

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



**The Boys' Brigade
Belfast Battalion**

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BATTALION EVENTS SECTION

Stepping out in style

Were those who attended the Battalion Church Parade and Service on Sunday 9th April. On Palm Sunday, 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. Even managing to avoid the rain, following the Service at the R.B.A.I. (Inst), the parade passed City Hall providing great B.B. witness in our capital City.

It was great to see a number of our Junior Section members in attendance particularly as this year is the 100th anniversary of the Junior Section which was reflected throughout this year's Service.



We were so privileged to have as our Chief Guest, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston, who having earlier addressed those in attendance, received the Salute as the Parade marched past the City Hall. Following the Service we were able to inform the 43rd Belfast B.B. Company that they had won the Battalion Parade Service Department Shield.





Fun Day

With favourable weather and lots to see and do, our Anchor Boys and their adult leaders ascended on the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum for their Fun Day on Saturday 22 April 2017. We thank Joan and her team for all of their arrangements for what was yet another great day out.



On the heels of our Parade Service, TurningPoint, our Christian Outreach Festival Weekend and now in its 11th year, 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 excellent arrangements not forgetting all those who kept everyone safe and secure, mopped up and cleaned up.

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

At our Section AGMs and Battalion Council on Wednesday 10th May 2017 in Carnmoney Presbyterian Church Halls (home of 4th Newtownabbey 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. 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 24th May 2017. 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! We have secured use of the Dufferin Championship Course and after your round of golf, golfers are treated to a splendid meal. With some great prizes on offer, what better way could you spend a day while supporting The Boys' Brigade?

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 (Provisional)

Wednesday 27th September 2017

Skills for Queen's Badge Training

Friday / Sunday 15th - 17th June '17

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 15th - 17th June '17

Captain's Element (residential)

Friday / Saturday 13th - 14th October '17

Skills for Queen's Badge Training (2)

Friday / Sunday 13th - 15th October '17

Youth Leader Training (Residential)

Friday / Sunday 26th - 28th January '18

Senior Member's Training

Friday / Sunday 9th - 11th February '18

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 16th - 18th March '18

Holiday Leadership & Camp Craft

Monday 23 April '18

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 15 - 17 June 2017.

Queen's Badge Residential

We had one of our largest attendances to-date at the recent Queen's Badge Residential Course at Ganaway in March. 65 Queen's Badge Candidates gathered to complete the final elements of The B.B.'s highest Award. 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.

It would be great to see this figure increased yet further, as each Young Man deserves the opportunity to gain our Organisation's Highest Award.



Skills for Queen's Badge (***)

For those who 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 is planned for the weekend of 15th - 17th June 2017 to assist you in this way. Thereafter the next Course is scheduled for mid-October 2017. Details of both these courses can be downloaded from www.belfastbb.org.uk under the Resources section. 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 Queen's Badge Residential and that 12 Months have passed since the Young Man's Queen's Badge Registration.** Please register your Queen's Men at the earliest opportunity so as not to be embarrassed when Courses are over-subscribed or dates not adhered to.

CONGRATULATIONS SECTION

One of our Battalion Companies has been very active in recent weeks and months competing in NID, Regional and National Competitions (and at Battalion level besides), achieving much success along the way. We say congratulations to 4th Newtownabbey who in recent days participated in the National Final of Masterteams and were placed a commendable 5th in UK. They also won the NID Badminton Competition and were crowned Irish Regional Winners recently and now head to Leicester for the UK National Final. And before the Badminton finals, they are off to East Kilbride to participate in the National Indoor Senior 5-a-side Football Finals. Certainly a busy few weeks ahead for the 4th and we send them into all of their respective finals with our best wishes.



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 5th Place
4th Newtownabbey

Badminton (Regional Winners)
4th Newtownabbey

Indoor 5-a-Side (Senior) (Finalists)
4th Newtownabbey

NID Competitions

Junior Section N.I.D. Indoor 5-A-Side (Batt. Heat) Winners
4th Newtownabbey

Company Section NID Badminton Winners
4th Newtownabbey

Company Section Competitions

Volleyball League Winners
20th Belfast

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.

Special Congratulations to a number of Battalion Companies reaching significant Anniversaries:

24th Belfast	90 years
58th Belfast	75 years
4th Newtownabbey	75 years

BEWARE SECTION

Friday 26th May:

- Entry date for Athletics Championships
- Entry date for Cricket 6-a-side

N.B B.B. House closed 12th and 13th July '17 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.

The enclosed flyer will whet your appetite of what opportunities lie ahead next Session for your Company Section's involvement at Battalion events and competitions. You will no longer need to return this to us as details of each event will appear on our Battalion website from where you will be able to download entry and registration forms. Further details will be published in our next Calendar of Events and 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 24th September 2017 at 2.45 p.m.

Massed Bands / J.S. Choir in Belfast
Monday 11th December 2017

Have you visited our B.B. Heritage Museum?

The B.B. Museum is a purpose-built building located at the Ganaway Training and Activity Centre and situated close to The BB Garden of Peace and Reconciliation.

The B.B. Heritage Museum provides a focal point for the collection and care of material illustrating the work and witness of The Boys' Brigade since its formation on 4th October 1883.

Together with such non-BB Memorabilia, the exhibitions set in context the role of The Boys' Brigade since that date.

Managed by a team of volunteer Leaders who are on hand to give guided tours and talks, this would be an ideal place to bring your Boys, former members or church groups to visit.

Don't forget about The B.B. House Heritage Room where a smaller-scale exhibition is on display.



2017 sees The Boys' Brigade celebrating 100 years of working with the Junior Section age group. To mark this anniversary, special displays and exhibitions are on view at The B.B. Heritage Museum at Ganaway. Located in the Ards Peninsula between Millisle and Ballywalter, the Museum is open every Tuesday and Wednesday and at other times by appointment. The facade is designed replicating the Charlotte Street Mission Hall, Donegall Pass, Belfast where The B.B. was formed in Ireland in 1888. The gallery space features displays periodically depicting significant times in the context of The B.B. since its formation and is open each year as part of the European Heritage Open Days in September.

For more information Telephone Ganaway 028 9186 1297 or B.B. House 028 9032 4853 or check out ganaway.co.uk



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PASSED TO HIGHER SERVICE

Ronnie Campbell

Former Bands Master in 33rd Belfast and a long-time member of the Battalion's Bands Committee, Ronnie was synonymous with BB Bands for many years. Always keen to share his enthusiasm for Bugles, Ronnie brought his experience to bear not only within the 33rd but also at Battalion level too. Up until recently, Ronnie led the Bugle section of the Battalion Massed Band particularly during the Christmas performance in the city centre. His sudden passing just hours before this year's Battalion Church Parade and Service shocked us all. To his wife and family circle and the 33rd we send our deepest sympathy.

Robin Firman

Was a both a Boy and Officer in 42nd Belfast B.B. Company connected to Strand Presbyterian Church. Robin was an ardent supporter of The B.B. and used his role as an Associate Officer of the Battalion to great effect encouraging and supporting many of today's BB Leaders. With a move to Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church, his desire to see The B.B. established in Kirkpatrick was fulfilled when the Company reformed and flourished in recent years. He was held in such high regard in Kirkpatrick in that the Junior Section Boys compiled a get-well card which brought him much delight. Regrettably, recent weeks were not without their difficulties and we were sad to learn of Robin's passing just before Easter. We extend our deepest sympathy to Robin's wife Betty and the entire family.

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.

adventures begin at ...



Day or Residential Packages Available

School Groups Welcome

Located in the Ards Peninsula



ganaway.co.uk

