Hunterdon Central High School color guard leads the band down High Street in Knaresborough, England, ing the band's Easter recess trip. From left are Allison Brown, Cindy Cook, Holly Force, Jenny Teets, Cindy Rosenberg and Jody Robinson.

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Devils parade, English cheer

FLEMINGTON — Marching through the streets of England, The Hunterdon Central High School Band, played a mixture of classical and pop tunes and like the pied piper cast musical spells over its audiences.

The 208 students and 15 chaperones represented the United States in the Third International Youth Band Festival, in which the countries of Germany, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Yugoslavia and England also participated.

Robert Wimmer, band director, who also organized the trip explained, "I was really impressed with the behavior of the students . . . They were fully prepared for the trip, but they did exceed our expections," he added with a smile.

IN HARROGATE the students were met by their English families with whom they would stay while in Harrogate. Friday, March 28, they toured Yorkshire Dales, the high farm land, and at night attended a concert.

March 29 started their schedule of performances with the first, at an outdoor market, in Ripon. "Ripon itself is unique historically since they still play the horn that was used in the medieval times," Wimmer explained, adding, "It's played at 9 p.m. and the people use it to set their watches.

"The concerts were all well attended and the sutdents varied their regular nine front marching units to seven front to accommodate the narrow English streets."

Easter Sunday was highlighted by a parade around the grounds and a performance at Harewood House, the home of the Earl and Countess of Harewood.

Monday, March 31, again found the band parading, along with a concert in the Crescent Gardens.

April 1, the students visited York, the Symphonic Band played a farewell concert and after a final meal with their host families, the trip concluded with a concert in Royal Hall.

Although not the band's first big invitational festival, it was Hunterdon Central's first time overseas as a unit. Will they go again?—probably, but not for four years. "It wouldn't be educationally sound to take a trip like this every year—maybe once every four years," Wimmer said.

Funds for the trip were raised by the students and the Band Parents Association through raffles, sales dances, and even hard labor, as band members pumped gas on some Saturdays.