

25th Stirling (Dunblane) Boys' Brigade

Company & Senior Sections

Parents' Information Pack 2017-18

For updates, check www.dunblanebb.org.uk and facebook.com/dunblanebb

Dear Parents...

Whether your son has just joined, has moved up from Junior Section or is back for his seventh year, welcome! We've revised our info pack this year, so whatever category you're in, please read on for important information and updates. May we suggest you keep this copy on your pin-board or somewhere handy for future reference? Remember, also, that our regularly updated website with calendar of events and weekly e-mails are essential reading, too!

If you do still have questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch – a full contact list is enclosed at the back.

Meeting Times and Venues

In 2017-18, we are continuing to emphasise that BB meets for *everyone* on Fridays and Sundays and we are asking parents to affirm their commitment to ensuring your son comes along to both on a regular basis. We are continuing the popular fortnightly Sunday schedule with alternating morning/evening meetings.

Parade Night & Activities Fridays 7.45-10.00pm	Cathedral Halls
Bible Class & Games Night Sundays 7.30-9.00pm (1 st /3 rd /5 th Sunday of month)	St. Blane's Church Hall
Sunday Bacon Roll Bible Class Sundays 9.20-10.00am (2 nd /4 th Sunday of month)	Cathedral Hall (upstairs)

Optional weekly meeting nights are as follows:

Badminton 8-9pm & Five-a-side Football 9-10pm Tuesday evenings Cost £2 per activity or £3 for both	Dunblane High School
BB Band – Wednesdays Training Band 6.45-7.30pm Main Band rehearsal 7.30-9.00pm	St. Blane's Church Hall

There are many more evenings with activities such as local and national competitions. These

will be announced by e-mail as and when dates become available.

Online BB Manager – my.BB

We are now using a new online data management system to streamline organisation of our programme, events, badge records, payments for trips, subs, etc. and keeping contact details regularly updated. It is important that you use the unique links in e-mails inviting you to sign up for events as these work only for your son. Please also sign up for online payment for events. These will be directly debited when the payment deadline for an event occurs.

Membership Fees

A donation of £50 per boy for annual membership is suggested (£25 if joining after Christmas). There is a £10 reduction for each subsequent sibling after the oldest member. We do not have a weekly Friday collection. Please fill in the Gift Aid declaration to allow us to claim back an additional 25%. Your donation partly covers our annual capitation fee to BB HQ, leader training, insurance, equipment, resources and many other week-to-week expenses. You are welcome to pay in instalments across the year – please ask. **It is our expressed policy that no boy ever be excluded from BB (or its activities) on the basis of means to pay. Please ask in confidence if you ever require assistance to ensure your son can take a full part in our programme.**

Parent Help

We are blessed with a large group of volunteer leaders in Dunblane BB, but we also expect a very large number of boys and we can't stress enough how important it is that we have your support, as parents, in many ways. We will be looking to call upon your skills or time to help us ensure we have a high-quality programme with supervision levels and expertise that make it such. When helping as a parent with our programme, you'll always be with a trained

leader, so we don't require PVG checks for short-term volunteering, and we won't leave you to supervise groups single-handedly. Of course, if you enjoy yourself and think you might like to get involved more regularly, we'll be delighted – and so will the boys! If you do want to get trained up, it's easy and enjoyable – and the paperwork is short and straightforward.

We do now have a 17-seater minibus, which helps us to get boys to events more efficiently but there will be times when we still rely on additional help with transport from you.

Our hopes for and expectations of your son...

In the last few years, the volunteer leaders have been re-examining the values and expectations of the BB Company, and we have made a few changes, which reflect the need for running a 'tight ship' with the blessing of having so many boys to work with. We have set these out in sections below and we sincerely hope you will take some time to discuss these with your son(s) at the beginning of the BB year.

Membership Commitment

As volunteer leaders, our commitment to the BB is a very satisfying one and we enjoy giving of our time. It is our hope that boys will feel the same level of commitment, recognising that the many activities are provided by adults giving freely of their own time. We ask that boys show this by:

- **Attending regularly on both Friday AND Sunday as equally important meeting days and setting these aside as BB times. Think of it along the lines of a football team: being in the team means coming to all training sessions, going into the community and keeping yourself in good shape – as well as the matches, golf days and away trips!**
- Honour your commitment to an activity, event or competition that you sign up for through BB. If something else comes up later, prioritise what you committed to first.
- Get the most out of being in the BB by coming to the 'extra' events, competitions, trips, weekends, volunteering opportunities & camps that all form part of your BB experience – and which give you the credits you need for badges.
- Be courteous – if there's a reason you can't attend a meeting or event, let us know – text, e-mail or phone. This saves people waiting around unnecessarily.

Behaviour and Conduct

At BB, we will be examining what respect means and asking your son to demonstrate the highest levels of it, both in the way he behaves and speaks to fellow boys and to the leaders – and the way he represents himself and your family. Boys should:

- Speak courteously and politely to all adult leaders whether in conversation or when answering questions.
- Do not swear or use other inappropriate language whilst at BB – even when adults may not be listening. Try to adopt this into your everyday life, too.
- Take responsibility for your own actions and be prepared to explain yourself and how you intend to make situations right if problems arise.
- **Do not bring or use any mobile phone, music player, digital camera or games console to record, send, broadcast or play sound, video or pictures whilst at any BB event, unless this is part of a sanctioned activity. Any boy found to be using such technology in this way shall be taken home.**
- Ensure that you represent the BB well at school and in public. Look out for your fellow members elsewhere in the community and speak positively and proudly about the BB when given the opportunity to do so.

Uniform and Kit

The BB uniform and drill are what distinguish us from many other organisations and it is something in which we all take pride. Spending time making sure you have all parts of your uniform each Friday evening (beginning and end!) is vital and being smart and well turned-out is equally important. Each week, we ask that you:

- Iron your blue BB shirt and wear it with sleeves rolled down and collar buttoned.
- Wear your BB tie (Senior tie for S4-S6) properly tied at the collar (clip-ons available for ease!)
- Ensure you have all of your relevant badges on the correct armband/arm and laid out properly (see BB website or attached sheet for details)
- Iron your black/grey school trousers and wear them with your polished BB belt.
- Polish your black, formal shoes and wear them with black or dark socks

In addition, we expect that everyone bring PE kit to BB each Friday evening, consisting of trainers, a t-shirt and shorts. Doing and having all of the above shows you are committed to turning out your best self on a Friday night – and you will be rewarded with good inspection scores for yourself and your squad.

Volunteering

It might surprise you to learn that our annual turnover – through many sources – has exceeded some £30,000. We offer dozens

of activities throughout the year, almost all of them heavily subsidised – something which schools and other organisations cannot always do. These can only happen if and when boys step up and volunteer. Part of being in the BB is about helping out, whether that's by collecting sponsors for a hike, bag-packing, assisting at our coffee mornings or ceilidh, volunteering at an event that brings us good publicity (and possible funds, subsequently) or helping to do deliveries of posters, tickets etc. around Dunblane.

We will be reminding the boys regularly of the need for everyone to show commitment to these values.

Practical Information

Friday Nights

Boys should arrive already dressed in full BB uniform (see above) and enter by the side door of the Cathedral Hall. We strongly encourage boys to walk to BB at 7.45pm because the Cathedral Square can be very busy with 50 Junior Section boys getting lifts and 100 arriving for Company. Please share lifts if you must drive. P7 boys will attend from 7.45-9.30pm only until Christmas, after which they stay until 10pm. Seniors (S4-S6) may finish at Dunblane High on some Fridays.

A typical Friday evening will include an opening parade, devotions and a short talk and prayer, uniform inspection and then three blocks of activities. We also have a tuck shop each week with drinks and Fairtrade snacks and sweets – recommended maximum spend of £1.50.

Sundays

Our Sunday bible classes are always interactive and explore faith in a way that encourages boys to think deeply, learning and forming ideas about their own faith by hearing from others (adults and boys) and discovering the Bible in a fun and enjoyable way. We look at world issues, our own lives, film clips, cartoons, and how the Bible and Christianity is relevant to these or demonstrated through them. *Note that boys who are attending church with family do not need to attend BB Bible Class as well, but a note from you, confirming their attendance, will help.*

On the second and fourth Sunday of each month, Bible Class will run 9.20-10.00am, with bacon rolls for everyone! Boys are then welcome

to attend the service at either St. Blane's (10am) or the Cathedral (10.30am) with the leaders. On the first, third and fifth Sundays, bible class will be in the evening, at 7.30pm, and will offer an optional hour (8-9pm) of table tennis, pool, Xbox/PS3 and chess afterwards.

A collection is taken at Bible Class each week, which is sent to the BB World Mission Fund through the Church of Scotland at the end of the session.

Events during the year

Church Services

Our annual Dedication Service will be at the Cathedral on Friday, 29th September at 7.30pm. Parents, family and friends are invited to join us for this service. All boys must attend the Remembrance Day parade and church service on the morning of Sunday, 12th November. We will run our annual Carol Service on Sunday 10th December at 6.30pm. The Battalion Church Parade is on Sunday 22nd April 2018.

Weekends Away

Several weekends away will be on offer, the first of which is to Dublin on 8th-10th September. An outdoor activities weekend at the Abernethy Trust centre at Ardeonaig will be offered from Fri 27th-Sun 29th October. There will be another weekend break offered in January and Seniors have a Ski Weekend in February or March 2018.

Coffee Mornings, etc.

Coffee Mornings will be held on 21st October 2017 and 4th March 2017. The Burns Supper will be on Saturday 28th January 2017.

Bag-Packing

We will be bag-packing at Morrisons on Saturday 7th October (afternoon) and at M&S Dunblane on 19th December (evening) and all boys are asked to give at least an hour of their time. Other dates will be confirmed later.

Christian Aid Week

Boys are asked to deliver (not collect) envelopes to houses in the town on the weekend preceding Christian Aid Week in mid-May.

Cathedral Coffees

In the month of March, boys volunteer one Sunday morning to help prepare and serve the

post-service teas and coffees at church – another opportunity to earn community credits.

Startup Stirling

We have a monthly collection of food for Startup Stirling on the last Friday of the month and we will organise other events to raise funds, awareness or boost supplies as Startup has recently become one of our unofficial charity 'partners' and we are keen to support them.

SUMMER CAMP 2018

The undoubted highlight of the BB calendar, our summer camp offers a week under canvas in some of Scotland or England's finest countryside. Spending a week living, playing and working together with their peers and leaders can have a great impact on a boy's life and the way he handles relationships and living in community with others. As well as in-camp games (team and individual) we offer lots of other activities and day trips. Summer Camp 2018 takes place at Craigtoun Country Park in St. Andrews in the first week of the holidays (30th June – 7th July 2018).

THE KILBRYDE HIKE

This is the BB's Scottish national hiking competition and takes place in June in the hills of south-east Lanarkshire and Upper Nithsdale. We enter several teams and boys are keen to take part. It involves several weekends of training but provides an excellent culmination to the year and a chance to put map/compass, teamwork, navigation and camping skills into practice in a competitive setting. We were runners-up in the Senior category in 2017!

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

As a company, we currently offer the DofE to boys from S3 upwards and it matches up well with the BB President's Badge and Queen's Badge requirements. We recently had 4 boys complete their Gold Award, 14 Silver and 18 Bronze in 2016. Doing Duke of Edinburgh's Award requires a large degree of independence and self-motivation – as well as a lot of gentle but regular prodding from parents (for which we will be very grateful!) but it is undoubtedly one of the best out-of-school qualifications to have to your name, as are the President's and Queen's Badges. We are a provider agency and

will help boys with ideas for their activities and train them for the expedition element, but we do not spoon-feed the award.

We will only register a boy for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in BB after he has completed a 3-month 'trial' membership. During that period, he can start one section of the award, while proving commitment to general BB work.

UNIFORM SUPPLIES

The BB Supplies Depot is located on Friars Street in Stirling, just across from Jimmy Chung's. Please note it is staffed by volunteers and is only open at the following times during school terms:

Wednesdays 7.00-8.00pm

Saturdays 10.00am-12.00noon

The main benefit of the shop is that you can try on uniform items.

We do not ask new members to buy uniform straight away, but do expect them to do so after four weeks. You can also order uniform items online at <http://shop.boys-brigade.org.uk>

BAND AND MUSIC

Our wind band has been going now for around 7½ years. Boys can learn brass, woodwind and percussion instruments on Wednesday evenings. In 2017/18, we are teaching instruments to beginners again, so new members are welcome to the training band 6.45-7.30pm on Wednesdays. The main band plays in many concerts, parades, fundraisers and other public performances and competitions throughout the BB year, as well as for pure fun and enjoyment!

Chanter (piping) lessons are also available with Ewan Brown on Thursday evenings. Please get in touch for more information.

COMPETITIONS

As a company, we take part in local (battalion) competitions as well as national ones. At a local level, we have a variety of competitions, including the 5-a-side football league, quiz, ten pin bowling, table tennis, first aid, badminton, chess and swimming. Meanwhile at a national level, we compete in badminton, table tennis, chess, 5-a-side football (under-14 and senior), cross-country and the Masterteam quiz. The dates for the various rounds will depend on the

hosts, mostly between late October and January. For away matches we sometimes need help with transport, depending on numbers.

Parents and friends are always strongly encouraged to spectate and support at these events.

LEADER CONTACT DETAILS

These details are provided so you are aware of the adults who may be working with your son on any given day or event. Please use these details to contact the necessary person with consideration of their volunteer status. If you have any general questions, please contact the Captain.

<p>CAPTAIN: PAUL CHRISTMAS Responsibilities: overseeing all sections of the Company, leader registration, training and safeguarding; Tuesday football, etc. 55 Old Doune Rd, Dunblane Tel 823192 Mob 07801 316416 captain@dunblanebb.org.uk</p>	<p>OFFICER IN CHARGE: COLIN ANDERSON Responsibilities: Company Section programme, Queen's Badge coordinator/mentor, pantomime director. 38 Ramsay Drive, Dunblane Tel 822955 Mob 07920 702550 dunblane.andersons@sky.com</p>
<p>FRASER BOYD Responsibilities: communication and social media/PR; OBM admin; band; national competitions. Officer in charge of Juniors. 32 Buchan Drive, Dunblane Tel 821387 Mob 07767 691812 fraser@fraserboyd.com</p>	<p>GRAEME MCEWAN Responsibilities: publicity, funding and sponsorship bids, Company Section programme; Tuesday-night football/badminton. 41 Menteith View, Dunblane Tel 825577 Mob 07734 974026 graememcewan@aol.com</p>
<p>STEVEN HOPPER Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors; sports leadership. Tuesday-night football/badminton; also works with Anchor Boys. 6 Menteith View, Dunblane Tel 825460 sjhopper029@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>IAN BROWN Responsibilities: Seniors activities; Battalion Queen's Badge Advisor; Ian works with Junior Section, too. 33 Main Street, Doune Tel 07837 431116 ianalisterbrown@gmail.com</p>
<p>JOHN FERGUSON Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors' activities. 27 Kellie Wynd, Dunblane Tel 824879 jferguson999@gmail.com</p>	<p>GORDON PRINGLE Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors' activities 107 Ochiltree, Dunblane Tel 825196 gordon.pringle@btinternet.com</p>
<p>TONY BYRNE Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors' activities; drill. Kippenross North Lodge, Dunblane Tel 825546 awbyrne@gmail.com</p>	<p>CONNOR WILSON Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors' activities 2 Primrose Place, Tillicoultry 07960 937014 connoraw@btconnect.com</p>
<p>CHRIS WHITEHEAD Responsibilities: Company Section; Christian Faith programmes 61 Montgomery Crescent, Dunblane Tel 07974 179730 slatehaa@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>ANN JOHNSTON Responsibilities: Duke of Edinburgh's Award administrator 5 Dougal Court, Dunblane Tel 826860 annjohnston06@sky.com</p>
<p>STEVEN MCLAGAN Responsibilities: All-important canteen maestro! 17 St. Laurence Avenue, Dunblane Tel 825054 steven.mclagan@sky.com</p>	<p>GRAEME DOLBY Responsibilities: Duke of Edinburgh's Award (expedition only) 'Ryvoan', Glen Road, Dunblane Tel 825524 gdolby@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>CRAIG WILSON Responsibilities: Company Section. 2 Leighton Avenue, Dunblane Tel 07725 482208 scraigw@btconnect.com</p>	<p>COLIN KENNEDY Responsibilities: outdoor/hiking programme, risk assessments 8 Culdee Grove, Dunblane Tel 07711577997</p>
<p>Band tutors: Marc Spencer-Bowles (woodwind), Anne McInnes (percussion), Robert Cowan (officer with 1st Tulliallan BB)</p>	