



The Boys' Brigade in the North West

# Digest



Winter 2012

## Her Majesty's Baton Relay

On Tuesday, 14 August members of the Brigade representing United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland delivered a message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty the Queen at Balmoral Castle and received a gracious reply which was sealed in a Baton, thus began a 3000 mile journey round the British Isles en route for Brigade Council in London arriving in the North West District on Saturday, 1 September.

### 1st September

Received from Yorkshire District by Oldham District Battalion at the Museum of Uppermill in the presence of the Chairman of Saddleworth Council. It was then conveyed to Oldham Mumps station by the 2nd Rochdale (Bamford Chapel URC) and then transferred by Metro Link to Manchester Battalion at Media City. Members of the 53rd and 59th Manchester Companies (Salford Methodist Community Church & Platt Lane Methodist) delivered it to Knowsley Hall where it was received by the Earl of Derby DL, Honorary President, on behalf of the Liverpool Battalion.

### Sunday 2 September

The Baton was formally received by a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Civic and Military dignitaries during a Merchant Navy day service at the Pier Head.

### Monday 3 September

The Baton was received in Middlewich by the 1st Middlewich (Queen Street URC) in the presence of the Deputy Mayor, it was then conveyed by cyclists of the 1st Elworth (Mount Pleasant Methodist) to the North Staffordshire Battalion at Stoke-on-Trent.



Uppermill



Mumps Station



Manchester Media City



Liverpool - Pier Head Buglers



Middlewich - Receiving Baton



Liverpool - Lord Derby



Elworth - Cyclists



# 98th Annual General Meeting at Rishton



Some 40 Officers representing 17 Companies attended the AGM at Rishton Methodist Church by kind invitation of the East Lancashire Battalion. The Mayor of Hyndburn Cllr John Bradley extended a civic welcome.

After formalities of the Annual General Meeting had been completed there followed an address by John Myers, Development Officer Leeds Battalion, on the theme 'Called to Serve'.

The day concluded with a Buffet tea generously provided by the ladies of the church. As ever a time of rich fellowship ensued.



## ROYAL MESSENGERS

This edition of the Digest contains details in word and photographs of the passing of Her Majesty's gracious reply to the Brigade Diamond Jubilee greeting.

This brings to mind the title of an



illustration by the artist Harold Copping "The Kings Messenger" which depicted a BB Sergeant in front of Jesus on a hillside, such prints were hung prominently

in Company headquarters (indeed I think some still are!) The days of bible illustrations are long past but I readily recall the impact they made in giving us a weekly reminder as to our purpose. We need to remember also as we strive to retain our members to be Queen's men our ultimate goal is that they become Kings man to take on the all important Gospel message into future generations. May we all be strengthened for the task in the year ahead.

In Christ  
**Alan McLoughlin**  
 District President

## GYMNASTICS COURSE



Some 28 Officers participated in a one day gymnastics course held at the District Training Centre on Saturday 1 September 2012.

The Boys' Brigade West London Gymnasts provided coaching. The course was fully

booked by the closing date and Officers from the 3rd Trafford (*Sevenways Methodist Church*), 1st Morecambe & Heysham (*Stanley Street Baptist Church*), 59th Manchester (*Platt Lane Methodist*), 7th Southport (*Liverpool Road Methodist*), 8th Wigan (*St Peter's Parish Church, Hindley*), 2nd Widnes (*St Mary's Parish Church*) and 1st Oswaldtwistle (*Rhyddings Methodist*) took part along with 8 Company Section members who acted as trainees.





# TASTE of CAMP WEEKEND



**Some 28 members from the following** Companies 1st Bromborough (*Bromborough Methodist*), 1st Burnley (*Greenbrook Methodist*), 5th Manchester (*Christ Church URC*), 10th Liverpool (*Christ Church, Anfield*), 48th Liverpool (*Linacre Mission*), 9th Widnes (*St Ambrose Parish*), 1st Oswaldtwistle (*Rhyddings Methodist*), and 1st Leyland (*Leyland Methodist*) spent the weekend participating in the adventure playground, Climbing Tower, Canoeing, Blind Football and Indoor Games.

Sunday worship was conducted by the Rev. Steve Gough.

Such weekends are always oversubscribed and organisers try to ensure that different Companies attend each year so it is essential to apply early.





## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<b>2012</b>		
<b>December</b>		
1	Juniors/Anchors Workshop	Treales
<b>2013</b>		
<b>January</b>		
5	District Executive	Treales
19	Anchor Boy Party	Treales
26	Ten Pin Bowling	Warrington
<b>February</b>		
16	Cross Country	Wythenshawe TBC
16/17	Youth Leader Training	Treales
22-24	Queens Badge Completion	Treales
<b>March</b>		
2	District Executive	Treales
9	Five-a-Side Football	Treales
16	Working with Challenging Behaviour	Treales
<b>April</b>		
6th	BB National Chess Competition Final	Treales
7th	Friends & Memorial Day	Treales
13	Arche ry Day	Treales
27	J S Competitions Day	Treales
<b>May</b>		
11	Campcraft	Treales
12	Queens Badge Presentation	
<b>June</b>		
1	District Executive	Treales
8	Holiday Leadership	Treales
15	Festival of Fun	Treales

## NW DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA



Twenty boys and girls from 8 Companies representing 4 Battalions attended the Swimming Gala on Saturday, 17 November at the EPIC, Ellesmere Port and enjoyed a day of friendly competition in spite of the low entries this year. The Southport Companies were triumphant in winning the team trophies.

The Southport Companies won 8-1st, 6-2nd and 2-3rd places in the individuals and the relays. 1st Leyland (*Leyland Methodist*) 1-1st, 2-2nd and 1-3rd place, 9th Widnes (*St Ambrose Parish*) 1-2nd and 3-3rd places and 1st Bebington (*Grange URC*) 3-3rd places.

Adam Hulme of Southport won the 200 Metres with Beth Evans 2nd and Beth Keeley 3rd both of 9th Widnes.

Well done to all who supported the event.

## OBITUARY

**Sheila Whisker  
Aged 62**

Sheila was for some 30 years an Officer in the Anchor section of the 8th Wigan (*St Peters Church, Hindley*) a dedicated worker in the parish and an enthusiastic organiser of events for the Anchor boys at Battalion and District level. She will be sadly missed by many but mostly by her husband Jim (Captain of the 8th) and children Ian and Gillian to whom we extend deepest sympathy.

# D of E



David Mills who serves as Duke of Edinburgh Award Assistant Manager in Lancastria/Cumbria has been appointed by the District Executive as District Award Adviser and is available to give advice on the current regulations and other matters on [david.j.mills@btinternet.com](mailto:david.j.mills@btinternet.com).

# Building Your Skills

The Lancastria Battalion hosted a 'Building Your Skills' course at the District Training Centre on Saturday, 8 September and this was attended by 22 members from the 1st Bare (*Bare Methodist*), 1st Dearham (*St Mungo's Parish*), 1st Morecambe & Heysham (*Stanley Street Baptist*), 1st Port Sunlight (*Christ Church URC*), 4th Runcorn (*Norton Parish*), 1st Skerton (*St Luke's Parish*), 2nd Widnes (*St Mary's Parish*) and 9th Widnes (*St Ambrose Parish*).



## Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Hazel ARMSTRONG – Oswaldtwistle

Reg LOCKETT – Bolton

Andrew McKAY – Moreton

Ray SMITH – Sandbach

Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton

## Photo Acknowledgements

'Oldham Chronicle' • Ken Chalton • Sarah Coates • John Cooper  
Barry Ellershaw • Jonathan Hooton • Andrew McCaldon  
David Normington • Ken Snowden • Natalie Whipday

## THE DIGEST

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