

Roundup



NEWSLETTER OF THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT OF THE CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

The Colonel's Comment

It's been a long time since the last Regimental Roundup so, in this issue, there is an element of catch up as well as advance notice of other events. I have to say that the lack of communication has been down to my own lack of motivation. When I started to work on this edition, back in December these were my thoughts.

"I have to confess to the fact that I am struggling to see how I should continue as Commanding Officer of the Regiment. The lack of support for all events, sporting within the Regiment, Parades both National and Regimental and even just meetings leads me to believe that I am failing you as your leader. I am disappointed but feel that the time is now right to allow someone else to take up the reins to lead the Regiment for the next phase of the Brigades history in Manchester. I shall be tendering my resignation and at the AGM in January your leaders will be charged with finding a successor."

I have now notified Regimental staff and NHQ of my intention to step down as Commanding Officer and I ask you all to look seriously for someone to take over in due course. My final event will be the Regimental Parade at St Anne's Church in Manchester on the 28th October 2018, when we will have as our guest, Bishop Mark Davies.

However, up to now, we lack a volunteer to replace me and provide some continuity of leadership. Add to that the current and seemingly increasing level of turmoil at the highest level in the Brigade leads me to believe that it would be grossly unfair of me to pass the burden to someone new and inexperienced. I am not saying that I will be any better than someone new but as the role of Commanding Officer also brings with it the role of Trustee to the National Organisation I cannot in all sincerity hand that load onto anyone else. I shall attempt to work with the Regimental staff to bring about a change of leadership in a controlled fashion. I ask for your prayerful support for the coming weeks and months.

In the coming months my Regimental Commander's meetings will be opened up for more of the leaders in the Regiment to have input and help to move the Regiment forward.

June 26th: All Company Commanding Officers to have input.

September 18th: Adjutants, to organise the Regimental Parade and general administration.

November 6th: Sports & Social – Anyone who wants input to our activities both Sporting and social.

December 11th: Training staff

Regimental Sports programme

Regimental Martins Team Games was held on Sunday 17th September 2017 at St Peter's Ashton Under Lyne, in Church. We had 5 members turn up, they had a great time, what happened to everyone else? Thanks to Rebecca Sullivan, one of our Young Leaders for helping with the event.

Picture show the Martins Team Games winners

Finally, perhaps you're organising an event that others would enjoy. Boost your numbers by inviting the rest of the Regiment. It's great to get together and much more fun if you get a good turnout!



Denham Commemoration 2019

In July 2019 a weekend trip is being planned to Denham in Buckinghamshire. Denham is where the men and Lads' from the CLB did their training before going to war in the First World War. The survivors returned to Denham after the war, and paraded through the village to the Church they worshiped in before the war. The weekend and the Parade is to commemorate and remember the members of the 16th Battalion King Royal Rifles Corp who gave the supreme sacrifice during World War 1 and to celebrate the men who returned to Denham. The trip is being organised once more by Deputy Governor Martyn Bedder and his staff from Leicester Regiment and he has invited the whole Brigade family to join them. Following on from the successful events on the battlefields of Northern France last year this should be a remarkable event to be part of. The dates will be 13th & 14th July 2019, the booking form is available from CO's or from myself, John Corbishley. The cost will be approx. £35.00 for camping and a deposit of £15.00 per person is required by 29th September 2018.

The CLB & CGB as a National Organisation

COMPANIES may be surprised to hear that Capitation Fees, our annual payments to National Headquarters, are going up again this year, from £17 to £20 per head. They were also scheduled to rise again in the following years but those subsequent rises are on hold pending review next year.. You probably wonder, how can we justify such an increase again. I, as your representative on Brigade Council have had the uncomfortable task of looking for solutions and ways to enable the Brigade, our Brigade to continue to exist as a National Organisation. We were faced with a budget deficit of approximately £28,000 for this financial year. Every conceivable way had been looked at and where possible implemented to reduce the burden of our NHQ operation on the Brigade. All available space in the building has been rented out, contracts for Insurance and utilities have all been pared down to the minimum and some functions brought in-house to reduce costs. Even so, the deficit was going to be too large to allow Brigade to continue functioning for more than the next couple of years.

At the Extraordinary Brigade Council meeting last month and confirmed at the AGM, we had to consider a last ditch move to salvage the Organisation by implementing a realisable Budget. After a protracted, emotional and unprecedented discussion, the proposal from the Staff and Finance Committee was passed to make the position of Chief Executive Officer redundant. I believe that should give every Officer in the Brigade an indication of how serious the situation is. This decision has been communicated to every Company.

So, what can we, the membership of the Brigade do to help

the situation and help the whole organisation? Despite all the negative reactions to the increases in Capitation fees, they are the only funding that will retain us as a National organisation, at present they are MUCH LOWER than any other comparable Youth organisation. If Companies are going to struggle to pay these then we must all consider what we charge for our services. We are known to be a very cheap child minding service by many. Look at what you charge and if necessary increase subscriptions to a realistic level but consider the impact, particularly on large families with more than one member. The only way we can ease our financial position longer term is to increase membership numbers. We can all operate within our comfort zone in terms of members but it's as easy to work with 12 members as it is to work with 6 and that may be possible with your existing leaders to members ratios. Both need two leaders as a minimum. Easiest initiatives are to encourage existing members to bring a friend or visit you local school and try to recruit new members. This is something you can do for yourself but Perry is still available to help or advise. If you are going to struggle speak to Regimental staff now and we may be able to help.

Do you claim GIFT AID? Only one in 10 companies do, so you probably don't! It is easy to do, it would pay your Capitation increase for you and (because NHQ retain 10% for the work they do to recover it for you) it also helps us to retain the National Staff. I will be producing a help sheet to advise you how to do this and will send one to every Company in the next month.

Your Regimental staff are here to help you, I am only a phone call away.

National York Minster Parade 2017

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Parade at York in November, we didn't manage to fill the coach from Manchester but those who went had a memorable day. It was a pleasure to parade behind the Massed band, mainly the National Band but with many additional visitors for the day. The route was fantastic, taking us through all the Christmas markets in the narrow ancient



streets of York, thronged with shoppers. The atmosphere was brilliant. As we approached the Minster, the magnificent West wall and window greeted us and towered over the parade. Once inside, we filled the front half of the nave and the rear half had a good number of parents and supporters seated. In the week before the parade our numbers had swelled to outgrow the Choir stalls and we had been allowed to move into the nave at no cost to the Brigade. It was wonderful to see so many in uniform seated together, enjoying an interesting service with a lot of involvement for the members present.

After the service we mustered outside the Minster to be inspected. The band played to a packed audience of shoppers, so many that it was difficult for the rest of us to find enough space to fall in. It was an incredible success and a testament to the organisation and planning that went into it by staff at NHQ and National Band. I'd like to make a personal thanks to the staff from Leicester Regiment who managed the parade with perfection.



Important news...

Regimental Parade 2017

Disappointingly there was only 125 on Parade from a Regiment of approximately 500, I would like to ask you all, why do you not attend? Peter Davies said, "I love Regimental Parade, seeing all my friends from other companies is brilliant!" That confirms what I said in my notices, we are a family, the Brigade family and we need to meet, join together and build on our individual skills, together.

We had some fantastic support from some very influential guests who we managed to impress and said some wonderful things about you, our members and leaders. This year our Regimental Parade is on Sunday October 28th at 2:30pm at St Ann's Church in Manchester. Our guest this year will be the Bishop of Middleton, the Rt Reverend Mark Davies. PLEASE, put the date in your diary, before the Football fixtures come out, and commit to being there with us all.

Regimental Camp

– Scottish Adventure Week 2018

Following a hugely successful camp in August 2017 we are once again well down the road of organising this years camp. If you wanted to go this year, you need to act quickly as the deposits have been paid and places are VERY limited. It is enjoyed by members and leaders from the age of 10 to 90 and if you haven't been you don't know what you are missing. The regular group of leaders are totally committed to giving the Children and Young People the experience of a lifetime under the experienced eyes of Camp Adjutant Neville Tinsley and his top level team of Janet and Peter Davies and Neil and Jeanette Whitelegg. Sorry for not mentioning every leader but there are so many who go, leaders

from other Companies don't need to attend, their children can go on their own if you and they wish to. The camp struggles for Financial stability and relies on those who go to help fund raise throughout the year, we showed a slight profit last year to start the planning for this year. The cost has risen to £330 this year but still represents incredible value for money compared to other camps and especially school trips. It's all inclusive, we sleep in chalets in the beautiful Queen Elizabeth Forest and get to travel there and back in luxury coaches. It's fantastic!

We'll be looking forward to the 28th July 2018 when we set off on this year's adventure week.

Young Leader Training Programme

This year's course has progressed well with all our Young Leaders making good progress and gaining in confidence. We have 8 from Manchester this year and a further one from Leicester. Six attended the last weekend, back at Bibby's farm in January, together with 4 from previous courses who had joined them for the Sports Leaders course.

The final training weekend for the Young Leaders and the Sports Leaders courses will be held at Castleshaw Residential Centre in Saddleworth over the weekend of 20th and 21st October 2018 when their formal training will be completed, they will undergo their assessment and receive their Certificate of Leadership. A presentation and Passing out service is being planned for this weekend on the Sunday morning when their family, friends and Company officers will be invited to support them on the day.

This will be a final weekend when our Sports Leaders course will be completed and assessed.

Prayer List

If you know of anyone who needs our prayers please let me know.

Please include in your prayers **Janet Davies**.

Obituary

We join our friends from Christchurch Ashton in mourning the loss of **Teddy Davies**.

Short Notes

- Plans being made for a 130th Anniversary celebration in 2021
Want to be involved?
- Working parties required to help with maintenance work at NHQ.
- All leaders need to hold a Safeguarding certificate.
- All companies should be claiming Gift Aid – Training Packs will be issued soon.
- Badgework materials to be re-hashed – Want to be part of the group?

Diary Dates

June 2018

15-17 National Band Weekend
at Sandhurst Military Academy.
21 Diocesan Safeguarding Training
St Peter's Ashton Under Lyne
26 Regt. Commanders meeting – including all CO's
30 St Mark's Heyside 50th Anniversary Reunion Night
at 7pm.

July 2018

28-4 Aug Regimental Camp at Aberfoyle.

August 2018

17-19 Regimental Camp Bag Packing
at Morrisons Openshaw
31-2 National Band Recruitment Weekend.

September 2018

18 Regimental Commanders meeting for Adjutants
and Battalion Warrant Officers

29 National Music and Drill Competition
at Hermitage centre Whitwick

October 2018

13 Brigade Council meeting
20-21 Young Leaders and Sports Leaders final Weekend
at Castleshaw.
26-28 National Band Training weekend
28 Regimental Parade at St Ann's Manchester
with Bishop Mark Davies.

*This is the Newsletter for the Manchester Regiment of
the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade.*

*It is for EVERY member, leader and supporter of the
Brigade, so please pass it on.*

*If you want to be added or removed from the circulation
please email johncorbishley@btinternet.com*

General news...

Congratulations!

To Charlotte Worthington, who has been asked to represent Fairfield High School for Girls on a trip to visit the battlefields, cemeteries, museums and memorials of the First World War. This is a great honour for her. In her application Charlotte said: "Following in the footsteps of several of my family I am now in the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade at St Andrews in Droylsden. Last year I was selected to represent the Brigade and march in the Remembrance Day parade in Whitehall London. I know there are now no veterans of World War One left, but it was still a very emotional day and was great to be a part of and to be able to pay my respect to all fallen heroes. So, to be able to go to some of the actual battlefields of World War One would be deeply humbling."

She has also asked, "If there are any Regiments around the country that lost Brigade members during the Great War she would be happy to look to see if there is any information at the cemeteries, museums and memorials about those that lost their lives". We hope she has a brilliant time and look forward to her reporting back in a future *Roundup*.

Alison Harwood, CO St Andrew's Droylsden

National Music and Drill Competition

This competition is open to any company to perform in the Drill Competition at 3 different age levels and /or in the Music Competition. You don't need a band! Individuals can enter, small ensembles can enter or larger static or Marching Bands. I'm sure EVERY company in the Regiment could enter something!

Duke of Edinburgh's' Award Expeditions

There are many Companies in the Regiment who undertake the Award, the main obstacle is getting sufficient numbers together, available at the same time, to undertake the expedition. If you are organising any dates please let everyone else know so they have the opportunity of joining together to make groups viable.

We have a:

- Gold Practice going out in August 25th to August 27th 2018

- Qualifying expedition going out on October 31st to November 4th 2018

Contact John Corbishley to be involved.

National Memorial Arboretum

On Saturday, November 11, 2017 we held our Annual Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum. This year's service took on added significance as it marked, to the exact day, the formation of the CLB and the end of our 125th anniversary year. Also with it being on the 11th, there was increased activity at the Arboretum with other National Services being held on that day. If you've not been before, join those who travel to the Arboretum for a very moving service in the Millennium Chapel and afterwards in the Brigade's Memorial Garden, to lay wreathes and the sounding of the Last Post. This year it will be on Saturday, November 10, the service starting at 2pm.

The Cenotaph Remembrance Sunday Parade. You should also be aware that the Brigade is invited to send a party to the Parade of Veterans in London on Remembrance Sunday. At the moment there are still a few places left, if you wish to go, notify NHQ immediately. Why not apply for a grant from Regiment to help with your expenses?

National Band

The Brigade's National Band is open to all musicians from the Brigade, they rehearse at Raywell Park at Beverly now which is much more accessible to us in Manchester. They currently number about 60 musicians and among their programme for this year they have entertained with a brilliant concert, are planning a short tour and will be holding auditions at the August/September weekend. Have you considered joining them it is a fantastic experience for our young people. Also, Lionel Burdett, the Musical Director is trying to reinstate the Bugle Corps so if you play bugle (or can convert from Trumpet!) why not give it a try in September?

For more information speak to, or contact Lindsay from St Mark's who is the Bands Adjutant now, on linzmac@hotmail.co.uk

Christchurch Ashton-under-Lyne - Rose Queen Amy Jane Mellor



Pictured with Amy (l-r): Jayden, Martin and Luda

In what is starting to become a bit of a tradition, Sunday 13 May saw a member from Christ Church Ashton CLCGB being crowned Rose Queen for Canon Johnson Sunday School. Amy Jane Mellor, who is 14 and plays glockenspiel in Christ Church's band, was crowned the 65th Rose Queen. Pictured with Amy are two previous Rose Queens, Lily Harvey (left), who was Rose Queen from 2012-2013, and Ellie Hodge (right), who Rose Queen from 2014-2015. Both girls are also Band members playing glockenspiel and bugle respectively.

Also pictured with the girls are Pete and Janet Davies, who were among a quintet of buglers from Christ Church that played a fanfare to welcome the entrance of new Rose Queen. Also playing were Amy's father, Andy Mellor, Julie-Ann Johnston and Laura Ackers.

The Brigade have also had numerous members attend past and present Rose Queens on their Retinues. This year's Retinue is no exception with Amy being supported by Jayden Newton, who played the role of Cushion Bearer at the crowning, Martin Lester and Luda Lester.

It was a very memorable day and Amy was delighted that her Brigade family were able to share it with her.



Picture (l-r): Lily Harvey, Pete Davies, Amy Mellor, Janet Davies and Ellie Hodge