

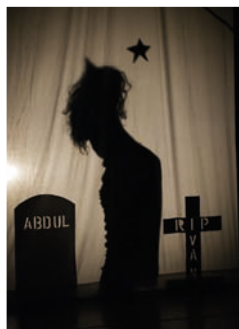


The Boys' Brigade in the North West **Digest**



Summer 2008

CELEBRATION SHOWCASE



There are those who will say that these days, The Boys' Brigade has declined to the point that it is no longer possible to put on a major public Display of the type that it used to do so well. This myth was blown to the winds on a cold, breezy April Saturday when some 600 people – present and former members of the BB from near and distant parts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, together with the families and friends of those participating – gathered in the Southport Arts Centre to watch two performances of the 125th Anniversary Celebration Display of the North West District.

And what a Celebration it was! Representatives of a dozen Companies along with the Youth Praise Group from Leyland Road Methodist Church, Southport, who led the worship, treated us to an exhibition of the wonderful work going on in our Companies today. Bandwork was well represented with the percussion band and colours of the **1st Ashton-in-Makerfield (St. Thomas Parish)** playing in traditional style; the modern marching band music of the (seated!) **1st Moreton BB/2nd Moreton GB (Moreton Methodist)** band who set the celebratory tone in fine style and the **1st Rishton/Accrington BB Silver Band (Rishton Methodist)** moving from the simplicity of the Shaker Song (Lord of the Dance) (paid tribute to the Leaders of the Brigade by playing Eric Ball's stirring brass band composition "Sure and Steadfast", to whom

continued overleaf



THE BRICK

Andrew Scott-Taggart's rendition of Abbé Michel Quoist's prayer at the close of the Display....

The bricklayer laid a brick on the bed of cement. Then, with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer and without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick.

The foundations grew visibly, the building rose, tall and strong, to shelter men.

I thought, Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the base of the big building.

No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task, and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the roof-top or in the foundations of your building, as long as I stand faithfully at the right place?

Was a fitting reminder to us all this 125th year that most of the time our work is regarded of little significance. Yet we are called to be faithful, believing that if our organisation remains committed to the object 'The advancement of Christ's Kingdom' we have grounds for believing we have a real purpose in His plan.

As we continue 'Underneath the banner of the Cross arrayed' we ask God's blessing on the Boys' brigade in 2008 and beyond.

In His service
Alan McLoughlin
District President



it is dedicated) to the rousing flag-waving strains of Land of Hope and Glory.

Figure marching from **1st Bare** (*Bare Methodist*) displayed an imaginative turn of mind – Boys as cars wielded steering wheels and flashing lights moving in an intricate traffic management scheme. The **3rd Trafford** (*Sevenways Methodist*) no doubt revived many a long-cherished memory of drill in fours, the Boys sporting dummy rifles, haversacks, pill boxes and field service caps. But did the audience really deserve the rifle volleys aimed at them?

More memories of times gone by were conjured up by the comical shadowgraph depictions by **1st Elworth** (*Mount Pleasant Methodist*) of Flanders and Swann's "The Gas Man Cometh" and "Abdul the Bulbul Amir". At the end of the latter, the extent of the Muscovite Maiden's inheritance from her love for the late Ivan Skavinsky Skivar was made manifest! The audience really let their hair down and got into the swing of the **1st Ashton-in-Makerfield's** highly energetic rendition of Village People's "YMCA" – possibly the raunchiest item ever in the history of NW District Displays!

The week-by-week work that goes on in our Companies was by no means neglected. The **3rd Trafford** treated us to a thrilling display of vaulting box work, despite the confines of the stage; **10th and 56th Liverpool** (*Christ Church Parish, Anfield and Court Hey Methodist*) demonstrated their first aid skills in a series of light hearted sketches and **16th Liverpool** (*Bethel Church*) contrasted the life-changing effects of a surgical heart transplant with the change in heart of repentance and turning to Christ. One makes headlines; the other does not.

In the finale item **7th Southport** (*Birkdale Methodist*) built a wall of bricks – each showing one of the types of activities to be found in our Companies, and reminded us that this work is buttressed by our Founder's principles of disciple and religion – as valid today as 125 years ago. Throughout the Display, **2nd Altrincham**

(*Altrincham Methodist*) had carried on with the quiet but vital work of scene changing that they have performed for every District Display – a magnificent record of service – and the Boys of **7th Southport** had covered the breaks with a series of visual jokes and a virtuoso guitar solo. Stewards in the Hall were provided by Southport and District Battalion.

A fitting end to the Display was the reading of a prayer by Michel Quoist – "The Brick" – and the lusty singing of "Praise Him on the trumpet" led by the young folk from Leyland Road – The opening and closing devotions were said by Andrew Scott-Taggart a Queensman of the **7th Southport**.

It was heartening throughout the Display to note the enthusiasm of the Boys and that Companies included all their members, matching what they did to their skills and capabilities, not selecting against an artificial "standard" to be attained. For of such is made the real strength of our movement.

Congratulations and grateful thanks are due to all who contributed in any way to this memorable event.

R. J. Reid

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

MANCHESTER

Some 400 members of the Manchester Battalion and the Greater Manchester Girls Brigade plus a contingent from Wigan Battalion attended a service in Manchester Cathedral on Sunday, 27 April.

The Service was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester supported by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Mayors of six other Local Authorities. The high circulation 'Manchester Evening News' gave full coverage.

OLDHAM

The Rochdale Borough Council are organising a floral tribute to 125 in the town.

BOLTON

The 'Bolton News' published two full pages of photographs on the 125 year all done to the initiative of one Officer!

EAST LANCASHIRE

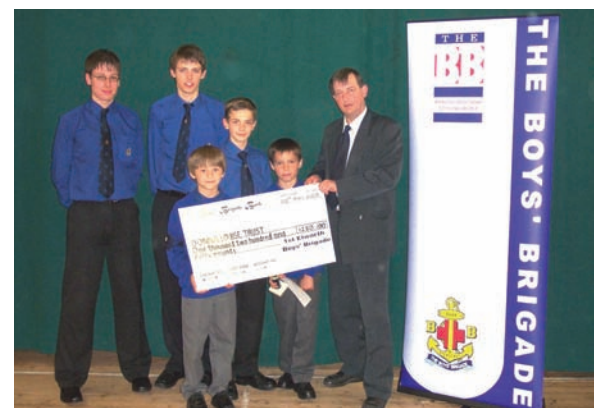
Hynburn Borough Council have promised a floral display in Accrington and the Battalion are organising a special feature in the 'Lancashire Evening Telegraph'.

DISTRICT

The following Queensmen have been chosen to be apart of a contingent of 125 Queensmen to Parade to the City of London Guildhall on Saturday 29th June.

Samuel Hunt	12th Wigan	(St John the Evangelist Parish)
Ian Fazakerley	1st Moreton	(Moreton Methodist)
Luke Wheeler	3rd Trafford	(Sevenways Methodist)
Joseph Gray	3rd Trafford	(Sevenways Methodist)
Michael Southern	35th Liverpool	(Childwall Parish Church)
Andrew McCaldon	35th Liverpool	(Childwall Parish Church)

ANNIVERSARY DONATION



Members of **1st Elworth** (*Mount Pleasant Methodist*) present a cheque for £1250 to Mr. S. Carter a representative of the "Donna Louise Trust" as the Company's contribution to the 125th Anniversary Appeal.

The presentation took place during the Company's Annual Presentation of Awards Evening at which Mr. and Mrs. Carter were Guests of Honour.



Boys from the **10th Liverpool** (*Christ Church, Anfield*) together with local residents planted fifty hanging baskets to be hung from lamp posts in the area.

National Table Tennis Final



HERE & THERE

Easter Course 2008



Andrew Sale of the 7th Southport (*Birkdale, Methodist*) visited Denmark, Copenhagen, in March, as BBUK representative for this years Easter Course 2008. He stayed at the FDF headquarters at Rysensteen in Copenhagen.

The theme for the week was 'Coexistence' which included a 24 hour role play game and Treasure Hunt in the middle of Copenhagen with a GPS receiver.

Next year the Easter Course is in Finland. If you are interested more information will be in the Gazette.

Andrew is going back to Copenhagen next year to Euro Class, a Leadership course for Young people - details are on the website at http://www.studenteuroclass.org/official_index.html

Sir Peter Invites

For several years the 19th Wigan (*Vale Methodist Church*) and their sister GB Company have assisted with stewarding at the Annual Open Day at Parbold Hall, home of Millionaire philanthropist Sir Peter Moores.

Involvement in this high profile event that attracts upwards of 1500 visitors each year does a great deal to heighten awareness of the Brigades.

This year in recognition of this service, Sir Peter made the Brigades the main beneficiaries realising some £1000 for Company Funds that will support the cost of D of E training weekend in the Lake District.

Leyland Centurions

The 1st Leyland (*Turpin Green Methodist*) celebrated 100 years with a service of rededication on Wednesday 31 April 2008.

A retiring collection of £200 was donated to Derian House Childrens Hospice.

JUNIOR SECTION Competitions Day

19 April 2008



EAST LANCASHIRE

The winning team from the five-a-side

The District had the honour to host the final at the world class Palatine Leisure Centre, Blackpool on Saturday 17 May. Six teams representing the three regions of the United Kingdom took part.

The winners were 44th Glasgow (*Cardonald Parish Church of Scotland*) and our own 1st Burton-in-Kendal (*St James Parish*) were a worthy third.

The Mayor of Blackpool Councillor Mary Smith presented the trophies.

The District Centre provided the accommodation for the teams over the weekend and after the Competition, the teams that had faced each other over the tables in the afternoon met again for a formal dinner over the table in Centenary Hall on Saturday evening.

Bahamas Bound

Chris Bell, a 16 year old Sergeant in the 1st Ormskirk Company (*Emmanuel Methodist/URC*) has been selected to take part in the Liverpool District Methodist Church Youth Exchange and will be travelling to the Bahamas, Turks and Caisos Islands in August.

The party will be spending four weeks assisting with numerous community projects.

Chris is a student at Ormskirk School and is currently working towards his Queens Badge.

LEADERSHIP 3



Twenty young men from Ormskirk, Morecambe & Heysham, Wigan, Liverpool, East and North Cheshire Battalions attended the Leadership 3

weekend course at Treales from 17 May 2008. Courses at level 3 are becoming increasingly valuable to companies in the District.

TRAINING MATTERS in the NORTH WEST

COURSES ARRANGED FOR 2008/9

Date	Course	Venue
June		
21	Emergency First Aid	Treales
28	Leadership 3	Manchester
November		
28/30	QB Leadership	Treales
2009		
February		
27/1 Mar	QB Completion	Treales

DISTRICT DIARY

June

- 14 District Executive
- 21 Opening of BB Memorial Garden Alrewas
- 28 COMPANY FUN DAY AT CAMELOT Charnock Richard (HQ Sponsored)

September

- 5/7 BRIGADE COUNCIL - Tulliallan
- 27/28 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND District Training & Activities Centre

October

- 11 94th Annual General Meeting Leyland

WEBSITE UPDATED

Latest photos of National Table Tennis Competition, 125 Anniversary Display and JS Competitions Day now online at www.johnhaffneyphotos.talktalk.net

Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Ron HALLIWELL – Bolton
Elsie & Bill GAZE – Childwall
Graham LOFTUS – Runcorn
Margaret GLEDHILL – Blackpool
George HEDGER – Cleveleys
Chuck MACFARLANE – Runcorn
Sue MITCHELL – Moreton
Ken PETERS – Chester
Rev. J. Clive RIMMER – Southport
Edna WRIGHT – Fleetwood

DISTRICT 125 CELEBRATION

The planning of the event is now well under way and at the closing date we hit the limit of 200 Anchor and Juniors who registered to attend on the Saturday, 27 September with almost 160 Company and Senior boys attending for the whole weekend Camping experience. Over 80 Staff will accompany them across the two Activity Centres of Myerscough College and DTC. The steering group are now working hard to finalise the details and the 22 Companies registered will receive more detailed information during the summer.

Photo Acknowledgements

Ken Chalton • Barry Ellershaw • John Gaffney
David Holmes • Andrew Sale

OBITUARIES

G. E. COLEMAN

Aged 84

Ted was Captain of the 2nd Oldham (Albert Road Congregational) for over 30 years during which time the Company produced several items for the Blackpool Display.

He was Oldham Battalion Secretary for 23 years and a member of the District Executive.

Ted never married he leaves a nephew to whom we extend of our sympathy.

Rev'd MARTIN W. GARNER

Aged 69

The son of a Clergyman Martin was the first volunteer to pioneer the work of the Voluntary Service Overseas organisation.

Appointed Vicar of St. James, Burton-in-Kendal in 1980 he was the inspiration along with David Mills in forming the 1st Burton in Kendal Company providing the first recruit in his son Philip who has been in the 35th Liverpool (All Saints, Childwall). Martin enthusiastically joined in all the Company activities particularly Camp at Haytor.

GRANVILLE HARDY

Age 85

Granville was a founder member of 1st Ashton-in-Makerfield (St. Thomas Parish).

He served as Officer in Charge of the Life Boys/Junior Section for 40 years and was an active member of St. Helens Battalion.

RENÉE LAWRENSON

1921 - 2008

Renée was the Life Boy Leader in charge at the former 2nd Blackburn Company (Furthergate Congregational).

She was the coordinator for Life Boy activities and training in the Blackburn Group and was responsible for taking several items to the Blackpool Display.

Although not actively involved in the Brigade for many years, she always showed a great interest in Battalion, District and Brigade events.

S. ALASDAIR MUNRO JP

Age 73

Alasdair was a boy in the 43rd Liverpool (St. Cyprians, Edge Hill) and came under the influence of the legendary Captain, E. R. W. Potter MBE.

After graduating as a teacher he became an Officer in the 43rd and subsequently a Brigade Training Officer and for a term Battalion President.

At the time of his passing he was President of the Liverpool P.M.A. and Secretary of the BB Anglican Council a position he held for 25 years. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Kathleen and son Alasdair in their loss.

ALBERT WARREN

Age 94

Albert was Captain of the 4th Ashton-in-Makerfield (Charlestown Congregational Church) and a member of the staff of the District Christian Leadership Courses held regularly during the 60's, a textile worker at the time he was able to articulate his Christian faith in a manner which BB lads could relate.

After his retirement he maintained lively interest in the District Display and brought a party of 10 to Southport on his 92nd year.

We extend our sympathy to the family circle.

DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

CROSS COUNTRY

This competition took place on Saturday, 1 March 2008 at Wythenshawe Park. The entry levels on the day were affected by other commitments but we were encouraged by the entries previously received.

The results were as follows:-

Junior Fun Run

- 1st Nathan Bradshaw 7th Altrincham
- 2nd Joe Walker 50th Manchester
- 3rd Daniel Fairhurst 1st Ashton in Makerfield

Team Winners: Manchester Battalion

Company Event

- 1st Grant Salkeld 1st Ashton in Makerfield
- 2nd Tim Robinson 7th Altrincham
- 3rd Erik Apter 1st Ashton in Makerfield

Team Winners: Wigan Battalion

Senior Event

- 1st Andrew Dawson 1st Ashton in Makerfield
- 2nd Colin Reid 50th Manchester
- 3rd John Alexander 1st Morecambe

No complete team for the Trophy



5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

The Company and Senior competition was held on Saturday, 10 May 2008 at District Training & Activity Centre.

The event was attended by a record 102 boys (11 Company teams and 6 Senior teams representing 9 Companies from 7 Battalions).

The winner of the COMPANY COMPETITION was 16th Liverpool 'A', with 1st Bare 'B' runners up and 1st Ashton in Makerfield 3rd place finalist.

The winner of the SENIOR COMPETITION was 1st Ashton in Makerfield with 1st Oswaldtwistle runners up.

THE DIGEST

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