



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
Vacant

CHAIRMAN
Ray Eaves

CHAPLAIN
Reverend Betsy Gray
Hammond

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,

I have just finished admiring the skilful display by England in their opening World Cup match against Iran. The way that they played was an example to every player of the game. Each player showed great individual ability and at the same time played as a dedicated team player and demonstrated wonderful team spirit. No organisation can become successful unless it possesses these qualities and uses them. The wonderful Christ-led spirit of The Boys' Brigade is a fine example, and we pray that every Company Captain and B.B. Officer will seek to be led by Christ in all his or hers endeavors for The Company, and demonstrated wonderful team spirit.



It was a great privilege on behalf of every Member of the Stedfast Association to lay the Remembrance Wreath at The Brighton War Memorial on Armistice Day. It was a particular joy to be accompanied by Les Russell who made the very happy suggestion that the Wreath should be laid on the Memorial to Ernest Beal V.C. whose memory is so poignant to The Boys' Brigade especially in Brighton.

Looking ahead with anticipation to Advent and The Christmas season of Joy let us remind ourselves that in a rapidly changing world the unchanging truth of The Birth and Life of Our Lord can transform the darkest moments to ones of unalloyed joy... Thanks be to God!

Although we will not be meeting at the Reunion in January 2023, it will come, together with the promise of Spring .

At this time, we must remember especially Our Battalion which is going through difficult times. Please remember to pray for The Boys and their Officers and look for any opportunity we are given to help in however seemingly small a way.

With Stedfast Christmas Greetings to everyone.
Peter Ford Stedfast Association President

EDITORIAL

Another year has almost run its time and I can take the opportunity of Wishing Each and Everyone of You a Very Happy Christmas and All the Best for The New Year. I mustn't forget those members who are not in the Best of Health and my thoughts are with those members and wish them well. The Covid19 Virus is still with us although regulations have been relaxed and life is beginning to return to some form of normal but we must still watch out especially over the winter months.

The Committee have met and they had the problem of deciding what would now be the best time to hold the next Service and AGM. The Secretary spent a considerable time engaged in getting Members views and he will report in his item. I am afraid that the Age of the majority of those who attend now has of course become a problem not only for the health of some but driving when dark. We are fortunate indeed to have a Secretary who is indeed on top of his job.

As I have mentioned this is a Very Happy Time for many and I am sure that with all The celebrations and Family gatherings it will not be forgotten That Christmas is the Celebration of the Birth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ and with all the problems that exist in The world at the present time we hopefully will take the opportunity to ask for his help at this moment.

I do trust that we may be spared the rages of a bad winter period and look forward to a better all round 2023.

God Bless to You and Your Family.

Dick Kent

IN MEMORIAM

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

Chris Hawes 1st Storrington Company
Robin Bolton Stedfast Band.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Your Stedfast Committee has been meeting to plan the Reunion and Annual General Meeting for 2023, the date has been set for Sunday 26th March 2023, commencing at 2:30pm, at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick. Myself and your Committee look forward to welcoming you in 2023. Please book the date and make sure that you are there.

On Tuesday 4th October 2022, the Founder's Day Dinner was held at The Preston Bowls Club, Preston Road, Brighton. Numbers were down this year due to Covid and other illness, myself included. Those who attended enjoyed a great meal and fellowship. Thank you to Les Russell for organising this great evening. Please book the date for next year 4th October 2023, and come and share a great evening of good food and fellowship.

With the evenings getting darker and the weather turning colder our thoughts turn to Christmas, where we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and Best wishes for 2023. Once again look forward to seeing you at the Reunion in March. Stay safe and well.

Ray Eaves

Stedfast Committee Chairman.

The Reverend Betsy Gray Hammond

The Reverend Betsy Gray Hammond has been my Vicar since I relocated from St Andrew's, Moulsecoomb to St Mary Magdalen's, Coldean. This occurred just over 8 years ago. This followed the passing of my late Brother, Roger, former Captain of the 26th Brighton and Former Battalion Vice President.

On re connecting with St Mary Magdalen's after many years since I served, briefly with the 8th Brighton, and having lived in Coldean with parents, it was like going home. I was made to feel welcome as soon as I walked in to my first Service. There were still a few faces from my previous attendance there. I soon found out that Betsy was and is a unique individual, which I could immediately identify with and like.

Since then, she and her family have become very close friends, and Betsy is also a true inspiration and sound and wise adviser. So much so, that when I was asked to take up the position of Church Warden, I knew I would work well with her.

Like myself, 2022 has brought us into the role of Grand parents, Me with Jack and Betsy, via her son David's son Oliver.

I can surely say that Betsy, is the best Priest that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She has had a hard life, which she would agree with but has helped deepen my Christian Beliefs. I regard myself as her number one fan.

Betsy has moved around the Country and for a while was a member of The Girls' Brigade some where in the East Anglia area, and played a side drum in their Company band.

In closing, I think that Betsy will make an excellent Chaplain, as did her predecessors Rev's Ian Suttie and Rev'd Julian Albrow.

All for now **Paul Simmons**

Chaplain's Page

Dear Friends (*although we have not met yet*)

I have kept everyone waiting for this the first of my letters to you and hope truly that it arrives in time to be printed.

As we approach the Christmas Season we read again the prophecies of the Old Testament and we are daily reminded that we are in a season of preparation and of penitence. A time when we should be reviewing this year and seeing how we might do better next year. For me Advent is a little like pulling on my favorite woolly winter socks, the warmth and comfort of something familiar, something that will help me make a very familiar journey and yet encourage me to delve deeper into this special season.

But there is a deeper poignancy with the admonishing words of the old Prophets and the warnings of Revelations. We only need to turn on the radio or tv or pick up a newspaper to see the state that the world is in today, and it is a very different world to the one that many of us remember.

Where did all of the poverty, war, violence and hardship stem from?

If we are to answer that question fully we need to look back over time to see what we have done to the creation of God and admit that most of this was brought about through greed. We invented technology with all good intentions and it supports us in travel, communication, medicine, entertainment (you can even go to an Abba concert and enjoy the performance without a member of the band being in the building).

We have instant mail, fast food, fast cars and over many years have become a fast and throwaway society that like my woolly socks is full of many holes. We expect to have every fruit and vegetable ever grown in our supermarkets, prepared and ready to cook with, even the spuds are washed for us.

Our mail arrives in seconds, the poor postie just seems to be a walking supplier of junk mail these days and I am always thrilled to receive a handwritten letter or card but so rarely get one.

So if we are in such a mess how should we move forward, well, it could be that it is time for those of us that still remember a slower pace of life to take the lead and share the joys of mindful creativity, gardening, painting, knitting and cooking to name but a few and show the younger generation the value of taking time. We could return to eating what is in season and growing our own again.

We have more than enough food in this world to ensure that everyone can eat and live.

“Feed the World” is still the job we have ahead of us, bring peace to all and slow down.

This Christmas lets make time to review and renew our way of living and return to a better world.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Every Blessing

Revd. Betsy

STEDFAST COMMITTEE UPDATE

“Reunion 26 March 2023”

The Stedfast Committee has spent many months since our 2022 reunion considering when next year’s reunion can take place.

You will recall that the 2023 reunion was discussed at the AGM on 10 April 2022 but there was no overwhelming majority of members favouring any particular date. This was reaffirmed by my email to all members this year when the overriding response was that the decision would need to be made by the Committee which has now occurred. The members were not in favour of the first date chosen by the Committee and hence why this has been changed to 26 March 2023.

The main reasons for the date chosen was to be fair to our members that travel by car to the reunion who expressed a desire to drive home in daylight, coupled with the emails from members with a preference for a reunion when the weather would be warmer.

It was clear that it was always going to be an impossible task for the Committee to please all members and therefore also in the interests of safety, the date has been set, and will not now be changed.

I am pleased to report that the Mayor of Brighton and Hove has already accepted the invitation to the 2023 reunion and further details will appear on the Stedfast website with the final arrangements being included in an early Spring 2023 newsletter that will be sent to you.

Please make every effort to be “on parade” for the 2023 Reunion on 26 March 2023.

I know that all our members do their best to attend the Reunion but please bring your partners and BB friends with you also and make sure the reunion date is put in all your diaries.

Membership

I would like to convey a message and a special thank you to the members who paid membership subscriptions and to those members that included donations in 2022 which enabled us to cover the annual costs of our Stedfast Association and also for the Stedfast Committee to make some donations on your behalf.

You will note that the Winter Newsletter includes a 2023 membership form. By all means, complete the form and send back to me by post if you wish to. We will include the membership form again in the Spring 2023 Newsletter so that you can bring the form with you to the reunion like many of you prefer to do.

Please keep your email addresses and postal addresses up to date on your membership forms since some of you changed your addresses during 2021/22. We are keen to reduce newsletter costs by sending fewer by post to save in printing, postage and envelopes so if you have an email address, please can you let me have it.

We hope that you will continue to stay safe and well and will be able to meet with us to share our 2023 Reunion and to join in BB fellowship, to recall our BB memories and rekindle the comradeship we all have in the Stedfast Association and The Boys’ Brigade since we last met in April 2022.

Continued on next page

2021 Accounts

The 2021 Stedfast Association certified accounts were approved by Garry Lock, Chartered Accountant on 2 June 2022 and included in the Summer newsletter.

2022 Accounts

I hope that the 2022 Stedfast Association accounts can be checked by Mr Lock before the 2023 reunion so that the members have the opportunity to consider the accounts at the AGM.

2022 Stedfast Association accounts and Budget

(compared to the certified accounts to 31 December 2021 and 2020)

Please see our Stedfast Association income and expenditure budget to December 2022 (with comparative figures for 2020 and 2021 as follows:-

			2020 certified accounts £
Income	Paid up Members	Paid up Members	<i>Paid up Members 115</i>
	75	71	
Subscriptions including donations to date	1,277	1,174	1,533
Reunion collections	243	N/A	349
Donations	-	195	340
Total income	1,520	1,369	2,222
Expenditure estimated			
BB-Glynde donation	(250)	(350)	<i>No camp in 2020</i>
Southwick Methodist Church-donations	(243)	(200)	(500)
Federation subscription-subs	(45)	(45)	(45)
Preston Bowls Club and donation re Founder's dinner	(35)	(25)	N/A
Website costs (estimate)	(101)	(86)	(100)
Remembrance wreaths	(50)	(50)	(50)
Newsletter costs, including postage and stationary during the year	(365)	(255)	(339)
Insurance	(69)	(69)	(69)
Reunion costs	(228)	N/A	(304)
St John's Ambulance donation	(92)	N/A	(58)
BOBS donation	N/A	N/A	(35)
Total expenses	(1,478)	(1,080)	(1,500)
Estimated surplus	42	289	722
2020 costs provision written back		100	
Bank balance B/F	3,163	2,774	2,052
Bank balance C/F estimated	3,205	3,163	2,774

Due to the sad loss of so many of our members in 2020 and 2021 who passed to higher service, it is noticeable that our membership has reduced in size as shown above. Please make a special effort to attend the reunion on 26 March 2023 even if this date was not your preferred date. If the Stedfast Association reunion is to continue to take place each year, we need you all to support the event and attend if possible with your partners and BB friends and make sure you all complete the 2023 membership forms.

Continued on next page

Southwick Methodist Church continues to provide facilities for the committee meetings to take place during the year but most importantly the church has agreed to hold our annual Reunion service, tea and AGM on 26 March 2023.

Stedfast Website

I hope you all were able to visit the website using the link we gave you in the Summer newsletter as follows:-

<http://brightonstedfast.org.uk>

Please can you continue to visit the website so that we can update you periodically on any matters that need to be brought to your attention.

Stedfast Association committee 2023

The Stedfast Association is “**in need**” of new committee members for the forthcoming year and therefore please offer any help you can. Even one task carried out by a committee member will lessen the work load of others.

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

Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon,

Secretary and Treasurer



Eight years ago a tour to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and the service of over 100,000 past members of The Boys` Brigade who fought in that war, took place.

On Friday 29th September 2014, eighty members and supporters of the Stedfast Association set off to Ypres. The band of 53 band members from all over the country including a contingent of four pipers from Northern Ireland, a drum major from Wales with an age range of 18 to 79... average being 47.

The Brighton group was made up Band members; Adjutant- John Donoghue. Side drummers- Barry McCann, Richard Newman. Bass Drummer- Ken Towner. Buglers- Jack Cant, Richard Hawes, David Norman, Brian White and Bell lyres- Carol Simmons. We also had our enthusiastic "WAS"(Wives And Supporters) Pam Cant, Paul & Monica Hern, Sandra McCann, Sarah Simmons & Sue Towner.



Photos; Our President Peter Ford at the Brighton Cenotaph, laying a wreath on the Ernest Beale VC memorial stone on behalf of the Stedfast Association.

Photo supplied by Les Russell

As usual the Association celebrated Armistice Day by the Laying of Wreaths at the Cenotaphs in Brighton and Lancing these were of course remembering those Members of the Stedfast Association and Boys' Brigade who paid the final sacrifice in the Defence of Freedom in the World. In Brighton the Wreath was laid by Our President Peter Ford along with Les Russell (6th BB), and in Lancing Eric Kent (10th BB) assisted by myself.

Thanks are due to those who made certain that we were able to pay our respects for the men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country.

They Shall Not Grow Old
As We That are Left Grow Old,
Age Shall Not Weary Them
Nor The Years Condemn,
And At The Going Down of The Sun,
And in the morning,

We Will Remember Them
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Eric Kent (Dick's Brother) laying a wreath on the Lancing war Memorial behalf of the Stedfast Association.



FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2022

This Dinner that was held to celebrate the 139th Anniversary of the day that William Alexander Smith, who, at 8pm., opened the doors to the boys of Glasgow. They became the very first members of The Boys' Brigade.

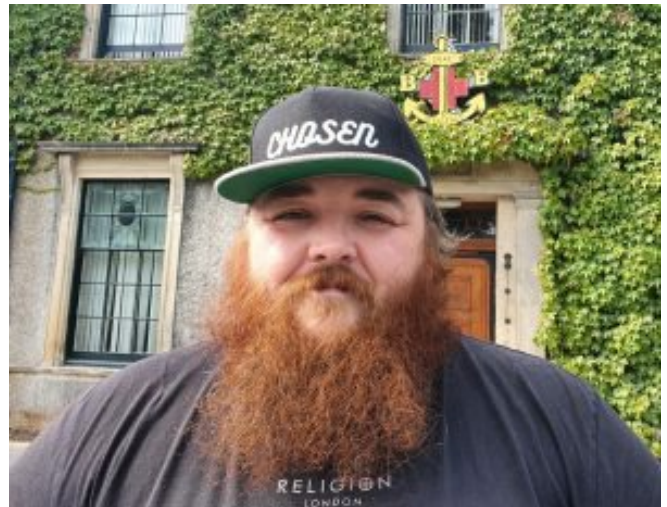
Arrangements for the Dinner started well with 29 Members and guests signing up to attend. Then medical issues took charge. One member had surgery that led to the cancellation of five diners. On Oct the 3rd we received no fewer than 8 diners' cancellations due to positive Covid tests or heavy colds requiring treatment.

The dinner went ahead, thanks to the co-operation of the chef, with just 16 diners. They sat down to an excellent 3 course meal supplied by Michael, the chef of Preston Bowls Club. Those present enjoyed great company. We toasted King Charles III and, at 8pm., Sir William Smith.

We look forward to celebrating the 140th anniversary next year. We shall, hopefully, be fully jabbed! There is always room for more members and guests who wish to join us.

Les Russell

**The Boys' Brigade is
delighted to announce that
Rev Dez Johnston
has been elected to the
role of President.**



Dez, an ordained Baptist Minister, is the Director of Alpha Scotland and was recently appointed as Europe, Middle East and North Africa Youth Director for Alpha. Before becoming a Christian, he worked as a nightclub bouncer in Glasgow – the city where The Boys' Brigade began in 1883.

Dez experienced drug and alcohol problems, before meeting his future wife Fiona, who challenged his ideas of faith. This in turn led to him reading the Bible and going along to Church. He was invited on an Alpha Course, which turned the questions he had about whether God exists into a belief that God loves him.

After becoming an ordained Baptist Minister, Dez went on to join Alpha Scotland as their youth co-ordinator, before becoming Director in 2018 where today he serves and supports Churches across the country.

Dez, who succeeds Lord Leslie Griffiths who stood down from the role in 2020, commented:

“It’s amazing to be joining the BB family as President. I’ve been working together with the BB over the last three years and have loved being involved and seeing for myself the work that is going on. I know I might not look like a President, but then again what does a President look like? More importantly I’m excited about being part of the BB’s work to advance Christ’s kingdom and of supporting their vision of young people experiencing life to the full.”

Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive, commented:

“I am delighted to welcome Dez as our new President. As a Christian youth organisation we are determined to build and to strengthen our partnerships both locally and nationally with the Church. We believe that Dez will be able to support this work and that we will be able to learn from his experiences of working inter-denominationally. Dez has an incredible passion for the love of Jesus which is at the centre of our work.”

From the Boys Brigade web site

MORAY MP Douglas Ross says he was “honoured and delighted” to help 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade celebrate receiving their Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. *10th November 2022*

The company recently held a church service to mark the award and also the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

Mr Ross said the award was richly deserved and that he was “extremely proud” to be a referee for their nomination.



He went on to hail the milestone anniversary as a testament to the outstanding dedication and service from all the leaders and volunteers involved.

The MP had already highlighted the company's success in the House of Commons in July during where he recognised the service of 14 volunteers who had a combined 455 years of service with the company. Mr Ross commented: *“I was honoured and delighted to attend this service to celebrate 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade and to see them receive the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.*

“This award is richly deserved for the outstanding commitment shown by all the leaders, young people and volunteers involved with the company.” - “It is hugely timely as well given it is 1st Buckie’s 75th anniversary year and they remain one of the largest anywhere in the United Kingdom.

From grampianonline

ROYAL VISIT TO WALES Tuesday 27th September 2022

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales today visited St Thomas Church, home of 1st Swansea Eastside Boys’ Brigade & Girls’ Association, as part of their first visit to Wales since taking on the roles.

Over the past two years the Church has been transformed into a community hub, committed to improving the lives of those who live in the local area. The Church now incorporates a foodbank (open five days each week) a baby charity (Swansea Baby Basics), and a not-for-profit café and conference/wedding reception venue.



During their visit, the Prince and Princess spoke to volunteers at the Church as well as children and young people from 1st Swansea Eastside, watched a cookery demonstration and met members of the public outside the Church.

Amber, aged 13, said: “The Prince asked me why I joined the BB. I told him about how the Church has always been a big part of the community, so when BB started here it was a great addition – it has given me lots of big opportunities like this one!”

Lily, also aged 13, said: “The Prince and Princess were both shaking hands with people, engaging in lots of conversations and were so friendly! I was nervous to meet them but they were so lovely and really seemed to care about what we do at St Thomas Church.”

Article from the Boys Brigade web site

Photo from BBC News.



The uniform for the first year was a rosette; afterwards the forage cap and pillbox cap, haversack and belt were introduced.

can trace the idea of uniformed youth back to 1883 and William Smith. The early uniforms were inspected each week to assist in the 'self discipline and as money was scarce, every day clothes such as blazers were incorporated. For drill practice 'Dummy' rifles that were included. The Boys' Brigade uniforms is generally blue forage cap, blue shirt, and blue pants. Initially short pants were generally worn, but most groups now wear long trousers and black shoes. Now many companies have adopted the use of more informal ware such as T' shirts and sweat-shirts.



Other groups including;
Church Lads' Brigade
Boys Life Brigade
The Jewish Lads' Brigade
Catholic Boys' Brigade
Girls' Guildry
Girls Life Brigade
the Boy Scouts
the Girl Guides



Sgt Harry Newman,
 Ernest Beal VC
 Award winner in 2020

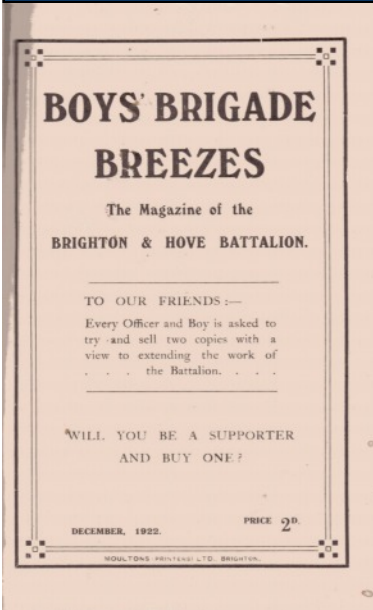
B. B. Badges

As old boys we all know the badge system of our own particular era, but we are not so familiar with the badges of the eras either before or after our own.

If you have your own badge collection why not take a photograph of it and send it to us along with a story or two of how you gained your badges. Especially if you have any unusual badges and an explanation of what they are, it would be very interesting.

The photograph here (top) is the life Boys badge it is about 2.5" (60mm) across and is made of 3mm thick pressed brass. In our company you had to have attended for six consecutive weeks before you gained this badge. It was soon to be superseded by the revamped uniform and badge system of the early 1970's. The life Boys became the junior Section and the old sailor Hat was replaced by what we called the Thunderbirds hat which had a silver anchor inside a orange (juniors) or dark red (company) plastic surround in which the company numbers were placed. These being self adhesive, they soon fell off and had to be re-glued using a better adhesive. **Terence Pomfrey**





Breezes revisited for its 100 year anniversary- First Edition December 1922

BOYS' BRIGADE BREEZES.

The Magazine of the Brighton and
Hove Battalion of the Boys' Brigade.

VOL. 1. No. 1.

DEC., 1922.

Breezes was first published in December 1922.

You may recall in the Spring Newsletter 2021 we printed an extract from the First Edition.

In view of the 100 years anniversary it is only proper that we print this again to commemorate a historic event in our BB history.

LET me introduce myself as your new friend, "Boys' Brigade Breezes,". Of course—you don't know me yet—I've only just arrived—I hardly know myself yet. This is my first outing. For the last three weeks I have been cooped up with a very worried looking chap who calls himself the Editor—he nearly worried the life out of me—he cut a word out here and pushed another in somewhere else—but as the boy said—"All's well that ends well, and here I am."

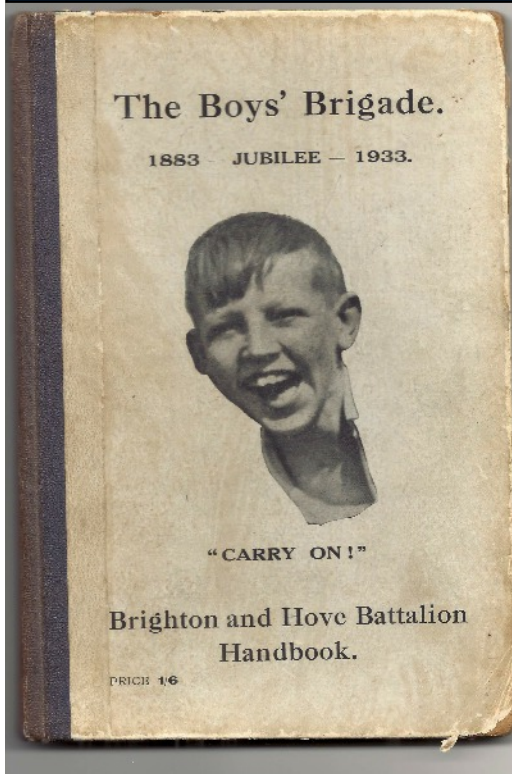
Now you and I know that the B.B. is the best boys' organization in existence and it is up to us never to let it down. You've got to aim at being the best boy, in the best Company, in the best Battalion in this best organization, but in order to do this you must know what the other fellows are doing, and this is where "Breezes" comes in:—

Boys' Brigade Breezes
Tells of other chaps' wheezes.

Every month "Breezes" is going to report the doings of the various Companies in the Battalion.

If a boy comes on to parade with his pill-box over the wrong ear, "Breezes" will remind him. If a chap doesn't play the game and "Breezes" hears about it—look out for the next number.

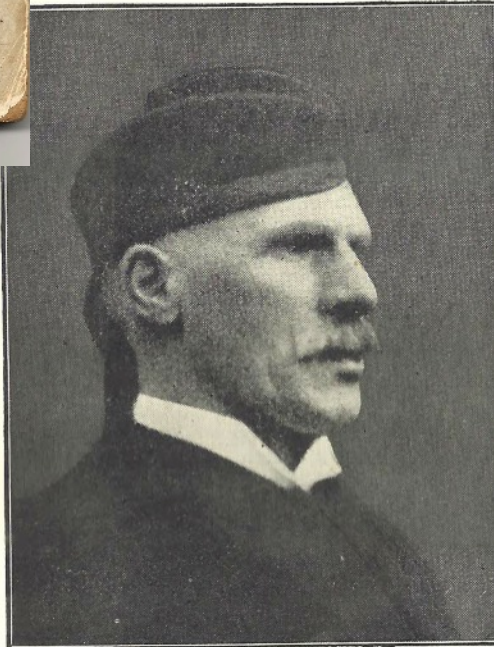
"Breezes" is out to help you chaps, and "Breezes" is out for fun, but "Breezes" will never forget that the chief aim of the B.B. is to bring you fellows into touch with Jesus Christ, because it is only when this happens that you get the very best out of life. So, if you stick to "Breezes," "Breezes" will stick to you, and he hopes that a friendship will spring up, so that in time to come, you will regard "Breezes" as a real pal.



The Boys' Brigade revisited from an extract from The Brighton and Hove Battalion Handbook 1883-1933

Please see, inset top left, the front cover from the handbook and an extract written in 1933 about The Boys' Brigade and our Founder Sir William Alexander Smith.

AN HONOURED NAME.



SIR WILLIAM SMITH.

FIFTY YEARS AGO William Alexander Smith, a Sunday School teacher in Glasgow, was concerned with the eternal problem of the Boy. Being also an ardent Volunteer, he conceived the happy idea that if he could band his troublesome boys together under discipline and with *esprit de corps*, the task of teaching would be not only much easier but more effective. Further, he felt that by such means they could be held under Christian influence beyond the time when they considered themselves too old to attend Sunday School, and they would also learn habits which would stand them in good stead throughout their lives.

Accordingly, with the help of two friends, Messrs. J. R. and J. B. Hill, who acted as Lieutenants, he formed, on the 4th October, 1883, a Company of some thirty Boys and called it "The Boys' Brigade."

So started a world-wide movement which celebrates its Jubilee with record numbers in its ranks, and from which have sprung many similar movements. In all the celebrations the name of the Founder should be honoured above all. His service to the community was publicly recognised in 1909, when he received the honour of Knighthood at the hands of King Edward VII.

Sir William Smith died on 10th May, 1914, but his great work lives, and it is a matter for gratification that his two sons are amongst the most prominent in carrying it on. The elder, Mr. G. Stanley Smith, M.C., is Brigade Secretary, and the younger, Mr. D. Pearson Smith, is Captain of the original Company, the 1st Glasgow—in its fiftieth year stronger than ever.

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GLASGOW—BRIGHTON.

THE Boys' Brigade Gazette of December, 1891, eight years after the founding of the Brigade, records the enrolment of a Company in connection with St. Luke's Church, Queen's Park Road, Brighton, and the appointment of the Rev. Edwin J. Frayling as Captain. This Company was short-lived, being disbanded in the early part of 1895.

The movement as at present existing in Brighton and Hove dates from October 8th, 1897, when the present 1st Brighton Company was enrolled in connection with the Norfolk Road Methodist Church, under the captaincy of Mr. E. D. Stafford. Two months later a 2nd Brighton Company was formed in connection with the East End Mission, Eastern Road, under the captaincy of Mr. W. A. Phillips. Within three years there were nine Companies working in Brighton and one in Hove, and on April 11th, 1900, the Brighton Companies formed themselves into a Battalion, the following being the first office bearers:—President, Mr. W. A. Phillips (Captain, 2nd); Vice-President, Mr. W. Barfoot (Captain, 3rd); Secretary, Mr. Frank Halsey (Captain, 5th); Treasurer, Mr. E. D. Stafford (Captain, 1st). The 1st Hove Company enrolled on February 23rd, 1899, was admitted to the Battalion as the 10th Brighton (Hove) Company on the extension of the Battalion boundaries in 1901.

The Battalion was honoured with a visit from the Founder of the Brigade, the late Sir William A. Smith, in May, 1907, and a considerable increase in strength followed. The Founder again visited Brighton in September, 1910, in connection with the annual meetings of the Brigade Council.

At the outbreak of War in 1914 the Battalion was on the crest of a wave of progress, but the War hit the Brigade hard, and it is amazing that the organisation came through as well as it did. Officers



The Boys' Brigade revisited from an extract from The Brighton and Hove Battalion Handbook 1883-1933 called Glasgow to Brighton

Please see an extract written in 1933 about The Boys' Brigade from Glasgow to Brighton

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and Old Boys were among the first to answer the call to the Colours, and those who were too old for military service carried on wonderful service at home, in some cases running two, and even three Companies, whose Officers were away.

Recovery after the War was a slow process, for the Battalion had lost some of its keenest men on the battlefield—such men as Ernest Beal, V.C., Austin Hill and "Billy" Walsham—and it was not easy to re-start Companies which had closed down for want of Officers. Standing fast by first principles, the leeway has at last been made good, and the Jubilee year sees the Brighton and Hove Battalion at its pre-war strength.

Notable events since 1919 include a "Coming of Age" effort in June, 1921, when a net sum of £575 was raised by means of a Fête in the grounds of the Royal Pavilion; the first "Tattoo" in the Dome in November, 1925, probably the best display ever given by the Battalion; the second visit of the Brigade Council to Brighton in September, 1926, their meetings being notable for the decision to unite with the Boys' Life Brigade; and participation in a Royal Review of the London and Home Counties District by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester in 1930, 458 Officers and Boys of the Battalion making the journey to Hyde Park by road.

It is to be hoped that the formation of the Officers' Training Corps in September, 1932, will in years to come be looked upon as another memorable event. The future of the Battalion largely rests on a sufficient supply of duly qualified men. Thousands of Boys in Brighton and Hove are at hand to be led along the road to "true Christian manliness." There are glorious prospects!



Stedfast Prayer

Bless, O God, The Boys' Brigade, and give to it greater power to advance Your kingdom throughout the world. Grant in mercy, that every member, past and present, may prove stedfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to You. Help us in times of temptation; make us strong where we are weak, give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty and loyalty in friendship;

We give thanks for the boys who are in Brighton Boys Brigade Battalion, from Anchor Boys to the Company Section. We pray that they will continue to enjoy being part of the BB, and that their experiences will help them to grow and mature as people and as followers of Jesus. Help our leaders and Officers to continue their work. We give thanks for their commitment and pray for their continued energy and enthusiasm.

Boys and leaders also depend on the commitment of parents and families to ensure that the Brigade flourishes. Give thanks for those who are involved in supporting the BB, and that others will come forward to give their support.

We thank you for The Boys' Brigade, the Boys that it taught and the men that it made that have served the Stedfast Association. Especially we think of our Battalion which over the years has brought many young men to know, love and follow you and continue to do so with your blessing.

We pray for those Old Boys who aren't as healthy as they would like to be, some in hospital, some who are unwell at home, some who cannot get out and about as they used to. Father we ask you to bless each and every one, as you know what their individual needs are, if it be your will, lay your healing hand on them, so that their health may be restored to them.

We pray for those who have been called to higher service, you know each of them as you welcomed them into your everlasting kingdom. Father, we ask that your blessing be with the families who are mourning them, be with them and comfort them.

Bless us all as we strive to support the work of our Battalion and Stedfast Association through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



Membership Form for 2023

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 £

Cheque's payable to "Stedfast Association" .. please

Or pay directly to the following bank account:-

Lloyds Bank plc

Account name-The Stedfast Association Brighton

Sort code-30-90-89

Account number-56240860

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

Post

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

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

The next Newsletter will be Spring 2023

Please submit all contributions before the end of January 2023
(electronically or typed if possible)

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

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Photo; Remembrance Parade Hove 2012

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)