

# NATIONAL 25



## 1ST STEVENSTON 125 CELEBRATIONS

Anchor Boys enjoyed a 125 party. They dressed up in clothes of the era and enjoyed home made lemonade, old fashioned sweets such as licorice sticks (not so popular).



Games such as marbles and skipping were played and a traditional toy box, borrowed from the library, was full of games the boys had never seen before. The hall was decorated, including a coal fire with father sitting in his wooden chair reading the Bible.

Junior Section boys participated in the Battalion mime and drama competition, which had a theme of BB 125 years. They illustrated BB childhood throughout the ages, from 1883 with father telling Albert to

get ready for BB, to 2093, Mum sending Flint off to BB. Nothing changes except uniform!

Company Section boys took part in the Scottish BB Olympics at Coatbridge and came home with some medals and trophies.

### 125 Community Badge

The boys organised and took a 125 thanksgiving celebration service for the local community. Anchors did picture prayer and action songs, Juniors did readings and prayers and Company Section took the sermon. Shortbread biscuits were distributed and some sent to the local nursing home.

All boys took part in planting bulbs in a Field of Hope, with assistance from the local council. Parents donated bulbs in memory of lost loved ones and after a service the boys received their badges. Money raised went to CHAS.



## 1ST TULLIALLAN BALLOON RACE

Following a church service, the boys and officers, watched by members of the congregation, released 125 balloons as part of their 125 celebrations. The winner of the boys' race was Connor Taylor, Junior Section and Captain Neall Dodds took the honours in the adults' race. Both the winning balloons were found in the north of England, having travelled approximately 180 miles south.



## 3RD WOLVERHAMPTON'S CLEAR UP

In September 2008, to qualify for their 125 Community Badge, members carried out clearance work to the paths, gardens and surrounding areas of their HQ and planted bulbs. Each young person worked for 125 minutes, which enabled them to receive the Community Badge.



Juniors made 125 Christmas cards and distributed them locally.

## 3RD HALESOWEN

The 3rd Halesowen Company combined marking its 35th year with the national 125 with a celebration weekend. Thirty-four mature church members sat down to Saturday tea served by boys and officers. There was also a buffet on Saturday evening for past members and officers. For Sunday Morning Church Parade there was a full turnout and for the Sunday afternoon Founder's Day Parade at Worcester.

The company also raised £90 at a coffee morning in aid of the Acorns Children's Hospice and another £50 at the Company Carol Service for Action for Children.

## 'PENNIES IN A SOCK'

8th North Staffs Junior Section supported the Palm in Palm Project to help The Boys' Brigade in Cameroon by encouraging family and friends to fill an old, red walking sock with pennies (and other small change). However, as woolly socks do, the more that was put in the more the sock stretched. Over £80 has been collected so far and the Section hopes to reach £125 in recognition of the 125 Celebration.

8th North Staff Juniors with sock of pennies





## 11TH LEEDS COMPANY 125 Community Award



Members of 11th Leeds earning their Community Award at 'Hill Top'

During a weekend last October the members of 11th Leeds joined volunteers of the Armley Common Right Trust to restore a piece of land called "Hill Top" in Armley. Boys, parents and officers collected rubbish and the Juniors planted 125 daffodil bulbs in formation to spell "Boys' Brigade". Company Section and Seniors cleared overgrown bushes and trees and placed a restored bench, complete with plaque. They look forward to visiting the site in the spring to see the bulbs in bloom.

### Martin House appeal

Anchors and Juniors filled empty malteser tubes with 125 coins and raised £300 for local children's hospice, Martins House in Weatherby.

## 25TH STIRLING 125 COMMUNITY AWARD

The Anchor Boys recorded a Christmas Compilation CD of carols, readings and poems at a local recording studio. The CDs were burned by Company Section members and distributed to residents of the town and sold to raise funds for the Bangal Hospital in Gambia. The Anchors gave a reprise performance for the local community outside Tesco in Dunblane.

Junior Section boys put on a Scots Night for a local residential home. They performed poems, songs and instrumental solos for a very appreciative audience.

The Company Section, as well as distributing harvest gifts around Dunblane to elderly residents, gave Dunblane Cathedral its annual spring clean – vacuuming pew cushions, polishing ironwork, mopping floors, shining woodwork, ready for the weekly congregation and the many tourists.

The company will soon be setting up an 125 exhibition in Dunblane Cathedral Museum, when it reopens following an extensive lottery-funded refurbishment.

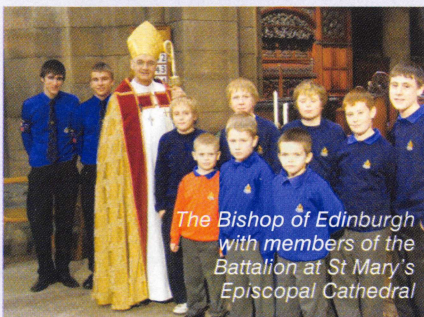


Junior Section performing at local residential home

## 125TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION, NOTTINGHAM

Over 30 members of Nottingham Battalion put together an historic exhibition in the Community Room area of The Brewhouse Yard Museum, which nestles under the rock foundations of Nottingham Castle and at the side of the famous Trip to Jerusalem Inn. Museum staff reported a good number of visitors, including schools, to the Exhibition and comments from the visitors' book were very favourable. A presentation was made to former BB member, Peter Cast, who organised the two-month exhibition for the Battalion.

## EDINBURGH, LEITH AND DISTRICT BATTALION



The Bishop of Edinburgh with members of the Battalion at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

The Battalion held a 125 Carol Service in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. The Bishop of Edinburgh, The Right Revd Brian Smith with the assistance of The Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes CBE and The Revd Cannon Jane Millard took the service, with 400 boys, leaders, parents and friends present. The collection for Childline raised £375.

## BRADFORD BATTALION

On a cold winter's morning, members of Bradford Battalion planted nearly 500 trees and a hedge to celebrate the Brigade's 125 years. Hopefully, in years



to come this will show that the youth in Bradford really do care for the environment.

## CELEBRATING 125 IN THE NORTH WEST

The weekend event – 26th/28th September 2008 – was based at the District Training and Activity Centre, Treales and Myerscough College, Bilsborrow and was attended by 134 Company and Senior members who camped for the weekend and 111 Anchor and Junior Section boys who arrived on the Saturday. Forty-five BB staff were supported by Youth Evangelist David Saville and team.



## 11TH BROMLEY

The 11th Bromley Company collected 1p, 2p and 5p coins for the 125 appeal during 2008. This project was supported by the church and the company was able to donate £400 to a local Children's Hospice, Demelza House, which is soon opening a new home in Eltham, South East London.

## 42ND BELFAST MAKE CARDS

Junior Section members made Christmas cards to send to elderly and ill members of Strand Presbyterian Church, to celebrate the Brigade's 125th Anniversary.



## BIRMINGHAM BATTALION RAISED MONEY FOR THE ACORNS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE TRUST

Members of the BB in Birmingham presented a cheque for £6,700 to Mr Sanjay Jagatia, Country Fundraising Officer for the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust, during a Celebration Day held in Birmingham City Centre on Saturday 4th October 2008.





# national 25 CONTINUED

## WIGAN BATTALION HELPS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The Wigan Battalion held a combined Service to celebrate both 125 years of The Boys' Brigade and its usual Christmas Carol Service. It was hosted by the 2nd Wigan Company at St. Mark's Church, Newtown, Wigan and special guest was the Lord Mayor of Wigan Councillor Rona Winkworth (Mayor). During the service the Battalion President, George Beardwood, presented Mr Harold Joyson, representative of Derian House Childrens Hospice with a cheque for £750 from the Battalion as part of the BB 125th Appeal for Children's Hospices.

## OLD FIRM BOSSES HELP GLASGOW BATTALION CELEBRATE

South Lanarkshire Council hosted a civic reception for Glasgow Battalion to mark the Brigade's 125 years. Seniors from Glasgow Battalion were delighted to receive messages of support from Old firm bosses, Walter Smith and Gordon Strachan as well as newsreader, John McKay, and Burnely Assistant Manager, Sandy Stewart, who are ex-BB members. They credit the Brigade with instilling the kind of discipline and commitment that have helped them reach their goals in life. The event was run by the Seniors and Chairperson for the night was Staff Sergeant James Wallace of the 195th Glasgow. Special guests were Revd Dr Angus Kerr, Clerk of the Glasgow Presbytery, Chief of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Brian Sweeny, and former Grade One referee, Willie Young. The trio replied to the toasts made by the young men and Provost Clearie, said: "Any organisation that can withstand and grow through 125 years of change must be doing something right."



## BURNS LIGHTS FOR BURNS NIGHT

125 boys celebrated 125 years of The Boys' Brigade on the 250th birthday of Robert Burns. Members of Solway Battalion were out in force with the crowd of 17,000 in Dumfries. Boys and leaders made lanterns, then led one of the four huge lantern processions through the town. As darkness fell, the lanterns were lit, and everyone enjoyed great music from the big stage and screen before the lone piper played on Devorgilla Bridge, and the Tam O'Shanter fire sculpture was spectacularly lit.

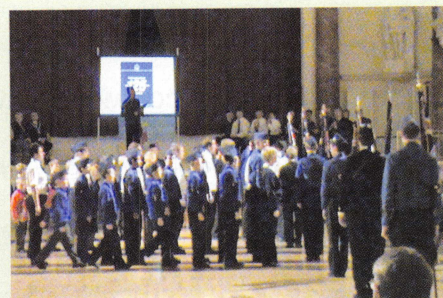


Boys leading the procession with their lanterns



## 125 TIME-CAPSULE

On Sunday 5th July 2009, a year after the opening of the BB Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum, a time capsule containing 125 items of significance for BB young people in 2009 will be deposited in a specially prepared chamber. The short ceremony and service will start at 2.00 pm and everyone is welcome. More details will be available later.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BATTALION DISPLAY

As part of its celebration of the Brigade's 125th Anniversary, the Gloucestershire Battalion held an Annual Display at the Cheltenham Town Hall on the 4th October 2008. Chief Guest was District President, Mr Malcolm Godolphin, and Mayors from Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, the chair of Malvern District Council and representatives from The Girls' Brigade and local Churches were present. The following companies took part: 1st Charlton Kings, 1st Cheltenham, 1st Tewkesbury, 5th Gloucester, 1st Malvern, 5th Swindon and 4th Cheltenham, the newest company. Items represented past as well as current BB activities. President's Badges were presented to Paul McLoughlin, James and Timothy Keasley, Jack McCulla, Oliver Wedgbury and Jonathan Playdon of 5th Gloucester Company. Long Service Awards were presented to Helen and Leif Edwards.