

It's FAB!

The Newsletter for Friends of Ayr Battalion Issue 93 October 2023

Welcome to the First Newsletter for this session. Reminder that the annual fee is now due for payment. Please advise if you know of anyone else who may be interested in joining.



Celebrating 140 Years

Welcome to this special update, recapping and reflecting on how thousands of children, young people and leaders have been involved with our 140th celebrations over the last few weeks.

It really has been great to see so many groups pick up these special activities, challenges & events and provide our members with an opportunity to take part in these celebrations and create unique memories.

140 Monopoly Challenge

On Saturday 30th September, over 700 young people and leaders came together across four cities to kick start our 140th celebrations.

140 teams took part in our **140 Monopoly Challenge** in London, Manchester, Glasgow & Aberdeen, with teams racing around these cities trying to visit as many properties as possible on that city's Monopoly board in five hours.



This saw teams across the UK visit major landmarks and locations such as The Ritz, Old Trafford, Glasgow Cathedral, Marischal College, The Midland Hotel, Hampden Park, Nelson's Column and many more!

Congratulations go to our winning teams in each location, **1st Lindfield** (London), **1st Rainford** (Manchester), **4th/5th Kilmarnock** (Glasgow) & **1st Rosehearty** (Aberdeen).

It was also great to see many other groups take on the 140 Monopoly Challenge in their local area, covering other towns and cities such as Birmingham, Bath, Leeds, Durham & Cheltenham.

Check out our [blog post](#) for more on the 140 Monopoly Challenge. From Ayr Battalion the 1st Coynton & 8th Ayr Companies took part in the challenge in Glasgow. Both Companies thoroughly enjoyed the day with a lot of sore legs after all the walking. Perhaps an idea that Ayr Battalion could host in 2026, as part of our 140th Anniversary celebrations. See below photographs from both Companies.



1st Coynton pictured before the event at St Enoch Square and 8th Ayr pictured at North Woodside Road, where the first BB Meeting took place and outside BB Scotland Headquarters.

Juniors 140 Sleepover

2,000 Juniors continued the 140th celebrations last weekend, with our Juniors 140 Sleepover.

This involved sleepovers in over 100 locations across the UK, including in church halls, trampoline parks, adventure centres, castles and even in South Africa.

Throughout the evening, children took on our specially created sleepover programme, including party themed minute to win it challenges, our Juniors 140 quiz, toasting marshmallows, the sleeping bag prayer, litter picking, a pizza party and more!



We also were able to bring 1,500 Juniors together on Saturday evening for our online gathering, almost certainly our biggest BB online gathering ever! This saw us checking in with some of the locations, setting some fun on the spot challenges and hearing a special message from Christian magician, Paul Brown.

Check out some of the many highlights from our sleepover weekend on our [blog post](#). There were many local sections who took part, and all seemed to enjoy this event, despite the lack of sleep.



1st Alloway pictured outside Burns Cottage, most likely trying to get the boys tired for sleeping!!
8th Ayr pictured inside the hall with the banners on display.

Anchors 140 Challenge

Throughout October Anchors have also been getting involved with the 140 celebrations, with their own challenge.

Anchor age groups have been tasked with creating the number '140' in the most creative way possible.

This challenge is still ongoing, however so far we have already seen lots of brilliant submissions, including using glow sticks, BB uniform, games equipment, cakes, food bank donations, seashells, candles and more!



Ayr Battalion 140 Thanksgiving Service

The Battalion held a thanksgiving service to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the Boys' Brigade. This took place in Auld Kirk Church, Ayr on Sunday 8th October 2023 at 2.30pm. It was an enjoyable service and was good to catch up with many Leaders & Friends, especially during the refreshments in the hall afterwards. Many thanks to everyone who took part in the service with the Colours, Readings, and Prayers. We are also very grateful to the Auld Kirk and Rev David Gemmell for hosting this service. The collection of £220 raised will be sent to the Poppy Appeal. For those that couldn't manage along, please follow the link below to view the service in full.

<https://vimeo.com/873309119?share=copy>



Photographs with the 2nd Ayr & 17th Ayr Colour Party outside the church with Rev David Gemmell, Chaplain 2nd Ayr & Gillian Hay, Battalion President. Inside the church with David Brown, Captain 2nd Ayr & Ian Queen, Captain 17th Ayr.

Battalion Update:

Our Supplies Depot has opened for the new session and has been quite busy, with many Parents in for new uniforms for their sons. In fact, one of the Saturday mornings when I was in helping, we had a queue going all the way downstairs. This reminded me that this used to be the norm many years ago.

At present we only have the Anchor Boys Committee meeting and organising events. This session they have their usual Colouring in Competition and their Games Afternoon at the Citadel Leisure Centre on Saturday 10th February 2024. Hopefully both the Junior and Company Section Committees can meet up this session, as this would be the first time since pre-covid. We are delighted that East Ayrshire Battalion have shared their programme of events and competitions, which our companies can enter.

Due to unfortunate timing both our gas and electricity contracts at our headquarters building in Limekiln Road, Ayr ended last year. This meant having to renew contracts for a year that were more than 400% higher than previous. At least the UK Government assistance did help to an extent, but we ended up having an increase of over 100% from the previous year. This plus no fundraising activities contributed to the Battalion having a deficit of £2300 last session. Although there is a lot of funding out there, on many occasions the Boys' Brigade do meet the required criteria. In fact, it is difficult for uniformed youth organisations to receive funding, plus this is not available for general running costs, such as energy.

Our Treasurer and Secretary are attending a Funding Extravaganza event organised by VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) later this month, where we hope to get some positive ideas. In the meantime, we would be delighted if any FAB Members could let us know of other possible funding opportunities out there now. We do need to try to minimise any potential losses this session.

During November the Battalion will be collecting on behalf of the Poppy Appeal. This will take place in Ayr and Prestwick Town Centre plus Heathfield Retail Park on Saturday 4th November from 11am until 1pm. We look forward to seeing the new look poppies.

A Final Note from the Guest Editor

We are still on the lookout for a new FAB editor to take us to issue 100 and beyond. It would be great to get someone to take this on a permanent basis, to continue its success.

Your points of contact for all the information you would like to see included in, or deleted from this newsletter or any comments about it are as follows:

Battalion Secretary	Stuart Hyslop	07709 715545	stuarthyslop@btinternet.com
HQ and Supplies	8 Limekiln Road, Ayr KA8 8DG 07709 715545		
Web address	ayr.boys-brigade.org.uk (Note: do not include www.)		