



Federation of Stedfast Associations United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

FedNews

Issue 12, November 2007

Inside this issue:

Derek Sydney Ford	2
LSBB	3
125th Anniversary	4
From your Chairman	5
BB in films	5
Who' who	6
International Convention of Stedfast Associations	6

Special points of interest:

- *Federation Annual Council Meeting 2008*
- *"Laugh with the Lord"*
- *Derek Sydney Ford*
- *London Stedfast Brass Band*
- *London Stedfast invitation to Chatham Historic Dockyard*
- *6th International Convention of Stedfast Associations*

Federation Annual Council Meeting 2008

The Manchester Stedfast Association is very pleased to invite the Federation of Stedfast Associations to Manchester for the Annual Council Meeting for 2008.

It will be held on the weekend of the 25th/27th April. Accommodation has been reserved at the Cresta Court Hotel in Altrincham, which is a pleasant suburb of Manchester. It is close to Manchester Airport and has good road and rail connections.

Manchester itself has much of interest and is enjoying a resurgence as the suggestions for the guest programme indicates.

The cost for the residential weekend will be £170, with a registration fee of £10. For non-residents, there will be some charges for

meals and excursions. Application forms are enclosed with this copy of FedNews.

The outline of the planned programme is as follows.

Friday 25th April 2008

For early arrivals: In the afternoon there is the choice of a visit to Manchester United or Salford Quays. The later offers shopping, the Lowry Theatre complex and the Imperial War Museum North.

Evening: Welcome Dinner at the Hotel.

Saturday 26th April 2008

Morning: Annual General Meeting for delegates and shopping and sightseeing, including the recently refurbished outstanding Rylands Library, in

Manchester for guests.

Lunch: At the Hotel

Afternoon: Coach trip to Tatton Park, a National Trust property, with house, gardens and working farm.

Evening: Concert at Altrincham Methodist Church.

Sunday 27th April

Morning: Worship at Altrincham Methodist Church, the headquarters of the 2nd Altrincham Company of the Boys' Brigade.

Lunch: At the Hotel

Altrincham Methodist Church is only a few minutes walk from the Hotel and transport will be arranged for the disabled.

"Laugh with the Lord"

Paul Juby, Honorary President of the Federation has just published a book of Christian cartoons entitled "Laugh with the Lord".

Paul will donate 20% of proceeds to BB Asia.

"Laugh with the Lord" is

available directly from Paul at £3.00 plus £1.00 post and packing.

Interested, you can call Paul at +44 (01493) 369135 to order your copy.

But hurry, don't be left without your copy.



Derek Sydney Ford - A Personal Tribute

Derek served as a Boy and NCO in the 4th Brighton (Hove) Company, Stoneham Road Baptist. At the age of nineteen he joined the Youth Club at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church, run by Gordon Gilroy and 'Bumble' Griffin (The Club always had a surplus of young ladies!) what joy. Derek became a Staff Sergeant in the 16th Brighton – part of the same Church.

Derek's enthusiasm for band work led to the start of the Bugle and Fife band and on becoming a Warrant Officer and Lieutenant, to raised interest in band work throughout the Battalion. He also became very proficient in recruiting, visiting and delegation. Skills which were to serve him well in later life. At this time Derek worked for an Insurance firm based in Croydon, and came to dinner with my family before every parade and band evening. During these meals we developed the technique of 'brain storming' and planning for future events- sometimes events well into the future.

Derek left the 16th to join the 23rd Brighton (Portslade) and take over as Captain, but he was always ready to assist in the planning and production of major Brigade and Battalion events, such as 'First for Boys', Brigade Council Parades 1975, Bring it to Brighton, Top Teams, Beating Retreats etc.

When Derek left the 23rd he became a member of The Battalion Officer Reserve, and for many years assisted with the work of the 1st Southwick Company. In later years Derek gave his time and skills to the BB Old Boys of Our Battalion, serving as a committee member, Chairman, Vice President,

and in January 2007 became Our President. When BBOB's affiliated to the National Stedfast Association, Derek became an enthusiastic supporter of their National & International aims and objectives, travelling far and wide as our representative.

A few of Derek's enterprises on behalf of Stedfast included arranging holidays and short breaks both home and abroad, day visits to places of interest, annual Founder's Day Dinner and the raising of the Stedfast Bugle Band. He was also a successful recruiting agent for Stedfast, one hint that you were in the BB and Derek had you in! Even in hospital he found out that one of the male nurses was ex Hong Kong BB! Derek's phone bill must have been astronomical! He would often phone around for a general chat to always finish with 'oh by the way' - Derek had got a job for you (that's how I became Vice President)

In the year 2000 the Battalion celebrated its Centenary and the Brigade Council again met in Brighton (Hove actually) and Derek responded to my plea for help and again 'rejoined the Colours' (he would have liked that bit) and helped in the production of the BB Boys and Brighton Pageant held in the Hove Town Hall, The Meet The Boys promenade along the front and the massed bands beating the Retreat on the Royal Pavilion Lawns.

In January '07 Derek suffered a form of stroke which severely curtailed his mobility, typical of him he said "I may not be mobile, but thank God I can still sit here and make plans"

If you get to Heaven one day,

I expect that you'll find Derek arranging day trips to Heavenly Bodies and other such Celestial delights.

George Holkham MBE, Vice President Brighton Stedfast

Saluting Derek Ford

The news that Derek Ford, President of Brighton Stedfast has been called to the Lord comes with sadness to Brighton and all his very many friends. He will be a great loss to Brighton and for many of us it will take time to realise that he is no longer with us. Derek died as he was on a river cruise in Germany and our prayers have been with his wife Kay who was burdened by this sudden tragedy.

When we had our AGM in Dublin we were heartened to see Derek attending even though he was recovering from a stroke. He was cheerful and full of resolve to be working on his newly appointed position of President of his Association.

Then since returning to Brighton, although not fit, he travelled with a Stedfast party on one outing and was always very cheerful on the regular phone calls the writer made to him.

I have felt it a privilege to know Derek. I have had the good fortune to be invited to speak at a Brighton AGM and to be looked after by Derek. To enjoy fellowship at the Kuching Pesta, to enjoy seeing him enjoying relaxing at the Golden Sands Hotel in Penang, to see him marvelling at the racing of traffic in Penang and to know how he loved his various jobs back in Brighton. He was a BB and Stedfast Man through and through. Lately I had been talking to him about the possibility of a Stedfast being formed in Hampshire, he was so happy at the prospect and

was planning to contact possible members whom he knew living in that region to tell them to join. This and no doubt other business was never done. We just want to pay our deepest respects to Derek and publicly thank Kay for encouraging Derek in the work that he loved so dearly. Derek never retired, he was fully committed and active until the call came for him to close down.

Paul Juby, Honorary President

This was received from the Ong family in Malaysia (who knew Derek Ford well)

Death what a wonderful way to explain it!!!!

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

London Stedfast Brass Band Report (Summer 2007)

Since my last report the band has welcomed four new members. They each play different instruments; cornet, euphonium, baritone and trombone which has strengthened a number of sections within the band.

We have had a further four rehearsals at Wesley's Chapel and taken part in three different engagements.

On 17th March we provided music before and during the Annual LSA Thanksgiving Service at the United Reform Church in Enfield. Afterwards we gave a short concert for the members before they took tea and carried on with the more serious business of the AGM. During the concert we were again supported by some of our colleagues from the LSA Bugle Band playing 'Bugle Command' a piece written exclusively for the BB.

On 31st March some of our members travelled to Derbyshire for a very happy occasion, the wedding of Stephen Greator and Alison Sanderson at Mackworth United Reform Church, Derby. Stephen is a long time player in the Derbyshire BB Brass Band and is the son of its Conductor. We joined with members of the BB and GB to form a band especially for the occasion. We escorted the bride to the Church with a lively march, all uphill! In the Church we welcomed the happy couple with Trumpet Voluntary and played Hymns which

they had chosen, we then played them out with 'A Ceremonial March'.

Our most recent engagement was at Wesley's Chapel on 9th June when we took part in the celebration of the famous 5th London BB Company's 120th Reunion. The 5th London Company are now the oldest existing BB Company in London and, probably, England. We played before and during the Anniversary Service a total of 10 pieces, including 'Underneath the Banner' and 'Will your Anchor Hold'. Afterwards, whilst the guests took tea, we played in the Chapel's gardens, appropriately underneath the plaque commemorating the late Denis Morley's contribution to the Church and to music. I hope he was as proud of our efforts as we were to be playing at that spot. We played a number of pieces appropriate for the occasion and couldn't resist including 'Moonlight Serenade' and 'Sussex by the Sea' which have become synonymous with the band since the Concert to celebrate Denis Morley's life last October.

Our engagement at the Royal Hospital Chelsea went extremely well in spite of serious misgivings in the weeks preceding it. We were fortunate to secure the help of two players, Gemma and Alex Ogilvie, from the Doncaster BB Brass Band on Cornet and Euphonium (playing the Baritone part) which, with the voluntary change of instrument by Dennis

Hawkes and the help of Dennis Edwards also on cornet, made for a well balanced musical band. We also had the welcome return of 1st Trombone player John Chapman after his successful recovery from illness.

After a summer break we have two very important engagements in October. The first is at Wesley's Chapel on Saturday 6th October at 19.30hrs when we will be giving the Annual 'Morley' Concert with a retiring collection in aid of Wesley's Chapel and a Charity to be nominated by Mrs Morley. You are all welcome to this happy celebration of Denis' life and his contribution to BB music.

The second engagement is at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 21st October when we will be providing the music at the Service to celebrate the 25th Anniversary since the formation of the London Masses BB Bugle Band. After the service we will be going to St Bride's Institute in Fleet Street where we will be giving a concert. This should be a grand occasion to which you are all invited.

We are making steady progress as a band but we would welcome more players so if you used to play a brass instrument why not come and join us? I can guarantee a warm welcome and please don't worry if you haven't played for years the same applied to most of us a year ago!

Terry Roper, LSA Brass Band Coordinator



125th Anniversary Celebrations of The Boys' Brigade



Dear friends of the Stedfast Federation

125th Anniversary Celebrations of The Boys' Brigade - Important information for Former Members -

Sir Douglas Lovelock KCB, President of the Stedfast Association London; and members of its Management Committee, invite anyone connected to The Boys' Brigade including former members, to a special event on Saturday 31st May 2008. This is in celebration of The Boys' Brigade's 125th Anniversary; together with the 25th Anniversary of the London Stedfast Association, who are organising and sponsoring the event that day.

This celebration event will be held at the famous Chatham Historic Dockyard Museum complex in Kent, and will commence officially at 11am, and finish around 5 pm, following a massed band "Beating of Retreat Ceremony"

Since the Association was formed at the London District annual Royal Albert Hall show in 1983, as part of The Boys' Brigade's Centenary celebrations, we have actively tried to support The Boys' Brigade youth movement in the UK and abroad, both in terms of money and time. We hope that by holding this special event in a unique venue, the profile of both organisations will be raised during 2008.

There are a number of attractions at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, which is easily reached from London. HMS Victory was built there and current exhibits include HMS Cavalier, a WW2 Destroyer, HMS Gannet (1878) restored sloop of Queen Victoria's Navy and Submarine Ocelot. Other attractions include the R.N.L.I collection of 17 full size lifeboats and many naval buildings; it is a "must visit" place for all the family.

We plan a full day of events to showcase the BB, with a strong emphasis on music from London District BB Companies including bugle and pipe bands to name but a few items. The London Stedfast Association Bugle and Brass Bands will be participating, also Dublin Stedfast championship Brass Band, are flying in to join us. This is along with representative items from other youth organisations, including The Girls' Brigade.

If there are other musicians within the individual Associations who perhaps would like to join in with the two London Stedfast bands mentioned above, then please contact our information line 07964019454 ASAP.

Full details of the day's events will be published shortly. In order to best cater for visitors (in terms of eating, additional toilet facilities etc) the Dockyard is keen to be made aware of anticipated numbers and will be offering advance booking of tickets, giving a separate entrance for ticket holders, so queuing is kept to the absolute minimum when you arrive on the day. Full ticket booking details, and how the BB, family and friends will qualify for a special concessionary entrance fee of £6.00, will be advised to all shortly.

Information will be available shortly on both our website and on our information line 07964019454.

If you are a former member and have lost contact with the BB over the years, why not contact us about ticket information, you never know, you might meet someone at the event you knew all those years ago!

"Let's Celebrate in 2008 "
Saturday 31st May

Within the event there will be a small tribute item by the band members of the Brighton/London Stedfast Bugle Band to Derek Ford late President of Brighton Stedfast Association who many of you will know sadly passed away a few months ago.

Yours Stedfastly

David Kemp

Publicity & Events Co-ordinator

for and on behalf of the Stedfast Association London.

From your Chairman

Sincere greetings to all my Stedfast Colleagues and Friends,

Let me begin these few words to you all, in hoping that you enjoy this edition of your 'FedNews' produced by our new Editor, Philip Daley a member of the Stedfast Association of the Republic of Ireland.

Hopefully this edition will contain news for your interest and attention of both our coming Federation Council in Manchester, and the International Convention of Stedfast Associations to be held in Belfast.

I am not in a position to give you full details of the International Convention, however I am sure that Belfast will have supplied these to our Editor. I really do hope that a good number of you will feel able to attend the Convention, where above all else you will have

contact with and make friendships with Stedfast members from overseas, these friendships will be everlasting, and I can tell you from experience that this is a fact.

My own Association in Manchester has put together a comfortable Federation Council, which I know you will enjoy. A good deal of social activities have been arranged, friendships will again be made from members throughout the U.K. and Republic of Ireland. Manchester up to the present time is the only Association in the U.K. or Republic of Ireland to have hosted an International Convention in our territory, and has the necessary experience to make certain all will go well for your satisfaction. I can assure you that this will be the case, for Manchester has to follow the wonderful occasion we experienced in Dublin last year. I really would be so pleased to see

as many as is possible of our Federation members present in Manchester during next April, I value your friendship within Stedfast, I want you to know that. The very same sentiments are sent to you with regards to the International Convention being arranged by the Northern Ireland Stedfast Association in October 2008, I look forward to being able to greet once again many of my overseas friends, and many more from both the U.K. and Republic of Ireland.

I realise that I have concentrated on these two events, all I ask is that you understand my very great regard for both, they mean so much to me, and indeed should also mean a great deal to you my colleagues and Stedfast friends.

Every Blessing to each of you.

Ron Adshead
Chairman



“ Friendships will again be made from members in the U.K. and Republic of Ireland”.

The Boys' Brigade in Films – A Brief History

This topic was first raised in the Liverpool Past Members' Association Newsletter in March 2007. This sparked my interest, and I have since tried to find out more about what BB film is available.

There have since been several articles in the Liverpool PMA Newsletter giving more suggestions, but I'm keen to find out more. In particular, it would be interesting to find out whether what films or television programmes

devoted to the BB (or youth organisations in general) have been made. One of the latter I do know of (but haven't seen for many years) is "The Smith Boys", which was made in the centenary year by BBC Scotland. It features the "ghost" of William Alexander Smith (played by Andrew Keir) watching the centenary celebrations at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, and reminiscing about the past. I was there when this was filmed, and could see the actor standing

in one corner of the ground, although I didn't know at the time exactly what was happening!

So, do you know of any more, please? Maybe we ought to try to set up a "The Boys' Brigade in the Movies" archive?

If you have any suggestions or questions, please let me know at the usual address – thank you!

Phillip Stallard



Federation of Stedfast Associations United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

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www.stedfastfederation.org.uk

The 6th International Convention of Stedfast Associations 5th to 11th October 2008 Belfast – Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Stedfast Association are pleased to announce the programme for the 6th International Convention that will be held in Northern Ireland from 5th to 11th October 2008.

There will be a choice of accommodation, with special rates available to delegates, at the Marine Court Hotel Bangor (15 minutes from Belfast City Airport), and at the Farset Centre Belfast.

Marine Court Hotel: Situated on the seafront at Bangor and has 52 spacious bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, direct dial telephone, satellite television, tea coffee making facilities, trouser press and hair dryer. The hotel has full restaurant and bar facilities. Also available is the Oceanis centre, for your relaxation, spa, steam, gym and swim times. Double room / Bed & Breakfast £76

Farset Centre Belfast: This accommodation offers 70 to 80 persons twin bed rooms, with ensuite facilities, Twin room / Bed & Breakfast £24.

Programme

Saturday 4th	Arrival & Registration Evening Barbeque & Barn Dance
Sunday 5th	Morning Worship Evening Songs of Praise
Monday 6th	Coach tour of Ards Peninsula
Tuesday 7th	Meeting commences at 10.00 a.m.
Wednesday 8th	Visit to Stormont Afternoon City tour
Thursday 9th	Choir concert
Friday 10th	Gala Dinner

To register for the 6th International Convention of Stedfast Associations, application form and information pack please contact:

The Registrar, Mr Irwin Moore, 16 Ballybog Road,
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Telephone +44 (028) 90600150
Email janet@ballybog.freeserve.co.uk