

# Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

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## News from the Archives

Our Volunteers have taken the opportunity of a well earned break in December following a busy year cataloguing and digitising the BB archive collection, as well as creating digital content for both social media and the Virtual Museum. The Brigade Archivist is looking forward continuing this work in 2024 with the assistance of the volunteers and supporters of the BB Archive Trust.

The members association closed at the end of 2023, and we will be looking at ways in which our supporters will be able to continue supporting the work of The Boys' Brigade Archive Trust through volunteering, by the donation of material and information, and with financial support. Please contact us for further information on how you can support the work of the BB archives in preserving the heritage of The Boys' Brigade.

Recently we found, in the BB archive collection, the original Tom Curr artwork of the well know William Smith portrait. We hope to have this scanned in 2024, and share it with you. We have also found the sample of the marble used for the Sir William Alexander Smith memorial in St Pauls Cathedral London. Click on the link on the right to learn more about this memorial and the life of the Founder of The Boys' Brigade.



[archive@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:archive@boys-brigade.org.uk)



[St Pauls memorial](#)

[Sir W A Smith](#)



## Virtual Museum



Gavin Rothwell has produced a terrific, referenced, history of The Boys' Brigade in the Republic of Ireland.

This history has recently added to the Virtual Museum and we have had a look through the BB archive collection and added a few photographs we have to the page.

We found this image of some Life Boys with a elephant, with a note of the back which states Dublin. We thought this is a terrific image and are pleased to share it.

If anyone has further information about this picture please get in touch.

Following on from the last few newsletters, we have now added the 140th Anniversary to the Virtual Museum timeline. The stories and events recorded focus on the events which took place in October 2023 specifically with regards to the Anchors 140, Juniors sleepover and the Monopoly Challenge. We are keen to add more stories and photographs from events held at Company at Battalion level. Please get in touch with us so that these stories can be added and preserved in the BB Archive.



Ireland

140th Anniversary



## Recent posts from our Social media

On the 1st January 2024 we posted on social media a picture Postcard date January 1919. The reverse reads:

*To George, with best wishes for a happy new year from Robin.*



We have over 400 hundred unidentified images in the Robin Bolton Collection held in the BB archives. One of which is included below. We have also added a page to the Virtual Museum with some of these unidentified images, and will continue to add images throughout the year. Click on the link on the right, and if you are able to help identify the event, location or anyone in the pictures please get in touch.



[Unidentified Images](#)

[archive@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:archive@boys-brigade.org.uk)



## Archive Shop



Our archive online shop has reopened after the Christmas break. We have a lot of new stock and have started to add some of this to the New section of the shop, including some great Felden Lodge merchandise.

For those who missed out, we also have a stock of the Queen Elizabeth II badge produced in 2022 to commemorate Her Majesties patronage of the BB, and for the badge collectors we have a few new badges, including the new East Antrim Battalion Heritage Badge and the 25th Glasgow 125th anniversary badge. Stocks of the 25th Glasgow are limited, so we have not included them in the new stock page on our online show. For our supporters we have created a special link enabling you to purchase one for your collection. Click on the link on the right to purchase this badge.



We are keen to stock Battalion and Company badges, so if anyone knows of badges being produced, please contact us, so that we can purchase a supply for our online shop.

We are continually looking to add to our stock of BB items for the online shop. Many Companies and Battalions have new 'old' stocks of badges, uniform, publications and memorabilia, in storage and cupboards which is no longer of use. Please consider donating them to us, so that we can continue to preserve the heritage of The Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade for the first time in over 70 years will once again be awarding the Kings badge as the highest award available to Young people. And we look forward to sharing details and images of the contemporary designs with you in forthcoming newsletters.

The Boys Brigade first awarded the Kings badge in 1913. Click on the link to learn more about this.

We have been in discussions with a badge manufacturer to release a limited edition replica of the original 1913 pre-union Kings Badge to commemorate the reintroduction of the kings badge. This will include text on the reverse of the badge commemoration the reintroduction of the Kings Badge.

Please email us for further details and expression of interest.



The original 1913 Kings badge



[New stock](#)

[Archive Shop](#)

[25th Glasgow badge](#)

[1913 Kings Badge](#)

[archive@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:archive@boys-brigade.org.uk)

