

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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Officers Service of Acknowledgement and Recommitment

With a change to the normal format for our annual Service, at the start of our new Session, a good number of B.B. personnel, family and friends gathered in The Beacon at Ganaway to Acknowledge the contribution of those who have gone before. We were greatly uplifted with an inspiring address from the former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Aian Ferguson. Aian's theme centred on our emblem and having spoken of the impact that The B.B. made on his life, Aian challenged us all to remain Sure and Stedfast to our Great Captain.

This set up the next part of our Service where we Recommitted ourselves to the work and witness of The Boys' Brigade in the year ahead. We extend our best thanks to all those who participated during the service, led the praise, manned the car park, served the refreshments and much much more besides – all of which made for a great afternoon set in the tranquil surrounds of the Garden of Peace and Reconciliation.

Around The Sections

Since our last newsletter, a great deal has been taking place around our Battalion with many events and activities already completed in the few short weeks since the beginning of the Session. Please read on for a short summary of the many events that have taken place and plan to participate in those coming up very soon!



Potted sports (*****)

Ravenhill Presbyterian Church will be the venue for the Battalion heat of the Potted Sports competition on Saturday 10 November 2018 with the winning Anchor Boy Section representing the Battalion at the Northern Ireland Finals at the end of January 2019.

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

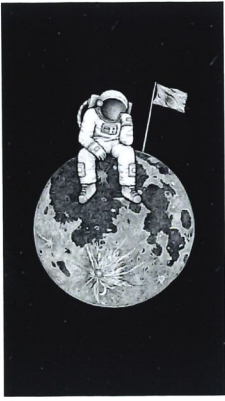
than gently reminding your OIC's that the closing date for this competition is Monday 3rd December 2018.

Details of both the Potted Sports and Worship Competition have been sent to Officers in Charge of Anchor Boy Sections with details available to download from our Battalion website.



Orienteering Challenge

A number of our Junior Sections enjoyed a great afternoon in the grounds of Stormont Estate on the last Saturday of September. Setting off in groups Participants enjoyed a glorious Autumnal afternoon working 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.



Moonwalk 2018 ...

Having suffered to the elements last year, it was 'all systems go' at this year's event when over 180 Company Section Boys and Staff took small steps around the beautiful surrounds of Cave Hill. Early starters just about managed to get a glimpse of the Moon before the clouds came over. When all had completed their walk, they returned to base Camp for a well-earned cup of soup and burger. We extend our best thanks to the small organising group,

the marshals and catering staff for yet another successful Moon Walk. Preparations are already underway to seek a suitable location for next year's Moonwalk. Avid Stargazers will know to be on the look out!

Football Leagues

Under a new format, Junior Section and Company Section teams are up and running in the Battalion football leagues and, weather permitting, under the planned monthly tournaments, Sections can enjoy small sided games once a month throughout the Session when teams will be vying for the Battalion's League Trophies. It is pleasing to see a resurgence in Junior Section Soccer.

Training Section

Our Battalion Trainers have been very active since the start of the new Session delivering a number of Battalion-led Training courses and seminars. So far training for new Captains and Skills for Queen's Badge Candidates have all been completed.

Skills for Queen's Badge

At our recent Skills for Queen's Badge Course at Ganaway, it was so pleasing to welcome 18 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 number of new Captains attended our Captain's Element Training at Ganaway over the weekend of 12 – 13 October and it was 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

Just as we are going to print, final preparations are being made for the forthcoming course at Ganaway where practical instruction together with some practical ideas for Display items will be offered to course participants.

Are You Social Media Savy??? [*****]

In response to recent requests, a special training evening majoring on the topical subject of Social Media is planned for Wednesday 21st November 2018. A flyer is enclosed for your information and we would strongly advise you to share this with your staff so that everyone is afforded the opportunity to hear from the experts!!

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 25 – 27 January 2019 at Ganaway. Registration forms can be obtained from B.B. House or from our Battalion web-site www.belfastbb.org.uk Why not even book and pay online?! We now offer this facility for most training courses and is pleasing to see that uptake of this additional service is now being utilised.

Demand has traditionally been high for this particular course so early registration is advised if not to be disappointed. It is now a requirement 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

Registration for these courses can also be made online from our Battalion website. Details should be available on the opening page of our Battalion website.

Opportunities Section

Battalion Massed Band (****)

Will take part in its annual Christmas outing in Belfast city centre on Monday 10 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. Recent years has seen great public appreciation of the band's performance and ensures that the witness of The Boys' Brigade is presented in this unique way in our capital city centre. Details are enclosed and so that we can get an idea of likely numbers, you are asked to make your return to B.B. House by Friday 23 November 2018.

Junior Section Choir

Regretfully, recent years has seen a decline in the numbers of Junior Sections taking part in our annual Christmas Junior Section Choir in the grounds of the City hall and on that basis, there will be NO Junior Section Choir this year.

King George VI Youth Awards

The King George VI Youth Awards funds youth work projects in Northern Ireland for young people aged 14-21. Applications are welcome from both groups and individuals.

This is a fantastic opportunity to secure funding for your Company and you can apply for any amount up to £500! You can apply for almost any youth work activity, which should be linked to the aims of the Northern Ireland Youth Work Curriculum.

While the most recent funding round has closed, you should now be preparing to have an application well advanced for when the next round of funding opens in the New Year particularly, if you are planning a summer camp. You can find out more information and download an application form from www.kgviyouthawards.org.uk or email admin@kgviyouthawards.org.uk.

The Maurice Williamson Legacy Fund

This Fund has been established through the generosity and financial support of many of Maurice's family, friends and colleagues to ensure his Legacy continues. The Fund will provide financial support to B.B. Companies from within The Belfast Battalion wishing to embark on Programmes and Residential experiences for young members of The Boys' Brigade availing of the facilities and activities at the Battalion's Centres to inspire them and broaden their horizons beyond their weekly programme of B.B. Activity.

Who Can Apply

B.B. Companies within the Belfast Battalion embarking on residential/camp and or activities at Ganaway Training and Activity Centre and Shepherd Lodge. Consideration may be given to Companies participating in a residential/camp at other venues. Applications from individual members of The Boys' Brigade will be considered for overseas trips where the emphasis of the trip will be used to develop the Leadership skills of the individual. (There would be an expectation that the individual will make a presentation at a Battalion meeting and share something of how the Fund assisted with meeting the objectives of their overseas trip).

How to Apply

Application forms and fund criteria can be downloaded from the Battalion website belfastbb.org.uk which when complete, should be sent to B.B. House, 14 May Street, BELFAST, BT1 4NR.

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 2018/19 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 2018 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 'Brigade UK & ROI Headquarters' Fees that must be completed using Online Brigade Manager and about which you will have received details under separate cover.

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!

Stedfast Supplies

In addition to Stedfast Supplies opening hours of Monday 10am – 5pm and Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am – 5pm, early notice is given of the next Saturday Openings for Stedfast Supplies will be Saturdays 9th March and 30th March 2019. We will be stocking up with gift lines and presentations items in time for you to purchase your Company's items for Display and Parents' Evenings. We need all of our B.B. Companies to be supporting your local B.B. Shop.

Planning Ahead Section

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

All of our Centres have been busy of late. 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 2021 to secure their preferred dates. Even our new Camping Pods have been well received by those who have availed of these facilities adding further to the range of accommodation options available at Ganaway.

If you are planning a residential or even an activity-based day/evening why not consider making use of YOUR Battalion owned facilities? The Maurice Williamson B.B. Heritage Museum located at Ganaway welcomed many visitors during the European Heritage Open Days in September and our small but enthusiastic band of B.B. Volunteers have facilitated many other groups and individuals. Special arrangements can be made to facilitate Company visits and guided tours of the Museum. 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. Belvoir is enjoying a resurgence with 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 their meetings and training events. And in addition to the footfall at our Centres, Shepherd Lodge has been used extensively over recent months by a host of Groups ranging from Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Groups, Youth Groups and Church groups all seeking a place off the beaten track so that they can achieve their group's objectives.

Nor must we 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!

Congratulations Section

Congratulations to ...

79th Belfast who are celebrating 50 years

1st Granshaw Junior Section winning the Junior Section Quiz Kidz Heat and will now represent the battalion at the District finals on Saturday 27th October. We extend to those concerned our best wishes.

16th Newtownabbey Company Section who were recently recognised for their voluntary time and commitment in carrying out a number of duties at the RUCGC Garden of Remembrance. What a tremendous achievement duly recognised by the Trustees of the Garden and, is just one of a number of voluntary actions carried out by 16th Newtownabbey. Well done to all concerned!



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 105th 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. Whilst it may appear insignificant to us, the Institute really appreciates the efforts of our Companies in raising this money as it contributes greatly to what the Institute seeks to achieve and more importantly, adds value to the range of services that they offer those less fortunate than many of us.

E-mail sign up

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

Coming Up

Don't Overlook (****)

ENTRIES DUE BY

Fri 2 November	Anchor Boy Potted Sports Table Sports Quiz
Fri 9 November	Cross Country Championships
Mon 3 December	Anchor Boy Craft/Worship Competition
Fri 14 December	Indoor 5-a-Side Football Tournament Junior & Senior Knock Cup (if not already involved in Leagues) Company Section Badminton Championships

REMEMBER 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