

# THE BB Digest

The Boys' Brigade in the North West



Spring 2010

## manchester youth united



On Thursday 4 February 2010 H.R.H. The Prince of Wales accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall visited Salford Lads Club to launch an initiative Youth United which encourages uniformed organisations in Greater Manchester to share resources and to promote their work.

The Manchester initiative which is being promoted by the Lord Lieutenant Warren Smith and Chief Constable Peter Fahy follows on two successful initiatives launched by the Prince in London and Wales. It is intended to establish Youth United membership groups across the 10 Metropolitan Boroughs within Greater Manchester.

The BB was represented by the following members from Greater Manchester –

**Brian Taylor** (President, Manchester Battalion),

**Alan Mottram**, Captain 50th Manchester (*Platt Lane Methodist*)

**Aaron and James Calvert, David Gray**, 3rd Trafford (*Sevenways Methodist*)

**Matthew Duggan and Dale Ebanks**, 5th Manchester (*Parrs Wood URC*)

**Ben Brookes, Harry Foster and Lee Mobey**, 5th Wigan (*St. Catherine's Parish*)

Other uniformed organisations taking part were Scouts, Church lads & girls brigade, Navy, Army and Air Cadets and St Johns Ambulance Cadets.

## ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

If the British love talking about the weather then the first quarter of 2010 has certainly offered many opportunities to talk and many good reasons to put things off.

Whilst it was necessary to defer the January meeting of the District Executive by one week the columns of this issue of the 'Digest' pay testimony to the fact that our programme has been maintained without hindrance.

At Company level regular meeting have been held such is the dedicated service of our leadership. One Captain I know travels 20 miles over country roads to his meeting each week. Another a working mother of two school age

children inspired me with her enthusiasm to develop an interesting Company programme. This kind of sacrificial service is replicated in many places in our District, it is the stuff of Christian commitment, which keep on keeping on despite the weather or personal difficulties.

I am mindful that such service comes at no small cost, it therefore beholds us when we meet in fellowship to heed the words of St Paul to the Hebrews Chapter 10 v. 25 "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another"!

In His Service  
*Alan McLoughlin*  
District President

## BBC Songs of Praise

Members of the 1st Port Sunlight played a prominent part in the programme broadcast on Sunday 29 November 2009 from Christ Church URC.

The programme reaches some 3 million viewers weekly and many complementary comments have been received from BB members throughout the UK.

Skipper Val Hall is to be complimented for working effectively with the producer to project life in the 1st Port Sunlight in 2009 and its central part in the life of the model village.



The Company was formed in 1900 by William Hesketh Lever the 1st Viscount Leverhulme, the Lever family have personally supported the Company until the death of the 3rd Viscount in the year 2000 (the Company Centenary) when the title became extinct.



**The District Annual 10 pin Bowling Competition took place on 30th January at the LA Bowl, Warrington. Sixteen teams (48 boys) took part which included two Companies from North Wales Caerwrlle and Llangollen.**

A keen competition over 3 rounds resulted in four teams contesting the finals with the following results:- Medal winners were 1st Oswaldtwistle 'B' (*Rhyddings Methodist*) with 1st Denton (*Hope URC*) runners up and 7th Southport 'A' (*Liverpool Road Methodist*) in 3rd place.

Sam Shuttleworth of 1st Oswaldtwistle 'B' won the individual award with most points over the qualifying rounds and in the Staff competition Mr Darren Ratcliffe of the 1st Denton (*Hope URC*) was the winner of the 11 people who entered.

## NORTH WEST DISTRICT Anchor Boys New Years Party



Forty boys and 15 Officers representing 6 District Companies (1st Southport, 1st Over Wyre, 11th Warrington, 1st Oswaldtwistle, 1st Morecambe and 2nd Wigan) attended the Anchors Party held at DTC on Saturday 30th January.

Boys enjoyed a Fun packed event including worship, games, craft, sing-a-long and food.



## District Cross Country

The annual Cross Country Championships took place on Saturday, 27 February at Wythenshawe Park with 52 runners taking part.

Individual and Team Trophy winners were:-

**Junior Race** - 1st **David Whittaker** - 9th Southport (*Ainsdale Meth.*), 2nd Finn Taylor - 3rd Trafford (*Sevenways Meth.*), 3rd James Taylor - 5th Manchester (*Christ Church URC*).

Winners of team trophy - **Manchester Battalion.**

**Company Race** - 1st **Joe Walker** - 50th Manchester (*Brownley Green Baptist*), 2nd McAulay Moran - 5th Manchester, 3rd Elliot Wilkins - 9th Southport.

Winners of team trophy - **Manchester Battalion.**

**Senior Race** - 1st **Reuben Rhodes** - 1st N. Wales, 2nd Laban Wright - 8th Trafford (*Hayeswater Rd Meth.*), 3rd Josh Vermiglio - 1st Ashton-in-Makerfield (*St Thomas's PC*).

Winners of team trophy - **North Wales.**



## Leaders in Training



Thirty two leaders from 15 Companies representing 9 Battalions took part in the residential Youth Leader Training course held at the District Training Centre on 6 and 7th Feb 2010.

John Walker	1st Skerton	Sinead Collins	9th Southport
Max Kneeshaw	1st Skerton	Jamie Walker	1st Ormskirk
Trisha Mawn	1st Bare	Cheryl Wileman	1st Roby
Mark Moorby	1st Bare	Kay Brown	1st Middlewich
Amanda Riley	1st Over Wyre	Steve Dewhurst	1st Middlewich
Heather Mitchell	1st Over Wyre	Dave Forster	31st Liverpool
Trisha Foot	1st Rishton	Peter Jennings	1st Elworth
Robert Rankin	1st Rishton	David Broad	1st Elworth
Sharon Patton	1st Rishton	Steven Oldfield	1st Elworth
Ashley Shackell	35th Liverpool	Gareth Davies	1st Billinge
James Crawford	35th Liverpool	Carl Brotherton	1st Billinge
Mark Fiddler	35th Liverpool	Mike Johnson	1st Billinge
Christopher Peel	1st Morecambe	Diane Hayes	10th Southport
David Morris	1st Morecambe	Tracy Winrow	10th Southport
David Howard	1st Morecambe	Adam Swindells	26th Liverpool
Brett Chapman	9th Southport	Simon Draper-Garcia	26th Liverpool

The course staff were John Banks, Chris Carney and Hazel Armstrong.

## Consignment for Zambia

In December we received a request from Godwin Nkonda, Captain of the 4th Mufulira Company (*St John's United Church of Zambia*) in Zambia asking for band instruments.

Godwin wrote as follows "We have no band in our two Companies despite having many boys who wish to join 'The Boys' Brigade' if there was a band as it is an ingredient to drawing them into the Christian Community. We therefore feel with Bands we could bring more Boys to Jesus Christ as the aim of The Boys' Brigade requires".



The instruments were donated by the BB Accrington Silver Band, 48th Liverpool (*Linacre Methodist Mission*) and 1st Runcorn (*St Paul's Methodist*).

The consignment is to be exported wrapped and forwarded to Zambia per 'Tools with a Mission' ([www.twam.co.uk](http://www.twam.co.uk)).

## Games Night raises £800 for Haiti

The Boys of the 10th Liverpool had a discussion about the earth quake in Haiti, it was decided that we should try to help in some way, one member offering to save all his pocket money for a few weeks and sending it off.

We settled on a sponsored games night, we started with a fish and chip supper, followed by 12 hours playing snooker, pool, darts, table tennis, dodge ball and of course football.

The boys did really well and should be congratulated for raising a total of £800 which is now on its way to Tear Fund who have workers in Haiti.



# QUEENS BADGE ROLL OF HONOUR

After some painstaking research a group of volunteers have compiled a list of names of the North West District Queens Badge winners from the beginning of Queen Elizabeth II reign until the present day.

The research has been hampered by the fact that there does not appear to be a centrally held records which is surprising since the award was issued by Brigade Headquarters.

From 1953 to 1975 we relied on the pages of 'Stedfast Magazine'\* which reported names issued by Headquarters, however from 1966 the magazine relied totally on information supplied by Company Captains, this led to a decline in the names appearing.

From 1976 onwards the Award was controlled by District, so this information is very accurate.

Names will be added to the Roll after each presentation.

At the present time there are some 2,591 names on the roll.

\*'Stedfast Magazine' was published by Bletchley Printers from 1953 to 1979.

## Looking to the Future



The second Queen's Badge Part 1 course of the Session was attended by 29 Young Men from 10 Companies, representing 4 Battalions.

# The Liverpool Scottish



Three members of the 35th Liverpool Company (All Saints Parish, Childwall) Mark Fidler, Mike Southern and Andrew McCaldon took part in a three day higher education workshop at Edinburgh University.

Mindful of the strong traditions of the Edinburgh Leith Battalion they thought they would take the opportunity to visit the meeting of one of the Companies.

The Battalion Secretary chose the 66th Edinburgh (St Andrews Parish Church of Scotland, Muirhouse). This small struggling company recruiting from a Council Estate, Andrew writes "The 66th was a sharp contrast to our company. We took each member of the company a small gift and they clearly appreciated this".

The visit ended with both Companies promising to make a genuine effort to stay in touch.

## Queens Badge Completion Courses



Sixteen young men to part in the 1st QB Completion Course on 12-14 February 2010



Seventeen young men to part in the 2nd QB Completion Course on 5-6 March 2010

## CONTINUING TO IMPROVE

Following on the successful refurbishment of the showers in Centenary Hall the Management Committee have authorised further improvements which include an update of the kitchen in Centenary Hall to bring them into line with modern day expectations and regulations at a cost of £21,600.

A thorough inspection of the wiring on the site has revealed the need for rewiring and this is being undertaken at a cost of £6,250.

We also are taking advantage of a scheme organised by HM Prison-Kirkham whereby inmates being trained in Painting and Decorating undertake work in the

community, this is enabling a substantial amount of painting to be carried out around the site the only cost to us being the material.

A further innovation will be the creation of a staff lounge in Centenary Hall, a facility that will be greatly appreciated by those leading residential groups at the Centre.

## SOUTHPORT at THE TOWER

Over 30 lads from the Southport & District Battalion Junior and Anchor Sections enjoyed a fantastic day out to The Blackpool Tower and Circus on 9 January 2010.

The highlights were Jungle Jims and the Circus with Mooky Doolittle. Companies taking part were 1st Ormskirk (Emmanuel Methodist/URC), 1st Southport (St Philip & St Paul with Wesley), 9th Southport (Ainsdale Methodist), 10th Southport (Marshside Methodist) and 14th Southport (St John's Church, Ainsdale).



## LAST NIGHT at CAMP



At the conclusion of their camp last year the 3rd Trafford ceremonially lowered the Manchester & Salford Battalion Camp Flag.

"The first Battalion Camp was held in Whit week 1894 of which there is no detail. The next record is of a Camp at Fleetwood during Whit Week 1903 attended by 74 Officers and 642 boys. The inspecting Officers was William A Smith.

Camps were held annually and it is recorded in 1914 there was a record attendance 1,015!

Camp has always been a feature of Manchester Battalion in 1959 the Battalion's Diamond Jubilee of Camping around 1000 boys camped either with The Battalion or in Company Camps the highest percentage of boys in attendance at Camp in the whole Brigade!"

Extract from **In the Service of True Christian Manliness** by Eric C Chilton - a brief history of the BB in Manchester.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

### April

- 10 National Chess Comp. FINAL Treales  
24 J S Competitions Day Treales  
Holiday Leadership Wigan

### May

- 15 Holiday Leadership Manchester  
16 Queens Badge Presentation Southport  
22 Emergency First Aid Course Treales

### June

- 5 District Executive  
12 Canoeing Course Tawd Vale  
19 FESTIVAL of FUN Treales

### September

- 4 District Day at Camelot Camelot

### October

- 9 96th District AGM Manchester

## TOP GEAR GAMES NIGHT

The Anchor section of the 1st Elworth 'rose to the Top Gear challenge in a novel way at a recent meeting.

There were a series of races in "high tec" cars, some of which nearly fitted them. Nobody is quite sure who won but a great time was had by all.



## OBITUARIES

### MARGARET MOYES

Aged 72

Margaret died on the 3rd January 2010.

Following the death of her father Len former Captain 1st Westhoughton (URC), President of Bolton Battalion and Author "The Boys' Brigade in Bolton 1887-1987" Margaret sought to maintain the family link with the Brigade by her membership of the Friends of the District scheme.

Condolences have been expressed to her brother Andrew and family in Worcester.

### EDNA WRIGHT

Aged 90

Edna widow of our former Field Officer and District Honorary Vice President Ron, died in hospital on the 22 December.

Edna was a committed Christian and great supporter of Ron throughout his time first as Captain of the 3rd Blackburn (*The Church of the Saviour Parish*) then in full time service as Field officer Lancashire and Cheshire and then in a very significant partnership with Ron as Wardens of Felden Lodge.

In retirement at Fleetwood she was a great supporter of the District Training Centre being present at the recently held Gathering.

She leaves two sons David and Philip to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

# Festival of Fun

Saturday 19 June 2010

11.00 – 16.00 Admission £1.00

- 11.00 onwards Target Shooting – Main Field  
11.00 - 13.00 Archery. All Age Groups. Main Field.  
11.30 - 12.30 Jockey Race Anchors Main Field  
13.00 - 13.30 Parachute Games. Anchors. Main Field  
13.00 - 14.00 Hot Shots Competition CS Main Field.  
Target Golf and Archery.  
13.00 - 14.00 Trim Trail. Juniors.  
Adventure Playground.  
14.00 - 14.30 Wheelie Race. Comp. Sec. Main Field.  
14.30 - 15.00 Jockey Race Juniors Main Field  
14.30 - 15.30 Hot Shots Competition. CS Sports Hall  
Penalty Shoot Out.  
15.00 - 16.00 All Age Groups. Main Field.  
Caterpillar Crawl, Ski Races,  
Tug of War.  
Jockey Race Company and Adults

### EVENTS DURING THE DAY

- Activity Room – Computer Games and X Boxes  
All Ages  
Main Field – Inflatable Assault Course,  
Up and Over.  
Anchors and Juniors Adventure Playground.  
Available under Supervision All Age Groups  
Sports Hall – Climbing Wall  
Juniors and Company.  
Lawn Area – Face Painting, Giant Jenga, Mega  
Connect Four, Giant Snakes and Ladders, Target  
Game, Pick a Lolly, Tuck Shop, Cake Stall, Barbecue  
etc. etc.  
Centenary Hall. Refreshments,  
Centenary Hall. Staff Room First Aid.

### HOTSHOTS ACTIVITIES

Separate Charge for Company Section Hot Shots Competition  
paid at the gate with entry form

**BRIGADE COUNCIL**  
Armagh, Northern Ireland  
3rd – 5th September 2010

## Prayer Topics

### Please Pray for:

- Ron GREGG – Liverpool PM's  
David GRIFFITHS – Wigan  
Canon Jim HAMILTON – St Helens  
Fraser HIORNS – Altrincham  
David KENNETT – Oldham  
Graham LOFTUS – Runcorn  
Darren WRIGHT – Southport

### 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.

### Photo Acknowledgements

- BBC Religion & Ethics  
• John Banks • James Calvert • Ken Chalton  
• John Gaffney • David Holmes • Andrew McCaldon  
• Brian Taylor • Jamie Walker

When you wish upon a Star  
Dream making for sick children.  
We are pleased to report the following contributions to the District Charity 2010

East Lancashire	£200.00
Oldham Battalion	£ 50.00
1st Dearham (St Mungo's Parish)	£274.69
1st Rishton (Rishton Methodist)	£200.00
Queens Badge Course	£ 38.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£763.05</b>

### THE DIGEST

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

Tel: 01772 685000 Fax: 01772 671257  
Email: office@bb-northwest.org.uk  
Web: www.bb-northwest.org.uk  
Registered Charity No. 520143

### DESIGN:

John GAFFNEY, District Administrator  
johngaffney@talktalk.net  
www.johngaffneyphotos.talktalk.net