

# Galashiels Town Band

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **New Gala Band for Jubilee**

Last year Galashiels Town Band formed the Galashiels Youth Band to train young players and so secure the long-term future of the Town's Band. The Youth Band has since thrived, both performing locally and securing a Silver Award in the National Championships at Perth.

Now, thanks to a further award from Creative Scotland, under the Youth Music Initiative, the Band is to set up a Beginners' Band. In preparation for this, both the Youth and Senior Bands took part in workshops at local primary schools, performing to Primary 4, 5 and 6 pupils. These were followed up with an Open Rehearsal last Tuesday (22<sup>nd</sup> May), at which both youngsters (and parents) could hear the Youth Band perform and try the various brass band instruments. As a direct result the Beginners' Band now has 15 members.

Bandmaster, Neal Wade, was very pleased with the outcome. "We had an excellent and enthusiastic turnout. We know that the existing Youth Band enjoy learning and playing together and communicate this to their friends. We expect the new Beginners' Band to be just as much fun."

To encourage the Band's young players further, and with support from Scottish Borders Council, the Band has instituted a Diamond Jubilee Cup for Youth Bandsman of the Year. This will be presented for the first time at the Jubilee Picnic which the Band is hosting at Scott Park on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The event is free and runs from 2:30 to 4:30 with children's games and activities.

"We expect sunny weather, but have also arranged for a marquee," commented Neal. "The Band is very much part of the community and we will be very pleased to see lots of townsfolk join us with their picnic and chair in the park, to take part in the games and activities and be entertained by the bands."

ENDS

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