



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

March 2020

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A Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

I want to thank everyone who so have renewed their Friends of Phoenix membership for 2020 and I would like to say how touched I have been when I receive some who donate more than the £5 membership fee.

We rely on Friends of Phoenix for all sorts of things during the year, so I thank you all for being members and for selling the draw tickets for the Christmas and Summer Draws we hold during the year.

I hope you enjoy your Flame which I think is very good and would like to thank the editor, Richard Fradgley, who is also the Webmaster for the Band Website. I do hope you have the opportunity to look at the website if you are able – it is the best way of finding out all the latest news and information about the Band and our engagements - www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk.

I would like to remind you of the first engagement for the Main Band for 2020, that is the Concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford on Sunday, 19 April 2020 commencing at 2.30pm. Entry is free and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Church Refurbishment Fund and the Band. Light refreshments will also be available.

On a final note, Phoenix Brass Band is committed to continuing to help charities, particularly the smaller local charities, who often struggle to raise funds for their designated cause. The Band is therefore delighted to announce their "Charity of the Year" for 2020 is Trindledown Farm, the Berkshire branch of the National Animal Welfare Trust. Please see later in this edition.



Remember to look at the band website for the up to date diary, news items and gallery of photographs:
www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk.

A Message from Marilyn Mason, Training Band Director

Saturday, 1 February 2020 saw the start of our 'Beginners' Group and what a jolly talented bunch they turned out to be!

Froxfield War Memorial Hall was 'buzzing' with people and thanks must go to the Main Band members who turned up to help.

Three of the Beginners have moved straight into the Training Band and after three weeks we have settled down with the two 'Groups' making appropriate progress. (Although it's been a bit of a shock for our previous 'beginners' now they have progressed to main Training Band !!)

I hope you will all lend them your support and come to our Coffee Morning with Music on Saturday, 28 March 2020 when they will all be playing and showing off their new musical skills!





**New to Phoenix Brass Band?
Never played music before?**

Well you are lucky.

Froxfield is a small village which has its own brass band, which will:

- Provide you with an instrument and teach you to play in a happy and safe group environment
- Teach any age, from 8 to 80
- Introduce you to a whole new world of music
- In these days of homogenous pop, and a narrow range of broadcast music, brass arrangements provide a wide and refreshing new range of music for you to play and appreciate.
- And it's so much more fun to learn and play with a big group, rather than plonking away on a piano or guitar by yourself at home where the motivation will be harder to find
- The Main Band play at a variety of events, with many outdoor summer performances and other engagements throughout the year

If you fancy having a go at a brass instrument, please contact Marilyn Mason on 01672 512634 or email marilyn1@yahoo.co.uk.

Further details may be found at www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk or via the Band Facebook page.



Annual Band Meeting

The Band held its Annual Band Meeting in January. Retiring Chairman, Caroline Peck commented that she had been honoured to be Chairman for the past twelve months and it had been a reasonable year for the Band.

David Watson, Musical Director, thanked the Committee members and players for all their hard work during 2019. However, the Band had seen a reduction in the number of engagements although there was an increase in booked engagements for 2020 already and so early in the year.

The following Officers and Committee were elected:

Chairman	Iain Smith
Vice Chairman	Helen Parkin
Secretary	Richard Fradgley
Treasurer	Simon Squibb
Committee Members	David Watson, Terri Fradgley, Marilyn Mason, Caroline Peck, Barry Adams and Carl Roberts. Betty Walley was co-opted as Chairman of the Friends of Phoenix

Safeguarding Officers Marilyn Mason and Richard Fradgley

**Phoenix Brass Training Band
Coffee Morning with Music**

**Saturday, 28 March 2020
Froxfield War Memorial Hall
10.30am until 12 noon**

Raffle



**Featuring
the new
'Beginners
Group'**

Please do come and support us



**FREE ENTRY
Retiring Collection for
the Training Band**



Friends of Phoenix

**FRIENDS OF PHOENIX BRASS BAND
FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT**

Bring your own alcoholic drinks

Light refreshments included

Soft drinks available to purchase

Questions for all the family

Prizes for winning team
Prize for best team name

All ages welcome
Teams limited to 4 players
£5 per person

Limited availability
First come, first serve basis

To book your teams, please contact Betty Walley 07760 158984
or Richard Fradgley 01488 685004

Froxfield War Memorial Hall
Saturday, 25 April 2020
7.30pm start

I do hope everyone had a good January and survived all the wind and the rain.

The Friends of Phoenix are having a fundraising Quiz Night on 25 April 2020 at Froxfield War Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

The Quiz Evening is open to all ages. There will be teams of four people and tickets are priced at £5 per person which includes entry to the Quiz and light refreshments. There will be some soft drinks for sale on the evening.

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks if required.

Please note that there will be limited spaces, so book your tickets soon from myself on 07760 158984 or Richard Fradgley on 01488 685004.

Friends of Phoenix Membership Subscriptions for 2020

Have you forgotten to renew?

There are still some members who have yet to renew their Friends of Phoenix Membership subscription for 2020. Your membership and support are invaluable to the band. The annual fee is £5.00 per person.

The opportunity has been taken to include a Membership Form for your completion and return if you would like to renew for another year. Completion of the remittance form is particularly important since it will allow us to ensure that our records are up to date, so please insert full details including address and post code. There is also the opportunity to provide an email address and/or update an email address should you prefer to receive communications such as this letter and electronic copies of the Flame via this method.

We also offer the ability to pay the annual subscription by Standing Order and a form is included.

Thank you for your support.



Lottery Winners

January 2020 - Simon Parkin

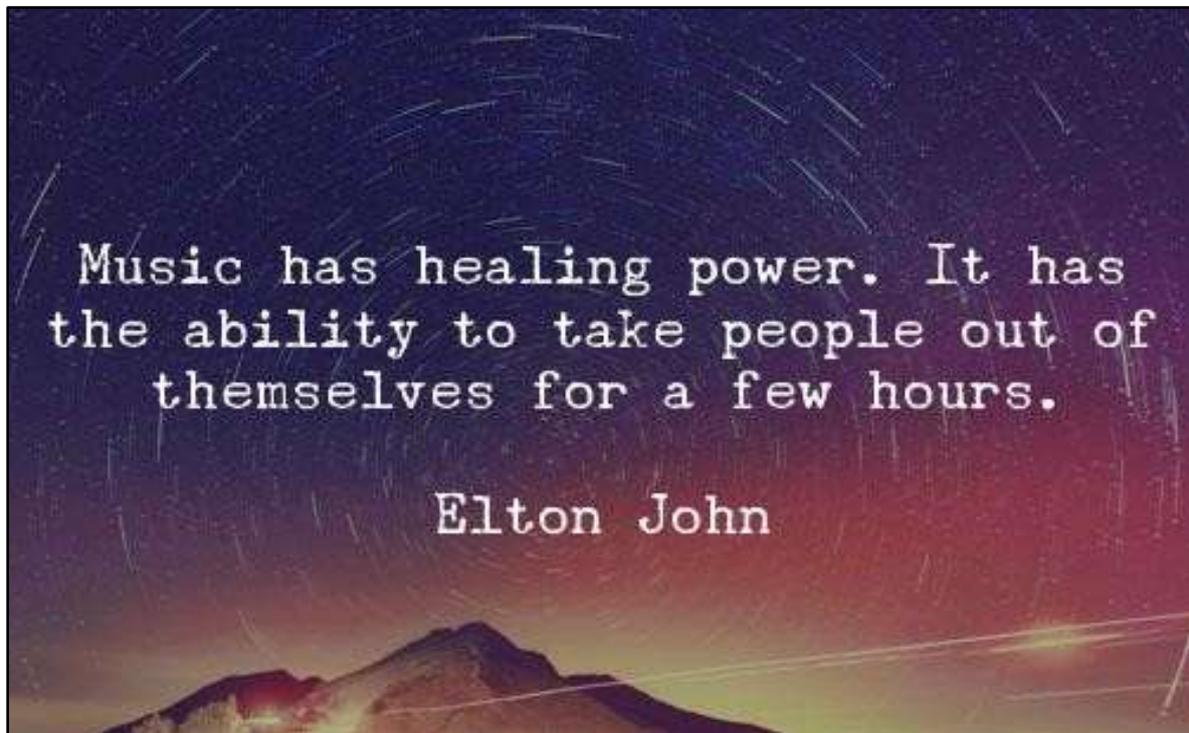
February 2020 - Liane Squibb

There are still some unsold numbers available should anyone like to purchase a new or additional bonus ball. It costs £12 a year and if your number is the bonus ball in the National Lottery on the last Saturday of the month, you win £25!

Please contact Marilyn Mason, 01672 512634, for further details.

This is a good way to support Phoenix Brass.

Thank you for your support.



Funny Musical Terms

Tutti = Ice Cream

Rubato = Ointment for the musician's back

Crotchet = Knitting

Time Signatures = Things for the percussion section to ignore

Scales = Fishy things

Acciaccatura = Insects

Quaver = The feeling before a rehearsal when you haven't practised

Subdominant = I can't play until I've asked the wife

Dim = Thick

Professional = Anyone who can't hold down a steady job

Prelude = Warm-up session before the clever stuff starts

Forte = The neighbours are out

Trill = Bird Food

Charity of the Year for 2020

Phoenix Brass Band is committed to continuing to help charities, particularly the smaller local charities, who often struggle to raise funds for their designated cause. The Band is therefore delighted to announce their "Charity of the Year" for 2020 is Trindledown Farm, the Berkshire branch of the National Animal Welfare Trust.

Trindledown Farm, set in 10 acres of farmland on the edge of the beautiful Lambourn Downs, is a rescue and rehoming centre that specialises in the care of elderly animals in their twilight years. Elderly animals make great companions for people looking to rehome a pet and can often suit those with the most sedentary of lifestyles. As members of the South East Tourism Board you can be sure of a warm welcome at Trindledown Farm. There is lots to see and do and for more information about the rescue work of Trindledown Farm please visit their website: <https://www.nawt.org.uk/centres/berkshire>.

Phoenix Brass Band was pleased to support the Farm's Christmas Fayre in November 2019 and the players were extremely keen to continue that help. The Band will donate 10% of all their engagement fee income during 2020 to the Charity and will further support Trindledown Farm by performing at a Summer Open Day and their Christmas Fayre.

Ellie Humphreys, Centre Fundraising & Supporter Relations Officer, at Trindledown Farm stated *"having the support of clubs like Phoenix Brass Band makes a huge impact on the lives of the rescue animals at Trindledown Farm. As a small local charity, we are always pleased to connect with local clubs and when Phoenix Brass Band joined us at our Christmas Fayre we were overjoyed. They are an extremely talented bunch of players and really made the event special. This year will be fantastic, I can't wait to hear them play again"*.

The Bandsman's Prayer

Written by Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, for Songs of Praise, BBC TV, June 1996

Heavenly Father, we thank you for instruments of brass and silver and for the lungs and lips that blow them.

Bless all who play in our bands and the communities they represent - especially the former mill and mining communities of these areas.

May their music inspire us to live in deep harmony with one another - and in rhythm with the abiding presence of Christ.

AMEN



Did you know that you can raise donations for Phoenix Brass whenever you shop online?

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Our retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you". easyfundraising has more than 4,000 retailers to choose from and so far we've raised over £30 million for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across the UK. Easy!

Support Phoenix Brass with easyfundraising: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/phoenixbrass/

Phoenix Brass and Photos from the Archives



Ultimate Guide: What is a Brass Band?

(from Dawkes Music, 23rd January 2019)

What is a brass band?

Well, in essence, it is exactly what it sounds like, it's a collection of players of brass instruments who perform pieces of music with their brass instruments. However, the history and complexity of the brass band may surprise you.

A modern way of making music?

Whilst many bands and instruments can boast a long history spanning many centuries, the British brass band really only dates back to the 18th century and the industrial revolution – making it relatively modern in musical history.

As the working classes became more politicised, many mill owners and industrialists sought to dampen the political enthusiasm of their workers and focus their attention more fully on their jobs. The brass bands of the mills and mines were created to give workers a distraction – many hours of practice outside of working hours would be required to get a band up to scratch. Throw in a couple of incentives such as prizes and competitions and you had a thoroughly politically distracted and therefore more compliant workforce.

Who was the first brass band in the UK?

It's hotly disputed amongst brass band aficionados as to which was the very first brass band in England, but two bands in particular have the longest running traditions and so are generally considered the oldest, Yorkshire's Black Dyke Mills Brass Band first founded around 1816 and Lancashire based Besse's o' th' Barn Brass Band which was established in 1818. Whichever was first, the popularity and growth of the brass band should not be underestimated and by 1860 there were over 870 brass bands across the country.

What instruments generally make up a brass band?

It's everything you would expect; trombones, cornets, flugelhorns, tenor horns, baritone horns, Eb bass, euphoniums, and many more. However, many brass bands have percussion within them also. It might help to think a little deeper about what constitutes a brass instrument. A brass instrument is defined as a lip-vibrated instrument, that is where the player creates a vibration of their lips against a cup or funnel shaped mouthpiece, which then allows air to pass through a tubular resonator. The largest brass instrument is the Tuba and the smallest brass instrument is either the Piccolo Trumpet or the French Horn.

The size of your brass instrument generally corresponds to the pitch at which the music produced sounds, for example the Eb and Bb Basses, which are the largest instruments in a brass band, are also the lowest in pitch, giving a deep baritone sound. The Cornet, in contrast, creates a higher sound in the brass band. These brass instruments, as well as the full range in between, complement each other perfectly in a brass band, creating a beautiful and unique sound.

Brass bands have become a British icon, a musical symbol of the industrial revolution, and whilst many of the mills and mines that they were born from have since closed, the traditions and sense of community of the hundreds of surviving brass bands will be here for many years to come.



2020 Engagements



Please note the following 'public' events / engagements:

Saturday, 28 March 2020

Training Band Coffee Morning with Music, Froxfield War Memorial Hall, 10.30am until 12 noon

Sunday, 19 April 2020

Concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford, 2.30pm

Saturday, 25 April 2020

Friends of Phoenix Fundraising Quiz Night, Froxfield War Memorial Hall 7.30pm **[Note strict ticket admission in advance only]**

Sunday, 3 May 2020

Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show, 11.30am

Bank Holiday Friday, 8 May 2020

VE Day Celebrations at Mildenhall Sports & Social Club, 2.30pm

Saturday, 9 May 2020

Band Dinner & Awards Evening, Royal British Legion, Hungerford, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Saturday, 13 June 2020

Training Band at the Froxfield Music and Beer Festival, Froxfield Village Green, timings to be confirmed

Saturday, 27 June 2020

Summer Fete at The Lakes Care Centre, South Cerney, Gloucestershire, 2.00pm

Sunday, 28 June 2020

Hungerford Summer Festival (formerly Hadcaf) and Grand Summer Draw, Froxfield War Memorial Hall, 3.00pm

Sunday, 5 July 2020

St Michaels and All Angels Church Fete, Lambourn, 2.00pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 July 2020

Market Lavington Vintage Meet Family Weekend, timings to be confirmed

Sunday, 19 July 2020

Songs of Praise at The College, Duchess of Somerset College, Froxfield, 11.00am

Saturday, 25 July 2020

Marlborough Puppety Festival, details and timings to be confirmed

Sunday, 26 July 2020

Concert at the Town Gardens Bandstand, Swindon, 3.00pm

Sunday, 6 September 2020

Pewsey Carnival Opening Service, details and timings to be confirmed

Sunday, 27 September 2020

Pet Service, St Nicholas Church, Upper Chute, Andover, 10.30am

PHOENIX BRASS BAND



Invites you to listen to

THE MUSIC OF BRASS



at a concert at



St. Lawrence's Church

The Croft, Hungerford

on Sunday 19th April

starting at 2.30pm



FREE ENTRY



**Retiring Collection for
Church Funds and Band**



Calling all readers!

Remember this is your Newsletter. Please send us any letters, comments, pictures or ideas for articles.

It can only be successful and reflect everything that is happening in the Main Band and the Training Band with your help! Please, get in touch with David or me if you have any ideas for stories, pictures you have taken or comments.

You can contact us at watsondavid726@gmail.com or r.fradgley@btinternet.com. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your contributions this year.



Friends of Phoenix

Phoenix Brass are pleased that they can provide pleasure through their music to so many people and hope that it can continue for many years. A brass band however is expensive to run and, though the players themselves contribute a great deal, Phoenix Brass could not continue to operate in its success without the support of others.

A supporters' organisation, **Friends of Phoenix**, was formed in 1994. With a membership that includes parents, relatives, friends and enthusiastic listeners they have supported the band in every possible way. This highly enthusiastic support group has provided fund raising, refreshments for concerts, transport for players and running social events for band members.

For an annual fee of just £5.00 each '**Friend**' receives newsletters and concession tickets for admission to certain events.

If you wish to become a member of **Friends of Phoenix**, or wish to renew an existing membership, and support the band please complete the form below and hand it or post it to either:

Mr R Fradgley, The Dairy, 5 Green Farm Rise, Froxfield, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 3YD; or
Mr D Watson, 1 Wheatsheaf Cottage, Ogbourne St Andrew, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1RZ

Alternatively, you can pass the form to any band member or officer in an envelope clearly marked with your name stating it is for membership to **Friends of Phoenix**.





Surname:.....

Forename:.....

Address:.....

.....Post Code

Telephone Number.....

Email address.....

Please indicate by inserting a cross if you prefer all communications to be sent to the email address

Amount Enclosed.....

Cheque/Cash £

Option to pay by standing order and completion of attached form.....

Please indicate by inserting a cross if you are completing the Standing Order Form

Signature.....Date.....

Friends of Phoenix Brass Band - Bankers Order

ToBank / Building Society

.....
(FULL address of your Bank / Building Society)

.....
Please pay to Lloyds Bank, East Ham Branch, sort code – **30-92-93**

for the credit of the account of **Friends of Phoenix**

Account Number - **68576860**

the sum of £..... with effect from the day
of (Figures) (Words)

.....20.....and the same amount each year until further notice.

Name of your account to be debited.....

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--

Account Number

Sort Code

Signed.....Date

Address
.....

.....Postode.....

Telephone Number.....Email address.....

**Please do NOT return the form to your Bank.
Please return the completed and signed form to Mr D Watson or Mr R Fradgley**