

THE BB Digest

The Boys' Brigade in the North West

Autumn 2009



FESTIVAL of FUNSHINE

Despite an uncertain weather forecast some 300 members from all parts of the District travelled to the District Training and Activity Centre on Saturday 20 June 2009.

For a day of fun and fellowship involving the Hots Shots Competition for Company Section members.

Junior sections on the 'Trim Trail', Potted Sports, Target Golf, Archery and the new and extremely popular Rifle Range. The Sports Hall was the venue for the Climbing Wall and Penalty Shoot Out.

There were side events involving Face Painting, Cake Stalls and the ever popular Tuck Shop and Burger Bar all contributed to a net profit of £816 for Centre Funds.



2009 Festival of Fun Hotshots Competition Winners



ENGAGE A GENERATION

A Conference for Clergy, Ministers and Church Leaders was held at the Thistle Hotel, Haydock on Wednesday 3 June 2009.

Prior to the event a group of Officers from the following Battalions, Southport, Wigan, St. Helen's, Manchester, North Cheshire and Liverpool worked along with a team of full time BB staff to identify specific churches in the North West prior to a mail shot being despatched to some 700 addresses.

This resulted in some 30 churches responding by attending either the morning session at 11.00am (including a lunch) or the evening session at 7.00pm (including a buffet meal).



ANDY HAWTHORN

Presentations were given by Andy Hawthorn of the 'Message Trust' (www.message.org.uk) who spoke passionately about evangelising young people in the most difficult areas of the North West.

Miss Heather Wraight of Brierley Research presented statistics regarding church membership in the North west and gave positive details about how

particular churches had responded to a survey about the Brigade.

Canon Michael Greenwood, Chaplain 1st Ashton-in-Makerfield (*St. Thomas Parish*) gave testimony to his own involvement in the Brigade and its contribution to his ministry in three parishes.

The Rev'd Trevor Beckett URC spoke in support as to the influence of the movement in his own life.

Each session concluded with an address by the Brigade Secretary Steve Dickinson plainly presenting the BB as a useful partner to churches seeking to engage with young people in the different situations and promising that a team of specialist Officers from Headquarters would be contacting all delegates within seven days to see how best this might be achieved.

There was a very receptive atmosphere in all conversations with those attending and I understand that this has been maintained in the follow up calls.

May we prayerfully commit this project and all we plan to do in the new session.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (proverbs 16:3)

Every blessing
Alan McLoughlin
District President



District Canoeing Day

Some 25 young people and leaders from 6 Companies took part in the activity day held at Tawd Vale Scout Camp, Lathom on Saturday 6 June 2009 and organised by the BB Canoe Club.

All ran smoothly, despite the poor weather. Lads spent time kayaking, learning to paddle open canoes and building rafts (with various degrees of success).

Everyone enjoyed themselves and certificates were issued at the end for both the British Canoe Union and BB Discover Programme.



David's MAD about Anfield

Due to his work in Making a Difference in the Anfield and Breckfield area of the city David Holmes, Captain of the 10th Liverpool (Christchurch Parish) has been awarded a prestigious award by the Liverpool City Council.

David said, "Someone nominated me for an award (I don't know who) for the work I do for the BB and elderly neighbours.

When I received the phone call I thought it was a joke but things became real when a film crew arrived to interview me along with a vicar and members of the BB staff.

The award ceremony took place in great style in the city's Marriott Hotel. It was a great evening and humbling when many people came over to say how pleased they were to see the BB was still going and working in the inner city".



THE LAST EVENT



Four teams of young men of the East Cheshire Battalion rounded off their year of fundraising to celebrate our organisations 125 years of Christian Youth Service.

The final event was a 12.5 mile canal walk from Kidsgrove to Middlewich by four teams covering a cumulative 125 locks. The grand total raised by all sections of the Battalion over the year was a magnificent £2,084.80 which has been presented to the Donna Louise Trust.

Children's Hospices UK

DONNA LOUISE TRUST

East Cheshire Battalion	£384.80
1st Elworth	£1,250.00
1st Haslington	£50.00
1st Middlewich	£400.00

TOTAL £2,084.80

DISTRICT GRAND TOTAL £10,431.74

ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES

The following and their spouses had the honour to attend Garden Parties given by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace during the summer.

Hazel Armstrong – 1st Oswaldtwistle
Ken Chalton – 1st Bromborough
Graham Loftus – 1st Runcorn

We congratulate them all on receiving this worthy recognition of the work they have undertaken in their Companies for many years.

OUR HEROES

INTRODUCING ARCHERY

Charlton VC



Twenty five members of the Manchester Stedfast Association visited the District Training and Activity Centre on Festival Fun Day and during the afternoon took time out to formally present a replica copy of the Victoria Cross suitably framed with a photograph and citation for Guardsman Edward Colquhoun Charlton a former member of the 32nd Manchester Company (Chorlton Road Methodist Church).

The presentation was made by Stedfast member Fred Bradley whose brother served along with Guardsman Charlton both in the BB and the Irish Guards Mr Eric Chilton Chairman of the Association presented the District President with a further cheque for £200 towards the Refurbishment Fund

Remembering Private Dallow

Visiting Fulwood Barracks for the Queens Badge Ceremony The Rev'd Stephen Mather, Chaplain 8th Wigan (St Peter's Parish Church, Hindley) noticed that the Company Colour of the 32nd Liverpool (St. Andrews Parish Church, Clubmoor) was hung in the Regimental Museum.

The Colour was emblazoned with the Regimental Cap Badge of the South Lancashire Regiment.

On further investigation we have established that a former member of the Company, Private Richard John Dallow a member of the 1st Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, was killed in Normandy on 6th June 1944 - 'D DAY'.



The Colour was presented by his Widow Mrs. Lucy Dallow. During the life of the 32nd the Colour had a place in the Lady Chapel of St. Andrews. Two years ago the church presented the Colour to the Regimental Museum.

Hero of the Blitz

The Boys' Brigade Cross for Heroism was awarded to Private Ronald Orme aged 16 of the 9th Manchester Company for conspicuous bravery during an air raid on Manchester on the night of the 22/23 December 1940.

Orme was on duty as an A.R.P. messenger when an underground shelter adjoining his post received a direct hit from a high explosive bomb. He at once rushed out to the scene of the damage, and crawling under the debris he got into the wreckage. He brought out a number of adults and young people, and carried several babies to a place of safety using his own helmet to shield them for falling shrapnel. All the while the air raid was still at its height, with fires raging and bombs falling. When the rescues



were completed Orme attached himself to wardens fighting fires. He climbed a drain pipe 45 feet high to tackle a blazing roof, and when the fire was under control he then assisted to rescue people from a nearby house that had been bombed.

The account of his gallantry is signed by over one hundred people, who testify that throughout the night Orme showed an utter disregard for his own safety.

Such was the outstanding bravery of Private Ronald Orme of the 9th Manchester (Tatton Street Congregational) that the Editor of the BB Gazette broke with tradition by revealing Ronald's name as the front cover subject.

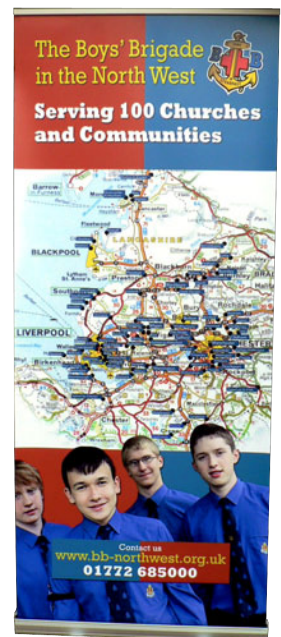
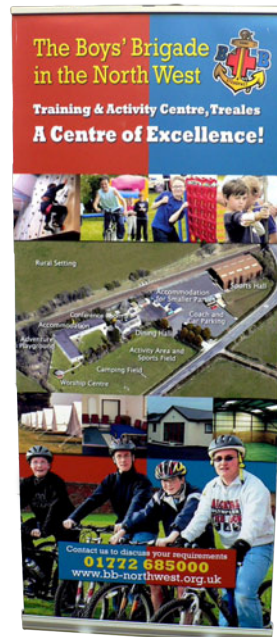
On Saturday 11 July a course to train officers in basic Archery skills was held the District Training and Activity Centre.



This will enable the officers to supervise their own companies in Archery and to provide the Centre with a corps of officers to introduce Archery as a facility available to visitors to the Centre.

The course was led by Jim Bowden and the following leaders received certificates Jon Singleton and David Barnes (Southport), Darrell Lawton and Kevin Heyes (Wigan), David Holmes, Chris and Sarah Coates (Liverpool) and Steve Watts (Lancasteria).

NEW BANNER STANDS



Two new banner stands were purchased to support the EAG Conference at Haydock and are now available for loan. Prior booking essential via District Office.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

September

4-6 Brigade Council Dublin

October

3 Building Your Skills Manchester

10 95th District AGM Liverpool

16-18 Skills Based Training (QB) Treales

24 Heart Start Manchester

26 Sawston Band & Sports Day Treales

November

7 District Swimming Gala Ellesmere Port

21 Building Your Skills Wigan

28 YLT Part 1 Manchester

January 2010

9 District Executive

16 Campcraft Wigan

30 Anchor Boy Party Treales

Ten Pin Bowling Warrington

YLT Part 2 Manchester

February

6-7 YLT Residential Treales

12-14 QB Completion Course Treales

27 Campcraft Wigan

TBA Cross Country

March

6 District Executive

7-21 District Bible Quiz

20 Working with Challenging Behaviour Manchester

TBA Company Section 5-a-side Treales

April

24 J S Competitions Day Treales

Holiday Leadership Wigan

May

15 Holiday Leadership Manchester

16 Queens Badge Presentation

June

5 District Executive

19 FESTIVAL of FUN Treales

TBA Canoeing

October

9 96th District AGM

MERSEYMINDS

On Friday 19 June 2009, the Liverpool Battalion held a Seniors Forum Quiz Night at Bethel Church (16th Liverpool HQ), 6 companies along with an officers team took part.

The evening was coordinated by Brigade Development Worker, David Boyd and the Quiz was organised by Mick Southern and Andrew McCaldon (Officers in the 35th Liverpool Coy.).

After a tiebreak with the Officers Team, the AFG won the quiz (a team made up of seniors from the 35th Liverpool and 1st Roby).

The event was a huge success and David presented the winning team with their prizes.



The winning team, "The AFG" after being presented with their prizes.

L-R: Mark Fidler, Ian Price (Guest Speaker), David Boyd, Jon Woodward, Tim Hudson, Matthew Richardson, Paul Whittle, Tom Owen, Ian Crawford and Question Masters Andrew McCaldon and Mick Southern.

The Boys' Brigade NORTH WEST DISTRICT invites you to the 95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

at
ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH
Childwall Abbey Road
Liverpool L16 5EY

on
10 October 2009
at 2.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:
Mr. Andrew Gallimore
Schools Worker in Manchester
Come and enjoy the fellowship

Photo Acknowledgements

Belfast Battalion • Barry Ellershaw • John Gaffney
Sheila Holmes • Rob Langdon • Chris Norman
Geoff Smale • Mick Southern • Steve Watt

OBITUARIES

GEOFFREY A HARRIS

Aged 86

Geoffrey died at home in Watford on the 29 June 2009.

He served as District organiser of the Lancashire and Cheshire District from 1950 to 1964 when he left the full time staff to join the inner London Education Authority he subsequently served the YMCA in Watford as Programme Director and was responsible for many social projects in that Community.

He was a legendary figure in the life of our District being credited with the origination of the Blackpool Display, the Capernwray Christian Leadership Courses and other lasting initiatives.

Predeceased by his wife Jean in 1990 he leaves two sons Graham and Ian and three grand-children to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

LOUIS AUSTIN

Aged 8

Louis, a member of the 3rd Trafford Company, died suddenly at home on 13 July 2009.

Joining the Anchor Boys in 2007 where he achieved his blue badge and was promoted to the Junior Section in January 2009.

Louis was a keen member of the section enjoyed taking part in all the activities.

Only recently enjoying the Fun Day at the North West District Centre Kirkham.

A pleasant and quiet boy liked by all his friends and staff.

The whole Company was saddened by his sudden death.

Messages of condolences have been sent to his Parents, brothers and sisters.

ERIC BUCKLEY

Aged 84

Eric was the Captain of the former 23rd Manchester (Chapel Street Congregational, Salford) for nearly 30 years.

He leaves a wife Miriam, a daughter Lynn and a granddaughter Charlotte to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Ian CRAWFORD – 35th Liverpool

Ron GREGG – Liverpool PM's

David GRIFFITHS – Wigan

Canon Jim HAMILTON – St Helens

David KENNETT – Oldham

Graham LOFTUS – Runcorn

Bob READ – Salford

Rev. Clive RIMMER – Ormskirk

Edna WRIGHT – Fleetwood

Refurbishment Fund

The District President wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:

Manchester Stedfast Association £200

Miss L. Ashton-Blackburn £15

TOTAL TO DATE £9,410

THE DIGEST

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