

ONE BIG MESSAGE OF HOPE

Annual Report 21/22

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here
Northern Ireland District



There are moments when time stands still. People recall exactly where they were and what they were doing when historic events happened. I'll never forget being in Newport, preparing to chair a District Executive meeting last September, when my mobile rang. My sister Ruth, aged 55, had taken ill. Before I reached home, she had gone to be with Jesus. We grieved but not as those who are without hope.

Ruth was deaf but heard things others can't hear – the longing of every heart to feel your life matters. She never forgot a birthday. Ruth was blind but saw things others can't see – the potential that exists in every situation. She conquered every challenge in school, in work and in social situations. Ruth was without speech (she communicated using sign language) but her life spoke loudly and clearly about the hope she had in Jesus.

Throughout this 21/22 session, when we have been considering our future direction, Ruth's legacy has motivated me to genuinely listen to every opinion, to see the potential that exists in The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland and to put Jesus first. Our 'One Big Message of Hope' mission was the highlight by far and it is my hope that we will allow God to guide every step that lies ahead.



**'There are moments
when time
stands still'**

David Blevins
NI District President

MISSION²
THE BOYS' BRIGADE
Northern Ireland District

KLASS KIDS & 1 WAY YOUTH



BIG NIGHT IN!

'One Big Message of Hope'



Big Prize
Giveaways!

53%
of
Companies

5,055 under 11s // 2,566 over 11s

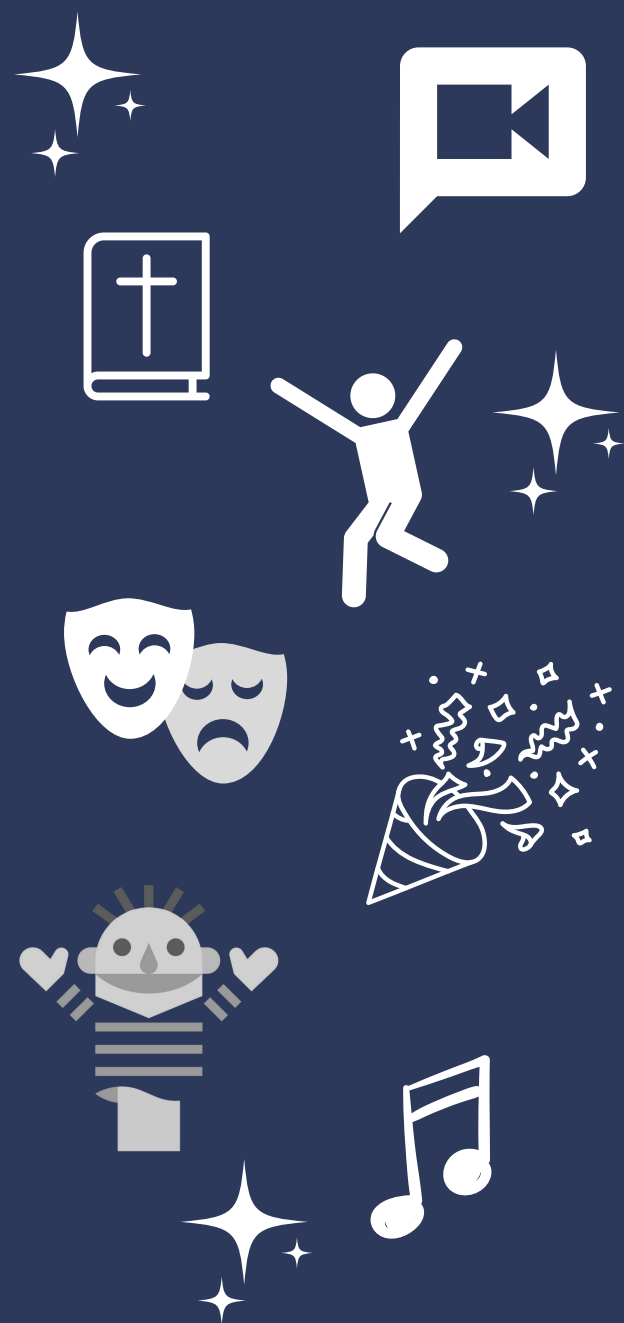


Over 7,500 children and young people heard One Big Message of Hope!



Please pray for these children and young people. Having been postponed twice due to Covid, plans were made for Mission 22 - eight live events in various locations in NI on four consecutive Saturdays in February 2022. Due to a rise in Covid cases in early Jan 22 plans were changed and Mission 22 became a 'Big Night In' that companies ran in their own hall.

Partnering with Crown Jesus Ministries, we produced two lively interactive videos; one for under 11s called Klass Kids and one for over 11s called One Way Youth. Each video came with guidance and suggestions to help BB leaders provide an engaging and fun experience for children and young people in BB in their own venue. With God's help, Mission 22 reached more children and young people than we had first imagined.



‘We had an incredible response last night at Company Section. Video was brilliant. Incredible number of boys made a commitment. Following up in weeks to come.’

Jonny Moxen, 1st Ballyclare

We've spent a lot of the last year waiting. Waiting for restrictions to ease. Waiting for the opportunity to meet face to face. Waiting for when we can finally ditch the face mask. We've felt weary, fed up with constantly changing plans, wondering what 'normal' will actually look like.

As I reflect on the past year, Isaiah 40 verse 31 comes to mind:

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

For me, the highlight of the past year was the week of prayer in January. To join with others, to share God's word and to hear leader after leader ask God to change lives in BB was such an uplifting experience.

As we waited on the Lord, as we once again changed our plans for the Mission, God added a mighty blessing.

Our 'Big Night In' was delivered in church halls throughout Northern Ireland to over 7,000 children and young people, much more that we would have reached at the 8 larger events. Praise God for His faithfulness.

I've really enjoyed my first full year as Director. I've had the opportunity to chat to many amazing volunteers, to see pictures and videos of fantastic work in the Companies and to lead a skilled and committed staff team. Whatever role you play in this wonderful organisation, it is a privilege to serve alongside you. Thank you for everything that you do to share Jesus with children and young people through Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland.



'But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.'

Isaiah 40:31

Lisa Keys
Director for BBNI

FUNDING NEWS



Education Authority

We would like to thank the Education Authority for once again providing funding to the Boys' Brigade NI District. This funding contributes to the operation of our headquarters at Newport and enables us to deliver practical support to leaders.

Some new initiatives were introduced in 21/22 which included:

- Programme sessions for 28 Companies with Made for More, Salt Factory Sports and Crown Jesus Ministries
- Successful Heath Check Pilot
- Books and resources to supplement Youth Leader Training
- Made for a Purpose – young leaders event

Thanks to our colleagues in EA for their support throughout the year and their interest in the work of The Boys' Brigade.

FUNDING NEWS



Delivered by
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND

Dormant Accounts Fund NI supports the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Northern Ireland to be more resilient and prepared for the future by funding activity that increases capacity and sustainability. The programme supports organisations to adapt to future challenges and be more financially resilient.

The funding distributed through Dormant Accounts Fund NI is not generated through National Lottery activity. Dormant accounts are UK bank and building society accounts that have been untouched for 15 or more years, and where banks and building societies are unable to trace the customer who owns the account.

Dormant Accounts Fund

A successful funding award from the Dormant Accounts Fund allows us to increase our digital capabilities in this coming year.

We're investing in IT to equip Newport for live streaming and podcasting, in addition to the employment of a part-time multi-media assistant.

The funding enables us to build on our very successful 'Open to More' YLT for young leaders in 2021 and a similar training weekend, 'Step Up', took place recently. We've established a new young leaders forum to build community and encouragement among our younger leaders.

The final part of the funding will provide training and development for our new trustee body and our staff team.

Promoting BB

Customised Social Media Graphics were supplied on request to Companies

BB IS BACK! at 1st Muckamore



Come along on Thursdays

→ Anchors from 6.30pm | Juniors from 6.30pm ←
Company Section from 8pm

Advancing Christ's Kingdom



BB IS BACK! At 2nd Carrickfergus



Come along on Wednesdays

Anchors from 6.30pm
Juniors, Company & Seniors from 7.30pm

Advancing Christ's Kingdom



Promoting BB

Customised Company flyers were supplied on request

**1st Castledawson BB**
Northern Ireland District

Bring a Friend to BB **INVITE**
Mon 31st Jan and Mon 7th Feb
Castledawson Presbyterian Church Hall

For all Primary School age boys
ANCHORS
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**6.45 to 7.45**
FUN & GAMES
BIBLE STORIES
CHALLENGES
PRIZES!
Advancing Christ's Kingdom

**1st Castledawson BB**
Northern Ireland District

Bring a Friend to BB **INVITE**
Mon 31st Jan and Mon 7th Feb
Castledawson Presbyterian Church Hall

▶ ULTRA VIOLET SPORTS
▶ NERF ATTACK
▶ CHALLENGES
▶ PRIZES
8.00 to 9.30

▶ For all Secondary School age boys
Advancing Christ's Kingdom

**1st Castledawson BB**
Northern Ireland District

Castledawson Presbyterian Church Hall

▶ Thanks for Coming Along!
We hope you enjoyed your evening with us. We are really looking forward to seeing you back!
Please join us for the remainder of our 21/22 session ...
▶ Mon 21 Feb - Mon 28 Mar

Information For Parents
Available here:
www.bbni.org.uk
Contact 07816 752140

COME ALONG!

▶ Anchors and Juniors: 6.45 - 7.45pm
▶ Company Section: 8 - 9.30pm
Advancing Christ's Kingdom



>THE

ADVENTURE

BEGINS HERE!

ANCHORS

P1- P4

JUNIORS

P5 - P7

COMPANY & SENIORS

11 - 18 yrs

JOIN US!

'ONE BIG MESSAGE OF HOPE'






GET ACTIVE

GET ADVENTUROUS

GET INTO THE BIBLE

GET CREATIVE

GET INVOLVED

GET LEARNING

Find a Company Near You...

Lurgan & District Battalion:

1st Lurgan at Hill Street Presbyterian Church

Tuesdays. Contact Andrea Jennett: 07917 162443

2nd Lurgan at High Street Methodist Church

Thursdays. Contact George Bibb: 07710 588585

3rd Lurgan at High Street Presbyterian Church

Wednesdays. Contact Glyn Williamson: 07876 477277

1st Moira at Moira Presbyterian Church

Mondays. Contact Ian Kirk: 07849 341895

1st Bluestone at Bluestone Methodist Church.

Mondays (over 11s) Tuesdays (under 11s),

Contact George McMurray: 07719 700403

1st Maralin at Magheralin Church of Ireland,

Thursdays. Contact Harry Lockhart: 07753 851832

1st Waringstown at Waringstown Presbyterian Church and

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland.

Tuesdays. Contact Jack Patterson: 07546 549526

1st Donaghcloney at Donaghcloney Presbyterian Church.

Mondays. Contact Richard Flemming: 07407 832402

1st Maghaberry at Church on the Hill Maghaberry.

Thursdays. Contact Rodney Latimer: Mobile 07793 117373

For information on companies in the Portadown area please

email portadown@boys-brigade.org.uk

Come along

you will be

very welcome

at any of our

BB Companies

The Boys' Brigade,

Northern Ireland District Headquarters, Newport,




117 Culcavy Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6HH

028 9268 8444 | nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

www.bbni.org.uk | Charity No: NIC100013

Connect with us on our

social media channels!



>THE

ADVENTURE

BEGINS HERE!

ANCHORS

P1- P4

JUNIORS




P5 - P7

COMPANY & SENIORS

11 - 18 yrs

JOIN US in 1st MOUNTJOY BB

'One Big Message of Hope'

GET ACTIVE

GET ADVENTUROUS

GET INTO THE BIBLE

GET CREATIVE

GET INVOLVED

GET LEARNING

1st Mountjoy BB

meets on Thursdays:

→

1st Ardstraw

1st Castlederg

2nd Castlederg

1st Fintona

1st Irvinestown

1st Omagh

Contact

Paul Colhoun

07715 326021

for more info

Other Companies in the area

meeting on various

nights include:

Did you know there are over 260 BB

Companies in Northern Ireland?

If you are not from the Omagh area

contact our HQ on

T: 028 9268 8444 or

e mail: nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

to find a BB Company near you

We want to enable young people in BB to... be resilient & confident,

make healthy choices, experience new challenges, learn new skills,

be listened to and have a say, get involved in their community, be

respected and valued, have fun and have the opportunity to

develop a personal Christian faith.

The Boys' Brigade,

Northern Ireland District Headquarters

Newport, 117 Culcavy Road,

Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6HH


028 9268 8444 | nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

www.bbni.org.uk | Charity No: NIC100013

Follow us on our

social media channels!





Promoting BB

Customised Battalion/Company
flyers were supplied for use at
Community Events

EXTENDED PROGRAMME SUPPORT



Thanks to funding from EA we were able to partner with Made for More, Salt Factory Sports and Crown Jesus Ministries to provide free programme sessions on Mental Health, Sports Ministry and Drama. A total of 28 Companies benefited from this initiative.

Watch out for further offers like this in the 22/23 session



Investing in Young Leaders

YLT for Young Leaders ran Aug 2021



21

new BB Leaders aged
17 - 25 were trained.



Investing in Young Leaders

Made for a Purpose



20 came along to Made for a Purpose Young Leaders' event on Fri 3 Dec 2021, with Made for More exploring spiritual and mental health.



INCLUDING EVERYONE

Education Minister Michelle McIlveen visited NIHQ on Wed 21 July 2021 and presented the Autism Impact Award to The Boys' Brigade NI District. The award recognised volunteer and staff training, a 'best practice' Autism Toolbox for BB Leaders, an Additional Needs App and Booklet, Autism Awareness Training and other initiatives in place within the organisation.

The BB was the first uniformed youth organisation in Northern Ireland to receive the award. During the visit our President David Blevins and Director Lisa Keys took the opportunity to update the Minister on all the work going on in BB in Northern Ireland.



Investing in Leaders

New Leader Development Community Established



22 BB Volunteers
and staff completed
Train the Trainer





THE BOYS' BRIGADE
NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT



11 Gold Awards
48 Silver Awards
51 Bronze Awards



DofE with a Difference
During continuing Covid
restrictions in 2021





Completed in 21/22



**15 Leader
Courses**



**372 Leaders
Trained**

**11 Gold
DofE**



**11
Young People
Courses**



578 Trained

**48 Silver
DofE**

**445 President's
Badges**

**168 Queen's
Badges**

**51 Bronze
DofE**



Completed in 21/22



Open to More

Youth Leader training
for young leaders.



**# Training
Sessions**



**Conversations
Around
Sessions**

**Autism Toolbox
and Award**

**Fortnightly
E News
4 Newsletters**

**Active Social
Media**  

**Prayer
Initiatives**

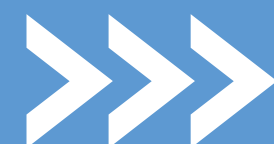
**Made for a
Purpose**

Mission 22

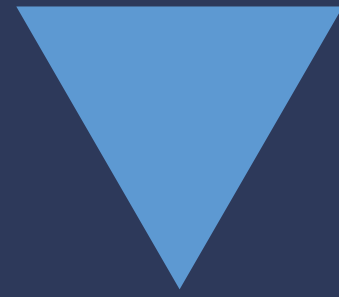
**Queen's
Badge**

**Leader
Development
Group**

**President's
Badge**



Competitions for all sections



Junior Section Conference



Thanks to those who took part and led sessions:

Shelley Spiers, Guest Speaker, Sharon Mackey 43rd Belfast and Chair, JS Panel; Jonathan Murdock 1st Raffrey and JS Panel member; David Doggart, 42nd Belfast, David Penney, NID Engagement Officer & Training Lead

The Junior Section Conference was held on Saturday 16 October 2021 on Zoom, with 38 Leaders taking part from 11 Battalions.

There were four main sessions running from 10.15 am - 3.15pm with refreshment breaks too! Content included quizzes, puzzles and activities; discussion time; crafts for all; ideas for worship; games and programme updates.

In advance of the Conference those attending received a Resource Box with all the equipment, resources and activity sheets needed during the day; as well as treats for the coffee breaks!



Congratulations!



Get Creative



Junior Section Creative Competition

Winner

Lewis Smith
1st Faughanvale

Runner Up

Thomas Irvine
1st Loughbrickland

3rd Place

Gavin Smith
43rd Belfast

4th Place

Robbie Cowan
1st Loughbrickland

Highly Commended

Henry Killen
1st Faughanvale
Lewis Creswell
6th Londonderry
Ruben Buckley
77th Belfast



One Big Message of Hope





CONGRATULATIONS!

Anchor Boy Colouring Competition Results

ANCHORS

P1

1st: Eli, 1st Loughaghery
2nd: Jacob, 1st Kilbride
3rd: Seth, 1st Lurgan

P2

1st: Alfie, 4th Ballymoney
2nd: Harry, 1st Lurgan
3rd: Ian, 1st Killead

P3

1st: Jack, 2nd Antrim
2nd: Josh, 1st Faughanvale
3rd: William-John, 1st Culnady

P4

1st: Sam, 1st Culnady
2nd: Sam, 1st Castlecaulfield
3rd: Harry, 1st Mountjoy





Engagement Work

Help and advice was given on a wide range of areas to assist Leaders, Companies and Churches in 21/22



Getting Back to BB

Leader Registration

EA Funding

Insurance

Training

Programme

Promotion

DofE

Outings

Queen's Badge

President's Badge

Health Checks

Our Engagement Team is available to help you via phone, in person or via zoom.



Congratulations! 2022 Music Competition Winners

ANCHORS

Winner,
1st Greenisland
Runner-Up,
16th Newtownabbey
3rd Place,
10th Bangor

JUNIORS

Winner, Jamie
2nd Antrim
Runner-Up, Ilya
1st Donacloney
3rd Place, Reuben
2nd Comber

COMPANY SECTION

Winner, Jan Isaac
1st Donacloney
Runner-Up, Ben
1st Greenisland
3rd Place, Matthew
7th Newtownabbey
Highly Commended: James, 1st Bangor,
Lucas, 2nd Antrim, Oliver, 1st Bangor



Get Creative

21/22 Conversations Around Series on Zoom

A Covid lockdown initiative that continued with...

- ▶ Programme for Anchors
- ▶ Programme for Company and Seniors
- ▶ How to run Mission 22, Big Night In
- ▶ Battalion Office Bearer Conversations
- ▶ Back to BB: Using the Autism Toolbox
- ▶ Chaplains' Conversations



MISSION²₂

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Northern Ireland District

Monthly Prayer times were held on Zoom for Mission 22 'Big Night In' along with a week of prayer in Jan 22

'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
a hope both sure and steadfast'

Hebrews 6:19



CHAPLAINS' BREAKFAST

Engaging with our Churches

- ▶ 18 May: Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim
- ▶ 25 May: Exodus Coleraine
- ▶ 26 May: Orangefield PC Belfast
- ▶ 07 June: Newport
- ▶ 09 June: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
- ▶ 30 June: Zoom

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
> the adventure begins here
Northern Ireland District



Supporting Hope 365

Company and Seniors Charity Partner



Get Involved



Donations: £1476.50 | Clothes collection to value of £725

ANCHORS

**Project
2020/2021**

**THANK
YOU!**



Supporting Habitat for Humanity

Anchors Charity Partner

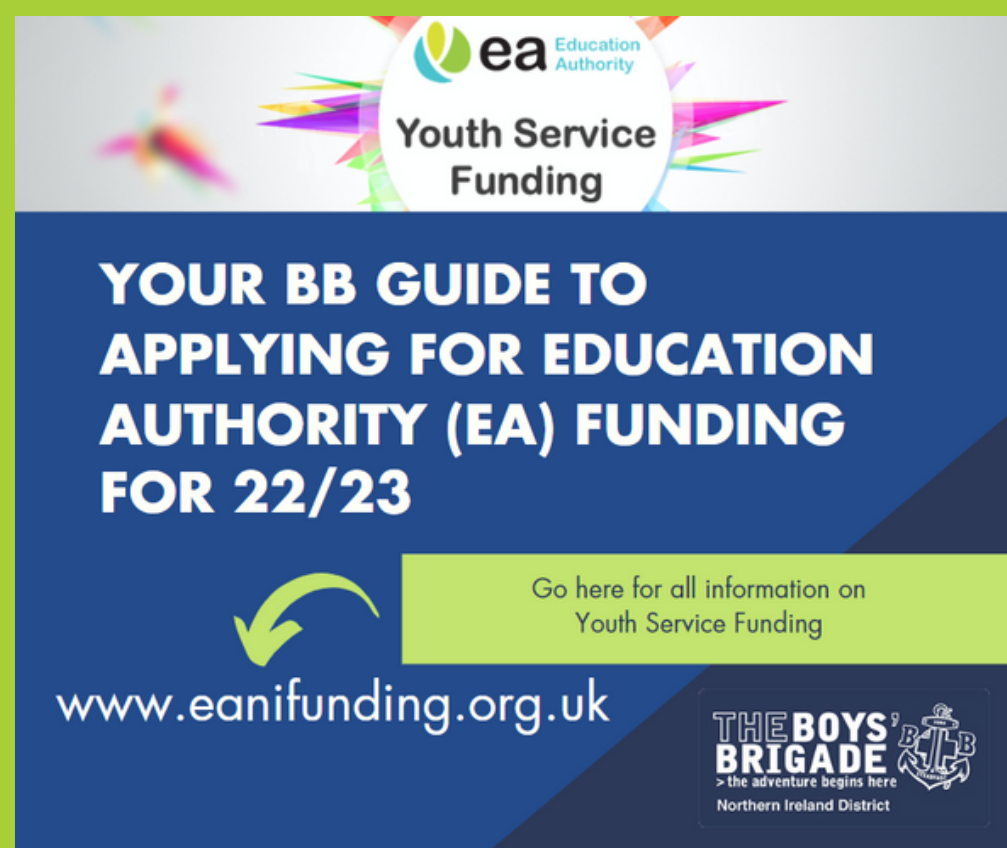
Funds raised: £1893

**Everyone Everywhere
needs a safe place to live**



Get Involved





► Funding Clinics were held to give 1:1 support with applications for Education Authority Funding.

► A BB Guide to Applying for Education Authority Funding was published.

'It was great to have someone help us navigate through the EA process of registration and application. This funding is a real lifeline to us and allows us to do so much more. Without support we would never have managed to complete this.'

BB Company North Belfast



Speak Out: Use your Voice

All Companies were invited to engage with us and tell us what they thought of BB. A Feedback Resource Pack was mailed to each Company with some feedback activities for all sections and the leaders to complete and return.

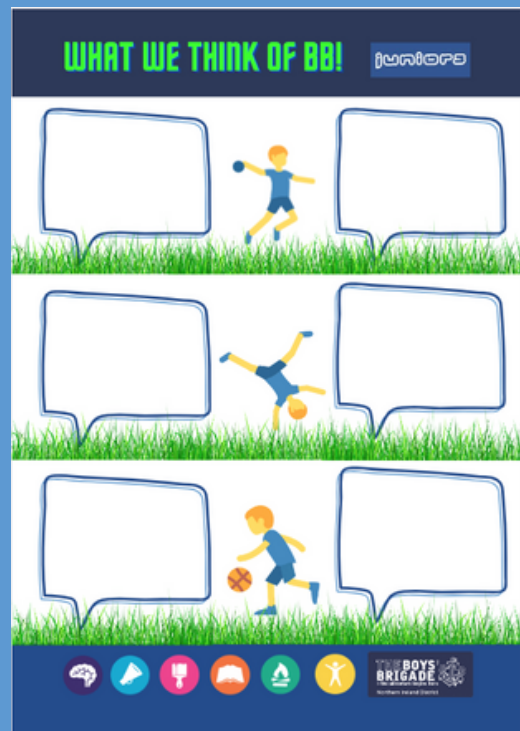


What I like about BB...

Saying the BB prayer...Seeing my friends...Singing songs with actions...Playing outside...Learning about God...Doing craft...Being with my friends...Chocolate apples...Bouncy castle and BBQ...Duck Duck Goose...Everything...Prayers...My uniform...I like to listen to stories about God...I like to play with my friends...I like BB because I learn and sing about God...Having friends there and making new ones...Playing games and making cool things...We like seeing our Leaders...It makes me really happy...Music

ANCHORS



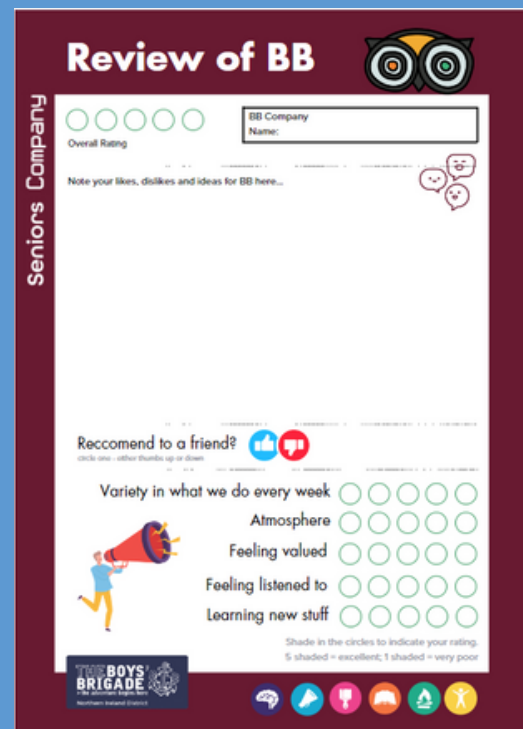


What I like about BB...

Because I can get away from school... The leaders (my dad!)...we learn about God...we get to play games like football, I give BB 5/5...I like the parachute game... Junior section is just fun every night... I like the crafts... I like seeing my friends...I love BB - I see my friends, play games and we bake and make things... I come to BB because of the Bible...I like getting awarded for doing good...I like it when people come in to see us... I like making things...

juniors



A screenshot of a 'Review of BB' form from The Boys Brigade. The form is titled 'Review of BB' and has a 'Seniors Company' label on the left. It includes a 'BB Company Name' field, an 'Overall Rating' section with five green circles, and a large text area for 'Note your likes, dislikes and ideas for BB here...'. Below this is a 'Recommend to a friend?' section with a thumbs up/down icon. The bottom part of the form has five categories for rating: 'Variety in what we do every week', 'Atmosphere', 'Feeling valued', 'Feeling listened to', and 'Learning new stuff', each with five green circles. A legend at the bottom states '5 shaded = excellent; 1 shaded = very poor'. The Boys Brigade logo is in the bottom left corner.

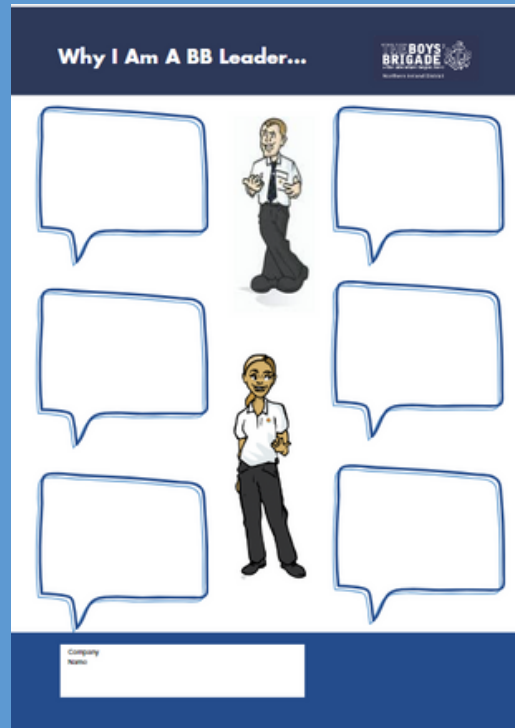
What I
like
about
BB...

I like everything about BB and there are no dislikes - why is the question even here?...Games and food nights...Taking part in projects for example Consumer Council...Being able to talk with friends...I like BB because the leaders are great. We get time for hot chocolate and a chat. You can talk to them about anything...The chill vibe and the welcoming people...I like the feeling of being valued...Great Craic...I like that it is all boys...Having good conversations about difficult topics...I feel safe

Company

Seniors





Why I am a BB Leader

I am a BB Officer because I want to spread God's word to my Anchor Boys and teach them to love the Lord Jesus Christ...To give back to the congregation and develop the boys into young men following God's example... Because of what it stands for. Teaching boys about Jesus, learning discipline and God's word through stories and songs...I love working with the children and young people. Seeing them grow in faith and wisdom. Enjoying the fun and caring in the tough times - just love BB... To share God's word with the boys. Plant the seed and encourage them...Because the aim is important - Advancing Christ's Kingdom.



“But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.” Matthew 20:26

This Annual Report for 21/22 gives a snapshot of what has taken place across BB over the session and various projects and initiatives run by The Northern Ireland District of The Boys' Brigade. A session where things gradually got back to a more normal time following a year and more of Covid restrictions.

It would be impossible to capture everything that happened and all the work that was done. Much more than all of this was delivered at Company and Battalion level and we thank you all for that.



Thank you to everyone who ran Mission 22 'Big Night In' at their hall, and who prayed for and disciplined the children and young people in BB. Thank you to all the leaders who went to BB every week, took Bible class, sorted craft, outings, BB Camp, President's Badge, Queen's Badge, DofE awards, football matches, outdoor activities, undertook training and everything else a BB Leader does.

Thank you to those who chased up members who did not come back initially to BB, to those who looked for and invited new members and to those who took the time to just chat and listen to our children and young people. We appreciate it! God Bless.

FIND US



FACEBOOK

@BoysBrigadeNI



WEB

www.bbni.org.uk



INSTAGRAM

@BoysBrigadeNI

NEWPORT

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nihq@boys-brigade.org.uk

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