


*Sheffield & District Battalion*



*Boys' Brigade*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2008**

**celebrating**  
**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**  
bringing hope to a generation



125 years  
in 2008

## **Presidents Annual Report. 2008.**

125 years young. 2008 saw the start of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I'm glad to say that the Sheffield Battalion made itself known across the city and the surrounding area.

Our year started with an excellent turn out for the Officer dedication at the first Battalion meeting for the session back in September. I'm happy to see more companies represented at the meetings this year and the contributions by all companies in Battalion events.

Our profile in the media has improved with a number of news items on our events appearing in the local press. A big thank you goes to Terry Sweet for organising the Rugby day. The Boys Brigade was certainly writ large on the score board on that day and the boys who were mascots for the Sheffield Eagles did us all proud. A good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

The Boys Brigade was represented at the Volunteers event held by the Lord Mayor in the Mayors Parlour. A pleasant afternoon was spent with the Lord Mayor other voluntary organisation active in the city and a chance to celebrate and talk with others organisations in our community.

Our training programme goes from strength to strength with excellent traing for both Boys and adults alike. The captain's course and the child protection course were well attended and along with the formal delivery there was an opportunity to share experiences with each other. We have a very strong training team who are nationally recognised and we should all be proud of the skill ad experience they bring to our work.

Our Amicus events have proved very popular and this is an area we need to expand and build on the very strong foundations already laid.

Overall I feel there is an increase in participation at Battalion events the five a side football is a great example. The Party in the Park gets better every year; I'm really looking forward to what we can do next year. There is much to celebrate in 2008.

Regrettably there are some things that are not well. There are are a number of companies in difficulty. Lack of adult volunteers makes it

difficult to grow and sustain these companies. We have been a little slow to recognise this and we need to look carefully as a whole how we can support all companies across the Battalion. I urge captains to call me so we can discuss with your church and try to help at an early stage. There are no easy answers to some of the problems we face and there is no guarantee the Battalion can help however, together we are at our strongest and most resourceful.

Sadly, we remember our brother Gordon Taylor who died during this session, a faithful officer in the Boys Brigade and a trusted support even in retirement. Our prayers are with Gordon's family. Our prayers are also with the family of Ian Reynolds as he faces serious illness. We pray for strength, comfort and healing for Ian and his family.

So into the new session with plans to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> in full. A Gala Diner, Museum day and a Parade and celebration service, much to be proud of and as ever much to do. Thank you for everyone in the Battalion for your hard work and dedication, we are truly blessed.

God bless, *Mark*

***BB Canoe Club - a few copies of their details are available***

I've not been very busy as Chaplain since last Torksey Camp, but have led the worship at the Battalion Service on October 14th at Hillsborough Tabernacle. In fact, Hillsborough Tabernacle has featured heavily this year. November 23rd found me conducting Gordon Taylor's funeral there and, on a happier note, leading the Carol Service on December 2nd. There was a good turnout of BB members on each occasion. 2008 saw Liz and I invited as honoured guests to the BB Open Night at the Tabs [again !] where I had the pleasure of inspecting the lads and enjoying their hospitality, and from the 24th to the 30th of May, I was up in Moffat as chaplain to the Sheffield Group Camp, an office I have held since 1994.

My official card as Battalion Chaplain arrived last week, so it's official now - I note that it doesn't expire until August 2013. Here's hoping that I don't expire before it does !

God bless, see you at Torksey. ***Mike.***

## Amicus Report

The Battalion's Amicus Group is for anyone ranging in age from 14 to early 20s. Its purpose is to cater to their individual needs and development as well as providing a collective fellowship group amongst our senior members and younger staff.

The annual April Amicus weekend at our Green Moor Outdoor Centre had representatives from more companies this year. Unfortunately, however, there still is a breakdown in communication causing some members to miss out on the experience. It was once again a great active fun filled spiritual event. Input from our younger staff, who were themselves members on earlier courses, took this course to another level.

It was great to see many of our young people representing the Battalion at the Brigades Christian 'Firm Foundations' festival. Once again individual seniors have mentioned that they would have liked to have attended. As an amicus group we encourage and would accommodate any individual wishing to attend if we are made aware of this requirement. So don't let your seniors miss out next year from any of our events.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sheffield has now applied for Amicus status for their older group.

There are moves afoot to run a 'Firm Foundations' style event in Yorkshire next year. There are also plans to run an Amicus weekend at District level. It is expected that this will be very similar to the New Horizons set up with the accent on engaging with individuals within Battalions to form worship groups, Drama and Arts groups and bring on worship leaders.

We already have a worship group within our Battalion. Companies are encouraged to contact me for advice and assistance or if a music workshop is required.

The Amicus group now have their own website and this can be found at [www.sheffieldamicus.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldamicus.org.uk) however, at the moment it is still very much a work in progress.

*Barrie Trigg*

***Bluebell Wood Appeal - Soda Syphon £425***

## Company Section Activities



This has been an interesting year as Company Section Convenor.

The planning for the 2007/08 session started Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 with a CS Forum meeting at Firth Park.

Activities organised have included Unihoc, Table Tennis, Football and a Quiz. Attendance levels have been mixed but the quiz and football tournaments were particularly popular.

Unfortunately the AMOK event had to be postponed and we seem to have run of time for this session. to reschedule it.

The CS forum has also been able to run alongside the Battalion Amicus group who had another successful weekend in April.

There were also lots of interesting and exiting activities for CS boys at the recent Party in the Park which was a wonderful day.

I intend to carry on as CS convenor for the next session. I hope that we can have more activities going on throughout the year. It would be great if we could relate some of the activities to the new Discover programme, so that boys can gain achievements from Battalion events.

I will be sending out another questionnaire that I hope companies will take time to fill in with their CS boys. The opinions of the boys are vital if we are to plan a programme of events for 2008/09 that will interest and enthuse them.

I have planned a Forum meeting for 7:30pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at Firth Park. I hope that a representative from each company can attend, armed with completed questionnaires!!

Finally thank you to the officers and boys that have supported this year's events and here's to an even better session for 2008/09.

***Paul Sheard***

CS Convenor

***Bluebell Wood Appeal - Collection from Carol Service £ 133***



### **Queen's Badge 2007/2008**

It is very pleasing to report that Alex Wietska, 59<sup>th</sup> Sheffield, has gained the Queen's Badge in the last few months and will be presented with it at his Company Awards Night this month. Additionally, he was selected to represent Yorkshire & Humberside District at the Guildhall celebrations during attendance at his completion course at Scamonden in

April.

The Queen's Badge regulations now form part of the new badge structure currently in use for our Company Section & Seniors in companies. In the Battalion; currently, I am supporting only three young men (20<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Sheffield Companies) on the course as during the last few months 4 young men who obtained their Presidents Award decided not to continue with their Queen's Badge course. Now the new badge structure has been started for Company Section Boys in this session I am hopeful more candidates will gain their Presidents Award and choose to start QB training.

The Building Skills course is now an established course within the Battalion training schedule for Boys to gain a pre-requisite qualification and is receiving good feedback from Boys who attend. This year young men from 1<sup>st</sup> Matlock Company attended the course.

**If any member of company staff wants me to visit their company to discuss Queen's Badge please feel free to give me a call at any time.**

Remember: One of the main principles of QB is for the candidate to give service back to (his Company, Community etc) those who have given so much to him thus far!! This aspect can lead to new staff in your company tomorrow.

*John Cowie*

Battalion Queen's Badge Adviser

12<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### The Duke of Edinburgh Award Report 2008

At Battalion level we only have had the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> companies actively involved over the year.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> have had a member who has visited St James palace to receive his Gold Award from the Duke himself. They have also had 2 silver and 2 bronze awards presented. The 59<sup>th</sup> have had a bronze award gained. We congratulate all the young men on their achievements.

With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> September the Boys' Brigade National Panel is moving towards those involved in training young people for all actual expeditions and expedition training being qualified to an Assessors Award standard. With this in mind, together with the present shortage in trainers, I am recommending that the



Duke of Edinburgh's award be included under the auspices of the Battalion Training Committee.

We look forward to more companies seeing the value of using the Scheme during the next year.

**Barrie Trigg**

DEA Convenor (Co-ordinator)

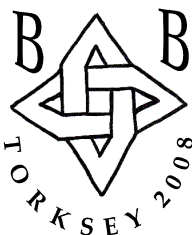
## **Juniors and Anchor Activities**

The Anchors had the opportunity to take part in a colouring competition during the Autumn. It was judged and prizes awarded at their Christmas Party. A full 57-seater coach (paid for by the Battalion) took Anchors, parents and officers on a visit to Sundown Adventure land in July.

The Juniors had many competitions organised and sporty and non-sporty Boys were catered for. The activities ranged from Handicraft, quiz, table-top games, 5-a-side, team games, unihoc, table-tennis and others.

Not all companies took part in every one but there was the opportunity offered. It is hoped a similar programme will be followed next session, but any different ideas would be welcomed. If your company does something that would be of interest to others, please let the rest of the Battalion know about it and invite them to take part.

As you can see from this year's events it does not have to be a sport although it could be a different one.



### **Torksey Camp**

#### **2008 Camp**

We arrived at Torksey Lock this year to find that the new warden of the Polish Scout Camp had begun a programme of improvements which is intended to convert the Camp buildings and complex into the centre for Polish Scouting in the UK within a few years. As parents delivered Boys to the site it was a pleasant fine evening with the hint of sunshine. After our welcome by Paul Sheard, Tom

Pilkington led us in worship by introducing us to new songs to tie into the

theme for camp of "The Journey of Life". Indoor games and supper followed with the usual hot dogs and chocolate going down a treat before a final game outdoors in the twilight was supposed to wear everyone out for a good nights sleep. It worked for some lads but a number of our ladies had to administer TLC and a change of blankets to a little lad who had eaten too much! After breakfast Mark came across to continue our worship time. Saturday saw a damp start to the day which continued into the lunchtime and visit to Whitepost which was very good as all the Farm staff were dressed up to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Farm. Even though morning sports had to be rained off we had managed to have a newspaper tower competition in the hall were a small pile of newspapers ultimately became 3 sacks of scrunched up newsprint! A very good idea Tom. Another visit by Uncle Michael, the Christian Clown, went down a treat again, with Michael Fentem again producing a completely new act to tie into our worship theme using his fun props and glove puppets to illustrate God wanting to get to know each and every one of us. As a preparation to falling into bed by lights out, a damp continuation of the morning sports was held on the field. Although some did not make it for supper, James Cowie made us a drink and biscuit or sandwich for supper. Most of us had eaten too much of his excellent grub already to eat anything else before turning for our beauty sleep! As I write this on Saturday evening, we pray for fine weather in the morning for our talent show and final service to be held outside as usual. We shall see...

*John Cowie* Camp Co-Ordinator

***Bluebell Wood Appeal Torksey Camp - £83***

## **Training Team**

This session the Training Team have had a varied schedule of trainings starting with the YLT in October. There was only a small group with officers from Leeds and one Sheffield company. A session for the Anchors and Juniors awards scheme and 3 Drop-In Days were also held. The Drop-In's are for anyone who has query or needs help with any BB item. A Captain's course was well attended with 14 candidates from Sheffield and other companies including Grimsby and Market Weighton. The Child Protection module was held on the same day. A joint Campcraft was organised with the Leeds Battalion. The older Boys/ young leaders are not left out with the new 'Discovering your Skills' which has replaced the 'Grade 3 Leadership'. The Queen's Badge Courses are held

September. The training Schedule has been published for 2008/09 session in the Battalion and also with Headquarters.

Ideas from officers are welcomed for different courses. It is essential that officers keep up-to-date and remember that training is on-going and Youth Leader training and Child Protection should not just be for new officers. It is intended that a session for the Company Section and Senior Section Awards will be held as soon as possible after the scheme for Seniors is published.

Please let the Training Team have your ideas. The Training is for YOU.

*James Wilkinson*

Training Convenor

### **Bluebell Wood Appeal Party in the Park - £36**



Greenmoor Centre

The Centre has again been used by both the Battalion companies and Training Team and also many outside organisations. A decision was made to charge for full weekend bookings rather than just by nights used. This did result in the loss of one regular group who usually arrived first thing on Saturday through to Sunday afternoon and only being charged for one night! This meant that the energy cost to us was not reflecting the actual cost. Our regular visitors enjoy this facility of our Battalion.

As detailed by the Treasurer, there has been a programme of maintenance work during the year. It is hoped that a small team will have a rolling programme in place for replacement of mattresses, electrical items, utensils and building works etc. John Kitchener our Premises Officer along with a small team of willing helpers makes sure that our guests have a comfortable and welcoming stay.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

In presenting my comments on the financial position of the Battalion, I must first convey the thanks of the Battalion to Mrs Julie Clements, Financial Director of TSC UK Ltd, for acting as auditor of the Battalion Accounts again this year.

- As it can be seen from this year's balance sheet (BS)

we have again been fortunate in receiving grants to the amount of £2,350 from the Harry Bottom & James Neil Trusts, which have allowed us to provide free courses for Battalion officers and Boys and endorse the philosophy of no subscriptions from companies.

- The BS also shows those courses (Building Skills, YLT, Amicus weekend and Captains seminars), the financial support to the Amicus initiative, Party-in-the-Park and the District Subscription payment.
- This year we have been able to purchase a silver 125 commemorative badge for every member of the battalion at a cost of £655.30, which will be handed out to members at the Battalion Parade in October.
- At Greenmoor Centre, the income from external lettings, free course recharge from the General Account and Battalion companies lettings has just covered the expenditure this year.
- New lighting, extractor fans, cooker hood and replacement showers have been installed and a full maintenance of the emergency lighting and fire alarm carried out by our electrical contractor. New crockery, cutlery and a replacement vacuum cleaner together with a maintenance ladder account for the majority of this year's outlay at Greenmoor. **It should be noted:** the invoice for the building insurance arrived after the closing of the books for the year end and there will be two fees in the next balance sheet.
- In order to account for increased fuel costs and ever rising inflation myself and the Battalion Secretary recommend hire charges are increased by a factor of 10% rounded up to the nearest £5. (eg weekend charge from £300 to £330)
- It should be noted: In this year in accordance with the decision of the last AGM the 14 day account was closed and transferred to the Britannia Building Society on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Since that date the new account received £393.51 in less than 6 months.
- With continued good management the Battalion finances, both General Accounts and the stand alone Greenmoor Centre Account are healthy and with the continued support from grant making organisations will remain so for the foreseeable future.
- It is my opinion, the District subscription may rise at the AGM in March 2009 for the session commencing September 2009. The current subs for our battalion are £400.

Should any officer have questions or queries about finances which I may not be able to answer 'off the cuff' at the AGM feel free to contact me in advance or at any other time.

This year there were only 2 companies who did not send in their statistical returns in October, therefore the numbers as of 30th September were reasonably accurate. Since then, however, we requested numbers to enable the 125 badges for distribution at the Battalion Parade on 12th October 2008. The numbers are now as follows:-

Company	Anchors	Juniors	CS	Seniors/	Amicus	Officers	Helper/ Inst	Chaplain	Totals
2nd Sheffield	8	2	1			7	1		19
6th Sheffield			4	4		5		1	14
7th Sheffield									0
8th Sheffield	14	4	12	2		7	1	1	41
10th Sheffield	11	12	1			3	4	1	32
11th Sheffield									0
14th Sheffield	10	13	3	3		11	4	1	45
20th Sheffield	5	7	5	2		4		1	24
23rd Sheffield	1	1	17			8		1	28
30th Sheffield		10	10	4		9	4		37
53rd Sheffield	3	3	4			3			13
54th Sheffield	8	10	10			5			33
59th Sheffield	5	12	12	3		7	3	1	0
1st Carlton	10	8	1			3	7	1	0
2nd Chesterfield	8	11	2			5	3	1	30
1st Dronfield	15	8	1		4	7		1	36
Batt Officials						4	2	1	7
Totals	98	101	83	18	4	88	29	11	

***CHALLENGE FOR THE NEXT SESSION -***

***All companies to send in the stats before December (even if you have not paid Capitaion Fees)!!!!??***

***Bluebell Wood Appeal 2nd Chesterfield Charity Paddle - £436***

**Grand Total so far (5th July) for  
125 Brigade Hospice Appeal**

**Sheffield & District Battalion**

**£1468**

**Rest of the Y&H District**

**£222.01**

**WELL DONE SHEFFIELD  
KEEP IT COMING IN**

