



The Boys' Brigade in the North West

Digest



Autumn 2011

FESTIVAL of FUN



What a wonderful day! The comment of a first-time visitor to the Festival of Fun held at the District Activity and Training Centre on 18 June did indeed say it all. Some 400 members from 26 Companies from 12 Battalions enjoyed the day. Training centre funds benefited to the tune of £1,398.

A New Session

The start of September always has me wondering if Jesus ever said to his disciples "we need to have a meeting". *Presbyterian Minister on Twitter*.

As we begin our 128th session it as ever brings a new beginning for our programme at National, District and Company level.

At National level we may look to consultants for a new PR strategy or the development of our financial reserves.

At District level we want to provide meaningful support for the work within our Companies.

At Company level we want to add that new ingredient to the program that will make it more attractive to retain members and to attract new ones.

In the end it all might involve a meeting, but before doing so we will do well to reflect - will we look to improve programs by our own strength and effort or will we take time to allow the power of God, through, His Holy Spirit to work in us.

The answer might just be a prayer meeting.

Prayerful for good wishes for all you seek to do in the new session.

Alan McLoughlin
District President

James's Badge Hunt



Eight year old James Coppard of Bramhall was very concerned that his terminally ill grandfather Professor Geoffrey Burton had lost his Queen's Badge and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award which he had received from the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in 1959. Good detective work led him to Alan Mottram, Captain of the 59th Manchester (*Platt Lane Methodist*) result Jeffrey was reunited with his badges and certificate provided by the award office at a ceremony hosted by the 59th at the District Training Centre on Sunday, 22 May 2011.

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS



By tradition 2nd Widnes Company (*St Mary's Parish Church*) bought second hand mini buses after consultation with the local Councillor in seeking funds, they were encouraged to aim higher and make their new purchase available to others in the West Bank Community.

The Company raised some £3,500 through sponsored efforts including climbing Snowdon the balance of £18,175 came from the Local Forum, the Housing Trust, the Church and Community Fund & Awards for All.

BB at the Trafford Centre



Michael Guy, Development Officer, and a team from Manchester Battalion manned a special BB stand at a large exhibition sponsored by Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service and the Greater Manchester Police entitled "Emergency Services Day" held at the Trafford Centre on Wednesday 10 August it is estimated that one hundred people visited the stand throughout the day, including The High Sherriff of Greater Manchester (Mrs C Lee-Jones). This opportunity has been made possible by Manchester Battalions involvement with the newly formed "Youth United" grouping. Several enquiries regarding various aspects of our work were received and are being sent to the appropriate areas.

The Liverpool Cap



Mrs Valerie Hall, Captain of the 1st Port Sunlight Company (*Christ Church URC*) has presented the cap opposite to the District archives. It was given to her by a local resident without any background information. Mr Rob Bolton, a leading BB historian, advises that such caps were

presented to boys representing Battalions in sporting events in the early 1900s until about 1930. Others are known to have been issued by Dublin Battalion, there may be more.

Dr ROYDS FUND

The District Executive have been pleased to give grants from the fund to:

Thomas Cowan, 10th Liverpool (*Christ Church Parish, Anfield*) Who took part in the World Challenge Expedition to Bolivia in July which was organised by St Margaret's Church of England High School.

Christopher Moore, 1st Burton-in-Kendall (*St James Parish*) Who was part of the crew of the Ocean Trust yacht which sailed out of Greenock around the coast of Scotland for a week 18-24 July. This was organised by BB Scotland.

Andrew Ransom 1st Ormskirk (*Emmanuel Meth/URC*) Andrew currently studying mathematics at Van Milford College, Durham travelled to the Himalayas with a party from Durham University on a project entitled a 'Future for Nepal'.

COMPANIES on DISPLAY

1st Burton in Kendal (*St James Parish Church*).

The 30th Annual Presentation of Awards took place on Saturday, 14 May 2011 in Burton Morewood school. Tim Farron MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale was chief guest during which he presented Presidents badges to Christopher Moore and John Martin.

The 1st Burton in Kendal Company again appeared in the final of the National Table Tennis competition and were unlucky to lose in the final to an Edinburgh Company 5-4.



1st Rishton (*Methodist*)

The 23rd Annual Display took place on Wednesday 18 of May 2011.



1st Bare (*Methodist*)

The company took part in the 2nd Bare Annual Festival on Saturday, June 11 providing a 'drum and kazoo' band comprising some 25 boys. The event entitled Barefest raised valuable funds for St John's hospice.



1st Kendal (*Holy Trinity Parish Church*)

The Company display was held on 15 June. The Mayor of Kendal Councillor Jonathan Brooke presented the awards and the Battalion President Mr. M J Mason MBE made a special presentation of silver longer service badges (20 years) to his son Lieutenant Chris Mason.



1st Over Wyre (*Bethal URC, Preesall*)

Our photograph shows the main prize winners at their recent Company display. The company also entered a float in the Pressall and Knott End on Sea Gala and were awarded a prize in the "Trade Section".



1st Oswaldtwistle (*Rhyddings Methodist Church*)

The photograph below show some members of the Company section performing an item entitled "Drab drill" at their Company Display on 14 May 2011.



DISTRICT CALENDAR

September

3/4 BRIGADE COUNCIL Cardiff
 8 AB/JS Meeting Treales
 23-25 125th Camping Taster Weekend Treales

October

1 Building your Skills Manchester
 8 97th North West District Annual General Meeting
 Port Sunlight
 14-16 Queens Badge Part 1 Treales
 22 First Aid Treales

November

19 Swimming Gala Ellesmere Port
 18-20 QB Leadership Course Treales
 26 Captain's Training Treales

December

3 Company Development Manchester
 10 Building Your Skills (L3) Wigan
 Expedition Supervisor Course
 Manchester
 17 Discover Programme Manchester

2012

January

7 District Executive Treales
 21 Campcraft Course Wigan
 28 10-pin Bowling Warrington
 Holiday Leadership Wigan

February

4 Anchors Party Treales
 9 AB/JS Meeting Treales
 11 Narrow Boat Training Wigan
 11-12 Youth Leader Training Treales
 24-26 QB Completion Treales

March

3 District Executive Treales
 10 Cross Country Manchester
 Expedition Training Course Wigan
 16-18 QB Completion Treales
 24 5-a-side Football Treales

April

14 Working with Anchors & Juniors Manchester
 20-22 National Masterteam Final Treales
 28 Olympics Day' for Anchors & Juniors Treales

May

5 Safeguarding Workshop Manchester
 19 Holiday Leadership Course Treales
 20 Queens Badge Presentation

June

2 District Executive Treales
 9 Campcraft Treales
 23 FESTIVAL of FUN Treales

October

19-21 Queens Badge Part 1 Treales

CHANGES

The District Office seeks to maintain an accurate record of contact addresses (telephone numbers and emails). Please advise the District Secretary immediately of any changes.

The Boys' Brigade NORTH WEST DISTRICT

invites you to the

97th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

Sat. 8 October 2011 at 2.00 pm

IN THE LYCEUM BUILDING PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE

(by invitation of

Wirral & West Cheshire Battalion)

**Keynote Speaker:
 MRS HELEN ELLIS
 "Messy Church"**

Come and enjoy the fellowship

North West District CHARITY APPEAL

Further donations has been made to the **North West Air Ambulance.**

Queens Badge Completion course £39.46

1st North Wales Company (Caergwrle Methodist) £144.00

Grand Total £1,176.50

Royal Guests

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

Chris Carney 53rd Manchester (Emmanuel Methodist/Anglican church)

Ann Macfarlane (North Cheshire)

Jason Nicholson (Bare Methodist)

We congratulate them on receiving this worthy recognition of the work they have undertaken in their communities over many years.

Phillip Wright 1st Haslington (Bradley Rd Methodist) undertook duties as a member of the BB stewarding party.

Refurbishment Fund

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

Rishton Meth. Mens Fellowship £50.00

In Memory of Ronald Adshead £134.60

In Memory of Edith May Haughton from David & Mary Haughton £200.00

TOTAL TO DATE £17,039.60

John gets his ticket for the Olympics

John Procter, Captain of the 1st Leyland Company (Turpin Green Methodist) has been appointed a match official in athletics at the 2012 Olympic games.

John has undertaken regular international appointments over many years. He expects to be further involved in the Para-Olympics direct after the London games.

Billy Elliot the 26th



Ryan Collinson aged 12 from Ainsdale is currently playing the title role in the musical 'Billy Elliot' at Victoria Palace Theatre London. He is the 26th boy to play the part. In a press release prior to his debut performance he pays tribute to David Barnes Captain of the 9th Southport Company in Ainsdale Methodist Church who 'taught me the importance of discipline!'

Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Brian & Hazel ARMSTRONG
 – Oswaldtwistle

David & Sonia GRIFFITHS – Wigan

David KENNETT – Oldham

Graham LOFTUS – Runcorn

Mark MARATOS – Altricham

Sheila WHISKER – Wigan

Darren WRIGHT – Southport

Photo Acknowledgements

Margaret Battrick • John Gaffney • Michael Guy
 Rev Ashley Henderson • Andrew McCaldon
 David Millington • David Mills • Geoff Smale • Steve Watt

THE DIGEST

is the quarterly newsletter of

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