



Battalion Highlights 2016/17

This Session was once again a busy one as the Battalion sought to support the work of its Companies in the advancement of Christ's kingdom amongst children and young people.

Activities / Competitions / Events

The Battalion hosted a full programme of events for all Sections, both a competitive and non-competitive nature.

- *Company Section & Seniors events*, included: athletics, badminton, cross country, drill, football trips, golf, hillwalking, kayaking, karting, music, orienteering, physical training, and a worship event.
- *Junior Section events*, included: sunflower growing competition, figure marching, football, golf, music, superstar competition, and a quiz.
- The Anchor and Junior Sections came together to take part in the Christmas Story & Activity and National Museum of Flight visit.

The Battalion ran two Adventure Weekends at Craggan Outdoor Centre for Junior Section and Company Section members.

Training

The Battalion ran a full training programme, including Youth Leader Training, Building Your Skills, First Aid, Holiday Leadership, Child Safeguarding and Canoeing/Kayaking Training Weekend.

Special Events

In September, Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly hosted a reception for Company Chaplains and Parish Ministers. The focus of the event was on 'What the Boys' Brigade can offer to your congregation?'

Several current and past members, leaders and friends of the Battalion turned out for the laying up of Leith Battalion Colours



at South Leith Parish Church in November. The Colours were laid up alongside 2 earlier sets and cover the whole period of the Battalion.



In January, the Battalion donated £2,500 to the 'Caring for Carronvale' Appeal. A cheque was presented to Alistair Burrow, Vice President of The Boys' Brigade UK and Rol at the Junior Section Indoor Football competition.



The Battalion's 60th Anniversary Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle took place in May, when we welcomed visiting bands from across Scotland to accompany our own bands and musicians. We were delighted and honoured to have Diane & Alex Mackie, Edinburgh Risk Management General Ltd. as our Chief Guests and Major General M L Riddell-Webster CBE DSO, Governor of Edinburgh Castle as our Salute Taker.



The Battalion was also on parade at the opening service for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when we provided a Guard of Honour for The Lord High Commissioner, The Princess Royal.

In June, 21 Seniors from the Battalion were presented with their Queen's Badge certificates at the East Lowland Area Queen's Badge Presentation Ceremony. This year's event was hosted by the Battalion at Canongate Kirk and the certificates were presented by Baillie Norman Work, The City of Edinburgh Council.



Property

Craggan Outdoor Centre continues to be extensively used, both by groups from within and outwith the Battalion, and maintenance work has been ongoing at Pollock Pavilion.



The Battalion was awarded £10,000 by Awards for All Scotland to develop paddlesport in The Boys' Brigade, and £1,250 by Cashback for Communities Small Grants Scheme to develop Young Leaders' Network activities.



Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all the dedicated Leaders who carry out such great work in both our Companies and Battalion.

Yours in The Boys' Brigade,
David Scott
Development Officer