



The Boys' Brigade in the North West

Digest

Winter 2014



Camp 100



The District Centenary Camp for the Company Section was held at the Training Centre during the weekend 19/21 September and attracted an attendance of 75 members from 9 Companies representing 8 Battalions. A full range of activities was provided by the staff which included specialist support from the BB Mountaineering Club and the BB Canoe Club. All members taking part were presented with a commemorative sports water bottle.





WELCOME TO OLD TRAFFORD



The 100th Annual General Meeting of the District Council was held in the Ashes Suite of the Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford, Manchester on Saturday 4 October. The District President was in the chair and some 70 members from 20 Companies representing 10 Battalions were present.

After the formal business was completed the Brigade President the Rev. Dr. Lord Griffiths addressed the gathering which along with an excellent meal in a most attractive setting made for a memorable occasion. Members of the 5th Manchester Company (*Parrswood URC*) efficiently undertook stewarding duties in reception and cloakroom.

In a separate ceremony prior to the meeting Lord Griffiths presented a Brigade Presidents Commendation to Taylor Roberts a member of the 1st Bromborough Company (*Methodist church*).





THANKSGIVING



The Reception and Thanksgiving Service held at the Training and Activity Centre on Sunday 31 August was lead by the Bishop of Lancaster the Right Reverend Geoffrey Pearson who was accompanied by wife Jean who gave an inspiring testimony as to her upbringing in a 'BB' household, her father being successively founder Captain of two BB Companies in different parts of the country.

The Bishop was for 17 years Chaplain of the 1st Roby Company (*St Bartholomew's Parish*) it was therefore fitting that he should receive on behalf of the District Centre a bench from Liverpool Battalion in memory of Martin J. Coates MBE and Andrew K. Sefton.

That day concluded with the Ceremony of lowering the colours and Vesper hymn with accompaniment of Silver band and Piper and Drums.

An excellent Buffet and fellowship was enjoyed by some 90 folk.



Faith in Young People

A much respected BB officer once told me "Any boy who comes to your Company even for the shortest time should leave with an impression of something that will last a lifetime".

At a recent meeting of the Presidents Committee we shared experiences of members of the Brigade. One member told of Paul a former member of the Company band who gave up a successful teaching career to undertake work as a children's evangelist in schools living by faith, reliant on the funds from a trust. His untimely death at 60 years brought forth a host of tributes as the value of his work in the lives of many.

Another member told of how the challenging behaviour of one of his members extended beyond the Company evening to a national competition. Each week the Captain collects him from his foster carer 17 miles from the Company meeting place because this is not the first carer he has had, what the future holds for this young man we cannot anticipate but the strapline Faith in young people is being lived out in many places in the District and I am mindful that this is often at considerable cost to our leaders.

To this end we pray that God give the strength that only he can give to continue having faith in young people

In Christ
Alan McLoughlin
District President

VISIT FROM THE POLICE



Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner The Rt. Hon. Jane Kennedy visited the 35th Liverpool (*All Saints Parish Church, Childwall*). A patrol unit brought a van down and the boys got an interactive tour; they got to test out the siren, we're locked up in the cage, and had a look at the on-board computer. A great and engaging visit for the boys.



DR ROYD'S FUND – BURSERS

Two members of the District we're giving grants from the Dr Royd's fund in support of overseas visits. They report as follows:

Sam's 'Dominican Adventure'

Sam Mobbs of the 1st Roby Company (*St Bartholomew's Parish*) went to the Dominican Republic for two weeks under the auspices of **Mission Direct**. The project including building a house for slum dwellers and helping out at other local projects including orphanages and community kitchens.



Matthews 'World Challenge'

Matthew O'Connell an Officer in the 35th Liverpool Company (*All Saints Parish, Childwall*) spent a month in Zambia with 'World challenge' Organisation. In addition to some manual building tasks he assisted in the teaching of Maths and English. Matthew says, "I found the experience both enriching and eye opening. It has assisted me both personally and academically to develop my new skills!"



Archive Corner

Membership Card 1919-20

There is to be a new style membership card for the session 2014-15. Our District Archives hold a copy of every membership card issued since 1883.

For many years the design of such cards was the subject of a competition open to



members and to the best of our knowledge the only winner from our region was in 1919 Pte Fred Young of the 3rd Oldham Company (*Hope Congregational*) it is remarkable that in subsequent generations when graphic arts has been more universally taught the competition failed through lack of support.



Pte Akaaljit Singh laying wreath on behalf of all members of the Boys' Brigade



Corp. Cameron Taylor reading the lesson



Company Buglers blowing the Last Post and Reveille

The 3rd Trafford Company (Severways Methodist) took part in the Civic Remembrance Service at Stretford Cenotaph.



Company Bugle Band play for the parade march past

09.11.2014

LEADERSHIP SKILLS



On the weekend of 18/19 October 23 Young People from 9 Companies representing 6 Battalions attended a Skills for Queensbadge Leadership Course Part 1 at the District Training and Activity Centre.

NETWORKING

Company Captains please ensure that the District Office has your current email address if your details have changed
office@bb-northwest.org.uk

NEW COMPANIES

We are pleased to welcome two new Companies into the fellowship of the District.

1st Bretherton (*Congregational Church*) enrolled into the Southport and District Battalion that will operate initially as an Anchor Section and a Youth United development in the Manchester Battalion enrolled as **4th Manchester** which will be part of Eglise En Mission Christian Centre operating from Midland Road, Ardwick.

Lest We Forget



While on a visit to Belgium visiting the War Graves, District Hon. Vice-President Brian Taylor (*photo*) placed a Poppy Cross at the Tyne Cot Memorial in memory of all Boys' Brigade Members who gave their lives during the war.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

2014

December

6 District Swimming Gala Southport

2015

January

10 District Executive Treales

11 Archery Club Treales

24 NWD Ten Pin Bowling Liverpool

31 JS Five-a-side Football Treales

February

1 Archery Club Treales

7/8 Youth Leader Training Treales

22 Archery Club Treales

27/1 March QB Completion Course Treales

March

7 District Executive Treales

11 Archery Club Treales

21 JS Competitions Day Treales

22 Archery Club Treales

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

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

District Archery Club

This mailing contains details of the introduction of the District Archery Club which will meeting at the District Centre fortnightly through 2015 commencing on Sunday 11th January.

All dates are 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
Cost £4 per session. Payable on the day.

Prayer Topics

Please Pray for:

Jenny BARNES – Blackburn

Dave GRIERSON – Warrington

Sue & Dave MITCHELL – Moreton

Jeff ROBERTS – Oldham

Darren WRIGHT – Southport

Band & Activity Day



Some 36 members from six Companies representing four Battalions joined with the 80 strong Memorial Band Tour which comprised members of the BB and GP from Malvern, Sawston and London. In a full day of activity at the Centre 16 District Instrumentalists enjoyed a very high standard of instrumentation culminating in participation with the big band on Blackpool Central promenade entertaining large crowds visiting the illuminations.



Youth United

Michael Guy, a Development Officer in the Manchester Battalion took the opportunity to join the Emergency Services day at the Trafford Centre in August and gave out some 200 leaflets to visitors from all over the Northwest.



OBITUARIES

CANON JIM HAMILTON

(age 92)

Jim was successively Chaplain 4th Southport (St. Simons & St. Judes) and the 5th St Helens (Parish of Christ Church, Eccleston, St Helens). Jim was very much involved in the District Christian Leadership Courses held at Capernwray. He also served as the District's representative on the National Executive and its International Committee, as such he was ex-officio Vice President of the District.

He leaves a son Paul to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

THOMAS NOY SILVESTER

(aged 91)

Tom was for sometime Captain of the 1st Ashton in Makerfield (St. Thomas Parish Church), a miner in one of the last remaining collieries in Lancashire, he was a man of deep faith and sound Bible knowledge who witnessed in simple ways so it can be truly said that he was Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto his life's end.

THE ADVENTURE IS HERE

The NW District in partnership with BB Mountaineering Club is running a weekend training course in Summer 2015, 26-28 June 2015 for the BB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership Certificate, this is a combined course offering both Training & Assessment for BASIC and STANDARD levels.

The course will based on site at the District Training Centre in Stedfast Lodge with training/assessment taking place both on-site and off-site in the nearby Bowland Fells.

This is a new course which Brigade hopes to offer from 2015 so at present it is early days, but if you would like more information on this course please contact:

Andy Holland

andy.holland2@ntlworld.com

More details will appear in future editions of the Digest and should also be circulated by BBHQ in the near future!

Photo Acknowledgements

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THE DIGEST

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

Tel: 01772 685000

Email: office@bb-northwest.org.uk

Web: www.bb-northwest.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 520143

DESIGN:

John GAFFNEY

johngaffney@talktalk.net