

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**

BB House
14 May Street
Belfast BT1 4NR

T: 028 9032 4853

find us on [facebook](#)

follow us | [twitter](#)

BATTALION EVENTS SECTION



Stepping out in style

Were those who attended the Battalion Church Parade and Service on Sunday 25th March. On Palm Sunday, our Guest Speaker, Rob Baillie from Dundonald Presbyterian Church, held the attention of those assembled together with some excellent Worship so ably led by the Praise Team from 12th Bangor B.B. Company.



On what was a pleasant early Spring day, we even managed to avoid the rain, the Parade to and from the Service at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church passed City Hall providing great B.B. witness in our capital City.

We were so privileged to have as our Chief Guest, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Sonia Copeland, who having earlier received the Salute as the Parade marched past the City Hall, addressed those in attendance at the Service. Following the Service we were able to inform the 10th Newtownabbey B.B. Company that they had won the Battalion Parade Service Department Shield.



Door to Door Collection

How many of our Battalion Companies participated in this Session's Door to Door Collection on behalf of the Northern Ireland Institute for the Disabled? The answer is provided on the enclosure included in our last Newsletter but that said, it was so very pleasing to hand over a cheque for almost £12,000 to Sam Humphries, Chief Executive of the NIID, at our Battalion Church Parade and Service. Wouldn't it be great if we could hand over a cheque



next year for twice this amount? This would only be achieved if more of our Battalion Companies actively participated in this very worthwhile cause. Next Session will be the 106th such collection first started in answer to a great need and one that the founder of BB in Ireland, William McVicker thought worthy enough to commence all those years ago. Those present at this Year's Church Service will have heard Sam Humphries say how grateful the Institute is to receive this collection and how much it adds to what they seek to achieve! Watch out for details of next Session's Collection in our September Newsletter.

Anchor Boy Fun Day

We thank Joan and her team for all of their arrangements for what was yet another great day out. In a change to the normal arrangements, our Anchor Boys and their adult leaders ascended on the Queen's Film Theatre on Saturday 21 April 2018 to watch the Lego Batman Movie.



On the heels of our Parade Service, TurningPoint, our Christian Outreach Festival Weekend and now in its 12th year, looks set to

attract a large turnout of young people and their leaders at Ganaway. Under new management, all the usual activities, praise bands, cafe and drop-in venues together with the Ganaway activities are set in place for what will be yet another very special weekend. We extend special thanks to Natalie Fitzsimons and her team for their excellent arrangements not forgetting all those who will keep everyone safe and secure and will mop up and clean up during and after the event. And even before this year's event has taken place, next year's date has already been set for the weekend of 5 – 7 April 2019.

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

At our Section AGMs and Battalion Council on Wednesday 9th May 2018 in Ravenhill Presbyterian Church Halls (home of 100th Belfast B.B. Company). Papers are enclosed or being sent direct to Section O.I.C.s. Keeping to the arrangements made some time ago, it 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. A couple initiatives will be launched at this year's Council together with updates provided of recent events.

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 23rd May 2018. To book a time-slot(s) contact Eric Denner in B.B. House on 9032 4853 though you'd better act quickly before your preferred slot is taken! We have once again 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, some of which have been kindly donated by new sponsors, what better way could you spend a day while supporting The Boys' Brigade?



TRAINING AND PROGRAMMES SECTION

Number of Training Course dates have already been set for next year. Among the early ones are.....

Skills for Queen's Badge Training

Friday / Sunday 15th - 17th June '18

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 15th - 17th June '18

Captain's Element (residential)

Friday / Saturday 12th - 13th October '18

Skills for Queen's Badge Training (2)

Friday / Sunday 12th - 14th October '18

Youth Leader Training (Residential)

Friday / Sunday 25th - 27th January '19

Queen's Badge Residential

Friday / Sunday 15th - 17th March '19

Holiday Leadership

Monday 29 April 2019

Camp Craft

Monday 29 April 2019

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 2018.



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. 58 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 if we could add to this figure 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 2018 to assist you in this way. Thereafter the next Course is scheduled for 12th – 14th October 2018. 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 qualified for NI District Badminton Final by beating 3rd Ballymoney, qualified for Irish Regional Badminton Final (and UK National Badminton Final) by beating 1st Garvagh. The Company Section Junior Football Team won the Belfast Battalion Junior League and the Quiz Team came second in the Irish Regional Final and go forward to represent Northern Ireland at the UK finals in Liverpool. And, not to be out-done by their Company Section colleagues, the Junior Section has been achieving much success at Battalion and Regional Level. Among recent achievements, the Junior Section won the Battalion Heat of the NID Spring Competition and came a respectable third at the NID 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

Badminton (Regional Finalist) **4th Newtownabbey**

NID Competitions

Junior Section N.I.D. Indoor 5-A-Side (Batt. Heat)
Winners **2nd Comber**

Company Section Competitions

Junior League Winners **4th Newtownabbey**
Runner Up **1st Granshaw**

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 also to Companies Celebrating Significant Anniversaries:

78th Belfast - 75 Years

A NOTE RE STEDFAST SUPPLIES

Some conflicting and confusing messages have been circulating of late regarding B.B. Supplies. Recent e-mails from our Northern Ireland Headquarters have referred to BB supplies being closed from 27th April to 8th May 2018. **THIS DOES NOT AFFECT STEDFAST SUPPLIES** (The B.B. SHOP IN BELFAST). The B.B. Shop in B.B. House, 14 May Street, Belfast will remain open as always each Monday from 10.15am and Tuesday to Friday from 9.30m – 5.00pm.

The B.B. Shop in Belfast is **YOUR** Local B.B Shop and should be the first stop for all of your Company's needs. Did you know that we accept orders by telephone? Did you know that we accept orders via e-mail at bbshop@belfastbb.org.uk Did you also know that we can post goods out to you either through Royal Mail or our own local Courier? (Subject to local charges with many delivered next day). And did you know, best of all, you can walk-in off the street to make your purchases? Whilst we acknowledge that you have the option of ordering goods online from B.B. Supplies in England, regrettably we are presently prevented from offering YOU an online service locally. However, we would encourage you all to make your B.B. purchases from your local B.B. Shop here in Belfast by any of the means described above where you are guaranteed a warm welcome along with friendly advice and guidance. We look forward to your business in the coming days and months ahead.

BEWARE SECTION

Friday 25th May:

Entry date for Athletics Championships
Entry date for Cricket 6-a-side
Registration date for Queen's Badge Residential
Registration date for Skills for Queen's Badge

N.B. B.B. House closed 12th and 13th July '18 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. Details of each event will appear on our Battalion website from where you will be able to download entry and registration forms where appropriate. 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.**

EU GDPR

A phrase you most likely will not have heard of up until a few months ago, this EU Directive will govern how Organisations, such as The Boys' Brigade, store, process and handle personal Data in the future. Effective (or more like will be enforced) from 25th May 2018, you probably will have received from others, requests seeking permission from you for them to continue to hold your Data for specific purposes. We are led to believe that The BBUK & RoI Headquarters are producing some guidance notes to Companies in the coming months. In the meantime, there is a lot of useful guidance provided by The Information Commissioner (ICO), which can be accessed from <https://ico.org.uk/media/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

SOME ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Battalion Service (Ganaway)

Sunday 23rd September 2018 (TBC)

Massed Bands / J.S. Choir in Belfast

Monday 10th December 2018

AND FINALLY

In our last Newsletter, we welcomed Eric Denner to the team in B.B. House and many of you have had the opportunity to meet Eric at recent events. At the end of March we said goodbye to four long-standing members of our B.B House staff here in May Street. Betty Smylie left us having given over 40 years of Service to The B.B. Shop. Dan Magee left us after 20+ years and Richard Treganna left us after almost 20 years of service of service to The Boys' Brigade. Irene Lowry will continue to provide support to local Companies albeit in a voluntary capacity.

We extend our best wishes to them all.

Please Note:

NEW OFFICE & SHOP OPENING HOURS

Each Monday, B.B. House and The B.B. Shop will open at the slightly later time of 10.15am. This is to facilitate staff training so that we can be best placed to support you throughout the Session.

We will remain open Tuesday – Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm with special openings for The B.B. Shop of which details of these will be advised throughout the Session.

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.

