

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

Don't leave it too long

belfastbb.org.uk



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Get Up to-date ... Keep Up to-date ...



That's what a new and exciting development from BBUK Headquarters seeks to do with the launch of a new tool kit named Online Brigade Manager.

So What is it?

OBM will provide a range of functionality to assist local Companies in administration and communication, as well as replacing the current headquarters database.

How will it help me?

OBM will deliver quick and easy record keeping, including data of young people, an attendance register, badge records and programme activities, as well as camp/holiday/event management.

How can I find out more information?

The Brigade will be holding a number of launch events across the Brigade to provide leaders with a detailed overview of the system and how it can be effectively used at Company/Battalion/District level to streamline administration. You can register for one to be held at Newport on Saturday 21st May 2016. Further details can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-brigade-manager-obm-introduction-newport-hillsborough-tickets-22528000857>

This is an exciting development for The Brigade – and we would encourage you to attend the information day and find out about OBM and how it can support you in your role.

Anchor Boy Fun Day



With favourable weather and plenty of activities to enjoy, over 200 Anchor Boys and their adult leaders ascended on Ganaway for their Fun Day on Saturday 16 April 2016. We thank Joan and her team for all of their arrangements for what was yet another successful event.



BATTALION EVENTS SECTION

Our Christian Witness

We were blessed with another great day at our Battalion Church Parade and Service on Sunday 20th March. Back to our 'traditional date' of Palm Sunday and normal venue of recent years in R.B.A.I. (Inst.), our Guest Speaker Rev Andrew Faulkner held the attention of those assembled together with some excellent Worship ably led by the Praise Team from Sloan Street Presbyterian Church. Those who were absent missed out on a really good day and those who were present, provided great B.B. witness through our City Centre.

We were so privileged to have as our Chief Guest, the High Sherriff of Belfast, and Honorary Battalion President, Alderman Jim Rogers, who having earlier addressed those in attendance, received the Salute as the Parade marched past the City Hall, brightening the scene around the City centre on what was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Following the Service we were able to inform the 16th Newtownabbey B.B. Company that they had won the Battalion Parade Service Department Shield.



TURNINGPOINT

On the heels of our Parade Service, TurningPoint, celebrated 10 years of our Christian Outreach Festival and once again attracted a large turnout of young people and their leaders at Ganaway. All the usual



activities, praise bands, cafe and drop-in venues together with the Ganaway activities made for yet another very special weekend. We extend special thanks to Duncan McGregor and his team for their splendid arrangements not forgetting all those who kept everyone safe and secure, mopped up and cleaned up. Look out for details of next year's event which is provisionally planned for the weekend of 28 – 30 April 2017.

Have YOUR Say... (*****)

At our Section AGMs and Battalion Council on Wednesday 11th May 2016 in First Bangor Presbyterian Church Halls (home of 1st Bangor B.B. Company). Papers are enclosed or being sent direct to Section O.I.C.s. Keeping to the arrangements made some time ago will be our aim to give as much time for discussion and debate as may be wanted by those in attendance. We are pleased to welcome Mr Jonathan Eales, Deputy Brigade Secretary and Business Manager, who will give an update on developments at National Level. So to have your say make sure your Company is represented.

Annual Charity Golf Day (*****)

There are still a few Four Ball slots available for our annual Battalion Charity Golf Day at Clondeboye Golf Club on Wednesday 25th May 2016. To book a time-slot(s) contact Dan Magee in B.B. House on 9032 4853 though you'd better act quickly before all slots are taken!

TRAINING AND PROGRAMMES SECTION

Training Course dates have already been set for next year. The enclosed note sets these out in more detail but among the early ones are..... (***)

Training Fair

Date TBC September 2016

Skills for Queen's Badge Training

Friday / Sunday 10th - 12th June '16

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 10th - 12th June '16

Captain's Element (residential)

Friday / Saturday 14th - 15th October '16

Skills for Queen's Badge Training (2)

Friday / Sunday 14th - 16th October '16

Social Media – Boys' Issues

Date TBC November 2016

Youth Leader Training (Residential)

Friday / Sunday 27th - 29th January '17

Senior Member's Training

Friday / Sunday 10th - 12th February '17

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 17th - 19th March '17

Holiday Leadership & Camp Craft

Monday 24th April '17



Queen's Badge Residential and that 12 Months have passed since the Young Man's Queen's Badge Registration. The enclosed registration form (which can be copied) should alert you to registering your Queen's Men at the earliest opportunity so as not to be embarrassed when Courses are over-subscribed or dates not adhered to.

And speaking of those achieving their President's Badges, we received some 18 applications from 3rd Bangor B.B. Company in recent days. By our reckoning this is by far the largest number of applications from one Company at the one time so well done to the Captain, Officers and most importantly the Boys of 3rd Bangor on this outstanding achievement. We look forward to welcoming these young men at various Battalion-led training courses in the days ahead as each has indicated their intention to work towards The Brigade's Highest Awards, The Queen's Badge Award.

CONGRATULATIONS SECTION

Once again three Companies from Belfast Battalion made it through to the Finals of National Competitions. 100th Belfast B.B. Company won the Irish Region Master Team competition and went forward to the UK National Final in Hamilton, Scotland achieving a commendable third place. Added to this 4th Newtownabbey B.B. Company who emerged as the Irish Region Badminton Champions. Literally having home advantage in the BBUK National Finals, they came away with a very respectable 3rd place.

To everyone who has achieved success in recent days we extend Congratulations to one and all.

Just as we were going to press, 16th Newtownabbey were making final preparations for their participation in the Senior Indoor 5-a-Side Football Finals being held in Derby. We extend to them every good wish.



* To facilitate Queen's Men needing to attend a Completion Residential, an extra course has been organised to run alongside the Skills for Queen's Badge Course over the weekend of 10 – 12 June 2016.

Queen's Badge Residential

We had another large attendance of Queen's Badge Candidates completing their Awards at the recent Queen's Badge Residential Course at Ganaway in March '16. The Course Tutors again commented on the high calibre of the young men in attendance and of the quality of work undertaken by them as they completed the various elements of their Award. By the end of the weekend it was pleasing to recommend each young man to have the privilege of becoming a Queen's Man!



It would be great to see yet further increased participation of the Queen's Badge Award as each Young Man deserves the opportunity to gain our Organisation's Highest Award.

Skills for Queen's Badge (****)

For those who have recently received President's Badges and registered for the Queen's Badge Award and are ready for the next step to the next stage of their life, two Skills for Queen's Badge Residential Courses are planned. The early Course has been brought forward to the weekend of 10th - 12th June 2016 to assist you in this way. Thereafter the next Course is scheduled for mid-October 2016. Details of both these courses are enclosed. These accredited Courses provide Candidates with the training development of self-esteem and personal confidence and, most importantly, receiving the road map to becoming a Queen's Man. Please remember the requirement of 6-months between completing Skills-based Training and attendance at a



BEWARE SECTION

Friday 20th May

Entry date for Athletics Championships

Friday 27th May

Entry date for Cricket 6-a-side

N.B. B.B. House closed 12th and 13th July '16 but otherwise it will be business as usual in 14 May Street with staff ready to provide you with whatever you may require.

Competition / Events Etc.

Your annual form indicating what information you want to receive through the next twelve months is enclosed for COMPLETION NOW and return to B.B. House. As ever, we remind you to use your Battalion Calendar of Events and your Captain's Circular for details of entry dates. DON'T RELY ON OTHER SOURCES.

SOME ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Battalion Re-Commitment Service (Ganaway)
Sunday 25th September 2016 at 2.45 p.m.

Massed Bands / J.S. Choir in Belfast
Monday 12th December 2016

Turning Point 2017 at Ganaway
Friday 28th - Sunday 30th April 2017

E-mail sign up

To enable us to communicate more effectively with you, please send us up to-date e-mail address to belfast@boys-brigade.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.

In addition to those mentioned above, those known to us who have achieved success in recent days both within our Battalion and at Regional and National level are:

B.B. UK National Competitions

Master Teams	3rd Place	100th Belfast
Badminton	3rd Place	4th Newtownabbey

Battalion Company Section Competitions

Senior League	Winners	1st Granshaw
	Runner Up	120th Belfast
Senior Cup	Winners	2nd Comber
	Runner Up	120th Belfast
Junior League	Winners	4th Belfast
	Runner Up	4th Newtownabbey
Junior Cup	Winners	4th Belfast
	Runner Up	2nd Comber
Subsidiary Shield	Winners	1st Granshaw
	Runner Up	120th Belfast
Christian Faith	Winner	Ben Spiers 3rd Lisburn
	Runner Up	Evan Thompson 3rd Lisburn

We extend to those Companies still to compete in the Finals of their respective competitions our best wishes with particular good wishes to our Battalion Inter-Battalion Representative Soccer Teams as they commence their busy schedule of fixtures.

Congratulations to a Boys' Brigade man who has served his Company, Church and the wider community over many years - Edwin McMurrin who was awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. Edwin follows in the footsteps of other great servants of young people and the communities in which they operate and is a just reward for Edwin's many years of service to Education in North Belfast.

