



Annual General Meeting Documents Pack

26th April 2025



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Annual General Meeting

Via Zoom

Date: Saturday 26 April 2025

Duration: 10.30 – 13.00

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Chair's welcome and opening remarks
3. Apologies for absence
4. To approve the minutes of the last AGM held on 27th April 2024
Including any matters arising not covered in the agenda
5. Governor's Statement
6. Financials
 - Treasurer's Report (Perry Gunn)
 - Approval of Accounts 2023/24
 - Appointment of Auditors
7. Capitation Fees 2025/26
8. Annual Reports for period 1st Sep 23 to 31st Aug 24:
 - FTOG (John Corbishley)
 - Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Richie Clarke)
 - National Band (Lionel Burdett)
 - Overseas Liaison Officer (Terry Hissey)
 - Brigade Memorial Garden (Alan Carter)
 - Brigade Remembrance Service (Fr Chris Buckley)
 - National Events Committee (Olivia Stewart)
 - CofE Engagement (Fr Chris Buckley)
 - Historical Group (Terry Hissey)
 - Cenotaph Parade (Martyn Bedder)
 - Regional Reports (Brigade Council Regional Reps)
9. Any Other Business (Please notify NHQ by 11 April 2025)
10. Date and venue of next AGM – 25th April 2026 Leicester
11. Closing Prayer & Commemorations

AGM Minutes

Held at Collier House (Church Hall) 1 Mercer Road, Manchester. M18 8JR
Saturday 27th April 2024

Attendees in person: Andrew Hayday (AH), Cath Sheldon (CS), Fr Chris Buckley (FCB), Gareth Campbell (GC), Helen Altree (HA), Jayne Warburton-Ball (JWB), John Corbishley (JCOR), Martyn Bedder (MBED), Nathan Storm (NS), Richie Clarke (RC), Fr Stephen Parker (FSP), Stephen Whitelegg (SW), Terry Hissey (TH), Zoe Palmer (ZP), Janet Redding (JR), Olivia Stewart (OS), Janet Davies (JD), David Hartley (DH), Trevor Dunkerley (TD), Graham Proctor (GP), Amii Bateson (AB), Neil Whitelegg (NW), Jeanette Whitelegg (JWHI), Sylvia Tinsley (ST), Neville Tinsley (NT), Edith Strafford (ES), Mildred Bennett (MBEN), Brian James (BJ), Stephen Grimshaw (SG), Rev Carol Masters (RCM), Andrew Mellor (AM)

Attendees via Zoom: Robbie O'Brien (ROB), Sarah O'Brien (SOB), Lindsay Maclure Gregg (LMG), Thomas Griffin (TG), Alan Carter (AC), John Williams (JWIL), Tommy Ringland (TR), Lionel Burdett (LB), Melvyn Lockhart (ML), Jennifer Lockhart (JL), Joan Couzens (JCOU), Robin Mack (RM), Richard Gregg (RG),

1. Opening prayer

Led by RCM

2. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

AH opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance for coming and those who had joined via Zoom.

3. Apologies for absence

Perry Gunn, Derick Jackson, Alan Stewart, Hazel Ferguson, Melanie Bruton, Ann Sankey, Pete Davies, Josh Gaskell, Maynard Scott, Chris Shuttler.

4. To Approve the Minutes of the last AGM held on 30th April 2022 including any matters arising not covered in the agenda (copy in the attached Reports pack)

The Minutes were accepted as a true and fair record of the last AGM meeting.

Addendum from TH relating to the last AGM minutes:-

Item 4 – TH confirmed that the centenary of the St Martins banner did receive some Social Media coverage a commemorative limited edition postal cover was created for the Historical Group supporters.

Item 8 – TH presented AH with a Historical Group lapel badge as an Honorary Member.

5. Governors Report covering 2022/2023 (copy in the attached Reports Pack)

AH presented highlights from his report.

6. Financials

• Treasurers Report (copy in the attached Reports Pack)

GC presented highlights from the Treasurers Report in the absence of John Smith and Perry Gunn.

Proposer PG Seconded GC

• Approval of accounts 2022/2023

The accounts had full approval as a true and fair record of the financial year.

Proposer PG Seconded GC

- **Appointment of Auditors**

North Accounting were fully approved to remain as the auditors for CLCGB.

Proposer PG Seconded GC

7. **Capitation Fees 2024/2025**

AH will put to Brigade Council that Capitation fees will rise to £22 and will continue to rise annually by £1 to a maximum of £25.

Proposer AH Seconded JWB

8. **Annual Reports**

- **FTOG (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

JC presented highlights from the FTOG Report.

Proposer JC Seconded JR

- **Duke of Edinburgh's Award (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

RC presented highlights from his report.

Proposer RC Seconded JC

AH confirmed he writes to Gold DofE achievers, Deputy Governors to Silver achievers and NHQ to Bronze achievers.

- **National Band (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

LB presented highlights from his report.

Proposer LB Seconded JWB

- **Overseas Liaison Officer (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

TH presented highlights from his report.

TH asked AH to write a congratulatory letter to South Africa on their 130th Anniversary.

Proposer TH Seconded SW

- **Brigade Memorial Garden (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

AC presented highlights from his report.

Proposer AC Seconded JD

- **Brigade Remembrance Service**

FCB gave a short verbal report.

This was the first service to be moved to the Saturday prior to the official Remembrance Day. The service went well and was well attended. Revd. Andrew Birks was the preacher in attendance. Moving forward FCB confirmed Regiments would take an active role in the organisation of the event.

Proposer FCB Seconded JC

- **National Events Committee (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

OS presented highlights from her report.

Proposer OS Seconded DH

- **CofE Engagement**

FCB gave a verbal report

FCB confirmed that Peter Eagles has retired as our Bishop Visitor as he is no longer a serving Bishop.

We still need to find a suitable Brigade Chaplain and SYNOD Representative.

The Archbishop of York has accepted our invitation to become a Vice President of The Brigade.

AC asked how many churches/premises are actively advertising the Brigade Company night where they meet.

AC asked FCB whether he has made contact with the new Canon at Coventry. FCB confirmed he will follow this up.

Proposer FCB Seconded JC

- **Historical Group (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

TH presented highlights from his report.

Proposer TH Seconded OS

- **Awards Scheme (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

AC presented highlights from his report.

AH Requested people send resources to NHQ to be added to the new website.

Proposer AC Seconded MB

- **Cenotaph Parade (copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

AH presented highlights from OS report

Proposer OS Seconded AH

- **Regional Report – Ulster(copy in the attached Reports Pack)**

JW presented highlights from his report

- **Remaining Regional Reports**

Copies of all regional reports submitted are included within the reports pack

9. **Any Other Business**

- **125th Anniversary of CNAB**

HA is working on a badge/medal design for the celebrations in 2026. The initial design was received well but King and Queen should be changed to Sovereign.

- **FTOG**

JC explained that FTOG have produced a presentation for local distribution to deliver your own training, if any Formation Commanders have a Formation Training Officer willing to do this let JC know so that he is able to help facilitate this.

10. **Date and venue of next AGM**

Saturday 26th April 2025. Venue possibly at St John and St Barnabas, Belle Isle Leeds.

11. **Closing Prayer and Commemorations**

Closing prayers led by FCB.

Remembrance was marked for all who have passed since the last AGM:

Maurice Curran
John Halliday
Lady Mary Forbes MBE
Colin Ward
Johnny Conn
Robert Harrison
Shirley Mills
Everal Walker
Ethel Hill
Linda Swindall
Peter Dines
Sylvia Beynon MBE
Hilary Dawson
Steve Herbert
Jim Cornes

A presentation followed the AGM focusing on:-

- 1) Festival of Music & Drill Presentation
- 2) Gift Aid and Fundraising
- 3) Future of the Brigade

Copies of the presentations attached

Action points of the AGM Saturday 22nd April 2023

NHQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send letter of thanks to Maynard Scott 	COMPLETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source cost of shipping instruments to St Helena and liaise with GR 	COMPLETE
AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martins Scheme to be ready for September 2023 	ONGOING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band badge to be included in badge scheme 	ONGOING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG badges to be added to Dress Regulations 	ONGOING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply NHQ with a Welsh flag 	COMPLETE
TH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at cost implications to marking Revd Milner's Grave 	ONGOING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AC to create a Historical badge 	ONGOING
RG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate a stonemason based in Goole to look at cleaning Mrs Milner's gravestone 	ONGOING
JW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply NHQ with a N.I Flag 	COMPLETE

NG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a working group to discuss location of Historical items. 	ONGOING
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Action points of the AGM Saturday 27th April 2024

NHQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last year's minutes to be amended to reflect TH addendum items 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out how many churches/premises are actively advertising the Brigade Company night where they meet. 	

AH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write to South Africa to Congratulate on 130th Anniversary 	
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HA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send TH details of Toronto company 	
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TH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with LB to organise online drum training session for commonwealth countries 	
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LB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with TH to organise online drum training session for commonwealth countries 	
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FCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a suitable Brigade Chaplain and SYNOD Representative. Make contact with the new Canon at Coventry Make contact with the Bishop of St Helena 	
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ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send resources to NHQ to be added to the new website 	
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Governor's Statement

This report covers the period from 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024, which has been a good year for the Brigade as units and numbers seem to have stabilised post covid and there has been a focus on building stronger foundations and growing numbers. Training has been strong with an excellent cohort of young leaders coming through the national training programme.

My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who has lost someone dear over the past year, especially those in our Brigade family. Their time and commitment to this organisation will always be treasured and their memories will never be forgotten and always in our hearts.

With the very sad passing of our Royal patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Buckingham Palace has not offered a replacement. However, it has very recently been confirmed that HRH, The Princess Royal has accepted the invitation to become our new Royal Patron, officially starting in the next reporting year. This news has been warmly received by all in the CLCGB as she is highly regarded and believed will support the organisation extremely well.

The CLCGB continue to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. NHQ remains registered as a DofE Licenced Organisation and continues to recommend this as a core element of the Senior Corps programme. The DofE scheme enables our young people to learn new skills, challenge themselves, improve their leadership potential and important life skills in a safe Christian environment which exists in all our units throughout the UK. This year has seen an increase in interest to run the programme and this is being supported. Grants have been submitted to support the licence fee and to buy new equipment for members and leaders wishing to take part in activities.

In November the annual act of remembrance took place at the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield, Staffordshire. This is always a moving event and enables the Brigade family to come together in one collective act of remembrance. A group of 30 members and leaders took part in the National act of remembrance at Whitehall, London. This year the salute was taken by HRH, The Princess Royal. Yet again, the CLCGB was exemplary and made the organisation justly proud.

We continue to engage with the Church of England at all levels, aiming to demonstrate the value of a CLCGB unit in a parish, acting as a successful tool to enable the Church to engage with its community and positively impact on lives, beyond its normal sphere of influence.

NHQ accommodation rentals remain strong through the year, with most of the offices in the main building tenanted and the Lighthouse Project continuing to use the training centre. The NHQ team continue to work closely with the businesses in our premises to support them and secure ongoing rentals, giving a major boost to our annual income.

The small team of three paid NHQ staff continue to support the organisation in a wide cross section of admin, finance, estate management and stores activities. The focus from the team has been to develop our social media presence, specifically through the redevelopment of the website. This is due to complete at the start of next calendar year and will be a significant improvement on what we currently have. The next development will be the integration of a new stores system and a new membership system, all hosted on the same platform. I offer my thanks to the team for their ongoing dedication and commitment.

Regional camps and activity weekends have continued to take place over the year all over the UK. These are always fabulous opportunities for members and leaders to spend time together and take part in many different and new activities that they would not normally have the chance to do. These times always resonate with our core focus of Fun, Faith and Friendship.

Throughout the year, most of the planning and trustees' meetings continue to take place virtually. This has saved a significant amount of travel time for trustees, with meetings being productive and able to achieve the necessary outcomes. The only meeting to take place face-to-face, was the Annual General Meeting,

hosted by St James' CLCGB in Gorton, Manchester. This was hugely successful, and thanks goes to this unit for hosting the event. Next year's AGM will take place in Belle Isle, Leeds.

We continue to have strong ties with our sister organisations across the world in South Africa, Kenya, Canada, St. Helena, Barbados and Bermuda. We hope that these relationships continue to grow and flourish, and we offer out a hand of Christian friendship to them all.

Andrew Hayday
Governor & Chair of Trustees



AGM April 2025

Bank Balances:

As at **31/08/2024** NHQ balance was **£13,815**

Portfolio Valuation: the investments managed by Rathbones as at 31st August 24 were valued at **£189,642**

Other shareholdings We hold shares in 5 other companies these are;

Value as at	Jan 23	June 23	August 23	June 24	Aug 24
Shell	1899	1928	1953	2297	2172
Nat Grid	770	787	741	711	749
M & S	54	72	84	110	127
Diageo	7205	7034	6680	5258	5118
Centrica	261	322	395	363	333
Total value	£10,189	£10,143	£9,853	£8,739	£8,499

Grants, Donations & Legacies

£ 150 plus Double Glazing Grant £11,550

Income

Office Rent, Lighthouse rent, Telephone charges & Utility bills income

For the year to 31st Aug 24 we have received;

Rent £69,255, Telephone income £5,789, Utilities from Lighthouse £12,236 Total £ 87,280

This is increased year on year in line with inflation, and actual cost increases.

Other NHQ Income Received in current year

Stores £7,969, DBS £100, Investments £342, Gift Aid £223 – this is NHQs net receipt after Brigade Companies receive 90%, Capitation £21,820, Disbanded units £-4922 (we paid back to a new company in the same area as a previously disbanded company)

Brigade Membership (Paying & Non Paying)

These are the latest from BMS

Aug 2024	1,676 (542 Leaders, 1,134 Children)
Aug 2023	1,824 (564 Leaders, 1,242 Children)
In August 23, 508 Members were Northern Ireland Members	
Jan 2023	1,752 (558 Leaders, 1,194 Children)
Nov 2022	1,967 (590 Leaders, 1,377 Children)
June 30 th 2022	1,967 (595 Leaders, 1372 Children)
January 31 st 2022	2,077 (636 Leaders, 1441 Children)
August 31 st 2021	2,302 (680 Leaders, 1 622 Children)
August 31 st 2020	2319 (670 Leaders, 1 649 Children)
April 30 th 2020	2327 (680 Leaders, 1 647 Children)
January 31 st 2020	2315 (682 Leaders, 1 633 Children)
October 31 st 2019	2381 (687 Leaders, 1 694 Children)

August 31 st 2019	2466 (697 Leaders, 1769 Children)
May 2019	2650 (750 Leaders, 1900 Children)
Nov 2018	2451 (670 Leaders, 1781 Children)
June 2018	2521 (661 Leaders, 1860 Children)
Feb 2018	2642 (730 Leaders, 1912 Children)
December 2016 members stood at	2645
December 2015 members stood at	2653

Staffing at NHQ

2 part-time staff (Helen Altree and Zoe Palmer) & 1 full time (Perry Gunn)

Annual Summary

A generally good year financially in so far as the running of NHQ is concerned although we still have an ongoing problem regarding the Vectis Isle of Wight campsite, previously operated by London Regiment, and this was being dealt with through a solicitor at a cost to NHQ. This has constantly shocked us as we try desperately to move forward positively. The latest being huge outstanding utility bills, we believed that we had been freed from these utilities in July 21, only to find that the Landlord has paid nothing since and therefore 36 months' worth of Standing Charges, fines, penalties etc, looking like around £36,000 in value that the landlord feels is not his responsibility.

We seemed to have almost reached an agreement to settle, but then we don't have success, so it is sadly still ongoing.

On a more positive note the Staff & Finance Committee recommended to Brigade Council a plan to make some investments in the buildings, which would be economically viable, provide longer term savings and help to show we are responsible to the eco environment. The recommendations were approved and these were to double glaze our buildings, in the first instance the ex-training centre now leased to Lighthouse homes, and to install solar panels on the roof to reduce our electricity costs. Grants would be utilised and Lighthouse Homes were in full support.

We were successful in receiving 50% grant funding (£11,550) towards the windows and Lighthouse is now fully double glazed.

Staff & Finance continue to look into Solar panels which will hopefully prove to be prudent management in the long term. We have not yet been successful, but will continue to investigate.

NHQ Stores sales are moderate and badge sales of the new award scheme have been good.

Although our annual accounts show an overall loss of £30,277, we did spend net of the grant £12,036 on double glazing, £11,045 on the in perpetuity monies to the National Memorial Arboretum, and had to find a top up on insurance of £7,562 These items total £30,643 so if these were removed we actually made a very small surplus of £366! We also going forward will receive £1,500 for four years from Lighthouse and Lighthouse now also pay over £3,000 towards our buildings insurance, so this will contribute to next years income.

Perry Gunn, on behalf of John Smith Treasurer.

FTOG - Formation Training Officers Group.

Annual Report to Brigade Council for Sept 2023 to August 2024.

FTOG comprises a number of Brigade leaders, some who are appointed as Training Officers and others who have been involved in training Brigade leaders for some years. All those involved in training are welcome to join the group. We hope to encompass all formations and un-attached Companies over time. FTOG has continued to meet on ZOOM to allow more leaders to take part and reduce costs. During this reporting period we have met 3 times on ZOOM to prepare for the courses on offer.

I would like to pay tribute to all those on our training team. They undertake the training of other Brigade leaders in addition to an already busy home, work, Brigade and Church life. They are Company Officers with roles at Formation level and we should appreciate the commitment and sacrifices that they make to undertake this vital role for the future of our organisation.

Taking Groups Away qualifications

- Following the changes to the TGA process in 2022, the period where Leaders could re qualify had expired. Leaders are advised to check if they are in any doubt about their TGA qualification being valid and join one of the TGA theory courses to re-qualify.

Skills Training Day (24th February 2024 at St Mark's Heyside)

- Once again we welcomed leaders from all over the country to St Mark's Heyside for our annual skills training day. A very healthy mix of YL's and more mature Brigade leaders shared a great day forming new friendships and renewing old ones. and we all learned a lot about being Brigade leaders!
- First Aid 9 Leaders with Julie from Elm Training Ltd.
- TGA 1 & 2 Theory 6 Leaders with Richie and Sarah Clarke
- YLTP Introduction session. 14 YL's with John Corbishley and Perry Gunn
- Special needs awareness 12 Leaders with Laura Salisbury
- Challenging behaviours 14 Leaders with Laura Salisbury
- Instructing Drill 8 Leaders with John Corbishley
- Games workshop 5 Leaders with John Corbishley

Young Leaders Training Programme 2024

- We had 22 Young Leaders registered for this year's course which started at the Skills Day. Unfortunately 4 YL's from one Company withdrew the day before the course started. With others dropping out during the year we had 14 YL's who Passed out at the end of course dedication service at Bibby's Farm in November 2024
- There was a series of 5 on-line Zoom meetings to cover the majority of the formal learning with 2 residential weekends, which have been timed to miss the main exam periods and University start up times.
- The June weekend was at the Albert Wilson Memorial Camp site at Prestatyn when Richie, Lynn & Sarah Clarke made us all very welcome. The November weekend would be at Bibby's farm Scout Centre.
- This was one of best courses we have run, with a mix of very committed Young People, already fully immersed in the regular life of their Companies and Churches. They were a delight to work with and I hope and pray that we can keep them and their energy in our leadership teams for many years to come.

Ongoing & Future training

- There is another Skills Training day planned for March 2025 (moved from February 2025).
- We had sourced a Train the Trainer course provider to enable Regional Training Personnel to be trained to deliver training locally. The Staff & Finance committee had approved the finance to train 10 Leader in a central location. With no firm commitment from any leaders FTOG suggested that Ulster Regiment may be better placed to undertake and host the training. Those discussions are ongoing.

Closing remarks.

I would like to extend a massive thank you to all the leaders who, over the years, have devoted many hours, days and weekends to the cause. They have been an inspiration to work with and will, hopefully, continue to support the Brigade's workforce with the training they need to continue working with our members. Thanks to Richie and Sarah Clarke, Perry Gunn, Colleen Perry, Amii Bateson, Graham Procter and Lyn Clarke who kept us all well fed. My thanks would be incomplete without mentioning the debt we all owe to the late Janet Redding, for many years our colleague, friend and mentor.

The Formation Training Officers Group was set up to allow those involved in training to meet regularly to collaborate and satisfy the training needs of our organization. Many of our leaders and Young Leaders have benefited and, hopefully, that has meant that the organization has benefitted too from the work we have done. I have been privileged to be part of that small group of dedicated Officers and leaders who, over the last 12 years have delivered 7 YLTP courses and 10 Skills Training days, plus many other Ad Hoc courses as they were required. The team spirit that existed among those leaders made the task enjoyable for the most part.

Finally, I have informed the Governor of my decision to resign as Chair of FTOG after the 2025 Skills Training Day and I will take no further part in National events. I am extremely disappointed in the way that the circumstances that have led to my decision, have been allowed to go unresolved. I will miss being part of this team in particular but also Brigade Council on which I have served for about 18 years

John Corbishley – (Formation Training Officers Group) 14th March 2025

DofE Report to AGM 2023 to 2024

Activities on the DofE front have been quite quiet, although we have met regularly with DofE staff and have met with other National Operating Authority Managers.

The temporary conditions for expeditions have now been replaced by a new (revised) set of aims and requirements.

The Gold Residential section has also been reviewed and changes will likely be introduced in the future.

We have applied for a grant to support our license fee and are awaiting the outcome of the application.

It is still our ambition to run open Brigade expeditions where possible. We have previously had Brigade DofE meetings, but these have not been well supported. If we are to enable open expeditions, then all companies with DofE participants need to meet to discuss.

Over this last year DofE activities have been quiet, unfortunately a planned Gold Expedition had to be cancelled

NI had one Gold qualifier that finished on 1st September 23, there were three females and 2 males. One female has since completed his Gold award. Congratulations. They are planning bronze and Silver expeditions for 2025 and have two for gold (perhaps a chance to combine with others)

We currently have 72 (down from 89 previous year) participants signed up for the award, with 20 new members in the last 12 months.

We had 15 bronze, 2 Silver and 2 Gold members signed up.

We have met via MS Teams with our DofE National Officer each month.

It has been our ambition for many years to run some open expeditions and we will continue to attempt to organise them.

Some Statistics

	01 Sep 2021 to 31 Aug 2022				01 Sep 2022 to 31 Aug 2023				01 Sep 2023 to 31 Aug 2024			
	B	S	G	Total	B	S	G	Total	B	S	G	Total
Total Awards Started	3	4		7	5	7	6	18	15	2	3	20
Disadvantaged Awards Started	0	0		0	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3
Total Awards Achieved	6		3	9	3	5	3	11	2	2	1	5
Disadvantaged Awards Achieved	0		1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

Awards Started												
	01 Sep 2021 to 31 Aug 2022			01 Sep 2022 to 31 Aug 2023				01 Sep 2023 to 31 Aug 2024				
Centre Name	B	S	Total	B	S	G	Total	B	S	G	Total	
Lisburn District Ulster		4	4	2	2	6	10	5		3		
St Marys Beverley								5				
St Michaels Tintern								4				
St. James Gorton Manchester	1		1	2	2		4		2			
St.Mark's Heyside	2		2	1	3		4	1				

Awards Achieved												
01 Sep 2021 to 31 Aug 2022				01 Sep 2022 to 31 Aug 2023				01 Sep 2023 to 31 Aug 2024				
Centre Name	B	G	Total	B	S	G	Total	B	S	G	Total	
Lisburn District Ulster	6	3	9		5	2	7	1		1	2	
St. Andrew's, Bebington						1	1					
St. James Gorton Manchester								1			1	
St.Mark's Heyside				3			3		2		2	

Best Wishes

Richie Clarke
CLCGB DofE leader

CLCGB NATIONAL BAND ANNUAL REPORT 1 SEP 2023- 31 AUG 24

This reporting period has seen the NB season start as usual in September, with our recruitment weekend, where we gained 12 new members to the band. A further 8 new members joined us on our October weekend, bringing the band's strength to 58 playing members (up 10 from last year) and 11 members of staff (down one from last year).

In October, the Drum Corps leadership role, was taken over by Michael McKenna (Chorley), leaving David Browning (Whetstone) able to concentrate his teaching skills on the newly formed Drum School.

The band made good progress with this season's concert music on our September and October weekends and this continued in December, where alongside our usual schedule of rehearsals, we started our Christmas celebrations with a church service, which was following by mulled wine, mince pies and carols. On Saturday evening, we held a formal regimental dinner and finished off with a Christmas disco.

Our February and March weekends went very well and the band continued with the hard work towards our annual concert, combined with the usual weekend fun activities and entertainment, which included a highly successful karaoke evening, where the vocal talents of many of our members were on show.

In May, we performed our annual concert in Beverley's Memorial Hall. The concert was a great success, was well attended, and the band played superbly, culminating in a Last Night of the Proms style finale, which ended with an impressive rendition of Land of Hope and Glory. After the concert we returned to Raywell Park and held our annual presentation evening and post-concert celebrations.

SUMMER EVENT

In July many of the band's members took part in The CLCGB Festival of Music and Drill, held at Raywell Park, either with their companies or as individual participants. This included several of the band's leadership team taking on important roles over the weekend, ensuring that the weekend run smoothly, safely and professionally. The climax of the weekend was a superb massed band performance for Beverley Armed Forces Day.

CONCLUSION

As always, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of NB's staff for their support and dedication, and to all its members for their hard work over this reporting period.

L E H Burdett
DoM
CLCGB NB

Overseas Liaison Officer's Report ~ AGM 26 April 2025

I shall break down my report by country and the highlights of the last twelve months, of course I hear from some more than others, but we are all of equal status.

Canada

At last year's AGM, I asked the question about a new Company in Toronto, on mainland Canada, the first for many decades. Prior to visiting Newfoundland in the summer, I was able to meet the staff, Pastor Stephen and his wife Carsa, at their parish in All Saints Markham. A predominately Chinese area which I noticed upon arrival with the parish electronic notice board with the Brigade crest surrounding by that language. The staff were very welcoming to me, a complete stranger, giving me a complete tour of their venue but communications have been a little hit and miss since then. They have now been supplied with badge work resources and an enrolment certificate.

Newfoundland

Whilst here last July I was able to meet Michael Cooper, CO of Trinity East-Port Rexton Company and my opposite number as Liaison Officer. A long discussion took place on strengthening Anglo-Canadian relations. The Bugle Magazine keeps me informed about their activities and Michael has continued liaising with Alan Carter on resource material for badge work. I had already made the acquaintance of Sheila Mercer, the Governor & Commandant, and is keen to contribute to relations as best as she can.

A highlight of my time was participating in the interment of the Unknown Soldier in St John's. The CLB Regimental Band led the varied civilian contingents on parade in an unforgettable event that was televised nationally across Canada. Invited dignitaries and special guests included the Canadian Prime Minister Rt Hon Justin Trudeau and the Governor-General HE Rt Hon Mary Simon. It was a great honour for one of the six honorary pallbearers to be WO2 David Mercer of the CLB Regimental Band. An acknowledgement of the Brigade's contribution to the Great War.

Kenya

I am in regular contact with Esther Kamau who commented last September: *"Last August we had brigade enrolment for all children ranks and promotion's and it was wonderful, we had 2500 children and many groups were awarded for budge work in Agriculture, craft, cookery, sport, bible knowledge and Band, it was wonderful we thank God"*.

St Helena

I have had regular communication with the Company on the island and in August I had lunch with the Bishop, the Rt Rev Dale Bowers, in Westminster. Here we were able to discuss the challenges of a standalone company and I now have an invite to visit. This was a follow on to his visit to HQ, where he felt very proud to see the St Helena flag flying. The following month I met with Cynthia Bennett, the church liaison officer, when she was visiting the UK and had a joyful discussion. It has been so pleasing to see the award of the Exemplary Service Medal made to a former CO, Mervyn Yon, and a Governor's Commendation to his wife, Muriel. This was in recognition of the outstanding service over thirty years to the Brigade. Last November Colin Bennett, in his RAF uniform, attended the NMA Memorial service as his mother was on the Roll of Remembrance. So great to see international contribution at this event.

Barbados

There are presently no active Brigade companies on this island. According to my contact there: *"Since COVID-19, like so many other youth organizations, the strength has gone down and the Brigade is one of the casualties. We still have members with Uniforms at the St. George Parish Church, who when called upon, will put on the uniform and parade"*. So all strength to them as they keep the legacy of the Brigade alive.

South Africa

I hear from the four regiments on occasion, notably including their former members' inclusion in the Roll of Remembrance read out at the annual NMA service. Many thanks to Maevia du Plessis of All Saints Mossel Bay Company for the centennial history he sent me, complete with a message from Deputy Governor Alan Carter. Desiree Williams continues to communicate with me and their social media coverage is impressive.

Bermuda

There has been lots of communication with Sara Demaine this last twelve months who continues to contribute an enormous amount to their Facebook coverage. Always of a very high standard and often shared to the UK Leaders page. A new partnership this year has seen the despatch of five LS award certificates to the Company which is a first, as they were unaware of their existence. Last October I met the CO, Joy Symonds, whilst she was visiting London. An excellent discussion took place on how relations can be sustained and new ideas for the future.

A very happy occasion took place on 10 February where Joy received the Exemplary Service Medal from The Governor, HE Andrew Murdoch, and the Christian Service Award from the Bishop, the Rt Rev Nicholas Dill. I was honoured to record a video message that was played at the service and assisted with the nominations.

Thanks to the assistance of Helen Mosby at HQ, a new personalised embroidered blouse badge has been supplied to the Company and will enhance their appearance. Particularly pleased with this achievement as it took a long time to come to fruition.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the NHQ staff for hosting the Commonwealth flags throughout the year. Just wish we could get some decent wind to support the accompanying imagery! However the Facebook posts do reinforce that fact we have overseas units.

It has been a delight to observe that Brody Freeman of Trinity East-Port Rexton Company has been awarded the Gallant Conduct Medal at just five years old. He has been receiving congratulations and correspondence across the international Brigade family. The Provincial news coverage was even shown to the members in Bermuda as an example of his 'service to others' and inspiration.

The passing of former General Secretary, Stewart Cresswell, was sad to hear. He hosted Newfoundlanders at NHQ when we had a residential facility, wrote letters of congratulations to the SA CLGB on its centenary and also welcomed the Bermuda CGB into our family in 1992.

I am happy to facilitate any communications between any UK company and an overseas one.

Terry Hissey

overseas-liaison-officer@clcgb.org.uk

Brigade Memorial Garden

We have now paid for the NMA to maintain the BMG in perpetuity (£11k). This ensures that the BMG remains in its dominant position adjacent to the chapel. The alternative would have been to rely on volunteers with all the complications of risk assessments, method statements and possibly COSHH assessments being submitted and agreed as well as proving competency if any tools were used. This undoubtedly would have led to the garden deteriorating and ultimately being moved by the NMA to an outlying position.

The three Berberis bushes that were damaged during other NMA works had originally been replaced with the incorrect type. This has now been rectified.

This summer has been a difficult time for grass maintenance due to the wet weather encouraging weeds while limiting the time for cutting. As the NMA try not to use herbicides the weed growth was above average this year.

The two trees are struggling but, I made the decision to ask for them to be mulched and fed to see if they can be saved. If there is no improvement over the next year or so and given the historic difficulties with trees in these locations, they will need to be removed and the area grassed over. Whether we look at alternative planting is a decision to make later.

I had hoped that the HG could be the catalyst for a memorial committee / trust that could look into fund raising for the BMG, WMG grave and Florance Milner's grave as well as the many other memorials in various churches and buildings around the country that will need restoration and / or preservation in the coming years and who knows maybe one day a High Wood memorial could be installed. I haven't really had the time to push forward with this but, I would be happy for someone to take this up.

This years' service of remembrance held on the 2nd of November was very successful with Chester and Liverpool battalion taking the lead. The HG wreath was laid by Ellis Williams of St. Michael's, Tintern (Lower Wye Valley co.) and Alan Stewart from the HG.

In Summary, the BMG is secure in its present form but, any development such as information boards will need to be funded in some way. The national organisation has ensured that the present agreement with the NMA is in place but, probably cannot be relied on for future funding as it has to concentrate on stopping the decline in numbers and finding a way to grow the organisation into the future which will require its limited finances to be focused elsewhere.

Alan Carter
Deputy Governor CLCGB

Remembrance Service 2023

The Remembrance Service was held at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 4th November 2023, the second year that we have held the service on the Saturday before Remembrance Weekend. This was the first year that a Formation had taken the lead with the Service. Manchester Regiment under the command of Stephen Whitelegg was responsible for organising the parade ceremonial and the readings and prayers. The address was given by the acting Manchester Regimental Chaplain, the Revd Joshua Gaskell.

The theme for the Service was the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla and this was reflected in the readings, prayers, hymns and address. In addition to our usual Act of Remembrance for the Fallen Members of the Brigade and our recent departed Members commemorated in the Roll of Honour, our thoughts were also drawn to the present world situation - the War in Ukraine and conflict in the Middle East - as we prayed for the peace of the world.

2023 also saw a tribute being made by one of our overseas Brigade partners and we were pleased to read some suitable words of encouragement from Captain Michael Cooper CLB, the Programs Director, Eastern Newfoundland Diocesan Regiment.

The service was well attended with band music being played before and after and refreshments in the Arboretum cafe.

Jane Benson from Tintern Company CLCGB was our organist.

Fr Chris Buckley

Staff Chaplain

National Events Report

The Committee continue to work together to provide National Events for the organisation to promote and foster the opportunity for our members to connect in a safe and fun environment.

The first event for the Committee was the Festival of Music and Drill which was held on Friday 5th – Sunday 7th July 2024 at Raywell Scout Centre which built on the previous Music and Drill competition. We took the decision to change the format of the former event to ensure inclusivity for all members- whether they are a professional musician or a beginner- all were welcome.

The weekend provided the opportunity for bands, ensembles and solos from companies or battalions to showcase their talents- no scoring, no competition, just pure enjoyment of music. We also had displays of some fabulous drill, both traditional and modern takes to music. Our members were able to split into sectional and combined rehearsals which they performed in Beverley as part of Armed Forces Day on Day 2 of the weekend. We received fabulous feedback from the public.

Alongside this report is a Presentation which includes videos and photos from the weekend. This event will become annual, and we hope we can encourage other companies to attend for 2025. We also have a well-established FMD Facebook page with lots of footage from this year along with information for the next event.

Olivia Stewart

National Events Committee

Church of England

Our Bishop Visitor, the Rt Revd Peter Eagles, Bishop of Sodor and Man, stepped down from his role at the end of October 2023 when he retired as a Church of England bishop.

We are grateful for Bishop Peter's support and guidance since 2018 when he took on this newly created role of Bishop Visitor. The role involves being a critical friend to the organisation and a spokesperson for us in the Church of England.

Bishop Peter provided a good listening ear and sound advice and he had the advantage of being able to understand many aspects of the Brigade having served for many years in the Royal Army Chaplains Department and latterly as Archdeacon of the Army before his consecration as a bishop.

Bishop Peter remains a friend of the Brigade and keeps us in prayer particularly at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk where he now lives and where a prayer is said for the Brigade every day of the year.

Fr Chris Buckley

Staff Chaplain

Historical Group Report

Covering 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

This year's Historical Group's Report will be slightly different as I have decided to group my comments under our objectives.

A: To co-ordinate activities relating to the history of the Brigade.

With the forthcoming National Camp in 2026 to celebrate 125 years of the CGB, we were pleased to feature Co-Founder Florence Milner's with a *Brigader* biographical article. She is someone who has come out of the 'mists of time' within our organisation and is deserving of the overdue credit.

In July I visited Newfoundland, Canada where I am hopeful the new 'William G Tilley Award' encouraging historical research can get 'lift off' this year. It would be great to have a similar award in the UK, but I do wonder if the interest will be there. We have facilitated the donation of a Brigade Cross to the CLB Museum and the three volumes of Robin Bolton's *Boys of the Brigade* books.

The *Brigader* magazine has come out twice this year with its wide range of articles and news. Thanks to the contributors, both inside and outside of the organisation.

A 1958 Royal Review cine film has been converted to DVD, thanks to Maynard Scott, and this could be used in a zoom presentation.

Presently Nev Gray and I are helping a PhD student, Robert Snazell, with his work on the Brigade movement in WW2 and hope to host him at HQ for research purposes. From the other side of the world in New Zealand Greg Philpott has provided us with detailed research on the Very Rev Edgar Rogers, former Brigade Secretary.

B: In liaison with NHQ to conserve, preserve and collate archive material held both nationally and locally.

I would like to thank Nev Gray for keeping an eye on all activity with regard to the National Archive. Sadly, being three hours away via the M1, it is not convenient for me to 'pop in' for an afternoon. It is my long-term aim that we can finally gain some National Lottery funding to secure the collection for future generations.

Recently I visited Felden Lodge, the BB NHQ, to collect CLB-CGB-CLCGB material that was held there. Partly as a result of donations to the wrong repository and also some items from the Robin Bolton collection that was inadvertently retrieved.

The Robin Bolton Collection has been rehoused into the old drum room, which has been cleared and now the whole top floor is used for archive storage.

C: To explore educational possibilities of the Brigade's history.

The Executive Committee agreed that graduating Young Leaders should be presented with the Walter Gee biography. In view of the sheer volume held, I also suggested that a complimentary copy of *Boys of the Brigade Volume 2* be presented to them. Not sure if any headway has been made on this?

Graham Sumner has produced some new fact sheets which are a start towards rebuilding that library of information.

Behind the scenes we, particularly Nev Gray, are very active in providing historical information for the many enquiries received from members of the public, much of which came via NHQ. These are logged to avoid going over the same ground twice.

Interaction with the Brigade

I attended the Brigade's AGM in Manchester in April where I handed out lots of the new HG flyer launched that day and a few *Brigader* magazines, but sadly a very poor response. It seems that, akin to finding the next generation of company leaders, new recruits will need to come from outside of the organisation.

I am very pleased to welcome Sheila Mercer as an Honorary member, through her Governorship of the Newfoundland CLB. Congratulations to her predecessor, Gail Dick, who was recently ordained.

The HG were able to assist Bebington Company celebrate their 130th Anniversary with a feature in the *Brigader*.

For the past few years, the HG wreath at the annual memorial service has been laid by Tintern Company members, for which we thank them.

We linked in with the 40th Anniversary of the first National Band Concert in Leicester and the inaugural Festival of Music & Drill. Thanks to Olivia Stewart for her assistance with the latter.

Governance

The Executive Committee have met twice since the last AGM which is about the right frequency.

Pleased that we now have the Rev John Collier as our Chaplain, making a great contribution to the Group. Alan Stewart became the new Secretary at the 2023 AGM and it's great to have him on board.

As I said last year, the AGM via Zoom is here to stay. Maybe there is scope for presentations, talks and general 'get togethers' via this medium. We have the use of the Brigade's national zoom account and I'm open to options or offers.

Media

Our Facebook group, now open to everyone to join, has over 337 members, an increase from 260 in October 2023. Just wish some members would convert to full membership from a passive one...

A big thanks to Nathan Storm for designing the new flyer-membership form and thanks to Zoe for circulating this nationally.

I have resumed the editorship of the *Brigader* magazine after a nine-year break. Would like to have found someone else to undertake this but it was not to be. I am reminded of what the Rev John Burton said in his second valedictory message of January 1977: *"But a man of sixty, returning to the job after nine years retirement, can hardly be expected to have new ideas or the energy to put them into practice, and it should be remembered that originally he was only asked to be the General Secretary for three months, not three and a half years!"* I'm over ten years his junior but hope that history does not repeat itself. I recall a former Brigade Secretary, Tony Reed Screen, once said that to come up with a new idea for an organisation the age of the Brigade is rather difficult. *"Its all been done before"* many would say, yet the study of history always throws up new nuggets and keeps the subject fresh. Our organisation is no different in that respect.

National Memorial Arboretum & Remembrance

The question was raised at the Brigade's 2023 AGM as to where we marking the grave of Rev Thomas Milner, the CGB Co-Founder. Since then, I have been in touch with Goole and North Tyneside Councils regarding commemoration of him and his wife Florence Milner. The Executive Committee agreed with my findings in a research paper I circulated on the way forward with the cost implications. This will be brought to the attention of the Brigade Council.

It must be said that the passing of Johnny Conn in November 2023, following a short illness, was a big blow for the Group. He was a pillar of support for so long. I still feel very sad as he had so much to offer the Group with research and articles. His conferment of Honorary membership at the 2023 HG AGM was richly deserved as was the Brigade Cross, and we must soldier on as that is what Johnny would have wanted. In the *Brigader* we also paid tribute to one of our supporters, Lady Langley, and member Keith Young from Australia, may they Rest in Peace.

Terry Hissey

Chairman

March 2025

Cenotaph Parade Report 2023

This year's parade at the cenotaph in London on Sunday 12th November was attended by a really good cross section of members including Longridge, Brightlingsea, The Historical Group, Northern Ireland, Leicester Regiment and Durham Battalion.

Many members stayed in London over the weekend and went sightseeing and watched the Lord Mayors parade on the Saturday, Premier Inn seems to a reasonable priced place to stay.

Extra risk assessment measures had to be made this year due to protests taking part in London over the weekend. I'm pleased to report that the extra measures were not required, and members saw nothing of the protests.

However, it was decided that we should not hold our usual small remembrance service at the Kings Royal Rifles plot in Westminster Abbey gardens.

Next year we will endeavour to pay our respects at the plot as normal.

This year we set off from Horse Guards parade ground onto the parade, we marched in front of the JLGB and I have to say it was great to meet up with them and share ideas on our very similar organisations.

I'm pleased to report that our members as usual marched extremely smartly, respectfully and with pride.

They all did themselves proud and they showed a true reflection of young people today, it's a shame the press etc. do not concentrate on reporting on young people like our young people.

I hope next year more people can attend the Cenotaph parade and experience this event with all its emotions that it brings out.

I would also like to congratulate everyone all over the country who attended remembrance services, it's great to see all the reports and photos on social media.

To end I would like to thank everyone who attended the Cenotaph parade and the Officers who made it possible for the young people to attend.

Martyn Bedder
Deputy Governor

ULSTER REGIMENT REPORT

1st SEPTEMBER 2023 – 31st AUGUST 2024

Since September 2023 our Companies have been getting into the full swing of things and producing some innovative programs, including participation in our new Scripture Course.

The Regimental Sports Officer has produced some great competitions, which are always enjoyed by the participants. These include Uni-hoc, 5A-side football, and various Athletics competitions.

To date, 8 Leaders for TGA1 AND 2 Leaders for TGA1 & TGA2 have received training.

First Aid Training has continued including 21 trained in an enjoyable day in one of our Battalions.

Duke of Edinburgh expedition training has continued during the summer months.

Our main event has been our 130th Anniversary Celebrations, where we celebrated 130 years of the Brigade in Ireland. The weekend began with a dinner in Brownlow Castle with the Governor and Staff Officer from NHQ as well as the manager for Stores, and the Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland and Metropolitan. It was a great opportunity for many of our officers both past and present along with their partners to catch up.

The following day, we held our Regimental Parade in the city of Lisburn to Christ Church, where the service was conducted by the Archdeacon, the Regimental Chaplain, the Bishop of Diocese of Connor (our largest Diocese) and the Sermon was preached by the archbishop. The Archbishops Award was presented to Cammoney Girls Company.

All in all, a very memorable and enjoyable weekend.

A new leaders handbook has been updated and produced by Johnny Conn and is a very useful addition full of information for our leaders.

Sadly, Johnny who was 2nd in Command of the Ulster Regiment died, and a guard of uniformed officers was provided as the coffin left the church.

Three leaders from one of our Companies attended the Remembrance Day Parade in London to the Cenotaph.

Hazel Ferguson our publicity officer reported that our Facebook posts reach between nearly 800 and 1000 people. The top town the posts are reaching are in Lisburn, and they are reaching as far afield as Cape Town in South Africa, along with posts reaching Ireland and Italy.

We renewed the lease for our office and store in Lisburn with the Missionary Society.

Yours in Brigade Service.

John Williams

Commanding Officer (Ulster Regiment)

Lancashire Battalion Report

We currently have 3 companies within the Battalion, St Wilfred's Standish, St Lawrence with St Pauls Longridge and St Peter's & St Laurence's Chorley.

The Battalion CO is Jayne Warburton Ball, Adjutant Lindsay Maclure Gregg, Treasurer Sam Mckenna and Training Officer Amii Bateson.

We want to thank our former Battalion CO Major Bob Aldcroft for his many years of service to the Brigade and our Battalion. We honoured Bob as he stepped down from his role during a Church Service at Chorley in July 2024 to mark the occasion before Bob took his final salute to the Battalion members during our church parade.

St Wilfred's have struggled since Covid with Martins and Yteam members not returning. This left them with a combined JTC/Seniors membership only. NHQ have supported with a recruitment drive within the schools. There is a plan to relaunch the younger sections soon.

St Peter's & St Laurence's Chorley have 22 members plus 19 officers and leaders. They continue to offer a wide programme including band. The company have lost several JTC boys recently which they find difficult to retain at that age. They have a good team of leaders however like most companies struggle with extra commitment for outings, camps etc and therefore there is no current planned events. The current cost of the venue is high and with lower numbers the company needs to look at fundraising to support. There is also a plan to start a recruitment drive within the local schools; support from NHQ would be welcome.

St Lawrence with St Paul Longridge currently have 33 members across all sections and 16 Leaders offering a varied programme. The company has seen a change in leadership since the passing of CO Janet Redding. We thank Janet for the years of dedication to Longridge company and the wider Battalion and national organisation, her legacy will continue in the strong foundations she has laid within her company. The connection remains strong with the local church with regular weekly attendance from the Rev Simon.

Lancashire Battalion is strong and continues to work closely together to support one another with regular communication and opportunities for members to mix. During 2024 we held our camp at Fylde Scout Activity Centre, this was a huge success and offered the opportunity for all companies to mix. We also supported many of our members from the Battalion with attending the FMD event and will continue to fundraise to be able to offer these opportunities in the future.

Olivia Stewart

NW Elected Rep for Brigade Council

Commemorations

Tony Wood
Fred Stewart
Beryl Gilamrtin
Florence cowley
John Dixon
Colin Short
Keith Sawbridge
Bob Warburton
David Pask
Janet Redding
Revd Rex Buckley
Charles Worthington
Basil Trevana-Tow
Glynne Procter
Hilda Collis
George Horner
Kenneth Jones
Stewart Cresswell OBE