



# The Phoenix Flame



**Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem**

## **August 2024**

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

I am pleased to be able to write to you in this edition of the Phoenix Flame. I do apologise for the absence of a Flame since the start of the year, but you are now treated to a bumper edition to make up for it!

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your get-well messages during the first few months of the year. It all seems a bit of a blur now, but I was in and out of hospital and feeling so unwell. I am pleased to say that I am better but, as they say, old age creeps up on everyone!

During my absence, I would like to thank Anthony (Tug) for looking after the weekly rehearsals in my absence. I know that it was a constant rush from work, often travelling back from the far reaches of the southwest, necessitating a quick turnaround to make rehearsals. I would also like to thank all the players for their continued support throughout. The dedication of Tug and the players kept the band going. A massive BIG THANK YOU.

Well, the band has attended a number of summer engagements already, and in fact by the time you receive this Flame the band will have completed most. Dates for the remaining 'public' engagements can be found later in the Flame. We also still have a few private engagements in addition to these.

There are one or two things that I would like to draw your attention to if I may.

Firstly, the Friends of Phoenix membership has seen a steady decrease in numbers over the past few years. Phoenix Brass is an autonomous organisation and is completely self-financing. It receives no sponsorship or other funding. The band is funded mainly by player subscriptions, and fundraising events. If you know of anyone who would like to renew or become a Friend of Phoenix further details can be found in this edition of the Flame, together with the necessary application form.

Secondly, 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. Again, further information can be found on Page 4 in this Flame.

Thirdly, the Friends of Phoenix are to hold a jumble sale at Froxfield War Memorial Hall to help raise funds for the band in October 2024. More details on Page 2 of this Flame.

I know that the players receive many comments of thanks and appreciation following engagements. Whilst these are available to see on the Band Website, I thought it would be nice to share some of the latest comments with you, on page 13 of the Flame.

As always, thank you to all of our audiences and supporters whose attendance and applause has encouraged the band to greater achievement.

David

The Phoenix Flame  
**Friends of Phoenix**

### **Bonus Ball Winners**

January 2024 - Martin and Doreen Hall  
February 2024 - Ross and Chris Couch  
March 2024 - Carol Silk  
April 2024 - Unsold number  
May 2024 - Roy Mason  
June 2024 - Lynne Miles  
July 2024 - Jane Jarvis

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. An application form appears on the last page of the Flame.

This is a good way to support Phoenix Brass. Thank you for your support.



**The Friends of Phoenix will be holding a  
Jumble Sale at Froxfield War Memorial Hall  
on Sunday, 6 October 2024  
between 2pm and 4pm.**

**The event will raise funds for Phoenix Brass.  
Contributions welcome,  
but after 1 September 2024 please.**

### **2024 Membership**

As many of you will be aware by now, Phoenix Brass is an autonomous organisation and is completely self-financing. It receives no sponsorship or other funding.

Phoenix Brass is funded mainly by player subscriptions, fundraising which includes concerts, other fee-paying engagements, coffee mornings, public donations, and membership subscriptions from the Friends of Phoenix. As with any organisation, Phoenix Brass has to 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.

Phoenix Brass has a wonderful audience following and many have become loyal supporters. The 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 fundraising, refreshments for concerts, transport for players and has organised social events for Band members.

The Friends of Phoenix membership fee supports the band as above. The annual fee is just £5.00 per person which, I am sure you will agree, is extremely good value.

Unfortunately, during the past two years, membership numbers have declined considerably, due to some of our 'Friends' no longer being with us, but also many not renewing their membership.

I would kindly ask you to reconsider joining the Friends of Phoenix or, indeed, pass on the details to anyone you know who would like to support the band. It is only £5 a year!

The opportunity has been taken to include a Membership Form, and also a Standing Order Form as we offer the ability to pay the annual subscription by Standing Order.

We appreciate any donation, however small, to help Phoenix Brass achieve its full potential, to help the Band develop young talent and to make the opportunity of learning to play an instrument available to all.

Thank you.

## Phoenix Brass Summer Draw 2024

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 £500 was raised through monies from the draw and those of you who kindly added donations.  
Our grateful thanks.

Prize No	Prize	Winner	Ticket number
1	Wine Hamper	Marilyn Mason	147
2	Wine Hamper	A Horn	230
3	Bottle Glenmorangie	Paterson	464
4	Bottle Gin	Bill Training Section	171
5	Spider Man	Edward	646
6	Smellies	Martin Hall	407
7	Whisky and Glass	Howard Alix	367
8	Picture Frame	A Wilkins	549
9	Poker Set	Jenny Taylor	216
10	Red and White Wine	Amanda Marchant	419
11	Puzzle	Carol Silk	518
12	Champagne	Janet Biggs	289
13	Heros	Melanie Roberts	187
14	Lunch Bag	Moreen Giddings	522
15	Lunch Pot	Charlotte winters	588
16	Teddy Bear	Ellie c/o Carl	628
17	Candle	P Eaton	399
18	Milk Tray	Hattie	645
19	Knitted Toys	Jenny Taylor	212
20	Soap, flowers, and candle	Chris Couch	353
21	Bottle Martini	Olivia c/o Barry	009



## Phoenix Brass Training Section

In February 2024, the Phoenix Brass Training Section held a 'Music, Coffee and Cake' morning at Froxfield War Memorial Hall.

Family and friends filled the hall to listen to players perform musical pieces, including individual solos.

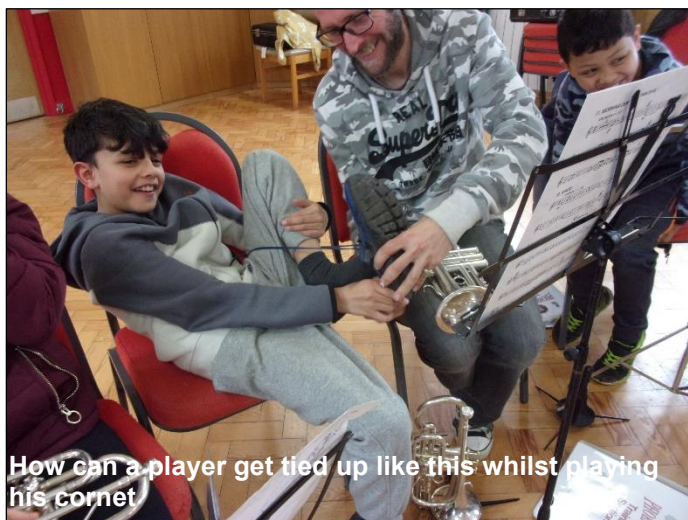
A number of new recruits to the Beginners Group also experienced their first taste of playing in front of the public.



The Three Amigos



Melanie playing at Training Section Concert



How can a player get tied up like this whilst playing his cornet



The concentration a teacher has to put into helping the players!



Playing just three weeks and being thrown in the 'deep end' at the Coffee Morning



## 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 35 supporters comprising players and friends
- A total of £567.14 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



### 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](mailto:marilynmason1@yahoo.co.uk).

Thank you.

### Jumble Sale – June 2024

In early June 2024, Marilyn Mason and Pat Sullivan, from The College, Froxfield arranged another jumble sale as a fundraising event with proceeds going to Phoenix Brass.

It was surprising at the volume of items to be sold, with tables heavily laden.

The event raised more than £600.

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

After some additional sorting, the remaining items were collected by the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.





# Phoenix Brass in Pictures

The start of 2024 seems a long time ago now, with the current summer, sun and heat.

Back in February 2024, residents at **Merlin Court Care Home, Marlborough**, which provides residential, respite and dementia care, welcomed players from Phoenix Brass Band. Residents and care home staff gathered, anticipating an afternoon of musical delight.

The residents had a lovely afternoon with the band and very much enjoyed the music. The band played something for everybody from military marches to easy listening and pop and songs from the 'Sound of Music', bringing back memories for many.

Anthony Palmer (Tug), who conducted the band in the absence of David Watson, Musical Director, due to illness, said "It was lovely to play to residents at Merlin Court because we were able to take brass music to people who cannot otherwise go out to listen".

One Resident said, "It was absolutely beautiful" whilst another asked, "When is the band coming back?"





In May 2024, Phoenix Brass held their **Annual Awards Evening** at the Royal British Legion in Hungerford. The event was different this year in so far as the format of the evening was a buffet, allowing players the opportunity to socialise and mingle before the presentation of the awards, followed by dancing. Musical Director, Mr Watson, announced the awards and presented the trophies:

**Musical Director's Award** – Presented to Roy Mason for his contribution and support as a volunteer, helping with an assortment of jobs at Froxfield War Memorial Hall.

**George Edwards Award** – Presented to Eloise Brooks, Principal Cornet. 2023 was a rather tough year with many changes on the front row cornet section making the role as Principal Cornet challenging. The award recognised her dedication to the band and the support she gave David Watson.

**Nora Edwards Memorial Award** – Presented jointly to Brian Williams (EEb) and Steve Hutchins (BBb), two players from the bass section for their continued commitment and support over the years.

**Musician of the Year Award** – Anthony (Tug) Palmer, for his dedication and support in taking band rehearsals and engagements since the start of the year whilst David Watson was unwell.

**Young Musician of the Year Award** – Samuel Parkin, in recognition of his training, learning and ability throughout the past year on percussion, supporting the band at several engagements.

**Friends of Phoenix Award** – Ruth Roberts. In her absence, presented to her son, Carl Roberts, bass player. Ruth is a member of Friends of Phoenix who has provided invaluable support, preparing and presenting numerous hampers as prizes for the Band Summer and Christmas Raffle Draws over the past few years.



6 June 2024 marked the **80th Anniversary of Operation Overlord**, which saw tens of thousands of soldiers embark from Portsmouth to cross the Channel, establishing a foothold across the French coast in order to begin the advance to liberate northwest Europe. Players from Phoenix Brass recently performed at two D-Day themed events.

On Thursday, 6 June 2024, the band played 1940's music at the D-Day evening event arranged by the Parish Council at Milton Lilbourne Village Hall.

This was followed by the lighting of a beacon, just one of the thousand beacons lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and UK Overseas Territories to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, and to pay tribute to those who contributed to the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

On Saturday, 8 June 2024, players travelled to Chaddleworth and performed at the village fete, which this year commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.





In July 2024, a small group played at the **Milton Lilbourne Summer Fete and Dog Show** in the grounds of the village hall. The event raised funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.



Also in July 2024, and protected from the frequent and heavy downpours, players performed on a trailer at the **Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show** at Lambourn Woodlands. The Show is normally held in May, but the ground was so waterlogged from the heavy rains, so delayed until July.



In mid-July 2024, Phoenix Brass returned to play at the **Bandstand in Victoria Park, Newbury** as part of the summer season of events. Passing shoppers, families who had come to play in the park and those who had chosen to spend a typical quintessential afternoon listening to the brass band gathered, some sitting in the hot afternoon sun, to relax and listen to a varied programme of musical pieces carefully chosen by Musical Director, David Watson.

The audience was treated to two solo performances. The first by Chris Cowlan on flugel performing his own arrangement of 'Concierto de Aranjuez,' better known as 'Orange Juice.'

The second by Anthony "Tug" Palmer on solo cornet who played "Let Me Try Again" by Frank Sinatra, written by Caravelli.







In late July 2024, Phoenix Brass played over the two-day **Market Lavington Vintage Meet** held during the weekend of 20 and 21 July. The event proved to be a tremendous success among exhibitors and visitors alike, attracting hundreds to the village and helping to raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance and local projects.

Playing near the main refreshment area, the musicians entertained families and visitors at this extremely successful show.





At the end of July 2024, Phoenix Brass played for the residents of **Bayford House Care Home in Stockcross**. The residents were joined by families and friends, and they all had an enjoyable afternoon, sitting in the afternoon sun listening to a mixed repertoire of music. During the interval, teas and cold drinks were accompanied by home-made cakes.





In May 2024, the Band received a request *"to provide a sort of mini version of yourselves for a 90th birthday party here in the garden on 4th August. Only about 40 people but we have done things like this before with a background band and it would be lovely if it worked"*

So, a small band comprising just 15 players performed at the **Private 90th Birthday Party** close to Marlborough.

The mixed musical repertoire received much applause from the family, relations, and guests, who complemented the players for their excellent playing and for providing the right ambience and backcloth to the birthday event.

The band performed 'Happy Birthday' and 'Congratulations' before David handed over a card to the 'birthday girl' from everyone in Phoenix Brass.





## Instrument Care!

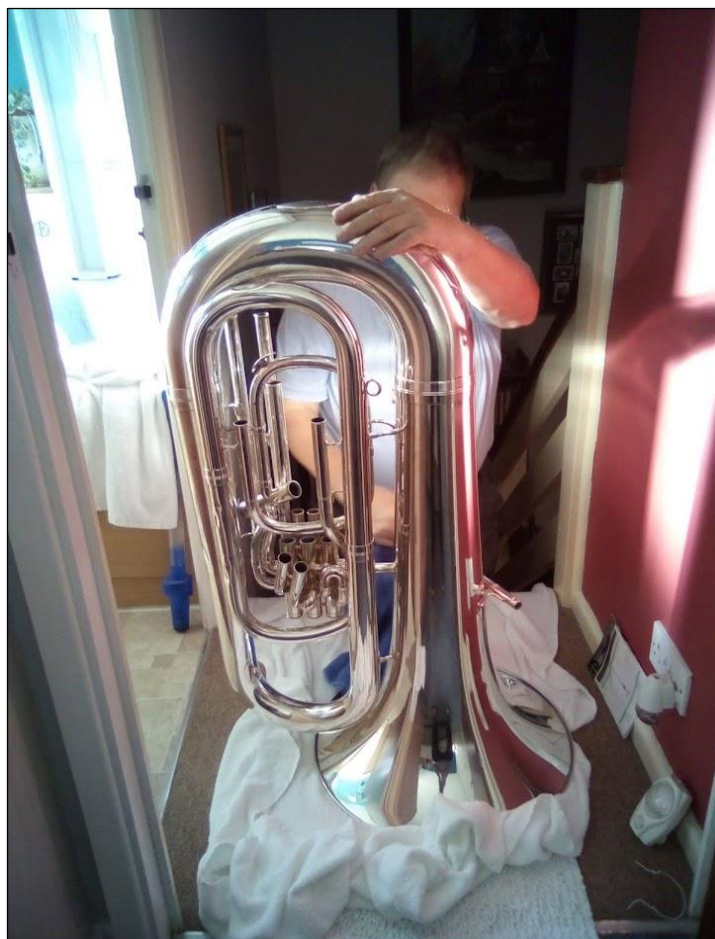
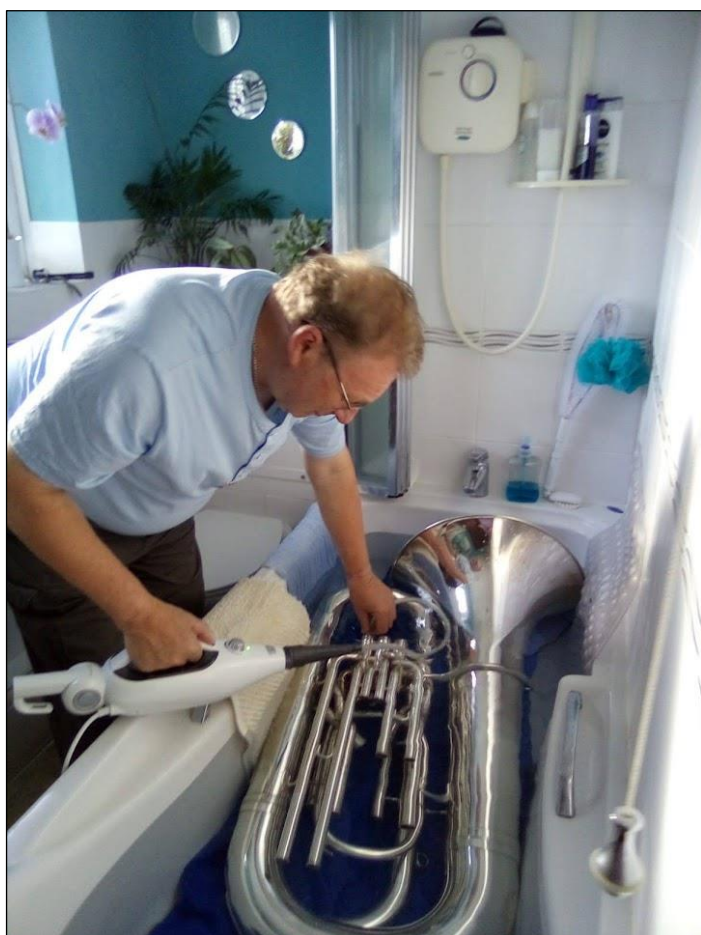
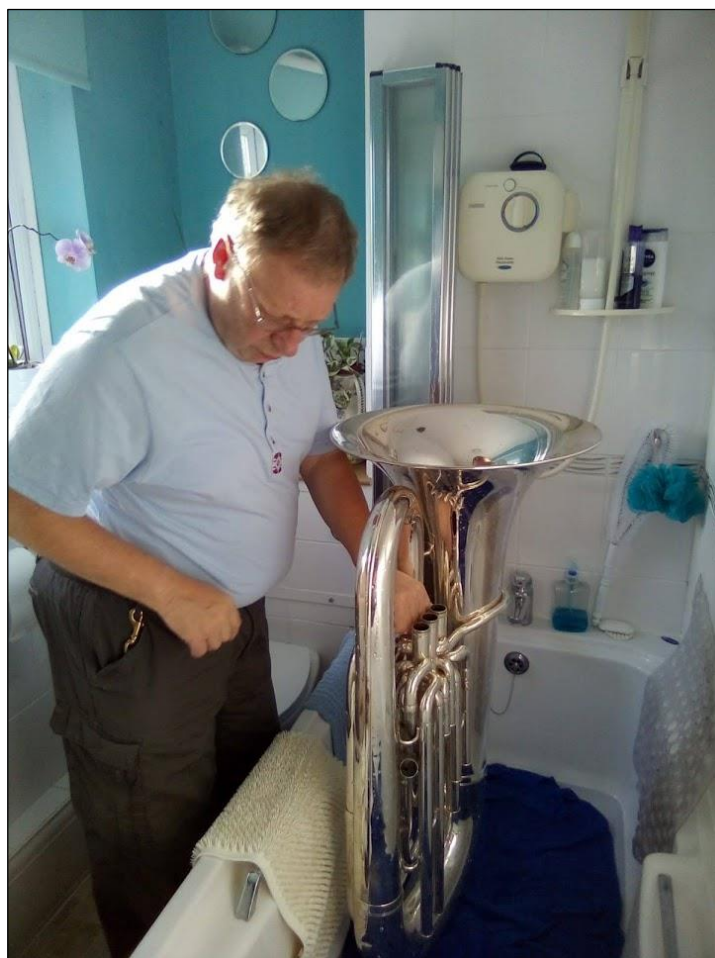
As players will know to their cost, instrument care is paramount.

Washing an instrument regularly in warm soapy water ensures that bacteria, mould, fungus and all that lovely stuff that grows inside instruments over time will be removed!

Regular cleaning not only keeps an instrument looking nice but washes away all that lovely growth and keeps it smelling nice!!

Someone who cares about their somewhat large instrument shared a few photos of the 'bathing regime' they have adopted.

[Apologies to that player for the late inclusion of the photos].



## Testimonials

Phoenix Brass receive many comments of thanks and appreciation following engagements. These are all available to see on the Band Website.

However, comments from the end of 2023 to date are captured below:

*"....the band went down very well with our residents, family, and friends!! We just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to you all, we had the biggest attendance from family and friends that we have had for a long time"* – Bayford House Care Home (July 2024)

*"Thank you so much for your amazing band!!! They truly made it feel inviting and traditional!"* – Organisers at Milton Lilbourne Fete (July 2024)

*"Thank you so much to you and your team today. Always great to hear you play"* – Organisers at Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show 2024 (July 2024)

*".....for the brilliant Phoenix Brass Band at the Chaddleworth Fete.....the Fete formed part of our three-day D-Day commemoration.....and the music from the band framed the Saturday event and many participants appreciated the background ambience you provided"* – Chaddleworth Fete and D-Day Commemorations (June 2024)

*"Please thank those who came to play for us at Brass and Carols. They were great as always. It was the most successful Brass and Carols event that we have held. About 50/60 people were there really enjoying singing the carols, there was a lovely atmosphere"* – The Tipple In, Collingbourne Ducis (December 2023)

*"A belated thank you and wishing you and all the brass band a Happy Christmas and New Year"* – Chair of Friends of Brendoncare Nursing Home (December 2023)

*"I wanted to let you know how great the band were last Saturday afternoon. They were very well received and added immensely to the atmosphere of the event"* – Burbage Annual Christmas Tree Sale (December 2023)

*"Thank you so much for the band coming along and supporting our Parade Christmas Festival Day again. We really enjoyed the music and think our attending public appreciated it too"* – The Parade Cinema, Marlborough (November 2023)



QR Code for easyfundraising  
(See page 4)

Remember to look at the Band Website for the up-to-date diary, news items and a more expansive gallery of photographs [www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk](http://www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk).  
Also, the Band Facebook [www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield](https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield).





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## 2024 'Public' Engagements

Phoenix Brass play at many events, both to the public and to private audiences.

Come along and see us at the following upcoming public events and book the date in your diary:

Saturday, 7 September 2024	Collingbourne Ducis Church Fete	Timings to be confirmed
Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024	Marlborough Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service	
Saturday, 7 December 2024	Annual Burbage Christmas Tree Sale	To be confirmed
Sunday, 8 December 2024	Christmas Concert in Marlborough Town Hall	2.30pm start
Saturday, 14 December 2024	Carols in Marlborough High Street	10am onwards
Sunday, 15 December 2024	Walwyn Hall, Lambourn	2.30pm start
Tuesday, 17 December 2024	Carols around the Christmas Tree, Froxfield War Memorial Hall followed by Grand Christmas Draw	7.15pm start
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 Simon Squibb and John Walley.





## 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

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.....

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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](mailto: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.....