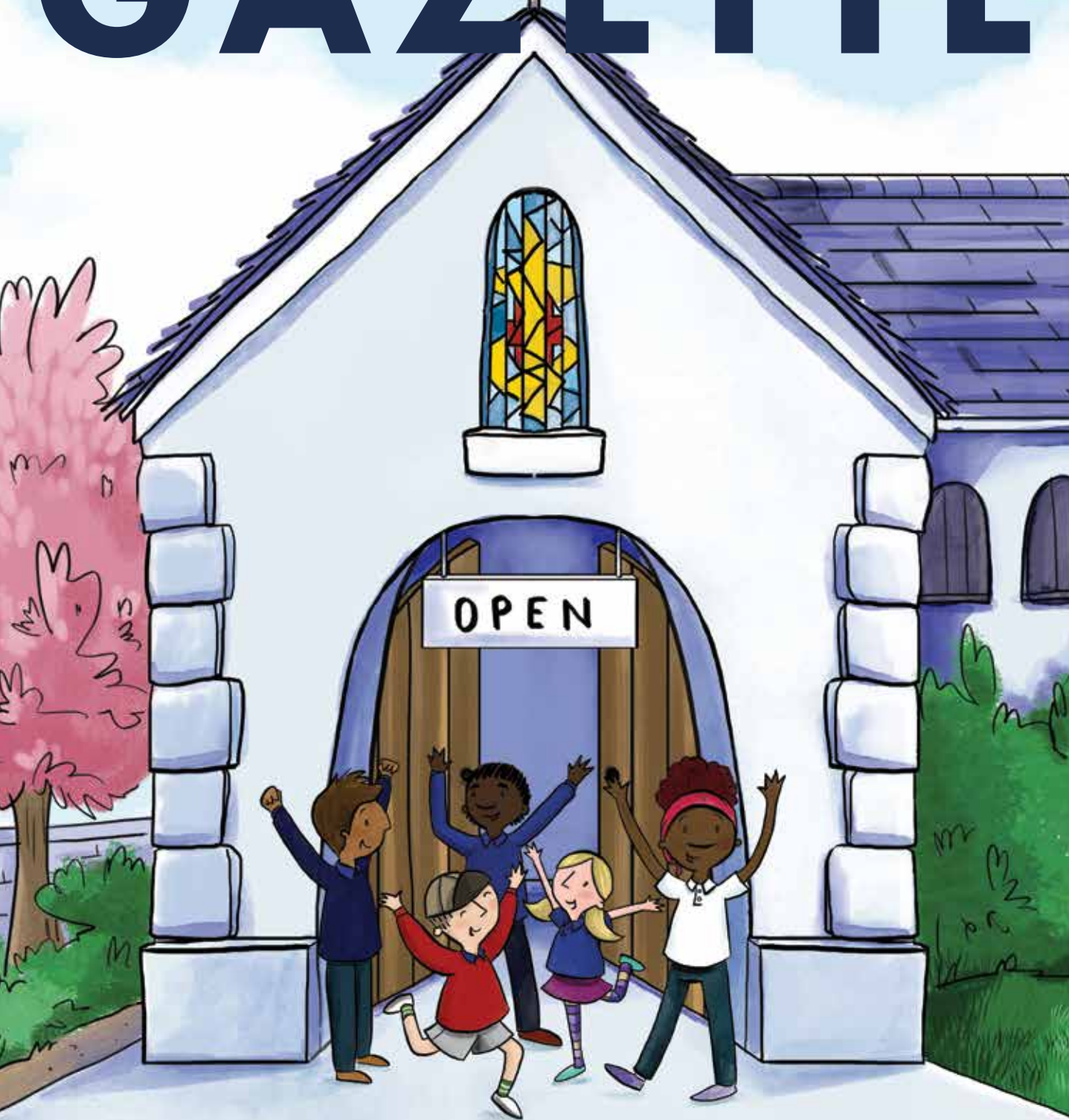


THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE

GAZETTE



ISSUE: AUTUMN 2021

BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/GAZETTE



Autumn 2021:

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

Please send all contributions to

gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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

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

boys-brigade.org.uk/gazetteratecard.htm

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John Sharp (Editor), Tom Boorman

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Felden Lodge

Hemel Hempstead

Herts HP3 0BL

Tel: 0300 303 4454

Email: support@boys-brigade.org.uk

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To read more features, watch video & enter competitions visit our website. Check out the digital and online versions at:

boys-brigade.org.uk/gazette



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The Boys' Brigade is open to...

At the time of writing, there is a cautious optimism in the air as the lockdown restrictions of the past year begin to ease. There is increasing hope of brighter times to come following the uncertainty, difficulties, and loss the pandemic has created. This optimism is understandably accompanied by a sense of nervousness as we emerge from our lockdown routines. As we begin to reconnect once again, there is an opportunity to decide what of our old routines we re-embrace, and what things to do differently or maybe not at all!

Following the death of The Duke of Edinburgh we have been reminded of the value of dedicating ourselves to the service of others, and the positive impact this can have. The creation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is likely to be Prince Philip's enduring legacy and is intertwined with the story of the BB.

Prince Philip was once asked if he saw himself as a reformer. He was quick to downplay this description, but keen to emphasise the need to embrace change, to always be thinking ahead and to be adaptable in meeting the challenges of the present.

As BB leaders our thoughts are turning to the new session, and the possibilities and opportunities that will come from a programme once more centred around face-to-face interactions. In this issue of the Gazette we

launch our new programme for over 11s and explore ways Companies can help local communities come together.

You will find details of our Open To... campaign which provides resources and ideas to support leaders attract new children and young people as well as engaging with existing members and promoting the work of the Company in the local community.

The concept of being 'open to' is relevant to every aspect of our work, and as I reflect on the remarks made by Prince Philip I wonder how open to change we are as an organisation? Our five- year strategy has some ambitious aims, including introducing a culture of continuous personal development for leaders and reviewing the organisational structure to better support leaders and the young people they serve.

These are just two examples where being open to change, will be crucial if we are serious about delivering the sort of transformational change that is required to secure our organisation's future.

It is time to put our faith in action, to be courageous in our planning, and open to all God has in store for us.

With very best wishes

Jonathan Eales
Chief Executive



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



Hi! My name is Stewart and...

And what? What do you say next? It's a big list. I'm loads of things. And you are too. So what do we choose to say to identify ourselves, and why?

Sometimes we answer the invitation to introduce ourselves with something relevant to the situation we are in. If we're at a BB meeting we will say which Company we come from and perhaps which Battalion or maybe which age group we work with. So, I'm Stewart Cutler, Chaplain of 1st Stonehouse in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Or perhaps we talk about our hobbies to try to find common interests to help move the conversation along. I support Motherwell so I've probably already met all the other fans already. I'm a runner so we could talk 5K times, toe nails that fell off after a marathon or that the Lakefront Trail in Chicago is the best place I've ever run.

Whatever we say puts us in some kind of context that we hope other people find helpful... or not. We've all listened to someone reel off their qualifications or position to remind everyone of their status or that they are smarter than you. I've been to college and university four times and I can assure you that I'm not smarter than any of you!

One of the things I don't hear often in an introduction is someone saying they are a Christian. And to be honest I don't say it either. And that strikes me as odd. Why not? Why don't I say it?

I don't think I have ever introduced myself by saying, 'Hi! My name is Stewart and I'm a Christian.' I've been one all of my life. I've worked for the Church for 30 years. So why isn't 'I'm a Christian' the first thing I say in any situation? Shouldn't it be more important than the fact that I support Motherwell and listen to Bruce Springsteen, or even that I'm married and have children?

Jesus says some pretty hard things about identity, even some stuff about hating your family. We shy away from those bits because we don't really know what to do with them. Why would anyone want to hate their siblings or turn away from their parents? It wouldn't be by choice, would it?

People were, and still are, defined by their families. You were known as your father's son and you carried their name as well as your own and all that goes with that. We still do. Jesus would be Jesus ben-Joseph. I'm Jim's son, for good or ill.

What Jesus is offering is a way to break free of that reputation stuff that has nothing to do with who you really are. He wasn't just Joseph's boy. He was God's Son and we are also children of God. That lets us leave behind what other people think about us, step away from our past, break free of all the expectations and assumptions, and take up a new identity as a follower of Jesus... and all that goes with it.

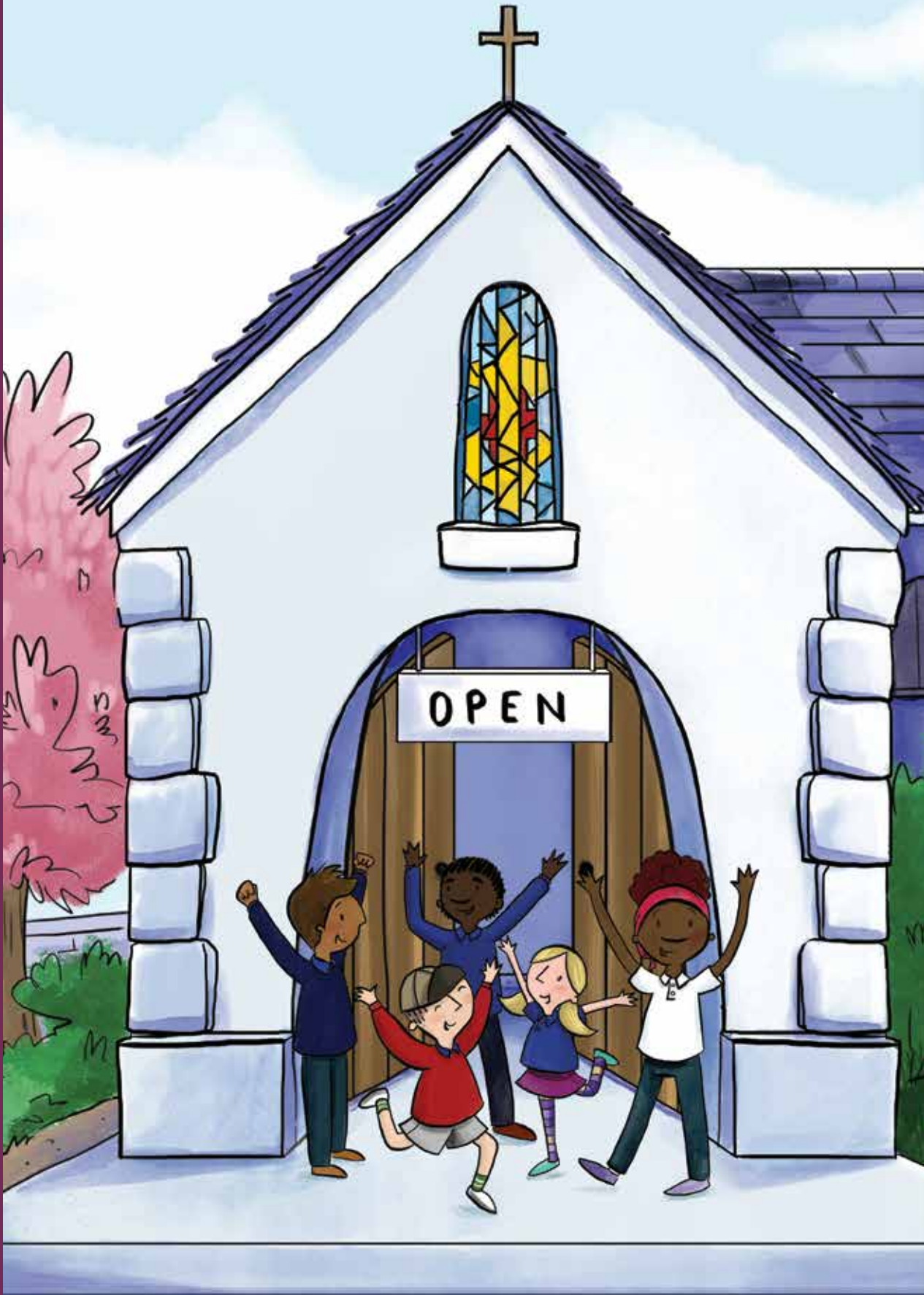
That becomes our primary identity. The first and most important thing. It always has been. So, Hi! I'm Stewart and I'm a Christian. It's good to meet you.

Rev Stewart Cutler

Chaplain, 1st Stonehouse



Stewart is... well, a Christian. He spends most of his time being minister of St Ninian's Church in Stonehouse which means he has become very familiar with YouTube, podcasts and social media. He lives with wife Avril and their two Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers called Aonghus and Magnus.





A unique opportunity

March 2020 saw the suspension of all our face-to-face BB activities, as Covid-19 began to reshape our lives. By the end of the same week that face-to-face activities came to a halt, #BBatHome had been launched as an alternative programme to use at home and many Companies were preparing to run virtual sessions.

In the most difficult circumstances, the BB stayed open - we adapted and most importantly we continued to provide children and young people with opportunities to learn, grow and discover, at a time when it has never more been needed.

"#BBatHome has done so much for this family's mental health during Lockdown. They've kept us laughing together, even on tough days. I can't thank you enough."

#BBatHome Parents/Carers Survey 2020

What does our new session bring?

As we look towards our new 2021/22 session, what do you see? More challenges? Opportunities?

For some Companies the new session may be the first time they have been back together for some time, and the focus may be on just getting their members back.

There will also be opportunities too for growth, and we have already seen over the last few months that Companies restarting their face-to-face activities have welcomed along new members.

I believe the new session actually represents a unique moment, and a missional opportunity to shout about the BB and what we offer to children and young people.

The very kind of social contact, interaction and relationships which are great BB strengths, are what we have all been missing and have developed a new appreciation of how important it actually is in our lives.

What's our message and who are we talking to?

The message that the BB is open to them... is a simple, straightforward and positive message to take forward with us into a new session.

Too often people ask – "Is the BB still on the go?"

We need to shift the story away from explaining that we exist, to opening peoples' eyes to what we do and its value. The new session is an opportunity to engage, talk, promote, discuss, share, tweet, about what we have been doing and are doing. A good place to start is by telling people – "we're open".

The BB is open to... children and young people. We are open to our leaders and those interested in volunteering. We are open to parents/carers, including those who haven't heard of the BB. We are open to our valued Church partners and we are open to the wider local communities of which each Company is part of.

To advance Christ's kingdom, to live out our vision, mission and values our doors must be open to everyone.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 19 - 20

Our vision is that children and young people experience 'life to the full.' – John 10:10

Article Continued →



Open to... children and young people

It's been such a challenging last year, particularly for children and young people whose lives have been turned upside down. We have missed our members and look forward to welcoming them back to our BB family.

It's time to get back to spending time with friends, having fun, learning, growing and discovering.

Open to... parents/carers

Perhaps more than ever parents/carers will be thinking about extra-curricular opportunities for their children.

In 2021 we have an opportunity to tell them about the things that the BB has always been good at, but which take on even greater relevance, significance and value in our world today.

Tell parents/carers about the activities you're doing but explain why you're doing them – to develop those softer skills like confidence, resilience and team work.



Open to... Churches

As a Christian youth organisation we are a mission partner for Churches.

The BB can have a huge impact on Churches supporting their outreach and engagement within communities. As many Churches will be reflecting what they are doing and where they are going, it's an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and re-affirm how the BB can be a bridge into the local community.

Open to being visible locally...

- Advertise - are you able to have a banner outside your Church or put posters up in shops. Have you approached your local newspaper to see if they'll highlight what you are doing?
- Using social media to your advantage to engage with parents and wider online community.
- Relationships with schools – not always easy, but there are lots of different ways to engage with local schools.
- Using our vision, mission and values as tools to engage with your different audiences, to explain the who, what and why of the BB in an accessible way.

Open to... and part of the local community

The BB is a part of communities across the country. But is your community actually aware of what you do? More outdoor activities over recent months have probably helped in making us more visible to local communities. Has your Company thought about how you get involved with other community groups?

Doing things, such as getting involved in litter picks, supporting foodbanks is a great way of living out our BB's values, but it is also a great way of being seen and heard within the community.



To be seen and heard - getting our message out

To support this unique opportunity that the new session presents we have developed new resources to support leaders to open their doors and work together with the audiences that together make a strong, sustainable and even growing Company.

Interestingly when we receive feedback from Companies that are growing they generally emphasise the importance of three main elements:

- **Running a good programme**
- **Word of mouth recruitment from happy young people and their families**
- **Being visible within the community**

Of course we could do more to raise our profile nationally. Visibility is undoubtedly very important, but where is it important for your Company to be seen and heard?

One of the UK's most well known business entrepreneurs once said that *"Free publicity and word of mouth is probably the best and cheapest form of advertising. Learn to use it to your advantage."* - Richard Branson

If young people, parents/carers, your church, your community are aware of what you are doing, of the value and impact of your work – this is surely the best kind of visibility we can have across the country.

As part of our **Open To...** campaign we have suggested what might appear a rather simple idea of holding an open night within the first 2 – 3 weeks of restarting. But the challenge isn't just in setting up an open night, it's about engaging with all those key audiences to make the open night as successful as possible in opening the doors of your Company (or perhaps it could even be an outdoors open night) to new young people.

What are you open to in the new session?

So how will you approach the new BB 2021/22 session? Are you open to the idea that this is a real opportunity to welcome new children and young people to the BB family?

Of course in welcoming new members through our doors we also need to remember that recruitment is just the first step. We then need to ensure they keep coming back and that they and their families become the best ambassadors for your Company.

John Sharp

Director for Development
and Communications



Find out more about our Open To... campaign at
boys-brigade.org.uk/open-to/



HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh -

10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021

For over half a century, the Duke of Edinburgh was at the forefront of youth social action, volunteering, and non-formal education for young people. He held a passion for the lives and opportunities available to young people and worked tirelessly to make a lasting difference. His support – and genuine interest in the stories he heard – won him a place in the hearts of many people.



The Duke of Edinburgh's involvement with The Boys' Brigade began in 1955. Following the success of an 'Adventurous Training' course for Seniors in August 1955, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was taken up with great enthusiasm, and the first awards were presented to our members by the Duke on a visit to Scotland in 1958. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award changed the course and structure of awards in the Brigade and the Duke will be remembered for the influence he had on our work from the 1950s onwards.



The Duke took an active interest in the stories of those who had completed the programme and he made an effort to personally present many young people with

their awards. When presented, awards were often given with a dose of the Duke's well-known humour. On a visit to BB members in Lancashire in 1959 when observing them cooking sausages as part of their demonstration of outdoor pursuits, the Duke was asked if he would like to try some.

"No, thanks, I've just had lunch with the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall. He might think he didn't give me enough to eat!"

At many of the events in the history of The Boys' Brigade the Duke of Edinburgh was found at the side of Her Majesty The Queen when carrying out duties as our Patron.

In his later years, the Duke of Edinburgh continued his association with The Boys' Brigade and was ever-present alongside the Queen at Garden Parties attended by recipients of the Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Brigade.

In 2017 the Duke stepped back from public life, with one of his final interactions with members of The Boys' Brigade taking place on 16th May 2016 where eight members from Northern Ireland were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards at a special presentation at Buckingham Palace.



The Duke of Edinburgh will be remembered by The Boys' Brigade as a pioneer in youth work through the award which bore his name but also for the personal interest and humour he shared with the young people he met during special Royal events. He will forever hold an important place in the history of our organisation, through the work which began in the 1950s.

Our thanks to The Boys' Brigade Archive Trust for providing much of the information found in this article.

Brigade Council 2021 – Annual General Meeting

Brigade Council/Conference will provide a great opportunity to come together to celebrate all that has been achieved through the most challenging of circumstances, as well as looking ahead to the future.

You can find out more information about Council/Conference, including how to register to attend the event and to register a vote by visiting the website at:



Check out
boys-brigade.org.uk/brigade-conference/

As the AGM will be held virtually, we are asking people to use a postal vote or to register to vote in person. It would be helpful if as many people as possible could vote by post on this occasion. Please note it will not be possible to register to vote on the day of the meeting, voting registrations **MUST** be received at Brigade Headquarters by 2nd September.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** will be held online on Saturday 4th September at 2pm to consider the following business:-

AGM Agenda

- 1 To receive the Accounts for the year ended **31 March 2021** together with the Reports of the Brigade Executive and Auditors thereon.
- 2 To re-appoint Whiting and Partners as the independent auditors of The Boys' Brigade until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and to authorise the Brigade Executive to fix their remuneration.
- 3 To agree the capitation fees for the 2021/22 session
- 4 To appoint Brigade Office-bearers for Session 2021/22 as proposed by the Brigade Executive.
- 5 To consider a motion in the name of the Brigade Executive to update Section Two of Brigade Regulations (Mission Statement) with the organisation's Vision, Mission and Values.
- 6 To transact any other lawful business.

Jonathan Eales - Chief Executive

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

Capitation Fees

Due to the exceptional circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic, the fee increase agreed for the 2020/21 session was deferred by the Brigade Executive.

Proposal Fees for the 2021/22 session

Fee Type	Level of Fee
Fee per Young Person	£24.00
All Officers	£24.00
(Second person at same address)	£20.00
Battalion & District Officers (not on Company Roll)	£24.00
Officers in full time education or training	£20.00
Helpers	£18.50

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

It is proposed that there will no longer be a cap on the amount paid by a Company in respect to the young person fee element. The concession for anyone in receipt of a state pension has also been discontinued.

President's Commendation



Jack (8 years old), a member of 1st Rosehearty in the North East of Scotland, has been awarded a President's Commendation for his actions in helping his father.

After finding his father semi-conscious and covered in blood after falling off a ladder, Jack raised the alarm by getting the family's Alexa device to call his grandfather, before leaving the garden to get help.

Michael Strachan, Captain of 1st Rosehearty commented, "Thanks to his brave conduct, quick thinking and calm approach Jack managed to get help for his father sooner than would have otherwise been the case which allowed for his serious injury to be treated quickly. Everyone is extremely proud of Jack for his actions on that day."

Resourcing Leaders

Recognising the importance of supporting and resourcing our leaders to maintain contact with young people, we prioritised the production of a wide range of programme materials across all age groups that could be used in different ways. Since the start of the 2020/21 session we have produced:



321
Face-to-Face
activities



346
Virtual Session
activities



334
#BBatHOME
activities



Check out
boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/

Taster Programmes

In addition to the monthly resources we have been producing since September, a number of taster programmes have also been provided covering Virtual Sessions, #BBatHOME and Getting Outdoors. These have provided a fully resourced and structured 4 week programme, giving leaders everything needed to run a fun, engaging and balanced programme.



Check out
boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/taster-programme/

Go Wild Challenge



To support outdoor activities we also launched the Go Wild Challenge. These challenges, which follow the Summer Adventures activities produced last year, were aimed at encouraging children and young people to get adventurous and get outdoors with a mixture of quick win and longer activities to have a go at.



You can access the Go Wild Challenges here
boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/go-wild-challenges

Young People's Training



Since January we have supported the delivery of a number of virtual training courses for young people including Building Your Skills, Skills for Queen's Badge and Queens' Badge Completion. To date over **1,000 young people** have participated in these courses allowing them to continue their journey towards our Major Awards. Thank you to all the volunteers around the country who have been involved in delivering the courses.

It's Not OK

As part of our monthly programme resources we recently included activities for young people focusing on the issue of sexual harassment and how we can all play a role in sending the message that "It's Not OK".

Four activities were developed to help start a conversation, raise awareness and encourage young people to think about ways they can be part of the solution and not the problem. The activities focus on harassment, particularly sexual harassment which can include the kind of 'everyday' acts which some may view as harmless, but which contribute to an environment where girls and women feel harassed and intimidated.

"We believe it's very important to create a space to openly discuss these kinds of issues and how we can and should respond. It's also important for us that our values as a Christian youth organisation are practically explored, including how we should care for each other and treat everyone respectfully."
Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive



The 'It's Not OK' activities can be accessed our website
boys-brigade.org.uk/programme



Young Leaders Group

The Brigade Executive have approved the creation of a Young Leaders Sub-Committee, made up of young leaders from across the UK with a range of roles and experiences.

As part of the five year strategic plan, the group will be working to provide a greater voice for young leaders and help support opportunities for them to develop. The group will also be looking to review and redesign a young leaders network.

The first major piece of work the group are undertaking is to start

showcasing the work of young leaders in a variety of roles across the BB. The aim is to highlight the journeys and experiences of these leaders, as a way of celebrating what they are doing and encouraging others to consider taking on similar roles.

If you are a young leader with an additional role within the Brigade, then please get in touch. Similarly, if you know a brilliant young leader who does an excellent job in a role, please encourage them to get involved.



For more information about the Young Leaders Group and how to get in touch please visit boys-brigade.org.uk/young-leaders-group



Unite 2021 took place from 28th to 30th May, with a programme of activities being streamed live from Felden Lodge. It was fantastic to see groups from across the country getting involved, with young people taking part via leader-led face-to-face or virtual sessions, or in home settings supported by parents/carers.

The speaker for the weekend was Dez Johnston, Director of Alpha Scotland and EMENA Ambassador for Alpha Youth. Dez focused on the stories of Simon, Esther and Timothy and how we can look to Jesus to help us overcome challenges and difficult times in our lives.

Mornings began with a Thought for the Day which looked at how we view mental health in light of our faith and our whole person

being created in the image of God. The programme included a range of competitions for young people to get involved in - well done to all who took part and congratulations to the winners:

Bake Off Showstopper Challenge - Lewis (1st Howden)
 Bake Off Signature Challenge - Lauren (3rd Northampton GB)
 Bake Off Technical Challenge - Naomi (1st Howden)
 Escape Room - 4th Bromley
 Quiz - 5th Scarborough
 Scrapheap Challenge - 7th Doncaster
 Taskmaster - 1st Swansea Eastside Seniors
 Unite's Got Talent - Ollie (ProjectB - 3rd Harrogate)

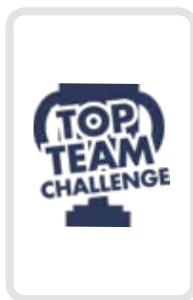
There was also a magic show, science session, craft activity, campfire and a series of challenges. Leaders had the opportunity to join webinars to hear from BB Headquarters and the Programme Team, as well as a Young Leaders Workshop. Many of the sessions are available to watch again on the Unite YouTube channel at youtube.com/unitebb

A big thank you to all those who were involved in planning and running the event, and to all those leaders who gave their time to enable young people in their groups to take part. The Unite Planning Team is excited to confirm that next year's event will take place on the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend in June 2022.



Stay tuned to the Unite website and social media for more details unitebb.org.uk

Competitions



88 teams took part in this session's Top Team Challenge, with members of Company & Seniors taking part in a series of tasks either as part of a face-to-face session, virtually or at home.

Congratulations to **2nd West Kent** (winners of the Face-to-Face/Virtual version) and **4th/5th Fraserburgh A** (winners of the Play at Home version), and well done to everyone who took part!



Check out the full results at boys-brigade.org.uk/top-team-challenge



It was great to have 91 entries in the Juniors International Team Games this session, including teams from Australia, England, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Thailand and Wales.

Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners - **1st Barnet B** who won the Face-to-Face version and **1st Ashbourne** who were the Play at Home winners!



See the full results at boys-brigade.org.uk/juniors-international-team-games



World Records competition

Throughout March and April Juniors attempted to break some weird and wonderful world records. We now have our BB record holders for each category, with some amazing scores and times!

- **Fastest time to create a 10 toilet roll pyramid** - Jack (1st Cumbernauld) in 3.09 seconds
- **Number of Post-it notes on a face in 30 seconds** - Robin (17th Nottingham) with 15 Post-its
- **Most socks put on one foot in 30 seconds** - Harry (1st Bridge of Weir) with 17 socks
- **Fastest time to arrange a chess board** - Noddy (1st Wymering) in 66.44 seconds
- **Most spoons balanced on a face** - Jack (10th Enfield) with 36 spoons

Murder Mystery competition

As part of April's programme resources, young people in Company & Seniors hunted around Google Maps to attempt to solve a case as part of our Murder Mystery competition. Congratulations to **1st Ormskirk** who were the quickest to complete the challenge in an impressive 13:33 minutes!



See the full results in the news section at boys-brigade.org.uk/programme



Virtual YLT

Three pilot Virtual Youth Leader Training (YLT) courses were held earlier in the year, allowing us to understand how this important course could work online, bringing together leaders from across the country.

Liza, a leader who has been taking part in one of the courses, commented: *"The virtual Youth Leader Training course has been fabulous! It was very well organised, informative and easy to access and take part in. I love the group activities and the facilitators are very helpful and experienced."*

After positive feedback and evaluations from the pilot courses, three further courses were delivered after Easter.



UK Parliament Week

Get involved - This year's UK Parliament Week is taking place from 1st to 7th November 2021. It is an annual festival that engages people from across the country with their UK Parliament, explores what it means to them and empowers them to get involved.



Sign up now by visiting
ukparliamentweek.org



Boys' Brigade Canoe Club

The Boys' Brigade Canoe Club exists to promote the sport of canoeing within the Brigade, and as part of its work offers courses and trips to members. We are delighted to have reaffirmed our relationship with the Club and in doing so we are pleased to highlight the launch of their new website in their 50th year.



Check out the NEW BB Canoe Club website at
canoecub.boys-brigade.org.uk

As part of reaffirming this relationship we have reviewed our guidance and make the following statement with regards to qualifications:

In respect to canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) activities, The Boys' Brigade requires leaders leading these activities to hold, as a minimum, a British Canoeing Paddlesport Leader qualification. All British Canoeing qualifications must be current and should have endorsed the leader for the craft and the water environment being paddled. Should you require further advice or guidance on qualifications, please contact the Boys' Brigade Canoe Club or British Canoeing.

Registration of Leaders

We would like to remind all leaders, especially Captains, that every adult volunteer is required to be registered. Appointment is confirmed only after the leader registration form has been received and processed, and the relevant disclosure check has been carried out and the outcome known. No unregistered adults should be helping at any BB activities. This is an opportunity to get all records correctly up to date prior to the start of the new session. In the future any failures to comply with safe recruitment will be seen as breach of our leader code of conduct.

All Leaders will receive a registration card with the code of conduct at the start of the new session.

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.

Betty Alcock	2 nd Leicester
Allan Bennett	133 rd London (Haringey)
David Bone	1 st Troon
Sarah (Sadie) Boyle	1 st Lenzie / Strathkelvin Battalion
Margaret Gilbert	1 st Ashford
Tom Harold	208 th Glasgow
Leslie Hayward	39 th Manchester
Rob Lolley	Yorkshire & Humberside District
Denis MacGregor MBE	14 th Nottingham
Ronald Simpson	10 th East Durham



Virtual Kiltwalk

Two leaders from Inverness, Michael MacAulay (one of our Under 26 Trustees) and Lynn Forbes, completed the virtual Kiltwalk in April to raise funds for the Brigade.

 **3rd Trafford BB** @3rdTraffordBB

Our Anchors and Juniors have been learning about #SpaceDay - they have made Lego models, decorated planet biscuits and asked questions about @astro_timpeake #fun #crafts #space



Guard of Honour

Some of our members had the opportunity to meet HRH The Duke of Cambridge at Holyrood Palace during his recent visit to Scotland.

GO
WILD
CHALLENGE

SNAPSHOTS



130TH GLASGOW GAMES



11TH NORTHAMPTON COOKING

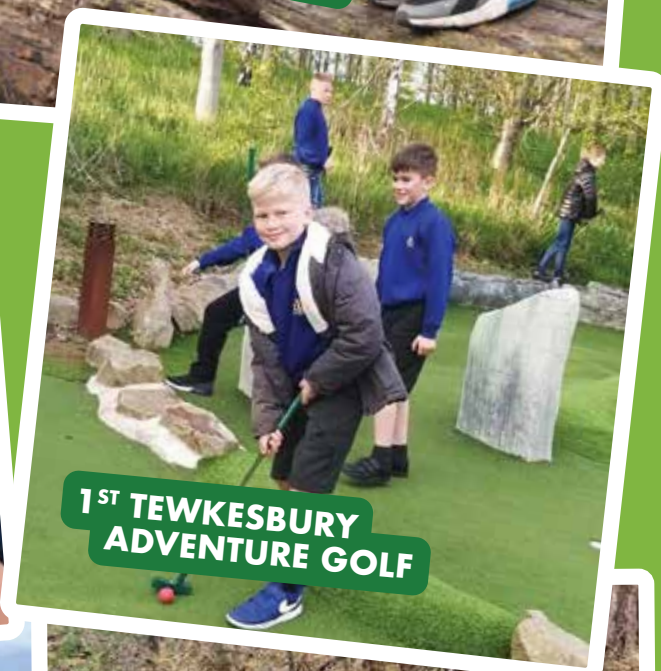


14TH LEITH OUTDOOR GAMES





**35TH LIVERPOOL TREK
IN THE WOODS**



**1ST TEWKESBURY
ADVENTURE GOLF**



**1ST BLETCHLEY
DEN BUILDING**

133rd London podcast

As part of work towards their Queen's Badge, three Seniors at 133rd London launched a podcast called 'The 3 of the 133'. So far at the time of writing they have released five episodes which can be found at <https://the3ofthe133.buzzsprout.com> and on a variety of streaming services.



Fraserburgh volunteers receive awards

Five leaders at 4th/5th Fraserburgh have been recognised for their voluntary service to the Brigade. The Aberdeenshire Volunteers Award recognises commitment to volunteering. Company Captain Martin Dunbar and leaders David Smith, Susan Beagrie and Traci Mutch all received a Lifetime Award, with Garry Birnie receiving a Ten Year Award.



3rd Bearsden raises funds for local park

Members of 3rd Bearsden were set a challenge to fill a Smarties tube with 20p pieces in order to raise funds for the Killermont Parks Development Group, a voluntary group which runs projects in the local King George V Park. The Company was delighted to make a donation of £300 as a result, which will go towards the restoration of the park's benches.



3rd Dunfermline BB

An amazing way to end our Juniors session with a guided history tour by local expert John Ferguson, and s'mores on the beach on a beautiful calm, warm evening!





Waltham Walk on Tour

As Covid-19 guidelines meant that the Waltham Walk - a team challenge expedition which is usually held in the Essex countryside - couldn't take place in the usual way, the event was instead taken on tour!

45 teams from across the country were able to take part by walking a pre-approved 8 mile route in their own local area and completing a photo treasure hunt on the way, before taking on three team challenges.

Teams took part in one of three categories - the Teeni Trek (a non-competitive event for 10 to 12 year olds), the Mini Trek (12 to 14 year olds) which was won by **15th Luton B** and the Main Event (14 to 19 year olds) which was won by **72nd Birmingham B**. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners!

Next year's Waltham Walk is scheduled to take place on **21st and 22nd May 2022** in Essex.



Keep an eye on the website at
walthamwalk.org.uk



Bake Off celebrations at 1st Comber

1st Comber celebrated their final night of the session in a special way, marking what would have been their 64th display week with a collective Company Bake Off virtually on Zoom.

Three of their Seniors led the event, taking it in turn to talk the rest through the baking steps before having a decorated cake vote. This was followed by a quiz on Kahoot just before the winners were announced. Speaking about the event Karen Lindsay, Leader in Charge of Anchors, said *"It was a fabulous night and the best bit was the chat and seeing all of the young people. We had a ball!"*



3rd Emsworth get adventurous

28 members of 3rd Emsworth were able to get adventurous by taking on the obstacle course, climbing ropes and wooden beams at the Juniper Adventure Trail at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. After having met virtually for several months it was a great opportunity for the children and young people to get together and have fun!



7th Dublin BB

We enjoyed a trip to the BMX area in St Anne's Park, plus a bit of map reading practice too - and our summer programme wouldn't be complete without a few ice creams at the end!





YUF update

Youth United Foundation has continued to play an important role for all network members during the last 12 months. They have hosted fortnightly meetings for uniformed youth organisations to come together and share our plans and challenges as we emerge from lockdown, whilst also linking us in at every opportunity with the National Youth Agency.

Our youth panel member Daria Bageac (aged 16 from 53rd Manchester) has recently been involved in the recruitment process for the Foundation's new Chair. Daria said: "As a member of the youth panel I was very excited to be part of the interview process for their new Chair of Trustees. Youth voice must be encouraged and advocated at all levels of organisations such as YUF and BB."

Wendy Human, Director of Operations at YUF, added: "It was really important that the youth panel was involved in the recruitment process. Daria and others on the panel played a key role in the decision making and were great ambassadors for their organisations."



Positive Mental Health – Worth it!

Leaders were recently able to join our webinar on positive mental health, which was facilitated and delivered by Worth-IT Education. The focus of the session was to look at the basic tools that can be used to improve the wellbeing and resilience of our children and young people that we work with. We had some great feedback from leaders, and we hope to be doing some further sessions with Worth-IT in the coming months.



BTEC Certificate

It has been great to work together with CVQO Development, a charity which offers voluntary organisations vocational qualifications, during lockdown as we trialled a project to enable young people aged 16-18 to gain a formal qualification for their participation in Brigade activities.

12 young leaders have successfully completed a BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community. Taking part in this opportunity also enabled the individuals to obtain 30 credits which may assist with future university applications.



CONTACT: ☎ 0300 303 4454 @ support@boys-brigade.org.uk



Celebrating Lockdown Successes

The show went on! Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Music and Creative competitions continued virtually and were enjoyed by many of our children and young people in Northern Ireland. We congratulate our winners, everyone who took part and thank parents and carers for assisting with filming, photographing and uploading entries.

Anchors:

Winner Theo Blacklock, 1st Lisburn;
Runner Up Oscar McColgan, 6th Londonderry;
3rd Place Michael Bullen, 16th Newtownabbey

Juniors:

Winner Matthew Wilson, 6th Newtownards;
Runner Up Patrick Hart, 1st Hillsborough;
3rd Place Lucas Yin, 2nd Antrim;
Highly Commended Harry Llyod, 2nd Comber

Company:

Winner Christopher Anderson, 3rd Newtownards;
Runner Up Lewis Doherty, 1st Ballykelly;
3rd Place Jan Faulkner, 1st Donaghcloney;
Highly Commended Jonathan Allen, 2nd Lisburn;
 Daniel Cruikshank, 2nd Ballymena;
 Jason Hamilton, 1st Comber

Anchors Colouring Competition

P1 Winner Thomas Martin, 1st Legacurry
P2 Winner Josh Kee, 1st Faughanvale
P3 Winner Joshua Henderson, 3rd Kilkeel
P4 Winner Edward Cunningham, 2nd Annalong

Juniors Creative Competition

Winner William McKinney, 9th Route
Runner Up Cameron Beck, 6th Londonderry
3rd Place Gavin Smith, 43rd Belfast
Highly Commended Ethan Thompson, 43rd Belfast;
 Jack Bolton, 9th Route;
 Daniel Jardine, 1st Moy



Samuel Murray from 33rd Belfast ran two miles each day during May to raise money for Mencap, as his young cousin Isabella benefits from their services. Setting an original target of £250, he managed to raise more than £1,000.

It's Your Time

In a commitment to Advancing Christ's Kingdom by reaching children and young people with the good news of Jesus Christ, Northern Ireland District has undertaken a review of staffing and governance. With Companies facing unprecedented challenges, there was a drive to adopt creative and innovative ways to continue The Boys' Brigade's mission in Northern Ireland. The staff team has been re-focussed on active engagement with Companies in an accessible, accountable and relevant way. Paul McCarroll from Belfast Battalion has joined the NIHQ staff team two days per week to work with the existing staff team on engagement with BB Companies.

In conjunction with this, the District's governance structure was examined, to create new opportunities for new volunteers to get involved.

Recognising that BB is volunteer-led and relies on the talents and commitment of volunteer leaders the review was designed to present a new challenge and opportunity for leaders throughout Northern Ireland to become more involved at District level. The NI District President, David Blevins says:

'If you have a passion to see Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland reach a new generation for Jesus, this is your opportunity. We would love to chat with you and together we can find the right role for you. Please contact the staff team at NIHQ to find out more about our plans and join us on this journey and be the change you long for.'

Contact: ☎ 028 9268 8444 @ nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk



Guild Partnership

Our three year partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild has concluded, although we are sure that the impact, friendships and fellowship will continue. We are so grateful for the incredible support we have received from Guild groups across Scotland. Using funds from the partnership we were able to establish a mini-grants scheme which has so far provided financial support to 41 different Companies in Scotland.

"The Guild Mini-Grant has been a massive help in allowing us to continue our work recently. We were able to put the money towards creating programme packs which we distributed to our members to support our online programme. It has meant that we've been able to offer a much improved programme, safe in the knowledge that all of our young people have access to the resources they need to participate to the full regardless of financial means." – Cameron Gray, Leader at 1st Cumbernauld

Makaton Workshops

Working in partnership with Down Syndrome Scotland, introduction to Makaton workshops were recently run for leaders. Makaton uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. The virtual training gave leaders an opportunity to learn some of the basics including the alphabet, greetings, and also the Makaton for the hymn 'Will your Anchor hold.'

Cashback

The Generation Cashback project is delivered in Scotland by a partnership consortium made up of the BB, Girlguiding, Scouts and Youth Scotland. The project sees money reinvested from seized criminal assets into community projects in the most deprived communities. The aim is to support young people to access safe spaces to develop their confidence, resilience, skills and team building to divert them away from potentially criminal or antisocial behaviour.

Despite all the challenges of the last 12 months, Cashback has been continuing to support our work around the country. Over the last year funding has supported 6 Battalions and 31 Companies with more than 1,700 young people benefitting in various ways, including games/sport equipment, courses, tablets, electronic chanters, hiking kits, PPE, STEM activities, laptops, minibus licences and so much more.



If you are interested in finding out more about Cashback and if your Company is eligible for funding please contact jackie.wilson@boys-brigade.org.uk



JACKIE WILSON



Burns Competition

Earlier in the year during lockdown, we ran a #BBatHOME Burns Competition for young people in Scotland. We had some fantastic poetry video entries, well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to our winners:

Anchors Jaiden, 4th Peterhead
Juniors Luke, 1st Stewarton

Company Caleb, 8th Airdrie
Seniors Murray, 1st/2nd Dumbarton

Contact: ☎ 0300 303 4454 @ support@boys-brigade.org.uk



Companies through Covid-19



We recognise that it has been very challenging for Companies to keep up their normal weekly activities. A special thank you to those Companies who have provided information and photos of the different virtual activities they have been running over recent months.

There have been some amazing initiatives from Companies, such as a tree of thankfulness for St. John's Church, a book of limericks, photos of nature, Remembrance slideshow, a collaboration between 42nd Girls' Brigade Company and 10th Dublin Company with St. Mary's Church in Clonsilla in place of their annual enrolment service, birdseed ornaments, self-portrait slideshow, "keep the show on the road" Zoom sessions, scarecrow competitions and nature badge activities to name just a few.



All activity ideas can be found at facebook.com/BoysBrigadeROI

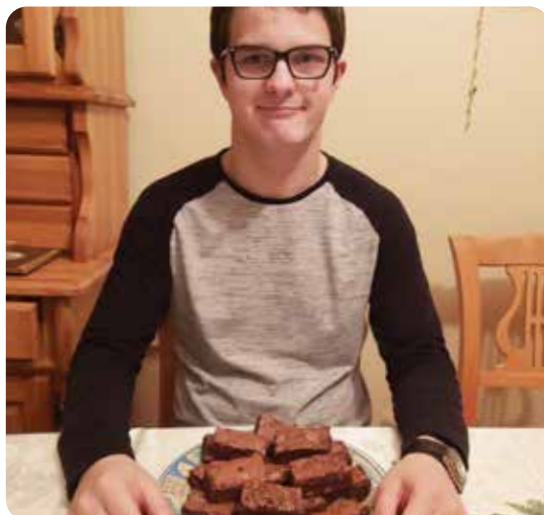
Launch of Activity Packs

Two new Activity Packs were sent to our Companies in advance of Christmas and Easter to support Companies to continue to engage with members throughout the pandemic. A tremendous amount of work was undertaken to provide crafts, baking, indoor, outdoor, spiritual and fun activities including wordsearches, dingbats, crosswords, word association, family tree research and a memory game for each of the age groups.

The packs were welcomed by Companies and there was great feedback from Captains and Leaders. As our Companies would normally close for the summer months, we will provide a number of age-appropriate activities on our website and will prepare another pack for the re-opening of Companies in September.



Find out more about the packs here boysbrigade.ie/activity-packs



Training

Through virtual training we have found we have been able to engage with more leaders than ever. Our first online Safeguarding training session was very well received, and we found that we were able to reach Companies that would have been difficult to reach during the pandemic. We plan on reviewing the training needs of our Companies during the coming session.

CONTACT: ☎ +353 (1) 296 4622 📍 Unit C1 Nutgrove Office Park, Nutgrove Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, Ireland



Leaders' perspective

Mike Colbeck, 5th Scarborough

On 11th March 2020, Liverpool FC played Atletico Madrid in the Champions League and I attended the match as I was fortunate enough to be invited by a client. The journey to the match was a strange one as my client, who works in IT for a large insurance company, was on the telephone for just about the whole journey talking about how they were going to make provision for thousands of people across the world to work from home. This was the moment it dawned on me that things were going to get very different, very quickly.

Fast forward 2 weeks and my Company, 5th Scarborough had suspended our meetings and we were making plans for how we were going to adapt to Covid-19 – our first Zoom session was on 16th April. For Church we had put together our first online service and at work I had gone from face-to-face meetings in the office to telephone and Zoom from home.

We are often told that God provides the tools we need to carry out his calling. In February 2020, after waiting patiently for 2 years, our diabolical internet connection was replaced with a fibre line into our house. Since then we have met on Zoom for BB over 30 times and I've been responsible for a year's worth of online services.

From the perspective of BB, Church and work, I think that we have made 5-10 years of progress in just a year and things will never be the same again – mostly for the better. However, it is in my role as a BB Captain, above all other things I do, where I yearn for normality more than anything and what a blessing it was to return to face-to-face meetings in April. My wife Kirsty and I run the Company together and we are very fortunate to have

a great staff team, and whilst I am actively involved, the most important part of my evening is always greeting the young people and asking them how their week has been; looking them in the eye and seeing if they really are OK or if there is a more going on than they are saying. This is not possible on Zoom and it is such a privilege to be back and being able to see the young people.

What I've learnt

If the past year or so has taught me anything, it is that communication is the key to everything. Each week our families have had some form of contact by email and text message. We have posted on our Facebook group and tried to support our member's families. In the school holidays, we have provided activity packs and last year we delivered planted sunflower seeds to each of the young people for them to look after and show us on the Zoom sessions.

All of this resulted in 44 of our 47 young people returning on the first night back with huge smiles on their faces and ready to come to BB and catch up with everyone. We have adapted with one-way systems, sanitising breaks, BB branded face masks and social distancing but importantly the core relationships between the members, between the staff and young people remains the key.

If we always remember to ensure our young people and their families can see that they are important to us and know that we genuinely care about them, then we are definitely advancing Christ's Kingdom.

On the first night back, I overheard the Seniors planning for the next few weeks and when asked what they would like to do for their activities one of them simply remarked, 'I don't mind, I just like being here'. This was an emotional moment for me, he felt safe, happy and comfortable and it just didn't matter what they were doing as long as they were together at BB.



Company

Seniors

Launching Over 11s Programme

We are pleased to announce that new programmes for both the **Company** and **Seniors** age groups are now being launched ready for use in 2021-2022 session.

This launch of our new programmes for the Company and Seniors age groups is a result of a thorough review of the existing Discover and Challenge Plus Programmes as well as carrying out consultations with young people and leaders at various stages over the last few years. The Programme Group leading on this has also been able to evaluate feedback from leaders from the launch of the new programmes for Anchors and Juniors. As part of the launch we are also pleased to be able to launch new identities and branding for the Company and Seniors age groups.

Whilst we are launching the programme ready for take up in the new session, and all resources and support are now available, we are very aware that for some the focus of the new session will be on returning to face-to-face activities and that it will not be the right time to be introducing the new programmes. To support this there will be a transition period to allow Companies to choose the right time to carry out the change.

Through our programmes we want to provide young people with opportunities to develop skills, to be creative, to have adventures, to try new things, to get to know Jesus and to make a difference.

Read on to find out more about the new programmes...

The Programme

The Company and Seniors programmes are built around **six Activity Areas**, replacing the 'Programme Zones' found in the current Discover programme and 'Themes' in Challenge Plus programme, and are set out as follows;

						
	GET ACTIVE	GET INTO THE BIBLE	GET CREATIVE	GET LEARNING	GET ADVENTUROUS	GET INVOLVED
AIM	Activities which get young people moving, through games and sports and activities that promote good physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.	Activities which enable young people to explore and experience the Christian Faith and express beliefs and attitudes.	Activities which encourage young people to express themselves through crafts and the arts.	Activities which encourage young people to gain knowledge and develop skills and problem-solving abilities which support them to make good life choices.	Activities which challenge young people to step out of their comfort zone or take them beyond the normal meeting place.	Activities which encourage young people to get involved in social action, both locally and globally and prepare them to be active citizens.
THEMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Games • Playing Sport • Keeping Fit • Working as a Team • Me & my Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Bible Adventure • Prayer • Celebrating • Developing my Faith • Understanding Christian Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing, Acting and Dancing • Arty & Crafty • In the Kitchen • Playing & Making Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me and my World • STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering & Maths) • My Skills for Life • Understanding Culture & Tradition • Staying Safe • Problem Solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Survival Skills • Exploring the world around me • Adventure Activities • Visits & Trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting our World • Shaping our World • Helping Others

The Activity Areas will be used across both age groups and these same Activity Areas can also be found in the Anchors and Juniors programmes, providing consistency for children and young people as they move through the organisation, as well as making it easier for those leaders that volunteer in more than one age group.

All Activities in the programme will directly link to one of the six Activity Areas, with activities having no set minimum or maximum times. Participating in activities and where specified meeting requirements set out within the programme will lead to young people being recognised for their participation and achievement.

Delivering Programme Resources

Resources to support leaders in delivering the new programmes will be published three times a year. The new termly resources will feature programme ideas and activities through a set of **Activity Cards**, **Themed Activity Cards** and a **Programme Planner** for each term.

The resources will build on those that have been published over the last 12+ months as part of our alternative programming responding to the pandemic. The resources also build on those that have been going out termly since the launch of the new Anchors and Juniors programmes in 2019. We therefore hope that many leaders will already be familiar with the style and how to access them.

Our programme resources are available to ALL leaders online through the **Programme Hub** as well as through **Online Brigade Manager (OBM)**. To help kick-start the new session a one-time only printed set of the Autumn 2021 termly resources have been sent to the Leader-in-Charge of each age group with the Autumn 2021 Gazette. Following this, from Spring 2022 printed termly resources will only be sent out based on an optional subscription at a cost of £17 per age group per session.

All of the resources will provide leaders with support in planning their programme and are not designed to be a syllabus which has to be followed.

Article Continued →

Printed Termly Resources

Subscribe to receive a printed set of resources for age groups in your Company at: <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/printed-termly-subscription/>. Where leaders are subscribing to receive printed resources they may want to consider purchasing a 'Programme Storage Box' (available from BB Supplies) to help keep all your activity cards in one accessible place.



To provide additional support to leaders **monthly programme focused emails** will be sent out and **monthly webinars** open to all leaders will provide reminders about activities for the next month, signpost external resources and provide opportunities for leaders to share good practice and ideas.

Activity Cards

Using the Activity Cards, a leader will be supported to deliver a dynamic and varied programme each session and avoid repetition. Each term a set of Activity Cards will provide leaders with 'ready-to-go' activities which means the card contains all the information a leader needs to organise the activity successfully. There will be one Activity Card for each of the 6 Activity Areas each term.

Themed Activity Cards

These will bring together activities from several of the Activity Areas based on a theme with 4 themed Activity Cards being delivered each term. Usually, these cards will feature at least 5 activities from at least 4 different Activity Areas. These Themed Activity Cards will help leaders to identify how themes can be helpful in providing variety and balance in the delivery of the

programme. It might not be the case that you could run all the activities on one meeting night and there is no expectation that you should, again these are 'Pick and mix' activities from which you can choose those that will work best with your young people.

Programme Planner

The Programme Planner will be provided termly for each age group and will cover every week within that term – providing ideas, highlighting national festivals and awareness days, signposting resources and identifying what fully resourced activities will be provided for that term. This resource will be provided a full term in advance of the period it covers, so for the Autumn term which covers September through to December, the programme planner will usually be published in May. Delivering this a term in advance will support leaders in their programme planning and highlight which activities will be resourced through the Activity Cards and Themed Activity Cards, so leaders know what to expect in advance of the activity cards being published.

Age Range Changes

As part of the launch of the new Company and Seniors programmes we are adjusting the age ranges for these two age groups. This will see the Company age group move from 4 to 3 years and therefore the Seniors age group from 3 to 4 years.

There are a number of reasons for this, including:

- Reducing age range in Company age group, when young people are going through key times of change – an 11-year-old is in a very different place to a 15-year-old.
- Improving the balance in numbers across age groups, making running a separate Seniors age group more sustainable.

- Enabling us to encourage separate age group programmes to ensure there is progression for young people aged 11 to 18 years.
- Incentive to move into Seniors age group to gain major awards (i.e. President's and Queen's Badge).

Whilst we would like to encourage all Companies to transition to the new age ranges we recognise that there needs to be some flexibility at a local level. Further guidance is available in the Programme Toolkits for Company and Seniors.

COMPANY				SENIORS			
Age	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
E/W	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
SCOT	P7	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
NI	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14



Recognising Participation in the Programme

As part of the launch of the new programmes for the Company and Seniors age groups we are pleased to have also launched a range of ways to recognise participation and achievement in the programme.

Badges, certificates and other resources provide a great way to recognise young people's achievements and encourage them to learn new skills. They can be used to map a young person's progress through the organisation and provide an incentive for them to continue their journey through the movement. They can also help to add structure and a focus through encouraging completion of activities in each of the 6 activity areas, ensuring young people participate in a balanced programme.

It is important that participation in the programme is recognised and rewarded

Read on to find out more about how we will recognise participation and achievement...

Core Activity Awards

The Core Activity Awards for each age group are all about recognising participation in the programme. The awards are gained by completing a number of activities from each of the 6 Activity Areas. There is no minimum requirement in terms of time for a single activity to be completed, but that members fully participate in the chosen activity.



The Core Activity Awards for **Company** age group are **Bronze, Silver** and **Gold** and for Seniors age group are **Bronze, Silver, Gold** and **Platinum**.



With the Core Activity Awards it is not intended that the programme has a formal 'awards' time, but that children and young people gain recognition for their participation in the programme as a whole. So it is more about identifying which parts of the programme will be recorded under the award scheme. Remember, that activities should be programme led, not awards driven.

With no set levels of attainment for the activities for the Core Activity Awards, these are gained by young people participating in particular activities; no external controls are to be applied. The level of achievement will vary for each individual according to their ability and age. During a young person's time in the age group their level of skill is likely to vary greatly. The onus is on the leaders to ensure that they are fully participating and developing at an appropriate pace.

Article Continued →

All the awards involve completing a minimum number of activities in each Activity Area as well as 4 additional 'Free Choice' activities from across the Activity Areas encouraging a balanced and varied programme, but also providing some local flexibility. With the 'Free Choice' activities young people may choose which additional activities they wish to do, perhaps those they enjoy most, or which give them new challenges. Companies may also decide to concentrate on particular activities that reflect the skills of the leaders, equipment available or meeting space.

A key change in presenting the Core Activity Awards is that only the highest award gained in the Company age group will be retained on the armband when a young person moves into Seniors.

Membership Awards

Company

Seniors

The Membership Award is to be presented to new members in the age group once they have completed one activity in at least 3 Activity Areas and being introduced/inducted into the age group. There are separate membership awards for Company and Seniors, and the awards should be presented to those moving up age groups as well as those starting out on their BB adventure.

The Membership Award replaces the Compass Badge in the Company age group. Only one Membership Award will be worn at any time (i.e. replaces previous age group's membership award).

Staged Awards

The Staged Awards are being introduced to build on the Core Activity Awards, as additional (optional) awards that run across both the Company and Seniors age groups. There are 18 Staged Awards, which are all linked to one of the 6 Activity Areas found in the programme continuing our focus on providing a balanced programme with a wide range of opportunities.

Whilst the Core Activity Awards are based on recognising participation in the programme, the Staged Awards take things a step further with young people completing awards based on a set syllabus. The syllabus for each award sets out elements to be completed for each award. Each Staged Award has 4 levels, with Level 1 being an introduction and developing through to Level 4. Young People will be able to work towards any number of staged awards at any one time.

The Staged Awards can be linked to our Major Awards (President's & Queen's Badge) and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to help encourage participation in those awards. Certificates will recognise completion of Levels 1 and 2, with badges recognising completion of Levels 3 and 4.

18 Staged Awards include:



Get Active

- Sports Person
- Water Sports
- Health & Fitness



Get Adventurous

- Camping
- Navigator
- Survival Skills



Get Creative

- Photography
- Musician
- Cooking



Get Into The Bible

- Bible Knowledge
- Church Life



Get Involved

- Active Citizen
- Fundraiser
- Volunteer
- Teamwork & Leadership



Get Learning

- DIY
- First Aider
- Interests

You can find out more about Staged Awards and the syllabus for each award on the Programme Hub.



Major Awards

The Major Awards including Discovery Badge, President's Badge and Queen's Badge bring together a young person's achievements in the Company and Seniors age groups and their BB journey as a whole. As part of the age range changes the Discovery Badge will move to being the highest award in the Company age group (gained in year 3), with President's Badge and Queen's Badge being gained in the Seniors age group.

The only significant changes across the Major Awards is the introduction of a 'Faith Journey' element and requirement to either complete a specified number of 'Nights Away' or 'Adventure Days'. More details on the requirements for each of the awards can be found on the Programme Hub.

Other Awards

Young people will continue to be able to work towards and gain other existing awards including **Nights Away** and **Recruitment Awards**.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will everything be available?

Everything is available now with the exception of the new awards, which will be available through BB Supplies from 1st January 2022.

Where can I access the new branding/logos?

You can find the branding and logos at boys-brigade.org.uk/our-brand/. This includes the ability to download a logo/branding pack and supporting guidance.

How do we keep track of the awards?

You can keep track of progress with awards for all members using the functionality within Online Brigade Manager, from there you can record completion of individual activities and the system will let you know when an award is due. Parents/Carers and

other leaders can also view the badge progress through OBM. Alternatively, you can download a record card template which can be printed out and used to record progress at boys-brigade.org.uk/recognising-achievement/

How do we transition from existing awards?

We have mapped across the existing awards from Discover and Challenge Plus Programmes to show how these fit into the new Company and Seniors Programmes. It is recommended that any transition is completed at the start of a session. Where a young person has started out on their President's or Queen's Badge they can complete the award based on either the existing or new requirements.

So, What's Next?

Check out the Programme Hub at boys-brigade.org.uk/programme/ where you will be able to access all the latest resources and find more detailed information about the programme and awards.

You can also join one of our launch webinars taking place in July, August and September (sign up on the Programme Hub). The webinars, led by members of the HQ Staff Team and Programme Group, will be an opportunity to be taken step-by-step through the new programmes, as well as ask questions.

We would also encourage you to get together as a staff team to plan for the start of the new session and consider how you will transition to the new programmes.

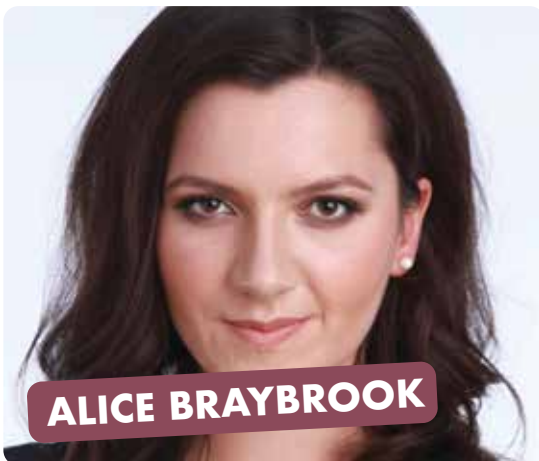


If you have any other questions, please get in touch with us at programme@boys-brigade.org.uk



OUR CHANCE TO RECONNECT

Over the past year we have witnessed an incredible upsurge in neighbourliness and community spirit. Yet divisions persist in our society, which have the potential to create deeper divisions and threaten the cohesion of our communities.



ALICE BRAYBROOK

A society at a crossroads

The legacy of Covid-19 could be growing isolation and distance from each other, or it could be a newfound commitment to help each other and to look out for those around us. The divisions of the past could re-emerge or become deeper, or they could also be challenged and bridged by an appreciation of what people have in common. Taking the right path will require leadership – from national and local government, business leaders and key institutions – but it is also up to every one of us as individuals.

The **Together coalition** brings together organisations wishing to guide us on the right path. We are organisations from all sectors, and of all sizes – from major national institutions like the NHS and ITV, to youth organisations like The Boys' Brigade, with a shared belief in **creating kinder, closer and more connected communities**.

We want to see a country where communities are underpinned by connecting ideas and events that help us tackle loneliness and prejudice, where we have a clearer sense of who we are and what brings us together, and where we may still disagree with each other but in a context of understanding and respect.

The role of The Boys' Brigade

BB groups already do so much to support their communities, and you have adapted your activities in the last year to meet the needs and stay connected with those around you.

In our recent report *Talk/Together*, the role and the value of youth organisations such as the BB was highlighted and many suggested there should be an expectation that involvement in a youth organisation is a staple element of every young person's upbringing.

The Boys' Brigade is all about supporting children and young people's personal development and enabling them to make a positive contribution to society, while strengthening values such as cooperation, integrity, respect and care for others. These are foundational elements to creating a society that recognises we have much in common.



What you can do - creating kinder, closer, more connected communities

Recognition of the role and the value of youth organisations is not to say there isn't still more we can do to promote kinder, closer, more connected communities.

BB groups have a unique role to play in bringing children and young people together across other social divides, whether it be through membership and leadership of the group, or through the social action they undertake in their communities. The group can play a crucial role in helping us meet and connect with people we wouldn't otherwise meet.

So, if there's one thing you do after reading this article, I would encourage you to think about the role your group plays in connecting your community and share it. After a year of hardship, this is our chance to reconnect, and we need you to help us do it.

Alice Braybrook

Director of the Together Initiative



Find out more about the Together campaign
together.org.uk



Share your stories by email to
gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk



On social media
[@theboysbrigade](https://twitter.com/theboysbrigade)



Challenge the narrative that we are a divided society.

By sharing your stories of unusual friendships, unlikely leaders and acts of kindness, we can paint a more accurate picture of our UK – one where we care about each other and the world we live in.



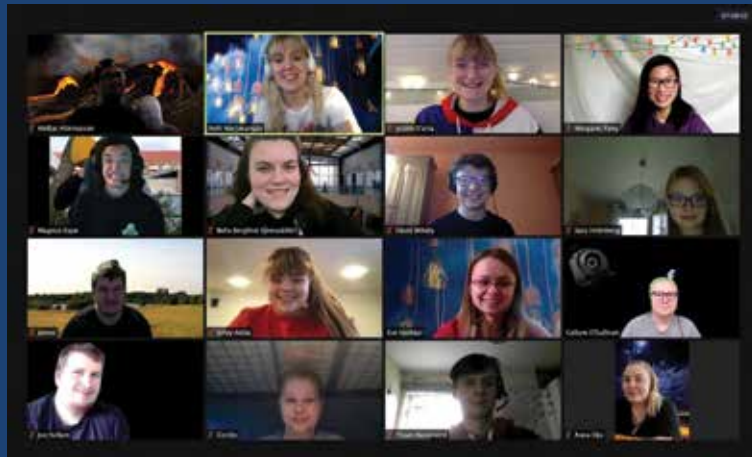
Reflect

As you approach a new BB session, have you considered how well your group represents the community which it is part of? Is there more your group can do to recruit children and young people from different backgrounds?



Do you celebrate what you are doing?

Do you shout enough about what you are actually doing within communities, and how your work brings people together? It's an incredibly positive thing to be friends with people who share different backgrounds, different points of view, or were born in different centuries!



Easter Course


Attending the Easter Course felt like life was returning slightly to normal! The course was a little different to past years with it being a virtual event, however this did not affect the quality of the content, and participants were able to join from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Transylvania, and the UK.

We covered topics such as youth work, coping with burnout, making positive change and strategic thinking. These sessions were created and delivered by the Planning Team who even though facing challenges with different time zones, still delivered a high-quality, engaging course. Over the three days participants formed new relationships and reconnected with old friends from across Europe. Using break-out rooms to work in small

teams allowed people to get to know each other better and have relaxed evening sessions.

It was a truly wonderful experience to be able to share the work of our youth organisations and to learn new ways we can develop our youth work. At the end of the course, it was hard to say goodbye, however we all were looking forward to next year's courses and being able to meet each other face-to-face. A massive thank you to the European Fellowship of Christian Youth and the Easter Course Planning Team!

Thom Hammond
Chair of BB International Group


 If you would like more details on how to take part in any of our international courses or events, please contact Vaughan Staples
v.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk


A society at a crossroads

Following an incredibly difficult year when almost no international travel was possible, members of Global Fellowship wanted to celebrate the amazing work our member organisations have done throughout the pandemic. Despite all the odds the BB family has kept operating across the world. As a result, we recently had our very first Global Fellowship Week from 17th to 23rd May.

Everything of course happened online but it was great to have contributions from so many different nationalities and see people connecting with others they had never met before. Each day started with a short prayer for the day based on the theme of children in the Bible. We also broadcast stories for younger children using various story tellers from across the world. Other activities included a talk on the history of Global Fellowship by our archivist, Colin Swinton, and many members took part in an international connections workshop webinar. The week culminated in a special virtual service for Pentecost Sunday led by Tim Pratt, Chair of Trustees.

The total audience was greater than we anticipated, reaching over 9,000 people and many of the videos have now been watched more than 500 times. If you were not able to join us, you can still find all the content on the Global Fellowship Facebook page.

 We would like to support more international connections so if your Company, Battalion or District is interested in partnering with the Brigade in another part of the world please do let us know by contacting
admin@globalfellowship.net.

 You can also sign up for our monthly newsletter at
globalfellowship.net

Bill Stevenson
General Manager, Global Fellowship of Christian Youth

Global Round-up

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



BBNZ NATIONAL DIRECTOR RETIRES

Michael Good, National Director of The Boys' Brigade & ICONZ New Zealand, recently retired after almost 10 years in the role. Richard Harkness, National President, commented: *"It has been a real honour to have Michael as the National Director for almost 10 years. He has kept a steady hand on the leadership of our organization as we have embraced the growth of ICONZ New Zealand Units across the country while continuing to maintain support for the traditional BB Companies that have remained. In this time we have seen both new BB Companies and ICONZ Units start up."*



WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAHAMAS

Members of 1st and 23rd Bahamas came together for a joint session, which included working on a farming plot in the grounds of St. Barnabas Church.



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK IN THAILAND

Seniors and leaders at 2nd Pathum Thani in Thailand served the local community by clearing litter, which will help to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in the area.



LUNAR ECLIPSE IN AUSTRALIA

BB members in Australia got the opportunity to look to the sky and check out a lunar eclipse which was visible in the area. Members at 1st Moreton Bay in Queensland even managed to get a group selfie with the eclipse!



BB IN NIUE MARKS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Boys' Brigade in Niue (an island in the South Pacific ocean) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and marked the occasion with a special edition of stamps produced by the New Zealand Post Office.



CELEBRATING STAR WARS DAY

It has been great to see our programme resources being used around the world - here are members of 108th New South Wales in Australia getting creative by making their own lightsabers and taking on some Jedi training. May the force be with them!

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.

☎ John Sharp 0121 530 4580
☎ John Sharp 07961 231569
@ 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 177764
📧 Greenmoor Centre

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

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

Coopers Mead Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight.

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

☎ Ted Walliss 01737 352732
@ edwardwalliss@btinternet.com

The Albert Wilson Memorial Field,

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

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

IN THE HEART OF NIDDERDALE.

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

☎ 07746569507
@ carolnormanton@aol.com

Peak District - Leslie Johnson Centre

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

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

Popular BB approved campsite at

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

☎ Jon Tickle 07770 795701
🌐 www.freshwatertrust.com
@ freshwatercamping@gmail.com

Dartmoor Activity Centre, Broadleas.

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

☎ 01364 661283
@ info@dartmooractivitycentre.com
🌐 broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk/

1st Yeovil Campsite Corfe Castle

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

☎ Graham Voizey on 01935 422 292
🌐 graham.voizey@btinternet.com

Broomley Grange Residential Outdoor Activity Centre

Set in 22 acres of grounds in Northumberland, just 25 mins from Newcastle. We offer fully catered accommodation for up to 62 guests & camping for up to 100, and 30 challenging activities onsite delivered by qualified staff.

☎ 01661 842299
🌐 broomleygrange.co.uk
@ manager@broomleygrange.co.uk

Small advertisements copy for Campsites, Residential/Activity Centres and items wanted or for sale should be sent to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk. Advertisements for the next issue (Spring 2022) should be received by 15th September 2021. 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 £30 (including VAT) per session.



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

MEMBERSHIP CARDS - 2021/2022 **NEW**

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.



NEW

LIGHT-UP FLASHING YOYO

PRODUCT: 118061 (ANCHORS), 118071 (JUNIORS)

A bright red/blue translucent flashing yoyo with the Anchors/Juniors logo which is sure to provide hours of fun. Clear trim detail. Batteries included.

£2.75



DRAWSTRING BAG

Product: 118031 (Anchors), 118021 (Juniors)

NEW



Lightweight red/blue drawstring bag with the Anchors/Juniors logo. With black corner reinforcements and black drawstring cords.

Dimensions:
330 x 435mm

Material:
210D Polyester

£2

SPORTS BOTTLE

Product Code: 118041 (Anchors), 118051 (Juniors)

NEW

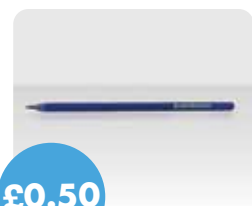


£4.75

Large capacity 650ml water bottle in red/blue with Anchors/Juniors logo. The bottle is made from recyclable PET material and is BPA free but please be aware that this item is not dishwasher safe.

RECYCLED PENCIL

Product: 118101 (Anchors), 118121 (Juniors)



£0.50

PENCIL TUBE

Product: 118081 (Anchors), Juniors (118091)

NEW



£1.30

Handy card tube in red/blue with the Anchors/Juniors logo, containing 12 mini-coloured pencils. Clear red or blue lid which doubles as a pencil sharpener. Dimensions: 105 x 35mm

JOTTER PAD & PEN

Product: 118001 (Anchors), 118011 (Juniors)

NEW



£2

Natural coloured note pad with the red Anchors/blue Juniors logo and a matching pen. Pad contains 40 sheets of lined recycled paper.

WWW.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)