



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 PRESIDENT
Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN
John Donoghue

TREASURER
Alan Caperon

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Stephen Roberts

COMMITTEE
Jim Attwater
Adrian Attwater
Ray Eaves
Dick Kent
Terry Pomfrey
Les Russell

Dear Stedfast Members,

Firstly a big thank you to all who attended the Reunion. It was especially good to see those Ladies who attended for the first time.

Celebrating Easter we acknowledge that for many the Joy of Easter would be unknown without the input of the BB. into our lives. Christ is alive and is using the BB today in an ever more powerful way.

With fewer Companies in many areas and fewer Boys in the Companies how can I possibly justify that statement? Simply by pointing to Global BB. In every other part of The World the BB is increasing. Week on week new Leaders are being appointed, new Boys welcomed and Christ's love being spread.

When did you last look at a map of The World? Look at those countries in which the work of The Brigade is expanding. Some Companies with just a handful of Boys others with many hundreds. United in Faith, united in Fellowship and united by their increasing love for their Great Captain. For them the cross is not just a piece of wood but the key to Heaven and Life Eternal.

Across Africa and Asia, Australia and The Americas the BB is marching confidently forward proclaiming the Good News and helping members to be Faithful in these changing times.

If you have access to the internet spend a while to research a Company overseas. Pray for that Company and seek to support it in any way that you can.

The first prayer to offer is The Boys' Brigade prayer - Bless O God The Boys' Brigade and give to it greater power to advance Your Kingdom throughout the world.

Grant in Your mercy, that every member, past and present may prove stedfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to you.

Help us in times of temptation; make us strong where we are weak; give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty; loyalty in friendship; and finally, by your mercy, bring us into your everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Then read The Great Commission - St. Matthew 28 verses 18 to 20.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone,

Peter Ford Stedfast Association President



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first issue of 2016, and congratulations on the splendid turnout for the Reunion, I thought that singing was of the highest quality and the Mayor was certainly most impressed. I can say that the committee are now looking at the membership of the association and we have a great number on our mailing list that have not attended the Reunion for many years and it is sensible for this number to be reduced where necessary as this will help our expenses. Our treasurer will be looking into this with the membership secretary and the committee.

You may recall that several years ago we offered the service of contacting other members with whom you may have lost touch. We would have to provide safeguards but I wonder if you would like this to be tried again? Let me know.

Don't forget should anyone be interested in details of the Federation week-end in London please let me know See Page 17, it is an interesting opportunity to meet like-minded 'Old Boys' from around the country.

I wish you all well for the rest of 2016. God Bless
Dick



The next Newsletter will be Summer 2016

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 30/06/2016
To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

All reasonable efforts have been made to seek permission from the owners of works included in this publication and acknowledge their work. However, if you believe that copyright work has been included without your permission, please contact the editor.

Reunion and Annual General Meeting 2016

Reunion

It was lovely to see a very good turnout for the Reunion and the following Annual General Meeting. We had over 100 attending.

We were again pleased to welcome the Civil Dignitaries from both Brighton and Hove and Adur, the help given to Brighton and Hove is much appreciated (mainly by the Band) and we are usually given £100 each year which certainly helps with our finances. The singing was of the highest quality and the marching on of the Colours was one of the best! The service was excellently led by Our President and it was good to see our Chaplain and listen to a most interesting sermon. Our thanks to John both for his partaking in the Service and for his great support to the newsletter. The Prayers were led by our Vice President The Rev. Ian Suttie and the reading by Derek Hinton the Battalion President.

The Roll Call of Companies was led by Ken Towner and Our President led the Remembrance for those who have passed to Higher Service since our last meeting Paul Simmons played the bugle for last post and reveille.

After the Service there was the usual gathering in the Hall for a good gossip and of course the splendid Tea served by the ladies and the Boys of the 1st Southwick Company.

Annual General Meeting

Our Chairman John Donoghue opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and all joined in the singing of the Camp Grace. It certainly appeared that everyone enjoyed the tea after which John thanked all those that had been involved with the afternoon, Peter Ford Our President, the Rev Dr John Neal, The Colour parties led by John Patching(16th B'ton) and the 3rd Burgess Hill for carrying the Battalion Colours. To Sgt Adam Sander for his reading of the Remembrance Verses. Ken Towner and Paul Simmons for all their work for the Association as they retire. Of course to the Ladies and the Boys of the 1st Southwick for their hard work in arranging the tea.

Our Secretary read the messages of greetings and apologies and the minutes and accounts were all approved by the membership.

Derek Hinton gave his usual update on the Battalion (full details on page 6-8). John Donoghue gave details of the forthcoming Federation week-end which is being held in London on the week-end 13/15th May.

The following officers were appointed President Peter Ford. Vice President Rev Ian Suttie. Hon Secretary and Treasurer Alan Caperon. Membership Secretary Stephen Roberts. Committee Members. John Donoghue, Jim Attwater, Adrian Attwater, Ray Eaves, Dick Kent, Terry Pomfrey and Les Russell.

Les led the stand up, sit down, Dick Dench was the eldest and Carl Smart the youngest, each were presented with medallions.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm with the singing of the vesper.

The collections were counted later, and the Church offertory was £284.43 and the tea table £147.70

Building on other's foundations

1 Corinthians 3:10

I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation,
and another man is building upon it...

At January's BBOB Reunion we sang,
The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord [1 Cor. 3:11]

The left-side photograph shows the wooden Methodist Kindergarten School on the Dutch island of Saint Eustatius. In 1967, the outside latrines were condemned and the school threatened with closure. Through self-help we built the extension to house two teacher's, two boys' and two girls' flush toilets. Even women helped to dig the foundations and break rocks for the cement. At that time, there was a public supply of electricity on four mornings a week and in the evenings until 10.00 pm. The island was totally dependent on rainfall, so we dug a deep cistern and made the flat roof into a second cistern to give the water gravity down to the toilets.



1966



2001

I laid the foundations but my successor had to take delivery of and install the toilet units. Eventually, a new school was built and the old school used as a church hall.

Some thirty years later, the school was demolished and replaced with a two storey concrete structure erected on foundations that were about fifty years old. This was renamed 'The Elrine Leslie Auditorium' after the teacher who started the school. This included a kitchenette and a small lounge overlooking the auditorium. An upper floor was added to the toilet wing providing three bedrooms and a toilet/shower room. In 2001, I slept over the toilets whose foundations I had helped to lay !!

Beginning with William Smith, our founding fathers laid foundations for Brigade work that a long succession of officers continued. Each one of us has worked on the foundations that were laid by our predecessors.

In the Epistle read at our Old Boys Reunion, we heard Paul saying that "you too....are built upon the foundation laid by the Apostles and Prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself" [Ephes. 2:20] In a hymn we sing, "Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head, the cornerstone."

In the Spring issue of Stedfast News, we have echoes of the Good Friday and Easter message. Our faith is "grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love," on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified, dead and buried, but risen and ascended.

John C. Neal

C

H

A

P

L

A

I

N

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 2016 reunion on January 17th was a time to meet and catch up with old friends and make new ones. The total of over 100 members was good but a little down on last year. Please if you were unable to attend, put a date in your diaries for January 15th 2017 and join in the fellowship of other Old Boys.

The Service was conducted by our President Mr. Peter Ford and the prayers led by our Vice President Rev. Ian Suttie. The reading Ephesians 2:18-22 4:5-7&11-12 was read by the Battalion President Derek Hinton. Ken Towner did the roll of Companies and the address was by our very own Chaplain Rev. Dr. John C. Neal. John has been our Chaplain for 11 years writing in our Stedfast News . It was a joy to hear his message and the interesting facts about B.B. with photo's shown on the big screens. John has a great experience of B.B. work at home and overseas.



John presented Dick Dench with a gold medal as Oldest Old Boy

Ken Towner our membership secretary has retired and Steve Roberts has agreed to take on this important roll. Adrian Attwater has been voted on to the committee and he was warmly welcomed. On behalf of the Association I thanked Ken Towner for his dedicated work on the committee. We wished him well.

The Committee meets 5 times a year and to produce the Stedfast News letter Spring, Summer and Winter and to celebrate our Founder with a Dinner on October 4th, We parade at the Hove Remembrance Day Service and hold our Annual Service and Reunion followed by Tea and the A.G.M. Medals are presented for the Oldest & youngest members present led by Les Russell. We aim to finish by 5.30pm, with the B.B. vesper.

The Association depends on you the member so please make every effort to support your committee with attending these events and with your donations which are so very welcome.

I have Stedfast Ties @ £11.00, Tie Pins @£3.50 each and biros @ £4.50 each for sale at founders Dinner and at the Reunion.

If you need to contact me about The Stedfast Federation Weekend reported in the last edition or other Stedfast matters you can email me jdonoghue38@gmail.com or telephone 01323 501857 or write to me at 37, Park Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN221 2XG.

John Donoghue, Chairman.



Carl Smart was presented with the silver medal as the youngest Old Boy

Derek Hinton address to the Stedfast Reunion - Sunday 17th January 2016

Hi Friends,

A year is quite a long time, although these days it seems to go by so quickly. Every year in my report on our Battalion, I tend to follow the same pattern and talk about competitions, events, and the programme and so on. So this year, whilst I want to look at the positives, to be true to you I must also talk about the negatives.

Another Christmas, come and gone. I wonder how many of our church ministers have started planning for Christmas 2016.

Not many if any I would have thought.

All the large stores and Supermarkets have. They have all taken stock on the 2015 Christmas sales, and the clever buyers will have placed their orders with the Manufacturers already for 2016.

When he received the end of term report, Liam's father went crazy.

This report is terrible, he said. I am not at all pleased with it.

I told the teacher you wouldn't like it, said Liam, but he insisted on sending it just the same.

Boys' Brigade, whether we like it or not, is far, far different from when you were boys in it. Around 15/20 years ago, Boys' Brigade came out with a new uniform, yet, if you look at the Boys' Brigade Gazette, you see photographs of Officers and Boys printed all the time wearing bits and pieces of clothing that is nothing to do with Boys' Brigade. Yet, headquarters allow it... Do we not have any leaders at the top anymore?

Sunday Bible Classes have also long disappeared, and Drill is done by very few companies. Fortunately Company Church Parades still remain part and parcel of Boys' Brigade work, only Companies no longer march round the streets, instead meeting directly at the Church, where they leave from at the end of the service. One, they no longer like marching, probably because their friends may see them and of course Health and Safety gone mad.

An elderly man and a Baptist minister were sitting next to each other in an aeroplane. As the flight had been delayed, the crew announced that passengers would receive complimentary drinks by way of an apology.

When the pretty young flight attendant came round with the drinks trolley, the old man requested a whisky and soda. And what would you like, she then asked the Baptist minister.

I would rather commit adultery than drink alcohol, he snapped.

The old man looked confused and, handing his drink back to the attendant, said I'm awfully sorry, I didn't know there was a choice.

Continued next page

Well, all companies have a choice.

Our companies activities, which include Badge work in all three sections, plus other activities which are fun and exciting, and geared to the section age groups, including Bands and Gymnastics, are all planned well before the new session commences in September. Or are they? No Company should run an evening unless that evening is planned in complete detail, including all the available staff knowing exactly what they are expected to produce. The Parents expect it, the Boys expect it, the Church should expect it. A Happy, contented, well organised Company will survive with great success if not, then the Company will decline rapidly and finally close. The choice is with the Company?

Some of the Companies in our Battalion are existing, but for how much longer. The Battalion Capitation forms and details were due in by 31st December, giving companies at least three months to send them in. I should now be giving you the positives, and telling you that we are on the increase again in numbers and that we still have the same number of companies, no more have disappeared. But I cannot, because as usual a large amount of companies have not sent in the forms, so we have no details or good news to give you.

Unfortunately, we have companies who fall into one or the other groups, and it is for that reason I cannot see some Companies surviving, and if they do, it will be because they are contented to have around 10 boys in total in all three sections, when an exciting well organised company would be looking to have forty to fifty or even more boys involved within that Company.

If we as a Battalion and all our individual companies are to survive, we all need to act, and act quickly.

A Doctor was attending to a middle aged farmhands broken leg.

How did it happen asked the Doctor. - Well Doctor, twenty five years ago..

Never mind the past, said the doctor, Tell me how you broke your leg this morning.

Like I was saying, twenty five years ago on my first night working on the farm, the farmers beautiful daughter came into my room and asked If there was anything I wanted. And I said, No, everything Is fine. She asked whether I was absolutely sure there was nothing she could do for me, and I said, No, there's nothing.

That's all very interesting, said the doctor impatiently, but what has this story got to do with your broken leg?

Well, this morning, the farmhand explained, when It finally dawned on me what she meant, I fell off the roof?

I have been told on quite a few occasions, that Boys are no longer interested joining The Boys' Brigade... But that is not true. If a company delivers, then boys will want to join too, if the Company doesn't, then why should a boy want to join, especially in this day and age when there are so many exciting, fun loving activities going on all around them.

Continued next page

Now to the Girls Association. We have three companies who have been running a Girls Association along side their Boys Brigade Company for quite a number of years, yet the total number of Girls ever recorded in all three Girls sections has never exceeded 20 in all.

Any of you who went to the old Toll bridge at Shoreham to see the enormous amount of flowers and wreaths left after the Air crash, will I assume, have noticed the flowers laid there from our Battalion, which read: Our heartfelt Sympathy goes out to all who lost their lives in this tragic event, and to all the families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all in this sad time. From everyone in our Battalion, and especially from one of our newest Companies, 2nd Shoreham, who are part of the youth ministry at The Methodist Church in Brunswick Road.

On the Positive side, the Ernest Beal V. C. Award for last session was won by Corporal Adam Sander of the 3rd Burgess Hill Company.

What can I say about our Battalion Camp at Glynde. Well, we had rain, we had wind, and although we have had rain and wind at previous camps, I cannot ever remember winds so strong and changing direction so many times, and rain so heavy and at times so continuous, plus very cold nights practically from start to finish at any previous camp. The way all the staff stuck to their task and thoroughly saw the job through was nothing more than I would have expected from such a dedicated, faithful Staff, ably led by the CO, Gary Pickett. Our thanks once again go to our friends from Eastbourne for putting up and taking down the main heavy parts of our camping equipment.

Last year and previous years I have mentioned that Companies need to involve their boys in camp and other activities the Battalion lay on for them, unfortunately my words are as usual totally ignored

To all you Stedfast members, may I say Good Health and Best Wishes to each one of you in 2016, and thanks for at least once again listening to me, even if what I said is not really the good news that you would have liked to hear.

Derek Hinton Battalion President.

Committee Badges

You may have noticed at the Reunion that the committee members were wearing badges to identify them to the rest of our membership. These badges were made possible by a generous anonymous donation. The use of badges were well received judging by the comments we have received, and our sincere thanks go to our benefactor.

Secretary and Treasurers Report

Reunion and membership

I would like to thank all the 103 members and guests that attended the Reunion. We did have a number of apologies for members unable to attend, some relating to the weather and the snow the night before so regrettably we did not surpass the 115 members and guests that attended in 2015. Please remember to visit our website to see the reunion photos at www.brightonstedfast.org.uk.

The members voted at the AGM that their family members can join the Stedfast Association as Associate members so hopefully more of our members will be able to attend in 2017 and of course hope the weather will be kind to us.

We appreciate your generosity at the Reunion with the collection in the church raising £284 towards the church costs and the tea table collection contributing a further £148 towards the costs of the tea. So far 98 members have paid their subs and certain members will be paying their subs by standing order.

I would remind our members that were unable to attend the Reunion that your membership subs are still needed towards the Association's expenditure in 2016 which includes the costs of the Reunion and Southwick Methodist Church, the three newsletters that are issued in the Spring, Summer and Winter, the donation to support the boys at BB Glynde camp and also to cover the other running costs which will be similar to the amounts shown in the 2015 accounts.

Accounts to 31 December 2015

I have shown below a summary of the Stedfast Association accounts for 2015 with 2014 comparisons which were certified by John Dent, Chartered Accountant, as in accordance with the books and records. The accounts were approved by the members at the AGM as follows:-

	2015 £	2014 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,465	1,700
Reunion collections	442	847
Donations received	438	510
Total income	2,345	3,057
Expenditure		
BB-Glynde donation	(310)	(616)
Southwick Church donation	(500)	(500)
Federation costs	(275)	(250)
Band costs (less Band donations)	(155)	
Other donations	(38)	(150)
Website	(6)	(72)
Remembrance wreaths	(55)	(85)
Newsletter costs	(688)	(629)
Insurance	(62)	(61)
Reunion costs	(505)	(477)

Continued next page

	2015 £	2014 £
Sundries	(60)	
Total expenses	(2,654)	(2,840)
2015 Deficit (2014 Surplus)	(309)	217
Bank B/F	1,986	1,769
Bank C/F	£ 1,677	£ 1,986

You will note in the accounts that our expenditure exceeded our income by £309 and this arose due to a reduction in the members' subscriptions and donations. Whilst we retain some cash reserves, these monies are important to maintain so that we are able to meet our financial commitments to our Association and membership and to cover any deficiencies that may arise in the years' ahead. It is with this in mind, I would like you to consider a proposal for 2016 and the future.

2016 Proposal-Codicils and donations

As a charity The Boys' Brigade relies on the donations from supporters to develop its work. The Brigade website at www.boys-brigade.org.uk explains how to make a donation which can be done simply by an on line process or by the completion of a donation form. Since The Boys' Brigade is a charity, this means that the Brigade can also apply for gift aid from HMRC which gives the Brigade a further 20% tax contribution to a donation.

Likewise our own Battalion is a charity at www.brighton.boys-brigade.org.uk and donations can be made on line. Whilst our Stedfast Association has made donations to the Battalion camp fund for the Boys in recent years, we have not been able to make further donations to our Battalion due to the reducing amounts we have received in income. Therefore you may wish to make your own donation directly to either the Battalion or to the Brigade as set out above.

You will recall we bought 2 silver bugles for the Stedfast band last year from a donation we received. We have put plaques on the bugle cases so that the band members in the future will know that we acquired these instruments by the generosity of one of our members. These bugles were dedicated at the AGM in January 2016. In recent years we have also had donations made to cover the costs of the Reunion tea. If you wish to make a donation to the Stedfast Association with any particular request, our Committee will do their best to use the money in the way the donor requests.

Donations can be made at any time where our members can see how the monies are spent so they can be put to good use to promote the continued operation of the objects of the Stedfast Association and The Boys' Brigade which are shown on the front page of the newsletter.

Conclusion

If you have not yet paid your subs, please do so at your earliest convenience because we have to decide by our May 2016 committee meeting the donations we will make this year including for the Boys at Glynde camp in July 2016.

Regards,

Alan Caperon (*Secretary and Treasurer*)

Bugles and Drums of the Stedfast Association

BADOTSA.

We were very pleased to be able to play before this year's Reunion. Apologies to those who missed it due to our previous notice that we would not be able to due to falling numbers.

However, at the last minute we received offers of support from some of our London Stedfast Band colleagues and we felt we had sufficient numbers to put on a credible show. Paul Simmons once again played Last Post and Reveille during the service.



Our first big event of the year will be on 7th May when we join with local bands for the Beating of Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and then play at Stirling Castle the next day. There are several national practices for this, including one at RAF Halton.

June 26 is our annual appearance at the Bexley Heath Civic Parade.

On July 2nd, several of our local members are hoping to assist with a BB boys/girls band playing at the Norwich Lord Mayor's Show.

As well as practising with the national band, we continue to hold our own local practices on first Friday of each month at Southwick Methodist Church to which all are welcome (old or new players). We are hoping to extend our local practices to joint practices with our London colleagues.

Regards,
Barry McCann



Battalion and Stedfast Events

March 2016

- 5th Sat Junior Spring Competition
(HQ 25th)
16th Wed Company Drill Competition
(HQ 1st S/wick)

April 2016

- 5 Tue Executive 7.30pm (Battalion HQ)
11 Mon Camp Council 7.45pm
(Battalion HQ)
22/24 Fri-Sun Junior Section Holiday
(Carrot Wood)

May 2016

- 14th Sat Junior 5-a-side Football

June 2016

- 6th Mon Company Athletic Sports
(Withdean Stadium Brighton)
7th Tue Executive 7.30pm (Battalion HQ)
13th Mon Camp Council 7.45pm
(Battalion HQ)
10th or 17th Fri Junior Sports Day
(Braypool Rec Gd Patcham)
21st Tue Company Harriers Competition
(Glynde)

July 2016

- 5th Tue Executive 7.30pm
(Battalion HQ)
11th Mon Glynde Camp Boys Camp
Meeting 8.00pm
(Battalion HQ)
14th Thur Battalion Council A G M
7.30pm
(Battalion HQ)
22nd Fri Glynde Camp commences
(Cows Wood)
29th Fri Glynde Camp concludes
(Cows Wood)

August 2016

- 31st Battalion Financial Year End
Start of 2016-2017 session TBA

October 2016

- 4th Tue Founders Dinner at Preston Bowls
Club

November 2016

- 6th Sun Remembrance Day Parade
2pm Hove Town Hall
(Battalion and Stedfast members)

January 2017

- 15th Sun Stedfast Reunion and AGM
2pm Southwick Methodist Church
(All Welcome)



10th BRIGHTON (HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY'S OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

The one thing you can be sure of about the BB's Old Time Music Hall is that you can never be sure about anything. Yes, we know the opening and closing number will feature the song claiming they are "the Boys to entertain you!" but after that ... well, anything goes.

This year's production featured pirates, mice, frogs, newscasters, a pantomime horse, the Flower Pot Men, the Phantom of the Opera, a euphonium solo and synchronised swimmers. How diverse can you get!

Throw into the mixture a bit of Holland, a trip to wartime France, a bit of mental mathematics – bet you could not do that sum in your head! – and the inevitable groan-making jokes. And you begin to have some idea of the melange of the Old Time Music Hall's programme.

Q. What is a pirate's favourite subject at school?

A. Aaarrrrrt!

The Blomfield Family brought back memories of children's afternoon television before CBBC with their idea of "Giggles in the Garden" with Bill and Ben and Little Weeed. Their selection of gardening jokes kept up the BB tradition of eliciting groans.

"Do you know some people put manure on their rhubarb?"

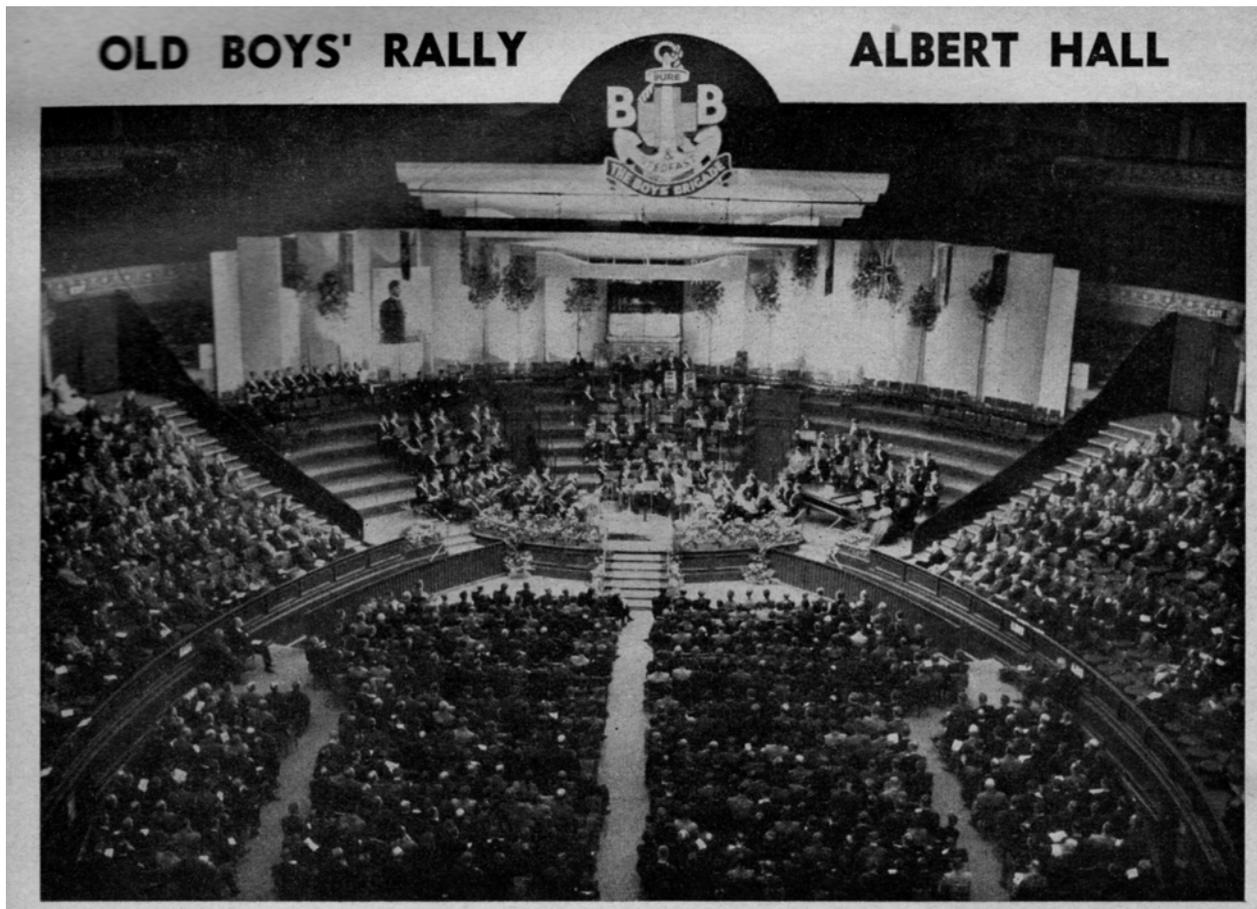
"Really! I like custard on mine."

One would like to say that Pastor Pete raised the joke standard when he used the Ten Commandments as a basis for his jokes. He did prove, however, that, although the audience knew its commandments, it did not necessarily know their order!

All of the jokes in the show were in the best tradition of the BB Old Time Music Hall.



Looking Back; Below an extract from the December 1954 Stedfast Magazine



TRADITIONAL HOME OF B.B. DISPLAYS STAGES A RATHER DIFFERENT SHOW

ROYAL Albert Hall, London, has been the Mecca of B.B. Boys for many years - but on October 22nd, this fine old Hall witnessed a different type of B.B. event from that which has pleased so many down through the years.

For on this night, there came to the Royal Albert Hall, not the Boys, but the Old Boys—old Old Boys, middle aged Old Boys, and young Old Boys : bald-headed Old Boys, grey-haired Old Boys, and those whose looks raised doubts that they yet qualified for the designation.

Ex-Cabinet Minister's Bible

It was called "Reunion," and well and truly that informal note was struck. In fact, the whole tone of the evening was set by the first speaker, the Right Hon. George Isaacs, P.C., M.P., who soon had everyone rocking with laughter with tales of his early days in the 5th London, "the best Company in the world"—(Loud cheers from the ex-5th members of the audience). As he held up his recruit's Bible, this ex-Cabinet Minister paid high

tribute to his Officers who had helped him so much.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Selkirk said Mr. Isaacs' remarks about the 5th London were justified only because he had not seen the 44th Edinburgh (laughter and cheers). This speaker reiterated the note that what they found worthwhile in their day, the young men growing up in B.B. Companies today would find well worth while. He asked the men present to continue to pass on what had been done for them.

Music and Singing

But the evening was not all speeches: far from it. There was the massed band from six London Companies under the genial conductorship of Mr. Frank Wright. There was singer Owen Brannigan, with popular numbers from Scotland, Wales, Ireland and England: Derek Barsham, B.B. Boy-soprano now grown up, singing, now in baritone, those recorded favourites of

his, Jubilee Song and Anchor Song: there was community singing led as only Gordon Wooderson (of the 88th London) can: there was the epilogue, conducted by the radio padre, Rev. Ronald Selby Wright.

There was the Brigade Secretary, making what proved to be his last official B.B. appearance before his retirement, who presided in informal style over the assembly.

Mr. Stanley Smith recalled that his father had never missed the Albert Hall Display: he was there forty years ago, and three days later he died. "In this place he looked on the Boys of the B.B. for the last time, and they for the last time looked at him."

The quality and spirit of the B.B., asserted the Brigade secretary, was never higher than today. The B.B. Method devised in 1883 still works, and the most successful Companies were those which adhered most strictly to the ideas and methods of the Founder.



**FEDERATION OF STEDFAST ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM & REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

**ANNUAL COUNCIL/FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND
FRIDAY MAY 13th TO SUNDAY MAY 15th 2016**



The cost of the weekend will be £245 per person whether occupying a double/twin room singularly or two people sharing. The cost covers the Federation's registration fee, two nights accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis, welcome dinner on the Friday evening with a Gala dinner Saturday evening and coach trip to Greenwich after the Council meeting on the Saturday.

The provisional programme is as follows:-

FRIDAY	Arrival after check in time of 2.00 pm 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Welcome dinner
SATURDAY	Breakfast in the main restaurant 10.30 am Annual Council Meeting 12.00 pm Coach departs for Greenwich 2.30 pm Optional group visit to the Cutty Sark 4.30 pm Coach departs Greenwich for return to hotel 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Gala dinner
SUNDAY	Breakfast in the main restaurant 10.30 am latest Check out of hotel 10.30 am Church service at local Church 12.30 pm Optional cold buffet lunch at hotel

Obviously the programme is subject to changes being made nearer the weekend.

THE HOTEL

The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London, SE3 0RW

Each room has en-suite bathroom/WC, TV, coffee/tea making facilities, hairdryer, direct dial telephone and free wi-fi. Some rooms have views of the open heath or the walled garden at the rear but we cannot guarantee that the rooms allocated to us will have these views. There is restricted on site parking at front and rear.

LOCATION

The hotel is a short walk in to Blackheath Village which has an array of interesting and varied shops, restaurants and pubs.

The heath that the hotel overlooks has about 210 acres of common land with several ponds. On the far side of the heath is Greenwich Park, a Royal Park, which hosts the Prime Meridian Line and Royal Observatory. Within the park is a café, deer park and statue of General Wolfe.

The far side of the park leads into Greenwich itself with a host of history. Greenwich is a Maritime World Heritage Site and, amongst other attractions, is the National Maritime Museum, Royal Naval College and the Queen's House.

GENERAL MATTERS

Whilst we have a deadline of 31st March 2016 for bookings, so that we can confirm numbers with the hotel, we are happy to take bookings now with a deposit of £50 per person and the balance payable by 31st March 2016. Please contact the under-mentioned should you wish an application form which can be posted or e-mailed to you.

Roger Wallis – Secretary/Membership Secretary, London Stedfast Association
26 Hambro Avenue, Hayes, Bromley, Kent, BR2 7LS
020 8462 1235 roger.wallis2@ntlworld.com

Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion

SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2017

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



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)