

Winter 2019



Stedfast News

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

The Object of The Boys' Brigade

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

The Object of The Stedfast Association

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

Stedfast Committee

PRESIDENT
Peter Ford

VICE PRESIDENT
Rev. Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN
Ray Eaves

TREASURER
Alan Caperon

SECRETARY
Alan Caperon

MEMBERSHIP SEC
Ann Austen

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

Brighton Stedfast Association ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE and AGM

YOU are cordially
Invited to the

Brighton Stedfast Association ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE

Sunday, 19th January 2020, from 2.00pm

The Reunion Service commences at 2.30pm

At

Southwick Methodist Church

Manor Hall Road, Southwick, Brighton BN42 4NA

The service is shared with the BB Brighton Battalion

Leader - Peter Ford

President - Brighton Stedfast Association

You are invited to stay for
afternoon refreshments following the Service and
to sit in on the Stedfast Association AGM

**There will be a number of
company colours on display**

For up to date information visit www.brightonstedfast.org.uk or telephone
Alan Caperon 01903 682481 – alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Stedfast Members,

With Christmas and The New Year upon us it is right to look back over 2019 and put into perspective all that has been accomplished and all that we have achieved. Many things we would perhaps prefer to forget, but there is much to be grateful for, and to thank God for His Stedfast Love.

For Sheila and I one of the things to be especially grateful for was the wonderfully warm welcome we received when we visited Glyde Camp on the Sunday afternoon and evening. The C.O. Chris Haskell and the Staff and all the Boys went out of their way to ensure that we enjoyed our visit.



This was the 111th Annual Battalion Camp and the wonderful Camp Spirit that many of us have experienced was as great as it ever has been. The food in the Mess Tent was superb, the tuck shop doing good business and the sports and activities enjoyed by all.

The highlight was being able to take part in the Evening Prayers, brilliantly led by Erik Cornelisse from Holland and other members of the Camp Staff.

Chris Haskell has very kindly prepared a report of Glynde Week (see page 9) and our thanks must go to him and his team for keeping the flag flying and bringing The Gospel to such a fine group of lads.

The Founder's Day Dinner on the 4th October arranged by Les Russell was a wonderful evening and very much enjoyed by everyone present. Thank you Les for all the hard work and we look forward to the next one!

As we approach our Annual Reunion in January, help each of us to seek out Former Members who we can invite and encourage to be present.

With Stedfast Greetings
to everyone,
**Peter Ford Stedfast
Association President.**



EDITORIAL

It is still some way to Christmas as I write this! but the scanning and printing work needs the time so that you can receive this before Christmas arrives.

Many things were discussed at our September Meeting the main one of course was the January Reunion and it was hoped that as many as possible will be present and the weather will be kind to us.

As Editor it is sometimes difficult to fill the Newsletter with interesting information and News. I have tried over the years to get news of happenings within both the Battalion and individual Companies. I am afraid this has not met with a great deal of success. I am sure that as past members you would like to hear occasionally how things are in the Company in which you served. Can I ask that where you can influence current members to send articles of interest where they can, this would be much appreciated. Any comments at all regarding the items included or suggestions would be nice to know. Having got that off my chest, back to Christmas. I do trust that you and your Family and Friends are able to enjoy the Christmas Celebrations. Myself I look forward to the Midnight Service on The Eve of Christmas a real lovely start to the Christmas Event.

Remember if you can, all those who are unable for various reasons to enjoy this Celebration Of the Birth of Our Lord and if possible make contact in some way, they are not then forgotten.

I send the Very Best Wishes for Christmas and Gods' Blessing to you all.

Dick

IN MEMORIAM

We have to sadly report the following members, who have been called to higher service since our last reunion.

James Earl 25th Brighton
Derrick Aylward 10th Brighton, 23rd Brighton
Rev Dr John Neal Chaplain 22nd Northants, 1st St Eustatius St Kitts Leeward IIs.
Richard Colliver 21st Brighton
Mick Baker 13th Brighton
Richard Baker 23rd Brighton
Gary Ruell 16th Brighton
Richard (Dick) Butland 4th Brighton Hove
John Gilson 10th Brighton
John Caperon 4th Brighton Hove
Josie Botting 28th Brighton
Brian Rutt London Stedfast chairman and Stedfast bandsman
John Neve 14th Brighton

Chaplains Page - 'illuminated reindeers'

Dear Friends,

The family in a house along our street, on the opposite side of the road to our Manse, began to put up their Christmas lights on the 5th November! Since the initial lights hanging from the eaves of this house were switched on to the accompaniment of fireworks, more elaborate lights have been added to the display. An arch has been built over their gateway with flashing coloured lights wound round it, illuminated reindeers have appeared on the lawn, and now two figures from 'Frozen' have been added to the mix. It all looks very attractive, although what the occupants of the house immediately opposite think about 24 hour flashing lights shining into their front room is probably best not known!

At the end of November, a family in another house, further down the road, had a big switch on of their Christmas lights. The arch over their front gate not only has flashing lights wound round it, but also big Christmas decorations, and is topped with a large sign wishing everyone 'A Merry Christmas.' The garden here also contains illuminated reindeers, lit up trees, strings of coloured lights and some large lit up 'flowers' about the size of lamp posts; imagine triffid sized Christmas decorations and you will not be far off the mark! I suspect that one of the new off-shore wind turbines will have its work cut out to keep these two Christmas displays going, but hats off to the two households who have literally lit up our street!

In this Advent season we prepare to celebrate again the birth of the One who came as 'the Light of the World.' On Advent Sunday I shared in a service at our local Parish Church. The service began with the church in complete darkness; as Advent carols were sung and passages from the Scriptures were read candles were gradually lit until, with a reading from the opening chapter of St. John's Gospel, the church was full of light. St. John writes of the coming of the Word made flesh as light shining in the darkness which the darkness cannot grasp. He goes on to declare that this 'true light' is for everyone. St. John's words are echoed in one of the traditional prayers for the beginning of Advent which asks God to 'give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life ...'

Whether you will be spending Christmas with family or friends or just very quietly, may the light that shone from the stable in Bethlehem shine upon you afresh, bringing the peace and joy of the Christ Child once more into your life. And if we can reflect that light with the intensity of the lights illuminating my neighbour's gardens then something of the life and love of Jesus Christ will indeed be revealed!

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Every blessing,

Reverend Ian Suttie

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On the 4th October, twenty plus ex B.B. members with their families met at Preston Bowls Club, Brighton, to celebrate the founding of the Boys' Brigade. The evening started with myself leading a toast to the patron of the Boys's Brigade, Her Majesty the Queen. At 8 p.m. our Stedfast President Peter Ford, led a toast to our great founder Sir William Alexander Smith. All ate a very delicious three course dinner prepared by the chef and staff of the Preston Bowls Club. A film was shown during the evening depicting the life and formation of the Boys' Brigade. A raffle was also held and proceeds will be sent to help fund next years Battalion Camp at Glynde. The evening closed with all singing the B.B. Vesper. A great evening of comradeship and food. Our thanks go to our Stedfast Committee member, Les Russell for organizing the evening. If you didn't attend this year, make a note to attend next year 2020, and join with us for a great evening to celebrate the founding of the Boys' Brigade.



Your Stedfast Committee now have plans well underway for the "Annual Reunion Service and AGM" on Sunday 19th January 2020, at Southwick Methodist Church, H.Q. of the 1st Southwick Company, commencing at 2:30 p.m. Please make a note of the date and make every effort to be there. If you know of anyone who was in the B.B. please tell them and bring them along, so that we can have as many ex-members there as possible.

With the darker and colder days and nights our thoughts are now turning to Christmas where we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may I on behalf of your Stedfast Committee wish you all a very "Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas" and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Reunion in January.

If you would like to join us on the committee, then for more details, please contact either myself, our secretary Alan Caperon or any committee member.

Best Wishes to you all.

Ray Eaves *Committee Chairman.*

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

“Reunion 19 January 2020”

Please make every effort to be “**on parade**” for the Reunion on 19 January 2020 and please arrive by 2.15pm so you have time to sign the attendance registers, pay your subs and hand in your membership forms. Your invitation letter is in this Winter 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 attend the Reunion but please bring your partners and BB friends with you also. I look forward to welcoming you when you arrive.

Please note the comments of Cllr Joss Loader the chairman of Adur Council who attended our reunion on 20 January 2019:-

“This was a really interesting and well attended event and it was fascinating to hear people's memories and how their experiences shaped their future lives. I very much enjoyed attending the reunion and chatting to attendees - my sincere thanks to the organisers for everything they do and for inviting me”

Membership

A special thank you to the 114 members who paid membership subscriptions in 2019 which exceeded £1,500.

Please keep your email addresses up to date on your membership forms since some of you changed your email address during 2019 and this meant you did not receive the newsletter by email and therefore I had to send in the post. We are keen to reduce newsletter costs by sending fewer by post to save in printing, postage and envelopes.

Sadly, we have had 13 members pass to higher service and we will remember them at our reunion service. Our membership continues to decline in numbers so if you are still in contact with a BB colleague who you don't think is on our database, please pass to them our details for the Stedfast Association and urge them to contact us. There are a considerable number of former BB members, former BB officers and BB friends in our area that don't know that we have a Stedfast Association and a reunion every year which would give them the opportunity to meet with us to share our reunion and to join in BB fellowship. We do hope that we can find more members in the future who can share our BB memories and who will be able to regain the comradeship we all have in the Stedfast Association.

Please remember to complete the 2020 membership form as soon as possible so that we have all your up to date details for the year ahead.

Continued on next page

Accounts

The 2019 Stedfast accounts will be sent again by email in January 2020 so you have time to study them before the AGM. The approved accounts, as examined by our independent accountant, will be presented to members at the AGM for your approval.

The accounts will show that we have utilised all the income received in the year for Association expenses with surplus funds being donated in particular to the Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion requests, to Southwick Methodist church, to our Stedfast band and for the Boys' at Glynde camp. We have also made some other donations and paid for the wreaths at Remembrance services.

We will retain similar funds for the start of 2020 as we did last year but hope that you will again show your generosity by paying your subs for 2020 so that the Stedfast Association will be able to continue indefinitely in supporting its members at the reunion and during the year continue to support our spiritual home at Southwick Methodist Church, our Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion and the Stedfast band.

Southwick Methodist Church continues to provide facilities for the committee meetings to take place during the year but most importantly being able to hold our annual Reunion service, tea and AGM on the third Sunday in January every year.

Your secretary's opening devotions at our recent committee meeting

Our Stedfast Association has brought together our members from all companies where we have since built long standing friendships, not just with the people we served with as boys and officers. This is proven by my friends on the committee Terry and Ray as we were members of the 22nd Brighton (Hove) Company in Portland Road in Hove.

I remember as a boy in the 22nd BB Co the competitions I played a part in when we were pitched against other boys in other companies trying our best to beat the opposition at all cost. We were competitive at football and also in the drill shield which one year I remember we won at the Corn Exchange in Brighton and that year I collected the Draughts cup on behalf of the 22nd BB Co.

I started to realise the comradeship of the members of the Old Boys Association (now the Stedfast Association) when playing every year in the 22nd BB Co Silver Band at Dorset Gardens at the reunion. I saw the members of our association were from all companies and that we all shared two things in common The Boys' Brigade and in our Christian values. I recall that we had over 400 attendees in January 1983 in the centenary year.

Continued on next page

I joined the committee with the intention of doing what I could to continue our Stedfast Association so that our members have the chance perhaps only once a year to meet with their friends to remember those days when we were part of The Boys' Brigade but also to remember the many reunions we have attended. I must have attended nearly 50 reunions since I played at Dorset Gardens when 11 years old in the Silver Band.

Whilst our membership has reduced over the years, this year we still have had 114 members pay their subs which means that the Stedfast Association still has a membership wishing to see us continue with our work to arrange events such as the Founder's dinner and the reunion and to support our Stedfast band, our Battalion and from our spiritual home at Southwick Methodist Church. I still send our newsletter by post and by email to some 200 addresses so that members that live far away are kept informed.

Please remember the Stedfast Association members this year passed to higher service.

My father John Caperon of the 4th Brighton (Hove) Co passed to higher service on 25 September 2019.

John was in the 4th Brighton (Hove) Boys' Brigade Co at Stoneham Road, Baptist Church where he also played as lead drummer in the Drums and Bugles Boys' Brigade band. After a Boys' Brigade meeting one evening at the end of the war there was a street party where he met Eileen later to become his wife and my Mum.

When leaving school, John went to work for Sadlers, the chemists in Portland Road, Hove. The owner of the shop John Sadler was also the Captain of the 4th Brighton Boys' Brigade Company. John did not wait to be called up for National Service and left his job and The Boys' Brigade when he enlisted in the Army at 17 years of age and was posted to Brockenhurst, Hampshire in the Royal Army Medical Corp.

My Dad attended reunions at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church in Brighton, at the Clarendon Centre in Brighton and at Southwick Methodist Church although recently missed the reunion due to poor health. However, he still read the Newsletter and always asked after his friends that attended the reunion. Please accept my thanks for all your messages of support that I received (too many to mention) which gave me the strength over recent months. I also thank those of you who attended his service of thanksgiving at St John's Church in Worthing.

Newsletter, Website etc.

Please let us have your comments at the AGM on the newsletter and website and please let us know of any other matters you wish to bring to our attention.

Stedfast Association 2020

The Stedfast Association is still **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,

Glynde 2019

Glynde 2019 was this year the 111th annual camp for the Brighton and Hove Battalion Boys Brigade and I am confident it was for the 111th time a great success for all the young people and staff that attended.

In typical Glynde fashion we had almost every weather possible. Our fantastic advance party, led by a dedicated team of seniors and staff to set up and make all the preparations for camp worked tirelessly from Thursday to Saturday morning through the soaring heat, which turned out to be the hottest day ever recorded within the UK. By the time the rest of camp arrived, they were greeted to gloom and rain showers. Despite this all the young people conducted themselves brilliantly and got stuck into everything despite the rain, which soon dried up.

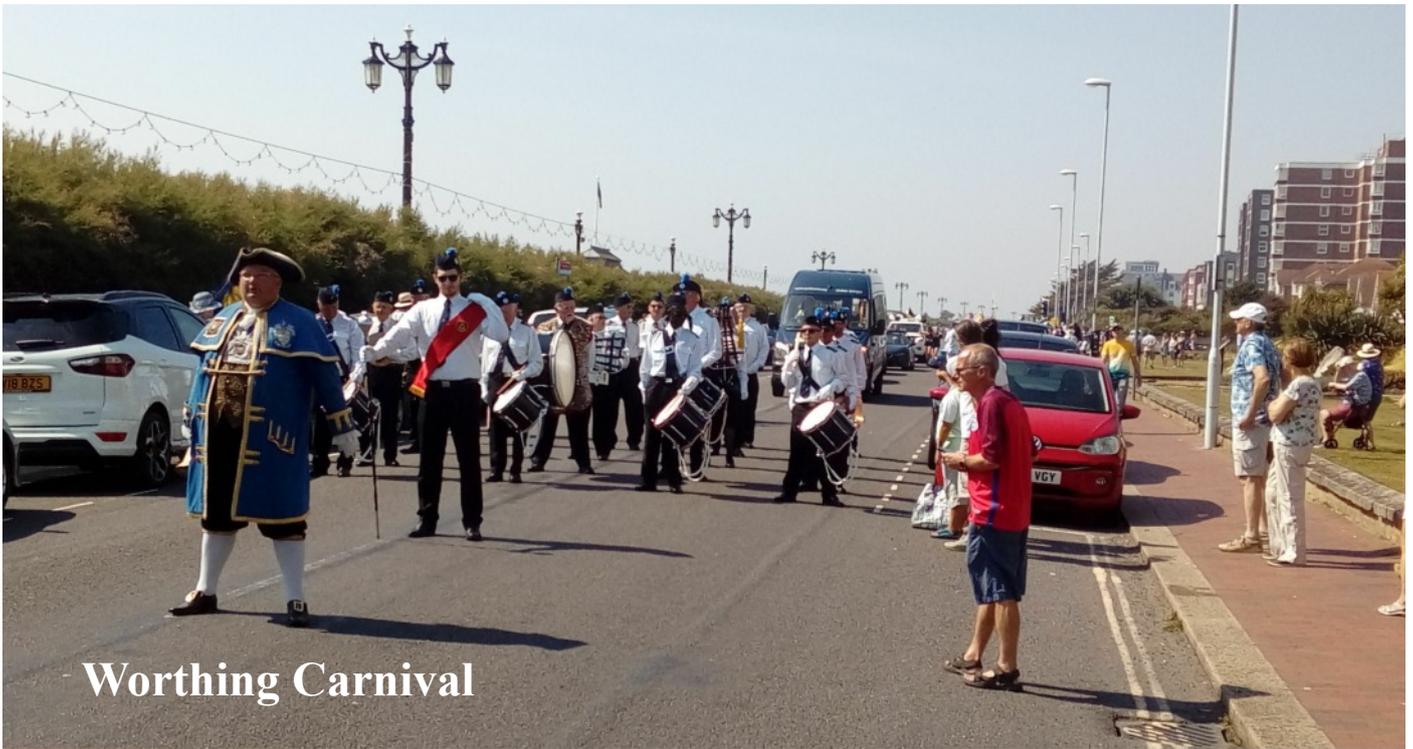
The theme for Glynde 2019 was 'FEARLESS', we explored how throughout our lives fear can be a block that stops us achieving our goals or taking a leap of faith. Looking at biblical characters, we delved into how faith in God can help us overcome our fears.

Our usual host of competitions took place, with everyone showing great sportsmanship through the Inter-tent competitions, swimming gala, cross country and stoolball competition. This year's Laurel Crown was contested by the Diggers and the Cowboys. After a week of tough and close competition, the Diggers came out on top, marginally beating the Cowboys.

Trips out to Blacklands farm for Kayaking, Underground tunnelling, abseiling as well as trips to paintballing, Lazerzone, Trampoline parks and Glynde pool all helped to cement old friendships and create many new friendships formed. Which led to many happy new memories for everyone to take away from camp this year.

Without all the amazing staff who willingly gave up their time and effort on camp, and all those who contributed in the lead up to camp, this would not be possible to run. Thank you to all those that make it possible, and help to shape many young people's lives. Hopefully next year will be just as successful.

Chris Haskell
Glynde Camp C.O.. 2019



Worthing Carnival

Remembrance Sunday-Brighton and Hove



Eric Kent laying the Stedfast wreath

26th Brighton KGV

In this day and age when companies are struggling to attract new membership from boys it is heart -warming to see that the KGV leadership course is still an essential tool to some companies.

Boys Brigade like many of the uniformed organisations has lost its appeal and the vast 60-70 strong companies of the 1970's and 80's are something we are unlikely to ever see again, the introduction of the Girls Association in 2007 was to help keep the organisation alive and well. However; this has seemed difficult with a slow acceptance to changes; therefore, it is good to see that 26th Brighton in the heart of Moulsecoomb is bucking the trend. Captain Lynn Burtenshaw works tirelessly in the community to keep the Boys Brigade alive and well in the area; and has in recent years sent both a girl and now a boy off to Feldon Lodge for the KGV leadership training.

It has been with the support of the Stedfast Association that this has been possible and now both members are fully registered officers working within 26th Brighton.

Callum Foreman Grice has this year completed he's KGV training; and has expressed that everyone should attend this course. He has made friends for life and now knows that Boys Brigade is not just in the Sussex area. He commented that it was good to know that other parts of the country had Boys Brigade. He expressed his grateful Thanks to Stedfast Association for their support in his journey from boy to man; and hopes that he can continue to an inspiration to others that the officers were to him.

So from all of us at 26th Brighton we Thank You for supporting Callum and us as a company.

Best of wishes

Lynn Burtenshaw

26th Brighton Company Captain

Stedfast Prayer

Bless, O God, the committee and members of the Stedfast Association and The Boys' Brigade. We pray that you give to The Boys' Brigade and the Stedfast Association the power and resolve to advance Your kingdom throughout the world.

Grant that each member of Stedfast Association will support the companies in our battalion. Help us in times of temptation; make us strong where we are weak, give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty, loyalty in friendship; and finally, by Your mercy, and may we prove Loyal and stedfast in our mission to bring each member into Your everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
AMEN.

Reunion & AGM 2020

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

At



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

Welfare

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

The next Newsletter will be Spring 2020

Please submit all contributions before 29th February 2020
(electronically or typed if possible)

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

Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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

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

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

To register, contact our secretary:

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

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

December 2019

Dear Members, BB Company Officers, Friends and Supporters

STEDFAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE ON 19 JANUARY 2020 from 2pm WITH THE BRIGHTON BOYS' BRIGADE BATTALION followed by tea and the AGM.

It is with great pleasure that the President and Committee invite you to attend our annual Reunion service at Southwick Methodist Church, Manor Hall Road, Southwick. Our special guests will be the Mayor of Brighton and Hove and the Chairman of Adur District Council whom we expect will both 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 Reunion Service, our speaker will be Rev Frank Okai-sam from Southwick Methodist Church and Rev Ian Suttie our Vice President will lead us in prayer. We have invited Gary Pickett, the President of the Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion to carry out the bible reading during the service and to give us his update on Battalion matters at the AGM. Carl Jukes will be our organist. The Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion colours and the Stedfast colours will be on parade. A number of our committee will also be participating during the afternoon.

This invitation is open to the Battalion Companies Officers and to Senior Boys as in previous years. If members and guests wish to bring their partners and BB friends, they will also be very welcome as we all know how important their support is to our BB lives. We will once again be displaying BB company colours as we have done in previous years which will provide a wonderful reminder of the BB companies we have served in. Please bring your colour stands if possible.

We invite you to visit our website at www.brightonstedfast.org.uk for confirmation of arrangements. Please make sure that you check the website for any last minute announcements on the Reunion in case of any adverse weather conditions etc. You are also welcome to contact me for Reunion updates and please let me know 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 and BB friends can share our love of the BB with our special guests.

Yours sincerely and Stedfastly

Alan Caperon
Secretary

Email address: alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk
72 Poulters Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SZ



Membership Form for 2020

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

Subscription/Contribution enclosed £.....

Cheques payable to “ **Stedfast Association** “.. please

or By Annual Standing Order (Attached)

Company.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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

Post Code.....

E mail Post

Confirm e-mail

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

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

Member.....

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

The Secretary Alan Caperon
72 Poulter’s Lane
Worthing
West Sussex BN14 7SZ

If you wish to send any letter with a BB story for us to include in the newsletter, please tick

**Newsletter
this box:-**

Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Should you no longer wish to remain on our mailing list, would you also please inform the Secretary, telephone 01903 692481 or email to alan.caperon@hotmail.co.uk