

# 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

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Don't leave it too long

[belfastbb.org.uk](http://belfastbb.org.uk)



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Belfast Battalion**

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As you start to read the first Battalion Newsletter of the 2018/2019 B.B. Session, it is hoped that the content of our Battalion Newsletters will alert you to upcoming events, opportunities to extend your Company's weekly Programme and record the success and achievement of those made known to us. You will have noticed that once again, your September envelope is somewhat lighter than usual. Following on from our successful practice last Session, we will no longer be sending out entry forms or registration forms as these are all now available to download from our Battalion website. Over recent years we have been striving to make greater use of our Battalion website, [belfastbb.org.uk](http://belfastbb.org.uk) and have taken the huge step to have everything that you will need, by way of entry/registration forms for all events, available to download. Just click on the **Downloads Button** on the front page and you will find all forms etc. listed.

**But**, don't panic if you do not have access to the internet via a computer, tablet or smart phone! If you need a particular form please contact us here in B.B. House and we'll happily provide you with the necessary forms that you require. From time to time we will still issue some printed items but it is hoped that everything you will need, to include **ALL SECTIONS**, will be available on-line. Our website will also have regular updates posted throughout the Session along with our Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

Other plans for greater communication with B.B. Leaders are in the pipeline! We are presently finalising a refreshed version of our Battalion website which, when up and running, will give you the ability to enter and register and make payments for events and training via the website. So watch out for the new look Battalion website going live in the coming days.

## For your immediate attention we enclose ... (\*\*\*\*\*)

- Our President's Message for the year ahead:
- Your Battalion Calendar of Events (with more copies available on request so that you can give one to every Officer and N.C.O. in your Company)
- A list of the changes, so that you can update your copy of the Battalion Handbook, as notified to us.
- A new-look checklist to guide you through your preparations for the new Session.

## Events Section

### A Special Time to Remember and Recommit

We draw your attention to a special time at the outset of the Session when we join together at Ganaway on the fourth Sunday of September for our annual Drumhead Service of Acknowledgement and Commitment. This year, on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd September you are invited to join with us as we remember those who have gone before and recommit ourselves to the work and witness of The Boys' Brigade in the year ahead. Details regarding this year's arrangements are enclosed which is open to all leaders, family and friends of The Boys' Brigade.



## TurningPoint Youth Festival 2019 (\*\*\*)

Slightly earlier than usual, this ever popular event will take place from the Friday 5th to Sunday 7th April 2019 and will be held at our Ganaway Activity Centre. All the usual favourite activities as well as some exciting new ones will be on offer under the management of our dedicated and hard-working management team.

If you find that attending the event for the full weekend doesn't suit, why not bring your Group along as day visitors on the Saturday and you can enjoy all the same activities as those staying for the weekend?

It would be great to see a strong turnout from Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies at this year's event. Further details are enclosed with this mailing for your information and don't forget to book your accommodation soon to avoid disappointment. Regular updates will be posted on the Turning Point Facebook page or why not Tag us at #TP19. Check out [www.turningpointni.com](http://www.turningpointni.com) for more details.

## General Section

### Institute for the Disabled (\*\*\*)

Last year's Collection almost topped £12,000, a magnificent achievement by all those Companies whose Boys and Officers gave of their time in the cause of others but, there are a large number of Companies not participating in the 'Door to Door'. What will our total be if we have 100% participation from all of our Battalion Companies in this regard?! Those who were present at this year's Stricklands Conference and Battalion Church Parade Service, will have heard from Mr Sam Humphries, the Institute's Director, how the money raised during the annual door to door collection adds value to all that they seek to do with a particular project looming on the horizon that would otherwise not come to fruition if it were not for the money you raise! Details are enclosed for this year's House to House Collection and we would encourage **ALL** Companies to participate in some way.

### Stedfast Supplies (\*\*\*)

The enclosed poster is for your Company Notice Board and alerting parents, shows the times that our B.B. Shop will be open. In addition to the special Saturday morning openings, which now have extended opening times, we have introduced some late-nights too for your convenience! We're even open on the St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday Monday!! Why not e-mail your order through in advance? Send your e-mail to [bbshop@belfastbb.org.uk](mailto:bbshop@belfastbb.org.uk) We'll make every reasonable effort to have your order ready for you to collect at a time convenient to you! We need **ALL** Companies to be supportive of Stedfast Supplies if we are to continue to guarantee the first class personal service that we have enjoyed over so many years and that is not available elsewhere.

### Enrolment Services (\*\*\*)

Please give consideration to devoting income from your Enrolment Service to our Battalion Charity Fund. What we can distribute from the Fund depends heavily on your response to this appeal.

## The Stedfast Association for Northern Ireland

Regrettably, at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held in late May 2018, a decision was taken and approved by those present to dissolve the Association with immediate effect. Attendances at bi-monthly meetings had reduced greatly over recent years leaving the Association in an unsustainable position.

Having celebrated its silver anniversary this year, we are especially grateful to the Association for the support it has provided to the Battalion over the past 25 years.

## Around The Sections

### Anchor Boys & Junior Section

Officers in Charge will soon be receiving their new format Section specific circulars and we will use this portion of our Battalion Newsletter to highlight recent successes and achievements in all Sections.

### Company Section

**Details are now available (\*\*\*)**

From our Battalion website for a number of Competitions and events planned for the new Session. Please enter by the required date so as to assist those organising the many and varied events and not to disappoint your Boys when you are refused entry having missed the deadline!

### Our Moon Walk (\*\*\*)

will take place on Friday 19th October 2018. A form giving further details of this very popular event is available from our website and you are asked to **pay special attention** to the closing date for registration of Friday 12th October. We are told that late entries will not be accepted!

### Football Secretaries (\*\*\*)

must be present at their annual meeting which this year will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11th September at Belvoir. **It is very important that every Company either Junior Section or Company Section wishing to enter this Session's football events is represented on this evening to discuss and plan for the Season ahead particularly as new formats are being introduced.**

## Training Section

### Extending your Programme! (\*\*\*)

That's what's on offer at this year's Training Evening. Organised by the Battalion's Training Committee for Wednesday 26 September in Belvoir Recreation Centre, attendees will have the opportunity to try out something new providing you with additional resource for your normal week-to-week Programme. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Battalion Website but we have taken the liberty of enclosing a form with this circular. Early registration is advised so as not to miss out!

## Essential B.B. Training (\*\*\*)

Details and registration forms for Skills for Queen's Badge and Officer Training (Youth Leader Training) are now available to download from our Battalion website. Details of the Building Your Skills Training requirement for President's Badge will be issued later but the dates and venues of these courses together with other training opportunities are contained within the Battalion Calendar of Events. With regard to Queen's Badge, please be mindful of the requirement of a 6 month period between Skills for Queen's Badge and the Queen's Badge Residential courses – if not to be embarrassed at a later stage! A quick reminder of the dates:

### Skills for Queen's Badge

- |     |                      |           |
|-----|----------------------|-----------|
| (1) | 12 – 14 October 2018 | (Ganaway) |
| (2) | 14 – 16 June 2019    | (Ganaway) |

### Youth Leader Training

- |             |                      |           |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Residential | 25 – 27 January 2019 | (Ganaway) |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|

### Captain's Element

- |             |                      |           |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Residential | 12 – 13 October 2018 | (Ganaway) |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|

### Queen's Badge Residential

- |     |                    |           |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| (1) | 15 – 17 March 2019 | (Ganaway) |
| (2) | 14 – 16 June 2019  | (Ganaway) |

## New Captains Training (\*\*\*)

This year's Captain's Element Training, which is compulsory for all newly appointed Captains, will be held on Friday 12 – Saturday 13 October 2018 at Ganaway. Those concerned will have previously received their registration forms but further copies are available from the website.

## Captain's Guidelines Booklet (\*\*\*)

Trying to remember all the little (and not so little) items that have to be planned for in the coming Session? In addition to the Guide Through Planning for the New Session, the recently updated Captain's Guidelines Booklet, is specially written by us for you and can be purchased in Stedfast Supplies here in May Street.

## Vaulting Gymnastics & Physical Activity (\*\*\*)

Following on from previous successful training courses, plans are being finalised for this year's Course which will have an element of Physical Activity to be held over the week-end of 19 – 20 October '18 at Ganaway. Past participants have told us that this was a great way to learn new ideas and to share others.

## Opportunities Section

### Company Funds (\*\*\*)

are never easy to raise and have to be constantly worked at particularly in today's harsh financial climate. One of the best ways to raise funds is B.B. Week and the material you need to make your efforts a success is available from Stedfast Supplies in B.B. House.

## Battle of the Somme World War I (\*\*\*)

In this significant period of Remembrance, The Royal British Legion has produced some wonderful resource material which will be very helpful if you are planning to have your Boys take part in a WWI Project in the coming months. While they no longer post this direct to those who are registered with their Schools and Education Programme, you can avail of their educational resources by contacting: The Director of Corporate Communications, The Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, LONDON, SE1 1AA or [hhill@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:hhill@britishlegion.org.uk)

And don't forget about the special B.B. Commemorative Badge that can be awarded to Boys completing a B.B.-led Project on World War One. These can be purchased from your B.B. Shop here in May Street but stocks are limited. Please place your order with Lee-Ann in Stedfast Supplies as soon as possible.

## Don't Get Caged In !!!

Youth For Christ are on the lookout for team members for next year's Nomad Outreach. Nomad is a sports ministry resource for churches, schools and Christian Organisations. It uses a portable football cage and a team of volunteers to engage with young people across Northern Ireland. Recent visitors to TurningPoint will have seen this ministry in action. If you know of anyone from within your B.B. Company or Church who might be interested in taking a year out or devoting some time in this ministry, please contact [stuart@yfcni.org](mailto:stuart@yfcni.org) in the first instance. They have full time and part time opportunities available.

## Volunteering Opportunities at Ganaway (\*\*\*)

Do you have Senior Boys or young Leaders with an interest in outdoor pursuits? If so, we have a volunteer and trainee instructor programme at our Ganaway Training and Activity Centre near Millisle. Participants can learn as they help and will have opportunities to gain valuable knowledge leading to gaining accredited outdoor instruction qualifications. For more information, contact the Ganaway Centre Manager, Mr Gareth Shields, either by telephoning 028 9186 1297 or e-mail [ganawaycentre@btconnect.com](mailto:ganawaycentre@btconnect.com)

## Coming Up You Need To (\*\*\*)

Give your early attention to the enclosed COMPANY QUESTIONNAIRE AND INVOICE FORM. To overlook these could result in elimination from Battalion and Group Competitions. Please remember that the figures are based on your Company strength for 2017/18 and **NOT** your numbers in the in the present Session.

You asked and we've acted! Once again, this year, we have completed Page 5 of the Statistical Return for you based on the information provided us with your 2017/18 Return. Should there be any amendments, please indicate these on Page 5. Further instructions are provided on the cover page of your COMPANY QUESTIONNAIRE AND INVOICE FORM.

We would **SPECIALLY DRAW YOUR ATTENTION** to the fact that the Battalion registration of any Company which has not made its Battalion returns on time to B.B. House will be regarded as CANCELLED. This has serious implications for your church by way of Child Protection Legislation.

## Don't Forget

That if you are using any fun and recreational Centres etc. outside Boys' Brigade you should carry out your own RISK ASSESSMENT of the facilities. To assist you in this regard you should consider as essential reading The Boys' Brigade Safety Handbook which contains many items that require all our attention. The Handbook is available from Stedfast Supplies. We will continue to bring such facilities to your attention but it is up to you to judge what you see. Don't forget if any Section is going away overnight notification must be provided to N.I.H.Q. to keep themselves right for insurance purposes. Special Activity consent forms are needed for activities at the Centres as they are for all Company Programmes.

## Brigade Conference and Annual Council Meeting (\*\*\*\*\*)

is being held in Edinburgh over the weekend of 31 August – 2 September 2018. This year's Conference and Brigade Council will once again be an important meeting as various items of business are transacted and updates provided. Please remember in your prayers, those who will travel from Belfast to Brigade Council and that discernment and wisdom will prevail and that all of the discussions, debates and fellowship will be conducted in a gracious manner, so that as an Organisation, we emerge clearer and stronger in Advancing Christ's Kingdom.

## Don't Overlook (\*\*\*\*\*)

ENTRIES DUE BY

Tuesday 11th September

C.S. Tag Rugby  
C.S. Super Sevens Soccer  
C.S. Senior K.O. Cup  
C.S. Junior K.O. Cup

Wednesday 19th

Training Evening

Friday 21st

J/Sect Orienteering  
Captain's Element

Skills for Queen's Badge (October Course)

Friday 28th

Vaulting & Gymnastics & Physical Activities

Friday 12th October

C.S. Moon Walk

Friday 2nd November

C.S. Table Quiz  
A.B. Potted Sports

Friday 9th

C.S. Cross Country Championships

## Congratulations

To 79th Belfast B.B. Company celebrating 50 years in 2018/19 And to those since our last Newsletter who have participated in late summer activities:

Cricket 6-a-side Winners  
Runners-Up  
3rd

**2nd Lisburn**  
**1st Granshaw**  
**4th Newtownabbey**

Also to those who represented the Battalion at the Northern Ireland District Inter Battalion Football Competition where both our Junior and Senior Representative teams emerged as worthy winners of their particular Competition. Special thanks is extended to those who looked after and managed each team.

## David Wilson

Regrettably, the 15th Belfast B.B. Company (Newington Presbyterian Church) was not in a position to open last year but by way of recognition of the many years of service that the Captain has given to the Company, a special presentation was made to David Wilson who retired after 32 years as Company Captain.

David's association with the 15th goes back much further when at the age of 11, he joined the 15th. David was presented with a plaque and gifts to celebrate and recognise his 74 years of service to The Boys' Brigade in the 15th Belfast B.B. Company. What a tremendous achievement!



## Passed to Higher Service

**Harry Fairclough** – aged 92, Harry had a lifelong association with The Boys' Brigade. As a Boy member and later a leader in the 75th Belfast B.B. Company, Harry had a particular passion to share his faith among young people as both a Sunday School teacher and B.B. Officer. Of great repute, Harry was both revered and well respected. During the second world war years, Harry was evacuated to Ballyclare and for a short time, continued his membership of The Boys' Brigade in 1st Ballyclare B.B. Company. Harry transferred to the 120th Belfast B.B. Company (Immanuel Presbyterian) following the amalgamation of the Bethany and Agnes Street Presbyterian Churches. He continued his membership of 120th until the age of 80. At Battalion level, Harry was a member of many Battalion Committees and was a former Life Boy Training Officer and Chairman of the Special Badge Committee. During the Session 1982-83, Harry was Battalion Vice-President and later became a Company Visitation Officer – a role which he greatly enjoyed imparting his wisdom and experience among the Companies he visited and was well received by those Companies.

## 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](mailto: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.