



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

We will Remember...



Friary lead the march down Guildford High Street on Remembrance Sunday (Pic: Helen Hooker)

As we head into the Autumn/Winter season, the contest season starts up again and there are plenty of concerts to work towards. The annual SCABA Autumn contest which has been held in Folkestone for the last few years, moved to The Hawth in Crawley with arguably the strongest line-up of bands seen for a long time. The annual Remembrance Parade, concerts for the Rotary Club in Alton and another outing at Ascot are just a few highlights since the last edition of the Friary 'Bugle' and we look forward to Friary's 'A Christmas Festival' concert on 8th December to see what's in store!

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Friary lead Guildford Remembrance Parade



Richard Straker plays the Last Post
(Pic: Helen Hooker)

Friary were again proud to be part of the Guildford Remembrance Service and Parade on 11th November.

The annual service at the Holy Trinity Church was started with Friary Principal Cornet, Richard Straker, playing the Last Post just outside the North door and maroons sounding from the Castle grounds signalling the start and end of the two minute silence.

The Band then led the parade in the march from the church to the castle grounds where there was another sounding of the Last Post before the laying of wreaths at the war memorial accompanied by Friary playing hymns and Elgar's 'Nimrod'. Friary PRO, Tim Straker, laid a wreath on behalf of the Band.

On the Saturday evening before, Friary solo cornet player, Kevin Barker, performed the Last Post as part of a Remembrance concert given by Guildford amateur dramatics group 'GHOSTS' at the Electric Theatre, Guildford. Also, Simon Persin played the last post at the Madjeski Stadium in Reading where Rugby Union sides, London Irish and Sale were playing.



Friary play in Guildford Castle Grounds (Pic: Becky Krebs)

New additions

Friary would like to welcome three new members who have recently joined the Band.

Craig Rickards joins from Egham Band and fills the E-flat bass vacancy. Stephen Thorpe slots nicely into the second Baritone seat after a long spell with Chinnor Band. Both players performed at the recent SCABA Autumn contest in October and breezed through their auditions!

The Euphonium section is also strengthened by the addition of Mike Trumble, who joins after recently returning to the banding scene. Mike has been involved in all of Friary's recent engagements and is already proving to be a great bandsman!

We hope all three of our new members enjoy their banding with Friary!

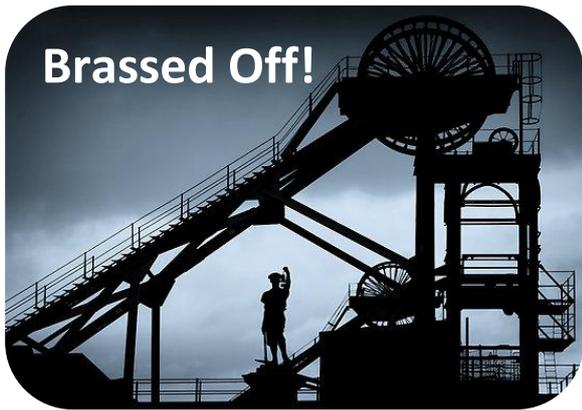
Friary pay tribute to founder Supporters' Club Member

The Friary Bugle is sad to announce the passing of one of the Band's Supporters' Club founder members.

Zillah Knight, whose son, Roland, plays trombone for Friary, passed away after a period of illness in September. The Supporters' Club was initially set up to raise money for instruments that the Band needed and to this day, Friary still use two of the timpani drums that were funded by the newly formed club back in the early eighties.

A small group of Friary members played at Zillah's funeral at St. Saviours Church in Guildford, playing hymns during the service.

A frequent Friary concert goer and fervent supporter of the Band, Zillah will be sadly missed.



Brassed Off!

This month, Friary have been asked to take part in a local production of the popular film, 'Brassed Off!' in Spring 2013. The play adaptation which has been a hit all over the country follows the true story of the Grimley Colliery Band (based on the Grimethorpe Colliery Band) and their route to the Albert Hall despite fighting the closure of the colliery.

The production, put on by the 'Pranksters' Theatre Company, will take place the Electric Theatre in Guildford. It will feature heavily members of the Band who will provide the musical backdrop to the show and maybe even one or two acting roles!

Keep a lookout in the coming months to find out more about the production.

Wedded bliss for cornet couple



Friary would like to congratulate two of their members, Joan and Kevin who have recently tied the knot.

The ceremony which took place at Camberley Heath Golf club was attended by most of the Band and the Friary 10-piece ensemble, led by Nigel Simmons, provided the music before and during the wedding. Again, Nigel turned his skilled arranging hand to a few requests from Joan and Kevin, with new arrangements of 'Serenade', 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' and even the Madness classic 'It Must be Love'.

Congratulations Joan and Kevin!



Charity London – Paris Cycle ride for Friary PRO

Friary Public Relations Officer, Tim Straker, has recently completed the London-Paris cycle ride. The 234 mile ride that was spread over three days saw Tim raise over £2000 for the National Greengrocers Charity, Caravan. "It was a tough challenge but knowing how much support I was getting really pulled me through all those miles" said Tim.

Ranking check

Currently, Friary is number

64 (up 5)

in the 4barsrest/British Bandsman world rankings.

For a full list of the top 200 bands visit

www.4barsrest.com/rankings/

SCABA Autumn Contest

Contest:	SCABA Autumn
Location:	The Hawth, Crawley
Date:	30 th September 2012
Test piece (Own choice)	Music of the Spheres (P. Sparke)
Adjudicator:	Dennis Wilby
Position:	2/8




Venue: The Hawth, Crawley

The SCABA Autumn contest saw its most competitive Championship section for a number of years with a total of eight bands taking part. Included were the 2006 and 2007 European champions from Belgium, Brassband Willebroek.

With such a strong line-up of bands, Friary opted to play a piece which would test the Band to its fullest in order to maintain the title they won in this contest last year. 'Music of the Spheres' was written by Philip Sparke in 2004 for the Yorkshire Building Society Band to play at the European Championships. The piece depicts the beginning of time from the 'Big Bang' perspective, starting with an atmospheric horn solo with the sound of wind blowing through wind chimes, slowly building to the big bang itself. 'The Lonely Planet' gives all the soloists in the Band the chance to shine as they interweave melodies symbolising the creation of Planet Earth. 'Asteroids & Shooting Stars' whizzes and bangs as objects fly through space before the finale 'The Unknown' explores what the future could hold for the universe with a slow expansive tune which grows from the lower band all the way up to the cornets and ends with a bigger bang as at the beginning!

M.D, Chris King, was delighted with the performance and paid particular tribute to the soloists. "They all performed really well today – I couldn't have asked any more from them" Chris commented.

After a hard fought contest with eight top class test pieces on display, adjudicator Dennis Wilby awarded second place to Friary behind London and Southern Counties rivals, Wantage Silver who played Peter Graham's 'On the Shoulders of Giants'. Regent Brass secured third with their performance of Sparke's 'Year of the Dragon' aided by their trombone soloist, Tetsuro Okamura, who was the eventual winner of the best instrumentalist award.

Dennis Wilby praised Friary saying "A great choice of music for your band. Excellent soloists – Bravo soprano cornet. Technically superb playing. Bravo MD."

Thanks to Simon Tong (Soprano), Matt Tallamy (Percussion) and Dave Moon (E-flat bass) for their help at this contest.

Champions Day at Ascot

The Friary 10-piece returned to Ascot to play at the Champions Day event for the second year.



The 10-piece, led by Nigel Simmons, performed during the whole day with two 45 minute slots before the races started and then in between each race. The race-goers were entertained with a selection of music arranged by Nigel and even serenaded the Queen as she arrived to watch the event.

"It was a real privilege to play at this event, particularly at the last race of Frankel; unbeaten in his 14 race career" said Friary Secretary, Lauren Cave.

The Friary 10-piece on the Ascot Bandstand
(Pic: SCABA Media)

The band was spotted on the BBC coverage of the event too!

Alton Inner Wheel Concert

A very entertaining evening was enjoyed on 13th October at Alton College with a concert in aid of two local hospice charities, organised by The Inner Wheel Club of Alton. The first Friary concert in Alton, the music with the theme "60 Years of Stage and Screen" included Three Symphonic Dances from West Side Story, Astaire, and All I Ask of You, from Phantom of the Opera. Instrumental soloists played Nessum Dorma, Children of Sanchez, Flower Song from Carmen and Helter Skelter. In addition two students from Perins' School, Alresford - Megan Fursdon and Lila Selim - sang Breaking Free, from High School Musical, and I Dreamed a Dream, from Les Miserables, impressing the audience as this was the first time they had performed at such a venue.



The concert concluded by popular demand for an encore - with the lively rendition of "Don't Stop Me Now".

Grateful thanks are due to Alton College for the use of the venue, and to the various businesses in the town who donated raffle prizes. The Rosemary Foundation and St. Michael's Hospice will receive a donation of £600 from the proceeds of the evening.

Soloists pictured with Chris King 4th from the left and Inner Wheel Club of Alton President Kay Rowan on the right (Pic: Tim Straker)

