

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/2017



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



**FAITH IN YOUNG PEOPLE**

## FAITH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

The Boys' Brigade is still one of the largest Christian uniformed youth organisations in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Although we were founded in 1883 we believe we are still as relevant as ever and continue to be a force for good across the land. Over the year we have continued to try and make the BB Bigger and Better and have achieved many outcomes in our development plan which has a focus on **Growth, Quality and Voice**.

The Brigade is still fully committed to our Object of advancing Christ's Kingdom. We offer programmes of informal education which allow young people to learn life skills and have fun at the same time. We are pleased to work with many different church denominations and this allows thousands of young people to access BB programmes on a weekly basis.

In 2017 we are marking the centenary of the Junior Section, celebrating 100 years since we first started working with young people under 12 years of age. Society has changed considerably during that time but our young members still enjoy the same BB fellowship and the opportunity to have fun with their friends.

This review can only give a brief overview of all our work. Each week our members take part in many different activities. We are justly proud of all that is done in the name of the Brigade but also realise that we still have much to do to ensure we continue to offer quality programmes in the future.



# GROWTH

We have continued to explore ways to start new work and to grow existing Companies to provide every child or young person with the opportunity to join the BB regardless of where they live.



**FACT #1**

**1,344**  
churches across UK & ROI

Throughout the Brigade our team of Development Workers have not only supported the work of existing groups but have also helped to start new Companies. This work has involved engaging with churches, supporting programmes, identifying and training new leaders and recruiting new members.

**FACT #2**

**8**  
new churches have chosen BB as their partner in outreach and mission with children & young people in the local community



As part of the **Juniors 100** celebrations we have challenged Companies to focus on recruiting and growing membership in this age group in 2017. Through the **Juniors 100 Challenge** and the **BIG 100 Birthday Party** Companies have been encouraged to get out into their community and try out new activities, helping to highlight and raise awareness of the opportunities The Boys' Brigade offers to children and young people.

**FACT #3**

**12,367**  
adult volunteers

Key to growth is the recruitment and retention of adult volunteers and this year 1141 new volunteers have joined the BB.

## ONE FOR ALL

Across the organisation we have continued to drive growth through our **One for All** campaign which encourages all age groups to increase membership by at least one new member. The campaign provides a range of resources to support recruitment, including a new video aimed at Parents and Carers.

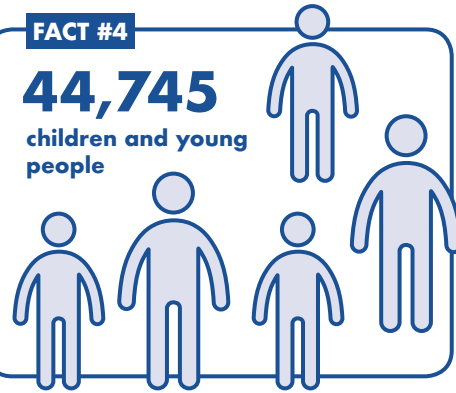


# QUALITY

We want all of our members to have the best possible experience; to have fun, to achieve, and to be able to participate fully in their Companies and the wider Brigade.

FACT #4

**44,745**  
children and young people



For most young people, the highlight of the BB year is a **camp or residential event**. Although styles of camping have changed over the years, young people still enjoy the opportunity to be away from home with friends and the chance to try out new activities. Trips abroad have increased in popularity and this year BB groups have visited Austria, Denmark, France and Switzerland, along with other destinations.

The Brigade has setup a **Christian Faith Group** to provide encouragement and resources to help support young people on their faith journey. The group consists of clergy and leaders from across the Brigade, representing different denominations and regions. A survey has been carried out amongst Companies with a good response from Leaders and Chaplains, which will help to identify how this is best achieved.

Each year, **KGVI** takes place over two separate weeks in consecutive years, providing a youth



leader training experience for young leaders aged 16 to 21 years. The residential experience provides an opportunity to complete the Brigade's Youth Leader Training alongside extended opportunities for participants to explore their faith, grow in confidence, learn new skills, share experiences, and make new friends. This year more than 50 young leaders embarked on the first year of the course across England & Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The launch of our new membership system **Online Brigade Manager (OBM)**, has been very successful with Companies making use of functionality to help streamline administration. The ability to manage attendance, badge records, events, plan quality programmes, and effectively communicate with parents is helping to further improve the quality of our work with children and young people.

# VOICE

Putting our "Faith in Young People" strapline into practice, ensuring that our members' voices are heard both inside and outside of the organisation.

In 2017 the Brigade setup an **All Party Parliamentary Group** to help promote and support our work. As well as working to establish our profile at Westminster, we have been active in all regions with events and opportunities at the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, and Northern Ireland Assembly.

Our members have been engaged in a **campaign** to raise awareness of concerns on **male body image**, based on recent research indicating that over half of young males struggle to discuss this issue. Resources to support young people have been produced and the Brigade has been successful in getting this issue and other issues of importance to young people into the media spotlight.



We were delighted that the **2016 Make a Difference Award** winners were presented with their awards by BBC Radio 2 presenter, Chris Evans at a presentation at Broadcasting House in London. The annual award is presented to young people who have shown commitment or done something extraordinary in making a difference to the lives of those around them. The young people were

interviewed live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show and also had the opportunity to meet fellow Radio 2 presenter, Ken Bruce, a former BB member in Glasgow where he grew up.

FACT #5

**883**  
Queen's Badges awarded



During 2016 we helped to mark the 60th Anniversary of the **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** with 757 awards being gained by members during the session. Collectively young people within the Brigade have contributed more than 100,000 hours of volunteering in the BB, Church and the wider community.



For the first time in many years the Brigade was represented at the **British Youth Council** Annual Council Meeting in Coventry.



## 01 JUNIORS 100 CELEBRATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Over 550 boys along with 150 Leaders, enjoyed a fun filled activity day as part of the Juniors 100 celebrations. The 'Birthday Extravaganza' took place at Ganaway Activity Centre with the young people taking part in up to 8 different zones which included challenges such as caving, climbing wall, high ropes, zip line, low ropes and archery.



01

## 02 CUMBRAE CAMP ADVENTURE

120 Company Section members and leaders from 12 Companies took over the Isle of Cumbrae in Scotland at the end of May. Young people got the chance to try a whole host of activities, including cycling, football, volleyball, water sports – and even sandcastle building! The main aim of the residential was to give BB young people who wouldn't normally get to participate in a canvas camp the opportunity to do so.



02

## 03 SOCIAL ACTION AWARDS AT PALACE

Members of 1st Battersea Company were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive a Social Action Award to recognise the work they have been doing in their local community. Two members were honoured to meet and chat with HRH Prince of Wales and a fantastic day was had by all. The Company was nominated for the award based on links it established with a local care home. The young people have been visiting the home and taking time to chat with the residents, helping to serve lunch, as well as helping them with activities including music and gardening.



02

## 04 NATIONAL COMPS

Every year hundreds of Companies take part in the Brigade's National Competitions including Football, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess and Masterteam (a quiz). Well done to this year's winners:

- Football (Senior) – 15th South Shields
- Football (Junior) – 1st Kilkeel
- Chess – 1st Bearsden
- Table Tennis – 4th North West Durham
- Masterteam – 1st Bearsden
- Badminton – 65th Edinburgh



03

# A YEAR IN PICTURES



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## 05 400 AT GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

400 Junior Section members and 100 leaders from across Scotland spent the night in one of Glasgow's most famous attractions back in November. They spent the night at Glasgow Science Centre, experiencing the live science shows, learning to build their own rockets, creating clay fossils and exploring the stars in the centre's very own state-of-the-art planetarium.

## 06 UNITE

In June, over 200 young people and leaders from across England came together at Felden Lodge for Unite. The weekend was a great opportunity for the young people to explore their faith and enjoy a range of activities together.

## 07 £10,000 RAISED FOR BB IN KENYA

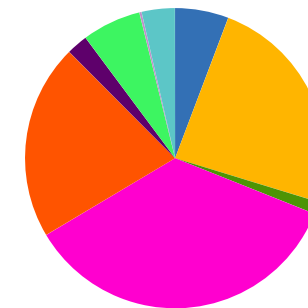
In 2016/17 BB members have raised over £10,000 to support the work of the BB/GB in Kenya. Two young leaders were able to visit Kenya in August and see the results of the fundraising. Many BB groups have established links with overseas BB groups and have raised additional funds in support of this.

## 08 'InCREDible' Partnership

A special gathering took place at the end of June at The Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office to celebrate the 'InCREDible' partnership, a project to bring together the six main youth organisations in Northern Ireland on community relations, equality and diversity. Members of the 1st Cullnady took part in the project and were invited to the celebration to represent The Boys' Brigade. The partnership includes Scouting Ireland, The Boys' Brigade, Catholic Guides of Ireland, The Girls' Brigade, Girlguiding Ulster and The Scout Association.

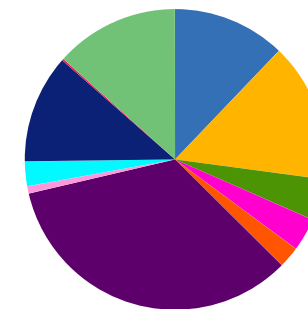
## INCOME 2016-2017

Donations and Legacies	5.7%
Training Centre Income	24%
Investment Income	1.3%
Annual Capitation	35.4%
Supply Sales	21.1%
Unrestricted Grants Received	2.3%
Restricted Grants Received	6.4%
Unite Christian Festival	0.2%
Net Gains on Investments	3.6%



## EXPENDITURE 2016-2017

Cost of Raising Funds	12.1%
Training Centres (non-Brigade use)	15%
Training Centres (Brigade use)	4.5%
Unrestricted Grants Payable	3.5%
Restricted Grants Payable	2.3%
Unrestricted Management & Delivery of Activities	33.9%
Actuarial Losses on Defined Benefit Scheme	0.8%
Supplies Administration	2.7%
Supplies Cost of Sales	11.7%
Investment Management Fees	0.2%
Restricted Management & Delivery of Activities	13.3%



## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

**Patron:** H.M. The Queen

**Vice Patron:** The Archbishop of Canterbury

**President:** The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

**Brigade Secretary/CEO:** Mr Bill Stevenson

## OUR OBJECT

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.

## MOTTO

**Sure & Steadfast** – Hebrews 6:19

## HEADQUARTERS

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## REGISTERED COMPANY / CHARITY

The Boys' Brigade is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales number 145122.

A registered charity in England and Wales (305969) and Scotland (SC0038016)

## DESIGN

CPO – [www.cpo.org.uk](http://www.cpo.org.uk)



## Can you help us?



### Practically

Many of our Companies need more volunteer leaders and there are groups that have to operate waiting lists. With the support of more adults, the BB experience could be offered to more children and young people. Could you help us by sharing some of your time to support a local Company? Full support and training is given to all of our volunteers. Please contact us for details of a local group.



### Prayerfully

Each week thousands of young people come into the church environment through the activities of The Boys' Brigade. Many have no other connection with the church. The support of prayer for leaders and members is vital in our ongoing commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom. There are also details of specific projects that you may wish to pray for on our website.



### Financially

The Boys' Brigade is mainly dependent on raising finances through its membership. We do not feel that we can ask more of those that give so freely of their time week by week. With greater financial resources, the Brigade could offer more support to its Companies and expand its work to attract more young people into the life of the church. Can you help by means of a single donation or through a regular financial giving? For details of our "Friends" scheme, please contact us.

[WWW.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK)