



# The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

## March 2022

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PHOENIX BRASS  
Presents A



**CONCERT FOR  
UKRAINE**

Marlborough Town Hall

Sunday 10th April  
commencing at 2.30pm  
(doors open 2pm)

**FREE ENTRY BY TICKET**  
Obtainable from Band Members  
OR

David Watson on 01672 841315.

RETIRING COLLECTION,  
RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS

All funds raised will go to the  
Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)  
Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

**A Concert for  
Ukraine**

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

Dear all

Welcome to the second edition of the Phoenix Flame in 2022.

As you will appreciate, the Covid pandemic has had a major impact on Phoenix Brass with no major engagements since Christmas 2019. However I am pleased to report that, since the start of the New Year, players from the Main Band have been busily rehearsing twice a week at Froxfield War Memorial Hall in preparation for a number of engagements booked throughout the summer months.

Currently, players from Phoenix Brass are preparing for their first Concert in over two years which is being staged to help the Ukraine humanitarian relief efforts. The event at Marlborough Town Hall on Sunday, 10 April 2022 commences at 2.30pm and all monies raised will go towards the relief work in Ukraine.

Marlborough Town Council has very kindly donated the free use of the Town Hall for the Concert.

When news broke about Russia's invasion into the Ukraine and seeing the unfolding tragedy of events, players from Phoenix Brass decided at a recent band rehearsal that it would be a great opportunity to hold our first Concert to raise funds and donate all monies to aid the ongoing relief in Ukraine. The players understandably feel helpless as they witness in the news and on social media the atrocities that continue to unfold in Ukraine. As a brass band the players will do what they enjoy, to play music and express a message that is important to them. At the same time, we can highlight the problems in Ukraine and help raise funds for the Ukrainian people suffering from the ravages of war.

The Concert will be ticket only. Tickets are free and available on a first come, first serve basis from band players or contacting myself on 01672 841315. Tickets can be set aside to collect at the door on the day of the Concert.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. Doors will open at 2pm.

The retiring collection and all funds from the Concert, raffle draw, and refreshments will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Please do come and support both the Band and the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal.

Then, in early May, the Band will be playing at the Lambourn Vintage Machinery Spring Working and, in early June, will be busy performing at four separate events across Wiltshire during the long Bank Holiday weekend that have been organised as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Other engagements follow in July and August.

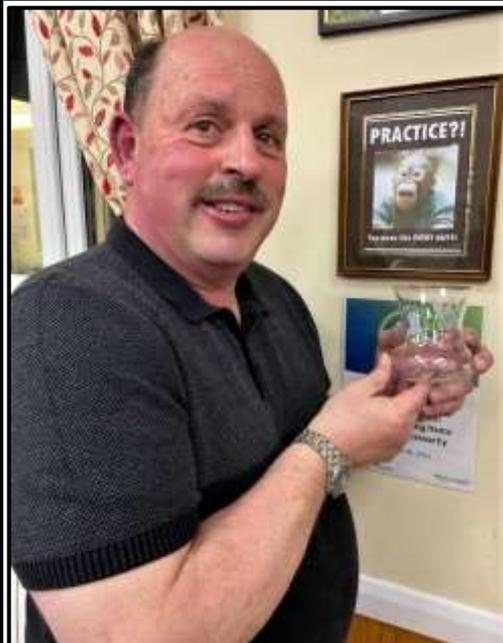
The provision of training facilities is particularly important to Phoenix Brass so do make contact if you wish to rekindle previous brass playing or wish to join the Band to start a new hobby. The Band is committed to giving players of any age or ability the chance to perform and will supply instruments, individual and group tuition, and ongoing support to anyone interested in learning. So, if you know anyone who may be interested please contact Marilyn Mason on 01672 512634 or myself.

Thank you to those Friends of Phoenix members who have kindly renewed their membership for 2022. A big thank you to those members who have been extremely generous and added a donation to their membership fee. I understand that there are still quite a few members that have not renewed their Friends of Phoenix membership this year. Just in case this may have slipped your mind, I am taking the liberty of attaching forms at the end of this Phoenix Flame.

I hope to see many of you at the Concert on 10 April 2022 and perhaps during the events throughout the summer.

Best wishes to you all.

David



### 'Au Revoir', Iain

Players from the Main Band recently said 'Au Revoir' to fellow musician, Iain Smith, a Front Row Cornet player. Iain, who was formerly in the Services, joined Phoenix Brass some 19 years ago after he left the Army and became a pharmacist at Larkhill Camp.

He started on 3rd Cornet and progressed to Front Row Cornet. Recently, Iain successfully applied to join the Dispensary Station Medical Centre at the Canadian Forces Base at Suffield in Alberta, Canada, which is the largest military training area in Canada.

Iain selected a programme of music to join his fellow colleagues at his last rehearsal on Thursday evening (10 March 2022) before being presented with a rum glass engraved with the Phoenix Brass logo by David Watson, Musical Director.

A small buffet was later enjoyed by all the players.

Iain left for Canada with Jackie, his wife, and dog on Monday, 14 March 2022.

Everyone associated with Phoenix Brass sends Iain and the family all best wishes for his new career move.

We all hope to see Iain and the family again sometime in the future.

Au Revoir, Iain, and Jackie!"

## Bonus Ball Winners

August 2021	Amanda Marchant
September 2021	Carol Silk
October 2021	Winning ball not owned
November 2021	Liane Squibb
December 2021	David and Irene Watson
January 2022	Terri Fradgley
February 2022	David and Irene Watson

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.

## Reminder....2022 Membership Fees

**A final reminder**.....the Friends of Phoenix membership fees became due for renewal on 1 January 2022.

Your membership and support are invaluable to the band.

As many of you will be aware by now, Phoenix Brass is an autonomous organisation and is completely self-financing since it receives no sponsorship or other funding. Your membership fee enables the Band to purchase new music, uniforms and contribute towards new instruments when required.

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.



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), and also the band Facebook [www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield](https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield)

*[Ed: I saw this article recently published on 8 March 2022 in the British Medical Journal which you might find an interesting read]*

**Consultant neonatologist Chris Dewhurst tells Adrian O’Dowd about how playing in a brass band helps him switch off from work stress and keeps a childhood hobby alive**

“When you’re playing in the brass band, the only thing you think about is the music and playing your part right and getting it right for your mates,” says Chris Dewhurst, consultant neonatologist and deputy medical director at the Liverpool Women’s NHS Foundation Trust.

Dewhurst, who has been a consultant for 11 years, is an unashamed fan of music and clearly values his time playing in the local 28 player strong Allerton Brass Band.

His enthusiasm stems from childhood, as he explains, “I played in a lot of brass bands as a child to a reasonably good standard. I played in regional bands, did some touring around Europe, and played in national finals.

“But when I went to university, there weren’t the opportunities to play and I didn’t have the transport to get around so, at the age of about 18 or 19, this thing that had been a massive part of my childhood, just stopped.

“I thought I’d never really play again. As a junior doctor, I went to one band rehearsal but could never commit the time because I was on call or life was just too busy, particularly if rehearsals were in the evening.”

After becoming a consultant, however, he got talking to a colleague who had also played in bands as a child. Their shared interest led them to pick up their instruments again and join a local brass band.

“I was pretty rubbish at first,” Dewhurst admits. “But I enjoyed it, and it was something not related to work or home life. For two hours, twice a week, I could totally concentrate on something else.” A couple of years later, he joined the Allerton Brass Band and now plays a B flat bass, which is the biggest instrument in the band, but essentially a tuba.

“It’s relaxing and something totally different,” he says. “Work has been stressful of late. Through the pandemic we had high sickness rates among our neonatal intensive care staff.

“Making the time to go and play with the brass band has been worth it. The conductor would say to me, ‘You don’t need to come because I know you’re really busy,’ but I liked to go, I needed two hours concentrating on something else, not talking about or thinking about work. It is a way to destress.”

Dewhurst rehearses twice a week, and more if there is a competition coming up. The band gives 15 to 20 performances at events each year, including two big concerts. He finds playing is a good way to meet people from all walks of life, “I sit next to a guy who is a professor of biochemistry and on the other side of me is an 80-year-old retired caretaker,” he says. “There are also students, warehouse workers, retirees, so it’s all sorts of people.”

Dewhurst says the music can fit around his work schedule, thanks to the band being flexible. “There have been times when I’ve been on call and I’ve had to leave the rehearsal to go into the hospital, but they are very accommodating.

“I would say to people who had a hobby that they enjoyed as a child—take it back up.

Even if you’re no good at it, it doesn’t matter. Enjoy it.”

My Musical Director said something that I think will stick with me for a while.....  
"It isn't a horrible piece, it's just that you can't play it"

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday, 10 April 2022	Concert for Ukraine (All proceeds to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal)	Marlborough Town Hall	Concert at 2.30pm Doors open at 2.00pm
Sunday, 1 May 2022	Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show	Lambourn Woodlands	11.30am
Thursday, 2 June 2022	Milton Lilbourne Garden Party for Queen's Platinum	Milton Lilbourne Village Hall	7.00pm
Saturday, 4 June 2022	Froxfield Beer and Music Festival	The Green, Froxfield	1.00pm start until c 2.00pm
Sunday, 5 June 2022	St Nicholas Church Queen's Platinum Service	Upper Chute, Andover	10.45am
Sunday, 5 June 2022	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Marlborough Common		2.00pm
Saturday, 18 June 2022	Chaddleworth Fete The Village Hall, Upper End, Chaddleworth		Open fete at 12 noon
Sunday, 21 August 2022	Victoria Park Bandstand		3.00pm
Saturday, 3 September 2022	Church Fete	Village Hall and Recreation Ground, Collingbourne Ducis	12.30pm
Saturday, 10 December 2022	Christmas Street Collection with Carols and Seasonal Tunes	Marlborough High Street	10.00am
Thursday, 15 December 2022	"Brass and Carols"	The Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis	7.30pm

*"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."*





## 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, Wheatsheaf Cottage, Main Road, 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 £
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**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

To .....Bank / 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.....

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--	--	--

Account Number

Sort Code

Signed.....Date .....

Address  
.....  
.....

.....Post Code.....

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**