



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

January 2024

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Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Phoenix Brass band throughout 2023. The tireless work of members of the 'Friends of Phoenix', assisting behind the scenes and carrying out fund raising activities, and the commitment of everyone associated with the band.

Sadly, some of our supporters of the band have passed away this year and we will miss them. Our thoughts are with their families at this time of the year.

During 2023 the band has been pleased to support many organisations both in fund raising and giving enjoyment and pleasure. This has only been possible through the dedication and strong commitment of all the musicians who, week in week out attend rehearsals and have travelled the large area our engagements have covered. I would like to thank all the players most sincerely for all their hard work in making the last twelve months another successful year for the Band.

Last, but not least, may I express my thanks to all our audiences and supporters whose attendance and applause has encouraged us to greater achievement.

May I send you all our very best wishes for a prosperous, peaceful, and healthy New Year.

Best wishes

David



Lottery Winners

November 2023 - Helen Parkin
 December 2023 - Waiting for Result

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.

Happy New Year to all our members!

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past year, especially those of you who sold and bought tickets for our Christmas Draw. We had a great evening, and congratulations to all of the winners.

The Friends of Phoenix AGM is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 27 February 2024 at 7.30pm just before the band commence their Tuesday evening rehearsal. It would be lovely to see as many of you at the AGM.

The Friend's Committee has been together now for several years, but we lack members, with only five of us. We are always on the look out for volunteers to join the Committee so if you know of anyone or if you would like to join please come along on the 27 February 2024. I look forward to seeing you there.

Once again Best Wishes to you all for 2024.

Betty Walley
 Chair of Friends of Phoenix

Prize No	Prize	Winner	Ticket number
1	Teddy Bear	Teresa Withers	541
2	Brut Rose	Mrs J King c/o Anne M	415
3	Wine Basket	A Wilkins	523
4	Pecky Blinders Gin	Rita c/o Jamie	640
5	Hamper	Suzie	54
6	Snowman	Jane Jarvis	400
7	Sauvignon Blanc	Colin Silk	493
8	Teddy Bear	Paterson	446
9	Box Roses	Alan & Helen c/o Jamie	683
10	Jigsaw	Helen Parkin	165
11	Cava	DM c/o David Levett	128
12	Victoria Biscuit Selection	Janet Richardson	461
13	Choc and sweet Selection	Jane Jarvis	395
14	Prosecco	A Lockey	289
15	Waitrose Biscuit Selection	M Giddings c/o Carl	616
16	Red Wine	Rosemarie Dewey	79
17	Hamper	Lexi withers	566
18	Writing Set	Janet Richardson	466
19	Chardonnay	Norman	693
20	Toiletries	Denise Dolton	376
21	Red Wine	Hannah Withers	550
22	Victoria Biscuit Selection	Christine Peacock	458
23	Pinot Grigio Rose	D Watson	248
24	Box of Crackers	Alan & Helen c/o Jamie	631
25	Black Magic Chocolates	Rita c/o Jamie	631
26	Waitrose Biscuits	Len Giddings	207
27	Italian Rose Sparkling	Anna Clark	331
28	Avon Hamper	Maureen Rolfe	479
29	Avon Mini Box	Norman	692
30	Avon Bag	Chris Couch	354
31	Carrier bag	Jenny Taylor	222

2024 Membership Fees

A reminder.....the Friends of Phoenix membership fees fall due for renewal this month. 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.

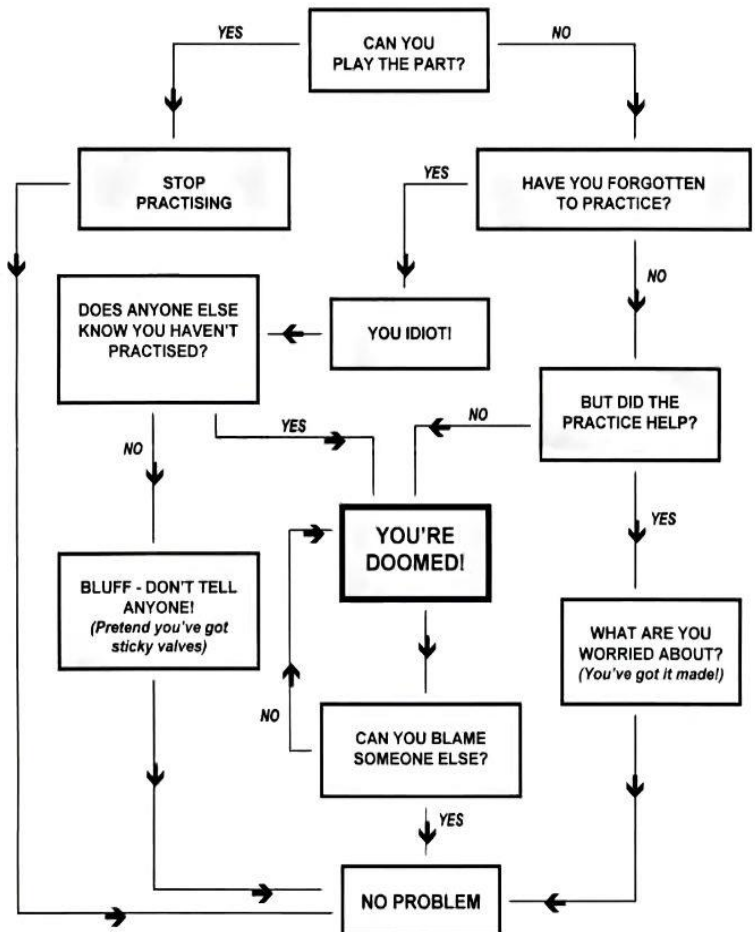
**Friends of Phoenix Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 27 February 2024**

We are seeking new enthusiastic members to join the Committee and help with fund raising, providing refreshments for concerts, transport for players and running social events for band members.
Please do join us.

**REHEARSAL PROBLEM-SOLVING
FLOWCHART**

**Ten Things You'll Never Hear Your
Conductor Say**

1. Gee, that's a boring hymn. Let's play another one
2. Well played, everyone. Let's go home early.
3. I wasn't much of a player, myself.
4. Nicely played, trombones. So tuneful.
5. If you can't play it, don't worry about it.
6. What do you think?
7. I never wanted to be a conductor. I wanted to be a lumberjack.
8. Of course you can miss rehearsals. We're so fortunate that you choose to play with us.
9. Sorry, I lied. We have absolutely no chance of winning anything - ever!
10. I was wrong.



Phoenix Brass in Pictures



Players provided a festive selection of music at The Parade Cinema in Marlborough. A mixed repertoire, including many Christmas favourites, festive classics, and carols, delighted those that braved the cold to visit 'Christmas at The Parade' and the outdoor covered market with local artisan businesses selling gifts, candles, toys, hampers, sweets, and treats. Father Christmas was also in attendance, with the BlueBelles Choir singing during the break.

Players performed carols and festive tunes in support of the Burbage Christmas Tree Sale and Market. The event run by volunteers raises magnificent sums for the community, providing funds for the church, school, and village hall.



Lambourn welcomed Phoenix Brass back for a Christmas Concert, the first time since the Covid pandemic. The chairs were filled, and the audience were treated to a variety of festive and seasonal tunes. The second half of the Concert was interspersed with what has become the customary singing of Christmas Carols.



Burbage Primary School Christmas Fair



Marlborough High Street Collection



Carols in Marlborough High Street



Friends of Brendoncare Nursing Home, Froxfield
Carols Evening



“Brass and Carols” at The Tipple Inn,
Collingbourne Ducis



Marlborough Town Hall was filled to capacity as Phoenix Brass performed their second Christmas Concert' of this festive period. At the 'Welcome Christmas' Concert, the players were joined by the Lyneham Military Wives Choir, https://www.facebook.com/lynehammwc/?locale=en_GB

The Mayor of Marlborough, Councillor Nick Fogg was accompanied by his wife, the Mayoress of Marlborough, as special guests.

The Concert featured a blend of festive music and carols in the beautiful surroundings of Marlborough Town Hall. The audience sat back, relaxed, and was entertained by the sounds of brass and the Military Wives Choir that really got them into the Christmas spirit. As one person described it afterwards, it was "Christmas with all the trimmings in one concert".

The Concert featured Yuletide greats and several carols where the audience joined in singing with great gusto joined by the Military Wives Choir.

The Concert programme included a set of musical pieces performed by the delightful sounds of the Lyneham Military Wives Choir which received rapturous applause.

During the Concert, Roger and Rosemarie Dewey were presented with gifts to mark the end of thirty years with Phoenix Brass. They have both decided that it is time to pursue other hobbies and interests.

At the end Councillor Nick Fogg commented about the presentation and professionalism of the band and players and ended by saying "you played with panache and style, and we are very lucky to have you".



Roger and Rosemarie Dewey



Roger and Rosemarie Dewey both decided to 'retire' from Phoenix at the end of the Christmas engagements having played with the band since inception.

During the recent Christmas Concert at Marlborough Town Hall, Roger and Rosemarie Dewey were presented with gifts to mark the end of thirty years with Phoenix Brass. They have both decided that it is time to pursue other hobbies and interests.

When asked for a short history of their brass banding career, and Rosemarie provided the following:

"When we lived in Bristol our sons were having piano lessons. So when we moved to Hungerford they both started additional instruments. Daniel chose the clarinet and eventually went to play with a wind band in Reading and took his grade 7 exam and passed. Aaron started Bb Cornet and was taught by David Watson and joined Phoenix Brass and eventually took his grade 8 exam and passed.

So I was beginning to think I would like to try and learn a brass instrument. I had played recorder and learnt violin at senior school for 3 years. So I began having lessons with David Watson at the youth wing of John O'Gaunt School and eventually David said I could start going to senior band. I went to rehearsals on a Tuesday and Thursday evening in our band room, the people were always friendly and helpful if you were struggling. To begin with I couldn't hear my own

instrument when I played but eventually you gain experience in playing with other instruments around you.

Then when Roger was 50 years old he started lessons with David to learn how to read music and play the tenor horn in the youth wing of John O'Gaunt. After about 6 months David said he could come to band rehearsals. He was a little nervous and said he probably played only one or two notes of each piece, but David told him well next week you will blow a few more. After a while he got used to hearing the different instruments and settled in with the other players. So now there were both playing in a band with our son which a proud moment for us.

Roger being a CPO in the Royal Navy for 14 years marching was second nature to him. So when we were playing for the Marlborough Remembrance Parade he literally just took it in his stride. With a bit of help I finally got it too. (We had always attended the Remembrance Parade in Bristol and me as a child and later when Roger was stationed at HMS Flying Fox in Bristol where he carried a rifle on parade.

Soon Roger and I were playing at fetes, concerts, and band contests in different parts of the country. The contests were quite nerve racking and involved a lot practising but good. Phoenix Brass for many years ran a band contest for other bands to attend and organising these events needed lots of people to all pull together, which I think we did very well. Playing in Pewsey Church Christmas Day was always lovely seeing all the families together and the band members all playing and wishing each other Christmas Greetings.

When HMS Marlborough was given the freedom of Marlborough town they needed a brass band to play so Phoenix Brass was asked. This developed into a strong bond with the captain, and we got asked to play at Plymouth Navy Days where we travelled in a National Express Coach with our band name on the back, we stayed in a hotel. David was asked if our band would join the Royal Marines Band as they were a few players short, so we marched into an arena and played with them.

We also played at Portsmouth Navy Days on the deck of HMS. Marlborough and with the Field Gun Crew at Whale Island which was pretty special, it took Roger and I back to times when he was in the Royal Navy.

We also went for a week to Malta where the band stayed in a hotel and did several concerts around the island. Also we played for the arrival of the Queen Elizabeth 2nd for the opening of the Newbury Mencap Centre. David told us that when we played the National Anthem it had to be timed to finish exactly the same time as the car stopped. We did it.

These venues we have played have been very wide ranging from the back of a trailer in the middle of a windy and cold wet field to the relative luxury of a warm theatre in various locations throughout the country.

Because of the band we have met and made friends with lots of people, some in the band and some in the audience, but all with a love of brass band music. Both of us have enjoyed playing our musical instruments over the years and hopefully most of our audiences went home with a warm feeling and thinking "We thoroughly enjoyed that" as we enjoyed playing for them".



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024 'Public' Engagements

Thursday, 25 January 2024	Annual Band Meeting at Froxfield War Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Saturday, 20 April 2024	Band Social and Awards Buffet Evening Royal British Legion, Hungerford	7.30pm
Sunday, 5 May 2024	Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Spring Working 50 th Anniversary	11.00am
Sunday, 19 May 2024	Band Spring Concert Marlborough Town Hall	2.30pm
Saturday, 8 June 2024	Chaddleworth Village Fete celebrating 80 th Anniversary D-Day	Timings to be confirmed
Sunday, 14 July 2024	Concert in Victoria Park Bandstand, Newbury	3.00pm
Saturday, 20 July 2024	Market Lavington Vintage Meet	Timings to be confirmed
Sunday, 21 July 2024	Market Lavington Vintage Meet	Timings to be confirmed
Saturday, 7 September 2024	Collingbourne Ducis Church Fete	Timings to be confirmed
Thursday, 19 December 2024	"Brass and Carols" at The Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis	7.30pm

Thank you to everyone who has provided photographs for this edition of the Phoenix Flame, in particular Sarah Greenwood and Adriana Gorospe.

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



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
£

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

ToBank / 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**



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: marilynmason1@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.....