



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

October 2020

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A Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

I do hope that you are all well and remaining safe.

It seems as though Autumn is setting in, with the evenings becoming darker earlier, the warmth ebbing away from daylight hours, schools returning, workers asked to go back into Offices.....BUT, despite all this, I am pleased to say that we now have the 'go ahead' to take small, measured steps to return to brass playing again!

The rules have relaxed a little and we have been given the go ahead to meet in groups of more than six, but with strict COVID-19 protocols and social distancing in place.

Froxfield War Memorial Hall is 'Covid-19 ready' and now satisfies all the necessary requirements to open for brass band rehearsal activity. Behind the scenes, a great deal of work has gone into preparing the Hall to ensure that when we return to playing it will be as safe as we can make it. So, I am really hoping that we will return to some rehearsal activity in the next few weeks.

The cancellation of all the summer engagements and possibly all the Christmas engagements has had a massive impact on the band's finances contributing to lost income of circa £4,000. 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.

We have decided to run the Christmas Draw, albeit on a smaller scale than in previous years. There will still be two Christmas Hampers and many other exciting prizes, and further details appear later in this edition of the Phoenix Flame. You will find tickets enclosed and your support in selling the tickets is much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please stay safe and well.

Best wishes

David

Phoenix Brass Band and easyfundraising

Without any engagement income for the past seven months and little hope of any income over Christmas, please do consider joining up and helping the Band via easyfundraising. We currently only have 23 supporters, many of whom are not players. It is FREE, so please help raise money for Phoenix Brass when you shop online.

If you sign up to #easyfundraising as a supporter of Phoenix Brass, we could win a potential £250 donation. It will not cost you anything extra. Use the unique link to sign up:

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



Remember to look at the band website for the up to date diary, news items and gallery of photographs:

www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk

Lottery Winners

August 2020 - Doreen and Martin Hall
September 2020 - David and Cynthia Treweek

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.

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

Death of Shirley Rowe and Sheila King

It is with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Shirley Rowe, Jackie Gray's mother, mother-in-law to Phil, trombone player in Main Band, a grandmother to Andrew, Ollie and Hannah Gray (all Main Band players) and a Friends of Phoenix member.

Jackie said, "My mum got so much pleasure from reading about the band and seeing photos of everyone enjoying playing together, thank you....they were probably your only supporters from Newton Pophelford in Devon".

We also heard of the recent death of Sheila King, wife of Basil, who died recently following a heart attack. Basil has supported the Band in the past by playing cornet and, on occasions, conducting the Band when David has been unwell. Basil and David go back such a long way and it must be 45 years when they first met at Kennet Vale.

We sent cards to the family expressing our sincere condolences on behalf of the Band and Friends of Phoenix. We send our love and best wishes to the families.

Message from Betty Walley, Friends of Phoenix

Hello to all the members and supporters of the Friends of Phoenix.

I hope you have managed to stay safe and well during the past difficult months. Obviously, the Band have not been able to meet for rehearsals or perform at any concerts which I am sure you would have been disappointed about too. This also means that the Friends have not been able to raise any funds for them.

Our help is an important boost for the running of the Band, so with this in mind we are planning to hold our Christmas Draw and would appreciate your support.

At the moment we think we may have to scale down the actual draw evening due to possible restrictions. If this is the case we will make sure all prizes are delivered to the winners.

Thank you again for all your loyal support.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes to you all.

Betty x

ODE OF A BANDSMAN

Ken Berg, 1995

He was there again last Saturday when the band played down the street,
The little boy in scruffy clothes and bare and dirty feet.

A rugged little rascal and as boisterous as can be,
With his footy tucked up in his arms and perpetual bleeding knee.

But when the band starts playing this boy just turns to stone,
And he listens right throughout the day 'till we pack up and go home.

I have seen him there when all his mates try to drag him off to play,
But he staunchly refuses to budge an inch and sends them on their way.

One week he stood beside me and when I chanced to look,
His gaze was fixed upon my music 'thought he could read it like a book'!

And he stood there throughout the number, he must have gone through hell,
But I believe he was trying to match my music with the noise blurring from my bell.

But on Saturday he brought his parents, which alone was no mean feat,
For when he saw the band was playing he dragged them down the street.

So, I had a quick word with them said 'your lad seems keen to learn'
Now he will be there next rehearsal night eager to have his turn.

And I am glad I helped this boy along, not just because my time is free,
But more because, not so long ago, that little boy was me.

Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

by Lucy Rudman

Where words fail,
music speaks.
It speaks of the pain,
of the sorrow,
of the lost,
of the life we live.
It shares emotions.
It's a way to connect,
to understand
what others feel.
Where words fail,
music speaks.
It tells the truth
whether you want it to or not.
Music shares the souls
of those we're around,
of those in the world
that we're living.
I wish to share
my music with you
So you can understand
the pain I feel,
so I can share my soul with you,
so you can understand
What I'm going through.

Musical Definitions

- Glissando - A technique adopted by trombonists for difficult runs.
- Crescendo - A reminder to the player that he has been playing too loudly.
- Conductor - A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.
- Risoluto - Indicates to the band that they are to stubbornly maintain the same tempo no matter what the conductor tries to do.
- Vibrato - Used by soloists to hide the sound of their knees knocking together.
- Clef - Something to jump from before the soprano solo.
- Bar Line - A gathering of Brass Players
- Music - A complex organisation of sounds that is set down by the composer, incorrectly interpreted by the conductor, who is ignored by the Band, the result of which is ignored by the audience.

Phoenix Brass - Virtual Recordings

We are really pleased to say that the virtual recording of the hymn tune, "How Great Thou Art" has been completed and we thank Andrew Gray for his tremendous efforts in weaving all the recordings together. The recording can be accessed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0Zva1A3i0w>

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

Friends of Phoenix Grand Christmas Draw (Scaled down in size!)

The Friends of Phoenix are running their Christmas Draw, albeit on a smaller scale this year due to the current situation.

There will be a difference this year in that we anticipate tickets being sold in books of 5 costing £1 each, ie a book of five tickets will cost £5. Initially we will be issuing everyone with two books, but you will be able to apply for more!!

This year has been an extremely difficult for the Band with engagement income severely reduced by as much as 90% to date. The engagements in November and December currently look as though they may have to be cancelled giving current Covid-19 restrictions and the possibility of further restrictions in the coming days and weeks.

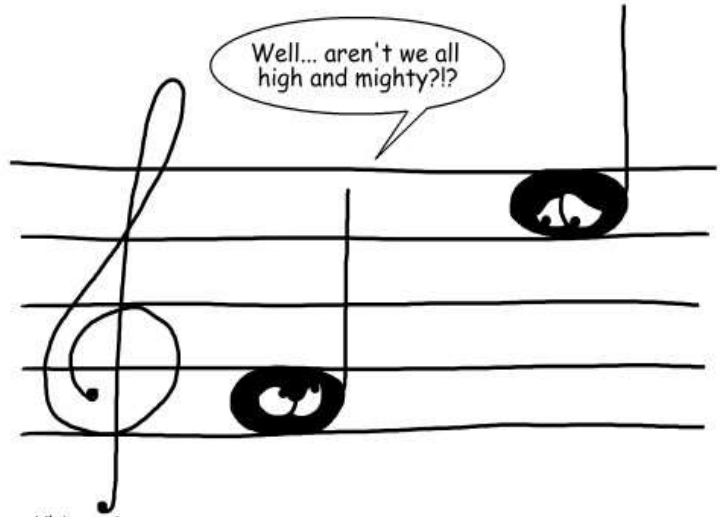
So, this year is more important than ever, and we kindly ask you to support the Christmas Draw as much as you feel able to. Tickets are enclosed!

Thank you as always for your support.



Photo above of Marlborough Silver Town Band in 1909. The band was active from the 1880s to the 1950s

*"We have a bond that no one else can understand,
Each section combines to form a great band.
All of us have worked hard, day in and day out,
So we know we did our best, we have no doubt.
No matter what the outcome at the very end, we are still a family - a family of friends."*



Players as Food Items

- Conductor - A lump of cheddar = The big cheese.
- Soprano - Jar of coffee = Gets you a bit high.
- Principal Cornet - Jam = Everyone has some in their cupboard (rather like skeletons, but let's leave that until we have time to put some photos on the site), it's generally considered as a good thing, but often over-used and too much makes you sick.
- Solo Cornets - Seasonings = Makes all the difference between a piece tasting good, bad, or indifferent.
- Repiano Cornet - A rabbit = Small and cute, likely to make grown men go "aaahhhh", doesn't make much noise (unless attacked by foxes). Well, in our band anyway; do not moan to us if your Rep player isn't cute.
- Second & Third Cornets - Various root vegetables = Occasionally having a strong taste at just the wrong time, it is often hard work to pull these out of the ground.
- Flugel Horn - A shot of Grouse Whiskey = Nice and mellow, yet useful in medical emergencies (at the time we had an ambulanceperson on Flugel; I freely accept that this is not necessarily a Flugel-player characteristic...).
- Tenor Horns - Chickens = A nice flavour (if a little bland), but likely to make more noise when they're talking than when they are actually playing.
- Baritones - Lard = A rather misunderstood and maltreated food, these are actually rather important in any piece that involves frying.
- Euphoniums - Beef = The backbone of nearly every meal, they provide a good textured main meat, but very occasionally will be responsible for some unpleasant prion damage. *Euphoniums shortly to be available on-the-bone once again*
- Trombones - Curry = At the right strength, or with a good beer, no problem. However, if too strong, it's hard to miss that flavour.
- Basses - Goldfish = You do not want to eat them, but that three-second memory-span and the fact that their mouths are always glomping open and shut make you wish someone would.
- Kit Man Dennis - "K" lager = After a few cans of this, you'll notice that everything is "swinging".

Marlborough Market Fundraising Stall

In late August, Marilyn and Terri braved the much cooler weather to have a stall at Marlborough Market to help raise funds for Phoenix Brass and the Froxfield War Memorial Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Marilyn and Terri usually run the stalls in Marlborough High Street on a bi-monthly basis but, due to Covid-19, these have all been cancelled due to restrictions imposed by Wiltshire Council.

At 8.15am, Brian and Richard helped to unload the many boxes of goodies that Marilyn had amassed and erect the small marquee, with selling and even some donations starting before the boxes were unloaded.

Selling started with a vengeance at 8.45am and continued until 3.45pm, so an awfully long day for the sellers. However, a constant stream of visitors kept them busy and £165 was raised on the day.

Well done to Marilyn and Terri!

And thank you to Brian for transporting the marquee and helping so early in the morning.



The Phoenix Flame
Froxfield War Memorial Hall



David with tape measure in hand has worked out a seating plan to enable Band section rehearsals to recommence when the time is right. Rehearsals had been due to commence a few weeks ago but it was felt that, given the rising number of Covid-19 virus cases, it would have been morally irresponsible of the Band to start back with rehearsal activity.

Importantly, the seating plan will ensure that everyone remains safe and we remain compliant with the Covid-19 protocols and social distancing. The red cloth seated chairs have been taken out of use, and the plastic chairs will be used by the Band and any other hirers of the hall.

In September, the new washable lino was laid in the kitchen which, with the recent paintwork and other work, smartens up and finishes off the kitchen.

Plans are underway to refurbish the main area of the car park, the installation of new granite setts at the car park entrance and a new tarmac pathway, the latter to ensure that the Hall remains compliant and satisfies disabled access requirements.

In July/August 2018, the Band was delighted to announce the arrival of a wonderful new website and Facebook page.

The website was designed by Marlborough-based Callia Web. Our old website had become broken and out of date and, therefore, we had been unable to update and maintain it. At the same time, we wanted to build a new, refreshed website but did not know where to begin. With minimal experience, we approached Jo Waltham at Callia Web who helped construct a new design and support us as we set out our plans and ideas.

The website was re-designed with a new domain, fresh look and feel, with improved navigation to help people find the information that they required or to contact us more easily.

It is now mobile device ready and is much easier for use on smartphone or tablet.

At the same time, a new Facebook page was set up for the Band.

A series of group photos were taken to coincide with the launch of the new website.

