

## Crystal Challenge



Eighty Junior section members enjoyed an excellent time participating in the District Junior Sections Competitions Day held at the District Centre on Saturday 21 March. The following Companies took part: **1st Bare** (Methodist), **3rd Burnley** (St Catherine's Parish), **1st Leyland** (Methodist), **10th Liverpool** (Christ Church Parish), **24th Oldham** (Chadderton Methodist), **1st Oswaldtwistle** (Rhyddings Methodist), **1st Over Wyre** (Bethel URC), **1st Port Sunlight** (URC), **1st Preston** (St David's Free C of E) and **10th Southport** (Marshside Methodist)



## A Century of Service

I am currently engaged in compiling a chronology of the District 1914 to 2014. Throughout this period we certainly experienced some 'peaks and troughs'.

At its inauguration there were some 89 Companies in the District the same number we have today.

The First World War was certainly not the best time to start any organisation involving young man, however in 1926 subsequent to the amalgamation with the Boys Life Brigade our strength was boosted by 100 Companies. The 1930's where to be the halcyon days with some 252 Companies. Then came the Second World War with a reduction of 100 Companies almost overnight as it were. In Coronation year, 1953, we had 275 Companies and in the Brigade Centenary year 1983 we had 250 Companies.

Today we are faced with a considerable reduction in the number of churches and a decline in the congregations within the existing churches, certainly one of the 'troughs'.

In all such times, in the former years, the tradition of the Brigade has been to adapt to the conditions and keep going. The columns of the Gazette advise that some 10 new Companies have been recently enrolled in Christian congregations within our District very often meeting at times and in venues not normally associated 'Church'. These are early days for such ventures and it may be sometime before we see an impact in our overall strength but the Bible has something to say about the weakness. God will not let us use weakness as an excuse for not doing what we are supposed to do.

'I can do everything through him who gives me strength'. *Philippians 4:13*

In Christ

**Alan McLoughlin**

*District President*

Copies of the Chronology can be pre-ordered via  
[alanmccloughlin1883@msn.com](mailto:alanmccloughlin1883@msn.com)



### RESULTS OF THE CRYSTAL CHALLENGE

#### WINNERS: 1st Preston

Jorawar Singh, Arjan Singh, Dylan Hanlon

#### Runners up: 24th Oldham

Emily Marsh, Lia Robinson, Lucy Taylor

#### 3rd Place: 1st Leyland

Jude Lambert, Mackenzie Lewis, Aron Shatwell



# Junior Section 5-a-side Football



The following 7 Companies attended the Junior Section 5-a-Side Football Competition on January 31st

1st Over Wyre, 1st Oswaldtwistle, 1st Morecambe, 1st Bare, 1st Leyland, 1st Preston and 8th Wigan.

A great day was had by all, each team played 6 games, so all played each other. The results were as follows:

**1st place - 1st Bare**, 2nd place - 1st Leyland and 3rd place - 1st Morecambe

Many thanks to all who assisted in the organising, and to the superb effort put in by the lads both on and off the field.



## Swimming Success

The Northwest District Swimming Gala took place at Dunes Leisure Centre on Saturday 6 December. Nine Companies from the District took part: 14th Southport (St John's Church, Ainsdale); 9th Southport (Ainsdale Methodist); 7th Southport (Birkdale Methodist); 10th Southport (Marshside Methodist); 1st Ormskirk (Emmanuel Methodist/URC); 1st Leyland (Leyland Methodist); 49th Liverpool (St Christopher Parish, Norris Green w. St Mary, West Derby); 1st Bare (Bare Methodist); 1st Denton (Hope URC). A total of 44 boys and 5 officers swam in the events to make a very enjoyable evening.

### RESULTS

#### 200m. OPEN AGE CHAMPION

Daniel Beech (1st Denton)

#### OFFICERS RACE

1st Mrs Kay Owen  
10th Southport

#### JUNIOR SECTION TROPHY

1st 14th Southport  
2nd 49th Liverpool  
3rd 1st Leyland

#### COMPANY SECTION TROPHY

1st 1st Ormskirk  
2nd 1st Leyland  
3rd 1st Bare

#### SENIOR SECTION TROPHY

1st 1st Denton  
2nd 1st Ormskirk  
3rd 1st Bare

#### OVERALL WINNERS

1st 1st Ormskirk  
2nd 1st Denton  
3rd 1st Bare

# District Ten Pin Bowling

The District TEN PIN BOWLING Competition was held at the Hollywood Bowl in Liverpool Saturday 24 January when 9 teams took part in an exciting event.

The top four teams played off in the final

|            |                                    |                |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1st</b> | <b>1st Denton</b>                  | <b>296 pts</b> |
| 2nd        | 1st Oswaldtwistle                  | 264 pts        |
| 3rd        | 7th Southport (Birkdale Methodist) | 261 pts        |
| 4th        | 1st Morecambe                      | 250 pts        |

#### BEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE

**HARVEY RIDEHALGH** (1st Oswaldtwistle) 229 pts.

Runner Up: **DANIEL WILCOX** (7th Southport) 220 pts.

Thanks to all who took part and to Mick Southern and Bill Clarey who arranged the event and presented trophies and medals.

# THANK YOU VERY MUCH

## Dearham Presentation

1st Dearham (St Mungo's Parish) have continued their annual charity giving with a £500 donation to Hospice at Home West Cumbria. Company Captain Paul Gilmour said members of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association were encouraged to think of people less fortunate than themselves and donate on a regular basis throughout the year to a charity.



Staff Sergeant Callum Johnston presents a cheque for £503.31 to Hospice at Home West Cumbria Trustee Dr, Terry Collins.

## Accrington Presentation



#### Accrington & District BB Brass Ensemble played

carols at several retail outlets during the Christmas season and donated the sum of £250 to the local Branch of Parkinsons UK. The cheque was received by former BB Officer Tony Renton at a ceremony held in Accrington Town Hall. The money will enable sufferers to go on outings in special transport.

## Southport Presentation



The 7th Southport (Birkdale Methodist) received letters of thanks from 'Free Cakes for Kids' for the £150 donation and Christian Aid for the £127.97 donation to help with the Ebola crisis. The money was raised by the Company bag packing. Captain Mr. Peter Oldham says, "We would like to thank all the customers and staff of Tesco Southport for their support."

### Photo Acknowledgements

Dave Barnes • Alison Bowlzer • Phil East • Sheila Holmes  
Terence Kirton • Jason Nicholson • Janet Oldham  
Kay Owen • Ian Parrish • Geoff Smale • Ben Smith  
Mick Southern • Derek Swanson • Zara Townley



## EAST LANCASHIRE 40th ANNIVERSARY



The East Lancashire Battalion completed its 40th Anniversary celebrations with a holiday weekend to the Kingswood Centre in Yorkshire. The first celebration was an Anchor boy visit to Eureka.



## Manchester Battalion Church Parade



On Sunday 19 October 2014 Manchester Battalion held their Annual Church Parade at St Anne's Church in Central Manchester. Five Metropolitan Mayors, accompanied the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Manchester, Mr Paul Griffiths, at the saluting base.

## WORKERS UNITE



Members of the 9th (Ainsdale Methodist) and 10th (Marshside Methodist) Southport Companies formed a working party at the Activity Centre to tidy up some trees. There are always manageable tasks to be done around the site if you feel able to bring a small group of seniors or officers to the Centre for such tasks please contact Robert Wright on rlw8spt@hotmail.co.uk.



## Skills for QB



13 Members from the following 1st Roby, 10th Liverpool, 16th Liverpool, 35th Liverpool, 1st Port Sunlight and 1st Dearham Companies attended a Skills for Queens Badge course organised by Liverpool Battalion at Christ Church, Anfield on the 7 March.

## PRESTON REVIVAL



After a year in abeyance the 1st Preston Company (St David's Free CoE) have now got a 'hands on' Chaplain and 3 Officers all of whom completed their YLT at the District Centre. With experienced help of Jason Nicholson over an intense 8 week period in which 18 boys were recruited and trained sufficiently to put on a demonstration Company evening for parents and guests. They have also taken part in two District events not bad for a whirlwind 8 weeks.

## 1st Bretherton Company



The 1st Bretherton Company (Bretherton Congregational) Captain Zara Thackerley says "We have now been going as a Company for over three months and have 18 regular boys and girls coming every Tuesday evening. It's a challenge but we are all enjoying ourselves!"

## 5th Manchester Jumble Sale



The 5th Manchester Company (Christ Church URC) held its bi-annual jumble sale and auction on the Saturday 7 March. Attracting more than 300 people the event helps to raise much needed funds for the Company. More than 30 young people have been involved in promotion, collecting donations and sorting thousands of items for sale on the day. The effort being found worthy of a photograph in the high circulation Manchester Evening news.



## DISTRICT CALENDAR

### April

11 National Final - Masterteam Treales  
Archery Club Treales  
17/19 Navigation Skills Training Course BBMC

### May

10 Queens Badge Presentation Preston  
15/17 Stedfast Associations AGM Liverpool  
16 CS Five-a-side Football Treales  
29/31 Expedition & Outdoor Leadership BBMC

### June

6 District Executive Treales  
20 FESTIVAL of FUN Treales  
26/28 Expedition & Outdoor Leadership Treales

### September

4/6 Brigade Council Wolverhampton

### October

3 101st Annual General Meeting Middlewich  
17/18 QB1 Course Treales

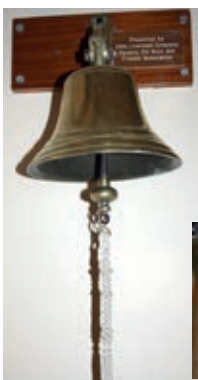
### January 2016

23/24 Youth Leader Training Treales

### February

19/21 Queens Badge Completion Treales

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



## The BELL



Our photograph shows the Bell at Felden Lodge and the inscription indicating it is a gift from the 29th Liverpool (Christ Church, Norris Green) but no date. Does anyone know about this bell and does it have maritime connections.

## Prayer Topics

Jenny BARNES – Blackburn

Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton

Jeff ROBERTS – Oldham

Darren WRIGHT – Southport

## OBITUARIES

THE VENERABLE  
ROBERT L. METCALF  
(age 80)

Bob was Chaplain of the 5th Wigan Company (St Catherine's Parish Church) from 1967 to 1975 and from 1975 to 1994 Chaplain of the 31st Liverpool (Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wavertree) a great supporter of the Brigade method throughout his ministry he officiated at the opening of the District Training Centre and again at the Centres 20th Anniversary celebration.

MALCOLM IAN BAXTER  
(aged 82)

Malcolm was a member of the 52nd Liverpool Company (Warbreck Moor Methodist). On moving to Ormskirk in 1952 he became founder Captain of the 1st Ormskirk Company (Emmanuel Meth/URC). He subsequently moved to Lytham in 1970 and founded the 3rd Lytham St Annes Company (Church Road Methodist). Malcolm was District Treasurer from 1978 to 1989 and was part of the team which negotiated the purchase of the house and land at Treales as a site for the District Activity Centre. He is survived by his wife Audrey a daughter Rhona and son Simon.

GEOFF BRATT  
(aged 69)

Geoff was for some 25 years Captain of the 1st Meols Company (URC) and Battalion Band master he until trained for the ministry to become full time Pastor of Emmanuel Church, Birkenhead. He leaves a wife Beryl to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

## Queens Badge Completion Course



The Queens Badge Completion Course was held at the District Training Centre during weekend 27 February to 1 March. Some 29 young people from 9 Companies representing the following Battalions attended. East Cheshire, Lancastria, Liverpool, Manchester, St Helens, Wigan, Wirral, West Cheshire and Carlisle. The speaker at the dinner was Dr R C W Henderson MBE.

## Youth Leader Training Course



The Youth Leader Training Course held at the District Training and Activities Centre during the first weekend of February 2015 attracted 25 leaders from 12 Companies, representing 7 Battalions.

We wish each one of them well in their ongoing work in the BB.

## FUNDAY & HOTSHOTS

District Activity Centre, Kirkham

20th June 2015

11.00am - 4.00pm

- Water Shoot
- Potted Sports
- Climbing Wall
- Inflatables
- Tumble Mats
- Shooting
- Archery
- Wet Sponge
- Face Painting
- Stalls
- Barbecue
- much more

£2.00 per person

HOTSHOTS £1.00 per person  
Entries by 13 June

### THE DIGEST

is the quarterly newsletter of  
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