

## Boys Brigade 125th Anniversary

The first part of our celebrations were held in our own church at St. John's, Kirkcaldy with a special service attended by present members and ex members and congregation on 31st August 2008.

Rev. Nicola Frail opened the service by welcoming the Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Rev David Lunan and his wife Maggie. The Boys Brigade Director Mr. Tom Boyle was also in attendance. It was an excellent service and much appreciated by the B.B. and the congregation. The Moderator presented 3 boys with the Presidents Badge: David Leslie, Andrew Bease, David Reekie, and the Queens badge to David Bease. Mr John Methven was presented with a Compass in a Silver case for his services to the B.B.

The Service concluded with a Dedication of a Cairn which now stands in the Church grounds with the Centenary History of St. John's Church and the history of the St. John's Boys Brigade from 1925 - 2008. Everyone then retired to the Church Hall where a buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

The second part of our Celebrations was a visit to the Braehead Centre in Glasgow on the 25th April where the B.B. Scotland Tattoo was held and we took a party of 20 to see it. It was a spectacular night which started at 7.30pm till 10.15 pm.

There were massed Pipe,-Silver-Bugle-Fyfe Bands and a Bell team which all told numbered over 300 Boys.

There were also 4 gym teams demonstrating different movements all on the floor at the same time followed by four drill teams demonstrating movements in drill.

Obviously the rehearsal for the whole Tattoo had been going on for almost a year and was really a credit to all who took part in it.

Our third part in our celebrations was an invitation to Holyrood Palace from:

The RT. Honourable George Reid

Lord High Commissioner

To The General Assembly Of The Church Of Scotland

On Thursday 21 May At 5-45 pm

120 Officers and Staff from Scotland received invitations to attend the Palace. Eight of our Officers travelled by minibus and at the beginning of the evening we were entertained by the massed pipe band which had played at the Tattoo in the Palace quadrangle but unfortunately the weather broke down and it was heavy rain. We then moved indoors and we were welcomed by The RT Honourable George Reid it was very informal and buffet was served. Officers moved around and general discussions took place. It was lovely to see inside the Palace with its beautiful Artistic work and tapestries and a fine evening was enjoyed by all.

Our 4th Celebration was also at Holyrood Palace and this time it was a Garden Party. We had a party of 18 officers and guests. We arrived early and had a small party of our own on the grass car park.

The Buffet was supplied by Roy and Ann Daniels which gave us the chance to meet and introduce our guests.

Unfortunately the weather broke down and it turned cold followed by heavy rain.

The Scots Guards Band played in the quadrangle and there were Country Dancers dancing to the music.

There was also a Silver Band playing in the Bandstand and at the same time a Buffet was being served in the large marquee. It was the week which the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was meeting in Edinburgh and quite a few members attended. We met Rev. David Lunan and his wife Maggie and we also met Rev Nicola Frail. We finished our day by going into Edinburgh and had a meal at a Carvery and everybody remarked that they had enjoyed the experience of a very special day out.

Our next Celebration was at the 125 Anniversary Activity Weekend at Sports Scotland National Center at Largs from Friday 5th - Sunday 7th June 2009.



## 125th Anniversary Activity Weekend



sportscotland  
National Centre Inverclyde  
Largs

Friday 5th–Sunday 7th  
June 2009



which included Tossing the Caber, Tug-o-War, Putting the Shot and a Relay Team.

This was followed by a short Church service led by a praise group from Aberdeen with their Minister.

At 10.30pm a James Bond film was to be shown until 11.30pm but the only people left in the theatre were the staff as the boys were away to their beds and were never seen till the next morning.

Sunday was again an early rise and breakfast. We finished after lunch and cleaned up the rooms and left at 4pm to head home. We stopped at a McDonalds on the way and had a meal. We felt sorry for the Boys who were

We travelled by Minibus and left at 5.15 pm and arrived at Largs at 7.30pm just in time for the Barbeque which had been arranged so that Staff and Boys from all over Scotland could meet with each other and be allocated their accommodation for the weekend. Some Companies stayed in tents but we had booked rooms for our boys and separate rooms for our Staff.

The Boys had 5 in a room and had their own bathroom and shower room so they really lived it up. Meals were served in the main dining hall which seated 150. Breakfast was served from 8am-9am. Sports started at 9.45am. Sports were based on hourly periods and there were 18 Sports to choose from including Canoeing, Football, Mountain Bikes & Archery being just to name a few and the coaches were all supplied by Sports Scotland.

They only stopped for meals and were on the move again. On Saturday night they took part in the Highland Games

in tents because they were really bothered with Midges. Our own Boys had a great time and said they would like the same again!

John Methven MBE

4<sup>th</sup> Kirkcaldy Boys' Brigade

St. John's Parish Church, Kirkcaldy

<http://www.stjohnskirkcaldy.org>