



# West Anglia Steadfast Association Newsletter

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- "I remember the good old days in BB when..."

## Contact Us

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## Welcome to the fifth edition of West Anglia Steadfast Association

The West Anglia Battalion consists currently of eleven active companies from Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. This relatively new battalion was formed by a merger of the old Bedford & district, Luton & district and Milton Keynes Battalions in 2001.

This newsletter hopefully will be an effective way to stay in touch with current & former officers, helpers and ex-members and aid to form a Steadfast Association.

The main aim being to **"Further the Object of the "BB" and to foster the spirit of comradeship between past and present members of the Brigade and to render service to others."**

## A word from the Battalion President

It has been six months now since I took on the Presidency of the West Anglia Battalion and after the weekly involvement as a Company Captain I have found it quite difficult to get into the role.

I have made it to a few competitions and am glad to say, that apart from one or two minor difficulties, the competitions have been enthusiastically supported and well organised.

I know from years at Company level, that to some of you the Battalion is seen as remote and not particularly relevant to your Company situation. However, I sincerely believe that our Battalion has a lot going for it. Lads thoroughly enjoy representing their Companies at the various competitions, at whatever level, and it does help boys realise that the BB is a much larger organisation than the local company and that coming together in Christian fellowship can be great fun.

So if you are involved, great, but if you are on the periphery, please try and get along to some of the activities that are held, by the Battalion for you all.

**David Baker, Battalion President**

## You old Boys!

- Do you have any BB stories you would like to share in this newsletter?
- Are you looking for any of your old mates or colleagues?

*Why not write or email in to us to include in the next edition!*

## "Valuable Childhood Experiences & Influences"

Dear All.

While I am well aware that a few of the childhood experiences we had are best forgotten and that not all that influenced us as children was for our good, I would suggest that on the whole, and in the majority of cases, the experiences had and the influences received were for our benefit and in later life we have come to appreciate them and recognise their value.

This fact was endorsed for me at the beginning of the year when an aunt of mine died and I was asked to help in conducting her funeral. For me as a young boy, she had a great influence and I certainly have some very treasured memories of exciting experiences that she instigated. While many events have slipped my memory, there are some that I will not forget such as being a page boy at her wedding fifty-five years ago. In my preparation for her funeral, I realised that I not only had to share memories of experiences I had with her, but also show she had an influence, not only on me as a boy, but on the many other children and people whose life had crossed hers. Throughout her life she had worked with children and been a Girl Guide Captain and therefore many youngsters had benefited from her valuable influence in their childhood experiences.

Many of you reading this will and still are involved with the Boys' Brigade. I am sure that from your younger days with the BB you can recall some exciting experiences and recall memories of officers who had a valuable influence on you which you will never forget. Within the Battalion there are many officers who are serving God and their church by seeking to influence in a valuable way the lads in their charge and help them to appreciate valuable experiences. If we appreciate all that BB has done for us and its value we should offer support to the present officers and lads by any practical help we can give, any financial help we can offer and of course by remembering them in our prayers.

By the way my aunt's name was Eunice and at her funeral, I gave the following acrostic on her name. She was an **ENABLER**, **UNDERSTANDING**, **NATURAL**, an **INSPIRATION**, **CARING** and an **ENCOURAGER** – a great **EXAMPLE** and so experiences with her and her influence was greatly valued. While we cannot be "Eunices", we should strive to set the example she did so that, whether officers or not, we can have a valuable influence in the experiences of the lads in BB.

May you know God's blessing,

**Amos Salisbury, Battalion Chaplain**

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*Do you have any questions current or past BB wise?  
Contact us and we will try to answer your questions*

*"I remember the good old days in BB when..."*

*Starting in this edition as a regular feature, "I remember the good old days in BB when..."*

*"I remember the good old days in BB when..."*

*.....we (1st Newport Pagnell) were in the National 5 a side football finals in Falkirk. What an amazing experience."*

**Mark Nicholls**

**AMICUS Leader,**

**1<sup>st</sup> Newport Pagnell**

**If you "remember the good old days in BB when..." contact us!**

**[contact details can be found on the front page]**

## Dates to note

*Battalion Council  
Meeting AGM  
Monday 10th  
July 2007 at  
Stopsley Baptist  
Church, at 7.15  
p.m.*

*125<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Special Event @  
Bedford Corn  
Exchange Sat  
8<sup>th</sup> November  
2008 (pencil this  
date in your diary's,  
more details to  
follow)*

**If you have any dates  
to note for inclusion in  
this newsletter,  
contact us!**

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## Battalion Development...

It has been a very exciting year this year within development for the Battalion. This is my first year as development officer, and there has been a lot of progress so far.

In 2004/05, a group was formed with the task of looking at Battalion development. Key areas were discussed within this group and at the end of this session, a draft report was written. At the time, these key areas for discussion were:

- To increase Battalion membership & establish a school visitation program
- Open one new company every three years
- Create a local activity centre for BB/GB
- Improve our finances
- Attract more leaders
- Improve Seniors' work
- Improve publicity
- Improve relationships with local churches and Ministers
- Involve more officers in planning events
- Improve relationships between companies
- Improve the focus on helping others
- Improve our training

As I have said already, there has been quite a lot of progress within these areas. I will give you just a few examples, as there is far too much to mention.

- Steadfast Association Newsletter has started
- There are various different notes on recruitment and school visitation on the Battalion website (which includes a Battalion recruitment leaflet)
- The website has a new and exciting look
- Company Visits, Company Development & Company Support Schemes
- A group has formed to focus on the creation of new companies (we are currently working on a Battalion prospectus, and have one church so far interested in starting a new company)
- A Seniors' Weekend has been planned & the Battalion constitution has been altered to include Seniors' in the decision making process
- Discounted use of local activity centres is under negotiation

If there is anyone out there who has any questions to do with Battalion development, or if you can help within any of these areas, please contact me on 07867 577910 or via email on [rob@loadstar.org.uk](mailto:rob@loadstar.org.uk)

**Rob Ciantar, Battalion Development Officer**

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*Would "You Old Boys" like a social organised?  
Email us your suggestion/your interest in this*

## Battalion Competition Dates 2006/07

Date	Section	Competition	Location
28/4/07	Company	Unihoc	Putteridge leisure centre
28/4/07	Senior	Unihoc	Putteridge leisure centre
12/5/07	Junior	Water games	St. John's, Luton
31/5/07	Anchor Boys	Art	
31/5/07	Junior	Art	
9/6/07	Anchor Boys	Potted sports	Kempston East
7/7/07	Anchor Boys	Sports day	tbc
7/7/07	Junior	Swimming	tbc
7/7/07	Company	Kwik cricket?	tbc

## Battalion Champions' Cup scores

As of 15/03/2007		Senior	Company	Junior	Anchor Boys
1st Bletchley	1B		18		20
2nd Bedford	2B		65	68	27
3rd Bedford	3B		35	63	20
1st Flitwick	1F			36	20
1st Harlington	1H		14	81	
1st Kempston	1K	35	67	12	35
15th Luton	15L	30	27	14	
20th Luton	20L	30	59	82	38
22nd Luton	22L	11	13	12	10
23rd Luton	23L		29	44	36
1st Newport Pagnell	1NP		15	14	10