

Band of Hope Children's Meeting

Introduction:

In 1847, Ann Jane Carlile, an Irish Temperance Pioneer, and Reverend Jabez Tunncliffe, a Baptist minister, started a club for children to teach them the importance of sobriety and teetotalism. They named the club 'The Band of Hope' and by 1855 so many clubs had started that a national body was formed – The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union. By 1897 there were over three million members - many Victorian children would have attended a Band of Hope group.

Activities at the clubs included songs, poems, lectures (using 'Magic Lantern' slides – rather like using PowerPoint today), games and other activities. The Band of Hope also arranged larger events; mass choir events at the Royal Albert Hall, for example, alongside demonstrations, rallies and outings.

Child members would have been invited to sign a pledge saying they would never drink alcohol. As they grew older, they would have been encouraged to take on leadership roles.

You can see/use a video from You Tube showing the June 1901 Band of Hope parade, Manchester:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oA7gOK8A5U>

Outline:

The lesson plan and attached resources are for you to host a Band of Hope meeting with your pupils/children/youth group. You can adapt the session to fill the time available.

The meeting includes a variety of Band of Hope and Victorian activities and uses our award-winning short film 'A Temperance Tale', which uses a magic lantern show to give a temperance message. The film, while intended to convey a temperance message, shows modern children many aspects of Victorian life.

However, if you prefer to use a film with a more Christian message, we also include a link to 'John Treganoweth - his Mark' – as this film is longer, we do not include a quiz.

National Curriculum:

While not specifically covering national curriculum material, you can use this for the following:

History:

Key Stage One:

- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. (Ann Jane Carlile – founder of the Band of Hope age 72)
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality. (Most areas had a Band of Hope group, so your local museum or library (if you have one) may have information on this – some even have items dating back to the Victorian era from the Band of Hope.)

Key Stage Two:

- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066. (If you were looking at Queen Victoria – she was patron of the Band of Hope in 1897.)

Suggestions for the Meeting:

- 1) Encourage the children to come dressed up in Victorian outfits. To keep this simple, they could wear:
 - a. A long, dark-coloured dress or skirt with a long-sleeved blouse. Add a shawl around the shoulders and a head scarf around the head to accessorise., (An adult skirt held up with a belt/string would make a long skirt for a girl, maybe?!) Plimsolls would be ideal shoes.
 - b. Dark trousers, a dark coloured waistcoat and a white or cream shirt. Fasten on a bow tie or tie an adult tie into a bow around the neck. Make a paper top hat or cap, and wear school shoes.
- 2) You could provide Victorian style food – for example:
 - a. Tea*
 - b. Plain bread and butter
 - c. Currant bread

* N.B. This was the cheap alternative to beer. Beer was often drunk in place of unboiled water, so tea was a safer alternative to cold water. You could serve alcohol-free drinks if it is easier for you – Irn-Bru was launched in 1901 and Vimto in 1908. And feel free to serve cake, if you want!

- 3) Could you use the event to raise money for Hope UK (maybe a donation for attending in non-school uniform) or link it to another lesson you do as a present-day alcohol/drug lesson? We have suggestions for this on our website.

Note on Definitions;

The film includes various terms the pupils might not recognise:

- Abstainer – someone who chooses not to drink any alcohol at all
- Temperance – Not drinking alcoholic drinks
- Teetotal – Someone who chooses not to drink alcohol

Resources Provided:

All of the following are provided for you to use.

- 1) A meeting plan
- 2) Readings and songs
- 3) A crossword
- 4) Links to the Magic Lantern shows 'A Temperance Tale' and 'John Treganoweth - his Mark' referred to in the meeting plan
- 5) A quiz based on 'A Temperance Tale'
- 6) A 'pledge' (certificate) for you to print off
- 7) Some Victorian games to use
- 8) Ideas for further activities.