



Summer 2016

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 PRESIDENT

Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN

John Donoghue

TREASURER

Alan Caperon

SECRETARY

Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC

Stephen Roberts

COMMITTEE

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

Dear Stedfast Members,

As I write England are preparing to play Iceland in The Euro Cup and England has voted to leave The European Union. Life is often strange and full of surprises but it still goes on and we must keep close to our Great Captain and rejoice in His life affirming presence.

Many Members will be enjoying or preparing to enjoy a holiday or break. Wherever you go have a great time and bring back lots of happy memories.

As the Boys and Staff prepare for camp, the fun, fellowship and hopefully the sun. Please pray for them, that they may all receive great Blessing and that 2016 will be the best Camp ever.

John Donoghue our Chairman, has felt led to retire from this post with effect from the 2017 Reunion. There will be opportunity on the day to express our thanks to John but in the meantime we must all prayerfully consider who would best be his successor.

Plans are already in progress for next year's Reunion, please be present and help to make it one of the best ever.

Leading the Opening Devotions at the June Stedfast Committee Meeting Jim Attwater asked us to write down the name of someone who had particularly influenced us in life. Just about all the Committee Members wrote the name of a B.B. Officer. The influence of The B.B. is immense and anyway we are led to assist a Company can bring rich rewards for the Kingdom.

We know that there are now fewer Boys in the Companies than when we were Boys. The important thing is what can be done about this. Why not offer to be a Recruiter for your local Company? Contacting families in the Company area and helping parents to encourage their sons to make a start. This can be of immense value and a very worthwhile use of your time. When you look at a map of the World and think of the Commonwealth we can give thanks that it contains so many thriving B.B. Companies. Why not make contact with one and see where it leads?

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone.

Peter Ford *Stedfast Association President*



EDITORIAL

A warm welcome to you all, I hope that you will enjoy reading this latest issue of our Newsletter.

As I write this I have spent some of this afternoon tidying up the garden. I have just come in for a cuppa and was very delighted to see Songs of Praise on Television, commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Jutland.

The first Hymn sung was the great BB favourite 'We have an Anchor' well sung by the congregation. A fitting tribute to all those who lost their lives in that epic battle.

It was good to see the attendance at this year's Reunion was over the 100 well done to everyone in a time when the National Body is finding it difficult to encourage local associations to attend the Annual Gathering, it is good to see we maintain a strong body of support.

The committee continue to work to ensure all ex members of the BB are aware of our existence but as age catches up with us all we are losing members, it would be nice to see more younger 'Old Boys' coming along.

A notice appears in the Newsletter regarding the Founders Day Dinner, this is a very enjoyable occasion so please come along if you are able, if transport is a problem let me know and we will try to help.

I hope that you will all enjoy the forthcoming summer!! I send you good wishes and hopefully good health.

God Bless
Dick

The next Newsletter will be Autumn/Winter 2016

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 31/10/2016
To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.
Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members, who have been called to higher service since our last newsletter.

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

George Childs, 7th May 2016 (age 91) 13th Brighton

Peter Uridge (Age 89) 3rd Eastbourne

George William Childs

In talking about George we have put together some brief anecdotal stories that demonstrate the simplicity of thought and wry sense of humour that George had throughout his life.

He was a man of very uncomplicated lifestyle, simple taste and who valued true friends more than wealth or material gain. As his son Colonel Brian Childs says;

'My father was a Christian man whose love for people, his beloved Boys' Brigade, soccer, soccer and more soccer, although the Boys' Brigade Old Boys was his prime motivation. He never had a bad word to say about anyone, nor did he cuss nor tell off-colour jokes although his double entendre one liners were highly memorable.

He was a total gentleman, in the real sense of the word, and was a friend for life.

I believe his values stemmed from his relationship with the 13th and the many loyal and trustworthy friends he made through that relationship'.

George Childs should be remembered for his integrity, honesty, good nature and total lack of ego or self serving ideals. He was an example to us all as to how genuine people should conduct themselves throughout their lives when dealing with others.

Jim Attwater

Peter Uridge

Not many of you will know Peter's name, A member of Stedfast, but not an Officer. He was one of the chaps known as helpers, without whom our Company's would not run.

The Late Capt. Tony Donoghue. (3rd. Eastbourne Coy.) said that Peter was his right hand. Once more heads bowed, a sad loss.

Jim Attwater

Chaplains Page... Happy Camping

It has been suggested that I include on the Chaplain's page some of the stories/photos given at January's reunion. Those present will remember the ANZAC Day parade showing one boy out of step and wearing his haversack on the wrong shoulder.

This boy had learning difficulties, but his inclusion in the Brigade enabled him to achieve his full potential, including basic drill and passing kit inspection at camp.



In the 1950s, camping with the BB gave many boys their first holiday away from home, free from the watchful eyes of parents. Camping was a new adventure in living and working with other boys. These two photos show the tent inspection on days one and eight at a camp held at Bognor Regis in 1953.



At the Northampton Battalion Camp we came to appreciate officers of other companies; there was opportunity for inter-company sports and the enjoyment of the mass bugle band and drum head service. We discovered that Chaplains were human! In those days, Methodist Chaplains had to use ten days of their two-week annual holiday to attend camp. Our Minister was a small and quiet-spoken man. One day we were examining stink bombs in preparation for a night-time raid on the Scouts. The Minister approached and asked what we were doing so we handed him a stink bomb, whereupon he broke it between thumb and fingers. Whilst we fled, he stood there unflinching and our respect and esteem for him rose instantaneously! We now had a more mature view of the clergy.

As we thank God for happy camping,

We thank God for the Boys' Brigade,

The boys it taught, the men it made... [Archibald Mitton, BB Hymnal 57]

Rev Dr John C. Neal

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"Sure and Stedfast" The Brigade Boy's motto clear. That's our watchword when troubles and trails are near.

"Sure and Stedfast" to the flag that flies above. In all that we do well try to be true to the Anchor that we love.

As you read those words I'm sure you will be singing them as you remember the chorus of "*The Anchor Song*"

With many happenings in your life I'm sure you will still hold dear, the happy Boyhood days in the B.B.

Those who have retired and are not so active now will be comforted to remember those words "We'll face the foe until we've won a glorious victory".

In whatever comes of us we must continue to be able to pray for those young lives in the Battalion today. That they may go through the ranks to become "*Sure and Stedfast*" in their lives ahead.

Our task is to support the work of the B.B. in whichever way we see fit.

One way is our Association. Strong in supporting the two main events that we hold;

- 1, Our Reunion and
- 2, Our Founder's Day Dinner.

Another way is in belonging to the "Bugles and Drums of The Stedfast Association" BADOTSA which meets monthly.

Remember, Brighton Stedfast is financed by YOU The Member. So your financial support is essential.

Think about joining our Committee, we are in need of new members.

Please consider your roll in keeping this Association strong for future generations.

Thank You.

John Donoghue, Chairman.

Our Patron's 90th Birthday Badge

The Boys' Brigade has produced a commemorative badge to celebrate our Patron, HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. The badge can be ordered from BB Supplies for £1.50. The limited edition badge is only available whilst stocks last so please order early to avoid disappointment.



<https://shop.boys-brigade.org.uk>

Bugles and Drums of the Stedfast Association

The national **BADOTSA** band continues to flourish, with a recent influx of new and younger members. Upwards of 60 members travelled to Edinburgh over the weekend of 6-9 May to join with the bands of the Edinburgh and Leith battalion for their annual beating of retreat at Edinburgh Castle. The following day they gave another performance at Stirling Castle.

At the time of writing we are expecting to join with our colleagues in the national band, in June, to lead the annual civic parade at Bexley Heath and also the London District GB parade. Some of our members are also taking part in the Norwich Lord Mayor's show, in July, to swell the numbers of the boys BB massed band.

Locally, news is not so upbeat. The Hove Remembrance Day parade has been cancelled this year, so we will not be parading as we have for many years. We can only hope that it will be reinstated next year.

We have also had to turn down a number of requests for a band at local events as we simply don't have the numbers without assistance from our national colleagues.

We still meet the first Friday of each month at Southwick Methodist Church and would welcome any new members, experienced bandsmen or not.

Regards,

Barry McCann



Secretary and Treasurers Report

Membership

I would like to thank all the members who have paid subs this year which means we have been able to make our usual donation to Glynde Camp and to Southwick Methodist Church. Whilst we predict another funds deficit, we will continue to provide members with the three newsletters this year (with the Winter issue to follow in December 2016) but we will not have any surplus monies to make any other donations as shown below

Budget for 2016 (comparison with accounts to 31 December 2015)

I have shown below a budget for the Stedfast Association for 2016 as follows:-

Thanks to the generosity of 119 members our subs this year should total £1,520 which is an increase on 2015. There are members that have not yet paid subs and it is not too late to do so to reduce the budgeted deficit. You will note that we have not included in the budget any significant donations to the Band this year. The donation we usually receive each year for the band playing at the Hove Remembrance Parade will not be received because the Hove parade has been cancelled. We will lay our Stedfast Association wreath at the Brighton Parade which will take place as usually on the Sunday morning 13 November 2016.

	2016 £	2015 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,520	1,465
Reunion collections	432	442
Donations received to date	31	153
Total income	1,983	2,060
Expenditure		
BB-Glynde donation	(300)	(310)
Southwick Church donation	(500)	(500)
Federation costs	(75)	(275)
Band costs (net of donations)	(25)	(155)
Other donations		(38)
Website (to be upgraded see below)	(160)	(6)
Remembrance wreaths	(30)	(55)
Newsletter costs	(575)	(688)
Insurance	(64)	(62)
Reunion costs (tea donated in 2015)	(393)	(220)
Sundries		(60)
Total expenses	(2,122)	(2,369)
2016 Deficit (2015 Deficit)	(139)	(309)
Bank balance B/F	1,677	1,986
Bank balance C/F	1,538	1,677

Newsletter

Please let us have your comments on the newsletter with any other matters you wish to bring to our attention for inclusion in the Winter issue.

Reunion-2017

Please let us have any comments ahead of the next reunion which we can consider at our next committee meeting in September. We are upgrading our website so that you will be able to access the Reunion photographs and also hope to have a picture archive on the website in due course.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon, Secretary and Treasurer

Federation Stedfast Associations Annual General Meeting

The Weekend and AGM which was to be held in London sadly did not take place although the Federation of Stedfast Associations did hold their AGM meeting on 13th May 2016. Here are the key points from the meeting.

Attendance and Apologies

Representatives from five member Stedfast Associations (Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester and Northern Ireland) were present, together with the officers of the Federation. Apologies were received from the Norfolk, Plymouth and Oxford Stedfast Associations and from Mr John Cooper.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the details of the voting procedure to be followed were given by the Secretary. It was confirmed that there were five member Associations present with two proxy votes (from the Norfolk and Plymouth Stedfast Associations).

Annual Report

This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted.

Treasurers Report

This had been circulated to the Associations, and showed that at 31 December 2015, the Federation had a credit balance of £1,357. The published account showed clearly the Income and Expenditure for the year and the report was accepted by the meeting. The motion to accept the report was proposed by Peter Kabluczenko and seconded by Eric Chilton.

The report was verbally added to by the Treasurer, John Montgomery, who gave an update on the action taken since the production of the report. The decision of the Liverpool Stedfast Association to absorb the loss on the 2015 Annual Council Weekend was received with thanks. The Treasurer was thanked for his work during the year.

The Future of the Federation – A Discussion

This discussion was led by the President, who began by accepting that there was a doubt about whether the Federation did have a future and, if so, what form this would take. However, he believed that there was a future, and that we should all continue to spread the word to encourage the formation of new Associations, the incorporation of non-member Associations in to the Federation and the possibility of former member Associations to rejoin.

A major part of the work of the Federation was to encourage links between Associations so that they could learn from others and improve their own situation at the same time. The Management Committee would continue to discuss and look for ways of doing this. One way of encouraging links was to continue to improve the content of “Forward”, and Associations were asked to send copies of their newsletters and other items to the Editor so that he could include them where relevant.

Dates and Place of 2017 Annual Council Meeting

It was confirmed that the Northern Ireland Stedfast Association had agreed to host the 2017 Annual Council Meeting on 13th May 2017.

Phillip C Stallard Secretary (24th May 2016)

Founder's Dinner

**Tuesday 4th October 2016
7pm for 7.30 (until 9pm)**

Preston Bowls Club 189 Preston Road Brighton. BN16SA

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

The venue has been booked and 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; 078833531069, or by phone; 01273 888032,
or post ; 3 Pelham Terrace, Lewes Road Brighton BN4 4AF

10th BRIGHTON (HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY'S Awards Evening

Anchor Section

Another busy year for the Anchors – The Anchors follow a badge syllabus which covers 5 areas. Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Creativity. We have joined with the Junior section on a Monday as there have only been two boys. However over the last few weeks we have seen the very welcome arrival of some new recruits. This last year saw our 8th Old Time Music Hall. What a wonderful time that was – the Anchor Boys joined with the Juniors and made very scary Pirates and who can forget Ollie's clog dancing as a mouse living in a windmill!! The boys have still been able to fit in making Christmas Cards, Mothers Day Cards, Easter cards and various other crafts. We have learnt about St George, St Patrick and St Valentine.

Dilys Croucher Memorial Cup. For this we take into account attendance on Monday nights, attitude, behaviour, enthusiasm and many other things as well. This year, we are presenting it to Ollie Franklin-Johnson.

Junior Section

Sam Clarkson introduced himself to the parents and audience, explaining how Carl Jukes, had to take a “back seat” in running the section and that he, Sam, was now the “regular” Monday evening member of Staff for this section. The Juniors like the two other Sections had worked hard and enjoyed participating in the Old Time Music Hall and in sharing time with the Anchors. However they had also made time to follow the BB programme for their section and the following badges had been gained:

Target & Bronze - Louise Walker-Wilkes, Roman Wolffe.

Silver - Keswic Cowe, Uys Alonge, Air Russell, Tom Franklin-Johnson

Gold - Callum Brewster, Charlie Minshull, Joe Conway

Best Boy Award - Joe Conway

Company Section

We have had a very strong Company Section this year with a regular 11 boys attending most weeks.

Our program has been varied including: Circuit Training; lots of fun and games; and of course Drill. Also cooking pancakes and even doing the washing up afterwards.

A large part of the session was set aside for rehearsals for the Old Time Music Hall and for all those who came along and watched the performance, I'm sure you will agree they did a brilliant job. I am sure I speak for all the staff when I say that we are extremely proud of their efforts and hard work.

As many of you will already know, each year we have, what we call BB week where the Company Section boys collect donations from friends, family and members of the church. These funds go towards the costs of running our company and ensure all sections receive a wide and varied program. This year the total raised was just shy of £1000 with the boys' collecting over £500 of this, and I would just like to mention that 2 boys collected over £100 each, Jamie Witham and Amen Zerabruk.

Not only have all our evenings taught the boys some important life skills, but they have led to them gaining certain badges.

Continued next page

SPECIAL AWARDS

The boys are separated into 2 squads for the year and are marked on the smartness of their uniform, steadiness on parade and also on their Monday and Sunday attendance.

The individual boy who has gained the most marks this year is:

Best Boy Award - Private Amen Zerabruk

And the best overall squad is:

Squad 2, Harry Varlow, Jamie Witham, Josh Liddell, Henry Touray, Matthew Blomfield and Josh Buck

PROMOTIONS

Not only do we reward boys for their efforts with badges, we also like to promote boys up the ranks as they mature in the company. With this comes more responsibility and we expect them to set good examples for the younger boys and help out where needed.

Lance Corporals Jamie Witham, Henry Touray and Josh Liddell to the rank of Corporal
And Privates Matthew Blomfield and James Blomfield to the rank of Lance Corporal

LEAVING BOYS

We unfortunately have to say goodbye to 3 of our boys as they have reached the maximum age of 18. All of them started as cute little Anchor boys around the age of five and have come through the sections to become the mature young men you see before you. It has been fantastic to watch them grow and develop during their time in The Boys Brigade and I wish them well in the future.

They are Sergeants Harry Varlow, Myles Foley and Peter Cook.

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

Now, going back to the Old Time Music Hall..... a few years ago we introduced an award, in memory of the late, great Andy Stringer, who was the creator of this show. His idea was purely to show off the talents of all the boys in the Company.

The award can be won by any Company Section boy or any member of staff. It would be for someone who has not only given a great performance in the show, but has given, over and above what is expected of them throughout the show and rehearsals. All Company Section boys and Staff vote for the person they feel is worthy of this fine accolade.

The winner has given so much time and effort to the show and each year we are astounded by this person's talents, he has brought fun and laughter to each of the performances. So it is with great pleasure and delight that I award this trophy to **Myles Foley**.

*With permission of 10th Btn
& Central URC magazine editor*



Battalion and Stedfast Events

August 2016

31st Battalion Financial Year End

Start of 2016-2017 session TBA

January 2017

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

October 2016

4th Tue Founders Dinner at
Preston Bowls Club

Stewarding at Buckingham Palace Garden Party

23 young people from across England & Wales were at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 19th May, stewarding for a Garden Party given by HM The Queen. Some 7600 guests attended the Garden Party alongside HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Prince of Wales, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and other members of the Royal family. The young people carried out various duties during the afternoon including providing information to guests, collecting tickets, welcoming and opening doors for VIP's and assisting wheel chair users. The young people were a real credit to themselves and The Boys' Brigade



DRILL COMPETITIONS

The 2016 drill competitions attracted only three entries: two colour parties, and one squad for the squad medal. Never mind, it was an excellent evening! Both Companies taking part, 3rd Burgess Hill and 1st Southwick took it seriously, prepared themselves thoroughly, and did some good drill. As it turned out the experience and polish of the 3rd Burgess Hill told, and they won both competitions, but 1st Southwick, with a young team, acquitted themselves well. Both Companies went in with an enthusiastic and cheerful spirit. Sgt. Adam Sander won the Squad Medal. The Battalion is grateful to our capable judge, Brian White of the Stedfast band.

The photo shows the victorious 3rd Burgess Hill team.

The photo shows the victorious 3rd Burgess Hill team.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



HARRIERS

A pleasant Tuesday evening, 21st June, in Glynde Recreation ground. saw 19 boys and girls from 4 Companies take part in the Company Harriers Competition. There were entries from 14th Brighton, 26th Brighton, 1st Southwick and 3rd Burgess Hill. Starting at 7.15pm, the first person past the post in a really good 12 minutes and 12 seconds was Marcus Faulkner from 14th Brighton, so congratulations to him.

List of winners as follows. Years 7/8

Gold Medal Winner – Marcus Faulkner 14th Brighton

Silver Medal Winner - Ben Sansom 3rd Burgess Hill

Bronze Medal Winner - Tom Baty 3rd Burgess Hill

Dennis Harriott Trophy for overall winners went to 3rd Burgess Hill

Years 9/10

Gold Medal Winner – Harry Newman – 1st Southwick

Silver Medal Winner – Sam Sweitzer – 1st Southwick

Bronze Medal Winner – Callum Foreman-Bryce 26th Brighton

Gilroy Cup for Overall Winners went to 1st Southwick

Years 11+

Gold Medal Winner – Sam Carter – 14th Brighton

Silver Medal Winner – Will Maskell – 14th Brighton

Bronze Medal Winner – Hal Simpson-Little – 14th Brighton

Lady Lyons Trophy for overall winners went to 14th Brighton

Congratulations to all the winners, and a big well done to EVERYONE that took part. A big thank you to Mark Jago for going ‘‘up the hill’’, Charlie Simmons for being the crossing marshal and John Lewry for assistance with the time keeping and scoring. Much appreciated one and all.

Steve Roberts

Athletics

The Battalion Athletics was on a Friday this year, 10th June, so we could incorporate the Junior Section sports. It seemed to be quite a success, and with a few tweaks here and there I am sure it will be even better next year.

In the Company Section event, we had 8 Companies with 50 boys and girls, girls from the 26th Brighton GA which was great to see. It was good to welcome the 26th Brighton back, and also it was good to see 2nd Shoreham taking part, the first entries from a Company in Shoreham for about 25 years. We had entries from 9th/10th/14th/26th Brighton, 1st Southwick, 2nd Shoreham and 2nd/3rd Burgess Hill so it was a good turnout. The weather was kind to us this year and whilst it wasn't bright sunshine, it was certainly warmer than last year.

The winners of the individual medals were as follows:-

Years 7/8:- Thomo Dance – 9th Brighton

Years 9/10 – James Blomfield – 10th Brighton

Years 11+ - Tied between Sam Carter and William Maskell of the 14th Brighton

Winners of the Senior Relay were 14th Brighton

Winners of the Junior Relay were 10th Brighton

The overall winners shield went to 10th Brighton

A good time was had by all, and it was pleasing to see a good turnout of helpers, leaders and parents which all added to a great atmosphere. A massive thank you needs to go to all the time keepers and judges without whom the event would not be possible, and Maggie Jago particularly for carrying out the recording duties on her own which is a thankless task, so thank you and hopefully see everyone next year.

Stephen Roberts





Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion

SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2017

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



If you are reading the Brighton Stedfast Association newsletter for the first time we hope that you have found it both interesting and informative. If you have any items that you think may be of interest to our members you can contact the Editor or secretary, (details inside this newsletter) or visit our web site;

<http://brightonstedfast.org.uk/>

The Stedfast Association - Brighton is an organisation for past members of The Boys' Brigade Brighton Hove & District Battalion. If you have been a boy or member of staff in any company past or present within our Battalion you are automatically a member. Past Members of The Boys' Brigade from all over the world are welcome to join our Association.

To register, contact our secretary:

Alan Caperon 72 Poulters Lane Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SZ
alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

To help with the association costs, we would suggest a donation of £10
Associate members now welcome
(cheques payable to the Stedfast Association)