



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

Ringmer Winners



Friary's Solo, Quartet and Ensemble contingent with their haul of trophies

Happy New Year from all at Friary Guildford! As always, a busy year lies in wait with the usual line-up of concerts and contests. In the closing days of 2011, the Band were lucky enough to be invited to play at the Gillette 4 Nations Rugby tournament at Wembley, with coverage on both BBC and Sky channels. Alongside the annual Christmas concerts supporting the British Heart Foundation and Radio Lion at the Royal Surrey Hospital, there have been three contests and an awards night to catch up on so keep reading to find out how we got on!

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- Bandroom news
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- Band awards

Ins & Outs

There has been keen interest from players enquiring to join Friary in the last couple of months. In the last 'Bugle', we reported the new additions of Adam Bond and Emma Stoffer to the percussion ranks and we are now pleased to announce the addition of no less than four new cornet players and another percussionist. Kevin Barker joins from Sandhurst, Jeremy Home from Wantage, Catriona McNeil has relocated to the area and most recently, Simon Persin who played for 10 years at Woodfalls. All have successfully auditioned and become members of Friary. Simon's wife, Sarah, adds her wealth of experience to the percussion section.

On a sad note, we have to report the departure of three players – including founder member, Mark Yarham (flugel) and his wife, Janatha (cornet). Mark played in Friary for over 28 years and the Band would like to extended their gratitude to him, not only for his playing, but for all the behind the scenes work he has done over his time with Friary. E flat bass player, Dave Moon, has had to relinquish the principal seat in order to spend more time with his young family. Dave will be helping out at the upcoming Area contest, so thankfully we haven't heard the last of him just yet!

Home, Sweet Home!



As reported in the autumn issue of the 'Bugle', Friary had to move out of their current accommodation in Woking over the Christmas holiday. The Band has found its new home in the nearby village of Chobham, in the Chobham Club. The management at the Club have been extremely accommodating, especially with storage solutions for the large percussion instruments that Friary owns! The Band will be performing a short concert in its new home on 4th March, inviting members and friends to hear the build up to the Area contest that they will be taking part in on the 18th March.



Picture: Friary settling into the Chobham Club

Surrey Air Ambulance Collection

Members of Friary Guildford Band gave freely of their time in the busy run up to Christmas, playing Christmas carols and other seasonal music at local garden centres, supermarkets and even at the Hog's Back Brewery, collecting for the Surrey Air Ambulance. The total sum collected was £600.

Mini Friary

For those who haven't heard, Friary operates a 10 piece ensemble that has a growing list of engagements. A scaled down version of the full band, the group is ideal to perform at venues where space is more limited such as weddings and corporate events. They have a large catalogue of music and also have the ability to cater for specific requests with conductor, Nigel Simmons, being a skilled arranger. If you are interested in booking the 10 piece for your event, please contact Band Secretary, Lauren Cave: secretary@friaryguildfordband.co.uk

A Time to Remember



Friary were again honoured to take part in Guildford's annual Armistice parade. Principal cornet, Richard Straker, played the Last post at the beginning of the service in the Holy Trinity Church and then the Band marched from the Church to the Castle grounds where they played hymns during the laying of wreaths at the Memorial.

People present at the service may have seen that Richard passed out during his performance in the Church. He would like to thank everyone who sent their best wishes to him and would like to reassure everyone that he is back to full fitness now!



Picture: Friary play in the castle grounds, Guildford

Sponsorship opportunity!

Friary are looking to record a new CD in the near future and would like to offer the opportunity for someone to sponsor it, either in full or in part.

Donations will be accepted to sponsor specific tracks, with the chance to request your favourite piece.

If you are interested, please let Richard Straker know via the Supporters' Club email address secretary@friaryguildfordband.co.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Friary are re-launching their self promoted concerts this year, so please make a note of the following dates:

- **Saturday 7th July**
- **Saturday 8th December**

Both concerts will be at the United Reform Church in Woking and will start at 19:30. Tickets are £10, £8 concessions and children free when accompanied by a paying ticket holder. There will also be a retiring collection for Surrey Air Ambulance. We hope to see you there for a truly entertaining night's music!

Taken for Granted...

Friary have been lucky enough to receive two grants in the last month.

The Woking-based Deakin Charitable Trust, and the Derek Hill Foundation have both donated funds to be used towards the purchase of a much-needed xylophone.

Public Relations Officer for Friary, Tim Straker, explained: 'Although Friary is a brass band, the percussion section is an important part of the band, and a xylophone has been on our shopping list for some time. We are delighted to have the support from both Charitable Trusts to help us add this exciting instrument to our bandroom.

Thank you to bandmember, Kevin Webb, for his work applying for these grants.

Ranking check

Currently, Friary is number

65 (down 8)

in the 4barsrest/British Bandsman world rankings.

For a full list of the top 200 bands visit

www.4barsrest.com/rankings

Leicester

Contest:	Leicester Open
Location:	Garendon High School, Loughborough
Date:	27 th November 2011
Test piece: (Own Choice)	Rococo Variations (Gregson)
Adjudicator:	Malcolm Brownbill
Position:	6/14

Friary last ventured up to the Leicester Brass Band Association contest in Loughborough in 2004. Since then, the contest has grown in stature and now has a consistently strong line up of bands entering every year. Back in 2004, Friary won the Open section playing Edward Gregson's 'Dances & Arias', and it was with one of Gregson's more recent works 'Rococo Variations' that the Band played upon their return this year. Having already performed the piece, winning at Folkestone in October, Friary were confident of putting in a good performance and

hoping to put down a good marker off an early draw. After playing the opening few bars of the piece, it soon became apparent that the small stage in the school hall was going to be a challenging place to play with its highly reverberant acoustic and MD, Chris King, had his work cut out controlling the Band's dynamics. Despite this, another solid performance ensued and drew some encouraging comments from adjudicator, Malcolm Brownbill. He cited a few concerns regarding balance and splits but said "overall an enjoyable performance with good individual and full band contributions, including percussion". The final placings saw Friary come 6th out of 14 bands including many of their rivals in the upcoming Area contest in Stevenage in March. The contest was won by one of these bands – Sandhurst Silver so congratulations to them! Thanks to Kevin Barker (cornet), Nick Etheridge (E flat bass), Catriona McNeil (cornet) and Jon Spencer (soprano) for helping the Band out at this contest.

Yeovil



On a chilly Saturday morning, the Band was up early for a 07:45 rehearsal in Yeovil in readiness for playing first in the pre-drawn contest. With an encouragingly large audience, Friary took to the stage and started off proceedings with a rousing National Anthem before settling into their Jubilee themed programme. The first piece was the Salvation Army quick march 'Jubilee!' by Paul Drury. In contrast, the next piece 'A Sweet Shepherdess' was a tribute to the recent passing off Goff Richards with some lovely lyrical playing from all around the Band. The solo number came from

Euphonium, Chris Straker, who reprised Karl Jenkins' 'A Troika, Tidy!' which he previously performed at the Wainstones Cup in Middlesbrough. Another stunning performance drew thunderous applause from the audience. MD, Chris King, always likes to add in an original arrangement into the entertainment contests and this was no different. The Billy Fury hit 'Jealousy', arranged jointly between Nigel Simmons and Chris, was adjudicator, Alan Fernie's favourite piece of Friary's performance and

Contest:	Yeovil Entertainment
Location:	The Octagon, Yeovil
Date:	11 th February 2012
Programme: (Own Choice)	March: Jubilee! A Sweet Shepherdess A Troika, Tidy! (Euph. Solo) Jealousy Finale from Year of the Dragon
Adjudicator:	Alan Fernie
Position:	6/11

Continued...

Picture: Contest venue, The Octagon

was well received by the Yeovil crowd too. To finish, Chris chose to play the finale from Phillip Sparke's 'Year of the Dragon' – particularly apt as 2012 is exactly that in the Chinese astrological calendar. The technically demanding piece was cleanly played and Alan Fernie commented 'I remember when this was a hard piece!' and was impressed by the choice of finisher. The Band came off stage feeling good about their performance and they were rewarded with 6th position – their second highest finish since they first entered the competition in 2007. The contest was won by some inspired playing from the Flowers band with Mount Charles and the Woodfalls band making up the other podiums. Friary should get an automatic invite to next year's contest based on their result so look forward to taking part once again next year. Thanks to Martin Britt (soprano), Martin Beaumont (baritone) and Nick Etheridge (E flat bass) for helping the Band out at this contest.

SCABA Solo, Quartet & Ensemble

Contest: SCABA Solo, Q&E
Location: Ringmer Community College, Ringmer
Date: 12th February 2012
Results:
Open Ensemble: 1st & Best interpretation award
Open Quartet: 1st

Slow Melody: 1st (Richard Straker, Cornet)
 3rd (Nigel Stevens, Horn)

Senior Solo: 1st (Richard Straker, Cornet)
 3rd (Chris Straker, Euphonium)

Adjudicators: Jeremy Wise (Q&E)
 Lynda Nicholson (Solos)

Just a few hours after returning from Yeovil, some members of Friary were travelling down the M23 to Ringmer in East Sussex for the annual SCABA solo, quartet and ensemble contest. The event has grown so much over the last few years that this year, the sections were divided into two halls to accommodate the high number of entries. Friary entered a total of 14 parties – a 10 piece ensemble, a quartet, 7 in the Slow Melody class and 5 in the Senior Solo class. The 10 piece ensemble played an arrangement of 'Jealousy', the same piece from the Yeovil programme. There were only two entries in the Open Ensemble class but Friary had to fight off competition

from an ensemble from fellow Championship section band, Aveley & Newham. Adjudicator, Jeremy Wise liked the arrangement and commended the performance, awarding 1st place to Friary.

The quartet made up of Richard Straker, Lauren Cave, Nigel Stevens and Chris Straker, played 'Timepiece' by Peter Graham which again found favour against the strong competition from two Aveley & Newham quartets alongside foursomes from Brass Fusion and Bedford.

The solo classes saw some playing of the highest standard with adjudicator, Lynda Nicholson, remarking that it had been a memorable day. Friary had a total of seven parties entered into the Open Slow Melody class and again, there was a strong line-up of 22 competitors from around the region. Some lyrical playing of the highest order followed leaving Lynda with a tough job picking out her top three awards. She eventually settled on Richard Straker from Friary, winning the class for the second year running, who played 'Nessun Dorma' from memory, Dave Relf from Oxted playing 'Swedish Hymn' and Nigel Stevens of Friary with his classy rendition of 'Demelza'.



Picture: Friary's quartet entry - Richard, Lauren, Nigel & Chris

The Senior Solo class gave the competitors the chance to show off their technical skills and the level of competition was again extremely high. All of Friary's five entries played extremely well and were rewarded with two of the prizes going to the Straker brothers – Chris came in 3rd with his dazzling display of technique in 'Rule Britannia' and Richard completed a hat-trick of wins in the class with his exciting performance of 'Jubilance'. The other podium place was filled by Aveley & Newham's E flat bass player, Ed Ashby, playing 'The Bass in the Ballroom'.

Friary's soloists would like to extend their gratitude to their accompanist, Suzie Shrubbs, who played for all 12 soloists in the solo classes with such talent and style.

Wembley



Having recently appeared at the inaugural QIPCO Champions' Day at Ascot, Friary were invited to perform at Wembley for the double header of Wales vs New Zealand and England vs Australia in the Gillette 4 Nations tournament.

The Band turned up for an early sound check outside the famous stadium and were led inside to pitch-side for the rehearsal with the Wimbledon Choral Society who were to provide the voices for the occasion. As well as running through the anthems to be played before each match, the slightly unusual request came through that they required us to run through some England crowd chants for them to record and play back later during the match to stir up support! Naturally, the Band had no problems doing this!

As the stadium started to fill up for the first game of the day, the Band waited in the wings ready for their call. When it came, they got a rapturous welcome from the

crowd which made for a spine tingling moment stepping onto the pitch and towards their positions in the middle for the first set of anthems. Once finished, Friary walked off to take up their seats in the stand for the match, with a group of players splitting off to play during the match for the supporters to chant along with.

After the first match, there was a short break before resetting and preparing for the England vs Australia match. The stadium filled up even more and again, provided a warm welcome as the Band stepped onto the pitch. For this match Friary were asked to play 'Land of Hope and Glory' as the players came out, and the noise was deafening as the proms classic came to its climax. Again, the anthems were sung enthusiastically by the crowd and left the players buzzing as they walked off before the start of the match. The crowd band took up their positions in the upper tier to spur on the England supporters, who bounced off some 'Great Escape' and more 'Land of Hope and Glory'. What a day!

Pictures – Top: Friary play the national anthems

Bottom: players walk out to the rehearsal



