



The Boys' Brigade in the North West

Digest



Autumn 2014

FESTIVAL OF FUN



While thousands gathered at Stonehenge for the summer solstice almost 300 youngsters attended the District FESTIVAL OF FUN on the 21 June at the District Activity Centre. They came from 19 Companies representing 9 Battalions. All the usual activities "hotshots", archery, rifle shooting, mobile climbing tower and this year that District's own giant inflatable table football game. There were always queues for the face-painting and the garden games; the tuck shop, all day cafe, burger stall and the ice cream stall were kept busy throughout the day, resulting in a profit of £412 for Centre funds. Many Companies are realising that with admission a nominal £1 the Festival is a great day out, hence the arrival of several Battalions chartered motor coaches.



The Fun Continues on page 2

Brand Values

The current issue of the BB Gazette devotes four pages to "Our Brand", stressing the need for more consistency in the presentation of the BB logo in print and publicity material.

As we approach a new session I believe we should give similar attention to our 'Brand Values' which are contained in our Object and Mission Statement, these are core values stressing our commitment as a distinctly Christian organisation with a vision for the spiritual development of young people. I am convinced this vision can best be achieved in partnership with our churches. I was recently introduced at a Company event to a person from a congregation who identified himself as a 'Prayer Partner' for the Company - I commend this idea to you.

Paul's letter to the Colossians Chapter 4 asks us to "continue steadfastly in prayer - that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ".

Yours in the fellowship of the Gospel

Alan McLoughlin

District President

GIVING & RECEIVING



Two formal presentations were made during the Festival of Fun.

A presentation to a representative of Mission Aviation Fellowship of a cheque for £1,090 this being the total raised by the District Charity Appeal 2014.

A cheque for £500 was received from the Masonic Grand Charity (Arnold Singer Memorial fund) towards the District Training Centre "Boiler Fund" this was presented by members of the Arrowhead Lodge of Freedom, Ashton in Makerfield.



President's Badge Award



Congratulations to Taylor Roberts, aged 17, from the 1st Bromborough Company (Bromborough Methodist) on receiving his Presidents Badge after four years of dedicated effort. The photo shows the Mayor of Wirral presenting Taylor with his award.

THE DIANA AWARD

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES



Congratulations go to Joseph Hagan, a member of the 7th Southport (Birkdale Methodist) on winning the 'Champion Volunteer' section of the 'National Diana Award' after being nominated by his teachers at Meols Cop High School.

He was presented with his certificate by Rt. Hon. Baroness Royall of Blaisdon (Leader of the opposition of the House of Lords) at a ceremony held at Barclays HQ at Canary Wharf. In their nomination the school wrote "Joseph is a peer mentor and volunteers in school to support students with Asperger's syndrome. He has an extremely positive and patient nature, never failing to go above and beyond what is expected of him.

50th Cleveland Hike



From left to right: Derek Stevenson, Jack Wheelhouse, Ali & Tom Burrows

Members of the 1st Burton in Kendal (St James Parish) participated in the expedition section of the hike which took place 28/29 June in the North Yorkshire moors.

The hike, celebrating its 50th year, is a permanent fixture in the Boys' Brigade calendar and a Commemorative Badge has been given to those taking part.

Company Captain David Mills, who acted as mini bus driver, said "We have participated in the Hike over several years entering teams of various ability this something even the smallest Company, with the due preparation, can participate in".

The Company came in 11th place out of the 28 teams taking part. The team supervisor was Company helper Derek Stevenson.



To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the East Lancashire Battalion the Battalion organised a trip for the boys to 'Eureka' the National Children's Museum in Halifax. Thirty members representing all the Companies in the Battalion attended.



As part of our constant effort to review what we offer and keep ourselves fresh and innovative, this year the 35th Liverpool focussed on reinvigorating their Junior Section programme as one of its priorities. Initially, the section staff broke the session down into: "regular" evenings; and "exceptional" evenings.

With our "regular" evenings, we wanted to make them as effective and developmental as possible so we asked the boys what they most enjoyed about Juniors and what could be made better. From this, we were able to restructure parts of the meeting; we introduced more crafts items, we introduced new games, and we pruned some of the activities we'd been using for some years. This has proved very successful.



The section staff wanted to use the "exceptional" evenings to bring totally new experiences to the programme, but also to ensure they were varied enough to



capture the imagination of all members and that the evenings were spread evenly across the year. Hence, this year, they brought in a team building company to teach the boys (and staff) some new games; we linked up with Liverpool Hope University and had some American students visit and teach the boys American Football; we took the section to an outdoor adventure park for the evening; and organised a visit from Merseyside Fire and Rescue service, which included an interactive tour of a Fire Engine. Furthermore, we linked up with a local community group and took some of the boys planting in the local area and took our Year 6 boys on an expedition weekend away with the Company Section.

As an offshoot of these efforts, the social network presence has really taken off and we're featured much more widely in the Gazette, as well as the local press.

The process has been really beneficial for the section and our boys have been enthused by some of the new activities on offer. The task now is to ensure this enthusiasm is maintained into next year, which it looks set to – we've already planned for a visit from a local police unit and a visit from a falconry team.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

2014

September

6 Brigade Council Glasgow
13 District Executive Treales
19/21 "Camp 100" Treales

October

4 100th Annual General Meeting Manchester
18/19 Skills for QB Leadership Pt1 Treales
27 Bands Day Treales

2015

January

10 District Executive Treales
24 NWD Ten Pin Bowling Liverpool

February

7/8 Youth Leader Training Treales
27/1 March QB Completion Course Treales

March

District Executive Treales

May

15/17 Stedfast Associations AGM Liverpool
17 Queens Badge Presentation TBA

Bolton Centenary

The 14th Bolton (*Trinity Methodist Church, Tonge Moor*) celebrated 100 years service with an Open Day on Saturday 5 July. The Company formed initially as a Company of the separate Bolton Boys' Brigade in 1914 then transferred into the national organisation along with four other BBB Companies in 1959. The 14th Bolton is the last link with the separation, which took place in 1908.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Andy Holland, North Cheshire Battalion and BB mountaineering club has been appointed a Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions assessor, which enables him to assess DoE expeditions at all levels within the Brigade (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

Andy is anxious to help any Company in the District needing any help. He can be contacted on e-mail andy.holland2@ntlworld.com.

David Mills, District Vice-President already holds this qualification; he can be contacted on e-mail david.j.mills@btinternet.com.

Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Jenny BARNES – Blackburn
Dave GRIERSON – Warrington
Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton
Bill McKAY – Moreton
Bryan MOORE – Liverpool Stedfast
Jeff ROBERTS – Oldham
Darren WRIGHT – Southport

Centenary Souvenir



A commemorative water bottle has been produced for those attending Camp 100.

There will be a small supply left over if you wish to purchase one or more as a gift or prize please contact m.heywood234@btinternet.com

We still have a small supply of the Centenary buttonhole badge for sale these can be obtained from the District office after the AGM these will be made available for sale outwith the District so please act quickly.



The Boys' Brigade NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Notice is nearby given that the

100th Annual General Meeting

of the District Council will be held in the
Ashes Suite, Old Trafford County Cricket Ground, Manchester
on
Saturday 4 October 2014 at 2.00pm

Guest speaker:

The Brigade President, The Rev. Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

IMPORTANT NOTE

This year we are inviting spouses to attend the Annual meeting and to join with us for the buffet meal which will be of two courses, waitress served, so it is most important that registrations should be received by no later than 6 September.

A registration form is included with this mailing

OBITUARY

Mrs SUE MORRIS

A much loved and respected Officer who served in the 1st Rainford (*All Saints Parish Church*) for over twenty years.

Sue worked in all Sections starting with Anchor Boys and was the Captain for a critical period of the life of the Company.

She will be sadly missed by all members and friends who attended the funeral service to pay their respects.

Band on Tour

A 100 strong BB/GB band from various parts of England will be staying at the District Training & Activity Centre from the 25/29 October 2014.

During their stay they will be performing at a prime location opposite Blackpool Tower on Saturday and Monday evening when it is anticipated that several thousands of visitors to Blackpool illuminations will witness their performances.

On Sunday they will lead a church parade to Sevenways Methodist Church, Stretford by invitation of the 3rd Trafford Company.

On Monday, 27 October they are inviting members of the North West District to join them for a band and activity day, full details and promotional posters are included with this mailing.

ROYAL STEWARDS



The Boys' Brigade was invited to provide 23 stewards for HM The Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 3 June. Five Queensmen from the District had the honour to be chosen they were Jacob Ashton, 1st Leyland; Jamie Dickerson and Aidan Weatherill both 3rd Trafford; Stephen McDonough, 1st Port Sunlight and Will Snowden, 59th Manchester.

Photo Acknowledgements

Ken Chalton • John Gaffney • Brent Greenwood
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