

2008 - 2009  
annual review

THE BOYS'  
BRIGADE   
>the adventure begins here





Tuning Point 2009, Northern Ireland

# the adventure continues here . . .

The 2008/09 Session has been very special for The Boys' Brigade as within it we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the 1st Glasgow Company by Sir William Smith on 4th October 1883.

The BB is as relevant today as ever it has been throughout its history and increased interest has resulted in 25 new Companies being started. There is much for which to be thankful and these pages can reflect only a small part of what has been achieved.

**Read on to find out more about a truly exceptional year . . . .**

# celebrating 125 years

UK & ROI celebrated the 125th anniversary with key events and by encouraging members to be active in their community . . .

## Tattoo

Over 600 young people from throughout the United Kingdom entertained a packed Braehead Arena in Glasgow, Scotland with music, gymnastics, drill and games.

## Celebratory Dinner ▶

The Rev'd the Lord Griffiths of Burry Port hosted a Celebratory Dinner at the House of Lords at which Sir Alex Ferguson was the keynote speaker.



At a celebratory dinner Sir Alex Ferguson talked about his experience in The Boys' Brigade . . .

“ It was the teamwork and commitment of the boys that made the BB so special to me . . . I still to this day have my Boys' Brigade bible, I pray everyday and my Christian faith is so important ”

Sir Alex Ferguson  
Manager, Manchester United Football Club  
Brigade Honorary Vice President

## Community Involvement ▶

BB members have been socially active as part of the celebrations with over 8,500 completing the 125 Community Award. The award is gained by young people completing at least 125 minutes of service to their local community.



## Glasgow Service

BB members from throughout the British Isles joined together for a National Service of Thanksgiving at Glasgow Cathedral on 4th October.



Members of 5th  
West Bromwich  
Company

# engage a generation

Twenty five new Companies in the 125th session is great news . . .

## Development Workers ▶

We are grateful for the support of the Department of Children, Schools and Families and from the Norma Leigh Charitable Trust which has enabled us to employ Development Workers in South West and North East England and in Liverpool. Similar support from Youth link in Scotland and from a legacy has resulted in workers in the South West and in the North Scottish Area. Their work is divided between supporting existing Companies and developing opportunities for new work.

We are certain that if more people knew of our work then more new groups would start. In June, an "Engage a Generation Conference" for churches and youthworkers was held in Haydock. Over 40 churches and denominational leaders were present to discuss the issues facing churches in attracting and retaining children and young people. Andy Hawthorne of the Message Trust spoke with passion of why it is so important to work with young people. We shared with guests what BB can offer the church and young people and there have been meetings with church leaders since and new Companies will start. This is a fantastic result and more conferences will be held in the coming year to spread the news of BB to even more churches.

▶ Our key message . . .

## The Boys' Brigade

. . . Partnering Churches

. . . Supporting Leaders

. . . Engaging Children and Young People

" I have welcomed the many opportunities to visit Companies and also to attend Battalion events. Addressing the needs of Companies cannot be properly carried out without this valuable contact to the work being done on the ground "

Niall Rolland  
Development Worker, South West Scotland



**Do you want 16 year olds in Church? . . . . . we start with 5 year olds"**

Donald Campbell, Minister

# partnering

Each week the BB partners over 1500 local churches to share the good news of Jesus with thousands of children and young people most of whom have no other connection with the church.

## Churches

What a brilliant outreach opportunity for churches. By partnering with BB, many churches work with young people who wouldn't normally cross the door. The development of The Girls' Association allows those churches and Companies who wish to work with both boys and girls the opportunity to do so and we are also grateful for the close partnerships we have with The Girls' Brigade and with Girlguiding UK.

## Children's Hospices UK

£125,000 for our 125th year seemed like an ambitious target, but we're there. It has been an amazing response which as well as raising money has raised awareness of the work of the association in supporting children with life threatening and life limiting conditions.

## Palm in Palm Project

BBUK has been supporting the BB in Cameroon to realise its ambition of being self-sufficient by 2016. Generous donations have supported the development of a palm oil farm in Ndu, the provision of motorbikes which act as taxis and provide revenue, leadership development and a national camp as well as many small money raising projects such as chicken and bee keeping in local Companies.

## Project YOU ▶

Partnering other uniformed organisations to increase new members and leaders and to share resources is the aim of Project YOU (Youth Organisations -Uniform). The work in London was celebrated at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by TRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall.



HRH The Prince of Wales  
talking to members at  
Buckingham Palace

# supporting

1,034 new volunteers join 13,795 leaders who make the work of the BB possible.

## Access to NVQ's ▶

BB has received accreditation from City & Guilds to deliver NVQs in playwork and Youth Work at levels 2 and 3. Pilot schemes in the Midlands, East Anglia and Bournemouth have 117 candidates registered and working for awards.

The development of this work has been supported by funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

"rewarding volunteering"



## Programme Development

The four age related activity packs, Anchors, Juniors, Discover and Challenge Plus are now well established and are popular with leaders and members. We have begun a review of the Under 11's material and will be bringing out updated material in response to what we are being told.



## Recruitment Resources ▲

Attractive recruitment materials have been produced for Companies to use in attracting new members to the Anchor and Junior Sections.

" Becoming an NVQ assessor through the BB has enabled me to further my career. A big thanks to all those that have helped me - the information from the briefing sessions I have attended was invaluable and gave me the 'right buttons to press' "

Lesley Easton  
East Anglia District NVQ Assessor



Over 1500 companies  
in the UK & ROI

BBUK Statistics August 2009



# engaging

Through its programmes of activity BB engages over 53,000 children & young people each week. These are not one off encounters, but sustained, long term, relationship building experiences.

## Check out some figures on what has been going on . . .

- ▶ Over 900 holidays were provided giving nearly 14,000 young people over 70,000 nights away
- ▶ 750 young people started out in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- ▶ 679 young people have completed their Queen's Badge, the highest award in The Boys' Brigade



## Making a Difference

Countless of our young people make a real difference in their communities and in the lives of others. Three young men have been recognised specifically for their work with others by receipt of the **2009 Go MAD (Make a Difference) Award**. In Northern Ireland Daniel Roney is a caring companion of a local elderly couple, Stewart Aitken has raised the profile of Fairtrade in his community in Scotland and Joshua Snape of England has been involved in a variety of community projects including playschemes, conservation and youth action teams.

“Constitutional changes mean that young people are more involved in decision making. Young People now comprise 50% of Regional Committees and 25% of the elected members of the Brigade Executive .”

Steve Dickinson  
Brigade Secretary



**53,267 children & young people in BB**

BBUK Statistics August 2009

**Patron:**  
HM THE QUEEN  
**Vice Patron:**  
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

**President:**  
Professor Sir Kenneth Calman KCB

**Brigade Secretary / Chief Executive:**  
Mr Steve Dickinson

**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

**Motto:**  
SURE & STEADFAST  
Hebrews, Chapter 6, v19

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[www.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://www.boys-brigade.org.uk)