



## Celebrating Forty Years of 2nd Alton

At the end of January, our Company celebrated its fortieth anniversary. We all joined the church congregation for a special service to commemorate the occasion, and afterwards, following "Dinner Call" played on the bugle by

the Captain, ex-members and former church leaders joined in a camp-style lunch, sharing of memories and stories of their times with 2nd Alton. In the afternoon, many more dropped in to look at the photograph albums, to watch the various slide shows from previous years, and more importantly to catch up with old friends and colleagues, who had come from as far afield as Cornwall, Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire, and even Scotland.

But two days previously, it had been time for all our present members to celebrate, and after a photo shoot, we in Company Section enjoyed an evening of games and activities. Of course, this included balloon tennis and the dreaded "flour cake" game - and we can also confirm that Noah survived his first space ship voyage, despite there being some trouble during the flight!

An ex-member working in the USA sent greetings by email, and following the weekend, we received a very generous donation from an ex-member living many miles away, along with his thanks for the character-building opportunities he had been given during his time in the Company.



## Action Stations ...!



The Battalion Day of Action is a highlight of the BB year, and we set off for Court Moor School in Fleet knowing that we would be competing against four other Companies. Quite a challenge - how would we get on?

Well, not too badly, actually! We took part in all the events apart from the Colour Party Drill and over-14 football, and, as the photo below shows, came away with several trophies and certificates. Well done, everyone!



### Results

Inspection	3rd
Scripture Quiz	5th
Single Line Drill	4th
Squad Drill	1st
First Aid	3rd
Surprise Event	3rd
Five-a-side football	1st
Superstars	1st=
Potted Sports	5th
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>2nd=</b>



## Dates for your diary

We have three Fridays until our Display, and then we're into the summer programme, with lots of outdoor activity . . . and NO UNIFORM and NO DRILL !

Band practice continues every Wednesday evening, from 7 to 8pm.

- Fri 19 Apr Parade Night, 7.50pm.
  - Fri 26 Apr Parade Night, 7.50pm.
  - Fri 3 May Parade Night, 7.50pm.
  - Fri 10 May **Company Display.** Report no later than **6.50pm** for a 7pm start. Parents invited to join us, and wait for refreshments afterwards.
  - Sat 11 May Church Spring Fair, 10am.
  - Sun 12 May Manning the **Water Station** for the Alton 10mile road race.
  - Fri 17 May Games on The Butts green. 7.30 to 9pm
  - Fri 24 May ▶ **Laser Quest** at Woking.
  - Fri 31 May NO MEETING - Half-term holiday.
  - Fri 7 Jun Wide Games. Meet 7pm at the church.
  - Fri 14 Jun NO MEETING - no staff available!
  - Fri 21 Jun ▶ **Coral Reef Leisure Pool**, Bracknell.
  - Sat 22 Jun Battalion **Sports Day** at the Spectrum Centre, Guildford. All day!
  - Fri 28 Jun Orienteering. Meet 7pm at the church.
  - Fri 5 Jul Mountain biking. Meet 7pm at the church.
  - Sun 7 Jul Battalion **Wide Games (afternoon)** - details to follow.
  - Fri 12 Jul ▶ **Bouldering** at Wokingham.
  - Wed 17 Jul Last meeting of the session - **Walk and Barbecue.**
  - 10 - 17 Aug **Summer Camp** with 1st Woodley and 2nd Fleet
- ▶ Consent Forms, with full details, will be issued nearer the date.

## Keeping the runners hydrated

Each year, Alton Runners year, 2nd Alton BB help to provide water at a drinks station on the route. The good news is that we also receive a generous donation from the organisers!



## Training for their DofE Bronze expeditions

Harvey and Jacob have been coming along to the Wednesday evening sessions to prepare for the expeditions in the summer. They've also been for two training walks to see how they get on, with their friends, when they are out in the countryside.

Their Practice Expedition will be in the May half-term.



## Battalion sports events . . . win some, lose some!

We took part in the indoor football competition that was held in the Army sports centre in Aldershot, and our team did their very best. However, with four players, it wasn't surprising that they finished in last place - but they did manage to score two goals in their six matches.



The football team at Aldershot

In the Orienteering event in Alice Holt forest we had more success. Jacob and Harvey, running as a pair, took the Under-15 prize, and with support from Jonathan and Michael, Noah Connor and Mark, we finished in second place overall. Not bad, when you consider that there was a field of forty competitors from

as far afield as Portsmouth and Southampton.

There's only one Battalion competition to come, and that's Sports Day at the Guildford Spectrum Centre. Please keep the date of 22nd June clear, as we'll need everyone's help if we are to achieve a great result!

## Welcoming new faces

Over the winter months we were pleased to welcome Mr Robb as a helper. His input has been very useful, and he has offered to be "on call" for any meetings or activities where we might be short of staff.

And during our 40th birthday celebrations, Mr Vincent, an ex-member, offered to join the leadership team. He has already been a great help, and is enrolled as a Warrant Officer. As soon as he has completed his Youth Leader training, we'll be able to enrol him as a Lieutenant.



## Recognising Achievement

During the last eight months, several DofE Awards have been gained.

- |        |                   |                 |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|
| BRONZE | Lily Gibbs        | Lucy Franklin   |
|        | Rainbow Thrussell | Alex Richards   |
|        |                   | Sophie Richards |
| SILVER | Rosalie Meers     | Freya Parratt   |

BB in Hampshire's plans for an Anchor and Junior event are well in hand, and they are hoping to organise a special event for Company and Senior Boys.

Watch this space!

