



the **GIRLS'**
BRIGADE
ENGLAND & WALES



Summer 2022 Round-up

A Summer Round-up of news and stories
from Girls' Brigade England & Wales

A great start at 1st Hull

September 2021 saw the opening of new group 1st Hull in the wonderful Hull Minster. Their first meeting was a huge hit and the group is only hoping to grow as the year goes on.

Team Leader Lauren says, 'We had a great time, both girls and the team had a great time playing hide and seek, getting to give each other a Fudge the Dog, thinking about our promises and how we would like the evening to be, making some beautiful bracelets and lastly finishing off with a devotion on being a good friend to each other and to God.'



Recently, the group and members were officially welcomed into the church. The girls taught the congregation one of the songs they had been learning and wrote prayers and read them during the service.

1st Kexborough celebrate 90 years of GB

To celebrate their 90th-anniversary, 1st Kexborough spent time looking at GB's history and how it's developed into the thriving community it is now!

Girls looked at uniform and badges through the years, made hats, studied the Aim, Motto, Law, and Promise and even GB worldwide, plotting on a map all the countries that have GB groups. They explored the GB crest and looked at the different components and what they mean. They also learned about GB Colours including the Girls' Life Brigade and Cadet Colours.

During their celebration service, the group paraded in Colours associated with 1st Kexborough in recognition of their journey. The girls learned a song to sing – The Hymn of Thanksgiving, the same song sung for the Celebration of 90 Years of Girls' Brigade.

Something special from the experience was that over the weeks, girls were asked to draw their favourite bits about GB, there were so many that they've been made into a display board to share with the church!



Beautiful Gate GB group

Another new group called Beautiful Gate was launched in May. Leaders were presented with certificates, badges and prayed over by the District Minister, Rev Caleb Amegatcher. The group opened on 4 May and welcomed 17 girls and boys.



Team Leader Favour says 'We're really excited to walk along with Jesus on this journey to make an impact in the Yardley community and beyond and looking forward to welcoming more children into our group.'

Rev Caleb says, 'It has been our desire to start a project that extends our hands to the community and this is a perfect fit. We are trusting God that through the GB initiative, Yardley and its neighbouring communities will be impacted and transformed.'

An evening for Ukraine



Girls at 21st Castleford held a Ukraine focussed evening to educate the girls and raise money.

They planted sunflowers (Ukraine's national

flower) in decorated pots, helped with a poster, and made praying hands to remind them of the power of prayer.

After a discussion, each girl wrote a prayer asking for God to protect the people of Ukraine, help them find shelter and food, for friends and for the fighting to stop.

They raised a fabulous £70 for the British Red Cross to support their work during the conflict.

GB members chosen to steward at Queen's Garden Party

In May, a group of women from Girls' Brigade attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace as stewards.

The group helped to make sure the event ran smoothly, and guests were looked after. The lucky group were thrilled to see the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in attendance!

Their chaperone Anthea says, 'It was an amazing day and all the young ladies represented Girls' Brigade so well.'



Happy 100th anniversary to 1st Hartlepool

1st Hartlepool celebrated its 100-year anniversary in April. Former members attended, sharing photos and memories and girls produced a timeline and a film of photographs. Everyone said it was a wonderful day.

Team Leader Angi says '1st Hartlepool Girls' Life Brigade was formed in 1922 by Dr Morrison who formed the Boys' Brigade and felt the need for somewhere for girls. With leaders coming and going and many venue changes, the group stood the test of time with a well-attended group.



'We now have 23 children who attend each week. Our sections complete badgework, evolving over the years from Explorers, Juniors etc. to **n:vestigate**, **n:gage**, **n:counta**, and **n:spire**.

'We held our 100th birthday celebration as part of a church service on 3 April and take pride in being a group that has touched so many lives over the years.

'It was wonderful to see lots of former members to reminisce, look through the archives, and meet the current members.'

Esther Generation Weekend 2022 round-up



On 19-20 February, 16 Queen's Award candidates met at Cliff College for the Esther Generation Residential.

Supported by a fantastic volunteer leadership team, they explored what the Bible said about advocacy and looked at Nehemiah, Esther and the Persistent Widow to help understand the characteristics of advocates and how we can learn from them.

They looked at the issue of sexual harassment and spent time with God in worship.

These amazing women then worked on a challenge to highlight the issue of sexual harassment and how we can respond – the results were a set of unique and creative pieces using a variety of mediums.

A right royal surprise

One n:vestigatE member from 1st Oswaldtwistle got a lovely surprise when a very special envelope dropped through her letterbox last week!

In February, the leaders at 1st Oswaldtwistle shared details of our national Platinum Jubilee card competition with parents and carers of their girls. Lots of girls from the group took up the challenge and submitted entries.

One member, Darcey, after discussing what sort of things the Queen likes with her mum, decided to write to the Queen for information to help with her design. Darcey didn't receive a reply to her letter, but decided to go ahead and design an entry anyway.

After sending off her card design, an envelope with the Royal seal on dropped through her letterbox. Of course, it was a reply from Queen Elizabeth thanking Darcey for her letter. Darcey was thrilled and her and her mum have shared it with the GB group, their church and even the local press.

The letter reads:

Dear Queen Elizabeth II,

My name is Darcey and I am 5 years old. My middle name is after you as I was born in June 2016 when you was 90.

Today I made a card for a competition at Girls' Brigade for your Platinum Jubilee. Me and my mummy talked about you and I wanted to put pictures on it of things you like. My mum told me you like Corgi dogs and horses. I want to know what other things do you like?

I would also like to say a big congratulations on your Platinum Jubilee. I think you are a kind Queen and I think you always look fancy.

Love from Darcey



A Platinum Jubilee celebration round-up

It's been great to hear of Girls' Brigade community events getting involved in Platinum Jubilee celebrations across the country.

Members of **2nd Leigh Park**, **1st Bedhampton**, **2nd Alton**, and **8th Portsmouth** attended a Platinum Jubilee celebration held at Winchester Cathedral.



1st Flimby decorated their windows, made queen and soldier decorations, and held a party.

1st Hawkwell had a fab party, which included a visit from an ice cream van!

At **4th Nottingham**, older members produced a display for their badgework which is on display in the church.

Young people at **2nd Kettering** enjoyed craft sessions to help to celebrate the Jubilee.

2nd Polesworth entered a community Jubilee window competition. Older girls from the group created their entry and local residents complimented the creation.

1st Wallsend organised an afternoon tea, craft, bingo and treasure hunt afternoon which was attended by over 60 people.

1st Emsworth made jubilee cards and bookmarks for local retirement flat residents and delivered them personally. The girls enjoyed meeting and chatting to the residents, who were very grateful for their gifts.

3rd Ryde partied with their church and played games, joined the cake competition, pinned the tail on the corgi, designed teapots, and tucked into afternoon tea together.

1st Loughborough held a fundraising coffee morning and afternoon tea! **n:gage** members planned the menu and the group had a competition for the event's poster design.

Members of **7th Brighton**, **1st Carshalton Beeches**, **1st Hawkwell** and **1st Sleaford** had the opportunity to represent GB in the youth enclosure for Trooping the Colour. We know it's something that they will remember for a very long time!

Afternoon tea at Number 10

Two GB members attended a Big Afternoon Tea at 10 Downing Street in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. They were selected because of the impact they've made outside of GB. Rebekah, from 2nd Leigh Park, donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust raising more than £800 for the charity and Tilly, from 1st Kendal, raised £180 for a local hospice by knitting little hats and selling them to friends and family. They were chaperoned by Growing GB Development Officer Carol Lowries.



GB leader receives MBE in Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to the Team Leader of 1st Amesbury Girls' Brigade who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022.

Gillian Sinclair-Clarke was honoured for her work in the community – including her 60 plus years in Girls' Brigade.

One of her fellow GB leaders, Anthea Herrett, says 'Her energy and enthusiasm know no limit; Gillian is an inspiration and role model to all, young and old, who are lucky enough to know her.'

Young women take the lead

Young women across England and Wales have been equipped as **n:fluence 14-18** training took place across the country recently.

In Region 2, 22 young people met in Sheffield. The theme was 'be unique' and looked at the positive and negative impact of the media and how GB can support young people. They produced magazine spreads and reported their findings.

2nd Southend on Sea District also recently held theirs. There's a great relationship between girls and leaders at 1st Belfairs and young people shared how inspiring it is to have leaders to look up to.

Solent District held theirs in February and set the young people the challenge of producing a session on food poverty. This was followed up by a Zoom evaluation in March, a great way to check in on their progress.

In Region 6, girls planned a Jubilee party and girls doing their advanced training created an **n:gage** programme themed on Joseph. The characteristic they decided on was strength.



Platinum Jubilee card design competition winners

In early 2022, we launched a design a card competition to be sent to Her Majesty the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee. Four winners were selected to have their designs made into a Platinum Jubilee card as well as winning a £25 Amazon voucher each. Over 560 entries were received!



GB's Vice Presidents Kathy Hubbard and Pam Jenkins judged the competition and chose Chloe from Trinity, Naomi from 30th Nottingham, Brooke from 1st Hawkwell and Rebecca from 20th Nottingham as their winners.

Kathy says 'It was a tough job but great to see so many wonderful and creative designs.'

New Network Chair elected

A new Network Chair was elected at our spring conference, held in Bedford on 5 March.

Sue Parkin will take on the role until March 2025. She will head up the Network Executive committee which looks after the work of GB groups, in conjunction with the GBM Trustees.

Sue is a GB leader at 1st Upney, District Team Leader for Barking, Dagenham and Havering, Region 8 Secretary, and a Network Executive representative. She fills the vacant chair role following Hazel Hepworth's end of term of office last summer.

Sue's other church commitments include being a Sunday School teacher and being the designated safeguarding lead for her church.

Sue is married with two adult children. She enjoys reading, travelling, watching wildlife, and taking part in quizzes.



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