

The Newsletter for former members, serving officers, associates and friends of The Boys' Brigade in Brighton Hove and District www.brightonstedfast.org.uk.

## **Winter 24-25**

## 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; Geoff Fitch

Chairman: - Geoff Fitch

Chaplain: Brian Pickard

Treasurer: Alan Caperon

Secretary; Alan Caperon

Membership Secretary; Vacant

#### Committee:

Les Russell, Sue Standen, Paul Simmons, Dave Norman,

Newsletter Editor, Terry Pomfrey



#### Dear Stedfast members,

At the beginning of a New Year we are conscious of how fleeting a year is and how soon one disappears and is replaced by another. Each year has unique opportunities and demands to be taken or rejected and each year can project us forward or hold us back. Nevertheless, "We know that all things work together for good for them that love God". Let us determine to live 2025 in this knowledge and give thanks for every opportunity that we have to do His Will.



If you have never attended a Stedfast Reunion please make sure that this is the year that you do. Sunday 6th April is the Day and Southwick Methodist Church is the Place.

Please remember those who are already preparing for Glynde 2025, and especially those who will be attending Camp for the first time this year. Those who have attended many times over the years give thanks for what it has given them and pray that the same thanks will be on the lips of those who attend this year.

The Battalion particularly needs our prayers and support at this time and every opportunity to offer Stedfast support will be greatly appreciated.

The World can be a very frightening place with so much hatred on display in so many places. B.B. Members in many countries are experiencing difficult situations which are testing their abilities in ways that we cannot even imagine. Yet all is not doom and gloom because in many countries the B.B. under wise and committed leadership is going forward at an amazing pace and is an instrument for real progress.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated work of our Battalion President, Lynn Burtenshaw and all those who work with the young people of The Battalion. May they continue to rely on the strength that God gives them and rejoice in the many Blessings that they receive.

Looking forward to seeing you at The Reunion,

Peter Ford,

The Brighton, Hove and District Stedfast Association President

#### **EDITORIAL**

Dear friends,

The holy land is a place that several of the world's main religions revere as being of special importance. We have watched as the violence in the area has escalated into what is open warfare in all but name, and as often happens, it is the innocent civilians on both sides that bear the harshest suffering.

Only a few weeks ago here in the UK we were singing "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men" I am minded to think that with over thirty conflicts raging around the globe the words of another Christmas hymn, "And man at war with man hears not the words the angels sing" as somehow more appropriate.

We are asked in the words of yet another Hymn, (have you heard God's Voice), "to look at the news with the eyes of faith" and dare I say it, with compassion but with all I see in the news, not just the conflicts but the general level of violence and crime, I can be left feeling completely helpless.

I feel however that the work of The Boys' Brigade, The Girls' Brigade, and the work of many other youth organisations that strive to instil good ethics and behaviour into our boys and girls is perhaps the best way of building for a better society and tolerance of others and one day there may be peace on earth and goodwill to all men.

**Stedfastly Yours Terry** 

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

John Patching 16th Brighton passed to higher service on 5th Nov 2024

## **Stedfast Prayer**

Lord God, we thank you for the many blessings bestowed on us in the past year, and for the hope of your favour in 2025.

We pray for the members of our Stedfast Association and for The Boys' Brigade in this country and around the world.

We remember all the wars and conflicts around the world and pray that Peace may prevail.

We pray for our world and the many efforts to reduce our impact on the climate.

We give thanks for the lives of our members who have passed into your care, and for other members who are facing the tribulations of advancing years and ill health.

Lord, we pray for all these things in and through your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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# **Stedfast News Chaplain's Corner**

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### by Revd. Bryan Pickard

May I wish you all a belated blessed new year. I pray we all know and experience the closeness of our Great Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ on whatever path we are treading at this time in our lives. I have said before that this time of year can bring us both joy in expectations of things to look forward to, or for some the real sadness of loss as we look back.

Only today in church I shared a tear with a good man of God who is struggling to come to terms with the loss of his dear wife. Sometimes as a pastor there are no easy words except being there for someone else. However, I did share the words of that great BB hymn 'He will hold me fast.' I'm sure you will agree with me that this is what our Saviour does for us every day of our lives.

On an altogether happier note I've been reflecting on some past BB moments, especially at Glynde camp. There are so many with over 50 years of wonderful memories. At our dear friend John Patchings funeral recently I was listening to some wonderful personal memories of John. I recalled sharing a tent with him which brought it's own challenges, and him forcing me to run over 20 runs with him in the officer v boys cricket. More recently I have spent many a long night playing dominoes and pass the pigs with John Pigott, Darrell Ward and Mark Jago. I believe foul play took place as I never seemed to win!

Most of all I remember the chats and prayers with young men after our Thank You Service when the Lord Jesus became so close. He walked with us and talked with us among the trees and tents. He called so many including me to follow Him. And everyday of my life in season and out He has never left me, He always holds us fast. A faithful and true friend and Saviour. All this gives us hope for the future for our lives, and the future of our great BB family.

Blessings, peace and joy

Bryan

#### SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

#### **Reunion 6 April 2025**

The 2025 Reunion arrangements are all well in hand.

Please check your travel arrangements in advance just in case the roads that you usually take are in the Brighton area since certain roads will be closed for the Brighton Marathon.

Updates on the Reunion will appear on our Stedfast website at http://brightonstedfast.org.uk.

#### Chaplain

We are pleased to report that Reverend Bryan Pickard has agreed to be our Stedfast chaplain.

#### 2024 Stedfast Association accounts

The Stedfast Association accounts for the year to 31 December 2024 have been prepared and will shortly be reviewed by our Independent Examiner.

#### **Membership**

Our Stedfast membership subscriptions received were maintained in 2024 with 74 members paying subs (75 members paid in 2023).

#### **Brighton BB Battalion**

The donations made in the year are shown in the accounts.

#### **Federation of Stedfast Associations**

You will recall from the Summer newsletter that the Federation ceased in 2024 and thus donated its reserves equally to its members. Our Stedfast Association received a donation of £376.67. The closure of the Federation does not affect our Stedfast Association in Brighton, Hove and District.

#### Website

Please visit our website at http://brightonstedfast.org.uk for news of future events in 2025 including photos of the 2024 Reunion, all previous Stedfast newsletters and updates for the 2025 Reunion to be held at Southwick Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon 6 April 2025 from 2.15pm.

#### Stedfast Association committee decisions, office bearers and appointments

We would appreciate members giving urgent consideration to joining the committee in 2025 since our numbers have reduced to 8 members and some of us would like to step back on our duties to give others the opportunity to take on responsibilities for the Stedfast Association going forward.

#### Conclusion

I hope you have had a good Christmas break and I wish you all a Happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to greeting you at the Reunion on Sunday afternoon on 6 April 2025. Yours Stedfastly

Alan Caperon,

**Secretary and Treasurer** 

#### **Chair and Vice President**

I have written a lot for the newsletter over the past couple of years so its difficult to come up with something new. Besides, I think people may well be fed up with my rantings and would prefer someone different. As you know after worshipping with the Salvation Army in Eastbourne for 12 years we decided to try the newly built Emanuel Church in Upperton Road. Not only has it been an incredible journey for Pearl and I but we have met new BB friends at Emanuel. Alistair Sharpe served as an Officer in the 10th under Ray Eaves. Jim Stirmey another of our leaders was an officer in the 4th Eastbourne.

Rather than try another lengthy piece myself I asked Jim to write some of his recollections which appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Alistair has said he will contribute to a later edition. I also asked John Bishop who I served with and later played football with after leaving the 13th. In his piece, John recalls the parade we had at the Greyhound Stadium when Queen Elizabeth visited Brighton and Hove. I was beginning to think I had imagined it but I thank John for jogging that part of my memory. The Duke of Edinburgh actually spoke to me. He got down from the open Landrover, did a cursory inspection and I could see that he was making a beeline for me. 'You were out of step young man' said Prince Philip to which I replied 'I know Sir, I was desperately trying to get back in step before anyone noticed'. I met his daughter, Princess Anne in 2000 at an event I was working on in London as a Safety Adviser. I found her to be absolutely charming.

I made many friends in the Brigade not just in my own company but across the Battalion, some now called to higher service and those of my era are becoming fewer. Some I only see at the reunion and others I see from time to time, at church, on the Bowls green and elsewhere. Back in September I was on a Bowling holiday in Bournemouth so took the opportunity of meeting up with Alan (now called Robbie) Ollis. It was only a couple of hours drive to Bristol from Bournemouth but much shorter than from Eastbourne. I meet Geoff Green, who with Joey Neave attended Glynde Camp as the sole representatives of the 14th. We have remained close friends and although he now lives in Andover we visit him every Christmas and he occasionally visits when he and Irene have a speaking engagement in this area for Open Doors. I caught up with Bryan Pickard last year, a friend I had not seen for many years as his ministry took him all over the country. Now he is back locally we have the opportunity to meet for coffee or lunch from time to time. I saw John Patching at last years' event for the first time in a number of years and he looked as fit as ever, like he could still pull on that No.5 shirt again. It was therefore a shock to hear that he had been called to higher service having suffered a stroke from which he did not recover. Like the veterans we see at the cenotaph each year we are getting fewer so I cherish the friends I still have all the more and look forward to seeing you all in April.

Stedfastly,

Geoff Fitch, Chair and Vice President

#### Remembrance 2024

Remembrance 2024 and D-Day 80th anniversary

June 6th 2024 saw the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of France. This operation cost thousands of lives on both sides.

The D-Day landings along with other operations such as the allies' assault on Monte Cassino (also known as the Battle for Rome), were instrumental in eventually bringing about the surrender of the German Forces on 8 May 1945 in Europe.

There have however been many conflicts around the world in the intervening years since the end of the second world war, costing the lives of many thousands of people and many thousands more whose lives have been permanently changed as a result.

Also worth noting that 2024 was 110 years since the start of World War one – the great war.

WE will remember them





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# STEDFAST ASSOCIATION BRIGHTON, HOVE AND DISTRICT BRANCH HELD AT SOUTHWICK METHODIST CHURCH, MANOR HALL ROAD, SOUTHWICK ON 17TH MARCH 2024.

#### **REUNION SERVICE**

#### **President Peter Ford**

During the service Peter Ford thanked our guests the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Cllr Jackie O'Quinn, and Cllr Andy McGregor, former Chairman and representing Adur District Council. Peter also thanked the Stedfast members for their attendance and the colour parties, Mark Jago, Mike Shorter and John Pigott for carrying the Stedfast colours, and members of 26<sup>th</sup> Bton BB Co for carrying the Battalion colours. Thanks, were also expressed to Alan Ireland for playing the organ during the service, thanks to the Stedfast buglers and to the Salvation Army group Encorps for taking part in our service. Peter thanked Reverend Bryan Pickard for leading the prayers and his address, also thanking Battalion President Lynn Burtenshaw for the reading and Nathan Ward (winner of the Ernest Beal VC watch) for saying the remembrance verses. Our gratitude was given to the first aiders from St Johns Ambulance for attending.

#### REUNION WELCOME BEFORE THE TEA AND REFRESHMENTS WERE SERVED

#### **Chairman Ray Eaves**

Ray welcomed the members and guests. The members sang the BB camp grace together.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### Greetings, announcements and apologies-Ray Eaves and Alan Caperon

Thanks were expressed, to everyone for attending, 87 attendees exceeding last year's reunion attendance. Thanks were expressed to Peter Ford for officiating during the service.

Thanks, were given to Southwick Methodist Church, for providing church facilities to the Stedfast Association for the annual reunion and also for use of rooms for the Stedfast committee meetings held during the year. We thanked Pam Stringer as our photographer for the afternoon. All those involved in organising the refreshments were thanked. The ladies Susan, Sue, Carol and Angela for making tea and also Gary Pickett and the 1<sup>st</sup> Southwick BB members for laying out and serving the tea and refreshments. Thanks, were given to the Stedfast committee, for all their hard work and a special mention was given to Alan Caperon for everything he does on behalf of the Stedfast Association.

#### Apologies were read by Alan Caperon

as follows: -

Carl Jukes 10<sup>th</sup> Brighton (Hove)
Ken Towner 7<sup>th</sup> Hove & 26<sup>th</sup> Brighton
David Robertson 10<sup>th</sup> Brighton (Hove)
Mick Benham13th Brighton
Ray Tyler 10<sup>th</sup> Brighton (Hove)
Adrian Ball and Hilary Ball (13<sup>th</sup> Brighton) also sent their apologies by email.

#### Adoption of the 2023 reunion AGM minutes and matters arising

Alan Caperon asked the members to vote upon the Adoption of 2023 Reunion AGM minutes which were unanimously approved.

#### Presentation and Adoption of the 2022 accounts-Alan Caperon

Alan Caperon presented the Stedfast Association's accounts for the year to 31 December 2022 which had been verified by the Independent Accountant Examiner. The members unanimously approved the adoption of the accounts.

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# **Stedfast News**

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#### Presentation of the 2023 accounts-Alan Caperon

The Stedfast Association's accounts for the year to 31 December 2023, which had been included in the Stedfast newsletter, were tabled at the AGM and presented by Alan Caperon. There were no questions and the accounts would then be passed to the Independent Examiner for checking.

#### The Battalion President-Lynn Burtenshaw

Lynn read the report prepared by Isaac Conroy on Glynde Camp 2023 (the report is available to any members by contacting Alan Caperon by email).

Looking forward to Glynde 2024, plans are already in place (subject to the barriers that always appear last minute). Since Covid the Junior Section Holiday has not been run. To provide an opportunity for the Juniors this year we are offering a day at camp for them to have a taste of Glynde and its wonderful activities.

Isaac Conroy C/O for Glynde 2024

Lynn Burtenshaw gave her President's report on the Battalion (the report is available to any members by contacting Alan Caperon by email).

#### Nomination and Election of the Officers and Committee members for 2024/25

The members elected the Officers and Committee members that were all nominated as follows: -

President- Peter Ford
Vice President- Geoff Fitch
Chairman- Ray Eaves
Hon Secretary- Alan Caperon
Hon Treasurer- Alan Caperon
Chaplain- Vacant

Committee nominations all elected-

#### Paul Simmons, Terry Pomfrey, Dave Norman, Les Russell and Sue Standen.

An appeal for new committee members was made.

#### Oldest and youngest old Boy's present- Les Russell

Les established the oldest member in attendance was Peter Gear (10<sup>th</sup> Brighton Hove) who joined in 1941, and Nathan Ward (2<sup>nd</sup> Burgess Hill) was the youngest. Peter Ford presented them with plaques to celebrate this.

#### Any other business

A reminder for the Founders' day dinner on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October was given, the details of this will be published in the newsletters.

The date for the next reunion was announced as Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

#### The vesper was sung at the close of the AGM

The church collection was later counted and totalled £241.69; this will be donated to Southwick Methodist Church. The tea table collection was later counted and totalled £152.55.

The attendance was 87 members and guests, plus the BB members and officers from the 1st Southwick BB.

The AGM concluded at 5.15pm.

### Life in The Boys' Brigade in the 1950's

Written by John Bishop

I was amongst the first of the baby boomers, having been born in Brighton in 1946. I was brought up there, leaving my much-loved town in 1969 to improve my career prospects. I always imagined that I would return home at some stage, but the nearest I have got so far is along the coast at Bexhill on Sea, having retired some eight years ago.

So much has changed over the years and Brighton is now so very different to the town I remember from my youth and so expensive. Changes for the best? Well, it's easy to romanticise about the past, but growing up in the 50's and 60's was very special.

At the age of eight or perhaps nine, we moved into a house in Shanklin Road, just off Lewes Road, overlooking the goods railway line to Kemp Town.

If I saw or heard the train in the morning, I knew I was running late.

It is at this time that I started to attend the Life Boys at Lewes Road Congregational Church, just a few minutes walk from home, down Hartington Road.

I recall the sailor style flat hat, the lanyard, the navy-blue shorts and the weekly inspection of our hands showing both sides and then our knees. I don't recall anyone failing this examination, which I guess was intended to ensure that we had good personal hygiene. I fondly recall a Lady who looked after us all and ensured that we enjoyed our time there. As was the custom, we were promoted, if that's the right word, at the age of eleven to The Boys' Brigade.

Life now became so much more exciting.
Monday evenings Gymnastics
Tuesdays Draughts
Wednesdays First aid
Friday Drill
Saturday afternoon football

Sunday Bible class in the main hall, occasionally morning service and evensong in the church.

After the morning service a small group of us would walk to the seafront and as we grew a little older, we would visit a different coffee bar each week, before walking back to church and then on home for Sunday Lunch. Always a roast and if I came back late, a roasting for me. It was also at about this time, that many boys started to get into the music coming out of America and how we all wanted our hair to look like Elvis.

This was tough to achieve with a pill box with the number 13 lined up with your nose, pushed down by a chin strap onto your combed back, brylcreemed hair.

We would wear the pillbox at a slight angle to accentuate the waves of our Elvis cut. I am sure the officers would have much preferred that we adopt the college boy cut!!

Marching was an integral part of our activities and apart from the annual battalion competitions, there were two marches each year that have really stayed with me.

The first, come rain come shine, from church along the Lewes Road to the Brighton War Memorial in Old Steine Gardens to lay a wreath each Remembrance Sunday. Numbers were very strong in those days with possibly forty or more boys and officers stopping the traffic, although of course by comparison with today, there were very few cars, even on that main road.

The second was from Glynde Station to the camp site, past the recreation ground, the forge, up the hill past the dairy, the church, Glynde Place then turning right into the fields further down the hill.

We would meet at London Road Railway Station in full uniform and carry our huge canvas duffle bags. Most of these had been handed down from father to son having been issued by HM forces during the Second World War and they were heavy.

Stand out moments at camp for me.

A kind of orienteering task where the object was to reach your final destination, but were wholly dependant on the officers, often dressed up to confuse you and scattered around various parts of the countryside, especially Mount Caburn, to direct you to your next check point. There was some prize involved, but I never managed to be in the winning team.

We gathered each evening in the mess tent and eagerly consumed everything that had been prepared for us by fellow boys and officers.

There then followed some light entertainment from the officers, usually in the form of their own limericks.

These often included some local reference to Brighton or Glynde or officer's names

There was a young girl from Coldean, Who was thought to be quite serene Wearing hats oh so wide Under which she could hide Her beauty would rarely be seen.

The thirteenth was considered the best Too good for all of the rest. Be it sport or marching in time Their displays were always sublime But I am biased, as you may have guessed.



The 13th didn't have their own band at this time, but one evening a week, a few went to the 14th Florence Road, I believe, to learn how to play the bugle or drum.

One particular camp evening it was the turn of my good friend from the 13th to play the last post. This was played so beautifully, with such emotion that he received a standing ovation that continued for a long time, I have yet to hear this be played any better.

In July 1962 the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited the Greyhound Stadium in Hove. The stadium was filled with representatives from all the local youth organisations. Four members of The Boys' Brigade were presented with their Queens Badge by Her Majesty, some of whom were from the 13th.

The Duke of Edinburgh also presented his gold award. One of those to receive this was a former member of the 13th and the elder brother of one who received the Queen's Badge that same day. (see pic above; Queen and Duke of Edinburgh leaving the Greyhound Stadium after presentation). A very proud moment for that family who were heavily involved in the church and the various activities that took place at Lewes Road Congregational Church.

The 13th also represented the Battalion that day, with a display of gymnastics throughout the visit. From memory this mostly consisted of a rather elaborate forward roll whilst the visiting Royalty were nearby. There is a video covering the day. The clip showing the visit to the stadium appears after two minutes. Here is the link.

https://youtu.be/qKmFKbr-qF4

A while after this, my new working life started to interfere with my commitment to the 13th The earliest train I could catch each evening from Victoria Station in London did not arrive in Brighton until shortly after 7.00pm. A brisk walk down Trafalgar Street and a bus from St. Peter's church would normally result in my arriving after the start of proceedings and out of uniform. This regrettably brought about the premature end of my time with the 13th.

The one thing I took from that and have tried to practice throughout my life is to ensure that whilst I still have the opportunity to do so, I show my full appreciation to and continually thank all those around me, who have helped me and meant so much to me.

Very belatedly, I Sincerely thank and will be eternally grateful to all those Officers who gave so freely of their own time, often at the expense of time with their own families. As an example, one summer two officers gave up a week of their time and a week of their annual leave from work to take a group camping in the Lake District.

We washed in a small waterfall each day and drew our water from this source. The boys had a great time, but I think the responsibility of trying to calm and contain the exuberance of youth was quite demanding and exhausting for them. We visited Coventry Cathedral en route and whilst in Windermere bought Kendal Mint Cake to take home as gifts. This was a lovely thought, but I remember very clearly my mother saying that this was an acquired taste, whilst putting the rest to one side.

I have avoided the use of names throughout this, as at my age it is very easy to forget and I would not wish to offend anyone. My formative years were greatly shaped by the commitment of these officers who did indeed show great faith in me and provided me with opportunities to learn, to grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment that was rooted in the Christian faith.

I developed my skills, built confidence, made friends and took responsibilities in a way that were just not available to me outside of The Boys' Brigade.

We live in difficult times for all, none more so than youth organisations where participation could be high, but where availability of leaders and volunteers is too low. We need to Trust in God: during these challenging times. Trust God's goodness and

sovereignty. He is working for our good.

We should serve others and look for opportunities within our community. Whether volunteering at a local youth group, charity or helping a neighbour, serving Others is a practical way to demonstrate God's love.

We may face unique challenges and temptations. Yet, the principles remain the same. We are called to choose the path of light over darkness, foster fellowship with other believers, and allow God's light to sanctify us.

Amen

# The Boys' Brigade on Stamps - 1st Martock & Hamden 25th Anniversary

In a break from our chronological journey through The Boys' Brigade stamp issues, this time we are looking at the very latest stamp, issued on 1st December 2024.

The 1st Martock and Hamden Company, in Somerset, are now in their second year of producing Christmas Post stamps. This stamp commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Company, set up in 1999.



#### **BATTALION DIARY OF EVENTS 2025**

#### **JANUARY 2025**

Thursday 2nd Executive 7.30pm

Friday 17th Junior and Company Section New Year Party at Lazer World, Crawley 7pm to 9 pm

#### **FEBRUARY**

Monday 3rd Camp Council 7.30pm

#### **MARCH**

Friday 7th Executive 7.30pm

Seniors Pizza and games night at 2nd Burgess Hill

#### **APRIL**

Sunday 6th Stedfast Association Annual Reunion from 2.15pm Southwick Methodist Church Monday 7th Camp Council 7.30pm

Monday 28th Company Section Easter Hunt/Orienteering at Lindfield 7pm to 9pm

#### **MAY**

Tuesday 6th Executive at 26th Brighton 6.30pm

Tuesday 6th Battalion AGM at 26th Brighton 7.30pm

#### **JUNE**

Monday 2nd Camp Council 7.30pm

Company Section Paintball

#### **JULY**

Wednesday 2nd Company Section BBQ and Games organised by 1st Southwick 7pm to 9pm Monday 7th Executive at 1st Crawley 7.30pm

Glynde Camp

#### **AUGUST 2024**

Saturday 31st Battalion Financial Year Ends

## Founder's Day Dinner

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, a group of us and guests came together to celebrate the Founder of The Boys' Brigade to celebrate the evening of the first Boys' Brigade meeting, (4<sup>th</sup> October 1992)



Pictures continued on next page







## **BB Memories - Jim Stirmey**

Memories from an ex-Captain of 2 companies in different parts of the country.

As a young lad, born after the war years, I grew up in the "Boot and Shoe" town of Kettering in Northamptonshire. This was where my BB experience began.

At the age of nine I was enrolled in the Life Boys of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kettering Company (it must have been a recruiting campaign because a number of lads joined at the same time. I couldn't wait to move up into the Company Section to join the bugle band and was handed a bugle at almost the first Company meeting. Now my parents were not musical and as we lived in quite a small terraced house I was soon banished to the shed at the bottom of the garden. I remember being joined by a number of BB mates and together we created enough noise to keep the neighbourhood awake in the early hours of an evening. Were we responsible for the start of the "Noise Abatement Society".

We met on a Tuesday evening for gymnastics, our Captain quite a star who ran the evening-first warm up exercises and then box routines leading on to parallel bars. Finally finishing with team games. All this in two hours - Great fun and exhausting but disciplined activity. Dare I say much needed today?

Friday night was Parade night with Band practice, Company parade, Drill and badge-work classes. The 100% attendance prize was much valued so Parade and Bible Class on Sundays were must- attend events.

The end of year Display was always a chance to show off the new skills learned in front of our parents and friends. Summer Camp was a highlight fondly remembered. We visited sites as far flung as Ayr (Scotland), Talybont in Wales and Southwold on the east coast as well as a number of sites along the south coast. We were blessed to get to know our lads on a deeper and personal level and we always returned from camp as a stronger and closer group. I'm sure that others would have known similar experiences.

It was the dedicated commitment of the Company officers that inspired me to become a Christian and to continue my service in the Brigade by eventually becoming Captain of the Company in Kettering and then of the 4th Eastbourne. Eastbourne is where I now live with my dear wife Maggie who 'married the BB' on our wedding day! She became an officer herself, running the Anchor boys section in both places.

A few years ago I was walking along the seafront and was hailed by a younger lady who asked me if I used to live in Kettering. She soon explained that her son was in the Company and how much she and her son remembered the special times we had shared. She was able to fill me in on a number of lads in his peer group and all of them seemed to be doing well. This encounter set me off thinking about the other lads who passed through our hands. What became of them and do they still think of the Object that was instilled in us when we were first enrolled?

I am sure that Geoff would be pleased to hear from you.

Regards and blessings Jim Stirmey

www.brightonstedfast.org.uk.

Copy of the Stedfast Association Brighton Hove and district branch accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

NCOME   Nembers paid subs   Nembers   Nember	STEDFAST ASSOCIATION BRIGHTON HOVE AND DIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024	TRICT BRAN 2024	NCH <u>2024</u>
Total Subscriptions and members donations         1,234.00         1,234.00           Reunion service collection         241.69         394.24           Reunion service collection         152.55         70.16.7           Pederation of Stedfast Association         376.67         701.67           Federation of Stedfast Association- Subscription         376.67         7           Sale of Steafast badge         5.00         5.00           Other donations-members         320.00         2.329.91         2.329.91           TOTAL INCOME         2,329.91         2.329.91         2.329.91           EXPENDITURE         202.25         Stationery/stamps to date         52.25         5.00         7           Printing -newsletters Syring         50.00         7         7         7         7         7         7         7         7         7         7         8         7         7         8         7         8         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9         9	Members paid subs	-	74
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	Surplus funds carried forward		3,984.57

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# **Stedfast News**

www.brightonstedfast.org.uk.



# 2025 Reunion will be held at Southwick Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon 6 April 2025 from 2pm

#### The next Newsletter will be Summer 2025

Please submit all contributions as soon as possible, before the end of June 2025 (electronically or typed if possible)

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

Email; Pomf3es@virginmedia.com

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#### Welfare

Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members who are unwell or in need of Support. We will try and help

(Contact Alan Caperon)

**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)



### **Brighton Hove & District Branch**

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

January 2025

President: Peter Ford

Dear Members, BB Company Officers, Friends and Supporters

# STEDFAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION SERVICE ON 6 APRIL 2025 from 2pm WITH THE BRIGHTON BOYS' BRIGADE BATTALION followed by tea and the AGM.

It is with great pleasure that the President, Vice President and the 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 Vice 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 Ian Couchman and Rev Bryan Pickard, our Chaplain will lead us in prayer. Lynn Burtenshaw, the President of the Brighton Boys' Brigade Battalion has been invited to carry out the bible reading during the service and give us her 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 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 <a href="www.brightonstedfast.org.uk">www.brightonstedfast.org.uk</a> for confirmation of arrangements. Please make sure that you check the website for any last minute announcements. 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.

Yours sincerely and Stedfastly

# Alan Caperon Secretary

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



#### Membership Form for 2025

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 pay directly to the following bank account:-

Lloyds Bank plc Account name-The Stedfast Association Brighton Sort code-30-90-89 Account number-56240860

Account number-5	66240860					
Company				•••••		
Name						
Address				••••		
				•••••		
Post Code		Tel Number	r			
Confirm e-mail						
Newsletter via ema box	il <b>OR</b> Hard copy by p	ost Please indicat	te in one	E mail	Post	t
Old Boy	Officer	Helper	Friend /Sup	porter	Band Mem	ıber
Please return thi	s completed form t	ogether with yo	our subscript	ion to:-		
The Secretary	Ala	an Caperon				
	72	Poulter's Lane				
	Wo	orthing				

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

West Sussex BN14 7SZ