

AMICAN

*The Amicus
Project Newsletter*

Serving AMICUS Nationwide

No.4, January 1996

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

The story of the formation of the Muirkirk Amicus Group... The Amicus Project was started by The BB in April 1994. At Muirkirk we applied for permission to start such a group on the grounds that whilst Muirkirk had a lively BB Company it had no group for girls over the age of 13 years. A Ranger Group had been started by the church but had failed after two years and over a period of time there had been requests from various parents asking if it would be possible to allow girls to join The Boys' Brigade - this was, of course, not possible under the present set up.

Permission was granted by The BB to start an Amicus Group in Muirkirk after a visit by the Project manager, Mr Gary Smith. It would be wrong to say that all the staff and the Company Section Boys were in favour of such a scheme, in fact, at one of our parade nights we had a suggestion box and overwhelmingly the boys wanted the group abolished. That certainly would not be the case as I write this article in September 1995.

Unfortunately, in Muirkirk we only have girls in the group but a number of boys are contemplating joining, and we have unofficially made the maximum age 18 years although the oldest girl we have is only 17 years of age.

What do they do? Four of the group have just returned from a highly successful weekend Camp with the Company Section boys at Craggans, Edinburgh Battalion's Outdoor Centre. The girls were well supervised and apart from a few of the boys having haircuts all were perfectly behaved and it is anticipated that they will be allowed to attend the next Weekend Camp, which will be in
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You can run, but you can't hide!

Please send your cheque for £25.00 resources membership to Nick at Felden Lodge as soon as possible. Many groups have already done this, but we can't buy anymore resources until we have all the dosh. Please make cheques payable to The Boys' Brigade. *Thanks*

Don't forget

....to send news, views and comments for publication in the next issue of the Amican. Perhaps you have some programme ideas to share or you have organised a special event. Let us know how your group is progressing. Send in your articles by **19th March** for inclusion in the **April** issue.

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Ireland. Most of the girls in the group achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award in April 1995 and are now working towards their Silver Award, which features most of the activities that we have in The BB. The group all attend the bible class on the Sunday evening with the Company Section boys, which means we have around 60 plus in our Clubrooms on the Sunday. They take part in our Inter-Squad Company Hikes and at the past two Hikes have actually beaten some of the Squad Teams, much to the boys' disgust. They entered the Cleveland Hike in May 1995 and although not successful are determined to do better in 1996. They would love to try the 'Westy' but the committee are reluctant to allow such a venture. After the boys' football team defeated them by 7 goals to 5 at football, they have now challenged the boys to a game at Ten Pin Bowling. Several of the girls are members of the Company Pipe Band. The girls attend all the BB Church Parades that the Company attends and their uniform consists of a green sweater with an Amicus badge.

I accept that in Muirkirk we are probably unique in as much that we are an isolated

community with no similar organisation for girls and in those circumstances it could probably work or in the South where churches are becoming increasingly keener on mixed organisations, or where there is a shortage of leaders or boys. Obviously it is not for every BB Company to have a mixed group such as Amicus, but we have found in Muirkirk there are certainly more pluses than minuses.

Our Company Section strength has actually increased during 1995 - I doubt that is to do with Amicus, but as other people feared it has certainly not led to a drop of numbers in our Company.

James P. Currie Captain, 1st Muirkirk Company

(Reproduced in part from The Boys' Brigade Gazette)

IT'S A HAPPENING!

The essential Amican Guide to forthcoming events

*The Wades in Concert 3rd February 1996

London. For more info. 0171 735 9935

*Firm Foundations 24th - 27th May 1996

Felden Lodge. For more info. 01442 231681

*The Big Event 13th July 1996

Birmingham. For more info. 0121 359 1866

AMICUS Groups - where are they?

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Wallasey | Contact John Fidler | 12. Cardiff | Contact Paul Ashford |
| 2. Dronfield | Contact Joel Thompstone | 13. Harlow | Contact Ian Garrod |
| 3. Muirkirk | Contact Jim Currie | 14. Kingston | Contact Dean Ayres |
| 4. Stanmore | Contact John Knight | 15. Leeds | Contact Kath Darby |
| 5. Addlestone | Contact Robert White | 16. Sutton Coldfield | Contact Jim Hale |
| 6. Birmingham | Contact Michael Evans | 17. Bexleyheath | Contact Chris Hale |
| 7. Leith | Contact Ian Kent | 18. Sleaford | Contact David Coaker |
| 8. Lowestoft | Contact Patrick Evans | 19. Lincoln | Contact Nick Chambers |
| 9. Horley | Contact Eric Kenward | 20. Leigh Park | Contact Keith Burgess |
| 10. Bournemouth | Contact Graham King | 21. Headcorn | Contact Robert Jones |
| 11. Bradford | Contact Katrina Greenan | | |

The telephone numbers for the above group leaders can be obtained from Nick at Felden Lodge.

Why not get together with another group for a joint evening or special event.