



Summer 2020

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

CHAPLAIN
Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN
Ray Eaves

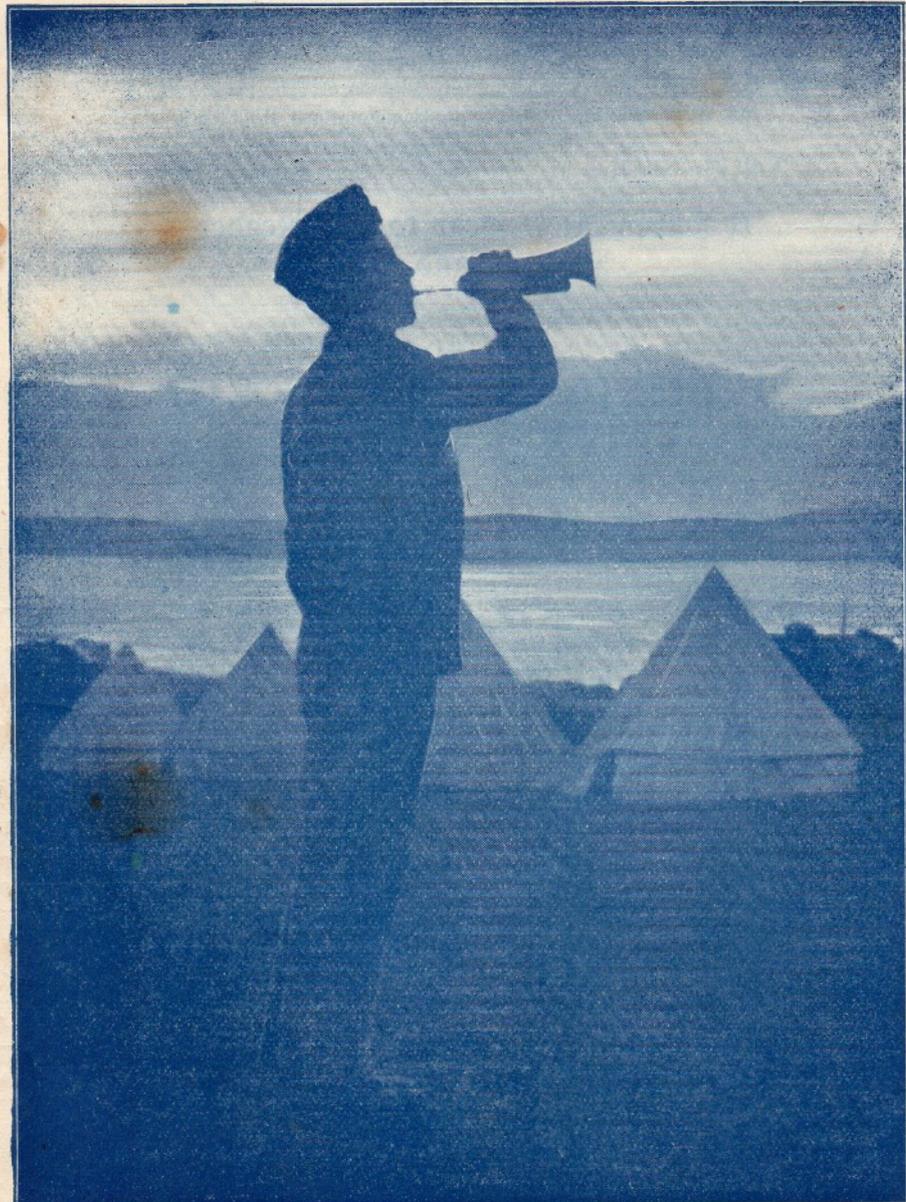
TREASURER
Alan Caperon

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ann Austen

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Dick Kent
Dave Norman
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Les Russell
Paul Simmons
Sue Standen

“BREEZES”



JANUARY, 1946

REVEILLE, 1946

Price TWOPENCE

Above Front cover of Breezes, January 1946, to commemorate 75 years since the end of the second World War, see articles in newsletter.

Dear Stedfast Members,

There is no time like the present, and for all of us that is now especially true.

Each of us can become appalled and bewildered by the sheer scale of the misery caused by Covid 19; by the colossal loss of life both in the UK and around the world, by the suffering of so many thousands of people who are battling for their lives, often in very crowded hospitals in many different countries, and by the overwhelming loss felt by people young and old of every nationality.



In the past, suffering, battling and loss has produced hatred and enmity around the globe but there is no time like the present and this time it will produce love and togetherness and respect throughout the earth and the sound of Angels singing "Peace on earth" will echo back from every heart.

We especially give thanks for the part being played by the B.B. in many countries helping to produce key workers of every type, and let us give thanks for B.B. Staff and those in full-time Ministry in many different religions who seek to bring that peace which cannot be bought and passes all understanding.

Glynde 2020 will be a virtual Camp of those who have been before and can imagine how good it would have been, and those who have never been and cannot imagine how good it would be.. They must all combine to make Glynde 2021 the best ever.

Les Russell is already preparing the Founder's Day Dinner on Sunday the Fourth of October, and then at 8pm we shall toast Our Founder at the moment of the first B.B. Meeting at Woodside Mission in Glasgow. Please support Les and his family as they work to provide so enjoyable and special an evening overflowing with B.B. Fellowship and fun.

It was a wonderful experience to hear the encouraging words of optimism from The Battalion President at our Reunion in January. The message at the next Reunion will no doubt reflect the activities that have not been able to take place, but I am sure that Staff will have kept in touch with Members as far as possible, and great work will have been done without them even realising it. God Bless everyone in The Battalion.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone

Peter Ford Stedfast Association President

EDITORIAL

It goes without my saying that this has been an extremely difficult, troubling and serious period in our lives, there has been so many that have lost their lives, so many Families, Friends and Colleagues that have mourned their passing. The Country in all forms has been forced to make so many changes to life as we currently knew it The Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations included. Your committee has met over the telephone when necessary, and it has been decided to issue the Summer Newsletter with particular regard to the memories of The Battalion since the war, remembering the magnificent withdrawal from Dunkirk that came at the beginning of the conflict, and The First Glynde Camp in 1945.

I do trust that most of you will have stayed safe during the pandemic and continue to do so. It is hoped that the outbreak will be contained and an eventual treatment will be found, in the meantime please abide by the rules and stay safe, hopefully we will have the rules changed so that we will have no trouble in meeting for our Annual Reunion on the 17th January 2021.

Difficulties will continue over the summer months so I trust everyone will be as safe as can be and if I or any committee member can help if you are in trouble we will endeavour to do so but remember many of us are in the 'At Risk Category'. I hope you enjoy the memories. And when you can the Summer Weather.

God Bless to You All

Dick

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.

Peter Scott 16th Brighton Company.

David (Dave) West 1st Brighton and 22nd Brighton (Hove) Companies.
(see more on Dave's BB life on next page)



19th February 1945 – 3rd May 2020

Dave had been in the 1st Brighton and when it closed, he moved to join Ray Eaves at the 22nd Brighton Hove BB Company.

From the Eulogy, I learned that he loved the Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Scheme and became an instructor and Assessor at the 22nd.

Dave played football for the BBOB's and later became Manager of the 2nd Team in 1997.

Personally, I got to know Dave when he became 2nd Team Manager at the BBOB's. He was a quiet, calm gentleman and also helped the club financially, sponsoring and buying new kit, or putting his hand in his pocket to pay a player's playing fee, if he knew they were unemployed, or struggling financially.

Dave was made a Life President of the Club 3 years ago, when he finally retired from work and sold his garage at the age of 72. He loved his motor mechanic and body work, he was a perfectionist. He didn't want to retire earlier, as he felt he would be letting his regular customers down!

Dave's first playing season was 1967/68 and his last game was in 1992/93 as Player Manager. He played a total of 227 games for the BBOB's.

Dave took over as second team manager at the start of the 1991/92 season, and continued in this role until the end of the 1997/98 season. He then assisted various manager's over the years right up until 2015.

Dave was made President of the Club in 1998 and kept this role until 2015. In 2016 he was appointed a 'Life President' for his long services to the club.

Kind regards
Mark Jago



Chaplains Page... Zoom!

Dear Friends,

Having never heard of Zoom before (other than as the name of an ice lolly ages ago!) my life now seems to be governed by it! Several of the devotees of Methodist Committees both locally, regionally and nationally are clearly having withdrawal symptoms from their committees in the present climate! As they can't meet physically, they are now meeting virtually courtesy of Zoom and drawing everyone else in. It sometimes seems that I could now fill my life with Zoom meetings! This facility does, of course, have much to commend it. Zoom makes it possible for me to meet with my colleagues and share conversations with them. This has been a great help as we have tried to support one another and keep the wheels of our churches turning, albeit with a lot of creaking at the moment. However, meetings or services with seventy plus people involved are more of a challenge! If you have participated in something like this you will know that the 'boxes' that people appear in on the computer screen are spread over several 'pages' and to see who is present its necessary to keep moving from one page to another! Chairing a meeting in this way is a nightmare! It's a real challenge to notice who wants to speak when they are on a different page! I'm sure that Zoom experts know how to cope with this, but for a novice like myself it's all very bewildering! Katherine and I have used Zoom to try to 'see' something of our two sons and their wives, and that has been much more relaxing!

It was pointed out to me that it is important to observe the guidelines about using Zoom. I was advised to take care to ensure that the angle of my computer screen was carefully managed so that those who see more on their screens are not forced to look right up my nose! It was also suggested that I should be careful about what's in my background; do I really want my colleagues to see how untidy my study is? I can't, however, do much about my appearance on the screen! I have never been an oil-painting, but my hair at the moment is beginning to rival Absalom's in length!

One of the good things about the gradual lifting of the lock down is that it is becoming increasingly easier to see other people 'in the flesh.' I am sure that this will prove to be a real boon to those who have been self-isolating, but no doubt galling for those friends who have to remain shielded for the time being, or whose families live too far away for a day visit. I guess that this pandemic has brought home to all of us how much we rely on other people, and particularly on some of the people we have sadly not paid as much attention to in the past as we should have done. It has been only right that we have had opportunities to honour all those 'on the front line' and express our heart-felt thanks for all that they have done, and are continuing to do, for their communities.

John Wesley famously remarked that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian or any kind of holiness that is not expressed socially. I am really missing meeting up with my fellow Christians in the churches I serve. I can see some of them via Zoom and I can email, 'phone or post material to others, but it is not the same as physically meeting and being able to share, support and encourage. However, many of my church members have put me to shame by the ingenious ways they have managed to share with, support and encourage one another - and me! I hope that you have found support and encouragement from your families, friends, church members and neighbours in these unprecedented times. I hope, too, that you have found in the scriptures and in your prayers and devotions the presence of God who has come amongst us in Jesus Christ and whose Holy Spirit is with us always. Although our grasp on God may falter from time to time, God's grasp on us never fails. We try to make St. Paul's great conviction that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, our own. Therein lies our strength, our hope and our comfort!

Every blessing,

Ian

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During these unusual and worrying times we have had to change our way of life by only going out when necessary, keeping to social distancing, not being able to see family and friends, all can be very stressful. I hope that you all have been able to keep healthy and virus free.

As a committee we haven't been able to meet as the church is closed during this time. We have kept in touch so that we can keep the Stedfast Association ticking over.

Companies within the Battalion aren't able to meet but have been able to keep in touch and do online activities. Glynde Camp has also been cancelled for this year, which is the first time for a number of years.

May I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe summer and hope to see you all very very soon.

Ray Eaves *Committee Chairman.*

Founder's Day Dinner 2020

At the time of writing we are hopeful that The Founder's Day Dinner will go ahead as planned.

At the present moment Preston Bowls Club and caterers are closed but will, hopefully, be up and running again before October 4th.

In August I will be in touch with those who have attended in recent years to give more details. If you would like to be added to those that I contact please feel very welcome to let me have your contact details.

The caterers can cope with special dietary needs.

Contact me by e.mail: lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk.

Land line: 01273 757896 Mobile/text: 07833531069 or Snail mail: 10 Beechwood, Curwen Place, Brighton. BN1 6UJ

Or by Preston BC internal mail (when it is open).
Stay Safe and wash your hands.

Boys' Brigade Breezes

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January, 1946.

A Happy New Year to our Readers
Young and Old

1946

HITHERTO—HENCEFORTH

By T. HARPER (Captain "Happy Ninth").

HITHERTO.—This is a grand Bible word and full of meaning for all of us at the beginning of a New Year. In I. Samuel vii. 12 we find that after a tremendous victory which God had wrought for them against the Philistines, Samuel reminded the people of Israel of God's wondrous mercy in these memorable words: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." How true those words are of us to-day. As we look back upon the events of 1945, how truly we can echo the words of the prophet. Think back over the year just gone. Do you remember May 8th, VE-Day, when the war in Europe came to an end and with it the killing and maiming, the waste and the horror of war for many of our people? Do you doubt, that such a victory was at the hands of God, and are you not proud that so many of our B.B. Boys and men played so brave and glorious a part in its securing?

How wonderfully those dates August 4th to August 11th stir the memory. For so many of you your first B.B. Camp, and a glorious Camp, too—as marvellous and thrilling as ever it was, and the first since 1939. To some of us who are older, Camp and Glynde are something very precious and very lovely, and the joy of seeing once again so many happy, healthy Boys in such beautiful surroundings thrilled us beyond measure, and many of us thanked God for Camp from full hearts. Do you remember the rumours which swept through Camp towards its close when we heard that the Japanese were nearing the end of their tether, rumours which culminated on August 15th in VJ-Day.

It is a good thing to think back and enter into the hitherto of God's help, but let us remember, too, that 1945 has gone with all its failures, the things done and the things left undone, the things of which we must be ashamed as well as the things of which we may be justly proud. The year 1945, for good or ill, belongs to the past and we cannot recapture one single moment to use again.

God's Word, however, has yet another great word for us, a word which reaches away into the future—indeed into the heavenly places for all who will.

The great apostle Paul, writing to the young man Timothy, says: "HENCEFORTH there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." It is laid up for you too—you a small Boy—you a young man in the ranks of your B.B. Company.

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It matters not whether you are poor or rich—you, just as you are, with all your failings, your faults, and your fears, can come into the great fellowship of the sons of God and be crowned at last.

It means coming to our Great Captain truly and sincerely, and asking Him to accept and take your life and mould and use it. From that day HENCEFORTH you have a Friend who will never fail you, one who knows you and loves you and who can fill your whole life with the joy of His service.

The best New Year resolution we can make is to take this Saviour as our own and resolve to serve Him faithfully in 1946 and all the years beyond. Do it now and be sure of a happy New Year.

He is the "Hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast."

BY THE WAY

The B.B. in Denmark.

The Brigade President has received a letter from the President of the Frivilligt Drenge Forbund expressing appreciation of the welcome accorded to the two F.D.F. officials during their recent visit to England.

It is hoped that a party of Danish Boys may visit the B.B. in this country next year. A warm welcome is assured to any representatives of the F.D.F. who in true B.B. spirit carried on during the German occupation and were actually stronger when liberation came than they had been before the war came.

A Brave Rescue.

Corporal Thomas David Stevens, aged 17, of the 2nd Hastings and St. Leonards Company, is only a moderate swimmer and has had no training in life-saving. But he saved a soldier from drowning in the sea at Hastings in August, and for his bravery has been awarded the B.B. Cross for Heroism.

The man was swimming at a considerable distance from the shore when he was seized with cramp and shouted for help. Corporal Stevens, removing only his jacket and shoes, swam out to the rescue, as also did a second soldier. Stevens, however, reached the spot first and the other turned back.

After a hard struggle, in which he was pulled under twice, Stevens had almost brought the man in when the latter wrenched himself clear of his rescuer and gained the shore. By this time Stevens himself was completely exhausted. He had to be helped to the beach, and after artificial respiration had been applied he was taken to hospital. This brave Boy undoubtedly ran a grave risk of losing his own life for the sake of another.

Our Senior Boys.

During the war Boys were allowed to continue their B.B. membership until they reached the age of 18, when they became liable for military service. It has been announced that this extended age-limit will continue up to the end of the present session, and Boys who are not actually called up on their birthday may continue to serve until the end of the session in which they become 18.

An "Old Boy" Takes the Salute.

Over 1,400 Boys of the Aberdeen Battalion attended their Founder's Day Church Parade this year, and the Salute at the March Past afterwards was taken by the Chief Constable of the city, who many years ago served as a Boy in the 28th Aberdeen Company.

The Chief Constable was accompanied by Mr. James Fraser, another Old Boy of the Brigade, who founded the Singapore Battalion of the B.B. and hopes to resume his Presidency of that Battalion when he has fully recovered from his imprisonment under the Japanese for over three years.

“You will have gathered that the theme for this Summer Newsletter were some of the articles in the January 1946 Breezes which commemorates the 75 year anniversaries of VE Day on 8 May 2020, then VJ Day on 15 August 2020, and explaining that Glynde Camp was held after WW2 in August 1945 also 75 years ago. Regrettably, Glynde Camp this year had to be cancelled in view of the coronavirus pandemic where so many comparisons have been made by the Government that we are living through another war with an unseen foe.

You will see in the Breezes newsletter that after WW2, there was a reunion on 20 January 1946. Your Committee hope we will all be able to meet again to commemorate the ending of the coronavirus pandemic at our annual reunion on 17 January 2021, 75 years after the reunion at Dorset Gardens”

Glynde Camp 1959.

It was reported that Wally Fairhall (13th Bton) attended camp but needed to put his dog in kennels for the week. This was done but surprisingly sometime in the week the dog turned up at Camp. The dog had found the way from the Kennels in Lewes to the Camp site. It seems that Wally had taken the dog with him to Cricket at the Camp site (BBOBs home ground) and the dog apparently knew the way !

Dick



Dick passed this photo to me which shows some of the officers and boys that attended the Brighton Battalion Boys Brigade camp held at Sheffield park in 1912.

An idyllic time two years before the first world war.

As you may expect, the newsletter is shorter than usual because there are no other BB events to report on and because the committee has not been able to meet since the reunion in January 2020.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion update

I have been informed that all the Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion events stopped as of the 23 March 2020 and will not be reviewed again until at least September 2020 at the very earliest. This means that Glynde Camp will not take place this year which I believe has not happened since the 2nd World War from 1939 to 1944. BB camp did take place in August 1945. These are indeed unprecedented times we are currently experiencing due to the Coronavirus pandemic but I know that your Brighton Battalion BB Officers are already making plans for the 2020/21 session and for Battalion Camp 2021.

Stedfast Association events

We will keep our Stedfast Association website and our Facebook page updated from now onwards with regard to Stedfast Association events.

We will have to let all members know whether the Founder's dinner will take place on 4 October 2020.

We are sure that the Remembrance services in Brighton, in Hove and elsewhere in Sussex in November 2020 will take place as usual and we will keep you updated via the Brighton and Hove City Council adverts.

We will also keep you updated in the Winter Newsletter with regard to the January 2021 Annual Reunion.

Federation of Stedfast Associations

There are currently nine active Stedfast Associations in Edinburgh & Leith, Manchester, Liverpool, Elland, London, Brighton & Hove, Inverness, Glasgow and Norfolk.

The Federation event planned in Scotland in May 2020 was postponed but the venue of the 2021 Annual Council Meeting will be held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Clydebank, Glasgow in May 2021. Further details will be provided in our Winter Newsletter.

London Stedfast

Regrettably, our nearest association London Stedfast is to close later this year but we hope to place an advert in the Onlooker magazine to invite any London Stedfast members to join our Stedfast Association in 2021.

Conclusion

I hope you enjoy reading the Summer newsletter and you will receive the Winter newsletter later this year.

Yours Stedfastly, Alan Caperon, Secretary

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TREASURER'S SUMMER REPORT

Stedfast Association Budget for 2020

(compared to the certified accounts to 31st December 2019).

Please see our Stedfast Association income and expenditure budget for 2020 as follows:-

	2020 £ estimate	2019 £actual
Income	<i>Paid up Members 109</i>	Paid up Members 114
Subscriptions to date	1,473	1,528
Reunion collections	349	349
Donations	80	160
Founder's dinner raffle for BB		15
Total income	1,822	2,052
Expenditure estimated		
BB-Glynde donation	<i>No camp in 2020</i>	(235)
BB-KG VI officer training	<i>N/A</i>	(75)
Southwick Church- donation to be considered	<i>(500)</i>	(500)
Federation subscription to be paid	<i>(45)</i>	(45)
Preston Bowls Club donation re Founder's dinner in Oct 2020	<i>(20)</i>	(20)
Band-Worthing Carnival August	<i>N/A</i>	(100)
Website costs (estimate)	<i>(100)</i>	(98)
Remembrance wreaths (estimate)	<i>(70)</i>	(70)
Newsletter costs (estimated)	<i>(347)</i>	(328)
Insurance	<i>(69)</i>	(69)
Reunion costs	<i>(324)</i>	(370)
St John's Ambulance donation	<i>(58)</i>	(95)
Medal costs for oldest/youngest estimated of costs needed		(13)
Total expenses	(1,533)	(2,018)
Estimated surplus	289	34
Bank balance B/F	2,052	2,018
Bank balance C/F estimated	2,341	2,052

The Committee would like to thank the 109 members who have paid their subs. Subs are down on 2019 so if you have not yet paid and still wish to do so, please send your subs to me.

Stedfast Association donations in 2020

Once the Southwick Methodist Church reopens or we can arrange a virtual meeting, your committee will meet to consider the following donations to:-

- The Southwick Methodist Church
- Preston Bowls Club re Founder's dinner
- Federation of Stedfast Associations subscription of £45
- The Royal British Legion Remembrance Appeal

We will also give consideration to any other requests in view of the corona virus pandemic.

Yours Stedfastly, Alan Caperon Treasurer



Membership Form for 2020

May we remind you that subscriptions are due, the present recommended subscription for members and associate members is £10-00 per year (more/less if you wish).

Subscription/Contribution enclosed £.....

Cheques payable to "Stedfast Association" .. please

Company.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Tel Number.....

Post Code.....

Confirm e-mail

Newsletter via email **OR** Hard copy by post.....Please indicate in one box

E mail	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Post	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Old Boy..... Officer..... Helper Friend /Supporter..... Band Member.....

Please return this completed form together with your subscription to:-

The Secretary

Alan Caperon

72 Poulter's Lane

Worthing

West Sussex BN14 7SZ

If you wish to send any letter with a BB story for us to include in the newsletter, please Tick this box:-

Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Should you no longer wish to remain on our mailing list, would you also please inform the Secretary by email to alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

Was this a Christmas Miracle?

On Christmas Morning I had been to see my stepdaughter and family, I had a lunch invitation but I know that their Lunchtime was too late for me as I do not now drive when dark so I called for breakfast!

I left their home about 12.15 to then visit my partner's family who had lunch somewhat earlier.

I was making my way down to Copthorne and was approaching the roundabout by Hoskins Garden Centre, unfortunately I did not spot that a traffic island was more pronounced into the road than normal. (I should have been aware?) I was travelling at a normal speed but my front offside tyre hit the island kerb and you can imagine that the tyre bursting was rather loud I continued past that roundabout with a flapping tyre and stopped immediately when I was in the road to Copthorne.

I quietly said a few words to myself for my stupidity and wondered what to do now! BUT to my great surprise and astonishment, almost as soon as I had pulled up a car travelling in the opposite direction came across the road and stopped in front of my vehicle and the driver came out and said he would help me- what an amazing piece of luck- he proceeded to deal with the removal of the wheel so that the emergency wheel could be fitted. With all nuts removed the wheel should have just come off, but no, it was not moving! My helper then produced his phone and proceeded to enquire of Nissan why the wheel did not move, he found that it was necessary to move the vehicle a few yards and that would release the wheel, it was necessary to fit the nuts back on, move the vehicle a few yards, release the nuts and low and behold the wheel moved. The emergency wheel was fitted and the Car was ready to move.

I thanked my helper for his very kind attention in helping me in a troubled situation, he would not take any payment for his kindness and then said he would follow me back to my destination so that he could ensure all was well with the car, and me! It was only 10 minutes away and we both pulled into the drive and I again thanked him for his kindness, he was happy that all was well and off he went to enjoy his Christmas. I was only 20 minutes late for my Lunch and spent the afternoon thinking how fortunate I had been, on Christmas Lunch time to have met up with a very thoughtful and kind man. To me it WAS a Miracle.

Dick

Band Report

Because of the Covid 19 situation there's very little to report except that our National Band has been selected to take part in this year Lord Mayor's Show (London), that's assuming it goes ahead. Hopefully I will be able to give a more inclusive report for the next Newsletter.

Paul Simmons

Reunion & AGM 2021

Will be

**Sunday, 17th January
2021, 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 2020

Please submit all contributions before 30th November 2020
(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