



Spring 2020

Stedfast News

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



*The Oldest and the Youngest old boys of the Stedfast Reunion 2020
With our President Peter Ford*

Reunion photographs by Pam Stringer

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

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

Stedfast Committee

PRESIDENT
Peter Ford

CHAPLAIN
Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN
Ray Eaves

TREASURER
Alan Caperon

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ann Austen

COMMITTEE
Dick Kent
Dave Norman
Terry Pomfrey
Les Russell
Paul Simmons
Sue Standen

Dear Stedfast Members,

After the wettest February in living memory we look forward to the warmest and sunniest Summer on record. Life is like that, like a bare knuckle ride on the greatest roller coaster imaginable! Through all the ups and downs of life our Faith never lets us down or lets us go. The more we cling the tighter we are held, and the greater is our desire to give thanks and praise.

Whatever problem you are facing has been faced before and in Faith you will be victorious.

How good it was to hear the optimistic words of The Battalion President, Gary Pickett, at The Reunion and to know that The Battalion is planning carefully to go from strength to strength in both tried and tested, and new ways.

Many of us look back with pride and pleasure to Glynde camps that we have enjoyed and can understand the excitement of the Boys and Staff as they look forward to Glynde 2020. As the plans are made and the problems solved we can be sure that this year will build on the success of the past and be a turning point in the lives of many young people.

Maybe more people will decide to stay in the U.K. this year as they plan holidays and short breaks away. Wherever you go try to find out something of the work of The B.B. in that area and seek to encourage it as much as you can.

Writing about a roller coaster earlier reminded me of a wonderful coach away day to Alton Towers organised by George Holkham. We left very early from Stanford Avenue and arrived before the theme park opened, and left as it was closing to return to Brighton. One of the gigantic roller coasters was called very appropriately "The Black Hole." It was like any gigantic roller coaster except that it was in total darkness. When some of the Brighton lads were on board the power failed and the ride came to a sudden halt in complete darkness.

"Have Faith will travel" must be our marching song and we shall always defeat the darkness which threatens to surround us.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone
Peter Ford Stedfast Association President



EDITORIAL

It was good to see you all at our Reunion and AGM. A lovely sunny winter's day, really an enjoyable occasion. Time has flown since then and we are hopefully looking forward to Spring. This after some dreadful weather over the winter. It has been a very difficult time for many people endeavouring to cope with extreme flooding and the consequences that follow and our thoughts are with them.

There will also be reports of those of our Members who have passed to higher service over the last year, this means that our numbers will diminish year on year and I am afraid we will not maintain the numbers from those that retire from the various companies now remaining. Looking towards the future we may find ourselves in the same situation as Our Colleagues in London District, although they have healthy membership, they are unable to continue because the committee having given many years of service are retiring and replacements cannot be found.

Can members please give thought to volunteering for membership of our committee to keep our association alive and well in Sussex.

To all of you enjoy what hopefully will be a grand summer, and for those that are unwell please let me know- maybe I can if at all possible help in some way.

God's Blessing to you all.

Dick

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.

Keith Jarred 14th Brighton died on 19 March 2018

Ron Wood 4th Brighton Hove died on 7 September 2019

John Neve 14th Brighton died in November 2019

Paul Hern Ex co ordinator National Stedfast Band died on 3 February 2020

Alan Pratt 22nd Brighton (Hove) Company died on 7 January 2020

Mike Dale 10th Brighton died on 16 February 2020

On 5 March, members of the Stedfast Association and many old BB Boys that were friends of Mike attended his funeral service. Despite the torrential rain, the church was full to pay our respects to Mike. We were told of Mike's passions for the BB, his family and his working life in the police. Mike was also a recognised cricket umpire. Mike was also the Stedfast Association membership secretary for many years. Mike was a true "gentlemen" and will be remembered always by all of us that were privileged to have been his friends.



10th Old Time Music Hall

After 18 years and 10 shows, you might suppose that we knew the format and that The Boys' Brigade had nothing new to show us. And, of course, you would be wrong.

The 10th 'Old Time Music Hall managed to combine nostalgia with technology, the old familiar faces with the new, songs, laughter and unbelievably bad jokes. The one thing which just gets worse! They did try - by having TWO stand-up (well one told his jokes sitting down) comedians instead of one but even Jamie Serhan quick fire jokes still managed to be groan making. As for The Old Jokers, Foley, Friend and Gill, amusing us while others were scene-shifting, their jokes must have been the ones they used when they were in the BBH Well, perhaps not the pirate jokes, which are nearly forgettable.

The chief complaint about the awfulness of the jokes is that they haunt you. Lines come back when you least expect them to do so. Wives on holiday ~ Jamaica?; pirates — arm & a leg; Irishman looking for a long plank.....REALLY! Admittedly the level did rise a little when competing with the Bard or Sam Clarkson's Hamlet soliloquy.

The Tenth may be low in numbers this year but its members and Staff have an abundance of energy and enthusiasm, which they bring to everything they do, and this year its levels of both were raised by the return and participation of some Old Boys, either in person or by video.

The use of technology has really brought new aspects to the show by enabling the audience to see the cards in Magic-Ali's clever card trick, by making the News Round-up more panoramic, by introducing the individual members and even by the use of video—recording allowing scattered Old Boys from around the country — and even, in one case, from the USA, to participate in one of the big music numbers.

There were also quiet moments of reminiscence when glimpses of past shows and past characters, Andy Stringer as chairman and William Stanton strumming his guitar, were projected on screen.

Then the mood would be lifted by father and son acts or the Anchors being ghosts in the haunted book shop or mice from Amsterdam.

As the title suggests, music and song play a large part in the show. Carl Jukes and Jamie Serhan work hard supporting the various acts and also in accompanying the singers. The opening and finale songs were, as always full of vigour and set the audience foot-tapping or clapping, whilst the Ventnor Songbirds, Mrs Pam Stringer and Ms. Joanna Brewster were adept at getting the audience to participate in the community sing-a-long.

This year the highlight of the show, was the closing act/song of the first half, sung by the Brewster Boys, Mark and John. It touched all the emotions. Very powerful.

The Brigade chose the Martlets as the charity to which the proceeds of their shows should be given and plan to donate at least £500 pounds to this cause. The generosity of the audience in responding to the appeal to empty its pockets into buckets on the way out raised £193.78. Thank you.

Hard work, imagination, energy, enthusiasm, happiness, enjoyment and team work are all part of the ethos of the Boys' Brigade and the Old Time Music Hall shows and this year an extra dimension was on show — loyalty. As mentioned earlier, many Old Boys had supported the show through the wonders of technology and some by appearing on stage but on Saturday night at the final show all these elements came together in a huge explosion of energy, song and sheer joy. All the Staff, all the BB boys, all the Old Boys present, including those who had been in the audience, on stage roaring out the finale song while the audience roared and clapped its approval. An amazing moment of sheer exuberance, which not even the lipstick kiss imprinted on top of Roger Wood's head could match!

WELL DONE. EVERYONE.



Article by Rosemary Brice Reproduced with permission of Hove URC Church Newsletter

Chaplains Page... Easter contemplation

Dear Friends,

The Christian year moves on, and once again we are in the season of Lent. If you were to ask casual passers-by what they thought Lent was about I imagine that many people would still say that Lent is a time to 'give things up.' Often the unspoken thought is that it's a time for other people 'to give things up!' Many people do still, of course, make Lent a time of self-denial, remembering our Lord's forty days in the desert and the temptations with which he was faced. I well remember a friend from school days who each Lent gave up puddings at the school dinners. I'm afraid he was teased mercilessly about this, but he never weakened his resolve! In the end it was just accepted that this was what 'Scottie' did in Lent and he eventually received grudging admiration for his convictions! It might have helped that he was very tall and was a star player in the school football team!

Whilst seeing Lent as a time to renew our sense of self-discipline by giving things up, Lent can, of course, also be seen as a time for taking things on. One suggestion for using Lent in this positive way that has been adopted by many churches is to encourage congregations to spend Lent carrying out Acts of Random Kindness (ARK for short!) These ARKs do not have to be major things; small acts of kindness can make all the difference to others. You could, for instance, leave some change on the top of the ticket machine in a car park; if someone hasn't got the right money and needs to park their car, they will bless you! Or you could provide a bottle of water or a sandwich for someone on the street. The possibilities to develop what might have been called in the past acts of self-sacrifice are endless!

All of us can do something to show kindness to those around us, and thereby make a real difference to the lives of others. Small acts of kindness can have an effect out of all proportion to their size!

There is, of course, a further dimension of Lent to explore. Lent is a very special time to ponder again our Lord's last journey to Jerusalem and all that he suffered during the period that we know as Holy Week. If we can use our prayer times in Lent to reflect more deeply on all that Jesus has accomplished for us through his giving up of himself upon the cross we will be met again by that love which endured all things for us and our salvation. If we have knelt at the foot of the cross on Good Friday we will truly be able to sing on Easter Sunday that 'We are an Easter people, and 'alleluia' is our song!'

Have a good Lent and every blessing for Easter!

Ian

Dear Members,

The COVID-19 outbreak is very worrying, and we are all heeding the unprecedented measures that are being taken to minimise its effects. We know that majority of our membership is elderly and many have medical ailments which means they are very vulnerable. There may be little we can practically do to help but we want you stay safe and for each member to support each other with our prayers.

On Behalf of the Brighton Stedfast Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was good to see so many of you at our Reunion on the 19th January, it was a great afternoon of friendship and fellowship reliving old memories of our time in the Boys Brigade. A great service with some great singing, Reverend Ian Suttie lead our prayers, our Battalion President Gary Pickett for reading from the scriptures. It was good to welcome the Reverend Frank Okai-Sam, the new minister of Southwick Methodist Church and Chaplain of the 1st Southwick Company, who gave us a great message in his address. During the service we remembered all those members who had passed to higher service since our last reunion and a two minutes silence was observed followed by the last post played by bugles from the Stedfast Band. After the service all moved to the hall where a great tea of sandwiches and cakes was served and enjoyed by all. After tea our Annual General Meeting was held during which Officers and Committee members were elected for the coming year. Our Battalion President Gary Pickett gave a report on the Battalion. One of our Committee members Les Russell lead us through a stand up and sit down to find out the Oldest and Youngest members present. Medals were presented to Peter Gear who was the Oldest member present and to Jamie Witham who was the Youngest member present, both from the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company. If you were unable to be with us this year make a note of the date for next years Reunion which is Sunday 17th January 2021. Myself and the Committee look forward to welcoming and seeing you there.

The day after the Reunion, Monday 20th January members of the Battalion and Stedfast Association attended the funeral of Eva Carter MBE at St Andrews Church Moulsecomb, a packed Church was present to say goodbye to a lovely Christian and much loved BB lady who served the 26th Brighton Company and the Battalion for so many years and who will be missed. After the Service members of the Battalion and Stedfast formed a Guard of Honour as her coffin was carried from the Church to the waiting hearse, crowds of people stood as she was driven away to the Crematorium.

On 27 January, members of the Stedfast Association attended the service of thanksgiving for Alan Pratt at Goring Methodist Church. Again the church was full to pay our respects to Alan and to hear stories of his life, his love of sport and his service and commitment to life long friends and to the Methodist Church and the BB.

On Saturday 25th January I had the pleasure of attending the afternoon performance of the "Old Time Music Hall" show performed by members of the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company. A great show with sketches, songs and jokes, performed with great enthusiasm. Well done to all the members and ex-members for putting on a great show to raise money for the "Martlets".

May I wish you all a very happy and healthy summer.

Ray Eaves *Committee Chairman.*

**Battalion President Gary Pickett
Address to the Annual General Meeting**

Good Afternoon to you all,

I can't believe that it has already been a year since I last stood here. I want to thank you for allowing me to speak to you again about our Battalion and how it is doing.

It's been another busy year in the Battalion with lots going on, it has been a tough and busy year for me as I have taken on the temporary role as Captain at 1st Southwick as still working in my own Company and heading up the Battalion and support running events in the Battalion. This is definitely a busy role and is hard for someone who is doing so much already with work and mission trips so firstly before I let you know how the Battalion is doing I would like to ask if you can all do something for me and the Battalion and that is to Pray for everyone involved on a daily basis.

So, let me begin

- Glynde camp 2019 was another amazing camp, with our youngest ever CO Chris Haskell who has done a really good job with a new layout of the site which worked well, with some new ideas of how to run camp.

- The 14th Brighton had another great Company camp; I had the great privilege to get a chance to visit their camp and whilst there I had time to talk to the young people and to all the officers and staff.

- The Junior section holiday was full again with so much fun being had by all. The Junior holiday is well organised and I have to say I look forward to it every year.

- All three sections this year had a wide variety of events and with numbers attending the event improving with the company section having more activities on a social level which has gone down so well with more young people being involved. My favourite event this year was the end of year BBQ and water games which started off with a challenge then mini potted sports games stopping for lunch and after that a slip and slide which was funny seeing the young people trying to see who could get the furthest and the day was full of smiles, laughter and just a great event.

- I would like to thank the Glynde Camp CO Chris Haskell for running such a great camp but he has had to stand down for this year due to going to university this year so currently we haven't got a new CO as of yet but I am sure camp council by the next meeting will appoint a new CO.

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- At our AGM in June 2019 we updated a few things to our constitution after making major changes the year before and this has helped our Battalion and also at the AGM we welcomed a new Vice President Isaac Conroy and a new Company Section chair Perry Sullivan.
- Your Stedfast association was very generous last year to support a young man to attend the second part of his KGV1 training at BB HQ which he really enjoyed and he has now become an officer in the 26th Brighton Company.
- I am looking forward to attending more events in the Battalion this year and am also looking forward to seeing what happens this year.

So, as I said last year this Battalion is surviving it is becoming strong again and it will become bigger, better and stronger. This is because of all the hard work of the Officers, Helpers and Supporters of the Battalion. How do I know that this is the case?

We have had all companies fill in their capitation forms and we have seen an increase in Young People and also in Adult Leaders across the Battalion which is great news.

I want to thank you for listening to me today and thank you for your support and continued prayers for the Battalion

Gary Pickett, *Battalion President*

Founder's Day Dinner 2020

I have been able to book Preston Bowls Club as the venue for The Founder's Day Dinner on Sunday, 4th October 2020. The Chef has agreed that we can have our usual three course *al a carte* menu followed by tea or coffee & mints.

Most members have been so pleased with their previous choices that they want more of the same. The price, this year will be £20 per head. The club bar will be open at club prices. We will, of course, toast the Founder at 8pm to remember the time, in 1883 when the doors were opened to the very first BB Boys.

We shall also hold a raffle to raise funds for Glynde Camp. Apologies to Paul's guest who was probably the only person that went home without a prize.

Les Russell

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

Membership

I would like to thank the 98 members who have paid the 2020 subscription which including voluntary donations totals £1,308.

I would urge the members who have yet to pay their subscriptions (unless you pay by standing order), to please complete the 2020 membership form with this Spring newsletter to provide us with your current details including email address if you have one. Please send these forms to me as soon as possible so I can pass to our membership secretary Ann Austen in order to keep the Stedfast Association's records up to date.

Stedfast Accounts

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2019 were approved by Ms Christine Townsend, Chartered Accountant and then were adopted by the members at the Reunion AGM on 19 January 2020 as follows:-

	2019 £	2018 £
Income	Paid up Members 114	Paid up Members 127
Subscriptions	1,528	1,635
Reunion collections	349	428
Donations received	160	196
Donations received-for the BB	15	130
Total income	2,052	2,389
Expenditure		
BB-Glynde donation	(235)	(400)
BB-Uganda trip donation	-	(150)
BB-KGVI officer training donation	(75)	(75)
Southwick Church donation	(500)	(500)
Federation membership costs	(45)	(40)
Band-Worthing carnival expenses	(100)	(100)
Preston Bowls Club-Founder's dinner donation	(20)	(20)
Website	(98)	(98)
Remembrance wreaths	(70)	(55)
Newsletter costs etc	(328)	(378)
Insurance	(69)	(69)
Reunion costs	(465)	(384)
Sundries-Medals for members etc	(13)	
Total expenses	(2,018)	(2,269)
Surplus	34	120
Bank B/F	2,018	1,898
Bank C/F	2,052	2,018

The two main reasons for the small surplus of £34 in 2019 were:-

The donations received from RSM who printed the newsletters in the Spring and Summer and the 114 members who paid their subs last year which totalled £1,528.

I would like to thank our members for their generosity last year and those that have already paid this year which will enable us to continue and meet the costs of the Stedfast Association for this year and next year.

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Reunion-2020

I hope you all enjoyed the reunion where we had 95 attendees on parade on 19 January 2020, slightly more than in 2019.

Please read the minutes of the reunion and AGM in this newsletter which provide more details of the members, guests, BB officers and the BB Boys that were in attendance from the 1st Southwick BB Co and 3rd Burgess Hill BB Co.

Six BB company colours were on parade for the afternoon. It was again a pleasant sight to have these colours at the front of the church and I hope more BB colours can be displayed next year.

The church collection totalled £225 and the tea collection raised £125.

You will see in the newsletter the photo of the Mayor Cllr Alex Phillips and the Vice Chairman of Adur District Council Cllr Andy McGregor who were our special guests for the afternoon. I have added the comments of our guests below:-



The Mayor Cllr Alex Phillips said

“I thoroughly enjoyed the Stedfast reunion this year and in particular the singing and social aspect of the entire event. Thank you so much for inviting me.”

Cllr Andy McGregor said

“I am writing to thank you for your hospitality on Sunday. All your guests were so welcoming, friendly and positive. It was impossible not to smile and feel happy in such fabulous company.

The service itself was a joy. Five hymns would have been overkill in many services. Your group sang with such tuneful gusto I could have joined in with half a dozen more! And the AGM was a revelation. Who would have thought an AGM could be so much fun?

Please keep up the good work. Hopefully I will see you all next year. This is one I will definitely try not to miss.”

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It occurred to me that our members, who are unable to attend the reunion each year perhaps due to distance or other circumstances, will see the minutes of the AGM which are shared in the Spring newsletter but don't see the order of service. I will email the order of service with the newsletter.

Breezes revisited

My father John Caperon of the 4th Brighton (Hove) Co who passed to higher service on 25 September 2019) and Ron Wood both served together and both left the BB to join the Armed Forces in September 1947. John and Ron both used to catch up at the annual reunions.

Please see article, inserted right from the October 1947 Breezes from Captain John Sadler of the 4th Brighton (Hove) Co, which referred to the young men joining HM Forces which included John and Ron. This edition of Breezes was provided to me by Mike Dale some years ago.

Shown right a photo of my father John (in his Army uniform), with Ron (in his Airforce uniform) with John Alderson also of the 4th (in his Navy uniform), all leaving the BB to serve their country.

4th B'ton. (Hove).

Capt. J. SADLER
(Stoneham Hall)

COMPANY NOTES

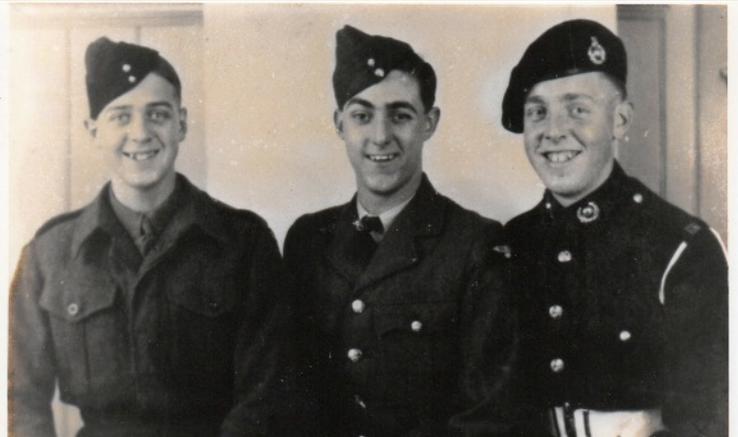
Summer is now in its last throes and those sunny hours spent at cricket, swimming, and camp but happy memories. And now to Work. Our start was most encouraging, and we are looking forward to a happy and successful session.

It was with great pleasure we welcomed to our ranks a number of recruits from our Life Boy Team, all eager to join their older brothers and show them what they can do.

We shall miss this session Sergts, Maidlow, Virgo, and Wood; also Cpl. Caperon and L.-Cpl. Alderson. These senior members of the Company are now serving in H.M. Forces. We wish them God-speed and every success in their new spheres of activity.

Gym and P.T. classes were well attended and, as usual, will no doubt vie with Drill in popularity. The Band, too, was seen and heard again, its ei-forts shattering the peace and serenity of the neighbourhood. Classes are being held for Boys out to obtain First Aid and Wayfarer's Badges and

Certificates: we hope all Boys will have 21 shot at winning these awards. We wish all other B.B. Companies everywhere a happy and successful session. '



Bob Brown recently wrote to me to tell us about his friends Keith Jarred, Ron Wood and John Neve.

“As a boy, Ron lived in Hove and attended the 4th Brighton (Hove) Company whereas I lived in Brighton and attended 14th Brighton. We met as officers on a Felden Lodge Band course and, amazingly, many years later, when my family and I moved here to live because of my work, I found Ron had his own Solicitors business here and he lived just around the corner.

We all attended Littlehampton Baptist Church, where my wife and I are still members whereas Ron and Andrea moved to nearby Angmering and became members of the Cof E Church there. He and I attended the Brighton Old Boys' Reunion together each year and I know he attended other functions / meals which is why I thought his death would have been known. He died on 7th September 2019 and his funeral was at his local Cof E Church.

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Keith Jarred was in 14th B'ton and very involved in the musical side of things in B.B. and Church. When he was about 18 he went to live in Zimbabwe until recent years when he and many others felt unwelcome there. I don't remember him ever attending a Reunion Service/Tea, He died 19th March 2018.

Another 14th Old Boy was John Neve . I don't think he ever attended a Reunion and he died early November 2019”.

I felt that it was important to tell you “our members” in just a few words on how the BB joined together some of our members who were able to remain in touch their whole lives through the Old Boys Reunions and through the Stedfast Association.

Welfare officer position

The Committee are all concerned that the Stedfast Association needs to find a “**Welfare Officer**” which is a role that James Attwater fulfilled admirably until he retired from the Committee in 2018. Jim used to find out about our members who were poorly. Jim would keep the committee informed so that we were able to visit members and provide the support that the Stedfast Association should provide to our members.

The position needs to be filled so that the Stedfast Association can make sure that members and their families know we are here to support them and so we can remain in touch with them to also offer spiritual help with all concerned.

If you are interested in applying, please let me know.

And finally;

I hope you all have a very Happy Easter.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon

Secretary and Treasurer



Brighton, Hove and district branch Minutes of annual general meeting

Annual General Meeting of members held at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick on 19th January 2020. Annual Reunion Service at 2.30pm followed by tea and AGM.

President Peter Ford

Peter thanked our guests the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Cllr Alex Phillips and Cllr Andy Mc Gregor, Vice Chairman of Adur District Council. Peter also thanked the Stedfast members for such a large attendance, to Carl Jukes for playing the organ during the service and to Ben Sansom, the winner of the Beal VC watch of the 2nd Burgess Hill for reading the remembrance verses.

Chairman Ray Eaves

Welcome and BB Camp grace,

Ray welcomed the members and guests.

Ray thanked Peter Ford for officiating during the service, Reverend Frank Okai-Sam for the address, Rev Ian Suttie for saying the prayers, Gary Pickett, the Battalion President, for the Bible reading and the Stedfast buglers for playing during the service. Thanks, were expressed to the Stedfast colour party (22nd Brighton Hove Co) and the BB boys for parading the Battalion providing colours.

Ray thanked the Boys' Brigade members for assisting us with the afternoon and gave our thanks to the people who set out the tea and refreshments. Ray also expressed our thanks to the St John's Ambulance, who provided first aiders for the afternoon.

Thanks, were given to the Stedfast committee, for all their work and a special mention was given to Alan Caperon for everything he does on behalf of the association.

The members sang the BB camp grace together.

Greetings, announcements and apologies;

Greetings, announcements and apologies were read by Alan Caperon as follows: -

Apologies were received from:

Ken Towner -7th/26th Brighton
 Brian Griffin -3rd/6th/16th/17th Brighton
 Geoff Fitch -13th Brighton
 John Donoghue -2nd Eastbourne
 Alec Boniface -2nd Eastbourne

Malcolm Barr Hamilton -22nd Brighton (Hove)
 Derek Harman -4th Brighton (Hove)
 Roger Wallis- London Stedfast
 Paul Eaves- 10th Brighton (Hove)
 Pat Carpenter- 22nd Brighton (Hove) (emailed his apologies as abroad)

Continued next page

Douglas Brewer, 16th Brighton, sent a message of greeting, saying he has many happy memories of his time in BB.

Alan announced the Funeral details of two Stedfast members who have recently passed to higher service:-

Eva Carter MBE- Service at St Andrews Church Moulsecoomb on 20th January 2020.

Alan Pratt- Service at Goring Methodist Church on 27th January 2020.

Adoption of the 2019 reunion AGM minutes

Alan Caperon asked the meeting to vote upon the Adoption of 2019 Reunion AGM minutes which were unanimously approved.

Presentation and Adoption of the 2019 accounts-Alan Caperon

Alan Caperon presented the Associations accounts which had been verified by Christine Townsend, Chartered Accountant. The members unanimously approved the adoption of the accounts.

The Battalion President-Gary Pickett

Gary Pickett gave a positive report about the Battalion. Callum, who Stedfast have supported with his KGV1 training, is now a serving officer at the 26th Brighton. Glynde camp was very successful, and the Junior section holiday is fully booked. They have added more social events which the boys are enjoying. Gary was pleased to report there has been an increase in strength and numbers across the Battalion but asked for continuing prayers for some companies that are struggling. He is arranging to take a small group to Kagando Uganda later this year. He thanked Stedfast for their support and prayers. *(See his full address on page 7)*

Nomination and Election of the Officers and Committee members for 2020/21

The members elected the Officers and Committee members that had all been nominated as follows: -

President- **Peter Ford**

Vice President-vacant no nomination

Chairman- **Ray Eaves**

Chaplain-**Rev Ian Suttie**

Hon Secretary- **Alan Caperon**

Hon Treasurer- **Alan Caperon**

Hon Membership secretary- **Ann Austen**

Committee nominations all elected

Dick Kent, Dave Norman, Terry Pomfrey, Les Russell, Paul Simmons and Sue Standen.

An appeal for new committee members was made.

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Oldest and youngest old Boys present-Les Russell

Les Russell ran through the stand ups and sit downs before he established the Oldest and Youngest members present who were Peter Gear (10th Brighton (Hove) joined in 1941 and Jamie Witham (10th Brighton (Hove) discharged in 2018 who received gold and silver medals respectively.

Any other business

It was announced, with sadness, that London Stedfast is to close in 2020. Despite having a large membership, they are struggling to gather people to attend events and to take on management duties.

Peter Gear asked if people could remember Mike Dale of the 10th Brighton (Hove) Co and his family in their prayers as he is currently seriously ill in Eastbourne Hospital.

Pam Stringer gave details of the 10th Brighton (Hove) Old time music hall performances on 24 and 25 January 2020.

The vesper was sung at the close of the AGM

There were 6 BB colours on parade.

Date of 2021 reunion-17th January 2021

The church collection was later counted and totalled £224.70

The tea table collection was later counted and totalled £124.70.

The attendance was 95 members and guests, including the Boys and officers from the Battalion, an increase compared to the reunion in January 2019.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm.





VE-Day memories

1945, What a tremendous year.

On Friday 12th January, my twelfth birthday, My brother took me along to Elm Grove School Hall, on Drill night, to meet Pop! Slater and join the 6th Brighton BB. I was placed in a squad with Sgt. Bob Archer as squad leader. I remember, Don Elphick as another squad leader and Cyril Manser as a warrant Officer awaiting call-up. Fred Hewitt as an officer, John Lawrence as a squad leader.

I started saving what little pocket money I earned, by delivering bread on Saturdays and put my name down for my first company camp at New House Farm, Hurstpierpoint. Whitsun weekend. We marched what seemed like miles to the village Methodist church on Sunday behind the Silver Band. We had the use of a wagon shed, as a dinning hall and The Granary above as sleeping quarters. Some of the boys slept in Grain bins containing grain. There was quite a kerfuffle when Eric Bartup dropped a sixpenny piece and it disappeared into the grain. A needle in a haystack came to mind. Then it was, *save like mad* to afford the first Glynde camp since the beginning of the War.

Things were, at last, going well in the War with VE the cause of much relief and celebration. I was in Diggers at Glynde. That meant that I was in D Company. The A Coy were Arabs, B Coy Buffaloes and C coy were Cowboys. Diggers were best. It was a tight squeeze with eight to a bell tent. There were about 400 boys in camp.

There was a lot of rumours going around that the war was over in the Far East. We had no phones or radios. We were back home in time celebrate VJ-Day.

Les Russell

Band Report

Greetings to all our members, where ever you may be. Things had been very quiet since the reunion, that was until last Saturday, when Barry Mc Cann, Brian White, Dave Wood and myself travelled to Sawston in Cambridgeshire for for a national band practice, in preparation for our impending trip to Guernsey. Just under 40 people attended and we had a very good but tiring day.

Yesterday, Monday, Brian White, Paul Hotton and myself travelled to Malvern to say "farewell" to our late National band organiser, Paul Hern, who was called to higher service, after fighting cancer, Over 300 people attended the Thanks giving service which was held in Malvern Abbey. Some of our National members travelled hundreds of miles to pay their respect. For me, it was an honour and a privilege to have known Paul and call him a good friend. Our thoughts must be with his family, who will now need to move forward as we all must do.

Our trip to Guernsey is planned for early May and we will be taking part in the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Channel Islands. So please watch this space for reports and photos of our exploits.

At present our scheduled trip to Guernsey is still on , but this may change because of the virus. All ready some members have withdrawn from attending, so please watch this space.

Paul Simmons

Reunion & AGM 2021

Will be

**Sunday, 17th January
2021, from 2.00 pm**

The Reunion Service
commences at 2.30 pm

At

**Southwick Methodist
Church**

Manor Hall Road, Southwick,
Brighton BN42 4NA



Breaking news, Harry Newman, will be the recipient of this years Beal VC Watch. Fantastic news and well earned. Harry is a real credit to the Brigade. What is nice for me is that I've known Harry all his life and watched his progress with interest, more over, it's 50 years since I won the watch in 1970. Harry is currently a sergeant in the 1st Southwick. Paul Simmons

The next Newsletter will be Summer 2020

Please submit all contributions before 28th May 2020

(electronically or typed if possible)

To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.

Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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Welfare

Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members who are unwell or in need of support. I will try and help (Contact me at; rkent09@aol.com)

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 Poulters 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