

# 25<sup>th</sup> Stirling (Dunblane) Boys' Brigade

## Company & Senior Sections

### Parents' Information Pack 2017-18

For updates, check [www.dunblanebb.org.uk](http://www.dunblanebb.org.uk) and [facebook.com/dunblanebb](https://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 2018-19, 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.

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

Optional weekly meeting nights are as follows:

<b>Badminton / Basketball 8-9pm</b> (alternate weeks) Tuesday evenings (Cost £2)	Dunblane High School
<b>BB Band – Wednesdays</b> Training Band 7.15-7.45pm Intermediate 7.45-8.30pm Main Band 7.30-9.00pm	St. Blane's Church Hall
<b>Chanter / Bagpipe class</b> Thursdays 6.30-7.45pm	Cathedral 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 Brigade Manager – my.BB

We are now using a new online system to streamline organisation of our programme, events, payments for trips, subs, etc. and keeping contact details regularly updated so we are compliant with GDPR. 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 £55 per boy for annual membership is suggested (£30 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 (including on OBM) 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. **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 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 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 in advance – 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 £40,000. 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 main door of the Cathedral Hall (not the side door)**. We strongly encourage boys to walk to BB at 7.45pm. 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 an e-mail/text 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). 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 with food available.

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, 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm. 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, 11th November. We will run our annual Carol Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. The Battalion Church Parade will be on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### **Weekends Away**

Several weekends away will be on offer, the first of which is to York on 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October. An outdoor activities weekend at the Abernethy Trust centre at Nethybridge will be offered from Fri 28<sup>th</sup>-Sun 30<sup>th</sup> October. There will be other weekends offered in January-March 2019.

### **Coffee Mornings, etc.**

Coffee Mornings will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019.

### **Bag-Packing**

We hope to arrange some dates for bag-packing at local supermarkets. If you have any connections that could help us to get a date, please let us know.

### **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 2019

*The undoubted highlight of the BB calendar, our summer camp offers a week under canvas in some of Scotland'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. 2019 dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.*

#### 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 are the current 'Junior' category champions! 2019 is the hike's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we hope to enter lots of teams. It will take place on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### 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 boys complete Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Doing DofE 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. 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 before you buy!

*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 8½ years. Boys can learn brass, woodwind and percussion instruments on Wednesday evenings. In 2018/19, we are teaching instruments to beginners again, so new members are welcome to the training band 7.15-7.45pm 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/bagpipe lessons are also available with Ewan Brown on Thursday evenings 6.30-7.45pm.

#### 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><b>CAPTAIN: PAUL CHRISTMAS</b>          Responsibilities: overseeing all sections of the Company, leader registration, training and safeguarding, summer camp.          Tel 823192 Mob 07801 316416          captain@dunblanebb.org.uk</p>	<p><b>OFFICER IN CHARGE: COLIN ANDERSON</b>          Responsibilities: Company Section programme, Queen's Badge coordinator/mentor, Project Malawi 2019 director.          Tel 822955 Mob 07920 702550          dunblane.andersons@sky.com</p>
<p><b>FRASER BOYD</b>          Responsibilities: communication and social media/PR; OBM admin; band; national competitions. Officer in charge of Juniors.          Tel 821387 Mob 07767 691812          fraser@fraserboyd.com</p>	<p><b>GRAEME MCEWAN</b>          Responsibilities: publicity, funding and sponsorship bids, Company Section programme; Tuesday-night badminton.          Tel 825577 Mob 07734 974026          graememcewan@aol.com</p>
<p><b>STEVEN HOPPER</b>          Responsibilities: Company Section; sports leadership. Tuesday night badminton; also works with Anchor Boys.          Tel 825460          sjhopper029@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p><b>IAN BROWN</b>          Responsibilities: Seniors activities; Battalion Queen's Badge Advisor; Ian works with Junior Section, too.          Tel 07837 431116          ianalisterbrown@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>JOHN FERGUSON</b>          Responsibilities: Company Section and Seniors' activities.          Tel 824879          jferguson999@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>GORDON PRINGLE</b>          Responsibilities: Seniors' activities; Tuesday night basketball          Tel 825196          gordon.pringle@btinternet.com</p>
<p><b>ANN JOHNSTON</b>          Responsibilities: Duke of Edinburgh and JASS Awards admin          Tel 826860          annjohnston06@sky.com</p>	<p><b>COLIN KENNEDY</b>          Responsibilities: outdoor/hiking programme, risk assessments          Tel 07711577997</p>
<p>We are pleased to welcome new officers and helpers to Company Section this year as well:          Alistair McPherson, Drew Leslie, Karen Moizer and Jo Carruthers.</p>	
<p>Music tutors: Marc Spencer-Bowles (woodwind), Anne McInnes (percussion), Wendy Monteith (brass), Robert Cowan (brass), Ewan Brown (bagpipes)</p>	