

YOUTH LEADER TRAINING

Some 24 Leaders from 9 Companies participated in the District Residential Youth Leader Training Course held at the District Activity Centre on 2nd/3rd February 2019. Subject to the approval of their Churches the undermentioned Officers may be promoted to Lieutenant.

Anna Smith	5th Manchester	Christ Church URC
Christopher Connell	5th Manchester	Christ Church URC
Daniel Birchall	1st Skerton	St Luke's Parish Church
Daniel Hodgson	1st Skerton	St Luke's Parish Church
Darren Rigby	1st Rainford	All Saints Parish Church
David Lancaster	1st Rainford	All Saints Parish Church
Gabrielle Warburton	55th Manchester	Patricroft United Reformed Church
Hannah Griffiths	1st Rainford	All Saints Parish Church
Ian Turner	53rd Liverpool	The Church of the Good Shepherd
Jackie Longdin	24th Oldham	South Chadderton Methodist Church
Jeanette Duggan	5th Manchester	Christ Church URC
Jessica Best	1st Rainford	All Saints Parish Church
Joe Dixon	1st Haslington	Bradley Road Methodist Church
John D Walker*	1st Skerton	St Luke's Parish Church
John Quigley*	1st Haslington	Bradley Road Methodist Church
Jonathan Mawdsley	53rd Liverpool	The Church of the Good Shepherd
Lindsay Devaney	1st Skerton	St Luke's Parish Church
Liz McNabb	53rd Liverpool	The Church of the Good Shepherd
Lynette Fraser	2nd Widnes	St Mary's Parish Church, West Bank
Martin Warburton	55th Manchester	Patricroft United Reformed Church
Ruth Holleran	2nd Widnes	St Mary's Parish Church, West Bank
Stella Holleran	2nd Widnes	St Mary's Parish Church, West Bank
Stuart Samuels	24th Oldham	South Chadderton Methodist Church
Tom Yates	2nd Widnes	St Mary's Parish Church, West Bank

* Company Captain

The staff team for the course comprised Dr. R C W Henderson MBE (Leader) David Owens, Scott Barry-Godsell, Mick Southern, The Rev'd Peter Thorn and Gareth Kirkpatrick.



THE QUEEN'S BADGE JOURNEY



During the weekend 15th/17th February 2019, Some 14 candidates from 8 Companies took part in a **Queen's Badge** Completion Course at the District Activity Centre and subject to verification of their overall work they will receive their **Queen's Badge** at a ceremony to be held in Liverpool on the 12 May 2019. Course staff comprised of Mick Southern (Course Leader), David Owens, Neal Meadows, Bill McKay, Rachael Knowles and Phillip Richardson (Facilitator). The speaker at the formal dinner was Leigh Maydew.

They began their journey towards this prestigious award by gaining the **President's Badge** some 2 years earlier. In order to achieve this they must have satisfactorily completed the following...



A Christian Faith development course

Have good attendance for 1 session

Be recommended by the Company Captain

Participate in a non-residential teamwork skills experience run by Battalion, District or Region (BYS)

and Either **ROUTE A**

Completed at least 30 points from the Discover programme, having gained three badges in the last 12 months

Taken part in an activity based residential event within BB

Complete 10 hours of practical service for the Brigade or Church

Or - **ROUTE B**

Gained Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award



The Queen's and President's Badge programme is co-ordinated at District level by:

Mr D. Owens (d.owens@hotmail.co.uk) who is assisted at Battalion level by a team of **Queen's Badge Advisors**:

East Cheshire:
East Lancashire:
Lancasteria:
Liverpool:
Manchester:
North Cheshire:
Oldham:
Southport:
Wigan:
Wirral:

R. Tomlie
G. Smale
D. J. Normington
M. H. Southern
M. R. Guy, M. Duggan
C. Holleran
Mrs. K. Anchor
J. Lloyd
S. Knowles
M. Southern



BRIGADE TRAINING OFFICERS

The following Officers resident in the District are recognised by Brigade Headquarters as Brigade Training Officers:

John Banks
Scott Barry-Godsell
Chris Carney
Mark Fidler
Martin Grace
Andy Holland
Rob Langdon
Sean Marshall
Andrew McCaldon
Karen McCaldon
Bill McKay

Kate McKay
David Mills
Andrew Norcross
Lorna Norcross
David Normington
David Owens
Ian Parrish
David Patmore
Sue Snowden
Mick Southern
Natalie Whipday



A CENTURY OF SERVICE DESPITE ADVERSITY

On the 1st March 1918 the **Weaste Congregational Church** approved the formation of a BB Company. The first meeting was held on Friday 6th September 1918 and this began a Century of Service.

During the session 2018/19 the Company have been celebrating with several events to commemorate their Centenary, including a Centenary Party with cake! culminating with a Centenary Camp at the District Centre this summer.

The Company prevailed during World War II all the Officers being called to the Colours, Church Officials took over and Company members were responsible for maintaining an air raid shelter in the basement of the Church!!

In 1958 the famous actor Albert Finney (*who passed away on Thursday 7 February 2019*) was a Bugler in the Company.

Football was high on the agenda and the Company provided 8 members in the Manchester Battalion squad of 14 for inter Battalion matches with Belfast, Oldham, Halifax and Liverpool. When the players reached the age limit a youth team was formed named "*Fives Athletic*" this title being derived from the double 5 in 55th. The team continues to this day celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018.

Always innovative the 55th became the first Company to fly to Camp using Silver City Airways from Liverpool to the Isle of Man.

The 1970's saw a veritable roller coaster in the Company's history ranging from excellence in competitions and Displays to the threat of closure! In Easter of 1977 a devastating fire completely gutted the school at Weaste Congregational Church resulting in the two storey building being demolished and replaced by a car park.

The Hope High School generously made premises available on Friday evenings for Company activities and Sundays at Weaste URC, this relationship continued for thirty years, during which time the 55th maintained their excellence in competitions, particularly football, reaching several National (5 and 11 a side) semi-finals and winning two 5-a-side Finals.



In 2007 the closure of Weaste United Reformed Church threatened the continuity of the Company.

The Hope High School subsequently closed and the Company was invited to affiliate to Patricroft URC, a Church at which the 6th Manchester (*founded in 1895*) had recently closed.



The Patricroft Church warmly welcomed the 55th.

Company Captain for the past 35 years John Coates BEM writes "We look back over our history, to some it's a miracle we have survived! especially due to some of the adversities which have occurred, but if we are part of God's plan, then perhaps we should not be surprised at all. Life is all about change - Change regenerates, and should be welcomed."



DISTRICT CALENDAR 2019

2019		
9th March	District Executive	TREALES
16th March	Building your Skills	TREALES
13th April	Archery Competition	TREALES
27th April	England Regional update	TREALES
12th May	Queen's Badge Presentation	LIVERPOOL
8th June	District Executive	TREALES
15th June	Family Fun Day	TREALES
6th/8th Sept	Brigade Conference	SWANSEA
27th/29th Sept	District Camp	TREALES
5th October	105th Annual General Meeting	WIGAN

OBITUARIES

ROBERT FREDERICK (BOB) GRAHAM (AGE 84)

Bob died on Friday 30th November 2018 he had only recently stepped down as Captain of the 1st Ormskirk (Emmanuel Methodist/URC) a position he had held for some 25 years. He was also for sometime Chairman of the Southport and District Battalion Council.

The family email address "graham clan" reflects Bob's influence on 1st Ormskirk because his wife Lilian and sons Keith and Andrew remain active in the Company to them and the family circle we extend our deepest sympathy.

PRAYER TOPICS

STEPHEN FISHER - WIGAN

RAISE THE BAR ROADSHOW

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2019
District Training and Activity Centre

The England Region will present a Roadshow at our Training Centre the Presentation will include:-

RAISE THE BAR CAMPAIGN

Under 11's Programme Launch

Specialist training by external professionals

Update on some exciting developments to OBM.

Further details will be communicated to all registered leaders in the coming weeks. This will be an exciting opportunity for staff and key volunteers representing the region to meet with Leaders and talk through the priorities facing the Brigade at present whilst also sharing good practice and looking at key areas of our work.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO COME

TEN PIN BOWLING COMPETITION

The District Ten Pin Bowling Competition was held at the MFA Bowling Alley, Burnley on Saturday 19th January 2019. Teams from six Companies representing four Battalions took part:

Result: WINNERS - 1st Oswaldtwistle (Ryddings Methodist) Teams from the following also took part: 2nd Denton, 1st Morecambe & Heysham (Stanley Road Baptist) and 9th Southport (Ainsdale Methodist).



NORTH WEST DISTRICT BOYS' BRIGADE TRAINING AND ACTIVITY CENTRE - RELIEF WARDENS -

The District Training Centre require Relief Wardens to cover weekends when the Warden is on leave.

This is a paid position for which training will be given for further details: m.heywood254@btinternet.com

FAMILY FUN DAY

Family Fun Day is open to parents, grandparents and members of the family and friends

Saturday 15th June 2019
11.00am - 4.00pm

Including: Spider Mountain Slide - Zorbs Circuit and all the usual activities

Entry £2.00 on the gate