



# The Phoenix Flame



**Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem**

## **August 2020**

In this issue:

- MD Message
- Phoenix Life
- Lottery Winners
- Get Well
- Chris Buck
- Remembering FOP Members
- Guess the Baby
- Fundraising
- Virtual Recordings
- Froxfield Village Hall
- Archive Photos



## **A Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass**

I do hope that you are all well and keeping safe in these extraordinary times. As you are all aware it has been, and still is, a very strange year. As a rule, in this issue of the Flame I would have been writing about all the engagements that the Band had played at and all the remaining venues on the list. But, as from March, the Band has not been allowed to meet for rehearsals, let alone play at engagements. All the Band engagements throughout the summer have been cancelled and we have even received a cancellation of the Christmas Concert in Lambourn.

We have no idea when we can meet up as a band again. This will very much depend on the results of ongoing investigations and testing into the transmission of water droplets and aerosols. I understand that some tests have concluded, and the results have been sent to the Government and World Health Organisation to consider.

The cancellation of all the summer engagements alone has contributed to a loss of circa 75% of the Band's income to date and does not include income from all the Festive engagements, including the carol playing, leading up to Christmas. So, your support as Friends of Phoenix members is important more than ever and I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing patronage at this moment in time.

As you can imagine, the Froxfield War Memorial Hall has been closed since lockdown in March. During this time, volunteers have kindly repainted the interior and the kitchen. I must pay particular thanks to Friends of Phoenix member, Roy Mason, who has spent numerous hours at the hall. The original block pine floor has been refurbished, we have had new electric radiators installed, the kitchen floor carpet has been removed and we are waiting for new washable lino to be fitted and we are exploring refurbishment of the car park.

I am also extremely pleased to report that an application to Wiltshire Council Rural for a Rate Relief Grant via the Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant as part of the Government's support during the Coronavirus was successful and we have received a grant of £10,000.

Please stay safe and well.

Best wishes

David

## **"Phoenix Life"**

During lockdown, we have been producing a weekly 'Phoenix Life' newsletter for the players. This is emailed to all the players across the Main Band, Training Band and Beginners Group, on a Tuesday evening.

The newsletter includes a weekly message, photos of players during lockdown, other competitions, archive photos of the band over the years and a puzzle page!

I know that a handful of Friends of Phoenix members have asked to be copied in to this weekly newsletter and if you would similarly like to receive a copy, then please contact Richard Fradgley via email [r.fradgley@btinternet.com](mailto:r.fradgley@btinternet.com) or via phone 01488 685004 and he will include you on the mailing list.

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

## Lottery Winners

May 2020	-	David and Cynthia Treweek
June 2020	-	Richard and Terri Fradgley
July 2020	-	Carol Nash

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.



## Get Well Soon.....

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

We are really pleased to hear that Bryan Marchant is now out of hospital, much better and back at work.

Please take care, stay well, and keep safe in these uncertain times.

## Death of Chris Buck

Chris Buck sadly passed away in early May 2020.

Many of you will have known Chris for many years, as a friend, as an avid supporter of the Band, as an organiser of the Concerts at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford, as a person who provided the musical accompaniment for pupils taking their music exams, many of whom are in Main Band today, and as a member of Friends of Phoenix.

She will be such a huge loss to music in Hungerford and will be missed by many in and around the surrounding area. It was a huge shame that the planned Band Concert

organised by Chris at St Lawrence Church for mid-April had to be postponed. We still hope to reschedule that Concert when we are back playing in memory of Chris.

I looked upon her as a personal friend and she will be sorely missed.

David Watson



## Death of Paul Osborne, John (Pete) Bell and Maurice Cooper

Since the last Phoenix Flame was issued in May 2020, it is with sadness that we report the deaths of Paul Osborne, John (Pete) Bell and Maurice Cooper.

Jane Osborne's (trombone player) husband, Paul, passed away having been extremely unwell for some considerable time.

John Bell, also known as Pete, was an avid Friends of Phoenix member who lived with his wife Beryl in Wanborough. John had also been unwell for some time and, with Beryl, was a keen supporter of the Band.

Maurice Cooper was Marlborough Town Mayor twice in 1989/1990 and again in 2000/2001. He also served as a Marlborough Town Councillor for many years before he died. Maurice, and his wife Rosemary, was extremely supportive of the Band when both Mayor of Marlborough and a Councillor.

We sent cards expressing our sincere condolences on behalf of the Band to Jane, Beryl and Rosemary.

## "Guess the Baby Competition for Charity"

During lockdown, players from the Band took part in a 'Guess the Baby' competition, with individual entries helping to raise funds in aid of **Prospect Hospice during the current COVID-19.**

The competition helped raise £235 for Prospect Hospice.

The winning entries were:

- First Prize:** Roger and Rosemarie  
**Second Prize:** David and Irene Watson  
**Third Prize:** Liane and Simon Squibb



Phoenix Brass Band  
c/o Richard Fradgley  
5 Green Farm Rise  
Froxfield  
Marlborough  
SN8 3YD

17 July 2020

Dear Richard,

At this time of difficulty and great concern for us all, we really appreciate you choosing to support Prospect Hospice with your recent sponsorship of £235 from the band's Guess the Baby Competition. I hope that you all enjoyed it.

To respond to the current needs for COVID-19 we have had to dramatically change and increase the size and scope of our 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service, so that patients can continue to get the specialist care and support they need from us. We have created community teams, redeploying staff from all our clinical services; specialist doctors, nurses, health care assistants, therapists, bereavement support and social workers.

This means we are supporting people in their homes on a scale of operation we have never attempted before, at a time when income is all but drying up now that all community activities and events have been cancelled/postponed and all our shops closed. At a time when there are now limited options to be able to help us, donations such as yours are vital and therefore hugely appreciated.

So you can see why we are truly grateful for your gift at this time. We really couldn't be responding to the current needs of our community without support like yours.

I sincerely hope that you are keeping safe, with love and thanks from all of us here at Prospect Hospice.

Kind regards,

Sally Langheim  
Events and Community Team

P.T.O

### Prospect Hospice

**President:** HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
**Address:** Moormead Road, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9BY  
**Tel:** 01793 813355  
**Email:** [info@prospect-hospice.net](mailto:info@prospect-hospice.net)  
**Web:** [www.prospect-hospice.net](http://www.prospect-hospice.net)

Prospect Hospice Ltd. Registered Charity No. 200093  
Company Registration in England No. 1494909

## Fundraising

As reported in the last Phoenix Flame issued in May 2020, the Band has now lost circa 75% of its engagements which, in turn, means 75% of its income. We need to think about raising funds as this year progresses.

One idea that was muted 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. We decided to give this idea a second chance but, once again, this did not get off the ground and not one recipe was received! So, we ended up having to cancel this idea.

An easy way to raise additional funds for Phoenix Brass Band is via easyfundraising:

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

If you undertake 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>

## ACTION FOR HAPPINESS 10 KEYS TO HAPPIER LIVING (IN A CRISIS AND BEYOND)



## Phoenix Brass - Virtual Recordings

You may have seen that many brass bands have performed what is known as 'virtual recordings' whilst in lockdown. All brass bands have been unable to meet in person to rehearse or perform at engagements. Indeed, all the engagements that Phoenix Brass had booked throughout the summer have all been cancelled. Our next engagement is the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade, but it is highly unlikely that this will go ahead in its present format. It is also unlikely that the Christmas engagements that the Band has booked will proceed. The customary Christmas Concert at The Walwyn Hall in Lambourn scheduled for early December has recently been cancelled.

I am pleased to say that Phoenix Brass has now performed three virtual recordings. This has necessitated players performing individually at home and recording themselves. The recordings are then weaved together resulting in the final rendition.

The first was 'Happy Birthday' that celebrated David Watson's birthday and 75 years in Brass Banding in April 2020. For those of you with access to a computer or phone would have seen the link to this recording in the May edition of the Phoenix Life.

The second virtual recording was made in June 2020, with 'Loyal and True'. Thank you must go to Andrew Gray for his tireless work in weaving together the individual recordings, the photos and commentary for the video of Loyal & True. The photo shows Andrew hard at work on his computer assembling the recordings. We hope you all enjoyed the recording which can be accessed via the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWwGZU7t9F8>

and the recording now also features on the Band Website:

<https://www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk/phoenix-brass-virtual-recording-loyal-and-true/>

The third recording which is in the throes of completion is the hymn tune, "How Great Thou Art".

Thank you to those players who took part without whom the recordings would not have been possible.



## TAKE TIME...

Take time to work, it is the price of success.

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to play, it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.

Take time to love and be loved, it is the privilege of the Gods.

Take time to share, life is too short to be selfish.

Take time to laugh, laughter is the music of the soul.

## BAND IS LIKE A FAMILY



There are times when we don't get along with each other.

There are times when we feel like ripping out each other's hair.

There are times when we just want to give up and quit.

But we don't.

We don't because we have each other to lean on and to help us through the tough times.

We don't because we don't want to let each other down.

We don't because our bond with each other is stronger than our love of music, the thing that brought us together in the first place.

We don't because

## BAND IS A FAMILY

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I realized that being in BAND is like being on a SPORTSTEAM, EVERY BODY has to contribute to make the song SOUND GOOD. Being Part of My Band is like having a Second Family. -allison #whyiplay



### **Update on Froxfield War Memorial Hall**

Given the lockdown, Froxfield War Memorial Hall has been closed due to the absence of any hire activity and of course no band rehearsals being permitted. During this time, the opportunity has been taken to undertake a variety of work to help maintain the building. So, several 'thank yous'.

A BIG thank you must go to Roy Mason who has been freshening up all the red paintwork on the walls near the stage and information board and around the door frames and in the lobby area. A thank you must go to Roger and Rosemarie Dewey who have kindly painted and refreshed the kitchen.

Roy and Marilyn Mason, together with help from Brian Williams, bass player, have strimmed the grass and nettles at the rear of the hall which had grown to waist height.

The original pine block floor has been completely refurbished and restored. The hall now benefits from new electric radiators that were installed in early July. Thanks must go to Froxfield Parish Council for their wonderful contribution towards the costs of the floor refurbishment and the electric radiators. The Parish Council have contributed more than 50% of the overall expenditure of the works. Our grateful thanks.

Work to the kitchen floor has included removal of the old carpet and the old remaining tiles. The floor has been treated for damp penetration and new washable lino flooring has been ordered and is due to be fitted in two weeks' time.

A meeting has been held at the Hall with a local contractor to discuss potential improvements to the car park which, since lockdown, has seen weed growth increase and a gradual deterioration. A quotation is being obtained to ascertain if the Hall has sufficient funds to cover the costs or whether additional fundraising will be required.

The Hall now benefits from Gift Aid which means that it will get an extra 25p for every £1 donated. So, if you, or anyone you know, wishes to donate funds on a regular basis or on an ad hoc basis, then you can now do so with additional monies benefiting the Hall and, ultimately, Phoenix Brass as its rehearsal building.

Since the lockdown, new signage has been erected in Froxfield on the A4 for those who require directions to the 'Village Hall'.

We have now completed the Covid-19 Risk Assessment, that works alongside the existing Hall Risk Assessment, which allow us to reconsider opening the War Memorial Hall again for hire.

The various posters and signage, one-way entry and exit points, provision of paper towels and sanitiser stations at the entry and exit points and tape to remind people of the social distancing rules, have now all been installed.

Paper towel holders have been fixed in the toilets and kitchen and we have new larger bins to dispose of the waste towels.

We have purchased a baby changing mat that affixes to the wall and folds flat. We are also exploring quotations to remove the existing old cylindrical heaters with more modern, safe, and efficient wall mounted heaters in both the lady's and gent's toilets.

We are also extremely pleased to report that an application to Wiltshire Council Rural for a Rate Relief Grant via the Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant as part of the Government's support during the Coronavirus was successful and we have received a grant of £10,000 for the hall.

## LAUGH – EVEN ON YOUR DARKEST DAYS

**1** LAUGH. There's humour to be found everywhere; even on your darkest days there's something to have a joke about. Laugh long and loud and make other people laugh. It's good for you.

**2** BE YOURSELF. If someone doesn't like you they're either stupid, blind or they've got bad taste. Accept who you are, you've got no one else to be. Don't try to change yourself, there's no point. Don't apologise. Don't make excuses. Be yourself and if anyone else doesn't like it they can \*\*\*\* off.

**3** BE FLAMBOYANT, it's who you are and always have been. Be eccentric and unique. Don't try to adapt yourself to someone else's view of normal. That belongs to them, not you. Like yourself as who you are.

**4** DON'T worry about other people's opinions. Everyone's a critic, but ultimately what they say matters only if you let it. Don't believe your own press. People can just as easily sing your praises as they can tear you down. Don't waste your time on things you can't change. Let it slide off you like water off a duck's back.

**5** GET angry, it's OK to lose your temper now and then. If anger stays in, it turns to poison and makes you bitter and sad. Get angry, say your piece, then let it go.

**6** WHATEVER you do, always give it a good go. Don't be afraid of failure and disappointment. If you fall flat on your face, then get straight back up. You'll always regret not trying. Disappointment is temporary, regret is for ever.

**7** BE GENEROUS and kind, because you can't take it with you. When you've got something to give, then give it without hesitation.

**8** APPRECIATE beauty, take pictures and make memories. Capture it, you never know when it'll be gone.

**9** DON'T take yourself too seriously. People who take themselves too seriously are boring.

**10** NEVER, ever, ever, ever give up. Keep on punching no matter what you're up against. You're only defeated if you give up, so don't give up.

**11** LOVE with all your heart. In the end, love is the only thing that matters.



The Phoenix Flame  
**Phoenix Brass from the Archives**



**End of July 2018**

Players from Phoenix Brass, their families, friends, and supporters travelled by coach (and a few cars) to Swanage to perform in the Bandstand. The Band wanted to help support the fundraising events by the "Friends of Swanage Bandstand", a local charitable group that had been formed and dedicated to restoring the former bandstand and putting it back into full use. The Swanage Bandstand roof sustained considerable storm damage a few years ago and was removed by the local Council for health and safety reasons.



## The Phoenix Flame



**Above:** July 2018 - Group photo at Swanage

**Below:** August 2009 - Eleven years ago, Phoenix Brass performed at Littlecote House when it was a park open to the public.

