

London & Southern Counties Regional Champions 2015 – 2021
Finalists, National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain 2013 – 2021, 2023 & 2024
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 128 – OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to Friary Diary issue 128 - a monthly round-up of news about Friary Brass Band.

LEWES BONFIRE PARADE: Amid fireworks, effigies and tableaux, Friary Brass Band marched through the streets of Lewes, East Sussex on 5th November, once again entertaining the thousands of spectators at the town's historic Bonfire Night celebrations. Believed to be the largest event of its kind in the UK, it not only remembers the 1605 'Gunpowder Plot' but also the town's 17 Protestant martyrs who were burnt at the stake during religious persecutions in the reign of Queen Mary. Each one is commemorated by a flaming cross carried in the procession which attracts between 25 and 30 bonfire societies from the town and further afield in the county, and up to 80,000 attendees.



The Band played various sets from dusk till after midnight, surrounded by the revellers. A particular favourite was *Sussex by the Sea*, said to have been inspired from the poem *Sussex* by Rudyard Kipling, and adopted as the unofficial anthem of the county and also of nearby Brighton and Hove Albion FC.

'What an unbelievable experience with the noise of firecrackers everywhere and the costumes,' commented Friary chairman David Wicks. 'It's definitely one of our most memorable and unusual gigs: we're thrilled to be part of such a historic occasion,' he added.

WOKING CONCERT: Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances at the organisers, **the concert at Woking Savation Army, scheduled for 22nd November has had to be postponed**. We hope that it can be re-arranged before too long, and will keep you informed.

RANKINGS NEWS: At last, there's some good news! A further update by 4barsrest.com to their world rankings table on 31st October saw Friary rise five places to 46th. Brassstats.com updated their table on 1st October with Friary placed at 48th.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Sat 29th Nov | Wessex contest | Talbot Heath Sch, Bournemouth | all day |
| Sun 7th Dec | Carol concert | Hog's Back Brewery, Tongham | 3.00pm |
| Sun 21st Dec | Carolling | The Meadows, Camberley | 11.00am |
| 2026 | | | |
| Sun 1st Feb | Afternoon concert | Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney | TBA |
| Sat 7th Feb | Ibstock School Brass Day | Ibstock School, Roehampton | all day |
| Sun 22nd Mch | L&SC Reg. Championships | Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage | all day |
| Sat 3rd May | Br. Open Grand Shield contest | Town Hall, Birmingham | all day |
| Sun 5th July | Entente Cordiale concert | Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford | 6.00pm |

For further information, please contact Tim Straker, Public Relations Officer, Friary Brass Band
e-mail: publicity@friarybrassband.com or visit www.friarybrassband.com

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