**Pilling Band News Summary 2019**

**January 2019**

We returned to band after the Christmas break with the Brass At The Guild Contest fast approaching. The contest was held on Sunday 28th January at the Guild Hall in Preston. We were competing in the 3rd Section against 7 other bands. We had the choice of three pieces to play – two of which were set for the Butlin’s Mineworkers Contest two weeks previous. These were Egmont Overture by Beethoven and arranged for Brass Band by Eric Ball and Overture: Rule Britannia by William Rimmer. The other piece, First Suite in Eb by Gustav Holst, which we chose to play was the set piece for the National Brass Band Championships Regional Qualifiers to be held across 8 regions and 4 weekends starting with the North West on the 24th February 2019.

The contest was pre-drawn and we were drawn to play number 3. We met at The Lonsdale Club in Fulwood for an early morning rehearsal before going on to The Guild Hall and playing for the adjudicator. One all 8 bands had played we then gathered back in the hall for the results and when they were read out on stage we are very pleased to say we were crowned winners of the 3rd Section! Hopefully we can do the same at Blackpool in a few weeks…

**February 2019**

Sunday 24th February saw us meet at The Wainwright Club in Blackpool for another early morning contest rehearsal. We then made our way to the Winter Gardens Complex in Blackpool Town Centre where we waited outside to hear what number we were drawn to play. News came through that we had once again drawn number 3 but this time there were 18 bands competing. We were quickly into registration and onto stage to play for the 2 adjudicators this time. As this was the North West Regional Qualifier for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain the top 3 bands would qualify to represent the North West at Cheltenham in September for the National Finals. Once all 18 bands had played we once again all gathered in the Pavillion Theatre at the complex to await the results. This time we were placed 5th out of 18 so happy with our result even if we did just miss out on qualifying.

**March 2019**

The 29th March saw us perform our first concert of 2019 once again for St. John’s Hospice at Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club. Steve Hartley, our MD put on a varied programme that we had been working hard on since the contest at Blackpool and also prior to Christmas 2018. The concert was well received by the audience and we were booked to perform again in 2020.

**April 2019**

We had two engagements in April, one a concert and one a fundraising coffee morning. On the 12th April we performed at Knott End Working Men’s Club to celebrate the 60th birthday of one of our biggest followers, Karen Woods. It was once again a really well received concert and great for us to play to a full audience.

On the 27th April we held our Annual Coffee Morning at St. Bernard’s Church Hall which raises vital funds for the band. Jim Redman along with his team of ‘Busy Bees’ put on a great selection of sandwiches and cakes and raised a fantastic £663.

**May 2019**

During May we started our traditional gala season at Scorton Bikes and Barrows Festival. The sun was shining and lots of people turned out to support the event. We were very proud of Dan and Sasha who played with the band today and marched for the first time with us. It was also really lovely to listen to Scorton School band who sounded amazing - well done from us all at Pilling.

On Bank Holiday Monday at the end of May it was the turn of the Garstang Children’s Festival. Unfortunately the weather in the morning wasn’t as kind to us as it was at Scorton and we got wet through! Luckily though it brightened up for the evening procession. A big thank you has to go to the players of Lancaster University Brass Band who helped us out at this march.

**June 2019**

On Saturday 1st June it was Catterall’s turn for their village gala. We met just before 1pm (in the rain again!) and led the procession round the street of Catterall before taking them back to the village hall for fun and games on the field. The band then retired to The Bellflower for a well-deserved drink!

Saturday 8th June was a busy day for us. The morning saw us at Calder Vale supporting their Children’s Festival and once again getting wet! The evening was a first for us when we played a concert with the Over Wyre Communities Choir led by their Musical Director, Stephen Boyd. The concert saw the band play a few pieces on their own followed by the choir performing some of their pieces on their own we then joined together to play ‘All In The April Evening’ to close the first half. The second half followed the same format with the band, choir and audience joining together to close the concert with ‘Jerusalem’ in memory of Molly Stafford whose granddaughter, Sara was singing in the choir and grandson, Ben was playing in the band.

Saturday 15th June was Fleetwood Carnival. This time the weather was kind on us but we were still a bit cautious. We set off wearing our waterproofs only to have to take them off halfway round as we were too warm! Thank you to the driver from Wyre Borough Council for looking after them until the end of the procession.

Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band Contest followed on Sunday 16th June. We started the day with a rehearsal at [Whoop Hall Country Club](https://www.facebook.com/whoophallcountryclub/?__tn__=K-R&eid=ARA0jaEv1zVU4m2-J-4KqiPsHBzAhf_it9_zpQB1mZdNdxhb44BnLe3pnNFU20LK05rAqytAclOUIMN7&fref=mentions&__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARDk78quNaUsSIOHFZyyI3DLM2ZOHwjChtGbBDS7zErrHZ-I9WcI1QXaiEHga8H4qhIjzi_Nnh7cngrltJS_RdBiPFeC6NNg7-Ug2ib5gA40jvnlMlsquyo8BE439qoMRLvLyMMrUwI0H-wNg3fMKoAtt9HUauMIkRT5JXS6d_7hvHKAFD6eE3UJHqBcE5IYTxnEYKFcc5KtsZPbOuUm68cZ_bPcy_qzT-152z7n_NrJ73shv_t2Z9qXAMhvzCxx2LtNMjrC6tW_SpaxYraqtvlF2_aVtuBOikFG2ErAudVHb3Nh-WcqMveREqstD8pKDJK3KsbObHULyvisDg) and would like to say a big thank you to them for the lovely rehearsal room and the much needed teas and coffee that they provided.

The band played number 5 so at around 14:30 we marched into Kirkby Lonsdale Square playing the march Death or Glory and then played our concert programme. We played Bandology, Let Me Try Again (solo by Andy Hall), Calling Cornwall, Hatrick (A horn trio), Be Still in the Presence of the Lord and finished the programme with a piece called Prismatic Light. The rain unfortunately decided to appear just as we were playing the last piece so the audience did get a little bit wet.

It was lovely to see some familiar faces in the audience who had come for the day (Karen Woods, Margaret Walkden and Phil Orme we spotted you)

The band came 2nd in our section and the comments from the adjudicator were very positive. We'd like to thank the players that helped us today from Morecambe Brass Band,  ULMS - University of Lancaster Music Society and it was lovely to have Kirsty Brown back on solo trombone and Dav Morrow on bass trombone.

**July 2019**

Three more galas for the band in July saw use at Eagland Hill (6th), Preesall & Knott End (13th) and Pilling (27th). Eagland Hill is always well supported by the residents. It is a very unique job for us as we march between farms and play a hymn in each farm yard to bless the years crops. The procession then go into church for a short service while the band tuck into the fantastic cakes made by the ladies from the village.

Preesall & Knott End Gala is our longest one of the season. We set off from Knott End Workingmen’s Club (some even have a couple of pints before to make sure they get round!!) along Lancaster Road, past the playing fields and up to the Black Bull pub where we have a break for more refreshments! We set off again past St. Aidan’s School then back along Sandy Lane to the Playing Fields. The procession usually takes around 2 and a half hours!! Once the whole procession has arrived back at the playing fields we then march the gala queens and their retinues onto the stage. That is when most of the band try and work out how to get their cars back from Knott End having finished in Preesall! Some Cornet and Trombone players then play a Fanfare while the incoming Gala Queen is crowned.

Pilling Coffee Feast is the band’s local gala. We start marching from the playing fields where the new community hall is currently being built. We head down Taylor’s Lane, past the Golden Ball and along Smallwood Hey Road to the Nursing Home. We always stop outside the Nursing Home and accompany the local Morris Dancers who dance for the residents. When the Morris Dancers have finished we set off again back along Smallwood Hey Road to St. John’s Church so the procession can go in for a short service. No prizes for guessing where the band go while the service is on. Yes, the Golden Ball! When we are suitably lubricated we then go back to church and lead the procession back to the Playing Fields and our galas are complete for another year.

**September 2019**

On Saturday 7th September we played a concert on home turf in Pilling at the Methodist Chapel. This has become a annual event for us and we always enjoy playing to our local supporters. We once again played a varied selection of music so there was something for everyone in the audience. We featured a few of our Principal players in solo items and the horn section also played a trio.

**October 2019**

Rehearsals in October were spend rehearsing a Test Piece for the Rochdale Contest held on the 20th October at Rochdale Town Hall. This was an own choice contest which means we can play any piece we like. This year we chose to play the Overture Henry V by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It was an early start for the band that day with us having a rehearsal in a Rochdale pub at 9:30am. Once we had put the finishing touches to the piece we headed to the Town Hall and went on stage around midday. We were up against 7 other bands in the Third Section and we are pleased to say we came Second. Another successful contest result for the band in 2019!

**November 2019**

November saw us welcome a new face into the band. Lily Wearden joined us on second cornet having studied at Lancaster University with some of the other members we have. Below is a short biography about Lily:

“Well, I'm an English language graduate from Lancaster university currently working in Blackpool as a Liaison Officer supporting students through their education. I picked up the saxophone when I was 9 and played all around the UK and Europe while I was at high school. When I came to university, I joined the music society and got a bit carried away learning to conduct and picking up as many new instruments as I possibly could. When I realised that all of my close friends played in the brass band I bought a cornet over Facebook and I haven't looked back since. I am mostly self-taught and definitely still learning, but having the best time in the process and I'm so excited about being involved with such a brilliant brass band!”

On Sunday 10th November the band took part in the Remembrance Service down in Garstang. We want to thank all the deps that came from the Lancaster University Brass Band (pictured below) because we wouldn’t have been able to play without you all! Thank you to Booths Garstang for the lovely drinks to warm us up! Gill did an amazing job with performing the Last Post in the town centre!

The band has been busy elsewhere with our cornet players performing the Last Post in numerous locations, with Andy at St Michaels and Pilling, Ben at Stalmine, Dan at a scout camp, and Sasha at Hambleton.
Emily is also playing in Preesall at Over Wyre Medical Centre on Monday 11th, and Thom is playing at a school in his home town so the band hasn’t finished yet to remember and honour an important event.

**December 2019**

December was once again a busy month for the band. We started off spreading the Christmas cheer by lighting the village Christmas tree in Knott end on Saturday 30th November. We then played for Pilling Christmas tree light switch on on Monday 2nd December. Thursday 5th December was our first concert of the season at Cleveleys Masonic Lodge. We then held our own Christmas Concert at Knott End Working Men’s Club on Friday 6th December to a capacity crown once again. Unfortunately, due to Storm Atiyah our performance for Trinity Hospice’s Light Up A Life service was cancelled which was a real shame for the residents and their families but the safety of everybody had to come first. Monday 9th December saw us out carolling in Garstang for their annual Victorian Festival. This is usually a two night event but once again, because of the weather the second night had to be cancelled.

Thursday 12th December saw us attend Wyrebank Banqueting Suite to perform for the Masons again. This has become a regular Christmas job for us and is always well received. The ladies of the Lodge do a great job in performing the poem ‘The Night Before Christmas’ and everybody enjoys our choreographed rendition of the Snow Waltz!

Saturday 14th December was a chance for us to let our hair down end enjoy a meal and a few drinks at Wyrebank for our Christmas Party. We had a fantastic night and must thank the staff at Wyrebank for making it a night to remember.

Sunday 15th December saw us start our trio of Carol Services at St. James’ Church, Stalmine. We always enjoy playing here and especially look forward to the Mulled Wine and Audrey’s Mince Pies after we’ve finished!

Saturday 21st December is also a traditional day for the Band where a few members meet up in Knott End to play some carols outside the co-op before going into the Methodist Chapel Hall Coffee Morning to warm up and spread a bit more Christmas cheer. After our brew we then go on to play at three Nursing homes for the residents before heading home.

Sunday 22nd December was the turn of Out Rawcliffe Carol Service in the afternoon and then Hambleton Carol Service in the evening. Both services are nine lessons and carols and our conductor for these type of jobs is always Jack Isles. Jack likes to put on a mini concert for the people of Out Rawcliffe after the service ad leaves just enough time for the players to either get home and get ready for Hambleton in the evening or head back to Lynda Hallett’s house for a buffet for this that live too far away to get home and back. Thank you Lynda for this.

Hambleton’s service follows much the same format as Out Rawcliffe but here the band play two pieces in the service then enjoy a glass of sherry and a shortbread biscuit to mark the end of our Christmas jobs and the whole year.