



Roundup

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

The Colonel's Comment

HOW do we want to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our Brigade?? Yes, on 11th November 2016 we will have been in existence for 125 years. That is worth celebrating. How will you do it?

Our main event will be our Regimental Parade but we may want to have a more social event where we can all get together and make it an event that we can say in years to come, I was there! Time is now marching on but we can hold our celebration at anytime during the 125th year but we need some assurance that you want such an event and will support it. Let me know your thoughts.

Somme 100 Parade in Manchester



Many of you will have seen the (late) invitation from the City Council and the Royal British Legion for the Brigade to join the Parade through Manchester on Friday 1st July. We did manage to get 10 on Parade so we were represented. It's so sad that we didn't get more there, it was quite an occasion with many organisations represented and some excellent bands to entertain the big crowds who came to watch. I suppose the point at which the history of the bombardment at the Somme was brought home was when the two field guns fired in St Peter's Square about 20 yards from our position made you realise just what the real bombardment for days on end must have been like.

Just days after the Manchester Parade, we received a call for help from Oldham Council and the RBLA to see if we could provide a band for their parade, they had been let down by someone else. We did manage to turn out nearly a full band and led their Parade through Oldham to the Parish Church. It wasn't on the scale of the Manchester event but having provided the Last Post and Reveille (thank you Peter) and then our members and leaders paraded the parchments up to the altar with over 800 names of men and women from the borough who had died in WW1 it was a very moving service.

General news...

Regimental Parade 2016

Our Annual Parade this year is booked for the 30th October at St Ann's Church in Manchester. Please book this date in your Diaries now! It is a special year so we are delighted to add that we will be joined and supported by our Bishop, the Right Reverend David Walker. Your Company CO has been informed of this so I hope they have passed on the date and information!!!

Being our 125th Anniversary there may be ex-Brigade people that we might like to share the Parade with. If you would like me to invite anyone, then let your Battalion CO know before the 20th September when we hold our next Commanders meeting.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Diamond Challenge.

We are looking for band members, musicians or singers from every corner of the Brigade to help complete our challenge and support the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Diamond Anniversary Challenge. As the Award celebrates 60 years of helping Young People Achieve, they are asking supporters or groups of supporters to raise £60 towards their fund to support future Award participants. Check out their information on <https://dofediamondchallenge.org/>

Our flyer has been sent to your Company CO and other leaders, consider what you can do and register with NHQ asap. We need to have our 60 participating groups by the time we return from school holidays in September. Discuss it at your camps this summer. You can register as many groups as you want.

You don't need to be involved in the D of E now, who knows you may be supported by the fund at some point in the future.

Prayer list

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

Please include in your prayers **Rachel Battershell**, Chaplain, Tameside Battalion.

Highwood commemorations in France and Belgium

CONGRATULATIONS to Colonel Martyn Bedder and his staff from Leicester Regiment who organised the visit to Highwood for services of Commemoration on the Somme battlefields. You may have seen the reports on facebook and the video posted on the British Legion site, they were a credit to our organisation and to their own Companies. Their itinerary included a drumhead service at Highwood, services at the Menin Gate and Thiepval Memorial and finished with something completely different, they led the Parade at Euro Disney on the Sunday before coming home. A fantastic achievement and something to remember for the rest of their lives, for those who went. One of their number was Rebecca Rees (pictured right) from Oldham who has sent in this report:

High Wood 2016

100 years ago July 15 a battle commenced as part of the Somme, named the Battle of High Wood. This battle was fought by the 16th Battalion of the Kings Royal Rifle corps which was a Battalion exclusively made up of members and ex members of the Church Lads Brigade. On the 15th of July the 16th Battalion suffered very heavy losses, hence this trip was in honour of remembering those who fell and allowed us all to be a part of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade today.

This trip was organised by the Leicester Regiment but was open to all people nationally hence why Emily Seddon from St Martins Castleton and I from St Marks Heyside wanted to go, with a group from Longridge and Monmouth, Wales also. We travelled by train to St Peters, Whetston, Leicester and then the 115 people boarded the ferry and travelled to Albert, France. That night it was all about catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Friday the 15th of July 2016 was the 100 year anniversary of the battle of High Wood, so on this day we travelled to the London graves where we did a service which included the band playing hymns, the colours and a drum head service which I was most proud to be a part of. Then we travelled to two other graves, Deville and Caterpillar. Emily and I were at Caterpillar. Every member of the trip had the record of a soldier given to them who they would remember individually. Over the three graves sites the readings were co-ordinated by walkie-talkies, so they were all read together. We had to find our graves then listen to some words read out by an officer. A whistle was sounded and we had to lay our crosses on the graves, salute and then the most important part which was to say the names out loud. My soldier was called Rifleman Thomas Howe and was from Derbyshire. The names were read out in unison so that at the three graves all names were reunited in the air like how they would have been united 100 years ago in battle. Last Post was played at the same time across the graves and a minute silence was held. This was a very emotional part of the trip, in the grave I was in it was silent as the brigade members dotted around the graves let it sink in how important what we had just done was for the Brigade and those men who we remembered.

We then visited Lochnagar crater where we had dinner and learnt about its history, we then travelled back to Albert where we had free time to go and look at the WW1 museum and explore the area.

On Saturday we travelled firstly to Beaumont-Hamel Memorial, where we played last post for those in the Newfoundland Brigade Battalion from Canada. We then went to Thiepval memorial which was my favourite service, and is a memorial for those who fell that

do not have a grave. You can watch this service on the British Legion website as they streamed it live when we were there. We recreated the drum head and read out the 100 names on the memorial who were a part of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps whilst *abide with me* was playing. We then travelled to the Menin gate in Belgium where we had lots of fun in the chocolate shop and then played at the Last Post service that happens every night. We wanted to play here because there were 30 names on the memorial that we were commemorating and the band played *Hymn to the Fallen* whilst the wreaths were laid down. The band then played a small set in front of a gathered audience which included Mechanised Infantry, Royal salute, Galway piper and many more.

Sunday was an exciting day as we visited Disney! It was a really great day as we got to go on the rides and meet Disney characters and have fun with new friends. But the biggest part of the day was the band got to parade around Disney as the pre-parade to the Disney parade. All rides get turned off so that everyone had to come and watch, being on the front row of the drummers I felt very privileged, especially when there were pockets of brigade people dotted around the park cheering when we marched past and that the band played extremely well.

We then set off for the ferry and after nearly 36 hours of being awake a ferry, two trains and a car ride home I was at home letting it sink in how proud I was to be part of the Brigade and its history in remembering the men that allowed me in 1916 to be a part of the Brigade family a hundred years later by laying down their life.

If you would like to watch the Drumhead Service from Thiepval, and I would recommend it, go to www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/calendar/ww1-centenary/live-from-thiepval-memorial-services-of-remembrance/



Band at Disney



Oldham Battalion Brigade Week

Well done Oldham Battalion for their recent Brigade week. Events for all sections during a shortened week this year as we clashed with Euro 16 and it usually includes the Battalion sports. The Martins and Yteam took part in team Games on the Tuesday evening and the Yteam, JTC, Seniors and leaders took part in Hockey, (outdoors with a ball!) on the Wednesday.

Martins Games – Tuesday – 3 teams at St George's School, Shaw

1 St Mark's & St James' EC	115 pts
2 Holy Trinity B	110 pts
3 Holy Trinity A	97 pts

YTeam Games – Tuesday – Only 3 teams

1 Holy Trinity B	107 pts
2 St Mark's	104 pts
3 Holy Trinity A	102 pts



YTeam Hockey

1 St James' East Crompton	4 pts
2 St Marks	2 pts
3 Holy Trinity	1 pt



Senior Hockey Hockey

1 Sarah's Angels	4 pts
2 Dream Team	3 pts
3 DVT	1 pt

General news...

DofE Award support network

We are contacting all SC members (via a letter circulated with this Roundup) to inform them that they can do their Duke of Edinburgh's Award even as an individual member in a Company. A member of the DofE team can support them and advise them and their officers on how to proceed and plan activities and also support them in linking up with others for the expedition sections. It is also important to inform our last year JTC members that they can do DofE with the CL&CGB before they enroll for DofE with their schools, at great expense. The main advantage is that they have more control as to how long they spend on each level, there is no pressure to finish each section in their school year, they make new friends through Brigade and, in the case of older members they have until they are 25 to finish all levels, not when they leave school.

Recently, two girls' from St Marks Heyside joined a group of 3 lads' and one girl from St James Gorton to complete the Bronze Expedition. They were apprehensive at first but after meeting the others they got on great and enjoyed their two days together.

Manchester Regiment's Challenge 2016

Please give this some thought over the summer, we will issue the challenge formally before we start back in September for it to run up to Christmas. Brian Mills has suggested that we could support the Food Bank network through "The Trussell Trust", see www.trusselltrust.org.

Basically we challenge our companies to do something in support of their own communities – it would be good if we could all do the same and to this end I would suggest the Trussell Trust. How they do it is up to them but I would suggest that we ask Company's to provide a £25 donation as a priming fund which their Company sections turn into a profit, over three month period up to just before Christmas. I need to sort out a few details but we should ask them to report what they are doing and how it is progressing. Perhaps, Regiment could provide some sort of trophy for the company with the largest amount – this could be an average per head so that smaller companies are not disadvantaged. This needs some discussion and ideas from others.

(Sounds like a good idea to me JC)

Sports News

The final National Event for 2016 will be the Athletics and Hockey at Kingsway Park Sports Centre, Rochdale, starting at 11am. With the Regimental sports being cancelled we do not have a team to enter so we need you all to turn up. We will make two teams from everyone who is available on Saturday 17th

September. Please try to address this in early September and let us know roughly how many you can bring.

Also, on the same afternoon we will be having the Hockey competition. Again it's open to everyone to play so please come on down and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

Music

CL&CGB Open Music Weekend

10th – 11th September 2016

CLCGB National Headquarters are sponsoring an open music weekend. This is for any CL&CGB member age twelve and above, who would like to enhance their musical skills and meet other band members from around the country. This unique opportunity is aimed at enhancing our young people's skills, along with encouraging and supporting musical talent and development across the organisation.

Bookings via your OIC, booking fee is £30.00 per person, this will be refunded to the company/individual following attendance at the weekend. Fee includes: accommodation, meals, activities and tuition. Transport to the venue is not included. The venue is Kingswood:Dearne Valley, Denaby Main, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN12 4EA

Further details available on the CLCGB website www.clcgb.org.uk (members area only – you must register to use this facility) or by contacting NHQ on 01709 876535 or email tocontactus@clcgb.org.uk

National Music Competition

The National Band Competition was revised this year and was open to any musician from any Brigade Company. There were four age groups for soloists and ensembles for under 12, under 18 and under 25 as well as open age for ensembles. Take up was slow but on the day we were treated to many a varied sorts of music played but all sorts of ensembles. Being a MUSIC competition now, it's open to all sorts of instrument combinations as well, so even if your band is not entering next year, think about coming to show what you can do. It was a great day and St Mark's Heyside represented Manchester in the Open section. They came second to St Mary's Hinkley but performed really well and won the Percussion section award.

If nothing else, next year, come and watch and support the musicians and bands.

Perhaps your band needs some encouragement or some ideas, then the Open Band day in September at Kingswood, would benefit you. Please think about it and support NHQ's initiative.

National Band in Shaw

On Saturday 30th April, the National Band of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade gave their annual concert at Crompton House School in Shaw, Oldham. The concert is a showcase of the Brigades musical expertise and with this years concert being so local it was very well supported by the Manchester Regiment. The concert, a sell-out, was a great night with some old favourites but many new pieces to enjoy. The band is now as big as it was 20 years ago but is a credit to our organization and played a great programme with a lot of diversity. No doubt those who went will have their favourite moments, mine was the "War of the Worlds" with Robbie taking the Richard Burton narrators role, and setting the mood brilliantly.



General news...

Company and Formation Accounts

Would all CO's and treasurers please try to hit the deadline for submitting accounts. The Financial Year ends on the 31st August and Accounts need to be submitted by mid October usually. If you are having a problem please ring me or Cath Sheldon NOW and we can arrange to help you resolve the problem over the summer. I do not want to be sorting Company accounts out on the night before Brigade Council three months after the deadline like last year.

BMS – Brigade membership system

All Companies CO's (or their designated Officers) should remember that new members need to be added to the Membership system within 4 weeks and remove any members who have left. Now that companies are required to identify their First Aiders and Food Hygiene holders, these should be recorded on BMS under the Leaders training records.

London Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph

We have just received information that the CL&CGB has, this year been granted 60 places on the Remembrance Parade in London on Remembrance Sunday. That is a threefold increase on our usual allocation. It would be a fantastic opportunity for our members to be part of a national, televised event and we should make every effort to take advantage. If you wish to go, taking a group or individually then tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Apply to Audrey Simm at NHQ with Name, Address, Date of Birth of everyone going, Everyone will need Photo Id to take with them to collect their Passes. Applications need to be in by early September.

Martyn Bedder, CO of Leicester Regiment will be co-ordinating the event as he has done for the last few years. They generally travel down on Saturday, stay in a Travel Lodge in Boreham wood and get the tube into London on the Sunday Morning. Groups will be free to make their own arrangements of join with Martyns group.

More details to follow as we receive them.





Thanks to Vicky Taylor and her helpers for arranging the Teddy Bears picnic again at Parkbridge Heritage site. Another fun afternoon with the Martins and Yteam.



St Marks Heyside JTC ready to entertain their parents

Training

Our Annual Skills Training Day is on Saturday 27th February 2017 at St Mark's Heyside from 09:30 to 4:30pm. There will be a mixture of training on offer, its not been set yet so get your needs into Graham Procter or John Corbishley ASAP. Leader training is available generally on the CL&CGB Website.

- **Food Hygiene Training** – Available on-line to order from NHQ
- **Safeguarding Training** – Available on-line to order from NHQ – ALL leaders must undertake a Safeguarding course.

The Duke of Edinburghs' Award are pleased to announce the following training dates for this Autumn.

- Introduction to the DofE - Saturday 10th September (venue TBC but hopefully will be North of Birmingham) and Wednesday 5th October at Windsor.
- Expedition Supervisor Training Course - Wednesday 14th September and Saturday 1st October at Windsor.
- Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme - Wednesday 19th October and Saturday 12th November at Windsor.
- Orientation to all three of the above course - Saturday 26th November at Windsor.

For more details, including prices please contact Zoe at NHQ.



Young Leaders training in Durham



On Sunday, July 10 a party of 27 from St James' East Crompton visited Go Air Trampoline Park in Manchester – this party was made up of children and those adults who thought that they were still children!

We had booked an hour's session which at first didn't seem a long time but seeing the bright red faces of those coming off after their stint told us that they had had enough!

Seriously, the group had a great time and the trip was a resounding success, so much so that we were being asked to arrange a return visit before we had left the venue – and no doubt some of the bigger kids who had concerns about having a go will be putting their names down first (and that includes me!!)

Trevor Dunkerley



Diary Dates

September 2016

- 10th-11th YLTP Passing out Weekend 4 at Wath upon Dearne
- 10th-11th Open Music Weekend at Kingswood, Dearne Valley
National HQ are sponsoring this free event.
- 17th National Sports and Hockey at Kingsway Rochdale
- 20th Regimental Commanders meeting

October 2016

- 1st & 2nd DofE Diamond Challenge weekend.
- 15th Brigade Council Meeting at Wath.
- 30th Regimental Parade at St Ann's Church, Manchester

November 2016

- 8th Regimental Commanders meeting
- 12th National Service of Remembrance at the
National Memorial Arboretum
- 13th Remembrance Sunday

January 2017

- 24th Regimental Commanders meeting

February 2017

- 25th Regimental Skills Training Day at St Mark's Heyside.

Your news and photographs* are always welcome for inclusion in Roundup – what better way of getting your news circulated throughout the Regiment – and beyond!

Please email your copy by the last Friday in the month to:

johncorbishley@btinternet.com

* Please submit photos attached separately on emails not in Word documents