

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

Vol.4 No.4

12th April 2024

News from the Archives

The first part of 2024 is proving to be a busy time for our archivist and team of volunteers. We have spent some time cataloguing and packing the archive collection ready to be moved. This has also involved removing the stained glass window from the chapel at Felden Lodge and packing it in a shipping crate, together with the rest of the archive collection. Over 575 boxes and crates have been packed and are ready to be shipped. A big thank you to the volunteers involved in this task. We are already looking forward to unpacking this all when it arrives in our new home later on in the year.

We have also been working hard on improving the navigation and layout of the Virtual Museum. The first of this is available for you to try out and details are further on in the newsletter. The big changes to the home page will be later on in April and early May so please look out for this.

We are also busy preparing content for the virtual Museum about the 60th anniversary of the Cleveland Hike. If you have any video, photos or memories to share please get in touch.



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk

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Virtual Museum

As part of our work to improve the navigation of the Virtual museum we have added an 'Explore the Collection' page. This features a number of objects in the BB Archive collection. We will continue to add to this page as objects get photographed, and added to our collection. If you have any object you think would enhance our collection and BB history story telling, please get in touch with us.

Please look out for the refreshed home page on the Virtual Museum launching soon.



Explore



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Recent posts from our Social media



We recently posted an image of BB Scouts at Camp with a link to the page on the Virtual Museum which includes an interview with Terry Bonfield by Muriel Gibbs. Terry attended the first Scouts camp on Brownsea Island, and Muriel in the late 1970's and early 1980's was The Boys' Brigade Archivist based out of BB HQ in Parsons Green.

Click on the Link to learn more about BB Scouts and also Parsons Green.



Scouts

Parson Green

Social media news - BB A to Z

In February 2024, The Boys' Brigade Archive Trust ran an 'A-Z of BB' across social media. In total, across the 26 posts on Facebook, we had an incredible: 2,788 reactions, 158 comments and 131 Shares.

The comments on these posts made for an enjoyable read. The most poignant of these comments came from Martin Smith, whose father was pictured in the Festival of Britain Run post we shared. Coincidentally, this post came the day after his father's funeral.



Social media news - BB A to Z

A full summary of the 'A-Z of BB' can be found below.

Please get in touch with ideas of what could make up the letters for the next 'BB' alphabet that we will run again later in the year.

	Subject	Reactions	Comments	Shares
A	Anchors	48	16	4
B	Belt buckle & Brasso	93	14	3
C	Camping	170	36	8
D	Duke of Edinburgh Award	67	5	2
E	Elephant	43	0	1
F	Festival of Britain	164	8	8
G	Guide Dogs	39	0	10
H	Heritage	87	1	7
I	India	146	1	11
J	Juniors	77	2	3
K	KGVI	39	5	1
L	London Display	179	10	6
M	Membership Cards	44	1	3
N	Nigeria	290	3	8
O	Orderlies	51	3	2
P	Parsons Green	204	12	8
Q	Queen Elizabeth II	54	3	2
R	Representative Companies	148	3	5
S	Stedfast Mag	35	1	1
T	Tent Inspection	54	5	4
U	Unidentified	68	0	4
V	Virtual Museum	70	1	3
W	William Alexander Smith	347	12	13
X	Xylophone	180	13	11
Y	Yellow	44	1	1
Z	Zimbabwe	47	2	2

Click on the links on the right to explore some of the content which was featured in the BB A-Z in February.



[Duke of Edinburgh](#)

[Membership Cards](#)

[Sir William A Smith](#)



From the Archives

We have this terrific painting in the BB Archive Collection entitled 'Skipper', which forms part of the Robin Bolton collection held in the BB Archives.



Herbert J Saunders

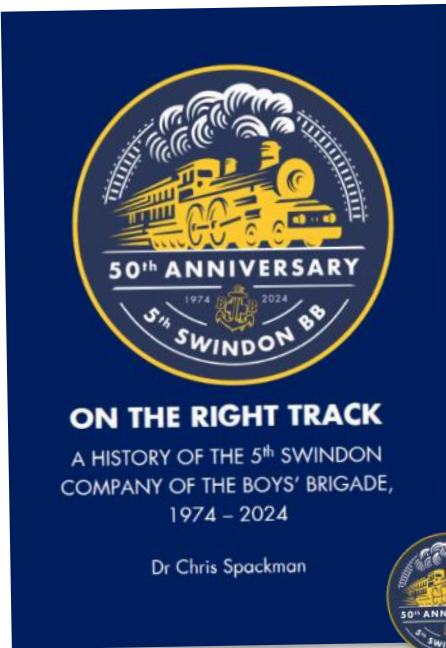
Captain 94th London 1899 - 1925



For months the name of the person in the portrait illuded us, but whilst researching another subject the answer to this question was found in the BB Gazette of January 1926. We were then able to check the material we hold for the 94th London, and we found the original photograph from which the portrait was painted.



Archive Shop



Delve into the rich tapestry of Boys' Brigade history with our newly released commemorative book and badge for the 5th Swindon Company! These meticulously curated items (£10 each) are essential additions to any BB collection.

Immerse yourself in five decades of memories captured in our book, featuring captivating stories and rare photographs that offer a glimpse into our Brigade's legacy. And don't miss out on our special commemorative badge, a tangible symbol of our enduring commitment to the BB.

If you're passionate about preserving Boys' Brigade history, or simply eager to uncover untold stories, these items are a must-have for your archives.

Dr Chris Spackman is a regular contributor to the Virtual Museum. One of his more recent additions to the Virtual Museum includes an interesting article co written by Scott Eaton entitled '*Echoes of Brass and Bugles: Boys' Brigade Bands in Manchester*'. Click on the link to learn more about BB Bands in Manchester.



We also have a stock of the 2nd Sutton Coldfield 75th Anniversary cloth and metal badges available in our shop. We are busy sourcing badges and have a few leads on new badges coming soon, so please keep visiting the 'new' section of our online shop for the latest offers.

If you know of Companies or Battalions celebrating anniversaries, or you know of badges and memorabilia being produced, please let us know so that we can source a stock for our online shop.

We are also interested in sourcing items which may have been sitting in storage cupboards for years and which are no longer needed. We are particularly keen to source more of the AD2000 badges to sell through our online shop, as many collectors have gaps in their collections, and we may be able to help them fill these gaps. All funds raised goes towards digitising and preserving the archives of The Boys' Brigade.

Contact us: archive@boys-brigade.org.uk



Echoes of Brass and Bugles

New stock

Archive Shop

