

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

Winter 2013

# 99th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**The 99th Annual General Meeting** was held at South Chadderton Methodist Church on Saturday, 5 October 2013 by kind invitation of the Oldham and District Battalion. Some 42 officers representing 18 Companies from 10 Battalions were present to receive a Civic welcome from the Mayor of Oldham (Cllr. Richard Hudson) who was accompanied by the Mayoress (Mrs. Kathleen Hudson).

After formalities of the annual meeting, a keynote address was delivered by the Rev. Neil Riches MA, President of the Birmingham Battalion, who spoke about the remarkable involvement of the BB in Birmingham in community affairs.

As ever, the day ended with a buffet meal generously provided by the ladies of the South Chadderton Methodist Church.

Everyone took the opportunity to review the unique collection of BB badges and memorabilia displayed by Barry Cooke, Captain of the 24th Oldham Company, and of course much conversation ensued.



# CENTENARY YEAR

Founded in 1914 at a meeting of the YMCA in Manchester as the Lancashire and Cheshire District our District will celebrate its Centenary in 2014.

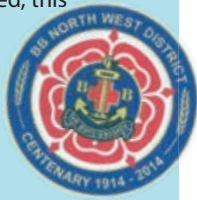
To mark the occasion a **Commemorative Buttonhole Badge** has been designed, this will be available in December and by authority of the Brigade Executive it may be worn by members of the District in uniform during 2014.

Several special events have been organised, they include the **Colour Service** in June (full details with this mailing). The **Festival of Fun** and the **Anchor & Juniors Day** will be extra special. In August we will hold a **District Reception and Thanksgiving** at the Centre.

The month of September will see "**Camp 100**" for Company Sections. The year will culminate with the **Centenary Annual Meeting** in the prestigious "1834 Suite" of Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford.

Having made these plans the Executive will seek also to maintain a full programme of training and other activities.

A Centenary year presents us with a special challenge to refresh our endeavours to review our leadership, the words from Revelations 21:5 state "Behold I will make all things new!".



In Christ  
*Alan McLoughlin*  
District President



## Anchor 'Safari' Party



Anchor Section members from the 1st Leyland, 10th Liverpool, 1st Oswaldtwistle and 1st Southport had a fun packed day at the District Training and Activity Centre on Saturday 2 November.

The theme of the party was 'Safari' and the day comprised of a mixture of craft activities and games all based around that central theme. With a lunch of fish or chicken fingers, beans and chips followed by raspberry mousse to keep energy levels up everyone had a 'wild' time.

## THE 3rd ON DISPLAY

The Mayor of Trafford (Councillor Dylan Butt) and the Mayoress (Mrs Farah Butt) were guests of honour at the Annual Display of the 3rd Trafford Company (Sevenways Methodist Church). After witnessing a Display of activities

the Mayor congratulated three members of the Company on completing their service in the ranks. Ross Hyde (Royal Marines), Yuri Felipe (Charity Worker in Tanzania) and James Calvert (Officer in the Company).



## GENEROUS GIFT

The Liverpool Stedfast Association has generously donated the sum of £5,000 for the purchase of Bunk Beds in the Centenary Hall Accommodation.



Mr. John E Sharrock originally formed the Association in 1935 as the Liverpool Battalion Past Members Association. The group meets together for meals and interest trips at various times in the year.

Further details can be obtained from the Secretary Mr. Tom Lindsey, 56 Acres Road, Bebington, Wirral CH63 7QH.



VISIT TO TRANSPORT MUSEUM

# A TASTE OF CAMP



**A total of 97 people from the following Companies 1st Burnley, 48th Liverpool, 49th Liverpool, 1st Over Wyre, 10th Southport, 2nd and 14th Wigan camped on the field or used the accommodation of Centenary Hall for the District Camp during the weekend 27/29 September 2013.**

A full programme of activities was planned throughout the weekend with those attending selecting in advance their preferences, which included kayaking and canoeing, climbing, archery, orienteering, carpet bowls and target golf.

A DVD was available in the activities room each evening along with board games, pool and table tennis.

On Sunday morning activities were survival techniques on the adventure playground and team games in the sports hall.

The theme for Devotions throughout the weekend was 'teamwork' and remarkably the spirit of those attending played this out.



## DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA

**Two Battalions participated in the District Swimming Gala at Dunes, Southport on Saturday 26 October.**

The overall winners were Southport Battalion and the Junior Section Cup was won by 1st Leyland (*Methodist Church*). There was a good gathering of Parents and friends to support the competitors. The Prizes were presented by Mr Jim Lloyd, District Vice President, and the Devotions conducted by the Revd. Phil Gough.

**Members of 7th Southport (*Birkdale Methodist*) with their awards.**



## MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

**The District Executive has nominated Mission Aviation Fellowship as the District Charity for the Centenary Year.**

It is hoped that all Companies and Battalions will enthusiastically support this endeavour by encouraging all sections to participate in this Centenary Project, for the Calendar year 2014. A promotional leaflet is enclosed with this mailing, further copies and more details can be obtained via the District Office.

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## January 2014

4 District Executive Treales  
25 Ten Pin Bowling Liverpool

## February

1 Archery & Climbing Treales  
Instructors Training  
Holiday Leadership Treales  
7/9 Queen's Badge Completion Treales  
15 District Cross Country Wythenshawe  
15/16 Youth Leader Training Treales

## March

1 District Executive Treales  
7/9 Skills for Queens Badge Treales  
29 Anchor & Junior Day Treales  
with Commonwealth Theme

## April

4/6 Skills for Queens Badge Treales  
11/13 Navigation Skills Training BBMC

## May

18 Queens Badge Presentation Altrincham  
31 District Executive Treales

## June

8 Colour Service Port Sunlight  
21 FESTIVAL OF FUN Treales  
30/1 Expedition & Outdoor Leadership BBMC

## August

31 District Reception & Treales  
Thanksgiving

## September

6 Brigade Council Glasgow  
19/21 "Camp 100" Treales

## October

4 100th Annual General Meeting Manchester  
26 Bands Day Treales

# LEST WE FORGET

During 2014 our nation will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War. The names of many former BB members are to be found on War Memorials throughout the United Kingdom. A distinctly BB memorial is to be found in Christ Church, Port Sunlight. Our photographs show special plaques for the two world wars and a Roll of Honour listing the names of all the members who served in the First world war.



# OBITUARIES

## THE REV. STEPHEN A MATHER (age 58)

Stephen came to faith within the ranks of the 12th Wigan Company (*St. John the Evangelist Parish*) continuing to serve as an Officer and also engaged in Battalion duties. In 1985 he accepted a call to the Ministry and was ordained to a Curacy at St. Helens. In 1996 he was appointed Vicar of Abram Parish Church and became Chaplain of the 15th Wigan Company. From 1999 he was Vicar of St. Peter's, Hindley and Chaplain of the 8th Wigan Company a position held along with that of Battalion President until his passing. Stephen was a most industrious parish priest undertaking many bold and remarkable works in his parish yet always a faithful Pastor, Company Chaplain and Camp Cook. He will be sorely missed by many people and none more than his wife Joyce, daughter Catherine and mother Barbara.

## JACK SIMPSON (age 80)

Jack was a lifelong member of the 8th Oldham Company at Mount Pleasant Mission, and had just received his '60' years Award Certificate from the Battalion. Jack was a great organiser and spent much of his time during his life preparing events and activities for both the BB and the Sunday School. On his 50th Anniversary as Captain many old boys attended a party and display in his honour. Jack was a 'firm but fair' Captain and will be sadly missed for his wisdom, drive and faithfulness to his church. Though obviously ill and weak for the last year, he attended church right up to his passing.



## Photo Acknowledgements

John Gaffney • Tom Lindsay • Chris Maple  
David Normington • Kay Owen • Brian Taylor

# Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance



The Brigade were invited to provide a Carpet Guard of 12 Queensmen, at two performances of this national event that

will be held at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 9 November, four from each part of the United Kingdom.

Michael Baines of the 2nd Rochdale (*Bamford Chapel*) was nominated by the District to take part and received a grant of £100 from The Dr. Royds Fund towards the expenses involved.

# Prayer Topics

## Please Pray for:

Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton  
Bryan MOORE – Liverpool Stedfast  
Jeff ROBERTS – Oldham  
Ray SMITH – Sandbach  
Jack TAYLOR – Warrington  
Darren WRIGHT – Southport

## THE DIGEST

is the quarterly newsletter of  
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