

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
F: 028 9031 4661

find us on **facebook**

follow us | **twitter**

Acknowledgement and Re-commitment

A packed Beacon was the venue on Sunday 25th September for our annual service of Acknowledgement and Recommitment. Managing to escape the rain that was falling in areas just a few short miles away, a very moving Drumhead Service in the Garden of Peace and Remembrance at our Ganaway Activity Centre was the setting for many of our B.B. staff, Boys, colleagues and friends to gather and acknowledge those who have gone before which preceded the service of re-commitment when those present rededicated themselves to the continuing work of The Boys' Brigade



Around The Sections

A great deal has been happening around our Battalion since our last newsletter with many events and activities getting underway in the few short weeks since the beginning of the Session. Below is a short summary of the many events that have taken place with a reminder of some coming up very soon!

Potted sports

Ravenhill Presbyterian Church will be the venue for the Battalion heat of the Potted Sports competition on Saturday 12 November with the winning Anchor Boy Section representing the Battalion at the Northern Ireland Finals in January 2017.



Craft/Worship Competition (****)

Don't overlook the Craft/Worship Competition of which details have been previously provided to Officers in Charge of Anchor Boys. You could do no worse than gently reminding your OIC's of this.

Juniors Twin Peaks Challenge

A number of our Junior Sections enjoyed a great afternoon in the foothills of the Belfast Mountains on the first Saturday of October. Participants enjoyed a glorious Autumnal afternoon and setting off in groups, worked their way through the many challenges that lay before them under the watchful eye of Junior Section staff to ensure each and every challenge was duly completed.

Company Section

Stand Up for The B.B. Men

The first Company Section activity of the Session got the Session off to a great start with a number of Company Sections participating in the Tag Rugby event on the last Friday of September. Not quite the atmosphere of the Kingspan Stadium but another great evening of B.B. sport (and fun) was had by all at Belvoir playing under the floodlights of our 3G playing surface.



Not quite walking on the Moon...

But for once the moon was actually visible when over 250 Company Section Boys and their leaders took part in the very successful Moon Walk held recently in the Redburn Country Park. In what has now become one of the largest events within the Battalion, this new venue proved to be a great success. We congratulate all those who completed the dander in the hills making it back to 'Mission Control' in time for a well-deserved BBQ served by staff from 43rd Belfast.

Football Leagues

Company Section teams are up and running in the Battalion football leagues and, weather permitting, can look forward to a full season of fixtures when teams will be vying for the Battalion's League Trophies.

Training Section

Our Battalion Trainers have been very active since the start of the new Session and so far training for new Captains, Skills for Queen's Badge Candidates have all been completed preceded by the ever-popular and very informative Training Fair at the end of September. Those present availed of the expertise and opportunities on offer while receiving valuable B.B. updates that they will now be including in their weekly activities.

Skills for Queen's Badge

At our recent Skills for Queen's Badge Course at Ganaway, it was so pleasing to welcome 36 young men working towards The Brigade's Highest Award and are now well on their way to achieving their right to be called 'Queen's Men'. We thank the trainers who gave of their time to assist at this weekend imparting such valuable and vital hints and tips to guide these young men on their way towards completing their Queen's Badge Award.



Captain's Element

A record number of new Captains attended our Captain's Element Training at Ganaway over the weekend of 14 – 15 October 2016. It was so pleasing to welcome so many new Captains who are taking up this challenging yet extremely rewarding role of Leadership in The Boys' Brigade.

Vaulting, Gymnastics and Physical Activity Course

And talking of records, the largest number yet attended the recently held course at Ganaway where valuable instruction together with some practical ideas for Display items was offered to the participants.

Youth Leader Training (****)

Don't forget to register those within your Company for the up-coming Youth Leader Training Residential Course over the weekend of 27 – 29 January 2017 at Ganaway. Registration forms can be obtained from B.B. House or from our Battalion web-site www.belfastbb.org.uk Demand is likely to be high for this particular course so early registration is advised if not to be disappointed. Please ensure that anyone wishing to avail of this training is appropriately registered by the latest date of entry.

Building Your Skills Courses (****)

Boys must complete this element as part of their preparation for their President's Badge and registration can be made on the enclosed form which when completed, should be sent together with the appropriate fees to B.B. House. Copies may also be downloaded from the Battalion website belfastbb.org.uk

Opportunities Section

A different kind of weekend (***)

Is what can be experienced at the Seniors Activity weekend at Ganaway over the weekend of Friday 10 – Sunday 12 February 2017 and is open to both BOYS AND GIRLS from B.B. and other youth groups. Activities will include archery, zip-line, caving, high level ropes course, climbing and so much more together with team-building skills, night activities to ensure that all who participate, experience a very enjoyable weekend. Boys working towards their President's Badge can also complete their residential experience and Building your Skills modules. A registration form is enclosed to ensure that your Boys as well as GIRLS do not miss out and are booked in for this Course. Copies may also be downloaded from the Battalion website belfastbb.org.uk



Battalion Massed Band (**)**

Will take part in its annual Christmas outing in Belfast city centre on Monday 12 December. This annual event is open to all Companies with bands together with individual players who otherwise would not have the experience of parading with a B.B. Band. While we are entertaining Christmas shoppers in Donegall Place, it's a great way of publically displaying The Boys' Brigade. Details are enclosed and you are asked to make your return to B.B. House by Friday 18 November 2016.

Junior Section Choir (**)**

Also on Monday 12 December, our Junior Section Choir will perform traditional carols under the Portico of the City Hall adding some Christmas joy to the Continental Market. This is open to all Junior Sections and makes for an enjoyable evening preceding the Massed Band performance in Donegall Place.

Beware Section

Time's Running Out (**)**

If you are to save your Company 20% on top of your Battalion and Regional Dues. Approximately 10% of our Companies have made their returns for 2016/17 and to avoid any additional fees, your Company's completed Battalion Statistical form together with the fees outlined on your Invoice should reach B.B. House no later than 14 December 2016 to avoid paying the extra 20% which applies after that date. After 21st December your Company will automatically be excluded from Battalion or Group Competitions until arrears are paid which includes competitions in which you are already entered. We also ask that you bear in mind the rule which requires that if you do not pay your Battalion Dues by the set dates your Company's Battalion registration will be regarded as having CEASED.

We would remind you again not to confuse local Dues with your 'Felden Headquarters' Fees must be completed using Online Brigade Manager about which you will have received, under separate cover, details of these.

Financial Section

B.B. Week (**)**

One excellent way to raise funds for your Company remains the annual B.B. Week Collection and to assist you, cards and literature can be purchased from our B.B. Shop.

Gift Aid – You Can Help

The more we as a Battalion can avail of Gift Aid the better position we are able to support your Company work. All you need to do is to ensure that all your staff who pay tax, complete a Gift Aid Declaration (copies available from B.B. House) and when completed are returned to us. Some have previously done so in response to our requests and we have benefitted from this over recent years. BUT we need to update our records and ask that you and your staff give this consideration.

Battalion Charity Fund

We ask Companies and Old Boys' Associations to support our Battalion Charity Fund through donations from Bible Classes, Enrolment Services and other collections and events. Please keep the Fund in mind as we can only distribute what we receive!

Planning Ahead Section

Planning for Endeavour

Is what your Executive will be planning to do in 2016/17. The enclosed leaflet should be seen by ALL YOUR STAFF as it sets out Executive's Statement of Objectives for this Session by way of follow-up to the Target of Excellence ~ Vision with Purpose Strategy.

Our Activity and Recreation Centres ... Ganaway, Shepherd Lodge & Belvoir (*)**

All three of our Centres have been busy of late with Belvoir especially enjoying a resurgence of soccer teams making full use of the grass and the 3G playing surfaces on Saturday mornings and afternoons and mid-week evenings. It has been great to see Groups also using the newly refurbished Pavilion Building for meetings and training events. Ganaway has welcomed many visitors, some for the first time and some making repeat trips as their preferred venue for their residential – so much so that Groups are making advance bookings into 2019 to secure their preferred dates. If you are planning a residential or even an activity-based day/evening why not consider making use of YOUR Battalion owned facilities? The B.B. Heritage Museum located at Ganaway welcomed many visitors during the European Heritage Open Days in September and has facilitated visits by other groups and organisations. Why not make a visit to the Heritage centre part of your Company programme in the year ahead? Our small but readily amenable band of B.B. Volunteers will gladly welcome you to the Museum for a guided tour. Enquiries in the first instance can be made by contacting B.B. House. Check out the Ganaway Centre's web-site by visiting www.ganaway.co.uk where you'll find more information and a short video clip of what's on offer. And in addition to the footfall at our Centres, we mustn't forget the main hub of our Battalion, B.B. House where staff have been extremely busy over recent weeks facilitating requests for information, resourcing Training and Committee events, sourcing equipment and planning ahead for new Programme ideas to support both Staff and Young People in their Sections' weekly activities as well as the personal service to customers in Stedfast Supplies. We are so very fortunate to have in our ownership four viable Centres all now contributing to the continuing work of Boys' Brigade in the Greater Belfast Area and far beyond!



Coming Up

Don't Overlook (*****)

ENTRIES DUE BY

Wed 2 November Social Media & 'The Boy' Training Issues

Thurs 3 November Table Sports Quiz
Battalion Soccer Trials

Mon 7 November Anchor Boy Potted Sports

Fri 18 November Cross Country Championships

Mon 21 December Anchor Boy Craft/Worship Competition

Fri 25 November Colours, Junior and Senior Squad Drill

Fri 9 December Junior & Senior Knock Cup
(if not already involved in Leagues)

Fri 16 December Indoor 5-a-Side Football Tournament

NB Refer to the Battalion Calendar of Events and don't wait for the issue of Competition details and enter Competitions and Events by the latest date (or before) to avoid late fees and assist those organising events on your behalf! Registration and Entry Forms are available from B.B. House or by downloading from the Battalion website belfastbb.org.uk

Congratulations Section

Congratulations to ...

A number of Companies celebrating significant Anniversaries:

3rd Newtownabbey	75 Years
115th Belfast	60 Years

Special Congratulation to Marcus Faulkner of 74th Belfast B.B. Company who recently received a President's Commendation. The citation recognising Marcus's efforts states – "despite his health difficulties, Marcus shows great determination and fully participates in all aspects of the Junior Section Programme. He is a loyal and dedicated member of the Company and his positive, cheerful attitude and enthusiasm is an inspiration to all who know him. The Brigade is proud to have him as a member."

And also to Mark Hetherington (pictured right) of the 16th Newtownabbey B.B. Company who had the privilege of welcoming the First Minister, Mrs Arlene Foster MLA, to the RUC George Cross Foundation Memorial Garden on Thursday 20th October.

Mark is a volunteer gardener in the Memorial Garden which he started 5 years ago for his Queen's Badge service and has continued to work in the garden. The Ceremony marked the re-opening of the Memorial Garden following extensive refurbishment and improvements during the summer months and Mark escorted Mrs Foster on a tour of the Garden.

NIID Collection

Once again we congratulate those Companies who participated in the annual Door to Door Collection on behalf of the Northern Ireland Institute for the Disabled and for their commendable efforts. Sadly fewer of our Battalion Companies are doing this yet those that do, are making some significant returns for their efforts and we congratulate them for making the time and effort to continue with this significant part of our Battalion Programme. Now in its 103rd year, we await the final total and to assist us finalise this, outstanding returns must be forwarded to B.B. House as soon as possible.

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. 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.

