

Stedfast News



The Newsletter for former members, serving officers, associates and friends of The Boys' Brigade in Brighton Hove and District www.brightonstedfast.org.uk.

Spring 2024

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 ; Geoff Fitch

Chairman; -to be elected at next committee meeting

Chaplain; Vacant

Treasurer; Alan Caperon

Secretary; Alan Caperon

Membership Secretary; Vacant

Committee;
Les Russell, Sue Standen,
Paul Simmons, Dave Norman,

Newsletter Editor, Terry Pomfrey



Salvation Army Group-Encorps



Parading the colours

Dear Stedfast Members,

What a wonderful Annual Service and Reunion! I hope that you were there to experience the energising Fellowship from a wonderful spectrum of Members of all ages.

It was great to be able to welcome the Salvation Army Encorps Group and to join with them in Praising The Lord. The Revd. Bryan Pickard spoke with great conviction and his B.B. knowledge over many years meant that we could all understand and benefit from his address. We were very grateful to Alan Ireland for playing the organ so expertly in place of Carl who was unable to be present.



The Tea was superb and enjoyed by all followed by one of the best Annual General Meetings we have had. It was especially good to have Nathan Ward of the 2nd Burgess Hill Company present. Nathan, the current Winner Of The Beal Watch Award, read the Remembrance verses with great clarity.

Everything combined to maintain and improve the high standards of previous years and we must all feel a great debt of gratitude to Alan Caperon for his dedication and determination to ensure that we shall all have the happiest memories of another wonderful Reunion.

The Annual Battalion Report presented by Lynn Burtenshaw, Battalion President, was very much appreciated and especially because of the many difficulties which The Brigade is facing and the courage with which she is overcoming them. It is essential that we look for ways in which Stedfast can assist and encourage Our Battalion.

What is your greatest memory of being a Member of The Brigade? One of mine was attending an Annual Meeting of The Brigade at The Royal Albert Hall, another was travelling with Eva Carter, Vernon Spratt and Ben Edwards to the Centennial Celebrations in Glasgow. Nevertheless, Boys who come to mind first, Boys in your Company who have in a wide variety of situations contributed good in a World that is in such desperate need.

Les Russell has already started preparing for Our Founder's Day Dinner. If you have never attended in the past resolve to make a special effort this year. You will not be disappointed and will look forward to the next one even more!

Peter Ford
President
The Brighton, Hove and District Stedfast Association

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Its been a very long cold and very wet winter, and I have been longing to be able to get out and tidy up the garden. It seems that the weeds don't mind the cold and rain, but I do.

Our reunion and AGM is now behind us and could not have happened without a lot of planning mostly by our treasurer and Secretary Alan Caperon.

The day of the reunion dawned a wet and dull day, but soon cleared and we had sunshine for the afternoon.

If you were there you will have noticed a few things that were changed (and I think for the better). I wont go into details as you can read the full account for the proceeding elsewhere in this newsletter.

We were treated to some outstanding music from the Salvation Army Encorps Group. The roll call of companies was shortened, and a very lively address was given by the Rev Bryan Pickard. The theme being making memories and our heroes (this for me will be another memory).

It was very encouraging to see 87 old boys and girls in attendance, the number up on last year. The youngest member present was Nathan Ward age 18 and the oldest, Peter Gear.

I must give thanks to all those who helped in any way to make the day happen and especially to those who served the tea, and set things out before the service and tidied things away after the AGM. Without this help the Reunion and AGM could not have happened.

I trust you will stay well until the next newsletter,

Stedfastly Yours Terry

A message from The Battalion

Firstly, a huge “Thank You” to the committee, for making the colour party and me most welcome at the reunion. It is always quite sad to see fewer and fewer faces at this event. I extend my thanks in allowing me to speak, I do hope you saw my passion.

The Boys' Brigade has been in my life for 47 years. Both my brothers went to 14th Brighton, and one was the first Anchor boy. My hero of the BB will always be Brian Hill, strict but fair who loved children and had a generous heart. I hope that in years to come people will talk about me in the same way.

Our session has now entered its last term. With summer on its way, we have a half term break at the end of May and then we will start to focus on camp. We now have 37 young people signed up for camp and we also have an open day for junior section boys to enable them to get a taste before they do it for real.

It has been very disappointing that the Company section quiz was poorly attended, and the Anchor section party had to be cancelled owing to just 7 children. We continue to have banking problems, which is beyond frustrating when you cannot access money.

As I said in my speech at the reunion, I value your experience and have a couple of ideas I may come back to ask for help with. In the meantime, I wish you all good health.

Blessings

Lynn Burtenshaw Battalion President

Revd Bryan Pickard

It was so good to catch up with you all at our reunion in March, and especially to see some old BB friends I've not seen in many years including Derek Rance who had just flown in from the USA. (I can now tick off speaking at the reunion from my bucket list!)

You may remember I spoke on "Making memories" & Boys' Brigade "Heroes of faith". They come in all shapes and sizes and can occur in the strangest of places. Only yesterday my wife Lynne and I visited Firle Place garden show looking for some plants in between the rain showers! Whilst on a stand I heard a voice calling a name not used today, a nickname that was bestowed on me at Glynde Camp by friends from the 9th Bton. We stopped for a chat, and memories came flooding back. Now I won't mention this guy's name, but as I said to Lynne he had a habit of placing stink bombs under the beds of officers and boys.. We smiled and remembered those B. B. times together. At the end of the chat he turned to Lynne and said that I had been a very positive effect for good in his life. To be honest I was both shocked and pleased.

The object of The Boys' Brigade is to advance Christ's Kingdom here on planet Earth. We, through faith are enabled to serve the Great Captain through our words and actions ; a kind word here, or a small action there can make such a difference. You know, we are never too old to do a kindness or to give encouragement. Ephesians 2 v 10 says " For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared for us to do". In some church circles we call these "Divine Appointments" with your name on them. Back in the day in the B. B. hymn book we sang a hymn about the Saints of God which ended with these words - "Lord help me to be one too." May that be our experience today in 2024.

Blessings, Bryan.

Stedfast Prayer

Lord God we thank you for your many blessings we have received in the past and for the hope of many more to come in 2024. We pray for the members of our Stedfast Association and for the work of The Boys' Brigade in this country and around the world and for the lives of the boys and girls that will be part of this work.

We pray for peace and remember all the wars and conflicts that are raging around the world in the earnest and fervent hope that peace can prevail.

We pray for our stewardship of the world and its riches and the many efforts to improve the climate for our children and the generations to come.

We give thanks for our members who have past into your care and other members who are facing the tribulation of ill health or advancing years.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

Vice President Report

I missed a few reunions between 2013 – 2016 as Pearl and I spent the winter months of January – March in Surprise, Arizona. I met my friend Larry Atherton through Rotary. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Cincinnati. In the 80's we became pen friends. Two of my great loves are Motor Racing and Baseball. On my 'Bucket List' if I had one, would have been to see the Indy 500 motor race. Larry answered my letter to the Rotary Club appealing for someone who would correspond with me about both sports. Larry was also a fan of the Cincinnati Reds and had been to the 500 on more than 25 occasions. We wrote for a while and then he invited me over to stay with him and to go to the race together. That was in 1993. Larry and Sandy also owned a small place at a resort in Arizona called Happy Trails. In 2013 they invited us to join them there, which we did. We planned to stay a week and then go touring. We stayed three weeks. At Happy Trails we discovered that as well as owning a home there, some are for rent. We rented for the following three years, flying out around new year and returning to England at the end of March, thus avoiding the worst winter weather. Arizona at that time of the year can be as warm as an English summer so is very pleasant.

During those years I was obviously not able to attend the Stedfast Reunion but started to attend again from 2017 onward. When it came to the AGM part of the meeting after tea I thought it sad that nobody had put their name forward for the position of Vice President. I expect that like me, members thought it should be someone of great standing in the battalion. The following year, the same thing happened. Again nobody was nominated for the position of VP. I didn't put my name forward at that time as when I look around the room I see many men I have respected over the years and if they didn't feel able to put their name forward I certainly didn't feel worthy. However, I spoke to Alan Caperon about coming along to committee meetings and I was co-opted on. Alan suggested that I should seek nomination for the post of VP and my friend Sid Beales from the 13th obliged. At this year's AGM I was elected to the post and I am proud to serve the association as VP.

Last year (Rev Bryan Pickard attended and we chatted about where he had been in the years since I last saw him at Glynde Camp, where we both spent many happy times. Bryan said it was on his 'Bucket List' to preach at the Stedfast Reunion but he disappeared soon after the service. I mentioned this to the committee and they all thought it would be great to have such a BB man giving the address. The problem was that Bryan didn't leave any contact details but I was able to do some investigative work (I have worked as a freelance journalist and managed to track him down through the Methodist church. Over the past year Bryan and I have met a few times over coffee and chatted about old times and the characters at Glynde. It didn't take much arm-twisting to get him to agree to give the address.

The other item which the committee discussed was how to inject some new life into the service. We had been using the old format singing the good old BB hymns for many many years. We were looking for a change. Nothing too drastic but maybe inject something different to see how it works. I had recently attended a youth service with the Salvation Army, where Pearl and I had been worshipping for the past 10 years and Spoke to Pauline and Mal Peagam who run a small group for the homeless in Eastbourne. Mal plays lead guitar and Pauline bass with Marek, my Polish friend on the drums. The rest of the group is made up of singers from the Rebourne Centre, a Day Centre for the homeless. We agreed to give them a 15 minute slot where they would sing some modern songs composed by Mal and Pauline. It seems to have been well received. I know they enjoyed themselves immensely. The committee are always ready to listen to new ideas and if you like what you heard please let us know. If you would see us introduce anything else please speak to one of the committee.

Geoff Fitch Vice President

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

“Reunion 17 March 2024”

Thank you to those 87 attendees including members and our guests that were “on parade” for the Reunion on Sunday afternoon 17 March 2024, together with the Boys from the 1st Southwick BB Co. This was another successful occasion enjoyed by all that attended.

I would like to express our grateful thanks to our special guests the Mayor of Brighton and Hove Cllr Jackie O’Quinn and the former Chairman of Adur District Council Cllr Andy McGregor. We also extend our thanks to the Salvation Army Encorps Group for making our reunion extra special.

A special thanks to Reverend Bryan Pickard for his excellent “heroes” message and also to the Battalion President Lynn Burtenshaw for reading the lesson and for her report presented to our members after the tea, including our thanks to the 26th Brighton BB colour party. We also thank Nathan Ward of 2nd Burgess Hill, winner of the Beal VC watch for reading the verses and to our Stedfast colour party and to the Stedfast buglers. We also need to thank Alan Ireland for stepping in as our organist and the St John’s Ambulance crew for making sure we stayed safe during the afternoon.

You will note within this Spring newsletter some of the photos taken by Pam Stringer who we again thank for her expertise where all Pam’s photos taken at the reunion are now displayed on our website at <http://brightonstedfast.org.uk>

There was a problem at the AGM when we lost power in the church hall and the lights went out. We also lost the microphone, so if you couldn’t hear the announcements, we have done our best to include everything in this Spring newsletter so you remain fully informed.

Guest chaplain

We are grateful to Reverend Bryan Pickard who has agreed to be our guest chaplain for this Spring Newsletter.

2023 Stedfast Association accounts

The Stedfast Association accounts for the year to 31 December 2023 as presented at the AGM and as published in the Winter newsletter were approved by the Independent Examiner on 10 May 2024.

Membership

Our Stedfast membership subscriptions were maintained in 2023 with 75 members paying their subs, the same number as in 2022. So far in 2024, 70 members have paid with further members subscriptions expected by standing order during the year.

Brighton BB Battalion

We intend to promote the work and events that President Lynn Burtenshaw and her Battalion colleagues are planning in the year ahead so that our Battalion can grow under her leadership.

Federation of Stedfast Associations

Over many years, our Brighton, Hove and District branch of the Stedfast Association has been a member of the Federation of Stedfast Associations which has enabled us to meet and make contact with other Stedfast Associations throughout the United Kingdom. However, it is with regret that due to declining Stedfast Associations in other areas in the UK, the Federation will now cease to operate.

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At a special meeting held on 21 March 2024, it was decided by a majority of those Associations present and represented that because all Associations can remain in direct contact with each other by email and Zoom video conferencing throughout the United Kingdom, that the Federation itself no longer has a purpose.

Please note that our Brighton, Hove and District Branch will continue and therefore there is no change to your membership.

The final accounts of the Federation will now be checked by an Independent Examiner and once approved, the Federation will distribute its surplus funds equally to its fully paid members including our Brighton, Hove and District Branch. This resolution was also passed at the special meeting by the required majority of members present and voting.

Website

Please visit our website at <http://brightonstedfast.org.uk> for news of events including the recent Reunion. All previous Stedfast newsletters are available. The Founder's dinner will be held on Friday evening 4 October 2024 at Preston Bowls Club in Brighton and next years Reunion will be held at Southwick Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon 6 April 2025.

Stedfast Association committee decisions, office bearers and appointments

Please see the AGM minutes included in this Spring newsletter which includes the decisions made at the AGM of appointments for 2024/25.

We are pleased to report that Peter Ford will continue as President and Geoff Fitch has been appointed as Vice President. Your committee and I would like to thank you for your continued support and I would like to thank you for appointing me for another year as Secretary and Treasurer. Your committee will be meeting during May 2024 to confirm donations to:

- Brighton BB Battalion for Gynde Camp
- Southwick Methodist church
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- St John's Ambulance
- Salvation Army Group-Encorps
- Preston Bowls Club for Founder's dinner

Conclusion

I hope you will all have a very happy Spring and Summer and I pray you all stay safe and well until we meet again either at the Founder's dinner on 4 October 2024 or at the reunion on 6 April 2025.

Yours Stedfastly,
Alan Caperon,
Secretary and Treasurer

Stedfast Association Brighton, Hove and District Branch Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick on 17th March 2024.

Reunion service

President Peter Ford

During the service Peter Ford thanked our guests the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Cllr Jackie O'Quinn, and Cllr Andy McGregor, former Chairman and representing Adur District Council. Peter also thanked the Stedfast members for their attendance and the colour parties, Mark Jago, Mike Shorter and John Pigott for carrying the Stedfast colours, and members of 26th Bton BB Co for carrying the Battalion colours. Thanks, were also expressed to Alan Ireland for playing the organ during the service, thanks to the Stedfast buglers and to the Salvation Army group Encorps for taking part in our service. Peter thanked Reverend Bryan Pickard for leading the prayers and his address, also thanking Battalion President Lynn Burtenshaw for the reading and Nathan Ward (winner of the Ernest Beal VC watch) for saying the remembrance verses. Our gratitude was given to the first aiders from St Johns Ambulance for attending.

Reunion welcome before the tea and refreshments were served

Chairman Ray Eaves

Ray welcomed the members and guests. The members sang the BB camp grace together.

Greetings, announcements and apologies-Ray Eaves and Alan Caperon

Thanks were expressed, to everyone for attending, 87 attendees exceeding last year's reunion attendance. Thanks were expressed to Peter Ford for officiating during the service. It was mentioned that it had been a very good service.

Thanks, were given to Southwick Methodist Church, for providing church facilities to the Stedfast Association for the Reunion service and tea and also for use of rooms for the Stedfast committee meetings held during the year. Pam Stringer was thanked as our photographer for the afternoon. All those involved in organising the refreshments were thanked especially Carol, Ros, Susan and Sue for catering duties and making tea also Gary Pickett and the 1st Southwick BB members for helping with the serving of the tea and refreshments.

Thanks, were given to the Stedfast committee, for all their hard work and a special mention was given to Alan Caperon for everything he does on behalf of the Stedfast Association, including now organising the refreshments for the tea.

Apologies were read by Alan Caperon as follows: -

Carl Jukes 10th Brighton (Hove)
Ken Towner 7th Hove & 26th Brighton
David Robertson 10th Brighton (Hove)
Mick Benham 13th Brighton
Ray Tyler 10th Brighton (Hove)

Adrian Ball and Hilary Ball (13th Brighton) also sent their apologies by email.

Adoption of the 2023 reunion AGM minutes and matters arising

Alan Caperon asked the members to vote upon the Adoption of 2023 Reunion AGM minutes which were unanimously approved.

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Presentation and Adoption of the 2022 accounts-Alan Caperon

Alan Caperon presented the Stedfast Associations accounts for the year to 31 December 2022 which had been verified by an independent accountant examiner. The members unanimously approved the adoption of the accounts.

Presentation of the 2023 accounts- Alan Caperon

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2023, which had been included in the Stedfast newsletter and also tabled at the AGM were presented by Alan Caperon. There were no questions and the accounts will now be passed to the independent examiner for checking.

The Battalion President- Lynn Burtenshaw

Lynn started by reading a report regarding Glynde Camp, on behalf of Isaac Conroy C/O for Glynde 2023 as shown below.

Dear Stedfast Association,

Apologies I cannot be with you today but unfortunately, I am working. Glynde 2023 was an amazing success (except for the weather). Three young people who hadn't come before and were nervous agreed to come for some day visits and loved it so much on the first day they wanted to stay all week.

We took the seniors caving for the first time who got to explore a mine and see the traditional methods they used and the mines history. We took everyone ice skating, swimming and various activities at Blacklands Farm. We did rifle shooting at Blacklands for the first time which was incredibly popular. May Slater who many of you remember is still our Medical Officer. It was amazing to witness May out skill every young person and officer in rifle shooting and impressing the activity staff with how accurate she is. It reminded the young people that even how lovely May is you mustn't get on the wrong side of her with all her pin point shooting.

There was a great feel within the staff and young people which led to a really enjoyable week. The worship organised by John Lewry who did a wonderful job and enlisted the help of volunteers within the staff when he was unable to join us. Our theme was "Unity" and how to become the body of Christ as everyone is different and offers unique skills. This was very well received and we had a number of those committing to Christ for the first time and recommitments.

I invited Peter Ford to come and present the Football and Volleyball trophies who as a representative of the Stedfast Association shows the passion and commitment to supporting the young people. I picked up Peter and Shelia and as soon as they got in the car Shelia was telling me that Peter was ecstatically waving at any car pulling in before I arrived as he was so excited to be visiting camp again.

As a lot of you will know Camp has so many fond memories for so many of us. It is often said to be the highlight of many staff and young people's years. To enable camp to happen and for as many young people to attend and have a wonderful experience we cannot do this without the generosity of people like you. Last year I was able to be here in person and both the committee and a number of you gave generously and I would ask that those who are able to please give again and support as many young people as we can to have a truly amazing week.

Looking forward to Glynde 2024, plans are already in place (subject to the barriers that always appear last minute). Since Covid the Junior Section Holiday has not been run. To provide an opportunity for the Juniors this year we are offering a day at camp for them to have a taste of Glynde and its wonderful activities.

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Many thanks for listening to Lynn on my behalf,
Isaac Conroy
C/O for Glynde 2024

Lynn Burtenshaw gave her Battalion report as follows: Stedfast reunion.

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to come and speak to you about our Battalion. Anyone who knows me knows that I will speak the truth, you may not like what I have to say but it will be the truth. So, with that in mind believe me when I say this Battalion is in crisis. We are working very hard to keep going and recruitment is still a priority for most of our companies. However, the bitter truth is changes to uniforms and lack of leaders, family demographics and much more have hampered our attempts — this is something that is completely out of BB control.

Back in days when all in this room were boys/young men you took pride in cleaning your shoes, and the brass on your uniform, you were proud of that uniform. Going to Sunday school and church parade gave us something to get out of bed for at the weekend, and many of us found Christ from our love of BB and our unbridled passion for church. Over the years, changes to the uniform have left us hiding in the shadows, we no longer stand out from the crowd, and this is having a detrimental effect on our recruitment abilities. This is not assisted by staff who only want to do company nights, and don't want to help out in other ways. But let's not be all doom and gloom, with a new President comes new ideas. A new broom sweeps clean as they say. It is also said that behind every man there is a strong woman and believe me I am strong. Ever since I started in BB I have had to fight, so I can tell you now this fight is not over, and I intend to take it to the very, very end.

Since 1st September 2023 it has been extremely difficult. At the AGM last year nearly everyone stood down leaving just me, one vice president, an under 25 reps, and a Battalion Chaplin, so I decided that changes had to be made. I started to think about changing the Executive to a working committee, represented by every company - no exceptions. Just as I felt it was time to roll this out, I was dealt a bitter health scare, and this put me out of action. It has now been very difficult to get back on the horse shall we say. However it is still a work in progress and I will be pushing forward with the idea of a working committee before the end of session. That being said, we managed to bring forward a good programme of events with some of the old competitions coming back, and some new ideas too.

We took both juniors and company sections off to Lazer World in Crawley in January; huge thanks go to Isaac Conroy for facilitating this. 67 young people enjoyed a night of fun and friendship. We also had a badminton afternoon, which unfortunately was poorly supported due to insufficient notice being given to companies — lessons have been learned from this and suitable notice will be given to all companies in future. However, 26th Brighton and 1st Lindfield companies enjoyed that cold wet but free afternoon. Anchors had a fantastic party in December at 2nd Burgess Hill. Mary and all the staff put together a fabulous afternoon of craft, games and food.

It has been very disappointing in recent years that this Battalion has become fractured and less receptive to collaborative events. With only 7 companies we really would benefit from joining together more and attending things like Remembrance Parades, and other main events. We have Battalion volleyball, quiz night and Monopoly to come in the next few months. I would hope that many of our young people will participate in some of these. But Rome was not built in a day and there is much to do still - could any of you help, speak to some of the company captains, encourage participation, promote the BB, BB events in the wider communities, attend the BB event yourselves etc. The Knowledge, experience and pure love in this room is currently untapped, we need to work together before this organisation is lost forever.

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Positives have been found with two girls attending camp last year, and this year there are 4 signed up. Girls have been a lifeline and prevented the demise of at least one if not two companies. This may not be what many of you envisaged, but was a woman President in your plan?

It is with a heavy heart I must say that the joint 9th/14th Company is floundering and we must try to help them restart and give positivity to the community. However, there is also some exciting news on the horizon - wheels are in motion to start a new company in Crawley. It is planned that Issac Conroy will become the Captain of this new company and yes, this will be with a girl's association.

So, my friends, your prayers are needed, your guidance is needed, your experience is needed, and OUR Battalion needs you, because you are all still part of it.

Thank you so much for listening, and I look forward to reporting with more positivity next year.

Nomination and Election of the Officers and Committee members for 2024/25

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

President- **Peter Ford**

Vice President- **Geoff Fitch**

Chairman- **Ray Eaves**

Hon Secretary- **Alan Caperon**

Hon Treasurer- **Alan Caperon**

Chaplain- **Vacant**

Committee nominations all elected-

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

An appeal for new committee members was made.

Oldest and youngest members present- Les Russell

Les established the oldest member in attendance was Peter Gear 10th Brighton (Hove) BB Co who joined in 1941, and Nathan Ward (2nd Burgess Hill BB) was the youngest. Peter Ford presented them with plaques to celebrate this.

Any other business

A reminder for the Founder's day dinner on Friday 4th October was given, the details of this will be published in the newsletters.

The date for the next reunion was announced as Sunday 6th April 2025.

The vesper was sung at the close of the AGM

The church collection was later counted and totalled £241.69; this will be donated to Southwick Methodist Church.

The tea table collection was later counted and totalled £152.55

The attendance was 87 members and guests, plus the BB members and officers from the 1st Southwick BB.



President Peter Ford,
Peter Gear (10th Brighton
(Hove) and Nathan Ward
(2nd Burgess Hill)
Oldest and Youngest
members in attendance at
this years reunion

Back Row, Stedfast secretary,
Alan, Battn President Lynn;
Front Row, Chairman Ray
Eaves, Mrs Angela Eaves and
President Peter Ford



Our guests the Mayor of
Brighton and Hove, Cllr
Jackie O'Quinn, and Cllr
Andy McGregor, representing
Adur District Council.
Stedfast Secretary, and
members of the 22nd Brighton,
(Hove) BB company

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And the same again from another angle.

13th Contingent, Sid Beales, David Norman, Derek Rance (who came over from the USA, Paul Simmonds and Geoff Fitch.



Geoff and Pearl with the Members of the 10th Brighton (Hove) BB company







Paul Simmonds and Dave Norman both committee members among others.

Members including Les Russell and Sue Standen, both committee members.



FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER Friday 4th OCTOBER 2024

The menu for this years founders day dinner remains largely unchanged from last year as it proved so popular, and now with the addition of included coffee & mints. Members and guests who attended last year will be contacted later in the year. If you and your guests were unable to attend last year, you will be welcome to join us on this pleasant informal evening

The cost £30.00

The menu arranged with the chef, which can be adjusted to take account of any special dietary requirements. The dinner is open to all who wish to celebrate the foundation of The Boys' Brigade.

During the evening there will be a raffle to raise funds for The Brighton Battalion Summer Camp at Glynde. If you wish to contribute to the prizes please bring them on the night.

To confirm your place at the dinner contact Les Russell on e-mail
at;lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk

or by text; 07833 531069, or by phone; 01273 757896, or post; 10 Beechwood, Curwen
Place, London Road, Brighton BN1 6UJ

Vice President; Geoff Fitch

Texas

My wife Pearl and I love America and have visited many times. In 2005 we planned a trip that would take us to New Orleans and Texas.

A couple of days before we were due to depart we saw the news that Hurricane Katrina, a category 5 storm had hit New Orleans, the levies broke and the city was flooded.

We knew that we would have to replan our holiday and just tour Texas. Arriving at Houston from Heathrow in the early evening, we collected our car and went to the hotel. We had booked a cheap budget hotel because for one night it didn't matter very much.

The hotel was full of people who had been evacuated from New Orleans and the buzz was that a second storm was due to hit southern Texas the next morning. We decided to have a few hours sleep and to make a very early start. The talk was to get as far north as possible and Oklahoma (almost 300 miles was mentioned as most of the hotels in southern Texas were full of displaced families from the New Orleans area. I am very interested in the Kennedy Assassination and am a conspiracy theorist, so Dallas and the Texas Book Depository was to be one of our desired destinations. We also wanted to see The Alamo at San Antonio.

After grabbing a few hours sleep we hit the road, the I-45 main interstate highway north to Dallas. If you thought the M25 could be busy 'you ain't seen nothin yet'. These interstate highways have as many as 6 or even 8 lanes in each direction and everyone in Houston must have had the same idea, to outrun the storm and get as far north as possible. Traffic wasn't moving (much like the M25) and there was talk on the radio of opening up the southbound carriageway, which wasn't being used as nobody wanted to go south into the storm. However, the Highway Patrol had to ensure that all of the on ramps were blocked off to avoid any head on collisions. This took several hours to sort out whilst we were stationary. I always buy maps but hadn't had a chance to do so, so we were driving blind. When it was obvious that we were getting nowhere fast we decided to get off the main highway and head to Waco.

Progress was still very slow and we arrived at Waco as it was getting dark. We tried a few hotels but it was the same story everywhere, all rooms were taken. We went to a supermarket, bought a couple of cushions and settled down to sleep in our car. This was an unpleasant experience as the temperature inside was 100 degrees so we had to keep switching on the air conditioning to cool it down. We since learned that had we have gone to a church we would have been looked after.

Early next morning we awoke to find that there was no fuel as the pumps were dry. We were very lucky to find a service station selling petrol so we continued on to Dallas, stopping at hotels along the way seeking accommodation. As we got the same message that there were no rooms to be had we were beginning to get depressed so we prayed and put ourselves in the hands of the Lord. The next hotel we stopped at we were given the same story but the Manager said he had a friend who had a small hotel of just 11 rooms in Weatherford just outside of Dallas / Fort Worth on I-20. He called him and sure enough there was one room free.

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We arrived at the St. Botolph Inn to be met by Dan & Shay Buttolph a retired Colonel in the US army, a Vietnam vet and his wife Shay who runs a charity called 'Children of War' which homes children from war torn countries to families in America. They are a very strong Christian couple and I believe the Lord led us there. The 11 rooms in the hotel, rather than being numbered were all named after saints.

In each of the rooms was a booklet about the life of St. Botolph and it came from St. Botolphs Church at Botolph near Shoreham, just off the flyover. I commented that this was quite close to where we live and Dan asked me if I could visit the church and pick up some more booklets which I did when we got home. There were 10. I purchased them all and sent them to Weatherford, Texas.

We spent a week with them whilst we visited Dallas, Fort Worth and the surrounding sights. We have stayed in touch. They have since sold the hotel and bought one in Poland near the Ukrainian border where they are using it as a hostel to house refugees. Not bad for a couple who have just turned 80.

After the worst possible start to any holiday it turned out to be one of the best. Of all of the places we have visited in the US Texas is one of the best. One day whilst travelling we stopped for lunch at a fast food restaurant deep in the heart of Texas and the lady asked why we were there (Sticksville USA) and we told her that the storm had blown us there. She refused to take our money. In another restaurant a young lady told us that she was born in England and when I asked her where she replied that she didn't know, her Dad was in the Air Force.

I could continue but I will finish with the story about our friends Sylvia & Richard Nixon from Lewes Road URC who were travelling around America at the same time. It just happened that we were both in San Antonio on the same day so we arranged to meet and have dinner with them.



Putting a name to the face

We were forwarded this photo and later given permission to publish it in our newsletter.

Harold Warner 1920-1987 (his daughter believe), was a member of 22nd Brighton (Hove) between 1931 and 1937.

This is of particular interest to me as he served with the same company I served with 40 years before me.

If you have anything you think will be of interest to our members, please send it electronically to me.

(Editor)



The next Newsletter will be Summer 2024

Please submit all contributions as soon as possible, before the end of **June 2024**
(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. We will try and help
(Contact Alan Caperon)

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
(cheque's payable to the Stedfast Association)