

GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LEADERS IN **THE BOYS' BRIGADE** | WINTER 2015/16

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QUALITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



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Winter 2015/16: January 2016

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

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

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

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WELCOME



The Brigade President with Make a Difference Award Winner, Daniel Cooke at the Houses of Parliament in September 2015

The Good News of the gospel

I've always been fairly good at languages. I grew up in a bi-lingual community in Wales. So Welsh is part of my armoury. At school I studied Latin and Greek, Spanish and French. For ten years I lived in Haiti, a French-speaking country, and love to speak the language of Voltaire and Asterix.

I also speak Creole, the patois spoken in Haiti. All those languages. Easy peasy. But, for all that, there's one language that is leaving me behind, and that is teenage street talk. I do understand that is however, probably the point!

At the beginning of a new year, I want to compare and contrast some old-fashioned language that is never affected by the fashion of the age. It's a language that simply doesn't change. Nor does it need dressing up. "God is love," – there's a sentence that doesn't need "you know what I mean," "like," or "so" (or any of the other huffing and puffing words or phrases of the day). Nor do the commandments that we are to "love God with all our hearts and minds, our souls and strength and our neighbour as

ourselves." And what could be clearer than the gentle reminder that if we don't love our neighbour (whom we see), how can we possibly love God (whom we can't see)? That's as clear as clear can be. For all that, let me end by trying to cast a familiar verse in the language of the day. And let this be my New Year reminder of the Good News of the gospel, a message which reminds us that God's eternal word was made flesh:

So, God loved the world so much, you know what I mean; it's like he gave his only son. And he gave his only son like, so that no one like, no one who believes in him, really believes you know what I mean, should perish. So, there's no way they'll perish like. Instead, you know what I mean, it's like they're going to have everlasting life.

Leslie Griffiths

President of The Boys' Brigade



Through the eyes of others...

I was once asked by a Russian television journalist in Kazakhstan if I thought there might one day be a single world religion whereby everyone would live in peace. I said no. His suggestion sounded totalitarian - something the Russians thought they had just escaped from when the Soviet Union collapsed.

One reason for my answer was simply that such a world sounds boring. Yet, as we experience every day, the world is full of colour and difference - or diversity as we now have to call it. Even human beings, made in the image of God (as Genesis puts it), are unique and different.

Now, you might be thinking that a bishop ought to be making the Russian journalist happy by proclaiming that it would be wonderful if everyone in the world was a Christian and behaved as Christians should behave. Well, I think you would be wrong. Even Christians differ widely: in culture, language, styles of worship, lifestyles, priorities, relationships, and so on. In the past these differences were often seen as a problem - the scandal of division. Yet, today they can also be seen as a strength, allowing a wide range of approaches to worship and culture that are appropriate to different contexts and communities. Churches have different ways of organising, shaping authority and order, expressing ministry and evangelism. We have “one Lord, one

faith, one baptism”, but we are not boringly all the same in the ways we live out our discipleship of that one Lord.

I think this is important. The fact of difference means that we are forced to look at ourselves through the eyes of people or communities who see differently. In fact, we can only really understand ourselves if we look through the eyes of others and see as we are seen. This provides a check on our arrogance and on our self-regard. Unless we are afraid, the fact of difference enables us to see beyond our own horizons and imagine a different way of being.

In fact, this invitation to “see differently” runs through the Bible like ‘Blackpool’ through a stick of rock. The word we often use for it is ‘repentance’: dare to look differently at God, the world and us ... in order to see differently in order to think differently and then live differently. The invitation is also a challenge. But, it’s not a boring one.

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines

Bishop of Leeds



Follow Nick on Twitter

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



The Rt Revd Nick Baines is Bishop of Leeds for the Diocese of West Yorkshire & the Dales, and a member of the House of Lords.

He was previously Bishop of Bradford and Bishop of Croydon. He read German and French at Bradford University and, before ordination, worked for four years as a Russian linguist at GCHQ. He is known for his communication skills and engagement with the media. He has 11,000 followers on Twitter, his blog can attract up to 2000 views a day and he’s frequently heard on the Chris Evans Show on Radio 2 and Thought for the Day on Radio 4.

He’s married to Linda (a health visitor and artist) and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.



**A SAFE AND ENCOURAGING
ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG CARERS TO
COME ALONG AND 'BE THEMSELVES'**



Young Carers in Stoke on Trent

A new BB group in Stoke on Trent is reaching out specifically to young carers, to provide a safe and encouraging environment for them to come along and 'be themselves'.

Nearly a year on from the start of this work we find out more about how this new group came about and how it's all going....

Establishing the need

It all started on 24th January 2015. Opening the doors for the first time, the 1st Hanley was to be a first for the BB, in reaching out specifically to young carers in Stoke on Trent. The inception of the group was based on meetings local BB Development Worker, Neil Keighery had with Stoke City Council, in looking at ways the BB could start new groups and support young people across the city.



The city has more than 400 known young carers, but it is estimated there are at least 800+ across Stoke on Trent. The Council were impressed with what the BB could offer by way of resources and support, including our programmes and training and everything moved swiftly along. It was all about providing a safe and encouraging environment for young carers to come along and 'be themselves', being very aware that young carers often miss out on opportunities that other children have to play and learn.



"Many young carers value time away from their caring role to socialise with friends and do things that other children their age do. Activities and breaks can also help to build a young carers confidence and promote a healthy lifestyle. The Young Carers group being run by The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association is the only one of its kind, and has provided this vulnerable group of young people living in Stoke on Trent with the opportunity to meet friends, have fun and to take part in activities and trips. This newly established group has already made a difference to the lives of our valuable young carers"

Karen Holdcroft, Young Carers Co-ordinator, City of Stoke-on-Trent

Article Continued →



Getting up and running

The new group found a base at All Saints, Hanley through the support and enthusiasm of Rev Geoff Eze to see this group get up and running. Finding staff was the next challenge, and although Neil Keighery was employed as the local Development Worker, he took on the weekly running and Captaincy of this group as a volunteer and along the way recruited Fiona and Danielle as leaders.

“A place of respite. A time to be allowed to be a child. Permission is given for hope, love and friendship to foster. That is what All Saints Boys’ Brigade is built upon. These young lives have to (through no fault or making of their own) confront some difficult situations and love those who love them through those situations. Situations that may have end in sight, but not an end that would want to be reached any time soon. The sacred space of the Church hall, allows just for a moment, time to breathe; to laugh; to cry; to break bread together; to achieve what could not be done alone.

A place of respite. A time to be allowed to be a child. Permission is given for hope, love and friendship to foster. Welcome to The Boys’ Brigade - 1st Hanley!”

Revd Geoffrey Eze, Vicar, All Saints Hanley

“I got involved because I wanted to work with children; I get a lot from seeing the young people have fun. It’s especially important for these young people as for much of their time they are caring for others. At BB they all very caring towards one another, always wanting to help each other. It’s brilliant!”

Danielle, Leader

The Weekly Meeting

The group is mixed, with boys and girls, and currently has a membership of 16 children and young people (from age 5 through to 15) meeting weekly in the Church hall at All Saint’s Hanley. The weekly meeting is a little longer than most BB programmes, being 2½ hours, originally on a Saturday morning, it has recently moved to a Sunday afternoon.

In a departure from normal BB practice, the children are not dropped off by their parents. Initially they were collected by minibus, thanks to the loan of a bus from another BB Company, but as the group expanded this has now moved to using approved taxis backwards and forwards. So the BB experience for these young people does not start at the church door, but from the moment they leave their homes.

A small start-up grant was made available through the Uniformed Youth Social Action Fund which would help pay for equipment and transport costs.

It was not the usual method of recruiting, but for this group it was possible, working alongside Stoke City Council to make contact with the parents of young carers across the city. Starting off with a small group of children and young people, contact was made and relationships started to be built, with a core group ready to come along for that very first meeting.



“The group of children quickly formed an incredible bond – it’s just like a family – and it’s super to see children of all ages (and from many different parts of the city) get on so well. They don’t always wear uniform, are a mixed age group, and sometimes are “wild”, boisterous and silly. But, they get to “be themselves”, have time to be children again and have fun in a safe environment.”

Neil Keighery, Captain

The weekly programme includes games, crafts, free play, music and lots more, each week there is also a specific time when everyone takes time out for something to eat. This forms an extremely important part of the programme, a specific time to sit down, where the young people and leaders can chat to one another. Some of the group’s favourite activities are indoor archery, Lego construction, speed stacks and basketball to mention just a handful.



“I come along because its fun, I get to meet new people, there’s a lot of activities we can do, we can work together and learn in our own way.”

Nathan, 14

The group has got out and about on a number of occasions during the last year including taking part in a WW1 Commemoration event at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, attending the Unite Camp at Felden Lodge (the first time out of Stoke on Trent for some of the young people) and entering the BB National Computer Gaming Championships in West Bromwich.

Recognising their efforts

In September, Niaomi and Molly Owen who are members of the 1st Hanley, were named as the winners of the Make a Difference Award 2015 for the England Region. The awards are all about recognising and celebrating the achievements of BB young people who have gone above and beyond to help others. Niaomi and Molly help their parents look after their brother Bradley (7) who has been diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay. The sisters were presented with their awards at a special ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in London in September. Other members of the group as well as Niaomi and Molly’s parents made the trip down to London for the Awards presentation, and it was a fantastically memorable day for all involved.

“I come because I like to hang out with friends, I love being part of the group... It’s such a happy place, with new adventures, with new people... We all work together really well. It’s also a nice break for me from being a young carer, I support my brother. It’s also great my brother can come along too and we can all have fun together. As a young carer I help my brother with his schoolwork, help him learning his alphabet and numbers, take him out to the park and shop. I also spend time talking to him, asking him how he’s doing at school and helping to keep him calm and talk through things.”

Niaomi, 13

What’s Next

Moving into their second year; the 1st Hanley is continuing to evolve and grow and looking to introduce badges and awards into the programme. The group received an ‘Awards for All’ grant of £9,900 in June which has been funding the programme and transportation costs and they are now looking at applying for further funding to purchase a minibus and for additional equipment. The relationship with Stoke Council continues and it is hoped that further groups could be started, with prospective groups in the North and South of the City being investigated.

Is there an opportunity for a local partnership, to start a new Company in your community specifically for young carers? Wouldn’t it be fantastic to see groups across the UK & RoI providing for these very special young people who give so much of their time for others?



To find out more about the 1st Hanley, get in touch with Neil Keighery

neil.keighery@boys-brigade.org.uk



BB and Young Minds

A series of **FREE** one-day conferences around the UK

BB leaders tell us that they are increasingly becoming aware of mental health issues in the young people they work with.

A series of regional conferences are taking place to raise awareness of these issues and how we can help young people who are suffering or vulnerable. The conferences will help promote and sign post other organisations and agencies and highlight partnership working. Key speakers in various fields connected to mental health are being invited along and there will be many other partners and organisations in attendance.



Book now to avoid disappointment...

To book please email the name(s) of those attending and your contact details to the address below:

5 MAR

Belfast, Northern Ireland

nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

16 APR

Nottingham, England

alex.schwerzmann@boys-brigade.org.uk

30 APR

Felden Lodge, England

alex.schwerzmann@boys-brigade.org.uk

Here are some facts



Roughly **725,000** people in the UK suffer from **eating disorders**, 86% of these will have shown symptoms before the age of 19.



1 in 10 young people deliberately **harm themselves** regularly (and 15,000 of them are hospitalised each year because of this).



Nearly **80,000** children and young people suffer from severe **depression**



Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by **age 14**



45% of children **in care** have a mental health disorder - these are some of the most vulnerable people in our society



Nearly **300,000** young people in Britain have an **anxiety** disorder

Statistics from www.youngminds.org.uk



HM The Queen's 90th Birthday

Over the weekend of 11th - 12th June 2016, the nation will celebrate HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. There will be opportunities for BB members to join in these celebrations, both through official events in London including Trooping the Colour and The Patron's Lunch; and local events being organised across the UK.

BB Companies are encouraged to consider organising local street parties and events in their community to coincide with the largest ever street party "The Patron's Lunch" to be held in The Mall, London on Sunday 12th June. The Patron's Lunch celebrates The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations of which The Boys' Brigade is one. The Boys' Brigade already has an allocation of tickets to The Patron's Lunch and will be represented by members from across the regions at the event.



It is also expected that we will again receive an allocation of tickets to watch Trooping the Colour, HM The Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade on Saturday 11th June.

Once further details are available for these events they will be shared via e-communications.



Find out more at
thepatrons-lunch.com

Programme Review Update

There has been progress with the Programme Review, with both the Under 11's and Over 11's groups meeting together in early December. Working alongside each other the groups are aiming to deliver fresh new programme structures and materials in 2017. Part of this work will also consider proposals for re-branding our age groups.

Further updates on this work will be shared in future issues of the Gazette and via e-communications, including an Over 11's survey which will be carried out over the next few months.

Chief Executive and Brigade Secretary

Andrew Johnston and The Boys' Brigade have agreed to go their separate ways. We thank Andrew for his contribution to the organisation and wish him well for the future.

The Brigade is pleased to advise that with immediate effect Bill Stevenson has been appointed as Acting Brigade Secretary / CEO and Jonathan Eales as his Deputy.

Bill has been Director for Scotland over the past six years, and Jonathan is the Brigade's Business Director. Both of them are experienced BB leaders and the Trustees are grateful that they are willing to take on these roles.

The Brigade Executive will be working hard to determine the best way forward for the Brigade.

Correspondence for the Brigade Secretary/Chief Executive should be directed to BB Headquarters at Felden Lodge.

New Year's Honours

Congratulations are offered to BB leaders recognised in the New Year's Honours:



Robert Crangle, Lieutenant, 1st Bangor, who received an MBE for services to Young People in Northern Ireland through The Boys' Brigade.



Mary Burch, Lieutenant, 1st Vale of Leven, who received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for Voluntary service in Dunbartonshire.



Peter Stephens, Lieutenant, 22nd Nottingham, who received an MBE for services to business and the community.



Brigade Conference 2016

When the iconic Harland and Wolff cranes were constructed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was seen as a sign of faith in the future.

So, as the Planning Team began to prepare for the hosting of Brigade Conference in September 2016, it seemed fitting to incorporate a crane into the Conference logo.

As we look to the future and encourage our Leaders, young and old, to play an increasingly active role in shaping the future of our Movement, we encourage all Battalions to send representation to Belfast. Plans for the weekend are developing.

Hotel accommodation has been arranged at the Premier Inn, Alfred Street, Belfast. Please note a limited number of rooms are available so please book early to avoid disappointment.

With the exception of the visit to Newport, all venues are conveniently located close to each other within Belfast City Centre. Friday evening transport to Newport will be available from outside the nominated hotel. Newport is located approximately 11 miles from Belfast City Centre.

An overview of what's already planned:

Friday 2nd September

Welcome Reception at Newport, the new home of Northern Ireland District Headquarters in Hillsborough.

Saturday 3rd September

Brigade Conference will take place in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, and will incorporate a variety of workshops, presentations, discussion time and the Annual General Meeting.

The evening programme will include a Conference Dinner and musical programme. This will also take place in Assembly Buildings.

Sunday 4th September

Morning Worship will take place in the Grosvenor Hall (Belfast Central Mission of the Methodist Church in Ireland). The guest preacher will be Mr David Blevins, the recently appointed President of Northern Ireland District.

Online Brigade Manager

We are continuing to work towards launching Online Brigade Manager (OBM), the Brigade's new membership system in May 2016. OBM will provide functionality at a local level as well as meeting the needs of the wider Brigade for the registration of leaders and Companies through BB Headquarters.

A series of launch events will be offered across the Brigade to

provide leaders with a detailed overview of the system and how it can be effectively used at Company/Battalion/District level to streamline administration.



Further details will be announced through e-communications and the Spring Gazette.

President's Commendations

The President's Commendation has recently been awarded to:



Callum Sharkey – 2nd Blantyre

On 18th October 2015, Alistair Burrow, Brigade Vice President, presented Callum Sharkey with his President's Commendation. Since birth Callum has lived with Asperger's Syndrome and certain activities throughout his life have proved difficult for him. Callum joined as an Anchor Boy as soon as he was of age. On that first night he told his parents that his aim was to get his name on the Queen's Men Board and this year, after almost 13 years, Callum realised his dream. Bill Andrew, Captain of 2nd Blantyre, nominated Callum for his award because he has been inspirational to all the young people and staff over the years. He has taught them tolerance and respect for each other; that winning isn't everything and that working together is more important. Callum has worked hard within his own capabilities and gained the love and respect of his peers and staff in the Company. His wish is to return to the Company and work in the Anchor Section.



Declan McDowell – 1st Ossett

On 4th October 2015, Councillor Mrs June Cliffe MBE, Mayor of Wakefield, presented Declan McDowell with his President's Commendation. For the past six years Declan has provided much love and support towards his Grandparents. Six years ago, when he was nine, he realised that they were struggling to cope on a daily basis so he began visiting each morning before school to assist them with their early morning routine and prepare breakfast for them. Each evening, after school, Declan would help them to prepare their evening meal. When his grandma sadly passed away four years ago, realising that his grandad was lonely, he moved in with him. Declan views this dedication and commitment as being nothing special; however, the reality is, he has provided a much needed lifeline of love, care and support. Declan naturally took up this responsibility with the same determination that he shows in everything he does. Life, however, does not always come easy to him as he has a mild learning difficulty and often lacks confidence. Declan is currently working towards his Queen's Badge.

Welcome to our New Companies

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

COMPANY	CAPTAIN	CHURCH
1 st Alway	Matt Periam	Liberty Church, Wales
1 st Battersea	Vincent La Touche	Assemblies of the First Born, London
107 th Belfast	Michael Culbert	Knockbreda Parish Church, Belfast
2 nd Clayton	Sheila Ladeji	World Harvest Christian Centre, Manchester
3 rd Leeds	Sifiso Dowu	Brethren In Christ Church, Leeds
6 th Manchester	Mark Adjei-Kumi	Dominion Chapel International, Manchester
1 st North Dulwich	John Commettant	St. Faith's Church, London

Obituaries

We record to the right 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.

Colin John Trenbirth	1 st Bebington
Maurice Williamson MBE	Belfast Battalion



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

MY EXPERIENCE



David Blevins

The recently appointed President of BB Northern Ireland, David Blevins, takes a moment from his busy schedule to talk with the Gazette.



Q What's your own BB story? And, is there a particular BB memory which stands out?

A Having joined The Robins (Anchor Boys) of 6th Portadown Company (Epworth Methodist) in 1975, I spent 30 years in The Boys' Brigade, progressing to the rank of Company Captain (1994-2004) and Portadown Battalion President (2000-2004). Many of my memories are from camp, but none more than summer 1992 when two boys in my company saved the life of an officer who had fallen ill. That officer has been my wife for 21 years!

Q You've just begun the role of President of BBNI. What do you think are the main challenges facing BB in Northern Ireland?

A It is too soon to know! The demands of work took me away from BB for 10 years so I have asked the Northern Ireland District to give me some time to listen and to learn. Whatever the challenges, I'm confident we will meet them together with God's help.

Q What makes you excited about the future for the BB in NI and also further afield?

A There are 16,000 members and 2,600 officers in The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland. Together, we have the capacity to make an enormously positive contribution to the society in which we live. The world has never had more need of young men with true Christian values.

Q You're well known for your day job as journalist for Sky News. What advice would you offer to BB young people considering a similar career?

A Don't choose journalism for celebrity status. Choose it because you have a passion for the truth. In recent years, journalism has had a bad press (excuse the pun). Come help us redeem it by gathering the news ethically and reporting it with integrity.

Q Having reported on major events, and interviewed world leaders, where does becoming President of BBNI fit in amongst your many achievements?

A The two things are different. To have interviewed Presidents and Prime Ministers is considered a professional achievement. To have been elected President of BBNI is a personal honour. Suffice to say God's kingdom matters much more to me than earthly kingdoms.

Q Away from work and BB, what do you like to do to recharge the batteries?

A There's time outside of work and BB? No one told me! I'd do more walking, reading and watching rugby... watching Ireland win the Six Nations to be precise!



Boys Sleep Out for Homeless

Nine members of 1st Dunbar Company swapped the warmth of their beds for a night sleeping on an Edinburgh street for charity. The boys aged between 13 and 15, joined more than 40 other youngsters for the sleepout on George Street.

Company Captain, Sandy Mitchell, said "The teenagers were delighted to do their bit to support The Rock Trust. The Sleep Out involved them sleeping on the pavement in a sleeping bag between 7pm and 7am. Mainly through sponsorship the boys have raised around £1200, it has also given them a realisation of what it would be like living on the street."

The charity works with young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It aims to enable them to build the skills and resources required to make a positive and healthy transition to adulthood, while avoiding or moving on from homelessness.



3rd Perth @3rdPerthBB

The boys with the new @3rdPerthBB Uni hockey trophy. #bbmidweek #uni hockey



Pacemakers crowned Champions

Well done to The Pacemakers Drum & Bugle Corp of 13th Bromley & 1st St Mary Cray GB Companies. Having been founder members of DCUK back in 1980 it has taken the band 36 years to achieve their first title. The Band was crowned 'A' class Champions on Saturday 19th September in Widnes at the United Kingdom's Drum Corps Championships performing their 2015 show "Pirates of the Caribbean".

Corps Director Stuart Barker said "It's been a long time coming with a huge team effort this year. I had a feeling we would do well this season after our first performance back at the Brigades' Showcase Championships in Stoke". The Corps has a busy winter season with a number of charity concerts planned.



21st Cardiff remember Ollie

After 35 years of continual camps, Camp 2015 was very different for 21st Cardiff. Sadly, in February 2015, Ollie Davies, aged 21, a member of the Amicus Section, was tragically killed in a road accident on his way to Teacher Training Practice. Ollie had not missed a Camp since the age of 11. Ollie's family attended Camp for a day and at the end of the day biodegradable balloons were released with messages in his memory. Ollie loved 'Hollister' t-shirts and so for this year's camp, 'Ollie-ster' t-shirts were created and raised £200 for the Alzheimer's Society. When some Amicus members were recently baptised, their testimonies were recorded on video and sold to raise £150 for the Alzheimer's Society. Also in his memory the Company is sponsoring it's fourth child with World Vision.



Fantastic fundraising for World Mission Fund

The Anchor Boys of 1st/2nd Milngavie Company were delighted to be named the winners of the 'World Mission Fund Highest Fundraiser (Anchor Boys)' Trophy for the 5th year in a row. The trophy was presented by the Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, at the World Mission awards ceremony in Queensferry.



Recruiting in Uxbridge

In September the West London Battalion along with The Girls' Brigade from the Hillingdon District held a Publicity and Recruitment day in the Pavilions shopping centre in Uxbridge. The event opened with The Boys' and Girls' Brigade band marching through the shopping centre to the delight of the shoppers. During the day there were crafts, badge making and face painting available, as well as displays from the West London BB/GB Gymnastics team. There was also the opportunity for youngsters to join in with some games and even try out playing an instrument. It was a fantastically successful day with numbers of children and young people joining Companies across West London in the weeks following.

Outstanding Services to the Community

Well done to Christine Donohoe, Captain of 2nd North Staffs who recently received the Golden Jubilee Bowl, an award presented by her local Parish Council for outstanding services to the community.



2nd Wednesbury BB @2ndWednesburyBB
 #Anchors went to Peru via Paddington, #Juniors learnt about Joseph and #Company learnt about the motto and to finish a mtg on camp - BUSY!!

SNAPSHOTS



12TH BROMLEY REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITIES



EAST MIDLAND'S DISTRICT QUEEN'S BADGE PRESENTATION



REMEMBRANCE IN ENFIELD



WATER ACTIVITIES FOR 25TH BELFAST ON SUMMER CAMP



130TH GLASGOW FUN IN THE SNOW



12TH IPSWICH JUNIORS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



1st tewkesbury @1sttewkesburybb
Our Juniors handing over items to the local Foodbank as part of @theboysbrigade 'Our Community' national campaign



Halifax BB/GB Band Run for Charity

Five officers (Danny Binns, Dave Fox, Richard Smith, Gemma Horner and Sarah Kershaw) from the Halifax BB/GB band ran 10K in 'The Leeds Abbey Dash' raising over £1000 for Teenage Cancer Trust. Danny's brother William passed away in April of this year at the age of 20, from the very rare Ewing's Sarcoma, a form of cancer.



11th Northampton

Our Junior and Anchors have been collecting coins for the last couple of months. This week as part of #MinibusWeek they brought them all together to form these giant buses. They collected over 6000 coins totalling a huge £277! Well done boys, you've proved both small coins and small people can make a huge difference!





Brigade Band visits Ypres & The Somme

In October half term a group of 81 BB/GB members from Companies including 5th Croydon, 2nd West Kent, 1st Malvern, 2nd Sawston and 1st Minster GB visited France and Belgium. Together they formed an impressive band and played at The Menin Gate, Thiepval Memorial as well as parading through the streets of Ypres.



208th Glasgow @208thGlasgowBB
Scone making can be a messy business but the end product...truly delightful! #BBweekend



2nd Forfar out in the Community

With help from the East & Old Parish Church Green Group members from 2nd Forfar got out into their local community. The group planted 450 bulbs, hung bat boxes and laid a hedgehog nest.



Boys' Brigade NI @BBNI
Congratulations to these young Boys' Brigade Leaders who completed their training this summer #presentation #KGV



12th Inverness restart success!

The Company restarted its Company Section last year and has grown to a number of 14 boys. Since the restart they have been busy taking part in Battalion competitions amongst other activities. Recently the boys got involved in a Sponsored Walk and Mountain Biking Challenge, with 10 boys taking part in the Highland Wildcat MTB trails at Golspie followed by a walk up Ben Bhraggie. The sponsored event was helping to raise money for Company funds, and although it was windy with a bit of snow at the top, the boys had a great day out and are already asking if they can do it again next year.



53rd Manchester BB @53rdBB
Our juniors have got into the Festive spirit tonight. Making Santa hats ready for next weeks carol concert #team53rd



Southampton Anchors support Marwell Zoo

Members from 4th Southampton BB/GA Anchors decided to raise money to sponsor an animal at Marwell Zoo in Southampton. After visiting the zoo and seeing all the animals, they are now the proud sponsors of Wendy the Pygmy Hippo, having raised £65.



Roslin Boys' Brigade @RoslinBB
Boys, Leaders & Families planted daffodils at the weekend #RoslinGlen #ourcommunity15 @midgov @JohnMuirTrust

RESOURCE

GREAT ACTIVITIES & IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Welcome to the Winter 2015/16 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



Barclays Money Skills

Barclays have developed a wide range of resources to equip teachers and youth workers with the support they need to deliver engaging, practical and fun money management sessions. There are videos, games, a website and interactive digital content to assist with this, that the young people can also access. Ideal for use with over 11's age groups.

Check out barclaysmoneyskills.com



Icebreaker Ideas

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

Check out icebreakerideas.com



Christianity Explored

CE have a range a fantastic resources to help support faith development across all age groups. The Christianity Explored courses can help children and young people explore what Christianity is about, presenting them with the good news of Jesus by taking them through the Gospels.

Check out ceministries.org

? The Answer's Out There

We often find that leaders face similar issues running their sections whether the group meets in Bradford or Blantyre, Castlederg or Cardiff.

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 2016 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 >>>

20 → Anchors

23 → Juniors

26 → Discover

29 → Challenge Plus

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



4 JAN – 12 FEB Big Schools' Birdwatch

Get involved for just an hour between these dates in the annual survey, with ideas and resources available to help you.

Check out rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch/



3 MAR World Book Day

Why not have an evening dedicated to some of your favourite books, anything from the Borrowers to Paddington Bear. Why not encourage the children to bring their favourite book to share why they love it?

Check out worldbookday.com



11 – 17 APR National Gardening Week

National Gardening Week 2016 aims to encourage everyone to get involved in gardening! Children can learn new skills and have fun by spending time growing their own food and tending to plants. 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: Swimming Shark



Find more fantastic craft ideas like this at: playresource.org

Equipment:

- ★ Polystyrene Cups
- ★ Blue Acrylic Paint
- ★ Funky Foam (blue)
- ★ Google Eyes
- ★ Masking Tape
- ★ Glue

Instructions

1. Tape the top of two cups together to make the shark's body shape.
2. Paint with blue acrylic paint.
3. Cut a tail shape and a fin shape from the blue foam.

4. Cut a small slit in the shark's back and slot the fin into place. You may need to put a small amount of glue in the slit to secure the foam.
5. Cut another slit to attach the shark's tail.
6. To make the shark's teeth, cut a long strip of white foam into a zig zag shape and stick on.
7. Add a pair of google eyes.

Theme Ideas



Turn your section into a world from your favourite books with these programme ideas:

01 Mr Men & Little Miss



This game is a variation on the Beans Game. Get your children to dance around your hall to music and when the music stops shout out a Mr Men or Little Miss name and they have to do a corresponding action. Last one to do the action, or if they do a wrong action is out. Keep going until you have a winner. You could even add a couple of your own characters and actions in.

Mr Tickle – Wiggle your body

Mr Bump – Sit down on your bottom

Mr Strong – Flex your muscles

Little Miss Star – Do a starjump

Little Miss Tiny – Crouch down into a tiny ball

Little Miss Bossy – Wag your finger

dressing up items (hat, scarf, gloves, sunglasses, etc), dice, plate, knife and fork and of course some chocolate. All the children should sit in a circle with all the items in the middle, the children one at a time roll the dice (use large foam dice if you have one). If they get a six they get a chance to get some chocolate, but before trying to cut and eat the chocolate they have to put on all the items (e.g. hat, scarf, gloves, etc) and must use the knife and fork. Once the next person gets a 6 they go into the middle and have a chance.

04 Bring the Books to Life

Ask the children to come along dressed up as their favourite book character to add to the spirit of the evening. Get the leaders involved too and create a real buzz in your Anchor Section.

05 Getting into the Bible: The Wordless Book



The WORDLESS BOOK is one of the most effective ways to present the Gospel to children! WORDLESS BOOKS can be purchased, but are very simple to make yourself. The WORDLESS BOOK makes the Truth of the Gospel very simple. As the name suggests, it has no words! It contains just five coloured pages of red, black, white and yellow and a green cover. What the colours are on is not the issue, it is the timeless message they contain that is so effective. You can find lots of examples on the internet by just searching for 'Wordless Book', so why not get inspiration and create your own to use with your group?

02 Where's Wally?

'Where's Wally' is a very well-known and well-loved children's book. The book contains many pictures and you have to try and find Wally. Place some pictures of Wally around your meeting place and see how quickly the children find him in each of the pictures. You can easily find and print Where's Wally images by searching on Google.

03 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Roald Dahl penned the wonderful book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' in 1964 and it's been captivating children ever since. Why not read the story (or parts of it) to the children. Follow on by playing 'The Chocolate Game', for which you will need some

06

Get Learning: Paddington Bear**“What’s a Refugee?”**

I wonder how many of our children are asking this question? Every day they overhear conversations, see images or catch snippets of news. Trying to explain the current global situation to young children is definitely not easy, but with the help of a little bear from an old favourite book it can be made a bit easier.

Paddington Bear loved marmalade sandwiches, but one of the special things about him is that he leaves his homeland to begin a new life in another country. He fled from ‘darkest Peru’ as a stowaway in a lifeboat taking with him only his hat, briefcase and marmalade. There was an earthquake, but when his Aunt Lucy could no longer look after him and moved him to

a home for retired bears, Paddington sets sail for England.

So with few belongings, just like the current refugees, Paddington arrives in a new country after a long and perilous journey. Chat to your children about how he might have been feeling? Cold? Hungry? Scared? He must have been brave to make that long journey! Paddington shares a lot with the refugees.

In the story book Paddington is found by the Brown family at Paddington Station, and although they can’t understand his bear name or his bear language they decide to look after him. Sharing the story of Paddington with your children can help them understand compassion, like that of the Brown family in the story.

Get Active: Parachute Games



Shared by
Jayne McFadden,
3rd Carrickfergus

Parachute games are a great way to begin an evening as the children can just join in as and when they arrive. It’s lots of noise, lots of running and lots of fun!

- 1 Sharks & Lifeguards** – Ask for two volunteers to be lifeguards and one volunteer to be the shark. All children sit on the floor with both legs under the parachute and create waves by fanning the parachute. The shark crawls about under the parachute and grabs each child by the feet to pull them under the “waves”. When the shark has your feet you have to shout for help and the lifeguards will run around the outside of the parachute and pull you out to safety. Once there are no children left sitting around the edge you can start again with new lifeguards and a shark.
- 2 Anybody who has...** - Have all the children stand around the edge of the parachute and raise and lower it to make “mushrooms”. In between each “mushroom” shout ‘Anybody who has a sister, anybody who has brown hair etc’. If the child has what is being shouted they have to run under the parachute and hold a handle at the other side. This is lots of fun when it applies to everybody!

The Answer’s Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

“Aside from the Anchors Programme Packs and Resources in the Gazette, where do other Companies get ideas for their weekly activities? It would be great if people can share resources, websites, etc that they find useful.”

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



“I find Activity Village a very helpful resource - it has a great wealth of activity ideas, often with different levels, which caters for both the really young Anchors and the ones about to move into Juniors.”

Becky Emms, 12th Leeds



“I get ideas from the internet and what I see others doing, but I would always suggest trying things out yourself first, as some are not as they seem! Also, you can often develop or adapt something you have seen for a different topic.”

Vicki Brownlee, 5th Hull



“I get most of my ideas from the app ‘Pinterest’, just search for arts and crafts or party games and it gives you hundreds of ideas!”

Lynda McCallum, 135th Glasgow

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



09 FEB Shrove Tuesday

Get flipping those pancakes in preparation for the start of lent and the build up to Easter. How about making pancakes, encouraging the children to give something up for lent?



09 FEB 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.



11 - 20 MAR British Science week

The UK's largest grass roots celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. Get your young people trying out some experiments, or involved in some way. You can download hands-on activities to try out with your young people. **Find out more at britishscienceweek.org**



18 - 20 MAR Sport Relief

Sport Relief is a biennial charity event from Comic Relief. This is a perfect opportunity for your groups to get active and support a fantastic cause. To find out more, and to order your FREE Youth Group Fund raising pack, head to **sportrelief.com/youthgroups**



'Letter' Door Hanger



You will need:

Equipment:

- ★ Balls of wool various colours
- ★ Cardboard
- ★ Scissors

Instructions

To create a fantastic item to hang on a door of their bedroom based on their first name initial using wool.

1. Get the children to cut the cardboard into a letter, maybe the first letter of their name; the letters could be as small or as big as time and amount of wool will allow (leaders may need to assist in the cutting).
2. Tie a knot around the base of the letter with the wool.
3. Wrap the wool around the letter, and once wool is wrapped around the whole letter cut the wool and tie a little knot to keep the wool in place.

Theme Ideas



Try out some of these Egg-citing themed ideas with your group:

01 Capture the Egg

This game requires two teams and a referee. Team members are numbered, so that each team member has a number. The teams line up opposite each other, and a plastic egg is placed in the middle. The referee calls out a number, and the two players with that number approach the middle of the room. The object is to pick up the egg and get back to your line without being tagged by the other player. If a player succeeds in doing so, their team gets a point. If the player is tagged, the other team gets a point. Ten points wins the game. A player can be tagged only after picking up the egg, so strategy is important. Is it best to go for the egg, or wait for the other person to pick it up? You may need to introduce a time limit to avoid a stalemate.

perhaps your church congregation by showing during an Easter Service.

03 Egg decorating



A great opportunity to allow the children to be creative and use their imagination. With this idea you can make it as simple or elaborate as you like. All you need is hardboiled eggs (or purchase plastic eggs from Baker Ross or other suppliers) and items to decorate the eggs, paints, pens, bits of fabric. The children may want to create their own character or base it on one of their favourites.

02 Getting into the Bible

Gather some items related to Easter (egg, bunny, stone, cross, bible, chick, etc) and put these into a bag/box so that the children cannot see. Now, ask the children what they think is in the bag, make it clear that all the items have a connection with Easter. Go through all the items in the bag and explain their connection with Easter.



Watch the Lego Easter Story

A fantastic resource to use, simply search for the 'Lego Bible' on YouTube. Showing the video is a great way of sharing the Easter story in an engaging and relevant way.

After watching the video ask the children to create a newspaper report based on the story. Get them to draw a picture to describe each key part of the story (e.g. empty tomb) and add a headline, they could do this as one group on a flipchart or as individuals on pieces of paper. Have a list of key parts of the story handy to help jog their memories. Think about how you could share your newspaper report(s) with others,

04 Easter Egg Foodbank Collection

In the lead up to Easter encourage the children to start collecting Easter eggs and as a Company you could distribute them to a local food bank. You could also ask members of your Church congregation to get involved by donating eggs.

05 Bunny Relay

You will need to cut out two large paper eggs for each team. This is a simple relay race with an Easter twist. Each player must cross the room by only stepping on the eggs. The method for this is to step onto one, and then put the other one in front, so that you can step onto it. The winning team is the one whose players all manage to cross the room first.

Get Learning – Egg science experiments

Ever wondered if you could make an egg bounce? How about to shrink an egg or maybe make the shell disappear or how strong is an egg shell? These hands on experiments are simple to do and will provide the children with a lot of fun.

Check out bit.ly/1I3DwKD



Get Active: Glow Stick Bowling



Equipment

- ★ Glow sticks
- ★ 10 empty 500 ml bottles
- ★ Small football or basketball

Instructions

Place a couple of glow sticks in each empty bottle and fill the bottles $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and arrange in a pins format such

as the one in the picture. To add to the excitement each child can be given a glow stick to wear around their wrist and some of the lights in the room can then be turned off for greater impact. Mark a line and have all children stand behind and take it in turns to bowl underarm. Have a leader scoring and resetting the bottles. You could setup more than one bowling alley depending on numbers. It could just be a bit of fun or you could make it a competition.

? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

“Does your Company have much involvement with your local school? Do you have links with the Head teacher? Lead school assemblies? Actively recruit through the school?”

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

“A good idea is to ask schools whether they have space for information stalls at parents’ nights. One of our three local primary schools regularly does that and, with high footfall, it can be a very good chance to connect with parents and show them what you do. Good to have some boys in uniform at your stall as well, so the parents (and children who often come along too) can see that their peers already attend. This can also work well at secondary schools and we have been invited to have a stall in the foyer of a school at lunchtimes to raise awareness of the organisation.”

Fraser Boyd, 25th Stirling (Dunblane)

“We have some good links with schools across Witham, having undertaken assemblies to support recruitment into the Company. This has developed further in the last 12 months, as in January 2015, we joined together with ‘Christian Youth Outreach Witham’ which carries out schools work, with us now managing three part time workers across both primary and Academy schools in Witham. Our workers go into school lessons and assemblies to bring a Christian approach to RE, personal development and other national curriculum projects. The workers also have input into our BB programme and special events, so the identity and link is strong. You can find out more about our Schools Department on our website at: 2withamboys-brigade.org.uk/projects/schools-department”

John Boon, 2nd Witham

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Planning your Programme

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



29 FEB - 13 MAR **Fairtrade Fortnight**

A great opportunity to highlight the importance of Fairtrade and learning how others live and work around the world. During Fairtrade Fortnight, they are encouraging people to host fair trade breakfasts in their community to highlight the challenges facing farmers and workers around the world. Maybe your Company could host a breakfast and invite the local community, families or your church congregation.

Check out fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight



19 MAR **Earth Hour**

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement for the planet organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The event is held annually to encourage individuals, communities and households to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30pm as a symbol of their commitment to the planet. Get your young people thinking about our planet and what we can do to protect it.

Check out earthhour.wwf.org.uk



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?



Get Active: Kick Ball Rounders

Mark your pitch out in the same shape as a normal rounders pitch with cones approx 4m apart. Split players into two teams. Use either a 4/5 size sponge or a plastic ball. The bowler throws the ball underarm from the bowling box to the batting box. The batter then kicks the ball. Once the batter has kicked the ball they then run around the 4 bases. They can stop at any base. The fielders then pass the ball to the bowler in order to stop the batter from running on. They score a full rounder if they manage to get round all 4 bases in one go, or ½ a rounder for completing the circuit, stopping on the way round. You can add further rules depending on numbers and time constraints.



Shared by:

Amy Wilson, 53rd Manchester



Challenge: Newspaper towers

Split your young people into groups and challenge them to design and construct model towers out of newspaper. They are given limited supplies including newspaper, tape and scissors, paralleling the real-world limitations faced by engineers, such as economic restrictions as to how much material can be used in a structure. The aim is to build their towers for height and stability, as well as the strength to withstand a simulated lateral "wind" load. Give it a go with your Company Section and post a video on to YouTube/Facebook/Twitter so we can see how you get on; we will share the highest in the next Gazette.



Shared by:

Andrew McCaldon, 35th Liverpool

Theme Ideas



Help get your young people understanding Easter with these themed ideas:

01 Stronger than you think...



For this activity ask for a few volunteers, or you could even try this with your whole group. For each individual, ask the question, 'Who is stronger, (name) or the egg?'.

The task is to test the strength of an egg, the young person should put their thumb and index finger on the two ends (top and bottom) of the egg and squeeze to try and break the egg. Many will find it difficult to break the egg, see how long it takes and how much pressure they have to apply (note: you will occasionally find there to be a flaw in the shell which allows it to break easily). You may want to try this over a sink or bowl and also consider protecting clothing. It is always worth trying an activity like this yourself beforehand so you know what to expect.

02 Easter Egg Throw

Hard-boil a dozen eggs and get the group to stand in two lines facing each other around 3 feet apart. Starting at one end the egg should be thrown to the person opposite, they must then throw to next person on the other side, working up the line, until the end. On reaching the end each line takes a step back and the egg goes back down the line. Anyone who drops an egg is out, replace the egg as required. The lines

will need to move up to close gaps as people go out, people may even have to change sides to keep it even. Remember this is not a team game. Intensity may be added to this game by using raw eggs that can crack and break if dropped. The person left standing at the end of the game, i.e. the person that has not dropped a single egg, is the winner.

03

40 Days of Lent



A different fun way to count the days of Lent, 40 days of giving back, doing good and living generously. Challenge your young people to get involved... it could be something as simple as washing up at home or you could get out into your community and make a difference.



For ideas and more information check out 40acts.org.uk

04

Get into the Bible: The Gospel according to a teabag [Easter]



Download the object lesson at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/teabagobjectlesson.pdf

05

Get Creative: Easter yarn eggs



Equipment:

- ★ Embroidery / Cotton yarn / Thread
- ★ Balloons
- ★ Scissors
- ★ PVA glue
- ★ Sponge / Brush

Instructions:

1. Inflate a water balloon or an oval balloon so they look egg shaped and tie the end.
2. Tie a piece of yarn / thread to the knotted balloon ends ready for hanging up to dry.
3. Add a little water to your PVA glue and stir. Roll the balloons in the PVA glue thoroughly covering them.

4. Wrap the string/yarn around each balloon covering the balloons evenly (not leaving any spaces).

5. Roll the wrapped balloon in the PVA / water mixture again making sure all the thread is covered and then hang them to dry.

6. Once the glued thread is completely dry the balloons can be removed, they may have shrivelled or burst on their own, if not pop them.

7. Lastly, you could add chocolate mini eggs by squeezing them through gaps, making an ideal gift.

06

Egg Drop

This is potentially a really messy, but fun game. Divide the group into pairs and identify a number 1 and number 2. Number 1's should lie on their back with a plastic cup in their mouth (put a bin bag or something over their shoulders to protect clothing). Number 2's should stand over number 1's and without bending gently break a raw egg and drop the contents into the cup. Provide a glass or cup to help break the egg against, before its descent into the cup or....! The challenge is to get as much of the egg as possible into the cup. Then get the pairs to swap positions, the pair with the most egg in their cup at the end is the winner. Have a prize at the ready for the winning pair.

? The Answer's Out There

For this issue we asked the following...

“Do you plan your programme around the individuals within your group i.e. If you have a majority who prefer being creative and making things, or a very sporty bunch... do you adapt the programme to suit or offer a free choice of activities? If so how do you meet the needs of all whilst trying to provide a balanced and engaging programme?”

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

“It is important to adapt the programme to the interests of those in the group, but at the same time equally important to provide a balanced programme, as not all will like the same things. Every so often we give the group a list of activities to choose from and try to plan the programme for the forthcoming months based on the most popular choices. This ensures that the group members feel their voices are being heard as they are playing an active role in deciding how the programme is formed. We do, however, make an effort to ensure there are a wide range of activities - at present we have a very sporty group but not all of them enjoy playing sports all the time. Sometimes, they find they enjoy an activity that they hadn't previously considered trying!”

Tom Boorman, 3rd Enfield

“Our Company Section programme is arranged through discussions with our young people. They help through telling us what they enjoy and what they never want to do again! Rather than asking them what they would like we come along with a range of ideas and from this we develop themes and they add to the ideas. Our young people working for their Queen's & President's Badges organise evenings from scratch for the Company Section and often the Juniors. They tell us what they would like the leaders to do; these evenings always seem to go very well.

Ian Rumbelow, 2nd Stoke-sub-Hamdon



Find out what others said online at:

boys-brigade.org.uk/answersoutthere.htm

Great activities & ideas for your section:

Programme Planning

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



21 JAN Burns' Night

Celebrate Burns' Night in your Company. It is the annual celebration held on the birthday of poet Robert Burns, who was one of the most iconic and well known Scots. It's also a celebration of being Scottish! People eat haggis, neeps and tatties, go to ceilidh dances, listen to traditional Scottish music and wear tartan.



14 MAR Commonwealth Day

The day is marked across the Commonwealth by a range of activities, including a multi-faith Observance at Westminster Abbey in London, United Kingdom. It is an opportunity to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and Commonwealth values, as well as the work of Commonwealth organisations. Could your young people find out more about the Commonwealth or organise their own Commonwealth theme night?

Find out more at thecommonwealth.org/commonwealthday

Get Active: Empires

Empires is a great game that is fun and extremely competitive, requiring very little equipment. Ideal for 8 or more players in a group. The aim of the game is to create the biggest Empire.

To start, the organiser gives out small bits of paper and pens, and the group picks a topic. Good topics to start with are 'famous people' or 'animals', but see what they come up with! Each person (including organiser) writes the name of eg: animal. Fold over and hand to organiser. Do not reveal your identity.

Organiser puts quickly into a pile and reads the names out, telling people that they will need to remember as many as possible. Read them one more time and then put them out of sight.

The rules of empires are: One person starts and can ask anyone in the room if they are X (eg: Hedgehog). If they are not then that person who was asked then has a go. They ask anyone in the room if they are something from the list. If you guess right (and they must be honest and say yes) then the person who has been guessed goes and sits with the person who guessed right and has become part of their 'empire'. They get another go and can consult with each other, but the leader of the empire is the spokesperson. In this way small empires build around the room. If you guess the leader of an empire then you win over the leader and their empire - so be prepared for some moving around the room. The winner is the person who ends up with everyone!

It does not matter if you end up with two Margaret Thatchers or Hedgehogs. The group will just need to remember that there are more out there to guess.





Get Active: Electric Fence

Ideal team building obstacle task. Use two poles and piece of string or rope tied between the poles about 4 feet high from the ground.

The object is for the entire team to get over the “electric fence” (the string or rope) without getting “electrocuted” (touching the rope). No going under either! Only one team member can go over at a time, but can be helped by team-mates. Other team members can help any way they want, but once a person is over the fence, they must stay over the fence and may not come back around to help anyone. So the last person each time must somehow get over the fence without help from the other side. This game requires lots of teamwork and cooperation.

Try it with the rope at different heights, perhaps with several fences in a small obstacle course.

Are you using **CHALLENGE PLUS**?

In this issue we take a look at another project from the Challenge Plus programme and highlight a number of challenges that young people could try.

Projects are longer activities that take a number of hours to complete and are usually spread over several weeks. Projects include taster sessions that can act as an introduction and be used to see if the project is of interest.



Sports Person. The overall aim of this Project is to develop skills and gain a recognised qualification in a sport.

The main activity is ‘**Gaining a National Governing Body Award**’, encouraging young people to develop their skills as a player or coach and gain a national recognised award.

The taster sessions include ‘**Sport Appreciation**’, thinking and learning about a particular sport; and ‘**Team Sport**’ encouraging participants to play a team sport.



Healthy Living. The overall aim is to explore issues surrounding our health and how to look after our bodies and mind responsibly.

The main activity is ‘**You are what you eat**’, and is all about developing a personal plan for healthy living and adopting it.

The taster sessions include ‘**Circuit Training**’, focussed on developing a personal circuit comprising of appropriate exercises. The Christian Faith element ‘**Your Body – Your responsibility**’, considers the responsibility you have for your own body and what the Bible says about this.



Share what Projects & Challenges your young people get up to @bbgazette or email gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk



Challenges are shorter activities that can be completed by the group or an individual. Some challenges can be completed on the usual group meeting night whilst others may require a different night or venue.

Sample Challenges:



Newshound – Identify something positive about your Company that will make a news worthy story and share it.



Ideas Factory – Submit an idea to your Battalion for a new activity or event.



Scale the Heights – Reach the top of the tallest building you can.



Get Planting – Plant a tree in your community.



Coin Trail – Organise a coin trail for charity.

You can find more details about all these challenges in the Challenge Plus Programme Pack.



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 @theboysbrigade

Development Focus

The Development Team in England has continued to be active in setting up new Companies across the region and providing support and training during their start-up. There has been an increasing level of support from local Battalions, in the form of programme planning and Youth Leader Training, visiting new Companies on meeting nights and supporting them in getting involved in Battalion activities. The new session has shown an increase in membership numbers across Companies started under the UYSAF project, and we have seen some brilliant examples of programmes being developed and delivered for the children and young people in those local communities.

WHAT'S ON - ENGLAND



19 MAR

National Music Festival
 Chandlers Ford, Hampshire

16 APR

National Music Festival
 Oadby, Leicestershire

16 APR

BB & Young Minds Mental Health Conference
 Nottingham

30 APR

BB & Young Minds Mental Health Conference
 Felden Lodge

04 JUN

National Marching Band Championships
 Stoke on Trent

30 JUL –
 5 AUG

KGVI Leadership Training
 Felden Lodge



Unite 2016

Unite is taking place on 3rd to 5th June 2016 at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, and we are pleased to announce that the group booking form is now available to download on the website. The cost will be £70 catered or £55 un-catered per person and bookings are first come, first served, so be sure to register your group soon.

Mark Greenwood will once again be the main speaker and a packed programme of activities is being planned. Lots more will be announced over the coming months but we can reveal that there will be street dance and cheerleading workshops led by university societies, water games, a camp fire and Unite's Got Talent – a talent show where we encourage anyone who is willing to come prepared with their acts to showcase in front of everyone!

There will also be items in the programme for accompanying leaders, including a variety of workshops and a networking afternoon tea with people on hand to talk about the world of BB and more.

The camping field will be split into three villages, and each group attending will be allocated to one of these. Each one will be looked after by two village leaders, who will be announced soon, and we encourage groups to bring flags, bunting etc. to decorate their village to see which looks the best!

Whether your group are regular campers or you've never done it before, we'd really love to have you with us for what is set to be a fantastic weekend at Felden. Keep checking back on the website and social media over the coming months for the latest updates on Unite.



Check out the website at
unitebb.org.uk



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



Find on Facebook
[/unitebb](https://www.facebook.com/unitebb)

Big Night Out 2016

This popular event, which is a joint venture between The Boys' Brigade, The Church of England, Scripture Union, Urban Saints and The Girls' Brigade England & Wales, will once again be held at Lightwater Valley near Ripon on Saturday 14th May 2016..



FOCUS WALES



f /theboysbrigadeinwales
@BB_Wales



1st Llay Community Clean up and Graffiti workshop

Anchors and Juniors were invited to help clean up the area around the new skate park. Working with the local police and local community council, the children and leaders helped clean up the local surroundings. Several members of the Company also helped a local graffiti artist to create some graffiti on the skate park. The BB logo was also put on one of the ramps so that all who visit the park will see the logo.residential. A great time was had by all.



For a full list of dates go to:
boysbrigadewales.org.uk

4th Gwent Zipwire Challenge

Twenty eight boys, family and friends, recently completed a sponsored 70 metre zip wire challenge at the National Diving Centre in Chepstow, South Wales. Just over £1000 was raised to help towards transport costs for various activities and the annual residential. A great time was had by all.

WALES: ☎ 02920 483555



The Boys' Brigade, 58 Richmond Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AT

FOCUS R.O.I



Annual Founder's Thanksgiving Service



The Annual Founder's Thanksgiving Service was held in St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street on Sunday 18th October 2015. Representatives from Girls' Brigade Ireland and the Stedfast Association along with many parents and friends attended the Service.

The service with the theme "Sharing our World" was conducted by Mark Acheson, BB Chaplain with the address by the Rev. Niall Stratford. The readings and prayers were led by members of

the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 10th, 12th & 39th Dublin Companies.

The music during the Service was provided by The Stedfast Band, conducted by Peter O'Callaghan. The collection at the Service was for Bb Development in the Republic of Ireland.

Following the Service The Boys' Brigade and the Stedfast Association hosted a reception for all in attendance in Freemasons' Hall by kind permission of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

WHAT'S ON - R.O.I



6 FEB

Figure Marching & Drill Competition

Swords, Co. Dublin

4-6 MAR

National Company Section Activity Weekend
Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

7 MAR

Safeguarding Training
Buncloody, Co Wexford

9 MAR

Safeguarding Training
Cavan, Co Cavan

11 MAR

Talent Competition
Edenderry, Co. Offaly

12 MAR

Juniors The BBs Got Talent Competition
Dundrum, Dublin 16





BB Scotland Camp 2016

Registration is now open for next Summer's big event in the grounds of Dumfries House, Ayrshire between 9th and 16th July.



To register your company and senior young people
www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBscotlandcamp2016

Sports Minister opens revamped facilities



As part of the year-long £1 million Carronvale Appeal, Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health, officially opened a new outdoor sports facility. The £20,000 floodlit all-weather 3G pitch, which was funded by Awards For All, Scottish Football Partnership Trust and The Boys' Brigade with the astro-turf being supplied and fitted by Stenhousemuir FC, will enable local sports groups and BB members to enjoy football, hockey, rugby and tennis throughout the year.

Moderator marks Founder's Day in Tulliallan

Not that the occasion wasn't special enough, but members of 1st Tulliallan had extra reason to celebrate when Moderator of The Church of Scotland's General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, shared in their Founder's Day service at the end of October. The special service was also attended by members from other Companies in Dunfermline & District Battalion; Brigade Secretary, Andrew Johnston; Director for Scotland, Bill Stevenson and Brigade Vice-President, Alistair Burrow.



/theboysbrigadeinscotland



@thebbscotland

World Mission Fund

Two young leaders, Callum Dewar from 1st Lenzie and Scott Corbett 1st Condorrat, spent two weeks in Trinidad & Tobago to see the 'Speak Up, Speak Out!' WMF appeal. They got to see the start of the anti-bullying project, which benefitted from the huge amount of fundraising done by Companies last session.

The cheque for £10,000 was presented to Moderator of the General Assembly, Right Rev. Angus Morrison on 20th November 2015. The new project 'Kit for Kenya' was also launched at this special event in South Queensferry.



Get behind the new appeal – visit:
worldmissionfund.org.uk

Sports Development Officers

The Boys' Brigade in Scotland has appointed two Sports Development Officers, on a part-time basis, for the Glasgow area. Glaswegians Graham Cossar and Shabaz Khan will help increase sporting participation within the organisation and develop sports programmes for young people.



You can reach Graham and Shabaz by email
graham.cossar@bbglasgow.org.uk/
shabaz.khan@bbglasgow.org.uk

WHAT'S ON - SCOTLAND



05 MAR

Scottish Conference
 Bankfoot, Perthshire

19 MAR

National Cross Country
 Stirling

6-8 APR

National QB Completion Course
 Carronvale House

23 APR

Bands Contest
 Musselburgh





f /boysbrigadeNI
@BBNI

Nevin Hall dedicated at NI District Headquarters Newport

The Boys' Brigade Northern Ireland District was delighted to welcome Mrs Nevin and family members to its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2015 held at the NI District Headquarters Newport. Prior to the official business of the AGM there was a short dedication service at which the main hall at Newport was named 'The Nevin Hall' in memory of the outstanding service of Professor NC Nevin OBE, President of the Northern Ireland District from 1992 until his death in 2014.

After the dedication ceremony led by Rev Dr Trevor McCormick, Vice President of The Boys' Brigade, Northern Ireland District, Mrs Nevin unveiled a commemorative plaque along with her son Paul and daughter Glynis.

The new District President, David Blevins, also took up his official duties on the evening chairing the AGM for the first time. Speaking prior to chairing the AGM, he said: 'It is a privilege to serve God and serve The Boys' Brigade, I continue to believe in this great organisation and in its ability to fulfil the objective of advancing Christ's Kingdom.'

Anchor Boy Conference.

The Anchor Boy Conference was held at Newport on Saturday 3rd October 2015. Just over 50 Anchor Boy Leaders gathered for an informal and interactive day with a lovely lunch thrown in too. Disability Sport NI took a very popular (and competitive!) session on inclusive games and there were sessions on craft and alternative games; old 'retro' board games from 'yester year' that are new to a new generation of Anchor Boys were enjoyed by the leaders. *'I always enjoy attending the Anchor Boy Conference as not only do you pick up some new ideas and resources, but through the fellowship with other Anchor Boy Leaders, you gain even more new ideas! I especially enjoyed the session this year with DSNi. I was made more aware of their activities and learned new games and how to adapt old games to be more inclusive to all abilities.'* **Helen Farley, 1st Caledon Boys' Brigade**



Leaders' Resource Day at Newport

A Leaders' Resource Day was held at Newport in October. The day was well attended and commenced with a full cooked Ulster Fry breakfast for the representatives from each of the 13 NI Battalions.

The highlight of the day was a demonstration from The Gathering Drum where around 40 BB leaders took part in a fun workshop beating the drums. Thereafter, the Nevin Hall was open for a 'Market Place' mini exhibition space with stands from both BB and external organisations. Thirty-minute Snapshot Sessions were also run on the day with the first on 'How to use Drama to teach the Bible' led by Ross Jonas from Play it by Ear Drama company.

WHAT'S ON - N.IRELAND

30 JAN

Anchor Boy Fun & Games
(Entries Due 22 January)

06 FEB

Company Section Squad Drill
(Entries Due 26 January)

20 FEB

Fundraising Concert with Robin Mark
Millennium Forum, Londonderry

20 FEB

Junior Section Swimming Gala

05 MAR

BB & Young Minds Mental Health Conference
Belfast



For a full list of dates go to:
ni.boys-brigade.org.uk

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

Company Development: Age Group Check

As the Cheshire Cat said to Alice “If you don’t know where you’re going any road will get you there”. Or as another clever person said “a goal without a plan is just a wish”.

Planning for your Company development can feel like another thing to do in an already hectic schedule. But actually, if you turn it into a social event with the staff from each section getting together, it can be fun. Also, we know from what volunteers have told us that having a plan and achieving their goals is incredibly satisfying. Planning allows us to keep the bigger picture in view, and if done on an annual basis provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate successes as we look back, and be bold as we look forward.



There is a ready-made tool for you to use which is on the website and can be found here:

leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/pdfs/companydevelopmentscheme.pdf

Here’s an example taken from the Company Development Scheme handbook:

Goals for coming session	What do we want to achieve?	Who is the lead person for this goal?	By when should the goal be achieved?
1. Anchors	Recruit 6 more children	Joanne	By the end of October
2. Juniors	Visit to Christmas pantomime	Tom	By the end of December

Getting together as a Team

How about getting the staff together from each section, or all together if you’re a smaller Company and setting up a brainstorming session on what you want to achieve?

Including your Children/Young People

Remember to include your children/young people, either by consulting them on their ideas before you meet, or invite them along to part of the meeting. You could use a “cool wall” where ideas are written on post it notes and stuck on a wall ranging from “ice cool” at one end to “so uncool...” at the other. This should spark a lively debate – and you’ve demonstrated participation. Tick that box!

Article Continued →

Getting you going...

Here are a few tips or discussion starters to get you going:

ANCHORS SECTION

- What went well last session?
- What could be improved?
- How do we involve the children in planning and evaluating the activities (**Very Important!** The seeds of participation are sown here)
- What trips, visits, adventure activities could we plan?
- Do we need funds? How can we raise them? What is our target? How do we involve parents and carers?
- Are we using awards?
- What new programme activities can we include?
- Could we introduce more choice for the children?

COMPANY SECTION

- What went well last session?
- What could be improved?
- What will retain young people in this age range?
- How can we share the running of the Company with these young people?
- How do we build choice, autonomy and consultation into the programme?
- Could we organise an overseas trip?
- Could we start DofE awards?
- How do we raise funds to enable all young people can attend camps etc?

JUNIORS SECTION

- What went well last session?
- What could be improved?
- Do we need new leaders with skills to enthuse the children? Would some of the parents have skills they would share?
- How do we involve the children in planning and evaluating the activities (if they've come up through Anchors, how do we demonstrate to them that they can now be even more involved in choosing and evaluating?)
- How will we introduce overnight activities? Weekends away?
- Are we using "free play" as part of the programme?
- How do we provide more exciting/new activities through the programme?
- How do we involve Junior section children with recruitment? Can we do a "bring a friend" night?

SENIORS SECTION

- What went well last session?
- What could be improved?
- What will retain young people in this age range?
- Who wants to take on a position of responsibility/ leadership? Who could be encouraged and supported to do so?
- How can we challenge ourselves to hand over the decision-making to our Seniors? How do we support and enable them to develop their potential?
- How do we respond to their needs and wishes?
- Can we develop a strong peer support network...and begin to stand back!
- What regional/national/international opportunities are available? KGVI? Regional camps and events?
- Does the programme need to be challenging and awards-driven? Or a place to hang out and chill to get away from home or school stress? (Hint: ask them!)

At the end of your brainstorming session make sure you don't lose all that energy and creativity. Write your goals into a plan (Reminder: the Company Development Scheme handbook has a template all ready for you).

Remember! Keep your goals SMART

Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-framed

Good luck! Planning is the way to turn wishes into achievements.

Karen Jay

Director of Youth & Children's Work



Get in touch with Karen by email at
karen.jay@boys-brigade.org.uk



KEEPING IT ENCOURAGING AND MEMORABLE

Getting into the Bible

How do you go about getting into the Bible with your group? The Bible is packed full of fantastic stories that we can share with our children and young people, but the challenge is getting the story and its message across in an engaging and memorable way.

We will often find ourselves opening up the bible and just reading the story aloud. The message is still immensely powerful, but will we keep the children and young people engaged if we just do the same thing week in, week out?

It is often challenging to work with a large number of children, each with their own personality, background, learning style and attention span! Some are eager to learn but easily distracted; others are reluctant to be there or merely indifferent to the story. However, you want to help them get into the story for themselves and enter into its meaning. Most of all, you want to give them the space, time and tools to hear God speaking to them through the story.

In this article we share some ideas on how you can make Bible stories engaging and memorable...



What's in the Bag?

Gather together a number of items related to the Bible story, and put the items into separate bags, numbering the bags 1 to 5 (if you have 5 items). Starting with bag 1 ask for a volunteer to come up and see 'What's in the Bag'. They could just pull the item out, or if appropriate could try and guess what is inside by feeling the contents.

Pulling the item out of the bag, ask them to describe the item and what it is used for. Follow on by doing the same with each bag. Depending on the story and how you want to go about it, you could tell each part of the story as you pull out each item or pull out all items and see if the children can guess what the story is all about.

A couple of examples:



David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17) - a crown, a sheep (shepherd), sword/breastplate (armour), stone(s)



Feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14) - a boat, children's lunchbox, fish, bread, basket(s)



Storyboard It

If you are really artistic draw out the story you're sharing or have the children take turns helping you draw a picture to illustrate the story. You will need a flipchart, large whiteboard or some lining paper up on the wall. Identify the key parts of the story and in preparation divide up the space you have allocated for each part of the story.

As an example:



Creation (Genesis) - create 7 spaces, one for each day, and for 'Day 1' ask one or more children to depict the earth, space, time & light. And so on for each day.





Emotions

Most Bible stories can be presented as a series of emotions, how they felt, the mood the characters were in, etc. Pick out those key emotions and use them to tell the story. Ask the children to join in making the emotions come to life through facial expressions, sounds and movement.

For example emotions could include: Amazed, annoyed, curious, excited, happy, shocked, surprised, etc.



Animation & Videos

Download one of the great animated Bible stories which can be found on YouTube and across the web. A great website with hundreds of bible story animations is **max7.org**. Search for the video 'What is the Bible like? Sword, light, bread' and use it to get a discussion going with your group.



Ready for it!

Identify some key words from the Bible story, and before starting to tell the story, ask the children to help you devise either an action or a sound effect for each of the key words. Make sure that as you tell the story you repeat these words and keep the children involved throughout. Pause for a moment each time you use one of the words so that the children can do the action or sound effect.

As an example:



Jesus calms the storm – Ask the children for sound effects and actions for rain, wind and waves. As you tell the story and described what the rain, wind and waves were doing the children carry out the action/sound.

"It was a calm and quiet evening as Jesus and His good friends stepped onto the boat. There was not a rain (pause) cloud in the sky, not even a light wind (pause) was blowing and the waves (pause) lapped gently against the side of the boat. Then later on in the story: the rain (pause) was pouring down, the wind (pause) was strongly blowing the boat's sail backwards and forwards, and the waves (pause) were crashing over the side of the boat. Then at the end, Jesus stood up and told the wind (pause), and the rain (pause) and waves (pause) to be silent. And they were."



Character Role-Play

Gather clothing and props which could be used to re-create some of the characters in the Bible story. Ask for volunteers to use these items and follow your instructions in a bit of role-play.



Picture Wall

Go online and find images that depict key parts of your Bible story and put these up around your meeting space. Tell the story by asking the group to follow you around to each picture, tell the part of the story the picture represents, and then move on to the next one. You could also put them up randomly around your meeting space to keep the children on their toes and guessing as to which one comes next.



Getting into the Story

As you read through a Bible story, imagine what it would have been like to be there. What would you have heard? Seen? Perhaps tasted or smelled? Get creative and recreate those experiences for your group.

A couple of examples:



Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 2) – Create a box with a picture of a whale on the side and hole at the back of it, put some slimy noodles (or other appropriate item) inside and ask for volunteers to put our hands inside, to really get the idea of how disgusting it must have been for Jonah to be inside the whale.



Feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14) – Have some bread and fish to share out and taste (check for allergies when food is involved).



Modelling

Choose a Bible story and pick out some objects that can be sculpted using Playdoh or other modelling material. Read out the story and ask the children to have a go at modelling the objects, put each of the objects on display for all to see. Once all objects have been modelled, recap the story using the objects as the lead.



Let us know how you get on trying out some of the ideas, could you share a picture of your group on Facebook/Twitter? You can also get in touch via gazette@boys-brigade.org.uk

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BADAGUISH

Cairngorm Outdoor Centre AVIEMORE

WELCOME OFFER

NEW BIKE PARK
FREE 1/2 day ACTIVITY

For all new schools, youth and family groups
in 2016 (residents & members only)

ACCOMMODATION

4 Lodges (17 Beds) / 4 Lodges (10 Beds)

NEW WIGWAMS & CAMPSITE
(88 Beds)

Badaguish is a small local charity, specialising in providing equal opportunity access to the outdoors for youth and education groups and for people with a disability.

www.badaguish.org T: 01479 861285

A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Centre is located outside the village of Treales in a quiet location with easy access by rail or road, within easy reach of Theme Parks, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Lake District National Park.

The large car park is suitable for coaches and a large field is suitable for canvas camps.

For large groups **Centenary Hall** with its newly refurbished kitchen and disabled facilities can accommodate up to 44 people while for small groups **Stedfast Lodge** has beds for 16 people and disabled facilities.

A large **Sports Hall** with Table Tennis, Pool, Snooker, Tunnel system and Climbing wall* together with outdoor adventure area, archery* and orienteering combine to make your stay and active and fun filled one.

For more information or to check availability please contact the Wardens.

*Archery and Climbing Wall activities require a qualified instructor - Available if needed.



ACTIVITIES



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TRAINING AND ACTIVITY CENTRE
TREALES - LANCASHIRE**

FREE Wi-Fi



For a Brochure or to arrange a visit contact the Wardens on 01772 685000 • www.bb-northwest.org.uk



Flamingos and Lego Characters for Malawi



Members of 25th Stirling Company are currently raising money to take 17 young people to the Likhubula area of Malawi in order to repair and rebuild two primary schools in Psani and Nansoto. The project is in partnership with 'Classrooms for Malawi' who had previously linked with 3rd Kilsyth Company in the past.

Incredibly, a flock of flamingos and BB Lego characters have joined in their fundraising efforts! You can purchase the BB Lego characters or even arrange a visit from the flamingos.



If you would like to find out more about their exciting plans, check out the project website at

dunblanebb.org.uk/projectmalawi/

Easter Course 2016

Easter Course 2016 will take place in the capital of Transylvania, Cluj (Kolozsvar), in Romania from 20th to 27th March.

The event is all about meeting similar young leaders (18 to 25 years) who are also active in youth organisations across Europe. To learn new games, activities, explore the theme of the course, make new friends and explore spirituality and have a lot of fun whilst doing it!

There are a limited number of places available for UK & RoI participants and applications must be submitted no later than 15th February 2016. The cost to participants is €300 plus travel costs.



For more information contact Vaughan Staples at vaughan.staples@boys-brigade.org.uk.



International Opportunities

Could you take a group from your Company along to one of these international camps coming up in 2016/2017:



FDF National Camp

July 2016, Denmark



19th PAN Australian Camp

Early 2017, South East Queensland



Find out more at globalfellowship.net/international-opportunities/



Global Round-up

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



BERMUDA CAR WASH

Members of The Bermuda Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade worked together recently at their annual Christmas Car Wash at St. Paul's Church car park in Paget, donating their time in order to raise funds to put toward a charitable cause that helps children, with \$1,100 raised.



SINGAPORE SHARE A GIFT

BB members in Singapore worked hard in the lead up to Christmas to collect items and pack up boxes for their annual 'Share the Gift' appeal. The boxes were distributed to needy families across the country.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA KAYAKING ADVENTURE

Members of BB in South Australia had another great weekend kayaking on The River Murray at Nildottie.



CARIBBEAN MEMORIAL DAY PARADES

Members of The Boys' Brigade in the Caribbean were involved in Memorial Day Parades across the Regional Fellowship.



BAHAMAS NATIONAL YOUTH PARADE

The Boys' Brigade Bahamas along with The Girls' Brigade Bahamas took part in the Bahamas National Youth Parade 2015.



BB KENYA FOUNDER'S DAY

Members from The Boys' Brigade in Kenya took part in Founder's Day celebrations on 3rd October 2015 at Uhuru Park and PCEA St. Andrews



Tax on sugary food and drinks? #BBvoice

Are we sugar addicts? A recent report for Public Health England (PHE) points out that we are taking far too much sugar and it's leading to significant health problems. It has called for major changes to how food and drink is marketed and sold - even proposing a tax on the worst offending items.

Obesity is a serious problem which not only affects someone's quality of life, but also has strong links with chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes. These conditions are often life-shortening and cost health services billions each year. According to the most recent figures, one third of 10 to 11 year olds in England are overweight or obese. The figures are similar for other parts of the British Isles, with 16% of Scottish children, for instance, at risk of obesity.

Your recommended daily amount of energy you get from sugar is 5%, but the report points out that the average is even as high as 15%. This concerns experts who call for drastic action to ensure that children & young people can make better lifestyle choices.

The PHE report calls for a minimum price increase of 10-20% of high-sugar products, like full-sugar soft drinks and much more regulation to help define what counts as a high-sugar food. The findings have the support from figures like the famous chef, Jamie Oliver, as well as the Children's Food Campaign.

It's unclear whether governments would bring in any such

changes. Some organisations which speak on behalf of manufacturers, like the Food & Drink Federation, say that proposals, such as a 'sugar tax' go far too far and point out that there is already a lot of information provided to the consumer.

What do you think? Some BB young people gave their reactions...



Should there be much tougher regulation on food and drinks which have the most sugar?

 **Cameron, 19**

"The idea of a sugar tax is absurd. Yes currently the statistics are about 1/3 of kids leaving primary education are obese. That is due to the parents not monitoring the kid's intake of sugar and other food items, but also down to the lack of education to reduce kids eating sugar."

 **Sean, 16**

"Yes, there should tougher regulation on food and drinks which have the most sugar because it's getting ridiculous with how many obese people there are".

Should the government try to influence behaviour – similar to what happens with smoking and other unhealthy habits?

 **Sean, 16**

"Yes, the government should try to influence behaviour – to help people to make better choices."

 **Tom, 15**

"Higher percentage of tax should be charged on alcohol and higher tax on cigarettes. Target the real problems both of these cause obesity, so why target sugar?"

 **Andrew, 16**

"No, it's up to the customer."

How much do you think about the amount of sugar you take on a daily basis? How would you cope without regular sugary drinks?

 **Peter, 11**

"I take an average amount of sugar. I would survive without sugary drinks."

 **Sean, 16**

"I subconsciously eat quite a bit of sugar i.e. apples, tea, etc. so there would be a physical and mental challenge to myself if I was to eat less sugar – my body wouldn't be used to a lower amount of sugar in it!"

Discuss this with your group

Get a conversation going with your young people using the discussion starters above and see how they feel about sugary food and drinks, and particularly the proposed changes.



Share what your young people think, email us at: newsdesk@boys-brigade.org.uk



Continue the conversation on Twitter: [@BBgazette](https://twitter.com/BBgazette) using hashtag [#BBvoice](https://twitter.com/BBvoice)



See the full PHE report here <http://bit.ly/1PILSiN>

GET INVOLVED



YOUNGMINDS

The voice for young people's mental health and wellbeing

The voice for young people's mental health & wellbeing

In this issue we take a look at the work of YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

What is YoungMinds about?

Mental ill health is far more common than people realise, with nearly 1 million children and young people suffering with a diagnosable mental health disorder. Nearly 80,000 children and young people suffer from severe depression, 300,000 young people in Britain have an anxiety disorder and nearly 1 in 10 have self-harmed. With cuts to public services and lack of readily available help from other sources, support for this vulnerable section of society is becoming increasingly difficult to access.

That's where YoungMinds can help.



Making Young Voices Heard

Children and young people with mental health problems are at the heart of everything YoungMinds does. YoungMinds works with young people to help get their voices heard and help them to influence and inform change in mental health services, the NHS and in national and local policy.

YoungMinds Vs, their most recent youth engagement campaign, is building a mass movement of young people fighting the pressures that contribute to their poor mental health. This puts them at the heart of decision making about their own care, their services and mental health policy. After consulting with over 5,000 young people, YoungMinds were told the following five issues were those that mattered most to them: lack of access to help, sexual pressure, bullying, school stress, and unemployment. Over 50,000 people raised their voices in 2014/15 and joined YoungMinds in raising awareness and campaigning at a local and national level to improve young people's mental health.

Young people struggling with school stress can download our Vs School Stress at youngminds.org.uk/stress_pack. Our current campaign #CopingOnCampus is run by students for students dealing with the particularly stressful transition of leaving school and starting university.



Become a youth activist and help us campaign for change



www.youngmindsvs.org.uk



ymcampaigns@youngminds.org.uk



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twitter.com/youngmindsvs



Professional Training

We also provide training for professionals including schools and the youth workforce. Our courses occur throughout the year. In addition to this we produce publications aimed at both children and families on various mental health topics. Information on this can be found here: youngminds.org.uk/training_services.



Fundraising

As a charity, YoungMinds relies on the generosity of individuals and companies who support their vital work. Through one off donations, regular giving or fundraising for them, you can help to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in the UK.

£5

will provide information packs for schools about mental health.

£10

helps to develop vital online resources on issues such as self-harm and eating disorders and keep them up-to-date.

£30

will provide on the spot support to a distressed parent.

£50

will provide training for a group of young people so that their voices are heard in the media.



Helping Young People Online

The stigma associated with mental health and lack of readily available help means that the internet is where young people often turn for advice and support. The YoungMinds website is a vital resource of trusted information about mental health available to anyone, anywhere.

Launched by YoungMinds in 2014, headmeds.org.uk is a unique website that gives young people much needed straight talk on mental health medication. It includes information about potential side effects and when they should go and get help. It also answers difficult questions around the medication that they might feel uncomfortable asking their GP and real life stories provide reassurance during a time that is often confusing and frightening.



Helping Families

It's not just young people YoungMinds looks to engage with, it's also the adults that care for them too. Young people tell the charity that they need the adults responsible for their care to understand how they might be feeling, be able to spot problems as soon as they are at risk, and know how to help them when they are suffering.

Through the Parents' Helpline, YoungMinds offers free and confidential online and telephone support, including information and advice, to any adult worried about the emotional problems, behaviour or mental health of a child or young person up to the age of 25. In the last year alone the service has helped over 10,000 families in crisis, with 1 in 7 parents saying the helpline was a lifesaver. Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544

YoungMinds is a small organisation trying to make a big difference. Anything you can do will help them to continue their free and confidential Parents' Helpline, campaigning, projects with young people and work in schools.

Whatever you would like to do, YoungMinds will be there to support you every step of the way. All you need to do is get in contact by emailing fundraising@youngminds.org.uk or calling on **0207 089 5050**.



Mental Health Conferences

During 2016 The Boys' Brigade is working with YoungMinds to put on a series of Regional Conferences to raise awareness of mental health issues and how we can help young people who are suffering or vulnerable. Find out more about the Conferences including booking forms at boys-brigade.org.uk/mentalhealth/




DIRECTORY

APPROVED CAMPSITES

The following sites have been officially approved, having met Guidelines laid down by the Brigade, and local Fire and Public Health Authorities.

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.




Contact:

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

Norfolk / Felden Lodge Campsites




2017/2018 BB canvas campsites (operated by 10th Enfield) fully equipped for up to 70 (smaller camps welcome) in West Runton (North Norfolk) and at BBUK HQ (Hertfordshire).

Contact:

 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.

Contact:

 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.

Contact:

 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@vectisouthcamps.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.

Contact:

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




Coopers Mead Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight. Traditional camping at its very best and at a reasonable cost! Weeks available for 2016, 2017 and beyond.

Contact:

 Ted Walliss 01737 352732
 edwardwalliss@btinternet.com




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.

Contact:

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

Popular BB approved campsite at **Freshwater, Isle Of Wight.** Fully equipped for 60 (approx), canvas tents/marquee, purpose built toilet block, cookhouse. Minimum charge 20 campers. Close to safe sandy beaches and leisure centre. Enquiries contact John Osborn.



Contact:

 07796 177795
 freshwatercamping@gmail.com
 www.freshwatertrust.com

Corfe Castle 2016 (1st Yeovil BB).

Fully equipped for 70 persons. White canvass ridge/marquee. Dates available in August.




Contact:

 Graham Voizey 01935422292
 graham.voizey@btinternet.com

Bromley Battalion Campsite, Whitecliff Bay, IOW

Large & small marquees, traditional ridge tents. Purpose built Cookhouse/QM; Shower & Toilet block (M/F) Mains Gas & Electricity. At competitive prices, catering for 40 to 120.




Contact:

 Keith Francis on 01474 705485
 bromley_campsite@outlook.com
 www.bbcampsite.co.uk

CAMPING/HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES


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).

Contact:

Wardens, The Boys' Brigade, Carr Lane, Treales, Kirkham PR4 3SS
 01772 685000
 office@bb-northwest.org.uk
 www.bb-northwest.org.uk

Rock Uk Adventure Centres. Bring your Company/Battalion to one of our spacious adventure centres. Carrot Wood in Kent, Frontier Centre in Northants, Summit Centre in South Wales and Whithaugh Park in the Scottish Borders.

Contact:

 0844 8000 222
 sales.info@rockuk.org
 www.rockuk.org

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.

Contact:

☎ 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

Contact Mark Boswell:

☎ 07760111615 or 07930177764
 🌐 www.site9017162.90.webydo.com

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.

Contact:

☎ 01978 761105
 @ admin@caergwrlebb.org.uk
 🌐 www.caergwrlebb.org.uk

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.

Contact:

@ bookings@prestatyncampsite.co.uk
 🌐 www.prestatyncampsite.co.uk

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.

Contact:

☎ Karen Edmondson on 01479 818005
 @ marketing@abernethy.org.uk
 🌐 www.abernethy.org.uk

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

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.

Contact:

☎ 01341 241718
 @ office@cmcpensarn.org.uk
 🌐 www.cmcpensarn.org.uk

Stoke Gabriel Camp 2016/2017.

All white canvas camp set in secluded
 private site close to Paignton, Brixham and
 Torquay. Modern porta loos on site with
 shower facilities on adjacent site. Cook tent
 and large marquee.

Contact:

☎ Clive Gordon 07718761150
 @ cliveg04@yahoo.co.uk

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE
NORTH WEST DISTRICT****RESIDENTIAL WARDEN**

Due to the forthcoming retirement
 of the present Warden, the Trustees
 seek a Warden for the District Training
 & Activity Centre at Treales, Kirkham,
 PR4 3SS.

For a recruitment pack please contact:
 The District Secretary, 12 Sandfield
 Road, Eccleston, St Helens, WA10 5LS
 Email: bill.clarey@talktalk.net
 Closing date: 14th March 2016

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 2016) should be
 received by 10th February 2016.

BEAUDESERT PARK

www.beaudesert.org



**Set in 124 acres of parkland,
 adjoining Cannock Chase
 Country Park, Staffordshire.**

- 7 fully equipped accommodation buildings suitable for 2 - 24 people
- Camping for 1500 people on 40 sites in woodland and open parkland
- Modern, well maintained toilet facilities with free hot showers
- A range of instructed and self-led activities available including the new activities - Via Ferrata, Monkey Trees, Metal Detecting, Traverse Wall, Indoor & Outdoor, Rifle Ranges, Double Crate Stacking and Audio Trail



Check availability and book online at
www.beaudesert.org - Email: **info@beaudesert.org**
 Tel: 01543 682278 - Fax: 01543 682623

RECRUITMENT BADGES

BRONZE – 02 270 1

SILVER – 02 271 1

GOLD – 02 272 1

To be awarded to those who recruit new members into the Company. Suitable for use across all sections. The Bronze, Silver and Gold badges are awarded to those recruiting 1, 3 or 5 members respectively.

£1.25



2016 POCKET DIARY

Product: 31 594 1



NOW
£2.00

A pocket diary with week to view for 2016 calendar year.

OPUS VASE

Product: 11 994 1



£40

We have teamed up with Dartington Crystal to create this vase, sandblasted with The Boys' Brigade logo.

NCV YOUTH BIBLE

Product: 35 355 0



£18

Ideal presentation bible for Company Section and Seniors. Presentation page inside. Hardback edition with BB Logo.

BLANK GREETING CARDS

Product: 31 526 1



£6.50

Pack of 10 cards featuring a range of BB images and the BB 'adventure begins here' logo complete with envelopes.

BENDY DUDE PEN

Product: 11 703 1



£2.30

A bendy blue barrel with maneuverable arms (black ink) featuring BB 'adventure begins here' logo.

LARGE CUP

Product: 03 559 1



£7.00

A large cup (130mm) ideal for Displays & Awards nights.

SHOP.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK



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



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



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