

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023 - 2024



THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



Thoughts on the year...

Over the last 12 months our 140th anniversary provided a special moment to celebrate the impact the organisation has had and continues to have in the lives of children and young people.

It was wonderful to see current members getting involved through events like the Juniors 140 Sleepover and the 140 Monopoly Challenge, which proved to be a really great way of coming together as the 'BB family'.

The anniversary celebrations were also an opportunity to look ahead. Working in partnership with Youthscape we launched our Youth Culture and Trends report in Parliament, hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP. The report highlighted opportunities that we have to continue to make a positive difference in children and young peoples' lives as a Christian youth organisation.

I think it's been important that we have now mapped out our BB Faith Journey. Whilst recognising that every child and young person is unique and that this journey cannot ever be a 'one-size fits all', it is helpful to have a framework to guide how we offer children and young people an opportunity to meet Jesus and also useful as we seek to build partnerships with Churches.

We were delighted to have been able to announce recently that HM King Charles III

has become our new Patron, having been a great supporter of our work and more widely of uniformed youth organisations. Our highest award has also now become the King's Badge, and I would like to wish every blessing to the young people who will be working towards this award in the months months and years ahead.

Finally, may I thank all our dedicated volunteer leaders in communities across the UK and RoI for everything they do, as well as to all our supporters, partner organisations and funders.

Jonathan Eales
Chief Executive

Our strategic priorities...

✓ QUALITY

Improve the consistency of experience for children and young people

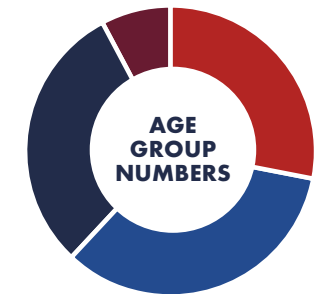
☞ VOICE

Raise the profile and increase participation of children and young people in shaping and representing the organisation

➡ GROWTH

Stabilise membership numbers

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Faith in Young People....

The Boys' Brigade has **faith in young people** and provides them with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

We launched our **Building Stronger project** with support from the Government's Uniformed Youth Fund. 150 local groups have got involved so far and the aim is to support them to build on the quality of what they offer.

13 new groups were set up in communities across England, Scotland and Wales.

Working together with Youthscape our **Youth Culture and Trends report** explored areas like wellbeing, beliefs, lifestyles, relationships and the impact of Covid-19 on young people and what this means for organisations like The Boys' Brigade.

Some of our groups were invited to contribute to a new BBC Radio 4 short series – **'About the Boys'**. The series focused on what life is like today for teenage boys. The five-part series followed many of the issues which our Youth Culture and Trends report highlighted.

A successful **Young Leaders Weekend** was held at Carrnvale House, bringing young leaders from across the country together to learn, develop and share as a group. Karl, a leader at 1st Kempston, said: "I definitely developed my confidence as I would usually shy away from engaging with others, but I

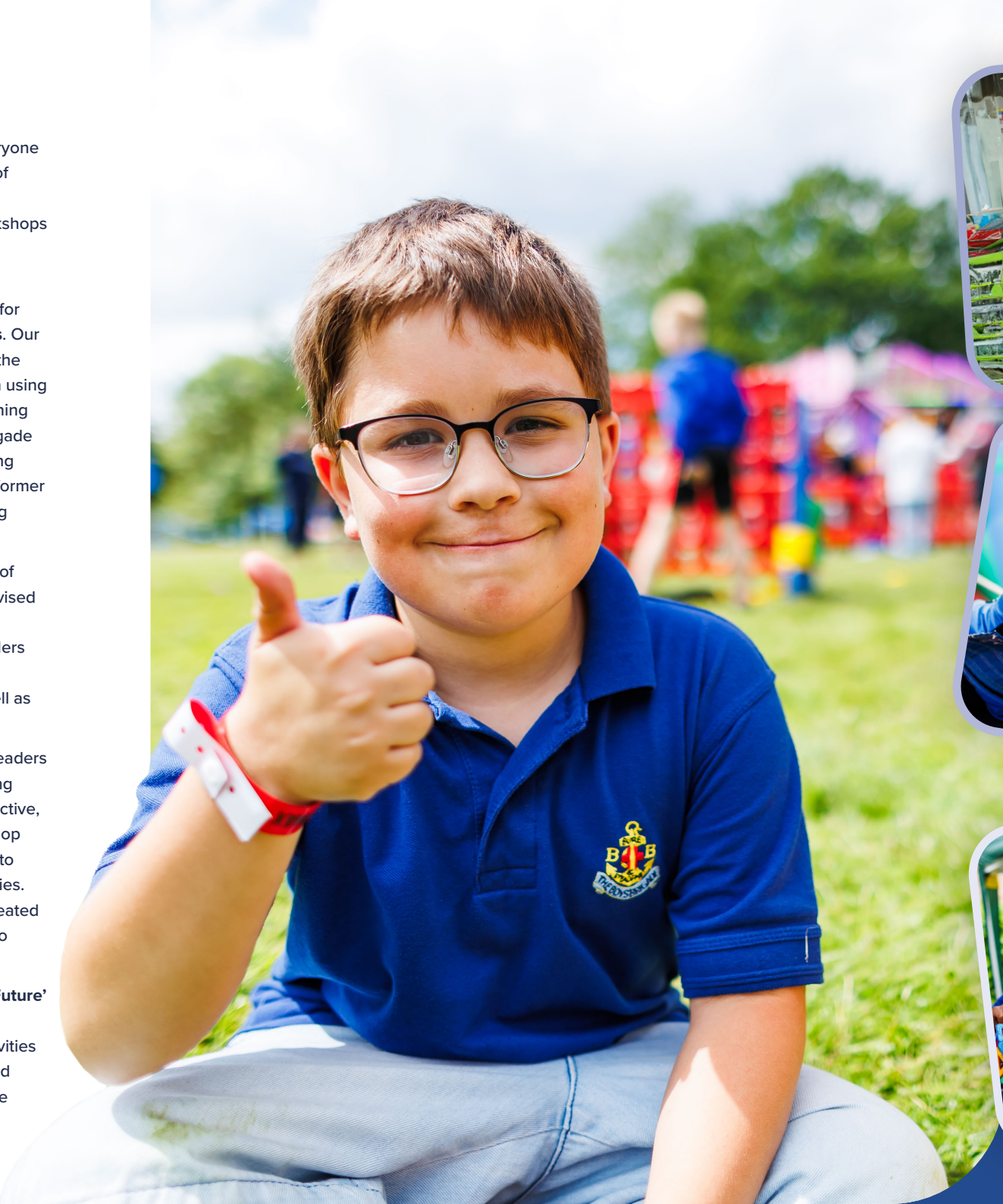
particularly enjoyed talking to everyone and finding out their experiences of being a leader. I also gained some valuable knowledge from the workshops that has helped developed my leadership skills."

We received over 90 nominations for our first-ever **Social Media Awards**. Our leaders and young people across the country are doing fantastic work in using social media to share the fun, learning and community that The Boys' Brigade offers. Pete Markey, Chief Marketing Officer at Boots UK & Ireland and former BB member was part of the judging panel for the awards.

Holiday Leadership was the latest of our **core training courses** to be revised and updated. Our recent training needs survey highlighted that leaders would continue to like to access training opportunities online as well as face-to-face.

Termly programme resources for leaders continue to be produced supporting children and young people to be active, be creative, have adventure, develop their skills, get to know Jesus and to make a difference in their communities. A special set of resources were created to support and equip Companies to **celebrate the 140th anniversary**.

We've been continuing our **'Your Future' partnership** with the University of Bolton, with more programme activities developed for use by Company and Seniors age groups, and Adventure Days planned for the new session.



1 140th Anniversary celebrations

Over 2,000 Juniors in over 100 locations took part in our Juniors 140 Sleepover and 700 young people took part in our 140 Monopoly challenges in London, Glasgow, Manchester and Aberdeen.

2 Parliamentary reception

Members of our Young Leaders Network and representatives from the youth sector, Church partners and others came together at the Houses of Parliament for a reception to launch our Youth Culture and Trends report in partnership with Youthscape.

3 Coming together in remembrance

Thousands of BB members took part in Remembrance activities and events, with a contingent joining the National Service of Remembrance in London.

4 National Competitions

140 groups from across the country took part in seven different National Competitions, including football, FIFA, Masterteam, badminton, table tennis and chess.

5 Cumbrae Camp & Unite

Hundreds of young people and leaders took part in Cumbrae Camp on Millport and Unite at Felden Lodge. Those who attended had the opportunity to camp for the weekend, take part in a wide range of activities and come together for times of worship.

A YEAR IN PICTURES



6 Guard of Honour

A group of BB young people formed a Guard of Honour at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who attended in his capacity as Lord High Commissioner.

7 KGVI – Equipping our young leaders

Young leaders aged 17 to 22 from across England, Scotland, Wales and two young leaders from the Bahamas took part in KGVI Youth Leader Training at Carronvale House and Broomley Grange, to support and equip them as they move into leadership roles.

8 Life 2 the Max

Around 450 young people and leaders from London and beyond took part in Life 2 the Max at Felden Lodge. It was a fantastic day for all age groups which included funfair rides, inflatables, games, and a time of worship.

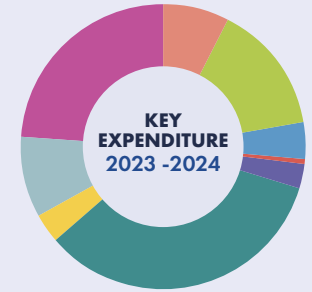
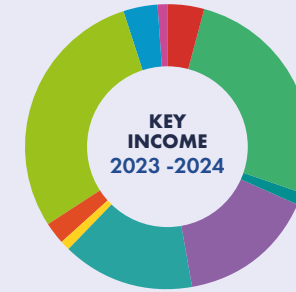
9 Challenge expeditions

Young people took part in challenge expeditions – the Cleveland Hike in the North York Moors and the Waltham Walk in the Essex countryside.

10 On the ocean waves

Young people from four different Companies in Scotland enjoyed a week of sailing with Ocean Youth Trust through our CashBack for Communities project.

OUR FINANCES



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Donations and Legacies £121,407 ● Annual Capitation £733,209 ● Licence and service fee £40,833 ● Training Centre Income £437,762 ● Supplies Sales £416,540 ● Annual Festival & Events £32,343 ● Unrestricted Grants Received £73,900 ● Restricted Grants Received £817,945 ● Investment Income £105,694 ● Net Gains on Investments £30,002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost of Raising Funds £219,660 ● Training Centres (non-Brigade use) £411,499 ● Training Centres (Brigade use) £118,224 ● Unrestricted Grants Payable £10,766 ● Restricted Grants Payable £76,241 ● Unrestricted Management & Delivery of Activities £957,633 ● Supplies Administration £92,717 ● Supplies Cost of Sales £253,168 ● Restricted Management & Delivery of Activities £666,504
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To view our full annual accounts visit:
boys-brigade.org.uk/annual-review

Thank you to our partners, supporters and donors...

Working together with organisations like the **University of Bolton**, **Christian Aid**, **Youthscape** and **Refresh PR** is incredibly important to us.

We have also continued to work with partners across the youth sector through the **Youth United Foundation** and **Youth Link Scotland**.

We are grateful for funding providing by the **UK Government** through their **Uniformed Youth Fund** and by the Scottish Government through **CashBack for Communities** and **CYPFEIF**.

Patron: HM The King

President: Rev Dez Johnston

Chief Executive: Jonathan Eales

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

A registered charity in England & Wales number **305969** and in Scotland number **SC038016**.

Registered Office: Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0BL, UK

For More Information

Visit our website at: www.boys-brigade.org.uk

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HOW TO HELP...



Prayer

Each week thousands of children and young people come into the Church environment through our activities. Many have no other real connection with the Church. The support of prayer for leaders and members is vital in our ongoing commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom.



Volunteer

Many of our local groups need more volunteer leaders. With the support of more volunteers, 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 group? Full support and training is given to all of our volunteers. Please contact us for details of a local group.



Donate

The Boys' Brigade is mainly dependent on raising finances through our membership. With greater financial resources, we could offer more support to our local groups and expand our work with young people. Can you help by means of a single donation or through a regular financial giving?

BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK