



# Stedfast News

The Newsletter for former Members, Serving Officers, Associates and Friends of The Boys' Brigade in Brighton Hove and District

## The Object of The Stedfast Association

To further the Object of The Boys' Brigade and to foster the spirit of Comradeship between past and present Members of the Brigade and to render Service to Others

## The Object of The Boys' Brigade

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the Promotion of Habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness

## Stedfast Committee

### PRESIDENT

Peter Ford

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Rev. Ian Suttie  
Rev. Julian Albrow

### CHAIRMAN

John Donoghue

### TREASURER

Vacant

### SECRETARY

Alan Caperon

### MEMBERSHIP SEC

Ken Towner

### COMMITTEE

Jim Attwater  
Ray Eaves  
Dick Kent  
Terry Pomfrey  
Paul Simmons  
Stephen Roberts  
Nigel Evans  
Les Russell

## Dear Stedfast Members,

We look forward to a Christmas full of memories but equally full of Resolutions to be kept and projects to be achieved.

If we will look to our Great Captain on His birthday and on every day in the future we will do a great deal to " Further the Object of The Boys' Brigade". This is the first part of our Stedfast Association Object and can be the first part of our Object too.

One important resolution for The New Year is to attend The Reunion on Sunday 18th January. The spirit and generosity of those attending earlier this year was magnificent and I am sure that the next Reunion will be an exceptional one too- especially if you are there!

Please encourage your B.B. Friends to join with you and make the afternoon go with a swing.

The Stedfast Association is seeking in a number of ways to help The Battalion and The Battalion is responding equally to encourage us. Please, if you can, look on The Battalion and Stedfast Association websites. You will learn a great deal and maybe find something that you will be led to support. The best days of The Brigade are not in the past - the best is yet to be.

Glynde 2014 was acclaimed by many as the happiest that they could remember. Certainly the Boys and Staff all had a superb time - good weather, good food, good programme, but especially good leadership from the new C.O. Gary Pickett. His balance of leading with humility, attention to detail and fun was greatly appreciated

As we look forward to the Reunion let us also look forward to saluting Ros Ayling on her wonderful record of over 50 years' Service.

In September I had the privilege of leading a Service of Worship and Reunion for Members of The 1st Telscombe Cliffs Company. All those present said how much they had enjoyed the occasion and especially meeting up with old friends again. How about prompting your Company to hold a Company Reunion? It can only do good.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone for a wonderful Christmas and for The New Year.

**Peter Ford** *Stedfast Association President*



## Editorial

Many of you will now be in the final throes of preparations for the Christmas Season with your families, for those who may find yourselves alone I trust that you will find some comfort perhaps from your Church or kind Neighbours, maybe even the Television, if not too many repeats!!!

Soon after the Christmas and New Year celebrations we do have our AGM and Reunion, as always I and all the committee hope that we will maintain our numbers and even more so increase the attendance. They work hard throughout the year to bring Our Association to the notice of all former members of The Boys' Brigade and always hopeful that they succeed. Remember what the late George Holkham MBE said 'Do not come alone, bring another former BB Boy'.

Pray that we are blessed with the weather on that Sunday and we can enjoy another gathering sharing friendships and memories again. I look forward to meeting you all.

The Season's Greetings. Treasure the opportunity to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord.

**Dick**

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## Glynde Camp Visit

I looked forward to the visit to the new site of Glynde Camp, following the invitation from the Battalion. I set off feeling no fear of locating the site, having been told it was just past the old site, what I did not know, that for sensible reasons the turning off the Lewes/ Ringmer Road was not marked – so I drove straight past!! However turning back I took the possible turn and met a rambler from the camp who set me right.

I was met by our Chairman John (Camp Q.M.) and soon after others arrived and we had a guided tour of the lovely camp set in the Sussex Country side. Obviously not as large as many of us knew but many more modern additions i.e. refrigeration and Microphones etc. Still cold washes!!!

The sun shone and having viewed the whole site, we finished at the Holkham Hut in the final stages of painting. We then sat down to a fine Salad Lunch before departing.

A lovely day and thanks are due to the Battalion for the invite, hoping we may be asked again.

**Dick**

**The Stedfast Association - Brighton** is an organisation for past members of The Boys' Brigade Brighton Hove & District Battalion. If you have been a boy or member of staff in any company past or present within our Battalion you are automatically a member. Past Members of The Boys' Brigade from all over the world are welcome to join our Association.

To register, contact our membership secretary:  
**Ken Towner, 14, Prince William Close, Findon Valley, Worthing,  
West Sussex. BN14 0AZ.**

*To help with the association costs, we would suggest a donation of £10  
. (cheques payable to the Stedfast Association)*

## The Lord Mayors Show 2014.

This was the third time the Bugles and Drums of the Stedfast Association had taken part in this highly prestigious event. The first time was 2006 when we paraded in “Shirt Sleeve” order under the direction of the bands founder, Mr David Kemp. We participated for the second time with a bigger band in 2009, Sadly, because of the bad weather we all got a soaking, So after a long drying out period of some five years we were once again invited to take part again this year. This years was the best and biggest yet with approximately 70 plus musicians and five banner carriers. This time we were under the Command of our Co-ordinator Paul Hern. Our band of this year was drawn from England, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey and Germany.

As well as the Bugles, Drums and Bell Lyres, this year’s we had three drummers and two Fifes players from Guernsey.

The weather was kind to us this years, although a little on the damp side but we avoided a soaking.

For those who missed our performance, you can catch up by looking on the Internet by entering;  
<http://youtube/ow5Mke6kaRO>

Sadly for some, this was their last outing with the band. This includes our Adjutant, John Donoghue, who hung up his Sash after the Hove Civic Parade. Thanks John, for all your hard work, support and guidance over the years.

**Paul Simmons**

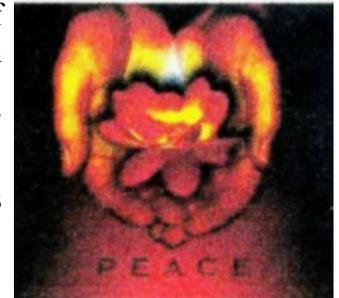


*The above picture was taken from the BBC coverage of the Lord Mayors Show 08/11/2014. The band was participant number 80 in the parade and followed the City of London Solicitors Company.*

## Peace on earth – goodwill to men



The *Pax Romana* was a long period of relative peace in the Roman Empire with minimal expansion by military force. It began with the Emperor Augustus in 27 BCE and ended with Aurelia in 180 CE. It was in this era of 'Roman Peace' that Jesus was born .  
(Luke 2:1)



John Milton (1608-1674) wrote 'Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity' that included a hymn. Lines were extracted and written with 19th century spelling and appeared in Hymnals between 1800 and 1875.

Number 74 in *Sacred Poetry* began:

No war or battle's sound  
Was heard the world around;  
No hostile chiefs to furious combat ran;  
But peaceful was the night,  
In which the Prince of light  
His reign of peace upon the earth began.

With wars in the Middle East and Africa, let us sing with Charles Wesley:

*Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,  
Let us in thy name agree;  
Show thyself the Prince of Peace;  
bid our jarring conflicts cease.*  
[Hymns and Psalms 759, verses 1 & 3]

We pray for peace in the words of Sy Miller and Jill Jackson:

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
[Voices in Praise 286]

Fred Kaan has similar words:

*Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.  
Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance, and share it like a treasure.  
As at Communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere, united round the table.*  
[Hymns and Psalms 759, verses 1 & 3]

The peace of the Lord be always with you – Rev Dr John C. Neal

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Happy days are here again – well Glynde Camp 2014 was a Great Event, with our new C.O. Garry Pickett at the helm. The Boys had a great time and as their Q.M. I made sure there were good supplies of top quality food. Some of our Stedfast Members attended a fine luncheon in the marquee which is reported in this edition of Stedfast News.

Flanders was an amazing weekend with our C.O. Paul Hern at the helm. There were times of laughter on the coach and in the hostel and at the eateries. Also times of emotion when on Parade with the Drums and Bugles of the Stedfast Association. I am sure they were feeling six feet tall as they proudly remembered the Men and Boys of the first World War 100 years ago. More news of this event with photo's also in this edition.

Founders Dinner on the 4th October was a another chance to meet and to enjoy the choices of food on the menu cooked to perfection. Our President Peter Ford led us in toasting our founder at 8pm. And we also gave a toast to the Queen.

The Lord Mayor's Show in London attracted an Old Boys Band of over 70 players. This Parade was on the BBC TV and a great performance was shown to the crowds of people as they played Bugler, Feldon. Ghurka Rifles, Roxborough & Shamock. Many players are Band Masters and serving Officers in The B.B. This year we also sang “Pack up your Troubles and its a long Way to Tipperary “which we think is a first time to have a singing Bugle Band in the longest running Show in the World.

Our Reunion is being held on Sunday 18th January and John Neil OBE Honary President of The Boys' Brigade and President of the Federation of Stedfast Associations will be joining us from Glasgow. Please make him feel very welcome by making sure you are committed to attend on the day. A full programme starting with the Band and our Service of whom Rev. Ian Suttie our Vice President will give the Address. Ian served in The B.B. as a Boy and is now Chaplain of the 1st. Southwick Company.

A high tea will follow with John Neil OBE giving an update on events. Then our AGM will take place. There will be video's and pictures on the Church Screens on B.B. Activities, so please make every effort to attend. It is your presence that makes this Reunion and it would be great if you could bring another Old Boy that has not been before.

P.S. If you would want to contact me - especially as we do need an Archivist for our Battalion Memorabilia Please telephone 01323 501857 or email [jdonoghue38@gmail.com](mailto:jdonoghue38@gmail.com) or write to; 37, Park Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2XG

All good wishes and every blessing,  
**John Donoghue**, *Chairman.*

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## Founders Dinner

Oh what a lovely birthday we had. Approximately 30 Stedfast members gathered to celebrate the Brigade's 131st Birthday. Those of us who attended enjoyed great company great food and great comradeship at the Preston Bowls club on the 4th October. The only downside was,that our organiser, Les Russell, was unable to join us as he had been taken ill. Lets hope that Les makes a speedy recovery and will be able to attend next years event. Thanks Les for all your hard work which is so greatly appreciated,by one and all.

**Paul Simmons**

## Profile - Derek Hinton – Part two

I re-joined the 4th Brighton(Hove) as an Officer immediately on returning home. I became the Company Captain in 1966 and held the position until work commitments became too far away in 1974, although I continued in the company. I transferred to the 2nd Burgess Hill Company in March 1982, as they had 80 boys and no captain. I took over from our dear friend Ken Ford, who was holding the fort whilst they were without a Captain. Initially for a year or two, I actually stayed as their Captain for 30 years, finally retiring on the 31st August 2012, with 50 boys still on the registrar.

During my B.B. Career, I also organised the Battalion Athletics(1960) Swimming(1972) and Harriers(1986) Competitions, through to 2010, although it was perhaps the Athletics which I enjoyed doing best of all. At the very beginning, some 53 years ago, I used to be the Athletic Boys Badge Examiner. The Athletics event itself was always very well supported, and took part over two evenings.



I was also Chairman of the Hove and Portslade five-a-side football league, for 25 years, and Deputy Chairman for a short period at Hove Park Comprehensive School P.F.A.

Camping has always been one of my greater loves, whether Battalion or Company. I really enjoyed the very many years I was the Battalion Sports Officer, and the 8 years I was the Battalion C.O .and lately as the out of camp activities organiser. With well over 100 boys in camp most years, and my very first camp as a boy of 450 boys in camp, long may Glorious Glynde Camp continue.

I have enjoyed my 19 years as your Battalion President, no easy task taking over from our friend Adrian Ball. But, like all Presidents, we have our own ways of doing things. It was soon apparent that over half of the Executive including myself, were still very much involved in Company work, many as Captains. One of my first tasks was to streamline the number of extra meetings we were expecting our Officers to attend on top of their already heavy work load of Company activities. I immediately, with the Executive approval cut the Executive meetings to 7 per year from 12; and the Battalion Council meetings and AGM from 4 down to 2, and over the last few years to one, the AGM in July. We have had some enjoyable meetings, some boring ones; but the Executive have always been there for each other.

My hardest task as President, was moving our Headquarters from London Road Brighton to Portslade URC. This was done practically on my own other than a few family helpers. It was of course probably the reason why I had a Heart attack.

**STEPPING DOWN AS YOUR BATTALION PRESIDENT WAS NOT ON MY AGENDA, AT LEAST NOT FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS.**

We have in the Battalion some great young Christian men with the energy and the enthusiasm to move the Battalion and The Boys' Brigade forward to its next stage. Over the years I have worked with some great men on the Executive , all working with each other for the good of our Battalion, and that is something that the Executive need to get back too.

The Executive have not co-opted anyone onto Executive, because there is no point in co-opting anyone who is not willing to undertake the three main positions that I have been unable to fill. Now, after our recent AGM, Executive is back to full strength. Will all our outstanding positions now get filled, the next few months should be interesting ?

**Derek Hinton** *Battalion President 1995 -*

## SECRETARY REPORT

### STEDFAST MATTERS

#### 1. ANNUAL 2015 REUNION

We are now in the process of organising the 2015 Reunion to be held on 18 January 2015. You will see on page 16 of this Newsletter our formal invitation to the annual reunion with full details on the arrangements and information on our guests who will be joining us for the afternoon.

We would be grateful if you can mention our invitation to your BB friends that we would like to see them as well as all our members at our reunion.

If you are a serving officer in a company, don't forget to tell any boys who have recently been discharged that they are invited, We also welcome serving Senior Boys and Company Officers we will be pleased to see you. Please join us afterwards for refreshments which will be provided in special memory of Frank Dale our long serving treasurer and committee member who you will recall passed to higher service in 2013, and then we will have the AGM. Remember what I said:-

*"Our Association needs new Members."*

Our special guests for the afternoon will be John Neil OBE. (See page 10), Derek Hinton our Battalion President and Councillor Denise Cobb, the Deputy Mayor of Brighton and Hove.

#### 2. OUR STEDFAST ASSOCIATION

You will see from this Winter Newsletter what has been happening since the Summer edition.

We enjoyed ourselves at Glynde Camp and you will be able to see pictures at the Reunion.

We had an enjoyable Founder's dinner on Saturday 4th October 2014.

You will see from the newsletter, the Band engagement in Flanders on 29th August commemorating the hundred years since 1914 Great War. The band was also on parade at the Lord Mayor's show in London on 8th November and on Remembrance Sunday on 9th November 2014.

#### WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Your committee have spent many hours researching all the churches where our Battalion companies were formed and served from 1898 onwards to the present day. This information will shortly be available to you on our website. The list gives the dates, the names and addresses of the churches and BB companies.

If you are able to provide to us any further information upon your BB company and any photos we will be happy to add this to the website.

I hope that you have now all visited the website but if not, please note the link as follows:-

[www.brightonstedfast.org.uk](http://www.brightonstedfast.org.uk)

and to contact us send your email to [committee@brightonstedfast.org.uk](mailto:committee@brightonstedfast.org.uk)

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year and I look forward to greeting you in person when you arrive at Southwick Methodist Church for the Reunion.

God Bless you all

**Alan Caperon** *Secretary and Acting Treasurer*

## Glynde Camp

The sun shone upon Glynde again, from July 25th to August 1st. The second year at the new site, Cow's Wood, and what a week it was. All started for some on the Wednesday, the advance party getting the first bits of canvas up and raring to go. There was a good turn out at 08.00 on Thursday morning as the rest of the advance party turned up, making sure the camp was ready and prepared for all and sundry on the Friday evening. Lots of hard work and lots of camaraderie made the Advance Party a lot of fun, and obviously worthwhile. Thanks to all who turned up, and to Gary P for his organisation.

At about 18.45 on Friday 25th, the boys started to turn up, about 40 of them, some of whom had never been to Glynde before. The hustle and bustle of checking in was soon over, all running reasonably smoothly and no-one forgot their consent forms, which is always a good start. And so begins a week full of fun, friendship, worship and much more, all under the watchful eye of the new Camp C/O Gary Pickett.

The Laurel Crown events were as keenly fought as ever, congratulations to the Cowboys, under the leadership of Darrell Ward, for being overall winners, and well done to the Arabs and Buffs for making it a great competition. Inter tent activities were also keenly contested, well done to all concerned. C1 from the 2nd Burgess Hill Company were the big winners, but the whole thing was a great success and congratulations to all. The highlight of the week for some was the return to the outdoor Glynde swimming pool for an afternoon. The weather was kind to us, and everyone seemed to really enjoy it and here's to many more!! The scavenger hunt in and around Glynde and the local villages was also very popular, and a big thanks must go to the organising team. I could go on for ever about certain events and what people got up to, but not enough space really.

It was a treat to welcome some members and families of the Stedfast Association for lunch on Tuesday. Again, we were blessed with great weather and walking round the site and visiting the Holkham Hut, followed by a lovely lunch, was an enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours. I hope everyone enjoyed it, and maybe it's something that can become an annual occurrence.

The theme of the week for Worship was Mission Impossible, and I'm sure everyone would agree it was a great theme with some great games, some of which did actually look impossible to me to be honest, and a lot of fun being able to come together and show our appreciation to the Lord in hymns and prayers for being given the privilege to camp at Glynde again, and have such a good time. Thank you to Dave Slater for the week's worship, and it was great to see a few of the boys make a commitment.

The whole week was a fantastic experience, and the consensus of opinion is that it was one of the best ones, so a lot of credit must go to the new C/O Gary Pickett. The food, as always, was excellent so a massive thank you to John Donoghue for his Quartermaster's duties.

It would be impossible to mention everyone in dispatches, but I think just a big overall pat on the back to all the staff who made the week a big success, and of course the boys for being a really good group. The atmosphere and friendship within camp this year was special, and the boys helped immensely to make it so, and hopefully they will all be back in 2015.

Kind Regards  
**Steve Roberts**



"At the 2014 Glynde Camp, the 2nd Burgess Hill (shown holding trophy) were the winners of both the football and volleyball tournaments.

Runners up, again in both tournaments, were 3rd Burgess Hill. Games were keenly played, but in a friendly, sporting fashion, and there was a great comradeship between all the Senior Boys in camp".



Here are the 14th Brighton, the winners of this session's 5 a side football tournament, which was held at Oathall College, Haywards Heath on 7th November.

**Geoffrey Cocksedge**



## Boys Brigade Battalion Main events to March 2015

### December 2014

6 Sat Company Badminton Competition (Oathill Com College H/Heath)

### January 2015

10 Sat Junior New Year Party (TBA)  
18 Sun Stedfast Ass Re-Union 2.00pm (Southwick Methodist Church)

### February 2015

7 Sat Company and Junior Swimming Sports (Steyning Sports Centre)  
23 Mon Scripture Competition (Battalion HQ)

### March 2015

7 Sat Junior Spring Competition (HQ 25th)  
18 Wed Company Drill Competition (HQ 1st S/wick)

## Biography - John Neil OBE

Honorary President, The Boys' Brigade U.K. & Republic of Ireland, since 2005, and President of the Federation of Stedfast Associations.

John Neil has been professionally engaged, in an executive capacity, by The Boys' Brigade for a period of 40 years. Rising through the ranks as Boy, N.C.O. (during which time he gained the Queen's Badge) and Staff Sergeant. It was as a Senior in the 9<sup>th</sup> Coatbridge Company that he committed himself to future Christian service. On returning from National Service in the RAF Regiment in Egypt and Iraq, he served as a company Officer and later, through the Brigade National Training Scheme, was appointed Training Officer for Airdrie, Coatbridge & District Battalion.



He was a member of a small voluntary training team, co-ordinated by Brigade Headquarters, which provided Officer training to areas such as the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland, where Officers found it difficult to access training on the mainland or at the Brigade National Training Centre. This led, in 1961, to a professional appointment, at Brigade Headquarters, as the Secretary for Leadership Training (Scotland & Ireland).

John has been at the centre of many national initiatives and major events, both on the National Brigade Staff for 18 years, where he carried a particular responsibility for the King George VI Leadership Training Scheme for Officer Cadets, followed by an appointment as Chief Executive of the 10,000 strong Glasgow Battalion for 22 years, in which he carried responsibility for the planning and presentation of the Brigade Centenary Climax Celebrations in 1983, involving some 50,000 visitors to the City of the Brigade's birth. A Training Tour of South Africa, working with the coloured communities of the townships, contributed to the International Development of the Brigade and inspired John to produce educational books & teaching materials, to share with Boys the concept of BB International.

John served, for an 8 year period, the wider youth service as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Youth Agency for Scotland, an intermediary organisation, co-ordinated with the Scottish Parliament, responsible for youth provision through 32 Local Authorities and over 50 National Voluntary Organisations, representing 750,000 young people and 90,000 adult leaders.

He is an Honorary Officer of the First Glasgow Company, the Brigade's original Company formed by the Founder in 1883, where he maintains close contact with the present Officers and Boys. He was also Chairman of The Church of Scotland Internal Audit and Central Co-ordination Committees and Finance Convener of the General Assembly's Board of Parish Education. As an Elder of the Church of Scotland John served, for a decade, as Treasurer and Finance Convener of The Old Parish Church of Hamilton. As a Brigade Vice-President for the U.K. he led the Carronvale House Development Project, as Fund Raiser and Co-ordinator, resulting in a £2 million scheme of improvement and development at the Brigade's National Training and Conference Centre at Larbert, Stirlingshire. In his professional capacity he has raised in excess of £18 million for youth related projects throughout the U. K.

John served, for a 2 year period, as Brigade President, United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland, during which he and his wife Nan, travelled extensively, undertaking 250 engagements and having direct contact with some 35,000 Officers and Boys in membership.

He was awarded The Lord Provost of Glasgow Gold Medal "for Public Service" and appointed an Officer of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty The Queen "for services to young people" in the New Year Honours 1995. John currently serves as Boys' Brigade Honorary President for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and President of the Federation of Stedfast Associations, maintaining a high profile of continuing engagements, incorporating Brigade Ambassadorial Tour Visits to New Zealand, Ghana, Australia, Hong Kong and Mainland China, the latter resulting in the re-establishment of the Boys' Brigade, following the Bolshevik Revolution in the late 1920's, where the Christian aims of the organisation had been banned.

## Bugles & Drums of the Stedfast Association ( BADOTSA)

Operation Flanders Poppy Ypres Belgium  
Friday 29 August -Tuesday 2 September 2014



The tour was undertaken to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and the service of over 100,000 past members of The Boys' Brigade who fought in that war, to take part in acts of remembrance for many of those were killed or wounded and play at a number of locations in the Flanders and Somme regions of Belgium and France.

On Friday 29th September 2014, eighty members and supporters of the Stedfast Association set off in two coaches to Ypres.

The band of 53 band members from all over the country including a contingent of four pipers from Northern Ireland a drum major from Wales with an age range of 18 to 79... average being 47.

The Brighton group was made up Band members; Adjutant John Donoghue. Side drummers. Barry McCann, Richard Newman, Bass Drummer Ken Towner, Bugler, Jack Cant, Richard Hawes, David Norman, Brian White and Bell-lyres Carol Simmons. We also had our enthusiastic "WAS"( Wives And Supporters) Pam Cant, Paul & Monica Hern, Sandra McCann, Sarah Simmons & Sue Towner.



### Sunday 31st August 2014

Church parade to and from Groot square to St George's Memorial Church for Remembrance Service which was followed by a battlefield tour to the recently refurbished museum at Passchendaele, which now includes mock up's of British & German trenches.

On return to Ypres in the evening for the band for another parade and wreath laying at the Menin Gate followed by "beating retreat" in the Groot Square which was received by an appreciative audience.



*Continued next page*

## Monday 1st September 2014

A busy day! ..First parade after a lengthy journey into France for a parade at the Thiepval Memorial, the largest memorial on the Somme. On the panels are recorded the names of 72,104 men who died in 1916-17 and have no known graves. We ran through our programme and finished with a last post ceremony and wreath laying.



*Salute at Thiepval*

From here we moved 1.5 Km down the D151 to Authuille where the 15th (Glasgow Tramways), 16th (Boys' Brigade ) and the 17th (Glasgow Commercial) Battalions of the Highlands Light Infantry fought and died during the opening days of the battle of the Somme.

We continued onto The Ulster Tower , the memorial to the Royal Ulster Rangers where our pipers from Belfast played a lament and laid a wreath in Memory of those members of The Boys' Brigade serving with the 36th Ulster Division.



*Last Post at Authuille Boys Brigade Memorial*

The final stop for the tour was Newfoundland Memorial Park, maintained by The Canadian Battlefields monuments' Commission where we were taken on an informative guided tour by Canadian University Students.

The day finished back in Ypres where the whole group had a meal and toasts proposed to HM Queen and a sent friends. A vote of thanks together with "gifts" was given to Paul Hern for all his hard work making the tour possible.. before, during and after.

## Tuesday 2nd

All packed up! and loaded on our respective coaches for the return home and each With their own thoughts and feelings after a truly memorable and unrepeatable experience.

**Ken Towner** - *Membership Secretary and BADOTSA member.*

## One Hundred Years After

Green fields, a pastoral heaven reclaimed;  
From land once torn and blighted by war:  
Peace reigns now, seemingly to even the score;  
Where many once lay dead; torn twisted and maimed.

Fields returned once more to a peaceful state;  
Though reminders of those four years of hell remain:  
Villages rebuilt in quietude, instead of a warlike hate;  
Though remains of the war's victims they still contain.

Nature rises once again in rejuvenation bloom,  
Where once mud, terror and death held sway:  
Life has returned dispersing that vile gloom;  
What mankind destroys nature will mend anyway.

Vistas of normality now ease the mind;  
Where once terror fear and dread held sway:  
Over the years wars shadows have begun to rescind;  
Normal service has returned, revealing a peaceful day.

Man the great destroyer, self predator cannot win;  
Nothing can halt nature's inevitable rebirth:  
What Man tears down, nature will again begin;  
Though badly damaged, nature heals the wounded earth.

Death and destruction has ceased to be;  
Lives can now be led more amicably:  
Woods re-grown despite the blasting of every tree;  
War torn towns arise, life goes on again appreciably.



***Dave Norman** is a member of BADOTSA who visited the battlefields in Belgium This was a very moving experience for all who went and Dave wrote a number of poems which reflected his thoughts.*

### IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the following members, who have been called to higher service since our last newsletter.

**David Hills** ex 4th Bton... Died September 26th 2014

**Dale Marland** ex 46th Liverpool, 2nd Shewsbury... Died August 2014

**Clive Pitt** ex 30th Brighton... Died October 4th 2014

**David William Rolph** Captain 1st Langley Eastbourne... Died September 10th 2014

We send our deepest sympathy to their Family and Friends. May they Rest In Peace.

## Remembrance Day Parade

Once again our band led the parade with sixteen players taking part. We were, as per usual, supported by our friends, Louise Malcolm and Noel from Croydon, Mike from London and Chris from Buckinghamshire. Unfortunately we were missing some of our regular supports, who sadly had other commitments.

Sadly we were unable to parade our "Stedfast Colour" as there was no one available to do the honours. However, our wreath was laid by our member, Eric Kent, who once again did us proud.

Hopefully, with a bit more forward planning, our contingent will be better supported in future.

Finally, a big well done to all those taking part, especially our newest drummer, Dave Wood and our novice bugler, Harry Newman, both who this was their first parade.

**Paul Simmons**




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## Old Boys' Prayer

Heavenly Father we give you thanks for the work of the boys Brigade and for its influence on our lives, lived more richly, living out your values taught to us as boys through the object, and which we use as our guide as men.

We pray for the work of our Battalion which continues to promote Christ's Love to boys (and Girls) to light the way in a dark world.

We pray for the Stedfast association in its endeavours, may it continue to grow in strength.

We pray for all the old boys whether members of the association or not, their needs are many, comfort them in the knowledge that they are members of Christ's great army whose numbers are countless.

Lord bless these prayers and the unspoken prayers which lay in our hearts, to promote your kingdom, to give strength, wisdom peace and love here on earth.

Amen.

## The next Newsletter will be Spring 2015

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 31/01/2015  
To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.  
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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## Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion  
**SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2015**  
 at Southwick Methodist Church.  
 Service starts 2.30pm  
 Band playing from 2.00pm



We hope to see as many of you as possible for our Annual Get Together. We welcome serving senior Boys and Company Officers. You are all very welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

At the AGM we will be electing our officers,  
 Any names to; Dick Kent, (e-mail; RKent09@aol.com)  
 You will need to obtain their permission first.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact any current committee member.  
 A further update will appear in the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

### Synopsis of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Sunday 19th January 2014.

The meeting was opened by our Chairman John Donoghue. and the Camp Grace was sung before the tea was served.

The Chairman thanked both the Donoghue Family for providing the tea in memory of the late Tony Donoghue, as well as the tea ladies.

The tea collection amounted to £195.50 which will be donated to Glynde Camp.

The Church collection amounted to £311.90

Apologies were read by Membership Secretary Ken Towner. Both the minutes of the last meeting and Accounts for last year were approved.

The Battalion President Derek Hinton reported on the Battalion.

An appeal was made for names of Beal VC watch winners so that the records might be updated.

Terry Pomfrey reported on the Newsletter

Alan Caperon reported on Secretarial matters and Carl Jukes updated on the Website.

Officers; The following were elected: President; Peter Ford. Vice Presidents; Rev Ian Suttle and Rev Julian Albrow. Membership Secretary; Ken Towner. Secretary/Treasurer; Alan Caperon. Committee Members; Jim Attwater, John Donoghue, Stephen Roberts, Terry Pomfrey, Ray Eaves and Paul Simmons.

Les Russell sought out the Oldest & Youngest 'Old Boy' Dick Dench (10th) enrolled 1931, Carl Smart (3rd Eastbourne) left battalion 2011.

The vesper was sung at the close of the meeting.

Next Reunion 18 January 2015.



President:  
His Grace the Earl of  
Elgin & Kincardine

Local President: Peter Ford

## Brighton Hove & District Branch

of Former Members, Serving Officers, Friends  
and Supporters of The Boys' Brigade

Email address: alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk  
Or please reply to Alan Caperon  
72 Poulters Lane  
West Sussex  
BN14 7SZ

Dear Members

### STEDFAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE INCORPORATING THE BRIGHTON BOYS' BRIGADE ON 18 JANUARY 2015 from 2pm

It is with great pleasure that the President and Committee would like to invite all our members, all serving Officers and Boys that are 16 years and over to attend our Annual Stedfast Association Reunion at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick, where the Stedfast band will play from 2pm followed by the service at 2.30pm. Immediately after the service, afternoon refreshments will be served followed by the AGM. A further reminder will be sent in December with the Winter Newsletter.

Our special guests at the Reunion are **John Neil OBE**, the President of the Federation of Stedfast Associations, United Kingdom & the Republic of Ireland and is also the Brigade Honorary President United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland and **Derek Hinton** our Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion President. Also attending this special Reunion as our guest is **Councillor Denise Cobb the Deputy Mayor of Brighton & Hove**.

Refreshments will be provided in special memory of Frank Dale, our long serving Treasurer and committee member who you will recall passed to higher service in 2013.

There will be a special presentation to Ros Ayling for over 50 years' service to the BB.

Our Stedfast President Peter Ford will lead the Church Service, Rev Ian Suttie will undertake the sermon, Derek Hinton will carry out the bible reading and address at the AGM and John Neil OBE will read the prayer and address the AGM on his recent visit to China to promote The Boys' Brigade. A number of our members will be participating during the afternoon.

The Boys' Brigade Executive has endorsed this invitation and the Battalion colours will be paraded by the 3rd Burgess Hill Company. The Stedfast colours are being paraded by the 30th Brighton.

There have been a number of important events this year for the BB with new companies formed and we are putting on a slide show of the pictures from Glynde Camp on the displays during the Reunion. You will know that the Stedfast band participated in the 1914 centenary commemorations and played at the Lord Mayor's parade on 8 November and on Remembrance Sunday the following day in Grand Avenue in Hove. So we will have some pictures of this as well.

The afternoon will be a celebration of The Boys' Brigade in Brighton Hove and District where current senior boys, current officers as well as Old Boys, former officers and their families can share our love of the BB and join in worship. Please bring a former BB colleague with you to share the afternoon.

Yours sincerely and Stedfastly

**Alan Caperon Secretary for the Committee**