

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

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News from the Archives

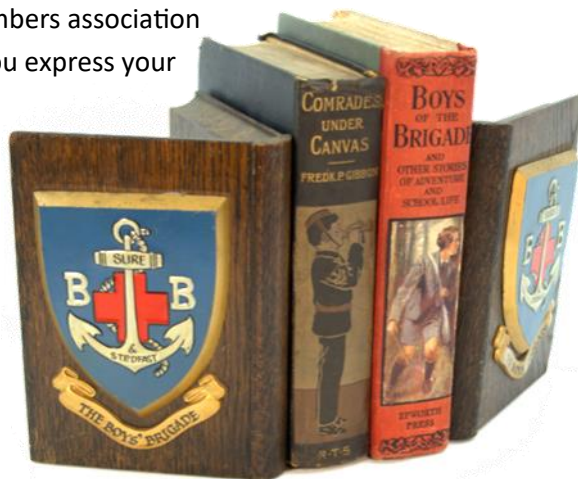
2023 has been a busy year for the BB archivist and team of volunteers. The decision by The Boys' Brigade to dispose of Felden Lodge, where the majority of the archive collection is stored has meant that our focus has been on preparing the collection to eventually be moved. This has given us the impetus to sort through the objects in the collection, with a focus on photographing the objects before they get packed up. Some of the objects have not been seen in many years and we are pleased to be able to share these.

We have continued to add content to the virtual museum, and have created a virtual library which we hope you will enjoy browsing through. The Christmas books are featured in the library and are a good example of The Boys' Brigade promoting literacy and reading in the late 1890's.

Many of you will be members of the Archive Members Association. Unfortunately this group has not met this year, and the eNews, online shop and virtual museum produced by the Archive Trust, has taken over many of the roles and services which the members association used to provide. The members association committee met recently and it was resolved to hold an extra ordinary general meeting of the members on the 30th December to determine the fate of the Members Association. The Archive Trust is proposing the members association is replaced with a supporters group, which can directly support the work of the archives, both financially and through volunteering, and we will be announcing something early in the new year. We will also continue to produce monthly newsletters via email, however, if you would like to opt out from receiving these, please email us.

If you cannot attend the members association meeting, but would like to express your opinions please email us.

We would like to thank you all for supporting our work in 2023 and wish you all a blessed Christmas.



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk

140th Anniversary



Recent posts from our Social Media



On the 22nd November we posted a few images of the 6th Belfast at camp. Within a few hours we had received over 110 'Likes' and the post was viewed over 8500 times on Facebook which we were thrilled with. However a

week later we were even more surprised by the response we got to a picture of three New Zealand drummers from 1961 (below). Within a few hours, the post had been viewed over 41000 times with over 810 'likes' on Facebook. So to everyone who 'liked', shared and commented on any our of our posts recently, thank you for your support. Please continue to share our posts with you friends and followers.

We are always looking for terrific images to add to the digital BB Archives. If you have images to share, or have a box of BB slides which need digitising, get in touch with us.



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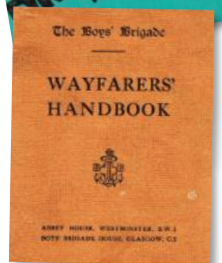
Virtual Museum



The Boys' Brigade has published hundreds of books catering for both the leader and the young person. BB Supplies and independent publishers have also published books intended as resources and gifts, and one of the early objectives of The Boys' Brigade was to promote and encourage reading. The Christmas gift books in the late 1890s were intended to encourage boys to read, and additionally many early BB Companies had lending libraries and reading rooms.

From the very beginning we have added flip books to the Virtual Museum and these have proven popular, but as the site has grown it can be difficult to find a particular book. We have therefore started to add the existing flip books to a library page, as well as adding a few more title.

If there is a book you would like to see in the library and cannot find it, please let us know and we may be able to include it.



Christmas Books - The late Victorian period saw a rapidly increasing literacy rate and, by 1900, almost all men and women were literate. The Boys' Brigade played its part in this progress as in 1889 they published a Christmas Gift Book for Boys with its primary purpose to encourage Boys to read. They make fascinating reading, and certainly worthwhile looking more closely at their contents. Click on the link on the right to explore these books.



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Library

Christmas Books



From the Archives

The flag of The United States of America which was flown over the Capital building to recognise the centenary of The Boys' Brigade. This flag and certificate are part of the gifts from representatives of the BB around the world given to the BB in the UK at international events, and which now reside in the BB archive collection. We hope to bring you more of these gifts in the future.



The certificate reads:

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on May 16, 1983 at the request of the Honorable Clarence D. Long, Member of Congress.

This flag was flown for the Boys' Brigade on their 100th Anniversary.

BB Supplies in the 1980's offered the Richard Newth-Gibbs lead figures, available in 15 different boxed sets.

During the packing at Felden Lodge two unpainted sample figures, together with two sample painted figures were found, and these have been added to the BB archive collection.



Centenary Weekend

BB Supplies



From the Archives



Boys' Life Brigade Swimming diploma of merit



Boys' Life Brigade

Archive Shop

We are always keen to add new stock to the shop. Please let us know if a Company or Battalion is producing an anniversary badge as we would like to add these to our shop. We are also on the look out for 'new old stock' which may be been sitting in a cupboard for years. If you know of any such items please get in touch with us.

All the funds generated from the online shop goes towards supporting preserving the archives of The boys' Brigade

Note: The online shop is now CLOSED until the 8th January 2024 to give our volunteers a well earned break.

Archive Shop

