

Memorial Garden



With your help, The Brigade will have its own Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The Arboretum occupies a 150 acre site at Alrewas in Staffordshire, midway between Lichfield and Burton - upon - Trent. It was launched in the 1990s and following an injection of Millennium funds, it was officially opened on 16th May 2001 by which time 40,000 trees had been planted and some 50 plots had been dedicated to commemorate many famous military regiments, campaigns and formations. However, over the last ten years or so many non-military organisations such as the Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade, the Trefoil Guild, Toc H, and the Police have dedicated their own gardens.

Why have a Boys' Brigade Memorial Garden?

For nearly 125 years the BB has been an important part of the lives of many thousands of people, young and old. The Garden will, hopefully, be a place of pilgrimage where members and ex-members may reflect upon the lives of those who have served and are serving in the Brigade.

How the garden will be created

Since the NMA is located within the BB West Midland District, the District has volunteered to create the garden on behalf of the Brigade. However, we will have a significant visible input from Scotland, Ireland (N & S), Wales & England. The concept is that of a truly

International Memorial. A small Steering Group has been formed by the District to manage the project which will be completed in time for an official opening in June 2008 as part of the Brigade's 125th year celebrations.

What it will cost?

Generous donations have already secured the plot, which had been reserved for us. (£3,000) Sponsorship is being sought from commercial suppliers for some of the materials, plants etc. Costs will be increased considerably if we have to pay contractors to work on site.

'I am delighted to support the Project to develop a Boys' Brigade Memorial Garden... This very imaginative scheme will be a fitting tribute to all those whose lives have been touched and formed by the Boys' Brigade since its foundation. I wish the Steering Group all success and I commend the Project to the Brigade as a whole.'

**— The Very Revd. Professor
Alan Main TD MA BD STM PhD
Brigade President**

The Vision

A design has been put together by the Steering Group. Basically, it is a grass rectangle with one corner curved, bounded by low hedges of Field Maple and Box. From an entrance depicting the twin pillars of Religion and Discipline, a path winds down to a small patio area where visitors can sit on a wooden two-seater bench, flanked by a bed of 'Boys' Brigade' Roses, and look out across the Arboretum. The bench will be on a slab of cut limestone. A large granite rock, to which will be fastened a real metal anchor, and inscribed with some wording from the BB Hymn 'Will your anchor hold?' occupies a prominent position as does a solid slate plinth in the centre of the patio. The plinth will support an embossed metal plate giving details of the Garden and the Brigade, and will also have wording carved into it. Each component of the design has a specific meaning and represents elements of the Brigade's history and development. We see the Garden design as being particularly welcoming for people with disabilities, and easy to maintain. *pto*

'I wholeheartedly support this excellent venture and would encourage others to do so.'
– David Aubrey QC
President, Brigad y Bechgyn yng Nghymru (The BB in Wales)

Progress Report

The project was launched at Brigade Council in Cardiff 2006 and the Steering Group has met a number of times. We have been allocated an excellent plot 17m x 6m, in a prime site next to the chapel and overlooking the new £7million National Armed Forces Memorial. Our design has been agreed and accepted by the Arboretum. Some individual features of the Garden have already been sponsored, donated or offered and over £4,000 cash has come in, much of it gift-aided.

'A marvellous idea, I wish you every success.'
– Margaret, Lady Thurso
Brigade Honorary Vice-President

What YOU can do to help!

Have your say and offer your help... there are details below which can be copied and returned. We would welcome YOUR comments. Volunteers with specific skills are welcome, as well as donors of cash.

The Garden WILL be:

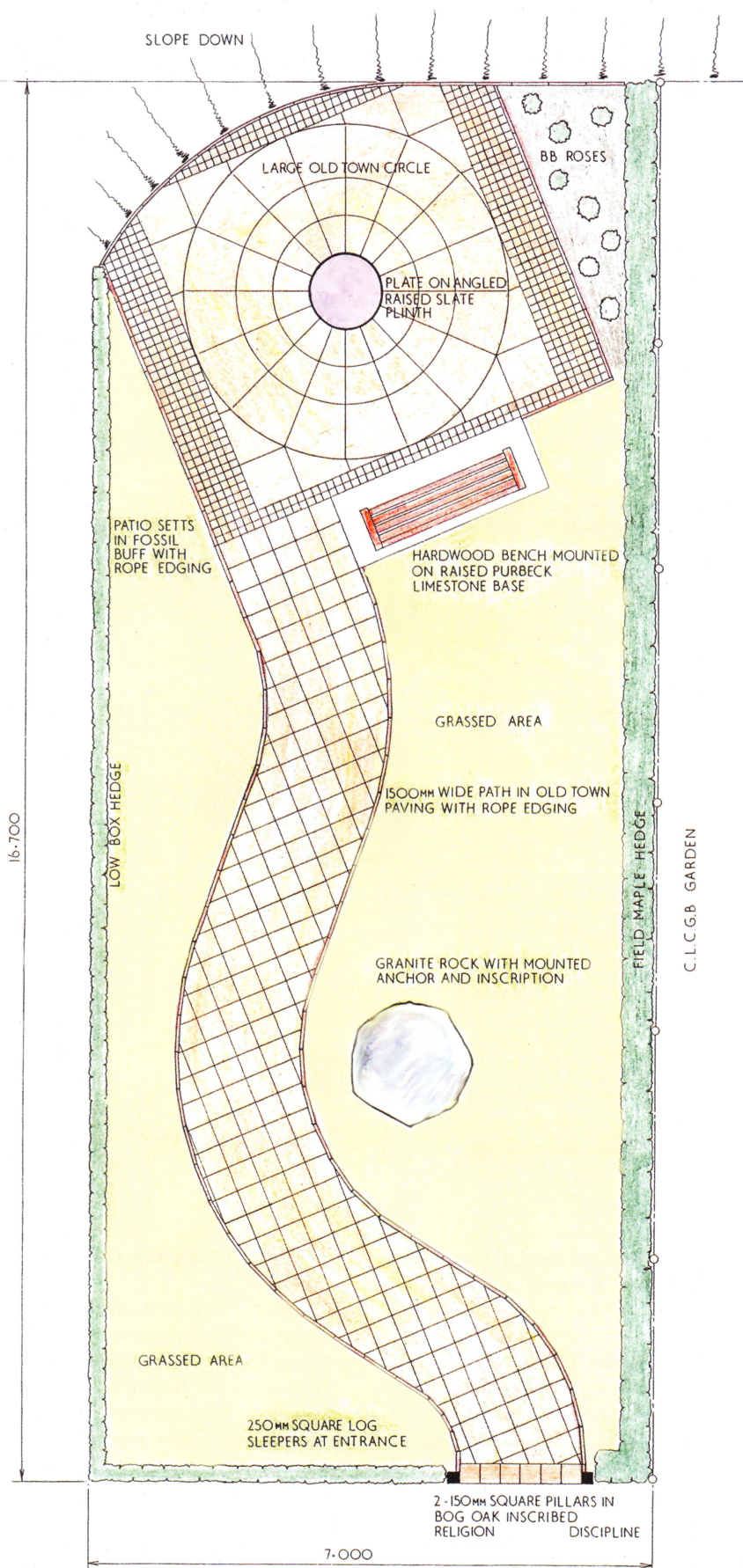
- ... a dedicated place for quiet reflection or prayer by young and old
- ... a focus for remembering those who have served, and are serving, the Boys' Brigade
- ... a means of imparting some of the wonderful heritage of our movement to all generations, long into the future

To: The BB Memorial Garden,
 118, Ogley Hay Road, Burntwood, Staffs
 WS7 2HX

Please make cheques payable to:
 The Boys' Brigade West Midland District

If you are a tax-payer you can make a Gift-Aid donation by adding:
 'I want The Boys' Brigade West Midland District to treat the enclosed donation of £_____ as a Gift Aid donation.'

Please sign it, add the date and include your name & full address.



I feel humbly proud to be supporting the creation of a garden filled with memories of people who not only served the Brigade but their country as well.'
– Rhona Dunn, Brigade Honorary Vice-President