolinoe village, Criuleni district, Republic of Moldova. I have two sisters and two brothers, one of whom is a baby. I am so very happy that the Lord Jesus Christ did not forget us and sent us Christmas gifts through you. In the boxes we found many things we cannot buy, such as: toys, crayons, pencils and many other useful and nice things. We have a hard life with many needs we have gotten used to, but at Christmas we felt true joy. The youth from the local church visited us with a wonderful programme of Christmas carols and songs. We could really feel the joy of Christmas in our hearts. ”



Shoebox gifts from the UK are sent to 11 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. In 2018, we collected and distributed 10.6 million shoebox gifts globally, to 112 countries around the world, bringing the total since the campaign began to around 160 million shoeboxes.

How could your Company get involved?

Pack Shoeboxes:

Despite these amazing numbers, it still all begins with one simple shoebox, packed by someone like you, and it's so easy:

1. Wrap an empty shoebox in colourful paper (wrap the box and lid separately), for a boy or girl.
2. Fill it with new items such as fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and include a special gift like a soft toy, football or doll.
3. Including a personal note and photo makes a big impact on the child that receives it; and remember to pray for them too.
4. Include a £5 donation which is critical to cover shipping and other project costs such as training and materials for our overseas partners who distribute the gifts. If you make this donation online we will send you a barcode to include in your box so we can tell you which country it gets sent to.
5. Drop off your shoebox at one of hundreds of locations around the UK.



PROFILE: BOGDAN PUTA – UK SHOEBOX STORYTELLER

Growing up in post-communist Romania, Bogdan and his family lived through the massive political and culture change within their country. Although things were changing within Romania, pay for jobs was still low. Bogdan's family made the brave decision to move to the UK to make a better life for themselves. One day when Bogdan was in his new school in the UK he was asked to pack a shoebox. The memories came flooding back of how a simple shoebox impacted his life. God had used the shoebox to show love and kindness to Bogdan, he never thought that it would also be an opportunity for him to share the ultimate love found in Christ.



Get Creative:

Your young people could get creative with one or more of our great craft ideas which can be added to your shoeboxes. Ideas include Lego Lids, chalkboards, fishing game and tote bags.



Share More About Our Story

There are a range of resources including videos and activities you can access on our website which will help share more about our work and its impact across the globe with your group.



Invite Shoebox Storytellers

Invite one of our UK Shoebox Storytellers to speak at your meeting: this is someone who received a shoebox as a child and now promotes the campaign for Operation Christmas Child. You could organise for a member of your group to interview them at your Packing Party.



The Next Stage Of The Journey

Churches, schools and groups collect shoeboxes between 11-18 November. Then thousands of volunteers check and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping. Take your group to visit your nearest Processing Centre and join in checking the boxes.



Find out more about Operation Christmas Child at:
samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ/

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 5511200 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 17764
 📧 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.

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

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

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

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

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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/

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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 (Spring 2020) should be received by 15th October 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.



ON SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2020
@ BBHQ, FELDEN LODGE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
AN ALL DAY EVENT

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE BIGGEST

EVENT IN THE BB YEAR!

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL BB/GA MEMBERS FROM COMPANIES ACROSS THE BRIGADE - SEE YOU IN JUNE!!!

Find out more at thebbinlondon.org.uk
@BB_Life2theMax

there's lots on offer on the day including . . .

- > funfair rides > giant inflatables > circus skills > shows & workshops
- > water games > music and worship > crafts > games & sports > & more!

+ L2TM Extra (Sat 20th - Sun 21st June 2020)

In 2020 Life 2 the Max will also offer an **EXTRA opportunity to stay overnight in tents or indoor accommodation** - so make a weekend of it! So as well as the usual event taking place during the day on Saturday, those staying over will get to take part in activities on Saturday evening including a **bonfire, late night film and disco** as well as take on a fantastic **It's a Knockout Team Challenge** on Sunday. The residential event will include all food and activities from 10am on Saturday thru to 3pm on Sunday.





FELDEN LODGE
— CONFERENCE & TRAINING CENTRE —
ACCOMMODATION • CONFERRING • SPECIAL OCCASIONS

feldenlodge.co.uk



CARRONVALE HOUSE
— CONFERENCE & TRAINING CENTRE —
ACCOMMODATION • CONFERRING • SPORTS FACILITIES

carronvalehouse.co.uk

NEW

£2.50

MEMBERSHIP CARDS 2019/2020

31 380 1 – BOYS ONLY 31 381 1 – MIXED (BB AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION)

Pack of 10 cards including an information card which includes church attendance table on the reverse along with a credit card sized membership card. Versions of the card are available for Companies with boys only and also a card for Companies with a Girls' Association. The membership card is ideal for presenting as part of an Enrolment Service or at the start of the session to promote a sense of belonging to the Company and Church.



BLACKHILL TORCH

NEW

Product: 117301



£4

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

LANYARD BUBBLE BLOWER

Product: 112111



£2

Blue bubble tube with lanyard attachment. Great as a gift, prize or giveaway.

HYDRO DRINKS BOTTLE - NEW

Product: 117341



£4.50

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

BLUE A4 CONFERENCE ZIPPED PORTFOLIO

Product: 116681



This A4 portfolio (conference folder) includes a space for your phone and tablet and has pockets/holders for cables and a USB. Features the BB adventure begins here logo. Also includes a recycled lined notepad.

NEW

£18

ENAMEL MUG - NEW

Product: 115471



£9.50

Dark blue enamel mug with BB adventure begins here logo printed in white. White interior. Enamel mugs are perfect for camping, picnics or any outdoor event but look just as good in the office or at home.

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)