



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

August 2023

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QR Code for easyfundraising
(See page 2)

Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

Dear all,

I do hope that you are all well.

Welcome to another edition of the Phoenix Flame. A bumper edition I might add.

First and foremost, it is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of a dear friend of the band, Dennis Smith, in June 2023. Dennis was the son of Iain, a cornet player with the band who moved to Canada with his work a couple of years ago. Prior to the pandemic, Dennis would join the band whilst playing Christmas carols with a collection tin. He will be sorely missed, and our love and best wishes go to Iain, his wife Jackie and all the family at this time.

I am pleased to say that the band has played at a number of engagements already this year, although I am afraid that a few have had to be cancelled by the organisers due to the inclement weather that we have experienced. One engagement was Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society in May which as a band we look forward to as it tends to 'kick off' the summer engagements. Others included the two-day event at Market Lavington Family Vintage Meet last month and playing to the residents at Savernake View Care Home in Marlborough. A new date has been scheduled for the latter.

The band celebrated its 30th Birthday, with the weekend of 13 and 14 May 2023 'dubbed' the 30th Birthday Weekend.

On Saturday, 13 May 2023, the band held its Annual Dinner and Awards Evening, at Marlborough Town Hall at which our President, Mike Kilroy, joined us as Guest of Honour.

On the following day, Sunday, 14 May 2023, we held our 30th Birthday Concert featuring Mike Kilroy as a special guest.

The retiring collection and all funds from the Concert totalled £450 and were divided between the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and the Turkey-Syrian Earthquake Appeal.

Photos of the events feature in this Phoenix Flame.

Then, on a wet Saturday in early May, the Band played on The Green at Froxfield to help celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty the King.

You will note from the listed public engagements on page 14 of this Flame that the band still have a number of engagements.

Weather dependent, the band is due to perform at Victoria Park Bandstand on Sunday, 6 August 2023 and I hope that I will see many friends at that event.

A week later players will be performing at the National Animal Welfare Trust, Trindledown Farm Open Day

We will then start preparing and rehearsing the Christmas music!

Best wishes to you all.

David

Remember to look at the Band Website for the up-to-date diary, news items and gallery of photographs www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk, and also the Band Facebook www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield

Fundraising for the Band



Thank You.....to all the supporters that have signed up to easyfundraising

Did you know you can raise FREE donations for Phoenix Brass EVERY time you shop online? 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them at no extra cost to you. Please take a moment to sign up and support us!

To do this, simply visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/phoenixbrass> and install the "Find and Remind" toolbar. The Band will then receive a percentage of whatever you spend.....at no cost to yourself! In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you shop online anyway then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit the registration page and register with your email address as a username and a password of your choice, to ensure you support Phoenix Brass.

Please be careful, since there is another Phoenix Brass Band.

Logging into <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/phoenixbrass> will ensure you have registered with us.

- The Band now has 33 supporters comprising players and friends
- A total of £449.43 has been raised to date
- It only takes 2 minutes to sign up.
- Plus, if you sign up and raise £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us a bonus £5 donation.
- All you have to do is go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/phoenixbrass/>
- See the QR code on page 1 of the Phoenix Flame

RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES WITH US AND HELP US RAISE FUNDS!

DONATE YOUR INKS HERE & NOW!

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING POINT £50

THINK INKS

Do you have you any old printer cartridges?

The Band continues to collect old printer cartridges as a fund-raising scheme.

The scheme is linked to 'Think Inks' who collect cartridges for recycling.

If you have any old cartridges for recycling, please drop them in the letterbox of the Froxfield War Memorial Hall or contact Marilyn Mason either by phone 01672 512634 or via email

marilynmason1@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you.

Lottery Winners

April 2023	-	Mr R Dewey
May 2023	-	Mrs L Miles
June 2023	-	Mr and Mrs M Hall
July 2023	-	Mr S Squibb

There are still a few unsold numbers available should anyone like to purchase a new or additional bonus ball. Just £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.

Phoenix Brass Summer Draw 2023

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Phoenix Brass Summer 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.

More than £570 was raised through monies from the draw and those of you who kindly added donations. Our grateful thanks.

1	Drinks hamper	0622	MM c/o Terri
2	Drinks hamper	0246	S Whatley
3	Food hamper	0120	Halbert Alix
4	Teddy	0598	Jeremy c/o Karl
5	Large bottle of Rose	0061	Iain Smith c/o Suzie
6	Cool bag	0589	J Prowse c/o Karl
7	Jigsaw	0081	David Watson
8	Paula's Choice smellies	0012	Bill
9	Picture frame	0366	Creed
10	Candle holders	0376	Denise Dolton
11	Perfume	0140	Jenny Taylor
12	Frozen smellies	0442	Chris Peacock
13	Lap tray	0328	John Busby
14	2 x bottles of wine	0193	Phil Gray
15	Baylis & Harding smellies	0519	Mrs Thorn
16	Tea Towels	0290	Mark Gregory
17	Royal Garden smellies	0432	Patterson
18	Origami set	0407	Amanda Marchant
19	Soaps & seal	0486	Rose
20	Tub of chocolates	0133	Jenny Taylor
21	Bottle Prosecco	0122	S Greenwood

On Saturday 25 March 2023, the Training Section members put on their uniforms and entertained an audience with all the music they have been practicing during the past few weeks.

For many of the players it was their first concert, and they all played the very best they could. The concert started with 'March of The Tridents' and continued with many of the players bravely standing up and playing solos.

Coffee/Tea and cakes were served by Friends of Phoenix during the interval which was followed by more music.

Everyone looked smart and a good time was had by all.

Congratulation to all the Training Section, the soloists who bravely took part and musicians from Main Band who patiently work tirelessly every Saturday morning to teach and encourage the players.

If you or your child would like to learn to play a brass instrument, please contact Marilyn Mason on 01672 512634 or via the Band website www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk

The Phoenix Flame
Phoenix Brass Training Section



Training Section Coffee Morning – March 2023

Dennis Smith - Obituary

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dennis Smith, a Friends of Phoenix member and keen supporter of the band. We would send him the Phoenix Flame to the Care Home in Weymouth. His son, Iain, whom many of you may recall was a former cornet player with Phoenix Brass before moving with his work to Canada, sent the undermentioned message.

"Dear David, Friends, and Members of Phoenix Brass,

I have the sad duty to inform you of the passing of my "dad," DENNIS (Smith) aged 94! on the evening of the 16 June 2023. He passed away peacefully at the nursing home in Weymouth.

Dad was a keen supporter of the band and enjoyed the time we spent together and despite the distances involved, loved to come, and support and assist where he could.

He had always been involved in music and whilst he passed away the home informed me that they were playing his CDs (FINLANDIA (he came to NEWBURY) and the Dvorak, New World suites being his favourites.

He had "a good ear" and musical knowledge and a lifelong involvement in Music. Newspaper articles from the Swindon papers in the 1930s, when he 14 y/old or so was commended for his musical skills leading (conducting) a "Youth band". He went on to be an active member and Business Manager of the Swindon Male Voice Choir and involved in the organising their national radio (music night!) BBC performances (1950s). In the 1970/80s he was secretary/treasurer for the Milton Keynes Gilbert & Sullivan Society and also an active administrator for the "new city "Eisteddfod" and we would hardly see him at home, for 2 weeks each year.

Thank-you all for your time, patience, and friendship you gave him, when he came along and held the "tin" for our events. Stopping him and making sure he did not overdo it was the main concern (as he was in his 80's by then).

He sat in on a band practice in Froxfield one night (when Anthony was conducting!) and I thought we played well, but after, in a way that only a father could do, criticised that we were not holding the notes to their correct values – end of the bar (measure!), The following week, sure enough, David said the same thing during practice!

Since COVID 19 and in his ailing health he had been resident in a nursing home in Weymouth, but I regularly briefed him on the bands progress and indeed just sent him my latest programme, inside his Father's Day card from here in Canada

I fly home on a compassionate grant MOD this Tuesday and expect a few frantic days in sorting out his final affairs. Maybe, time allowing, I will get along to a band practice as I will be based in Marlborough. However my regards and could you please pass on my thanks and best wishes to you all."

Iain Smith

Whilst in the UK on compassionate leave, Iain joined the band not only for rehearsal, but also playing at Chaddleworth Fete.



Photos from Engagements



May 2023
Members of Burbage
Good Companions and
guests sat down to a
dinner, with players from
Phoenix Brass providing
the musical backdrop
during the evening.





May 2023
Band Annual Dinner and Awards
Evening at Marlborough Town Hall



May 2023 - Saturday afternoon rehearsal with Mike Kilroy



The Phoenix Flame



May 2023 – 30th Birthday Concert with Mike Kilroy





FAO: Richard Fradgley

Tuesday 18th July 2023

DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Registered Charity No: 1062638

£225 on 13/07/2023

Dear Phoenix Brass Band,

Thank you to for your donation to the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, DEC charities and their local partners are able to provide vital relief to people in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

Your support is helping us meet the needs of refugees and displaced people by providing food, water, health assistance and trauma care.

You can stay updated with all the vital work DEC charities and their local partners are doing in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries with your support by following us on Facebook or Twitter.

Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/DisastersEmergencyCommittee

Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/DECappeal

Your contributions will make a real difference in helping families fleeing conflict. The need is great and the response needed is likely to run into months and years.

On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say thank you once again.

Saleh Saeed
DEC Chief Executive

Disasters Emergency Committee
17-21 Wenlock Road,
London, N1 7GT

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7387 0200

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7387 2050

Email: support@dec.org.uk

dec.org.uk

DEC Member Charities:

ActionAid UK

Action Against Hunger UK

Age International

British Red Cross

CAFOD

CARE International UK

Christian Aid

Concern Worldwide (UK)

International Rescue Committee UK

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Oxfam GB

Plan International UK

Save the Children UK

Tearfund

World Vision UK

Company No: 33556

Register Charity No. 1062638



FAO: Richard Fradgley

Tuesday 18th July 2023

DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal
Registered Charity No: 1062638

£225 on 13/07/2023

Dear Phoenix Brass Band,

Thank you for donating to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Thanks to your generosity, DEC charities and their local partners are responding, working with locally-led relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Your support is helping provide emergency aid such as shelter, food, clean water and medical care.

You can stay updated with all the life-saving work DEC charities and their local partners are doing in Turkey and Syria by visiting our website (www.dec.org.uk) or following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/DisastersEmergencyCommittee
Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/DECappeal

Your gift will make a real difference, providing urgently needed aid to help those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. DEC charities continue to assess the ever-changing situation to ensure aid gets to the people who need it the most.

Your donations are enabling DEC charities to respond rapidly as well as support families affected in the months and years to come as the lasting impact of the crisis continues.

On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Saleh Saeed
DEC Chief Executive

Disasters Emergency Committee
17-21 Wenlock Road,
London, N1 7GT

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7387 0200
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DEC Member Charities:
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Age International
British Red Cross
CAFOD
CARE International UK
Christian Aid
Concern Worldwide (UK)
International Rescue Committee UK
Islamic Relief Worldwide
Oxfam GB
Plan International UK
Save the Children UK
Tearfund
World Vision UK

Company No: 33556
Register Charity No. 1062638

The Phoenix Flame

Phoenix Brass celebrated their 30th Birthday with an afternoon of music and a special guest at Marlborough Town Hall in May.

Joining players of the band for the Concert was Mike Kilroy, the Band's President, but better known as an acclaimed euphonium player with several Championship Bands and an international soloist. Mike is the current Chairman of Brass Bands England and aspires to continue making a positive contribution to the Brass Band Community which has played such an important part of his life. This role presents the opportunity to support and develop bands whilst promoting the benefits of and encouraging the participation in this unique pastime, Brass Banding. Despite his many commitments, Mike continues to be a most avid and enthusiastic supporter of the Band and again attended the Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening the previous day.

Marlborough Town Hall was filled to capacity. The audience enjoyed the varied musical programme, especially when Mike Kilroy performed his solo performances which received rapturous applause.

The proceeds from the afternoon Concert totalled £450 and were divided between the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Fund and the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal Fund.



June 2023

Phoenix Brass performed in the lovely surroundings of The Priory Gardens in Marlborough on Saturday afternoon.

Many people sat on the large lawns or stopped as they walked between the car parks and the High Street to listen to the mixed repertoire of summer music.

A quiet retreat from the bustle of the nearby High Street



Fundraising Jumble Sale – July 2023

In early July 2023, Marilyn Mason arranged a jumble sale as a fundraising event with proceeds being divided between Phoenix Brass and the Froxfield War Memorial Refurbishment Fund.

The hall was filled to the brim with a variety of items to be sold.

The event raised an amazing total of more than £650.

A big thank you to those players and friends who supported the event, donating items and helping on the day.

Surplus items after the event were donated to a registered 'Help Ukraine' charity.

After some additional sorting, the remaining items were collected by the Salvation Army.

Photo – Brian Williams trying a hat for size!

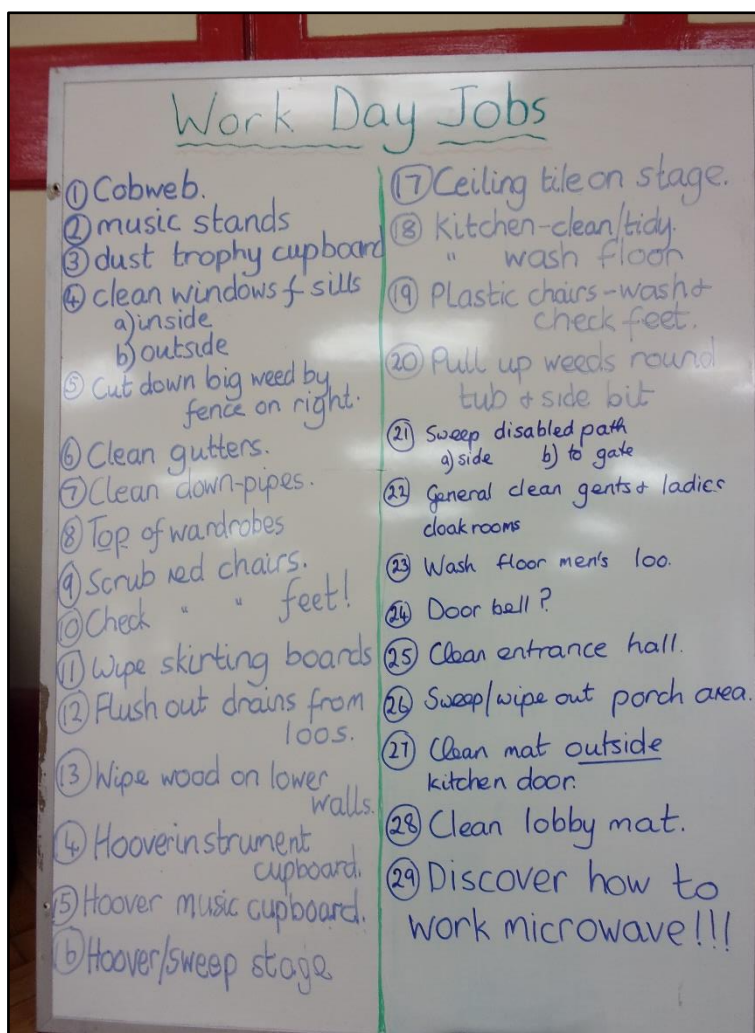
Hall Cleaning Day – July 2023

Nine people turned out to undertake a clean-up of Froxfield War Memorial Hall.

A job list was prepared (see photo) and everyone worked hard to complete the tasks.

Apart from the cleaning it is always a good 'bonding' experience and a chance to chat to people you don't normally talk to.

Again, a bit thank you top those who helped on the day. Photos on page 13.





Extract from a BBC Article **Brass Bands England urges Groups to Modernise to Survive**

Tradition and familiarity are at the heart of British brass bands, but should it be?

Military marching bands have long accompanied state celebrations; Queen Elizabeth II had 24 such bands playing at her coronation in 1953 and one of the world's most illustrious is The Band of the Grenadier Guards set up by King Charles II more than 300 years ago.

However, as civilian groups struggle to recruit members, some brass bands are looking to current music for inspiration to help them appeal to younger audiences and players.

"We have a rich tradition, so we mustn't throw the baby out with the bathwater, but we have to persuade people that it's not just marches or hymns," Brass Bands England's youth development lead Paul McLaughlin says. The organisation acknowledges bands' very real fears that membership is dwindling significantly. After the pandemic, some brass bands folded completely, and others lost up to three quarters of their musicians.

"Bands want to thrive and are doing all they can to attract younger players," BBE CEO Kenny Crookston says. "We have to change the way we are perceived," Mr McLaughlin agrees. "I love telling children that Stormzy's second album opens with a trombonist," he adds triumphantly as proof that brass can still be relevant in today's youth culture.

Andrew Slater, 26, is among the wave of younger players bands are urgently trying to reach. "It is music that is inherently uplifting. It feels powerful and moving in the sound it creates. That sense of pride is at the heart of why we do brass banding." But even he can see that attracting new young players is a challenge. Neil Slater belonged to Amesbury Town Band in the 1980s. The band has been entertaining audiences for 150 years. One band I played in, in Somerset, had no one else under 30".

"We need to widen our repertoire. My experience is that the music is always similar. Familiarity is wonderful, but it illustrates the challenges of bringing in younger members. "And if players are not prepared to commit, that seriously impacts a band's ability to perform or compete."

His father Neil Slater, 53, who grew up in Wiltshire playing the baritone horn, concurs. "After the pandemic my current band, Blewbury, dropped to six people instead of 25. It's of huge significance. "We must rebuild by getting brass back into schools.

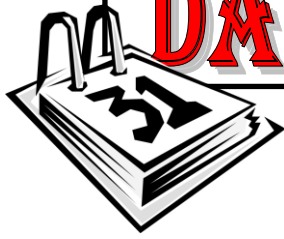
Many bands future-proof themselves by engaging children from a young age; through providing instruments, teaching in primary schools, and running youth or training bands. "This provides an excellent funnel system. If lots of children start, some will naturally leave, but enough will have the dedication to progress to the main band," he says.

Brass bands have a rich history of bringing people together. By the late 1800s there were about 20,000 bands. The music was familiar through military, village and church groups and instruments were affordable due to mass manufacturing. The closure of the collieries from the 1980s inevitably led to a corresponding collapse in the brass bands associated with them. This decline is depicted in the 1996 British film *Brassed Off*, which conversely helped promote brass bands and their music.

"Covid was a very, very difficult period, but it has been the time of greatest activity for Brass Bands England" its CEO Mr Crookston says. "The bands who survived were the ones that kept active during the pandemic, that's the secret." "Bands have got to change, rather than saying 'This is the way we've always done it.' "Sustainability comes from becoming part of the community.

"Some of the most historic bands in the country, such as Foden's in Cheshire, which is also one of the best in the world, realised the old model of industrial support is unstable and no longer the way ahead. "Becoming a community band and creating education music hubs is central to prosperity," Mr Crookston continues. "This is where the real strength is."

The ideal model, according to BBE, is a beginners' band for primary pupils, a youth band for the 16-18 age group, a training band, then the main band.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 6 August 2023	Victoria Park Bandstand	Newbury	3.00pm
Sunday, 13 August 2023	National Animal Welfare Trust, Trindledown Farm Open Day	Trindledown farm, Great Shefford	11am onwards
Saturday, 2 September 2023	Collingbourne Ducis Church Fete	Village Hall and Recreation Ground, Chicks Lane, Collingbourne Ducis	3.00pm
Sunday, 12 November 2023	Marlborough Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service	Marlborough High Street	10.30am
Saturday, 25 November 2023	The Parade Cinema, Marlborough	The Parade, Marlborough	From 11.30am
Saturday, 2 December 2023	Annual Burbage Christmas Tree Sale	Burbage	To be confirmed
Sunday, 3 December 2023	Christmas Concert	The Walwyn hall, Lambourn	2.30pm
Saturday, 9 December 2023	Carols in Marlborough High Street	High Street, Marlborough	10am onwards
Sunday, 10 December 2023	Christmas Concert	Marlborough Town Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday, 19 December 2023	Carols around Christmas tree, Froxfield and Grand Christmas Draw	Froxfield War Memorial Hall	7.15pm
Tuesday, 21 December 2023	Brass and Carols	Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis	7.15pm
Saturday, 23 December 2023	Carols in Marlborough High Street	High Street, Marlborough	10am onwards
2024			
Sunday, 5 May 2024	Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show	Lambourn Woodlands	11am onwards
Saturday, 8 June 2024	Chaddleworth Fete Celebrating 80 th Anniversary D-Day	Village Hall, Chaddleworth	To be confirmed