

THE BB Digest

The Boys' Brigade in the North West

Autumn 2015



The 101st AGM at Middlewich



The East Cheshire Battalion hosted the 101st Annual General Meeting held at Queen Street United Reformed Church headquarters of the 1st Middlewich Company. There were present some 49 Officers representing 16 Companies and 11 Battalions to receive a civic welcome from the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlewich after the formal business of the annual meeting Mr. John Neil, Honorary Brigade President UK and ROI, gave a talk on the International Family of the Brigade. As ever the day ended with buffet meal served by the ladies of the Battalion.



A presentation was made to the District President in recognition of 25 years service as President.

CONTINUING TO SOW

Readers will I am sure share with me the experience that much of our missionary work in the BB is not always quantifiable as there is "much planting of the seed" and not always much constant "seeing of the fruit". We deal with young people in their formative years statisticians claim that nine out of ten Christians make a profession of faith before their teenage years. One out of five say they were influenced by a friend such was my own experience in joining the church and subsequently BB but this was in an era when nominal Christianity held sway when it was common place for people to attend the church or claim to be C of E and BB membership was highly regarded. In today's society the culture has changed so whilst the harvest field is very visible our task is to seek as ever communicate the Gospel message in a language which this generation understands.

Please join with me in praying that 2016 will see further advancement of our object through the work of the District. May you know the Lord's gracious help and provision as you seek to serve him.

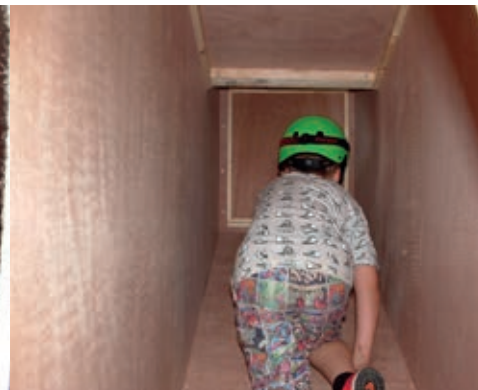
With warmest Christian greetings

Alan McLoughlin
District President

Centre News

We are pleased to be able to offer a new facility in the sports hall. Adventure tunnels have been designed by Jeff Roberts one of the Centre Trustees and constructed by Eric Wright Construction Ltd under their corporate social responsibility scheme.

We also acknowledge with thanks a donation of £341.53 from Sure and Stedfast Masonic Lodge No 9326 this being the residual funds from their charity account.



District Camp



The District Camp was held at the Training Centre over a weekend. Some 72 members from 6 Companies and 6 Battalions took full advantage of the Centre facilities. There will certainly be a camp in 2016 and there are rumours that there may be two weekends per year.



PORT SUNLIGHTS TREASURE



Captain C A Lancashire

In 2014 relatives of the legendary Captain of the 1st Port Sunlight Company (Christ Church URC) presented something of a challenge to the present Captain Mrs. Valerie Hall by returning for safe keeping, an illuminated address accompanied by the signatures of those subscribing to a testimonial to mark the twenty one years service of the Captain 1902 to 1933 and the inscribed silverware purchased.

Our photograph shows the solid silver tea set and tray, and a Tankard with an inscription to indicate it was for "C" Platoon 1st Port Sunlight VCR.

The list of subscribers is headed by the 2nd Viscount Leverhulme a copy of an internal Lever Bros Ltd. memorandum! indicates a donation of £5 (£200 in 2015).

The collage of photographs includes the Captain Lancashire Memorial Trophy which has been used for several purposes over the years.

Mrs. Hall faced with the problem of displaying the treasures has raised sufficient funds to create two high quality display cabinets in the alcoves at the rear of the church (see photograph) one of those already contains the Company War Memorial and Company Colour.

Port Sunlight is on the verge of being declared a World Heritage Site and as such the church already receives hundreds of visitors each year.

The church yard includes the Leverhulme family graves along with those of "Captains" Lancashire (1902 to 1933) and Davey Davies (1933 to 1962) both of which have distinctive carved BB headstones.



1st Port Sunlight lead a village occasion



Members of the 1st Port Sunlight assembled in the works sidings to receive King George V and Queen Mary on the Royal train on March 25th 1914 when they visited the village to lay the foundation stone of the Lady Lever Art Gallery. (A British Pathé clip captures the prominent part played by the Company).



1st Port Sunlight outside Gladstone Hall in 1900, then one of the village schools. The Company was formed in 1900.

NEW COMPANIES

The following new Companies have been enrolled into the **MANCHESTER BATTALION.**

6th Manchester
Dominion Chapel Pentecostal

15th Bolton
Redeemed Church of God,
Love Arena Parish

Anchor Boys Party

Members from 1st Leyland (Leyland Methodist), 10th Liverpool (Christ Church, Anfield), 48th Liverpool (Linacre Mission Methodist), 1st Oswaldtwistle (Rhyddings Methodist) and 2nd Wigan (St Mark's Parish) had a great time at their bonfire themed party held at the Training Centre on Saturday, 7 November 2015



Building Your Skills



A 'Building Your Skills' course (QB1) was held the District Training Centre during the weekend 17/18 October 2015 a further course was held 28/29 November.



DISTRICT CALENDAR

November

7 Skills For Brigade Leadership Treales

January 2016

9 District Executive Treales

23/24 Youth Leader Training Treales

30 Ten Pin Bowling Liverpool

JS Five-A-Side Football Treales

February

13 Building Your Skills Liverpool

19/21 Queens Badge Completion Treales

March

4 District Executive Treales

12 JS Competitions Day Treales

May

14 CS Five-A-Side Football Treales

15 Queens Badge Presentation Bootle

21 Brigade Training Officers Course Treales

June

3 District Executive Treales

18 FESTIVAL OF FUN Treales

September

2-4 Brigade Conference Belfast

23-25 District Camp Treales

October

8 Anchor Event Treales

TBC 102nd District AGM Liverpool

NB Locally organised Training Courses can be found on the District and Brigade website

Holiday Leadership Course



The following officers completed a Holiday Leadership course held at the District Training Centre on Saturday 12 September:

Margaret Batterick 1st Oswaldtwistle
Carl Fairclough

Ian Parrish 3rd Burnley

Jim Henderson 24th Oldham

Susan Parkinson 1st Preston

Simon Parkinson

Steven Parkinson

Mark Fidler 35th Liverpool

Matthew O'Connell

Andrew McCaldon

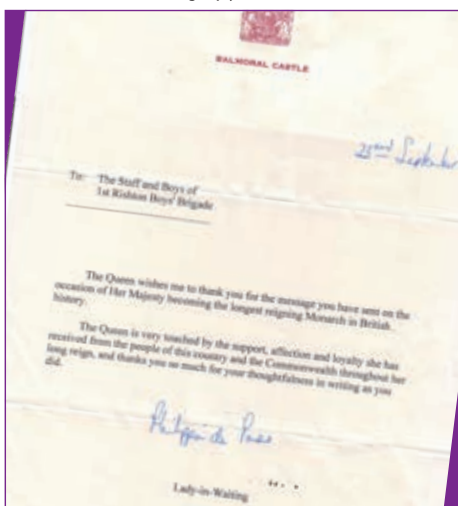
Course leader: Barry Scott-Godsall,
Brigade Training Officer.

Administrator: Margaret Heywood
District Vice President.

A letter from

BALMORAL CASTLE

The 1st Rishton Company staff and boys wrote to congratulate our Royal Patron Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her becoming the longest reigning Monarch in British history and received the following reply.



Prayer Topics

Jenny BARNES – Blackburn

Duncan McKAY – Moreton

Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton

Alan RIDEHALGH - Colne

Darren WRIGHT – Southport

OBITUARIES

COLIN JOHN TRENBIRTH

(Age 76)

Colin was a member of the 4th Birkenhead (Christ Church with St Michaels Parish) subsequently succeeding his mentor and friend Donald Hadfield as Captain. After the closure of the 4th he joined the 1st Bebington (Grange URC) as a Lieutenant, a position he held until his death. Colin's 50 years' service to the BB in Wirral was marked in 2007 with the Wirral award at a civic dinner in Wallasey Town Hall. An avid follower of Lancashire Cricket it was poignant that he should collapse at the St. Lawrence Ground, Canterbury watching the county. He leaves a wife Beryl and adult children to whom we extend our sympathy.

JAMES CARVER WHITE

(Age 96)

Jim was an officer then Captain of the 26th Manchester (Newton Heath Methodist) and then the 1st Cheadle (Trinity Methodist/URC) on securing early retirement from I.L.I. In 1997 he became full time secretary of the Manchester Battalion a position he held until 1984. Right up to the time of his passing he was giving support to a BB Company in his retirement church in Northallerton. Jim was predeceased by his wife Elin some five days earlier. They leave a son Ian and two daughters Janet and Isobel.

MODEL BOY



Through the generosity of Hon. Vice President Tom Moorcroft the District Archives have received a new recruit in the form of a plaster cast model of a Glasgow BB boy circa 1933.

Brigade Training Officer (BTO)

We have a team of qualified BTO's serving in the District but there is no restriction on the number we can have. Therefore we would be delighted to increase the pool of BTO's to allow us to reduce the requirement on the existing team and if possible widen the geographical area and areas of specialism. We have been granted the opportunity to organise a BTO training course at the District Training Centre and this will take place on Saturday 14 May 2016 followed by a further course in 2017. If you are interested in taking up this kind work by attending this course please forward your personal details i.e. Name, Address, Company Brigade Registration Number to office@bb.northwest.org.uk by no later than 9 January 2016.

Music Makers

Have you any brass instrumentalists in your Company? If so would they be interested in combining from time to time in a District Central Band, if so will you please advise interest to Mr Geoff Smale on geoffsmale@talktalk.net

Photo Acknowledgements

John Gaffney • Rachel Knowles
Neil Meadows • Jeff Roberts • Ben Smith
Barry Scott-Godsell • Geoff Smale

THE DIGEST

is the quarterly newsletter of
The Boys' Brigade, North West District
Carr Lane, Treales, Kirkham PR4 3SS.

Tel: 01772 685000

Email: office@bb-northwest.org.uk

Web: www.bb-northwest.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 520143

DESIGN:

John GAFFNEY

johngaffney@talktalk.net