

Summer 2022



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 Comradship between past and present Members of the Brigade and to render Service to Others

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is

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

Stedfast Committee

PRESIDENT

Peter Ford

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

CHAIRMAN

Ray Eaves

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Ian Suttie

TREASURER

Alan Caperon

SECRETARY

Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC

Vacant

COMMITTEE

Terry Pomfrey
Les Russell
Sue Standen
Paul Simmons

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dick Kent

Dear Stedfast Members,

As we move around, surrounded by Union Flags and bunting, street parties and great National events, we give thanks to God for the one He has placed on the throne to lead this wonderful Kingdom for seventy glorious years, our Queen and Patron, Queen Elizabeth.

Her Majesty has not only kept a watchful eye on The Boys' Brigade but on countless other Organisations and Associations that form such an important part in the national life of The Nation. Let us give thanks that God raised such a person at such a time to oversee the affairs of this wonderful Kingdom, whose influence stretches in an unique way to every corner of the globe.

The BB also, through the Commonwealth and other parts of the World, has wonderful opportunities to help young people in every situation to develop their God given talents to achieve greatness in every possible way. This is what our Battalion is doing every day and in countless ways to advance The Kingdom of which there is no end.

Preparations are well advanced for Glynde 2022, and we can imagine the excitement of all the Boys who will be attending and especially those for whom Glynde at present is just a name, but for whom it will become a sacred place full of wonderful memories and new friendships and unbelievable food.

Thanks in large part to the wonderful preparation by Alan Caperon, this year's Reunion in April was a great success. The acclamations by both the Mayor of Brighton and Hove and the former Chairman of Adur and District Council spoke volumes to everyone privileged to be present.

The BB exists for such a time as this when it can be a channel through which Faith is poured into the lives of all its Members both young and old to enable us to be Stedfast in these swiftly changing times.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone,
Peter Ford Stedfast Association President



EDITORIAL

At long last we were able to be together and meet up with friends and our former members of our particular BB Company. It had been sometime before this became possible and even now it was necessary to change our normal date because of Covid restrictions.

There was a good turnout although less than normal, sadly because we had lost some 26 members who had been called home to higher service since our 2020 Reunion, the date also meant some were unable to attend and perhaps some were involved in the Brighton Marathon!!!!

The committee will consider when we should hold the next get together and advise everyone in good time. I am sure that those present enjoyed the afternoon meeting up again after a fairly long time, and there would have been much to discuss.

The committee, mainly encouraged by our Secretary arranged the afternoon, hopefully, so that all who attended enjoyed themselves and will look forward to our next event in 2023. It will be hoped that the numbers attending will be maintained, with the number of Companies declining in the area this may be difficult.

I send greetings to all our members, those who may be unwell you are in our thoughts, if we can be of assistance please let me or any committee member know and we will try to help.

Gods Blessing to you all, Dick

IN MEMORIAM

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

Martin White 1st Hassocks 19th May

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was good to see so many members at our long awaited Reunion on the 10th April where an afternoon of fellowship and comradeship was enjoyed by all who attended.

With summer now in our minds we look forward to holidays and days out. I am sure we all enjoyed Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. However you choose to celebrate these great occasions, I hope that you have a great time.

By the time that you read this your Stedfast Committee will have met to start planning for next years Reunion (date to be agreed), please let us know when you would like the Reunion to be, either April time or back to January.

As we have had committee members stand down we are still looking for new members to join us, so please contact either Alan, myself or any committee member for details. Please give this very careful thought.

Please put Tuesday 4th October in your diaries. Founder's Day Dinner, great evening of food and fellowship. If you haven't been before why not book the date and join us for this evening to celebrate the life of our founder Sir William Alexander Smith and the founding of our great movement The Boys' Brigade. For further details contact Les Russell.

Finally it is with sadness that I have to report the passing to higher service, Martin White founder and Captain of the 1st Hassocks Company. Our prayers and thoughts are with Martin's family at this sad time.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable summer.

Ray Eaves.

Stedfast Committee Chair

Please see the Reunion photographs throughout this publication



Chaplain's Page

Dear Friends,

I was writing this letter on the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. By a happy coincidence we were giving thanks for the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II on the same weekend that we were celebrating Pentecost and remembering the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples. My grandfather enjoyed reeling off the names of all the monarchs he had lived under. He was born in 1896, so he could begin with Queen Victoria, move on to Edward VII, then to George V, Edward VIII (sort of!), George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. I was born in 1956, so I have only lived under one monarch. You might like to work out how many monarchs you have lived under! Just before the Coronation of our Queen my grandfather was persuaded to buy his first television set. As my mother remembered it, it was a small wooden box with a sort of magnifying glass over the screen to make the picture look larger! She could remember family and friends crowding into their room so that they could all watch the Coronation together.

By all accounts, the decision to televise the Coronation was a controversial one. Apparently there was some stiff opposition to it, but in the end it was agreed that the service could be shown, apart from two moments that were regarded as too sacred to be seen by the general public. One of them was the Queen receiving the Holy Communion, and the other was the moment when she was anointed by the Archbishop. In order to stop all and sundry witnessing this, four knights of the Garter were deputed to hold over the Queen a rich pall of silk, or cloth of gold. Truth to tell, watching recordings of the Coronation, this pall looked more like a rather rickety mini gazebo! However, it was a hugely significant part of the service; according to one of the royal biographers, 'It was the moment when the holy oil was applied to her, rather than her crowning with St Edward's Crown of solid gold, that was of supreme importance for the Queen. Indeed, it was the most solemn and important moment of her entire life.'

It's this sacred act that brings our Jubilee celebrations and our remembering of Pentecost together. As the Archbishop prepared to anoint the Queen, he prayed that just as kings, priests and prophets of old were anointed with Holy Oil, so the Queen by her anointing might be consecrated, and strengthened 'with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.' 'Confirm and establish her' he prayed, 'with thy free and princely Spirit, the Spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill her, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever.' Recalling that Jesus was anointed with the Oil of gladness above his fellows, the Archbishop prayed over the Queen, 'By his holy Anointing pour down upon your head and heart the blessing of the Holy Ghost, and prosper the work of your hands ...'

The first disciples were equipped and enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit in the days after the first Easter so that they could fulfil their high calling to be Jesus' witnesses and proclaimers of the good news of the gospel from Jerusalem to Samaria to all the ends of the earth. At Pentecost we give thanks that the Spirit of God continues to equip and empower not only kings, priests and prophets but all God's people in every time and place. The Holy Spirit comes to us as Comforter, Inspirer, Advocate, Guide, the one who leads us into truth.

The gospels also tell us that the Holy Spirit brings to our minds the things of Jesus – the things that Jesus said and did, the ways in which he showed the all-encompassing love of God – not least in his giving up of himself on the cross. And the Spirit not only brings to mind what Jesus said and did long ago and far away, but also seeks to grow within us here and now the great qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control that we might become more Christ-like. The Spirit helps us to be Jesus's ambassadors and living signs of his kingly reign. And we do so, always remembering that we follow in the footsteps of the Jesus who didn't come to lord it over people or tyrannise them; as he said: 'Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.'

We have given thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in the long life and reign of Elizabeth our Queen and her exemplary service to this country and to the Commonwealth. We continue to give thanks for the ways in which the Holy Spirit is at work in all our lives, fashioning us into the likeness of Jesus Christ, that we might love and cherish each other and serve one another. As I prepare to retire this summer (or, as Methodists quaintly put it, 'sit down') I am so grateful for the many people I have worked with over the last forty years, and not least within the fellowship of The Boys' Brigade. It has been a privilege to serve as Chaplain and although I am now relinquishing that role, I will continue to remember you in my thoughts and prayers with thankfulness.

Every blessing,

Reverend Ian Suttie

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS

APRIL REUNION 2022

Please visit our website- <http://brightonstedfast.org.uk>

and see the photographs taken at the 2022 reunion, tea and AGM. You will also be able to view the photographs for the previous reunions from 2014 onwards. I would like to express my grateful thanks to Pam Stringer, our photographer, for her excellent photos which will enable us to rekindle our memories of past reunions and of course our latest 2022 reunion. You will see the minutes of the AGM included in this newsletter. Please note that over 60 members and guests attended our reunion. Regrettably, the Covid issues in 2021 and 2022 had forced your committee to rearrange the reunion to Palm Sunday but the thinking is very much that the next reunion will need to return to a date earlier in 2023.

STEDFAST REUNION 2023

- 29 January 2023 (would this date enable you "all" to attend?)
- Should reunions in future years be on the last Sunday in January?

This date would give your committee and the Southwick Methodist Church sufficient time after Christmas to make the necessary arrangements.

PLEASE MAKE CONTACT WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON WHETHER THE PROPOSED DATE OF "29 JANUARY 2023" IS A "YES"!

IF YOU AGREE TO THE DATE, PLEASE INSERT IN YOUR DIARY AND MAKE SURE YOU ATTEND AS WE NEED TO KNOW OF LIKELY NUMBERS FOR CATERING ETC. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE YOUR APOLOGIES (FOR ANY UNEXPECTED EVENTS) TO A DAY IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE REUNION (UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY).

We hope that by having a reunion on the last Sunday in January each year, this may increase the number of members that will be able to attend.

Please revert back with any other comments by the end of September 2022.

Please keep an eye on our website for the confirmed reunion date and we will update you in the Winter Newsletter with your invitation to the Annual Stedfast Reunion.

STEDFAST ASSOCIATION EVENTS-FOUNDER'S DINNER 4 OCTOBER 2022

Please support the Founder's dinner which will take place on 4 October 2022. I expect that Les Russell will make contact by email and or by telephone throughout the period up to that date.

STEDFAST ASSOCIATION EVENTS-REMEMBRANCE SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2022

The Remembrance services in Brighton, Hove and elsewhere in Sussex will take place in November 2022 as usual and we will leave you to decide where you may wish to attend. We will lay our Stedfast wreaths.

FEDERATION OF STEDFAST ASSOCIATIONS

There were 9 Stedfast Associations represented at the AGM on 13 May 2022 with representatives from Edinburgh, Leith and District, Elland, Glasgow, Inverness and District, Manchester, Liverpool, Norfolk, Northern Ireland and Brighton, Hove and District.

There are some positive signs that these various associations are returning to normal with various events being held in each area. A further meeting is planned in the Autumn to consider events in 2023.

Continued on next page

STEDFAST COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee will be meeting again towards the end of September 2022 to consider the chosen date for the next reunion and we will take into account your feedback on the proposed date for the 2023 reunion being Sunday 29 January 2023.

TREASURER'S SUMMER REPORT

The Committee would like to thank the members who have paid their 2022 subs. If you would like to pay directly into our Stedfast Association bank account, please provide in your bank instructions your name as a reference and you will note our Stedfast association bank details as follows:-

Lloyds Bank plc

Account name-The Stedfast Association Brighton

Sort code-30-90-89

Account number-56240860

CERTIFIED STEDFAST ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

Please note that the accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 were certified by Garry Lock, Chartered Accountant on 2 June 2022. The accounts cannot be considered for adoption by members until the next AGM in 2023 but the full accounts (with comparative figures) are shown on the next page of the newsletter.

CONCLUSION

I wish you all a pleasant Summer and look forward to hearing from you either by email or post at your earliest convenience.

Finally, if you have not attended a reunion recently, please make a special effort to attend on 29 January 2023 since we need to increase our numbers back to pre Covid levels.

Yours stedfastly,

Alan Caperon

Stedfast secretary and treasurer

10th BB Article

History

Dear members,

We, the staff of the company took the heart breaking decision after 122 years to close the 10th Brighton (Hove) Boys Brigade Company.

This was not an easy decision to make but dwindling numbers and The Boys' Brigade's return to face to face policies and the risk assessments required made the decision for us. What we would have to do week by week before and after each section added a huge amount of time onto our meetings.

We honestly hope after 122 years we have had an impact on every Boy, helper and officer that have come through these doors, and like us will have fond memories of camps, competitions, badge work, friendships made that last a life time.

Over these years we have welcomed 1000's some with generations of Grandfathers, fathers and Sons.

As we say our goodbye We remember our object - the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys, promotion of habits of obedience, discipline, reverence, self respect and ALL that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Dec-20 2020	Dec-20 2020	STEDFAST ASSOCIATION BRIGHTON HOVE AND DISTRICT BRANCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021	2021	2021
		INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
	115			71
£	£	INCOME		
	1,533.00	Total Subscriptions and members donations 2021		1,174.00
	349.40	Reunion collections-cancelled in 2021		
224.70		Reunion service collection	0	0.00
124.70		Reunion tea collection	0	
	340.00	Donations to Stedfast Association		175.00
nil				
150.00		RSM-donation for Spring newsletter	75.00	
190.00		Other donations-members	100.00	
		Donations for The Brighton Boys' Brigade-Founder's dinner	20	20
	2,222.40	TOTAL INCOME		1,369.00
		EXPENDITURE		
9.00		Stock c/f (see below)		
	339.22	Newsletter costs		255.44
29.62		Stationery/envelopes	5	
97.60		Postage (stamps purchased for year)	55.44	
75.00		Printing -newsletters Spring	75	
62.00		Printing -newsletters Summer	60	
75.00		Printing -newsletter Winter	60	
	336.95	Reunion 2021-cancelled		0.00
279.35		Reunion tea and refreshments costs-no reunion in 2020		
57.60		Reunion-St John Ambulance etc (cheque not presented to bank account)	0.00	
		Printing order of service (no charge made by the church in 2020)	0.00	
	168.80	Other costs		155.06
100.00		Computer software and website	86.26	
68.80		Insurance	68.80	
nil				
	654.70	Donations		670.00
0.00		Stedfast Band-donation for Worthing Carnival event costs		
45.00		Federation of Stedfast Association- Subscription	45.00	
50.00		Wreaths- Remembrance Sunday for British Legion	50.00	
35.00		BOBS		
0.00		Brighton Boys Brigade camp-donation (members contributions)	350.00	
524.70		Southwich Methodist Church-donation	200.00	
0.00		Preston Bowls Club-donation	25.00	
	1,499.67	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,080.50
	722.73	SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		288.50
		Costs provision written back for previous years (not spent)		100.00
	2,051.96	Surplus funds brought forward		2,774.69
	2,774.69	Surplus funds carried forward		3,163.19

2020	2020	STEDFAST ASSOCIATION BRIGHTON HOVE AND DISTRICT BRANCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021	2021	2021
		BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		
	2,095.75	Cash at Bank	2,307.75	2,307.75
		Creditor-Michael Harris sub for 2022 in advance	-15.00	-15.00
620.32	620.32	Cash at Bank	887.32	887.32
	-100.00	Creditors for website costs to be paid written back overprovision £100 envelopes	-86.26	-86.26
		Spent re Insurance		
		Spent P and P		
	2,774.69	Surplus funds carried forward		3,163.19

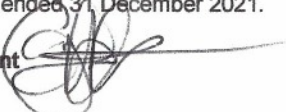
ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the Stedfast Association-Brighton, Hove and District branch's books and records and confirm that the Accounts set out above are in accordance therewith for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Garry Lock

Chartered Accountant

Dated 2 June 2022



Battalion report to the Reunion AGM

(Given by Gary Pickett Battalion President.)

Good afternoon to you all.

Isn't it crazy that it has been two years since I last stood here and have spoken to you and updated you on the Battalion. I want to thank you for allowing me to speak to you again about our Battalion and how it is doing.

In March 2020 the night before our scripture competition we learned that Covid is spreading fast and that we would be going into lockdown. All those leaders in the Battalion thought like most people that it was going to be only 2 weeks but those weeks turned into months. BB HQ launched in recorded time the BB at home badge work. I know that in my own companies we didn't do much for the first few months however we did assign this post to the young people to do at home and sent out care packages. With Zoom becoming a better-known platform some companies moved to this as the new style of BB during our time away from each other at face-to-face meetings. This was the case for all of us for the rest of 2020.

When the BB was allowed to restart with bubbles and masks and other restriction BB had a new normal some companies managed to adapt to these with the space to do this. Other companies due to space and limitations where not able to start back with these restrictions.

I have to say with regret that during all these changes with Covid as a Battalion we have lost 4 companies with the 10th Brighton, 14th Brighton, 25th Brighton and 1st Roffey all closing.

But lets also look at some positives:-

- The 7 companies remaining had lost young people during Covid but we are now seeing growth and stability in every BB company.
- We Presented 6 Queens Badge awards at a Battalion presentation.
- We Presented the Ernest Beal VC award in 2020 to Harry Newman and 2021 to Tom Baty.
- We ran a photo and baking competition with young people and leaders all able to enter in the different age group categories with a winner being announced for each of these groups.
- Maria our Anchor section chair ran Easter and Christmas Anchor events with packs of craft and games being sent to each young person to celebrate these festivals.
- With your support and support from other Charities I managed to reach our funding target for 10 new bell tents for camp but unfortunately bell tents where unavailable last year due to everyone taking UK holidays.

Continued on next page

- Glynde 2021 managed to take place but this was a different camp then usual as when planning the restrictions didn't allow camp to run as normal so we had two camps a junior and a senior camp both lasting 4 days with no trips out so we all stayed on site but we all had an amazing time with different events than we would normally do. But even with all of these changes, Glynde 2021 was the largest camp we have had in years.
- We signed up and launched our Amazon Smile account so if you shop on Amazon then you can support us every time you shop and Amazon makes a donation to us.
- We set up our Google drive to share quizzes and badge Work items and also to share BB H.Q. items that are sometimes hard to find on the website.

As you can see the Battalion has had its ups and downs in the last two years but the executive has pulled together to try and support the companies and each other the best we could in a difficult time.

I want to thank you for listening to me today and thank you for your support and continued prayers for the Battalion.

Thank you

Gary Pickett Battalion President.

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER Tuesday evening 4th OCTOBER 2022

Preston Bowls (Brighton) Ltd, have confirmed that the facilities will be made available to us again this year, subject to any Government restrictions. This means that if you have penciled in that date on your diary or calendar you may now INK IT IN. Please inform your guests to do likewise.

The first time we held The Founder's Day Dinner at Preston Bowls club it was 2013 and we were celebrating the 130 years since the BB first started.

This year we are celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Michael, the club's excellent Chef, has agreed to our having the same menu as usual but with, like so many things these days, a price increase. The price is £22.50 per head.

Looking forward to seeing you in October.

Menu choices should reach Les by **September 22nd**

Les's contact details to discuss the menu options 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.

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion

Reunion service

The Service was held as usual at The Southwick Methodist Church and opened by our President Peter Ford. He welcomed everyone to the Service including our special guests The Mayor of Brighton and Hove Cllr Alan Robins and Cllr Andy McGregor former Chairman Of Adur District Council.

The colours were paraded at the commencement of the Service.

Sgt Harry Newman read the Remembrance verses in memory of those of our members who had been called to Higher Service. The Congregation stood for the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

Our Chaplain the Reverend Ian Suttie gave the sermon and Reverend Frank Okai Sam said the prayers.

The Service ended with the return of the colours and the congregation departed to the main hall for refreshments and the AGM.

The tea, cakes and biscuits were enjoyed by all, served by Members and helpers of the 1st Southwick BB Company including the Battalion President. Thanks were given to those who assisted with the service especially Carl Jukes who played the Organ and Sgt Harry Newman for reading the Remembrance Verses.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was opened by Our Chairman Ray Eaves, and he welcomed members and guests and all who have contributed to the days events. Particularly he thanked Janet Spoor who was responsible for the catering, the Committee, especially Alan Caperon (Secretary and Treasurer) for the work in organising the afternoons events. The BB camp Grace was sung.

The Secretary read the names of those who had apologised for being unable to attend the reunion. Members present adopted the minutes of the 2020 Reunion together with the accounts for 2020 (the 2021 accounts were still to be audited.)

The Battalion President spoke of the Battalion Activities including a very good Camp at Glynde and the sadness that 4 Companies had ceased to be active since we last met. (10th. 14th. 25th and 1st Roffey). 6 Queens badges had been awarded and the Ernest Beal VC watch was awarded for 2019 to Harry Newman and for 2020 to Tom Baty.

Alan Caperon announced that Dave Norman, Dick Kent and Ann Austen have now retired from the Committee and they were thanked for their services. The Reverend Ian Suttie will retire in July 2022 as Chaplain. A plea was made for volunteers to join the Committee.

The election for the Committee then followed for the coming year. Those elected having been duly nominated and seconded were:

President- Peter Ford. **Chairman-** Ray Eaves. **Secretary/Treasurer-** Alan Caperon.

The committee:- Paul Simmons. Terry Pomfrey. Les Russell and Sue Standen.

Dick Kent led the search for the Youngest and Oldest members present. The result was Peter Gear (Oldest) 10th Brighton (Hove) BB Co and Sgt Harry Newman (Youngest) 1st Southwick BB Co.

Stand Up Sit Down got most members having to get active when asked regarding their involvement during their BB Days past and present.

Singing of the The BB Vesper brought the Afternoon to a Close.

Dick Kent



Change but could you do it now?

As a young child I was around the 14th Brighton Boys' Brigade Co, where my two brothers were members. My youngest brother was one of 14th Brighton first Anchor boys, lovingly called Robins back in the day owing to their bright red jumpers. Both of these boys had fantastic company captains with Brian Hill, Derek Hall and then Alan Breslin. As a current company captain myself, I have seen the popularity of the uniformed sector wain, but this is not the only change. In 2007 The Boys' Brigade made the decision to have a Girls Association, this brought about a whole new way of working, along with stronger red tape, training, diversity and inclusion rules. Much has changed over the years, so I ask you all could you run a company now?

Our lovely organisation was during the 1970s/80s (this as far back as I remember) a super strong force known around the town, it was supported and offered support to big events such as Brighton Lions Carnival. We had a standout uniform, instantly recognisable, we had a Battalion band, we had 2,000 young men and boys. Our programme was based on scripture and discipline, drill was a staple on a company meeting night. Church parade and regular services had lots of young members attending wanting to get their just rewards for 100% attendance, moving up the ladder to gain all the badges and NCO status was a goal, and many staying on to become leaders and even company captains.

The Boys' Brigade in 2022 is wholly different. Firstly, our uniform is no longer standout, it is now lost in a crowd, the pride of putting on the uniform of displaying your loyalty to the organisation, has all but disappeared. The laid-back approach of polo shirts and sweatshirts just does not stand out like a white haversack and polished brass. The young people of today are not bothered to wear uniforms, and this can be a battleground between the youth and the staff. Drill is still practiced in some companies, but once again this a dying art with young people favouring team sports, and arts and crafts over staples such as drill. The introduction of girls has split opinion among leaders, with some opting to have boys only, and find that girls are not a welcome addition. Although it must be said that girls can enrich what we offer, and equality is very much a watch word in all walks of life and we should be no different.

Following the discovery of the systematic child abuse in the church over many decades the new safeguarding procedures have been developed. Companies now have a minefield of safeguarding, not only put in place by headquarters but also by the church and in some cases by the local authority. This minefield has led to a deep decline in volunteers coming forward to run organisations across the board not just in BB. Owing to the 24-hour society and the increase in traffic and huge population bursts we now have a bigger reliance on parents to bring their children to church on Sunday, some parents may work, have plans with their families and church has become a last thought.

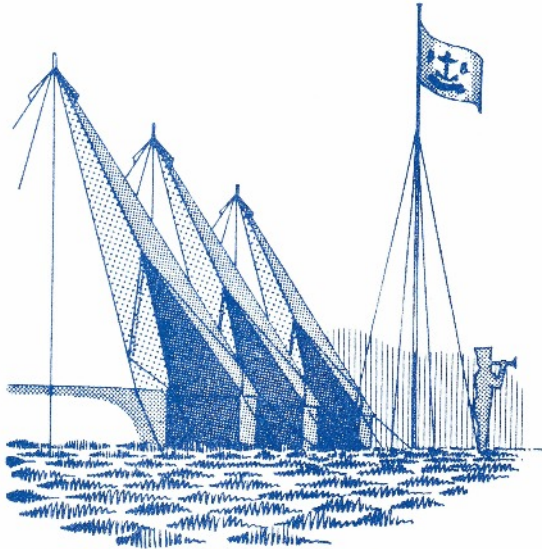
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The Boys' Brigade in 2022 has become about laying the foundations of faith on company nights, I always say to my new parents, you can't go to the polling booth without knowing the values of the parties standing, faith is much the same. No-one can decide if they want to follow Jesus without the foundations and knowledge to make that decision. BB has become about the inclusion of all genders, religions, physical and mental disabilities. It is about making a safe, loving environment that children want to come to week after week. It is also about getting seen, working in our communities, advertising and computer skills.

Written by Lynn Burtenshaw Captain 26th Brighton BB Co/ Battalion Secretary/ Battalion Vice President.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE CENTENARY YEAR



**75th Brighton, Hove & District
Battalion Camp – Glynde 1983**



One of Scotland's greatest gifts to the world – The Boys' Brigade, started in Glasgow in 1883. The first voluntary youth movement for Boys. This year, 1983, The Boys' Brigade celebrates its Centenary.

The Founder, William Alexander Smith, (later knighted for his service to youth), first took Boys camping in 1886 – the cost in those days for a weeks camp was just 9/- (45p).

The Boys' Brigade in Brighton, first camped on its own at Goring, Sussex in 1900, and apart from the War Years 1915–18 and 1940–44 has held a Camp regularly each year. Camps at Glynde commenced immediately after the First World War, and apart from 4 years spent at Hurstpierpoint College, has camped there ever since.

The commemorative cover has been produced to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Camping by The Brighton, Hove and District Battalion of The Boys' Brigade.

Many hundreds of men, now spread throughout the world will remember Glynde Camp for – its huge Mess Tent, often referred to as God's House among the trees, where many a young man has offered himself to Christ, for – its Motto 'Think of the Other Fellow', for – the competition between camp companies, Arabs, Buffaloes, Cowboys and Diggers, for – a coveted leaf from the Laurel Crown which hangs in the Mess Tent all through each Camp.

The Brighton, Hove and District Battalion of The Boys' Brigade gives thanks to God, and to all those who have made it possible to camp at Glynde over the years.

Long may it continue!

Centenary of The Boys' Brigade — 18th January, 1983

The earliest of the uniformed voluntary youth organisations - The Boys' Brigade - achieves its centenary in 1983 and the Guernsey Post Office has prepared five stamps to reflect some of the activities undertaken locally. The designer of the set is Sally Stiff; her work has been translated into stamp form by Harrison and Sons Ltd. of High Wycombe in England.

The founder of The Boys' Brigade, Sir William A. Smith, was once asked the purpose of his organisation; his reply of "discipline and religion" was subsequently expanded into The Brigades formal object: 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 motto "Sure and Stedfast" incorporated into the Crest strengthens the religious aspect in that it is taken from the Epistle to the Hebrews, hence the unusual spelling of the final word.



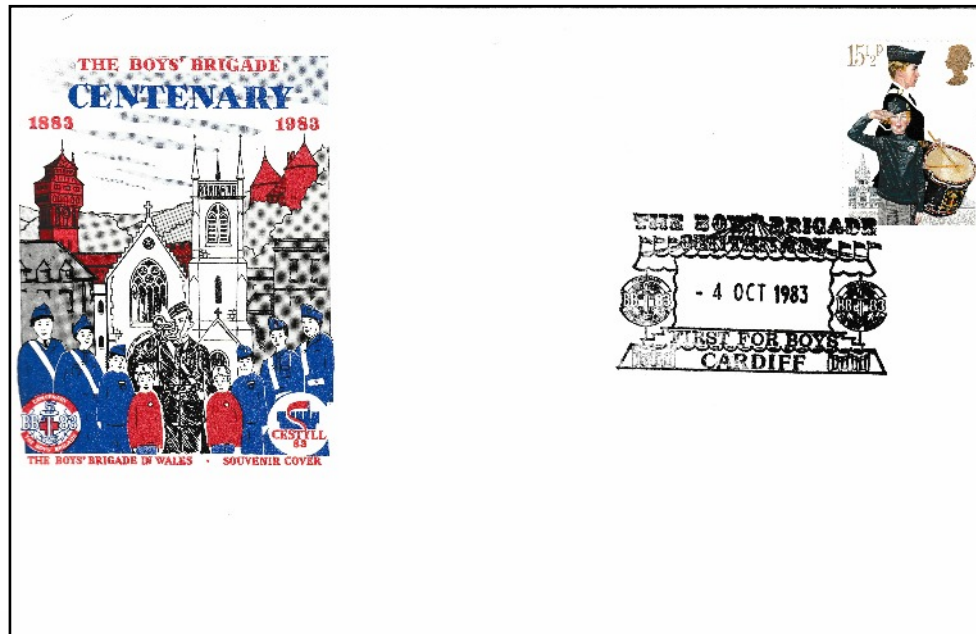
The Scouts and The Boys' Brigade share much common ground. The latter does however pride itself on its band and the related drilling and our artist has chosen these aspects as the link throughout the set. The different bandmen featured on the four initial values join the full band depicted on the 29p against St. Peter Ports seafront. This denomination and the 26p (marching/ Castle Cornet) highlight the striving for discipline; Christian principles are embodied in the subject of the 24p - a Bible Class - against, appropriately, St. Peter Port Church; and the U.K. and local rates illustrate that The Brigade is mindful also of the value of recreation, a tug of war contest taking place in the shadow of a Martello Tower and water sports being shown against the smaller islands of the Bailiwick. Miss Stiff describes the set as "formalised to a degree, but light-hearted in feeling"

Sir William Alexander Smith was born in 1854 at Scrabster on the north coast of Scotland. He acquired a firm grounding in religion at home and a sound education in the nearby village school, where his qualities of leadership became manifest at an early stage. The Smith family had a tradition of military service which William followed by joining the 1st Lanark Rifle Volunteers. His migration to the city of Glasgow had followed the sudden death of his father and the sale of the family home; his uncle owned a wholesale merchants business there in which William was to find employment.

A subsequent venture was to found his own business together with his younger brother. Several years' service in the Rifles led to a commission and from the control of a body of men it was but a small step to the control of a body of Sunday School pupils. Membership of a church had not surprisingly been undertaken soon after his arrival in Glasgow and, given his own introduction to matters spiritual at an early age, the involvement with religious teaching was almost inevitable. Here then was the combination of discipline and religion that was to lead to the foundation of The Boys' Brigade.

It was the sight of former Sunday School lads congregating in the streets without a purpose in life that inspired Smith to action. He discussed the problem at length with two close friends who were later to become his lieutenants and from these discussions sprang the fundamental principles of The Brigade as set out in the Object quoted above. The day on which the ideas of the three pioneers were put into practice was 4th October, 1883, and the place the North Woodside Mission Hall in Glasgow.

On the formation of his thirty-strong group, Smith had no inkling that the idea would spread beyond the four walls of his unit. Only after the appearance of similar groups in neighbouring districts did it dawn upon him that a wider organisation was conceivable but even then the scope seemed very limited. initial steps were to call a meeting of Glasgow leaders and to form a Council of The Boys' Brigade. A Constitution was drafted and this has formed the basis of all subsequent BB. activity, a later important proviso being that each Company should have a Church affiliation.



This souvenir cover produced by The Boys' Brigade in Wales marks the Centenary of The Boys' Brigade. On 4th October, 1883, an unruly band of boys poured through the doors of North Woodside Mission Sunday School Hall in Glasgow. To their surprise they soon found themselves drilling and marching to the orders of the young Sunday School Secretary, William Alexander Smith, and his two helpers. The first Company of The Boys' Brigade was born, no longer a dream but the starting point of a worldwide family of organisations that owe their existence to Smith's vision and initiative.

Born in 1854 in the Scottish town of Thurso, Smith later joined his uncle's business in Glasgow where he became a member of the Free College Church, taking an active interest in its Sunday School. From a family with a strong military tradition and with practical experience of discipline as a volunteer of the 1st Lanark Rifles, Smith was troubled by the rowdy behaviour and lack of direction amongst boys at the school. For months he sat down after work and planned an attractive means to instil discipline and religion into their lives, with a sense of purpose extending to weekday activities. Believing that military drill was the ideal means of introducing boys to the benefits of self-control, co ordination and team spirit, Smith worked out the Object of his Boys' Brigade as '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 ideal motto 'Sure and Stedfast' was found in Hebrews 6 verse 19.

Despite an initial lack of uniform, the Boys eagerly took to their new regime of drill and Bible Class on Sunday mornings. By the end of the first year Smith had a solid nucleus of 30 boys which soon spread to other groups. With the addition of drums and fifes and a distinctive 'uniform' of pill-box cap, belt and haversack, the movement caught the imagination of boys and Church leaders everywhere. From a local Scottish experiment it gathered momentum to become the leading British uniformed organisation for boys. Smith was forced to admit he had set in train a-greater movement than he had ever dreamed of. In 1887 he gave up business to become full-time Brigade Secretary and by the end of the century there were over 20,000 members throughout the world.

Other Churches and religious groups were quick to adopt the formula. The Free Churches of England formed the Boys' Life Brigade in 1899 with special emphasis on life-saving. In 1926, they joined with The Boys' Brigade and both of their junior sections for under-12's combined as the Life Boys. Today there are over 162,000 members of The Boys' Brigade in the United Kingdom with a world-wide membership of over 400,000 in more than 60 countries.

The Boys' Brigade 1883-1983



Official Commemorative Cover

The Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade is the pioneer uniformed organisation for Boys. Founded in Glasgow on 4th October 1883 by William Alexander Smith, it caters for Boys from 6 to 18 years, grouped in 4 age categories. The Object is the development of Christian character, supportive of the Church, the Home and the School. The Method used offers a comprehensive and enlightened programme of Spiritual, Social, Educational and Physical activities through a Badge incentive scheme and specialised activities having wide Boy appeal. The Motto is "Sure & Stedfast". In the older age groups there is strong emphasis on leadership development reflected in the fact that many of the current adult leaders are former members. The Brigade is International and operates in some 70 Countries around the World. The 1st Dublin Co. was formed in 1891 and is still operating. The strength of the Brigade in Ireland is up to 30,000 all ranks in up to 400 Companies.

Commemorative First Day Covers

In one of the Stedfast Newsletters last year a question was asked, "Did any members know about the special stamps of the youth organisations printed in 1983"? As we collect first day covers this sparked our interest. During that special year for The Boys' Brigade, we had collected 15 first day covers from around the world and four, with their inserts are shown above. The special one for us was the one that was given out to every Officer & Boy that attended Glynde Camp that year, as it also commemorated its 75th year. An Architect friend designed the cover and Adrian, as C.O. wrote the insert as well as made arrangements with the Post Office that it could be stamped from Lewes with our special logo.

Do any of you still have yours?

Hilary Ball

The next Newsletter will be Autumn/Winter 2022

Please submit all contributions before the end of September 2022
(electronically or typed if possible)

To Terry Pomfrey 148 Mile Oak Road Portslade Brighton BN41 2PL.

Email: Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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**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 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

(cheque's payable to the Stedfast Association)