

Great Weather for our Winter Venture

Jonathan, Mark and Michael were the three who accepted the challenge of our Winter Venture, and set off with Matthew Richards and Mr A very early on Saturday 27th December. After a three-hour journey to the Brecon Beacons it was time for the first walk; their objective, the summit of Sugar Loaf, at just under 2000ft above sea level.

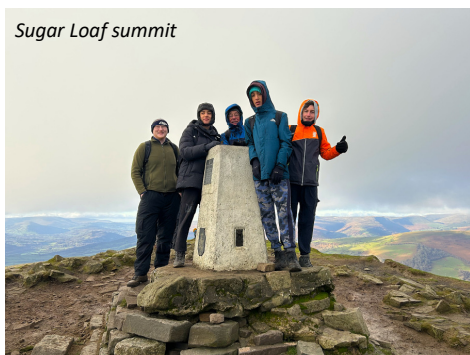
It was a beautiful day, with lots of tourists walking to the peak - but our intrepid group had started from river level, not from a car park nearer the top! They were delighted to reach the summit, and enjoyed the descent, fording the Nant Iago stream

and finding really deep banks of fallen beech leaves! A short drive brought them to the well-equipped and centrally-heated bunkhouse.

Day 2 took them to another hill, before the excitement of the day - walking behind the magnificent Sgwd yr Elra waterfall.

Before coming home on Day 3 there was time for another walk in bright sunshine. They climbed from Craig Cerrig Gleisiad Nature Reserve to the 2060ft summit of Fan Frynych, and were overjoyed to find ice on the small pool near the summit; it didn't stay intact for long!

All in all, a successful break.



Sugar Loaf summit



Sgwd yr Elra



Fording the Nant Iago



In the beech leaves!

Special 100th Edition!

The first edition of our 2nd Alton "Update" hit the streets in August 1998, although for some reason we didn't start counting the issues until April 2002!

A leading 1998 article explained how we had just won the Battalion Trophy by a single point! There's also a quote from the expedition log of a certain Daniel Vincent—"We've all had a great

day, and that's all we have to say" Full Stop! But his companion, Neil, wrote more — "At the end, there was some squelchy mud, and when there's squelchy mud, there's Daniel!" And the same boy was also an expert(?) at circus skills — see the 1998 cartoon below!

I wonder what future 2nd Alton members will think if they look back on our early twenty-first century Updates?



Thanks to our Postmen

As usual, we received plenty of cards to deliver in Alton and Holybourne. At 40p, our postmen (you!) provide a service that is much cheaper (and we hope more reliable!) than Royal Mail. However, the number of cards is very much lower than in previous years, with just 603 being delivered.

2nd Alton Company, The Boys' Brigade
CHRISTMAS POST 2025



40p



Battalion Competitions

So far, we've taken part in two competitions this session, with the first being Chess. Our team of Ted, Jonathan, Kyle and Jackson performed creditably, bringing home a Third Place certificate.

The next was Table Tennis, when Jonathan, Connor and Noah were able to achieve a Second Place. But the "Star of the Show" was Jonathan, who won every single match, and was awarded the Overall Winner Certificate! Well done to him and his team-mates!



For details of 2nd Alton Boys' Brigade, contact David Allan on 01420 84739
Information on the Methodist Church from Philip Simpkins on 01420 83167

Dates for your diary

Fri 9 Jan	First meeting of the New Year; 7.50pm.
Sat 10 Jan	"Building your Skills" Course , 2nd Fleet HQ - for Boys in Year 10.
Wed 14 Jan	Band Practice, 7pm. Expedition training sessions begin.
Fri 16 Jan	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 21 Jan	Games, 7pm.
Fri 23 Jan	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 28 Jan	Band Practice, 7pm.
Fri 30 Jan	► Seniors: Go-karting - details to follow. Others: Meet at church, 7.50pm.
Wed 4 Feb	Games, 7pm.
Fri 6 Feb	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 11 Feb	Band Practice, 7pm.
Fri 13 Feb	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Sat 14 Feb	Cycle Ride - meet Anstey Park at 10am; bring packed lunch.
15-22 Feb	NO MEETINGS - Half-term holiday.
Wed 25 Feb	Games, 7pm.
Fri 27 Feb	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 4 Mar	Band Practice, 7pm.
Fri 6 Mar	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 11 Mar	Games, 7pm.
Fri 13 Mar	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
Wed 18 Mar	Band Practice, 7pm.
Fri 20 Mar	Drill Practice and Games at Amery Hill - to be confirmed.
Sat 21 Mar	Battalion Day of Action - full details to follow.
Sun 22 Mar	Alton Church Parade - meet 9.30am at The Butts Green.
Wed 25 Mar	Games, 7pm. DofE Presentation Evening at Hollywater School.
Fri 27 Mar	Parade Night, 7.50pm.
28/3 to 12/4	NO MEETINGS - Easter Holidays
Wed 15 Apr	Games, 7pm.

Some future dates

Fri 8 May	Annual Display - ALL to attend; parents warmly invited!
Fri 15 May	Summer programme begins.
Sat 16 May	Battalion Wide Games
Sat 4 July	► Battalion Top Golf
22-29 Aug	► Summer Camp to Dyffryn Ardudwy, Wales.

► *Consent Forms, with full details, will be issued nearer the date.*

Remembrance 2025



As usual, our band led the parade to and from the Service at the War Memorial.



Action Ahead!

It isn't long until the Battalion Day of Action, when we'll be taking part in Drill, Football, Potted Sports, First Aid and Scripture events, competing against the other Companies in the Battalion. If we want to do well, we'll need to practice, so expect some of these topics on Fridays!

Expeditions in 2026

The indoor training sessions for our summer expeditions will begin on Wednesday **14th January**.

The Young Venturers will meet on Wednesday evenings from **7pm to 7.30pm**; this is open to anyone in Year 7 or Year 8. Interested? Don't miss it!

Our two Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze groups will meet at **3.30pm to 4.15pm**, and at **7.30pm to 8.15pm**.

Outdoor training will take place over weekends in February.

