



It's FAB!

*The Newsletter for Friends of Ayr Battalion
Issue 97 October 2024*

Battalion Update

Welcome to the first Newsletter for this session. It is an important milestone in our history as next year we will be producing our 100th edition. During the 24 years so far this has helped raise over £17,000 for the Battalion and that doesn't include the gift aid earned. We thank you for your continued support each year but are always on the lookout for new members to reach the magical figure of 100. This would be great to achieve this session, in our 25th anniversary year.

We have decided for the very first time to increase the amount for membership from £10 to £15 per person, due to rising costs incurred. As previously highlighted, we have made losses for the last two years, this mainly down to our increased energy costs and no fundraising activities. If such losses were to continue, we would either have no funds or possibly may have to investigate the viability of our Headquarters Building. Our plans for fundraising include Bag Packing, Ayr United Matchday collection and Santa's Sleigh High Street Collection. We are also looking at hosting a race night early next year, as this is a good social and fund-raising event. I am sure some of our FAB Members will be interested in supporting such an event and would be grateful if you could respond by email (or post), if you would be interested in going.

There is dampness evident in both fireplace areas (external & internal). We are awaiting quotes for this work at present, then will probably need to obtain some grant funding, to ensure our reserves are not depleted further. Even if we cannot afford to keep the property, we still must keep the building maintained to a good standard, in accordance with our Lease agreed by the Council.

All our Companies have now started for the new session, so hope they may see an increase in boy numbers joining. It is very competitive out there now with many other activities on offer to our youngsters. We are very grateful for the dedication and hard work of our Leaders, in keeping the organisation going. It is also something for former boys to consider coming back to help at their Companies, especially the younger generation, which will help keep our organisation going for many years to come.

Our Supplies depot has been open on Saturday mornings since early September and has been busy most of these days. Reminder that the badge collection donated by the late Ronnie Breingan is on permanent display, so please drop in any Saturday morning between 10am to 12pm, if you wish to view these. If you are lucky, we may be able to supply tea or coffee as well.

Battalion Thanksgiving Service

This will take place in Castlehill Church, Ayr on Sunday 3rd November 2024 at 2.30pm. An invite to this is extended to all current Leaders & Boys plus all former Members and Friends. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards and a collection taken for the Poppy Appeal. We look forward to seeing as many as possible at this service.

17th Ayr Boys' Brigade Juniors (Castlehill Church)

We held a Juniors Sleepover on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th September in Castlehill Church Hall. This was our 2nd sleepover in the church hall.

We started this last year with the main objective being to promote our annual weekend residential trip to newer boys or boys who had not yet managed to stay away from their parents. It was run as a mini residential from 5pm on the Friday until 4pm on the Saturday.

This has been a very successful venture and has resulted in an increase in boys coming to our residential weekend. We all had a chippy dinner which the boys loved! We ran a range of different activities - from Gladiators, Gagaball, dodgeball, teamwork activities - den building and building a free-standing tower out of only marshmallows & pasta.

The sleepover also helped us to identify a couple of boys who were not yet ready for the full weekend residential.

We have received fantastic feedback from the parents who really appreciated the reasons why we were running this - including a night free of their boys! We asked the boys during the sleepover for their feedback and sent the parents a feedback form as with most boys, they provide comments etc at different times and can be more likely to do so with their own parents. We feel this is vital to collate all comments/ feedback to use these to make any changes for future sleepovers.

We had a group of 9 boys who attended, and a great time was had by all. There was a lot of work in the planning to get done but it was all very much worth it. We had to produce an in-depth risk assessment and Fire Evacuation procedures to submit to Church of Scotland, our own Church and BBHQ before the sleepover could be run.

This is now a confirmed staple in our annual programme for years to come!

See below for pictures of the sleepover.

Colin Reid, OIC Juniors



Ayr Battalion Anchor Boys Colouring-in Competition Session 2024–2025

Once again, we are encouraging all our companies to participate in the competition. This has also been extended to Companies in East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Battalions, who have kindly shared their competition and events programmes for the past two years. Rules and entry details as per below.

Topic of Picture: Moses The story of the exodus: Exodus 7-14.

Timescale: Competition to be carried out **within the section meeting night** and can cover as many nights as necessary.

Size of Picture: A4 picture

Colouring-in material: whatever is used within the anchor section.

Entries for the competition: Officers/leaders to select 3 completed colouring-in sheets from their anchor section.

Ensure that the following information is on the reverse of the colouring-in picture:

1. Name of anchor boy
2. Name of company
3. Contact name of Officer/Leader

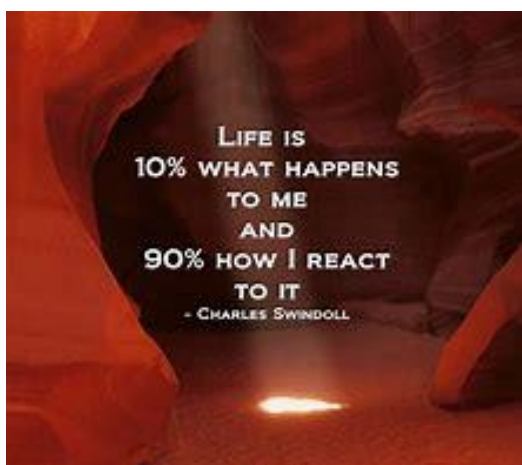
Entries to be sent to/ or handed in to BB Headquarters, Limekiln Road, Ayr on or before Saturday 7th December 2024.

Judging: This will be carried out by independent individual(s) invited to be judge(s) for this competition.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd will be awarded with a certificate showing this. All other entries submitted for the competition will receive either a Highly Commended or Commended certificate.

All certificates will be issued at the annual Games Afternoon together with the trophy being presented to the winning company.

Thought for the Day



A Final Note from the Guest (hopefully short term) 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:

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