



The Boys' Brigade in The North West

THE Digest

March 1999

AD2000

Bringing good news to young people

The Boys' Brigade North West District

District Training Centre, Carr Lane, Treales, Kirkham PR4 3SS

Telephone & Fax: 01772 685000

NEW YEAR'S HONOUR

Members in the District and beyond have been delighted by the award of the MBE to John Chappell our recently retired Training and Development Officer.

The award recognises a lifetime of service to the BB and in particular that in the North West District. John accompanied by Joan and two of his three sons (sadly invitations are restricted) attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace on February 18th - Congratulations!

ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL

Following on the publication of the report 'Retention in the Teenage Years', with its various discussion points regarding uniform, age groups, military terminology and membership subscriptions etc., all these subjects have been debated and numerous questionnaires completed.

Yet transcending all these weighty matters there remains the absolutely crucial question how do we attract and retain a committed Christian leadership to ensure that all the proposed improvements are implemented.

By tradition organisations such as ours have tended to grow their own leadership. Whilst this remains true today, there are insufficient numbers coming through, we need to attract helpers from outside our organisational structure, preferably from our Christian congregations, but also from parents and others who may have special interests or skills and gradually convert our helpers into leaders. Our image as a uniformed organisation can often be off-putting to those outside yet we all know BB fellowship can be infectious.

As usual the District Digest contains information for the training of potential leaders and there is a wealthy resource of material available in support of the company programme. It is in the interest of every company to try to meet the challenge to grow at least one leader this session - will you accept this challenge.

Every Blessing!

Alan McLaughlin

District President

CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS



Jordan Burn with an un-expected present under the tree a cheque for £1000 from St. Helens Junior Sections.

The tradition of holding Junior Section Carol Services and donating the collection to a District nominated charity or a local charity continues.

At Christmas 1998 the District Nomination was the *Peter Fisher Laser Appeal* and the following four groups supported this project:

- East Lancashire: £200.00
- Liverpool No.2 Group: £71.00
- Oldham Battalion: £50.00
- Southport Battalion: £66.15

Warrington Battalion supported the Youth for Christ Appeal with a donation of £65.

The Jason Bond Muscular Dystrophy Appeal received a cheque for £1000 from St. Helens Battalion.

Wigan Battalion supported the BB RNLI Appeal with a donation of £230.00.

Wirral & West Cheshire Battalion sent £50 to Ark for the Homeless and £50 to Claire Hospice.

Manchester Battalion held two services in conjunction with the Girls' Brigade sending £140 to the Rainbow Trust.

The 3rd Chester Company held their own Carol Service and sent a donation of £45 to the Hope House Childrens' Hospice.



Accrington & Rishton BB Silver Band visited several Old Peoples Homes during the Christmas Season.

Photo: Courtesy of Accrington Observer & Times

24th April 1999

Blackpool Display

See Page 3 for Details



Queen's Badges Awarded



The following young men attended the Queen's Badge Completion Course in November 1998 and will be presented with their Queen's Badges by His Honour Reginald Lockett, Brigade Vice President, at a Presentation on 16 May 1999 at The District Training Centre.

Scott Hardy 14 Bolton
Christopher Marsden 14 Bolton

Adam Pickard 1 Burnley
Stephen Deasha 2 Widnes
Steven Ball 2 Widnes
Mark Peter Burns 9 Widnes
Ian John Knight 9 Widnes
Graham Rawlinson 10 Liverpool
Graham David Stewart 11 Liverpool
Stuart Lightfoot 31 Liverpool
Graham Murphy 31 Liverpool

Peter West 31 Liverpool
Andrew James Fitchett 35 Liverpool
David Neville Bond 1 Rainford
David Ian Lancaster 1 Rainford
Peter Charles Burgess 1 Rainford
David Owen Abraham 1 Rainford
Glenn Howard 10 Southport
Matthew Packer 5 Wigan

THE CLASS OF '97

A useful way to grow your own officers is to encourage senior members to undertake the King George VI Leadership Training Officer Cadet Scheme, which involves two separate weeks of residential training over two years at the National Training Centre, Felden Lodge.

In 1997 six cadets from this District attended KGVI they were Neil Whittle (2nd Wigan); Matthew Hilton (1st Burton); Paul Faraghar (1st Roby); Malcolm Lees and Andy Southern (1st Hyde) and Paul Fidler (3rd Wallasey) all of which are now serving as leaders.

Paul Fidler writes to say, "The KGVI Course was very valuable in preparing me to become an officer. The first year at Felden was based upon seminars and talks, was very informative and sent me away with many ideas and much more confidence. In the second year I was fortunate to undertake my training at Carronvale in Scotland as I couldn't attend the week at Felden. The second week allowed me to share many experiences of the past year and to investigate other methods which fellow cadets had found useful as well as building on many areas covered in the first week. I was impressed in the way the course was designed so that you learn about many aspects of the BB in a variety of different ways. Learning not just from experienced officers and other cadets but from yourself!

The atmosphere, fellowship, new friends you meet and the overall learning experience make the KGVI Course an unmissable two weeks for anyone thinking about continuing their time in the BB as a leader. I am now a Lieutenant working not just in my home company, 3rd Wallasey, but also with the 1st Morecambe whilst I am studying at University".

"Any Volunteers" - Maintenance



In the springtime work will commence on "The Millennium Project" The creation of an outdoor worship area. The trees benefit from "surgery" by Alan and the gardens from the "green fingered" squad from Oldham led by Margaret. Matters electrical remain the sole province of Trevor.

We are most grateful for all this voluntary help and if you or your friends have a particular skill or you would just like to help please contact Eric Littler 01942 204449.

Most Tuesdays you will find Eric, Bob, Brian, Bill, John and Alcuin at the District Training Centre busily engaged in general maintenance using their painting, joinery and construction skills.

Major projects have included The Memorial Walk and the provision of additional showers in the accommodation block.

MILLENNIUM CAIRN

A reminder about the Millennium Cairn which the District are proposing to construct, we should like it to feature a 'stone' from every Company within the North West District.

Contributions can be either of your own choice, approximately the size of a common brick, or a stone can be supplied by the District at a cost of £6.00. Forms to apply for a stone from the District were issued with the last issue of the Digest, or can be obtained from the District Office.

Please, we do encourage each Company within the North West area to be a part of this venture.

It is proposed that a time capsule be incorporated within the cairn and we require your suggestions for what should be enclosed within the capsule. Ideas / suggestions please to the District Office.

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS

The Annual Cross Country Races took place on Saturday 27th February 1999 at Sherdley Park, St. Helens on a course marked out by Sutton Harriers A.C.

Competitors from Halton, Manchester, Oldham, St. Helens, Southport, and Warrington Battalions took part along with twelve runners from 1st Castletown (Isle of Man) who certainly proved they could travel the distance in more ways than one.

RESULTS	
Junior Race:	
1st D. Savage (Warrington)	
2nd C. Brown (Manchester)	
3rd S. Taylor (Manchester)	
Team Award: Manchester Battalion	
Intermediate Race:	
1st D. Reid (Southport)	
2nd M. Carey (Southport)	
3rd S. Rudd (Southport)	
Team Award: Southport Battalion	
Senior Race:	
1st P. Lock (Manchester)	
2nd T. Quinn (St. Helens)	
3rd D. Formby (Southport)	
Team Award: 1st Castletown (I.O.M.)	

Photographs of this event will appear in the Summer issue of the Digest.

District Calendar 1999

March

- 25 Centre Management Committee
27 District Executive

April

- 17 Competitions Day - Treales
24 Blackpool Display

May

- 15 Northern Districts Marching Bands Championships - Treales

- 16 Queen's Badge Presentation at District Training Centre, Treales

- 20 Centre Management Committee

June

- 5 Festival of Fun Day (Gala Day)
19 District Executive
26 BB/GB Day - Alton Towers

September

- 3-5 Brigade Council - Dundee
24/25 J.S. Millennium Games - Treales

October

- 2 District Annual Council Meeting, Southport.
Liverpool Road Methodist Church
HQ 7th Southport Company

TRAINING MATTERS 1999

1999			
March	5/7 18	Queen's Badge Part II (Completion) District Training Conference (Welcome Lodge, Charnock Richard, M6)	NW District
April	10 24	Renewal Training Officers Renewal Training	Wigan Manchester
May	15	Camp/Holiday Leadership	Liverpool
June	26	Camp/Holiday Leadership	Liverpool
October	8/9 9 16	Queen's Badge Part I (Leadership) Officers Renewal Training Officers Renewal Training	NW District Manchester Wigan
November	6 12/14	Officers Basic Queen's Badge Part II (Completion)	Wigan NW District
December	11	Officers Basic	Wigan
2000			
January	8	Officers Basic	Wigan
February	12	Officers Basic	Wigan
March	3/5	Queen's Badge Part II (Completion)	NW District
October	13/14	Queen's Badge Part I (Leadership)	NW District

Kids & Cops

Members of the 48th Liverpool Company (Linacre Methodist Church) took part in the above programme on BBC2, shown on Sunday 6th February 1999.

FESTIVAL OF FUN DAY

Saturday 5th June 1999
11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Contact:

Margaret Heywood - 0161 620 9850
Bob Wright - 01704 213647



24/25 SEPTEMBER 1999
DISTRICT TRAINING CENTRE
TREALES

This is a regional venue open to companies throughout the UK, so book early to ensure a place.
Details with this mailing.

*East Lancashire Battalion Renewal Training at Battalion Meetings + others

*Southport Battalion will include Renewal Training at the June and July Battalion Council Meetings.

June 1999 Safety and Responsibility
June 2000 Relationships

July 1999 Boy Management
July 2000 Safety and Responsibility

Contacts:

East Lancashire:
Trevor Ridehalgh (01254 872536)

Liverpool:
Geoff Pinnington (0151 489 1400)

Manchester:
Peter Dawson (0161 232 8126)

North West District

Queen's Badge:
Martin Ormond (01253 826153)

Southport:
Robert Langdon (01695 558192)
Wigan:
Mrs. Chris Wood (01942 709304)

Other training:
Geoff Pinnington (as Liverpool)

BLACKPOOL DISPLAY



THE 48th DISTRICT DISPLAY

will be held in **THE TOWER CIRCUS** Blackpool
On Sat. 24th April 1999 at 3.00pm and 7.00pm

Chief Guest evening performance:

Mrs. Pauline A. Clare, QPM., Chief Constable of Lancashire

Tickets still available from:

Mrs. R. Pugh, 47 Old Hall Drive
Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 9NA
Telephone: 01942 723361

supported by

 **The Royal Bank of Scotland**

WORSHIP AREA APPEAL

The District President wishes to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of further donations in response to the appeal.

Bob Wright & Jamie Wright
(both in memory of Mrs. Leah)

Exors. of Mrs. D. Meadowcroft

Mr. & Mrs. A. Riding

R.S. Williams

Q.B. (Completion) Course Feb. 99

Bolton Battalion

A Total of £5,744.23p

This amount includes a sum of **£896.15p** from the Inland Revenue in respect of six donations given under the Gift Aid Scheme.

The Appeal Target is £7,000

MRS MERTON'S ROY AIDS THE BB

Roy Williams of the Manchester Stedfast Association has written to tell us about his exploits as a member of the "audience" of the Mrs Merton Show, the award winning talk show, which included a trip to America. Roy sends his best wishes to the District and a donation for the Worship Area Appeal.

DISTRICT OFFICE

The Office will normally be open on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. 09.00 - 12.30 and 13.00 - 15.30 hrs.**

A 24 hour Fax and Answering machine service is available on **01772 685000.**

If intending to visit the centre it is advisable to phone beforehand.



EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Office will be closed over the **EASTER PERIOD** from Friday 2nd April 1999 to Monday 5th April 1999 incl. (Public and Staff Holidays)

The Boys' Brigade Mountaineering Club

For further information please contact:

**TREVOR RIDEHALGH
01254 872536**

(1st Oswaldtwistle Company)

Training Courses:

9 - 11 July Expedition Assessment/Training
30 July - 1 Aug. Introductory Rock Climbing
19 - 21 Nov. Mountain Navigation

Enquiries to John Haslam (09128 568346)
23 Brookfield Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5QZ.

Supervised by BMC qualified Mountain Leaders.

OBITUARIES

KEITH BRIDSON (77)

One time Captain of the 53rd Liverpool Company (Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, West Derby) he died on 29 November 1998.

Keith was for many years Drill Convener for the Liverpool Battalion and gave generously of his time to conducting Drill Courses and Judging Drill Competitions throughout the District. He was a 'Friend of the District'.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family circle which includes brother in law Ted Crowder (Wirral and West Cheshire). *A.McL.*

PETER CUTHELL MBE (71)

Peter joined the 10th Liverpool Company (St. Simon's & St. Jude's Parish Church, Anfield) at the age of eleven continuing through the ranks he was appointed Captain at the age of 23, a position he was to hold for 37 years.

In addition to his Brigade duties Peter was a Churchwarden were his qualities of integrity and leadership were greatly valued, particularly when church re-organisation in the Anfield District required the demolition of several well-loved churches. Peter led the United Congregations into the new Christ Church in Walton Breck and it was a fitting tribute that this church was filled to overflowing for his funeral service. The award of the MBE in 1993 recognised dedicated service to generations of boys in the inner city of Liverpool all of whom found a friend in Captain Cuthell. Peter was the Immediate Past President of the Liverpool Battalion.

We extend deepest sympathy to his wife Edna and to Helen and James. *A.McL.*

HERBERT WILKINSON MBE (81)

Herbert died on 16 February 1999. He was one of the great BB names in the North West and was Captain of the 2nd Burnley Company (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church) for fifty years. He was Battalion President, initially of Burnley Battalion and after amalgamation with Blackburn, The East Lancashire Battalion for forty-six years, a unique record. Prominent in civic and business life in Burnley, they affectionately knew him as "Mr. Boys' Brigade". The award of the MBE in 1983 recognised his devoted service. Devoted to the Baptist cause he was a Deacon and organist at Mount Pleasant. As a District Vice-President and first chairman of the Centre Management Committee, he applied energy, enthusiasm, and business skills to the lasting benefit of the District. Herbert will be greatly missed in the District in whose development and history he earned a special place. *A.McL.*

REVEREND WILLIAM ROYLE (81)

Bill's 73 year BB career reads like a history and geography book rolled into one.

In 1925, he joined the Boy Reserves in the 40th Manchester Company. He attended the Jubilee Camp at Dechmont in 1933 and five years later he became a Lieutenant in the 40th. Even the war couldn't keep him away from the BB, stationed in Carlisle he joined the 2nd Carlisle later returning to the 40th Manchester as Captain.

Bill served on the Manchester Battalion Executive, the Lancashire & Cheshire District Executive.

In 1960, he led a party of senior boys from the District to Oberammergau for the Passion Plays.

Later, he moved to Southend-on-Sea to become Battalion President and a Vice President of Eastern District. In 1971, he was off to Papua New Guinea leading a party to the fourth Pan Australian Camp.

Bill returned to the North West in 1981 as Minister of Elswick Memorial Church and took on the job of District Secretary. Later becoming an Hon. Vice-President of the North West District. He was a "Friend of the District" and a most generous benefactor.

Following a lifetime of service to young people The Reverend William Edward Royle has left his mark. He will not be forgotten, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Gladys and his family. *J.P.C.*

BEN HARTWELL, OBE, LLM (93)

District President 1950-1962

Ben Hartwell died in hospital after a short illness on 18 January 1999. He was the clerk to the magistrates of Southport. A post he held for 30 years. He was secretary to the Magistrates Clerks' Association. A keen Congregationalist and a past President of the Congregational Union.

He started a BB Company at Churchtown Congregational church, Southport. He was secretary of the Southport & District Officers' Council and later President when we became a Battalion.

For some years he was President of the Lancashire and Cheshire District during which time a full time Organiser was appointed to the District. Ben was a co-opted member of the Brigade Executive.

Ben was a christian gentleman and was well thought of, in Southport and beyond. It was a pleasure to have known him and to be one of his many friends.

Our thoughts at this sad time go to his family, Ian, Ruth and grandchildren.

K. Blundell JP

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**Fri. 28th May - Mon. 31st May 1999
Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead
Telephone: 01442 231681**

**Prayer
Topics**



For those recently bereaved:

**Ken Blundell, Gladys Royle,
Mavis Southworth, Edna Cuthell and
Linda Mitchell.**

For the sick:

Jean Harris and Rob Henderson.