



## Amicus Spotlight Dagnall Street Amicus Group

We are a part of the 1st St Albans Boys' Brigade Company based in Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans. Following a Church review of what is offered to our young people, we decided to invite the Amicus Project Manager to our church to explore the possibility of starting an Amicus group. The training was held at our Church over a weekend in September 1998 and on Friday 6th November 1998 we launched.

Our first meeting had six members attend, half of them from outside the Church and all of them from outside the Company! The numbers slowly grew over the first year and we took seven of the group to Firm Foundations - an experience they will never forget. The leadership team were quite daunted by the prospect of taking seven un-churched young people to a Christian festival but they all enjoyed it and wanted to return the following year. Whilst none of them were converted, we felt that they were all moved on in their personal faith development.

Our activities have included sailing, skiing, basketball, first aid, non-alcoholic cocktail making, a visit from the Baptist Missionary Society's "28:19" youth action team, quiz nights, cooking, a visit to Alton Towers and joining with the 7th Plymouth's annual BB camp. All of our activities are based around the BB's five-sided award programme and the young people plan their own programme and help to deliver it. Two years ago the Company started a worship band and three of our Amicus members are now a part of it. They recently appeared on the Firm Foundations fringe stage and have also led Battalion Church Parades for both the Hertfordshire Battalion and the Chiltern Battalion. One of our members was involved with the creation of our web site. Come and check it out at <http://1stalbans.boys-brigade.org.uk>



We enjoy a good working relationship with our Church; our Minister and his wife are committed Amicus helpers! We are a full and active part of the 1st St Albans Company, often sharing in activities with the Company Section. Our Amicus group has helped our Company become more integrated with the Church as it has demonstrated that we are a progressive and forward thinking organisation and as relevant today as we were when we were founded. We have also enjoyed good relationships with the local Battalion, who have provided opportunities for our Amicus members to participate in Battalion activities, and with other local Companies - particularly the 3rd Hemel



Hempstead Company who we have joined with for basketball. As previously mentioned, we attended the 7th Plymouth's annual BB camp at Broadleas campsite on Dartmoor during the summer. Six of our members took part in a traditional BB camp with activities including rock-climbing, abseiling, horse riding and swimming. We have a link with the 7th Plymouth because two of our Amicus staff are formerly from this Company.

Before we started our Amicus group we had one Senior in the Company. Some of the young people were initially concerned about joining a BB group as they had pre-conceived ideas of what the BB was all about. We now have eight regular members (four male, four female) many of whom wouldn't be in the BB or attached to a Church if it wasn't for our Amicus group. Our members also have a different appreciation of belonging to the BB and we are grateful for the support we receive, both locally and nationally. It was one of our proudest moments as leaders when two of our members were baptized in December and we hope and pray that we will be able to effectively communicate the gospel to the others. Our aim is to advance Christ's Kingdom to the young people we come into contact with and we are proud to be a part of an organisation that has a proven track record of effectively doing this.

*Danny Smith*  
*Leader in Charge, Dagnall Street Amicus*