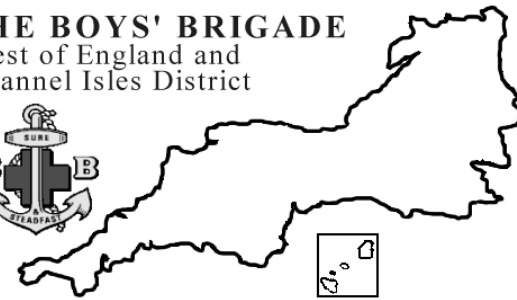


PUZZLE 1/2 PAGE

A to Z Christmas puzzle

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| A | harpist messengers | N | Christmas |
| B | the town of Jesus' birth | O | where "K" came from |
| C | his birth place | P | given to remember 25 th Dec |
| D | Mary's transport | Q | maybe "K" had these |
| E | days after Christmas | R | Santa's sleigh transporters |
| F | the top of the tree | S | the first visitors to Jesus |
| G | head of "A" | T | what Santa brings to children |
| H | lots of "A" | U | where to find "P" |
| I | the country of Jesus' birth | V | she had a baby boy |
| J | Jesus' earthly father | W | what we're dreaming of |
| K | three visitors | X | a short Christmas |
| L | God's pet | Y | the season of Christmas |
| M | the holy crib | Z | you wouldn't find him/it in "C" |

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
West of England and
Channel Isles District



<http://www.bb-west.org.uk>

Vol 4 No 8 Feb 2008

THE BOYS' BRIGADE WEST OF ENGLAND & CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT
FRIENDS OF THE DISTRICT

* I have pleasure in enclosing £ and wish to enrol as a "Friend of the District". Cheques should be made payable to "The Boys' Brigade West of England District".

* Please send me a Bank Standing Order.

* Please supply information re Gift Aid.

(Delete as necessary)

From Name

Address

.....

.....

Signed Date

To Miss R. Westbury (District Treasurer)

10 Chapel Terrace, Illogan Highway, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3LJ



Malcolm Godolphin, District President, presents Past President Mike Semmens, on behalf of the company, with a certificate from the District marking the 25th anniversary of the 1st Redruth Company

OBJECT: The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

President's Viewpoint

Christmas is over and forgotten for another year, even if there are decorations still hanging up in the town. Back to Parade Nights, badge classes, the worry of losing and recruiting members, preparing for the Enrolment Service, Display and competition days. There's just so much to do and so little time to do it in - for instance my next week goes like this - Monday Parade Night, Tuesday Pantomime practice (I'm the Big Bad Wolf), Wednesday Band Practice followed by Sunday School Teachers' meeting, Thursday Pantomime practice, Friday Free (at the moment), Saturday my second job (I've just set up my own company MG Fire Safety Ltd), Sunday morning - Sunday School, afternoon - run the line for ladies' football, evening - Pantomime practice. All this apart from my normal day job, housework and (whoops nearly forgot) time to spend with Susan, my wife. But suddenly I stop and ask, where does God fit into all this, when do I find time for him? I know there's BB and Sunday School but what about all the other days - don't worry, I do put aside part of each day but, to be honest, sometimes it's a very short time! What is more important God never finds it difficult to find time to be with me.

I've only been President for a short time but have already carried out visits to two Companies and have a booking for the Gloucester Battalion Display in October. That's three different Battalions but I thought that we had ten Battalions in the District? Don't tell me that the other seven have nothing at all happening, NOTHING ?

When I started out as a young Officer many years ago (not that many that Sir William was still around!) a visit by the District President was regarded as something really special, he was regarded as someone to be held in high esteem. Well things have changed, your current President is no more important than any other Officer in the District, in fact he just turns up, presents a certificate, says a few words and drinks a cup of tea - anyone could do that BUT he is the President. The real people who deserve to be mentioned are those who turn up, week in, week out to work in their Companies. There may only be two or three in the section but these dedicated people will be there, with sniffles (Ladies get these) or pneumonia (Men get these but it's exactly the same thing). It makes me see red to read that a Civil Servant has received an O.B.E. for doing his normal job for 25 years whereas we have Officers who have served 50 years and hardly get a thanks!!!!!!!

So there you have it, the rambling thoughts of your President, you may have your own opinions on something that I've written, if so why not send them to the magazine, you can do this by normal mail or even by e-mail if you're young enough to know how. Bye for now

Malcolm Godolphin

Broadleas Project update

From the last issue of BB West the fund stands at £20,065 with further donations being thankfully received from the following sources:

1st Exeter
Barnfield Crescent Car Parking

We have now had plans produced by the contractors and are in the process of submitting them for planning permission.

If you require any further details then please contact me on
diandgorddale@blueyonder.co.uk.

Gordon Dale

Answers to puzzle

Angels, Bethlehem, Cow shed, Donkey, Epiphany, Fairy, Gabriel, Host, Israel, Kings, Joseph, Lamb, Manger, Noel, Orient, Presents, Queens, Reindeer, Shepherds, Toys, Under the tree, Virgin Mary, White Christmas, Xmas, Yule, Zebra

TREASURER'S SLOT

At the start of a New Year, I would like to remind everyone of the scheme which supports the work of the District – **FRIENDS OF THE DISTRICT**. **An annual gift of only £5** is all that is needed to become a Friend. For those who pay tax, you may wish to consider gift aiding your donation and I will be happy to supply any information you may require.

Please contact me by post (10 Chapel Terrace, Illogan Highway, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3LJ) or by phone (01209 214946)

The District is continually grateful to those friends who have subscribed to the scheme, some for many years, and enabled it to maintain the various events & competitions and also to help provide our magazine.

Contributions are also welcome from Companies and / or Battalions to support the provision of "BB West".

Ruth Westbury

Broadleas Fete ~ 14 June 2008 ~ Haytor, Devon

You will be pleased to note that both the Seniors and Company Section Superstars competitions will again be taking place this year at the Broadleas Fete on 14 June.

The Broadleas Fete is an excellent afternoon out, and in addition raises valuable funds for the Brigade's Broadleas Camping and Training Centre, so your support is greatly appreciated.

Company Section Superstars 2008

For boys aged from 11 on 1 September 2007 to under 15 on the day of the event.

Events include:

- * Swimming
- * Shot Put
- * Press Ups
- * Cross Country
- * Football skills

The winner will receive the "Europlas Cup" presented by Europlas plc of Newton Abbot.

Senior Superstars 2008 Competition

For boys aged 15 to 19 on the day of the event.

Events include:

- * Swimming
- * Shot Put
- * Press Ups
- * Cross Country
- * Chins
- * Football skills

The winner will be awarded the "Martin Cup" presented by Martins Caravans, Exeter.

Could you be the 2008 District Champion or beat one of the event records? Why not give it a go?

Further details from

Mr K Grainger, 22 Redburn Close, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 2LB

Tel: (01803) 529904

Email: kevin@kmgrainger.fsnet.co.uk

Ten Pin Bowling

Just a brief reminder that the deadline for entries to this years competition is the end of February.....Don't forget, if you're not in it you can't win it.

Secretary's Scene

As we embrace 2008 The Boys' Brigade enters a very special year celebrating its 125th anniversary. There are events being planned all across the District and Region to commemorate this landmark occasion. This is a fantastic opportunity to publicise our movement and the valuable work it continues to provide for the youth of today. We've seen the coverage of our "younger brother" Scout movement but now it's our turn! The BB is looking in good shape offering more contemporary training, quality youth events and an updated website giving a much improved modern profile, an excellent foundation on which to promote this brilliant organisation of ours.

There are also new ideas to correspond with the 125th year with a community award at Company level challenging members to help out in their local society. There are national appeals raising funds for the Association of Children's Hospices and the Palm in Palm Project concentrating on the rebuilding of the BB in Cameroon. Details on all these topics can be found on the internet at www.bb125.org.uk

BB UK has compiled a special 125 Celebration Pack distributed to Companies containing new outlines on programme ideas, devotions and publicity. With all this material and our own individual input, we owe it to our young people with their involvement to make the extra effort to make this a very special year.

How will 2008 be remembered in Brigade history? I hope it will be celebrated as a year when the BB was recognised and appreciated for the Christian youth work it provides, demanding respect from a public mostly unaware of its existence. A year when the words of the Object written by our Founder are as relevant and important in today's youth culture as they were a century and a quarter ago.

The Brigade has a unique tradition assisting in the development of young people in what can be a difficult and challenging world. As officers we should feel privileged for this opportunity to influence lives, guiding towards the right path of Christian values and fellowship. Let's make that difference, reap the benefits and blaze the trail for another 125 years by remaining proactive and staying in tune with the demands of an ever changing society.

Let me wish you every success in your endeavours in this special anniversary year. Be Sure & Steadfast.

Jason Frost, District Secretary.

Chaplain's Corner

There was nothing so heartening during my days as a member of the BB, both as Boy and Officer, as that of singing some of the stirring hymns from The Boys' Brigade Hymnal. One favourite, always sung with gusto, was, "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life", and when we came to the rousing chorus we really let rip. You will know the words well:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Stedfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

In some respects it is a surprising hymn to be so popular in BB circles. Despite its repeated reference to an anchor and keeping "stedfast and sure", it was not written by a BB Officer, nor even by a man, and it is not modern. Its author was an American woman born before Victoria came to the throne, and such words as "soul" and "billows" are not normally found in the vocabulary of today's youth. Yet, for whatever reason, the hymn remains a favourite.

Is its secret to be found in the clear, positive place it gives to Christ? When it sings of a "rock which cannot move", which is "grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love" it resonates with Gospel truth, rings out with a positive Christian note, and strikes an eager response of faith in the hearts of all who sing it. Therein lies the secret of its abiding appeal.

It also points unerringly to what William Smith made the first test of a Company. It was, he said, "the place in which it put the Object of The Boys' Brigade". This was framed at a meeting held in January, 1885, to draw up the Constitution. First the name was agreed, then came the Object, beginning: "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys..." Later, at a Sunday School Union Conference, Smith said, "The Brigade makes a point of acknowledging God in everything, of putting Christ at the head of everything, and tries to do it in such a way that a Boy will feel that the religious element in the work is a pleasure and not a bore." How important this was regarded is seen when, at the Second Annual Meeting of the Brigade Executive in October 1886, the report included a warning: "... officers cannot be too earnestly reminded of the continual danger of losing sight of our watchword, the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys..." That note of caution, sounded in 1886, remains true for 2008. If anything, it is more needed today than then. Each Company is, or should be, much more than a youth group. That, I suggest, calls for searching questions to be put and thoughtful answers to be given. Questions like, does my Company still give the watchword due prominence? How effectively does it do so? How might it do better? And so on.

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father of every Boy, we rejoice in the vision given to men like William Smith. May we, too, in our day, be given the vision, determination and courage to seek above all the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, for we ask it in his name. Amen.

Rev John Fairweather-Tall, Chaplain, Plymouth Stedfast Association

Food for thought

Growth in YOUR Company, YOUR Battalion, YOUR District

I spend a fair amount of time looking on various BB websites, trying to find good news stories and articles on positive activities in The Boys' Brigade. You might think that I would struggle to find any but in fact, the more I search, the more I find and I think they should be shared with you all.

In Gloucestershire we have an ambitious programme of events for our 125th Anniversary Year, including a BIG FUN DAY in June, a Battalion Display on 4th October and a Christian Rock Concert in Tewkesbury Abbey! In addition to these events we are planning to open 2 NEW BB Companies this year (and 2 more for each of the next 5 years) whilst ensuring the current ones survive and prosper.

Friends of mine in our neighbouring Battalion in Oxfordshire are doing even more – 4 New Companies planned for 2008 (maybe even 5!), with 2 of these opening their doors in January and one of those starting with only a Company Section – now how ambitious is that! 2 years ago there were only 4 Companies in Oxfordshire but through faith and ambition they are achieving a fantastic amount.

Further afield, Birmingham Battalion are handling enquiries from Churches in the city for 2 New Companies – adding to the new ones already opened in recent years. Their Battalion President has challenged all current Companies to increase their numbers by just 2 extra Boys, but added together this would increase Boy numbers by nearly 100 and initial signs are very positive.

Around the country, more and more Battalions are taking on board the "Engage a Generation" initiative and forming Development Teams to look at BB growth. The current issue of the Gazette has a good number of enquiries from churches wanting to consider The Boys' Brigade as part of their youth work – the door to BB is starting to open again, so lets make sure we keep pushing.

So what are we doing in OUR District? Can we look at starting 1 New Company in each Battalion during this year? Can we look at increasing our numbers by 2 Boys per Company? Can we look at raising say £10,000 as a District for the Children's Hospice movement? You may have other targets and ideas but whatever they are let us all "be bold, be strong" and we will have the best support with us in the form of our creator!

Let us all challenge each other – and make this 125th Anniversary Year one to remember, as we look forward to a positive future for The Boys' Brigade in OUR Companies, OUR Battalions and OUR District!

Andrew Baldwin, Captain 1st Tewkesbury Company

Sporting Predictions

A big thank you to everyone who has supported this competition not only in 2007, but also throughout the many years that it has been running. Surprisingly Leeds just missed out on the FA Cup but give them time (lots of), & they will come good. Well done to all of the many legends who scored highly, a very creditable performance! Will 2008 provide us with a British Wimbledon Champion, a Formula 1 Champion, a British Winner at the Open? One thing is for certain; all of the highly paid English footballers have plenty of time during the summer to top up their tans! Best wishes for the future.



Chris Semmens, Competition Convenor

JUNIORS

			<u>COMPANY</u>		
Chris Dent	1 st Redruth	33	Keeley Meredith	1 st Cheltenham	38
Becky Goldsworthy	1 st Redruth	30	Lauren Goldsworthy	1 st Redruth	36
Tinita Fowler	1 st Redruth	24	Ashley McConkey	5 th Gloucester	29
Lauren Meredith	1 st Cheltenham	23	Matthew Plumb	1 st Redruth	28
Sam Goldsworthy	1 st Redruth	20	Matthew Tattor	5 th Gloucester	25
Matt Teague	1 st Redruth	18	Joe Robertson	5 th Exeter	22
Matthew Stone	1 st Redruth	14	Mark Tobin	1 st Torquay	20
Samuel Constable	1 st Redruth	10	Leslie Harper	1 st Cheltenham	19
Michael Walters	1 st Redruth	7	Daniel Harper	1 st Cheltenham	16
Joe Goldsworthy	1 st Redruth	7	Andrew Hole	3 rd Bridgwater	16

OFFICERS/STAFF

Michael Meredith	1 st Cheltenham	43	Chris Harper	1 st Cheltenham	13
Team Woody	1 st Cheltenham	42	Libby Waters	1 st Redruth	13
Peter Shears	11 th Bristol	34	Russell Boxell	2 nd Chard	13
Philip Sidey	1 st Cheltenham	34	Reuben Collings	5 th Exeter	12
Adam Loats	5 th Exeter	33	Russell Back	5 th Exeter	11
Ron Gillard	6 th Bristol	30	Rhys Stubbs	5 th Exeter	6
Dave Bradford	5 th Exeter	28	Dan Kempster	5 th Exeter	6
Mike Semmens	1 st Redruth	26			
Jake Smith	5 th Exeter	25			
Sam Willcocks	5 th Exeter	24			
Simon Rogers	5 th Exeter	24			
Julie Meredith	1 st Cheltenham	20			
Robert Kempster	5 th Exeter	20			
Marlene Semmens	1 st Redruth	19			
Gill Hardy	2 nd Bovey Tracey	12			
Ashley Holman	5 th Exeter	12			

Any volunteers to take on this competition? Ed

Queens Badge Men

Boys who have gained their QB in 2007.

David Flynn	1 st Yate	02/05/2007
Joel Phillips	21 st Bristol	17/05/2007
Nicholas Davis	21 st Bristol	17/05/2007
Richard Gilbert	2 nd Poole	01/06/2007
Callum Davis	6 th Bristol	19/06/2007
Ben Mason	6 th Bristol	19/06/2007
Richard Hull	20 th Bristol	19/06/2007
Matthew Young	5 th Swindon	05/09/2007
Richard Spackman	5 th Swindon	05/09/2007
Ashley Glover	5 th Swindon	05/09/2007
Michael Jones	7 th Bristol	23/10/2007
Peter Wakefield	7 th Bristol	23/10/2007

Please note that the 2008 Queens Badge course will be run on the following dates 28th March 2008 to 30th March 2008

John Tibbs

A Royal Garden Party

On July 19th 2007, 21 senior Boys from The Boys' Brigade attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to act as Stewards. A couple of months earlier I had been asked if I would like my name to be put forward to represent the West of England District as one of this group. It was a great honour to be asked and I accepted the invitation without hesitation when it arrived a few weeks later. On the day of the Garden Party I was looking forward to an experience that I knew could only happen once in my life. The rest of the Boys came from all over England, including one from Guernsey.

At the Palace we were briefed and put into groups and given our duties. My job was to receive the tickets from the guests who would be coming through the front garden gates. Before the Garden Party began we were lined up and introduced to the Queen, to whom I had the pleasure to speak. After this we were dismissed and taken to meet the Welsh Guards, with whom we would be working during the day.

About 3:00pm the guests started to arrive. I had a short break at 5:00pm and then went back to my post on the gates. As the evening closed the Queen returned to the Palace. We were all asked to lend a hand to those using wheel chairs, to help them back out through the gates. When the Palace was cleared we moved to the lobby and we all received certificates from the Palace for our work.

This was a day that I shall never forget; I really enjoyed representing the District and I would like to say "thank you" to those who gave me the opportunity.

S/Sgt Jonathan Helley, 8th Plymouth Company

Around the Battalions

Gloucestershire Battalion 125th Anniversary Events
125 Mile Static Bike Race Saturday 5th January 2008

At 7.30am on a damp January morning, a team of Staff from around the Battalion, gathered in Kings Square, Gloucester to begin the setting up of the arena and equipment for our first anniversary event. 5 Company Teams and a "Peoples Team" had entered the event and would be racing against the clock and each other to see who could reach the 125 mile target first. Just to put into context, 125 miles is the equivalent of cycling from Gloucester to Torquay – and we were aiming to do it before 5pm the same day!



With the bikes ready and some rather expensive equipment connected to them, including brand new Turbo Trainers and laptops for each one, the race was ready to begin. Shortly after 9am, the first riders started pedalling their 15 minute session, aiming to keep up a speed of between 15 and 20 miles per hour. The Battalion President and the local Acorns Childrens Hospice Fundraising Co-ordinator departed to go and record a live on air interview on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, explaining what we were doing and giving details about The Boys' Brigade and the 125th Anniversary.



The 1st & 5th Exeter companies

The 1st & 5th Exeter companies after the football and hockey competition held at The Riverside Leisure Centre in Exeter.



The 5th Exeter enjoyed a good Christmas with ten pin bowling a week before Christmas, with pizza and mince pies with Devonshire clotted cream. After Christmas we held a coffee morning in aid of our trip to Firm Foundations; we raised a massive £130. We look forward to taking part in many other competitions and our summer programme which starts in late April seems a long way off, as I am writing this on a cold rainy January evening!

Ashley Holman, 5th Exeter

Editors Notes

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue. Once again I have not needed to ask generally for articles, but these have come in readily. It is good to have all the news and views of companies and officers around the District; after all, without them there would be no BB West. Our next issue comes out in May, so photos and news of Company Displays and any special awards will be welcome.

Congratulations to all those young men who have achieved the top award – their Queen's Badge – they all provide an inspiration to their younger brothers within their companies.

Hilary Malpas, Editor

We also held a camp during August 1983 at Metherell, near Gunnislake. We borrowed some tents and the juniors stayed in the Methodist Church while the company section slept under canvas in a field about 100 yards away. We used the premises of 7th Plymouth Company for eating and games, it was next door to the church, and we befriended a lady in the village who had a swimming pool in her garden, and even laid on a barbeque for us at the end of our week.

I do remember that we had a terrible storm during one night of our camp; my son Chris was found the next morning sleeping on his back in his sleeping bag, soaking wet from the waist down, with the tent flapping noisily above him; it had become detached from its pegs during the storm. But the Boys were undeterred; we camped in the same area the following year.

Much has changed over the years; unfortunately some of the children today do not get the support of the parents that others used to enjoy, but we have seen many members from the past who have either visited or we have seen within the area and it has given Marlene and myself considerable pride to think that in some small way we have been able to influence their life and presence with God.

There are many memories that could be told; only 5 years ago our company strength was 4 boys and we did consider closing the company, but with the support of Rev. Brian Ede, our chaplain and my staff we decided to continue. Today with the considerable help of my staff, Nick Dent, my son Chris, and my wife Marlene, we now have a company strength of 30 Boys and girls with an age range of 4 to 14. We have developed a training regime and programme that has seen the inclusion of girls and recently we have been able to promote Matthew Plumb and Libby Walters to Lance Corporals, each have completed training programmes outside of Cornwall.

It gave me pleasure to be able to invite Malcolm Godolphin, as District President, along to our celebrations on 26th January where he presented me, on behalf of the Company with a certificate marking our 25th Birthday.

Mike Semmens, Captain – 1st Redruth Company.

The deadline for the next issue will be 21st April 08.

Copy can be sent to the usual e-mail address, dave@bb-west.org.uk or to 21, Ashcott Drive, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HS tel. (01278) 785884

Back at the race, teams were enthusiastically supporting each rider and willing them on to do their best, the public were showing good interest and lots of parents were around to support their sons. Whilst the race continued, BB Officers were busy handing out recruitment information to potential new members and rattling buckets to collect money for the Acorns Childrens Hospice at Worcester. The buzz around the event from both Boys and adults was fantastic and the cold weather did nothing to cool the enthusiasm and pride of all involved at having put on such a professional and well organised event which was giving The Boys' Brigade its best shot of publicity in Gloucestershire for a long time.



The Company to complete the distance first were 1st Malvern in a time of 6 hours and 10 minutes, followed by all the other Companies, every one of which was determined to finish the whole 125 miles, the final one reaching the distance just after 5pm. Time to pack all the kit away and go and soak some tired limbs, before Church next day.

The whole aim of the event was to provide a public display of The Boys' Brigade at work and to raise money for the Childrens Hospice. These goals were very much achieved with several hundred pounds being raised for the hospice and at least 4 new members recruited on the day. Many contacts were also made with former BB members, others who may be interested in getting involved and generally a lot of goodwill generated from our presence in the centre of Gloucester. The 3 features we had on local radio were great publicity and the many people walking around with our Boys' Brigade 125th Anniversary stickers on, helped spread the word further afield.

On to the next event now – a BIG FUN Day in one of the public parks in Cheltenham in June and more chances to spread the BB Message!

Andrew Baldwin, Battalion President



Kindle was held over the weekend of 16-18 November at Great Wood Camp – a log cabin campsite owned by Scripture Union in the Quantock Hills. The weekend



was for those wanting to move on in their faith or wishing simply to know more. So the emphasis was on teaching and worship.

Leaders started arriving on the Friday afternoon including 4 guys from KJC. The young people arrived at 9pm, quickly unpacked and settled into their cabins – and then eats had been laid on by our excellent cooks. After an ice-breaker we then went over to the JI Hut and KJC led the worship and Andrew Palmer (the speaker for the weekend) gave his first talk, introducing the theme for the weekend – Living

the weekend) gave his first talk, introducing the theme for the weekend – Living life with God.

Afterwards we went for a night walk around the combe and then back into the mess hut for hot chocolate and a snack. Everyone was in bed by midnight!

We held a short leaders meeting and what was striking was that although out of the 14 leaders I had never worked with 6 of them before, yet the unity was amazing. A real

sense of we all know what we are doing, we have confidence in each other, and a great humility amongst the team. Absolutely superb.



Happy 25th Birthday, 1st Redruth 'BB' Company.

The formation of the company followed a telephone call that I received in March 1982 from, the then Cornwall Battalion Secretary, Bob Girvan, who was also the Captain of the 1st Truro Company whose Chaplain was Rev. Jim Hunkin. I was asked if I would be interested in setting up a 'BB' company in Redruth Methodist Church, where Jim had just become the Superintendent Minister.

I agreed to attend a meeting with Jim and Bob to discuss the proposal; I was a Lieutenant in charge of the Junior Section in the 2nd Camborne Company at that time. Following this meeting there was an acceptance that the 'BB' would be a very useful resource in R.M.C for Boys and young men, but it would be necessary to acquire acceptance of the Church Council. I was asked to address the June Church Council meeting and explain to the council members the value of having the 'BB' in Redruth, this was considered and accepted. I had agreed to take on the roll as Company Captain and other officers would be sought from the Church. As time progressed, Keith Goldsworthy, Mike Beard, Sue Hollingdale, and my wife Marlene were interested in becoming Officers, each in turn being approved by the Church Council. So with effect from 1st January 1983, the 1st Redruth Company of The Boys' Brigade was formed. Because this was the Centenary Year of The Boys' Brigade, to mark this occasion the Battalion organised a parade through St. Agnes to the 'beacon', where it was decided to hold an event in a marquee on the top of St. Agnes Beacon, with the other officers and me receiving our 'warrant cards'. Unfortunately, Marlene was at home ill in bed, having been just released from Truro Hospital following a 10 day stay with pneumonia.

The company's first evening was held on Thursday 13th January, with some 20 plus Boys attending, this number steadily increased to 50 within a three month period, the officers in the meantime had completed their Officer's Basic Training. The company took part in the Battalion Competitions for the respective age groups, although not particularly successful, the Boys had enjoyed the competition and fellowship that these days had offered. In 1983, the 'BB' in Cornwall consisted of 15 companies, from places, as far apart as St. Just to Launceston, alas, now there are only the two companies, Camborne and Redruth.

At one of our early monthly staff meetings it was decided that we should purchase sports shirts, shorts etc., which we still have (but the children today are bigger), then we needed to raise funds to purchase our colour. So a sponsored walk around an area of Redruth was arranged to take place in June 1983 and sufficient money was raised to buy the colour at a price of £312.00. It was agreed that we would have an enrolment Service for the Company on the 2nd Sunday in July where the colour would be 'dedicated'.

The Kindle weekend was fantastic. A group of teenagers, sleeping in log cabins, in the middle of nowhere, for a weekend. It may sound a bit daunting, it was, but it was amazing. KJC, the band who led the worship sessions, made the whole experience so much better, their kind, friendly faces, made everyone feel more comfortable about where we were, and what we were doing. There was one song they played, which I think has stuck with everyone who was there, 'Happy Day' it really grasped the idea of the weekend, which was, to be happy! The first two fruits of the spirit are, love and joy, meaning, love everyone, and be happy doing it. Well once we had established **being happy**, that's what the whole weekend was about. The weather wasn't fantastic, but it never is at BB camps! Even so we all settled into the routine of finding something to do, to keep us dry and warm, including a 5 hour game of Monopoly by the fire! All the leaders who went, contributed more than their time into the weekend. Like the chefs they literally put blood, sweat and tears into the lasagne that was so big, it lasted two days and there was still some left over! All the leaders gave us teens the information we needed; it is occasions like this when you realise you're not on your own, a lot of people found that out, but we were all there together and so new friendships were made, and re-kindled. Over all the experience was worth while. I just hope that more people join us next time!

Chana Gosden, 2nd Bournemouth

The things I liked about Kindle most was the social side, the activities and the worship as well as getting my Queen's Badge. The social side was meeting friends that I only just made at camp. It was cool meeting them because I got a chance to catch up. The activities were good as well. I got a chance to play football and got dirty in the process.

The worship was really cool because it was youth orientated and everyone including me got passionate about it. The Discussion groups really helped me see where I fell short and handled issues maturely. It felt really good to get my Queen's Badge in front of all my friends and for the fact Mike got it as well. I felt we helped each other out in getting it.

Pete Wakefield, 7th Bristol

Kindle was a camp based on getting closer to God. Talks about what God is like; I really became closer to him, and this is the same with many people I have spoken to. Great activities made it even better, with free time where you could play football or board games, for hours! The food was great, the famous 10 foot lasagne! So much left over, but it was great! The worship band were great and played all the well known songs. Altogether I think it was an amazing camp and I would definitely go again! I would recommend it to everyone.

Jack Dale, 7th Bristol



After breakfast we had our second session with KJC and Andrew and after a refreshments break there were various small group sessions that the guys could go to: Burning Questions (a question time about faith); Sex and relationships; Being a Christian at University; Prayer; and Self esteem.

After lunch there were various activities, low ropes course, football,

or inside activities. And with a log fire, the mess hut and the inside activities were particularly popular!

Then dinner! Our cooks prepared probably the biggest lasagne the world has ever seen and the portions that were given were enormous. We all ate far too much! Mike and Pete from 7th Bristol were then awarded their Queen's Badge which was a great moment.

We then had our third session – which was simply awesome. Andrew is such a great speaker and the worship and prayer ministry was terrific. The way the Spirit moved and touched both leaders and young people will certainly stay on my heart forever. Simply wonderful.

We then had our second small group sessions followed by a wide game with leaders making the noises of various animals – and in the valley where our shouts echoed, it was hysterically funny! Then a quick snack and eventually people went off to bed, but everyone was enjoying themselves so much, chatting and chilling, no one really wanted to go.

In the morning after leaders meeting and prayer time and breakfast we had our final session. Again hugely encouraging to see so many young people worship whole heartedly, praising and worshipping and seeking God. A real privilege to witness.

We then had lunch and started to pack away but the spirit and the buzz was still terrific. As we all stood in a circle and prayed before we started to go our separate ways there was such a wonderful sense of God blessing the young people and leaders. Seeing young people on fire for our Lord Jesus is probably the best thing in the world. And to have the opportunity to witness this is such an enormous privilege.

The guys and the leaders were unanimous that Kindle 2008 should happen – so with the District's approval, it will!

Richard Barker, 2nd Bournemouth

Saturday evening I made my way to Greatwood Camp in the Quantock Hills. It was dusk, but lights shone out from some of the cabins and from the main buildings. A group of youngsters were chatting outside the mess hall. There were signs of games having been played in the field. On going inside the mess hall I was greeted by the warmth – not only of the log fire, but also of the happy atmosphere. Various board games were being played, groups were chatting; difficult to see the officers as they were joining in the chats and games with the youngsters.

I was welcomed, shown the facilities available & offered a cup of tea in the kitchen. Shortly after, the call came to set up the tables for supper. We had so much to eat with our main course that it was decided to leave the pudding (crumble) until later in the evening. After supper the 4 cabin groups were given their jobs (sweeping, washing-up) before we moved to the other main building for the evening worship session.

Everyone joined in enthusiastically in the singing, accompanied by members of KJC, and then listened attentively to the speaker. The theme of the weekend was “the Fruits of the Spirit”. More singing then back to the mess hall; the next session was to be discussion groups in 20 minutes. This gave time for any youngsters to talk to the officers & speaker about the service or for prayers back in the worship room.

It was getting late so I left for home (I never did sample that crumble!). What a pity there weren't more companies represented; I enjoyed my short visit and it was obvious that the youngsters were enjoying themselves.

Hilary Malpas, District VP

But let them speak for themselves:

What the Young People thought



Amazing! Loved every second.

Cosy cabins with really good facilities.

Would definitely go again.

Unlike anything you will ever do. Recommend it to anyone and everyone.

Millie Sunderland, 2nd Poole

Life Changing experience – I can't wait to go - you have to go to the next one!
Great worship
Free time
Yummy food – especially Lasagne
I never wanted to leave the amazing cabins.

Sarah Beech, 2nd Poole

Being with great people
Good band
Great food
Heated cabins and showers
Getting closer to the Lord
Being with friends
Nice location.

Sarah Weston, 2nd Poole

An amazing experience – can't wait to go next time
The cabins had heaters, flushing toilets and showers.
I became a better Christian.
Must be more than once a year.
No distractions.
Good cabin layout
Amazing mess hall
I loved it.

Emma Aspin, 2nd Poole



So much fun
Can't wait to go again
Time with friends
The cabins had heaters and warm showers
Lots of things to do including low ropes course
Nice location
Good times with friends.

Helen Judd, 2nd Poole


2008

7th to 9th November
At Great Wood Camp