



Winter 2016

Stedfast News

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

The Object of The Stedfast Association

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

Stedfast Committee

PRESIDENT

Peter Ford

VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN

John Donoghue

TREASURER

Alan Caperon

SECRETARY

Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC

Stephen Roberts

COMMITTEE

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

Dear Stedfast Members,

What on earth are you doing?! Or more to the point, what are you doing on earth?

Some live a life of complete idleness, some a life of total selfishness, whilst some rush from one thing to another without a moment to spare.

Look to Jesus. He always seemed to have all the time in the World to help and to heal and to encourage others. How? Because He always did God's Will. His life was built on Prayer and learning God's purpose in every situation that He found Himself.

Like our Great Captain, The B.B. is built on twin pillars. God has called each of us in an entirely different and unique way to do His Will and that is all that we can do - trusting Him for everything, every day and in every way. Seeking Him in all situations and especially where we can help to promote our Object.

We can all look back and give thanks for Officers and Boys in The Brigade who have been of inestimable value in our lives, as we trust that we have been to others too. One of these is our Chairman, John Donoghue, who will retire at the next Reunion in January. John has served The Battalion wonderfully well as Quartermaster at Glynde and as Chair of The Association. John's Stedfast loyalty, great humour and attention to detail will long be remembered and we are very grateful for the wonderful service he has given.

Next year, on the 15th January at The Annual Reunion we look forward to welcoming you whether you have never been before or whether you have attended for many years. Please especially remember that Wives and Partners are very welcome indeed.

How better to celebrate Our Founder than to meet for Dinner on the 4th October and this year once again the evening was arranged by Les Russell. Thanks Les for a job well done and the meal was magnificent.

As another wonderful Glynde has made all the efforts of The Staff so worthwhile, let us look forward to Christmas and The New Year with renewed confidence that we are on The Lord's side and always will be.

With Stedfast Greetings to everyone.

Peter Ford *Stedfast Association President*



EDITORIAL

It's that time of year again, the build up to Christmas has begun, that is as I write.

Before we get near there the Committee will be busy completing plans for the January reunion. We have had the Remembrance Parades. This year the Hove Parade which we would normally attend was not held at the Memorial, only the Service at the Parish Church. Our Buglers were in attendance at this service and a wreath was laid. We were represented at the Brighton Parade in the morning.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and hope that most of you will be spending the festive season with your Families. Some I know will be alone or not in the best of health, you will be remembered in our prayers, and perhaps if you are aware of someone who is alone this Christmas please take a moment to call on them.

Enjoy the Festive season of GOODWILL and remember lets put CHRIST into CHRISTMAS. Celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

God's Blessings at this time to you ALL.
Dick

Apologies

Regretfully I missed including this in our last newsletter, so we have included it now



“Members of the 1st Lindfield give a cheer at the close of their Awards Evening in March. As well as their awards, presented by Chief Guest Terry Ward, Anchors and Juniors entertained the audience with games, and the Company Section gave a demonstration of drumming”.

Founder's Day Dinner 2017

Following the great success of the Founder's Day Dinners of the past four years, Preston Bowls Club has again been provisionally booked for Wednesday 4th October 2017 7pm for 7.30pm, please put this into your diary for 2017 as soon as you receive it. As part of the evening we always hold a raffle to raise funds which go directly to The Glynde Camp Fund.

Please remember this if you have any, non-perishable, unneeded gifts over the festive season. The venue can seat up to 70 diners so there is room for a few more next year. E—mail Les Russell to book your place; lc.russell@hotmail.co.uk.

Les

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.

Ron Holder died, November 2015, but we have only just been notified.

John Thorn Sunday 16th October 2016

Derrick Sanders (2nd Eastbourne Company.) Elder & Organist of The Broadway United Church died on 24th October 2016

Old Boys' Prayer

Lord God we thank you for the B.B. for the memories of our Boyhood days.

We think of our members that continue to work with Boys, volunteering to serve you in the B.B. within the Church, to advance your Kingdom. For the Officers and boys in their companies.

We pray for our members, that they will be able to join us in fellowship at our Reunion in January.

We pray for our members that have special need of Your Grace and Love. Give them the strength to persevere through suffering, sickness, poverty, troubled relationships or loss.

Lord God by the power of your love and strength, we know we can face whatever lies ahead.

AMEN

The next Newsletter will be Spring 2017

Please submit all contributions (electronically or typed if possible) before 28 February 2017

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

Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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Chaplains Page... Christmas Bells

Bells are associated with Christmas tree decorations or as unfolded crepe-paper hangings. Carol singers have been accompanied by hand bell ringers.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth good will to men.

Whereas in Britain the Anglican Church has a monopoly on the use of bells, in the Americas most churches have a carillon with a peal or hymn tunes. In other churches and chapels overseas a single bell is chimed one hour and then twenty minutes before a service, and on the hour that worship begins. For a funeral a bell is tolled slowly at intervals to give the age of the deceased. Seven rings followed by a pause and five more announces that the person who died was seventy five.

In Guyana the senior minister arrived at one church and nobody was there. So he rang the bell, causing panic – who had died? Unknowingly, he was tolling the bell! John Donne wrote in the 17th century 'never seek to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.' You may be familiar with the 1940 book by Ernest Hemingway '**For whom the bell tolls**' and the 1943 film with the same title starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. This was about the Spanish Civil War. Today in Syria and elsewhere there are no bells to announce wholesale slaughter and instant death.

Henry Wordsworth Longfellow wrote a hymn during the American Civil war over slavery.

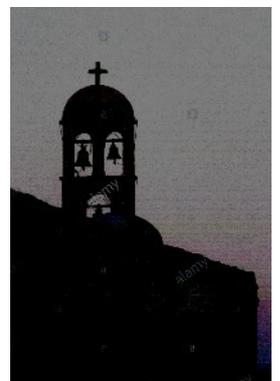
And in despair I bowed my head, "There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth good will to men."
But Longfellow's faith enabled him to continue;
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth good will to men.

Christmas bells confirm the Advent hope of a Gospel of peace and love.

Ira D. Sankey published *Sacred Songs and Solos* in 1872 in which number 350 began

The Gospel Bells are ringing, over land, from sea to sea;
This was also printed in *The Golden Hymnal* [200] published in America and circulated in Britain as *Golden Bells* in 1925, in order that 'The Songs of Zion' could be put into the lips of children. My home church had its Sunday School Anniversary Cantata in which I sang (Soprano over seventy years ago) 'The Bells of Galilee.' "I hear the bells across the sea, Softly, gently singing, The lily bells of Galilee, Softly, sweetly ringing."

The bells of the church in Tiberias on the shores of Galilee in Israel



If you cannot hear the bells on Christ Day, read the hymn "It came upon the midnight clear..." [Rejoice and Sing 144, Singing the Faith 205]

May God's grace, love, and peace be yours throughout the Christmas and New Year season.

Rev Dr John C. Neal

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Founders Day Dinner 2016 was a very memorable occasion with 24 Old Boys and friends coming together to celebrate the very beginning of The Boys' Brigade. Our President Peter Ford spoke about William Smith when at 8pm on 4th October 1883 he met with Boys of his Sunday School to commence the start of The Boys' Brigade.

Today The Boys' Brigade spans the whole world and is still growing strong. Peter led us in a toast to Sir William Smith at Exactly 8pm. Later we toasted the Queen who is the Patron of The Boys' Brigade.

This wonderful event which I think YOU should have been there was on Tuesday October 4th 7pm for 7.30pm at Preston Bowls Club, 189, Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SA. Last year there were 37 dinners who raised £52.00 in the raffle for the Boys Summer Camp at Glynde. This year we raised £47.00. Well done to Les Russell who is a Committee Member and organised the event.

I look forward to meeting you all at our Reunion in January. Rev. Ray Sowersby born in Edinburgh and has been through the ranks of The Boys' Brigade and is now living in Eastbourne will be our speaker.

There is a lot of work that goes on in the planning of the reunion and I know it would be good to see new faces on the committee. As chairman I shall be retiring from the committee at the reunion. Please support your new chairman and bring along new members to our association so that we can continue to support the B.B. THANK YOU.

John Donoghue, *Chairman*.

Junior Section Potted Sports

The Junior Section Potted sports took place on Wednesday 19th October at the HQ of 2nd Burgess Hill. 40 boys split into eight teams took part from the 9th Brighton, 14th Brighton, 1st Southwick, 1st Lindfield & 2nd Burgess Hill.

It was a great evening of fellowship and fun with 16 different indoor activities. A very close competition.

In 8th place with 66 points were the 9th Brighton X Team, 7th - 1st Southwick 81 points, 6th - 14th Brighton 84 points, 5th - 2nd Burgess Hill A Team 92 points, 4th - 1st Lindfield 97 points, 3rd - 9th Brighton B Team 101 points, 2nd - 2nd Burgess Hill B Team 107 points, the winners with 112 points the 2nd Burgess Hill C Team.

Well done the 2nd Burgess Hill.

Mark Jago



PETER GEAR

On Monday evening 17th October there was a gathering at Ventnor Hall (Cliftonville Reform Church Hall). Not just a supper night for the Boys, but a surprise party for that (now) old timer Pete Gear.

This was to celebrate 75 years of association with the 10th Brighton-Hove Company. There were over 60 Boys, Old Boys and Friends present and they enjoyed a Sausage Beans and Chips Supper and this was followed by some team games with teams of mixed young and old. The young boys really showed up the slightly older team members!!!

There was ample opportunity for all present to share many happy memories from the last 75 years and enjoy the photographs from the years gone by. A memorable evening for the Older Boys, some though had difficulty trying to remember names, and faces.



A proud record of service to the 10th of which Pete should be very, very proud. He was also a Member of the Stedfast Committee, and for some time was our Chairman.

It was good also to see Dick Dench, our oldest Stedfast Member quietly enjoying the event, and I was delighted to be able to celebrate with all present.

Dick Kent



Secretary and Treasurers Report

Membership

I would like to thank the 120 members who have paid subs this year which in total exceed £1,500.

We send some 80 newsletters by post three times a year (the rest are sent by email) and in view of increasing costs would appreciate it if the members that currently receive the newsletter by post can provide us with an email address when you complete your membership forms for 2017.

We do appreciate that a number of our members do not have access to email and therefore we will of course still send to you the newsletters by post to keep you informed of BB matters throughout the year.

The annual cost for three newsletters is some £600, including printing, postage and envelopes which works out at over £7 per member per year. If we are able to make some costs savings in 2017, this would benefit the Stedfast Association and the donations we will be able to make in future on behalf of our membership.

Accounts

The 2016 accounts will be available at the Reunion AGM as usual and in ball park figures our income for the year was £2,000, including subs and monies received at the Reunion, which will be fully utilised by the donations made this year and by the Stedfast Association's expenses.

We will have surplus funds for the start of 2017 which is a useful buffer in case funding is required towards our costs next year if the costs exceed our income. If we can make savings in our costs such as the example above regarding the newsletters, then hopefully we will have more than enough income to consider further requests for donations.

It is important for us to continue to meet the Stedfast Associations costs incurred at Southwick Methodist Church. The church provides us with the use of the church facilities for the band to meet every month, for the committee meetings to take place but most importantly being able to hold our annual Reunion service, tea and AGM on the third Sunday in January every year.

Continued on next page

Brigade 5-a-side Football Tournament

The winners of this years **5-a-side football** tournament is as follows;

The younger age group, (school years 7-9), were the 9th Brighton.

The senior trophy, (years 10 -13), were the 14th Brighton.

Congratulations to the winners and well done to all who took part.

Note, the Battalion Company Section Committee wishes school years to be used in all future competitions, as they are generally used in youth work.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Reunion-2017

Please make every effort to be on parade for the Reunion on 15th January 2017 and please arrive by 2.15pm so you have time to sign the attendance registers, pay your subs and hand in your membership forms which you will find on page 16 of this newsletter.

Please see the invitation letter on page 15 of this Newsletter which gives you more details of the arrangements and telephone numbers to ring as required.

I know that all our members do their best to support us by coming to the Reunion and I look forward to welcoming you when you arrive. Please also see minutes of the 2016 AGM on page 13 with the details of nominations for the posts of officers and committee members at the 2017 AGM.

Newsletter, Website etc and AGM

Please let us have your comments at the AGM, on the newsletter and web site; www.brightonstedfast.org.uk. and please let us know of any other matters you wish to bring to our attention.

I hope you have a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon, *Secretary and Treasurer*

Band Report

Band continues to meet on the first Friday of every month, 7pm at Southwick Methodist Church. Any new members, experienced or not, would be most welcome.

We have begun to hold regular joint practices with our London colleagues, the first two of which have been quite successful.

At the moment, the calendar is bare. The Hove Remembrance Parade, which we have led for a good number of years, was cancelled by the council (due to financial constraints, I understand). This is a big disappointment to us, as it was the last remaining local event the band undertakes, although the Buglers were asked to play Last Post and Reveille in the church service. Following a request from the GB in Hurstpierpoint, a small contingent of percussion section led their Remembrance parade.

The national band is hoping to visit Belfast next May 2017 and there are a number of practices planned to prepare for that. The proposed itinerary is to give two performances at the Titanic centre and then to beat retreat at another venue in the evening. Then to lead the church parade for the Stedfast council the next morning.

Barry McCann

**FEDERATION OF STEDFAST ASSOCIATIONS UNITED KINGDOM & REPUBLIC OF
IRELAND ANNUAL COUNCIL/FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND SATURDAY
13th MAY TO SUNDAY 14th MAY 2017 IN BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Stedfast Association Northern Ireland are pleased to be hosting The Federation of Stedfast Associations United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Annual Council/ Fellowship Weekend in Belfast at “**The Clayton Hotel**” in the heart of the City.

The cost of the weekend will be £132.00 per person whether occupying a double/twin room or a single room. The cost covers the Federation’s registration fee, one night stay on a bed & breakfast basis, a Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening and a Buffet lunch on Sunday.

Whilst we have a deadline of 31st March 2017 for bookings in order to confirm numbers with the hotel we are happy to take bookings immediately with a £50 deposit per person and the balance payable by 31st March 2017.

It would be helpful if you could reply as soon as possible as we have a set number of rooms booked and at this point in time the hotel cannot take any more bookings so we might have to make other arrangements

ALL ENQUIRIES

Mr Trevor Cardy, The Secretary of Northern Ireland Stedfast Association,
18 Strandburn Gardens, Belfast, BT4 1LW (Home) Tel: 02890 287374 (Mob) 07714983467
email:- trevor.cardy@hotmail.com

**Bugles & Drums of the Stedfast Association (BADOTSA) proposed visit to
Belfast Northern Ireland May 2017**

The Federation of Stedfast Associations will hold their annual conference at Claytons Hotel, Belfast on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th May 2017. A formal dinner will be held there on the Saturday evening and then on Sunday morning delegates will join the congregation at St Mary’s Magdalene, home of 1st Belfast Company Boys’ Brigade, for morning worship.

BADOTSA aim to support the Federation by providing them a balanced, medium sized band of up to 36 Players, in Belfast, on Saturday & Sunday 13/14th May 2017.

Total cost for individuals sharing a room for the 2 nights will be approx **£100**. This includes Bed & Breakfast, ensuite with towels, for 2 nights in shared bedroom & transport Saturday.

Accommodation similar to that in Edinburgh hostel will be at the ETAP Hotel Dublin Road Belfast; <http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-7186-etap-belfast/index.shtml>

Players will depart Sunday afternoon. For those leaving on the evening there could be an opportunity to visit the BBNI Heritage Museum which is located at Ganaway (Belfast Battalions activity centre). This is located on the coast to the east of Belfast City Airport.

Final Payments to be made by 31 March 2017

We were unable to include all the booking forms etc. in this newsletter, so if you are interested please contact Paul Hern (badotsa@gmail.com) I am sure he will be happy to send you the information.

Remembrance Round up.

In view of the changes to this years Hove Remembrance Day, I contacted the Mayor's Parlour. This proved to be most fruitful. We were invited to provide the buglers for the Sunday afternoon Service at All Saints Church, The Drive. This we did. The bugle team was Paul Hotton (London), David Norman, Brian White, Harry Newman (son of Richard,NCO,1st Southwick) my wife, Carol (our conductor) and me.

Our President, Peter Ford laid our wreath. Sadly our Colours were not Paraded, however, The Battalion was represented by the 26th Brighton Colours, The only youth organisation in attendance, This was organised by Mrs Lynn Burtenshaw, Captain of the 26th. She was supported by Lieutenant's Barry Burtenshaw, Stephen George and NCO's Callum Foreman Grice and Luke Mason. Who all came over from Moulsecoomb as the local Company was not available. They did the Brigade proud.

We were also asked to provide buglers for the opening ceremony at the Old Steine of this years "Garden Of Remembrance". This took place on Thursday 10th at 11:00 hours.

We returned to the Cenotaph, the following day we returned to play at the Festival of Remembrance. I was assisted by Dave Norman, who joined me as I was uncertain of my playing, owing to health issues.

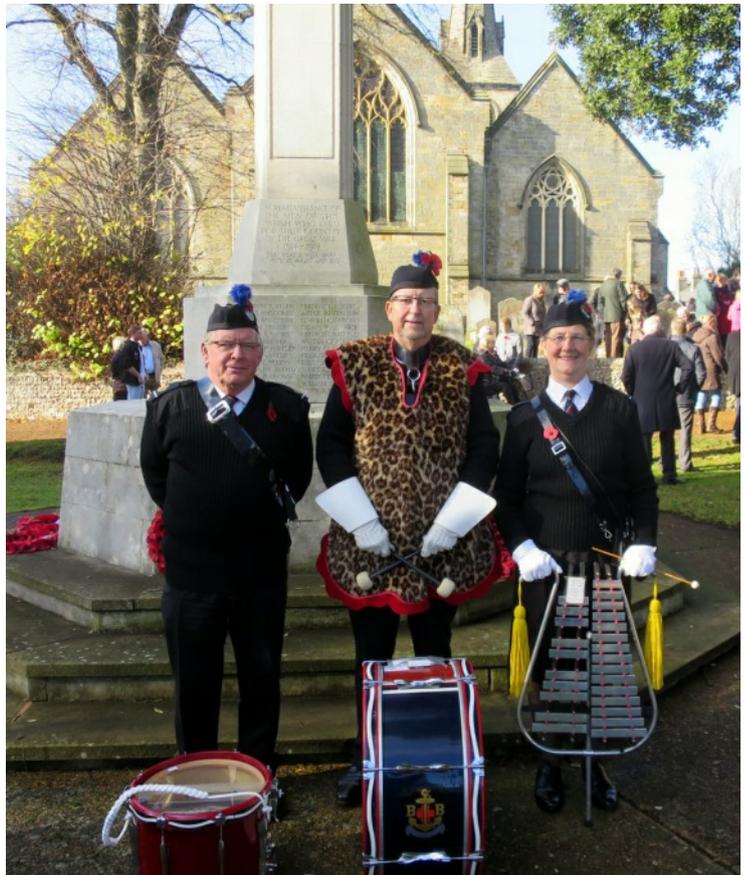
I also managed to play on the Sunday at my Church, St Mary Magdalen's, Coldean.

Barry had received a plea for assistance from the Hurstpierpoint community. So we provided a three piece band, namely, Barry McCann, drum, Ken Towner, Bass drum and Carol Simmons, Bell lyre. There efforts were well received and I understand they have been booked again for next year. The only downside, was we were unable to provide a bugler.

So that wraps up this years Remembrance Report.

Best wishes

Paul Simmons



Remembrance Parade Hurstpierpoint.

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
& GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
> the adventure begins here



National Music Festival

For the Boys' and Girls'

Venue 1: 25 March 2017

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church

Chandler's Ford

Hampshire

SO53 2GJ

Venue 2: 6 May 2017

Oadby Baptist Church

Leicester Road

Oadby

Leicestershire

LE2 5BD

BB National Brass Band Association



Make a Difference Awards 2016

We celebrated the achievements of four young people from across the Brigade at a special presentation at BBC Broadcasting House on Wednesday 12th October 2016.

The 2016 award winners were;

Mitchell Powell,
Lewis Shillinglaw,
Keelan Leeper and
Adam Morris.

They were presented with their 'Make a Difference Awards' by the Brigade President, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port and BBC Radio 2 Presenter, Chris Evans at a presentation inside the studios of BBC Radio 2.



The award winners were interviewed live in the BBC Radio 2 studio during the Chris Evans Breakfast Show and had the opportunity to chat with Chris Evans and also meet fellow Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, an ex-BB member from Glasgow. *(Courtesy of BB e-news)*

Battalion and Stedfast Events

January 2017

Friday 13th January Junior Section New Years Lazer Party, Crawley.

Sunday 15th Stedfast Reunion and AGM 2pm Southwick Methodist Church.

Friday 20th Junior new year party.

Tuesday 31st Ernest Beal VC Award entries due.

February

Saturday 4th Junior Swimming Competition Steyning Leisure Centre.

Tuesday 7th Executive BB Committee Meeting

Friday 10th March Spring competition, HQ 2nd Burgess Hill.

Monday 20th Camp Council.

March

Wednesday 1st March Scripture Competition Southwick Methodist Church.

Friday 10th Junior Section Spring Competition 2nd Burgess Hill.

Wednesday 15th Company drill competition Southwick Methodist Church.

April

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd Junior Section Holiday Weekend, Carroty Wood near Tonbridge.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 17th January 2016

Our Chairman John Donoghue opened the meeting. He welcomed the members and the Camp Grace was sung. A magnificent Tea Followed.

This was followed by the Chairman who thanked Peter Ford (Our President) for officiating during the service and The Rev Dr John Neal and The Rev Ian Suttie for their contribution to the Service. Others thanked were John Patching (Colour Party 16th Brighton) Derek Hinton Battalion President, Sgt. Adam Sander and Carl Jukes our organist, Paul Simmons and The Stedfast Band and to Ken who read the Roll of Companies for the last time prior to his retirement from the Committee.

Special thanks to the Boys of the 1st Southwick who served the tables and of course the Ladies who provided the Food and Drinks. Our Secretary Alan Caperon read the apologies and greetings Alan asked for the minutes of the last meeting to be adopted. They were approved, as were the accounts.

The Battalion President gave his update on the current state of the Battalion.

Our Chairman gave details of the forthcoming Federation Week-end in London.

Election of Officers; President **Peter Ford**. Vice President **Rev Ian Suttie**.

Hon Sec/Hon Treasurer **Alan Caperon** Hon Membership Sec. **Stephen Roberts**.

Committee; **John Donoghue, Jim Attwater, Adrian Attwater, Ray Eaves, Dick Kent, Terry Pomfrey and Les Russell**.

Les Russell ran the Oldest/Youngest on parade. Dick Dench was the Oldest (10th Brighton, (Hove) Company) and Carl Smart the Youngest (3rd Eastbourne)

The Secretary reported 103 in attendance. He asked for approval for Associated membership of Family Members and this was approved.

The meeting closed with the singing of the vesper.

(Counted Later Tea Table collection £147.70. Church collection £284.43.)

The meeting concluded at 17.15hrs.

Next Annual General Meeting 15th January 2017.

The Committee look forward to welcoming you all to our next Reunion and AGM at Southwick Methodist Church. Please if you can remind any previous member of the Brigade of the date, and as we always say, bring a friend from your days in the Brigade.

I would like to have any name of a member who may be interested in joining the committee, it is not an onerous task but new blood is needed. Some of us are advancing in years. We have a vibrant Association, let's keep it going.

All our current officers have intimated their intentions to stand for election at the AGM and any nominations as officers and for the committee should be passed to our secretary. John Donoghue is retiring from the committee but all other committee members have offered themselves for election at the AGM.

See You There, **Dick**

Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Our Next Reunion

SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2017

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



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

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

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

To register, contact our secretary:

Alan Caperon 72 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
(cheques payable to the Stedfast Association)



President:
His Grace The Earl of
Elgin & Kincardine

Local President:
Peter Ford

Brighton Hove & District Branch

of Former Members, Serving Officers Friends and
Supporters of the Boys' Brigade

Email address: alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

Or please reply to: Alan Caperon
72 Poulters Lane
West Sussex
BN14 7SZ
Tel-01903 692481

December 2016

Dear Members,

STEDFAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE ON 15 JANUARY 2017 from 2pm WITH OUR BRIGHTON BOYS' BRIGADE BATTALION followed by tea and the AGM.

It is with great pleasure that the President and Committee would like to invite you to attend our annual Stedfast Association Reunion at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick. Please bring your membership forms with you and sign the attendance register when you arrive. Our special guests will be the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor Pete West and also Councillor Ann Bridges, the Chairman of Adur District Council whom we expect will arrive from 2.15pm onwards. The Reunion Service will then commence at 2.30pm. Immediately after the service, afternoon refreshments will be served followed by the AGM.

Our President Peter Ford will lead the Church Service, our speaker will be Rev Ray Sowersby and Rev Ian Suttie from Southwick Methodist Church will say the prayers. Derek Hinton, the President of our Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion has agreed to carry out his usual duties of the bible reading during the service and give us his update on Battalion matters at the AGM. Carl Jukes will be our organist. The Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion colours will be on parade and the Stedfast colours will be paraded by our members from the 10th Brighton Company. A number of our committee will also be participating during the afternoon.

We also extend this invitation to the Battalion Companies Officers and to Senior Boys as in previous years. If members and guests wish to bring their partners, they will also be very welcome as we all know their support has been so important to our BB lives.

There have been a number of important events in 2016 and we are putting slides on the TV screens during the Reunion afternoon to include recent Reunions, band engagements and the Boys' at Glynde Camp.

Carl Jukes is progressing the updating of the Stedfast website and we invite you to visit the site at www.brightonstedfast.org.uk. Please make sure that you check the website for any last minute announcements on the Reunion arrangements in case of any adverse weather etc. You are also welcome to contact me (the telephone number above) for Reunion updates and should you be seeking transportation to Southwick Methodist Church. The Committee will do their best to find someone in your area who may be able to bring you to the Reunion.

Please join us in worship for an afternoon of celebration of The Boys' Brigade in Brighton Hove and District where senior boys, serving officers as well as Old Boys, former officers, Stedfast members and your partners can share our love of the BB with our special guests.

Yours sincerely and Stedfastly

Alan Caperon
Secretary

