

GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** | WINTER 2017/18

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



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Winter 2017/18:

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

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**VISION: ARE YOU READY...
 SOME THOUGHTS ON
 SUCCESSION PLANING**

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Image - Front Cover, Main Picture:
 Junior Section members at England Regional Juniors 100 Sleepover



BILL CONGRATULATES MEMBERS OF 133RD LONDON COMPANY ON BEING THE 1ST TO COMPLETE THE JUNIORS 100 CHALLENGE

The Storms of Life

“Will your anchor hold in the storms of life” I wonder just how many times we have all sung these words. Priscilla Jane Owens composed the hymn in 1882, the year before the BB was launched in Glasgow.

Since then it has been sung at countless Brigade occasions over the years. A very prominent businessman once asked me why it was so often sung at the funeral of ex-members. He reflected that the Brigade must have had a real impact on their lives, he was of course totally correct and more importantly the BB is still changing lives today. The Brigade method is as relevant today as it ever was but as we enter a new year it is important to still focus on our object and the challenges ahead.

The hymn is all about facing challenges, the reality is that very few of us are likely to have to steer a course through a storm at sea. However, I am aware that many BB families are facing difficult challenges in these modern times. There has been a considerable amount of press coverage recently about the millennials who often struggle to face the reality of modern life. Membership of the Brigade is proven to develop life skills and we know that our programme gives our members the ability to face up to a challenge and build the resilience needed to get you through the daily grind. Just speak to any Queen’s Badge recipient or young person who has just completed DofE Gold and you will hear how they relished the challenge of gaining these awards.

Juniors in the 133rd London and 2nd Haringey were congratulated recently on being the first to complete all the Juniors 100 Challenges – so it is not only our older members who

face challenges. It was interesting to hear that they thought the challenges were pitched just right. A couple were easy, a few were tricky and some were really difficult. The challenges have proved a great success, they have been fun, they have helped us raise our profile, improve programmes and gain some new members.

As we continue our journey, it is self-evident that the Brigade still faces many challenges. Perhaps we too are facing a storm as we try to wrestle with declining numbers, balancing the budget, new governance models, the increasing demands of external regulators and a more secular society. It is not easy and we need to be realistic as we plan for the future. Many of our structures designed in the Victorian era are creaking in the 21st century. No doubt difficult decisions will need to be made in the months ahead and I would ask you to keep the Brigade Executive and the staff team in your prayers as we try to find the best course for the future.

However, the hymn that means so much to us reminds us that faith will see us through such difficulties. The Good News of the Gospel has survived 2000 years of storms and tribulations – Our Lord’s message still needs to be preached and we owe it to the young people in society to do our best to share it with them.

Bill Stevenson

Bill Stevenson
Brigade Secretary & CEO

Follow Bill on Twitter at @BillBBHQ



Brigade President with The Lord Mayor of Manchester and Young Leaders at Brigade Conference in September

From the Brigade President

My dear friends,

It’s a number of years now since I read a novel in three volumes called Regeneration. The author was Pat Baker and her books won several prizes. Why am I re-reading these novels now? Because they recount events that occurred over the autumn and spring of 1917/1918 towards the end of the First World War. It’s a harrowing read but I felt drawn to make the effort as we reach the exact centenary of the events recorded in them.

Why is it important to remember the ghastly stories of that ‘war to end all wars’? The first and most obvious reason is simple. So that we don’t forget the calamity and the chaos that are inevitably part of a war. The scars of conflict run deep and affect generations to come. As a young minister I used to visit the geriatric wards in our local hospital. The men there had all seen service in World War I and the very sight of a clergyman provoked them to shout their abuse as they saw me entering the ward. They had suffered unspeakable miseries in the mud of the trenches and the slaughter of the war and those experiences had driven all thoughts of God out of their heads. With my clerical collar, I had quite simply stirred up some old feelings that lurked deep within them. We should never forget how a whole generation of young men was so devastatingly wiped out in the horrors of that struggle.

But that’s not the only reason for re-reading those books now. 2018 will be marked by continuing debate about our relationship with the European Union. No doubt readers of this article will fall into both Leave and Remain camps. For all that, I must express my worry that the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union might just reveal the historical ‘fault lines’ on our continent and open up old enmities all over again. The European

Union was created in order to ensure that such conflict never occurred again. So we must watch this space and pray very carefully for the future wellbeing of the nations of Europe.

This is a somewhat serious contribution to this number of the Gazette. Yet it has its appropriateness. So many of the young men who volunteered or were conscripted for that war a hundred years ago would, if circumstances had been different, been attending the Company Section of their local Boys’ Brigade. The number of teenagers who died is truly horrendous to contemplate. So the young people who will read these lines are the beneficiaries of all the self-sacrifice that led to those untimely deaths a century ago. And we must seize the opportunities we have been given as well as making the most of the lives that we live to advance Christ’s kingdom on earth. We must be as valiant in our struggle to see good prevail over evil as young people of the early twentieth century were in their own day. We honour their memory and salute their courage.

So I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For you and your loved ones, for your comrades and fellow members of the BB, I wish you a peaceful and fulfilling year.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Leslie Griffiths

Leslie Griffiths
President of The Boys’ Brigade



ARE YOU READY... SOME THOUGHTS ON 'SUCCESSION' PLANNING

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "This is what pertains to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and above one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting; and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more. They may minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of meeting, to attend to needs, but they themselves shall do no work. Thus you shall do to the Levites regarding their duties." - **Numbers 8:23-26 (NKJV)**

Are you ready...

A constant topic of discussion at Brigade gatherings is centred around the lack of leaders in Companies, and this seems to have been an ongoing issue since the Brigade was started 135 years ago. The lack of suitable leaders is often cited as the reason behind Companies closing. However, within our Companies, Battalions and Regions, leadership training is continually taking place around the country. Therefore, we should have sufficient leaders coming up through the organisation to alleviate this crisis... but the lack of leaders continues. It therefore might be worth looking at this problem from a slightly different angle; instead of always focusing on the vacant positions within the Companies, Battalions and organisation as a whole, we should be planning and promoting a culture of succession.



... to succeed with succession?

In 1991 Jack Welch, then CEO of General Electric said, **"From now on, choosing my successor is the most important decision I'll make. It occupies a considerable amount of thought almost every day."**

It took 10 years before Welch announced his successor however, the amount of time he dedicated to succession planning begs the question if we're spending enough time thinking about this crucial subject? Ultimately, it is not The Boys' Brigades history, values, and processes that determine its success but the volunteers who govern it.

Succession planning is personal, long before it becomes tactical.

Succession is a transitional process, handing over leadership from one person to another, and that transition is very personal, and often involves people who have devoted a good portion of their lives to The Boys' Brigade, and it is because of this very

personal devotion to the Brigade that the topic of succession planning is not always discussed or dealt with. Discussing succession planning, in all areas of BB life will help to develop a culture of succession which will encourage the development of staff to see a future within the organisation's leadership. Succession planning does not necessarily mean that people will be leaving the Brigade, it is a process of change, with those in leadership positions making way for others, possibly taking a lesser role within the Company, or taking on more responsibilities in other areas of the Brigade, such as at Battalion and District level or within the Church. These are all areas where leadership skills are needed, and reluctance to fill these roles could be due to Company commitments.



Volunteers make the BB. However, succession planning is often unspoken through a fear of upsetting people. My approach is different. I openly speak about who will replace me and encourage volunteers to tell me when they are planning to move on.

This gives the Company the ability to think about its future and decide the skill set it feels its missing. Central to all of this is culture. Developing an ethos whereby a skill set is valued over length of service and only taking on volunteers who are the correct fit builds enthusiast, passionate teams. For example, when looking for a Treasurer I approached a 26 year old finance graduate and my latest volunteer in Anchors works at the local after school club.

It's important to encourage volunteers to tell you their ideas and for a Captain to take them forward, not merely discuss them and quietly forget them. This grows their passion and enthusiasm for the organisation. Similarly, by treating volunteers as equals, not assistants, volunteers feel encouraged and want to take on more responsibilities.

How do you get to this point? Trust your volunteer base to lead activities, allow mistakes to happen and embrace new ideas."

- Michael Knott, Captain, 65th Edinburgh

Succession planning should include the entire Company, and not just those in senior positions. Society encourages career development and progression, and a BB volunteer's career should be no different. Often younger staff members with aspirations of leadership within the Brigade become

Article Continued →

disillusioned, when they realise that Office Bearers will not give up their positions of leadership. This can possibly result in them moving away from the Brigade into other interests which may satisfy their need for advancement.



Modern society has moved away from the concept of a 'job for life'

There are many ways to deal with this; for example, some committees have time limits set on members, only allowing a set term in a particular position or on a committee. Whilst it may seem an unusual idea, there is no reason why fixed terms of service cannot be put on volunteer roles such as Captains with the positions being transferred to the next incumbent after a prescribed period of time. Putting time limits on positions may also encourage people to take on a position of Leadership, knowing that it is for a fixed period only. Society has moved away from the concept of a 'job for life' and these cultural norms are being adopted by younger members in The Boys' Brigade. Young leaders are looking for opportunities to move through the ranks of the organisation, and don't want to feel like they are being blocked in their advancement.

Don't leave it too late



Whilst some Companies/Battalions/Committees have informal plans for their succession, this informality and lack of a structured plan can result in the transition failing and often a Company is forced to close as suitable leaders are not in place. The trick is to focus on a time far enough in the future for it to be less intimidating for those involved. The amount of time the current incumbent has been in this position can affect the length of time required for the transition process. The current incumbent will have built up a network of loyal supporters and contacts, and these need to be gradually transferred over to the successor. These are valuable resources which should not be lost to the Brigade, and it takes time to transfer these over to the successor.



In my first visit to a Company as part of a Battalion role I visited a Company with a 77-year-old Captain and one other leader, which was forced to close shortly after due to their being nobody to take over.

Ever since then I have seen it as my job in my Company to replace myself as soon as I can and to never stop looking for leaders or delegating to them so they take on and learn more. That way if I ever stop the Company should not."

- Michael Guy, Office in Charge Company Section, 8th Trafford

There is also the aspect of unforeseen circumstance which require Leadership change, and having thought about succession planning in advance will make this situation easier to deal with as plans are already in place, even if it was not to a planned time schedule.

Advantages of succession planning:

- ✓ It helps senior staff members know who is keen and available, ready for when they are looking for someone to fill a key role.
- ✓ Staff members knowing that next role awaits them receive a boost to self-esteem and self-respect.
- ✓ It keeps your Company running and open to fresh thinking.
- ✓ Succession planning allows for the transfer of knowledge.

How to make it work:

- ✓ Make sure you have a clear succession strategy in place, with regular checks being made on how long key people are likely to be with you. People do need to move on from time to time, to fresh challenges and adventures.
- ✓ Don't assume the next leader will be from within the Company, also consider looking outside the Company, within the Church and local community.
- ✓ Devote time and energy to the next appointment, it is better to spend some time finding the right personal and easing them into the position than rushing and ending up with the wrong person. Sometimes it is better to ask people, than to wait for volunteers. The volunteer might not be best suited for the role.
- ✓ See succession planning as an opportunity, not just a chore: A leader from outside the Companies/Battalions/Districts immediate networks can bring a fresh pair of eyes, encourage change and serve as a catalyst for important, if difficult, changes in culture that might be overdue.
- ✓ Through your succession planning process, you have a better chance of retaining staff because they appreciate the time, attention, and development that you are investing in them. Staff are motivated and engaged when they can see a career path within The Boys' Brigade.



Succession planning should be a continual process and part of the Brigade culture, not a frantic last-minute scramble. One of the things often missed in succession planning is that it should be gradual and thoughtful, with lots of sharing of information and knowledge, resulting in it being an almost non-event when it happens. This can be achieved by developing a culture of succession and seeing the leaders which we train on a weekly basis given the opportunity to develop and change their role within the organisation. Starting at Company level, and moving into all areas of Brigade activities, across all levels.

Who is responsible for planning for transitions of leadership?

People become settled in their current positions, and whilst they may regularly state that they want to retire or move on, they are reluctant to hand over what has been many years of their life's work. Often the current incumbent is not the best person to be responsible for the transition. Possibly an outsider, or member of the Church could have some input into managing the transition process, and a fresh insight into the roles and responsibilities, together with an unbiased approach to the process might make the transition a little easier?

- ✓ People like to leave a legacy, and this should not be ignored. If the person is retiring entirely from the Company, honour them with a suitable retirement ceremony, and continue to invite them to BB functions such as Church Parades, displays and Services etc, and encourage an involvement in other areas of the Company or Brigade work in general.
- ✓ A clear communication plan is necessary to let members, donors and supporters, the Battalion and BB HQ know what is happening during the transition, and who to contact.
- ✓ Have the new leader start early so there's an overlap between roles.
- ✓ Have the current leader write their own job description based on their experience of the work involved.

Transitioning into a new leadership position is not easy. You need to assume there will be periods of difficulty, but having planned for the transition, and having the the previous post holder available as counsel and guidance will make the transition process easier.

By planning ahead, it is possible to take advantage of the transition as an opportunity for positive change. A successful BB Company reflects well on the local Church and community, and they need reassurance that the Brigade has capable leadership. This is particularly true with supporters and funders who do not want to commit financial resources to an organisation which does not have strategic leadership in place. Often local donors are funding the work of the leader, and this funding needs to be transitioned over to the successor. This transfer of trust and loyalty takes time, and needs to be a gradual process.

There is also the risk that local council or Church funding could be affected whilst the Company is in transition with the donor taking a "wait and see" approach to the new leadership. A gradual succession plan, including the introduction of the new leaders to funders and donors will ease this process, and ensure the continued flow of resources.

Succession planning needs to be considered by everyone in a position of Leadership, to ensure the continue success of our work with children and young people. A culture of succession in the Brigade will assist with future leadership shortfalls, and reduce the number of staff vacancies, and vacant positions on committees, and these will have been planned for and taken up as the need arises.



To help you process the personal side of succession planning, here are some biblical passages to read and reflect upon.

- A Pattern to Follow – Numbers 8:23-26
- A Lament to Wrestle With – Ecclesiastes 2:18-21
- A Change in Identity – Deuteronomy 3:23-29
- A Desire for the People – Numbers 27:12-23
- A Prayer of Reflection – 1 Chronicles 29:10-19



Succession planning isn't the last great thing you will do, as if done right, your legacy will continue in your protégée.



Article By Colin Swinton



Juniors 100 – What a great year!

It's been fantastic to see so much going on throughout what has been a great year of celebration. We hope that your Company managed to get involved in the celebrations in one way or another whether it was through the Juniors 100 Challenge, holding a BIG 100 Birthday Party or taking part in a special Juniors 100 event at a Company, Battalion, District or Regional level. We've heard stories of how the Juniors 100 Challenge has been a great addition to the weekly programme and we know it has certainly encouraged Companies to try something new.



Congratulations go to members of 133rd London Company who were the first section to complete the **Juniors 100 Challenge**. The boys and girls took on the Juniors 100 Challenge and completed all 100 challenges in the middle of November, a good six weeks before the end of the year. As part of the

challenge they completed challenges including 'Taking part in a world record attempt', 'Learning basic first aid skills', 'Raising £100 for a local charity' and 'Trying-out a new sport'. For several of the challenges, the Company partnered up with members of the 2nd Haringey Company.



I liked Juniors 100 because there were a lot of different challenges. My favourite was the sleepover when we slept in the hall – and my least favourite was stacking 100 pennies, because they kept falling over!"

Lewis, aged 10

Well done to all those that sent in a Birthday Card to BB Headquarters (as part of challenge #27). It is great to see the creativity and messages from young people across the Brigade.

If your section was not able to complete the Juniors 100 Challenge in 2017, why not continue with the challenges throughout 2018. You can find full details of the challenges at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/juniors100



All Party Parliamentary Group



Following the 2017 General Election we are pleased to have reformed the BB All Party Parliamentary Group at Westminster. The group met on Tuesday 16th January with all the main parties represented. The Brigade Secretary up-dated members on the current work of the Brigade. Andrew Bowie MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine and BB ex-member and Queen's Man was elected as the new chairman. Please do encourage your own MP to try and support the work of the group.

Juniors 100 International Team Games

Last year there were over 190 entries to the competition including Companies from New Zealand, Thailand, Ghana, Australia, Scotland,

Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Your Company could be part of this great competition this session; the games for 2017/18 are now available, just complete in your own meeting place and send in your results by 1st May 2018.



Download the 2017/18 games from:
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/international-team-games.htm



Brigade Conference 2018, Edinburgh



Join us in Scotland's famous, beautiful and historic capital city later this year for Brigade Conference 2018 - from Friday 31st August until Sunday 2nd September.

2018 has been designated as the 'Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government – a year to celebrate young people's achievements and value the contribution they make to their local communities. For the Brigade, of course, every year is a year of young people, however conference will take up the *Year of Young People* theme.

The conference takes place at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, in Edinburgh (Haymarket), and will feature a packed programme with workshops, worship, opportunities for fellowship, as well as the AGM. The Hotel has very good transport connections to both Edinburgh airport and for rail.

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

We anticipate this year's event to be very busy, so would advise registering and booking accommodation in plenty of time.



Conference registration information, as well as details of a range of accommodation options in Edinburgh, are available at:
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/council.htm

Get involved in the Top Team Challenge

The Top Team Challenge is a Brigade wide activity for Company and Seniors, where Companies across the country take part in the same tasks in their own meeting place. It's a great competition and is accessible to all Companies, with no travelling required, minimal equipment needed, on a date convenient to you. The challenge consists of a number of physical and logical challenges, a team of 4 take part against the clock to complete the mini challenges.



To order packs for the 2017/18 challenge go to:
leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/top-team.htm

Changes to Data Protection: GDPR – What do I need to do?



What is the GDPR?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU data protection law. It will come into effect on 25th May 2018. Even after we have left the EU our own legislation will still have to meet the GDPR standard. To achieve this the Data Protection Act is currently going through the UK parliament.

What will change?

Organisations will have more of a duty to ensure that members data is handled correctly and securely. It will be necessary for organisations to be clear and transparent about the data they are collecting, why it is required, and how long it will be stored.

How will GDPR affect The Boys' Brigade?

Every organisation whether a business or charity will have to follow these new strengthened rules. Whilst lots of the changes can be handled by BBHQ, there will be some things that you'll need to do at local level to make sure you're keeping everyone's data safe.

Some questions to start considering:

- What personal data for members do I hold?
- Is the information up to date?
- Is it required?
- Who has access to it?
- How is it stored? Is it held securely?

Online Brigade Manager (OBM) is an important tool the BB has introduced to assist Companies, Battalions & Districts in collecting, securing and providing access to data that follows data protection principles. Adopting the functions of OBM will help you in preparing for GDPR.

Keep an eye out for more information. We will provide detailed guidance via the e-bb news and the Spring 2018 Gazette.

National Service of Remembrance



75 young people from across the Brigade took part in the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London on Sunday 12th November. BB members from England, Northern Ireland and Scotland took part in the parade and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

The young people represented the 5th Scarborough, 1st Yeovil, 31st Northampton, 1st Kilbride, 1st Cookstown, 1st Glaslary, 7th Newtownabbey, 1st Greenisland, 1st Banagher, 1st Fintona and 1st Stevenston Companies.

John Wilson (17), member of 1st Stevenston, said "It was an honour to get the invitation to go down and take part in this national event and to meet others parading. It is important, because so many have given their life for their country, so we must remember. For many of the young people, this was their first time involved at the commemoration."

In addition to the events in Whitehall, BB members took part in civic events and Church services across the country.

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.

Andrew Roundtree (aged 8)	1 st Lylehill, Northern Ireland
Charlie Littler	2 nd Altrincham, Manchester
Sylvia Joyce Beaumont	1 st Brixham, Devon

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

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
1 st South Street	Deborah Maxted	South Street Baptist Church, Kent
15 th Birmingham	Andrew Fereday	St Mary's Church of England, West Midlands

BB Supplies is on the move

Please note that we are changing the supplier that provides the fulfilment service for BB Supplies. This will mean that the location of the warehouse will change but the contact details for placing orders through the Online Shop and also by telephone will remain the same.

In order to achieve a smooth transition in service, BB Supplies will be closed for a week from the end of April. With this in mind we would encourage Companies that have presentation/awards evenings taking place around this time to place your order at the earliest opportunity to avoid this period. Further updates including confirmation of the period when BB Supplies will not be accepting or dispatching orders will be provided through the ebb-news and the Online Shop.






Once the new service goes live in May, customer service enquiries, telephone orders and postal orders will be handled by the staff team at BB Headquarters.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

A good number of Companies have benefitted from participating in the Active Kids scheme over the last few years, exchanging vouchers for sports and cooking equipment. After 13 years, Sainsburys has decided to take a fresh look at how they can keep kids active, and will be looking to announce a new approach to Active Kids. This will no longer involve ex-changing vouchers for equipment and so Active Kids, in its current form, has come to an end and will not run in 2018. We are keeping in contact with Sainsburys and hope to be involved in future initiatives under the 'Active Kids' umbrella and will inform Companies as and when there is more news.

New Year's Honours

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

-  **Ian Brailey**, 21st Bristol awarded MBE
-  **James Emery**, Castlederg awarded BEM
-  **Alan McIntosh**, 1st Buckie awarded BEM
-  **Jennifer McIntosh**, 1st Buckie awarded BEM
-  **Jim Thornberry**, 1st Dungannon awarded BEM

Elections to Regional Committees

We are coming up to the annual elections for representative members on the five Regional Committees (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Republic of Ireland and Wales) that operate across the Brigade. There are a number of vacancies and/or representatives that are up for re-election as they will finish their current term at the end of this session. Representative members are elected for three years at a time and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms of office. Any registered BB leader or member of the Brigade who has reached their 16th birthday can be nominated. Nominations for election to a Regional Committee must be sent to the Regional Director by 31st March 2018.

England Region

Areas (Districts) where there are vacancies due to the current representative members completion of term or where there is currently no representative member:

- East Anglia
- East Midlands (Under 26)
- West Midlands
- South Midland
- West Midlands (Under 26)
- South Midland (Under 26)
- East Midlands
- Southern (Under 26)

Area (Districts) where representative member is currently co-opted but willing to be nominated:

- London - Ashley Lampard
- North of England (Under 26) - George Ebberson

Areas (Districts) where the current representative member completes their current term this session, but has indicated they are willing to stand for another 3 year term:

- East Anglia (Under 26) - Thomas Mundell
- London (Under 26) - Kelechi Aofolaju
- North of England - Derick Lawson
- North West - Rob Henderson
- North West (Under 26) - Rachael Knowles
- Southern - Paul Haggan
- West of England (Under 26) - Tim Lawrence
- Yorkshire & Humberside - Vicki Brownlee
- Yorkshire & Humberside (Under 26) - Alice Sullivan

Republic of Ireland Region

Areas where there are vacancies due to the current representative members completion of term or where there is currently no representative member:

There are currently 5 vacancies on the committee.

Northern Ireland Region

Areas where there are vacancies due to the current representative members completion of term or where there is currently no representative member:

- Northern Area (Antrim, Ballymena, Coleraine, East Antrim, Londonderry, Route): 3 representatives, 3 under 26 representatives
- Central Area (Belfast): 2 representatives, 2 under 26 representatives
- Southern Area (Ards, Down, Lurgan, Mid-Ulster, Portadown, West Ulster): 3 representatives, 1 under 26 representatives

Scotland Region

Areas where there are vacancies due to the current representative members completion of term or where there is currently no representative member:

- Glasgow (Under 26)
- East Lowland
- East Lowland (Under 26)
- Lanarkshire

Areas (Districts) where the current representative member completes their current term this session, but has indicated they are willing to stand for another 3 year term:

- West Lowland - David Love

Wales Region

Areas where there are vacancies due to the current representative members completion of term or where there is currently no representative member:

- Cardiff
- Newport Area & Caerphilly (Under 26)
- Cardiff
- Vale of Glamorgan (Under 26)
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Cardiff (Under 26)
- Swansea & West Wales
- Cardiff (Under 26)
- Newport Area & Caerphilly
- Cardiff (Under 26)
- Newport Area & Caerphilly (Under 26)
- North Wales (Under 26)

Areas (Districts) where the current representative member completes their current term this session, but has indicated they are willing to stand for another 3 year term:

- Cardiff - David Martin
- Newport Area & Caerphilly - Karen Jones
- Swansea & West Wales (Under 26) - Anthony Williamson-Coates

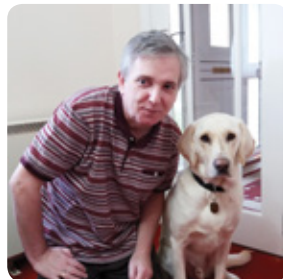
BB's Disability Advice Network

Meet DAN's new member

For the past 15 years, the Brigade has offered specialist advice and support to BB Companies wishing to welcome children and young people with disabilities or impairments. We call this network of advisers the Disability Advice Network or DAN. The advisers are BB Leaders, and former BB Leaders, who through their own experience or in their professional lives, have the skills and knowledge to help other BB Leaders who want to make their own Companies more welcoming and inclusive.

The network is set up to support and advise any Company or individual on a range of disability issues. For example, if you would like to include children or young people with particular needs or disabilities, then an adviser will be able to suggest practical ways of going about this. The advisers will also be able to help with achieving the highest standards of accessibility and good practice in working with disabled young people.

We are very pleased to welcome new DAN adviser, **Craig Happell**. Craig is the Queen's Badge Adviser for the West Lowland area in Scotland.



Craig says "I lost most of my sight and was registered blind around 12 years ago. I applied for my first Guide Dog, Casey, shortly after and he worked with me for 8 years before retiring aged 10. My new Guide Dog, Merlin, arrived last September and I've worked with him since then. As someone who lost their sight later in life I am more aware of what is expected or required to make life easier for those with a visual impairment."

This might be explaining where the doors are and which way they open, where chairs are and where the back of the chair is, as well as things that can be done within a Company to make the evening more inclusive."

Currently, the DAN has expertise in the following areas and operates across all five Regional boundaries:

- Additional educational needs
- Hearing impairments
- Visual impairments
- Speech and language difficulties
- Physical impairments and mobility issues
- Cerebral palsy
- Challenging behaviour
- Asberger's and Autism
- General disability awareness
- Welfare benefits, reviews, appeals and tribunals

If you would like support or advice in welcoming or working with a child with a disability or impairment, then contact Karen Jay (karen.jay@boys-brigade.org.uk) at BBHQ and she will put you in contact with the most appropriate adviser for your needs.

Don't forget, there are a range of information leaflets on disability available to download from the BB website at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/dan.htm

There is also a disability app created by one of our DAN members in Northern Ireland, Colin Millar. This app is available free for Apple and Android devices – search "Boys' Brigade Disability App".

Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute

On Sunday 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

There are a number of opportunities to get involved, this is a chance for BB members to take part and pay personal and community tributes to those millions that gave their lives for their country or returned home wounded during or after the dreadful darkness of four years of War 1914 - 1918.

Full details of how your BB Company can take part in this unique historical and important commemoration can be found in the Battle's Over Guide which is available to download at brunopeek.co.uk/Battles-Over-Guide.pdf.

The Boys' Brigade along with young people from the Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Force, and the Light Infantry Buglers Association are being asked to play the Last Post at more than a thousand locations across the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Specifically, The Boys' Brigade is being asked to play at local Churches at 6.55pm on Sunday

11th November, followed by the ringing of the Church bells at 7.05pm (where your Church has bells and you can coordinate this with your Church).

The organisers are looking to publish a list of the locations at which Buglers will play the Last Post (and ring the Church bells) and are therefore asking BB Companies to register their participation by 1st July 2018. To register your participation please email brunopeek@mac.com with your Company Name, Church Name, Church Address along with a Contact Name, Email Address and Telephone Number indicating if you will be taking part in playing the Last Post and/or ringing your Church bells. We hope to encourage as many Companies as possible to participate.



YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS



Liverpool Freedom of the City

At an extraordinary meeting of Liverpool City Council back in January 2017, The Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. Joe Anderson OBE proposed, and the Deputy Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Ann O'Byrne seconded, that the Liverpool and District Battalion of The Boys' Brigade be admitted to the Freedom Roll of Associations and Institutions in recognition of their contribution to the City of Liverpool and the community. On December 5th, the Liverpool and District Battalion were represented by over 50 Leaders and Young People at Liverpool Town Hall, where, along with Girl Guiding Merseyside and Merseyside Scouts, they were awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool. During the ceremony The Boys' Brigade was congratulated for its work across the city since 1886.



Members Brave the Shave for Macmillan

As part of their church's wider fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Care, 7th North Surrey members Ryan Fuller (17) and Daniel Welsh (16), volunteered to have their heads shaved at the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th October. Between them, these young people have raised more than £450 for the charity.



Happy to see him Happy – A random act of kindness in Polegate

Inspired through the Juniors 100 Challenges, Junior Section members of the 1st Polegate Company were encouraged to go and carry out a random act of kindness. One of those members shares what he did in response to this challenge.

"Yesterday I went to my Boys' Brigade and I was given two bag of sweets from my leaders Sue and Diane. I was told to give them to someone who wouldn't have much this Christmas. When I got home I asked my mum if I could give them to a homeless person. This morning I went into town with my mum and we saw a man, wrapped up in a sleeping bag at the entrance of the train station. I went up to him with my mum and we both said "good morning". I gave him the bag of sweets and I said "merry Christmas" and he said "God bless you" and "Thank you". He seemed very grateful for his gift. I would like to do it again someday as it made me happy to see him happy." - Dexter



Paul Sweeney MP @PaulJSweeney

Had a great time this evening talking to the local 277 Glasgow Company of @theboysbrigade in Milton about life as an MP. Some great questions and looking forward to welcoming them down for a visit to the Parliament soon.



100 laps for 100 years in Route

Junior Section members of 1st Route (Finvoy) Company celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Section by completing 100 laps of a bouncy castle assault course. On completing the task the 100th Birthday Cake was presented to the boys to help celebrate their achievement.



1st Bloxham BB @1stBloxhamBB

Tonight is rock band night. For those about to rock we salute you!!!



7 consonants and 4 vowels please

Senior boys and Leaders from Avon Battalion went to watch filming for Channel 4's Countdown at Media City in Salford. It was a great experience for all to see how the recording of a TV programme works. After the recording the group posed in front of the famous Countdown letter board with number genius and host Rachel Riley with the letters spelling out 'BOYS BRIGADE'.

SNAPSHOTS



LONDON BUGLE BAND IN THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW



DOUBLE FOOTBALL SUCCESS FOR 4TH NEWTOWN ABBEY LADS



53RD MANCHESTER CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



5TH GLOUCESTER JUNIORS IN REMEMBRANCE



19TH MOTHERWELL SHOE BOX APPEAL



7th Wishaw BB @7thWishawBB

Big thanks to @guidedogscot for coming along to Anchors tonight and allowing the boys to meet the dogs and learn about their important job.



Droitwich Spa Sleep Out

Members of the 1st Droitwich Spa BBGA 'slept out' at the end of November to raise awareness of homelessness and raised £1000 for St Paul's Homeless Hostel in Worcester.



2nd EK Boys Brigade @2ndEK_BB

Certificate received today for our participation in U.K. Parliament Week. Thanks to @DrLisaCameronMP for coming along to visit us as part of this! #BoysBrigade #UKPW2017





Rachel Bunting @RevRachBunting

Had great fun with our @theboysbrigade #anchors this evening learning about animals and making noahs ark @TheBBEngland @StThomasSwansea #pregnantpenguins #1stswanseaeastside

Birthday Honours for Jimmy

On Sunday 5th November, the morning service at St Ninian's Church, Stonehouse, was a very special occasion when a large congregation gathered to see Jimmy Anderson, presented with the British Empire Medal by Vice Lord Lieutenant John Brown. Eighty eight year old Jimmy was awarded the well-deserved honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June in recognition of a lifetime of service to The Boys' Brigade and the community of Stonehouse. Jimmy became an officer in the 1st Stonehouse Company, and it was not long until he was catapulted into the challenging role of Company Captain, a position he was to hold for over 60 years. Jimmy has also served his Church faithfully as an Elder, supported local charities and given a life time of service to the local community.



Stewart Dickson MLA @stewartcdickson

1st Greenisland Boys Brigade Enrolment Service this morning Greenisland Presbyterian Church @BBNI @theboysbrigade #BoysBrigade



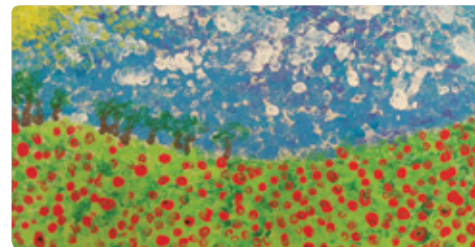
Cheslyn Hay BB @CheslynHayBB

Fascinating evening at the Great War Hut on Cannock Chase learning about the Battle of Messines and the NZ Rifle Brigade @WW100NZ @theboysbrigade #WeShallRememberThem



Paul Curtis @PaulCurtis74

Last night's team effort artwork by 26th Leeds Junior Section @theboysbrigade #RemembranceDay2017



Liverpool Lads City Walk

Members of 10th Liverpool Company completed a sponsored walk around Liverpool City Centre locating 34 landmarks along the way to raise money to purchase 2 defibrillators for the church. The efforts of the group were successful not only to purchase the two defibrillators but also pediatric pads for children and purchasing cabinets for them to be housed in. Well done to the boys and staff who took part and a big thank you to all who supported them.



Enfield Boys Brigade @enfieldbb

Great afternoon with 60+ boys, girls and leaders joining the Enfield Parade of Light with our sleigh, giant balloon and lots of lights!!! #Enfield #Christmas #bbweekend



4th Southport BB @4thSouthportBB

We have completed 44 out of our 100 challenges and just got 100 likes on our picture. Thank you to everyone who has taken part. #juniors100 #boysbrigade



82 Years of Service recognized in Kilkeel

After having given a combined total of 82 years dedicated service as leaders in 1st Kilkeel Company, husband & wife, Norman and Sylvia Gordon have decided to retire. At a special evening with fellow officers, family & friends held in Mourne Presbyterian Church Hall they were presented with a Galway Crystal Candle Holder engraved with their names and the BB emblem.



1st Lenzie BB @1st_Lenzie_BB

Thanks to the @coopuk for their grant of £3,010.65 for #1stLenzieBB! Thanks to everyone in #Lenzie for their support for the #BoysBrigade! #BBWeekend #TheCoopWay #BeingThankful



Paisley & District Juniors 100 Big Birthday Party

Over 100 boys and their leaders from across the Battalion went along on to Renfrew North Church on 16th September – the day after the anniversary. In addition to celebrating the Centenary the day also had the aim of helping the boys and their Companies to complete as many of the Juniors 100 challenges as possible and so instead of a fee to participate we asked boys to bring donations for the local Foodbank and were overwhelmed at the response. The boys scored well over 100 goals in the football shoot out, played marbles, got creative with Lego (using 100 bricks), learned a circus skill, built the highest 2p tower, made birthday cards, made and then flew paper aeroplanes and lots more. A commemorative tree was planted and as part of this included planting a time capsule with notes of what boys enjoy about Juniors. A great afternoon to mark a very special occasion.



1st Ballyclare BB @1stballyclarebb

Impressive turn out from our boys at our annual enrolment service. Almost 150 boys on our 75th anniversary. @LoveBallyclare @EABBBattalion



1st Rotherham BB @1stRotherhamBB

Busy night at 1st Rotherham Boys Brigade tonight for Children in need #CIN2017 #childreninneed



The Way I See It

With Christmas well out of the way and Lent appearing rapidly on a steady bearing, the Church's season of Epiphany always seems to get overlooked.

Now I'm sorry for beginning with such "Churchy" terminology which has doubtless switched you off already, but in a sense that sums up the challenge that is continually with us. Just how do we communicate to people and especially to young people, the forever truths of the Christian faith, anchored as they are in the reality of history, yet apparently contained in stories that are at best rather remote and at worst seen as nothing more than fairy stories? Whilst the bare bones of the Christmas story is believable in terms of events, once you begin to get into the idea of Jesus having been born "of a virgin" then most teenagers are going to think that's pretty strange and difficult to understand and accept. Move on to the resurrection of Jesus, and again it's pretty difficult stuff for bright, sparky, inquisitive youngsters simply to accept just "because it's in the bible".

In my experience the answer to that statement has often been "so what! ". Now strangely the story of the Wise Men, exotic travellers from afar, might give us a bit of a clue as to how to approach all of this. Firstly, they were searching, following a lead, checking out a hunch, that weirdly in this child born into poverty and obscurity lay some answers to the deep questions of life. So, as you relate to young people, who are also searching for what life is all about, the emphasis needs to be on travelling with them as they respond to the questions that life throws up. Secondly it has to be the questions they are actually asking, rather than answering questions that have never even crossed their minds in the first place. And that you need to be prepared to respond too honestly,

Having joined the Royal Navy in 1990, Martin has served in a number of sea-going and shore-side appointments, including HMS RALEIGH, Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, HMS INVINCIBLE, HM Naval Base Clyde, RNAS YEOWILTON and HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. During his time in the Royal Navy Martin has been Staff Chaplain to the Chaplain of the Fleet, Staff Chaplain (Operations) and Principal Anglican Chaplain and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy, having also been appointed an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen.

In October 2012 Martin retired from The Royal Navy having been appointed by her Majesty the Queen to a canonry at St Georges's Chapel Windsor. This carries with it responsibility for Her Majesty's private Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park Great Park. He is a Governor of St George's school Windsor and The Royal School, Windsor great Park

Martin was educated in Enfield, Middlesex, prior to reading English and Theology at the University of Kent at Canterbury (Christ Church College). Martin is a former member of 2nd Enfield Company and has many memories of camps and his time in the Brigade.

Married to Diana and with children Katie (1 June 01) and Nick (18 Feb 97), he currently lives in Windsor Great Park, but the family home is in Huish Episcopi in Somerset.



head on, even if it's uncomfortable at times. It's clear from recent Church research (take a look at the Youthscape "Losing Heart" research) that this is really significant, and where most Churches are failing. If you can do this, then the credibility you'll get from those youngsters, sharing their questions and airing with them your doubts as well as your certainties, just might make them hang around long enough for them to gradually see that the faith is not about getting answers, but living with the questions in the way of Jesus, the way of love, joy, hope and peace in which he lived and for which he died. So, lives of integrity, that "practice what we preach" are the best way to relate to those young people. The doctrine can come later! As St Francis rather famously didn't say "preach always, use words if you have to" is not a bad way to approach the really important work that you are engaged in.

The Venerable Martin Poll

Canon of St George's Chapel Windsor
Domestic Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen



RESOURCE



GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the *Winter 2017/18* programme supplement, showcasing some great activities and ideas that you could use in your Company.

Resource Bank

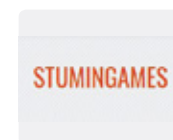
Selection of resources with activities and ideas for all sections



The Works

The high street retailer stocks a wide range of toys, books and arts & crafts at discount prices, ideal for use across all sections. Pop into a local store or go online to check out the range.

Check out theworks.co.uk



StuMinGames

Student Ministry Games seeks to equip Youth Leaders with fun and relevant games that are designed to connect with young people through moments of excitement, laughter and sheer craziness.

Check out stumingames.com



Crafty Crocodiles

The team at Crafty Crocodiles produce a range of arts and crafts items, including themed and seasonal items. You can also find ideas and activities on their Pinterest site at pinterest.co.uk/craftycrocodiles. Also sign up to their newsletter to be sent a regular email with ideas and activities and new products available to purchase.

Check out craftycrocodiles.co.uk

? The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Motherwell or Manchester, Newtownabbey or Newport.

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 2018 issue? Send it to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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

Check out the sectional programme ideas >>>

22 → Anchors

25 → Juniors

28 → Discover

31 → Challenge Plus

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



11 MAR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Celebrate Mothering Sunday by getting the children to make a card or a small gift to give to their mum to show their love and say thank you.



23 APR ST GEORGES DAY

St George's Day remembers St George, England's patron saint. The anniversary of his death, which is on April 23, is seen as England's national day. The story of St George dates back to the 6th century where St George rescued a maiden by slaying a fearsome fire-breathing dragon. Why not hold your own St George's Day party?



30 APR - 6 MAY NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

Get your group doing some simple gardening in your church or local community. Or, even plant some bulbs in a pot for the children to take home.

Check out nationalgardeningweek.org.uk

Get Creative: Handprint Heart Tree

Try out this great craft for Mother's Day with your group.

Equipment

- Blue Coloured card (for background - sky)
- Green sugar paper (for background – ground/grass)
- Pink sugar paper (for hearts)
- Brown sugar paper (for arm and forearm - tree)
- Guillotine
- Staplers
- Scissors
- Pencil
- PVA Glue

Preparation

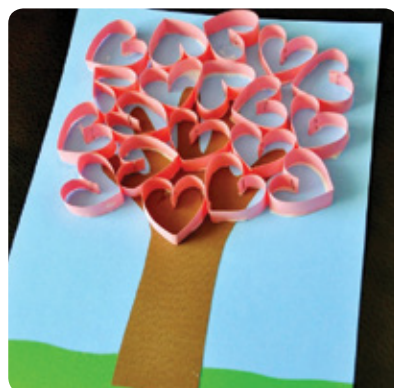
In preparation a leader should use a guillotine to cut up strips of the pink sugar paper approx 2cm wide, enough for 15-20 per child.

Instructions

1. Get the children to draw around their hand and forearm on to a piece of sugar paper (you could use brown to represent tree trunk or alternatively another colour) and then cut this out (leaders may need to assist with cutting out).
2. Cut out a pattern using the green sugar paper, for the grass at the bottom of the picture.
3. Stick the cut out hand and forearm on the piece of blue card.
4. Using the pink strips of paper, connect the ends together with a staple and a folded crease to create the heart shape.

5. Put some PVA glue on to a paper plate that the children can put their heart shape into and then put that on their tree, continue doing this placing 15-20 heart shapes on to the tree.

6. Finish by writing a message to Mum and saying 'Happy Mother's Day'.



Get Active: On the Bus

Set out a chair for each child and arrange them in short rows, with an aisle running down the middle (like the layout of a bus). Use one extra chair as a seat for the 'driver'. Position two other chairs with a space between them to act as the doors.

To play the game tell the children that they are only allowed on and off the bus through the doors. Ask everybody to take a seat on the bus. A Leader shouts, 'Off the bus!' and the children get up from their chairs and run through the doors. They run around the bus until a Leader shouts 'On the bus!' The children must then go back through the doors and find a seat. Take one chair away each time. The child who does not find a chair is out, continue the game until you end up with one chair and a winner.



Get Creative: Snake Sock Puppets

Try out these fun snake sock puppets with your section.



Equipment

- Socks (for each child)
- Wool (in various colours cut into lengths)
- Wiggly Eyes (two for each child)
- Coloured Card circle (cut out for the mouth)
- Glue

Instructions

Give each child a sock and start by folding the coloured card circle in half and sticking it onto the bottom of the sock (pushing it inside so when you put your hand in the sock you can open/shut the mouth). Then simply ask them to stick on the wiggly eyes and wool to finish off their snake sock puppet.

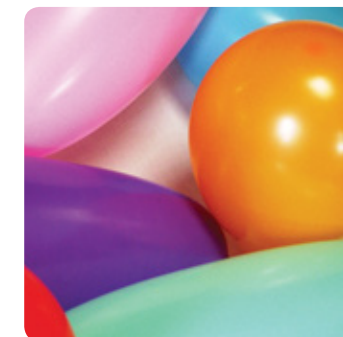
Get Active: All Star Games



All Star games is a brand new fundraising event that gets young people excited to be active, have fun and raise money to save lives. The British Heart Foundation provides the kits, with packs including lots of ideas and supporting resources to get you going with activities for all age groups, this can form part of an existing sports day or a one-off event. The concept includes keeping 20% of funds raised to spend in your group.

Order your free fundraising kit at bhf.org.uk/allstars

Get Active: Balloon Relay



Instructions

You will need a pack of balloons for this activity. You should mark out a start and a finish line, and get the children into teams, standing or sitting in a line one behind the other, behind the start line. Taking it in turns the first member of the team pats the balloon down the length of the playing area. No one is allowed to hold the balloon and should use just their hand to direct the balloon.

You could try a number of variations by using legs only, by blowing the balloon or you could provide a bat or rolled up newspaper to use to move the ball along.

Equipment

Balloons

Theme Ideas



Try out these chocolate themed ideas with your section:

01 Chocolate Corners

In preparation create four signs featuring a different chocolate (i.e. Mars, Twix, Milky Way, Buttons) and put these in the four corners of your meeting space. To play the game, ask the children to run around the room until they hear the whistle or a leader shouts 'Corners'. At this point the children need to run to a corner of their choice, and once everyone has settled, a leader should call out one of the corner names. Anyone stood in this corner is out of the game. Carry on playing the game, until you have a winner. When there are less young people in the game, you may want to close a corner or two, or only allow a maximum of 1 person in each corner, to help get the last few out a little quicker.

02 Get Creative: Chocolate Creations



Equipment:

- Chocolate (needs to be melted)
- Assorted toppings/ingredients (Marshmallows, Smarties, Jelly Tots, Jelly Beans, Dolly mixture, popping candy, fudge, Rice Krispies, Cornflakes, etc)
- Paper cases
- Wooden Skewers

Instructions:

Just provide the children with a supply of melted chocolate along with a range of ingredients from the list of ideas above. Leave the chocolate to set by putting into the fridge or leaving to one side. Ask them to think about a name and provide an opportunity for them to share what's in their creation.

03 Chocolate Game

Ask the children to sit in a large circle around a table and chair. When you start the game, have one dice go around the circle, in turn each child has a roll and if they roll a 6 then they can go to the table, put on the hat, gloves and scarf and then start eating the chocolate on the table. They are not allowed to use their hands however. Whilst this is happening, the dice should continue to go around the circle and if another person rolls a 6, then they can come up to the table and swap places.

04 Get Active: Box of Chocolates

Based on the popular 'Port & Starboard' game, this is a great way of combining a familiar game with your chocolate theme. Shout out the names of chocolates and the children respond by doing the associated action.

The actions are:

Mars	Run to the right-hand side of the room
Galaxy	Run to the left-hand side of the room
Milky Way	Run to the top of the room
Magic Stars	Run to the bottom of the room
Penguin	Waddle around like a penguin
Lion	Hands up as claws, roaring like a lion
Aero	Run around like an aeroplane
Kit Kat	Walk on all fours, meowing like a cat
Wispa	Index finger on lips and say "shhhhh"
Twirl	Spin around on the spot once

The last person to carry out an action is out. The winner is the last person standing.

05 Get in to the Bible: Prayer Parcel

An activity that encourages thought and prayer. In preparation wrap up some chocolate in a number of layers of paper. In each layer place a word or picture of someone or something that the group could pray for or think about. Ideas could include the word or picture linked to family, school, friends, The Queen, politicians, our world, food, war, etc. Sit the children in a circle and pass the parcel until the music stops. The person holding the parcel removes a layer of paper and reads out or describes the word or picture. Ask the group what things we might pray for about that particular subject (i.e. they might mention a friend who is not well). Once some of the children have shared something, restart the music and keep going until you reach the middle of the parcel. Share out the chocolate in the middle and finish this activity with a prayer bringing together all of what has been shared.

Juniors RESOURCE

Great activities & ideas for your section:

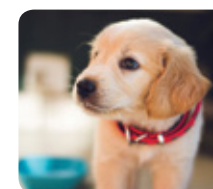
Programme Planning

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



9 - 18 MAR BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Take part in the UK's biggest celebration of science. You can download Activity Packs from the British Science Week website, which are all about encouraging young people to think about everyday discoveries and how they affect their lives by exploring science in the world all around us. Check out britishscienceweek.org



1 APR - 7 MAY NATIONAL PET MONTH

National Pet Month gets bigger and bigger every year because thousands of pet lovers focus on raising awareness of responsible pet ownership. Could you organise a visit to a Pets at Home store (they offer workshops to youth organisations) or alternatively welcome a visitor to your meeting space. Or how about finding if some of your members have pets at home which they could talk about with the group (by way of photos and a talk) or even bringing their pet along to meet the group.

Check out nationalpetmonth.org.uk



MAY WEAR DOTS, RAISE LOTS

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

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

Get Active: Gaga Ball

Gaga is a fast paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better! It's a version of dodge ball, the game is played with a soft foam ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball. For this game you will need a number of Go-pac style tables on their side to create the playing area, usually setup in a hexagonal shape (six sides based on six tables). Fun and easy, everyone gets a serious workout, it is also great for smaller groups or smaller spaces.



Get Active: Bean Bag Sort

Equipment

- 4 sets of 3 bean bags (each set different colour)
- 4 coloured hoops (to match bean bag colours)

Instructions

Setup the game by placing a hoop towards each of the four corners of your meeting space and place one of each colour bean bag into each of the hoops (total of 4 bean bags in each

hoop). To play the game, split the children into 4 teams. A team should be behind each hoop in the corners of your meeting space and on the word 'go' the first team member must go to collect their colour bean bag (identified by the colour of the hoop) and bring it back to their hoop, then the next player goes and brings back another bean bag and so on until all four bean bags (of their colour) are in the hoop. The team members should take it in turns, with only one team member going at a time, with them only being allowed to transport one bean bag at a time.

Get Creative: Pipe Cleaner Character

Construct these acrobatic friends, then pose them any way you like.

Equipment

- Pipe cleaners (assorted colours)
- Straws (assorted colours)
- Beads (assorted colours and sizes)
- Scissors
- Marker pens

Instructions

1. Take three pipe cleaners and twist them together at their centres, taking an arm out to each side, two legs to the bottom and the remaining two lengths form the body together going up.

2. Create the body by adding some beads and then cut some straws to put on to the pipe cleaners to form the arms and legs, bending the remainder of the pipe cleaner to make hands and feet.

3. Add a large bead (the head) on to the top above the smaller beads (the body) and use the remaining pipe cleaner to make a hairstyle.

4. Finish by using a marker pen to create a face.

Try using different colour pipe cleaners and straws and create different characters.



Theme Ideas



EGG-TASTIC

Get into these themed programme ideas this Easter:

01 Get Active: Goal the Egg

Hard boil some eggs in preparation and let them cool before use. Mark out a line and then create two small goal posts at an appropriate distance away. The children one at a time take turns to try and roll the egg between the goal posts. See who gets the most goals, you can make the task more difficult or easier by increasing/decreasing the distance.

02 Get Active: Egg Tower Challenge

In preparation collect some toilet rolls or paper towel (kitchen) roll tubes and some eggs. You can cut the tubes down into smaller bits. Get the children into teams and set each team the challenge of building the tallest tower using cut up tubes and eggs (tube, egg, tube, egg, etc). You can either boil eggs use plastic eggs or use raw eggs. Using raw eggs will get quite messy when the towers fall over.

03 Get Creative: Tie Dye Eggs

Equipment:

- Hard Boiled Eggs
- Food Colouring (various)
- Paper Towel/Kitchen Roll
- Water Spray Bottle
- Tiny Elastics or Twist Ties
- Disposable gloves



Instructions:

1. Cut down the paper towel pieces into small rectangles. Place a cool, dry egg in the middle of the paper towel and wrap the paper towel up and around the egg so it's completely covered. Twist the top of the paper towel so it's tight against the egg and secure it with a tiny elastic band or similar.
2. Wearing rubber gloves, gently squeeze drops of food colouring directly onto the paper towel wrapped egg (3 or 4 drops at a time), leaving some white space between each colour. Repeat until large food colouring dots around the whole egg.
3. Using a spray bottle, gently spray a small amount of water into the centre of each food colouring dot. Keep spraying until the colours bleed and there is no more white space. The less water you spray, the brighter the colours on the egg will be.
4. Gently squeeze the wet paper towel wrapped egg over the sink to drain excess water. Even if there's no water, gently squeeze the egg to make sure the colour on the paper towel transfers to the egg.
5. Place the wet, paper towel wrapped eggs in a tray and allow to dry. When the paper towels are completely dry, remove the elastics and unwrap.

04 Get into the Bible: The Seriously Suprising Story



The Bible Society has created some fantastic resources ideal for use with the Juniors age group. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus' followers as they travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus and get talking to someone who gives them the biggest surprise of all! Alongside the video there is an Easter trail, storybooks and worksheets that you can use.

Download the video and check out the resources at biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/easter/

05 Get Learning: Lego Egg Racer

Try out this engineering challenge to create a safe and fast Lego car for your Egg driver.

Equipment:

- Eggs
- Colouring pens
- Lego (assorted, but sets of wheels required for each pair/group)



Split the children into pairs or small groups. Firstly, ask them to think about their egg, it's going to become their driver so give it some character, provide some pens to do this. Next up the challenge is using Lego to create a car that is going to be fast, but also transport your egg driver safely. Once the Lego egg racers are ready, put them to test by trying them against each other. You can see which racer is the fastest, how the egg driver gets on and consider why different designs worked better than others.

? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"We are looking to be more active in our local community and for ideas on what has worked well for others. Have you been active in your local community? What has worked well and how have the young people been involved?"

In response to this a number of leaders have shared their thoughts.

"One of the things in our community we have been involved in is the community garden. We go down to the garden and help the gardener in planting and gathering up produce that has been grown. Last summer the boys got lots of vegetables including tomatoes, potatoes, corn on the cob and onions. When we started back in September, we also helped our Church by tidying up the yard at the back of the hall which was full of weeds"

Philip Hamilton, 99th Belfast

"We have been out with pickers and bags provided by the local council on a litter pick cleaning up our local beaches. We provided our members with gloves and closely supervised the group as they went to work."

Nick Lawrence, 1st Weston-super-Mare Company

"Each year around Remembrance Sunday we explore people who are remembered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in local cemeteries. Year 1, soldiers of the first world war. Year 2, airmen of the 2nd World War. Year 3 (more difficult - as there are not many buried on land) seafarers. This looks at any records of local Royal & Merchant seaman of either war. The boys identify with one person, have their CWGC certificate of remembrance and photographs of the headstones - identifying any commemorative statement - and age. The boys use wooden poppy crosses to remember their chosen soldier/sailor/airman naming them - and who has chosen to remember them. They either plant these at the headstones, taking part in the war graves service on the Saturday nearest to Remembrance Sunday - or in the 'Poppy Field' adjacent to the local war memorial. This makes it far more personal for those attending the Remembrance Day Parade."

John Martin, 1st Hexham

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

Send your questions to gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk and we will look to share your question and include a selection of responses in the next issue.

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



17 - 23 MAR SPORT RELIEF 2018

Sport Relief 2018 is all about whatever moves you and gets you moving. This year, there are more ways than ever for you and your group to get active, raise loads of money and change lives all over the world! Order your free fundraising pack to help you get you started.

Find out more at sportrelief.com/schools/youth-groups



24 MAR WWF EARTH HOUR

WWF's Earth Hour is an annual global celebration where people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the future of our planet. You can find out more about climate change and download resources to use with your young people.

Find out more at wwf.org.uk/earthhour



2 APR WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Introduce autism-awareness raising activities into your programme as part of World Autism Day. Help your young people become more aware of this lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them. You can also get involved in fundraising.

Find out more at autism.org.uk



4 - 15 APR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Our athletes (from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) will join with those from around the Commonwealth for the 2018 Commonwealth Games which takes place on the Gold Coast in Australia. Some 6,600 athletes and team officials from 70 Commonwealth nations and territories will participate in the largest sporting event to be staged in Australia this decade, comprising 18 sports and seven para-sports. Get your young people involved by holding your own 'Commonwealth Games' evening featuring some of the sports and learning something about the host nation.

Getting Into The Bible: The Old Testament journey in 3½ minutes

Check out the latest video produced by the Bible society.

Of course you can't do the Old Testament justice in 3½ minutes, or fully understand the complexities of Israel's journey in the time it takes to make a cuppa. But our heart is to give a snapshot and a flavour of how Bible characters fit in to the bigger picture of Scripture. Using warmth, humour and pop culture references, we hope this helps you see Israel's story in a new way. You could use this video with your young people to set the scene before a talk on a book, theme or character from the Old Testament or to remind them of where Jesus fits in to the bigger picture of Scripture.

View or download at
biblesociety.org.uk



Get Active: Basketball Games



Try out some of these basketball inspired games and activities with your young people. All you need is a basketball (or two) and a hoop to play, whether you have 3, 10 or 20 young people these games will be a great addition to your programme.

- 1. Knock Out.** Play this game with two or more players, you will also need two basketballs. The players form two lines in front of the basketball hoop. The first two players shoot to score, the first to score knocks out the other player. The player who got the basket runs to the back of their team and the player that has been knocked out sits to one side. The two teams continue to battle it out with the winning team the first to knock out all their opponents. If you have more young people you could play this with more than two teams and or use another basket, but all teams still compete against each other.
- 2. Golf.** Bringing together the object of the game of golf with basketball, the idea of this game is to try and get the shot into the basket in the lowest number of attempts from different set positions. Play 6, 9 or 18 'holes', by marking something on the floor for each 'hole'. The first player starts from the first position and takes their shot, if they miss they take their next shot from where they grab the rebound. The score for that 'hole' is the number of shots it took the player to get the ball into the basket. The lowest score wins.
- 3. 21.** The idea of the game is to get 21 points. Decide who is going to start with the ball by a flip of a coin or similar, they stand at the designated free throw line and take their shot. If they get the ball in they score 2 points and return to the free throw line to take their next shot, they can keep doing this to add up their points. Once they miss the player to grab the ball on the rebound then takes a shot, if they get it in they score 2 points and go to the free throw line to take another shot until they miss, then the next player and so on. Once an order of players has been established, once you get round to the first person again, play should continue in order. Once a player gets to 18 points, they then have to go for a 3 pointer to win, that should be from a longer distance as agreed before the start of play. There are variations of this game where you can put the ball into free play after a rebound and allow whoever gets the ball to continue in play. You could also allow 3 pointer shots throughout the game where the shot is taken from a certain distance.

- 4. Numbers in Play.** On a variation of the full game, split the young people into two teams and number each team from 1 upwards. Teams start by standing on opposite sides of the hall and the game starts when player numbers are called out, enabling you to start with anything from 1 on 1 to 4 on 4. During the game you can call numbers to come off the court and then call out numbers to go on the court, again continually varying the number of players on the pitch. This could work well where you do not want to split young people into more than two teams, but have too many young people for all to play at the same time.

Get Involved: UK Parliament Week 2018 – Register Now



Registration for **UK Parliament Week 2018** is now open. UK Parliament Week will take place on 12 – 18 November. They have 10,000 free UK Parliament Week kits to give away to groups getting involved. Register your Company now so that you get your kit sent out in good time for your programme planning.

What's in the box?

This year, your kit will include:

- ✓ A booklet with a wide range of activities for you to use at your event
- ✓ A ballot box so you can run your own mock elections, or vote on a debate!
- ✓ Bunting so you can decorate in true UK Parliament Week style
- ✓ Posters to help you promote your event
- ✓ UK Parliament Week pin badges for you to wear so everyone knows you're taking part.
- ✓ Your very own UK Parliament Week placard – take pictures with your placard and share on social media to show off your activities!
- ✓ And last but not least – our new Votes for Women sash, to get you in the Vote 100 spirit!

UK Parliament Week kits will start being sent to partners who have registered an event or activity in May 2018.

Register and find out more at
ukparliamentweek.org

Get Creative: 3 Ingredient Nutella Brownies

Make these fantastic brownies, they are quick and easy and taste great!

Ingredients (for each child)

- 2 eggs
- 75g flour
- 225g Nutella
- Baking Paper
- Disposable tray bake foil tray

Equipment

- Oven
- Scales
- Mixing bowl (for each child)
- Wooden spoon (for each child)
- Baking paper

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 180oc.
2. Get a large bowl and add the flour, eggs and Nutella. Mix with a wooden spoon until smooth and all of the ingredients are well mixed.
3. Line the tray with baking paper and pour in your mixture.
4. Bake for 15-20 minutes.
5. Leave to cool, for best results leave overnight and eat next day.



The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

"We've never been great at planning our programme in advance, but we're looking to get more organised and plan ahead so we can develop our best programme yet. How do you go about planning your programme? Who gets involved and how far in advance do you plan (monthly, termly, yearly)?"

In response to this a number of leaders have shared their thoughts.

"At the 58th Birmingham the Company Section officers get together in August to plan till Christmas, in the New year we plan till Easter and then try and go beyond till the end of the session. We try and run an adventurous programme after Easter to which those Boys in year six at school can stay on after Juniors so we usually manage to plan for Company in two meetings for the session. With regards to Senior Section, we have only recently started Senior Section and I am sad to say we don't plan well for it, sort of asking the Boys to help with Company and stay for an extra half an our after Company lads have gone home for their time. I am aware that they need to be planning things themselves but I would be grateful for ideas also. The Senior lads are invited to the two-planning session for Company Section."

Stephen Green, Captain 58th Birmingham

"We plan our weekly sessions a term at a time. This allows us to evaluate the previous term. We can then plan based on what we think boys will like best. We choose what activities we do as we know what we are best qualified to teach."

Rhonda Phelps, 1st Craven

"Ask mums, dads, relatives and the Church congregation if they have skills they could offer to share. For example cooking, woodwork, gardening, sign language. Ask them to come along and assist you."

Darren Rigby, 1st Rainford

"In my experience, I feel that the best way to plan the session is to have the leaders for that section attend a planning meeting for the term at one of their homes. Generally this is light hearted and involves food and socialising as well so doesn't feel like a chore. Ideas get thrown around the room and the programme for the term is created, allowing themes to be followed and developed if you want. These meetings are in addition to full staff meetings which happen at least once a year to discuss other bits surrounding the Company."

Stephen Taylor, 4th London

CHALLENGE PLUS

RESOURCE

Get Creative: Upcycling

Could your young people get creative, learn some life skills (DIY) and also get involved in something which has a community aspect by upcycling unwanted items.

There are lots of things that might not look like much that you could transform into something fresh and ready for use again. Furniture of all shapes and sizes including tables, chairs, cupboards and more are all ideal items for upcycling. The results can be really impressive. Upcycling could also be a potential source of fundraising if you look to sell the items on afterwards.

Image: Member of 1st Plumstead upcycling a Cupboard in their Church



Just for fun: Splat

This game is a fast game which will be lots of fun. The young people form a circle with one person nominated to stand in the middle (or a leader could be in the middle). Everyone in the circle should stand ready with their 'Splat guns' at the ready (hands together, fingers interlocked with index and middle finger pointing out).

The person in the middle then randomly points at someone and shouts 'Splat!'. The person they point at must duck, then the two people either side of them must turn to "Splat!" each other, by pointing at the other and yelling, 'Splat!'. The last one to do so is out. This continues until there are only two active people left in the circle.

The two remaining in the circle stand back to back, a member of the group says a word which is chosen as the magic word, the person who was in the middle says random words, with each word the two remaining competitors must take a step away from one another. At any random point the magic word is said, and it's then a quick draw on each other and the last one to point at their opponent and say 'Splat!' is out, leaving a winner.

Getting Into The Bible: Survival



In TV programmes and in movies, we often hear about the word 'survival' and the hope we can make it to the next stage or overcome the next hurdle. In everyday life we see this too – people often avoid awkward situations, such as the homeless person in the street, a stranger being bullied, in favour of our own security and not going out of our comfort zone. Is that what life is all about?

Jesus didn't have the option of just surviving. In his life, he kept company with prostitutes, tax collectors, outcasts and the homeless. When he encountered tough situations, he faced up to them, didn't hide away and tried to make the world a better place.

His example can provoke us to not always be concerned about self-preservation and to help turn our minds to others around us and the world's injustices.

"No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house." Matthew 5:15

Get Involved: ShareTheMiracle

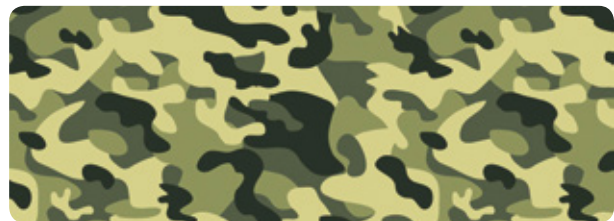
In 2014, members of Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church in South London bought 500 chocolate eggs for £1 each and gave them away to neighbours, local shopkeepers and people in the street with personal invitations to their Easter service. It was a great, simple, fun and inclusive way to reach out into the community together. It was so effective that in 2015, 2016 and 2017, they did the same with 1,000 eggs and invitations!

ShareTheMiracle grew from there. It is a simple initiative with one aim – to help Churches build stronger communities through acts of kindness. Anyone can get involved. It starts with a gift, accompanied by an invitation and results in a story to share, which inspires and encourages others to do the same.

Could you get your young people and Church involved this Easter, speak with your Minister and congregation about going out into the community. It can be a great way to invite people along to your Easter services, as well an opportunity to meet the local community, pray with them and bring smiles to many faces.

Find out more at sharethemiracle.org

Project: SAS – Who Dares Wins



Aim

- To go out of your comfort zone - Survive for 24-hours, undertake team challenges with no outside support.

SAS-Who Dares Wins is a reality TV series in which contestants are put through a SAS selection process by ex-special forces. Participants are put through a series of enduring tasks in a range of challenging environments. Perhaps you could use some of the concepts in the programme to go out of your comfort zone, develop a strong team, leadership skills and gain outdoor survival skills.

- Each member of the team should take up one of the following areas and skill up over several weeks prior to the event in order to inform and support others in the group:

- Map work
- First Aid
- Camp craft
- Bush Craft
- Wild cooking

(Look at Challenge Plus section R7 for more information)

- Ask someone not on your trip (leader) to devise a scenario, e.g. you have crash landed your helicopter and need to get to a certain point by a certain time without being captured.

Ensure that you have included a suitable location to camp overnight.

- Devise some of your own challenges, e.g. making a fire without matches in 2 minutes; build a temporary shelter using a bivouac within 5 minutes.

Equipment

- Expedition equipment

Safety

- Ensure risk assessments are carried out for all activities and that BB regulations for overnight stays and expeditions are followed with appropriate supervision by leaders.
- The group needs to be comfortable and familiar with the equipment they are using.

Going further

- Capture the experience using a GoPro or phone camera.
- Test yourself against another team.
- Develop skills further as part of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Just for Fun: Cereal Box



The group form a circle, with a cereal box (upright) in the centre. Players of this game, must in turn attempt to lift the box off the floor with their mouth. They must not use their hands (to touch the floor or box) and their knees must not touch the floor. Those unable to lift the box are out of the game, once everyone has had a go, those still in move into the second round. In the second round, tear 2-3cm's off the top of the box to make it shorter (and more challenging to lift). Continue playing, tearing off another 2-3cm's of the box after each round.

Get Active: Spiders Web



This is a great team building activity which will encourage the young people to work together to complete the challenge. Unless you are going to an activity centre which has a pre-setup spiders web you will need to create your own. The easiest way to do this is to set up the spider's web between two trees, all you need is some rope and some imagination to get you going. Make the holes different sizes, with one or two larger and one or two much smaller, but you should ensure that it is possible to get someone through each of the holes.

Ideally you are looking for a team to be between 5-8 young people. The challenge ahead is that each young person needs to make their way through the spider's web, but once a hole is used it is then closed and cannot be used again. The team will need to think about the order in which they attempt this challenge, and how they are going to go about assisting team members to get through available holes on both sides of the web.

The challenge could be based on teams competing against the clock or if you have only one team then they could have several attempts to see how quickly they can complete it after a practice. You could introduce penalty points if there is contact the web (rope).

FOCUS ENGLAND & WALES



Unite 2018

This year's Unite will take place from Saturday 26th to Monday 28th May 2018 at Felden Lodge, with the option for groups to arrive on the evening of Friday 25th May if they wish.

Unite is a camp with a difference providing a unique opportunity for young people and leaders to meet, explore their faith and enjoy a range of activities together. It has a semi-structured programme of camp style activities and faith development/ worship available for two main age groups (11 to 14 and 15 to 18) over the duration of the event.

Some of the confirmed activities for 2018 include archery, football, rounders, quiz, a Strong Person competition, Ultimate Frisbee, a Minute to Win It event as well as the return of two Unite favourites: the disco and Unite's Got Talent, giving those who want to a chance to bring along their dancing shoes or talents to perform!

We are also excited to announce that the worship theme for Unite 2018 is "Faith, Hope and Love". Jim Sutton, who is one of the pastors of Balham Baptist Church in south west London, will be speaking to us in the main worship sessions and bringing this theme to us. It is based on 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Unite 2018 costs £72 per person, or £75 if arriving on the Friday evening (the additional charge includes food on Friday evening and Saturday morning).

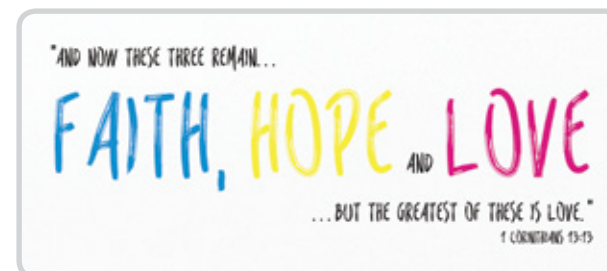
For more information, or to download a booking form, visit the website at unitebb.org.uk/booking

For more information about the event as it happened, check it out on social media:

[f @unitebb](https://www.facebook.com/unitebb)

[@unitebb](https://twitter.com/unitebb)

[@unitecamp](https://www.instagram.com/unitecamp)



Showcasing our organisation at intu Trafford Centre

On Sunday 15th October 2017 we were given the opportunity to use a prime location in the intu Trafford Centre Shopping Mall to showcase The Boys' Brigade in our region and provide information to prospective volunteers and young people about what we can offer. We had a fully branded promotional stand, a new and updated leaflet describing what our organisation offers to young people, adult volunteers and parents. We had goody bags for young people which included a BB branded puzzle sheet highlighting our range of activities in a fun way, as well as other promotional items.



We had several volunteers and staff on hand to take enquiries and a number of electronic tablets with an online form where parents and volunteers could leave their details, so they could be sent information regarding their nearest groups after the event. Throughout the day we had an advert played on the giants screens throughout the Mall, held a Buzz Wire competition and had a BB Band made up of young people specifically for the event playing to the shoppers in the food court who received a great response.

On the day we handed out over 1000 goody bags, over 2000 leaflets, had over 200 face to face enquiries and around 40 people provided their details using the online forms. Following the event, we have gained some great feedback, and several local Companies have made us aware that they have had new members join.

Our thanks go to everyone at intu Trafford Centre for their support and assistance in providing the space to use for the day. We now look forward to seeing what other intu Shopping Centres we can work with in the future and if you know of any attraction in the region where we could host a similar awareness and information event then get in touch with the England and Wales team.

Juniors 100 Sleepovers

Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of November, the region hosted over 250 members at Kingswood Staffordshire in Wolverhampton and Kingswood Peak Venture in Sheffield. Companies from across the region attended and took part in activities such as Zip-wire, Leap of Faith, Problem solving, Nightline, Boulderling, Archery, Abseiling, Camp fire, Film night and a celebration service to commemorate the 100th year Anniversary of the Junior Section.

The Event was a huge success. Kingswood put on a variety of activities encouraging team work, bonding, confidence and taught new skills to the young people taking part. As Kingswood ran the activities this enabled the BB Leaders to take time to talk to each other and have time to share experiences and enjoy fellowship together. The event was a great way of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Section and all who attended appeared to have a lot of fun. Don't take our word for it, here's what some of the participants said...

“

It was great to meet up with Leaders from the different areas whilst our boys were having such a good time. A very big THANK YOU to you and the group for organising the weekend.”

Gill White, Captain, 29th Birmingham Company

“

At first, I didn't know I could do the zipwire activity but when it was my turn, I closed my eyes and did it.”

Malachi, age 9 from 16th Nottingham

“

“The rock climbing was brilliant. It was all awesome!”

Chad, age 10 from the 29th Birmingham

“

Thank you for an epic weekend with awesome activities for the children, it was great to see other Boys' Brigade Companies working together as teams. The young people absolutely loved it and I also managed to get a decent sleep so smiles all round”

Ben Cartwright Captain 1st Rotherham



“

Malachi was excited about the whole trip and spoke well of it. He was well taken care of by the staff and felt he was part of a great team who helped him to develop his confidence.”

Parent of Malachi, age 9 from 16th Nottingham

“

My favourite thing was the camp fire singing all the songs and managing to get to the top of the poll on the leap of faith because I was really scared!”

Milly, age 8 from 53rd Manchester



“

This was the first opportunity we had had to take any of our boys away and they thoroughly enjoyed it, as did the leaders. One of our boys summed it up for me at breakfast this morning when he said, “When can we come again”. I asked him if he had enjoyed it so much and he said yes it has been great, I could see that he was sad that it was ending today.

Anne Stephenson Captain 1st Craven

We are pleased to announce that we are looking to hold another Juniors Adventure Sleepover again in 2018. We are currently in negotiations with Kingswood. We are also looking at hosting a regional day event for the Anchors section. More details on both events will be released in the next e-update.

WHAT'S ON - ENGLAND & WALES



10 MAR

Holiday Leadership Training
Felden Lodge

10 MAR

Working with Challenging Behaviour Training
Felden Lodge

16 MAR

Young Leaders Whitewater Rafting (Wales)
Contact gareth.hillier@boys-brigade.org.uk

24 MAR

National Music Festival South of England
Chandlers Ford Methodist Church
Contact bbgbfestival@live.co.uk

24 MAR

DofE Leaders Training Beginners
Emmanuel Church, Salford

28 APR

National Music Festival North of England
Derringham Bank Methodist Church
Contact bbgbfestival@live.co.uk

20-21 MAY

Waltham Walk 2018
Essex Countryside
Find out more at walthamwalk.org.uk

25-28 MAY

Unite Camp
Feldon Lodge
Find out more at unitebb.org.uk

2 JUN

Marching Band Championships
Stoke on Trent

23-24 JUN

Cleveland Hike
Find out more at clevelandhike.com

To find out more or book on any training course please email Graham Weston at ewhq@boys-brigade.org.uk or ring 01442 288 558.

KGVI - Saturday 28th July 2018 - Friday 3rd August

The booking form for this year's KGVI course is now available. Do not delay in reserving places for your young people. For those who are not aware of what KGVI is, it is a fantastic opportunity for young people from the 17 to 21 years whom have an interest in continuing into leadership in The Boys' Brigade. The course runs for one week over two years (2 weeks in total) and participants experience all that you need to become a leader. The course is held at Regional Headquarters and covers the core and some additional modules of Youth Leader Training. The design of the weeks is to give participants opportunity to gain some experiences through leading sessions and sharing their experiences.

FOCUS R.o.I



News from across the District

The session got off to its usual start with Leaders' meetings in each of the Districts at which programmes and events were planned.

61 young people (left) from 6 of the Companies in the Midlands District had a great night at the Roll 'n Bowl in Portlaoise in October.

The following night more from the South East District attended a similar event in Carlow. Almost 30 Boys from this District attended the annual Church Service in St. Mary's Church, Bagnelstown in November where the address was given by the Reverend Trevor Sargent. The pennants of the 5 Companies present were paraded together with the National Flag (right).



22 Boys and Girls from the 1st Tralee Company paraded into St. John's Church in the town for their annual Enrolment service. They took full part in the devotions by reading lessons, leading intercessions and taking up the flags and collection.

The Northern District meanwhile also got their young people busy with two quiz nights in November.

WHAT'S ON - R.o.I



24 MAR

Blackstairs Shield (SED)
Littlewood

12 MAY

Midlands District Service and Activity Day
Portarlington

24 MAY

Annual Regional Council Meeting
Stillorgan



Christmas Design Competition

A member of 2nd Polmont Junior Section has been announced as the winner of the 2017 BB Scotland Christmas Design Competition. The design by Moray Stuart (10) was used as the image for The Boys' Brigade Scottish Headquarters' Christmas card and e-cards this year.

Moray was presented his prizes by Niall Rolland, Communications & Engagement Officer, on Friday 8th December. He received an art set and digital camera for coming up with the winning design.

Moray said "I was really surprised when my name was read out. I got the idea for the design from the BB jumper and the 100th birthday of the Junior Section this year. I think Christmas is important because it celebrates when Jesus was born."

Moray's design beat off competition from entries from 30 other BB companies across Scotland.

Helen Ward, OIC 2nd Polmont Junior Section, said "I am delighted that Moray won the competition, and seeing the look of surprise on his face when Niall announced the winner was fantastic! Moray only joined The Boys' Brigade in August so it was great to see that he ensured the anchor and 100 years of Junior section were included in his card."

Some of the entries, including Moray's, were featured as part of the #myBBadvent social media advent calendar. Thank you to all the Companies who participated.



Juniors 100 Giant Sleepover

Over 400 Juniors descended on the Glasgow Science Centre in November in celebration of the Junior Section's 100th year. The Junior Section members came from 36 different Companies from across Scotland to experience the hundreds of interactive exhibitions including the Bodyworks Exhibition, the Powering the Future Exhibit, a live science show, and the state-of-the-art planetarium. The sleepovers have been taking place annually since 2013, and have attracted almost 2000 members, demonstrating the BB's move to encourage more STEM activities as part of its varied educational and fun programmes.

Brian Laurie, Leader with 28th Stirling, said "The Science Centre Sleepover is the perfect example of how The Boys Brigade brings today's youth together in a fun and interactive way that will leave a lasting memory. Following the live shows and demonstrations, the Juniors enjoyed story time with hot chocolate around a virtual campfire.

Callum Greer (8), 135th Glasgow, said "I really enjoyed the sleepover. It was amazing! My favourite bit was the magic house with the sloping floor. I wanted to go back to the Science Centre the next day!"

Plans are already underway to organise the next event in November 2018. Check out the photos from the event at bit.ly/J100sleep



New World Mission Fund Appeal

On St Andrew's Day we announced a fundraising appeal to support refugee children in Egypt as part of the new World Mission Fund (WMF) project.

BB Companies across Scotland are being encouraged to get involved to support the work of St Andrew's Refugee Service (StARS) in Cairo. Money raised will be used to build outdoor play facilities for refugee children and young people for StARS, which provides a safe and inclusive space for displaced people to come together as a community.

In the previous fundraising appeal, BB members took part in the 'Climate Conscious' Project which raised £10,000 to support environmental efforts in Bangladeshi villages.

Get involved by visiting bit.ly/worldmissionBBGB



Year of Young People 2018

We are now well into 2018 – which has been designated Scotland's 'Year of Young People' – where the whole of Scotland will be celebrating young people's contribution and giving them opportunities to have their say.

Each Company and Battalion are encouraged to help fly the flag for BB during the year. Whilst it would be terrific to have a specific YoYP2018 event, It doesn't mean doing anything new necessarily – after all, every year is a year of young people in The Boys' Brigade. Thinking how we involve BB members in activities/programmes and how we engage the wider community will be most important. There is a 'Supporters' Logo' which Companies/Battalions can use to help raise awareness of the year.

You can find out more by emailing yoyp2018@boys-brigade.org.uk or by visiting boys-brigade.org.uk/scotland/yoyp2018



Generation CashBack

As has been communicated widely, the terms for the new CashBack funding have changed. The money still originates from the proceeds of crime, but it will be directed on supporting young people (aged 10 – 26) from the top 20% areas of deprivation in each local authority.

There are three strands to the funding:

START UP

to help start new:

- Company Sections
- Senior Sections
- Young Leaders' Networks

GROW

help existing companies to increase their numbers; buy uniforms; develop their programme; new equipment

LEAD

help and support young people to develop – for example, through Queen's Badge, KGVI, First Aid Ready, and similar leadership training opportunities

If you think members of your Company fall within the criteria, or you would like to know more, please contact Jackie Wilson by emailing jackie.wilson@boys-brigade.org.uk

Plans are already underway to organise the next event in November 2018. Check out the photos from the event at bit.ly/J100sleep

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND

10 MAR	Scottish Bands Contest Glasgow
17 MAR	Cross-country Championships Johnstone
25-28 MAY	Cumbræ Camp
9-10 JUN	Kilbride Hike
13-18 JUN	DofE Gold Expedition

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

FOCUS NORTHERN IRELAND



Presbyterian Moderator presents Charity Shield to 4th Newtownabbey Juniors

Rev Dr Noble McNeely, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland visited 4th Newtownabbey, Carnmoney Presbyterian to present them with the Charity Shield for raising the most money (£1751) for the Junior Section Presbyterian Appeal.

Each year the Junior Section Boys in Presbyterian Churches throughout Ireland are challenged to work together to help the world-wide extension of The Boys' Brigade and support a project that benefits young people overseas. During the 2016/17 BB session the Junior Section Boys raised funds to support an education project in Kenya, 'Crossing the Line'. The total raised was £9547; £8309 was given to the Crossing the Line Project and £1000 donated to the Global Fellowship.

Since it was set up in 1966 the Mission Committee has raised over £900,000, including just under a quarter of a million pounds for the Global Fellowship.

The project for 2017/8 is to fund the refurbishment of a Youth Camp for the young people of the Church in Romania. Fund raising packs were sent out to all Junior Section Leaders in Charge in Presbyterian Boys' Brigade Companies in Northern Ireland during September 2017.



4th Portadown win Juniors Section Quiz

Seventy-four teams took part in the first round of the Junior Section Quiz at Battalion level. A very close final was held at Finvoy Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney on Saturday 28th October 2017. The results were as follows:

- ① 4th Portadown ② 2nd Comber ③ 1st Ballylinney

A new 100th Anniversary Trophy was presented to the winning team. The names of all the previous winners of the quiz have been engraved on the back of the new trophy.



KGVI 2018: 21-28 July at NIHQ Newport

Captains, have you a young person in your Company aged between 17 and 21 who is demonstrating potential leadership skills? Please consider them for the 2017 KGVI Leader Training Camp which will take place at NIHQ Newport, from Sat 21st July to Friday 27th July 2018. This is a fun, hands on, practical week for young people aged 17 – 21. It is designed especially for this age group to train as BB leaders; to lead any section in BB. It is a safe place, where alongside other young people their own age they can develop and try out their leadership skills. Please download the booking form from the Downloads section under the Training heading of the website at www.bbni.org.uk



Code Academy

Ulster University hosted a Celebration for the 2016/17 Code Academy cohort on Monday 20th November 2017 at the Jordanstown Campus. This was a night of celebration for those who completed the course joined by friends and family to cheer them on. Seventy young people from various BB companies in NI successfully completed the course.

Code Academy has been run over the last 3 years, in partnership with Ulster University School of Computing and Mathematics. It is an introduction to Computer Coding using HTML and CSS, to create, design and develop a website.

A hot fork buffet was served on arrival followed by some words of congratulations and encouragement from Dr Raymond Bond and Professor Chris Nugent both from Ulster University, before the Code Academy Certificates were presented. Special awards were presented to Daniel Lowry (76th Belfast), Philip Paul (1st Kilrea), and Kieran Minto (4th Ballymoney) for the determination and effort they displayed during their Code Academy course.

Speaking about the celebration David Penney, Training and Programme Officer for the NI District said: 'We would like to say congratulations and well done to everyone who completed Code Academy. We are very thankful to Dr Raymond Bond and the team at Ulster University for their support and partnership in this project over the last 3 years.'



J Donaldson

The District was delighted to welcome Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson to Newport on Friday 1st December 2017 to view the recently completed phase 3. Sir Jeffrey had lunch with staff and senior volunteers before viewing the new training and residential facilities at Newport.



Inform to Transform

Forty-five Officers attended the Annual Junior Section Conference held on Saturday 11th November 2017 in Killead Presbyterian Church Hall. Practical activities, workshops and discussion groups made up a very busy, beneficial day. Sessions included: Fitness First; Puzzles & Quizzes for Christmas; Games for All Occasions and Practical Activities and Games linked to Bible Stories. Information was also provided about Junior Section events and resources suitable for Junior Section Boys. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary a special birthday cake was served at the afternoon tea-break.



Roy Beggs MLA Visits November Skills for Queen's Badge Residential

To mark UK Parliament Week, Roy Beggs MLA visited the NID Skills for Queen's Badge Course on Saturday 18th November. He shared his faith, his involvement in The Boys' Brigade and some of the day to day daily life of an MLA. Roy sat in the hot seat and took questions from the boys; many big and topical questions were asked! The theme of leadership and the qualities make good leaders was developed over the weekend and how BB Leaders can demonstrate Christian Leadership serving God. During the weekend the boys also had fun, debates, discussions and time to learn more about God and develop their faith.



Delivering a Quality Programme

When it comes to talking about programmes, it is clear that from what we can see on social media, checking out websites or spending time reading the Gazette that there is some fantastic work going on across the Brigade. Great examples are being shared all the time. These include having new adventures, being challenged, learning new skills, engaging with their local community and a whole lot more.

In this issue of the Gazette we consider what we mean by a quality programme and how we can go about improving what we do.

Firstly, let's be clear that there's no one way to plan or run a successful high-quality programme, but there are some universal things to consider which will help you to ensure that you're offering the very best experience to the children and young people you engage with each week.



Delivering on our vision

The starting point, before you set out on planning your programme is to consider what your vision is, what you are setting out to achieve. It's important to think about what you want to achieve during the next year and set some targets. A purpose-built resource for doing this is the Company Development Scheme, which you can download from the Leaders website at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/pdfs/companydevelopmentscheme.pdf. Some additional questions that might help you create this vision could be, what you want the young people in your Company to be saying about their BB experience and how you would like your leadership team to feel?



Planning ahead

One of the most important things is planning ahead. Putting time into plan your programme will bring with it so many rewards. Those moments we find ourselves running around like a headless chicken (we've all been there) are probably those times when we haven't done enough to plan in advance.

So, allow time to plan with your whole team, bringing everyone together including young people will help you shape the programme and ensure everyone is fully involved. Part of this involves spending time reviewing what you have done previously and learn from what went well and what didn't. Ideally, you should be planning at least a term in advance, and also consider putting together an initial rough outline for the session, so everyone is aware of key dates and you can ensure the programme works around these.



"What more empowering a statement can we make to our members, than to allow them to shape their own journey in The Boys' Brigade by offering them the opportunity to input, style and tailor a programme which matches their aspirations?"

Ross Galbraith of the 135th Glasgow



Activity Idea: Sorting the Programme

Try out this simple activity to get your children and young people involved. The idea is that your young people show you what they like, dislike and give them the opportunity to suggest some new ideas.



To start, write these four headings onto separate pieces of paper and spread them out on a table or on the floor.

- **Never again!**
- **Maybe not this year**
- **Yes please**
- **100% have to do!**

Alternatively, you could print out some emoji's and use these to determine what the young people think. You will also need small strips of paper which have a wide range of activities written on them. To get a good range of activities it might be useful to look back at the last few sessions and write down the activities you have done. Also make sure you have plenty of blank strips of paper, so the young people can write down their own ideas for new activities.

Now get your young people to go through the activities and place them under one of the four headings. Encourage them to discuss this as a group and work together to decide where each activity ends up. Remind them they can add as many extra activities into the discussion as they like. Let the discussion between your young people flow and see what ideas come forward. The more youth led this activity is, the better! Once they have finished sorting the activities make sure you take a photo or write it all down, so you have a record of what has been discussed. Hopefully by the end of the night you will have plenty of suggestions and ideas to help plan an engaging, exciting and successful programme.



Involving Young People

Getting feedback and ideas from your young people is key to delivering a successful programme. Consider how you could create opportunities to do this, this could be built into your programme each term, so that you can then plan more effectively for the next term. The best way to engage the children and young people will differ by age group, but don't just think it is just the older members (i.e. Company Section/Seniors) that will have ideas on what they want to do and views on what they've already done – include all age groups.



Once the children and young people have shared their thoughts and opinions with you, ensure you put their ideas forward and incorporate these into your next programme planning meeting. It's important once you've done this, that you make sure that your young people are aware of how and where their ideas have been included. This will boost their confidence and make them feel included and listened to, and that their voice matters.



Check out a video we have produced on participation on our Vimeo Channel at vimeo.com/theboysbrigade/participation



Planning Termly

Planning a term at a time in detail will mean that preparations can be made in good time. You may need to order items, find somebody with the right skills to come along or organise a trip away from your meeting place.

For each Company a term may be something slightly different, for some it could be the periods between starting the session

Article Continued →

and Christmas, Christmas and Easter and then Easter and the end of the session – for others something different, but for all of us it is a ‘defined period of time’, and one that we can use to make planning more manageable.

It will be handy to have a list of your meeting dates for the term you are planning, so you can start putting things against these as you go along.

It might work well at the start of this process to consider what key dates are coming up within the term including school holidays, Christian festivals, national days, awareness days, Church and Battalion events. Awareness days or weeks can provide a great basis around which to plan your programme, check out awarenessdays.com which contains a list of most of the UK and International awareness days, weeks, months and events.



We know that from past surveys of our young people that the activities they like best are camps, holidays, trips and visits. Young People also value gaining badges and being recognised for their achievements.

You could now move on to generating ideas, based on the key dates you have identified and other ideas that could be added in. At this point you are seeking out a key theme or activity each date you plan to meet within the term, some ideas based on this and identify links to awards.

Having worked together creatively to plan the next term, encourage members of the team to take a couple of the meeting night ideas away and plan these in more detail.



Making use of Themes

Themes can be really helpful in planning your programme, with themes being linked to a key date you have identified (i.e. Fairtrade Week or Shrove Tuesday) or just something you look to use to build up a balanced programme.



If we are to take a theme and start to expand it, based on running an evening for Anchors you could look to include as many programme zones from the Anchors Programme as you can (Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Creativity). This helps avoid your programme going in one direction and being too ‘Body’ focussed (physical, games, etc). Perhaps you want to set yourselves a target to cover at least 3 programme zones each time you meet.



Delegating

Don’t try and do everything yourself. Get all your team involved and make it clear what everyone’s responsibilities are, so everyone has a clear role. Delegate out responsibilities based on the skills, knowledge and experience of the team. This will ensure that those leading activities have time to breath and are not running from one activity to the next. If you don’t have the right skills or knowledge within your team then you should look outside the team to find somebody suitable to come in and support you in leading a specific activity, whatever this may be. You should remember that in bringing somebody in who is not a registered BB leader that they should be supervised at all times.



“Ask mums, dads, relatives and the Church congregation if they have skills they could offer to share. For example cooking, woodwork, gardening, sign language. Ask them to come along and assist you.”

Darren Rigby, 1st Rainford



In advance of your next meeting

Now you completed your termly planning some time ago, and one of the team has gone away and put some more detail to the plan, it’s now important the final programme is shared with the whole staff team. Ideally a week before or just after your previous meeting you should share the programme plan for the next week, identifying who is going to be responsible for what on the night and what if anything needs to be prepared in advance.



Sharing Ideas

At the very start it was mentioned that social media is a great way of us seeing what is going on across the Brigade. Use this to your advantage and take a look at what other Companies are getting up to, this will help you when planning your programme. If you see the value this delivers, perhaps you could try to share more of what you do to return the favour. Other ideas could include organising visits by members of your team to other BB Companies or even other youth organisations – we can learn so much from each other. Perhaps ask your Battalion to organise an opportunity for leaders to come together and share programme ideas, this type of things is already happening in some Battalions and is proving very useful.



Building relationships

We can sometimes get wrapped up in the programme and not make enough time to spend quality time speaking with and getting to know the young people. Making time in your programme, to chat with the children and young people, both individually and as part of a group to find out what they are doing at school or at home is really important. Consider how you could incorporate the right opportunities into your programme.

Young people also appreciate opportunities to ‘hang out’ with not too much structure, sharing some food together can be a great way of doing this.





On the Night

Whether you meet in the evening on a week night or on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon, make sure you arrive at your meeting place with plenty of time to setup and prepare. Getting along early and setting up the spaces you will be using will ensure the programme flows well. Consider how you can best utilise different spaces, especially where you can setup activities in advance which you can come straight into with the young people ready to go. If you have a regular setup which works for your programme, perhaps you could see if there is a volunteer within your Church that could assist with this or make this happen before you arrive, so it's one less thing you need to do.



"We plan our programme in three ways. We look together as leaders and discuss the regular parts of the programme over the year and consider anything we would like to add or not do again. We talk with the young people, usually on an informal basis about what they enjoy doing, what they would like to do and what not to do again! We plan our meetings a term in advance with a plan for each week with a fair amount of detail - we divide these up amongst the leaders so that as a team we share the responsibility. We try to lead aspects where we feel confident and have strengths. One of our leaders is particularly good with cooking and craft work, another with games and physical activities."

Ian Rumbelow, 1st Martock & Hamdon



Progression

Remember that when planning the programme for a particular age group that it is helpful to have awareness of what is going on across the other sections in your Company. Progression is all to often overlooked, but is extremely important when we consider how we retain young people and transition them through the Company. Progression is ensuring that we are able to build on the opportunities, experiences and skills a young person has throughout their time in the BB. To do this we need to ensure that there are always things to look forward to, things that are not offered in other sections, or things that build on what has already been achieved in younger age groups. It's about making sure the programme is not repetitive and that a young person is always developing and growing. Consider how you could work more effectively in your Company to do this, for example with certain activities you might agree that these are only offered at certain points or at a certain age. With something like residentials you could look at progression from Anchors going on a day trip to camp, Juniors having the opportunity to go on a weekend away, Company Section a week's camp in the summer and Seniors an international trip. This same concept needs to follow through with everything we do in our programmes.



Keeping everyone Safe

Assessing risk is key to ensuring your programme is safe for everyone involved. As part of your process for planning your programme you should carryout risk/benefit assessments for activities. For regular activities these can be done through generic risk assessments that you use year on year, but for more specific activities you should create a new risk assessment for that activity. Don't forget to identify the benefits as well as any risks – this will help you to build a balanced and high-quality programme.

Remember! Your programme is what brings children and young people to BB, relationships are what keeps them there.

Good luck in your planning!

Chris Norman

IT/Communications Manager



Get in touch with Chris by email at chris.norman@boys-brigade.org.uk



Follow Chris on Twitter at [@chrisnormanbb](https://twitter.com/chrisnormanbb)

Keswick ConVenture



The Keswick Convention with adventure activities

20th to 25th July 2018

Keswick, Lake District (camping on Braithwaite Playing Field)

Activities will include mountain walking, scrambling, climbing, kayaking and possibly sailing, with attendance at the Convention in the evenings. Participants invited are individual BB leaders (with or without groups of Seniors) from across the Brigade. Qualified volunteers also needed to instruct on activities, cook and help with organisation.

Find out more at bbmc.boys-brigade.org.uk/conventure

Brigades' Soundsport and Marching Band Championships



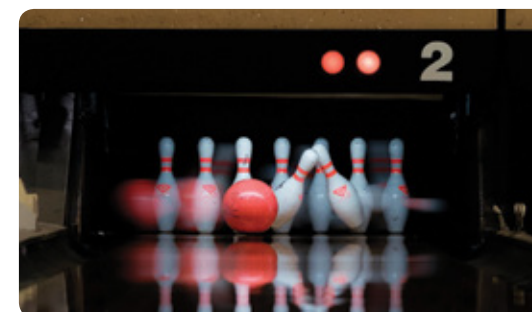
Saturday 2nd June 2018

Northwood Stadium, Stoke on Trent

The next **Brigades' Soundsport and British Showcase Marching Band Championships** is open to all Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Amicus, District or Battalion Bands plus any combined Boys' and associated Girls Units. The event welcomes bands of all abilities, styles and sizes and would encourage entries from those that have not participated previously.

Find out more at showcasemarchingbands.co.uk

National 10 Pin Bowling Championship



Saturday 13th October 2018

Go Bowling, Dunstable

The event is open to all BB Companies across UK & RoI, with two competitions the 'Main Championship' and 'The Alley'. An event for the Company Section and Seniors age groups, it provides a great opportunity for Companies from across the Brigade to come together.

Find out more at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/national10pinbowling.htm

Life 2 the Max



A fun day for all age groups

Saturday 23rd June 2018

Felden Lodge, BB Headquarters

Life 2 the Max is a bi-annual event organised by London District, but is open to all members of the Brigade. The event takes place at Felden Lodge, BB Headquarters between 10am and 4.30pm on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Activities will include fun fair rides, inflatables, shows, workshops and lots more – a great fun filled day for all ages.

Find out more at thebbinlondon.org.uk

Global Fellowship Update

An update from Chief Executive Officer, Steve Dickinson on developments across the globe.

Dear Friends,

I seem to have completed a year's travel in the last couple of months of 2017. In late September I was in northern Italy meeting with members of the Ghanaian Methodist Church in Modena. Here the Ghanaian community that has been established over many years has brought the organisation that played a pivotal part in their youth in their homeland to a new situation. I was impressed during my discussions with the realisation among the prospective leaders that you simply couldn't repeat the Ghana experience and that adapting to new circumstances was critical for success.



In October I travelled to Kampala to share in a trainers' workshop with delegates from Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda as well as the Ugandan hosts. The workshop saw the launch of the East African Training Manual which will seek to harmonise the leader development programmes across the region and which has been partly funded by Global Fellowship.

Later in October I returned to Africa, but this time to Ghana. The organisations in the former West Africa Region had not met for some time and GF sponsored a meeting at which there were representatives from Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. Meeting with individual organisations highlighted current



strengths and challenges. Joint meetings looked at areas of common concern and whether united approaches might bring benefit. Leader training was seen as the most critical issue and action plans were drawn up to create a *West African Training Manual*.

I was home for a few days and then flew to Hong Kong to meet with BB Hong Kong and with representatives of BB Asia. Tim Pratt, Global Fellowship's Chair and I received very warm welcomes and hospitality and it is hoped that foundations were laid for developing relationships between GF and BB Asia.

Four very different situations, but each underpinned with the objective of sharing the Gospel with young people. Please continue to pray for these situations, that progress might be made and the Kingdom advanced.

Every blessing,

Steve Dickinson
Chief Executive Officer

 Follow Steve on Twitter at
[@SteveGlobalF](https://twitter.com/SteveGlobalF)

Global Fellowship is currently seeking the appointment of a new CEO, following the announcement that Steve Dickinson will be stepping down from the post in July 2018. Please have our global family and Steve in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Change Direction Festival

Aiud, Transylvania, 14th to 18th August 2018

Change Direction! YMCA Festival is a summer event that attracts more than 1,000 young people who have the opportunity to participate in various activities such as biblical studies, workshops, debates and concerts. There are also sports programmes, games, film clubs, arts and crafts, and more which offer the festival the diversity that young people need.

The hosts, IKE (part of the worldwide YMCA family) are members of the European Fellowship and extend an invitation to members from across EF to attend this event. In 2016 the event gathered more than 1500 young people, from 5 different countries, from 2 continents.



Global Round-up

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



Members of the 1st Noro Company from the Solomon Islands visited the 46th Brisbane Company in Australia on their parade night, enjoying an evening of activities together.



The 1st Sibü Company in Malaysia is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year following its formation in June 1968 by Rev Chris Tomlinson, a Methodist Missionary.



BB members in New Zealand were presented with their Queen's Badges by the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy at a reception at Government House in Wellington on Saturday 2nd December.



His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales presented Queen's Badges to 9 young men at Government House in Sydney in November.



Members of The Boys' Brigade in Swaziland came together with other youth organisations including The Girls' Brigade and Scouts for a national camp.



BB members in Jamaica came together for the annual Founder's Day Service which included a parade.

GET INVOLVED



Project Trust

Jane Ham, Head of Volunteer and Schools Engagement at the Project Trust shares with us more about their work, the impact it's having across the globe and how BB Companies and young people can get involved.

What is the Project Trust?

The Project Trust has been organising long term volunteering placements in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean since 1967, making us the most experienced educational charity specialising in overseas volunteering for school-leavers. From our home on the Hebridean Isle of Coll, we select young people from across the UK, and wider Europe, for 8-12 month overseas teaching, youth work and outward bound projects.

“It is a huge privilege working with such inspirational young people knowing that, in so many ways, we are helping to develop a generation of global citizens who develop a deep understanding of some complex global issues. And, more importantly, following their time spent overseas, who go on to make a real difference and campaign for social justice.”

Ingrid Emerson MBE, Project Trust's Chief Executive

In the last 50 years, Project Trust has provided nearly 8000 young people with an incredible and unique educational experience, allowing them to develop a range of skills as well as gaining valuable work and employability experience. Project Trust's work allows young people to become more resilient as

well as more aware of themselves and their place in the world. Volunteers return home with broadened horizons, increased maturity and an impressive range of transferable skills. In addition, all Project Trust Volunteers have the opportunity to gain an accredited Qualification in International Volunteering as formal recognition of their learning.



Project Trust offers the adventure of a lifetime for young people who want to challenge themselves, learn about the world and be a positive force within it.

For each young person who we work with, their journey is one of personal discovery, growth and development. The first part of that journey is a five-day residential Selection Course. Selection provides interested young people with the opportunity to learn more about Project Trust and for Project Trust to get to know them. During Selection, our young people will have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities with a diverse group of young people from across the UK and beyond. Project Trust has developed a skills framework which allows our Volunteers to track their personal development throughout their journey, wherever they are in the world.

Some of our Projects...

Botswana

Bana ba Metsi is a project situated on the banks of the Okavango River in Botswana. The challenging but incredibly rewarding work sees male Volunteers engage in remedial teaching with youth at risk. The Volunteers are practical, with a positive mindset that perseveres with determination. They are adaptable and use their initiative to ensure that the boys in their care are supported and encouraged in their achievements. The Volunteers' work isn't solely focussed on academia; by coaching sports teams and assisting in building projects, the Volunteers play a huge role in developing the social skills of youths who have previously experienced little or no guidance in this area.



I had a particularly bad lesson one day and felt pretty down after it. But even when you get down you know that the amazing place you live in or the incredible people you work with, will throw something new, exciting and uplifting your way which makes you forget any troubles and realise how incredible the opportunity is.”

Project Trust Volunteer, Botswana

South Africa

Based out of Willow Point, Sedgefield, in the Western Cape, Volunteers who have a love of outdoor life have the opportunity to work at Outdoor Education camps all over South Africa. They quickly develop their communication and collaboration skills by supporting instructors with walking, climbing, kayaking, abseiling and camping.



The long term placement prepares you for many challenges in life, especially considering the age we're at; we need to be prepared to leave home. But it also opens more doors career wise in the future.”

Project Trust Volunteer, South Africa

Guyana

In Guyana, there is a strong need for maths, science and English teachers, meaning that Project Trust Volunteers are a valuable resource to schools which would otherwise be understaffed.

In the classroom, volunteers motivate, influence and lead their students, at the same time instilling values such as respect and responsibility. Life in Guyana is very much focused on the outdoors with Volunteers getting involved in activities such as fishing, farming cattle and trekking.



A year away is such an incredible opportunity. I was told by my friends 'but you'll be a year behind' but now I feel years ahead of all of them in cultural acceptance and general experience.”

Project Trust Volunteer, Guyana

How can you find out more?

There are a number of ways your Company can get involved and support Project Trust.

Sharing their Experiences

The Project Trust experience doesn't end when our Volunteers return home. Through our Global Citizenship Programme, Returned Volunteers have the opportunity to share their experiences and inspire the next generation to learn about, and understand different global issues, rights and many more aspects of the world around them. Returned Volunteers and Project Trust staff visit groups across the UK presenting on the benefits of taking a structured gap-year after school. These presentations have been described as highly engaging and informative, providing more information on the different directions young people can take when they finish school, as well as the opportunities available with Project Trust.

Global Citizenship workshops (contact jordan.wilson@projecttrust.org.uk) and gap-year presentations (contact jane.ham@projecttrust.org.uk) can be scheduled throughout the year and Project Trust would be delighted to work with your BB company and come along to visit you.

Fundraising

As we embark upon the next 50 years of global volunteering could you help support the Project Trust through regular giving or a one-off donation? Could your Company organise an event or collect money during the year. Find out more about giving at projecttrust.org.uk/50th



For more information about the work of the Project Trust, visit projecttrust.org.uk

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 480 955
@ info@bbcamping.co.uk
www.bbcamping.co.uk

Vectis Youth Camps Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight. Two self-contained campsites with permanent kitchens, showers and toilets. All tenting equipment included. Ideal for organised camps of between 25 and 250 people for weekend and weeklong camps.

Contact:

☎ Dettie Quirke on 07582 429929
@ info@vectisyouthcamps.org

Craggan Outdoor Centre, on the shores of Loch Tay, Perthshire. A great Centre for camps of all ages, with disabled access, sleeps 29 and is self-catering. Ideal for outdoor and water activities with own canoes and jetty.

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

Campsite Morthoe/Woolacombe

Traditional ridge tents/marquee.

New barn housing toilet /shower block and Fully equipped kitchen. Small or large groups. weekends available Easter, weeks during school holidays.

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

Broadleas, Haytor, Devon Indoor sleeps 30, 2 staff bedrooms sleep 5. Showers etc. kitchen, dining hall. Camping for 55. Tents provided. Equipped kitchen, dining hall, showers etc. Outdoor pool, large hall.

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

Dyffryn Campsite, Nr Barmouth, Nth Wales. Fully equipped for up to 60 people, operated by 1st Nth Wales Company. Purpose built cookhouse, dining hall, & shower/toilet block, with traditional ridge tents & caravan on site.

☎ 01978 761105
@ admin@caergwrlebb.org.uk
www.caergwrlebb.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 11615
☎ Tony Drury-Smith 07930 177764
Greenmoor Centre

Abernethy Adventure Centres. Visit one of our 4 Outdoor Adventure Centres in Scotland with your Battalion/Company for an activity filled all inclusive weekend. Visit the weekends section of our website for more information.

☎ Karen Edmondson on 01479 818005
@ marketing@abernethy.org.uk
www.abernethy.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. Enquiries contact Jon Tickle.

☎ 07770 795701
@ freshwatercamping@gmail.com
www.freshwatertrust.com

Christian Mountain Centre, North Wales

Can provide residential accom. or just activities for your BB camp. Try anything

from archery to climbing, paddleboarding to gorge walking (a BB favourite). On the coast near Dyffryn Ardudwy.

☎ 01341 241718
@ office@cmcadventure.org.uk
www.cmcadventure.org.uk

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

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 2018.

☎ 01935 422292
@ graham.voizey@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

Fordell Firs National Activity Centre

Operated by Scouts Scotland, Fordell Firs offers more than 25 activities, including high ropes, climbing and archery on site and is also close to the attractions of Edinburgh. Indoor accommodation or camping.

☎ 01383 412704
@ warden@fordellfirs.org.uk
www.scouts.scot/centres/fordellfirs

Lochgailhead National Activity Centre

Operated by Scouts Scotland, Lochgailhead is a RYA training centre so offers unrivalled opportunities for sailing and water sports, as well as an exciting programme of land activities. Fully catered packages are available.

☎ 01301 703217
@ info@lochgailhead.org.uk
www.scouts.scot/centres/lochgailhead

Meggernie National Activity Centre

Operated by Scouts Scotland, Meggernie offers a stunning, rural setting for walking, nature exploration, expeditions, traditional camping or survival skills. Indoor accommodation is also available.

☎ 01887 866231
@ warden@meggernie.org.uk
www.scouts.scot/centres/meggernie

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 2018) should be received by 20th March 2018. 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.



20% Discount
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Stores nationwide | cotswoldoutdoor.com

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You can also use your discount with:

NCV YOUTH BIBLE

35 355 0

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

£20



DARTINGTON INK BLUE VASE

Product: 11 991 1



£35.50

NEW!

A slender blue tinted crystal vase
(185mm high) handmade by Dartington
Crystal. Sand-blasted with the BB
'adventure begins here' logo.

MOP TOPPER PEN

Product: 11 644 1



£2

NEW!

This quirky looking pen boasts a host
of fantastic features; the hair works as a
screen cleaner and the base of the pen
has a soft-feel stylus tip. Black ink.

HOPE AS AN ANCHOR MUG

Product: 11 549 1



£6

NEW!

Mug featuring a design based
on The Boys' Brigade motto -
Hebrews 6, verse 19 "We have a hope
as an Anchor..."

2018 POCKET DIARY

Product: 31 594 1



NOW
£2

A pocket diary with week to view for
2018 calendar year.

VICTORY TROPHY

Product: 03 549 1



£3

Trophy ideal for Displays & Awards
nights (Height 9cm). A full range of
cups and trophies can be found on the
online shop.

BRONZE, SILVER & GOLD RECRUITMENT BADGES

Product: 03 549 1



£1.40
EACH

Badges can be awarded to any
member. Bronze, Silver and Gold
badges are awarded to those recruiting
1, 3 or 5 members respectively.

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