

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



Starting time !

A feature article by our intrepid reporter Jacob Gibbs

The BB year got off to a great start of fun, games and marching. We have formed our Squads, and are happy to announce that Churchill and Jacob are this year's Squad Commanders; hopefully some others may get the chance next year?

We are always looking for new members, and on that subject are pleased to report that Tommy O'Brien has just joined us, moving up from Junior Section after our Enrolment Service.



Marching to Church for our Enrolment Service



Ben White was the ONLY 2nd Alton member willing to accept the challenge of the Battalion Cross-Country Championships. Well done, Ben !



Dates for your diary

Band practice takes place every Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm, unless noted otherwise. This may be followed by an hour of games, depending on the availability of Staff - listen for announcements on the previous Friday.

- Sat 27 Oct **Off-road bike ride** - meet 10am at the Sports Centre; bring packed lunch.
- Wed 31 Oct *There WILL be band practice this evening, 7pm. Please ignore earlier note!*
- Fri 2 Nov Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Sat 3 Nov **Battalion 5-a-side football tournament**, Madjeski Dome, Reading.
Meet 5pm at the church.
- Wed 7 Nov Young Venturers' Expedition Presentation, 6.30pm (*before Band*).
- Fri 9 Nov Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Sun 11 Nov **Remembrance Day** - Everyone is meeting at 10.15am in the Market Square. 45-minute Service at the Cairn memorial. Wrap up warmly!
Please also come to Evensong at St Lawrence (6pm). A beacon will be lit, church bells pealed, and our buglers will play Last Post. **ALL IN UNIFORM!**
- Fri 16 Nov Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Fri 23 Nov Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Sat 24 Nov **Church Christmas Fair** (10am to midday).
Battalion Table Tennis Tournament, Fleet. Meet 5.20pm at the church. ***Please note change of date!***
- Fri 30 Nov Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Fri 7 Dec Parade Night, 7.45pm.
- Sat 8 Dec **QUIZ NIGHT** for Parents and Friends, 7pm at the Church.
- Fri 14 Dec Last Parade Night of the year, 7.45pm.
- Wed 19 Dec **Carol singing in aid of Action for Children**, Leave the Church at 7pm, and return just after 8pm for something to eat and a warm drink.

Forward dates

- Fri 11 Jan First night back after the Christmas and New Year break, 7.45pm.
- Sat 19 Jan* Southern Navigators' Orienteering; meet 9.15am at church.
- Sat 19 Jan Battalion Chess tournament at Yateley (afternoon).
- Sat 9 Feb Battalion Orienteering competition (morning).
- Sat 2 Mar Battalion Special Activity Day - details later
- Sat 9 Mar* Southern Navigators' Orienteering; meet 9.15am at church.
- Sat 30 Mar **Battalion Day of Action** - KEEP THE WHOLE DAY CLEAR please!

* Payment will be needed; probably £3

Christmas Festivities

There are lots of opportunities to celebrate and to worship over the Christmas period, and we hope you'll want to come to some of them.

- Sun 16 Dec - Candle-lit carol service, 6.30pm.
- Fri 21 Dec - Carols round the tree in the Market Square, 7pm.
- Sun 23 Dec - Morning Service 10am
- Mon 24 Dec - Service for young children, 4pm.
- Mon 24 Dec - Midnight service, 11.30pm.
- Tue 25 Dec - Family Christmas Day service, 10am. Everyone welcome - you can bring one of your presents to "show and tell" !



Remembering . . .

As well as the usual town Remembrance Parade, there's a special event to mark the Centenary of the end of hostilities in World War I. We'll be playing Last Post at St Lawrence Church on Sunday evening, and a beacon will be lit.

BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE
11TH NOVEMBER 2018
100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE



Ssh! Brains at work!

It's the quietest of all the BB Competitions! And we need FOUR Boys to form the 2nd Alton team at the Battalion Championship on Saturday 19th January.

Might YOU be able to help? We can call on our Juniors too - Jacob's young brother Thomas helped us last year.

Delivering the mail

Each year, at Christmas time, Royal Mail relaxes its monopoly to allow charities to deliver cards in their local area, and 2nd Alton has been doing this every Christmas since 1984!

We need lots of people to help make this happen. Firstly, someone produces the Christmas stamps. Next, all our BB members sell them to family and friends, and there's also a sales point in the church foyer. Then comes the big sorting - no, we don't have a Sorting Hat, just Mr Allan's kitchen table!

And finally comes the most important bit. We entrust the delivery of the cards to Company Section Boys and to Staff. It's vitally important that every envelope is carefully put through the correct letterbox, because we've been trusted to do just that.

Not only is the service appreciated - it costs less than half Royal Mail's second-class postage - but, with 2000 or so items delivered, it makes a big difference to the health of the Company's finances!

So please play your part, conscientiously!



Fancy an expedition?

Young Venturers is for anyone in Year 7 or Year 8, and gives an introduction to the Expeditions which form part of DofE, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (in Year 9).

It begins on Wednesday 16th January, with Navigators (Year 8) at 6.30 to 7pm and Adventurers (Year 7) following on from 7 to 7.30pm. Don't miss it!



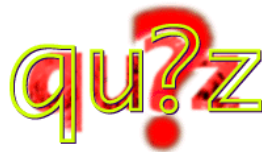
It's a mug's game!

To mark National Baking Week, we decided to bake a cake . . . in a mug! The results were superb, and in true "Bake-Off" tradition, special decorations of fruit and cream were added, to give a most professional (and delicious) finish.

Our thanks go to Julie Howe for helping to make this happen!

At "The National"

Last year, we came home from Bedfordshire with the Wooden Skittle for being the worst team in the BB National 10-pin Bowling Championships - and having taken it back this year, were determined not to repeat the performance! So well done, Andrew, Pedro and Churchill, for reaching the semi-finals of the Alley competition.



Calling all Parents and Friends!

Please write the evening of **Saturday 8th December** into your diaries! We're holding a Quiz Evening, with buffet supper, and it promises to be a most enjoyable event. We'll form teams of four to six people - but better still, why not bring along your own team?

Space is limited to 12 teams. There's a "sign-up" list on the notice board in the church foyer, or you can let David Allan know (01420 84739). £8 per person.



2nd Alton BB Roll of Honour *(since 1st November 2017)*

BRONZE AWARD: Libby Bentley, Matthew Carruthers, Grace Moritz, Finlay Parker, Phoebe Randall, Storm Watts

GOLD AWARD: Darcie Carruthers, Ben Sear



"Phil" the Bag

You will have heard of this initiative at our Enrolment Service, but here are some more details.

It's a "win-win" initiative, providing clothing for poorer parts of developing countries, while at the same time raising funds for our Boys' Brigade Company. All you need to do is collect old, but usable clothing and shoes - things that you might have grown out of, or simply don't wear any more. Every so often, we'll have a "Collecting Day" when we'll gather all your donations, and they'll then be collected and taken away for sorting and re-use.

In an effort to keep plastic bag use to a minimum, we suggest that you might collect things in an old pillowcase or duvet cover, but a black bin-liner will be OK if you can't find anything else. And please don't include rags or scraps of material - everything should be able to be worn again.

Someone, somewhere will appreciate your surplus items!

