

Continually published since 1967



# DIGEST



NEWS FROM THE BOYS' BRIGADE IN THE NORTH WEST

SUMMER 2025

## FUN DAY 2025



The Fun Day and Picnic held at the District Training & Activity Centre on Saturday 22nd June 2025 attracted an attendance of 280 members and friends from all parts of the District. This was a great encouragement to the organisers who had added several new features to the event including Laser Tag which proved extremely popular. Next year's event will be held on 20th June 2026 plan to be there.





## THE KINGS BADGE



There was a congregation of eighty persons in the Parish Church of St Peter's Hindley to witness the first presentation of King's Badges in the District by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mrs Diane Hawkins JP LLB who graciously permitted the District to produce individual certificates to mark the occasion.

After the ceremony the Kingsmen and their guests were invited by the District Executive to a sumptuous buffet prepared by the District catering team. The work of the District King's Badge team and the the 8th Wigan Company (St Peters Parish) is acknowledged in making it memorable occasion.



Photograph Acknowledgements:- Jim Harrison, Dr RCW Henderson, Alan McIntosh, Ian Millichamp, Ian Lythgoe and Ken Snowden



## SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT BATTALION - END OF AN ERA



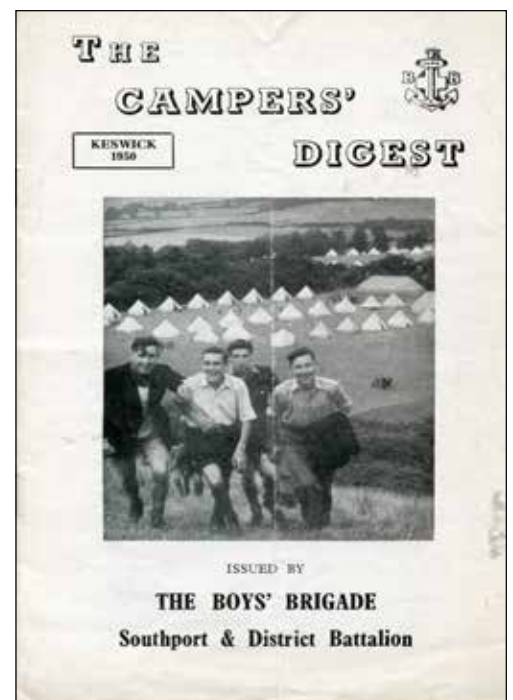
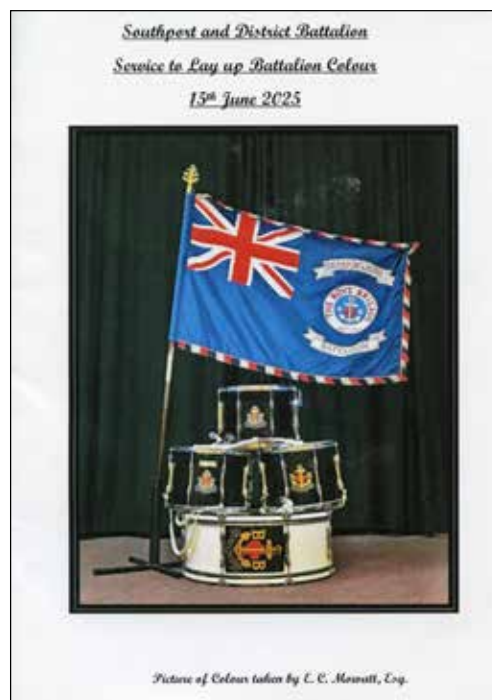
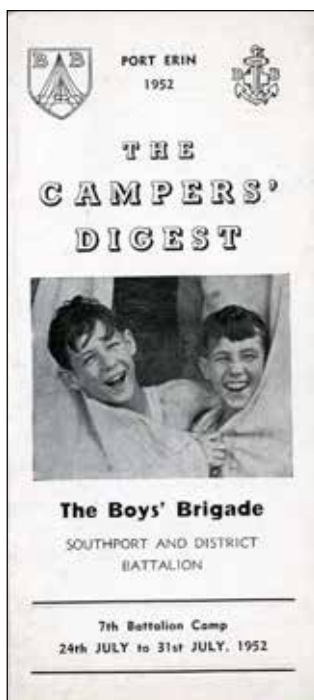
A dignified service to lay up the Colours of the Southport and District Battalion was held on Sunday 15th June 2025 in the Parish Church of St Philip with St Paul and Wesley.

It was most fitting that the Colours should be left in the custody of St Philips since this was the home of the 1st Southport Company and of particular significance since the regular meetings of the Battalion Council had been held for many years in St Philips meeting room at 8.00pm on SUNDAY evenings well into the 2000's. Always a comparatively small Battalion but very committed to traditional BB methods and always firmly entrenched in Civic and Community Life it produced from its ranks several men for the ordained ministry and the mission field. Officers undertook many senior positions in the District and the national movement. A regular column in the weekly "Southport Visitor" appeared without fail well into the new millennium.

Some 80,000 people visit the town over four days of the UK's oldest independent flower show used to be greeted at the main gate by BB members selling the official programmes.

Good participation by all Companies in the activities such as a Football League, Drill and Band Competitions and not least a Battalion Camp, these created an esprit de corps that enabled a "small committee" to organise the Brigade Council 1984 which attracted an attendance of 856 Officers from all over the British Isles, the Church Parade to the Floral Hall consisted of 17 columns included for the first time a large column of ladies resplendent in the air stewardess style uniform! The seaside town continues to attract BB Companies from all over Britain and they will always have a welcome from what remains a staunch BB town, the two remaining Companies are in Ainsdale and Marshside.

A definitive history of the Battalion by Kenneth Blundell JP is contained in the District Archives.



## DISTRICT CALENDAR 2025/6

6th September	* Brigade Conference	Zoom
4th October	111th District A.G.M	Treales
18th October	Training for Helpers	Treales
31st Oct-2nd November	Skills for King's Badge	Treales
10th January	District Executive	Treales
7th/8th February	Youth Leader Training	Treales
8th February	Training for Helpers	Treales
20th-22nd February	King's Badge Completion	Treales
7th March	District Executive	Treales
6th June	District Executive	Treales
June	King's Badge Presentation	T.B.A.
20th June	Fun Day and Picnic	Treales
* NATIONAL OR REGIONAL EVENTS		

## VE DAY

Members of the 8th Wigan Company (St Peter's Hindley) created a BB feature within their churches week long VE 80th Anniversary exhibition.



## EASTER EGGS

Several Manchester Companies combined to provide Easter Eggs for the patients in the Children's ward of Wythenshawe Hospital or photograph shows members of 14th Bolton (Trinity Methodist Tonge Fold).



## OBITUARIES

### BRIAN TAYLOR (AGED 80)

Brian was born in the post war slums of Chorlton on Medlock and further deprived when at the age of 5 his father deserted the family against this background. Brian greatly appreciated the care he received in the 71st Manchester (Oxford Hall Methodist) it was this experience he sought throughout his BB career to translate the Boys in his care. After a period on the Parents Committee of 3rd Trafford Company (Sevenways Methodist) he was invited to become an Officer in the Junior Section within a year he made Company Captain a position he was to hold for some thirty years. Brian held firmly to the Brigade Values for him like many of his generation, BB was a five days a week programme!!! plus Annual Camp the Companies excellence was apparent by their many appearances in the Blackpool Display and the important part they played in Civic life Brian undertook a six year term as President of the Manchester Battalion and was an Honorary Vice President of the North West District. To his wife Irene and the family circle (all of whom are some way involved with BB) we extend our deepest sympathy.

## PRAYER TOPICS

David Mills, Ken Peters, Eric Littler

## TROOPING THE COLOUR

Members of the 8th Trafford (Hayeswater Road Methodist) enjoyed a trip to London on Saturday 14th June 2025 to witness the Trooping of the Colour from special enclosure in the Mall reserved for BB members.



## 1ST BUCKIE

Journeys End the 1st Buckie travelled 380 miles to the Activity Centre and arrived spick a span in the Camp uniform.



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

Tel: 01772 685000

Email: [office@bb-northwest.org.uk](mailto:office@bb-northwest.org.uk)

Web: [www.bb-northwest.org.uk](http://www.bb-northwest.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 520143

Designed and Printed by Riverside Printing, Cambridge - [riversideprinting@me.com](mailto:riversideprinting@me.com)