

Sheffield & District Battalion Boys' Brigade Annual Report 2011



Adventure at Party-in-the-Park

President's Report

Our session 2011 has not been one without excitement and I'm sure you'll agree another very successful year.

As ever, I have to thank all those who have taken on Battalion roles for their excellent work over the year and to all who have contributed over the year at Company and Battalion levels. Our main



events of the Party in the Park and the Torksey camp continue to get better year on year. There have been so many other events that we have organised, Swimming at Heeley Baths, Five aside Football, our usual medley of Competitions, Amicus weekend to mention a few, so many people have been a part of that we should not forget the hard work that goes into these and thank all those involved.

The Green Moor Centre has seen some major refurbishment work this year prompted by the disaster of the floods due to the central heating system freezing, splitting and then flooding. The result was a few of us spending a few days over the Christmas holiday in our wellington boots to pump out our newly acquired indoor subterranean swimming pool in the basement. Thanks to some excellent work and some financial assistance we have managed to fix the central heating, upgrade the fire alarm, dry out the electrics and re-carpeting the ground floor. Everyone in the Battalion needs to take some pride in centre and I urge everyone to book a weekend for their company there and encourage young people to attend the many events run at Greenmoor.

Our Training team have been hard at work as ever and I have heard such great feedback on the session held this year. Again, leaders need to review their training needs for the coming year especially around holiday leadership and camp craft.

I'm really proud that Sheffield will play host to the Yorkshire and Humberside Queens Badge presentation this year. I congratulate all the Queen's Men and Women and especially those from Sheffield on their well-deserved award.

Nationally Companies from the Battalion attended the Royal Wedding as representatives of the Boys' Brigade, such an honour and a memorable occasion for those involved.

With some sadness many leaders from the Battalion attended the funeral of Lilly Morris. For those who knew Lily will, I'm sure never forget such a true and steadfast worker and support for the Boys' Brigade. The Battalion

has much to thank her for and I for one was honoured to have been there to celebrate such a rich, generous and full life.³

We continue to grow with the formation of the 1st Rotherham at Swallownest Baptist Church which has made a great start. It's always exciting to see something new start but we must also remember to nurture the existing as well and I please to have helped some of you over the year and visited some of you either on a parade night or at a display night.

So into the next session. I'm reminded often as to why the Boys' Brigade is still important today. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19) When our founder started the Boys Brigade it was something new without precedent. Our task for the coming year is to keep it fresh and keep doing "a new thing". The message stays the same but the delivery has to meet an ever changing expectation and need.

God Bless.

Mark

Mike's Message -Battalion Chaplain's Report; 2010 – 2011.

It's been a typical year in that it began with the Closing Service at Torksey Camp on the 20th of June. The theme was, "We Are Family!" and we looked at the example of Ruth in the Old Testament, who completely changed her family loyalties for love's sake. Then we heard from St. Paul in Colossians on family responsibilities; and Jesus on "How much more will your Father-in-Heaven give good things to those who ask him ?" I my talk I emphasised the responsibilities of family life and looked at how Barnabas drew Saul [later Paul] into the 'family of God'.



The Battalion Rededication of Officers and Staff took place at Coal Aston Methodist Church on the 14th of September and I took the opportunity to emphasise the debt of gratitude due to all those who *re*dedicate themselves *week by week* to BB, regardless of their personal circumstances; giving up their time to promoting the Work at some inconvenience to themselves. I have the greatest admiration for the faithful work done by so many for "no greater reward than to do His will."

Battalion Parade Service took place at Handsworth Methodist Church on the 10th of October, with the theme of "Sowing the Seed". We heard St. Paul urging the church in Corinth to 'sow generously' in their giving and Jesus telling two agricultural parables. In my address, I drew attention to BB as

“one of the Church’s best-kept secrets” and argued that it ‘grows’ by word-of-mouth and if that were to be silenced, BB would disappear. Taking Jesus’ words, we discovered that ‘sowing’ i.e. ‘publicising’ BB and ‘harvesting’ i.e. actually getting boys to support BB, are **our** business – Jesus takes care of the process in between !

There was no BB Carol Service this year due to a very poor attendance last year – in numbers at least [those who *did* come were very lively indeed !] I hope the decline doesn’t reflect badly on my exercise of the Chaplaincy ! 8th May – 4th of June saw me in Jersey with members of 20th Sheffield and 1st Farsley [Leeds] for a week exploring the Ten Commandments under the heading “Snakes and Ladders – keeping on the right side of God.” Examples of those who ‘climbed the ladders’ included the woman taken in adultery and Shadrach, Meschach and Abed-nego; those who ‘slid down the snakes’ included Cain and the rich young ruler. As you will notice, we range far and wide in our Bible studies !

I attended two Battalion meetings, one in November at Hillsborough Trinity and the other in January at Gleadless, but had to miss the meeting at Carlton-in-Lindrick in March, and Coal Aston in May due to conflicting demands on my time. I think I attended all the Torksey Camp planning meetings, however.

Which brings me neatly back to where I came in – Torksey Camp next Sunday [the 12th of June] a week earlier than usual . This year, the theme is “Adventure”

Sums up BB very well, does it not ?
God bless,

Mike Warren Battalion Chaplain



Torksey Camp - 2011 Camp

bb11adventure@Torksey.uk

We arrived at Torksey Camp in sunshine which was not forecast as the predicted weather from the met office was likely to be wet! So Sun was an excellent start to the weekend. There were 78 of us in camp which started with a welcome from the ADJ. Fran Loczki and a talk about space adventure from our President, Mark who finished his space travel Christian message with a challenge to youngsters to design a 2 litre pop bottle ‘rocket’ and bring it to Party-in-the-Park for launch. A demonstration



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'launch' outside using his secret 'rocket fuel' was truly amazing and a 'large step for adventure in the BB' After lots of fun in the hall and footy outside for the company section we enjoyed the traditional hot dog supper before turning in for our first night.

Morning came early and again with sun; we felt blessed as we went to breakfast and a singsong with Tom Pilkington and walking the Pennine Way adventure with Tony who explained how to talk to God on the adventure through life. Sports on the field; welly wanging, volleyball, knock the can, basketball and lots more before we set off for a day at Wheelgate Theme Park. As the Batty Sec and Treasurer got into the Bumper Boats with a boy each who was too small to go on their own the rain began to come down in big drops!! It's at moments like that when you



think you should be doing something else but can still remember how 'waterproof' Boys are and its only adults who get wet..... The rain stopped and we went on through the rest of the afternoon having lots of fun. Look out for the photographs to see the visit which ended with an outstanding flying display by a Harrier Hawk and a low flying Long Eared Owl swooping over our group.

In the Evening we had another visit from Uncle Michael the Clown who continued the camp theme of Adventure in his Christian message using puppet Noah and clowning magic.

Sunday dawned with lots of tired Boys, Girls & Staff who really felt they should have got more 'shut eye' on Friday night! Tom got us singing

though and practising the new songs we learned over the weekend putting his own brand of adventure into morning devotions. After a morning of sport, talent show items by a number of talented individuals & groups of youngsters we were led in our final fun act of worship at the camp service by Mike Warren our Chaplain in his inimitable style.

Homeward youngsters were already 'resting their eyes' before their transport had even left the camp gates.

Yes it was a great adventure and we made lots of new friends.

As a memento of an adventure together each young camper received a personalised certificate of attendance and a 125 camping badge.

If your company didn't manage to get to camp this year you missed a wonderful weekend thanks to the dedicated staff. Well done Ladies & Gents. We begin planning for next year's camp 21st Sept 11; put it in your diary please.

John Cowie Camp Co-Ordinator

Training

Over the last 12 months the Battalion training officers have further enhanced our ties with the Leeds Battalion on training. This now works extremely well and have already agreed joint training courses for 2011/12. Within the battalion we have had a fairly quiet year. The courses organised for this year were:

- October: Skills for Queens badge which was set up at short notice with 15 candidates attending.
- October: YLT attendees from Sheffield & Leeds
- December: Captains and OIC 2 attendees from Sheffield
- March: Building Your Skills (for Company Section and Seniors). CANCELLED NO RESPONSE
- March: YLT for the 1st Rotherham
- May: Campcraft CANCELLED NO RESPONSE

As a training team we try to give the leaders within the battalion the opportunity to further their skills but as seen above we have cancelled 2 courses this year. Without companies from outside the battalion attending other courses may not have run. I do encourage you to get involved with training courses as our battalion team spend time and effort planning these well in advance for the following year.

Email the training team on sheffbbtraining@btinternet.com with requests for training.

Don't forget – Keep up to date

James Wilkinson – Training Convenor

Adventure Training

I received the following report from Joe Mattock who is taking Mountain Leadership Training with support from his company (59th) and the Battalion. I am sure that our DoF Officers will welcome this.

"Just to keep you posted got back from the first three days of my Summer Mountain Leaders Course. I have really enjoyed the first weekend of the course, which covered the following in great depth.

- *Security on Steep ground including the use of Rope and Belaying.*
- *Micro and Macro Navigation using Compass and Map.*

- *Conservation and Access Law.*
- *Meteorology and forecasts.*
- *Leadership Techniques.*
- *Fauna, Vegetation, wildlife, Geology of the Mountain environment.*
- *Emergency Procedures on the Mountain First Aid overview.*
- *River Crossing.*
- *Risk assessment and selection of Routes.*

The second part of the course will be a mobile expedition in Snowdonia putting into practice all the techniques taught in the first weekend. After this I will need a minimum of another 20 Mountain Days before I may attend an assessment course. Once completed I will be eligible and able to apply to be an Accredited assessor with the Duke of Edinburgh Award to Gold Level.

Thank You for all your continuous Support"

Best Regards

Joe (Mattock) 59th Sheffield

Dean Myers (20th Sheffield) has also taken training in Archery and gave instruction and assistance at the Party-in-the-Park. The Battalion welcomes interest in any adventure training and will look favourably on requests for financial assistance



QUEEN'S BADGE

The highest BB award).



This session has been far different from last in that we had at one point in the year 23 candidates working towards the Award. Whilst some have taken the 'bull by the horns' and immediately got to grips with planning their chosen course some as usual were less able to see the need to plan the course to allow a structured way through the elements of the scheme.

The well planned ones realised they had other pressures demanding their time; like work, education and loyalties to other interests which competed and without dedication would make it unattainable.

Two young men attended the Completion course from 30th Sheffield and I understand from Y&H District a young woman from the 23rd. All of whom will be invited to receive their award later this month from the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire at Sheffield Town Hall in the presence of family, invited guests and civic dignitaries at a prestigious event.

*Quite a pleasing experience for me after having **no** candidates last year near to*

completion.

During mid June there was an additional completion course due to the high number of candidates and a further two members of the 30th were due to attend that too. This together with those who will complete around April 2012 should mean that Sheffield Battalion will again have a higher number of successful recipients for some time.

Already, I have been in discussion with one company who has not had Queen's recipients for a number of years about how to apply for President's Badges and QB Applications so all bodes well for the interest of young people to try and achieve.



Experience from recent years has demonstrated to me the added value of QB candidates to the workings of a company if supported and challenged correctly in the early stages of the course planning for QB.

To this end it is essential Captain's & Company QB Mentors equip themselves with the know how and 'where to get'

information well in advance to allow effective, informed and enthusiastic support to their young men & women who strive to succeed in this highest award.

If this is you

In recognising this I would very much wish to offer any form of training or advice specifically to officers who take these roles in order to make it easier and less stressful to understand QB regs, administration, Health & Safety issues and how section assessors can be assisted to help you!

2012 is an Olympic year for the UK and I hope it will also be one for those existing and new entrants to the QB scheme within our Battalion.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure & steadfast"

John Cowie QB Adviser

Treasurer's Report

To complement my financial report of the Battalion for the year ended 31st May 2011 I would like to give you the following items of information and comment for you to consider when discussing finances in the coming weeks and months:

- It is pleasing to confirm once again because of support from our benefactors the Battalion has been able to continue to offer free training courses at Greenmoor.

- Income from lettings by both Battalion companies and external groups continues to be a cause for concern as it is at the lower end of anticipated usage.
- I have been able to supervise the claim for loss and damage incurred by our unfortunate water burst in the depth of winter and secure a reimbursement of £4460 from our insurers.
- Broadband fees, domain charge and line rental to facilitate internet access at Greenmoor costs us £245 per annum which is quite acceptable if it is being used. Unfortunately, at present, this appears not to be the case?
- The conscientiousness of our volunteers who work at Greenmoor to keep an eye on electricity use is working to maintain as low as possible the big cost of electricity. With the forthcoming rises being imposed continued vigilance is essential if this outlay is to be manageable.
- The Battalion made an excellent choice to purchase Microsoft software to allow officials to update the administration and training software used on battalion duties relatively cost effectively. However due to an inability to get the disks to work the products sent are in practical terms 'rubbish' which unless we can get replacements; to date the £117 spent is a liability rather than a success story.

More Good News

- Party-in-the-Park items, games and expertise hired for our funday event is money very well spent and adds to our potential to outreach to youngsters who are not currently in the Brigade as well as providing much enjoyment to all who take part and watch the activities.
- Money donated in memory of our much loved friend and HVP Lily Morris amounted to £300 which we should spend wisely to benefit a cause appropriate.
- ANON donation and Kindred support are again very much part of our spending and ability to develop.
- District subscription for the next session will again be Nil which is another outlay we do not have to meet.
- Finally, the Battalion is providing two coaches at a cost of £700 to ensure our Anchor & Junior trip to Twin Lakes next Saturday, 9th July is a success at minimum cost.

Finally, can I thank our new Auditor Chris Roberts for agreeing to audit the Battalion accounts in addition to his duties in a similar role in Yorkshire & Humberside District. In welcoming Chris, we must also extend sincere thanks to Julie Clements of TCS UK Ltd for fulfilling this role so ably for so many years and hope she enjoys our small token of appreciation.



Amicus

The amicus weekend was held in mid-April with less numbers than usual but it was still a worthwhile event. The theme this year was BB - G Force. The worship session were based on 'FORCE' (not literally) - Faith, Order, Righteous, Commitment and Experience. Many of the young people in the age group are often in the middle of examinations at this time of year and therefore the team have decided to try running the course in October next session. With many activities offered both indoor and outdoor, good food and the chance to make new friends and meet old ones it is an opportunity not to be missed. Any over 14's can join in the fun even if your company does not run an Amicus section. Watch out for details to pass on to the young people in your company and church. 14th to 16th October is the date to book in the diary.

Tony Drury-Smith

Tony e-mails details out to captains. Please pass these on to your young people.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

We now have 6 Companies operating D of E /eDofE through the Battalion. I only know of one other Company working through the Education Authority. I am having difficulty in knowing exactly how many and who are on the scheme from Companies because enrolling a member is direct with H.Q and not via myself.

Please note that all completed awards are initially authorised by me before it will be accepted at H.Q.

I can only report of 4 Bronze, 3 Silver and a Gold gained over the year from the 23rd Coy. Possibly there are other Awards in the "pipe line" from other Company's members who have just started this year. Presently, through the Battalion, there are two Expeditions being organised a Silver and a Bronze group with a possibility of another Bronze.



The Battalion is there to assist Companies when or if there is a need not just in the Expedition Section.

Any information or advice required in using this award in the Company then contact me.

Barrie Trigg Assistant D of E Manager

Competitions and Activities

5 aside Reports

There have been two good competitions this year as always. Played at the lower sports Hall of Concord Sports Centre.

Have to say all the games are always played in the right spirit with good, healthy and fair competitive edge. Many thanks for all the companies who turned up and showing their support. I hope all the lads enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next years competitions.

Company Section/Senior Section 29th Jan 2011

Company Section - 10th, 20th, 30th a&b, 1st Dron a&b, 54th, 59th.

A good morning was had by all with Dronfield B coming out as overall winners. We had joint runners up Dronfield A and 30th A with same points and same goals scored and conceded. We did not have enough time to have a penalty shoot out to determine an outright runners up.

Senior section. - 8th, 20, 54th

Three teams made up this section, a good turn out for this section, seniors always produces a little more of that competitive edge, but always played in the right spirit.

Each played each other with the 20th coming out as winners and 8th runners up.

Junior section 7th May 2011 - 8th, 10th

Unfortunately only two teams could make this year but we still had a good morning. We decided to play best of three games with the 8th company winning the first two games so they came out as winners of this years competition and of course 10th runners up.

We then had a couple of games with all on the pitch and even some brothers took part and lets hope they enjoyed this and would look to join boys brigade.

So to sum up the competitions were most enjoyable as always, but lets try to give a little more support to the Junior section.

Best wishes to you all. *Terry Sweet*

Anchor / Junior Annual Trip 2010

I am pleased to say that the Anchors/Juniors trip has become an annual event in the Battalion.

In 2010 approximately 60 adults and children from 1st Dronfield, 2nd Chesterfield and 10th, 20th, 54th Sheffield travelled to Twycross Zoo in the Midlands. The Zoo was originally a Monkey sanctuary but has grown over the years to incorporate other animals including lions, giraffes, apes and elephants. There are also playgrounds, rides, shops, cafes and a large Visitors centre which had only recently opened at the time of our visit.

It is fair to say that everyone had a great time, the weather was mostly fine but we did encounter the typical English summer rain!

The highlight of the day for me had to be the Elephant show and the chance

to ask questions to the head keeper following the performance. The BB youngsters didn't let us down and quizzed the keepers about all sorts of aspects of the elephants' life at Twycross.

This year we are heading to Twin Lakes theme park in Melton Mowbray. The Battalion has paid for 2 coaches and it would be great to fill them. It would also be fantastic to see families from companies who don't normally come with us. Prices are £10 for adults and £8.50 for children.

Chess Competition

On the 24th January this year, the 54th Company hosted a chess competition for the Battalion. There were two companies in attendance, the 54th and 1st Carlton in Lindrick. Eddie Croot and I organised the night together and we were fortunate to have a young man from a Sheffield chess club, who Mark had contacted, to assist us with the organisation of the night.

The lads who took part, 10 in all, ranged from anchors to seniors and the night was a real success.

Eddie and I have agreed that we should hold another event, this time in Carlton, sometime in the coming session - more details to follow.

Paul Sheard

There have also been Team Games, and Table Tennis and Chess competitions.

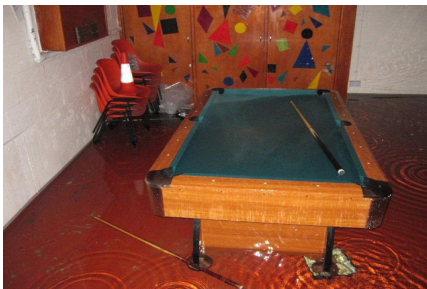
These competitions are often not well supported but always enjoyed by the youngsters, which makes it worthwhile. The Cross-country is always a good event and will be held this session on Friday 8th July at Graves Park.

If your company is able to offer an event which can be opened up to all the Battalion for any section please do let the rest of the companies know. It doesn't matter what it is, in fact something different may get new interests. An email to the Battalion Secretary to 'spread the word around' is all you need to do. Details will then be circulated to all companies.

Greenmoor

There is little to add regarding Greenmoor to what has been said by the President and the Treasurer.

The Battalion owes a big Thank You to all those who assist John Kitchener and James



Wilkinson with the many tasks that keep the Centre maintained and also to John and James themselves. Most especially after the flood.

It was really disconcerting to be woken up at 7am on 29th December by a voice saying 'I need some help'. That was James who had gone to Greenmoor to see why the fire alarm had activated (and then switched off). We all now know why. The photo is the cellar activity room after the flood

Sue

From your Secretary!

This session, in addition to our new company 1st Rotherham, we have welcomed 1st Matlock transferring into our Battalion. They have previously not been attached to any and because of joining us for the Junior Camp (first at Calver and now at Torksey), officers and Boys attending training at Greenmoor and the Young Men being mentored by our QB advisor the officers decided to 'take the plunge' and join us. Here they are at Torksey! Welcome Matlock.



More photos from during the year. (If anyone takes a good photo of any event happening in the Battalion please send me a copy)

Fun in the Park



Adventure @ Torksey

Don't you wish you had been there with us?



Birthday Boy

Battalion Parade



Company Statistics as of October 2010.

Company	AB	JS	CS	SS	Am	Girls	Lt	WO	Help	Chap	Total Young People
Battalion							3		1	1	
1 Carlton	6	3	2				2	1	9	1	11
2 Chesterfield	4	6	6				3		7	1	16
1 Dronfield	15	15	7	1	1	5	7		1	1	44
1 Matlock	9	8	11	2			1	4	2	1	30
2 Sheffield	5	8					4	1		1	13
6 Sheffield	0	0	1	7		2	2			1	10
7 Sheffield	5	2		1			1	3		2	8
8 Sheffield	15	10	7	2			5	1	4	1	34
10 Sheffield	8	10	5				3		5	1	23
11 Sheffield	non	rc'd									0
14 Sheffield	12	19	17				10		5	2	48
20 Sheffield	2	4	3	4			6	2		1	13
23 Sheffield		4			8	3	5	2		1	15
30 Sheffield	10	2	18	3			6	3	1	1	33
54 Sheffield	2	6	6	6			3		2	1	20
59 Sheffield	2	8	11	3			7	1	3	1	24
Total	95	107	94	29	9	10	68	18	40	18	

