



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

Friary: National Finalists!



Friary celebrate 2nd place at the London & Southern Counties Area

Spring is always contest season for Friary with four competitions entered this year. The Area qualifier in Stevenage was first up in March followed by the scaba Spring contest, the Spring Festival in Blackpool in April and finally the Masters in May. As well as the contests, this year Friary took part in a 'Brassed Off!' production at the Electric Theatre in Guildford. Of course, you'll find out how the Band got on with all of this issue of the 'Bugle'!

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- **Latest contest results**
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AGM

The Friary AGM was held in April where the officers were voted in for the year ahead. The Management Team remained the same as the previous year, except the minutes secretary, Joan Barker who had stepped down at the end of last year. As no-one volunteered to fill this position, it still remains vacant.

Chairman, Nigel Stevens summed up the year by saying "It's been a year which has seen real progression for Friary. It's not been without its challenges but the Management Team has done a really fantastic job, helping the Band navigate through difficult decisions and consolidating the Band's future."

The newly elected team are:

Chairman:	Nigel Stevens
Treasurer:	Jane Challiss
Secretary:	Lauren Cave
Band Manager:	Nick Krebs
Contest Secretary:	Alex Stevens
Public Relations Officer:	Tim Straker
Minutes Secretary:	(Vacant)
Librarian:	Phil German
Supporters' Club Secretary:	Richard Straker
General MT Position:	Chris Powell

Player news

Friary have said goodbye to Steph Westwood (Euphonium) who decided to part company with the Band in April. Steph joined the Band in 2007 and has been an important part of Friary, helping to organise foreign tours and flashy looking programmes for our entertainment contests in Yeovil. Friary would like to wish Steph well in all her future banding activities!

A Big Thank you!

We are very grateful to four grant funding organisations which have kindly offered us financial support of £500 each in recent months. The total of £2000 is being matched with funds from Friary's strategic reserves. We have used grants from the Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust and the Golsoncott Foundation to purchase a brand new set of cornet mutes and bass mutes. These mutes are essential for the challenging repertoire the Band plays and make a great difference to the quality of performances.

Shortly before we closed for press, Friary was delighted to also receive grants from the Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust and the Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation. Yes, you read that correctly. Apparently the late Boris Karloff (famous for his appearance in the film Frankenstein) had two great passions, music and cricket and his Foundation continues to support arts and sporting organisations to this day. Now that the hectic contest season has passed, the Band will be considering how best to spend these generous gifts. Standby for the next edition of the Bugle when the spending plans will be revealed. Thanks once again to Friary's four new supporters for helping purchase essential equipment to help keep the Band sounding on top form!



The Golsoncott Foundation

Ranking check

Currently, Friary is number

62 (up 2)

in the 4barsrest/British Bandsman world rankings.

For a full list of the top 200 bands visit

www.4barsrest.com/rankings/

Area Qualifiers

Contest: Area Qualifiers
Location: Arts & Leisure Centre, Stevenage
Date: 17th March 2013
Section: Championship
Test Piece: Harmony Music (Set) (Philip Sparke)
Adjudicator: John Berryman
Position: 2/12



After missing out on one of the two qualifying places by one place last year, Friary travelled up to Stevenage in confident mood of hopefully clinching their first ever place at the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. Harmony Music was the set piece this year – a piece itself which was commissioned for the National Finals in 1987 and it showed that it is still a stern test for bands over 25 years later. Friary got a good draw, playing 12th out of 12 and the Band put in a strong performance which they were very pleased with. Adjudicator, John Berryman was impressed by the playing and placed Friary 2nd, earning its first qualification to the National Finals since its foundation in 1983. “I’m so pleased that all the hard work paid off” said a jubilant MD Chris King. “Although the Band only



Chris Straker picks up his best Euphonium award

Please come and support us at the National Finals on 12th October! Tickets are now available from the Albert Hall Box Office www.royalalberthall.com or 0845 401 5034.

We hope to see you there!



really achieved 90% of what we’re capable on-stage, it still meant the quality of performance was very high and we’re thrilled to have qualified!” In addition to the silverware, Chris Straker took the best Euphonium award with his superb playing, particularly during the opening cadenza drawing the comment ‘Beautiful Euphonium!’ from the adjudicator.

Friary were just pipped to the title by Regent Brass who secured their second victory in the contest. 2012 champions, Zone One were placed sixth. The result means that in the grading tables which reflect the previous three years’ results see Friary climb to the top of the table with 5th, 3rd and 2nd places.

Thanks goes to Simon Tong (Soprano) and Kevin Cole (B-flat Bass) for their help at this contest.

scaba Spring Contest

Contest: SCABA Spring Contest
Location: The Hawth, Crawley
Date: 28th April 2013
Section: Championship
March: Ravenswood (W. Rimmer)
Test Piece: Journey into Freedom (E. Ball)
 (Own Choice)
Adjudicator: Mike Fowles
Position: 1/1



Friary decided to enter the scaba Spring contest, even though it was known that no other competitors were forthcoming this year. It provides a good 'run out' for the test piece the Band play in Blackpool each year and the comments from the adjudicator provide an important impartial critique on how the Band is progressing on the piece.

This year, the Blackpool test piece was an old favourite 'Journey into Freedom'. Composed in 1967 for the National Finals, Eric Ball's scoring still takes some beating even today and Friary enjoyed the rehearsals in the run up to the two contests, working on this great piece.

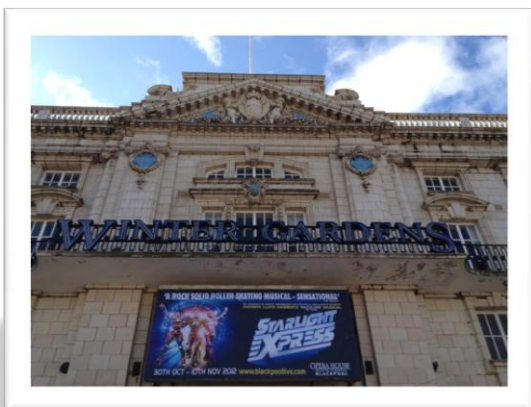
Friary reprised the march they played at Whit Friday last year 'Ravenswood' and then set about their rendition of the test piece for adjudicator Mike Fowles who provided a very constructive adjudication.

The formality of handing the silverware over to contest secretary, Alex Stevens also included the best instrumentalist to Principal Cornet, Richard Straker for his contribution.

Let's hope there's a bit more competition next year!

Thanks goes to Martin Beaumont (Baritone), Simon Tong (Soprano), Martin Smith (Euphonium) and Kevin Cole (B-flat Bass) for their help at this contest.

Blackpool



Following their demotion from the middle tier of the Spring Festival last year, Friary competed back in the Senior Trophy this year. The test piece was Eric Ball's 'Journey into Freedom' which was given a run-out at Crawley in the scaba Spring contest. Hopeful of bouncing straight back to the middle tier by securing one of the four promotion places, Friary put in one of its best contest performances off their number seven draw. Adjudicators Lynda Nicholson and Simone Rebello commented on the high

Contest: British Open Spring Festival
Location: Winter Gardens, Blackpool
Date: 11th May 2013
Section: Senior Trophy
Test Piece: Journey into Freedom
 (Set) (E. Ball)
Adjudicators: Lynda Nicholson, Simone Rebello
Position: 7/20

standard of the contest and Friary ended up in seventh place, out of the promotion positions but safely back in the contest next year. Fellow London & Southern Counties Band, East London Brass came fourth and gained promotion to the Senior Cup next year so congratulations to them! Thanks goes to Simon Tong (Soprano) and Kevin Cole (B-Flat Bass) for their help at this contest.

All England Masters International

Friary were invited to the All England Masters International contest for a third year having gained a respectable mid field finish last year in a strong line-up of bands. This year, there were even more bands competing (21) and the standard was higher too. The chosen set test piece was another from Eric Ball. 'A Kensington Concerto', was another written for the National Finals, this time in 1972. Drawn number six just ahead of London & Southern Counties Area champions, Regent Brass, Friary's performance was strong although suffered from more minor technical errors than normal. The three adjudicators noted the good interpretation of the piece from MD Chris, and decided it deserved a final placing of 12th, again improving on last year's result. Fellow London band, Zone One Brass, were placed 3rd which was a great result for southern banding! Thanks goes to Simon Tong (Soprano), Kevin Cole (B-Flat Bass) and Martin Beaumont (Baritone) for their help at this contest.

Contest: Masters
Location: Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering
Date: 26th May 2013
Test Piece (Set): A Kensington Concerto
 (E. Ball)
Adjudicators: David Read, Dennis Wilby, Stephen Roberts
Position: 12/21



Venue: The Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering

Brassed Off!



The first week of May saw the culmination of weeks of rehearsals for the Friary members involved in 'Brassed Off!'. The five shows from May 1st-4th (including a Saturday Matinée) put on with the Pranksters Theatre Company were a great success with large audiences and superb reviews.

The week began with the technical and dress rehearsals which both ran smoothly. The players got to grips with their stage positions, costume changes and interactions with the cast. There was even some fake smoking to learn along with re-enacting a drunken Whit Friday march (this took less time to perfect!).

There seemed to be a distinct lack of opening night nerves on the Wednesday as the first show was hugely well received. Everything went to plan and director Marie Gardener was delighted the week had kicked off so well.

The shows continued with the same success all week, earning rave reviews from the press who commented "an absolutely brilliant evening's entertainment!"

The players really enjoyed making their debut on stage and hope the opportunity arises again soon!

FRIARY DIARY

● 7th July **Godalming Bandstand**
● 15:00-17:00 Godalming

● 13th July **Friary Summer Concert**
● 19:00 United Reformed Church, Woking

● 1st September **Music in the Meadows**
● 15:00-17:00 Gostrey Meadow, Farnham

● 14th September **Ruislip Lions Proms Concert**
● 19:30 Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip

● 12th October **National Finals**
● All day Royal Albert Hall, London

● 19th October **QIPCO Champions Day**
● All day Bandstand, Ascot Racecourse

● More details on all events on our website:

● www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk

● Or contact our secretary:

● **Lauren Cave 07974 804394**
● secretary@friaryguildfordband.co.uk

'A Summer Celebration'

The third in the series of Friary's self promoted concerts comes up on 13th July. A glorious summers evening of music featuring your favourite brass band classics, stunning soloists and more! Advance tickets are on sale now at £10, £8 concessions. Please phone 07974 804394 for more details.

Bugle Call!

Please submit any news you would like published in the Bugle to:
supporters@friaryguildfordband.co.uk.
All contributions are gratefully received!

