



Stedfast News

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

The Object of The Stedfast Association

To further the Object of The Boys' Brigade and to foster the spirit of Comradeship between past and present Members of the Brigade and to render Service to Others

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the Promotion of Habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness

Stedfast Committee

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Peter Ford

VICE PRESIDENTS
Rev. Ian Suttie
Rev. Julian Albrow

CHAIRMAN
John Donoghue

TREASURER
Vacant

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ken Towner

COMMITTEE
Jim Attwater
Ray Eaves
Dick Kent
Terry Pomfrey
Paul Simmons
Stephen Roberts
Les Russell

Dear Stedfast Members,

THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT! Many of us have B.B. Memories that stretch back into Ancient History! When boxes were used instead of Portaloos at Glynde; when the Mess Tent clock actually worked, and when a palliasse was not a friendly animal but something you tried to sleep on! Those were the days when the B.B. was numerically stronger, but the fact is that there has never been a time more important than the present to promote our Great Object. THERE IS NO PRESENT LIKE TIME! We all would like to play a part in supporting the B.B. of today, but we ask "what can we do?". The best present we can offer is time, our time. Time to pray, time to



encourage, time to be silent, or to rearrange the letters, time to listen. The list is endless, and each one of us can give time to help the Companies of today.

Recently, Sheila and I had the privilege of being invited to the Annual Awards and Presentations' evening at the 3rd Burgess Hill Company. It was great to share in the success of such a talented and hardworking Company.

Whenever The Battalion camps 'In God's House in the Trees' at Glynde, the air is filled with fun, fellowship and Faith. Fun to give the desire to join in, fellowship to band the Members together, and Faith to lead them throughout their lives. These are the qualities that dear Ralph 'Raffles' Virgo had in abundance. Glynde and The Battalion will not be the same without him, but we know that in Spirit he is still with us. Having attended as a Boy, and as an Officer, well over sixty Glynde Camps, Raffles' work has been unrivalled. We can rejoice in all that The Lord has been able to do through him. We give thanks for every remembrance of him.

Thanks once again to Les Russell for organising our Founders' Day Dinner on Sunday, 4th October 2015. This is always a very happy celebration of The Brigade's Birthday, and it will be even better if you are there!

Whatever you choose to do this Summer, I hope that it will be a time of inspiration and exhilaration, and will give you renewed strength and a sense of purpose.

With Stedfast Greeting to everyone,

Peter Ford Stedfast Association President

Editorial

Welcome again to you all to this Summer Edition of our Newsletter, I trust that you are able to enjoy what I hope will be pleasant weather over this time. Thoughts turn to Camp at Glynde for some and for others annual holidays. I wish you all happy times and to those who unfortunately for various reasons are unable to enjoy such change over the Summer I hope things are as best as possible for you.

I was able to attend the Fellowship Week-end of the Association in May and it was most enjoyable and enabled me to meet fellow members from around the Country and even as far as New Zealand! A report appears elsewhere in this edition. Although numbers were not excessive there was no lack of camaraderie and BB Spirit, good to be with them and hear of their associations. There is still great enthusiasm among past members to keep Stedfast alive throughout UK and Ireland.

Although summer! Is just upon us (as I write this) your committee are looking towards the Annual Reunion, as am I. There was an increase in our numbers last year so here's hoping this can continue, especially can I ask that a special welcome be given to those new to our Annual Meeting or those who are younger than many of us, or current serving Officers or helpers of the Battalion. There will be ample opportunity to do what we all enjoy catch up with news of our former friends in BB.

Special greetings to those who are unwell in whatever way I pray that things will improve for you. To all members God's Blessing.

Dick

The Brighton Battalion AGM

I was asked to attend the Brighton Battalion AGM on 15 July 2015 to assist with the voting process for the 2015/16 session. The outcome of voting was that Derek Hinton continues as President, John Pigott continues as Treasurer and Geoffrey Cocksedge will continue as Chairman of the Anchors. The five Vice Presidents are Lynn Burtenshaw, Gary Pickett, Steve Roberts, Charlie Simmons and Terry Ward.

There were BB long service awards made to Jayne Packham for 30 years service and to Dave Norman for over 20 years service.

The Stedfast Association and its committee are continuing to forge our relationship with the Battalion and you will see in the newsletter certain Battalion items for your interest. We will provide a report on Glynde Camp in the next newsletter.

Alan Caperon

Stedfast Association Fellowship Week-end.

Liverpool was the venue for this years meeting and AGM. Fortunately the weather was dry, but extremely windy and cold. The meetings and accommodation were held in the Liner Hotel, just a few minutes walk from Lime Street station.

The event started with an informal dinner and we were most impressed with the quality of both hotel facilities and the food after dinner guests mingled and chatted away for some time before retiring.

Saturday after breakfast we were taken on a walking tour of the city, which was extremely interesting. We took in the Albert Dock, the Maritime museum, which was exhibiting the Lusitania exhibition (marking 100 years anniversary of its sinking) Titanic and WWII Battle of the Atlantic and the Liverpool Museum which gave a history of the City and its famous celebrities including of course The Beatles.

John, your chairman and I, took the City Bus tour and this enabled us to visit to the magnificent Catholic Cathedral (affectionately known locally as 'Paddy's Wigwam') because of its shape, and then on to the Cathedral of the Cof E and we were lucky to be present whilst about 50 or 60 young children (5 upwards) were rehearsing for their concert later in the day, all neatly dressed in white tops and black skirts or trousers with violins to match their size. Steve meanwhile took in the sounds of the Beatles at the Cavern.

The AGM took just over an hour, as all AGMs should! The current Chairman retired and we welcomed a young successor who it is hoped will bring a fresh approach to Our Organisation. And we were then free to dress for dinner. Another fine meal followed by entertainment in the form of an excellent Country Western singer, she also fronts the tribute band to Fleetwood Mac.

Sunday morning we attended the Annual Celebration Service for the Liverpool Battalion. This was held in the very large Methodist Church and well attended by BB Boys of all ages. The Colours were paraded and we were really entertained by a very different form of Service, including a performance by the Muppets! And a magic show by the preacher, the Chaplin to one of the Liverpool Companies, she was so inspiring. The service was followed by a short march past where the two Mayors present took the salute.

After lunch it was bags packed and off home.

Dick Kent



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On May 30th 2015 the Eastbourne Carnival took place. 60 Band Members & guests arrived at my home for a barbecue at 12 noon. Luckily the sun shone on that one day as before and after there was constant rain.

The marquee was up with the assistants of Nigel a friend & Cole my 17 year old neighbour, tables & chairs came from my church for people to use. The family next door volunteered to do the barbecue & to cook again at 6pm for an evening meal, Michael cooked beef burgers, sausages & chicken. Suzy was busy helping with the food & Cole & his sister Talisker helping to make sure that everyone was well looked after.

My very good friend from my choir "Voice Works" Rosemary also volunteered to buy the salad & make homemade coleslaw, potato Salad, her own pickled beetroot & her speciality banoffee pie & strawberry pavlova.

My friend Colin from Lynn's Travel provided a brand new 49 seater coach for free to take everyone to the carnival. We then found that the Carnival organisers were happy that we brought up the rear of the Carnival with the coach right behind the Band.

The Band as always was amazing with 34 musicians from all over England including Wales & Guernsey C.I. They were a credit to our organisation and I have been proud to be a part of them for the last 12 years in different roles. Drum Major, Quartermaster & Adjutant. They had a presentation in my garden to me of a caricature model (see photo) for my services to the Bugles & Drums of the Stedfast Association, as I have now retired from the Band.

Staying for the weekend was the C.O. & his wife Alaine. Including the Drum Major Alex 22 years old, a bugler Josh 20 years old & a side drummer Chris 22 years old. Alex is a chef & he cooked a complete loin of pork for all the members & guests. On the driveway there was a Mercedes Camper Van all the way from Wales with David a bugler & his wife Carol. Carol was very special to me as she looked after my resident guests for breakfast & remained in the kitchen. So you can see I was very spoiled with so many volunteers ready to help make this event so successful. Amazingly I had very little banter from the band members. They were all catching up with each other as there is very little time for chatting and meeting each other.

Glynde Camp will have come and gone and no doubt there will be much to write about later. I have a lot of Battalion Memorabilia at my home which does need to be sorted and stored. The Battalion so needs a volunteer to take on this task as their Archivist.

I have been dismayed that items belonging to Stedfast have still not been found :- Stedfast colour Stand, the Book of Remembrance, A Wooden Cross & the Millennium Plate. You can contact me at jdonoghue38@gmail.com or telephone 01323 501857 or write to me at 37, Park Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN212XG

John Donoghue, *Chairman*.



Federation of Stedfast Associations, May 15th-17th 2015, Liverpool

I was every honoured to attend the Federation of Stedfast Associations in Liverpool this year, my first time, and it hopefully won't be my last. My journey started in Shoreham and door to door took only about 4 hours. Check in at The Liner Hotel was well organised and went very smoothly, Stedfast members obvious on arrival and all very friendly.

The room was more than adequate, very large for one person, very comfy and overall, excellent. Once the unpacking had been done, and the itinerary checked, I made my way to the bar area to await the arrival of my erstwhile colleagues from Brighton, Dick Kent and John Donoghue. Once we had all met up and had some refreshment, time to get freshened up and maybe an early evening snooze before the welcome dinner. The food was fantastic, as was the case for the duration of the weekend, and the whole evening was most enjoyable.

Saturday morning, and all you can eat breakfast was the best way to get started for what was a very busy day, involving a lot of walking. Everyone met at 10am in the foyer to go into the City Centre. First port of call was The Merseyside Maritime Museum, which was very interesting and informative, for me particularly learning more about the Lusitania, and what's more it was free! Then a wander around Albert Docks, taking in all the sights including the famous Liver building. After that, it was pretty much free time to do as you pleased and we all went our separate ways.

Personally, I paid a visit to the Cavern Club, birthplace of the Beatles, and was treated to live music and as much nostalgia as I think I have seen anywhere before. Very worthwhile. Messrs Kent and Donoghue picked up the hop on/hop off bus to travel to certain areas of the city, and ended up having a really interesting visit to Liverpool's Cathedrals, which included a very moving piece of violin music by at least 40 young children which needed to be seen to be believed. It was a shame that I attempted to find the Cathedrals through walking and following sign posts, as I never found either of them.!

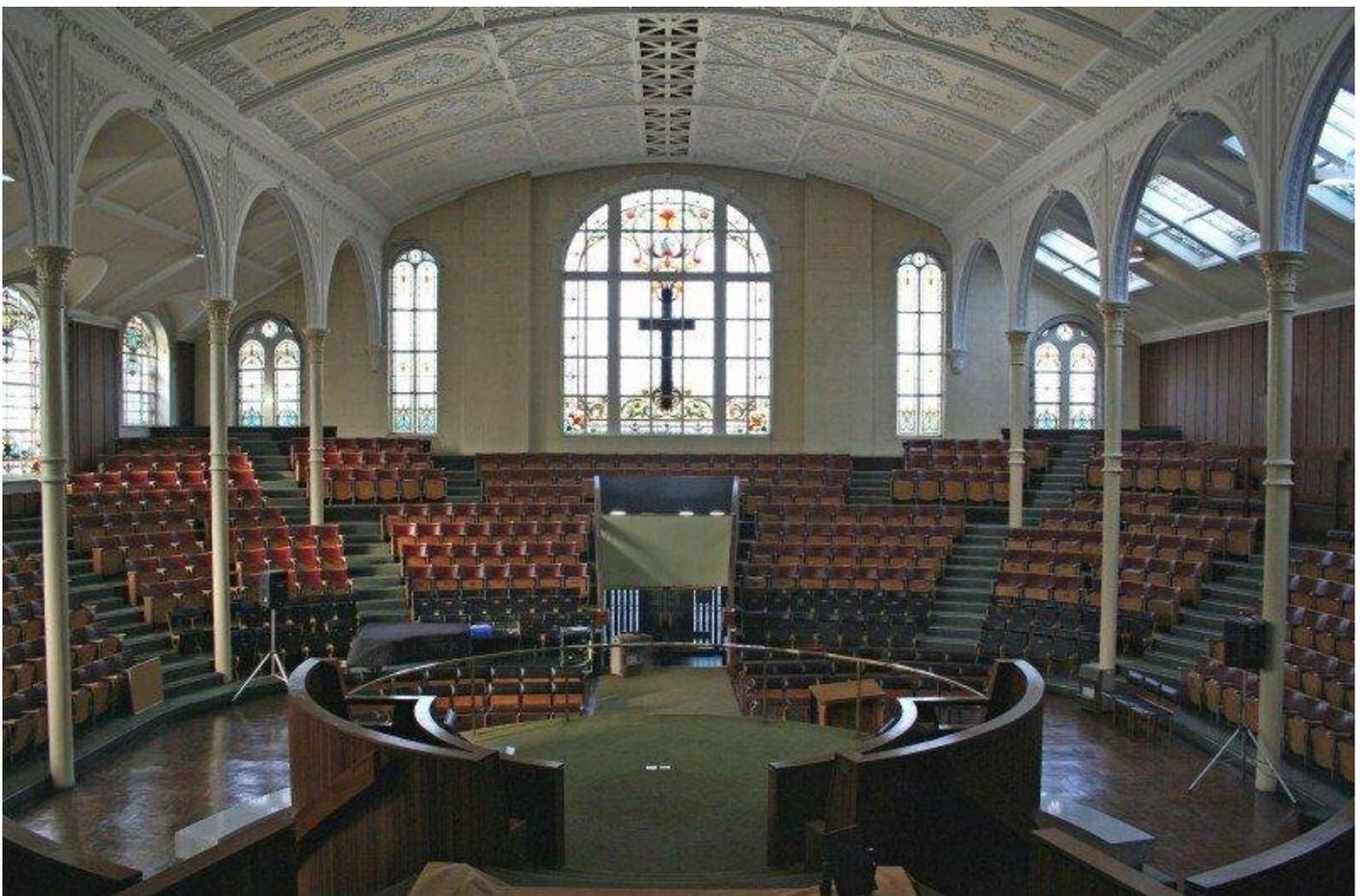
Once we were back at the hotel, a quick freshen up then the AGM, which took about an hour. Saturday night was the Gala night, and if we thought the food on Friday was excellent, then it was even better on the Saturday, from what I can remember four courses of quality fayre. The entertainment was good, and overall a really enjoyable evening. A lot of tired, full bodies wandered up stairs to recover from a busy, but superb day.

Continued next page

Sunday, another all you can eat breakfast before making our way to the Linacre Methodist Mission for our Church Service. The location was like nothing I had seen before, as you can see from the picture. Present at the service was about 90% of the Liverpool Battalion of the Boys Brigade, so although the service took this fact into account, it was still a very interesting Service, including Houdini tricks and burning matches/paper, all by the Chaplain. Very interesting. After a very brief march past of the various dignitaries, with Stedfast members at the front, it was back to the hotel for a farewell buffet lunch, again a very good quality.

All in all, a fantastic weekend, one which will stay in my memory. A very big thank you to the Stedfast Committee for their incredibly kind gesture in enabling me to attend the weekend. It is, and will be, very much appreciated. Thank you also to my Chaplain at Shoreham for contributing towards my train fare. And lastly, but by no means least, a big thank you to Dick and John for their friendship and camaraderie over the weekend. It was much appreciated, and you both certainly enhanced the enjoyment of my weekend. And of course, a huge thank you and well done to Liverpool Stedfast for organising such a great event. Here's to next year

Steve Roberts



SECRETARY REPORT

Accounts

Since I am still the acting Treasurer, I have shown below a summary of the Stedfast Association funds to June 2015 including estimates of the Association's costs for the rest of the year as follows:-

We would like to inform you that Keith Thompson of the 10th made a bequest in his Will to the Stedfast band of £250 which is the donation I have referred to above. In accordance with his wishes we will use these monies to benefit the Stedfast band in due course.

You will note that the Association reserves are expected to be significantly less in 2015 than in 2014 and this is as a result of a reduction in income from subscriptions compared to last year. As a consequence, we have been

unable to maintain the level of our donation to our Battalion at the 2014 level. We are keen to monitor the costs we will incur during the rest of the year so we can reduce the expected deficit. We expect to have some £1,600 of cash reserves at the end of the year for future general Association purposes.

Membership

John Donoghue has made a suggestion for Members' wives (and indeed their family members) who have served the BB in the past should be able to join us at our Reunion service and at the tea. I would go further and ask our Members whether your family members should be invited to become Associate Members of the Stedfast Association. You will remember from this year's Reunion that Ros Ayling and her family attended and enjoyed the afternoon celebrations. I hope our members will support this idea but we would be grateful for your comments.

Your committee will be meeting on 3 September 2015 to plan for the 2016 Reunion so we look forward to hearing from you prior to the meeting with your ideas to increase our membership.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon *Secretary and Acting Treasurer*

Income		
Subscriptions to date	1,421	1,700
Reunion collections	442	507
Reunion tea sponsorship	285	340
Donation received- Keith Thompson 10th	250	510
Total income	2,398	3,057
Expenditure		
BB-Glynde donation	(310)	(616)
Southwick Church donation	(500)	(500)
Federation costs (see below *)	(200)	(250)
Other donations (see below *)	(78)	(150)
Website	See below *	(72)
Remembrance wreaths	See below *	(85)
Newsletter costs (see below *)	(185)	(629)
Insurance	(61)	(61)
Reunion costs	(504)	(477)
Association running costs expected in the rest of year *	(680)	
Total expenses	(2,518)	(2,840)
Deficit (Surplus in 2014)	(120)	217
Bank reserves B/F	1,986	1,769
Bank reserves C/F Band fund	250	
Bank reserves C/F	1,616	1,986

Founder's dinner
Saturday 4 October 2015
6pm for 6.30 (until 9pm)

MENU

Starters

Homemade Soup of the day
Prawn cocktail
Liver pate served with warm toast
King prawns in breadcrumbs served with sweet chili sauce

Main Course

Chicken breast in white wine and mushroom sauce
Grilled Sirloin steak with pepper sauce (optional)
Lamb Kleftico Slow roasted lamb in herbs and wine
Grilled sea bass fillet with lemon and olive oil drizzle

All served with Fresh Vegetables and Potatoes

Desserts

Fruit Trifle
Apple pie with ice cream,
Toffee and pecan roulade,
Cheese and biscuits

Cost £17.95

To confirm you place at the dinner contact Les Russell on e-mail at:
lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk
or by text; 078833531069, or by phone; 01273 888032,
or post ; 3 Pelham Terrace, Lewes Road Brighton BN4 4AF

The next Newsletter will be Winter 2015

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 31/10/2015.
To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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George Holkham MBE.

As some of you may know. Brighton and Hove buses have introduced a fleet of new buses. Thanks to the efforts of Richard Newman and John Donoghue ,George's name was put forward and has been installed on one of these buses.

The bus is based at Newhaven depot to cover the route between Brighton and Eastbourne. The fleet number will be 932 and will be in the new livery of Green and Blue.

Paul

932 George Holkham

Connections with Brighton and Hove : George Holkham was one of the most notable members of The Boys Brigade in Brighton. After joining the Brigade as a boy, when he became an adult, he was an officer with the 16th Brighton Company at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church in Brighton. He was Battalion Secretary for the Brighton and Hove District Battalion of The Boys' Brigade which covered an area including mid and East Sussex. For a while George Holkham was a field officer for the Brigade which covered the whole of South East England. This involved promoting the Brigade and starting new companies. He was involved with a Royal Review at Windsor Castle and was awarded the MBE

for services to the Brigade. Holkham met his wife Olive at the youth club attached to the church and they had four children. He worked for British Telecom and started his career as a telegram boy. After retiring, he devoted his energies to the Brigade. His death at the age of 77 in 2010 came after a full day helping with the Brigade to which he had devoted his life.

932 Mercedes Streetdeck - carried name since delivery in April 2015 on Coaster Route 12.



IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members, who have been called to higher service

since our last newsletter.

Bob Robbins Ex of 13th Brighton 7th April

Ralph Virgo Ex of 4th Brighton 30th June

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

Obituaries

Bob Robbins 13th Brighton Company

It's fair to say that life didn't treat him kindly in recent years and it became harder to see in him the joking sportsman that we all remembered. But that is the tragedy of the way illness can take you.

Andy Lovelidge was able to be at Bob's funeral, (which was a small but very moving occasion) and he & I had chance to reminisce a little and look at some old photo's. I, of course, remember many of the names you mention (not least Nick Welfare, who lived next door to us) and I have my own memories of Pete & Mick taking the Harriers out to Wild Park on a Sunday morning for training runs. I was never an athlete like Bob and never did particularly well at Harriers; strangely though, when I joined the RAF and was in training I found that I was able to put in some good performances on the enforced cross country runs. The fact that they were on the flat and Pete & Mick had taken us up & down the hills might have had something to do with it.

As I now live in E Anglia my visits to Brighton have been few and far between in recent years (Bob was at Littlehampton) but it would be good to come to a reunion and see how many old faces I remember, I still have fond memories of the 13th and the activities and characters we had there. Please give my regards to any of my era that you may still be in touch with.

Regards Geoff Robbins (Brother)

Ralph Virgo - 4th Brighton(Hove) Company.

A life long BB Boy (and Man) Ralph was laid to rest on the 10th July 2015 at a private funeral followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Florence Road Baptist Church Brighton.

There was a very fine attendance to support Ralph's family in this tribute to his memory. Many in the congregation were of course old Boys of the Brigade and there were well deserved tributes to him both by His Family and our Battalion President Derek Hinton on behalf of Brighton Battalion of The Boys' Brigade.

He joined the 4th as a boy at Stoneham Hall and was attached to them for many years. He worked tirelessly for the Company and the Battalion and has the record of attending over 60 Camps at Glynde continuously, it as only ill health that prevented him attending full time. He will certainly be missed by his Family and many Friends most of whom remarked on the battered piano from which Ralph managed to get a tune – including one of his favourite hymns Underneath the Banner which was of course sung with great gusto by all present.

Goodbye to Ralph not only a Gentle Man but also a gentleman. A Man with Strong Christian values. May he Rest in Peace - **Dick Kent**

Jim and Ann McQuire

Many of you will have seen, following the dreadful terrorist attack in Tunisia, the picture of a BB Officer and his wife. Jim was an Officer with the 5th Cumberland Co. and he and his wife were members of the Abronhill Church of Scotland. We send our Deepest Sympathies to their Family and Friends at this sad time. Not forgetting of course all the other families friends and relatives of those who lost their lives. May they all rest in peace.

Brighton Stedfast Band

In the early hours of Friday 8th May 2012, 8 members of the Brighton band plus 2 of our friends from Croydon travelled to Poole in Dorset to meet the rest of the band's party travelling to St Peter's Port, Guernsey to take part in the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of the islands from German occupation. Our hosts were the Officers and members of the 2nd Guernsey Company, under the command of their Captain, Steve England. We were based at their Headquarters at L'Islet.

Our Party consisted of Drummers, Buglers and bell lyre players. Our itinerary consisted of 5 performances, 3 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday including leading the Civic Parade and Beating the Retreat with our new friends from Guernsey.

We were treated like Royalty by our hosts as we were treated to 2 superb meals at one of Guernsey's premier hotels. We also had a photo call with members of the Band of the Gurkha Regiment.

All in all, a fantastic, enjoyable experience.

Paul Simmons



Saturday 30th May saw the Bugles and Drums of the Stedfast Association latest success when we took part in the annual Eastbourne Carnival. Fortunately the weather was kind, although a bit breezy. Once again the band assembled at John Donoghue's home where we were able to prepare ourselves, band photo's were taken and there was a birthday cake for one of our members and a presentation to John in respect of all he has done for the band over many years. After which we were transported to the start of the parade, courtesy of Lynns travel, Eastbourne. Whilst on route to the start we were delighted to see the new Brighton and Hove Bus Company's new addition to their fleet named in honour of our late president. George Holkham.

Once we were able to start our part of the procession our drummers played non stop for two hours continuously. Special mention must go to the following, John Donoghue and his team of helpers, as our hosts. Carol Simmons, who was our only Bell lyre player. Paul Hern our National Co-coordinator and all those who travelled down for the week end, especially, Sandy from Ipswich, who travelled by coach and Steve and Tony, who flew over from Guernsey especially for this event.

After we had completed the long and very tiring march, it was back on the coach to return to John's for some well earned refreshments before returning to our home's.

Our next outings will be the Bexley Civic Parade at the end of June followed by the London GB parade in early July.



Battalion Events

10th BRIGHTON (HOVE) COMPANY – AWARDS EVENING.

On the 18th May 2015, the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company held their awards evening at Central United Reformed Church, Hove.

The evening consisted of an item from each section and the presentation of awards gained throughout the session.

The evening began with all singing the BB hymn “Underneath the Banner” then prayers were lead by Rev Peter Elliott.

The Anchors & Junior Sections played team games which some parents were pulled from the audience to join in with.

The Company Section did a drill item, which was the drill paper from the drill competition that they entered this year for the first time in a number of years and came second.

Before each section were presented with their awards the section leader gave a report of what each section had been doing throughout the session. The awards were presented by the retiring minister Rev. Roger Wood and his wife Kim, Rev. Roger Wood also spoke on how well the Company had done this session and wished them well in the future.

Special Mention!

Junior Section.

Gold Badges gained by; Orlando Waghorn & Joshua Buck.

Silver Badges gained by; Callum Brewster, Joe Conway, Charlie Minshull & Amen Zerabruk.

Bronze Badges gained by; Uyi Alonge, Tom Franklin-Johnson, Keswick Cowe, Alister Russell-le Gallez & Roman McGregor-Woolf.

Overall Best Boy Trophy; Callum Brewster.

Company Section.

All boys gained badges for individual subjects, too many to list.

Overall Best Boy Trophy; Private Matthew Blomfield.

Best Squad; Squad 2. Myles Foley, Jamie Witham, Henry Tourey, Matthew Blomfield & Josh Liddell.

Promotions.

To the rank of Lance Corporal; Jamie Witham, Jorden Harding, Henry Tourey & Josh Liddell.

To the rank of Sergeant; Harry Varlow, Myles Foley & Peter Cook.

Well Done to all the Boys on all the badges and awards gained and for a good evening.

Harriers

On a bright, sunny evening at Glynde Recreation Ground, the Battalion Harriers Competition took place. A total of 19 boys from 6 companies entered and the results were as follows.

Individual Medal Winners 11-12 years:- GOLD – Brandon Read from 1st Lindfield

SILVER – Marcus Faulkner from 14th Brighton

BRONZE – Sam Charles from 9th

13-14 years:- GOLD – Scott Backshall from 1st Lindfield

SILVER – Ryan Backshall from 1st Lindfield

BRONZE – Louis Nummy from 14th Brighton

15+ :- GOLD – Sam Carter from 14th Brighton

SILVER - Harry Grimett from 2nd Burgess Hill

BRONZE – Hal Simpson-Little from 14th Brighton

Overall trophy winners for 11-12 were 9th Brighton, overall trophy winners for 13-14 were 1st Lindfield and overall trophy winners for 15+ were 14th Brighton.

Congratulations to all the winners, and well done for everybody for taking part.

Thank you to Mark Jago, Geoffrey Cocksedge, Richard Jago, Charlie Simmons and Isaac Conroy for their help on the evening.

Steve Roberts

Athletics Monday 1st June, Withdean Stadium

On a very cold, grey Monday evening, the 106th Battalion Athletics were held. 33 boys from 7 companies braved the elements and took part in the events, and a very big well done to all of them. The evening ran very smoothly, everyone seemed to enjoy it and the interaction and friendship between Officers, Helpers and boys was excellent. The medal winners were:-

11-12 years:- a tie between Tomo Dance of the 9th Brighton and Marcus Faulkner of the 14th Brighton

13-14 years:- James Blomfield of the 10th Brighton

15 + years:- a tie between Sam Carter and William Maskell, both of the 14th

Winners of the Overall trophy were the 14th Brighton, winners of the Senior Relay were 10th Brighton and winners of the Junior Relay were the 2nd Burgess Hill.

A very big well done and congratulations to all.

I would like to thank, in no particular order, Maggie Jago, Derek Hinton, Mark Jago, Geoffrey Cocksedge, Charlie Simmons, Jamie Spoor, Jason Collett, Darrell Ward, Stewart Whythe, Peter Ford, Terry Ward, Paul Simmons, Dave Norman, Gary Pickett and Richard Jago for all their help and assistance during the evening.

Steve Roberts



The Boys of the 10th Brighton at the Athletics competition



A DEDICATED Boys' Brigade leader has been awarded the British Empire Medal for his 17 years leading the local organisation.

Captain Steve England, 54, joined the St Mary's group when he was eight, following in the footsteps of other members of his family; and loved all the activities.

He went on to become a volunteer and then captain of the 2nd Guernsey company at St Mary's.

Despite decades of volunteer work, the phone call about the award in the

Queens Birthday Honours still came as a shock. 'I couldn't believe it,' he said. 'What I'm doing is supported by so many other people - how can they single out one person? It is a great honour'. Mr England works as head of IT at Guernsey Post, but two or three times a week after work he goes to help The Boys' Brigade and helps with weekend events. There are around 70 people in the local organisation, which includes some 24 volunteers.

There is also the local band, with members encouraged to learn an instrument and take part. Mr England is a drummer.

'Our company is one of the largest in the country and that's down to the varied programme and skilled leaders we've got,' Mr. England said.

The program includes craft activities as well as outdoor pursuits such as climbing, kayaking and map reading. But there are also opportunities for more-modern activities such as paint balling. 'We need to keep adapting all the time and we are always open to suggestions about what we can do.' said Mr England.

He added that he really enjoyed watching the boys grow as they worked their way up through the organisation, with some of them going on to become leaders.

It has been hard to keep the BEM a secret. Mr England told his partner on Wednesday night and then told his friends just after midnight.

by Jullat Poutoux

jpoutoux@quernwypress.co

"The gentleman was asking of course if I was prepared to accept the award, and of course I would - how honoured you would be you know. So I had to sit down for a while the legs went to jelly, but having a few days to think about it, it was definitely something I was up for and ever so honoured".

– Captain Steve England



Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion
 SUNDAY 17th JANUARY 2016
 at Southwick Methodist Church.
 Service starts 2.30pm
 Band playing from 2.00pm



We hope to see as many of you as possible for our Annual Get Together. We welcome serving Senior Boys and Company Captains, Officers and Staff.

They will be very warmly welcomed and we look forward to seeing them.

We would welcome your suggestions for the Hymns you would like sung at the Reunion Service.

At the AGM we will be electing our officers,
 Any names to me, Dick Kent, (e-mail; RKent09@aol.com)
 You will need to obtain their permission first.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact any current committee member. A further update will appear in the Autumn edition of the Newsletter.

Remembrance Day Parade Sunday 8th November 2015

HOVE TOWN HALL
 Meet at 2.00 pm.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE ON PARADE.

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 membership secretary:
**Ken Towner, 14, Prince William Close, Findon Valley, Worthing,
 West Sussex. BN14 0AZ.**

*To help with the association costs, we would suggest a donation of £10
 . (cheques payable to the Stedfast Association)*