



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

December 2020

In this issue:

- MD Message
- Lottery Winners
- Get Well
- Virtual Recording
- Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball Renewal
- Christmas Messages
- Froxfield Village Hall
- Training Band Recruits
- Friends of Phoenix Christmas Draw
- Photos from Archive



Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

Dear all

Welcome to the Phoenix Flame.

Well, it is now starting to look a lot like Christmas. The Christmas decorations have gone up, the shops are all open and some of us are probably seeing the return of the hustle and bustle in town as people get their Christmas shopping completed. In our different ways, we have all had a difficult year and I do hope that you will be able to celebrate Christmas in some way, albeit in smaller groups and taking note of the Government guidance so we can all remain safe and well until the vaccines really do come on stream for us all.

The Band has had an exceedingly difficult year also, with every band engagement throughout the summer and Christmas period cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Despite my previous message in the last Phoenix Flame in October, we decided that it was morally irresponsible to recommence any banding activity given the rising number of Covid19 cases and deaths at that time, despite having the 'go ahead' to take small, measured steps to return to brass playing again.

However, I am hoping to have a group of players to perform Christmas carols in Froxfield on Sunday, 20 December. I envisage starting at 2pm and playing for about 60/90 minutes maximum near the Green, bus stop and The College. This will very much depend on the latest Government announcements this week and, of course, the British weather. If we remain in Tier 2, then we are permitted to play, but with strict adherence to social distancing regulations and no mingling between players.

I am pleased to say that several players from Main Band have prepared another virtual recording, the third since March. This time, we have chosen the carol, "Away in a Manger" and we hope to have the final recording released just before Christmas if all goes well.

In this edition of the Flame, we announce the prize winners of the Friends of Phoenix Christmas Draw and how to renew your subscriptions for those of you who participate in the Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball.

Like many organisations this year, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the Band extremely badly, with all our summer and Christmas engagements cancelled. This has had a huge impact, with the loss of engagement income calculated as being more than £4,000. As with any organisation, Phoenix Brass must meet various costs to keep the band running and functioning as effectively as possible. Costs include instruments (including the purchase and maintenance), uniforms, music, materials, and administrative costs, hire of the band-room and insurance. So, the success of the Christmas Draw this year is vital and we rely heavily on the goodwill of you and Band players to sell tickets. I would personally like to thank everyone who has supported the Christmas Draw by selling or purchasing tickets. I am extremely grateful to you for all your dedication and support.

Finally, the Friends of Phoenix membership for 2021 renews on 1 January 2021 and details will be sent to you all during January.

Please do stay safe and well, and I do sincerely hope that Phoenix Brass will be able to return to some form of normality next year.

With all my best wishes to you and all your families and loved ones for the festive period and a healthy and better 2021.

Best wishes

David

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

October 2020 - Marilyn Mason

November 2020 - Brian Williams

There are still a few 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.

Phoenix Brass - Virtual Recording of "Away in a Manger"

Several players from Main Band have recently completed their recordings of the carol, "Away in a Manger".

Andrew Gray is again weaving his magic and compiling all the recordings into a sensible final recording! This could be available and released before Christmas! We will send you all a link to the recording once it has been finalised.

David

Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball 2021 Renewal Fees

A further gentle reminder for those of you with a bonus ball (s) number.

The 2021 renewal fees fall due on 1 January 2021.

Given Covid19, could I kind ask you to complete the Bonus Ball Application Form (on the last page of this Phoenix Life) and send to me in the post or email me please (marilyn1mason@yahoo.co.uk) with your details and confirmation of your intended renewal.

You can either:

- post a cheque to me payable to "Friends of Phoenix" for £12 per bonus ball at Beech Lodge, Roebuck Meadow, London Road, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 2AL; or
- you can transfer the ticket money direct to the Friends of Phoenix account, account number 68576860, sort code 309293. Please ensure that you put your name on the accompanying transfer details so we can identify your bonus ball fee(s). Please return the completed form to me.

There are still some unsold numbers available should anyone like to purchase a new or additional bonus ball. Again, please drop me a letter or email me.

Thank you for your help.

Marilyn Mason

Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

Martin Luther



Remembrance Sunday 2020

Considering the new restrictions that came into effect on 5 November, Marlborough Town Council decided that their already scaled-down plans for Remembrance Sunday had to be abandoned. The Mayor stated that he was personally incredibly sad as this is such an important event for Marlborough. Instead, he called for everyone to come together with the rest of the nation, at home, and to pay respects by observing the two minutes silence at 11am on doorsteps on both Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. We will remember them.

Complying with the Government Lockdown Policy, Anthony Palmer was due to perform The Last Post and Reveille in Marlborough prior to the plans being abandoned by the Town Council.

Instead, Anthony performed The Last Post and Reveille at a short Remembrance Service outside by the War Memorial at All Saints Church, Froxfield. To mark Remembrance Sunday safely and with the reverence it deserves, arrangements were quite different this year because of Covid-19. There was a short wreath laying ceremony and prayers.



After the short Remembrance Service at All Saints Church, Froxfield, Anthony performed The Last post and Reveille again, this time outside the Froxfield War Memorial Hall.

Video recordings are attached via the Dropbox link in the accompanying email.

Please also see the Band website: <https://www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk/remembrance-sunday-2020/> and Facebook Page.



A very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all Friends of
Phoenix members from ALL players
in Phoenix Brass Band

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to
all the players and members of Friends of
Phoenix. It has been a very strange year
for all of us and we miss seeing you all
each week and meeting FOP at our
engagements hopefully it will not for much
longer. We are looking forward to the new
year when hopefully we will have a
rehearsal for the first time in nine months.
Thank you all for your loyalty, support
and friendship.
David and Irene x

Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Let your heart be light
From now on,
Our troubles will be out of sight.
Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Make the Yule-tide gay,
From now on,
Our troubles will be miles away.

Through the years we all will be together
If the Fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the highest bough.
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.
Happy Christmas to all my 'Phoenix' friends. See
you all soon !!
Marilyn

To All Friends of Phoenix Members and Supporters

This year has been difficult for all of us, and we have never been more grateful for all your support. From everyone in Phoenix Brass Band, we wish you all a happy Christmas and all our best wishes for what we hope will be a healthy and much better 2021.

***To all players, members and
SUPPORTERS of Phoenix Brass,
we wish you a Happy Christmas***



***and hope for a happy and
healthy New Year to come.***

Lynne & John Miles

Froxfield War Memorial Hall Update

The Government lockdown restrictions has necessitated the War Memorial Hall being closed yet again during the second lockdown.

Unfortunately, during the recent rains and strong winds, water has found its way into the music room where the photocopier is housed, and a lot of the music is stored in the filing cabinets.

Quotations have now been received for works to rectify the roof above the kitchen and music room and above the rear music instrument storage area. It was also discovered that the roofing sheets in those areas had become loose, caused by the loose fixings which could allow water ingress. Without this work, the sheets could become broken and this would necessitate a brand-new roof.

The cost of this work is going to be £2,890 and the Hall Committee has agreed for the work to be undertaken.

In view of the lack of hire income since the first lockdown pre-March 2020, and given the roofing works, the decision has been made to cancel the work on the car park and the contractor has agreed. We will reconsider this later in 2021 depending on where we are with hire income generally.

You may recall that in June 2020 we applied to Wiltshire Council for a grant under the Government Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme during the Coronavirus pandemic. A £10,000 grant was received.

More recently, in November 2020, we applied for a grant under the Government's Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme. This scheme provides support to businesses closed under national restrictions. We



Christmas Shopping

Christmas is creeping up fast and some of you may be thinking about buying your Christmas gifts online.

If you do why not use easyfundraising that way you can support the band. Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, there are over 4,000 retailers to choose from. Just shop as normal and their retailers will make a small donation to say thank you.

It is easy to do and will help us during these difficult times when we have not been able to raise any income.



We only have 27 supporters, a mix of players and friends.

£182.03 has been raised in total since Phoenix Brass joined easyfundraising

£13.02 has been raised in the past 30 days

The more that join, the more that can be raised for Phoenix Brass. Thank you for your support

Do you know anyone who would be interested in joining Phoenix Brass Training Band or Beginners Group?

Our aim is to provide a friendly, fun, and inclusive environment in which to enjoy playing music and in so doing lay the foundations for the next generation of brass bandsmen and women. Many of our players have progressed to our own Main Band.

We take all comers, beginners, improvers, and returners and are a diverse group of youngsters and adults of varying abilities.

If you know of any friends or family members who might be interested in joining the Training Band/Beginners Group, please contact Marilyn Mason on 01672 512634.

There is always something for everyone to get their teeth into and to suit most tastes.

Friends of Phoenix Grand Christmas Draw

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Friends of Phoenix Christmas Draw either by selling tickets, buying their own tickets and/or supplying prizes for the Draw itself.

A list of prize winners can be found below. Congratulations to all the winners.

The Christmas Draw will help keep the Band running in the absence of any engagement income this year.

Despite it being a different year for us all, and in particular the Band, I send you all my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a healthy and better New Year.

Betty Walley, Friends of Phoenix

No	Prize	Ticket	Winning name on ticket
1	Hamper		Charlotte Withers
2	Southern Comfort		Shiralee c/o Iain
3	Bottle of Wine		Marilyn Mason
4	Tin of Walkers Chocolate Nuts & Fruits		Chris Peacock
5	Avon for Men Hamper		Daisie c/o Betty Walley
6	Avon Childs Hamper		Ms A Clark, Pewsey
7	Bottle of Wine		Annabel Morris
8	Quality Street Chocolates		Malcolm Rolfe
9	Bottle of Asti		Richard Mascall
10	Avon Ladies Hamper		Pat, 5 The College, Froxfield
11	Scottish Shortbread		Iain Smith
12	Champagne		Helen Parkin
13	Bottle of Wine		Martin Hall
14	Roses Chocolates		Mrs M Rose, Lambourn
15	Hamper		John & Lynne Miles
16	Chocolate Biscuit Selection		J Richardson
17	Basket with Two Wines		John Busby
18	Bottle of Prosecco		Jane Jarvis
19	Bottle of Russian Vodka		Terri Fradgley
20	Ladies Spa Toiletries		Tal Swift
21	Bottle of Chardonnay		John & Lynne Miles
22	Yardley's Body Sprays		Chris Peacock

One of the things you can't do when you're playing is think, because once the thought process starts, the spontaneity begins to suffer." - Charlie Haden



The Phoenix Flame
Photos from the Archives

December 2007

The Band performing carols and seasonal tunes in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Chilton Foliat





December 2008
The Band performing carols
and festive tunes in
Weaver's walk, Newbury



Christmas is not so
much about opening
presents, as opening
our hearts !



Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball Application

Phoenix Brass is funded mainly by player subscriptions, fundraising which includes concerts, other fee-paying engagements, coffee mornings, public donations, membership subscriptions from the Friends of Phoenix and the Bonus Ball. As with any organisation, Phoenix Brass must meet various costs to keep the band running and functioning as effectively as possible.

Costs include instruments (including the purchase and maintenance), uniforms, music, materials, and administrative costs, hire of the band-room and insurance.

The Bonus Ball has proven to be a valuable source of income for the band over several years.

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!

This is a good way to support Phoenix Brass.

Thank you for your support.

For further details, please contact:

Marilyn Mason, Beech Lodge, Roebuck Meadow, London Road, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 2AL

Telephone: 01672 512634

Email: marilyn1@yahoo.co.uk

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 Bonus Ball**.



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 £

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

Amount Remitted £

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