



Spring 2017

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

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Alan Caperon

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Alan Caperon

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Jim Attwater
Adrian Attwater
Dick Kent
Terry Pomfrey
Les Russell
Paul Simmons

Dear Stedfast Members,

A very important part of the work of The Stedfast Association is in assisting and encouraging The Battalion Companies to flourish. There is no better way to achieve this than to help with The Battalion Scripture Competition. For this year's competition, held on the 1st March, the Organiser was the Revd. Brian Stone who set the questions, whilst Ray Eaves was the Question Master and I had the privilege of being scorekeeper.

It was a great joy to hear the teams answering the questions on the theme of "Boys in The Bible" and we must seek as many ways as possible to support Our Battalion.

A year or so ago every Member at Glynde Camp was presented with a specially prepared New Testament as a gift from Gideon International. This Session The Stedfast Association have been given a large quantity of similar B.B. Edition pocket New Testaments and these have been distributed to a number of Companies, who have put them to very good use.

The Gideons carry out a wonderful Spirit-filled mission and it was a great pleasure to recently be present at a Gideon Dinner and Presentation in Hove.

What a wonderful time of the year is Easter. Everything seems to come together after the dark days of Winter and we can rejoice in the presence of the Risen Christ. What a wonderful world it will be when every continent wholly responds to the call of The Living Saviour.

One of my enduring hobbies is stamp collecting and it gives me a great deal of pleasure. It was recently good to learn that Brian Stone also collects and I wondered if there are any other collectors in the Association. It is a great way to learn about the World and just about every subject has been represented on stamps over the past 176 years.

As we remember the world, let us especially remember the persecuted Church in so many areas.

Well done to everyone who supported the 2017 Reunion, and be determined that the next one will be even better.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone.

Peter Ford *Stedfast Association President*



EDITORIAL

It was really good to see that the numbers who attend our Reunion and AGM remain constant. Thank all for your continued support, next year, as I have said many times, try to bring a Mate whether as a new comer, or returning member.

It was sad to say goodbye to our chairman John, he will be missed, he has been a very good Chair and led the Committee well, a very keen BB Man & Boy, his knowledge of the Association has been most helpful.

A new Chairman Ray Eaves was elected at our Committee meeting in March, and we also have a lady who is considering joining us on the committee watch this space!

The committee will continue, I am sure, to lead our association in a way that will allow us all to meet and share the memories with boyhood friends at least once in the year. I wish you all, hopefully an enjoyable Spring and Summer.

God's Blessings at this time to you ALL.

Dick

Founder's Day Dinner 4th October 2017

For the 5th time we have been able to book Preston Bowls club as the venue for the Founder's Day Dinner on the 134th anniversary of the beginnings of the BB.

This is an opportunity for you and your guests to celebrate the foundation of the BB. Not to mention The scout movement and many other youth organisations. It will be an informal evening with a toast to the founder at 8pm. The evening will include a raffle in aid of Glynde camp. If you have any raffle prizes please bring them with you.

We will meet at Preston Club at 7.15pm for 7.45pm. The Menu, that has proved so popular in the past, will be the same again this year at a price of £18.95 per head and will, this year, include Tea or Coffee with mints after dessert.

Those who attended last year will automatically be contacted later in the Summer.

If you have not attended before you and your guests will be most welcome.

Please contact Les Russell at: lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk, or 01273 888032, or Mob:07833531069., by post, 3,Pelham Terr, Brighton. BN2 4AF or via the internal mail at Preston Bowls club.

Les Russell



Reunion Photographs

More on page 5

IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members, who have been called to higher service since our last newsletter.

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

Joyce Fogden 28th February this year. She was 85 years of age. Officer in the 8th Brighton Boys Brigade at St Mary Magdalen's, Coldean, and also 13th Brighton Boys Brigade Company.

Tony Wright (G&M TROPHIES) 17th. January 2017
not a member of Stedfast but a good friend to our organisation, who was always willing to help us, supplying our engraving and medals he was a Kind Gentleman.

The next Newsletter will be Summer 2017

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 30th June 2017
To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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The Spring Stedfast News coincides with Good Friday when we focus on the cross, and Easter when we celebrate the Resurrection. At the January BBOB Reunion, we sang about these Christian events in the first hymn. The closing hymn was "Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son." The traditional BB Hymn reminds us that all our Boys' Brigade work is



Underneath the banner, of the cross arrayed.

The left hand badge above does not have a cross. When I wrote about this in the Winter 2005 newsletter the photos were not reproduced. I mentioned that I received a Warrant Officer's cap with the above left hand badge. Later, I changed this for the Lieutenant's field service cap with the right badge.

I suppose the badges represented two phases of my life. I had grown up in the church from Sunday School days and knew all about Christianity, at least the Methodist version. Like some fellow BB Officers, mine was a superficial or second hand religion until Good Friday in 1958. In those days not many members went to church on Good Friday, but after a working day I went to the evening service. As our minister preached about the crucifixion I realised that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.' (2 Corinthians 5:19) After the sermon, in the singing of Charles Wesley's great hymn, I knew that 'died he for me who caused his pain.' Living through the words of the hymn 'my chains fell off, my heart was free (and) I rose, went forth and followed' Him in Christian life and ministry.

*At the cross! at the cross! where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;
it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!*

These words based on 2 Timothy 1:12 were appended to Isaac Watts' hymn

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause,
maintain the honour of his word, the glory of his cross
(B.B. Hymn Book 129)*

The old Sankey hymn book and Golden Bells included the refrain, but in the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book it was relegated to an appended verse. In *Hymns & Psalms* (1983) and *Rejoice and Sing* (1991) the words are not part of the hymn and in *Singing the Faith* (2011) Watts' hymn is omitted altogether. Modern hymnology seems to drift away from the cross with references to Christ's blood instead of being anchored in scriptural concepts.

It is easy to shout our Hosannas on Palm Sunday and Hallelujahs on Easter Day but remember, Good Friday and the Cross stand in between. The prayer "Jesus keep me near the cross" is part of our commitment in advancing Christ's Kingdom on earth. May I wish you God's blessing for the Easter season.

Rev Dr John C. Neal



More Reunion Photographs



Outgoing Chairman



Oldest old boy



Youngest old boy



SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

Membership

I would like to thank the 113 members who have so far paid subs this year which total £1,445. If you have not paid, please send your subs to me and complete the membership form with your current details and an email address if you have one.

I now have more email addresses for the membership and thus we will save at least £100 this year in printing and postage as we will now be sending 60 newsletters by post three times a year (the rest are sent by email) compared to some 80 newsletters by post in 2016. As you will know postage costs have increased and so are printing costs therefore if you have an email address and still receive the newsletter by post, please let me know.

Accounts

The 2016 accounts were approved by John Dent, Chartered Accountant and then adopted by the members at the reunion AGM as follows:-

	2016 £	2015 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,540	1,465
Reunion collections	432	442
Donations received	78	438
Total income	2,050	2,345
Expenditure		
BB-Glynde donation	(300)	(310)
Southwick Church donation	(504)	(500)
Federation costs (special thanks to the Fed for reducing the 2016 fee)	(20)	(75)
Band costs (less Band donations)	nil	(155)
Travel expenses to Fed weekend	cancelled	(200)
Other donations	(20)	(38)
Website	(80)	(6)
Remembrance wreaths	(56)	(55)
Newsletter costs etc	(644)	(688)
Insurance	(64)	(62)
Reunion costs	(393)	(505)
Sundries	nil	(60)
Total expenses	(2,081)	(2,654)
Deficit	(31)	(309)
Bank B/F	1,677	1986
Bank C/F	1,646	1,677

Reunion-2017

I hope you all enjoyed the reunion on 15th January 2017, where we had over 100 attendees on parade (members and guests, BB officers and Boys all in attendance).

The band played in the church due to the poor weather and I would like to thank the members that brought the 11 BB company colours for the afternoon. It was a wonderful sight to have these colours at the front of the church and I hope you will bring the colours again next year.

The church collection totalled £288.30 and the tea collection raised £152.65.

The oldest old boy is Dick Dench (10th Brighton, Hove) and the youngest old boy is Carl Smart (3rd Eastbourne)

Website

It would be beneficial if you can advise us whether you have visited the website at www.brightonstedfast.org.uk and if so how often. We hope to have the reunion photos and band photos on the website in the near future, so it is well worth a visit.

And Finally

Please let us have your comments on the reunion, newsletters, website and any other matters you wish to bring to our attention.

I hope you have a very Happy Easter.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon *Secretary and Treasurer*

Old Boys' Prayer

O God, Bless The Boys' Brigade, and all its old boys.

Give to them the power to advance your Kingdom throughout the world.

Grant in your mercy that every member of The Boys' Brigade, past and present may prove Stedfast in their fight against evil, and sure in their allegiance to you.

Help us in times of trial and temptation; make us strong when we are weak and when our frailty is overwhelming us.

Give us courage in difficulties, and faithfulness in duty both in our professional and personal lives, help us to be loyal in our friendships that were forged in the ranks of the B.B.

Finally Lord when we are called to higher service, bring us rejoicing into your everlasting Kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Juniors 100 years old

In 2017 we will be celebrating the centenary of the Junior Section (Juniors), a significant anniversary in the life of our organisation and one that we hope members will want to celebrate locally and nationally.

Our celebrations will take place across the calendar year, covering both the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions allowing ample opportunities for local and national events to take place.



To find out everything you need to know about getting involved in the Juniors 100 celebrations visit our website at leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/juniors100/



The History

Up until 1917 The Boys' Brigade had only catered for Boys aged 12 and over. However, in September 1917, Brigade Council (the governing body of The Boys' Brigade) setup The Boy Reserves to cater for Boys aged 9 to 12 years of age.

For several years prior to this a number of Companies had started to take in recruits under twelve, the Boy Scouts had done so too from 1916 as Wolf Cubs, and for this reason there were calls to lower the age limit to accommodate these Boys within the Brigade.

The first section to be formed was the 1st Warley (in Essex, England) followed by the 1st Beverley, 30th Liverpool, 14th Manchester and 1st Swansea.



The uniform adopted by the Boy Reserves was nautical consisting of a sailor's cap, navy blue jersey and shorts. The NCO's working with them also had nautical ranks as Petty Officers. In the early days of the Boy Reserves there was a noticeable increase in attendance at Sunday School in those churches which had adopted the section and the number of Companies operating a Boy Reserves quickly started to grow.



By 1918 there were more than 1,500 members of The Boy Reserves across the UK, the section continued to grow through the 1920's.

In 1926 The Boys' Brigade merged with The Boys' Life Brigade. The two younger sections of each organisation merged to become the **Life Boys**. With this amalgamation membership increased to more than 30,000 Boys in the early 1930's and then to more than 70,000 in the 1950's.

In 1966 the Life Boys became a full part of the Brigade as the **Junior Section**, a name which was intended to be temporary, until such time as a better one could be thought of and still holds today; although now many often refer to the Boys and Girls of the age group simply as **Juniors**.



Information printed here is an extract and full information can be obtained from the the web site [.boysbrigade.org.uk/juniors100/](http://boysbrigade.org.uk/juniors100/)



Were You There?

Dick Kent spotted this photo in the Argus newspaper, in which it posed a few questions from its readers, namely; where, when who etc.

Well, the where is the forecourt to the Brighton Pavilion, and Dick is sure he knows the name of at least one of the people in the photo.

If you know more, were there, or better still if you are one of the people in the photo, then let us (and the Argus) know.

Battalion President's report to the Reunion

It is good to be here, and great to see so many of you once again. Hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas, and kept well health wise.

It is my job to tell you about the Brighton, Hove & District Battalion, which for most of you is your Battalion. You are not going to like what I have to say but I find myself duty bound to tell you anyway.

A long suffering husband and his wife went on holiday to Jerusalem, but while they were there, the wife died. A Local undertaker told the husband, you can have her shipped home for 16000 shekels, or you can have her buried here in the Holy Land for 800 shekels. After a moment's thought, the husband said, I think I'll have her shipped home. "Well it's your decision, said the undertaker, but I must say I'm surprised. Why spend 16000 shekels on having your wife shipped back to Britain when for just 800 shekels you could have her buried right here ? Listen, said the husband, many years ago, a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just cannot take the risk. Well, I have got to take the risk, but some of what I am going to tell you is not good news, but something you would rather not hear about.

It would be great if the news was all positive and none was negative, but that would only be giving you a false sense of the state of your Battalion, which I am not prepared to do. During this past twelve months since our last reunion. I have to tell you that we have lost two companies, first the 15th Bognor, who barely lasted a year, and who had to pay an enormous amount of rent on their premises, then the 18th Storrington, who for personal reasons were down to just two leaders, and although both wanted desperately to carry on, the Church would not allow them to quoting Health and safety of the Boys and Girls But worse is still to come. At our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 12th July 2017, John Pigott has indicated that he will not be standing again as our Treasurer, Terry Ward did the same at the last AGM, and two years ago I said that I would carry on for the next two years, which are up at the end of this session, So Council at the next AGM will be voting in a President, 5 vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and chairs for all three sections. We have managed to get by these past years without an official Secretary, and without chairs of sections. We have at present 4 Vice Presidents who I very much hope will continue in their positions, but the hardest position to fill is going to be that of Battalion Treasurer. I find it difficult to imagine how the Battalion Executive, and come to that our Battalion in its entirety can continue and exist without a Treasurer.

Next I come to Company Staffing problems. Now that every member of The Boys' Brigade is on line, it is or should be remarkably quick in getting the Battalion Statistics. I have 31 Officers covering 11 Companies. Ideally a company running all three sections requires three adult Officers/leaders per section. That comes to nine per company, less than that means staff would have to work in more than one section. Of our 11 companies, six have only two or less, another three have three or less, leaving only two companies able to officially exist, with the other nine companies having to rely on helpers. Even the two companies with three Officers still rely on helpers.

A traffic cop pulled over a little old lady for driving too slowly on US highway 22. The speed limit is sixty five miles per hour on this highway he said, but you were doing less than twenty five, how come. She explained, there are a lot of signs saying twenty two, that's the speed limit isn't it, and I was doing twenty two exactly. No ma'am, that's not the speed limit, that's the route number. The Officer then looked in the back of the car and saw two other women. They were white and trembling with fear. What is the matter with your other passengers, the Officer asked? Well, we have just come off the highway marked 126, the driver replied brightly.

Unfortunately, **too many of our companies are sticking to the smaller** numbers instead of aiming for the larger numbers. The number of boys in any section has now reached an alarmingly low number in over two thirds of companies, which of course makes it very difficult to produce a programme that is going to make boys want to join and to get others to do so also.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank all members of Executive, and all involved in their work in the companies, but this news is not good, and does not leave me with very much hope of a quick solution. Before getting on to the positives, I have to report to you that our last Battalion camp at Glynde was our lowest in numbers of both Staff and Boys ever.

Companies did not feel that they had a young man suitable to put forward for the Ernest Beal V C Award, so no award for last session was presented.

The Anchors, other than what they arranged themselves, did nothing Battalion wise.

Now for the positives, and disappointedly there are not many.

The junior section had a great holiday at Carrroty Wood Activity Centre in Tonbridge in April, well organised with a good team of staff, and enjoyed by the boys. All the juniors competitions and activities have also been well planned. Well done to all the staff involved, led by Mark Jago. They held a new year Lazer party in Crawley.

The Company section have either completed or about to complete all their Competitions and activities, with Geoffrey Cocksedge leading a team of staff. Battalion camp is being arranged as usual by the Battalion camp council, we pray that numbers may start to increase once again. Despite the very low numbers at the last Battalion camp, I would like to thank all those staff members who attended, the camp led again by Gary Pickett, and in general enjoyed by all present. Again my thanks to Adrian Attwater and his staff for setting up and taking down all the very heavy parts of Equipment needed for camp. Let us hope that numbers will soon increase again, boys as well as staff.

The Brigade have a new Brigade Secretary, Bill Stevenson, who tells us that numbers, especially abroad, are increasing greatly, these are exciting times for the Brigade, but there is still much to be done to continue to promote our Object. Although new companies are starting every month in the UK, an awful lot more could do so if only we had adults willing to become leaders. Same old story, but the churches must take the largest portion of the blame for this situation.

We have lost three generations of adults. Also in the past, young men of 18 years of age would stay in the company, become Staff Sergeants, then Officers. This no longer applies, at 18 they nearly all leave for university, then get there degree's. plus jobs all over the UK and abroad.

Once again I say to all you Stedfast members, Good Health and best wishes for 2017, and thanks for listening to me today and in past years. 70 years being involved in The Boys' Brigade is a long time and is more than beginning to show.

What the situation will be like in your Battalion at the next reunion, especially if we have no treasurer and or no Executive does not bear thinking about, we need all your prayers.

John kept pestering his parents to buy a video, but they said they couldn't afford one. So one day John came home clutching a package containing a brand new video. "wherever did you get the money to pay for that" asked his father suspiciously. "It's alright, Dad" replied John, I traded the TV in for it.

I can tell you one thing: **One way or another your, my Battalion will survive.** I am not open for trading it in. It may be in a different format, but I do not want to be known as the Battalion President who gave all of its assets to Brigade Headquarters and deleted the Brighton (Hove) Battalion into extinction.

Derek Hinton *Battalion President.*

Greetings to all readers of our Newsletter from your band.

We had a busy year in 2016 with our trip to Scotland, Bexley and all parts of the UK mainland. This year should be no different.

We started the year with our annual appearance at our reunion, we were once again supported by our good friends from the London Stedfast band. Without combining both bands, we would not be able to function. And just recently we played for the London Girls Brigade parade.

So what of this year.

We are currently practicing for our trip to Belfast in May. Sadly there only three of us attending from Brighton, those being Barry McCann, Brian White and David Norman. However, with the support of the rest of the National Stedfast band, we should put on a good show.

Other anticipated outings should include the, Bexley Civic Parade, The Lord Mayors Show, London, subject to our acceptance, and routine practices at various locations throughout the UK mainland, and any other suitable venues and outings as and where required.

We are still in need of new members, so, once again, why not come along and meet us all. So till our next report, Stay Safe and active.

Best wishes **Paul Simmons**

10th Brighton (Hove) Boys Brigade 1899 – to Present Day

In February 1899, just 15 years, 4 months after The Boys' Brigade was funded in Glasgow, Cliftonville Congregational Church started the 1st Hove Company of the Boys Brigade where a small group of boys gathered to learn Drill, Bible Class and PT among other skills. With other Companies forming locally over the next few years in Portland Road, Stoneham Road and Nevill Avenue (to name but a few) Hove was now truly on the BB map.

A short while later in 1900, Hove, alongside companies from Brighton amalgamated to form the Brighton, Hove and District Battalion, because the 1st Brighton already existed the next available was allocated creating the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company of The Boys' Brigade.

The company survived and did not cease through two World Wars despite losing several brave men in both. After the 2nd World War numbers continued to increase – attracting boys such as a young Peter Gear, Dick Kent, Ben Edwards to name a few and although having joined in 1931 before serving his country the Company welcomed a new face to the Staff a young man by the name of Dick Dench. Dick was an Officer in the company for many years and was a commanding presence as Drill Officer.

Although the company currently operates without a Captain we have been fortunate in the past to have such Captains as E.R.Hooker, H.Wright, H.Scott, J.Skarden, L. Williams, G.Ridge, Ben Edwards, Harry Stone, Revd Brian Stone, Alan Lee, and Ray Eaves.

As many of you will see at Stedfast Reunions the 10th means so much to so many of us, you can't fail to miss our proudness when the 10th is called out in the Roll Call of Companies.

Over the years, we have had a fine tradition of winning various Battalion competitions specifically the Drill Shield and we are the current holders of the Battalion Athletics and Swimming sports. We are also previous winners of the Drill Colours, PE, Football League and Badminton competitions.

The company can also boast about having 3 previous Ernest Beal VC Watch winners – Sgt's E Holden (1928), Mike Dale (1963) and most recently in 2000, Paul Eaves.

We were proud in 1999 to be able to celebrate our Company Centenary, a weekend of events involved a dinner for ex-members, exhibitions, celebratory church service in the presence of Boys Brigade and Hove Council dignitaries and a Parade around Hove with the full company supported by the 1st Southwick Band and 1st Hove Girls Brigade Company.

Each former member, serving Officers and Boys present received a badge designed by us to commemorate the event. We also received a letter from the BB Patron, HM The Queen – congratulating the company of our achievement.

Back to 2017 – in our 118th year the Company is still going strong with a group of dedicated officers and leaders and a fine group of enthusiastic boys and young men.

In recent years, we have written and performed 8 shows we have called Old Time Music Halls. These take the form of small sketches, jokes, singing and playing musical instruments all

performed to a high standard by the boys. We always advertise these and hope you will be able to join us for our next one which will be on the 26th and 27th of January next year (2018).

Although we must and have moved with the time, particularly with Uniform and what badge work we cover the object of the company is still the same – To Advance Christ's Kingdom amongst boys.

I would strongly encourage any of you to contact your former companies, or if that sadly doesn't exist to contact your nearest company to see how they work compared to how they were in previous years.

Carl Jukes, *Serving Officer and Old Boy of the 10th*

Company Drill competition

Wednesday 15th March

The winners were as follows:

Drill Shield 1st Southwick

Company Colour

3rd Burgess Hill

Squad Medal Sgt Jack Sherlock
3rd Burgess hill

It was noteworthy that the Southwick lads were instructed by Barry McCann of the Stedfast band.

The photos here are of the Boys with their trophies.

Regards, **Geoffrey Cocksedge**



Swimming competition Pictures

(1) - Medley Relay



This years competition held on Saturday 4th February, all the winning teams in all categories were won by the 10th Brighton Company

(2) - Senior Relay



(3) - Overall Winners



We congratulate all the winners and all the companies who took part. We encourage more teams to take part next year.

If your company have done anything newsworthy and you would like others to know about it, send your article and photos to me and we will put it in the newsletter.

Scripture competition

Peter Ford and I helped out at the Battalion Scripture Competition which was held on the evening of Wednesday 1st March, at Southwick Methodist Church.

I asked the Questions and Peter acted as scorer. The questions were set by Rev'd Brian Stone.

The Result;

1st - 3rd Burgess Hill with 65 marks.

2nd - 1st Southwick with 59 marks.

3rd - 14th Brighton with 49 marks.

Congratulations to the winners and runners up, and a big thank you to all the teams that took part.

Ray Eaves



Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion

SUNDAY 21st JANUARY 2018

at Southwick Methodist Church. Service starts 2.30pm open from 2.00pm for enrolment.

If you are reading the Brighton Stedfast Association newsletter for the first time we hope that you have found it both interesting and informative. If you have any items that you think may be of interest to our members you can contact the Editor or secretary, (details inside this newsletter) or visit our web site;

<http://brightonstedfast.org.uk/>

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 secretary:

Alan Caperon 72 Poulterers Lane Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SZ
alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

To help with the association costs, we would suggest a donation of £10

Associate members now welcome

(cheques payable to the Stedfast Association)