

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

Vol.3 No.4

10th September 2023

News from the Archives

A number of Trustees of The Boys' Brigade Archive Trust were in Glasgow recently at Brigade Conference and were pleased to catch up with Brigade Leaders, particularly those with an interest and passion for preserving the history of The Boys' Brigade.

We were also pleased that a number of people joined in the walking tour of BB sights in Glasgow as well as the tour of the BB archive collection held at Carronvale. Thanks to everyone who attended, our archivist and volunteers for organised this, and particular thanks to Jim McVean from the Glasgow Battalion for all his help over the weekend.

We were particularly pleased to be able to have the 1933 Jubilee casket on display, together with some story boards and the recently digitised film of the casket being sealed in 1933, as well as film of the casket being opening in 1983. For those who were unable to attend, at the end of this newsletter we have added the story boards.



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk

1933 Jubilee



Recent posts from our Social Media

On Saturday 26th August we posted on social media a Poster for the '750' Training Camp and Festival of Sport, August 1958 - Find more about the 750 Training Camp, where over 670 Senior Boys came together at Lilleshall Hall, on our virtual museum

Click on the links on the right to access the content.



750 Camp



On the 10th August we posted:

The **Boy Reserves Cap**, in use between 1917 & 1926

Boy Reserves



Recent posts from our Social Media

On the 23rd August we posted: South London Battalion Camp at Dymchurch August 1921. Members of the 90th London pictured wearing the alternative grey uniform which was in use between 1919-1930.

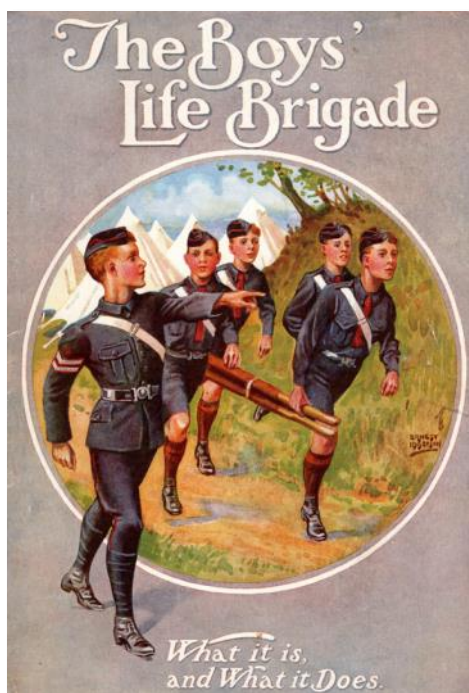


90th LONDON COMPANY
BOYS' BRIGADE
—
SOUTH LONDON BATTALION
CAMP
at
DYMCHURCH
(KENT)
AUGUST, 1921.

Johnson



Our Archivist Asks



On the previous page are terrific images of the BB Grey Uniform in use between 1919 and 1930. We do not have any examples of this in the BB Archive Collection and would like to either add these to the collection, or borrow examples for use in a photoshoot for our uniform timeline project we are working on. We are also looking for examples of the BLB uniform if anyone has examples.

We are also looking for a tailor, seamstress or costume maker to assist with this project. If you know of anyone who can help, please get in touch.



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We are planning to add pages to the Virtual Museum on BB stamps, Commemorative covers and BB Christmas Postage. If you can assist with curating these pages, or have a significant collection of BB stamps and covers, please get in touch with us.

The North Scottish Area BB reached out to us on social media wondering if this was the first time Girls' Association members had been presented to a monarch. We thought that was a good question, and whilst we thought it might be, we are asking all our supporters this question also. If you know of any other occasion, please let us know as we would like to also know.

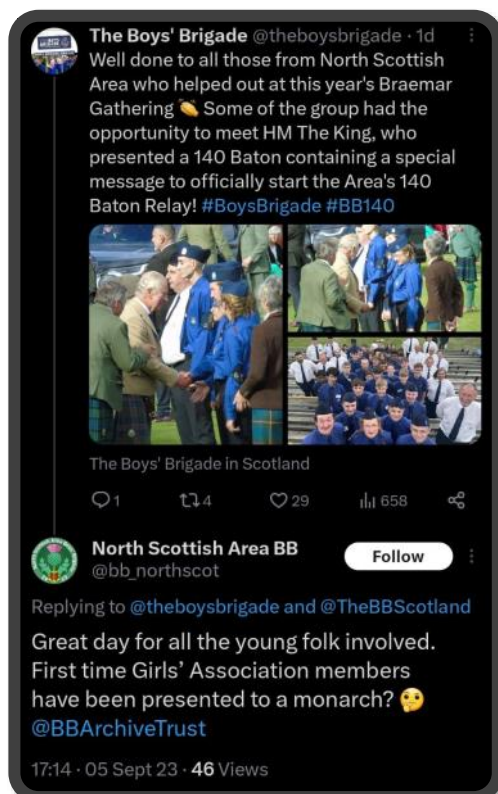
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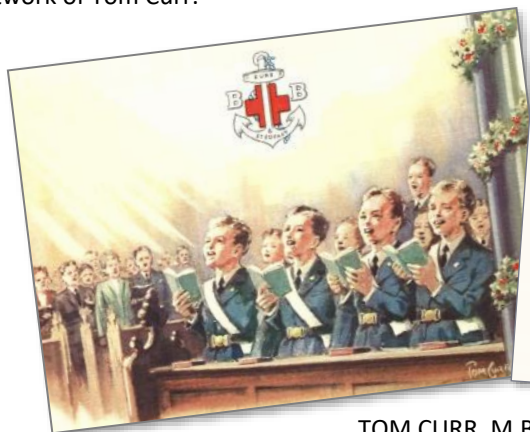
Boys' Life Brigade

Royal Mail Stamp



Archive Shop

For those already looking ahead to Christmas, a reminder that we have packs of Christmas cards available in our online shop, featuring the 1950's artwork of Tom Curr.



TOM CURR, M.B.E., J.P. 1887–1958

Captain of the 46th Edinburgh Company, a great Churchman, former President of the Baptist Union of Scotland, member of the Brigade Executive, and a Vice President of the Edinburgh Battalion.

Tom Curr had great gifts as an artist, and no man could have given more freely or willingly of his talents in the service of his Lord and Master. Tom Curr was responsible for much of the publicity artwork between 1930 and 1958, including posters, membership cards and Christmas cards.



We have started contacting Companies and Battalions that produce badges and asked that they supply their badges for sale in the Archive online shop.

We are please to announce that in the last weeks we have added new badges from the

1st Buckie, Banffshire Battalion, Brigade Conference and the Wallingford & Didcot camp badge. These can be found in the 'New' section of the Archive Shop. Please follow the link for availability and prices. There are occasions when we may be able to get more stock of some of the Company and Battalion badges. If we have run out of stock, please check back again later as we may have received additional stock.

Please let us know via the archive shop email address when badges are produced so that we can secure a stock, and make these available everyone.



Please note our new shop email address:

archiveshop@boys-brigade.org.uk



archiveshop@boys-brigade.org.uk

Tom Curr

Archive Shop

New Products





THE BOYS' BRIGADE

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Jubilee 1933

Dechmont Camp

In the Jubilee year a Camp was held at Dechmont, a few miles from Glasgow, attended by two representative Boys from every Company in The Boys' Brigade, and from Denmark, Canada, Singapore and Nigeria.

On the Friday night, in the presence of thousands of Campers, six NCOs' put their names to a parchment containing a secret message of greeting and goodwill addressed to their successors, the Boys of the Centenary Year, 1983. The chosen six were: Sergeant Hizey of the 1st Glasgow, Sergeant Gray of the 39th Belfast, Corporal Choy Ah Soo of the 2nd Singapore, Colour-Sergeant Morrish of the 11th Cardiff, Colour-Sergeant Martin of the 12th Brighton, Sergeant Urquhart of the 214th Glasgow. Thus they represented the Original Company, Ireland, Overseas, Wales, England and Scotland.

The parchment was deposited in a bronze casket of remembrance, together with copies of all the Jubilee programmes, the list of Visiting Officers, a copy of the Annual Report, a set of Jubilee badges, and a copy of the B.B. Jubilee Bulletin produced all that week by a national newspaper. The Camp watched in complete silence as the casket was closed and sealed with wax with the imprint 'B.B. 1933' at one end and 'B.B. 1983' at the other.



The B.B. Jubilee Bulletin



You'll need a ticket

but there are specially
Cheap Fares for

GLASGOW 1933

AND EVERY B.B. BOY "WORTH HIS
SALT" IS SAVING UP SO THAT
HE CAN BE PRESENT AT THE

GREAT JUBILEE REVIEW

OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE
ON 9th SEPTEMBER IN
GLASGOW—"THE B.B.'s OWN HOME TOWN"

In addition, Two Boys from every Company in the Brigade are
to represent their comrades at the JUBILEE CAMP and take part
in the Celebrations during the week-end, 8th-11th September

Glasgow waits to
welcome You!

ASK YOUR CAPTAIN FOR A
RAILWAY FARE PAYMENT CARD
AND ALL PARTICULARS



List of
Visiting
Officers



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TO THE BOYS OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE IN THE CENTENARY SESSION~1983



the Boys of the Jubilee Session, send this Greeting across the years to you Boys who will be our successors. When we write this you are, as yet, unborn, and we are celebrating the 50th Birthday of The Boys' Brigade in the year 1933. Thirty-four thousand Officers and Boys from all over the United Kingdom and from Overseas have assembled in Glasgow, the birthplace of the Movement to which we are all so proud to belong.

We have recalled with pride the history of the past 50 years, and have determined to do our best to ensure that the years ahead may also hold much of which you Boys of the Centenary Session can be as justly proud.

This has been a wonderful Session for The Boys' Brigade, which is now stronger and more efficient than ever before. A record number of new Companies have been added—202—and the strength of the Brigade to-day is 2,510 active Companies with a total membership of 111,871, an increase of 9,107 over last year. In addition, our Junior Movement, The Life Boys, has reached a total membership of 56,464.

During these days of the Jubilee Celebrations, the name of our Founder, Sir William A. Smith, has been greatly honoured as the pioneer of organised work among Boys. The guiding principles and the object which he laid down have not been departed from in the last half century, and we face the future confident that our Movement is built on a sure foundation.

We, the Boys of 1933, are enclosing this Message, together with copies of our Jubilee Publications in this casket, which will thereafter be sealed and not opened until you Boys open it in 1983.

We greet you all and rejoice to think that the B.B. spirit which is passed down from generation to generation will reach you too through 50 years, and link us all in the great Comradeship of The Boys' Brigade.

Signed this Eighth day of
September, in the year
Nineteen Hundred and
Thirty-three, at the Jubilee
Camp, Dechmont, Glasgow

B. J. Hezzy
Charles Gray
Chapman
W. G. Morris
E. J. Martin
Alex. D. Hogarth

1st Glasgow Company
3rd Belfast Company
2nd Singapore Company
11th Cardiff Company
12th Brighton Company
21st Glasgow Company

Representing the Boys of The Boys' Brigade
in the Jubilee Session



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

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BB casket message from fifty years ago

MR Leonard J. Martin, a member of the London Road church in the Brighton and Hove circuit, was a special guest at the opening of a casket at the Boys' Brigade centenary salute held in Ibrox Park, Glasgow.

The casket, which had not been opened since it was sealed in 1933 at the Boys' Brigade jubilee camp, contained a message from the Brigade members of 50 years ago.

The message had been signed by six boys representing England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, the overseas companies and the original company, the 1st Glasgow. The boy representing England was Leonard Martin, then a member of the 12th Brighton, and so he was invited back to Glasgow in 1983 to be present at the opening of the casket and the revelation of the message.

Prior to the opening of the casket survivors of the 1933 jubilee camp marched into the arena to the music of the 'Boys of the Old Brigade.' The men — the youngest of whom was 65 — were led by W McGougan who as a young man had been an officer in the camp.

Mr Martin accompanied the president of the Boys' Brigade, the Earl of Elgin, when he opened the casket. A current young member of the Brigade read out the

message which conveyed greetings of the 1933 members, and Mr Martin helped to identify the various documents in the casket.

Mr Martin said that he was the only original signatory present because four of the six had died and one was ill.

He said that Alex S Urquhart, who had represented Scotland, died serving with the RAF during the war, and Choy Ah Soo of Singapore who had represented the overseas boys, had been executed along with other Brigade officers by the Japanese on the grounds that the Brigade

was a subversive movement.

Charles Gray, who had represented Ireland, and W G Morrish, who had represented Wales, had both died since the war, according to Mr Martin, and the representative of the 1st Glasgow, C G Hizzey, was too ill to attend.

Mr Martin said: 'There has been much conjecture through the 50 years as to the content of the message, and it was a great thrill to take part and to hear what I had signed 50 years previously on behalf of thousands of English boys.'

Mr Martin has been featured on BBC Radio Scotland, Radio Clyde and Channel Four television, and the entire ceremony was shown in an hour-long Scottish ITV programme.

Mr Martin later attended the 1st Southwick (Southwick Methodist church, Sussex) company's founders' day parade to tell the boys of his experiences in 1933 and 1983 at Glasgow.





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Cheers, Bands And A Message From 1933

OVER 10,000 cheering, clapping fans turned out at Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow, yesterday afternoon to celebrate the Centenary of the Boy's Brigade.

Ibrox echoed to the sound of massed bands as 5000 boys from all corners of the globe took part in the "Centenary Salute."

The B.B. was founded 100 years ago in Woodside, Glasgow, by Sir William Smith. Since then it has grown to become one of the largest youth organisations in the world.

Representatives of 35 countries attended yesterday's spectacular.

But a special cheer was reserved for the oldest company in the world, the 1st Glasgow, when they paraded on the pitch.

President of the B.B., the Earl of Elgin, opened a 50-year-old casket on the centre spot as the highlight of the day.

In 1933, the casket was sealed at a Silver Jubilee Camp at Dechmont, near Glasgow, with instructions that its contents were to remain secret until opened in 1983.

Sgt. Bruce Hannah, from Paisley, read out the parchment's message from the lads of 1933 to the boys of today.



● The wee lad dwarfed by other pipers as the B.B. march past is 12-year-old Ian Taylor, from the 47th Culter (Aberdeen) Company.
● It's been quite a fortnight for Ian and his colleagues. Two weeks ago they were runners-up in the juvenile section of the world pipe band championships. And yesterday they were in early action at Dunoon's Cowal Games before dashing for Ibrox and the B.B. Centenary.

Ibrox was the venue for this mammoth outdoor display of all that is best in the Brigade. It was a glittering occasion on which the sun shone and to which BB folk had come from all over the world. The Colours of every Battalion in the British isles and the flags of the overseas countries were paraded at the start. Taking part were the BB National Brass Band comprising 300 boys drawn from England, Northern Ireland and Scotland; the Massed Pipe Band, over 600 strong, made up of players from Scotland and England; the London District BB Bugle Band with 500 buglers and drummers, immaculate in their uniform. The Scottish National Eb Trumpet Band, comprising 170 boys from six Companies from the West of Scotland; The Anchormen — 125 boys and girls from the 5th Halifax Company, in addition, there was a Physical Recreation Display by Company Section boys from Dumbarton and West Lowland Districts and Team Games by Junior Section boys from Clydesdale District.

The mood of the afternoon changed as everyone waited expectantly for the opening of the Jubilee Casket. The audience was hushed as Lord Elgin broke the seals and the message read by Sgt. Bruce Hannah of the 22nd Paisley Company.



Centenary 1983

27th August - Ibrox Stadium



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