

National Service of Thanksgiving

Glasgow Cathedral Saturday October 4th

Members of the Brigade from all corners of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland gathered at Glasgow Cathedral exactly 125 years after William Smith first opened the doors at North Woodside Mission, to give thanks to God for the life of one individual and the witness of the movement he created.

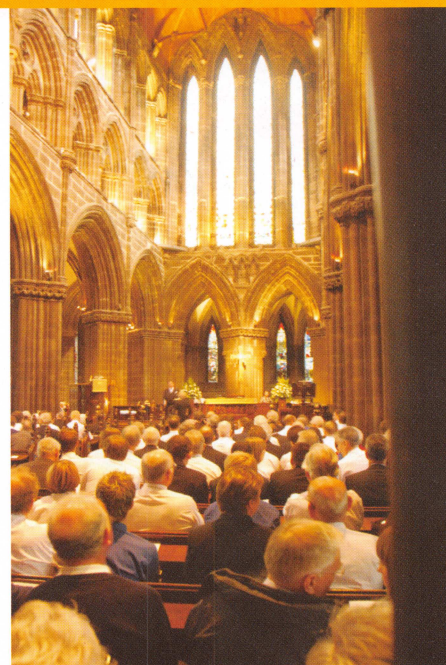
Young people played a prominent role both in the service and in entertaining the congregation before and after. Unfortunately, due to bad weather the displays had to be brought inside which was disappointing, but Brigade members were very appreciative of the effort and enthusiasm shown.

Pride of place was given to the 1st Glasgow Company parading its Colours

and whose members read lessons and placed the wreath on the Founder's plaque. Young men spoke of the influence the Brigade had had on their lives and lead prayers for others.

The address was given by the Right Reverend David Lunan, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who spoke of the genius of William Smith and the debt of gratitude owed to him.

The Brigade is grateful to all of those members who planned and contributed to the service and particularly to Dr Laurence Whitley, Minister and all of the staff at Glasgow Cathedral for making this a memorable event in the life of the Brigade.



The Founder Remembered

Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. London was augmented by BB members who had come to remember William Smith on Founder's Day. Following the service the BB party went down into the crypt where Alex Elworthy, 7th Northampton Company, laid a wreath at the plaque to the Founder.

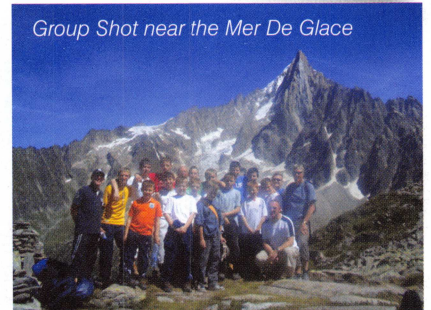


The BB Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum was the site of a short service on the Founder's birthday, 27th October. At 12 noon, members from the Midlands gathered for reflection and celebration. Dominic Simcox, 1st Lichfield and Leo Morton, 2nd Sutton Coldfield, placed a floral anchor at the Ailsa Craig boulder and buglers of 1st Tamworth sounded last post.

On Friday 3rd October 2008 at mid-day, members of The Edinburgh, Leith and District Battalion gathered at St. Giles Cathedral for a short act of worship commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Brigade, following which Jamie Monaghan and Callum Doyle, 10th Leith Company, laid a floral tribute at the plaque to the Founder.



Members of 1st Bromborough Junior Section worked for their Community badges by helping the Ranger at Eastham Country Park to build habitats for the animals, birds and insects, from cut down branches...



Group Shot near the Mer De Glace

FUN ALL THE WAY!

In October members of 1st Uddingston Company celebrated the 125th Anniversary with a special day of fun for members of Anchor Boys and Junior Section and they enjoyed Parachute Games, Potted Sports, a Quiz, Crafts and lunch with the all important birthday cake. In the afternoon the Company Section (11 to mid 40's including the Captain!) went by train to the Lazer Tag centre in Motherwell. The station master was taken aback when asked for "thirty-six returns to Motherwell" but McDonalds coped well with the orders for seventy three meals!



CHAMONIX TRIP 2008

Members of the 1st Falkirk BB Company Section marked the 125th anniversary in style by organising a summer activities trip to the stunning Chamonix Valley in France. It was a trip of a lifetime – with breathtaking scenery, awesome mountain excursions, exciting cable car and mountain train trips and a day-out in Italy. Everyone had enormous fun, enjoyed fellowship and worship and has many memories to cherish.

2ND BLANTYRE

On Sunday 12th October 2008, the 2nd Blantyre Company held a 125 Service of Celebration in the Congregational Church, Blantyre. The church was packed with officers, boys, parents and friends and members of the Hamilton and District Battalion. During the service the officers and boys rededicated themselves to the work of the Company and a special presentation was made to the Captain John Murray MBE in recognition of 60 years service to the Brigade by his grandson, Jack (Anchor Boy).



3RD KILSYTH

During the night of 3rd/4th October 2008 Company Section members played 75 games and 'cycled' (on an exercise bike) 125 miles. Anchors and Juniors arrived on the 4th October to play 50 games, thus completing 125 games and 125 miles. So far, around £800 sponsor money has been raised.

The First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Mr Peter Robinson, with Captain Mark Johnston and officers and boys of the 4th Belfast Company plant an Oak tree in the grounds of Dundonald Elim Church, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of The Boys' Brigade.



10TH EAST DURHAM

Former BB members attended the Annual Enrolment and 125 Celebration Service, held last October and all stayed on afterwards for the bun-fight and chat.

Some members of the 5th Bradford Company who met the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Bradford and the Bradford BB Patron, Sir James Hill, at the 125 celebratory Thanksgiving Service in Bradford Cathedral, led by Cannon Frances Ward.

125TH ANNIVERSARY RADIO DAY

"Members of 4th Norwich Company held a Radio Day on 4th October. We hoped to make contact with BB Companies across the UK as well as other amateur enthusiasts. Our call sign 'GB125NBB' was extremely rare (the use of 125 is generally not authorised) and enthusiasts would be eager to make contact to receive the collectable 'QSL card' that we had produced.

Supported by members from the Norfolk Amateur Radio Club a station was set up at Sprowston Methodist Church. The boys were arriving and we had just started when the first contact came from someone from Algeria, North Africa! The boys were intrigued by the intricacies of the technology and the keener ones spent several hours scanning the airwaves, receiving and sending messages. Although we did not manage to pick up another BB Company on the day, several contacts were ex members. Contact was made from Northern Siberia to a local farmer from the west coast of the United States, whilst ploughing fields on his tractor, to countless parts of the UK, including the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

It was great to spread the word of The Boys' Brigade far and wide and let them know what we were celebrating."

W/O Stephen Butterfield, 4th Norwich Company.

125 WALK



The 5th West Bromwich Company celebrated the 125th Anniversary over the weekend of 11th and 12th October 2008.

On the Saturday 55 members (Anchor Boys to Seniors) spent the day at the Old Vicarage Adventure Centre at Stottesdon, near Kidderminster, where they enjoyed taking part in gladiator jousting, orienteering and various other outdoor pursuits. Due to a grant the day was free of charge.

On Sunday morning the company led a 125 thanksgiving service at Wesley Church. The service ended with 125 blue, red and yellow balloons being released in the church car park, each with a 125th message and the Company's address attached. Already one ticket back from Sleaford in Lincolnshire, some 100 miles away, has been received.

After lunch members went to Sandwell Valley for a sponsored walk. In all, 125 miles were covered. The proceeds will be given to the BB's 125 charity, Children's Hospices UK.

50TH MANCHESTER FUNDRAISING

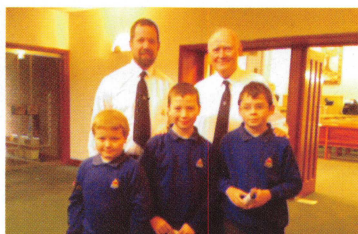
Members of the 50th Manchester Company held a charity car wash to support the Palm in Palm project.



The 223rd Glasgow Company at Greenbank Church held a special Thanksgiving Service and parade on Sunday 26th October. During the service, which carried the theme of "MAD" (make a difference), the theme of the BB this year, balloons were released as the boys said why they came to BB and what they liked.

125TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – HIGH KIRK BALLYMENA – 25TH OCTOBER 2008

(L to R): David Thompson, President Antrim & District Battalion, Professor Norman C Nevin OBE, President Northern Ireland, boys from 1st Crumlin Company: Matthew Lewis, Jack Francis & Gareth Lowery

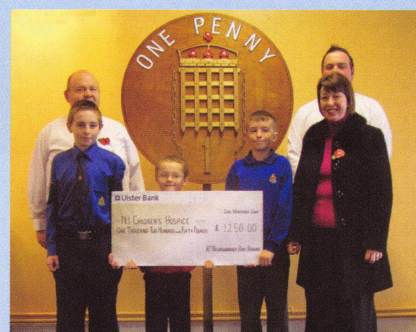


8th Carrickfergus Company raised £2,800 for the Children's Hospice. The cheque was presented to Sharon from the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.



7TH BIRMINGHAM

As part of the celebrations of the 125th Anniversary, the Junior Section of the 7th Birmingham Company (Cotteridge Church (CoE/Methodist/URC)) took part in the Junior Section International Team Games. To make it more interesting they invited the Bournville Pilots Company, (for boys and girls aged 7-11) based at the nearby Bournville URC, to play against them. The young people from the different organisations enjoyed the encounter and are looking forward to possibly holding another joint event next year.



EVERY PENNY COUNTS

At its Enrolment and 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in November 2008, the 16th Newtownabbey Company (Belfast City Mission, Rathcool) presented a cheque for £1250 to Sharon Gorman, Regional Fundraiser for The Northern Ireland Hospice. The boys collected coins and had a Fireside Quiz to raise the money for the Children's Hospice.

CORNWALL BATTALION 125 ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The Battalion had been bequeathed a sum of money which bought each member a polo shirt embroidered with the Brigade '125 logo', to be worn at the beach event in August 2008 at Godrevy beach, St. Ives Bay. A game of frisby started the fun followed by a pasty lunch. Beach games were enjoyed and while the tide was out short lived sand castles were built and a football match rounded off a great day.



The Basildon & District Camping Group celebrated the 25th anniversary of its camp site based in Swanage. Since 1983 over 3,000 young people have used the site and thanksgiving celebrations were held before and at camp. The youngest members from 10th South East Essex, 1st, 22nd Southend Companies and 2nd Southend GB Company cut a special cake, looked on by the former Company staff who were present at the start. £871 was raised for Palm in Palm and a Youth Centre in Payatus, Manila.



The Pipes and Drums of Dundee & Angus Battalion supported by the Trumpet Band from 1st Tulliallan kicked off "BB 125" by parading through the streets of Broughty Ferry to the picturesque Castle Green, where they gave a display of their talents to a large and appreciative audience.

EAST LANCASHIRE'S FUNDRAISING

The companies in East Lancashire have raised £1250 for the Children's Hospice appeal and a presentation was made to Brian House, Bispham, Lancashire on the 15th August 2008.

Boys from 1st Rishton Company played table tennis non-stop for 12.5 hours, and members of the 1st Oswaldtwistle Company had a fund raising event, the proceeds of which were added to collections made at the Battalion Founder's Day Service and the annual Carol Service.



HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES

On 21st September 2008, 450 boys and officers from all over Hampshire marched to Romsey Abbey for a 125 Celebration Service. It was led by The Vicar Tim Sledge, and the Brigade Secretary, Steve Dickinson, challenged everyone to go MAD (make a difference). An offering was taken for the local area Hospice, Naomi House, near Winchester, (Mrs Debbie West attended, from Naomi House).

Afterwards, The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mrs Mary Fagan, JP, reviewed the Queen's Men and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award holders. Romsey Town Mayor and Hampshire County Council Chairman were also present.

GLASGOW BATTALION SENIORS' DINNER



As part of the 125th celebrations, Glasgow Battalion held a Seniors' Dinner at Rutherglen Town Hall last October, attended by 125 Seniors, representing Companies from across the Battalion area. Guests included Brian Sweeney (Chief Officer of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue), Willie Young (Grade

1 Referee) and Revd Angus Kerr (Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow). The evening was chaired by S/Sgt James Wallace of the 195th Glasgow with Seniors of the Battalion presenting the speeches, toast and all other duties.

HERTFORDSHIRE HAS FUN

On Saturday 11th October 2008 over 60 young people from Hertfordshire Companies joined together for an afternoon of fun. Activities were created around the 125 theme including a water challenge, a 125 electronic skill, requiring concentration, 125 duster hockey, where younger members of The Girls' Brigade were up for the challenge and a 125 version of Rock River Mud, which took some getting used to. Quieter activities were provided, including a paper tear where the participants created a '125' from newspapers.



Mr Drew Buchanan, Captain 8th Carrickfergus, presents a cheque for £700 to the Director of BB in Northern Ireland for the Palm in Palm project in Cameroon to help the BB become self sufficient by 2016.

WEST LOTHIAN BATTALION 125 CELEBRATIONS



West Lothian Battalion celebrated the 125th anniversary on Sunday, 5th October 2008 in Linlithgow. In glorious sunshine, 370 members paraded to Linlithgow Palace to be inspected by the Chief Guest, Mrs Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Over 600 officers, boys, ex-members, families and friends packed into St Michael's Church for a Service.

Many distinguished guests included West Lothian's Provost Tom Kerr, Chief Inspector Jim Baird from Lothian and Borders Police and Tom Boyle, BB Director for Scotland.

SPRINGBURN DISTRICT CELEBRATES

On Saturday 20th September, 51 Company Section members from the 25th, 182nd, 200th 212th and 268th Glasgow Companies and support officers, enjoyed a day of celebration at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre to mark the Brigade's 125th anniversary. Activities included climbing, abseiling, air rifle shooting, archery, crate climbing, and pedal cycles. A barbeque rounded off a most successful day of fellowship and adventure.



LEICESTERSHIRE BATTALION AT GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY



Leicestershire Battalion's 125 fundraising was for the local children's hospice, Rainbows and the Leicester Fire Brigade museum. A day of celebration was held at the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire and a BB headboard was made to fit onto the newest locomotive in the world, 60163, Tornado. The 1st Loughborough BB/GB band heralded the locomotive's 11.15am arrival at Quorn

and Woodhouse station, with the BB headboard shining out as it came under the bridge. The windy conditions didn't prevent the visitors and guests enjoying the music of more bands before concluding with a Praise Service.

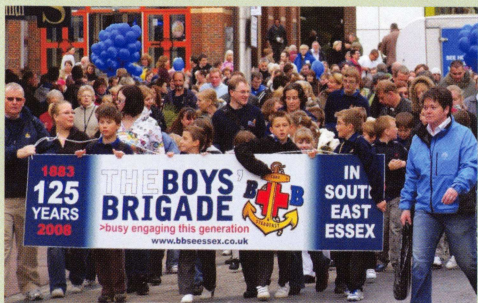
125TH BIRTHDAY DISPLAY IN PAISLEY

12 Companies took part in 14 items at a special 125th Birthday Display held by Paisley & District Battalion on 1st November 2008. The items included parachute and big ball games from Anchor Boys, circuit training and team games from Juniors and drill, gymnastics and band displays from the Company Section and Seniors.



SOUTH EAST ESSEX CELEBRATIONS

Almost 400 members from the 13 companies in the South East Essex Battalion, plus leaders, family and ex members joined together on 4th October 2008 for a special day. The celebration led by Revd Phil Andrews and the "Over the Top" Puppet Group



was a great witness to the Saturday shoppers. The deputy Youth Mayor of Southend District, an ex BB member, was guest for the day. Everyone walked down to the end of the pier en masse and it was a great sight as balloons were launched. The event was rounded off in Adventure Island with the boys enjoying rides, puppet shows, face painting and food.



TYNESIDE BBIG 125 WALK

On 17th May 2008 Tyneside Battalion held a sponsored Walk for members and families and other invited companies to join in to raise funds for the local Children's Wing of St Oswald's Hospice, Gosforth. The day was very wet, but around 100 walkers arrived and Bob Johnson, ITV Tyne Tees weather man started them off with words of encouragement. A grand sum of £2,335.72 was raised. In addition, members were issued with a plastic egg money bank in which to put 125 coins.



€25,000 FOR THE LAURA LYNN CHILDREN'S HOSPICE PROJECT

The Boys' Brigade in the Republic of Ireland chose The Laura Lynn Children's Hospice Foundation as its national charity for part of the 125 celebrations.

During the year Companies throughout the District have been raising much needed funds for the Laura Lynn Hospice Foundation, including cake sales, sponsored walks and cycle rides, making and selling Christmas cards, quizzes, a concert hosted by the renowned International Soprano Niamh Murray and collections at various services throughout the District. A cheque for €25,000 was presented to Jane McKenna of the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice at the Annual Founder's Service in St. Ann's Church, Dublin.