



# FRIARY BRASS BAND

London & Southern Counties Regional Champions 2015 - date  
Finalists, National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain 2013 – 2021  
Audience Entertainment Award, Brass in Concert 2019 & 2021  
Most Entertaining Band, Butlin's Mineworkers Contest 2015, 2017 & 2019  
British Open Senior Trophy Champions 2014  
First Section National Champions of Great Britain 2010

## FRIARY DIARY – ISSUE 81 – DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to Friary Diary issue 81 - a monthly round-up of news about the Friary Brass Band.

### STOP PRESS: FRIARY HITS THE TOP TWENTY – PLEASE SEE BELOW!

**HOG'S BACK BREWERY CAROL CONCERT:** Revellers at the Hog's Back Brewery on 5<sup>th</sup> December were in good voice (no doubt suitably lubricated by the Hog's Back's products), accompanying the Band with some traditional carols, interspersed with other seasonal music to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Lauren Straker's haunting flugel solo of *Away in a Manger* touched plenty of hearts, and the finale of Jingle Bells had everyone clapping and well and truly in the Christmas spirit. Sadly though, the usual Christmas Eve carolling session on Christmas Eve at the Brewery has been cancelled by Hog's Back in the interests of keeping everyone safe during the festive period. Friary's management team also decided it was not wise to hold the carolling session at The Meadows on 12<sup>th</sup> December, an occasion when we collect funds for the Band and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. This was disappointing, of course, but I am delighted to say that a date for next Christmas has already been agreed with The Meadows.



**WORLD RANKING:** Amid much gloomy news at the moment, there was a very welcome Christmas present for Friary when the World Rankings were updated on the 13<sup>th</sup> December: the Band rose six places from 25<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time that Friary has been in the top twenty bands worldwide. In the UK, Friary is 12<sup>th</sup>; in England alone the Band is 9<sup>th</sup>. Band Chairman Nigel Stevens commented: 'It's not that many years ago that one of our objectives was to reach the top 40. After another year when banding has been hard hit by the pandemic, this is wonderful news for Friary – a great Christmas present for all our players who have shown what terrific teamwork can achieve,' he concluded.

**UNIBRASS GALA CONCERT:** The organisers of UniBrass, the University Brass Band Championships of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have asked Friary to perform the gala concert in the evening of the contest which is being held at the Octagon Centre, University of Sheffield on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. This is another prestigious engagement for the Band and another sign that Friary is no longer one of the banding world's best kept secrets!

**RANKING NEWS:** As mentioned above, as at 13<sup>th</sup> December, Friary is **19<sup>th</sup> in the world**. For full ranking details, please go to <https://www.4barsrest.com/rankings/>

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

#### 2022

Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Afternoon concert	Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney	2.30pm
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Gala concert	Octagon Centre, Univ of Sheffield	7.30pm
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Mch	Joint concert with Vivace Chorus	G-Live, Guildford	Evening
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Joint prom concert with Rock Choir	Godalming bandstand	TBA
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon concert	The Hawth, Crawley	3.00pm

**AND FINALLY...:** The December *Friary Diary* used to be a review of the Band's activities throughout the year but once again these have been severely restricted so there's little point in doing so. Thank you so much for all your interest, support and comments throughout what has been another challenging year for everyone. It's a well-known fact that music aids well-being and we hope that our music has done someone somewhere some good. On behalf of all at Friary Brass Band, may I wish you a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

For further information, please contact Tim Straker, Public Relations Officer, Friary Brass Band  
e-mail: [publicity@friarybrassband.com](mailto:publicity@friarybrassband.com) or visit [www.friarybrassband.com](http://www.friarybrassband.com) Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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