

July
2010



Brigade

Bulletin

Developments at NHQ.

Over the last several years, various attempts have been made to either sell off or rent out Brigade NHQ, St Martin's House, in order to improve the Brigade's financial situation. Indeed, when I took up post as Brigade Secretary four years ago, from day one it was the main topic that faced me – the imminent (at that stage) sale of the NHQ buildings and site for redevelopment; and the achievement of a new NHQ, on an adjacent site. Of course, none of this materialised.

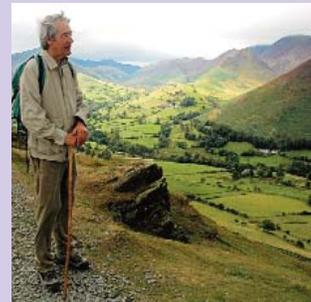
In the last four years, there have been several false starts on potential ways of achieving an income from our buildings. However, over the last few months, a further two projects have been seriously interested in renting space from us. One, a local schools' project, seeking as an alternative educational centre, has fallen prey to the financial climate. The other, '**Seren House**', a project of the Pentecostal Church, providing accommodation for young mums and their children under five, took up residence with us on 21st June 2010. Whilst this is very much a trial project at this stage and the subject of a short-term agreement, for one year in the first instance, we anticipate that it may well become an established project. In which case, it will significantly improve the annual income to Brigade Headquarters. (Had the schools' project also have lodged with us, we could virtually have matched overall income to expenditure from next year, particularly given NHQ staff retirements at that stage. Ah well! We continue to travel optimistically and to fundraise!) *continued.....*



Pastor Joy Gascoigne, minister of Grimethorpe Pentecostal Church, invites Seren to cut the ribbon to open the Seren House Project

Inside:

Tribute to
Bishop Alan



*Development Team
fly the banner at
General Synod*



It's that time of year
again!



Reg. Charity No: 276821

Developments at NHQ - continued

The downside of this development is that St Martin's House will no longer be available to Brigade and other groups. Since, our residential centre has been greatly underutilised for several years, it was considered that, if it could be found an alternative, Christian, use and also help with the Brigade's finances, this was the preferable option.

After two weeks of intense activity: including decorating by members of Teen Challenge – who prayed in every room and around the entire building and site, both for the success of Seren House and for the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade. Cleaning, carpet laying and furnishing activity by church volunteers; Seren House held an Open Day on Sunday, 20th June 2010, for its volunteers, supporters and other interested parties. The sun was shining and approximately 60 people attended, including our National Training and Development Officer, Rev Martin Lambourne, who spoke about St Martin and his relevance, as our Patron Saint, to the work of Seren House.



The driving force behind Seren House, Pastor Joy Gascoigne, showing the Brigade Secretary, Alan Millward, a publicity leaflet about Seren House



Pastor Joy relates the story behind the naming of Seren House



Pastor Joy is presented with a bouquet from the congregation in recognition of her tireless efforts to establish the Seren House Project

Martin Lambourne links the story of St. Martin and his three-legged Bishop's throne to St. Martin's House



A True Friend of the Brigade

Bishop Alan Smithson was appointed National Chaplain when he was Bishop of Jarrow. His was no nominal appointment as in many ways Bishop Alan threw himself into working and playing alongside officers and members - almost literally!



The story of his sinking waist deep in a bog whilst at North East Camp has already achieved mythical status. His

presence, year by year, at that camp enriched the camp and the lives of those who walked and talked with him. He was deeply interested in people and listened intently to everyone's story. He joined in any activity he felt able to do -and in some he should not have done - like climbing Cat Bells above Derwentwater whilst suffering an ailment which affected his breathing and waiting for a hernia operation!



Bishop Alan was also a loyal attendee at Brigade Council, always offering a pertinent story and prayer to start the proceedings as well as contributing his thoughtful observations during our debates.

Even after his retirement as Chaplain in 2006, Bishop Alan continued to be a welcome guest at North East Camp and made a sterling effort in conducting the Remembrance Service at The National Memorial Arboretum when still in the early days of recovery from his hernia operation (yes, the one mentioned earlier).



One of Bishop Alan's interests was painting in watercolours. This poem extract accompanied his greeting card (far right) to the Brigade and is a typical sentiment of his:

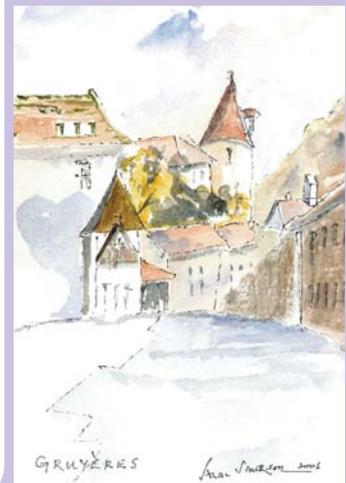
**Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush
afire with God;
But only they who see, take
off their shoes,
The rest sit round it and
pluck blackberries.**
*Elizabeth Barrett Browning
1806 - 1861*

Tony Reed Screen and I also enjoyed Jean and Bishop Alan's hospitality at their (then) home at Creetown on our way to and from the ferry for Ulster. Jean's baking merit's a special Brigade Award in it's own right!

The funeral service in Edinburgh was attended by many who talked fondly of Bishop Alan's companionship and support. Right to the end, he was helping young people, both in the local church and in the local Sea Cadets at Musselburgh.

He will be sorely missed - not least by many in the Brigade, myself included. He enriched our lives and we shall treasure his memory.

Martin Lambourne



The Brigade heads for General Synod in York

The highlight of this Year's General Synod at York University Campus will not be the debate about women Bishops, but the CLCGB stand staffed once again by the Development Team. Well, that's what we reckon, anyway!

Last year, we were visited by our President, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who gave us a photo-opportunity. Since then, Archbishop Rowan has also endorsed our new website by appearing on screen commending the Brigade to the Anglican Communion.



If you haven't seen the new website, you ought to have a peek and watch our President give his message.

This year, we will be distributing our leaflets to all visitors to the stand as well as offering a copy of our shortened DVD and a specially designed Brigade bookmark. This is a great opportunity for the team to meet people from across the Anglican constituency and advocate the Brigade as a most effective tool in children's and youth ministry.

Audrey Simm talks with Bishop Nigel (Manchester) on his visit to our stand last year.

Our website has been totally redesigned by a team of Brigade volunteers, headed up by Jason Greenwood from Dormanstown Company. The site will be maintained by Jason and other young officers and members, together with the Development Team and NHQ staff. We hope this will ensure a constantly updated front page and the development of other pages reflecting the various sections and interest groups within the Brigade.

Visit the site and send in your comments for ideas for further improvements. Send us photos, articles and ideas which we can incorporate into the site and make it a great advert for the Brigade to the world at large.



Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade

www.clcgb.org.uk



Return to Sender!

Annual Returns and Accounts.

Janet and Claire are looking forward to receiving your paperwork by

September 15th, 2010.