

December
2010



Brigade Bulletin



It's nearly Christmas, so where's the Brigade Magazine?

We have decided not to produce a magazine for Christmas this year, as we now put so much of our news, photographs and information on the Brigade's website at www.clcgb.org.uk and given the cost of producing, printing and circulating the magazine.

However, we intend to produce a bumper issue of the Brigade magazine in the New Year, to mark the Brigade's 120th anniversary of the founding of the Church Lads' Brigade in 1891. So we decided to combine our Christmas message to the leaders and members of the Brigade family in this bulletin and on our website.



Reg. Charity No: 276821

The wrong kind of snow!

(Or just too much, too soon?)

The snow and ice that beset South Yorkshire and made travelling hazardous meant that, reluctantly, we had to postpone the Staff and Finance Committee, Brigade Council and the Brigade's Annual General meetings, due to be held on Saturday, 4th December 2010 at Grimethorpe Pentecostal Church – given that the residential centre at Brigade NHQ, the usual setting for our meetings, is now 'home' to the Seren House project, for homeless young women and children.



As Martin's photos show, NHQ is set in a Winter Wonderland spectacle. You can imagine the cold snow and ice outside, whilst inside we are all cosily warm, not quite with Yule logs on the fire but as near to as possible and beavering away. All is not quite as it may seem! We are actually sat here with our coats on and with temporary heaters, trying to achieve a tolerable working temperature. Let me explain.

The early snow falls came with vengeance and soon the ice and snow prevented our NHQ staff, who live close by, from getting out from their homes – cars snowed in, roads treacherous, bus services suspended, schools closed. The Brigade Secretary, living 70 miles away, was the only one able to access the office for four days and, eventually, was in danger of becoming snowed in at NHQ, before he had to take refuge off site; only to become snowed in at home, in Lancashire, for the next week. When our local staff team was able to access the NHQ site, they found the heating had failed in the minus 14 degrees temperatures and the whole boiler house heating system had frozen solid! The heating engineers cannot do anything until the thaw sets in and the staff's attempts to help the thawing process have been totally rebuffed by the elements. Hence, we are beavering away and looking forward to the warmer temperatures forecast for the coming days but are also dreading the possibility of burst pipes becoming evident in the boiler house and, possibly, throughout our premises!

Remembrance Service

On Saturday 13th November 2010, before the snows came, we gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum's Chapel and on the Brigade's Memorial Garden, for our annual Remembrance Service. This was just two days after the Brigade's 119th birthday, on St Martin of Tours' Day.

Our Service was led by Father David Arnall, Chaplain to the Bishop of Blackburn and to the Brigade's National Band, and Assistant Chaplain to Chorley & Ribblesdale Battalion, CLCGB. The Brigade's National Choir supported the Service, a contingent of the National Band performed before and after the Service and during The Homage on the Brigade's Memorial Garden.

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Our Governor and two Deputy Governors assisted with the Service and St James' Gorton Company, Manchester, provided the Colour Parties and participated in The Homage – where we remember all past members of the Brigade, particularly those, both young and old, who died in the previous twelve months. Our young people from St James' brought with them a large wooden cross, which they had made and covered with sufficient large poppies, to denote all the major conflicts in which the United Kingdom has been involved over the last 119 years and sufficient small poppies to denote the fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan, including young Brigade members. Wreaths were laid by the Governor, Brigade Secretary, the Historical Society and other members of the congregation.

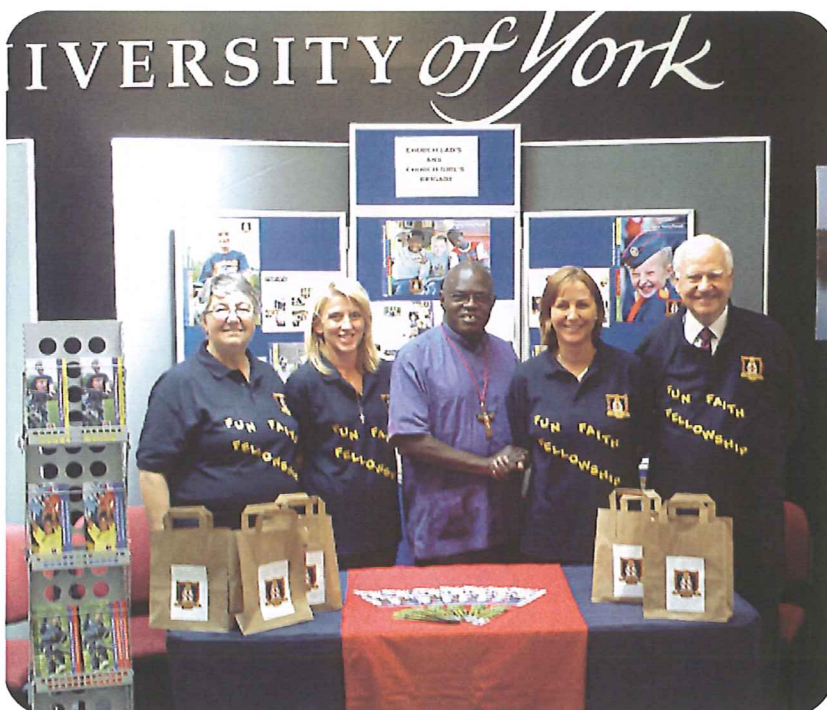
Following the Service, we have received donations of nearly £3,000 towards the enhancement of the Brigade's Memorial Garden and which will allow us to complete the hedging around the Garden and to achieve an appropriate interpretation feature (information point) about the Brigades and the Garden. The achievement of this should form part of the marking of the Brigade's 120th anniversary, which falls on 11th November 2011.

Leadership Training

Martin Lambourne and Neil Martin, Brigade Secretary of the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, have been exploring options for CLCGB and JLGB collaboration, on utilising funding from the Workforce Development Fund grant, administered by the National Council of Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) towards funding accredited leadership training for our prospective Brigades, to enable both Brigades to offer leadership courses in common, with JLGB undertaking the training for both Brigades in the south, and CLCGB in the north. Martin and colleagues are also offering a Young Leaders' Training Weekend for CLCGB in January 2011.

Development Project

The grant from the Children's and Young People's Fund, which has enabled us to field our Development Project, will come to an end on 31st March 2011. How fortunate we are in the calibre of our three Development Officers, Audrey Simm, Tracey Smith-Lowe and Sr Anne Williams CA and our two associated volunteers, Deputy Governor Maynard Scott and Manchester Regiment CO, John Corbishley. With their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm, they have significantly raising the Brigade's profile, particularly amongst the clergy and parishes and we have been involved with



Sister Anne, Tracey and Audrey, together with Maynard Scott, are visited by the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd. and Rt. Hon. Dr. John Sentamu at the Brigade Stand at the July Synod of the Church of England

General Synod and other events, where we may not even have been an afterthought in previous times.

There have been some successes in the number of actual (and imminent) new Companies (to be) established. In Scunthorpe, this has seen the Diocese obtain grant funding to employ sessional workers to run a Brigade Company, in a socially and economically deprived area. Unfortunately, this has also coincided with two significant and unforeseen Company closures. Martin and his team have been looking at a

strategy of enlisting appropriately skilled and experienced volunteers, to provide continuance of the development, leader training and Duke of Edinburgh's Award training/assessment functions. Another spin-off of the project has been our improved range of leaflets, posters, promotional and training DVDs and the new website, created and managed by volunteers with the Brigade.

Finances

We continue to live within a straightened financial situation but, we continue to live enthusiastically and optimistically! Our expenditure continues to outstrip our income from capitation fees but, with additional fundraised income, we are managing to keep going. It isn't easy but we are determined that the Brigade will continue as a relevant national organisation.

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Staffing

Both Rev Martin Lambourne and Mrs Janet Mulholland are retiring in April 2011. This will mean the loss of two much loved and greatly respected colleagues, their respective skills and talents. Finance Officer Janet first came as the copy typist, when Brigade NHQ moved up from London in 1988. Later, she created and managed the Brigade's original website. National Training and Development Officer Martin is the creator of much of our publicity, training materials and printed matter. However it is a good opportunity for us to seek to more closely balance income and expenditure, by not replacing them, and seeking to cope, if possible, with our three remaining staff: Alan, Claire and Zoe; a tall order but worth trying.

Our sincere good wishes to all our Brigade leaders and members, for a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas from Pamela Corbishley, Brigade Governor; Alan Millward, Brigade Secretary; and our NHQ staff team.

IT'S BRACING AT SKEGNESS - IN FEBRUARY!



But it's great fun and terrific fellowship. Why not join companies from Durham Regiment and Manchester Regiment who are already booked in for another super weekend **February 18th to 21st.**

It's the first weekend of half term and Butlins offers a three night package at very good prices.

There will be the usual very friendly Unihoc Competition for members and leaders and lots of opportunities to have fun together.

Companies will need to make their own bookings direct with Butlins, but Derick Jackson and Brian Mills are happy to advise you how to get the best deals at about £60.00 per head for the extended weekend.

Interested?

Get in touch with Derick
(derick.jackson@gvagrimley.co.uk)
or Brian [brian.mills7@ntlworld.com]

Don't miss the chance to have long weekend in a secure environment where you and your youngsters can have a whale of a time. Meet old friends and make new ones.

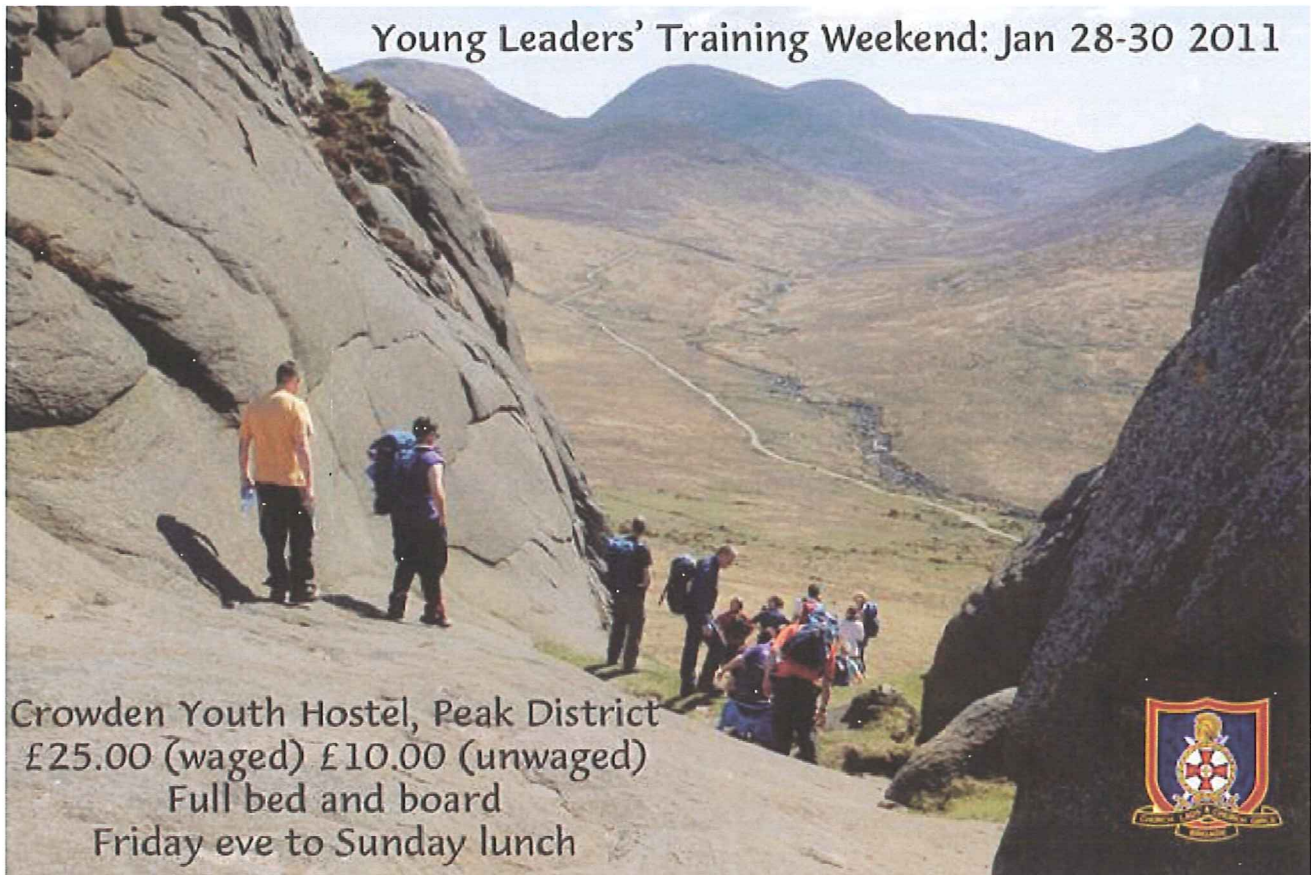


Calling all Young Leaders in the Brigade.

An opportunity to gain a Leadership Certificate and credits towards a nationally recognised qualification at the same time.

Not to mention a time to enjoy yourself in the company of colleagues from around the country.

Young Leaders' Training Weekend: Jan 28-30 2011



Crowden Youth Hostel, Peak District
£25.00 (waged) £10.00 (unwaged)
Full bed and board
Friday eve to Sunday lunch



Young Leaders' Training Weekend

28th-30th January 2011

Please book me onto the weekend at Crowden Youth Hostel

Name: Company:

Address:

Post Code:

Phone: Email:

Signed: Signed C.O.

Fee enclosed? Yes/No* £25.00 / £10.00* *delete as appropriate

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Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade

www.clcgb.org.uk

