

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 138 – AUGUST 2026

Welcome to Friary Diary issue 138 - a monthly round-up of news about Friary Brass Band.

A NEW FACE IN THE CORNET SECTION: Latest signing at Friary is cornet player Jacob Griffiths. Jacob began his music education with community banding in Cornwall. After five years of playing cornet for St Austell Town Band, he changed his principal study to the trumpet. In his first year of trumpet playing, Jacob was awarded a music scholarship from Wells Cathedral School. He remained at there for four years and, in 2018, was awarded the Nathan Hewitt Trumpet Prize from the school.

Between 2018-2021, Jacob read Music at the University of Manchester for which he was awarded a first-class honours degree. During his time there, he was one of the winners of the Manchester University Music Society Concerto Competition (2020) and earned the Proctor-Gregg Prize for Performance for his final recital. He also continued banding whilst in Manchester, playing flugel for Ashton-under-Lyne for the North West Area contest in February 2020.

Jacob commented: "I've neglected banding for too long! Having grown up in Cornwall playing with St. Austell Band, getting back into contesting feels like a return to my roots. I'm really excited to be joining Friary and can't wait to contribute to this outstanding band at such an exciting point in its history!" Friary Chairman Andy Singleton added: "Jacob will strengthen our back row cornet section: we're delighted to welcome him to the Friary family."



A FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO OUR ROOTS: As you will no doubt recall, the Band takes its name from the former Friary Meux brewery in Guildford which initially sponsored the current incarnation of the Band on its formation in 1983. The brewery ceased operations in 1969 and the remaining buildings were demolished in 1973 and 1974. There had been previous Friary bands, all associated with the brewery, as you'll read below. A few weeks ago we received a message via our website which has given us a fascinating insight into the history of the brewery.

Stephen Holroyd, Chairman of the Adelphi Group who contacted us, takes up the story: 'My great great grandfather George Barron Holroyd founded the brewery in 1889. In 1890 Healy & Co of Chertsey was taken over to form Friary, Holroyd and Healy's Brewery Company Limited, based in Byfleet. The new brewery in Guildford was built in 1897. So there's an historic connection with Chertsey too!'

'I acquired the names of Friary Holroyd and Friary Meux from Carlsberg in 2021, and these are now registered under the name of Adelphi Holdings Limited in Haywards Heath. We have named one of our buildings The Friary, have lots of memorabilia and use the crest. We also have a base in Huddersfield and have links with the Hepworth Brass Band.'

'I had assumed that the great Friary Holroyd Silver Band was part of history: I can't believe I have just found you!' commented Stephen.

Adelphi will mark their 80th anniversary next year and at their invitation, discussions are already under way for the Band to be part of the celebrations. We are deeply grateful to Stephen for getting in touch and for giving us so much interesting information about the brewery and our heritage. We hope this will be the start of a new and exciting relationship.



FAREWELL TO DAVID: As mentioned in the last issue of Friary Diary, our previous Chairman, David Wicks, stepped down from the role at the AGM, and also from the Band to concentrate on his other musical interests. His last event was the Entente Cordiale concert in Old Alresford at the beginning of July. David steered Friary through some challenging times as Chairman, and kept us in good order during his previous role as Band Manager.

To mark his departure, David was presented with a framed montage of photos featuring him at some memorable band events. Many thanks, David, for your dedication to Friary, and we send you every best wish for the future.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE (WELL QUITE A FEW, ACTUALLY!): Not content with her 100km trot along the Thames Path in 2024, bass player Cat Whittingham-Smith has undertaken another ultra marathon challenge, this time along the South Coast from Eastbourne to Arundel. The route followed the South Downs, so was not exactly flat either: 1,700 metres of elevation!



Cat completed the challenge in a whisker over 18 hours, raising funds as she did last time for Helen & Douglas House, a charity helping families cope with the challenges of looking after a terminally ill baby or child who will die prematurely. It's an immensely worthy cause, so if you would like to add to the funds already raised, please visit her JustGiving page

https://www.justgiving.com/page/catherine-whittingham-smith?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_nth_donation (Reaching for your card to donate is a lot less strenuous than running 100km along the South Downs ..!)

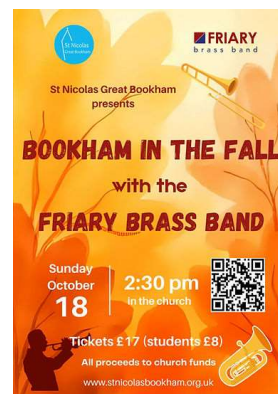
Bravo Cat, hope you've fully recovered from your epic achievement!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Having had a bit of a break over the summer, we now have some exciting events coming up, the first being a return to **St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham** for a **Sunday afternoon concert on 18th October**. This is always an extremely popular event, usually sold out in advance, so do book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets £17 (£8 for students) are available via the following link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stnicolasgreatbookham/2331401>

Wine and soft drinks will be available to buy, as usual at this concert.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONCERT STARTS AT **2.30PM**, NOT 3.00PM AS ADVERTISED IN THE PREVIOUS FRIARY DIARY

Tickets for the **Hog's Back Brewery carol concert on Sunday 6th December** are available from <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hogsbackbrewery/2397525?trackingConsent=0> As for the Great Bookham concert, early booking is essential. Tickets will give access to the Hop Hangar from midday until 5.00pm with the concert starting at 3.00pm. All ticket sale proceeds will go to Diabetes UK which is the Brewery's chosen charity this year.



Ticketing and other details for **The Snowman concerts on Sunday 13th December** should be available in the next month or so.

RANKINGS NEWS: There has been no further update by 4barsrest.com to their world rankings table on 6th January so Friary stays at 51st. There was no movement for Friary, and indeed for most bands, in their 1st August update, so we remain at 42nd in the world.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

2026

Sun 18 th Oct	Afternoon concert	St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham	2.30pm
Thu 5 th Nov	Lewes Bonfire parade	Lewes	Evening
Sun 8 th Nov	Remembrance parade	Guildford High Street	10.30am
Sat 28 th Nov	Wessex BBA contest	The Trafalgar School, Downton	All day
Sun 6 th Dec	Carol concert	Hog's Back Brewery, Tongham	3.00pm
Sun 13 th Dec	The Snowman	LVS, Ascot	11.00am, 1.00pm & 3.00pm

PTO

2027

Sun 31st Jan	Afternoon concert	Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney	2.00pm
Sat 6th Feb	Ibstock Brass Day	Ibstock Place School, Roehampton	pm
Sun 21st Mch	L&SC Regional Championships	Gordon Craig theatre, Stevenage	All day
Sat 8th May	Br Open Spring Fest Grand Shield	Town Hall, Birmingham	All day

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

Follow us on Facebook  Instagram  and 

Friary Brass Band is a registered charity no. 1137290