



BB

GAZETTE

APRIL/MAY 1973



**Royal Visit to
Brigade House, Parsons Green**



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Our 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.



Photo: Sport & General Press Agency, Ltd.

OUR SMILING PATRON

One of the features of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip to Brigade House, Parsons Green, was the frequency of their smiles and their close interest in all that they saw and heard. A full report and pictures appear on the next three pages.



A TRULY ROYAL OCCASION

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP VISIT BRIGADE HOUSE, 22nd FEB. 1973

You may remember the mounting excitement of the preparations for the Formal Opening of Brigade House at Parsons Green on 9th December 1966, by Her Majesty The Queen our Patron. And how at the last minute Her Majesty was taken ill and H.R.H. Princess Alexandra represented her and formally opened Brigade House on her behalf. That was a memorable occasion, of happy recollection—but now six-and-a-quarter years later we have had a truly great event to mark the 90th Year in the history of The Brigade. Surely a red letter day in the annals of the B.B. for never before has the reigning monarch visited our Headquarters.

Just before Christmas 1972 I was informed that in response to our request The Queen would like to come to visit Brigade House and the Brigades' Hostel next door on 22nd February. To that happy news there was added a few days later the fact that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh would accompany The Queen on this occasion. We were highly delighted — and thereafter very busy.

For the Visit much had to be done — including a long deferred programme of major redecoration, our first since 1966. As the intention of our Royal Visitors was to see the International Headquarters of The Boys' Brigade and The Girls' Brigade, and also the London District H.Q. of The B.B. primarily as

a working unit and to meet the Staffs who work here, the programme was quite straightforward.

The vital thing was to show how all that we do is related directly to supporting the work in Companies with Boys (or Girls, as far as the G.B. is concerned). We therefore arranged that our Training Area should be used to show Boys' activities with the Conference Room and Library used for the Girls. Nearly 100 Boys and 35 Girls were involved — although this had unfortunately to be at the expense of the Brigade Executives of the two Brigades, as only the Office-Bearers and some of the Committee Chairmen could be accommodated.

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived at 3.20 p.m. and were welcomed by The Rt. Worshipful The Mayor of Hammersmith, Alderman Eric Hill, by The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, (President of The Boys' Brigade) and by Lady Nicholson (President of The Girls' Brigade). We were fortunate in having a joint Guard of Honour of 18 Senior Boys, who were all holders of the Queen's Badge and 18 Senior Brigaders of The Girls' Brigade, all under command of Mr. C. J. Whyman (Member of Brigade Executive) who is also Drill Convener, London District. The Guard, drawn from every District of the B.B., lined the red carpet — of which the acquisition forms a saga in itself. Our cover picture aptly records the moment of arrival.



The welcome by Lord Elgin, Brigade President.



Her Majesty and the drummer.



The Prince and the clay modellers.

On entering Brigade House the Queen, who wore a pale blue coat and mink hat, was presented with a bouquet of freesias by a Junior member of The G.B. Our M.P. the Rt. Hon. Michael Stewart, P.C. C.H.; Sir Cyril Black; the Brigade Office-Bearers and the Brigade Secretary, were then presented to the Queen and Prince Philip, and after meeting the G.B. office-bearers, our royal Visitors went up in the lift to the third floor to meet London District Office-Bearers and Staff, and the Warden and Housekeeper of Brigade House, (Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Ferris).

Thereafter the G.B. H.Q. stronghold on the second floor was followed by visits to all the B.B. departments — including a “meeting” of the Chairmen of the standing committees of the Brigade Executive; colleagues of the Secretariat in Scotland, with Mr. E. R. Chapman, representing all our Field Officers.

Both the Queen and Prince Philip talked to most members of the Staff and their interested and briefed questions and comments illustrated the wonderful way in which they prepare for a visit of this kind. They saw all aspects of our work in their tour of the Accounts, Training, Junior Section, International and the administrative, packing and shop sections of the Supplies Department. The work of each was introduced by the Secretaries themselves.

The scene in the Training Area, on the approach to which the Guard of Honour was informally deployed, was a fine illustration of the holiday activities as well as the Achievement Scheme. More than 80 Boys, in arrangements made by London District, were involved, for bugle band training, parallel bars and mat work, table tennis coaching, and clay modelling. All were due to take part in the Tea which was served after our Visitors departure, and grateful thanks go to all of the Boys and the supervising Staffs for their responsiveness to our Visitors, as they went their separate ways through the whole of the Training Area. It could be truthfully said that the interest of our royal Visitors when confronted by the activity taking place was patently apparent, and the delightful informality of it all clearly indicative of that interest.

After the ramifications of the Supplies Department had been described by the Staff, the Royal Party moved out into the front hall again and the Visitors' Books were duly signed by both The Queen and Prince Philip.

Subsequently, in the Brigades' Hostel, Sir Cyril Black as Chairman presented members of the Management Committee; Mrs. Brenda Stonell, the Domestic Bursar; and Mr. Michael Pigott, F.R.I.B.A., our Architect. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspected the accommodation and the kitchen on the first floor, before joining the Committee of the Brigade Housing Association as their Guests for Tea in the Hostel Common Room. This was "hosted" by ten of the Hostel residents, representing a wide range of nationalities, and it formed a delightfully informal conclusion to the visit.

As a reflection upon a very happy afternoon in which all who were privileged to be present shared fully, we can be justly proud of our International Headquarters and of those who

serve there. And we can be proud too that the Brigade has been thus honoured so delightfully by our Royal Patron and by The Duke of Edinburgh, in whose Award Scheme so many members of the Brigade gain so much satisfaction. Our 90th year could not have been marked in a more appropriate way.

Our thanks to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness can best be expressed in our active response to the Year of Service 1973 and to B.B. DAY, 2nd June, 1973.

Jan S. Neilson

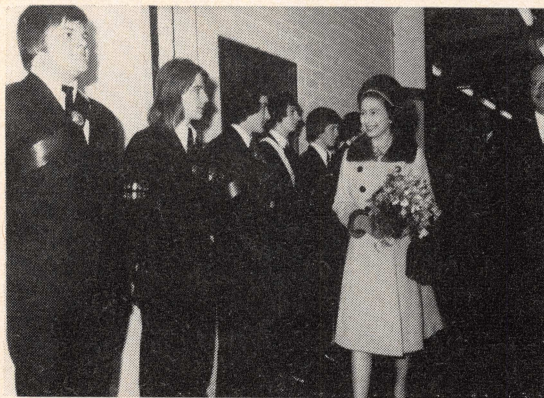
Brigade Secretary.

Royal Visit pictures by R. A. Chapman, A.R.P.S., and Kathleen Stevens.

Colour pictures on front cover by Mollie Edbrooke.



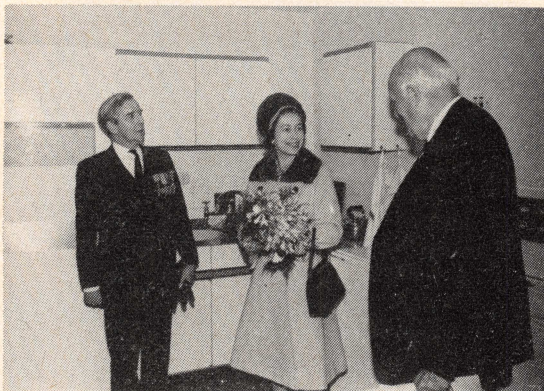
Prince Philip with Junior Section Boys.



Her Majesty leaves Training area.



Signing the Visitors' Book.



In one of the Kitchens of the Hostel.