**1st UXBRIDGE BOYS’ BRIGADE COMPANY REPORT 2013/2014**

Once again we find ourselves at the end of another BB year and our awards evening is upon us, the evening when all the work put in by the boys over the past session is rewarded.

**ANCHOR BOYS**

Our Anchor Boys have continued to have fun during their evenings Led by Louise Moran. This year’s themes have included Nature, Our World and Animals, with animal Starlight being the most popular game of the year. (If you want to know what that game is, ask an Anchor Boy!). They tried their hand at clay modelling, glass painting and music and performed an identifiable rendition on chime bars of Twinkle, Twinkle little star for part of their badge work. Celebrations have included a Christmas make and take evening with the Explorers from GB, a Minecraft party and of course the annual end of session water fight. The boys have also baked for our Company coffee mornings and learned some phrases in Jola, the language spoken by our sponsor child in the Gambia. We finish the session with 9 boys and although one is being promoted into Junior Section we look forward to another busy session next year.

**JUNIOR SECTION**

As in previous years our Juniors have enjoyed another good year. Our numbers have remained constant and so we have continued to enjoy lots of activities. As usual we have had our Gym Sessions once a month joined by our friends from 4th Hillingdon. We have taken part in the Battalion 5 a side football tournament.

We had our annual trip up to London for the Lord Mayor’s Show followed by a visit to the Museum of London Docklands, finishing up with the fireworks on the river. Although VERY wet a good day was had.

In December we joined in in the turning on of the Christmas tree lights outside Uxbridge Station and gave out a lot of mince pies to the crowd.

We joined in in the Battalion Bible quiz, again coming a close third. (We must try harder next year!)

Once again our big success came in March with the Battalion Figure Marching competition. Since the start of the year the boys had been working hard on their marching, something that they enjoy doing and it shows. This year we had two competitions to practice for. The boys in their first year of Juniors also took part in the ‘Simple Drill’ Competition. The boys had a lot to live up to this year as we were in it to retain the Figure Marching shield we won last year. Our 3 first year boys, Alexander, Ryan and Thomas managed to gain second place in their competition, (only beaten by a few points) and we managed to once again win the Figure Marching competition. The trophy can still be seen hanging next to the trophy cabinet in the church vestibule. A great effort, and well done to Tyler for leading the team so well over the last two years. I will have to find another leader now as Tyler is moving on into Company Section and will be learning Drill.

In May we had our annual Sleepover along with the girls and this year we were blessed with some fantastic weather. We visited Windsor for the day where we enjoyed a picnic by the river and then a trip on the river after which we visited the castle. A day out that I think everyone enjoyed.

Our last event was Life 2 the Max, an event held by the London District of the Boys’ Brigade, at Felden Lodge, the BB’s National HQ. Again the boys enjoyed some fantastic weather as well as plenty of activities to take part in; including It’s a Knockout Challenge, Laser quest, Circus skills, Inflatable climbing wall and much more.

This year we will be saying goodbye to three of our boys, Tyler, Hayden and Ryan who are all being promoted into Company Section and we wish the all the best as they continue their BB journey.

We will be welcoming Archie into Juniors from the Anchor Section.

**COMPANY & SENIOR SECTION**

Our Company and Senior Sections were led by Graham Hinton and Graeme Moran and have had a good year, although very small in numbers. James S and Thomas decided not to continue, leaving Darryl and James B in Company Section and Raghav as our Senior. BUT their enthusiasm and loyalty has been good. Friday attendance is regular, but some need to do better for Church Parades. They’ve continued with their Discover (Company Section) or Challenge Plus (Seniors) badge programmes and in addition Raghav has completed his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Level Award and started work for his DofE Silver Level (doing his Expedition with West Kent Battalion) and his Queen’s Badge.

It’s been good to see Christian, Tom and Jacob when they’ve been home from university.

James has been our representative at Battalion sporting events – in the winning 5-a-side Football Team and gaining second highest points at Athletics. He’s also a long-term member of The Boys’ Brigade and Girl’s Brigade West London Gym Team and even on the morning of our Display was performing before HM The Queen! Raghav’s and James’ team came 3rd in the Battalion Bible Quiz. All three enjoyed the Battalion Ten-pin Bowling event.

All the Boys have learned how to operate the Church Audio/Visual equipment. James and Darryl have each been at the desk for a church service. Graeme has continued to introduce exciting things into badge work, including computery things Mr Hinton knows nothing about!

In November we visited the Mayor’s Parlour and Council Chamber and in April Darryl and James visited the Houses of Parliament and the Elizabeth Tower, where they were next to Big Ben for the 12.00 noon chimes! In March James and Raghav took part in the “Palace to Palace Challenge” Sponsor Day in aid of The Shay Kenny Miracle Fund.

Raghav’s year included working with the Junior Boys as a Young Leader. He took them into the Battalion Simple Drill Competition (2nd place) and had them enthralled in group work. He also triumphed in the “Eat a can of sweetcorn with a toothpick” challenge, supported on the day by myself on baked beans - and also by the Mayor.

Another of Raghav’s challenges was to organise a meal. In November we had a wonderful evening with parents and staff enjoying a great three courses plus, prepared by Chef Raghav and served by Waiters James, Darryl and Thomas. Scrummy!

Our nominee for a Jack Petchey Award this year was James. He received his medallion from The Mayor of Hillingdon at Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall and once again was also in the gym team! He asked for the money allocated to the Company (£200) to be used for purchasing model helicopters. We now have a fleet of eight. They’ve been greatly enjoyed on Friday evenings (and so far repaired afterwards) and appeared in our Display in June.

Raghav and James gave valuable help at Life2theMax in June, in charge of “sit on a pole and bash the other person off”, on what must have been one of the hottest days of the year.

They all looked wonderful in their 1914 Drill Squad at our Display in June. Together with Ryan, Haydon and Tyler, final year Boys in Junior Section, they wore the uniform smartly, learnt rifle drill in a very short time and honoured those ex-BB members and officers who served in World War 1.

Company and Senior Sections look forward to September with 6 Boys! Welcome, Ryan, Haydon and Tyler.

**THE COMPANY TOGETHER**

Our year started by raising some money to sponsor a child. Each boy was asked to bring long £2 to our Christmas party and this would go to sponsor a child in the Gambia. We have sponsored a young lad from the Jola tribe named Saidou. He is 6 years old. The money given to him means that he can now go to school and wear a proper school uniform.

We also had our annual Sponsor Day Challenge, another great success. This year we raised money for the ‘Shay Kenny Miracle Fund’. Shay is the grandson of the daytime caretaker here at Christ Church. Our Challenge this year was to travel from Lambeth Palace to Fulham Palace crossing the river Thames 10 times by various means. Once again Mr Hollaway organised our route and the day went very well with a group of eight boys and one girl. With all the money collected in we realised a total of £801 and we were very pleased to present a cheque for that amount to Shay and his family at our Display in June. A big thank you to all who were involved in raising the money. Plans are now afoot for our challenge for next year (We have an idea). Watch this space!

One downside to our year was that we were unfortunate enough to have been the victims of a break in in December when we had 2 Laptops and our WII stolen from our upstairs computer room. This was discovered by Mr Hinton on a visit to the room one evening and my thanks go to him for being the point of contact etc. for the police. The perpetrator was apprehended, and we have had the WII returned to us, however we were not so lucky with the laptops and so they have now been replaced through our insurers.

Our 4 coffee mornings this year have again helped with our Company funds raising over £300.

Thank you to everyone who helped by making cakes for us to sell, and especially to Noelia Bowman and Claire Hook who gave their time to help out in the kitchen.

We again collected Sainsbury’s Active Kids vouchers. Our vouchers last year were exchanged for a Basket Ball hoop and the boys have had fun using this (and wearing the staff out in the process). This year’s vouchers have now sent them off to be exchanged for some more equipment. The boys will see what we get at the start of the next session. Thank you to everyone for shopping at Sainsbury’s!

Lastly, we say goodbye to one member of staff this year, Mr Hinton has decided it is time to ‘retire’ as an officer in the company and will no longer be around next session, although he will drop in occasionally to keep an eye on Raghav to make sure he is up to date on work for his Queens badge. Thank you Graham for all you have done.

I would like to thank all the staff, Louise, Graham and Graeme, Tom, Christian and Alan for all they have done this year, My thanks also goes to all parents for your support throughout the year, for bringing the boys along on a Friday evening and for getting them to various activities. I consider our company very lucky that we have parents who support us the way that you do. THANK YOU ALL.

As this year draws to an end we look forward to the 2014/15 session and all it brings.

Don’t forget you can keep up with all our news at our website **www.**[**1uxbridge.boys-brigade.org.uk**](http://1uxbridge.boys-brigade.org.uk/)or on our Facebook page at **1st Uxbridge Boys Brigade Company.**

Don’t forget our end of session barbeque next Friday; we hope to see you there.

**We start back on Friday 5th September**

**Have a good summer and thank you**

**for your continued support.**

**Paul m. Edgeworth**

**COMPANY CAPTAIN**