



Press Release

Your band needs you Braw Lad and Lass lead Galaleans in support

Galashiels Town Band has a proud history dating back to 1834. Over the years since then the band has been closely linked with many community events, particularly the Braw Lads Gathering. Like many organisations, Galashiels Town Band has had its highs and lows. Over the last few years membership has fallen and it has been left to a few dedicated members to keep the tradition of brass banding in Gala alive.

That is all about to change. The Town Band has unveiled ambitious plans to revitalise and rejuvenate. A new committee has been appointed and a development plan has been launched. As well as hoping to contact 'retired' brass players in Galashiels and its environs, the band is planning a programme for children and young people in the town which will not only provide them with free tuition, but also with a brass instrument to play.

Gala Town Band is committed to supporting as many local events as possible. After leading the music at the Armistice Service in Galashiels that band will soon be moving into its Christmas programme with engagements in Langlee and in the town centre.

The band's development plan has identified two main priorities - appointing a talented conductor to inspire young players and purchasing new uniforms to help re-establish the band's identity in the town. Both are expensive options... so a programme of fundraising will be launched this Saturday (21 November) with a coffee morning in Trinity Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon.

In true Gala spirit the band is finding supporters from all over the town to help it on its way. These supporters are being led by Braw Lad, Chris Mackenzie, and Braw Lass, Amy Gunter, who will open proceedings.

Band Secretary Neal Wade said, "We are very grateful to Chris and Amy for agreeing to support us at the coffee morning on Saturday. The band was formed by the people of Gala to serve the community - and it has done that since 1834. Our future will be decided by our young people and we couldn't have any better example for them to follow than the Braw Lad and Lass. Who knows, Chris and Amy might decide they would like to play a brass instrument!"

The coffee morning takes place in Trinity Church Hall, High Street, Galashiels on Saturday 21 November from 10am. Donations of home baking would be much appreciated. The band will provide a programme of music both inside the hall and on the High Street.

Any brass players interested in supporting the band are invited to come along to the band hall in Roxburgh Street any Tuesday between 7 and 9pm when they will be made most welcome.

ENDS

For further information contact:

Neal Wade, Secretary, 01896 754983 or 0131 655 6325

or Allan Doyle, Vice Chairman, 01896 751605 or 07771 766406