

## 35<sup>TH</sup> LIVERPOOL CELEBRATE 75 YEARS



It was towards the end of the ministry of the Reverend Ronald M. Hunter as vicar of All Saints', Childwall, and just 6 months after the end of the Second World War that a Boys' Brigade Company was enrolled in the parish: the 35th Liverpool Company.

The 35th Liverpool had previously been based at St Nathaniel's Church, Windsor, and boasted some 23 young people in its first session at All Saints'. Today, the 35th Liverpool stands at 120 young people, complete with a full, engaging programme of activities, and is the largest numerical company in the North West District.

Throughout its rich history in Childwall, the company has been led by 7 captains.

Robert Pye opened the company and its second captain – Percy Wilson – became the Battalion's first full time paid Battalion Organiser based at the prestigious address: the Temple on Dale Street (although the office and supply shop was in the cellar!)

From 1954, Lawrence Coles led the company before W.E. (Bill) Gaze took over, also serving a Liverpool Battalion President and latterly a District Honorary Vice President. It was during his tenure that Bill's wife – Elsie – formed the Robins (later Anchors) in 1978. Bill Addy (now Reverend) succeeded Mr Gaze, before giving way to Peter Kefford.

Giants in the company's history are figures familiar to many in our District, including Maurice and Sonia Lock, the latter remaining a great friend of the District and a room in the District Centre being named in her honour. Similarly, Andrew Sefton – Liverpool Battalion President and District Executive member – led the Anchors and Juniors at the company until his sudden death in 2011.

Taking over as captain in its anniversary year, the company is now led by Dr Andrew McCaldon.

Our photographs show the company in the 1950s and in the present day.



## CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

The District Queen's Badge Team are making arrangements to enable members to qualify for the Queen's and President's Badge Awards during the lockdown by presenting courses in a virtual environment.



### QB COMPLETION - 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

We have received the revised QB Completion programme from HQ, to be delivered in a virtual environment. It was agreed by our team that the content within the programme was very good and done to a high standard. The North West District QB Team will use this programme as our base and we will set a programme to deliver our QB Completion, as scheduled on 6th March.

At the closing date of registrations, we have 9 candidates confirmed for this; however we are still waiting to hear on another 6 - some of whom may register late for it. If you are in a position to do so, please encourage any companies to acknowledge and confirm to us.

### BUILDING YOUR SKILLS - 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

There will also be a Building Your Skills course taking place for those young people working towards President's Badge, on 17th April. Further information and details will be sent to companies in due course.

### SKILLS FOR QUEEN'S BADGE - 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

The material for Skills for Queen's Badge (QB1) came out before Christmas, and we will be holding a virtual session for this on 8th May. Details will be sent to those Companies with eligible candidates.

Participating Companies are requested to support the foregoing by ensuring all administrative details are completed on time and members given every support.



## CENTRE UPDATE

### SOCIALLY DISTANCED SALVAGE CREW

We are very grateful to the following Officers who travelled to the Activity Centre to clear the Bedrooms and Corridors of water damaged Carpets:- Carl and Oliver Fairclough, Jack Shuttleworth and Molly, Margaret Battrick, Matthew Myers and Kyle Bolton of 1st Oswaldtwistle (Rhydings Methodist) along with Tom Yates 2nd Widnes (St Mary's Parish).

On an earlier occasion Callum & Joe of the 5th Manchester (Christ Church URC) helped out.



### COVID FIGHTING FUND

The District President wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:-

<b>J Campbell Miller</b>	<b>Broadstone</b>	<b>£100</b>
<b>Mr and Mrs J Pugh</b>	<b>Ashton-in-Makerfield</b>	<b>£50</b>
<b>Mr and Mrs G Smale</b>	<b>Rishton</b>	<b>£150</b>
<b>RJH Thornberry BEM</b>	<b>Cookstown</b>	<b>£50</b>
<b>Mrs. Penny Parsons</b>	<b>St Helens</b>	<b>£150</b>

**Total to date £5,405**



## THE END OF AN ERA

It has been decided by resolution of the remaining Office-Bearers to close the St Helens and District Battalion and the remaining Company 1st Rainford (All Saints Parish Church) to join the fellowship of the Liverpool Battalion

Whilst the BLB was active in the town in the early 1900's, it wasn't until 1945 that the 2nd St Helens started at the Parish Church. They along with 5 other Companies that were formed, they were affiliated to the Liverpool Battalion. The St Helens group was established in 1964 and in 1968 the Battalion was formed comprising of some 11 companies. The Battalion Secretary for some 58 years has been Bill Cleary our recently retired District secretary.

## THE HONOURABLE MEMBER PRESENTS

1st Oswaldtwistle Company (Rhydings Methodist) invited the local MP Ms. Sara Britcliffe to join them in a zoom session.

This turned out to be a surprise for Queen's Man James Meecham when the MP was to present him with his Queen's Badge. The member of Parliament then answered questions put to her by the Boys.

*Below is an extract from the MP's Facebook page.*

### SARA BRITCLIFFE MP

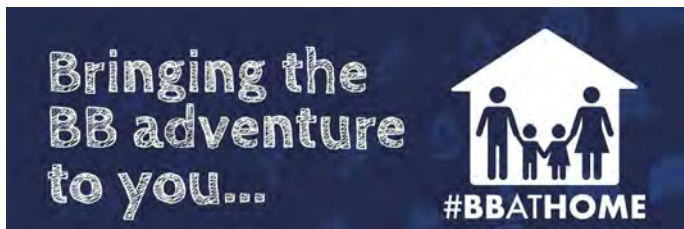
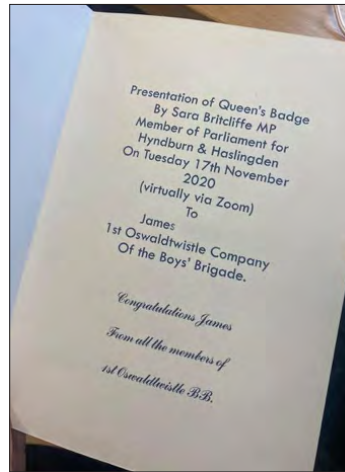
This week I had the pleasure of meeting some of our brightest young men at the Boys' Brigade.

I was honoured to award the Queen's Badge to James for his volunteering and hard work in our community. As well as answering their excellent questions.

Such a great group and one I'd strongly recommend getting involved with.



# HOUSE OF COMMONS



## DISTRICT QUIZ

With no national competitions being run by the Brigade this session, the District is hosting a virtual quiz competition, along the same lines as the National Masterteam Competition, on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.00pm. Teams will comprise of 4 members (aged 11-18yrs) and there will be team and individual rounds quiz.

Registration for this is done online and the link to register will be sent to Company Captains and Company and Seniors OICs. The closing date for registrations will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 16th February.

Further information, including the details for joining, will be sent to the companies that register for this. If you have any queries or for further information for the District Quiz, please contact [r.henderson@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:r.henderson@lancaster.ac.uk)

## COVID SONGSHEET

If you have any budding song writers in your Company - any age and from any section, then this is the activity for them! Where we are encouraging members to write lyrics to their song, which can be sung to any tune of their choosing. These will be compiled together and shared with our companies.

The closing date for these entries is Easter, so plenty of time to get creative. If you have any queries or for further information for the Song writing, please contact [baryellershaw@btinternet.com](mailto:baryellershaw@btinternet.com)

## THE BATTALION PRESIDENT PRESENTS!

Our photograph shows blocks of Chocolate with BB crests.

Made by Mrs Irene Smale and presented by the East Lancashire Battalion President Geoff Smale to the Anchor Section of 1st Oswaldtwistle (Rhydings Methodist).



## DISTRICT EXECUTIVE



The District Executive met in January by Zoom all Battalions were represented with the theme "New Year, New Hopes ,New Challenges

## OBITUARIES

### ROY ANGUS GORDON (AGE 92)

After a period of service in the RAMC as a Radiographer, Roy became an Officer in the 1st Moreton Company (Methodist) succeeding to the position of Company Captain, a Methodist Local Preacher and Secondary School Teacher, he was instrumental in the formation of BB work in the Upton, Heswall, Meols and Wallasey. It was significant that when the 1st Moreton formed a Pipe Band in the 1970's they took the Gordon Tartan in his honour. The 1st Moreton Colours were paraded at his funeral, a fitting tribute to a lifetime of Christian Service.

### KEN BAILEY (AGE 82)

Ken was involved in the 2nd Altrincham (Methodist Church) from childhood, serving as Captain from 1964 to 1990 reverting to the rank of Lieutenant. As Officer in Charge of the Arena Orderlies at the District Display in Blackpool Tower Circus for 50 continuous years he was something of a legendary figure.

He contributed greatly to the development of the Altrincham Battalion, service that was publicly recognised by his appointment as a freeman of Altrincham Court Leet.

In retirement from the company he continued to help and was an enthusiastic member of Manchester Stedfast Association at the time of his passing he was Editor of "Stedsure" the association magazine.

Our condolences have been made to his wife Brenda herself a former leader in the 2nd.

### CATHERINE JONES (AGE 67)

Cath joined the 14th Bolton (Trinity Methodist Tonge Moor) as a leader in 1985 becoming Captain in 1999 a position she held until the time of her passing.

Following on the closure of the Bolton Battalion the 14th was the last remaining BB Company in England's largest town she along with a small group of leaders maintained a BB presence in the area by ensuring the Brigade was represented on civic occasions and took every opportunity to publicise the work of the company. She will be succeeded as Captain by her son Paul to whom we extend along with the family circle our deepest sympathy.

### GEORGE BEARDWOOD (AGE 83)

George served in the ranks the 29th Liverpool Company (Parish of Christ Church, Norris Green) In later life moving to Wigan he became Officer and then Captain of the 22nd Wigan Company (Orrell Post Methodist) he subsequently became President of the Wigan and District Ballation and at the time of his passing was Honorary Battalion President. We extend our sympathy to his wife Joyce and the family circle.

## PRAYER TOPICS

David and Sheila Holmes - 10th Liverpool

Jim and Audrey Lloyd - Southport

Elsie Gaze - Liverpool

## FROM THE ARCHIVES - 25 YEARS AGO

The 10th Southport Company (Marshside Methodist) were selected by the District to provide a guard of honour for The Lord Chancellor (The Right Honourable Lord Mackay of Clashfern) and the many important guests attending the Official Opening of the Preston Combined Court Centre on the 3rd February 1996.

In 1996 the Brigade was in a transitional period with regard to Uniform - nothing new!! In order to maintain uniformity it was decided to use one Company to form the guard of honour rather than select from across the District and from our photograph you will agree the 10th did us proud.

After a lengthy morning the members were rewarded by bacon butties courtesy of the Ministry of Justice. For posterity the photograph holds pride of place in the Judges Chamber's.



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

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