



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

May 2020

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A Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

Dear all,

We are all living through strange and difficult times and so, first and foremost, I hope this message finds you, your families and loved ones all safe and well. It is a challenging time for us all and, as we enter our seventh week of national lockdown, our lives are slowly adjusting to circumstances that were unthinkable just a month or two ago. There is no doubt that this is a very difficult time for everyone.

Band rehearsals are currently on hold and engagements have been cancelled by the organisers or postponed in the hope that they may be held later in the year.

Hopefully, you may have been making the most of the recent warm and dry weather by catching up with all those jobs in the garden and/or the outstanding chores at home! Unfortunately, there is now no excuse for getting them all done!!

Stay well and keep safe.

David recently celebrated 75 years' service to brass banding, quite an achievement I am sure you will agree.

Congratulations David for 75 years in Brass Banding! What an achievement!

Who would have thought when you first picked up the cornet on your 7th birthday that would be the start of an impressive band life which continues today, 75 years later?

You have inspired so many people of all ages throughout this time and your patience and dedication to each and every one is something you should be proud of.

Many congratulations on this amazing achievement.

Liane and Simon

**Congratulations David, with love and best wishes from
Phoenix Brass and Friends**

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

Copy of the Certificate from the Gloucester Brass Band Association
recognising David's 75 years of Banding



The Gloucester Brass Band Association Badge awarded to David



Balloon given to David by the Band to mark his 75 years to Brass Banding





An article in the December 2019 edition of “Whitton Ways”, the Whitton Team Benefice magazine that covers news from around the local villages in Wiltshire, featured David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass Band. We thank Vanya Body, Editor, who has kindly shared the article

David was born in Dovercourt a suburb of Harwich in Essex to a musical family. His grandfather played the cello and euphonium for a small Royal Marines band, while his mother was a songster with the Harwich Salvation Army. At age seven David was enrolled in the Salvation Army trainee band and progressed to the main band aged nine! He played the cornet and on Sundays, in-between services, and Sunday school, he played with the Band as they marched through the town and woe betide him if he tried to sneak off!

During the war years, his father served in the army. Harwich was an important harbour and suffered from the targeted bombings and hardships. David's house was destroyed during one such raid and the family moved in with his grandparents. At fifteen, he had to stop playing following an operation and moved to percussion instruments and then the drums, to add to his repertoire.

By now, David was working as a Porter for the railways and after two years National Service he re-joined British Rail in an age when 90% of the trains still ran on steam. A chance encounter with a taxi driver led him to resume playing the cornet with the Grange Brass Band where he learnt about conducting and band management. Eventually the Grange Brass Band became the Harwich Concert Band and David was the band secretary. He also began conducting the Harwich Accordion Orchestra, which went on to win 1st place in the advanced Orchestra section at the UK Accordion Championships.

The railways had undergone some upheaval after the war as the country rebuilt. Diesel and electric locomotives would replace steam in the newly nationalised British Rail, and then Dr Richard Beeching took his axe to British Rail in the 1960s.

David moved to Marlborough and became the BR representative to the MOD at Luggershall where his job was to ensure the safety of the heavy military armaments transported by train. He subsequently became the Southern Region YTS manager, based at Waterloo, before transferring to Euston as manager of British Rail's UK training scheme responsible for setting nation-wide industrial standards.

David retired from his long career with BR just as privatisation was being mooted. “When I look at all the hours that my generation put into running the railway and look at it now, I despair,” he says.

During this time, David played for the Kennet Vale Brass Band, and conducted the youth band. Then the Hungerford Town Band offered David the Music Directorship and the chance to rebuild its band which was heavily in debt with neither instruments nor music! With support from locals, David started a learners' course and raised enough money to buy instruments and a library of music.

But then, David decided to do it all over again — and started a completely new brass band — with no music, no instruments, and no money! In 1993, with a £300 loan, David acquired second-hand instruments, while a friend provided sheet music. Supported by a core of players from Hungerford, Phoenix Brass was born, based at Froxfield. The hall was in a poor state and for a while, the band decamped to Burbage, but decided to move back to Froxfield and to take on the challenge of revitalising the Memorial Hall. David and the band members formed a Committee, and then took over the lease, which stopped mooted redevelopment and secured the future of the hall for the village. They acquired a grant which was well invested in upgrading the hall's facilities. A lottery grant then helped buy new instruments and a music library, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Thank you David for a life in music, teaching, and service.

A drawing by family member, David Treweek, that captures band rehearsal in a light-hearted fashion to celebrate David's 75 years to brass banding. This was sent via email and the original will be presented to David when social distancing is relaxed a little and David and Cynthia can travel from Dovercourt.

The artwork via email has been given to David in the meantime.



Happy Birthday, David

As well as commemorating 75 years to Brass Banding, David also celebrated his birthday recently. So, I am sure that you would all like to wish him many belated happy returns of the day. A big thank you to those players who contributed and recorded their individual part of Happy Birthday in their homes which was edited to create a recording for David.

Additional thanks must go to Andrew Gray who, as well as performing, helped with the final production, and weaving together of the individual recordings to arrive at the finished video performance.

Please see the link below:

<https://youtu.be/SYED9kHpwn0>



Help to raise additional funds for Phoenix Brass Band via easyfundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/phoenixbrass/>

Online shopping from your sofa? You could also be helping Phoenix Brass raise much needed funds for FREE! Over 4,000 online retailers including John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay and M&S are ready to give a free donation every time you shop online. Plus, if you take a moment to sign up now, we will be entered into a competition to WIN a £500 donation! Visit:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/phoenixbrass/?invite=B0G86W&referral-campaign=c2s>

Lottery Winners

March 2020 - Darren Scragg

April 2020 - Margaret Paterson

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.



A HUGE THANK YOU to those players and members of their immediate families and members of Friends of Phoenix who are designated key workers and are at work helping everyone stay safe and able to stock their homes. Also, others that are caring for the elderly and vulnerable during these uncertain times. Thank you.



Get Well Soon.....

We send our love and best wishes to any member or their family who is unwell at the current time.

A Message from Jane Jarvis

My friend & I are sewing scrubs & laundry bags for Berkshire NHS. We are asking for donations of any surplus duvet covers, sheets or pillowcases that you may have.

They can be any colour, plain or patterned - they just need to be suitable for washing at 60 degrees.

If you can help please put them in a bag. Richard is happy for them to be delivered to him and/or to collect them if you could let him know.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Jane Jarvis (jarvisjc@rocketmail.com) or 07788 528608

PS, if someone else in Hungerford would also act as a collection point that would be helpful. Please let me know.

For the
NHS

Liane has provided the following Wordsearch to help pass the time during our staying at home time.....

WORDSEARCH

B A G P I P E Z L A B M Y C W
R P Z M Q H T B U D S N F O T
N W E T H A R P S I C H O R D
O I O U G T O K D B A U F N F
I B R R P Z M I L R J W K E I
D E G W I H B R P G U T N T D
R O A I A M O Y B Q A M E A D
O L N Y N W N N U D B J C E L
C E G E O I E B I M U L E G E
C U N Y L Q F F L U T E L K N
A T D O J N A B Z E M W L O L
O F I R T G D K N J U A O L T
N V N E U I B I J Y O S R O D
A G Y I K V R Y Q P S R T C Y
I Z T A R A W A F A Z I D C F
P A Y E L G U B B L A L O I V
R Q M C E N O H P O X A S P O

BAGPIPE

BANJO

BARITONE

BASSOON

BUGLE

CELLO

CLARINET

CORNET

CYMBAL

DRUM

EUPHONIUM

FIDDLE

FLUTE

GUITAR

HARP

HARPSICHORD

ORGAN

PIANO

PIANO ACCORDION

PICCOLO

SAXOPHONE

TROMBONE

TUBA

VIOLA

VIOLIN



Fundraising

The Band will have probably lost around 50% of their engagements which, in turn, means 50% of their income. We need to think about raising funds as this year progresses.

One idea that was mooted by Jane Jarvis in 2018 was to produce a Band recipe booklet. Unfortunately, at the time, there was a lack of interest with just one recipe being received.

But, given the current lockdown and many of us now at home, how about you, your families and friends having a go?

We invite you to send us a favourite recipe (or two). It could be something very simple or complicated whatever you prefer. These can then be put together into a booklet and sold throughout the year to help raise funds for the Band.

Please see the final page for a prescribed template.



WANTED!

YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE

Please contribute to enable us to compile a cookbook in aid of Friends of Phoenix funds.

Your recipe could be a soup, starter, main course or dessert, or a bread, biscuit, cake or jam.

It needs to be "tried & trusted" - one that you or your family have used successfully.

Please include info on why you like it, & a photo / illustration if possible - feel free to donate more than one recipe if you wish.

In order to have a uniform layout, please complete the attached form & email it to jarvisjc@rocketmail.com.

A provisional deadline of end July 2020 is planned.

Thank you.



RECIPE:

CONTRIBUTED BY:

BRIEF NOTES ON WHY YOU LIKE IT :

SERVES (QTY):

OVEN TEMP:

PREP TIME:

COOK TIME:

INGREDIENTS (IN ORDER OF USE):

METHOD:

NOTES: