

# Newsletter



We once again remind you of how quickly you should deal with the contents of our first Newsletter of the Session:

\*\*\*\*

Needs immediate attention

\*\*\*

Needs your early attention

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Don't leave it too long

[belfastbb.org.uk](http://belfastbb.org.uk)



**The Boys' Brigade  
Belfast Battalion**

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## A new face in B.B. House



Following recent changes to our Battalion administrative structure, in recent weeks we welcomed our Head of Operations, Mr Eric Denner, onto the staff team at B.B. House. Eric shares something about his background. "For me Boys' Brigade has been a lifelong association, I've been going to BB parade nights literally for longer than I can remember, I grew up in a family where BB was the family business (so much so that Dad almost missed my birth because he was on the Ireland BB trip to Scotland to celebrate the centenary)! As a result of this family association Dad would often bring me along to parade nights when a babysitter wasn't available long before I was an official member, hence my inability to remember my first BB night, it has always, quite happily, been a part of my life. I officially started out my BB career as a Dragon (that's one of the preceding organisations that became the Anchors) with the 14th Dublin Company, unfortunately the 14th was coming to the end of its time and by the time I was due to join Junior Section the 14th was effectively no more, so I moved to the 7th Dublin Company where I made many a lifelong friend and look back on years there as a Boy and later Officer with enough happy memories to fill a whole set of encyclopaedias many times over!

7th Dublin Company started an experiment in my last year as a Boy and merged its Company and Senior Sections with the 32nd Dublin sections and formed a new company, the 39th. While I continued as an Officer with 7th Dublin eventually becoming Officer-in-charge of their 2 Anchor Sections (one in Coolock and the other in Swords, another very successful experiment) the 39th went from strength to strength with many of the Boys progressing through NCOs and then becoming leaders and Officers as they turned 18.

When I was 25 I offered to help out in 39th with paperwork as the Captain had moved on and as these things can go, found myself very shortly into the new session asked to be the new Company Captain!

A few years ago I met a wonderful Northern Irish woman through youth work, things blossomed into a romance and we got married last year, in fact the wedding was only 1 week before my final BB display as Captain of the 39th Dublin. I like to say, "I knew I was marrying the right woman when she planned a short honeymoon so I could come back to do my BB display!"

So obviously I have moved to Northern Ireland now permanently to be with my wife and I couldn't let that lifelong BB association wither so come July last year I reached out to BBNI to see if there were any companies in need of an additional officer, to which I was contacted by 1st Loughaghery where I'm now helping out with Junior, Company and Senior sections each week.

Of course this led to me hearing about the position in May Street, and I very happily applied for it. They say turn your hobby into your work and every day is a holiday, and I'm certainly finding that to be true, I've been welcomed into the May Street family and look forward to spending many years working here and adding many more fond memories to my BB career".

In welcoming Eric to our May Street staff team, we also want to pay tribute to those who have served our Battalion so faithfully over many years as they take their leave from us towards the end of March. We pay special tribute to Betty Smylie who for over 42 years has served many B.B. Officers with their requirements of uniform, resources, badges and gifts in our B.B. Shop. Also to Dan Magee who has led the Office team and Supplies for over 22 years and to Richard Treganna who has typed many items of correspondence over the past 18 years. Thanks are extended to Irene Lowry, who albeit may have only served in B.B. House for a relatively short time, made a great impact on the fulfilment of training needs especially in the lead up to Courses. Irene plans to return on a voluntary basis in the days ahead for specific projects. We express our grateful thanks and extend our best wishes to all particularly those who will be taking on new or additional roles within the May Street staff team.

# Events Section

## B.B. Outreach and Witness in the City centre (\*\*\*\*)

Sunday 25th March 2018 sees our Company Sections and Junior Sections stepping out at our annual Battalion Church Parade and Service which this year is being held at the founding home of B.B. in Ireland – St Mary Magdalene Parish Church. To ensure a successful Praise Service and Public Parade on this very special day in the life of our Battalion, the enclosed arrangements should be read in detail and acted upon. A separate poster is enclosed for your Church's notice board together with a pulpit announcement which should be shared with your Company Chaplain. If you are one of the Battalion Companies that has not attended for some time or perhaps never attended, here's your opportunity to join with others from across the Battalion in what is a remodelled outreach event. You are asked to note the special letter from our Battalion President and Battalion Chaplain in relation to this year's Parade and Service. It would be great to have an even greater number of Battalion Companies in attendance and remember, a Battalion Trophy is awarded to the Company, which is judged to be top in turn-out and deportment.

## Other events are fast approaching namely:

### Turning Point 2018 (\*\*\*\*)

When we once again anticipate another full programme at our annual Festival over the weekend of 27 – 29 April at Ganaway for B.B. Companies and other youth groups.



Already the indoor space is almost fully booked with groups now availing of the Tented Village to ensure that they don't miss out on yet another great weekend. And if a weekend is too much for you, remember Groups can attend the Festival on Saturday.

Section AGMs and Battalion Council Meeting on Wednesday 9th May in Ravenhill Presbyterian Church Halls – a poster for your notice board is enclosed.

### Battalion Charity Golf Day (\*\*\*\*)

On Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at Clondeboye Golf Club where some four ball slots are available but we urge you to act quickly if you are to secure a tee-off time. A registration form is enclosed and you are asked to share this with your staff and those within your Congregation. Is this something that your business would support by either entering a four-ball team or providing some sponsorship? Or could you 'round-up' four golfers from within your Church or B.B. Company? The support that we receive at our Golf Day allows us to develop meaningful and purposeful programmes to assist you in your work at Company level so we ask that you give this your early consideration. Contact us here in B.B. House for further information and to book your tee-off time.

# AROUND THE SECTIONS

## Anchor Boys



Congratulations to 120th Belfast winning the recent Anchor Boy Worship/Craft competition.

## Anchor Boy Outing

Plans are now well underway for this year's outing to the Queen's Film Theatre Saturday 21st April 2018, details of which have been sent direct to Officers in Charge. Please remind your Anchor Boy Section Officer in Charge to act quickly as places are limited. They should forward their Section's registration to B.B. House as soon as possible together with the appropriate payment.

## Junior Section JUNIORS

Recently completed competitions and events at Battalion level have included the Battalion Heat of the NID Junior Section Indoor 5-A-Side Tournament resulting in 2nd Comber emerging as the winning team and will now represent the Battalion at the Regional Final on Saturday 28th April 2018. We wish them every success.

## Company Section

We would remind Captains that President's Badges and Queen's Badge registration may now be purchased from B.B. House. When making application please ensure that a record of each Boy's achievements accompanies his registration when submitting these for Battalion endorsement. Please allow a three/four day turn round time for such applications.



Don't forget that we can also supply Queen's Badges to Battalion Companies from B.B. House and the application is simple. Each Boy should be provided with an application form following his successful attendance at a Queen's Badge Residential Course which will have been signed by either the Boy's Queen's Badge Adviser or Leader of the Residential course he attended. Once completed this can be presented to B.B. House when the Queen's Badge will be issued (after paying the £ S d of course!).



Company Section Soccer trials are due to commence so watch out for further details in due course on how you can have your Boys representing the Battalion by way of selection. We are indebted to those who will be managing our Battalion Teams in the impending Inter-Battalion football Competitions and wish all concerned every success.



# Training Section

Coming up in the months ahead is the Holiday Leadership and Camp Craft Courses with the former a must have for any Leader wishing to take young people away on a residential Holiday with the latter compulsory for all those who camp under canvas. The enclosed registration form will allow you to register your Leaders' participation at either of these essential courses.

Following initial training, re-registration is achieved by your participation in at least one Holiday or Camp within five years and can be made by completing the activity Log which is available to download from [www.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://www.boys-brigade.org.uk) under the Resources section and forwarded to BBUK Headquarters at Felden.

Despite regular requests for First Aid Training and working with young people with special needs, it was disappointing that the First Response First Aid training planned for 10th February 2018 was postponed due to a lack of registrations. From previous experience, we know that this course is always sought after and well-supported in the past. Your Training Committee is now considering how best to deliver this vital training.

Remember registrations forms and details of training committee events and Battalion competitions can be downloaded from our Battalion website [www.belfastbb.org.uk](http://www.belfastbb.org.uk)

# Congratulations Section



Well Done to all of the following winners in recent competitions:

## Anchor Boys Worship Competition

P1/P2 Winners 4th Newtownabbey  
P3/P4 Winners 16th Newtownabbey

## Junior Section - NID Junior Section Indoor 5-A-Side Battalion heat

Winners 2nd Comber  
Runners-up 4th Newtownabbey

## Company Section - Indoor 5-A-Side Football

Junior Winners 4th Newtownabbey  
Senior Winners 4th Newtownabbey

## Table Tennis Championships - Junior Singles

Winner Jake Brown 43rd Belfast  
Runner-up Josh Oliver 58th Belfast

## Junior Doubles

Winners Jake Brown/Peter Wright 43rd Belfast  
Runners-up Jake Stothers/Josh Oliver 43rd/58th Belfast

## Senior Singles

Winner Aqueel Mohammad 3rd Bangor  
Runner-up Cameron McCaughey 1st Carryduff

## Senior Doubles

Winners Aqueel Mohammad/Will Lynn 3rd Bangor  
Runners-up Adam Ruddock/Luke Smith  
3rd Newtownabbey

## Chess

Gold Winner Ben Loyal 11th Bangor  
Silver Winner Tom Loyal 11th Bangor  
Bronze Winner Kyle Peel 11th Bangor

## Draughts

Winner of The Roy Glenn Trophy  
Justin Keenan 113th Belfast  
Silver Winner Owen Ross 11th Bangor  
Bronze Winner Aaron Shaw 1st Granshaw

## Inter-Company Bible Quiz

Winners 94th Belfast

And to all those Companies who participated in the Annual Door To Door Collection on behalf of the Northern Ireland Institute for the Disabled. Those Companies that notified us of having taken up a Collection are listed on the enclosed summary sheet. It was pleasing to have representatives from participating Companies in attendance at Stricklands recently and to hear directly from the Institute's Director, Sam Humphries, the significant impact our collection makes to all that the Institute seeks to do, adding value to their activity with less-able bodied people. We also heard of plans for future development of the Stricklands Care Village and how this year's B.B. Door-to-Door collection has been earmarked for a specific Project. It is such a pity that our total was not greater with more Companies participating! For those who do, well done. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and is making such a positive contribution in the lives of so many people.

## Special congratulations go to Companies celebrating significant anniversaries:

3rd Lisburn B.B. Company - 60 Years

1st Granshaw B.B. Company - 25 Years



# OPPORTUNITIES SECTION

## Coming Up

Don't Overlook (\* \* \* \* \*)

### ENTRIES DUE BY:

Friday 23rd March	Battalion Anchor Boy Trip to the Cinema
Friday 6th April	Holiday Leadership & Camp Craft
Friday 25th May	Athletics Championships Cricket 6-A-Side Skills for Queen's Badge / Queen's Badge Residential (June Courses)

And also don't forget the next Saturday openings for the B.B. Shop on:

**Saturday 3rd March & 17th March 9.30am – 1.00pm**

NB B.B. House and Shop is open Monday 19th March (St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday) and is closed Friday 30th March – Tuesday 3rd April 2018 opening again on Wednesday 4th April ready to serve your needs.

The enclosed brochure illustrates a small range of the wide selection of B.B. items available for purchase ahead of your Parents' Night and Company Displays. Please support your B.B. Shop in Belfast.

## Just Arrived!



Anyone visiting Ganaway recently will have seen some rather strange-looking mounds appear on the camping area beside the Ganaway Outpost. They are in fact our latest addition – Camping Pods. Three have been constructed over the winter months and each will comfortably accommodate four people. These will be useful facilities for those B.B. Companies who wish to experience the great outdoors in more comfortable surroundings (rather than under canvas) or for Groups who do camp under canvas but have needs for others who would prefer something a little 'terra-firma'! For bookings (and further details) contact either Ganaway on 028 9186 1297 or B.B. House on 028 9032 4853 or check out the Ganaway Facebook page.



## Special opportunity for Young People within the North Down Group Area.

Young people in Ards and North Down are being urged to take part in a new youth leadership programme that will give them a voice on the issues that most affect them. Through this programme, NIYF will work with young people to establish eight local youth forums across the Borough, culminating in the formation of the Ards & North Down Youth Council. The programme will also establish youth Peace Champions affecting positive change within and across the Borough and further afield.

Project Co-ordinator, Ian Donald said: "We think this a tremendous opportunity to bolster youth participation across the Borough, working closely with key stakeholders and youth providers, it will create a platform for young people to influence decision makers and advocate for other young people on issues that are important to young people".

If you are between 16 and 24 and interested in taking part in the programme, contact Ian Donald on 02890 331990, 07841014210 or [ian.donald@niyf.org](mailto:ian.donald@niyf.org) for further information. Post script note - Ian is a former Leader in 41st Belfast B.B. Company and would have worked alongside Stewart Kirkwood on Projects and Programmes focusing on building the capacity of Young people in The B.B.

## E-mail sign up

To enable us to communicate more effectively with you, please send us an up to-date e-mail address to [info@belfastbb.org.uk](mailto:info@belfastbb.org.uk)

## The B.B. Object

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.

**adventures begin at ...**

**Ganaway**  
Activity Centre

**Day or Residential Packages Available**

**School Groups Welcome**

**Located in the Ards Peninsula**

[ganaway.co.uk](http://ganaway.co.uk)

