



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. Julian Albrow

CHAIRMAN
John Donoghue

TREASURER
Vacant

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ken Towner

COMMITTEE
Jim Attwater
John Donoghue
Ray Eaves
Dick Kent
Terry Pomfrey
Paul Simmons
Stephen Roberts

Dear Stedfast Members,

At last! In July we can enjoy the sun, walk in the country, go down to the sea and enjoy a hundred other activities that are improved by the warmth and light that the sun brings.

God has made us to be Sons of Righteousness and our lives are designed to be enriched by what we receive from Him and pass on to others. Of course "others" can be anyone, but in The Boys' Brigade we are committed to bringing light into the lives of Boys for whom we may be the only source.

Jesus gratefully accepted the gift of five loaves and two fishes from a young boy (St. John 6) and used them to feed a multitude. Remember the food was given to the boy by his Mum who well knew his healthy appetite - five loaves! When we share with young people it must be from abundance so that they will have plenty to share.

Today young people do not usually suffer from having too little food, as many do in other parts of the World, or from having too much, but from having the wrong things.

The B.B. has the responsibility and privilege of bringing to every Boy a knowledge of God the Creator, the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ, the Mission of The Holy Spirit, The Bible as God's Word, the power of Prayer and the strength of unconditional Love. Whether we are in regular contact with The Boys of Today or just from time to time our responsibility to pray for them is paramount.

In a short time the New Glynde Camp Site will be in full swing and a week later it will be a time of memories.

Today Glynde is not just a week but a whole year as dedicated Staff pray and work by The Holy Spirit in the lives of Members, that they may cross the valleys of Glynde and life with Faith and ascend Mount Caburn and the mountains of life with assurance

Old Boys of today and Old Boys of tomorrow seize every opportunity to walk with your Lord and let Him teach you how to live.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone,
Peter Ford Stedfast Association President



Editorial

When I last wrote I foolishly suggested that Spring had sprung and we could look forward to better times – how wrong I was! We certainly did not have the Spring to remember except how unsettled it was. I can now say we are having excellent weather +28°C and lasting!! I do hope you can all enjoy the benefits the sun brings.

After the delay due to bad weather, the reunion went ahead and was up to the usual high and enjoyable standard. Numbers were a little down on last year, which was understandable in view of the change of date.

The committee worked hard to ensure revised date was kept to and are looking forward to the next reunion in January 2014 (weather permitting). Plans have already been made and it is still hopeful that we can persuade more of or younger leavers to come along together with senior boys still serving.

For many years now the newsletter has endeavoured to encourage not only for existing members to bring along and old boy who had not been before and for some encouragement given to those boys in their last year in the company to join the association and come to the reunion. It has not been too successful although I still hope that we can hold our numbers steady. It is essential to keep the association alive and the committee need all the help they can get.

I look forward to seeing you all in January next and in the meantime enjoy the summer. Many of us now have some form of illness or another because of age I send my best to all of you who suffer and I remember you all in my prayers.

We said cheerio to both Ben Edwards and Frank Dale, two long serving members of the Committee at this reunion. I wish them well in their retirement and thank them for their valuable contribution to our association

Dick Kent

Committee Member Profile;

Paul Simmons. Captain 26th Brighton Company. Brighton Stedfast Bugle band coordinator and Administrator.

I am the younger brother of Battalion Vice President, Roger Simmons and younger son of the late Sybil and Stan Simmons. My father had served in both the 26th and 13th Brighton Company's and was the Battalion Bugle Band Officer back in the late 60s and 70s.

I started my BB life as a founder member of the 26th Brighton Life Boys (forerunner of the Junior section) moving up to the Company section in 1963 joining my father and Brother.

In latter part of 1967, I transferred, along with my father to the 13th Brighton and in May 1968 at the age of 16 was awarded the Queens Badge. I won the 1970 Beal V.C. Watch.

I have served in the 26th, 13th and 8th Brighton Companies finally moving back to the 26th Brighton. After several years working under the late Reg Towner and then my brother, Roger. I left the Company due to family commitments, returning some four years ago and I took on the Captaincy some 2 years ago.

My Company not only has Anchor, Junior and Company Sections but also has a Girls Association and an Amicus group.

As band convener and a serving Stedfast committee member I would like to invite any Company within the Battalion to contact me with regard to helping companies with Bugle band work.

I can be contacted via; paul.simmons @ gmail.com.

Regards ***Paul Simmons***

Jesus walking stick

In the Book of Exodus, both Moses and Aaron had walking sticks that turned into snakes. According to the story, wise men and magicians also turned their walking sticks into snakes. In contrast, your acquaintance with sticks may be limited to the uniform of a BB Staff Sergeant, although some of you may have graduated to a Captain and carried a cane.



When he left school at thirteen, my father started his working life as a farm labourer. Later he was a railway signalman. On his weekend off we would go for a walk after Sunday school, leaving the working class district and going up the hill to the countryside. My father saw himself as a gentleman farmer and carried a walking stick; I had a three-quarter sized one and my younger brother a half-size one. We must have looked very odd!

In 1991, I was studying in the USA. One Sunday I went to Belvedere United Methodist Church in Decatur, Atlanta. Over coffee, the men's main topic of conversation was their walking sticks (that tells you the age of the congregation.) A variety of sticks were on display: rough wood cut from a hedge row; polished sticks with ebony handles; slim-line and silver tipped; expanding seats to recline on; electronically adjustable and collapsible.

Twenty five years before, I had worked in the Dutch Island of Sint Eustatius where everybody was known by a nickname. These names often described some characteristic of a person. If I give you a picture, as a teenager I was a Charles Atlas 'seven stone weakling'. I grew to six feet in height but remained thin and you could count my ribs. I visited a lady in Atlanta whom I had known as a small girl in the GLB. In that island of ten square miles, it appears that I had a nickname that I never heard. The children called me *Jesus' walking stick!* Tall and thin like a walking stick, but out of respect, *Jesus' walking stick.*



A couple of years ago, I appeared in 'The Last of the Summer Wine' No I was not the actor, but merely appeared on publicity posters for the stage production in Eastbourne.

When I was leaving Guyana in 1991, I was given a heavy staff, hand carved out of hardwood, leather bound and with my initials carved on it. I can't think of any hymns about walking sticks, but we did sing:



My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean;

(Thomas Toke Lynch. The Boys' Brigade Hymn Book, No. 133)

We pray that we have not only an anchor that keeps us steadfast and sure but also a faith on which we can lean, supporting us throughout our Christian pilgrimage.

John C. Neal

Stedfast Chairman's Report

The Reunion in April was an event not to be missed with around 100 members in attendance. Many were able to visit the small exhibition of Battalion Memorabilia. We do need an archivist from our membership to be able to log everything and to be able to put much of the items on our website.

Our Bugles and Drums of the Stedfast Association (BADOTSA) have been active with attendance at the Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival where many thousands of people watched a very long and interesting Parade of more than 80 entries. At Bexley the Band put in a strong performance leading 500 Young Cadets and Scouts and B. B. to Church for their Civic Parade. My disappointment was that many Band members were not setting the example to the Young people of attending a wonderful Church Service. The next performance in July is leading the London Battalion of The Girls' Brigade to Church.

It has been brought to my attention that Anchor Charity Shops are opening up in the Big Cities for B. B. Funds. What a good idea for someone to consider opening an Anchor Shop in aid of the Brighton, Hove & District Battalion !?!

Your Stedfast committee are giving a £5.00 voucher each to Boys & Staff at Glynde Camp again this year. This is very much appreciated by all those attending Camp and has helped with the Camp finances. I am camp Q. M. again this year.....amazing as I did cause a riot last year !?!

I have delivered one mace 10 side drums one bass drum two tenor drums and 20 bugles with all the accessories for Sierra Leone. Michael Moss of the London Stedfast met me and we watched the band equipment being parcelled up ready for shipping to The Boys' Brigade in Sierra Leone. I still have many more drums and bugles and accessories if anyone is interested, or if you would like me to collect band equipment no longer needed.

I would like to hear from any Boy or staff who would like to contribute to our Stedfast News, you can find details of contacts in this news or you can email me at jndonoghue38@gmail.com or telephone 01323 501857 or write to 37, Park, Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2XG

God Bless, John Donoghue Committee Chairman.

IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members 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.

Derek Stevens (29th Bton) Died 11th June 2013

Bill Linsted (11th Bton) Died 17th May 2013

Bill Linsted was the last Captain of the 11th B'ton Coy based at the Connaught Mission Lewes Road Brighton. He succeeded Jack Tovery, who later went on to Captain the 26th B'ton. When the 11th closed some of the remaining members transferred to the 26th this included Dennis McCarthy Barry Washer Mick Wright and of course Bill who became the 26th's Drum Instructor. A post that he held for many years. Bill was an experienced Glynde Camper and a true Christian BB Member. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Bill was for many years a member of the Old Boys Committee.

John Donoghue and Paul Simmonds attended his funeral on behalf of the Association

Annual General Meeting of members

*held at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick on 21 April 2013.
Annual Reunion Service at 2.30pm followed by tea and AGM.*

Chairman John Donoghue

John opened the meeting and all members joined in with the singing of the Camp Grace. On behalf of the members, John thanked the tea ladies.

Apologies and greetings

These were read out by Ken Towner- a full list is available on request.

Adoption of the 2012 reunion AGM minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

Adoption of the 2012 accounts-Frank Dale

Frank Dale presented the accounts which were approved.

Thanks were given to Frank for his service to the Stedfast Association since he was now retiring.

The Battalion President -

Derek Hinton updated the members on the state of the Battalion. His address is available in full on page 7 of this newsletter.

Derek remarked about the progress continuing to be made with the Stedfast Association in order to have a closer involvement in future with the Brighton Battalion.

Stedfast Website and Facebook -

Carl Jukes presented the situation on the Website and Facebook page but although he explained what would be on the Website and how many friends we already had on Facebook, it was not possible to give the actual demonstration on the screen. Hence we will put further details in the next Newsletter.

Secretary update - Alan Caperon updated the members on the members present at the Reunion and remarked that only around 80 had signed the attendance register although Peter Gear had counted 98 people present at the Tea table. So there must have been around 100 members and guests present at the Reunion.

Alan asked if members would contribute to the newsletter in future and provide feedback and to use the Website when this is available.

Election of officers and committee

John proceeded to the election of officers and the members voted that the following will act in the forthcoming year:-

President-Peter Ford

Rev Julian Albrow will continue as Vice President.

Ken Towner was re-elected as Membership Secretary.

The Committee were authorised to appoint a new Treasurer.

Alan Caperon was re-elected as Secretary

The following members of the committee were duly elected for the forthcoming year:-

Mr Jim E Attwater, Mr John Donoghue, Mr Dick Kent, Mr Stephen Roberts, Mr Terry Pomfrey and Mr Paul Simmons

John explained that Ben Edwards and Frank Dale were retiring from the committee and John asked the members to show their appreciation to Ben for his many years of loyal service.

Continued on next page

Oldest and youngest old boys present-

Les Russell, Les asked for more members to support the Remembrance Parade to be held on Sunday 10th November.

Les also explained about the Founders Dinner at the Preston Bowls Club on 4th October.

Youngest old boy was Carl Smart who left the Battalion in 2011.

Oldest old boy was Dick Dench of the 10th enrolled 1931.

**Any other business**

The Glynde Food Festival was mentioned by Stephen Roberts on 13 and 14 July where helpers were required to collect car parking fees for fundraising for the Battalion.

The Founders Day dinner

As mentioned by Les; On 4th October 2013 is *The Founders Day dinner* at the Preston Bowls Club. The cost is £17.50 for a 3 course meal.

If you wish to attend the dinner, please email Alan Caperon at alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

Gary Pickett mentioned his attempts to set up a new BB company in Woodingdean.

Regrettably, there wasn't time to sing the vesper at the close of the AGM

Date of the next reunion will be 19 January 2014

Reunion Address - Derek Hinton

It's great to see you again at our 2013 Stedfast re-union, this year marks the 130th year of The Boys' Brigade, although our longest serving companies, the 10th Brighton (Hove) is a mere 114 years old with the 9th Brighton just one year behind on 113 years. What an achievement, long may it be so. It's great to see more of our younger people here this afternoon, you are most welcome, and it is good that closer co-operation is now existing between our Stedfast Association and our Battalion. Long may that continue, and I know it will under your Chairman John Donoghue and your Secretary Alan Caperon.

If we had to have Snow in January, what a shame that it decided to fall on the same weekend as our re-union was planned. Quite a number of members who would have been here in January are unable to be present this afternoon, but on the other hand some of you who couldn't have made the January date are here today. Now down to business, your Battalion. I was determined not to be negative this year and just speak positively. But that is not going to be easy and I kept thinking back at the comments I have had over the years from some of you who say whilst you didn't like to hear the negative side of our Battalion, we much sooner you tell us the truth, and if it is Negative so be it.

A group of men in their seventies were playing a four ball game of golf. As they trudged around the course on a particularly cold day, they started to feel their age. One said, These hills are too steep for my old legs. The second complained, and the bunkers are too deep. The third moaned, and its hard work walking through this thick rough. Be grateful, said the fourth. At least we're still on the right side of the grass. !

Well, I'm going to try and keep on the right side of the grass. So let's get the Negative part out of the way first. This time last year I positively spoke of three new Companies in our Battalion. John, and many other members of the Executive had spent many hours and traveled long distances ensuring that everything was in place and yes we could look forward to three new companies, 1st Roffey, 1st Sompting and the 1st Westergate. Now, one year later, I have to tell you that only one as survived, the 1st Roffey.

The 1st Sompting struggled to maintain the boys they had recruited and did not really have the backing of the lady Minister at the Church, who stepped in and simply closed the company down. The 1st Westergate, where the young lady acting Captain, was doing her best and did in fact have quite a large number of boys, but unfortunately she did not have any BB experience as such, and finding suitable help did not materialise. It's not all gloom though, so lets be positive.

The Executive are led to believe that a church in Bognor Regis wish to start Boys' Brigade, and Gary and John are following this up. They will of course need plenty of help, so anyone living in Bognor Regis or who knows of anyone, please let us know. There is also a good chance a company could start again in Woodingdean, which Gary is working very hard on.

- A census taker knocked on old Miss Wilson's door.

She answered all his questions except one — she flatly refused to tell

him her age. But, he protested, everyone gives their age to the census taker.

Oh yes, she countered, and did Miss Elsie Hill and Miss Nellie Hill tell you their ages. ?

Sure they did, he replied. Well, I'm the same age as them. So he wrote on his form, 'As old as the Hills.

Well, The Boys' Brigade may be the oldest Uniformed Youth Organisation in the World, not the biggest, but at least Brigade Headquarters are trying to do something about the situation they find themselves in. First the Brigade Headquarters have challenged every company to increase and sustain their boy membership by 10%. Unfortunately, Battalion numbers are showing another decrease, this time of 20%, although if you take off Westergate and Sompting, the loss is actually 11%.

Continued on next page

The Brigade Headquarters printed in a recent BB Gazette, 250 companies who have increased their numbers by at least 10% having obtained the information from the companies capitation forms. Only one is at present from our Battalion the 10th Brighton (Hove) company. The task now for the 10th is to keep them and even go for another increase of 10%. Personally, I think it should have been 30%, which the Brigade should have asked companies to try and get, 10% in each of our three sections, which is not that many extra boys.

As a number of you already know, I stepped down as Captain of the 2nd Burgess Hill Company on the 31st August, after 30 years as their Captain. The new Minister, who only started in September, was determined that the company of 50 boys was not going to be allowed to carry on without a Captain, and duly appointed Isaac Conroy as the new Captain. I am delighted that Isaac accepted, he is a very keen young man, who gets on well with the boys and staff., It does pay to keep your young men right up until 18 years, then appoint them Staff Sergeant whether they go off to university as Isaac did to get their degree or not.

We are very much missing Julian Albrow, your Stedfast Vice President, not only as Captain of the 1st Southwick Company, although the man he put in charge of the company before Julian went to Exeter, is doing a good job after being thrown in at the deep end, but also as the Battalion training Officer. I am pleased to say that a number of Officers have now taken training to become training Officers in our Battalion.

Last years Battalion Camp was held on our usual cricket ground at Glynde, during which three new containers were purchased, bases laid and the containers put on their new bases not too far from our original site but far enough for people not to find them unless they know exactly where they are. A plaque is being placed on them saying 'The George Holkham huts.' There will be more about that shortly. Thank you Adrian and the men from Eastbourne who worked extremely hard on this project and the usual one of erecting the mess tent and cook house and taking it down again after camp. Brilliant, and well done. Thank you also to Darrell Ward and John Pigott for all the planning and meetings with Glynde Estates to ensure everything went to plan and for all the work and many hours they have put in since our last camp. This sessions Battalion camp is certainly going to be different- very different!

Whilst on the subject of camp, no two camps are the same, and last years Battalion camp was no exception. We even had our own Glynde Olympics, along with different flags, and of course our very own official Olympic torch courtesy of Mark Jago.

Please pray for the 9th Brighton, our second oldest company, who as many of you may be well aware, almost found themselves out of their hall in Exeter Street. It's great that the money was raised and it is now been secured by the community, but lets hope the 9th Brighton can continue to use it.

- Dad, the teacher shouted at me for something I didn't do ! - What was that ? - My homework !

As you well know, We did not have any young men put forward for last sessions Ernest Beal VC Watch award, and that wasn't due to the Captains not doing their homework. This award is never going to be given lightly, and if Captains don't think a young man quite matches up to the high standard required, then they will not enter them, and quite rightly so.

I am now however pleased to say that this Session, two young men have been entered by their respective company captains.

The Battalion programme for all three sections is out and available to anyone who wants it. It was published in the Stedfast Autumn news and can be found on the Battalion web site, brighton.boys-brigade.org.uk This coming weekend, the Junior section are going away to the Carroty Wood Centre in Tonbridge, led I believe for the first time by Charlie Simmons Captain 3rd Burgess Hill company. Lets pray they have a great weekend.

- A Headmaster was addressing his pupils, and asked the following question. Do you boys know how many teachers work at this school. A boy put his hand up and said, I'd say about half of them !

I rest my case, thanks for listening.

Under 25 Representative - Hello!

One thing that has been important for us as a battalion is keeping in touch with companies and other parties. Recently a new scheme has been introduced aimed at giving boys and staff the opportunity to feedback thoughts and ideas regarding the battalion program of events.

As an under 25 rep, my job is to be a point of contact for everyone involved within the battalion, to act as a middle man between the executive and the companies. Our Facebook site allows us to communicate with a whole variety of people allowing contacts to be kept and ideas to be discussed.

I will also be focusing on getting more people involved within BB and working out strategies that meet individual company's needs.

Thank you for your time, may we continue to drive the Brighton & Hove battalion forward.

Joe Stenning

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Your Battalion Under 25 Rep!

Roles:

1. To listen to young people's views and share at executive meetings.
2. Create a link between all the young people of the Battalion.

My name is Joseph Stenning and I am a serving officer at the 2nd Burgess Hill Company.

As your Battalion rep, it is my job to listen to the views of you, "the boys" and feedback those thoughts to the executive (the ones in charge!)

My aim is to create links with all involved in the Brighton & Hove Battalion and to be a point of contact for any thoughts, worries or issues that you have during your BB experience.

Contact details:
Email – under25rep@hotmail.com

Facebook page –
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BHBB/132070560298208>

Please do not be afraid to contact me with any issues you have regarding your experience within this Brighton & Hove Battalion.

> the adventure begins here

Update on The Stedfast Association and the Battalion

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Carl Jukes and the Boys of the 10th Boys Brigade Company have completed the Website and Facebook page which are now both live. Please visit WWW.brightonstedfast.org and let us have your comments in due course.

OUR BATTALION AND STEDFAST

I was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Stedfast Association at the Battalion AGM on 11 July 2013. I have set out below a summary of the notes that I referred to which may be of interest to you!

1. STEDFAST ASSOCIATION DECLINING MEMBERSHIP

- 400 were present at the Reunion in 1983 but less than 100 in 2013
- Paid up Membership 154 in 2012 and in 2013 so far 120 members

2. WHAT DOES THE STEDFAST ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY DO?

- We support the Stedfast band.
- We raise money through subscriptions and donations of some £2k pa.
- We have made donations in excess of £1,100 to support the Brighton Battalion in the last 2 years including £500 for camp this year.
- We support the Fed. of Stedfast Associations which costs £250 including attending the AGM.
- Our Annual Reunion is usually held in January at a cost of some £500.
- We helped at the Glynde Food Festival on 13/14 July 2013
- We will parade on Remembrance Sunday on 10 November 2013.
- We produce a Newsletter 3 times a year at a cost of £750.

3. WHAT DOES THE STEDFAST ASSOCIATION NEED FROM THE BATTALION

- The Association needs new Members.
- The Association needs new Committee members.
- WITHOUT NEW MEMBERS THE STEDFAST ASSOCIATION WILL CEASE TO EXIST"
- Without the Stedfast Association the support we give will be lost for ever

4. THE BRIGHTON BOYS' BRIGADE BATTALION QUESTIONS

- How can you help us to help you?
- How can we integrate with the Battalion?
- How do we bridge the gap between the Stedfast and Battalion?
- Can we change or is it too late?

The feedback I obtained from the Executive Committee, Battalion officers and helpers was positive with many suggestions which I will now discuss with the Stedfast Committee at our September meeting and will be reported to the Members in the next Newsletter. There are also some exciting developments being introduced by the Battalion so whilst the presentation above was designed as a wake up call, it had the desired effect to stress the need to continue to work together to make sure that these issues do not become a reality and there is a future.

Alan Caperon

Secretary for the President and Committee

Glynde Food and English Wine Festival

It was July. The sun was shining. It was Glynde.

Unfortunately, not the camp, but the surroundings and the memories were just as nostalgic. The weekend of July 13th/14th saw the Glynde Food and English Wine Festival, held at Glynde Place. For the second year running The Stedfast Association and The Brighton, Hove and District Battalion of the Boys Brigade offered their services at this prestigious event. It was an early start for some on the Saturday, needing to get the "shop and drop" Marquee up and ready by 09.15. Everyone else, all present and correct by 09.30 to start the day. The Glynde Place clock tower chimed 10.00, and the crowds flocked in for the start of a hot, busy day. Bottles of water in hand, the car park crew took up their positions. The car park and inroads were on the old Glynde campsite, and it was nice to see the old pavilion still there. The "shop and drop" team got into position, and the rest of us got our bin bags and litter pickers in hand, and went our merry way. Even a bit of washing up was carried out(Thanks Dave, and apologies!!). The crowds started to pour in, ready to see John Torode do his thing on the chef's stage.(For those of you who don't know who he is, he is one of the judges from Masterchef.!!) The whole day included these kind of displays, and book signings and various other food and wine based events, some of which were done by chefs and celebrities alike. Numerous stalls of different types of food/drink (and other things) were open all day, and the catering options were very good. Anything from Oysters to home made sausage rolls, champagne to real ales. We were given the opportunity to sample some of the fayre on offer with our FREE lunch voucher. I think the consensus was that the food was very good. The day seemed to go very quickly, and before long the crowds were dwindling and the stalls were packing away, and all the guys did a sterling job. Nice cup of tea had by all, then home for a nice long shower, and bed.

Sunday morning, deejays vu. No Marquee erecting today, however, so a nice gentle start to the day. Half price coffees sipped, the clock tower chimed again, and their off.!!

Another hot one, so again water was necessary, particularly for the guys in the car park. Both days are exactly the same, with the same stalls and events, although the Celebrities were not all in attendance. What I will say is that the Lamb Burgers, as an option in our free lunch, were superb.!! Although we had a bin bag issue (organisers, we think, ran out of large rubbish sacks), the day again went smoothly and before long, it was that time of calm again. The Organisers approached the guys in the "shop and drop" tent, and thanked them for all the work we had done over the weekend. Gratitude is always appreciated. Sitting down to reflect, partake in a beverage and wait for the crowds to depart. Marquee dismantled, bins emptied, hands shaken, all off home. The end of the weekend. A slight contribution to the Brigade's coffers, sadly not as much as hoped for or expected, but every little helps.

I would like to mention in despatches the following for all their time and hard work over the weekend, in no particular order:- **Mark Jago, John Pigott, John Donoghue, Reg Burkett, Charlie Simmons, Darrell Ward, Isaac Conroy, Ben Squire, Owen Creese-Smith, Gary Pickett, Nigel Evans, Dave Rowlands and Chris Benson.**

The feedback from the Organisers and the Estate was very positive, and the comments from the General Public were all excellent, (I quote; *your all brilliant, a fantastic job*). It has, again, enhanced the reputation of our Organisation. Again, thank you all who were involved so much for your help and support.

If this sounds like the sort of thing you would like to get involved in, if you would like to re-live some memories of Glynde and meet up with some friends and colleagues, and get a free lunch !!, then I am sure we will be asked to Volunteer next year, so then is your chance. Doesn't have to be the whole day(s). Even a few hours would be appreciated. Please feel free to contact me on 07733054690 to find out any information.

Kind Regards, Steve Roberts



Brighton Stedfast Band Reports

Stop, Start, Stop, Start and Mark Time.

On Saturday 25th May, members of the Stedfast Bugle Band assembled, ready to take part in this year's Eastbourne Carnival.

The weather was good, as was the attendance for those playing within the band. Especially as we were joined by members of our London/ Croydon band and also by two members from Luton and one from Romsey.

The going was hard as we had to march at a very slow pace, whilst playing at our normal timings, added to this we had to stop numerous times on route, thus stop – start, stop – start. This made the parade very tiring, but never the less, all went well and we had a good day.

The high-light for me was the ride back to car park by a vintage Eastbourne bus, circa 1950. The seats were absolutely wonderful, so soft and comfortable, unlike today's bus seats.

The crowd marshalling was non-existent, with the spectators crowding in on the procession and narrowed the road area. This was mainly due to a no barrier policy, also, sadly, there were no refreshments provided, especially as the weather was so warm.

Paul Simmons.

Stedfast Band at Bexley Heath Civic Parade

This is a busy few months for the Stedfast Bugle Band. Our latest appearance, on June 9, was to lead the Bexley Heath Civic Parade. This has been an annual event for the band for a number of years. We lead the parade from the Civic Centre to a church service and then return. However, this year's event was a very high profile one as on the return, we stopped at the town clock tower to unveil a bust of HM the Queen to honour her Jubilee. On arrival at the monument we played for some 15 minutes whilst the rest of the parade marched to their positions for the unveiling. This event attracted a huge crowd and once again, gave us an opportunity to showcase the Brigade.

Our next event is in July and is to lead the London District Girls Brigade on their Annual Church Parade. So, plenty of opportunities to show off the Brigade. But the band is also about the comradeship with other ex BB members and the social aspect of the band is every much a part of it as the actual playing. This is a bond very hard to explain to someone who has not been in the BB as a boy and/or officer.

If you would like to join us you would be most welcome, whether you were a former bandsman or want to learn. We meet the first Friday of every month at Southwick Methodist Church. See you there?

Barry McCann.



BATTALION DRILL COMPETITIONS 2013

The three drill competitions were again held this year at Southwick Methodist Church on Wednesday 20th March. Judges were Ray Eaves, Vice President, and ex-10th, and Alan Breslin, Captain 14th Brighton. It was the 3rd Burgess Hill's year; they won all three trophies: Drill Shield, Squad Medal, and Company Colour Cup, against opposition from 1st Southwick and 1st Lindfield. 1st Southwick were runners up in the Drill Shield, and 1st Lindfield came second in both the Squad Medal and

Company Colour Competitions. The winner of the Squad Medal was Sgt. Callum Dean, 3rd Burgess Hill, who is shown being presented with it by Alan Breslin. (*Members of the Stedfast Association might like to know that the Squad Medal now has the winning NCO's name and Company engraved on the clasp, and presented to him to keep permanently*).



LOOKING BACK

In this picture we have Chas Hitchings with two members of the 22nd Brighton and Hove silver Band - Barry Burtonshaw and Paul Currie, (who is the other man?) circa 1970.

Chas was among other things a contributor to the 'Breezes' magazine.

If you have any photos we will scan and return them.



**FEDERATION OF STEDFAST ASSOCIATIONS
UNITED KINGDOM & REPUBLIC OF IRELAND****DUBLIN**

On arriving at Dublin Airport on Friday 10th May 2013. I was met by the President of Dublin Stedfast Association Fred Shekleton who took me to the Stillorgan Park Hotel where I settled into my very comfortable room.

That evening we had a very good Welcome Dinner where we could order from the menu a three course dinner. Then meeting in the bar to catch up with the latest news.

Saturday started with a devotional service at the South Hill Evangelical Church a few yards down the road. Rev. Denis Campbell took the service and talked about Jesus being a carpenter and looking afresh at the importance of tables. Our President Mr. John Neil OBE played the piano for our hymns.

Our AGM for the Annual Council Meeting started with devotions. The meeting was very positive in the business matters and elections of Office Bearers took place.

At midday we had a coach to take us on a tour of the surrounding area and had lunch in a massive Garden Center.

That evening was the Gala dinner followed by the Dublin Stedfast Silver Band. We were given words to sing along to the Irish songs such as *Down by the liffeside, Cockles & Mussels, Dublin Saunter, Dublin in the rare old times and Biddy Mulligan, the pride of the Coombe. But of course we did sing The Anchor Song.*

Sunday morning we all attended a local Church Service before we said our good byes and headed for home.



Continued on next page

Next year, 16th to 18th May 2014 the **Glasgow Stedfast Association** extends a warm invitation to you all to attend Glasgow the venue of the Federation of Stedfast Association (UK & ROI) AGM 2014.

They look forward to welcoming you all to Glasgow birthplace of The Boys' Brigade.

The recently refurbished **Lorne Hotel**, the venue for the weekend, is both comfortable and conveniently located on Sauchiehall Street. In support of the AGM they have planned an interesting programme of social events. The Gala Dinner will be followed by entertainment led by tenor **Jamie MacDougal** who hosts his own radio programme on BBC Scotland. Those who attended Glasgow Battalion's Centenary Show, *Arena '83*, will recall Jamie drawing the show to a moving climax each evening. Adding to the evening's entertainment will be **Bill Simpson**, another B.B. member who will amuse you with his own special brand of magic

Organised optional social programme includes :-

'Where it all began' : Included in this guided tour of B.B. sites are the locations where W.A. Smith lived and the hall where the B.B. was founded. Other sites include the former H.Q. Of the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers and the location where the Founder discussed Scouting for Boys with Baden Powell. All sites are contained within one-square mile. The walking tour is suitable for most people and will be conducted at a slow pace to allow time for photographs and fellowship.

They will also offer an optional visit to the Founders **Graveside**. No trip to Glasgow by a B.B. member would be complete without a visit to the burial place of Sir William Alexander Smith. The Founders Grave has been visited by B.B. members from around the world who come to pay homage.

*For those interested in visiting some of Glasgow's well-known museums and parks a number are located within easy walking distance from the **Lorne Hotel**:-*

KELVINGROVE ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUM is less than 5 minutes walk from the hotel.

The University of Glasgow (on the hill opposite Kelvingrove Art Galleries & Museum) boasts three unique museums – ***The Hunterian Museum, The Hunterian Art Gallery, and Rennie Mackintosh House.***

All can be reached within 15 minutes walk from the hotel.

The Riverside Museum of Transport & Tall Ship is approximately 20 minute walk from the hotel.

City Center Shopping : Either take a bus across from the hotel, or take a 10 minute ride on the subway from the nearby Kelvin Hall Underground Station.

Sunday Morning Service will be in Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Parish Church, Belmont Street, Headquarters of the 1st Glasgow Company.

BOOKING DETAILS AND FURTHER INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW IN JANUARY 2014.

RAF Halton.

On Sunday 12th May, members of the National Stedfast Band travelled from various parts of the country assembling at RAF Halton, Wendover in Buckinghamshire.

The object was to go through our paces, both musically and brush up on our drill and deportment. The Drill and deportment was undertaken by two members of the RAF staff namely a Drill Sergeant and a Drill Corporal. Fortunately they were suitably impressed.

Sadly, owing to recent dental work I was unable to play, however the day was once again, very enjoyable.

After the morning practice, we travelled to one of the messes for a three course lunch, which, once again was excellent.

After lunch we split into two groups and travelled a short distance to view and visit the reproduction of some 1st World War trenches which were used for training as Halton has been a Military base for many years.

Before closing, I must complement our National Coordinator, Mr Paul Hern of Malvern, who was once an RAF recruit at Halton many years ago, for once again organising a great and enjoyable day.

Paul Simmons

Annual Athletic Competition

On Monday 3rd June we held the annual athletic competition at Withdean stadium in Brighton it was a nice evening weather wise and around 50 boys from 6 companies attending the usual events where on shot, discuss, javelin, high jump, long jump and the track events.

It was a great night with a great atmosphere.

The overall winners where the 10th Brighton with the 2nd Burgess Hill coming second, Senior relay was won by the 2nd Burgess Hill and the junior relay won by the 14th Brighton.

Individual medals where won by,

11- 12 age group was a tie between Jack Clark from the 2nd Burgess Hill and James Bloomfield from the 10th

13- 14 age group was won by Jordan Harding from the 10th

15+ was won by Ben Haskell from the 2nd Burgess Hill

On Tuesday 18th June we held the Annual Harriers Competition at Glynde village once again it was another great night weather wise

We had 16 boys take part from 5 companies

Winners for the 11- 12 age group overall was 26th Brighton Winners for the 13- 14 age group overall was 14th

Brighton Winners for the 15+ age group overall was 3rd Burgess Hill

There was medals for the first three boys back in each age group

Again was a great evening with a great atmosphere

Gary

'BADOTSA' Band Tour 2014

Plans are well underway with lots of the formal arrangements' already in place including the band playing at Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial on two consecutive nights, and a church parade on the Sunday morning. At one of the formal events, the band will be joined by a local Pipe band. Several informal visits have also been planned.

The current tour itinerary (subject to alteration) as known, can be found on the bands' web site.

The take up for the tour has been astonishing, with band members alone numbering nearly 60, which means that one coach is already fully booked with the standard accommodation offered as part of the package; and as I type this at the end of April, we are now only 17 names away from ordering a second coach etc.

If anyone is seriously interested in being on the tour either as a band member or purely as a spectator, could they contact Paul Hern – National Coordinator on 01684562426 or via the bands web site (Google – BADOTSA or Bugle & Drums of the Stedfast Association) 'ASAP'. Any spare places will be be on a 'first come etc' basis subject to required payment to secure place.

As 2014 is such an important milestone – being the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1, we understand from sources, that accommodation locally both in Belgium and France is being 'booked up' fast in the most popular locations, as so many groups and organisations will be making the trip to various war memorials etc at some point in 2014 to pay their respects.

Thanks

David Kemp

Battalion programme of Events 2013/14

Below are details of forthcoming events for the Battalion and hopefully some of you may be able to support the events.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Tuesday 10th Re-Dedication Service For All Staff.
HQ 26th ST Andrews Brighton

OCTOBER 2013

Tuesday 1st Executive BBHQ
Monday 7th Camp Council BBHQ
Saturday 19th Junior Potted Sports
HQ 2nd Burgess Hill
Saturday 26th Anchor Section Party
HQ 1st Storrington

NOVEMBER 2013

Tuesday 5th Finance Committee

DECEMBER 2013

Tuesday 3rd Executive BBHQ
Saturday 7th Badminton competition
Oathall School Haywards Heath
Tuesday 31st Battalion & Brigade Statistical
Returns Due

JANUARY 2014

Saturday 11th Junior New Year Party
Sunday 19th Stedfast Reunion Service & AGM
HQ 1st Southwick
Friday 31st Ernest Beal VC Award Entries Due

FEBRUARY 2014

Tuesday 4th Executive BBHQ
SAT B"
Company swimming sports
Steypning
SAT S"
Junior swimming Sports
Steypning
Monday 10th Camp Council BBHQ

MARCH 2014

Monday 3rd Company Section Scripture
Competition BBHQ
Saturday 8th Junior Section Spring Competition
HQ 25th
WED 19* Company Drill Competition ????

APRIL 2014

Tuesday 1st Executive BBHQ
Monday 28th Camp Council BBHQ
FRI-SUN 25th /27th Junior Section Holiday TBC.

MAY 2014

Tuesday 6th Finance Committee
Tuesday 13"
Company Section 5-a-side
Oathall School Haywards Heath
Sunday 17th Junior Section 5-a-side
Triangle Burgess Hill

JUNE 2014

Monday 2nd Company Athletic Sports
Withdean/Brighton
Tuesday 3rd Executive BBHQ
Monday 9th Camp Council BBHQ
Friday 13th or 20th Junior Sports Day ?????
Tuesday 17th Company Harriers Competition
Glynde

JULY 2014

Tuesday 1st Executive HQ 25th
Tuesday 8th Battalion AGM HQ 25th
Monday 14th Boys Camp Meeting HQ 25th
Friday 25th Battalion Camp Commences
Glynde

AUGUST 2014

Friday 1st Battalion Camp Finishes
Sunday 31st Battalion Financial Year Ends

The next Newsletter will be December 2013

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible)
before 1st November 2013.

To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion will be held on SUNDAY 19th JANUARY 2014 at Southwick Methodist Church. 2.30pm

We hope to see as many of you as possible for this our Annual Get Together.

We hope that this year we will have some Senior Boys and Company Captains with them.

They will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing them. They are our future.

Please come along and support your committee



Remembrance Day Parade

9th November 2013

HOVE TOWN HALL Meet at 2.00 pm. Our band will be leading

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE ON PARADE.
NUMBERS HAVE BEEN FALLING OVER THE YEARS

Brighton Stedfast Band

Band practice, First Friday of each month at Southwick Methodist Church meeting at 7.30 pm.

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 by registering with our membership secretary

We invite you to register your membership with our membership secretary:
Ken Towner, 3 The Dene, Spencer Avenue, Hove BN3 8BY (01273 414688).

If you also send a subscription of £10.00 you will receive our regular newsletter keeping you up to date with all our events and news. (cheque's payable to the Stedfast Association)