

Summer 2019



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 Boys' Brigade

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

The Object of The Stedfast Association

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

Stedfast Committee

PRESIDENT
Peter Ford

VICE PRESIDENT
Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN
Ray Eaves

TREASURER
Alan Caperon

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ann Austen

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

Dear Stedfast Members,

As Charlie Hitchings used to say, "The best time at Camp was 5am on the first morning". We hope that everyone who camped in 2019 has had a life changing time and one that they will remember forever. Small things happen at Camp that could not happen anywhere else and like a small rudder changes the course of a large vessel, a quiet word can defuse the worst situation or encourage someone to keep going in the most difficult circumstances. Time taken to assist in a situation can make an impression far outweighing its length.



Camp will include a very full programme of opportunities to take part in sports and adventures, eating and visiting and just enjoying life in a thousand different ways. Let's make sure that our lives never become dull and meaningless but are filled with the things of the Spirit that will last forever.

The Committee are planning to make the next Reunion in January 2020 one of the very best reunions. Please play your part in this firstly by attending and secondly by encouraging B.B. Friends to go as well. I am sure The Speaker will be First Class and so will be the Tea! Neither are more important than your presence and encouragement of others.

Before the Reunion on the wonderful 4th of October will be our Annual Founder's Day Dinner at Preston Park Bowls Club. Please support Les Russell who puts so much into making this such a happy friendly evening.

I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to visit new places this Summer and especially to enjoy the Countryside and the Natural World wherever we can find it. Those of us who live in Sussex are very fortunate and should take pleasure in going to as many new places as possible.

The Stedfast Association exists to encourage all Former Members of The Brigade and to support The Battalion in the fine work that it does. Please make sure that you play your part.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone,
Peter Ford Stedfast Association President

EDITORIAL

Welcome again to another newsletter as always, they seem, to come around so quickly. I do trust that the majority of you have been keeping well, and for those who are or have suffered or are suffering I send my very best wishes and prayers.

The committee have met and made plans for the future arrangements for the remainder of this year details of which appear in the newsletter, please give these events your support if you are able. I would certainly recommend the Founders Day Dinner a good evening well organised by Les Russell and excellent catering by Preston Bowls Club.

The main event of our year is of course the Annual Reunion and hopefully many of you will be able to attend and renew friendships for another year. We are most fortunate in having our meeting at Southwick Methodist Church where we are so welcomed and looked after, our attendances have been good and the committee look forward to another good turnout next January.

As you know we do like to be made aware of any of our members who may be unwell or need some help please let me or any committee member aware should you hear of any member where we may be able to be of help.

I send my good wishes and God's blessings to you all.

Dick

IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members, who have been called to higher service. We send our deepest sympathy to their Family and Friends. May they Rest In Peace.

Reverend Dr John C Neal - Chaplain. 2nd April 2019

former member of the 22nd Northants, 1st St Eustatius, St Kitts (leeward Isl), Curacao (Antilles).

Richard Baker ex 23rd Brighton (Portslade) Company. 2nd July 2019

Mick Baker ex 13th Brighton (Hove) Company. 24th June 2019

Richard Colliver ex 21st Brighton (Hove) Company. 8th May 2019

James Earl ex 25th Brighton Company. 2018

Gary Ruell ex 16th Brighton Company. July 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

With summer now with us and we hope hot weather so those of us that are able can get out and about or go on holiday to visit and explore some of the beautiful countryside and places of interest. For those of you who aren't so fortunate to be able to get out I hope that you can still enjoy the lovely weather and where possible you can go out for the odd day.

Your committee are making plans for your next Reunion on Sunday 19th January 2020. Please make a note of the date and make every effort to be there, full details will be sent to you nearer the time and in the next Newsletter.

The founder's day dinner is on Friday 4th October 2019, at the Preston Bowls Club, Preston Road, Brighton. Please make every effort to attend for what is a great evening of food and fellowship to celebrate the founding of the Boys' Brigade. For further details contact Les Russell or in the Newsletter.

By the time you read this Newsletter members of the Battalion will have spent a great week in camp at Glynde, I am sure as I have some great memories of times spent camping at Glynde.

It is with sadness that I have to report the Passing to Higher Service the following Stedfast Members and Friends;

Reverend Dr John C Neal - Chaplain
Richard Baker
Mike Baker
James Earl
Gary Ruell
Richard Colliver

We pray that they will rest in peace and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. I am sure we will remember them.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company have won the Battalion Scripture Competition this year. I am sure that you would want to join with me and wish them congratulations and well done.

What ever you are doing this summer, Myself and your committee wish you have a great time and hope that you stay safe and healthy.

Best Wishes to you all.

Ray Eaves *Committee Chairman.*

Chaplains Page - 'The wind blows where it pleases'

Dear Friends,

As part of a sabbatical a few years ago I spent some time accompanying the Pastor of the Reformed Church in Le Havre. Le Havre was badly bombed during the last War and most of the city was destroyed. After the War was over the city was rebuilt in the early 1950s; concrete was the fashionable building material and there is plenty of it in evidence! The Reformed Church in Le Havre is a very simple building; if you imagine a shoe box on its side you have a good picture of it in your mind's eye! Whilst I was there the Pastor held an afternoon for the Junior Church to learn about the work of the Holy Spirit. About a dozen children aged from about 8 – 12 years gathered together in the church. The Pastor got them all to make simple windmills, and when they had finished they all had to blow on the sails to see how fast they could get them to revolve. His idea was to help them to realise that just as the children couldn't actually see their breath blowing on the sails, they could see the effect of their breath; the sails were turning around! In the same way, the Pastor explained, we can't actually see the Holy Spirit at work, but we can see its effects; when lives exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control the Spirit is surely at work.

However, the Pastor was not finished! He wanted the children to see whether the Spirit was blowing over the church, and to do this he gathered the children together (and me!) and took us to the back of the church and up to the gallery. We didn't stop there! At one side of the gallery was an ordinary step ladder which led to a kind of loft hatch opening out on to the flat roof of the church. Up we went! No handrails on the ladder and no rails around the edge of the flat roof! We stood in the middle of the roof, all terrified except the Pastor. 'Now,' said he, 'Hold up your windmills and let's see if the Spirit is blowing over the church.' Unfortunately for him there was not a breath of wind! When we got back down into the church the Pastor was rather crestfallen that his experiment had failed. I thought that it was a sure sign of the Spirit being at work that we had all got up onto the roof and down again in one piece!

Jesus is reported as having said, 'The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' (John 3.8 RNJB). The great thing for us is to be so open to God's Spirit that the Spirit may truly work in our lives, inspiring us to become more Christlike, and so becoming living signs of God's kingly rule.

Every blessing,
Reverend Ian Suttie

Band report

Greetings from the band. As most of you are aware that, owing to a shortage of local musicians, our monthly practices have now ceased, at least for the moment. Those of us that are left now combine with our friends from London, who are in the same situation as we are, but not to be put off, we have managed to undertake 3 recent events.

Firstly, the Morden and District GB Church Parade, which was held on Sunday 9th June.

Secondly, this was followed on Saturday 15th June with an impromptu performance by those who could make it at the Roche School in Wandsworth at their Summer Fete. This was organised by Louise who is one of our key buglers and a member of School Staff.

Finally, Today, 30th June, We did our annual trip to the Bexley Civic Parade. The band number 36 people as we combined our resources with the 14th West Kent Company band. All went very well and I ,for one was deeply hearted and impressed by the Youngsters in the band. The weather was great, and all sounded very good.

Our next outing is scheduled for August Bank Holiday Monday when we , once again, take part in the Worthing Carnival. So lets hope that all goes well, on all fronts, with what we hope will be an enjoyable day. So ,if your free, why not pop along and see us in action.

Before I close, I must thank those members who travelled very long distance to join us, especially Steve England ,who flies in from Guernsey and Adrian Ogle, who travelled down from Crewe, and finally Holly Burgess who came down from Cambridge. Thank you all.

Our doors are still open for anyone who would like to join our happy little band and make it a very happy big band.

All for now

Paul Simmons

Stedfast Prayer

Dear Lord, we are proud to say that we in younger days, in the Boys' Brigade, have served loyally underneath the banner of the cross arrayed, but the passing of the years means we feel less able to actively contribute to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys (and girls). Help us to use all our strength and knowledge to continue to work effectively in your service.

We pray for our members who are not well at this time help them to feel your comfort, strength and support.

We pray also for our members, who have been called to your higher service.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen.**

TREASURER'S SUMMER REPORT

Stedfast Budget for 2019 (comparison to the certified accounts to 31 December 2018)

Please see our Stedfast Association income and expenditure budget for 2019 as follows:-

	2019 £	2018 £
Income	<u>112 subs</u>	<u>127 subs</u>
Subscriptions to date	1,499	1,636
Reunion collections	349	428
Donations	80	396
Total income	1,928	2,460
Expenditure estimated		
BB-Glynde donation	(235)	(400)
BB-Donations re C Currie OBE	N/A	(70)
BB-KG VI officer training	(75)	(75)
BB-Boys' trip to Uganda 18 Aug	N/A	(150)
Southwick Church donation	(500)	(500)
Federation subscription to be paid	(45)	(40)
Preston Bowls Club donation re Founder's dinner	(20)	(20)
Band-Worthing Carnival 27 Aug 18	N/A	(100)
Website costs (estimate)	(100)	(98)
Remembrance wreaths (estimate)	(60)	(56)
Newsletter costs (estimated)	(340)	(378)
Insurance	(69)	(69)
Reunion costs	(370)	(384)
St John's Ambulance donation	(95)	
Medal costs for oldest/youngest estimated	(100)	
Total expenses	(2,009)	(2,340)
Estimated (deficit) 2018 surplus	(81)	120
Bank balance B/F	2,018	1,898
Bank balance C/F estimated	1,937	2,018

The Committee would like to thank the 112 members who have paid their subs. Subs are down on 2018 as are the donations we have received so far in 2019. This has meant that we were unable to make donations at the level of 2018 but your committee have approved the following donations on your behalf:-

Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion of £310

- o for Glynde Camp £235
- o KGVI officer training £75

A donation to the Southwick Methodist Church of £500

A donation to the Preston Bowls Club re Founder's dinner of £20.

A donation to the St John's Ambulance for reunion attendance of £95

A donation to the Federation of Stedfast Associations of £45

Continued on next page

All monies received this year will be utilised for Stedfast donations, events and running costs and we also intend to utilise the 2018 surplus which arose from the donation we unexpectedly received from Brighton and Hove Council for the Band's attendance at the Remembrance parade. It is unlikely that the band will have the necessary numbers to attend at the Remembrance parade in November 2019.

We therefore expect a deficit subject to any more subs/donations that are received during the rest of the year. If you haven't paid your subs, please do so in order to cover the deficit we expect in 2019.

SECRETARY'S SUMMER REPORT

You will note from the Summer Newsletter that our Chaplain, The Rev Dr John C Neal passed to Higher Service in April. The Stedfast Association was well represented at the Funeral and the Service of Thanksgiving in Eastbourne. You will see below, a photo of John at the tea table sitting next to Terry Pomfrey and with our other Stedfast members of the 22nd Brighton (Hove) Co.



Continued on next page

I had also been sitting next to John immediately prior to the photo being taken but had just left the table to present to our members the AGM business. I was pleased to have had a very good conversation with John both at the tea table and prior to the reunion service. I always enjoyed my chats with John at every reunion. We will miss John but he will always stay in our memories if you have read his Chaplain's pages from previous Stedfast newsletters.

Rev Ian Suttie, our Vice President, has offered to take up the role of Stedfast Chaplain. Rev Ian is the Chaplain for the Brighton, Hove and District Boys' Brigade Battalion.

I hope you enjoy reading this abridged Summer newsletter and you will receive the Winter newsletter later this year with your invitation to the 2020 annual reunion.

The Winter newsletter will as usual ask you to renew your membership and to complete a new 2020 membership form.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon, *Secretary*

Founder's Day Dinner 2019 October 4th 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

For the seventh consecutive year we have been able to book Preston Bowls Club as the venue for our annual dinner to celebrate the foundation of The Boys' Brigade by William Smith on October 4th 1883.

The Dinner is open to all Stedfast Members, their guests and families, In addition we welcome anybody who wishes to celebrate with us and enjoy a wonderful meal. The menu will be the same one that has proved so popular in past years. Payment will be on the night.

During the evening we will toast The Founder at 8pm, the date and time when he opened the doors to the first boys 136 years ago. We will also hold a raffle in aid of funds for Glynde Camp. If you are able to bring any prizes with you please do so.

Please see the menu on the next page
Menu choices should reach Les by September 22nd

Les's contact details are:

10, Beechwood, Curwen Place, Brighton BN1 6UJ, : lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk , Phone:01273 757896 or mobile 07833531069 or by Preston .B.C. internal mail system.



FOUNDER'S DINNER MENU

Starters

Homemade Soup of the Day and Roll

Prawn Cocktail

Liver Pate served with warm toast

King prawns in breadcrumbs served with sweet chilli 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 & olive oil drizzle

All main courses are served with Fresh Vegetables and potatoes

Dessert

Fruit Salad

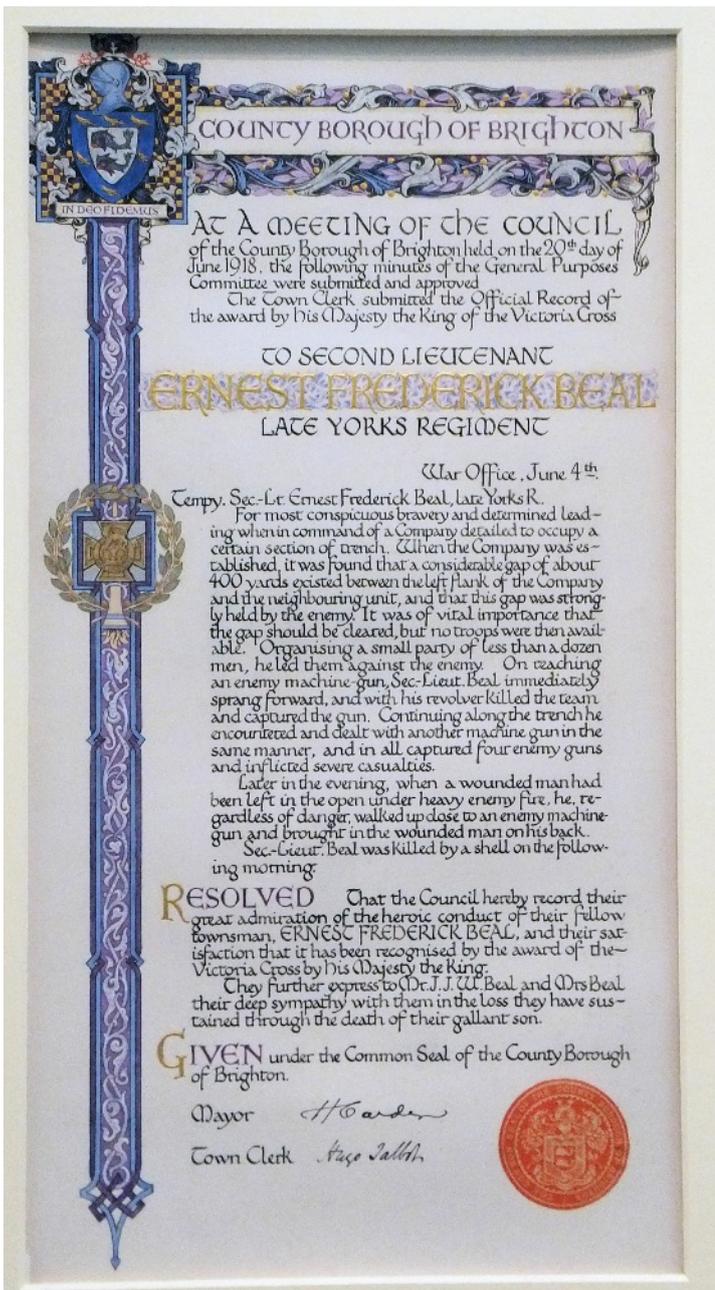
Apple Pie and Ice cream

Toffee and Pecan Roulade

Cheese & Biscuits

Tea of coffee with mints





**TRANSCRIPT OF THE ILLUMINATED
MESSAGE OF THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF
SECOND LIEUTENANT ERNEST BEAL VC
COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON**

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the County Borough of Brighton held on the 20th day of June 1918, the following minutes of the General Purposes Committee were submitted and approved. The Town Clerk submitted the Official Record of the award by his Majesty the King of the Victoria Cross

**TO SECOND LIEUTENANT
ERNEST FREDERICK BEAL
LATE YORKS REGIMENT**

War Office, June 4th

Tempy. Sec.-Lt. Ernest Frederick Beal, late Yorks R.

For most conspicuous bravery and determined leading when in command of a Company detailed to occupy a certain section of trench. When the Company was established, it was found that a considerable gap of about 400 yards existed between the left flank of the Company and the neighbouring unit, and that this gap was strongly held by the enemy. It was of vital importance that the gap should be cleared, but no troops were then available. Organising a small party of less than a dozen men, he led them against the enemy. On reaching an enemy machine-gun, Sec.-Lieut. Beal immediately sprang forward, and with his revolver killed the team and captured the gun. Continuing along the trench he encountered and dealt with another machine gun in the same manner, and in all captured four enemy guns and inflicted severe casualties.

Later in the evening, when a wounded man had been left in the open under heavy enemy fire, he, regardless of danger, walked up close to an enemy machine-gun and brought in the wounded man on his back.

Sec.-Lieut. Beal was killed by a shell on the following morning.

RESOLVED That the Council hereby record their great admiration of the heroic conduct of their fellow townsman, ERNEST FREDERICK BEAL, and their satisfaction that it has been recognised by the award of the Victoria Cross by His Majesty the King.

They further express to Mr. J. J. W. Beal and Mrs Beal their deep sympathy with them in the loss they have sustained through the death of their gallant son.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the County Borough of Brighton.

Mayor *H. Carden*

Town Clerk *Hugo Talbot*



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Given under the Common Seal of the County Borough of Brighton.

Mayor H Carden

Town Clerk Hugo Talbot

Reunion & AGM 2020

**Sunday, 19th
January 2020,
from 2.00 pm**
The Reunion Service
commences
at 2.30 pm

At



Southwick Methodist Church Manor Hall Road, Southwick, Brighton BN42 4NA

Welfare

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

The next Newsletter will be Autumn/Winter 2019

Please submit all contributions before the end of September 2019
(electronically or typed if possible)

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

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The Stedfast Association - Brighton is an organisation for past members of The Boys' Brigade Brighton Hove & District Battalion.

If you have been a boy or member of staff in any company past or present within our Battalion you are automatically a member.

Past Members of The Boys' Brigade from all over the world are welcome to join our Association.

To register, contact our secretary:

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

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



The Glasgow Stedfast Association

is pleased to host

The Federation of Stedfast Associations
of United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

AGM and Fellowship Weekend 15-17 May 2020

at the
Golden Jubilee Hotel,
Clydebank, Glasgow,
G81 4SA



Friday 15th

Welcome
Informal dinner
with entertainment

Saturday 16th

Tour / Visit
Federation AGM
Gala Dinner with
entertainment

Sunday 17th

Church Service

For further information, please contact

John Bedford

Telephone 0141 773 2388

E mail: bedford140@btinternet.com